

CHRISTMAS IN HAGUE

NEW NYS LAWS

Christmas was a beautiful season in Hague. The town crew lighted the permanent Christmas tree along the brook and the Chamber of Commerce put up a beautiful tree near their booth in the town park. For many nights "the moon on the crest of the new-fallen snow, gave a lustre of mid-day to objects below. Houses with candles in the windows, gaily lit trees and porches added to the festive spirit. The Lollipop Shop and the Hague Super Market were both brightly decorated in holiday attire.

A beautiful candlelight service held jointly by the Baptists and Wesleyans (followed by a celebration including a birthday cake for the Baby Jesus), and a midnight mass at the Catholic Church added to the spiritual festivities.

In spite of the sub-zero weather, it really was a wonderful Christmas. We must all get back to our diets in a hurry! ...DJH

Effective Jan 1, left turns can be made on some red traffic lights. (Make sure you know which ones!).

Also - drivers charged with drunk driving who refuse to take a chemical test will now have their licenses suspended at their initial court arraignment. It will cost you \$100 to get another license. The state's maximum personal income tax rate drops from 11% to 10% on taxable income over \$17,000. However, the withholding tables (which tell an employer how much to withhold) will not be changed. This gives the state the temporary use of about \$20 million.

GREETINGS: Selective Service registration for men born in 1962 will take place the week of January 5. Men born in 1963 and later must register within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Register at any U.S. Post Office.

*The old year has ended -
and vanished away
Like the mist of the morning
when dawns a new day;
A New Year has entered -
the future unknown,
But the God of the Future
is still on the throne.*

...Contributed by M. Hutchinson

I wish for 1981 a year of real togetherness for Hague. We have the beauty of the mountains and the lake, the peace and quiet of the country and most important, the wonderful people. Let's put it all together.

THE CHRONICLE has been a wonderful experience for me. I can truly say I have reaped more than I have sown. I hope we as a staff might continue (and improve) our efforts to make the paper a worthwhile vehicle in bringing to you news and information that we feel will interest and benefit you, our readers.

...Dottle Henry

FOR OUR ARCHIVES

The Chronicle staff is currently trying to get together complete sets of THE CHRONICLE, which has been published since January 1972. If any of our readers have a set (or most of one), and would not mind parting with it, we would really appreciate it.

RESOLVE: Don't complain, count your blessings instead. Alison Craig

TAX COMPARISONS

Hague tax bills were sent out December 29, 1980. This year Hague's full value tax assessment rose by \$5,030,432 to \$40,964,449 - nearly 14%. Hague's current problem is our equalization rate. In 1980 the rate was 63.72%, a drop of 7.42% from the 1979 rate of 71.14%. The equalization rate affects all of our taxes - school tax, county tax, town tax, etc.

The equalization rate is: "The statistical determination based on extensive sampling by the State Board of the average level of assessment in an assessing unit; that is, the average percentage of full value at which assessments are established."

"...Equalization rates can only distribute tax burdens fairly between and among municipalities. The equalization process does not eliminate the tax impact of assessment between and among individual properties."

TOWN	Equalization Rate		County Tax		Town Tax		School Tax	
	1981	%	1981	%	1981	%	1980	%
Bolton	\$ 63.51	-5.2%	1.04	-9.6	\$ 4.89	-4		
Chester	113.09	-2.7	.58	-12.1	6.35	-1.2		
Hague	63.72	-10.4	1.03	-4.6	7.25	+4.8	\$21.38	+10.3
Horicon	51.51	-6.6	1.28	-8.5	12.67	+20.5		
Johnsburg	10.67	-7.3	6.15	-7.8	50.93	+67.8		
Lake Luzerne	10.06	-7.3	6.52	-7.8	59.39	+6.7		
Stony Creek	6.47	-11.7	10.14	-3.2	142.61	+3.1		
Thurman	5.14	-2.6	12.76	-14.4	119.04	+9.2		
Warrensburg	54.81	-2.4	1.20	-14.9	9.54	+3.5		
Ticonderoga (1980)	16.72						81.55	-10.4

In 1980, under the guidance of Richard Bolton, Supervisor, the most important problem for The Town Board to solve is the determination of the proper assessment rate for the town - the rate that will give Hague taxpayers the fairest tax burden.

The Hague tax rate seems equitable under current circumstances. Insurance, as usual, has been a constantly increasing cost. The Board has felt that the Hague Road crew, whose work is their primary source of income should be raised to compensate for their increased cost of living. Otherwise costs have been held well in line. There were no serious objections raised at the public hearing on the proposed budget November 6,

The taxes for the lighting district (along route 9N from the boat dock to the end of the Lawrence property; Holman Hill, Fitzgerald Hill, Lakeshore Terrace and up Route 8 to the Al Perkins property) are paid for only by residents who live in the special lighting district.

The fire protection taxes rose from .00032 to .00047. While this was an increase of .00015, almost 50%, it increased the tax rate only 5.37%. Compared to the fire protection service we received from Ticonderoga prior to 1948 and the reduction in our insurance rates, this increased payment seemed entirely justified for the excellent fire and ambulance service that this fine Fire Department, which is completely voluntary, has served Hague so faithfully for more than 32 years. Fire protection in other adjacent towns are:

Bolton - .96; Chester - 3.00 (3 districts); Hague - .47; Horicon - .62; Johnsburg - 22.20 (2 districts); Lake Luzerne - 4.87; Stony Creek - 8.66; Thurman - 8.43; Warrensburg - 2.75 (2 districts)...JTH

FROM OUR SUPERVISOR

From Dick Bolton's newsletter of December 22 comes the following information for those who were not fortunate enough to receive this communication:

"In anticipation of the fast approaching New Year, I would like to begin 1981 by wishing you all a Happy New Year, and I hope every one has a very Merry Christmas with their families and loved ones.

"...The Town Board worked diligently to keep property taxes in line, and I think they did a tremendous job in holding down the budget to a minimum tax raise. Inflationary raises (insurance, workmen's compensation, fuel, heat and electricity) made the task of a balanced budget impossible, but we did hold the Town Tax rate to an increase of only 3.03%.

"..A few matters that occurred during this Quarter, I would like to bring to your attention:

1) Clifford Frasier, who donated his time, four C.E.T.A. employees are to be complimented on the terrific job they did in cutting out the snowmobile trails. Hague probably has the best Town snowmobile trail system in the County, and our tanks is extended to Cliff's dedication to a job well done.

2) I have asked that a school collector be located at the Town Hall during the tax collecting period.

"Legislation will be introduced into the State Legislature to lower the required number of enrolled voters. If passed, Hague will be eligible as an Election District.

3) The New York State IT-216 Forms that gave people the lower income tax bracket a \$35 rebate will not be available this year. This program has been dropped.

4) I have asked several County Agencies to provide a Department representative to appear at the Town Hall, one day a month, in order to answer questions from Town residents. This service would enable residents

to consult with county officials locally thus saving their travel time and gas consumption. At the present time the Veterans' Officer is sceduled each Thursday from 12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. and a Social Services representative is on call. Please call the Town Office, 6161 for details.

ATTEMPTED ART HEIST

The recent attempted theft of 50 million dollars worth of art treasures from the Hyde Museum in Glens Falls had a silver lining. Coverage on T.V. and area papers increased attendance 100% over the holidays. A Glens Falls Chronicle reader who is a volunteer guard there reminds us that the museum will be closed for the month of January.

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The 1979 real property tax in NY State collected more than \$8.7 billion. State income tax produced more than \$6.8 billion and local sales taxes \$4.9 billion. a total of more than \$20.4 billion!
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NOTE: The last Monday in May has been declared by the State of N.Y. as Memorial Day.

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DID YOU KNOW?

That many "summer folks" who have retired here have been coming to Hague since they were born...some sixty to seventy years ago, and their parents and grand-parents before them? Others bought or built here when their children were small, twenty-five and thirty years ago.

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No doubt we'll look back on 1980 as the Year of the Roses: Gasoline rose; food rose; utilities rose...
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THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is published monthly by volunteers and supported by contributions from its readers. Please send news items to Editor Margaret Broderick, Box 215 Hague and contributions to Treasurer Jack Kennedy, Box 118.

WEATHER OR NOT

1/2/81

THE "HOLE" STORY

December 1980 will go down as the coldest on record. On December 1, it was the warmest, being 55°F at lake level, but by December 3 the mercury dropped to a blistering 25°F with 47 mph gust giving a wind chill of -18°F on Graphite. First ice formed in bays on December 15 and the lake is now frozen except for the last stretch of Hague Bay. If anyone knows of the earliest recorded date of Old George freezing over, please send the information to the Hague Chronicle. The current water temperature at the 18-in. level is 35°F. Total snow fall for December was 21 inches. The total heating degree days to date were 3318, compared to 2596 for last year and the normal of 2869. To calculate degree days you must take the high and the low reading for a given 24 hr. period. Add these two readings and divide by two. This will give you the average temperature. Subtract the average temperature from 65 degrees which is in theory a temperature when heat is not needed. This gives you the daily degree days. Fuel is consumed for heating purposes based on outdoor temperatures, thus less fuel is needed on warmer days.

Now with the lake frozen over temperatures will tend to be a good bit colder. Remember to bundle up, even inside the house, as we are all now keeping those thermostats lower. A nice hat and dry socks are sure comfort, especially when sleeping or sitting still. Also layered clothing is much warmer than one heavy coat, since it is the trapped air spaces about one's body - not thick layers - which keep you warm.

Keep active in mind and body and winter will be more pleasurable!

Happy New Year,
Eloc Saigoud.

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INFLATION SPONGE CAKE: All the ingredients are borrowed.

A quote from a recent letter from Ed Henry in Wyoming. "I heard on the news today that Amoco and Chevron have finally tied in all the wells they have drilled and it is the largest discovery of natural gas in world history (about 148 TRILLION cubic ft.) which they say is enough to heat the U.S. for 150 years. I think that is really exciting and good news. It's neat that I drilled one of the wells that helped outline this reservoir. (Carter Creek well)"

Note: His parents, Dottie and Jack visited this well in June 1979. A fascinating experience! The Carter Creek Well where Ed worked from 9/78 to 11/79 was drilled by Loffland Bros. It is approximately 47 miles north by east of Evanston, Wy.

AFS

The Ticonderoga Chapter of American Field Service will hold its business meeting on Wed. Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Resource Center, Ticonderoga High School. Coffee and dessert will be served. New members are welcome to join us at this meeting.

U.S. SNOWSHOE CHAMPIONSHIPS

From Warren County Tourism we have the following report.

Lake Luzerne, N.Y.: The third National Snowshoe Championships of the U.S. Snowshoe Association will be held at Forest Lake on Sat. and Sun. Jan. 17 and 18, the Lake Luzerne Chamber of Commerce, which is sponsoring the event in cooperation with the Lake Luzerne Chapter of the USSA, has announced.

We are glad to be able to bring some events in Warren County to the attention of our readers. Most of the communications we receive from Warren County Tourism immediate release arrive too late for our publication...MB

SOUNDINGS

Married - Pamela Bullock of Hague to Reed Davis of Pittsfield, NH on December 27 in Hague.

Died - Edna King, widow of C. Perry King, Sr., on December 6 in Doylestown, Pa.

- Joseph Howard Garlick, former resident of Bass Bay Rd., on Dec. 9 in Sarasota, Fl.

Correction - The name of Dr. Jeana Cole's husband was sent to us incorrectly as MUIR. It is John McLean MURRAY.

HAPPY REUNION

Which kind lady reunited two Army buddies 37 years after W.W.2? Fred Spreeman would like to thank her for giving Ellis Jennings Fred's Hague address. She must have noticed Jennings's request in the D.A.V. magazine and supplied the information. Fred told us of their last meeting on Saipan at which time Ellis was wounded. Irene and Fred made the trip to Medical Lake, State of Washington for a real Thanksgiving reunion. A warm welcome awaited them in this little town 100 miles from St. Helens. The delightful fortnight ended too quickly. Fred and Ellis reminisced about army days while Myrtle was the gracious hostess. It must have been a touching reunion for we learned that Major Spreeman was the last person Jennings had seen before his evacuation to Hawaii - way back then.

On Wednesday night, Dec. 17, a hit & run driver ran into and extensively damaged the lattice work and stone pillar at the Dlifton's home. Fortunately the culprit was found and apprehended.

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He who hoots with the owls at night cannot soar with the eagles in the morning.

ELEMENTARY ART ON TV

Mrs. Faye Gough's Ticonderoga elementary art students were recently featured on WPTZ Channel 5 News, engaged in creating puppets for the Traveling Fine Arts Exhibit and constructing a life-size paper-mache coach for the Cinderella spring musical. In May these will be on exhibit at the Adirondack Center Museum. This is probably the first "art exhibit on wheels" in the North Country by elementary school students. In addition, the elementary school chorus was featured while rehearsing for Parents' Open House.

BASKETBALL TOURNEYS

During the Christmas holidays both the Varsity and Junior Varsity Basketball teams participated in tournaments.

The Varsity team won the Moriah Christmas tournament, defeating Moriah by a score of 62-48. Bill Brennan, who resides in Hague in the summer recorded 16 points in the final game.

The Junior Varsity team won the Sentinel JV Basketball Classic, defeating Moriah by a score of 80-56. Arthur Belden of Hague "was the key figure off the boards ripping down 16 rebounds and adding 14 points." BELDEN WAS ALSO NAMED THE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER. Congratulations!

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I hope THE CHRONICLE can continue to reflect its optimistic sunny view of life in Hague. Along with Dr. Lewis Thomas, Chancellor of the famed Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, "You'd think that the mere fact of existing would keep us all in a contented dazzlement. You'd think we'd never stop dancing."

...Mig Broderick

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Life is like a piano - what you get out of it depends on how you play it.

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hague Historical Society held its Christmas Party on Dec. 17 at the home of President Bob Cole. He and his wife Bea and son, Doug, presided over the Christmas tree, the top of a stunning fresh green spruce, about 12 ft. tall, 8 ft. wide (topped by Doug). Bea served delicious treats; then members sat in a semi-circle, each describing some memento. Items ranged from an American wooden butter mold to Japanese "netsuke" (tiny carved figures); a powerful wood bow from the western plains; an old microscope; artifacts dug up on the shores of northern Lake George (French & Indian Wars); winsome black silk parasols and fan; elegant small silver sheath that might have carried one's silver tooth pick! A soapstone African bowl; an iron sheep-shearer (and an aside on how the sheep was held so that the shearing could be done); a silver locket - by a NY jeweler before the turn of the century - still holding intertwined strands of hair, locks of loving husband and wife; post cards, picturing handsome old tiles in NYC subway stations; a large Dutch wooden shoe; in it, an orange and "hay" for Santa and his reindeer.

NOTE: Dec. 1971 Hague Historical Society Meeting, "Members exhibited toys dating back more than 50 years." IDEA for Dec. 1981?

WHO IS THE SCROOGE IN OUR MIDST?

During the very happy pre-Christmas season, a note of sadness was injected. Two wreaths were stolen from the windows at the Hague Super Market. The new proprietor, Art Steltz had made an all-out effort to decorate his store for the season. One can imagine his disappointment when he arrived one morning to find the wreaths had been snatched. We hope the thief has a real guilty conscience. He should have!

HAGUE ARTS FAIR

Mrs. Adra Seerup who has been at the helm of the Hague Arts Fair since 1974 has announced her resignation.

The Idea for this fair originated with Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph Meola and was presented at a meeting on Feb. 27, 1973. Mrs. Catherine Brock chaired the first fair which was held on August 4. The Arts Fair has been a tremendous success each year, drawing on exhibitors from a wide area, and a record number of visitors.

For a number of years the Hague Chamber of Commerce has been sponsoring this event. We hope they will be successful in finding a replacement for Mrs. Seerup, who has done such an outstanding job. Any volunteers?

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I wish to thank the following people for gifts of pictures:

Mr. Meola for recent ones.

Madeline Hutchinson for an old album of school groups and of the boys and girls ball teams of the early 30's

Penny Bolton for two groups of pictures of grades.

Clifton West, Town Historian

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A prosperous New Year to the gallant Chronicle staff with lots of news; responsive readers; and the fortitude to quote "keep sending" come what may.

...Giny Shattuck

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Make your plans now for the Fish and Game Club's Winter Carnival, Feb. 21 & 22.

- 50/50 WINNERS FOR DECEMBER
- \$25 Martin Fitzgerald
- \$15 Diane Frasier
- \$10 Lori Fish

HAGUE IS OUR TOWN
(Reprinted from May 1974 Chronicle)

In an article in the October 1973 issue of Reader's Digest, the people who make up the population of Block Island, a small island lying in Long Island Sound midway between the coast of Rhode Island and Long Island, were characterized according to their importance to the community as "natives", the men and women born there; "off islanders", people who may have spent a lifetime on the island but who had the misfortune of being born elsewhere; "cottage people", those who spend the same amount of time on the island but who rent their dwellings; "vacationers", those who also rent, but for a shorter period; "tourists", those who live in hotels or rooming houses; and finally, "day trippers", those who arrive on the morning boat and depart in the afternoon.

This is quite similar to what we have in Hague - natives, summer people, cottagers, tourists, and people who are simply visiting the area. Except that no one can move from one classification to another. A visitor finds he likes what he sees and comes back as a tourist for a two-week vacation. Next year he rents a cottage for the summer and later he buys it and becomes a full fledged cottager. Finally the lure of his summer surroundings overtakes him and generally with retirement approaching, he becomes a year-round resident. Hague becomes his town; it's his home.

In the Reader's Digest article the author, one of the cottage people describes a celebration honoring the Island's public health nurse and member of the Volunteer Rescue Squad who had served the community well through hurricanes, shipwrecks, fires, even plane crashes. The author had been invited to attend the festivities but felt the event was certain to be a time of great intimacy for the islanders and he didn't want to attend as a conspicuous alien.

However, his wife pointed out that in the fifteen years they had spent their summers on the island, they had called on the nurse in time of need and they owed it to her to attend. So they went.

There were many speeches by civic leaders extolling the kindly deeds of the honored guest but what startled the author was the mention of the date when the nurse had first come to the island. It was 1958, the very year the author had stepped ashore.

He wrote: "This was about the first community event I had attended. The postmistress had waved at me because...I had waved at her first. The merchants and civic leaders had greeted me warmly because I had finally greeted them in friendliness. The lesson here was simple yet profound - you receive back from a community what you first put into it."

As the author drove home that afternoon, he thought about his status on the island. "We were still 'cottage people'", he mused. "What had changed was that I now understood the comparative unimportance of the category."

On reaching the narrow lane which led to his land, he stopped the car beside his signpost. The top sign on the post read "Miller" the bottom one "No Trespassing". Then, he concludes, "I got out of the car and knocked the bottom sign off." ...Emil Seerup

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Billie DeGraff quotes Isaac Stern, violinist: "What I hope for most is an understanding of the deep need and unmatched value to our society of Arts Education...a basic civilized necessity (for) every child in the country, a function of the art of living, not an occasional social adornment."
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This time like all times, is a very good one if we but know what to do with it...Emerson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JANUARY

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 7 Tax Collector - Town Hall 1:30-4:30 | 20 Home Bureau - 10:00 a.m. |
| 8 Planning Board - 7:30 | 20 Fish & Game Club - Town Hall 7:30 p.m. |
| 8 Vet. Adm - Town Hall - 12:00 | 20 Board of Education - THS-7:30 |
| 10 Tax Coll.-Town Hall-1:30-4:30 | 21 Hague Historical Soc. |
| 13 Town Board - 6:30 | 22 Zoning Board of Appeals - 7:30 |
| 15 Sr. Bus to G.F. | 29 Planetarium Show - THS - 7:30 |
| 17 BEN FRANKLIN'S BIRTHDAY | |

My New Year's wish for the CHRONICLE is a moment of meditation by all its readers for Emil Seerup, its founder, in appreciation for the fine vehicle that he brought to Hague, and also an appreciation by more of the people of Hague for the fine quality, by responding through contributions of articles of information, assistance, and funds. It can't be run on air!
 ...Ed Crabbs

Ring happy bells across the snow
 The year is going, let him go.
 ...Tennyson

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