

THE

# HAGUE CHRONICLE

VOL. III - No. 9

S E P T E M B E R 1 9 7 4

HAGUE, N.Y.

## SCHOOL MERGER AGAIN DEFEATED

Since 1958 when the State Education Department's Master Plan proposing the consolidation of the Hague, Crown Point, and Putnam School Districts with Ticonderoga Central School District was announced, there has been much said and written both for and against the proposal.

The first test came in 1971 when the Commissioner of Education ordered the consolidation following the filing of a petition by a number of residents but on petition of a number of residents opposed to the consolidation, a referendum was ordered. By a vote of 292 to 194 the voters decided against consolidation.

Under the law, the Commissioner's order can be brought up for a further vote at any time on the filing of a proper petition. Such a petition was recently filed and a referendum was ordered to be held on August 24 with the following results: for consolidation - 242; opposed - 288. Thus, the proponents of consolidation have again been defeated.

On the day the referendum was held Robert Denno, President of the Hague School Board, was quoted as saying: "that in the interests of community solidarity, the Hague Board would have to give serious consideration to the idea of sending the highschool students to Ticonderoga anyway, but on a tuition basis, with tuition being paid for out of the school budget.

+++++

## REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

Michael Fitzgerald, chairman of the Board of Assessors, advises that

the final tax assessment roll for the Town of Hague has been completed with the following totals by categories:

General	\$18,611,678.
Uncoded	10,200.
Over age 65 exemptions	62,050.
Veteran exemptions	511,200.
Under Fisher Law	204,258.
Realty Corporations	202,900.
State Land	1,272,410.
Special Franchise	493,680.

\$21,380,076.

This total should be compared with the total under last year's assessment which was \$8,667,918. Thus current assessments average 2.7181 times those of last year. The estimate we had been working with was 2.8 times and apparently this is quite accurate.

It may also be of interest that the State equalization rate has been determined to be 120. This means that the state appraisers have found that the 1974 level of assessed values is about 120% of 1968 market values.

On August 22 the School Board fixed the 1974-75 school tax rate at \$14.55 per \$1000. of assessed value. On last year's assessment the rate was \$35.81. While your taxes may be affected more by the change in your assessed value than in the tax rate, the tax increase will average about 10%.

+++++

## SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The Hague School Board met on August 12 with all members present.

The resignation of Mr. Biannchine,

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is edited and published monthly by Emil Seerup, Box 2504, Silver Bay, New York 12874. It is supported financially by civic-minded citizens and local civic organizations. News items and announcements of general interest to the community are solicited.

(continued from Page One)

teacher of commercial subjects, was accepted by the Board.

The appointment of Timothy Hauprich as highschool mathematics teacher for the first semester of the 1974-1975 year to fill the vacancy resulting from the leave of absence granted to Mr. Burleigh, was approved.

Ronald White has been appointed English teacher. He comes from Hadley, New York, has a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Lawrence University and has done some graduate work at Skidmore College.

Mrs. Sharon Meola, working under Warren-Washington Counties BOCES will be the art teacher dividing her time between Hague and Bolton Central Schools. Mrs. Meola has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the State University at Albany.

The home economics teacher will be Mrs. JoAnne DeFranco. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from the State University at Plattsburgh and has had some teaching experience at Kings Park Junior High and at Whitehall High School.

A part-time speech therapist has not yet been appointed.

Revisions of some of the bus routes were approved.

Tenure, as of August 12, was granted to the following: Cheryl Plass, David DeFranco, and Lois Strumm.

+++++

BEAUTIFICATION WINNERS

the Hague Area in the annual beautification contest:

Lakeside View - Residences - Most Beautiful and Well Kept - Award of Excellence - Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Kennison, Forest Bay.

Lakeside View - Estates - Award of Excellence - J. Sanford Smith, Friend's Point.

Roadside View - Town of Hague - Most Beautiful and Well Kept - Special Award.

Town plantings in and around the intersection of Routes 8 and 9N are the work of Clifton West to whom a vote of special appreciation should be given.

+++++

HAGUE ARTS FAIR

To be or not to be, that was the question in Hague on the morning August 3. Would it or would it not rain? The sky was dark and the predictions of rain seemed about to be fulfilled.

But, at ten o'clock, the work of setting up the ten canopies purchased by the Town for the occasion, got under way. Volunteers appeared from everywhere - George May, James DeLarm, Rev. Van Sickle, Ken Foster, Charles Teomney and others - and by eleven o'clock all was in readiness.

Most exhibitors braved the threat of rain and soon the visitors arrived. A good guess is that in excess of 500 people came at some time during the day. Food sponsored by the Hague Baptist Church, which netted a handsome \$210., was sold out early and cold drinks were provided all day long by the Hague Fire Department.

For artists and others who hawkes to sell and for those who exhibited merely to show off their creations to their fellow townspeople, it was a success. Surely by any yardstick, a third annual Hague Arts

At about 4:45 P.M. the first peal of thunder was heard and by 5 P.M., the official time for closing, all of the exhibits had been taken down and were safely under cover. Then the rains came, almost as though they had been waiting for a signal that the fair was over.

A special vote of thanks is due Dan Belden and his men who worked late on Friday and early Saturday to get the rest rooms in the new bathhouse in readiness.

+++++

### TORNADO HITS SILVER BAY

A violent windstorm, classified as a tornado by the Weather Bureau, struck the campus of the Silver Bay Association on Monday, July 29, at 8:15 P.M. More than 100 trees were torn down or uprooted, many of them being century old pines. The campus was plunged into darkness as power was cut off by the falling trees.

Miraculously, only two persons were injured, a girl suffered a fractured arm and another girl received lacerations of the hand from flying glass. Property damage was limited to four buildings including the Inn which had part of its roof knocked down. A station wagon parked along a cottage was demolished and a smaller car sustained minor damage.

The Hague Fire Department responded and gave immediate assistance and by 2 A.M. all persons on the campus had been accounted for. The Hague Highway Department was also on the scene removing fallen trees and other debris from the highway.

The following day the Highway Department was back at work and scores of children were assisting the clean-up crews. A number of men were taken off a logging operation at Bolton Landing and brought to the scene to clean up and remove the trees.

When the tornado hit approximately 500 persons were attending the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. There were also

about 200 employees of the Association on the premises.

In appreciation for their help, The Association entertained the Hague firemen several nights later at dinner in the Association dining rooms. In addition a check in the amount of \$800. was turned over to the Fire Department, about \$600. of which, were the receipts from the production of Guys and Dolls on August 15.

+++++

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO TAKE TRIP

The Hague Historical Society will sponsor a trip to Woodstock, Vermont on Saturday, September 14. Members and guests are requested to meet in the parking lot of the Woodstock Inn at 10:45 A.M. From the Inn the group will embark on a walking tour which will require about two hours and will end at the Inn where luncheon (Dutch Treat) will be served. After lunch other points of interest may be seen.

Those who will drive and can accommodate extra passengers and those who need transportation are asked to get in touch with Ethel Andrus.

+++++

### TOWN BOARD MEETING

The meeting of the Town Board was held on August 14 (postponed from the 13th on account of the public information meeting on the school matter) with all members of the Board except Joe Streeter present.

The supervisor advised that suit for alleged over-assessment of the property of the Silver Bay Lodge had been dismissed for failure to proceed.

A letter from the Silver Bay Association thanking the town for its help in cleaning up debris resulting from the tornado of July 29th, was read by the supervisor.

The supervisor read a letter from the Warren County Board of Elections advising that Mrs. Nancy Getta was the Republican member of the local

Board of Election Inspectors. A problem exists since the Hague Board has approved no one for that post.

In answer to a question the supervisor advised that there are no ordinances or regulations respecting the use of the Town boat slip. This is a matter which will be given attention by the Board if conditions warrant.

The Highway Superintendent stated that the black-topping program for the summer has ended with 1.8 miles of re-surfacing completed.

+++++

NEW LIGHTS INSTALLED AT SILVER BAY

The campus of the Silver Bay Association has become a thing of beauty at night with the installation of fifteen circular Mercury lights along the road from the gymnasium on the north to Morse Hall on the south and through the staff recreation area on the east. Two spotlights have been placed on the Auditorium lawn to illuminate the Auditorium tower.

The lights are a gift to the Association from J. Floyd McTyier in memory of his wife who passed away in October, 1971. The McTyiers who first came to Silver Bay in 1909 have been summer residents since 1952.

Dedicatory services were held on Sunday, August 18 when the presentation was made by Mr. McTyier. Donald Richter, a trustee of the Association and George Ludlow, Director, accepted the gift on behalf of the Association. Also assisting in the services was the Rev. David Heintzelman and a group of Silver Bay musicians.

+++++

PROPERTY OWNERS OF SILVER BAY

The Property Owners of Silver Bay elected Gerry Boyd as president at its meeting in the Hague Fire House on August 10. Keith McKeeman was elected vice president and the other officers, Ann Konet, recording secretary; Dorothy Goodfellow, correspond-

ing Secretary. and Ethel Andrus Treasurer, were re-elected.

Contributions were made in the following amounts: Hague Fire Department, \$125.; Hague Public Library \$25.; and Hague Boy Scouts, \$25. Membership in the Lake George Association at a cost of \$25. was continued. The group also asked that copies of the Chronicle be mailed to the membership and approved an expenditure of \$125. for this purpose.

Mr. Ray Calcagne of the Lake George Commission was present and discussed the many and varied activities of the Commission. He distributed circulars and other reading material on a host of subjects relating to the lake. Following his presentation, Mr. Calcagne answered many questions from the floor.

Gerry Boyd demonstrated a number of fire extinguishers and recommended that they be available in every home.

The meeting adjourned with a vote of appreciation to the retiring president, Al Deanna.

+++++

HAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Summer hours for our library will end on August 27. On September 6th we will re-open with the school fall session. The days will be Mondays, 1 to 3 P.M. and Fridays 12:30 to 3 P.M.

There are a total of 28 books out and overdue from last spring - indeed some from last year. Twenty-five students still owe money on overdue books. Students in both categories may not borrow any more books until their accounts are settled - be it books, money or both. It is not our intent to deny the use of books to borrowers - but a library is a place from which one has books on loan - not to keep.

A reminder to parents and residents - we are a wholly volunteer staff and supported solely by donations. Your gift - however much you can spare, will be appreciated.

chases, replacements, subscriptions - all need money.

"The Staff"

+++++

MORTIMER WILLIAMS BOWEN

Mortimer W. Bowen passed away on August 13th at the Moses-Ludington Hospital after a short illness. Funeral services were held in Falls Church, Virginia on the 17th with burial there.

Mr. Bowen was born in Baltimore, Maryland 83 years ago. He attended grade and highschool in Baltimore and Washington and George Washington University at Washington, D.C. After graduation he worked at various jobs in the Washington area including five years with the Washington and Old Dominion Railway as assistant to the Chairman of the Board. During the following 21 years, Mr. Bowen was employed by the Vacuum Oil Company and its successor, the Socony Vacuum Oil Company as a member of the Foreign Trade Committee. His territory included the Union of South Africa, Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Portuguese East Africa. Later a number of European countries were added to his territory. On his retirement he was loaned to the U.S. Maritime Commission to organize the Tanker Department which provided assistance to Britain during the war.

Having had his fill of foreign travel and living, Mr. Bowen organized the Sunrise Mountain Bible Conference in 1938 at Silver Bay and operated this interdenominational conference center until 1955. Meetings were held during the summer months with as many as 400 in attendance. Living accommodations for the conferees were provided on the premises. In 1955 the conference grounds were sold to the Silver Bay Association except for the Bowen home "Tower Point". The tower from which it gets name can be seen from the lake and is also known as the "Courting house".

Mr. Bowen was married for many years to Sadie Robinson who passed

away a number of years ago. Five years ago, he married Sadie's younger sister, Eudora, who survives him. The Bowens maintain an apartment in New York City where they have spent their winters. However, last winter they stayed in Silver Bay and Mrs. Bowen has announced that she will continue to be a year-round resident.

+++++

ON SHAMROCK HILL

The Fitch property on Shamrock Hill was purchased by George A. Fitch in 1960 from his neighbors, the Shattucks. Mr. Fitch, now 91 years of age, is currently living in a retirement home in California and the property is now occupied by his son, Albert V. Fitch, who purchased it in 1968 from his father.

The senior Fitch was born in Soochow, China where his father had been sent as a missionary of the Presbyterian Church. Later he became a YMCA Secretary and is credited with having introduced the YMCA to China and the far East. As a YMCA Secretary, Mr. Fitch would attend conferences at Silver Bay when back in the United States on leave and this ultimately led him to establish his home in Hague after his work in China had come to an end. A full account of his life and activities with which he had been associated can be found in his book "My Eighty Years in China" which was published in 1967.

Albert C. Fitch, with whom we recently spent a pleasant afternoon, was born in Cleveland while the family was in the U.S. on furlough. On returning to China, he attended grade school in Shanghai and highschool at the Mission International School. He attended Wooster College, Wooster, Ohio, a family tradition, and then went on to the University of Chicago where he graduated. He returned to China to attend Yen Ching, the leading Chinese University where he majored in economics. It was here that he was hired by a representative of the Cal-Tex Company, the international marketing arm of Texaco and California Oil Companies. He served

ten years in China, another ten years in India and eight years in Malasia developing marketing opportunities for the Cal-Tex Company.

In our conversation with Mr. Fitch we received a refresher course in Chinese history. He talked about the war with the Japanese which began in 1931 and continued until World War II. Foreigners in the Chinese provinces were driven out of the country and with them went the entire Fitch family. Albert Fitch was repatriated from Hong Kong on the SS Gripsholm and after intensive training for the Office of Strategic Services returned to China to serve with a guerilla unit back of the Japanese lines, living part of the time in his uncle Robert's Hangchow home which had been somewhat battered by the war.

Following the war with the Japanese which ended in 1945, civil war broke out with Chiang Kai-Shek leading the Chinese National forces against the Communists. Ultimately the government forces were driven back and forced to withdraw to the Island of Formosa where the seat of government continues to be. (last year on the occasion of his 90th birthday, Albert's father George, was a guest of the Chinese government on Formosa).

Mr. Fitch feels that the recent visit to China of former President Nixon was a giant step in promoting a better understanding among the peo-

ples of the U.S. and China and believes that the future looks bright.

The Fitches have three children George, Gisele, and Kim. George is located in Washington where he is involved in mining and international trade; Gisele is married and living on the West Coast; and Kim is employed in Washington.

Mr. Fitch has a delightful garden where he grows raspberries, tomatoes and other vegetables in abundance. His hobby, skin diving, through which he has gathered shells from all over the world, has, for the present, been abandoned.

+ + + + +

CORRECTION

In our last issue we stated that Miss Shattuck had spent six years on the faculty of Vanderbilt School of Nursing. Actually, it was Vanderbilt University Medical School with medical students as her pupils. Also, it was not the Griffins for whom Glenn Shattuck worked but the Grippen family. They were not in the shoe polish business but in steel.

+ + + + +

YOUR OPINIONS ARE WELCOME

We will be glad to publish the opinions of others on matters of community interest subject to the limitations of space and the libel laws.

mil Seerup, Box 2504  
ilver Bay, New York 12874  
address correction requested)

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
6.1¢ paid  
Silver Bay, NY  
Permit #1