

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

Vol. No. 3

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Hague, N.Y.

HAGUE - 1905

In reporting on the 1892 census in our January issue, we stated that to our knowledge, Wilford C. Ross is the only person listed who continues to live in Hague. There is another one; Charles H. Poote, who was 2 years old when the 1892 census was taken.

The next census was taken in 1905. The population of Hague was 950, the highest it had ever been. There were 200 households. Thirteen years earlier there were 95 farmers; now there were only 64. The mining of graphite was apparently drawing men away from farms.

Men who operated their own businesses were identified as Fred H. Duell, Burt Duell, Joseph Barnett, Bernard A. Clifton, George F. Marshall, James C. Leach, Byron A. Rising, Lewis Burgess, Richard J. Bolton, John R. Jenkins, and Fldie S. Wilcox. Willard M. Farr was Superintendent of the Silver Bay Association and James Adams and Lee J. Palmer were postmasters. Adams' daughter Mary was the postal clerk and there were three letter carriers: Ezra H. Bartlett, R.L. Rurt, and Marney Bolton. Walter G. Watts was a civil engineer and there were four stationary engineers engaged in the graphite operations. There was only one clergyman, Wilbur W. Wager and two physicians, Douglas S. Landor, now 78 years of age and Robert F. Fair.

The town boasted two liverymen, Lie R. Rising and Samuel Catlin and a landscape artist, Robert Decker. Katherine G. Stimson, John McClanathan, Ellis Bolton, Grace Stanton, Linda Fish and Frank Roberts were school teachers. The school population was 212. Nathan E. Yaw operated

a lumber mill and William O'Connell was the superintendent of the graphite mill. His daughter Jennie was described as a typewriter. Thomas Lannigan was a bookkeeper. George D. Streeter and Frank Owens operated a hotel in partnership. The town had a telegraph operator, Reginald B. Rising. Ellis Polton was town supervisor.

There were 154 men described as day laborers, presumably employees of the graphite mines. Hiram Poote, father of Lela and Charles, was a stone mason and James Shattuck, Glenn's father, is described as a taxidermist. Other occupations were painter, carpenter, blacksmith, laundry worker and garment worker. Twenty-five persons were listed as servants and 8 were described as clerks. The occupation of all married women was house work.

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THE NEW MASTHEAD

The new masthead which was used for the first time last month, was provided by H. Weston Conant of Rutherford, N.J. and a long time summer resident of Silver Bay. We think he did an excellent job and are forever in his debt for having taken the time and trouble to do such an excellent job.

Mr. Conant graduated from Pratt Institute Art School in Brooklyn in 1931. On leaving school he intended to do magazine illustrations but in the depression years one took what he could get. At first he travelled with a marionette show. "But", he says, "it wasn't very remunerative". Thus it was that four years later he took a job as a race with NBC and now after 41 years plans to retire at the end of July. With NBC he got into the sound effects area of radio and

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then into television in a variety of positions. For the last few years he has been a supervisor in a technical area from which TV shows are supplied with extra and special gear they require.

In retirement, Mr. Conant hopes to do a great deal of painting in water color and oils. "The crazy sort of schedules which are the nature of the broadcasting business have prevented my taking part in all sorts of activities I would enjoy", he adds. "Soon I hope to find out what it is like to live like people".

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THE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS

The Association of Towns of the State of New York is an organization whose principal purpose is to devise practical ways and means for obtaining greater economy and efficiency in the government of the towns of the state. To accomplish this purpose it (a) collects, compiles, distributes and publishes information relative to town government; (b) suggests and develops improved methods for the administration of town functions; (c) aids in training town officers for the better performance of their duties; and (d) provides a means whereby town officers may exchange ideas and experiences.

There are 930 towns in the state of which 910 are members of the Association. They range in size from 800,000 in the Town of Hempstead to some with a few hundred or less people. (Hague with a population of 920 is one of the smaller towns). Eight million people live in New York State

towns, about the same number as live in New York City. Every piece of territory in a county outside of any city or cities in a county is town territory.

The Association held its annual meeting this year on February 16, 17, and 18 at the New York Hilton and Americana Hotels, the only place in the state large enough to house the over 5,000 town officers who attend. Messrs. Belden, White, Yaw and Seerup attended this year's meeting.

Of primary importance were the training sessions for assessors, highway superintendents and town justices which were held on all three days. A great variety of subjects were covered by experts in the field, adequate time was given over to questions and answers, and opportunity was given for an exchange of ideas among the town officers present. There can be no doubt that the experience was of great help particularly to the newly elected officers.

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TERROR IN SCHOOLS - WASHINGTON, D.C.

A special report on Terror in Schools appears in the January 26, 1976 issue of U.S. News and World Report in which a rather bleak picture of conditions in Washington, D.C. schools is painted by a former Hague resident, Serjeant Thor F. Bevins, a community service officer in the D.C. Police Department. Bevins is a brother of Stephen Bevins and a nephew of Morris Bevins of New Hague Road.

Mr. Bevins graduated from Hague highschool in 1953. After a tour of duty in the Navy he joined the Washington, D.C. Police Department where he is now assigned to community services in the 4th Police District, a predominantly black area which ranges from slums to some of the most affluent neighborhoods in the city. He has five officers to police ten highschools and junior highschools. He estimates fifty physical assaults on teachers with "fists, sticks, anything they can lay their hands on" and half a dozen shootings in those

schools in the last year together with countless burglaries, robberies, attacks on pupils and acts of vandalism. "Physical violence in the schools is terrible," says Sgt. Bevins. "I wouldn't be a teacher in the City of Washington for three times the salary I am making now".

Other quotes from the interview with Sgt. Bevins: "What is happening in the schools is more than a crime problem. It's damaging education. Officials crack down but nothing seems to work. Truancy rate in Washington school system averages 25%. Daytime burglaries in our district increase if we don't pick up truants. You can go to any school and buy anything you want in the line of narcotics and you buy it from students.

"The key to the whole problem is responsible parents. I think the parents should be made to pay for the consequences of their children and then maybe they'd get a little closer. Now when we talk to parents, many of them say 'You keep the kid. I don't want him'.

"Only about 10% are the real troublemakers. I'd put those 10% in special schools so the rest of the kids could get an education. There's only one thing to do - either get them out or run a police state inside the school."

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WINTER WEEKEND AT SILVER BAY

The establishment by the Silver Bay Association of a year-round conference center, moved a giant step forward over Winter Week End, February 12 to 16. The program was promoted, managed and programmed by the Silver Bay staff which is now located year-round at Silver Bay.

Accommodations were available for 130. This was quickly sold out and a waiting list was established. Dinner served on Friday evening, three meals were provided on Saturday and Sunday and breakfast and lunch was available on Monday. Bayview, Spengler and Morse Hall were all in oper-

ation.

A skating rink was marked out on the lake but on Friday the warm weather melted the surface ice and it looked like there would be no skating. But on Saturday the lake took on an incredibly smooth surface and skaters turned out in numbers skating to Divers Rock, Odell Island and even to Hague. What proved to be ideal for the skaters was unfortunate for the skiers. The snow had become ice, so instead of skiing, there was coasting on anything with a smooth bottom and this went on even after dark.

Singing and other entertainment took place on Saturday evening and church services were held on Sunday.

With winter on its way out, there will be no more winter week-ends this year but you can be sure they will be repeated next winter.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Town Board met on February 10 with all members except Aaron Middleton present.

The highway superintendent announced that an agreement had been reached with the highway employees to discontinue the mechanics position thereby placing all highway employees in the same category. It was also agreed that each man would be responsible for the care and maintenance of the truck regularly assigned to him.

The highway superintendent also agreed to prepare an inventory of all property belonging to the highway department and up-date it each year. The supervisor expressed the opinion that the town likewise should have an inventory of all of its property and the matter was taken under advisement.

There is no likelihood that the ski-tow can be made operational this year. It was agreed that as soon as the weather moderates, the remaining work should be undertaken in order to make sure that the ski-tow will be ready to go next winter.

The question of procuring a new truck to replace the 1968 International was discussed. It was concluded that further particulars would be required and the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Jack Carney was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Planning Board resulting from the resignation of Robert Denno.

Mr. Henry Watts submitted his resignation as a member of the Board of Assessors.

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SMALL CLAIMS COURT

The 1975 state legislature amended the Uniform Justice Court Act by making provision for the handling on small claims in Town Justice Courts. The amendments became effective on September 1, 1975. Procedures are informal and except in the case of corporations, parties may appear without attorneys.

Suits may be brought by any person other than a corporation or partnership for money owed in an amount not exceeding \$500. There is no residence requirement with respect to the plaintiff, however, the defendant must reside, work, or have a place of business within the town. While corporations or partnerships may not bring suit, they may be sued.

The suit is commenced when the claimant or someone in his behalf appears in the Town Justice Court, pays a filing fee of \$2.00 plus a registered mail fee of \$1.23 and fills out and signs a statement describing the nature, amount and particulars of his claim. A summons is then sent to the defendant by registered mail requiring his appearance at a specific time and date to answer the complaint.

The plaintiff may not request a jury; however, the defendant may by paying court costs of \$6.00 and depositing the sum of \$50.00 to guarantee payment of any costs that may be awarded against him. If the defendant who has demanded a jury trial

loses the case, he may be required to pay additional costs of \$25.00.

If the plaintiff fails to appear at the time of trial, the suit may be dismissed; if the defendant fails to appear, a judgment for the amount of the claim may be rendered against him. The trial is informal. The court will hear all witnesses and on the basis of the testimony render its decision.

Messrs. Yaw and Seerup, Hague's Town Justices, have decided to convene small claims court on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 P.M. For the present, Justice Yaw will sit on the first Wednesday and Justice Seerup on the third. If you have any questions see either Justice.

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TRAVER HOME DESTROYED

Fire, fanned by near gale force winds, destroyed the George Traver home on Sabbath Day Point on Sunday February 15.

Thirty firemen from Hague and 15 from Ticonderoga fought the blaze using portable pumps and more than 1700 feet of hose. However, most of the effort was concentrated on saving surrounding buildings.

The house was unoccupied at the time of the fire.

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GIVES SENIOR RECITAL

Michael Meade recently gave his Senior Recital at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. Michael, who plays the violoncello, has been on the Dean's list for his entire four years at the school and expects to graduate in May, 1976.

Miss Pamela Preston, pianist for the recital, is also a senior at the Eastman School.

Michael's parents as well as members of the family from Canandaigua, N.Y. attended the recital. Michael's

father, Robert Meade, is the Co-ordinator of Music for the Saratoga Springs School System while Mrs. Meade is the music teacher in the Hague Central School.

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SCHOOL NEWS

The School Board had its regular meeting on February 9.

The Board established the Annual Meeting date as May 4 at 7:30 P.M. Voting on the budget will take place the following day from 1 to 8 P.M. New voters will be given an opportunity to register April 24, 1 to 5 P.M.

The school budget is now under preparation. In his budget message, the governor said that he was proposing a \$180,000,000. reduction in basic operating aid to local school districts. "State aid payments," he added, "will be reduced on a sliding scale, ranging from 1% to 4%. Commensurate formulas will be applied to BOCES aids and transportation services".

Even though Hague is in a "save harmless" district (state aid can be no lower than it was last year) this will probably be changed. Several years ago, Hague received a refund of 6% of what it paid BOCES; last year it was 4%. This too will be lower.

BOCES provides Hague with health, psychological, guidance, art and music services and provides vocational training facilities for some of the students. Last year these services cost \$61,000. with about \$29,000. being refunded to the school.

Negotiations with the teachers for salaries to be paid next year have not been completed.

Mrs. Edna Bulger the remedial reading teacher who has been at Hague under a Federal grant, has resigned. She had been replaced by Mrs. Sandra Hutchinson.

The Commissioner of Education has decreed that a highschool day must

have a minimum of 5-1/2 hours and an elementary school day, 5 hours. Not less than 180 days are required for a school year. Hague students attend classes from 8 A.M. to 3 P.M. with 30 minutes for lunch.

A highschool junior can now enter college, if accepted, and if he does satisfactory work in his first year, he will be given credit for his last year of highschool. Approval of the school board is required if Hague is to participate in this program. One student is a likely candidate.

There are four students in this year's graduation class.

Hague's athletic teams have won a substantial number of interscholastic trophies during the past 25 years. These trophies have been hidden away on the library shelves. The Class of 1972 established a trophy case fund, the Class of 1975 added to it and Mr. James DeLarm agree to build it. It is now finished and is a thing of beauty. It is being displayed with all the trophies in it next to the school office. The public is invited to see it.

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THE WEATHER

Winter weather continued through all of February. On February 2nd we had what the National Weather Service described as "the most severe weather in this area in several years". It all began at 6:30 A.M. when the power went out from Sabbath Day Point to Ticonderoga. In the Silver Bay and Zeady areas, numerous trees were down along route 9N and with them most of the power lines.

At 10:30 A.M. the high winds struck Silver Bay with a fury uprooting and knocking over trees as though they were tempins. Several houses were hit, the Goodfellow house on Watts Hill sustained serious damage to its roof; the Blackwood Parlin house likewise was damaged by falling trees; and the Ed Morgan house on Terrace Road had a tree resting on its chimney but with no visible sign

of damage. More than a hundred trees mostly pine were the principal casualty of the storm.

Niagara Mohawk crews from Tonawanda, Schroon Lake and Westport worked through the day and by night-fall power was restored to most areas. However, feeder lines were still out the next day and in one instance power was not restored until the 4th.

What has made the winter particularly difficult is the ice which has made roads and highways dangerous most of the time. This usually comes about with rain, followed by freezing rain, and then by snow, and little, if any thawing.

The week after the storm temperatures moderated and during the week of February 16 there were a few balmy days only to be followed by rain, freezing rain, and then snow. On the 22nd there was rain with temperatures getting into the high forties and then as evening approached, temperatures fell, and the rain changed to snow.

Warnings were issued by the Lake George Commission to keep vehicles off the ice. Four were reported to have fallen through the ice during the past week. This might suggest that the ice will be going out earlier than normal this year.

ANNUAL RED CROSS DRIVE

This year we have again been asked to solicit contributions for the Adirondack Chapter of the American Red Cross. We agreed to do so and have enclosed a stamped and addressed envelope which you may use in mailing your contribution. Each envelope has been identified with an "H" so that the Town of Hague will be given credit for your contribution.

The Red Cross is attempting to raise \$20,000. in this drive; the goal for Hague is \$400.00

The Red Cross provides many services including its blood program and service to military families. The chapter also conducts first aid and water safety courses, including the training of life guards. And the chapter is currently playing an active role in programs for the elderly.

Many of you who are on our mailing list are not year-round residents and have undoubtedly been asked to give to your Red Cross Chapter in your home town. But for most of you Hague is your 'second home', your 'home-away-from-home' and is deserving of your support. If help is needed while you are here, the Red Cross will not ask whether you are a year-round or summer resident.

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Please help this worthy cause.

We sincerely regret that a number of copies of the March Chronicle got away with the 5th and 6th pages illegible. We have reproduced them particularly because of the Red Cross request for contributions which we wanted you to be sure to see. If you did not retain the envelope - the address is - Adirondack Chapter, American National Red Cross, P.O. Box 655, Glens Falls, N.Y. 12801