



# THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

VOLUME 24 No. 8

HAGUE, NY 12836

AUGUST 1996

## NEW PUBLICATION DATE - NEW DEADLINE

Beginning with our September issue, the publication date of *The Hague Chronicle* will be changed to **on or about the 20th of each month**. Too many times in the past the Town Board Meeting (which is always the second Tues. of each month at 6:30PM) falls on the 12th, 13th or sometimes even on the 14th. It makes for a lot of late night writing in order to meet a 15th publication. We do like to keep you up to date on the town board news in particular. We hope this new date of publication will be better for all concerned.

**THE DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION WILL NOW BE MOVED UP TO THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.**

## HELP WANTED AND NEEDED

As of this issue of *The Hague Chronicle*, Georgina Lindquist is no longer doing the various town boards' news. She has been a reporter for this paper since December 1985, a span of over ten years. Not only has she been instrumental in getting you the news of the Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board (that's a lot of meetings!), she has also been in charge of the food program for Hague, one of the organizers and past president of the Senior Citizens Club, chairman of the Hague Christmas party for several years, Senior Citizen of the Year for Hague and Senior of the Year for Warren County. (I'm sure I have missed a few!) She isn't deserting us entirely. We hope we can count on her for emergencies!

As publisher/editor, I want to personally thank Georgina for all the years of service to the paper and the community and I'm sure our readers will miss her columns. . . djh

We really do need someone to replace Georgina. It is an excellent position, very low wages (none), a lot of time spent in some interesting and some dull meetings, but hey! there's a lot of satisfaction in knowing that you are doing something for your community. (We do have a tape recorder available.) And of course, there's the matter of prestige knowing you are on the staff of such a prestigious paper!! You don't have to be interviewed, you just have to make a call and say "I'll volunteer." If we have enough volunteers we can even share the load. Please call Dotie Henry at 543-6633. **WE NEED YOU!**

## ZONING ORDINANCE EDUCATION

One provision of the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Hague of which many people may be unaware is that in each zoning district a site plan review by the Planning Board is required for "any development within 100 feet of any pond, stream, river, lake, swamp or wetland." This arises most frequently in respect to lots bordering on Lake George. Development includes any structure, stairway, deck, grading, etc. In addition, Section 7.031 of the Zoning Ordinance provides that (i) within 35 feet of the mean high water mark of any pond, stream, river, lake, swamp or wetland, no vegetation may be removed, except that up to 30% of the trees in excess of six inches in diameter at breast height existing at any time may be cut over any 10 year period and (ii) within six feet of the mean highwater mark no vegetation may be removed, except that up to 30% of the shorefront may be cleared of vegetation on any individual lot. Such cutting standards do not prevent the removal of diseased vegetation or of rotten or damaged trees or of any other vegetation which presents safety or health hazards. If you have any questions relating to these items, please telephone Bill Bothe, Zoning Administrator, at the Hague Community Center, 543-6161. . . David W. Swanson, Planning Board Chairman

## HAGUE SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

The Wednesday night music series held in the town park has been a great success. Starting with folk and square dancing (moved to Community Ctr. because of inclement weather), continuing with The Rockefellers, the Silver Bay Chamber Ensemble, and Norma Strong Dance studio dancers, it has drawn a small but very appreciative audience. On Sat. Jul. 20 Small Axe and Beef held a rock concert, which proved to be a great hit, particularly for the younger crowd! On August 14 our own Rick Bolton and Sue Hamlin, popular folk artists, performed for a large and appreciative audience.

The last program of the series will be on Wed. Aug. 28 when Stan Bördick will be on hand for folk and square dancing in the park at 7:30PM. In case of rain the venue will be the Community Center.

Councilman Rudy Meola has spearheaded the movement to get concerts back in the park. We appreciate his efforts. He is open to any comments or suggestions for another year. Let's make this a bigger and better program.

**FISH & GAME CLUB AUCTION, SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1996 AT CLUBHOUSE, 12 Noon**

## SBA SUMMER CLEANUP

July 24 was the day for the first summer cleanup of the area of Route 9N allocated to the Property Owners of Silver Bay. Joining the clean-up crew were Ethel Andrus, Nick Bolton, Stan and Cathie Burdick, Hand and Ann Geils, Ginny Geils, Mac MacDowell, Gerard and Eloise Van Heest, Hildegard and Dean Wikoff.

The second cleanup will be done in the week following the Aug. 22 meeting of the Property Owners of Silver Bay at the Community Center at 7PM. A second cleanup crew will be recruited at that meeting. . . CAB

## SUMMER ART SHOW

The Hancock House, at Moses Circle in Ticonderoga, is happy to announce its Summer Art Show! Now open and during the month of August, four area artists will be featured. June Borho, Ticonderoga, will be showing her unique watercolors in the downstairs gallery. Her work has been seen and is found in collections throughout the northeast.

In the upstairs gallery will appear the works of Bea Frasier, Hague, who is well known in our area, with her oil paintings in many shows and private homes, with one being voted "Best of Show" in a previous show at Hancock House.

Joan Pulling, Putnam Station, working both in oils and water color, does many beautiful familiar scenes around Ticonderoga.

Alison Silvestri, now of Ticonderoga, was originally from Long Island. As owner and operator of a local hair salon, she is now emerging as a talented artist working in oils.

A special exhibit now on display at Hancock House is the award-winning Senior Class project done by TI High School valedictorian, Dan Halpert.

The Hancock House is open from Wed. - Sat. from 10AM to 4PM. It is always a treat to visit the Hancock House and its exhibits.

## MOHICAN HOME BUREAU

Are you new to the community or looking for a way to meet people or just looking for a way to spend your time more productively? Come visit the Mohican Home Bureau.

The first meeting of the 1996-97 year will be held on Tues., Sep. 10 at the Hague Community Center at 10AM. Our first project is a stained glass sweatshirt which will be taught by Millie Stockholm. You'll need 5 to 6 different colors of soft, glitter, fabric paint to create your most artistic design. In addition bring your sweatshirt (in a dark color), a stiff bristle (stenciling) brush and 1/2 inch wide roll of masking tape and join in on the fun.

So you don't have to rush home, bring along a sandwich. Coffee, tea and dessert will be provided. If you have any questions, call Millie at 543-6004 or Chairman Carol Brown at 543-6403. . . .cwb

## HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our active months begin again on Thurs., Sep 2 with a car trip to Rokeby Museum and then on to the Mt. Independence Museum, both in Vermont. Details are not yet finalized and will be announced in the Sep. *Hague Chronicle*.

Our special presentation, with Dick Kowell giving his multi-media evening of early post cards on Adirondack transportation, was enjoyed by a number of local historians on July 25. The turnout was remarkably good when it is realized that the height of the Olympic competition was also in progress that night. Dick Kowell gave a technically rewarding showing of the early stage coaches on corduroy roads, steamboats, railroad steam engines and then the early airplanes and their bush pilots. Plan for Sep. 26. . . rmc

## COMMUNITY CHILD CARE CENTER AT SILVER BAY ASSOCIATION

### OPENING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 PARENT MEETING AT 6:45PM ON SEP. 5.

New Program for Preschool Children - Structured preschool classes. Mornings 8:45am to 11:30am. \$5 per morning/ \$20 per week. Bi-monthly field trips

General Information - Licensed by New York State, certified staff. Accepting ages 6 weeks to 5 yrs. Monday through Friday - 7AM - 6PM. Full or half days - Sep. through June. First two visits FREE (must call 48 hrs in advance) Scholarships available. Contracted with Essex & Warren County Dept. of Social Services for program recipients.

Angela MacAlpine and Renee Swinton will be returning as our lead teachers for 1996-1997 season. Angela is primarily responsible for development and growth of preschool aged children and Renee is primarily responsible for guidance and development with the infant and toddler aged children.

Helen Barton will continue to be director of the program for the 1996-97 season. Please call her for age-appropriate placement or for a personal visit at 543-8833.

**The Community Child Care Center is giving our community's children the experience and socialization at these critical developmental stages. Don't miss it - Call NOW!**

## HIRING - WORK WITH CHILDREN

The Community Child Care Center which nurtures infants to preschool age children has opportunities for qualified substitute teachers. Pending enrollment we will accept resumes for part and full time positions as teachers and teachers' aids. Please send a resume complete with three references for all positions including the substitute list to Helen Barton, Silver Bay Association, Silver Bay, NY 12874.

May we kiss whom we please  
And please whom we kiss.

—Anon

8/96

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 7/25/96

A public hearing was held on July 25 to consider the application of Ward (21-1-21) Variance to Create a New Non-Conforming lot containing 530+ sq. ft of commercial floor space which exceeds the 10,000 sq. ft. limit per 2.9 ac. lot. No letters were received either for or against the project.

At the regular meeting, the matter of Ward (21-1-21) was the first on the agenda. Mr. Clark made the motion that variance #03-96 be granted, based upon the following findings: The granting of the variance is not detrimental to the intent of the ordinance or the surrounding neighborhood due to the preexisting nature of the buildings and use of the property. Motion seconded and all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Ody's (61-1-65) VAR # 02-96, Rt. 9N Silver Bay. Hours of operation amendment.

\*On July 16, 1996 Mr. Charles Ody Jr. submitted written request to place variance application on hold until further notice.

\* The matter pertaining to Use Variance #4 - Compliance with NYS Uniform Bldg. and Fire Code - a compliance certificate has not been provided to the office of the Zoning Administrator as of this date.

\* The matter pertaining to complaints filed by neighbors indicating that an After Hours Private Club has been established may in fact be an added or additional use which requires a variance by the Zoning Board.

Martin & Lynn Spelman gave the board a list of dates and times of violations and asked they be included in the minutes.

Mr. Neal made a motion that the Zoning Administrator write to Ody's within the next week, warning them of their violations. Approved.

The board will request Mr. Bothe, as Enforcement Official of the Town, and as an impartial party to go and witness the violations, so that he can take further action. The hours at Ody's are until 10PM and all must be off the premises by 10:30PM.

There was no other business. . . djh

PLANNING BOARD - 8/1/96

The notice for a public hearing for the Ward project was not able to be published in time for this meeting. The Post Star has changed their policy and now requires two weeks notice. Mr. Bothe will be asked to get our notice to the Post Star as soon as possible so we can have the public hearing on Sept. 5, 1996.

In the absence of a full Board, filling of the positions for Vice Chairman and Clerk was deferred to the next scheduled meeting of the Planning Board. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM. . . djh

TOWN BOARD - 9/13/96

A public hearing was held prior to the regular meeting regarding the Flood Plain. During the regular meeting, Local Law #1 concerning this was tabled until Sept. meeting since no maps have been re-

ceived to date.

A moment of silence was held to remember Don Davis, a life-long resident of Hague who died last month.

Tom James read a letter from the Chamber of Commerce praising the services of Mike Manning and Mitzi Fillare for the work they did for the Hague Arts Fair. He also thanked the Town Board for their cooperation. The Chamber has presented a check for \$100 to the town for the use of the building and are buying two tables for the use of the town. They also made a contribution to the Fire Dept. and the Beste Fund.

In Committee Reports:

Assessor & Justice - Councilman Meola stated that an Article 7 had been filed by the Cartwrights in Friends Point because they felt they had been over-assessed by \$236,915. After speaking with the assessor Mr. Meola recommended that the town have the Cartwright property appraised by an outside appraiser, take those figures and negotiate with the Cartwrights on that basis. The Assessor's committee will sit down with the town attorney to discuss this plan. This would expedite matters. In the matter of the assessment of Bill Morgan, the town board agreed in its July 23 special meeting to accept the settlement negotiated by the Town Assessor, D. Martucci, Town Attorney, J. McDonald and W. Morgan's attorney, M. Duffy for Mr. Morgan to be assessed at \$850,000 on parcel 63-1-4 opposed to \$1,057,300. The settlement includes all taxes, but there will be no refunds for 1992, 93, 94 and 95. The settlement on the second property was agreed upon by the board for Morgan to be assessed at \$450,000 on parcel 61-1-4 as opposed to \$779,400. with the same conditions.

Buildings & Grounds: Proposals have been received for new carpeting in the reception & secretary's offices and new vinyl flooring in the senior citizens room. Work will be done right after Labor Day.

Finance: Supervisor Belden has contacted the District Attorney's Office and was advised that the matter of the finances in the former clerk's office are being reviewed and will be ready for publication within a week or two.

Highway: The Highway Dept. was commended on their work at the sand pit. The town got 2,000 yds. of cobblestones, 16,000 yds. of sifted sand etc. with a total value of about \$80,000. Supt. of Highways Dave DeLarm thanked the Sabbath Day Pt. residents for putting up with the noise. The dept. adjusted their working hours there, but it was still noisy.

Sewer: Since a petition for a referendum to vote on the sewer system has been filed, a vote on this has been set for Oct. 11 from 12AM - 9PM. Please mark your calendars for this date! Only property owners in the sewer district are eligible to vote. If more than one owner is listed on the deed, each will have a vote. No absentee ballots will be allowed.

Town Park and Beautification: Highway Dept. has put more sand under the new equipment and the problem of the "pool" under it seems to be solved.

(Cont. on p. 4 Town Board)

Town Board (Cont. from page 3)

**Transfer Station:** The income for the transfer station during July was \$4,997.75. The highway dept. is working on getting all the C&D hauled away. Expect to be finished next week. A letter has been sent to a resident who left their trash at the gate when the station was closed. **THIS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. New hours for the transfer station beginning SEP 11 THROUGH OCT. 31 - 12N - 5PM. CLOSED WEDNESDAYS.**

**Youth:** The music festival Wednesdays in the Park was a great success. A picnic is planned for the youth of the town on Thurs., Aug. 15 in the park. The Hague Market is generously donating hot dogs and ground round for hamburgers, Blackie Fitzgerald is donating sodas and Rudy Meola, dessert. There were ten students in the second course of the Boating Safety Course, taught by Marty and Carol Brown.

The sale of used equipment from the town center netted the town approximately \$300 - plus space!

Letters of resignation from Marg Del Signore and Leaman Snow, both transfer station employees, were read and accepted with regret. Georgiana May has been appointed to replace Mrs. Del Signore as a part time employee effective Aug. 28.

A public informational meeting on the new 911 system as it applies to Hague, will be held on Sep. 10 at 6PM, prior to the regular Town Board meeting.

There are a number of properties in Hague which will be going up for auction. The list is in the town office.

A painting has been presented to the town by Marie Thompson, a resident of Hague. It will be hung in the town center. A note of appreciation has been sent to Mrs. Thompson.

#### HAGUE ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

The 24th annual Hague Arts & Crafts Fair, held Aug 3rd & 4th boasted outstanding weather and attracted hundreds of browsers, who found all sorts of treasures. Our new arts fair organizer, Mitzi Fillare brought in over 50 vendors, many of whom had never exhibited in Hague before. She did a great job of keeping vendors and visitors happy and everything running smoothly. Mike Manning, who gave up his weekend to help, controlled the traffic and kept an eye on the restrooms and air conditioning. A special thanks to the Fire Dept. for lending tables, including delivery and pickup.

A clown was on hand to tell stories and paint faces for children. She donated her earnings from this part of her exhibit to the Beste Scholarship Fund. This fund was also the beneficiary of proceeds from a table serving hot dogs, Michigans, cold drinks and coffee, thanks to Cindy Coon, her niece, and Kate Hunter who manned it.

The Chamber of Commerce is pleased with the Arts Fair's success and consistent reputation for being a well-run show, which brings back vendors each year. The Chamber's primary goal is not so much to raise money for the Chamber, but to bring to our area an attraction which will bring in visitors

and help non-profit clubs to raise money for their treasuries. Since the town asked the Chamber to take over sponsorship of the Fair in the early 1980's, we have been very happy to have their continued cooperation and support with this event. We look forward to 1997 and the 254TH ANNUAL HAGUE ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR.

#### WARREN COUNTY ARTS INITIATIVE

Warren County is pleased to be a recipient of a \$22,000 grant from the NYS Council on the Arts. Moneys from this grant will be used to distribute Decentralization funds through the Warren County Arts Initiative Program. Applications are available to not-for-profit organizations and municipalities, based in Warren County and providing arts and cultural programming.

Programming must occur between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 1997, and the deadline for application is Oct 11, 1996. Application and guideline packages are now available and will be distributed at each of the four free application seminars to be held in the following locations:

8/27 - 6:30PM - Crandall Library; 8/28 - 4PM, Chertertown Town Hall; 9/5 - 12:15PM, Bolton Landing Town Hall; 9/9 - 4PM Lake George Arts Project, Canada St., Lake George.

Anyone wishing more info. should contact the program coordinator, Anne Smoczynski, at 798-1144 or write to Warren County Arts Initiative, c/o LARAC, PO Box 659, Glens Falls, NY 12801.

#### LAKE GEORGE PARK COMMISSION

Governor Pataki recently appointed four new members of the Lake George Park Commission. The three new members are E. Wilson Campbell of Bolton Landing, Thomas L. Wood, Dresden and Bruce E. Young, Hulet's Landing and H. Gordon Burleigh, Ticonderoga reappointed to a third term on the commission.

#### DEC HOLDS INFORMATIONAL MEETING IN HAGUE

On Aug. 13 Sandy LeBarron of the DEC chaired a hearing on the buoys at the Rogers Rock Campsite. There were a number of campers there and also home owners from Hague. Each person present was given a chance to express his/her views. The arguments became very heated at times, but Mrs LeBarron was able to keep everything under control. The DEC has had a previous hearing on this matter in April, and though they are not obligated to hold any hearings, they are doing so in order to get all the input that they can. They will take these suggestions for consideration. It was noted that Rogers Rock is the only campsite facility in the state to have moorings. There are 30, which is 20 less than originally scheduled. A unit management plan is in the draft stage which will look into the next 5 years. Hearings will be held before it is adopted. One question that was asked was "Where do the monies go?" The user fees go to a special revenue account to support the campground program. . . djh 8/96

## READINGS BY THE BAY

Silver Bay Association continues its *Readings by the Bay* Series on August 22 with David Huddle, who has authored three books of poetry, a book of short stories and a collection of short stories, poems and essays. Huddle is a professor at the University of Vermont and a faculty member at Bread Loaf School of English.

On August 29 Douglas Glover, the author of three story collections and three novels, will be reading from his works. Glover is on the faculty of the Vermont College Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program. He is the Writer-in-Residence for the Writer's Voice offering master level fiction writing workshops at the Silver Bay Assoc. from Aug. 5 through Aug. 31.

The *Readings by the Bay* Series is held at Watson Arts Center on the SBA Campus and provides an opportunity to meet authors who are challenging the traditional definition of literary arts. Reception and book signing. Admission \$3.00.

## ROTARY CLUB OF NORTHERN LAKE GEORGE

The newest Rotary Club in all of Northern New York is off to a good start, according to Stan Burdick, president. After its Charter Night in June, the club made plans with its board of directors this week to form committees and set up programs for the balance of the summer and fall.

Named to four major committees are these chairmen: Joannie Brown, Program; Stuart Harmon, Service; John Barber, Membership; and David Kisselback, Promotion and Public Relations.

Several service projects have been set up to benefit local, regional and national benefit programs. All 35 newly-installed members of the club have been given committee assignments.

The Rotary Club of Northern Lake George is the recipient of a 3x5 flag presented to it by The American Legion Post #1538, Hague. The club is very grateful for this gift. This is a service of the Legion to the community.

The Rotary Club meets each Tues. at 7:30AM for breakfast and program. Interested adults may contact Burdick at 543-8824 or Tom James, Sec. at 543-6924.

## HAGUE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Our volunteers responded to 5 fire calls in July, with a total of 101 manhours being used.

The ambulance squad was busy too. Ambulance 740 made 12 runs and covered 469 miles; Ambulance 741 741 had 5 runs and racked up 248 miles. A total of 195 1/2 manhours were used.

The HVFD took part in Ticonderoga's Fourth of July Parade and returned to Hague with the trophy for the best looking truck. (Why not? All of our trucks are the BEST looking!)

Angela Swinton, Joyce Monroe, John Brown and Reg Rand have received their Fire Police certificates.

Last month, in expressing thanks to the non-fire department folks who came and helped out at the 4 meals served over the Father's Day Weekend, we neglected to thank John Smith who worked from dewy dawn until the last baked potato was served. My

apologies, John, and our belated thanks for all of your hard work.

Joan Belden is raffling off a hand-made afghan; the drawing for the afghan will be Columbus Day weekend. Tickets for this raffle sell for \$1 each, and the funds will be donated to our new building fund.

## HAGUE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

The Hague Senior Citizens Club will hold its annual picnic at the Hague Fish and Game Club on **Tues, Aug. 27** at noon. To register for this, please call 6543-6161 (Hague Community Center) and then phone Emma Werschky at 543-6883 to let her know what you can provide in the way of edibles. **REGISTER BY AUGUST 20TH FOR THIS.** . . . ewa

In last month's issue we told you about the luncheon boat cruise on the Ethan Allen II out of Burlington. The bus reached its capacity (47) within a few days. However, there is a waiting list, and a few people who did not sign up in time have decided they would like to go and will drive themselves to Burlington. If you still want to get yourself on the waiting list, or drive yourself, you may do so **BEFORE AUGUST 20**. The trip is scheduled for Oct. 3, leaving here at 9AM from the Community Ctr. The boat holds 500, so there should be no problem! However those traveling by car will be responsible for their own transportation. Each Hague senior will be expected to send their checks for \$10 to cover his/her share of the expenses by September 15. Make checks payable to Dorothy J. Henry, 152A New Hague Road, Hague, NY 12836-9711. If you are registered to go and find that you cannot make it, please call the town center to have your name removed from the list as soon as possible. Those who are going on their own are still expected to pay the \$10 toward lunch and cruise. (Incidentally the luncheon menu consists of fresh turkey with gravy, dressing & cranberry sauce, chef's smashed potatoes (that's right - smashed), baked acorn squash with maple syrup, fresh rolls and fresh warmed fruit cobbler). No dinner that night! . . . djh

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR TRIP -- AUG. 20**  
**DEADLINE TO SEND CHECKS - SEP. 20**  
 (Checks made payable to Dorothy J. Henry)

## HVFD FOOD SALE

The HVFD food sale at the Hague Arts Fair was a sweet success. It netted the Fire Dept. over \$350, and we are grateful to those who contributed so generously to our tables of food. We are equally grateful to those who stopped by and bought our goodies - home grown, home cooked. Estelle, Ethel, Joan and Norma, who tended the tables and collected the money are not only thanked but congratulated for their non-stop endurance . . . from 7:30 to 4:30! Yup, they're all willing to do it again in '97.

**HVFD LUMMAGE SALE** will end on Labor Day Weekend. Until then, Pat's shop is open from 10AM-2PM on Mon., Wed., D& Sat. We still have many items, including lots of lovely clothes. This sale is being held at Pat Swinton's residence on the New Hague Road.

**NO FURTHER DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** . . . ewa

### ROTARY CLUB OF NORTHERN LAKE GEORGE TREATS HAGUE YOUTH TO TRIP TO SEE GIANTS

Almost at the crack of dawn (7AM) on Mon. Jul. 29, 24 local boys and girls, accompanied by 7 adults, left the Hague Community Center to visit the GIANTS training camp at the SUNY campus in Albany. We watched as team members (and those aspiring to be) sweated and groaned through their routines. They were trying to make the "CUT". Towering kicks, screen passes, long "bombs" and broken field running were all part of the scene as the players worked hard to be favorably noticed.

As the events drew to a close our youngsters lined up with hundreds of others to intercept the players as they left the field to get autographs. All who wanted them were successful. Some had eight or nine signatures. This part of our outing turned out to be the highlight for some of our kids.

Then it was on to the Golden Arches for lunch. Watching all that exercise seemed to work up an appetite for our young people as well as the adults. Rotarians Mark Johnson, Stan Burdick, Chuck Fillare and Walter Hartl, along with some parents, provided the outing with transportation and supervision. They were unanimous in their opinions that this was a good outing with some great kids.

### PLANNED PARENTHOOD

The Planned Parenthood Benefit on Aug. 3 in Hague was a huge success with 160 supporters who helped raise \$3,000 for the new Planned Parenthood Health Center in Ticonderoga.

Planned Parenthood Health Services of Northeast New York has closed its Crown Point health center and opened the doors of a new and improved health center at 109 Lake George Ave in Ticonderoga. The Ticonderoga Center is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:30AM - 4PM and on Thursdays from 12 noon to 8PM. Appointments can be made by calling 585-7622 during office hours.

According to Community Educator Sheri DeLarm, the move to Ticonderoga was made for two reasons: to provide more comfort and greater accessibility to patients. Our location in Crown Point had a number of physical limitations, explained DeLarm.

Members of the Ticonderoga area may be surprised at the range of services now available at Planned Parenthood. Besides birth control information and supplies and pregnancy testing, the health center in Ticonderoga will be providing complete Obst/Gyn exams including a Pap smear, breast exam and other preventative screenings; testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections; and confidential HIV testing and counseling for both men and women.

The Planned Parenthood center is a certified provider for the Prenatal Care Assistance Project (PCAP), enabling staff to offer comprehensive prenatal services at no cost to income qualified women. Older women can now find medical, counseling and education services at Planned Parenthood, including hormone therapy. A wide variety of educational pro-

grams and materials are also offered.

### NATURE NEWS

Laura Meade  
In Aug. 1994 when my grandson Robert arrived for a vacation at my woodland home, he brought with him a new, prized possession. I was surprised that he was intrigued, not by a new game, or a pet gerbil, or a popcorn machine, but by his new student microscope. I was astonished that the purpose of the microscope was to study the ants that resided in an anthill in my yard.

Of course, the best way to study ants is to capture a few, bring them into the house and place them on a glass plate under the magnification lens. Now sensible ants are not going to tolerate such scrutiny! So the ants immediately sought escape by scattering in all directions. As one can imagine, I was less than enthusiastic about the project. Robert was encouraged to do his research outside.

Squeals of delight were heard occasionally near the anthill, when a particular feature was noted, such as "there's one carrying an egg away from the nest"; "Why are so many going to that leaf?"; "What is it like inside the anthill?" The research project ended when microscope and Robert departed some days later.

By coincidence, a few months later I happened to be watching a nature program on TV when the world's foremost expert on ants, Dr. Edward O. Wilson, was being interviewed. My knowledge of ants had been limited to squashing a wriggling ant as it dashed across the kitchen counter. But, as Dr. Wilson squinted at his audience with his one good eye, and modestly told of his many years of ant research, I became fascinated with his comments. He referred to ants' chemical communication, their obedience to instinct, and how each species has its own repertoire of fixed patterns (including some in Costa Rica that use discarded cocoons to make a type of wall paper as a technique of climate and humidity control).

Wilson estimates that between 1 and 10 million billion ants are alive at any moment, with all of them weighing together as much as the totality of human beings. He has concluded that, if ants were to disappear, tens of thousands of other plant and animal species would also perish, weakening land systems everywhere.

Wilson, a long-time Harvard professor, has written many books, including his own autobiography, "Naturalist." I must admit that I bought a copy to send to Robert, but I found it so compelling that I purchased another for myself. The chapter on ANTS is worth reading many times.

### THE LOCUST INN GALLERY OF FINE ART

The following exhibitions will be held at Locust Inn during Aug., Sep. & Oct.  
From August 15 - Sept. 15: The works of George Van Hook, an American Realist, highlighted in the March 1989 edition of "American Artist". The show will display recent "still lifes and landscapes."  
From Sept. 15 - Oct. 15, the gallery will display works by Ruth Rumney, a Mineville resident, who is well known and frequently displayed in Warren & Essex Counties. The works displayed will show her wide range of interests.  
Gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday from 2 - 5PM. For more information about these exhibits, please call Jim Coates, 543-6035.

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION DATES - Aug. 28, Sep. 10 and Sep. 24. 1-2PM.**



**DIED** - Donald Davis, 82, a life-long resident of Hague, on July 21 in Albany Med. Ctr. The valedictorian of the class of 1933 of the Hague Central School, Mr. Davis is survived by four daughters, Kathleen Backus, Cecile Davis, Pauline Wilson and Theresa Davis and three sons, Stephen, David and Paul. He is also survived by 8 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Congratulations to: BETTY AND CLIFFORD DECKER**, West Hague Road, on their 67th wedding anniversary on August 21.

#### **NORTHERN LAKE GEORGE YACHT CLUB HOSTS BI-ANNUAL CHEESEBURGER IN PARADISE REGATTA**

On July 23 & 24, Flying Junior sailors from the NLGYC in Hague competed against sailors from the Lake George Club in Lake George, the Mallett's Bay Boat Club in Burlington, VT, the Brown Ledge Camp in Colchester, VT and the Lake Champlain Yacht Club in Shelburne, VT.

Jeff Tempelton and Jess Patea from Mallett's Bay placed first; Pat Toner and Crispin Tobey, Hague, second, and Ryan Arthur and Katie Riley, also from Hague, third.

#### **WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS**

The Warren Council of Sr. Citizens will hold its annual picnic on Sep 4 (rain date, Sep. 5) at Battlefield Park in Lake George. All seniors in Warren County are invited to this picnic. The food is grilled chicken, corn on cob, chips and watermelon, with doughnuts and coffee being provided for early arrivals. Serving is a 121Noon. The suggested price of the meal is \$3.00, but no one will be refused a meal because of inability to pay. Andy Pratt, Disc Jockey, will provide the entertainment; he was a great success at last year's picnic; in addition we expect a barbershop quartet to be around. Register for this picnic by phoning 543-6161 (Hague Community Ctr.) by Aug. 21 (we have to know how many chickens to buy and how many ears of corn to pick!) **NOTE: PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN DINING UTENSILS, TABLECLOTH OR PLACE MATS. PLATES WILL BE PROVIDED.** . ewa

#### **SEWER VOTE ON OCT. 12**

Mark your calendar now and plan to be in Hague on Oct. 11 - the beginning of the Columbus Day weekend - to cast your vote in the referendum concerning the sewer for Hague. In order to vote you must be a property owner in the district as outlined. If there is more than one name on your deed, each person can cast a vote. You do **NOT** have to be a registered voter. Unfortunately we have been told that there cannot be any absentee ballots, so if it is at all possible, plan to be here before 9PM on Friday.

#### **SAFETY TALK FROM THE HVFD**

We are reminding all drivers that many private driveways and several town roads exit on to Rt. 9N with limited visibility, sometimes in both directions, for the driver attempting to enter 9N. Please drive carefully, and be prepared to slow down when a vehicle may enter 9N without seeing an oncoming car. While we are unable to warn the speeding motorist we can set an example when we drive with awareness of this problem, and it is a problem, not only in Hague, but in all resort area towns.

We also notice that many walkers and joggers are **NOT** facing traffic when taking their daily constitutional. Please heed this reminder that 2-footed traffic must **FACE** oncoming vehicles. Bicyclists travel by the same rules as motor vehicle drivers and are urged to use caution when approaching all the intersections and to reduce downhill speeds. . . ewa

#### **FLU SHOTS**

Flu shots for senior citizens and other residents who have a breathing problem, will be given at the Community Center on October 23 from 1-3PM. Bring Medicaid or Medicare card. Without one of these cards the fee will be \$5.00.

#### **FISH AND GAME CLUB AUCTION**

The Hague Fish and Game Club will hold an auction on Sat., Aug. 17 at the clubhouse. Viewing begins at 10AM and bidding at 12 Noon. Auctioneer: Marty Malone. Old and new items, furniture, collectibles, glassware, books, etc. etc. Door prizes throughout the day. Delivery in immediate area.

#### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT SILVER BAY ASSOC.**

##### **Autumn in the Adirondacks - Sep 23-26**

A Senior Celebration focusing on the Adirondack region surrounding Silver Bay, its poets and people, historic Ticonderoga, and exploring our natural backyard.

##### **Watercolor Workshop**

The Adirondack region of NYS has provided innumerable subjects for master painter Jon Gallucci. Come and learn from this marvelous teacher during one of the most beautiful times of the year on the shores of Lake George.

##### **ELDERHOSTELS**

##### **Intergenerational -- Aug. 25-30**

For grandparents and their grandchildren ages 10-12. Classes include: Canoeing, Tell Me About When You Were - Storytelling for Grandparents & Grandchildren and Field Notes: A Nature Sampler.

##### **Double Elder Hostel Sep 15-20**

Session I classes include: 100 Years of Comic Art & How to Do It, Hate Speech - What Limits? and Ancient Mythologies.

Session II classes include: Revolution in the Champlain Valley - Intensive at Fort Ticonderoga

##### **Double Elder Hostel Oct 6-11**

Session I Classes include: Late, Great Prophets - Hope in a Chaotic World, Real Poetry for Real People, and American Folk Dance.

Session II classes include: Writing the Adirondacks, Israel & Arab Conflict in Historical Perspective and Adirondack Watercolor. For more info. call 543-8833. 8/96

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1996

#### August

- 17 Auction - Fish & Game Club - 12Noon (p1)
- 21 Blood Pressure Clinic - 1 - 2PM, Comm. Ctr.
- 22 Silver Bay Prop. Owners meeting - 7PM, Comm.Ctr
- 22 Zoning Board - 7PM
- 27 Sr. Cit picnic - 12N - Fish & Game Clubhouse (p5)
- 28 Food Distribution - 1-2PM, Town Ctr.
- 28 Square Dancing in park - 7:30PM - Rain location, Town-Center

#### September

- 2 Hague Hist. Soc. trip to Rokeby Museum (p2)
- 4 Senior Citizen Bus to Glens Falls
- 5 Warren County Sr. Cit. picnic (p7)
- 5 Planning Board - 7PM
- 8 GRANDPARENTS' DAY
- 9 Fire Dept. meeting - 7:30PM at Firehouse
- 10 Food Distribution - 1-2PM, Town Ctr.
- 10 Town Board Meeting - 6:30PM
- 14 ROSH HASHANAH

*How long would it take  
To smile today  
At someone passing  
Along the way?  
And, by so doing  
Let them know  
Your heart is right  
Then, perhaps they too  
Will feel inclined  
To smile at you!*

*By smiling at those  
We meet each day  
We help to chase  
Their blues away.  
We all have trouble  
That is true.  
But, a smile can help  
Us see things through.  
So, smile at those  
You pass each day  
It will give them  
A lift along their way.*

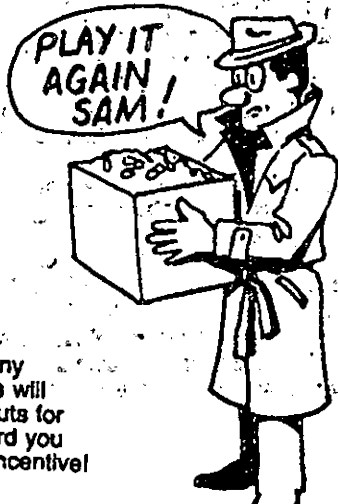
Thanks to Ida Voss for clipping this poem from the Briny Breezes, Ft. Bugle.

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is published on or about the 20th of each month by volunteers and supported by contributions from its readers. Send news items to Publisher Dorothy Henry, 152A New Hague Rd, Hague, NY 12836-9711 by the 15th of the month, and tax deductible contributions to MITZI FILLARE, Box 748, Hague, NY 12836-0748.

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 3  
HAGUE, NY 12836

## REUSE

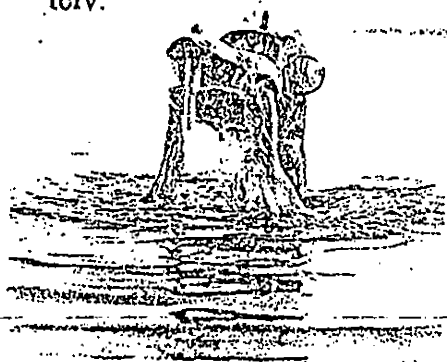
The easiest and best solution of all! Simply collect the peanuts from the packages you receive, then use them over again in the cartons you ship. (You might also enclose a note encouraging the recipient to follow suit.) In addition, many packaging service chains will accept polystyrene peanuts for reuse—some even reward you with a discount coupon incentive!



ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT



The following story is reprinted from the August 1-7 edition of *The Chronicle*, a Glens Falls weekly newspaper, and written by Hague native Ginger Henry, the Lake George editor of *The Chronicle*. The editor of *The Hague Chronicle* thought that most of our readers would be interested in this bit of Hague history.



## LAKE GEORGE MONSTER

Photo by  
Walt Grishkot

Lake Champlain might have Champ, and Loch Ness might have Nessie, but the Lake George monster is so much more than just a might-have-been. It is a known and documented fact that, during the summer of 1904, this creature repeatedly surfaced in the waters of northern Lake George in the Town of Hague, wreaking havoc with the tourist trade, frightening honeymooners and reportedly causing at least one man to swear off liquor permanently.

And if reports of his existence in such reputable publications as the *New York Evening Sun*, the *Albany Times Union*, *Yankee Magazine*, *Adirondack Life*, *Popular Mechanics* and now the *Chronicle* are not enough to convince some of the doubting Thomases among you, you need only to stop in at the Lake George Historical Association on Canada Street in Lake George Village to see for yourselves the famous sea serpent who has affectionately come to be known as George.

The story of George dates back to the year 1904. At that time, Hague was the summer home to two prominent New York City residents, Col. William Mann and Harry Watrous, who delighted in cooking up practical jokes. Mann, publisher of the *New York scandal sheet*, *Town Topics* (forerunner of *The New Yorker magazine*), owned a home on Waltonian Island just north of Hague. Watrous, renowned artist and president of the National Academy of Design, lived in a mansion on the mainland, directly opposite Waltonian.

During the summer of George's birth, these two men were engaged in a fierce but friendly competition to see who could catch the season's largest trout. Watrous was waxing ebullient in the knowledge that he was the front runner. But one day, as both men were out in their fishing boats, Watrous noticed Mann reeling in what appeared to be a 30 to 40 pound trout. Not believing his eyes, Watrous maneuvered his boat closer to Mann's. But Mann was evasive. After making sure that Watrous had taken due note of the size of the fish, he began rowing furiously toward his island home. Reports have it that when Watrous called out, demanding to see the catch, Mann shouted back that he could waste no

time in getting this record-breaking fish to a scale before it dried out and lost precious ounces.

The next time Watrous saw the huge fish was when he visited Mann at his island home a week later. By this time, Mann had had the fish mounted and hung in a place of prominence high on his living room wall. He carefully rearranged the furniture in a manner which made it difficult for visitors to get too close to his prize. But Watrous's sharp eyes quickly determined that there was something fishy -- or shall we say non-fishy -- about Mann's trout. Watrous realized that he had been taken -- hook, line and sinker -- and that the fish was made of wood!

Although Watrous was a great lover of practical jokes, he only enjoyed them when he was the perpetrator. Being on the receiving end of such a giant hoax was, as it were, a completely different kettle of fish. In a fit of injured pride, he spent the next several days concocting his retaliation. In an interview with the *Evening Sun* in 1934, Watrous, ever the artist, recounted his creation of the monster.

"I got a cedar log and fashioned one end of it into my idea of a sea monster or hippogriff," he told the reporter. "For eyes I inserted in the sockets of the monster two telegraph pole insulators of green glass...I painted the head in yellow and black stripes, painted the inside of the mouth red and the teeth white, painted two red places for nostrils and painted the ears blue."

Watrous explained how he anchored the monster with a stone out in the bay near his boathouse. With a pulley system which he designed, he could manipulate the monster from his dock. "We went out in a boat and dropped the stone anchor, sinking the monster out of sight," Watrous recalled. "Then we rowed back to shore and suddenly let go of the pulley rope, with the result that the cedar log, because of its buoyancy, jumped out of the water for almost its entire length."

Watrous admitted that even he was a bit frightened the first time he saw the monster surface. "The rope being twisted going through the pulley gave the head of the monster a sort of twisting motion so that it appeared to be looking from side to side, and occasionally turned entirely around as if to survey the scenery from all angles," he said.

Mann, who was in New York City during this design and testing stage, returned to Hague shortly thereafter. Twilight was falling as Watrous lay in wait on the shore, watching Mann climb into his boat with several houseguests whom he had brought up from the city.

"I watched as the launch approached," Watrous told the *Evening Sun* reporter, "and just as it was about ten feet away from my trap I released the monster. It came up nobly, the head shaking as if to rid itself of water, and I will say that ... it was a very menacing spectacle."

So menacing, in fact, that Mann and his passengers lost their wits, according to Watrous: "Mr. Davies, who had a rather high-pitched voice uttered a scream that must have been heard as far away as Burlington, Vermont. Mrs. Bates, a very intrepid (Continued on reverse side)

## MONSTER (Continued)

lady, of Milesian extraction stood on a seat in the boat and beat the water with her parasol, shouting indistinguishable sentences in her native tongue. Col. Mann shouted, 'Good God! What is it?' and kept repeating his query as long as the boat was in sight." Watrous explained that he then pulled on the rope, causing the monster to submerge before the party could examine it too carefully.

Mann raced toward his island with his screaming passengers. Suddenly Watrous heard a loud splash followed by language which is better left unsaid as Mann, in his hurry to get onto dry land, fell flounder.

News of the monster spread quickly not only throughout Hague and the Lake George region, but throughout the entire state. It seems that Mr. Davies, who had been in the boat with Mann, was a drama critic for the Evening Sun. He wired a report to his paper which published an article with the headline "Is there a sea serpent in Lake George?" Other New York papers quickly dispatched reporters to the scene. It is not clear whether these reporters deemed this a plum assignment -- escaping the hot city to scout the waters of Lake George -- or an assignment for which they should demand hazardous duty pay.

Throughout the next weeks and even seasons, Watrous occasionally stole out under the cloak of darkness, moving his monster to different sites along the shore. He was always careful to ensure that nobody got a clear look at the serpent, most especially not the reporters and photographers.

Bernie Clifton, who still lives in Hague, and whose parents owned the nearby Island Harbor House Hotel at the time of the monster's exploits, recalls the following tale told to him by his mother. A young couple honeymooning at the hotel had gone out for a moonlight canoe ride when the monster surfaced close to their canoe, causing it to capsize. The groom, unable to keep his wits about him, swam to shore, leaving his bride to fend for herself. She eventually made her way to shore, stormed into the hotel and packed her bags, announcing not only the end of the honeymoon but also of the marriage. It is reported that she was actually grateful to the serpent for showing her that the true monster was her (soon to be former) husband.

Whether Watrous grew bored with his prank or whether local hotels became wise to his tricks and ordered him to retire the monster before the tourism trade suffered irreparable losses is unclear. It is said that one hotel proprietor asked his guests to refrain from making any mention of the monster to newly-arrived guests. On the other hand, he told them, if they wished to relate any monster tales to those staying at other establishments in town, he had nothing against that. In any case Watrous eventually packed away his monster and, over the years, it was forgotten.

Sometime around 1920, Louis Spelman of Silver Bay discovered the monster when some property was being sold in town. He took it along home with him. One summer thereafter, he decided to return the

monster to its native waters to see if the pulley mechanism still worked. However, its appearance, it is reported, caused a near disaster on an excursion boat as the passengers all rushed to one side to get a closer look. Deciding that the monster was too dangerous for the serene waters of Lake George, Spelman retired him for good.

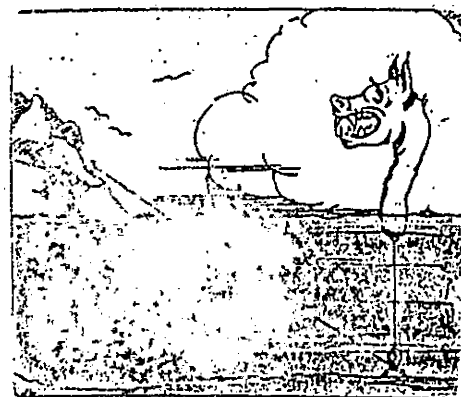
In 1961, Walt Grishkot went on his own monster hunt and discovered the serpent in Spelman's workshop, sparking stories in area newspapers about the resurfacing of the monster. Kay Bailey, a Lake George vacationer and the cousin of Shirley Armstrong, the intrepid Times Union reporter covering the monstrous story, decided she simply had to have a monster all her own. Armstrong made Spelman an offer he couldn't refuse, and soon the monster was on its way to Bailey's home, which happened to be on St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

Before his departure, the monster, which Armstrong christened "George," was given a proper bon voyage party at Alfred's Restaurant (today's Montcalm), with local dignitaries attending. A good time was had by all, though Grishkot reports that George found the choice of seafood as the main course somewhat tasteless. Miniature replicas of George were crafted by Rod Bucklin, former executive director of the Lake George Chamber of Commerce, and presented to individuals who had played a role in promoting Lake George.

While in the Virgin Islands, George participated in a number of parades and carnivals, achieving fame, if not fortune, throughout the island. Eventually, however, Armstrong and Bailey decided that George really belonged on the shores of Lake George.

Grishkot and his wife Joan, who were planning a Caribbean cruise, agreed to bring George back home. Grishkot told The Chronicle of the difficulties he encountered trying to get George through Customs. "The officers didn't quite know how to estimate the duty on George," he recalled, "because, in their books, there was nothing listed under the category of monster." However, all's well that ends well, and George finally returned to his native shores.

At the time, Hague did not have a museum suitable for George. The Lake George Historical Association on Canada Street in Lake George graciously offered him a place to rest his weary fins and Armstrong placed him on loan there. The museum housing George is open from 10 am - 4 pm Monday through Friday and from 1 pm - 5 pm Saturday and Sunday throughout the summer.



Watrous' conception of thirty-yr. old hoax. (1934)