

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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HAGUE, N.Y.

STATE GETS TICONDEROGA DAM

An event of historical significance took place earlier this month when the International Paper Company ceded the dam at the head of Lake George to the State of New York. With the dam, the paper company also conveyed seven acres of land and presented the state with a check for \$150,000. for use in reconstructing the dam, removing the buildings and grading.

The level of Lake George is about 220 feet above the level of Lake Champlain. Water descends from the head of Lake George through what the French called "La Chute" but which is now known as Ticonderoga Creek a distance of about 3½ miles to Lake Champlain. Obviously a great source of power, grist mills and lumber mills were constructed along its course as early as 1800-1810.

To regulate the flow of water, a dam was constructed about 160 years ago. This was replaced by the present dam and locks which were built in 1900 by International Paper Company who had acquired title to the five pulp and paper mills located at the head of the falls. In 1925 IPC gained complete control of the water when it purchased the three mills at the lower falls. The dam was so constructed that the level of Lake George rose to about a foot above its natural level. The people on the lake wanted the paper company to maintain this level and after considerable litigation IPC, by law, was assigned the responsibility of maintaining the level between 2.5 and 4 feet on the Rogers Rock gauge between April 1 and October 1.

With the abandonment of the old

mill several years ago, IPC has no interest in the water power and has sought to be relieved of its responsibility. The state acquiesced and the turning over of the dam and the properties places the responsibility on the Department of Environmental Conservation.

At the presentation ceremonies, Albert Oetken, a vice president of IPC, said that if the dam were removed the lake level would be lowered considerably, the shoreline would be altered, and there would be new hazards to boating from rocks and even islands which would rise above the surface. He also pointed out that by maintaining a constant level, dock owners are not inconvenienced by wide variations in water levels. Their docks are neither flooded nor made unapproachable.

On a visit to the area the other day, we were amazed at the tremendous volume of water rushing over the dam. It is inconceivable that in these days of energy shortages, the power generated by this water performs no useful function.

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HAGUE IS OUR TOWN

In an article in the October, 1973 issue of Reader's Digest, the people who make up the population of Block Island, a small island lying in Long Island Sound midway between the coast of Rhode Island and Long Island, were characterized according to their importance to the community as "natives", the men and women born there; "off islanders", people who may have spent a lifetime on the island but who had the misfortune of being born

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elsewhere: "cottage people", those who own homes but occupy them only during the summer months; "summer people", those who spend the same amount of time on the island but who rent their dwellings; "vacationers", those who also rent, but for a shorter period; "tourists" those who live in hotels or rooming houses; and finally, "day trippers" those who arrive on the morning boat and depart in the afternoon.

This is quite similar to what we have in Hague - natives, summer people, cottagers, tourists, and people who are simply visiting the area. Except that no one can move from a lower classification to that of "native", people do move from one classification to another. A visitor finds he likes what he sees and comes back as a tourist for a two-week vacation. Next year he rents a cottage for the summer and later he buys it and becomes a full fledged cottager. Finally the lure of his summer surroundings overtakes him and generally with retirement approaching, he becomes a year-round resident. Hague becomes his town; it's his home.

In the Reader's Digest article, the author, one of the cottage people describes a celebration honoring the island's public health nurse and member of the Volunteer Rescue Squad who had served the community well through hurricanes, shipwrecks, fires, even plane crashes. The author had been invited to attend the festivities but felt the event was certain to be a time of great intimacy for the islanders and he didn't want to attend as a conspicuous alien. However, his wife pointed out that in the fifteen years they had spent their summers on the island, they had called on the nurse in time of need and they owed it to her to attend. So they went.

There were many speeches by civic leaders extolling the kindly deeds of the honored guest but what startled the author was the mention of the date when the nurse had first come to the island. It was 1958 the very year the author had stepped ashore.

He wrote: "This was about the first community event I had attended. The postmistress had waved at me because...I had waved at her first. The merchants and civic leaders had greeted me warmly because I had finally greeted them in friendliness. The lesson here was simple yet profound - you receive back from a community what you first put into it."

As the author drove home that afternoon, he thought about his status on the island. "We were still 'cottage people'", he mused. "What had changed was that I now understood the comparative unimportance of the category."

On reaching the narrow lane which led to his land, he stopped the car beside his signpost. The top sign on the post read "Miller"; the bottom one "No Trespassing". Then he concludes, "I got out of the car and knocked the bottom sign off."

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BASKETBALL

The basketball season came to a close on Saturday night, April 13 when the Third Annual Hague Invitational Basketball Tournament ended with Hague the victor over Warrensburg in the final game. The score was 134 to 128. Third place went to Schroon Lake who beat the Hughes All-Stars (Ticonderoga) in the consolation. Trophies were awarded the first four teams.

The tournament opened on April 9 with eight teams, six established Essex and Warren County semi-pro or town teams and two made up of vacationing college and highschool seniors. In reaching the championship game, Hague defeated the Bracker Zll Stars (Ticonderoga) and the Hughes All-Stars. Dan Belden is the player-

coach of the Hague Team. The other players are Pete Plass, Tom Stull, Philip Frasier, Rick Bolton, Mike Riley, Carl Andreassen, Terry Bianchine, Harry Chase, and Bob Murray.

At the close of the tournament an all-star team was selected, as follows: York and Converse of Warrensburg and Murray, Chase and Plass of Hague. Frank Hughes was selected as best on offense with Chase awarded best on defense. Best sportsman went to Bob Duby of Schroon Lake.

The tournament was staged for the benefit of the Hague Scholarship Fund which will receive approximately \$500 from the tournament receipts.

This is the fourth and probably the most successful tournament in which Hague has played this year. Hague finished third at Crown Point, second at Wells and fourth at Schroon Lake.

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ARCHIE P. HERRICK

Archie P. Herrick died Wednesday April 10 in the Glens Falls Hospital. after a short illness. He was 76 years of age.

Mr. Herrick was born in Dunkirk, New York and resided in Cleveland, Ohio before coming to Silver Bay in 1949. He was the electrician of the Silver Bay Association until he retired in 1966. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church at Ticonderoga and a Mason.

Mr. Herrick and his wife Gertrude, who survives him, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary about two months ago. Other survivors include a son James, of Ticonderoga; five grandchildren; a great-grandchild and a sister, Mrs. Walter Laue of Bear Lake.

A private service for the immediate family was held on April 12. Creation followed. A memorial service is planned for some time in June at Silver Bay. The family has requested that memorials be in the form

of contributions to the First United Methodist Church Building Fund and the Silver Bay Association.

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ICE LEAVES LAKE

Fourteen inches of snow, the heaviest snowfall of the season, fell on Tuesday, April 9. However, a warming trend followed and all traces of snow had disappeared by the weekend.

On a strong southeast wind, the last ice floes left the lake on Monday April 15. Substantial damage was done to docks and boathouses. Earlier in the season considerable damage had been done along the southern end of the east shore. It was said that at Pilot Knob the damage done in this year was as bad as the cumulative damage for any ten-year period.

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BI-CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Warren County has created a Bicentennial Commission made up of two representatives from each town in the county. Mrs. James Fitzgerald, the Town Historian, and Mrs. Adra B. Seerup will represent the Town of Hague on the Commission.

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HAGUE PLANNING BOARD

At its meeting on April 11, the Hague Planning Board approved the form of a questionnaire which is designed to get the opinions of all property owners on a variety of matters dealing with living in the town. The survey of residents will be conducted by a group of college students while non-residents will receive the questionnaires by mail.

The questionnaire seeks opinions on the local economy, environment, town growth, town services, and individual concerns resulting from water pollution, traffic, overpopulation and improvements which it is felt are needed. The questionnaire asks for particulars as to the number of peo-

ple living in the household, number of years the family has lived in Hague, number of months spent there each year and some information concerning occupation and earnings. Space is provided for additional comments on each section of the questionnaire. No signature is required. A stamped addressed envelope will be enclosed with those questionnaires going out in the mails.

The survey will get under way by May 1. Hopefully most replies will have been received by May 23 when the work of evaluating the results will commence. The Planning Board solicits your co-operation.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

The town board met on April 9 with all members except Joseph Streeter present.

A number of applicants have now been interviewed for the summer policeman's job. Final appointment was left with the Police Committee. The committee was also authorized to have the town police car put in good mechanical condition.

There was considerable discussion about the proposed bathhouse and rest rooms for the park and beach area. The consensus seemed to be in favor of a single building with separate dressing rooms and toilet facilities for men and women. Plans will now be drawn and when completed, bids for the construction of the building and all facilities will be sought. It is hoped that the project can be completed before the summer.

There is a shortage of black topping and the price has increased substantially. However, the superintendent of highways believes we will be able to do one mile of re-surfacing this year. The Sabbath Day Road is to receive priority consideration but the question of title to the road bed must first be resolved. Representatives of the town are hoping to be able to meet with Sabbath Day residents within the near future.

Mr. DeLarm withdrew his offer of the use of his land for the proposed ski-low and the project seems to have been tabled indefinitely.

The board authorized the purchase of a new 3/4 ton truck with plow to replace the present truck which has been driven more than 44,000 miles. The new truck will be purchased under state contract at a total cost of \$4508. with delivery promised for September. The Board also approved the purchase of a calculator to be used by the supervisor and the town assessors. The adding machine now in use will be turned over to the Town Clerk for her use.

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SUMMER MAIL

The postmasters of Hague and Silver Bay would appreciate having summer people tell them when they arrive for the vacation period. Even if they don't expect mail, tenants should also check in with the local post offices. Failure to do this may result in letters being returned to sender because addressee is unknown. Tenants should also be requested to have mail for them addressed c/o the owner's cottage.

Post Office Box Number, Rural Route or Star Route Box Numbers are important and should be used. The use of "on Lake George" as a part of the address should be avoided. When the vacation comes to an end, do not forget to leave change of address notice with the local post office.

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HOME BUREAU FEDERATION

The annual spring luncheon of the Mohican Chapter of the Home Bureau Federation was held April 2. Honored guests included Mrs. Frances Hammond of Glens Falls, Vice Chairman of the Eastern District of New York and Mrs. Elsie Wolfe, also of Glens Falls, Chairman, Warren County. Mrs. Ethel Champagne of the Times of Ti was also present. Mrs. Bessie Yaw and Mrs. Margaret Nielsen were co-chairmen of

the food committee.

Normally the spring luncheon brings the season to a close, however this year the membership has decided to continue with regular meetings through May in order that the various projects undertaken throughout the year can be completed. The chapter now has 41 members.

At an earlier meeting the following officers were elected to serve during the next year: Chairman, Mrs. Adra Seerup: Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Frances Hogan: and Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Marguerite West.

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SENIOR CITIZENS MEET

A small group of senior citizens met at the Town Hall on April 18 and had a general discussion about organizing a senior citizens club. It appeared that others were interested but for various reasons were not able to attend. It was suggested that probably an evening meeting would be more desirable and that, if possible, Lou Spelman, Director of the Office for the Aging of Warren and Hamilton Counties, attend.

A further exploratory meeting has now been set for May 9 at 7:30 P.M. at the town hall and Mr. Spelman has agreed to be present. All persons sixty years of age and over are cordially invited to attend.

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CARD OF THANKS

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Wilardo, Dr. O'Keefe and the nursing staff while I was a patient at the Moses Ludington Hospital and the Glens Falls Hospital. I would also like to extend my appreciation to my family and friends for the many cards, gifts and help given while I was in the hospital and since I have been here. I would also like to thank the Fire Ambulance Squad.

Mrs. Joseph Streeter

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hague Historical Society held its regular meeting on April 17 at the Hague Baptist Church Annex with 28 members and guests present.

The program for the evening was presented by Dr. and Mrs. Gelhaar. They showed over a hundred colored slides which had been taken on their trip to Austria, Switzerland, Germany and Italy in 1962. Mrs. Gelhaar did the narration. The quality of the pictures was excellent and the scenery breath-taking. It was a most delightful armchair visit to these countries.

The Gelhaar's also supplied and served delicious refreshments.

The next meeting will be held on May 15 with the program in charge of Mrs. Ursula Montbriand. Miss Lona Bartlett and Miss Mildred Ross will provide the refreshments.

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The School Board met on April 8 with all members except Martin Fitzgerald present.

The Board approved the request of the Fowler, Laundree and LaPann families for transportation for their children to St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga during the next school year.

The request of H. G. Burleigh for a sabbatical leave was denied.

The Board approved a trip to Montreal for the French class.

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RED CROSS DRIVE

The Adirondack Chapter of the Red Cross reports total contributions from the Town of Hague amount to \$343. Contributions came from many places, including Canada, Florida, New Mexico, Alabama, New Jersey, and New York and, of course, there were

a number of contributions from Silver Bay and Hague. Contributions ranged in amount from \$1.00 to \$50.00. The Red Cross sincerely thanks all of you.

If you over-looked the appeal, there is still time to mail in your contribution. The address is - American Red Cross, Adirondack Chapter, Post Office Box 655, Glens Falls, New York 12801. Be sure to use your local address so that your contribution will properly be credited to Hague.

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HAGUE WESLEYAN CHURCH

On Palm Sunday the church bell of the Hague Wesleyan Church was sounded for the first time in several years. It announced that the work of refurbishing the church - new floor, new ceiling, new lights, and new wall paneling - was completed. Now only the matter of new pews remains.

The Rev. Edward Elliott who came to the church last July has played a major role in getting the work done. In addition to his church work, he drives a school bus and is a member of the Fire Department

The Elliott's have three boys, a re-schooler, a second grader and an eighth grader. They came to Hague from the East Pitcairn Church where Rev. Elliott was pastor for eight years. He is a graduate of Eastern

Pilgrim College with a B.S. Degree in Bible and Theology.

There are three Sunday services - Sunday School at 10; morning worship at 11; and vespers at 7 P.M. On Wednesdays there is a bible class at 7 P.M. at the members' homes.

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THE SCHOOL BUDGET

The school budget is not yet available. However, the president of the school board advises that expenditures will probably be up about \$4000. over the current year. Actually this is an increase of about \$20,000. since last years appropriations included \$16,000. for the new heating system. The amount to be raised by taxes cannot be determined until the matter of state aid has been fixed and this is still before the state legislature.

The annual meeting will be held on May 7 at 7:30 P.M. at which the budget will be discussed. Voting on the budget and the election of two school board members will be held on May 8 between 1 and 8 P.M. A nominating petition has been filed on behalf of Mrs. Shirley Bly to serve out the remaining four years of the term to which her late husband was elected last year. Martin Fitzgerald's term is up but at this writing no nominating petition has been filed on behalf of any candidate.

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(address correction requested)

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