

"BIG FOOT" MAKES AN APPEARANCE

Two men on a camping trip in the vicinity of Whitehall claim to have seen a large hairy creature, seven or eight feet tall, having pink or red eyes and weighing between 300 and 400 pounds. A Whitehall policeman, a New York State trooper and a Washington County Deputy sheriff visited the area but were only able to spot the creature from a distance. Since the creature walks upright rather than on all fours, the possibility that it is a bear has been ruled out.

The Whitehall police said footprints much wider and three times the length of a man's were found in the area. The footprints did not have claws. No one has been hurt but it is possible that a young deer whose carcass was found in the area was killed by the creature. A state trooper reported that the creature came within 25 feet of his squad car and when he flashed a light in the creature's eyes, it covered its eyes and ran away screaming like a loud pig squeal.

No further reports of the creature have been seen in the local press. However, a conservation officer was heard to say, perhaps jokingly, that it probably was a gorilla which had escaped from a zoo or animal farm.

According to a story in the Glens Falls newspaper, the term "bigfoot" had its origins in the Adirondacks. The original "bigfoot" was an Adirondack wildman, a person who had reverted to nature and gone into the deep Adirondacks to live off the land. It had been described as a huge, hairy man with a footprint "nearly a yard across".

The first organized effort to catch him occurred on a night in February 1932. Two men had been trapping in the area of O'Neil Flow, about two

miles south of Blue Mountain Lake in Hamilton County. At night they found a cabin and were going up to the loft to sleep when they saw something looking in the window. They described it as a huge creature, covered from head to foot with hair that left large footprints in the snow as it ran away. A posse was organized and the next day followed the tracks to a cabin near the town of Newcomb. They called to the "creature" to come out and to surrender but it leaped through a window and crouched behind a log pile. Again it was asked to come out but the wildman answered that he wanted to be left alone and told the group to go away. Then as the posse advanced the figure fired a shotgun and one of the policemen fell screaming in pain to the snow. An order to fire was given and the figure was riddled with bullets, dying immediately.

On examination they found he was covered with numerous layers of untanned bear and deer skins which gave him a hairy appearance. Underneath he was a five foot six inch black man weighing only 160 pounds. The large footprints were explained by the wrappings of many layers of bear skins on his feet which, in effect, made them snowshoes.

His identity was never learned. Some say he was buried in Newcomb but others insist he was buried in Potters Field in a North Creek Cemetery. An examination of his body disclosed an old bullet wound to his head and there is some speculation that the old wound may have been the cause of the man going wild.

Conservation officers insist that there are at least two such wildmen.

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now living deep in the Adirondacks. They say they have been seen from time to time and the identity of at least one of them is known.

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OLD GRAPHITE RECORDS

Last spring Mrs. Inza Jordon turned over on loan to the Glens Falls Historical Association Museum the extensive records of the graphite mines which were found in the attic of her parents' home, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Wells, shortly after their deaths in West Hague. Starting in 1885 the records cover the 30-year period that the mines were in operation. The Wells' home had been a boarding house during the mining years and the company bookkeeper had lived there. After the mines closed, the records were stored in the attic and forgotten for more than fifty years.

Joseph King, Curator of the museum visited Hague at the invitation of Inza and met Wilford Ross, one of the two people still living who worked in the mines, the other being Byron Monroe, now of Warrensburg. Mr. King writes: "Ross is now 86 but he has a keen memory and sparkling sense of humor. As we sat in his living room he regaled us with stories about the old days in graphite including stories of romance and a grisly tale of a murder that was never solved. Fortunately Ross has preserved these tales and in May will publish a book of his reminiscences of days at the graphite mines". (The book was published by Mr. Ross in June. It is available at a price of \$0.25 plus tax through Mr. Ross).

Mr. King concludes: "Perhaps the most interesting and, really, the most fortunate aspect of the records remaining, is the company correspondence which brings to life all of the trial and error of running a large mining operation, and makes graphite come to life as you read the scathing memoranda, the sympathetic letters, the inter-office jokes and the never ending harangue of customers who wanted their product 'a day earlier from now on'".

Hopefully when Hague gets its own museum these records can be brought home to Hague where they belong.

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FIREMEN PLAN DINNER

A turkey dinner, complete with mashed potatoes, gravy, sliced carrots, cranberry sauce and homemade pies and dressing will be held at the Hague School on October 9th for the benefit of the Volunteer Fire Department. Serving will begin at 5 P.M. Price: Adults \$3.00; Children \$1.50 children under five free.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY VISITS SCHENECTADY

Sixteen members of the Hague Historical Society toured the stockade area of Schenectady and visited the Schenectady Museum on September 18.

Schenectady was purchased in 1661 from the Mohawk Indians by Arent Van Curler and fourteen others who came from Fort Orange (Albany) Looking over the Mohawk Valley where this land lay, Van Curler is reputed to have said this is "the most beautiful land which the eye of man ever beheld."

The houses built by the settlers during the first year were surrounded for protection by a stockade or fence with a blockhouse at one corner. The area within the stockade includes about five city blocks and while no part of the stockade remains, it is still referred to as the Stockade Area. The Mohawk River and Binne Kill provide two of its borders.

Not a single one of the sixty houses within the stockade survived the French-Indian massacre of 1690 and of the 400 people in the town, 60 were killed, 27 carried away as captives, and others perished from the cold. Nonetheless, within three months the stockade was rebuilt.

A number of the homes within the area date from the eighteenth century and for the most part are well preserved. All of them are occupied many by descendants of the original owners. The present occupant of the house originally occupied by the toll keeper at the old Washington Avenue bridge invited the group in to see the home furnished with many antiques and artifacts.

From its earliest days, Schenectady has been an important transportation center. When the Mohawk River was the main route to the west, goods were transshipped at Schenectady and hauled overland to Albany to avoid the falls at Cohoes. In 1831 the city became the western terminus of the Mohawk and Hudson Railroad, the first link in the New York Central System. From the middle of the nineteenth century the major industries have been the Schenectady Locomotive Manufactory and the Edison Machine Works which is now the General Electric Company. That these are the principal industries of the city is quite evident from the many exhibits and displays at the Schenectady Museum which was visited during the afternoon.

The next meeting will be on October 20, 7:45 P.M. with a program by the Jack Henry's on the people of Hague.

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NOTES ON THE SCHOOL

School enrolment at school opening was 188. Currently it is 190. There are ten students in the senior class. Eight students are enrolled in the BOCES vocational programs.

The complete faculty is: Rudolph Neola, supervising principal; Norman

Strumm, history and vice principal; Donald White, English; David DePrarco, science; H. Gordon Burleigh, mathematics; Gary Dillon, Commercial; Janet Cassidy, language; Raymond Laundree, industrial arts; Michael Riley, physical education; Wilford Hutchinson, grade six, Thet Curri, grade five, Ruth Barnett, grade four, Emily Cobb, grade three Lois Strumm, grade two; Frances Brannock, grade one; Cheryl Plass, kindergarten and reading; Sandra Hutchinson, reading; and Laura Meade, music. Part-time teachers supplied through BOCES are: Joseph Grady, guidance counselor; Carolyn Hersh, home economics; Shirley Boland, art; Sharon Slayback, speech therapist; and Catherine Levesque, dental hygienist. The school is also looking for a part-time nurse. The candidate must be a registered nurse and be available half-days, five days a week.

George May has been elected a member of the BOCES Board of Directors.

The school has completed reading tests for all grade students. State tests covering mathematics and reading will be given to third and sixth grade students on October 4th.

The names of about forty persons whose right to vote in the recent annexation referendum was challenged have been turned over to an attorney, for recommendations as to whether any further action should be taken.

At the meeting of the Board on September 13, a resolution was approved to the effect that the Board is complying with Federal regulations forbidding discrimination on account of sex. No changes in school programs are anticipated.

The Board also accepted provisions of the free lunch program which is funded with Federal money.

The request of Mrs. Patricia Brown for transportation to St. Mary's for her son Keith was approved.

A girls soccer team has now been organized and already has several games scheduled with other schools.

The boys soccer team won its first gam in three years by defeating Long Lake 4-0 on September 21.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

The town board met on September 14 with all members present.

The supervisor reported that the restraining order obtained by LaRose Construction Company and which had held up work by Real Construction Co who is dredging the lake, the boat slip and the brook had been vacated on the 14th and work was again under way on the 16th. The critical issue before the court was whether or not there was an emergency sufficient to enable the town to proceed with the letting of contracts without the formality of advertising for bids, etc. The court held that the Federal government had declared the flood of July 11 a disaster and that it was difficult to conceive of a disaster that did not create an emergency situation, particularly when the grant of Federal funds was conditioned on having the work completed by October 20th.

In 1974 the Forest Bay Association filed an application to place its common lands under the Fisher Act which would continue the assessed valuation without change for future years. It claimed that the valuation as it appeared on the 1973 tax rolls was proper while the Town claimed that the 1974 assessed valuation was the proper one. Suit was brought by the Association and has now been concluded with a finding in favor of the Town. Litigation is continuing, however, on the reasonableness of the 1974 valuation and suit has been brought to cover subsequent years.

An agreement has been reached to repair the town road at the Velte property in a manner satisfactory to the county engineer, the Town and the property owners. The work will be done in the fall.

With flood repair work taking first call on highway employees, it

has become apparent that the ski-tow cannot be completed unless outside help is brought in. It was agreed to take this under consideration at a special meeting of the Board.

The Board authorized the superintendent of highways to attend a meeting of the New York State Highway Association at Grossingers on September 21-23 and the town justices to attend a justices' school at Plattsburgh on October 15-16.

The resolutions accepting Over-Brook road Extension and Pine Orchard Road as town roads will be acted upon at a special meeting to be held September 28.

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SWIMMING PROGRAM COMPLETED

The summer swimming program under the auspices of the Town Youth Commission was reasonably successful in spite of the cold rainy summer and the serious flood which washed away part of the beach. The program was supervised by Steve Bolton who, when not conducting the swimming classes, acted as lifeguard.

About 15 children, ages 4 to 7 enrolled in the beginner group. Because of the spotty attendance only two took the test and received their completion certificates. Six signed up for the advanced beginners class. Only three, Norma Strumm and Jennifer and Stephanie Fitzgerald completed the course and passed the test. In the intermediate group four signed up but only Arthur Belden Jr. and Timothy Strumm attended regularly and passed the test.

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OUR READERS WRITE

Joanno Dunklee, a Hague high-school student, asked us to publish the following letter (received too late for the August issue):

"I am writing in regard to the proposed annexation of Hague Central and Ticonderoga Central Schools. I am a junior in Hague

and I feel that the annexation of these two schools would not be in the best interest of either. (Debbie Bly) concerning the school question. It was well written, but in my view, not well thought out.

"I do not feel that I have missed anything by going to Hague School, if anything, I have gained. Our school is staffed with dedicated teachers who do not hesitate to give extra help to those who need it, or to students who wish to excel beyond necessary classroom activity.

"The majority of students in Hague wish to remain here. We feel that Hague offers quality education and a base of extra-curricular activities that involve the entire community. When I say that our school is an integral part of the community and that I feel a loyalty for and pride in that school, I think I am speaking for the majority of students, both past and present.

"It seems to me that the voters have not given some very important features in the annexation issue enough consideration. These factors are: 1) The effect of the annexation controversy on the citizens of Hague and 2) The consequences if annexation is approved.

"The entire community has been disrupted and neighbor pitted against neighbor in the struggle that will decide the fate of the Hague Central School. If the vote passes and Hague is annexed with Ticonderoga, will it leave the community permanently divided? Taking these factors into consideration, will annexation be worth it once it is completed?

In conclusion let me extend a plea to all voters: Think carefully about all aspects of the annexation issue before voting, and remember: if annexation is passed it will be FINAL!"

Mr. Paul J. Rickett who makes his home in Ballston Spa but spends his summers in Hague, writes:

"In a recent issue there appeared

"She asks 'What would the Town of Hague be like without a school?' The answer is quite obvious - the town would not be without a school.

"She emphasizes the social and athletics aspect of the local school. She fails to realize that the consolidated school would provide broader opportunities for both.

As to the economic aspects of the question, it is well established that costs per student are lower and that the student is exposed to a broader educational opportunity than a small school can provide.

At her stage in life the costs of maintaining the Hague school is apparently of little importance, but be assured that many older taxpayers would welcome a reduction in school taxes, especially when they learn of the advantages to the student of a consolidated school."

Finally, Mrs. Inza Jordon, a native and long-time resident of Hague writes:

"In answering a few questions in your paper. 1. It sure shows what side you are on. You have been here for quite a while but have no children or grandchildren going to school so how do you know how the sold seed of Hague feel about the school?

"2. Sure a great many people signed the petition. It was to get them out of our hair and send them down the road as we knew deep down just how we were going to vote.

"3. In speaking with several from the city you will find that they are getting sick of the same old story - school. These folks have hired Hague folks to care for their home in the winter and clean the cottages in the fall for closing, then open them in the spring. They provide wood and pickup their

garbage. Yes, we get paid but we are also respected. So why bring up another school survey?

18 years of age; if married and either spouse is over 60, both are eligible

"4. This school problem has broken husband and wife, spoiled the business of some (by degrading), Turned visitors away from the town.

The program, financed by a 90-10 federal-county grant is intended to insure that the elderly in our community receive at least one hot nourishing meal a day. For the handicapped and those unable to get to the church, arrangements will be made to deliver the meals to the home or provide transportation to the church. The meals are prepared at Mineville and brought to the church ready for serving at noon.

"5. How many highschool kids want to go to T1? The others that attend the Catholic school are children that were made to go, not on their own free will. (not all, some).

"6. The big question I ask is if the school is good enough to make a buck why isn't it good enough to send your children to?

We participated in the lunch the other day and found it delicious and nourishing. There were about fifteen people present; many more can be accommodated. While there is no charge for the lunch, the program should not be regarded as a form of charity or welfare. Those persons able to pay may contribute up to a dollar toward the cost of the meal. In addition to the meal we had some interesting conversation with other participants.

"If this letter is used for your paper, use my name as I am not ashamed of Hague, I like it. Any letter that comes in without a signature isn't worth the time to read say nothing about printing."
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NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY

Senior citizens in the Hague-T1 conderoga-Putnam area have been invited to participate in a nutrition program for the elderly which will provide a hot nutritious meal five days a week at 12 noon at the First United Methodist Church in Ticonderoga.

It is absolutely essential that reservations be made a day in advance. This can be done by calling the church at 585-7682 between 10:30 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. To reserve a lunch for Monday, the reservation must be made on Friday. Mrs. Clair DuRoss who can be reached at this number is in charge of the program. Church Women. United is providing volunteer help. Give it a try!

Senior citizens are persons over

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