

THE DAYS OF THE STEAMBOAT Ursula Montbriand

(Excerpts from Hague Historical Society presentation.)

Lake George--these words must bring to everyone here, blessed with the opportunity to live on or near it, visions of its beauty and remembrances.

Probably from the time of earliest human habitation it was used for transportation in a variety of vessels --birch bark canoes, log rafts, unwieldy flat boats, cumbersome batteaux propelled sometimes by sweeps and sometimes by jury-rigged sails, sloops and schooners.

The days of the steamboat on Lake George began in 1817.

Transportation by steamboat had been a profitable business for some years on Lake Champlain. John and James Winans had built two steamboats there. First, The Vermont, which sank in the Rich-elieu River in 1815. The Lake Champlain Steamboat Co. to prevent Winans' building a more competitive steamboat to rival their boat, The Phoenix, commissioned them to build a new steamer, specifying that they use the salvaged engine and boilers from The Vermont. This boat they called The Champlain. It was launched in 1816 on Lake Champlain for one season then the engine was ripped out and "new and powerful engines" were installed with much fanfare!

John Winans moved on to promote steamboats on Lake George. A group of men commissioned him to build the JAMES CALDWELL, the first steamboat on Lake George, and formed the first of three Lake George Steamboat Companies.

The first one chartered in 1817, the second one in 1854 and the final one in 1872, all using the same name.

There are no pictures of the JAMES CALDWELL (Mrs. M showed graphic enlarged photographs of all the boats except the J.C.) but its measurements correspond to The Champlain, which was constructed on canal boat lines with two long boilers and one very unique feature, a brick smoke stack. Speed was four miles per hour, not counting time for repairing breakdowns. These were probably frequent as its engine was the twice salvaged one from The Champlain. However, even with a third hand engine, JAMES CALDWELL made the trip in one day--about as quickly as a man could row the distance.

Some folks didn't approve of these achievements, claimed it was achieved by help of "The Evil One". So, no surprise, it was very properly struck by lightning but the stiff-necked owners continued to operate the JAMES CALDWELL for four years, until it burned mysteriously at the dock in Caldwell (Lake George Village) in 1821. This early investment was \$12,000.

No record of any steamboat on the lake in 1822 or '23.

In spring 1824 the MOUNTAINFER was launched. A peculiar craft built with a first layer of boarding which ran fore and aft, second layer keel to gunwale, then a layer of tarred paper, finally outer boards fore and aft all fastened with wooden pins. This produced a strong basket weave, the boat could "bend and twist like an eel". This design was similar to the ancient Briton's coracle.

Days of The Steamboat cont.

Capt. Larabee, the skipper (if reincarnated now he would be a jet 707 pilot) had only one concern—"to get there" "without undue delay" "in least possible time". Although chivalrous enough to slow down to take a lady aboard, he considered it a waste of time to make a landing for a mere man. These men must have had stout hearts and adventurous spirits to make the trip. They were rowed out from shore, transferred, still in motion, to the yawl which was always towed astern. This was hauled alongside to permit the intrepid traveler to board the steamer without interfering with the progress of the steamer proudly doing 6 miles per hour."

(More tales from "The Days Of The Steamboat" next month.

Mrs. Montbriand's chief source: The Steamboats Of Lake George 1817 to 1932 by Major Ogden J. Ross)

SALUTE TO SENIOR CITIZENS OF HAGUE:

A Sentimental Journey

Take a walk down Memory Lane
And see the sunshine turn to rain,
Keep on walking down the lane
And watch the sun return again.

Harry J. Moore

ARTIFACTS REGISTER PLANNED

At the March meeting of the Hague Historical Society the subject of Hague artifacts was discussed. While the society has no building to store or display such items at present, the members felt that it would be good for the society to create a register of Hague-oriented objects.

Many Hague residents own such material. Some items have been lost or destroyed. Losing evidence of the past is unfortunate.

Any object that has been associated with people who lived in this area is of interest.

If you would like to register such items - agricultural implements, old pictures, boats, fishing tackle, newspaper articles etc. - please call one of the following:

Jack Henry - 6633

Betty Decker - 9441

Richard Tobin - 6402

Clifton West - 6620

Jack Henry, Chm.

W. LEE DUELL, of Diamond Point, died Mar. 8 after a brief illness.

Lee not only carried the mail thru "snow..rain..heat and gloom of night", he left a lot of good will at each box along the Star Route between Lake George and Hague.

Rev Bush of Caldwell Presbyterian Church said he was "faithful, loyal and compassionate". Ethel Andrus says "He certainly was." Penny Bolton says, "We sure will miss him." And one customer said, "Lee Duell not only went the second mile, he went all the way."

He also operated a greenhouse, was active in several bowling leagues and was a member of Lake George Lodge 912 of International Order of Odd Fellows and United Commercial Travelers.

Mr. Don DeMarsh is carrying on the Duell tradition. He will finish out Lee's contract thru June and every one is hoping he will win when he bids for the new one.

SECOND QUARTER HIGH HONORS, at Hague Central School went to:

Richard Strum	93%
Theresa Davis	91%
Kathleen Hudak	91%
Colleen Goatsch	90%
Michael Streeter	90%

NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION will be Apr. 18.

CARNIVAL WINNERSNational Chizzle Contest:

Jim Clark of Ticonderoga, fifth time winner, chizzled thru 24 in. of ice in 25 seconds. Nearest competitor - 1 mn. 55 secs.

Ice Auger Contests:

The ice was from 22 to 27 ins. thick, (12 in. last year). Each man made three holes and their times were averaged.

The race with Over 3 Inch bits was nip and tuck between Albert Huck and Frank Dagles both of Bolton Landing: Huck - 14.9 seconds
Dagles - 15.2 secs.

Under 3 Inch bits: Frank Dagles - 18 seconds

Junior Ice Augers: Eddie Clark of Ticonderoga - 24.5 secs.

Winter Queen - Norma Strum

Norma performed the Hague School Alma Mater as a clarinet solo. Age 10 yrs. - Fourth Grade. She received a trophy, a dozen red roses and a Savings Bond.

Kite Flying: Jackie PerkinsScavenger Hunt: Jay Jordan

Broom Hockey: Team of Pam Dunklee, Sue & Wendy Dunsmore, Laura Fish, Eric Frasier & Jack Perkins.

50 Mile Snowmobile Race:

Class 0-250cc - Gree Fairchild from *Coon*.

Class 250-340cc - Larry Huestis from Ticonderoga

Class 401 cc and over - Don Gilland Waters from *Bolton Landing*

Dick Bolton of Hague was Carnival Chairman and Al Perkins was official time keeper.

Dick got his own reward last week when he won \$500. in the New York State Lottery!

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ARTICLE 27 of the Executive Law of the state of New York is "The Adirondack Park Agency Act".

Section 801 of Article 27, in defining the purpose of the act, says, in two places, that it shall be a continuing planning process that "recognizes matters of local concern"...

Section 805 says "...the Agency shall consult and work closely with local governments."

The Hague Boards, (Town & Planning) taking advantage of these provisions, have been working with APA to develop a plan more suitable to Hague than present APA restrictions.

Samples of this work are illustrated in these notes from Ed Crabbs, Planning Brd. Chm. and Greg Hill, Associate Natural Resource Planner for APA:

Mr. Crabbs: "On Thursday, Feb. 10, for the 3rd or 4th time, (this time on foot & snowshoes) we went over the areas questioned by APA to establish the feasibility of the densities requested by our Planning Board.

That evening, at the Planning Brd. Meeting, a thorough discussion was engaged in to justify those densities.

In our own ways I believe we all have the same goals in mind. We want to protect the beauty and character of the town of Hague for the benefit of its residents, present and future, and at the same time equitably zone the town so that no one is deprived of his rights and no abuses are allowed. A neat but not easy aim.

The cooperation of the APA has increased significantly in the past year and we look forward to an early agreement to our proposed Master Plan."

Mr. Hill: "...after considerable discussion, all present agreed the amendment proposals should be modified as follows:

ARTICLE 27 cont.

(A) The proposed amendment area near Sabbath Day Point should be expanded to identifiable regional boundaries and the proposal changed to amend the area from Resource Management (42.7 acre lots) to Low Intensity (3.2 acre).

(B) The proposed amendment near Jabes Pond should not include an environmentally critical portion of the amendment area south of the trail to Jabes pond; an adjacent and similar landform northeast of the map amendment area also should be designated Resource Management... This is an area in which a stream and wetlands, not on the topographic base maps, were discovered.

(C) The proposed amendment immediately east of Graphite should not include the southern portion of the amendment area where soil and slope conditions present serious development constraints. The south westerly boundary of the amendment request was moved northwesterly $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

(D) The proposed amendment East of Summit Drive should not include the central portion of the amendment area where soil and slope conditions present serious development constraints; development in the...area should also be subject to site plan review. This includes approximately 150 acres of severe septic soils and 15 to 25% slopes, encompassing two stream corridors down to Coldwater Canyon Rd.

Curran and Hill indicated the town's eleven amendment proposals (4 as modified above) would be recommended for approval to the Agency staff map amendment committee for formulation of the committee's recommendation to the full agency."

TOWN BOARD MET, March 8:

Discussion of changes needed in

hours of parking, fees for launching, hours open to public, animal restrictions and size of vehicles.

Local Law #1 was passed. This reduces tax exemptions for new businesses to 0%.

Tentative date set for May 10 Public Hearing to discuss proposed ordinance to establish a 5 M.P.H. speed limit for boats around Waltonian Islands and north to Friends Point.

Handsome new decals have arrived for town equipment. These will eliminate hand lettering.

Mrs. Richard McCoy estate bequeathed \$200. to upkeep of the Old Hague Cemetery.

Annual report has been filed with New York State Department of Audit and Credit.

The board expressed concern re failures to comply with town ordinance which requires permit from the Town Board before any construction, particularly when provision for increased sewage capacity is indicated. People should be advised that there are penalties for these infractions. March 16:

We have applied for funding under U.S. Soil Conservation Service to repair damage from flooding on Mar. 14. Road damage has been estimated at about \$75,000.

W. Keith DeLarm
Town Supervisor

RECOMMENDED READING to prepare for Public Hearings on Proposed Zoning Ordinance:

(1) Mimeographed Copy: Proposed Zoning Ordinance For The Town Of Hague, Preliminary Draft, Part I

(2) Map: Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Map, Revised 1975

(3) Booklet: Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan

These materials are available from Keith DeLarm's Office at the Town Hall. 543-6161

WELCOME "FaFa"

Jurema Maria DeFatima Varejao (FaFa to her friends) age 17, has been the guest of Julie Frasier, age 14, daughter of Mitchel and Imogene Frasier, since January, under auspices of the Open Door Student Exchange Program.

FaFa comes from Brazilia the new and beautiful capitol of Brazil where she lives in a large apartment building. She was surprised to find the town of Hague so small, expecting something more the size of Glens Falls.

She takes her responsibilities as an ambassador seriously. She brought Brazilian coffee to the Frasier family and pictures of her homeland to help illustrate her talks on Brazil when she speaks to community groups. She hopes to be available for this by late April. On the other hand, she takes pictures wherever she goes to show to people in Brazil when she returns.

Her English is improving rapidly and the Frasier's are learning a few words of Portuguese, (the principal language of Brazil). Julie's sister Diane, age 19, brother Dale, 17, and all her family and friends have been helping to make FaFa welcome and show her this part of the U.S.A.

They have taken her shopping, roller skating, bowling, bicycling, ice skating, to the movies and on trips to Montreal, Glens Falls, Whitehall, Ticonderoga, Connecticut and Poultney, Vt. She toured Washington, D.C. during her orientation period there.

She has visited Adirondack Community College, Hudson College, Ticonderoga High School and attends Hague Central School. She would like to study medicine or dentistry in this country.

She was studying ballet in Brazilia but, since Julie had to stop her ballet lessons after she injured her knee, they have not

done any dancing yet.

Her favorite sport, so far, is pool which she has enjoyed at the Joe Streeter's home and with a friend of Diane's in Ti.

She loves animals, is fascinated by the lake, which she visits almost daily during her free periods at school. She enjoyed photographing the beauty of La Chute in flood last week.

The Frasier's are charmed by her pleasant manners. She calls them Sister, Brother, Mother & Father and kisses Julie's parents on both cheeks whenever she leaves for school or elsewhere.

Mrs. F says they are still trying various foods without much success. FaFa does not like casseroles, pizza or other Italian dishes. She is eating mostly "meat and potatoes" and a lot of apples. When encouraged to show them some Brazilian cooking, she made an omelette but she has never learned to cook, since her family have a cook-housekeeper and a nursemaid.

Mrs. Frasier expressed appreciation for the "friendly small town" spirit shown by the people of Hague and Ti who have contributed to this undertaking international good will with birthday gifts, phone calls and invitations to visit their homes. Mrs. F made two birthday cakes, a traditional white one to write on and a chocolate one because FaFa loves it.

She returns to Brazil on June 25. The impression she carries of the U.S.A. depends on the people of Hague. The Frasier's are doing more than their share to make it warm and friendly.

Julie would like to be an exchange student but it costs over \$900. under the Open Door Program, for travel and orientation expenses plus spending money for six months in another country so she is glad for this opportunity to learn about Brazil from FaFa.

NOTE FROM FaFa:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone here for the kindness shown me while I've been here. There is neither room here or time to name each and every one individually. Please accept my deepest thanks to each and everyone of you.

FaFa"

SUGGESTIONS FOR CONVERSING WITH FOREIGN VISITORS:

1. Do not shout. Foreign visitors are seldom deaf and loud voices add to their tension.
2. Speak slowly and distinctly in a relaxed manner but not as to a small child. They are usually very intelligent.
3. Avoid slang. Most people are taught their second language in a very correct or formal style - stick to "The King's English". Very often they understand a long four syllable word better than a short one - closer to the Latin or Greek roots and more universal?
4. Do not ask questions which can be answered with yes or no. They very often say "yes" meaning "continue", hoping your next sentence will clarify, or just to be congenial.

"SCENIC VERMONT"

January issue of Audubon magazine p. 77, has reproduced a

painting with this caption:

"Inspired by Vermont's scenery, artist Charles Louis Heyde wrote to a friend in 1852: 'Nothing can exceed the wild, bold, natural beauty of this place...The hues are incomparable.' Heyde married Walt Whitman's sister and settled in Burlington at the edge of Lake Champlain. There he painted popular local scenes such as this view of Lake Champlain at sunset, entitled Shelburne Bay, Vermont.

This "view" is of a sunset over the Adirondacks as seen from Shelburne!

SUMMER CAMP SLIDES ONTO THE LAKE

Heavy rainfall combined with thawing temperatures to produce flooding more severe than anyone remembers ever seeing before.

The Romeo Contois' summer camp at Black Point was pushed by a land slide about 200 feet from its foundation coming to rest on the ice about 100 feet from the shore of Lake George.

The brooks and lake waters are still high (Mar 27) and damage to private properties have not been estimated but the dredging and reinforcement of Hague Brook last fall saved the bridge and mid-town from a repetition of October's damage or worse.

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