

# THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

VOL. II - No. 1

JANUARY

1973

HAGUE, N.Y.

## CHRONICLE CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

With this issue of the Chronicle we begin Volume II. Twelve issues have been published since we first made our appearance in January, 1972.

We have sincerely tried to be non-partisan, non-political and factual. Opinions, when expressed, have been clearly labeled as such.

Some people have found fault with some of the things we have said. This is understandable. But the many letters and calls we have received commending us for our efforts have encouraged us to continue publication for another year.

The financial support we have received from interested citizens and organizations has been gratifying. We would like to publicly acknowledge each contribution but many contributors prefer anonymity. Nonetheless, accept our sincere thanks for your assistance - without it we could not continue.

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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY HEARS

The Hague Historical Society held its annual Christmas meeting on December 6th.

Mrs. Ethel Andrus was in charge of the program. She spoke on "Christmas Reminiscences of Famous and Not so Famous People". In her interesting discussion of Christmas celebrations in years past in many parts of the country, she read selections from a number of books, including Thoreau's Journals; Paul Revere by Esther Forbes; Son of the Middle Border by Hamlin Garland; Letters and Journals of Louisa May Alcott; Diary of a Real Boy by Henry Shute; Country Kitchen by Della T. Lutes; and We Took to the Woods by Louise Dickinson Rich.

Appropriate Christmas refreshments were served by Mrs. Dorothy Cain and Mrs. Adra

Seerup. The next meeting, weather permitting, will be held on January 17 in the Hague Baptist Church Annex.

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## TRAGEDY STRIKES FORMER HAGUE FAMILY

On December 4, the home of Alton Hayes in Naples, New York was destroyed by fire. Mr. Hayes and two daughters, Nancy and Melody, perished in the fire. Mrs. Hayes and son Leslie survived but have been hospitalized with serious injuries.

Mr. Hayes was the son of the late Leslie and Mimmie Hayes of Hague. He is survived by his brother Gordon Hayes of West Hague Road. Mrs. Hayes was a resident of Silver Bay for many years where she resided with her parents in the home now owned by Mrs. Walter Gustafson. Her maiden name was Whitford.

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## WALTER VANDERBUSH TO RETIRE

Walter H. Vanderbush, Executive Director of the Silver Bay Association has announced his retirement effective in March of 1973. The Association has named Mr. George Ludlow to succeed Mr. Vanderbush in this office. He is currently the Executive Director of The Monroe, Michigan YCA.

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## TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Hague Town Board held its regular meeting on December 12 with all members of the Board present.

The Board adopted the following schedule of employee benefits to be effective January 1, 1973.

1. Paid-up health insurance.
2. Non contributory retirement plan.
3. Three days sick leave annually.
4. Two days personal leave annually.



THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is edited and published monthly by Earl Seerup, Box 2504, Silver Bay, New York 12874. It is mailed free-of-charge to all the residents of the Town of Hague. It is supported financially by citizens and organizations interested in the welfare of the Town of Hague. News items and announcements of general interest to the people of Hague are solicited.

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5. Eight paid holidays. ( New Year's Day; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Veteran's Day; Thanksgiving Day; the day before Christmas; and Christmas Day.)

6. One week paid vacation (after one year's service); two weeks (after two year's service).

The Board authorized the supervisor to negotiate a contract with Marcus Merrill pursuant to which Mr. Merrill would plow so much of the Wardsboro Road as lies within the town of Hague for which the Town would pay him a sum not in excess of \$300.

The superintendent of highways announced that the County will re-surface next year the Old Cemetery West Hague Road from the Cemetery to May's Corner, a distance of 2 1/2 miles.

The Board approved the purchase of an automatic sander under emergency authorization. The sander will be delivered in about thirty days; meanwhile the town has been given a demonstrator to use until the new one is delivered.

The supervisor exhibited a check in the amount of \$7,133. which he had received from the U.S. Treasury as Hague's share in the Federal revenue sharing program. A similar amount will be received early next month. Under the program as presently constituted, Hague will receive the same amount annually for a total period of five years. The Board has made no decision as to how the money is to be used.

Due to inclement weather, the scheduled meeting of the Hague Planning Committee with Mr. Charles Reikert of the Warren County Planning Board was not held. It will be rescheduled to a date in January.

A special meeting of the Board will be held in the Town Garage on December 29 for

the purpose of closing out the year's financial affairs. The formal transfer of supervision over the Landfill Area to the Highway Department will also be made at the meeting.

Town officials were authorized to attend at town expense, the annual meeting of the Association of Towns which will be held in New York City on February 5-6-7, 1973.

Announcement was made that the following town roads will again be open to snowmobiles - Old Hill, Battle Hill, and Cold Brook Canyon.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on January 9th.

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APPLE CIDER

The Town of Hague is rich in historical lore and no one knows it better than Clifton West. For years he has been gathering genealogical data on some of Hague's first families, he is currently developing a history of Hague's Churches, and since his retirement as school custodian, he has had the time to put to these endeavors. He has promised to contribute from time to time items out of Hague's past. The first is produced herewith.

In the 'good old days' drinking hard cider was a well-known winter sport. In Hague there was even a group of woodsmen or ice workers who were called the "Hard Cider Gang". With a few casks of fermented apple juice on hand a man was insured of company on cold winter nights.

There were lots of wild apples trees in the area, and some not so wild. Both good and wild apples found their way into the cider casks. Many farmers, some hotelmen and most country storekeepers laid in twenty or so barrels for their own use and to share with their customers. In the store cellars some of the cider was allowed to ferment into vinegar.

The remains of a cider mill still exists in town. It hasn't been used since 1947. Originally it stood on Decker Hill Road next to the grist mill. It was run by water power with a turbine placed in the deep gorge of Hague Brook. Later a gas m...



gins was used. It was an old fashioned one with a large flywheel. Francis Waters was the last owner. When he purchased the mill he moved it to his property near the foot of Decker Hill where it now rests.

A bushel of apples will yield three gallons of cider. One of the mill operators was known to use a 5-peck basket to measure the apples, thus managing to get some extra cider for himself. The apples were first ground - then pressed. As they were squeezed, the juice trickled into a vat below. From here it was funnelled into the casks, then rolled on to a wagon and taken home.

Burt West, Clifton's father, ran the mill for two seasons. He was assisted by Ruben Haskins. Before that Clifton's grandfather had operated the mill. Other operators were Melvin Barton and John Jenkins.

Fifty or more years ago the Mother's Club was a West Hague organization open to West Hague Mothers only. Each fall the mothers gave a supper for their families. On one occasion the dinner was held at Frank and Nellie May's farm, presently the home of George May. While the boys, including Clifton, were awaiting the supper call Harry May told them that Grampa May had a fifteen gallon keg of cider which was just about old enough to be tapped. A hose appeared mysteriously and copious draughts of the ambrosial liquid were withdrawn. After the thirsts of the small boys were satisfied, little of the cider remained and the next day when Mr. May found only air in the keg, he was perved - but plenty.

Mr. West concludes - the most highly advertised soda pop today is tame compared to a generous draught of cider two weeks old and freshly drawn from a cask.

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the School Board was scheduled for December 11. Only the president, Robert Lorne and Mr. Edna Kessler were present. In the absence of a quorum, the meeting was cancelled.

It was reported, however, that Mr. Robert Lorne who is vacationing in Florida, had

tion could be taken by the Board.

It was also reported that the sale of the school bus to Curtis Jordan as reported last month, did not materialize. Presumably the Board will again advertise for bids.

A special meeting of the Board late in December has been scheduled for the purpose of closing out the Board's financial affairs. The next regular meeting will be held on January 9th.

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HOME BUREAU MEETS

The Holman Chapter of the Home Bureau Federation held its Christmas party at the Hague Baptist Church Annex on December 19. A covered dish luncheon was served.

A feature of the Christmas party is the disclosure of the person, selected at random and anonymously at last year's Christmas party, who sent anniversary and holiday cards, gifts and other remembrances during the year to a designated member signed simply "your secret pal". This always brings out a few surprises. Later in the program, each member is again given an anonymous "secret pal" for the next year.

The next meeting will be held on January 9th.

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LAKE GEORGE PATROL ACTIVE

The Lake George Park Commission's annual report discloses that 131 navigation summonses were issued during the past year for the following offenses: Speed and reckless operation, 50; sanitation, 43; water skiing 12; improper lights, 18; equipment, 6; registration, 5; and public vessel, 3.

It was also reported that 550 boats were inspected during the year for sanitary facilities with 39 violations found.

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THE YEAR 1972

The Hague Chronicle made its first appearance with a January issue... During the year...



activities also covered....Paper is now being mailed to 320 homes....

Tom Smith, the newly elected Town Supervisor and other town officials took office on January 1....Betty West became the bride of Robert Jensen....Mr. and Mrs. Eric Fitzgerald celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary....Carlton Stacy died suddenly....Clinton Fraser resigned as assessor....Representatives of the Clemenshaw Company, who are appraising all properties in Warren County covered the Hague area in the spring and summer....Once postponed winter carnival held on March 18-19....

School Board adopted permanent registration for all eligible voters in school elections and designated April 15 and 25 as registration days....Open house at the school on April 5 to view addition and alterations made possible by bond issue voted last year....Members of the Board of Assessment Review appointed....Richard Goodrich dies while visiting in Florida....

1972-73 school budget providing for expenditures of \$410,374, presented and approved at annual meeting in May....Mrs. Edna Fraser elected member of school board to succeed Peter Conery who did not seek re-election....Robert Demio elected president of school board to succeed Ralph Hakes who had served continuously since 1967....Martin Fitzgerald was elected vice-president....

Fuel oil accidentally discharged into Lake George causes near calamity....Algae bloom discovered on May 16 caused water to taste and smell fishy....Fortunately contamination did not get above the Narrows....

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School tax rate 49¢ per \$1000, of assessed valuation lower than last year's rate....Louis R. Druck dies following long illness....

Fire Department celebrated 25th anniversary with dinner for Robert Hoyt who has been chief since department was founded....Silver Bay Property Owners made \$200, donation to Fire Department....Silver Bay Association raised \$850, for Fire Department with performance of Music Man on August 17....Mary Nielsen of Forest Bay married to Dr. William Christie of Colorado, N.Y....Ade and Harry Hoyt celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary....Hague highschool graduating class of 1962 held its tenth anniversary at Dock and Dine on September 23....

Mrs. Harold Colbarr, Mrs. C. F. Kircher and Mrs. Frederick LaPine awarded plaques in the Annual Lake George Park Commission Beautification contest....Partisans of Todd Hill, Decker Hill, and Silver Bay ponds resurfaced by Tom in Mid-September....Mrs. Ruth Morrison, Mrs. C.C. Parlin, and Norman Blotzberg passed away in October....

Town budget for 1973 up about 15% over 1972....Town Board created Town Planning Committee....Edward Credits, Ralph Ho Lee, Robert Hoyt, Paul Scarp, and Joseph Streeter appointed to membership on the committee....Miss Opal Ray, Mrs. Valada Fraser and Walter Wette passed away....

With ten inches of snow in November, twenty inches in December up to the 14th, and eight more on the 15-16, 1972 will go down in the record books as one of the WHITE-EST and WET-EST...HAPPY NEW YEAR!

