



THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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HAGUE, NY 12836

March - 1994

A LETTER OF COMMENDATION

The following letter was received on March 5 from our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Robert L. Collins:

On Thursday morning, March 3, our area was predicted to be on the borderline of a major storm. Prior to 6:00a.m. less than an inch of snow had fallen in our general area. However, while the buses were making their routes, the storm picked up in intensity and continued throughout the day. The Weather Channel broadcast from Cablevision in Glens Falls predicted a total accumulation of snow of three to five inches for the day. The NOAA Weather Channel (Burlington, VT) had the Ticonderoga area on the boundary line of a major storm. The National Total Weather Channel specifically announced at midmorning that the major storm would go up to Ticonderoga. Predicting the weather conditions is certainly difficult even for those that are professionals in this area. When it became clear that winds would be growing in strength throughout the day and that we were well within the storm's boundary line, we felt the need to get our students home before visibility would degenerate and thus a 1:00 p.m. early dismissal was decided upon.

At approximately 11:00a.m., I contacted Dave DeLarm, Town of Hague Highway Superintendent, to see if the Highway Department could help us by leading our buses through their routes with the town's snowplows. I am pleased to say that this was accomplished. All three bus drivers reported back to me that everything went particularly well. With the plows pushing the snow out of the way and sanding at the same time, everything went very smoothly.

Having the cooperation of the Town of Hague road crew was very important in assuring the safe delivery of our students to their homes in Hague. I wish to express my appreciation for the cooperation of Dave DeLarm and his co-workers.

LONNIE SWINTON, West Hague Road is Hague's Animal Control Officer. His telephone number is 543-6939. Please make a note of this, since it does not appear in the phone book.

MOSES-LUDINGTON HOSPITAL AUCTION

The Friends of Moses-Ludington Hospital are holding a *Benefit Auction '94* on Saturday July 2, 1994 under the Ticonderogs Festival Guild Tent in Ticonderoga. The William Brennans, Howard Rathbuns, and Jeff McClellans are co-chairing this event.

This will take the efforts of everyone in the Ticonderoga area, which includes Hague, of course. Many volunteers are needed for all the pre-auction jobs, so please sign yourself up now, and ask a friend to do likewise!

Dottie Henry has been asked to be the liaison between the people of Hague and the auction committee. She will need help and would appreciate calls volunteering to do any of a number of things listed. Just a few of the many jobs include clerical work, (typing, phoning, sorting, etc.) either at home or in Auction Headquarters, merchandise solicitor, art committee, publicity, services, storage, sign making. If any of these appeal to you, please call Dottie at 543-6633. She will be most grateful.

The auction offers an exciting time for volunteers to get directly involved in helping the hospital.

Besides volunteers to help with the nitty-gritty, we need items to auction. Look around you. See what you can part with and let us know. Just keep in mind that this is not a garage sale. Quality items only, please. Offering services to be auctioned has proved to be a good idea in the past. How about a cruise in your sailboat or motorboat, a dinner party in your home, household chores, etc. etc. Someone will take you up on it!

Dottie needs ten people to make up a Hague team. Come on, lend your support and let's make lots of money for our hospital. Don't wait to be called - call first.

SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET HEARING IN HAGUE

The Board of Education of Ticonderoga Central School District will hold a BUDGET WORKSHOP, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1994 at the HAGUE COMMUNITY CENTER, in HAGUE at 7:30PM.

This is a good opportunity for the citizens of Hague to meet with the board and give them your input.

LINE DANCING BENEFIT

The TICONDEROGA FESTIVAL GUILD is sponsoring a line dance at the Putnam Fire Hall on Saturday, March 26 at 7PM featuring Sue Burdick and the "Electric Buggy", "Slap Weather" and "Tush-Push". Learn the latest craze that is sweeping the country! Guaranteed a barrel of fun whether you know how or are just learning!

A Texas style buffet will be served.

SQUARE DANCING AND LINE DANCING IN HAGUE

North Country Dance-- squares, contras, lines and reels, at the Hague Community Center, 7:30-9:30PM, usually the second Wednesday of each month. However due to prior commitments, the next dance will be held on the first Wed. of April - April 6. Instructors: Stan and Cathie Burdick.

Line dancing every Friday from 7-9PM at the Community Center.

HAGUE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Our group meets monthly. If you would enjoy sharing your ideas about books you've read, we invite you to join us. There are no membership requirements. Our discussions are very informal. We focus on one book each month, but you may attend without having read the book. For further information, call 543-6039.

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN CHANGES MEETING DATE

Due to conflicting interests scheduled on the first Monday of each month, Women Helping Women will meet the second Monday of every month at 7-8:30PM, starting with our April 11th meeting. The guest speaker will be Dr. David Welch, who will discuss Osteoporosis. He is a graduate of Cornell University and Temple University and did his internship at St. Peters Hospital and his residency at Albany Medical Center. His certification is in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

Dr. Welch has an impressive speaking ability, coupled with compassion and understanding of the medical problems that face women of the 90's.

On March 7 Arthur Andrea, a new resident in Hague and a former NYC detective led a most interesting discussion on safety in the home, on the road, in the workplace, etc. Many suggestions were given on how to protect oneself against purse snatchers, burglars, rapists, etc.

Women Helping Women is a group of women who meet informally each month at the Community Center to discuss subjects of interest to them. Many good programs are planned for the future. It is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about a wide range of subjects.

FROM OUR HISTORIAN

The Historical Museum has received a large album of school related pictures from Ella (Frasier) Conreni. Many are of the graduation class of 1946 and taken on their Washington trip. Also there are pictures of elementary groups, individuals, teachers and many others. Most all are identified. This is a valuable addition to our material on Hague Central School. Our albums need more pictures of graduating classes.

During February the Post-Star held its annual Hist'ry-Myst'ry contest, this time featuring pictures from the Hague Museum collection of artifacts. The result of this is yet to be published.

The Historical Society had a table of picture albums and some artifacts on display in the meeting room. . . Clifton West

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hague Historical Society will hold its first meeting of 1994 on Thursday, March 24 at the Hague Community Center. The subject of this meeting is "Gleanings of Memory" in which each member will be asked to relate one of their most important life memories. This is, after all, the events and thoughts of which history is made. Four years ago the members took part in a similar meeting and all declared it one of the best ever. So come with one of your most important memories. Due to technical problems, the Sexton sisters program will be scheduled for a later date.

April produces our joint Hague-Ticonderoga societies meeting on Friday, April 15, at the Hague Community Center. Hague will be the hosts and Ticonderoga will supply the program with a noted genealogist who will describe how easy it is to do your own genealogy. This joint meeting continues a tradition started some six years ago.

Both programs start at 8PM and are preceded by a social hour starting at 7:30PM. The public is invited to come with their particular special memory.

GLEANING will be on Wednesday, March 23 from 10AM-11AM at the Community Center.

NEXT BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC - March 16 from 1-2PM at the Community Center. Open to ALL residents.

HAGUE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Winter Weekend breakfasts were a fabulous success; we have every reason to believe that we made \$500, although one bill has not yet been received. We thank everyone who turned out in the early dawn to cook, brew, serve and clean up. Special thanks go to Joyce Monroe, our food chairman, and to Misty, Kristy and Gail, who came and raced madly around, performing efficiently, and pretending it was fun; these three ladies are visitors to our town during this particular weekend and their help is greatly appreciated. Thanks are also due to everyone who came and ate. We thank all others who gave so willingly of their time; if we tried to account for all, we would omit someone, so we won't even attempt it. Just know, all of you, that we thank you!

Ambulance #740 made 9 runs in February, resulting in 461 miles and 74 man hours.

Ambulance #741, which stood by for Winter Weekend, used 41 miles and 29 man hours.

There were no fire calls . . . ewa

HAGUE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

The Hague Senior Citizens are planning a pot luck luncheon for noon on Tuesday, March 22 at the Community Center. Anyone who is 50+, a resident of Hague, year round or seasonal, can attend. **BUT YOU MUST REGISTER** by phoning 543-6161 (we need to know how many places to set, how many cups AND how much meat to buy.)

Please register by March 17. Come and socialize - and bring a food item to share. . . ewa

MAGAZINE TRAILER'S NEXT APPEARANCE AT COMMUNITY CENTER WILL BE APRIL 20-24.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER LONNIE SWINTON IS PLANNING A RABIES CLINIC ON APRIL 27. MORE NEXT MONTH.

The secret of happiness is to count your blessings, not your birthdays.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In spite of another fierce winter snow storm, the ZBA met on its regular evening (Feb.24) to interview Richard Hourigan and Bruce Clark for two of the three openings on that board. Mary Lou Doulin was the third candidate but was too ill to attend.

Later Chris Ginn was nominated for Chairman and Dave Martucci, vice chairman. At the town board meeting on March 8 these nominations were approved.

PLANNING BOARD

The March 3 Planning Board meeting was canceled for the usual Thursday reason - SNOW. Next meeting is scheduled for April 7.

TOWN BOARD - MARCH 8, 1994

The long awaited Hague sewer system is again in doubt because of the suit filed by Robert Schulz against wastewater regulations proposed by the LGPC. Warren County is appealing the appellate court decision which annulled the regulations. Because of this the county may wish to reevaluate the Hague project in view of that annulment.

Problems concerning leakage and furnace maintenance have plagued the Community Center this long, cold, snowy winter.

Ralph Denno has been approved to do the floor repairs which will be paid for by insurance. Modifications to the heating system are also being investigated.

Several people took advantage of "privilege of the floor" and questioned •1. What is happening to the burn plant? (The answer is complicated and not yet settled.)

•2. When will recycling building in Hague be ready for use? (A solution is under discussion now.)

•3. A "State of the Town" report has been promised for next month by our supervisor in answer to a question about future aims for our community.

David DeLarm, highway supervisor, received accolades from townspeople for the job done by his crew through 15+ storms. Also, thanks from School Superintendent Robert Collins for clearing roads to accommodate school busses on the way home through another devastating snow storm on March 3. (Have you noticed how many of the storms have hit on Thursdays?) incidentally, the next school board budget meeting will be held in the Hague Community Center on March 23 at 7:30PM.

Hague is looking for someone to work as town park caretaker, gardener and cemetery attendant and Community Center custodian (all rolled into one). This worker will be hired on a full-time basis with the

Civil Service job but taking a test is not necessary. Interested? Call the supervisor at 543-6161

Other items of interest.:

1. Off-season square dancing and the Sabbath Day Point Chapel summer program have each been awarded a \$500 grant from Warren County through the NYS Council of the Arts.

2. It is time to consider a septic system at the landfill for the use of landfill employees.

3. Watch for new spring schedule at the landfill.

4. Summer swim program will be available again this year at Silver Bay.

5. Board approved use of town park on June 25 & 26 for Adirondack Board Sailing Assoc.

6. Applications are being taken at the Community Center for life-guards this summer.

7. Mr. Rudy Wirth, CEO of Moses- Ludington Hospital will bring us up to date at the April Town Board meeting.

8. The agreement with Silver Bay to make three payments of \$2,233 each is ready to be signed by Hague and Silver Bay. These funds are their part of Hague's payment to Moses-Ludington Hospital.

A public hearing on the landfill reclamation study is set for March 24, 1994 at 6:30PM. Res. #10. This will be held in the Community Center.

Project "Directory Sign" is under way with the Home Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce deeply involved. We'll be hearing more about this project as it develops.

The possibility of gaining a grant could help in the cost of repair to our boat launch. . . gl

WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS

May is Senior Citizen Month. To honor all seniors and particularly those who have been chosen by their counties to be especially honored, the Warren County Council of Senior Citizens will hold its annual spring luncheon at the Ramada Inn in Lake George, NY (Exit 21 of the Northway). The luncheon will be at 12 noon on May 19. There will be a choice of two entrees: beef and chicken. Both are priced at \$9.00 and include the tax and tip. (This is the same price as last year). If you wish to attend, and we hope you do, please register by phoning the Hague Community Center at 543-6161. Be sure to specify your choice of entree when registering. The deadline for acceptance of reservations is April 28. No refunds will be made after May 10. No take out meals - because too much confusion when large groups are served.

For the past three years Hague has sent great delegations to these luncheons and it would be wonderful if we could continue our attendance record. Last year's group was very well pleased with both the food and the atmosphere provided by the Ramada. Do come and honor the Seniors chosen by Hamilton and Warren Counties as being special this year. If you are 50+ and a resident, seasonal or year round, you are eligible to attend. Your check, made payable to Ethel W. Andrus, should be mailed to her at P.O. Box 2551, Silver Bay, NY 12874-0551. She will then write a check to cover the entire amount. Registration and ticket distribution will begin at the Ramada on May 19 at 10:30AM.

... ewa

The older the violin, the sweeter the music.

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

The Hague Baptist Church and the Hague Wesleyan Church will meet together in the Hague Baptist Church Annex for an Ecumenical Communion Service on Maundy Thursday, March 31 at 7PM. They welcome any members of the community who would like to share in this service.

On Good Friday, April 1, the last part of "Jesus of Nazareth" will be shown in the Hague Baptist Church annex at 5:30PM.

On Easter a community sunrise service will be held at the town park at 6:30. This will be followed by a pancake breakfast in the Baptist Church annex at 7AM. At 10:30AM there will be a celebration of Christ's resurrection. Regular Sunday mass.

CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Holy Thursday night service at 7:30PM. Good Friday service - 7:30PM. Saturday, April 2 Vigil will be held at St. John the Baptist Church in Chestertown at 8PM.

HAGUE ALUMNI REUNION PLANNED

To include the Hague Central School's graduating classes of 1966-1979

On Saturday, July 30, 2PM - 7

50/50 raffle tickets are being sold by alumni to help with expenses. First drawing was on Feb. 20.

For information contact Robin (Warren) Montgomery, 585-6418 or Valerie (May) Lawrence (543-6120).

FROM YOUR EDITOR/PUBLISHER

For those of you who may be new, or just don't understand our system of "keeping track", I will try to simplify our procedure.

Each month your publisher goes over the mailing list, which numbers approximately 700. The dates on the labels are checked and if the date shows a year has lapsed since your last contribution, the date on the label is circled in red as a gentle reminder. Remember - the date on the label is THE LAST DATE A CONTRIBUTION WAS RECEIVED. In other words: if the date on your label reads Apr 93, we received a contribution from you in April 1993 and would hope to receive another contribution in April 1994, etc. If you miss the red circle, we send a written reminder in the next issue. Then if we still do not hear from you, we have to assume that you are no longer interested in receiving the paper and delete your name.

Again, the staff of The Hague Chronicle sincerely thanks you all for your contributions. Last November many of you heard our cries for help and sent us a second contribution. For this we are eternally grateful. We are now operating in the black again, thanks to our generous readers. We are not infallible. If you find we have made a mistake on the date, or if you ever miss an issue, please let us know immediately so we can correct our records.

We also appreciate any news you have to be published. We depend on our readers to supply the information for our Soundings column and other bits of information.

Suggestions and criticisms are always welcome. . . djh

1994 WILDERNESS EXPLORATION PROGRAM

9-11 year olds June 24, 25, & 26, Thirteenth Lake, North Creek
Required deposit - \$10.00

12-13 year olds, July 8, 9, & 10 on Long Lake. Deposit - \$15.00

14-18 year olds - July 19, 20, 21, & 22 to canoe Long Lake to Racquette River - access site near Tupper Lake. Dep. - \$20.00

To register: Send required deposit (payable to "Warren County Cooperative Extension") to Cornell Cooperative Extension in Warren County, HCR02 Box 23B, Schroon River Rd,

Warrensburg, NY 12885.

Upon receipt of your deposit an information packet will be sent to you.

IMPORTANT: If you have not participated in past 4-H trips involving canoes, you must attend a canoe safety session on Wednesday, June 8 at 6PM at the Schroon River Canoe Access Site near fairgrounds in Warrensburg.

WEATHER NOTES

Mary Lou Doulin

Winter is not over despite the spring equinox is ten days away. In the last four weeks we have had four major snow storms with enormous amounts of snow. No longer is the snow the white powder that is so great for skiing. Now that March is upon us the snow is wetter, heavier, and icier. The big storms moving up from the south are bringing rain and freezing rain.

The coldest temperature in the region was -37° on the top of Gore Mt. Feb. 27. I guess the North Pole has moved south! In Hague that same day it never got above 0 and -19° was the lowest temperature of that day. Here are some facts:

1. The highest temperature was 52 on Feb 20.
2. The first time it rained was Monday, March 7 when it was 42°.
3. 20 days out of 28 were below freezing in February.
4. The storm of Thursday, March '3 was a classic Nor'easter which brought 20 additional inches of snow, lakeside.
5. Dates of the storms: March 10 and 3, February 24, 23 and 9.
6. The storm of March 10 brought power outage for 11 hours lakeside and 14 hours in the higher elevations (and another school holiday!)
7. Cars are still seen on Lake George. This is unusual for so late in the season.

Be encouraged. The daytime temperatures are slowly creeping up and the daylight hours are longer. It is time for the robins, so be alert, and keep looking and hoping.

FATHER BRODERICK TRANSFERRED

The parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Church were saddened to learn of the transfer of Father Richard Broderick to a church in Clifton Park. He was a bright light in the community and his personal qualities of optimism, compassion and spirit will be greatly missed. We wish him well in his new parish.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

The last meeting of the Warren County Council of Chambers was cancelled twice due to bad Thursday weather, but Mark Martucci, President of the Council and member of the Lake George Regional Tourism Board, reports that County promotional activities and funding are now being concentrated on advertising in publications outside our area, in an effort to attract more visitors from specific target areas. He and two other members of our Chamber will be working closely with the Warren County Tourism Department's Community Promotion Assistance group to produce ad material for chosen publications for the next few months. To raise additional funding for this sort of promotion, the Tourism Board is sponsoring a "Spring for Tourism" Hot Caribbean Nights festivity, featuring a silent auction on April 9 at the Sagamore Resort in Bolton Landing. For more details contact Mark Martucci, 543-6528.

The sign committee will continue to work with the Mohican Home Bureau, bringing in sketches and bids for the "Welcome to Hague" sign that is planned to replace the present Ice Auger sign at the intersection of 8 and 9N, hopefully before summer.

Arts Fair plans are under way. Arts Fair Chairman Fran Clifton has sent out numerous applications, with good response already. (See CHAMBER on page 5)

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CHAMBER (cont. from page 4)

Chamber funding for the weekly Summer Square Dance Program was approved at the last meeting on March 2, which will give everyone something to look forward to and offer guests in July and August. The Chamber has also received a Warren County Decentralization Grant to help support the off-season square dance program throughout the rest of 1994.

Coming up soon: The N.Y.S. B.A.S.S. Federation's Opener Tournament in June.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The February issue of the Chronicle included an article on the Mary C. Beste Scholarship Fund. While this article professes to give a history of the fund, this history is incomplete and failed to give credit to the numerous Hague residents who were instrumental in the success of the Scholarship Fund. It is in the interest of accuracy and objective reporting that I submit the following:

The original contributors were Miss Mary C. Beste with \$5,000 and Mrs. Julius Hendrickson with \$1,000. A committee of six: Keith DeLarm, Bea Frasier, Ida May, Tom Smith, Joe Streeter and Rudy Meola, as chairman, formulated the by-laws governing the scholarship and the scholarship became a reality. Other residents who served on later committees included Fred Sain, Pat DeLarm, Wilford Hutchinson and David DeFranco.

In 1979 the Hague school closed. Sometime after that a new committee was formed to review the administration of the Scholarship to decide on what direction to follow now that the original by-laws no longer applied. The committee consisting of Ida May, Pat DeLarm, Jean McKee, Rev. Van Vliet, Pam Hens, Norman Strum and Rudy Meola, as chairman, agreed that the Scholarship should continue and held various fund raising activities. Alas, the response was less than enthusiastic. While awards were continued, revenues were not enough to sustain the awarding of scholarships. At this point the Committee made the agonizing decision to phase out the Mary C. Beste Scholarship.

From 1980 to 1985 several articles appeared in The Hague Chronicle detailing the plight of the Scholarship Fund. At this time the administration of the Scholarship Fund was turned over to the Hague Winter Carnival Committee.

The original committee, together with the subsequent committees raised and awarded well over \$18,000 to 36 Hague students from 1972 to 1985. This is an accomplishment in which our entire community can share with pride. /s/ Rudolph Meola

CUB SCOUT PACK 21 NEWS

Our pack's first Pinewood Derby took place during Hague's Winter Weekend with a small, but enthusiastic crowd of spectators. The Cubs were "fueled up" after helping and eating at the Firemen's breakfast. All 7 entries were impressive and had good showings. After several fast heats, the Gold medal went to Ryan Lawrence, the Silver to Tyler Wells, and John Costello's car won the Bronze. Good show, boys!

Some of our Cubs took a wintery trip to Lake George for an afternoon of bowling. This launched our "Bowl-a-tree" fundraiser. Seedling trees may be purchased until March 22 from a Pack 21 Cub Scout, or call Karen Costello at 543-6590. Trees are \$7.50 and profits help our pack and the council.

Den #3 Webelos recently earned their Engineer pin (no, they can't drive trains). Josh Plass, Ryan Lawrence and Stephen LeBarron learned the value of a block and tackle while working together to give a "lift" to fellow Cub Tyler Wells. Building a catapult was also lots of fun.

Den #4 Webelos are inching toward that Webelos badge. They've earned Skating belt loop with lots of hard ice work on the community rink. This puts them a little closer to Sportsman. Keep plugging, guys!

As always, thanks for the bottles and cans. And thanks, Tink, for putting up with them! . . . KC

NATURE NEWS

Laura Meade

On a recent warm day did a chipmunk or squirrel emerge from under your porch to feast on bird seed spilled below a feeder? Did you slam on the brakes this winter to avoid hitting a deer that was dashing across the road in the Tongue Mt/Sabbath Day Point area? Was there a woodchuck in your garden last summer gobbling new shoots of carrot leaves before the plants could develop? Were you surprised to discover an opossum residing in your woodshed or garage last spring? Has the scrambling and scratching in your attic been the sounds of flying squirrels putting on a gymnastic demonstration? Truly, many of you could answer "Yes" to one (or all) of these questions!

There is no doubt that Hague is experiencing an explosion of adaptable and opportunistic species - "critters" that have "come in from the wild" to benefit from shelter and food that humans unwittingly provide. Scientists are beginning to seriously address the problems created as mammals and birds invade "civilization". How the predators prevail and persist!

Everything from a threat of rabies to a destruction of gardens and landscapes and from accidents caused by collisions to less diversity of wild species because of rapid reproduction by the invaders, can be distressing to the human population. Researchers are seriously studying these problems and trying to determine solutions. In fact, one of their conclusions is that there are more animals in the suburbs than in many rural areas where a handful of crops or grazing animals cause a simpler ecosystem. One might not equate Hague with suburbia, but certainly it is apparent that humans here are providing attractive and nourishing environments for "opportunistic" creatures.

Some questions to consider are: Should all species be given freedom to breed normally? Should there be some kind of animal control? Will crows and gulls create problems at the landfill? Will the jaws of woodchucks and squirrels devour succulent garden vegetables and flowers? Is there a threat of other diseases in addition to rabies? Arguments are bound to erupt on these subjects!

One researcher, Dr. Robert Garrott of the University of Wisconsin says "I just don't know where we're going with all of this. In time it will get out of balance and the scientific community and the public will have to bite the bullet. But, in some cases, that might be too late."

The basis of information for this article was in the March 1, 1994 edition of "Science Times", a special publication of "The New York Times" which appears in every Tuesday's issue.

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

The Ticonderoga Elementary School Kindergarten Open House for parents of next year's kindergarten students will take place on Wednesday, March 23. You and your child are invited to visit our kindergarten wing anytime between the hours of 8:15a.m. and 11:15a.m. Classes will continue as usual and you are welcome to inspect our facility, watch the children at lessons, activities, and playtime, and see what your child's day will be like. There will also be a school bus parked outside for the children to board. Mrs. Brown, Elementary School Principal, will be available to answer questions and give you a tour of the rest of the building during the morning if you are interested. Kindergarten Information Night will take place on Thursday, March 24 at 7PM in the Elementary Middle School Cafetorium. 3/94

A BIT OF HAGUE HISTORY - BATTLE HILL THE FEUDING SEXTONS

Have you ever heard of Battle Hill? It is the unpaved continuation of Split Rock Rd. going west, and the unpaved continuation of Dodd Hill Rd. going straight ahead past Snow Pappy's on the other end. The Sexton farm was a large farm on the left side of Battle Hill Rd. In 1866 the Sextons had 103 acres valued at \$130, tax \$1.15. In 1891 they had 220 1/5 acres valued at \$250.

Hiram and Thankful (Tuttle) Sexton had 4 children, Theresa, George (who broke his neck diving into Lake George from the top of a boat house; Smith, who owned the Mohican House (where the Hearth is today) and Flora born in 1873 and died in 1969.

Flora was the photographer. She and her sister never married and ran the farm until they died. They built a barn, drove teams of horses, did the haying and worked harder than most men. A brook ran thru their property which furnished them with lots of fish. God help anyone who tried to fish without their permission in their brook! Flora set up a tent in Hague in the summers and conducted her photography business. In later years they were very anti-social and would threaten anyone setting foot on their property with their guns. They also had a bull which roamed their fenced in fields (helped keep people away.) Many pictures in the Sexton albums show "the girls" wearing large dark flowered hats and long skirts but carrying their guns.

The current mailman on the route was always their best friend. He would check on them, bring them their groceries, and listen to their problems and stories. What a shame they didn't write their stories down. They fought so with their own father that he had to move out and live in a small house down the road. They were called the feuding Sextons.

There was a school house across the road from the Sexton's which had burned down three times. Flora accused her brother Smith of burning the school and blamed him for her lack of education. Tressie taught Florie to read and write. Tressie died first, in 1941, and when a neighbor took Florie to Ti to visit the funeral parlor, she insisted on going to the hardware store first. She came out carrying a shiny milk pail with a lip - "Now", she said, "Tressie would never let me buy one."

Flora lived 28 years alone and depended mostly on the mailman for her needs. She was on welfare with her goats and chickens to care for. The mailman found her frozen to death in the yard with a flashlight on the ground and a path circling her made by her goats. People immediately ransacked her house, looking for what? Perhaps they thought she had money hidden away, or other treasures. We will never know what they found.

Fortunately the looters weren't interested in pictures and thanks to the Welfare Dept. who went in later and retrieved the album and pictures they are now in the Hague Museum.

Across the road from the Sextons was the Francis Waters land. In 1870 - 65 acres. In 1881 - 122 acres, valued at \$500. A very large tract of land that had an Inn, store and tavern near the road. Francis Waters was the owner 1862-1934. After his death his son Walter, born 1900, took over the property.

The Waters and Sextons were always feuding over the Waters not fencing in their animals and their horses eating the Sextons grain. The Sexton girls would shut the horses in their barn and try to make Walter pay for what they had eaten.

Finally one day the girls had had enough, and as Walter riding his horse came into view by the Lewis Fish mailbox, Flora took aim and shot the horse in the hip. She was taken to jail for a few days, but as the horse recovered and Walter wasn't shot, they let her out. When questioned about the incident she said, "If I'd been shooten at Mr. Waters, I'd have hit him."

The story is that they were always shooting at each other on "Battle Hill" but took care never to hit anyone.

BATTLE HILL MYSTERY

The mysterious disappearance of one of Frank LaDue's children was a cause of considerable excitement around Hague

in the early 1920's. The family lived in a small house on the Battle Hill Rd. The family consisted of Frank, Averill (mother), two children and her father, Alvah Phillips.

Alvah was one of the last old-time fiddlers and square dance callers. He was at one time Town Clerk and even ran for Supervisor. LaDue was a veteran of World War I and it was believed that he had been shell shocked.

The child who disappeared was a girl of about 1 1/2 years of age. It is thought that the mother first reported the child had wandered off. She also hinted that it may have been carried away by a bear. The father showed considerable affection toward the girl, but the mother did not display any concern or grief. State troopers carried on a search, aided by bloodhounds and a group of volunteers from town.

Some people believed the mother beat the child, causing its death and that someone helped dispose of the body. All members of the family were under suspicion because of their indifferent attitude and their lack of cooperation.

People involved in the search for the child felt the blood hounds should have been used to track members of the family and felt that the poor father who was the only one that showed any grief or concern knew nothing of what had happened. The mother was known for child abuse and also wanted to be rid of her husband and have his pension. The husband had appeared quite normal at home until this happened and probably realized at the end what was happening to him.

The Battle Hill Mystery was a topic of conversation for a long time. The family soon moved to Glens Falls, all except Alvah who lived here for several years. He later moved to Glens Falls also where he continued to play and call for dances. His last appearance in Hague was to play at a fiftieth anniversary party held for Mr. and Mrs. William DeLam.

Sources: Clifton West, Dolly Kennedy, Michele Gautrea (from interviews with Charles Foote and Florence (Bartlett Bondgren), the latter four, residents of Split Rock Road.

NEW SERVICE FOR YOUNG MOTHERS IN TI

The Bottom Line Diaper Service, formerly of Peru, has been acquired by the Van Werts, dba Sunshine Laundry and Dry Cleaning in Ticonderoga. New York State is in the midst of a solid waste crisis of immense proportions, so the Van Werts feel good about a service that provides consumers the ability to easily reduce trash and reuse natural 100% cotton diapers at a surprisingly affordable price.

Once a week, clean white diapers finished to the pH of baby's skin are delivered to customers' homes and soiled diapers from the previous week are picked up for cleaning. To enhance customer service, a new subscription of *Parents* magazine is delivered with clean diapers each month.

Jeff Van Wert is driving the delivery van for the service, covering territory from Glens Falls to the Canadian Border **INCLUDING HAGUE!** Employees wash and sort diapers coming in and pack diapers for each day's trip. Chattie Van Wert fills in wherever needed but mostly keeps track of finances and attends to individual customer needs.

New equipment meeting OSHA standards for water temperatures, wash cycles and detergents enable the service to be extended to health centers, doctors' and dentists' offices.

Bottom Line offers diaper service gift certificates and diaper covers (wonderful baby shower gifts) also delivered to your door.

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields and, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. . . An Irish blessing.

SOUNDINGS

DIED - Margaret "Peg" (Messier) Frasier, 64, West Hague Road, on March 10 at her home. She is survived by five sons and three daughters including Chester Frasier and Frances Frasier, both of Hague, 18 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Ticonderoga Middle School was well represented at the second annual Junior High School Art Show hosted by the Hancock House in Ticonderoga. Eighth grade students Lindsay Frasier, (Hague) and Krissi Bianchine entered a combination painting and drawing that they worked on together. Eighth graders Lauren Mack (Hague) and Mairead Carney each made ceramic figurative sculptures.

The following students from Hague have been listed on the Third Marking Period Honor Roll at Ticonderoga High School:
FIRST HONORS: Elizabeth Brunet, Jessica Frasier, Allison Johnson, Monica Johnson, Jessica Mars
SECOND HONORS: Jennifer Belden, Shannon Kenna
CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL

BESTE NEWS

The following students received Beste Scholarship awards at the Benefit Buffet on Saturday night of Winter Weekend:

- Treva Braisted - S.U.N.Y. Buffalo
- Chris Heas - Hartwick College
- Jason Marcotte - Johnson & Wales Univ.
- Elizabeth DeFranco - Alfred University

Since none of the students had vacation at this time, parents were on hand to receive their awards.

The Winter Carnival Committee is still finalizing the finances of the Winter Weekend activities, but at this point, they are happy to report that it looks like a donation of approximately \$1,500 will be able to be made to the Beste Scholarship Fund within the month. This has been made possible through the very encouraging results of a fundraising mailing carried out in conjunction with the Weekend's activities, the profits from the Benefit Buffet and the Electronics Package Raffle, and direct donations placed in the Beste Mortarboard box throughout the weekend. This will put the grand total of the fun at over \$11,000! Thank you all for your participation and generosity. Watch for additional fundraisers to be scheduled throughout the year, and donations may be mailed at all times to: The Beste Scholarship Fund, c/o Hague Community Center, Hague, NY 12836.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WEATHER REPORTS

Tune in to WIPS Radio 1250AM for Ticonderoga Middle School's weather report, school days at 9:35AM. WIPS has invited our 8th grade science students to become involved in local weather reporting as a cooperative effort between the community and school. Students take turns each morning as an amateur reporter. Classroom tools have been purchased with the help of Eisenhower Grant funds.

<i>That God once loved a garden</i>	<i>I think that He'd be seen</i>
<i>We learn in Holy writ.</i>	<i>Pacing up and down</i>
<i>And seeing gardens in the Spring</i>	<i>the paths</i>
<i>I well can credit it.</i>	<i>That lead through Stephen's</i>
<i>But if God walks in Dublin</i>	<i>Green</i>
<i>... Stephen's Green, Stanza I</i>	

HAGUE WINTER WEEKEND

This year's Presidents' Day Weekend's festivities were a bit scaled down but perfect weather conditions and the many eager enthusiasts with bad cases of "cabin fever" combined to bring out the crowds and make the weekend quite a success for local organizations. Good attendance was noted for Friday night's "kickoff" square dance festivities, and dancers could also browse through the community organization displays during breaks in the dance program.

The Fish and Game Club's rifle shoot attracted many sharpshooters Saturday mid-day, and continued on well past the scheduled ending time of 2PM. The Scout's Pinewood Derby was a nice addition to the day's events after they "lent a hand" at the Firemen's breakfast.

The Beste Benefit Buffet, hosted by Silver Bay Association, has received rave reviews from many very happy diners, and attracted a nice crowd on Saturday evening. Our sincere thanks to Mark Johnson and his staff for their hospitality and our compliments to the "Chef Michele" and her staff for putting together such a delicious buffet.

Sunday's activities for the Family Fun Day at the Fish & Game Club went off with only the slightly slippery problem of excess mud, but the fine temperatures were worth the inconvenience. The following folks were famous that day:

Chainsaw Competition: Leo Wells came in 1st with his time of 10.16 seconds to buzz through a good-sized log.

Tug-of-War: "Dave's Devils" outpulled "Marty's Murderers" in a real "mud-slinging" event, and "Val's Vengeance", the women's team outpulled three of "Marty's Murderers" in several handicap heats.

Ice Auger Championships: In the junior over 3" stock auger class, Perry Girard, Jr. came in 1st with a combined time of 29.47 seconds for 3 holes. In the senior division of over 3" stock auger, Marty Spelman won with a combined time of 22.11 seconds for 3 holes. Ice on the beaver pond was 20 inches thick.

In addition, there were numerous kids' games and sliding going on all afternoon. Penelope the Clown entertained mobs of slightly soggy types who seemed undaunted by the mud, and much good food was served up from the Fish & Game kitchen after patrons "walked the plank." The winner of the Electronics Package Raffle was drawn at the end of the afternoon, with Katrina Johnson of Ticonderoga the lucky winner.

Thank you all for participating, whether it was buying raffle tickets, entering events, going to breakfasts or buffets, donating raffle items, or just plain helping. Everyone seemed to enjoy a fun-filled weekend.

TICONDEROGA DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT, DR. ROBERT L. COLLINS, was among 22 superintendents received Professional Development Certificates from the Superintendents' Academy of the NYS Council of School Superintendents on Monday, Jan 24 at the Mid-Winter meeting in Albany. The Superintendents' Academy, a unique program designed to enhance the leadership skills of practicing superintendents, was founded in 1991. Study in the academy, which meets twice a year, is based upon leadership-oriented curriculum.

BOOK FAIR

The Ticonderoga Middle School is holding its Spring Book Fair from Mon. March 14 through Thurs., Mar. 17. Books will be available in the Resource Center.

Hours are: Wed - 11:55-2:45; Thurs. 8:30-2:30

A good time to browse through books and buy at reasonable prices.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MARCH/APRIL

MARCH

- 16 Blood Pressure Clinic - 1PM, Community Center
- 16 School Board meeting - THS Cafeteria - 7:30PM
- 17 Carillon Garden Club Box lunch - 11AM - Com. Ctr.
- 22 Senior Citizens pot luck luncheon - 12noon
- 23 Gleaning, 10-11AM, Community Center
- 23 School Budget hearing - Comm. Ctr. 7:30PM
- 24 Public hearing on landfill reclamation study - 6:30PM, Com Ct
- 24 Zoning Board of Appeals - 7PM
- 24 Hague Historical Society - 7:30PM, Comm. Ctr. (p2)
- 26 Line Dance - Pumam Fire Dept, 7PM TI Fest. Guild) (see p2)

APRIL

- 1 Good Friday
- 3 EASTER SUNDAY - Sunrise Service at Beach - 6:30AM
- 4 Fire Department meeting-7:30PM-Firehall
- 5 Home Bureau - 10AM
- 6 Senior Citizens Bus to Glens Falls
- 6 Chamber of Commerce - 7:30PM - Comm. Ctr.
- 6 Square Dancing - 7:30-9:30PM - Comm. Ctr (p2)
- 6 American Legion - 7:30PM - Legion Home
- 7 Planning Board - 7PM - Comm. Ctr.
- 11 Women Helping Women - 7PM - Comm. Ctr
- 12 Town Board meeting - 6:30PM
- 15 Joint meeting with TI Hist. Society - 7:30PM, Comm. Ctr.

The sky is held up on an umbrella canopy of sticks, each held erect by its shadow braced at right angles black as iron against the forest floor of snow. Acre upon acre the trees stand silent sentinel to winter, the oaks and aspen with their gnarled limbs intricacy, the ash with every branch raised straight in praise to the sun bleached sky, the beech still clothed in wind tattered sleeves of brown leaves, the birch and willow now beginning to bring spring saps to their tendrils glowing golden and red. Sumac antlers form a pillared cap of red tassling each tip pointed toward the sun, betraying an alertness to the sun's arc in the depths of dormancy. The snow, spread tight across the fallow bed of fields, is tucked in around the trunk and stem of plant in the woods, as though a spoon had scooped a trough around the trunk in which a little warmth might gather for the roots to tap. By looking for these signs of surviving winter, of seeking spring, we find them, evidence that the stark array of forest pickets, without fencing in, a world willing to awake to life again.

...Mark Johnson, Executive Director, Silver Bay Assoc., March 7, 1994

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