

HAGUE CHRONICLE

SCHOOL ELECTION

Last month we reported that the term of Board Member George May would expire this year. This was an error. It is Robert Denno's term which will expire and a candidate to fill this vacancy will be elected on May 7th with the polls open from 1 to 5 P.M. Mrs. Barbara Belden, wife of Paul Belden, is the only announced candidate.

The voters will also be asked to approve the budget at this election.

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THE 1975-76 SCHOOL BUDGET

The 1975-76 school budget which is to be presented at the annual meeting of the school district on May 6th, calls for total expenditures of \$500,421. an increase of \$49,242 over the amount budgeted last year. Items contributing to the increase are the tax refund to Arcady Corp. of \$20,736 plus increases in the following items: insurance, \$4000; teaching and supervision, \$14,500; BOCES \$2200; employee benefits, \$5400; and debt service, \$1500.

The increases in costs will be paid for with increases of \$1800 in state aid; \$4300 in BOCES aid; and an estimated balance from the 1974-75 year of \$35,000. This leaves the amount to be raised by taxes at \$340,721 an increase of \$28,000 over the amount raised by taxes in 1974-75.

The tax rate in 1974-75 was \$14.55 per \$1000 of assessed valuation. The total assessed value of the property in the school district is about \$21.5 million. Should the budget be approved as presented, the tax rate

would go to about \$15.85.

All of our calculations are based on comparing the proposed budget with the budget of a year ago. With a balance from this year's operations of \$35,000. it is obvious that the Board anticipates spending \$35,000. less this year than the amount budgeted. To get a more accurate picture we should know where the surplus is coming from.

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THE ICE GOES OUT

This year the lake froze over on February 7-8. On Saturday April 19 the ice went out. Thus it was with us a total of 70 days, eleven less than normal.

A late winter storm on April 3-4 left the area with 10-14 inches of heavy snow. This was followed by moderating temperatures and gradually the ice deteriorated. A warm rain on the 18th finished the job and the end of the ice came peacefully.

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THE BI-CENTENNIAL

The bi-centennial flag which we thought would be flying from the Town Hall flagstaff has been, instead, on the flagstaff at the town park. Because of the severe snowstorm on April 3, there was no exchange made for the second flag in the series, hence, the same flag was here for the month of April. Hopefully the second in the series will be here during May.

At the request of the Warren County Bi-Centennial Commission a list of 16 historical sites in the Town of

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Hague has been submitted. It is proposed to have each of these sites identified with a historical marker. It is hoped this can be done in time for the Heritage Day celebrations on May 17.

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FLOOD INSURANCE

The adoption of a resolution on flood insurance by the Town Board at its meeting on April 15 will qualify residents of potential flood plain areas for subsidized Federal Flood insurance. The only place in Hague which is a potential flood plain is the property along Route 8 from the falls to the lake. Pursuant to the resolution, permits for structures proposed to be built in the area will be submitted to the Town Planning Board for it to examine and determine that the proposed structure will conform to Federal regulations.

While Hague Brook has from time to time overflowed its banks during the early spring, the only really serious flooding occurred on June 3, 1947. A newspaper account of the day began: "Hague Brook, normally a peaceful trout stream running through this resort community, went berserk during the torrential rain storm Monday night and early Tuesday morning, overflowing its banks and causing damage of many thousands of dollars. Two garages were wrecked, an automobile demolished, tourist cabins flooded and the macadam highway leading over Graphite Mountain ripped and torn. One of the hardest hit by the torrents of water, rushing a foot deep down the highway and over the main bridge on Route 9N was Cobb's Cabins. The main building at the establishment was also damaged, its foundation

partially washed away and two gasoline pumps ripped out by the force of the raging stream".

The cabins at Locust Inn, owned the time by Darby Tabler and a garage owned by LeRoy Scott were severely damaged. An automobile owned by the Rev. Clarence Murray, pastor of the Wesleyan Methodist Church plunged into the torrent of water when the foundation of his garage was washed away. The car tumbled end over end down the stream, a distance of 600 yards and finally came to rest along the Scott garage which was already in the stream.

Clifton West was quoted as saying that there was only a trickle of water at first which he was directing away from his garden but that suddenly a solid wall of water a foot high came rushing down the highway. Ernest Jordon had just crossed the bridge when the fill at the edge of the bridge was carried away. He jumped from his car as it sank into the stream but with the help of a county truck it was pulled to safety.

One old-time resident said he had lived in Hague for fifty years and never before (and, we might add, never since) has the stream overflowed its banks except very mildly.

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RALPH J. MCKEE

Ralph J. McKee passed away on March 29 at the Moses-Ludington Hospital in Ticonderoga. He was 59 years of age.

Mr. McKee was a member of the Hague School Board for many years and served as president of the Board from 1967 to 1972. He was Chairman of the Board of Assessors for twelve years and was President of the Warren County Assessor's Association for one term. For many years he was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hague Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife Elaine; two sons, James of Hague and Peter of Saratoga; a daughter, Lana Thrall of

Albany; a brother, Hollister of Bradenton, Florida; three sisters, Mrs. Vina Hewitt of Plattsburgh, Mrs. Dorothy Train of Warrensburg, and Mrs. F. L. Lydecker of Joy, Maine.

Funeral services were conducted on April 1 at the Wilcox and Regan Funeral Home with the Rev. Edward Elliott, pastor of the Wesleyan Church of Hague, presiding. Burial took place in Valley View Cemetery.

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BAPTISTS TO INSTALL MINISTER

The Rev. Clifton R. Bohanan will be installed as pastor of the Hague Baptist Church at a service of installation on Sunday, May 11, at 7:30 P.M.

Robert M. Hoyt will bring greetings from the Hague Church and the community; greetings from the Ticonderoga area churches will be delivered by Rev. Joseph E. Babcock, minister of the Methodist Church at Crown Point; and Mr. Clarence Jones will present greetings from the Lake George Baptist Association.

Rev. Harrison E. Williams, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches in New York State will deliver the installation sermon. Also participating in the service will be Rev. Arthur Curren, Pastor of the Baptist Church in Bolton Landing; Rev. Kenneth Estey, Pastor of the North Creek and Minerva Baptist Churches; Rev. John Cook, Pastor of the Fort Edward Baptist Church; and Rev. Forrest B. Fordham of the Eastern area of American Baptist Churches of New York State.

The church has invited the people of Hague and the public generally to this auspicious service. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion.

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The Hague School Board held its regular meeting on April 14 with all

members present except Mrs. Edna Frazier.

The BOCES school calendar for 1975-76 was adopted by the Hague School.

Mr. Meola recommended and the Board approved tenure for Mrs. Lois Strumm.

Requests from the Ray Laundree, August Getta, and Tom Stull families and Mrs. Cole for transportation for their children to St. Mary's in Ticonderoga during the 1975-76 school year, were granted.

A resolution memorializing Ralph McKee who passed away last month was presented and approved by the Board.

There will be a spring concert and fashion show at the school on April 30 at 7:30 P.M. The school play will be presented on May 8th at 7:30 P.M.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hague Historical Society met on April 16 with approximately twenty members and guests present. Mrs. Ethel Andrus was in charge of the program for the evening.

With the issuance of a commemorative stamp last fall to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Chautauqua, Mrs. Andrus was made aware of the fact that few people of this generation had more than a superficial understanding of what the Chautauqua was all about. The research she did on the subject formed the basis for her presentation.

Chautauqua is the name of a town located in southwest New York on the shore of Lake Chautauqua. It is about the size of Bolton Landing. In the summer of 1874 the Rev. John H. Vincent conducted an assembly for the instruction of Sunday School teachers in a pavilion which he was able to obtain in Chautauqua. In the first year there were 40 young people enrolled in the school which assessed a charge of \$6.00 for the two week

way Department employees had cut down a number of trees along the Split Rock and Shamrock Hill roads right-of-way during March and April. The logs were hauled to the International Paper Company at Ticonderoga where checks payable to the Town in the amount of \$388.25 were issued. The money will be used to provide an electric router and other tools for the Highway Department.

The Board approved the expenditure of \$2000. to extend the stone wall to the rear of the bathhouse across the park to the boat slip. Parking area will then be extended to the stone wall, an additional 30 feet.

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MORE ABOUT MAMIE

Fearful lest Capt. Henderson's recollections of Miss Beste would leave the reader with a picture of an axe-swinging cor herder, Virginia Shattuck has submitted the following picture of her.

"Miss Mary C. Beste did not want a eulogy but we shouldn't close the book on her with a picture of her and Enid Alden herding cows. She did so many other things equally well.

"She was always ahead of her time. She must have been in her teens when she and her brother owned one of the first 'Jolly Oldsmobiles'. It seated two people back to back and Mamie learned to take it all apart. Very daring for a young lady in those days. She was opposed to pesticides before Rachel Carson learned to write.

"In the 1930's she and Enid Alden operated a restaurant specializing in pancakes.

"In her 60's she became a licensed real estate broker. She succeeded in this business because she understood and enjoyed all kinds of people.

"She could chat with little boys who came for milk, talk and laugh with farmers about local going on, and discuss opening night at the Philharmonic or international finance

with friends from New York, all with equal zest. At the same time, she was taking each one's measure with the insight of a master psychologist and learning something from each.

"Her collection of books on nature science and travel, local history and American classics reflected her broad interests.

"She loved to entertain, over coffee and doughnuts in the morning, a quiet glass of sherry in the afternoon, or at dinner with good food on either her favorite pottery or beautiful China. With large groups she would hover around the edges with people babbling across her and at her then suddenly drop a pertinent comment or tell a funny story that would stop the show.

"She had elegant vases and always had at least one flower arrangement at her side in the living room from her own gardens or greenhouse. She exchanged plants with serious gardeners from near and far.

"She painted and sketched in oils, water colors and crayons. Her wood carvings also showed the precision and patience of an artist.

"For her pure writing style, reread her description of Hague in the November Chronicle. She summarized its beauty, discovery, development, and sounded a note of warning for its future in one short column.

"At 90, when she lost her vision, she learned to operate a tape recorder by touch and walked without assistance, using a cane unobtrusively.

"her one great love was music. Did you know that she discovered Scriabin right along with the younger generation? And that, at 91, she was thinking of composing music? The day before she died she asked if the piano tuner had come. If she had lived a little longer her 'Adirondack Concerto' might have put Grandma Moses in the shade.

"She had big feet but she had style. Her clothes were well-tail-

ored and carefully chosen. Yet she could pick up a cheap hat in Ti, casually put it on, and look like an aristocrat.

"She would cheerfully herd cows if necessary but she was also a woman of great dignity, with sensitivity and a relish for life. It was a privilege to know her."

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THE LIBRARY

The Town Supervisor appointed the following people to serve on a committee to study the proposal to build a town library: Emil Seerup, Chairman; Cahterine Brock, Clifton West, Virginia Plass, Frances Clifton, Dorothy Henry, and Michael Fitzgerald. Frank Fitzgerald, Chairman of the Board's Committee on Building and grounds, is an ex officio member.

The Committee has had several meetings and considerable information has been developed. The Committee's report is being prepared and will be submitted to the Board for consideration at its meeting on May 13.

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HOME BUREAU MEETS

Mohican Chapter, Federation of Home Bureaus, held its spring party and meeting on April 15. Officers for the forthcoming year were elected as follows: Frances Hogan, Chairman; Cleo Beck, Vice-Chairman; Leila Hol-

man, Secretary; and Marguerite West, Treasurer.

Crafts which had been made by the members during the past year wer displayed. The highlight of the party was a demonstration of "belly-dancing" as a form of exercise staged by Mrs. Sloan Wilson who conducts a dancing school in Ticonderoga, and two of her pupils.

Final meetings for the year will be held on May 6 and 20.

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TEMPERATURE READINGS

If you plan a trip to Canada this summer, you can expect temperature readings in the 20's. Actually it will be a comfortable 68 to 85 degrees on the Fahrenheit thermometer but Canada has now adopted the Celsius scale which is a part of the metric system. The Celsius scale has a spread of 100 degrees between freezing and boiling points while the Fahrenheit scale registers 32 at the freezing point and 212 at the boiling point.

To convert a reading on the Celsius scale to Fahrenheit, multiply the Celsius reading by 1.8 and add 32. Thus 20 degrees Celsius is the equivalent of 68 degrees Fahrenheit. To convert Fahrenheit to Celsius subtract 32 from the Fahrenheit reading, multiply the result by five and divide by 9.

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