

THE DAYS OF THE STEAMBOAT  
Ursula Montbriand

(Excerpts from Hague Historical Society presentation, Part II.)

In 1838 the WILLIAM CALDWELL (named after the son of James) was launched. This was twice as long as JAMES CALDWELL (160 Ft) and made a speed three times that of the older craft (12 MPH).

In 1844 provisions were made to transport passengers overland between Lake George and Lake Champlain, by use of horse and carriage from Mrs. Alberton's Hotel. Later this became a stage line and finally a railroad known as Baldwin Branch, connecting Baldwin Landing (Ti) and Montcalm on Lake Champlain.

By 1863 the adds read: "...From the latter place (Ticonderoga) the transition is easy, across the 'carrying place' ...to the limpid Lake George, on which the MINNE-HA-HA, under the direction of Captain Harris, like a shuttlecock each day faithfully plies its vocation to and from the laughing waters of Carillon and the grass grown ruins of Fort William Henry." (Didn't they talk pretty in those days?)

Probably best known in this area was the JOHN JAY, built in 1850, costing \$26,000. and ending service in the only fatal accident in 159 years of steamboat history on the lake.

On Aug 5, 1856, The Glens Falls Republican announced "the total destruction of the beautiful steamer, JOHN JAY, on her way from Ticonderoga to Caldwell on July 29.

"..The boat left her landing at 6PM, much later than usual, and

before fire was discovered... within 3/4 mile of Garfield's Hotel.

...The tiller ropes were burned through and the pilot, E. S. Harris, (later Captain) shipped the tiller and steered by guess work. Blinded by dense smoke, he missed the sandy beach, struck on a rock and rebounded into the lake. About that time a cylinder head let go and let loose a quantity of steam which added to the confusion...with passengers and crew leaping into the water and swimming for shore...the boat burned to the waterline. The hull sank in the water near the beach south of the Island Harbor House.

...The fire was caused by the burning of pitch pine wood which choked up the smoke pipe so as to drive the fire and smoke into the fireroom, compelling the fireman to retreat to the deck for air without giving him time to close the doors to the fireboxes. The fire communicated with the woodwork overhead and the boat was soon enveloped in flames.

...There were 80 passengers aboard and 6 lives were lost.

...The body of a Mrs. A. J. Jones of Conn. was never recovered. Mrs. Jones' husband is an invalid and now at Garfield's. The lady's address has been published as Miss Sherman of Albany but we understand that no person from that city is among the lost."

A New York Herald reporter said there were "avaricious land sharks on the scene. They had a great pile of shawls, bonnets, bags, parasols, hats, canes etc. which they were pulling over much as one of our New York rag pickers would examine a pile of rubbish

The Days Of The Steamboat cont:

The burning wreck lay roaring within a few yards and many thought her boilers must explode. What cared these vultures? You could read their thoughts upon their faces as the flickering flames cast their light upon them - the greater the destruction the greater the plunder."

The Glens Falls Republican:

"..There were a number of instances of property being taken by these fiends in human form.

In contrast, officers and crew of the boat and residents near the accident exerted themselves in a heroic manner to save the drowning passengers and relieve their sufferings.

Mr. William Brunet (an assistant at Garfield's Hotel aboard the boat when she burned) brought up three bodies, the first of which was resuscitated.

Mr. William George, a carpenter, jumped ashore with one young lady clinging to his back, dislocating both his ankles, then discovered the captain near the beach struggling in vain to make the shore, scrambled into the lake, caught him by the hair and pulled him ashore.

Richard Shear, known as 'Old Dick, the rattlesnake man', was aboard. His box of serpents was thrown overboard and a little daughter of Mr. Arthur from Ticonderoga was placed upon it and floated to shore."

The next boat was the MINNE-HA-HA, built in 1857. The first to appear as a modern steamboat and the last of the wood burners, her round trip required approximately 6 cords of wood. Piles of wood were maintained at each landing.

The civil war reduced annual business to a mere \$4,851.81 but the MINNE-HA-HA kept plying.

The Ganouskie, built in 1869, made it possible to inaugurate round trips from north & south.

Her engine came from Philadelphia by water as far as Fort Edward and was hauled in carts overland to Caldwell. She was the first propeller-type steamboat (equipped with a single screw) and the first to burn coal.

Her captain, Arnol Hulett was a big jolly type of steamboat man. Telling a group of passengers about his nautical experiences, he exclaimed "There is not a single rock or reef in the waters of Lake George that I don't know." As he finished this remark the GANOUSKIE bumped into and scraped over a reef. "There's one of them now", he said quickly.

With the HORICON I, in 1877, they returned to paddle-wheels instead of propeller and she was a great improvement in appearance, safety and comfort as well as speed. Her trial trip from Baldwin to Ft. Wm. Henry dock took one hour and 45 minutes. (20MPH) She could accomodate 1000 passengers.

An Englishman, Reinald Fowler, quoted in Old Steamboat Days On The Hudson River:

"The Americans take great pride in these boats and spare no expense on them - the meals are well served and the bar produces every kind of beverage. In English steamboats the ladies are generally worse accomodated than the stronger sex. In America, this is not the case. The best part of the boat is given for their accomodation. All must give way to them. No man is admitted to the dining saloon until all the ladies are seated at the table, when they rush in pellmell. After that, should a lady require either, the chair is, without ceremony, taken from under you and the plate from before you. 'A lady sir!' is considered sufficient..."

(This is the second part of a three part article.)

## WHY GENIUS BEATING THE ENERGY CRISIS

Most of us had to read about it in the Press Republican but Keith DeLarm quietly solved one energy problem three years ago. He is heating the nine rooms and three baths in his house with one fireplace.

While watching the fire one night, he designed a closed hot water heating system. He purchased five radiators at an auction (\$5. ea.) used some pipe he had on hand, installed coils in the back and bottom of his fireplace and connected everything to a water tank in the basement. The entire operation cost about \$300. and saves about \$500. each year in fuel bills.

As the price of fuel goes up the savings are greater each year. When the fire is out long enough for the water system to cool, the oil burner comes on by thermostat. Keith stated, "The year before I put this in, our oil bill was \$600. The next year it was \$52." and Nancy (Mrs. Keith) says oil costs have more than tripled since then.

Keith did the work himself and has plenty of wood on his own land but he says, "There are some people and companies willing to give you wood if you cut it up yourself. Even if you buy it, it's cheaper than oil." and "If you don't have a fireplace, you can recover your investment easily in five years. Saving \$500. a year - \$2500. - that will build a pretty good fireplace!"

Their house is insulated with old Rock Wool and Keith says the new polyurethane and fiber glass insulators are even better.

He has also installed a solar heating system at his camp. With a 10 by 10 solar panel and a 1200 gallon water tank underground, he estimates he will be able to heat 1600 cubic feet of space. He needs

a couple more radiators and has to repair a leak in the water tank then this will be operating.

He has also done this work himself and says it is not difficult. It requires two sheets of plywood, an aluminum sheet, some copper tubing, black spray paint, a fiberglass sheet and some insulation. These make a solar panel. Attached to water tank and radiators it becomes a closed, clean, relatively cost free system after installation.

He is interested in all forms of energy. His favorite courses at Cornell Un. were Math and Engineering. He picked up more knowledge in these fields while in the U.S. Marines and returned to Cornell after the war to complete a Bachelor of Science degree.

He becomes as nearly angry as Keith ever gets when discussing the people who are saying that solar energy will not be practical until "the next century" or "for twenty years". Says, "That's a lot of bunk."

He is also interested in the use of wind mills - one of which has been used to heat and light a whole community, in Vermont during the 40's - and believes a cheaper, cleaner, more efficient auto engine is no myth.

As you listen to Keith talk about energy you realize what a marvelous planet this is and wonder why it's taking us so long to learn to use it properly.

Probably because people like Keith DeLarm get involved in their community. Most of his time, during 18 years of his life, has been devoted to Hague as Town Supervisor. While one man was beating him to a patent for his fireplace heating system Keith was probably working on the town budget etc.

TOWN BOARD MET, APR. 12:

All bids for snow-plow-dump truck rejected. Plan to readvertise with new set of specifications.

Plans for renovation and expansion of the Town Hall are drawn. The Office of The Justice will have a sliding wall and desk on revolving platform which will make it adjustable for trial by jury.

Assessors Room and Storage Room will be added. Construction has begun.

Lawsuit by Forest Bay Property Owners Association had almost reached a negotiated settlement but the Board agreed that no further concessions could be made and the matter will now be "taken to court".

Further discussion of revisions to up-date Town Park Ordinance. This is now in the hands of the County Attorney and it is hoped he will have it completed soon.

Applications are being accepted for positions of Park Caretaker and Summer Police Officer.

W. Keith DeLarm  
Town Supervisor

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR MAY 10

7:30 PM - Proposed ordinance to establish a 5 M.P.H. speed limit for boats around Waltonian Islands and north to Friends Point.

7:45 - Request for permit to establish Travel Vehicle Park, (Motor Homes) on their lakeshore property near the junction of Routes 8 and 9N from Mrs. Malcom A. Grimes, Secretary-Treasurer for By-Water Cabins, Inc.

8:30 PM - Plans for use of Federal Anti-Recession monies.

Owners of property within 500 feet of By-Water Cabins have been notified of Mrs. Grimes' request.

Opinions expressed by property owners who are unable to attend the Hearing will be tabulated by Mr. DeLarm for presentation to The Board.

OUR POET-PHILOSOPHER:

In the world's broad field  
of battle

In the bivouac of life  
Sincerely try understanding  
each other,

By doing so you will eliminate  
a lot of strife.

Harry J. Moore

BOARD OF EDUCATION MET, APR. 18:

Requests for transportation to St. Mary's School in Ti for 1977-1978 from several parents were approved.

Ruth Barnett's resignation as of June 30, 1977 was accepted with regrets and appreciation for her thirty-nine years of service as teacher of Fourth Grade.

Howard Barnett's resignation as of July 31, 1977 was also accepted with regrets. Mr. Barnett, as Driver-Mechanic, has been responsible for the care and maintenance of all buses and drove the students to Vocational School in Mineville daily.

Action on Mr. Dillon's tenure was postponed to the May meeting.

It was decided to sell the trampoline.

Rudolph Meola  
Principal

SCHOOL BUDGET COMPLETED

Extra copies are available at the school.

The budget will be presented at the Annual District Meeting on Tuesday, May 3, at 7:30 PM and voting will take place at the school on Wednesday, May 4 between the hours of 1:00 and 8:00 PM.

"The amount to be raised by taxes 1977-78" will be \$16,138. more than last year.

The Board of Education says, "We would like everyone to familiarize themselves with this budget and attend the...meeting ...on May 3rd."

MR. WILFORD C. ROSS, well known author and churchman expired on Apr 13 after four week illness in Moses Ludington Hospital. He is survived by two daughters, Mildred Ross who is teaching school in Port Henry, and Madeline (Mrs. Gerald) Hutchinson, and two grandchildren, Wilford and Lorraine.

Mr. Ross was a man of broad interests. His book, Graphite will be on display with other Dixon Crucible items at the 1888 building in Ti. He and his family have been owner-managers of Bayside Cottages at Indian Kettles for many years. He was an Assesor and Councilman on the Town Board of Hague and has been a pillar and Trustee of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, donations are being sent to a Memorial Fund at the church and will be used to help pay for the new parsonage which he promoted.

From Dick Trudeau:

Graphite - this was his land  
Home of this kind and gentle man  
And I am very proud, you see  
Of the friendship he gave to me.

Great are those who suffer pain  
Yet still they never ever complain  
It's hard to find one single word  
To describe the greatness of my  
friend Wilford.

Time carries on, as we all know,  
When The Creator asks us to go.  
As we now lay Wilford to rest  
God asks from us one of the best.

POSITION OPEN for Chamber of Commerce Information Booth Attendant. Applicants should be 25 years of age or older and well informed about the activities and resources in this area.

The hours will be 12 Noon to 6 PM six days per week (closed Wednesdays)

Apply to:  
Bea Polino ----- 543-9001  
Lynn Patchett ---- 543-6088

MRS. MARJORIE B. BOLTON was also well known and will be fondly remembered from the days when her cheerful presence made every one welcome at the Trout House Casino (now the Dock & Dine) in the days when we had live orchestras and dancing nightly.

She died Wednesday, April 6, in the Moses Ludington Hospital following a long term illness.

She was the daughter of Fletcher and Caroline (Duell) Beadnell and widow of Earl Bolton. She is survived by one son, James R. Bolton of Balston Spa, two sisters - Mrs. Robert (Ella) McNeil of Ti and Mrs. Helen Clemons of Fort Myers, Fla. two brothers - Richard Beadnell of Chestertown and Thomas Beadnell of Hague, two grandchildren - Richard and Tracy Bolton of Balston Spa and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the Church Of The Cross in Ti.

ADIRONDACK CHAPTER OF AMERICAN RED CROSS offers programs in water safety, first aid, blood donors, aid to military families and victims of catastrophe and other services without charge.

Their phone is 792-6545. Envelope enclosed for donations.

ICE OUT? FOOLS

Tom Beadnell was acknowledged winner of the pool at Burgey's Cave. He had Apr 8 as the date when a boat could be rowed from Lake George Village to Ticonderoga. (Last year it was Apr. 7)

The Trout House Village pool and one in Bolton Landing, reportedly amounting to \$400. are still waiting for official word from the County Sherrif's Office or the Conservation people. As Mr. Seerup explained, they wait for Northwest Bay to clear - and then The Word has to come out of committee & "thru channels", no doubt.

**MOHAWKS RETURN TO ADIRONDACKS**

Edward Hale, in May-June issue of Adirondack Life, reports that on May 13, 1974..a band of Traditional Mohawks..scarcely 100 strong..with determination,..30 or 40 shoulder weapons and lots of women and children..left their Caughawaga Reservation in Quebec and moved into an abandoned former camp for wealthy girls on state land at Moss Lake..They had returned to the eastern door of the Iriquois Confederacy's Long House. (Iriquois Confederacy includes the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Senecas, Cayugas & Tuscaroras.)

The move followed an eviction dispute at Caughawaga. Karoniaktajeh, Secretary of the Council Fire at Moss Lake, says "We were risking our lives to defend two and one half acres."

From the camp at Moss Lake, (between Big Moose and Eagle Bay) they have controlled 8000 acres of state land during a three year period of negotiation, claiming the land "by right and treaty".

Kakwirakeron, who left a job on high steel and \$25,000. a year to return to his ancestor's Long House, says "Those of the coming generation will have a clear-cut choice of living on the reservation, being assimilated or taking up the Traditional life."

Traditional Indians seek the life style of their ancestors separate from white society..they regard themselves as a separate

nation to be dealt with under post-revolutionary treaties.

They arrived during a gubernatorial election year with the wounds of Attica and other episodes of violence still unhealed, which strengthened everyone's resolve to settle by legal process.

The Mohawks carefully avoided any occupation of private lands. In addition their spokesmen have said, "We want to become self-sufficient. We want to make it clear that we will put no burden on the community. We will not require any roads, any schools for our children or welfare payments."

On Oct. 28, 1974, Stephan Drake was wounded in the shoulder as he drove past the gate at Moss Lake at 5:30 PM. Three hours later 9yr. old Aprile Madigan was wounded as her family drove past. The Indians state that their camp has been fired upon nine times. To date no satisfactory explanation of the shootings has been reached but the Mohawks now receive visitors with hospitality, at times carrying hot nourishing meals a quarter mile through winter snow.

They hope to relocate, in the summer or fall, on 4000 acres, just outside Adirondack Park Blue Line, in St. Lawrence county, which negotiators put together from combined parcels of state land and private lands bought with private funds for the Indians' use.

H. Virginia Shattuck, Box 16  
Hague, N.Y. 12836  
(Address correction requested)

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
7.5¢ PAID  
Silver Bay, NY  
Permit #3

*card counted  
May 17*

