

A HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Robert M Cole, D.D.S.

(Excerpts from Hague Historical Society Presentation)

Photography, as we know it today, developed in a piecemeal and sporadic fashion. The effect known as Camera Obscura was known and reported by Arabian scientist philosophers as early as the 11th Century. That is the phenomena of light entering a darkened room, or enclosure, through a small opening and casting an image on the opposite wall in a reversed and upside down position. This is exactly what takes place in our modern cameras.

The Arabian philosopher, known to the west as Alhazen (A.D. 965-1038) reported using it to study eclipses of the sun. In this way the eyes were not subject to injury.

Leonardo Da Vinci wrote knowledgeably about the "Dark Chamber" effect for the first noted reference in Europe That was late 15th Century.

Toward the end of the 16th Century a Neopolitan scientist-writer, Giovanni Battista della Porta, became interested in camera obscuras and experimented with a lens. He invited friends for a show, faced them toward the wall opposite the lens, uncovered the lens and his guests saw a diorama on the wall of small figures, upside down and reversed. performing a play as acted outside the room by hired actors. Unfortunately the guests were not amused but panicked. Shortly after this he was tried by a Papal Court on a charge of sorcery and was fortunate to be exiled out of the country. He lived 1538-1615...

About 1573 a mirror was added to reverse the image to upright and horizontally correct, as in

our camera viewfinders today...

In the 17th Century, artists used it as an aid to accuracy. They placed translucent paper over the image on ground glass and traced. These became portable being made of sedan chairs, tents, wood boxes and placed in studio drawing tables...

Johann Zahn, a German monk, added an adjustable light opening ("aperture") and a lens which moved in and out of a tube in a wooden box 9 in. hi & 2 ft. long...

The first known photograph, by Joseph Niepce (1826) of his French barnyard needed 8 hours of exposure. He used a pewter plate coated with an asphalt solution and silver salts. Silver salts were known, since the 14th Century medieval chemists, to be sensitive to light...

An English chemist, Sir John Herschel discovered that a chemical he called hypthiosulfate would remove the unexposed silver from an exposed plate so it would not darken when held for viewing in daylight and the picture therefore remained fixed.

Before 1839, Daguerre, in France, accidentally discovered that vaporized mercury reduced exposure time to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour with an F17 lens...

In Vienna, Joseph Max Petzval, a mathematician working to capture more light thru the lens designed an F3.6 lens reducing exposure time to less than one min. Portraiture was now a possibility...

In the late 1870's, using a new invention, rubber bands, Edward Muybridge (London) developed a shutter speed of 1/500th second and made the world famous sequence of a race horse at full gallop proving that all four feet were off the ground simultaneously.

A parallel line of discovery by Wm. Talbot (1835) ended in our present negative-positive tech-

History of Photography cont.
 niques...making possible endless prints from one negative...

3y. 1888 George Eastman announced his No. 1 Kodak roll Film Camera "You press the button, we do the rest." For \$25, it came loaded with film for 100 exposures and included developing and printing. For an additional \$10, sent with the camera it came back reloaded and processing costs prepaid...

In Hague, the earliest name in photography I could find is Flora Sexton and possibly her sister. They lived on Battle Hill Rd. and she had a tent studio near the Hague Boat Dock. Several of her pictures were used in the recently published book, Graphite by W. Ross. They were very professional.

Paul Wooley from Balston Spa stayed at the Silver Bay Hotel and did work there for the Association and guests. His father was probably a photographer too. Part of his remuneration was evidently a summer vacation for his family.

Charlie King, a student at Silver Bay School came back and was the local photographer for awhile. According to Mason Smith of Ticonderoga, Mr. King and a partner, Paul Grover, had a studio in Ti for a brief period. After Grover left town, Charlie continued for another year in Braisted's Hotel off Oneida Bay. Here he processed films for summer visitors with a pick-up route extending up to Glen Burnie. Irving Tier, a classmate of Charlie's ran this route for two years by boat and other transportation.

Wm. Trezian arrived at Silver Bay in the 1930's by way of the Brooklyn Central YMCA and Dr. Foster to be the resident photographer for several years. He has since gone on to better pastures in N.Y. City portrait work and now has his own studio. He gave classes for some of the youngsters during the summer and this was one of the im-

portant stimuli that started me on my sometimes extensive hobby. Gerald Foster and Spear Johnson were two other young snapshot enthusiasts aided by Bill Trezian.

Mr. Grimes, a Ti florist did some commercial work then sold his studio camera to Mason Smith. Mason Smith is well known and "was reared in these parts" as he said. He apprenticed here with Burnell Dandurand in summer of '23 then went to school and worked in New Jersey, also studied portraiture in Effingham, Ill... Returning to Ti in 1931, he enlisted in the C3's in World War II & has an extensive album of his work as Staff Photographer during the campaigns of Guadalcanal & beyond. He also had a route for summer work which extended to Schroom Manor, Chestertown, Brant Lake, Fort Ann & Sabbath Day Point. His messenger used a motorcycle and sure made good time in fair or foul weather. His studio was in the Atchinson block-Old Ethan Allen Room. He has seen many equipment changes...The old open flash singed his hair more than once so he was happy to finally use the large No. 50 flashbulb. He is still in business and now, of course, uses Speedlite etc.

Other names he mentioned might bring back memories: Cohen (1916) Stanley Blakner and Ray Daly.

Amateurs were also active in Hague. "Capt." Watts, father of Ethel Andrus, Dorothy Goodfellow & Henry Watts, left a legacy of hundreds of glass plates.

John Shattuck did very creditable work in his home across from S.3. Post Office doing portrait sittings in the living room and fixing negatives and developing prints in the bathroom as have so many amateurs before and after him. I have here some glass plates of local scenes and persons, many of which I have printed up for you. His camera as well as many others.

of varying vintage are here for your perusal. The plates are well documented as Circa 1907-8. His son, Jasper Shattuck set that as an approximate date and we have a picture of the first Silver Bay Auditorium, erected in 1907 and burned to the ground in July 1908. I will attempt to print up one of these plates before your eyes in the original manner with a frame and open incandescent bulb.

(Dr. Cole also displayed a pin hole camera which he put together during a long dull spell of Navy duty. It consists of a small cardboard box about 2" X 1½", lined with black paper, lead backing for the pin hole from X-ray film and a tongue blade hinged with a paper clip for shutter. The camera, loaded in the dark with X-ray film took 35 seconds to take one picture but it worked.

Dr. and Mrs. Cole entertained the Historical Society at their lake-shore house, "Shore Happy", where the east wall of the living room is almost entirely plate glass, framing an unspoiled view across Van Buren Bay and the lake to the mountains on the east shore.

Dr. Cole, a graduate of Columbia School of Dentistry is an orthodontist. He has equipped an office at Shore Happy where he will be available part time by appointment year round for people with orthodontic problems.)

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY usually meets at the Hague Baptist Church Annex on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:45 PM. Everyone is welcome. Next meeting-July 20.

PROPERTY OWNERS OF SILVER BAY

Association will meet on Tues. July 12 at 7:30 PM at the Hague Firehouse. This will be a combined business meeting and social get together. Dessert and Coffee will be served.

For further details contact Mrs. Ethel Andrus or myself. I will be back in Silver Bay July 2.

Keith McKeeman, Pres.

PUBLIC HEARING HELD MAY 31

Proposed new Park Ordinance was discussed.

25 interested property owners attended and hearing was chaired by Harvey Yaw, Town Justice.

Mr. Yaw reports that most of the discussion centered on hours for parking cars and launching boats.

Several people felt launching should be allowed as early as 5AM but property owners who live near the park reported that their guests have been disturbed by these early launchings.

Some people felt the present restriction limiting parked cars to 8AM to 11PM should be retained but some urged a 3AM limit to allow extra parking for mid-town businesses.

Some concern has been expressed re the disposal of waste from large boats when parked over night. Mr. Yaw reports that this was not mentioned at the public hearing or the Town board Meeting and is not spelled out in the ordinance but will be closely supervised by the local police and if necessary the ordinance can be amended.

TOWN BOARD

Special meetings were held on May 24 to consider bids for a new dump truck with plows and on June 6 when contract was awarded to Carswell Truck Center, Inc. for an International truck-snow plow at \$54,794.

JUNE 6: After further discussion the new Town Park Ordinance was passed. It will be effective July 1st. Some of the regulations are:

Boat launching will be free to property owners of Hague. A decal will be issued free for each boat from the Supervisor's Office. The decals have been ordered and should be available by July 1. There will be a fee of \$3, for other boats. Boat launch ramp will be open 8AM to 9PM and no boat will be allowed to remain longer than one week.

TOWN BOARD cont.

No domestic animals will be allowed in the park.

The Park will be open to the public 8AM to 11PM.

Free parking will be limited to automobiles, pick-up trucks and vans of 3/4 ton or less. No overnight parking.

Two life guard-swimming instructors hired: Nancy Archer and Terrence Bolton.

Supervisor was directed to send notice to alleged violators of the Town Landfill Ordinance. The landfill is for use of Hague property owners only.

June 14: It was agreed that the wooden swing seats may be hazardous and they will be replaced by rubber or canvas seats.

Resolution passed to correct 1973 error in using Revenue Sharing Funds for Publicity. Money to be transferred from Publicity Fund to Revenue Sharing in 1978 budget.

Brief discussion of radar device for the town police car. Further information to be secured.

Request from Jack Carney that the town assume responsibility for his water system because of increased costs for new equipment required by law. No decision. Next Meeting: July 12, 7:30 PM

W. Keith DeLarm
Town Supervisor

SABBATH DAY POINT CHAPEL 92nd

SEASON: The picturesque chapel by the lake will offer Protestant church services Sun. mornings at 10 AM during July and August, led by several different ministers: Rev. VanLeeuwen of United Church of Christ, Rev. VanHeest of Delmar Reformed Church, Rev. Hinkamp of Reformed Church of America and Rev. Marker of United Methodist Church.

Organist will be Mrs. Eloise VanHeest. Special music each Sun.

Cornelius VanLeeuwen

GOOD GOLFERS:

Penny Bolton is co-chairman of the Monday Nite Ladies Golf League

at the Ti Golf Club. She made Low Puts-17 on May 30, Low Gross-44 on June 6 and Pars all over the place -- #3, #4, #10, #11, & #14...

Pamela Hens; Low Net-37, Low Puts-17, Par #2...and the season has just begun.

Ray Laundree is Co-Chairman of the Thurs. Nit Men's League...

COMMENCEMENTS

Hague Central High School graduated its 50th class on June 24 - 12 students. Salutatory was delivered by Debbie R Sly, A Look Into The Future by Valerie L May and Susan Ann Capone, Mantle Oration by Kenneth L Forter, Reply by June Porter and Valedictory by Coleen Thibeault. Prizes were awarded by Principal Neola and Diplomas conferred by Edna Frasier, Pres. Board of Education. Candlelight speech by Kim Olcott and music by the Honor Chorus.

Junior High School Commencement was held on June 23 for eight students with each student contributing to the ceremony. Colleen Goetsch was Salutatorian and Richard Strum was Valedictorian.

Clifton West has commencement programs from each of the fifty years - a total of 372 students have been graduated since the schools were centralized. Classes range from 3 to 14 students.

Next SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: July 11

PLANNING BOARD met on June 16 with Mr. Davidson, Regional Planning Board Director, to go over the proposed new Zoning Ordinance in detail. Mr. Ed Crabbs reports that the next meeting will be July 17 at which time they hope to set a date for the Public Hearing. Interested property owners should watch The Post Star for an announcement or check with either Mr. Crabbs or the Town Supervisor's Office (6161) before July 27.

PUBLIC IS WELCOME AT ALL BOARD MEETINGS

LAKESIDE PARTY FOR FA FÁ

Jack and Dottie Henry entertained 36 people on their beach in honor of Jurema Maria DeFatima Varejo, foreign exchange student from Brazil who has been staying with Julie Frazier and her family since January, with swimming, a boat ride, a game of soccer, hickory smoked chicken and a "groaning board" of delicious American picnic foods (sans additives) all topped off with sunshine after four days of rain.

The party was attended by a mixed group - young school friends of Fa Fá, high school faculty, other interested townspeople, Father Salmon from Ti who speaks Portuguese and visits Brazil each year and Mrs. Stephanie Dechame who is active in the Ti Chapter of American Field Service exchange student program.

Like the weather, "everybody talks about war" but Jack & Dottie "did something about it". So did the Frasier's and the Joe Streeters who made Fa Fá welcome in their homes. And so did Father Salmon who showed her Montreal and Mrs. Dechame who entertained her at home and showed her Fort Ticonderoga. The rest of us had "good intentions" which "pave the road to" nowhere.

DECISION TIME

A "reliable source" mentioned that a new petition to the Commissioner of Education, requesting annexation or consolidation of Hague and Ticonderoga School Districts, will soon be circulating.

As a person who has benefited from the free public schools of this country and believes they help keep it strong, I can't complain about School Taxes yet. I am forever in debt to former Hague School teachers, Morgan Chester, Edith Porter, Gerald Keenan, Miss Daly and Viola Ackerman Fitzgerald. I must leave the discussion of finances to others.

I went to Ti looking for facts which might help us decide whether

it would mean a better education for the Hague students (in which case any of my former teachers would say "It is worth the effort.")

At the High School, they gave me a copy of the curriculum, a list of the extra-curricular activities and a Program of Studies booklet. These are now available from The Chronicle for parents or other interested citizens (phone: 8845).

They did not have an outline of their program at the Elementary & Middle Schools (they are in the midst of changes for next year) but I caught a glimpse of beautiful classrooms and equipment and saw several groups of alert active children - a sure sign of good teaching. Miss Hornsberg, the Elementary School Principal, said "Visitors are always welcome."

Further information and comments on this subject are requested for The Chronicle. They should be on hand by July 23 for the August issue. (Remember, "Word break no bones - hearts though sometimes.")

HAGUE ANNUAL ARTS FAIR IN THE PARK

Is being planned for Aug. 6 (Not the 13th). It is being organized by Mrs. Adra Seerup and sponsored by Hague Chamber of Commerce. Exhibitors of Arts & Crafts and other contributors should contact Mrs. Seerup or the Chamber of Commerce (phone 6153) for details.

HAGUE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

INFORMATION BOOTH will be open from 12 N to 6PM every day this summer with Mrs. Helen Samascott and Mrs. Gordon Hayes in attendance. Their phone is 6153.

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is edited and published monthly by H. Virginia Shattuck, Hague, NY, supported by contributions from civic minded citizens. Mimeograph-courtesy of Silver Bay Association. News items are solicited Phone: 8845

