

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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WHY IS THE ICE ON THE TOP?

While ice-fishing the other day, we got to wondering why it is that the ice forms on top of the water. In the summertime, we argued, the water at the top is considerably warmer than the water at the bottom. This being so, why doesn't the water freeze at the bottom of the lake?

We found the answer in an article by Professor Dwight A. Webster of Cornell University which appeared in the magazine of the State of New York Conservation Department several years ago.

The density of water, the professor explained, is greatest at 39.2 degrees F. Water at temperatures above and below this is lighter. The difference in density is not great, but is sufficient to cause water both above and below 39.2 degrees to stay at the surface while the water at 39.2 degrees tends to go toward the bottom. Were it not so, lakes would freeze from the bottom up and remain perpetually ice-locked, except for superficial water formed in summer.

The phenomenon begins with the 'spring overturn'. With the advent of the spring thaw, the ice melts and the water on the surface quickly warms to 39 degrees. As the ice breaks up the 39 degree water at the surface blends with the water of similar temperature below the surface and eventually the water stands at 39 degrees from top to bottom with the same density throughout. The wind circulates the entire mass. This is called the 'spring overturn'. As the season advances the surface waters warm above 39 degrees and since this water is lighter in weight, it stays on the surface.

By now it is late spring and the lake enters a system of stratification that will not be broken until autumn. Two well-developed layers are formed, the one on top of varying thickness, is warm, approximately 70 degrees and the one at the bottom has a temperature range of 39 to 50 degrees.

Between the two layers is a band where the temperature is decreasing from 70 to 50 degrees. The thickness of the various layers varies with the depth of the lake, the action of the wind and air temperatures. The upper layer becomes thicker as the season progresses.

With the cooling days and nights of autumn, the lake begins to lose heat. The surface temperatures begin to fall and the cooled water sinks to a common temperature level eventually bringing the water to the same temperature from surface to bottom. As

tes, it is called the 'fall over-
... when cooling has proceeded to a point where surface waters fall below 39 degrees, the below 39 degree water tends to stay on the surface. Then with a cool still night when temperatures fall below 32 degrees, the lake skins over with ice. While this may temporarily thaw or be broken up by the wind, the freeze will eventually become thick and the lake becomes ice-bound for the winter. During this period, the coldest water is at the top at the warmest water, at or near 39 degrees, is, as usual, at the bottom. Usually the water grades rapidly from 32 down to 39 degrees so that most of the water volume is at or near the higher temperature.

Now that this has been cleared up we can get on with our ice-fishing.

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ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY CONSIDERING CHANGES

The Adirondack Park Agency's private land use and development plan which was discussed at considerable length last month is undergoing substantial revision. As many as 800 changes in the area map are being considered. The revisions are based on consultation with town and village officials and recommendations made at the public hearings. The final draft is being readied for submission to the legislature.

One of the questions frequently asked by area residents is - Could I build on a

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sell lot that I own? The Agency's chairman made this answer: "Anyone who now owns any kind of unimproved lot in any of the seven types of land use categories could build a dwelling on that lot regardless of any density guidelines prescribed by the plan, or the owner may sell the lot to another person who could then build a dwelling on it." Then he added, "What is there now can stay there. Moreover, any dwelling that burns down or is otherwise destroyed may be replaced."

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EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

Superintendent of Highways, Dan Belden, has prepared an inventory of equipment owned by the Town and used by the Highway Department. Items of interest are as follows:

- 1 - 1972 Ford truck with plow and wing.
- 1 - 1970 Chevrolet truck with plow.
- 1 - 1968 International with plow and wing.
- 1 - 1965 Dodge truck with plow and wing.
- 1 - Trojan tractor
- 1 - Yorktown grader
- 1 - Tailgate Sanders
- 1 - chain saw
- 1 - 12-ton trailer

All of the equipment is described as being in good or fair condition except one of the Sanders which is ready to be junked. A new Sanders has been procured since the inventory was prepared.

In addition to the foregoing, the inventory lists a large number of hand tools and a number of skull machines - an arc welder, soldering gun, etc. Substantial quantities of motor oil, grease, nuts and bolts, etc. are also on hand.

Although the inventory does not include sand or salt, Mr. Belden advised that 2600 yards of sand was procured at the beginning of the winter season and that about 1000

yards remain on hand. There has been used than in previous years because of the icy conditions which have prevailed this year.

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FRANK C. FITZGERALD

Frank C. Fitzgerald passed away on February 9th at the Albany Medical Center. He was 72 years of age.

Mr. Fitzgerald is survived by four daughters; Mrs. Betty Whitford of Ticonderoga, Mrs. Ella Levitt of Bridgeton, New Jersey, Mrs. Ethel Baillargeon of Lake Placid, and Mrs. Jeanette Gordon of Scotia; two sons, Charles of Hague and Martin of Sabbath Day Point; two sisters, Mrs. Ethel Delara of Hague and Mrs. Mary Watts of Silver Bay; and three brothers, James, Eric and Irving all of Hague.

Funeral Services were conducted at Wilcox and Regan funeral home on February 10th with burial at the Hague cemetery.

Mr. Fitzgerald who lived in Hague his entire life, was married to the late Annette Whitcomb who passed away in 1938. Initially a carpenter, Mr. Fitzgerald became a successful building contractor which business is now being carried on by his son Martin.

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The School Board held its regular meeting on February 12 with all members of the Board present.

Mr. James Bly was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Ralph McKee and will serve until June 30, 1973. Mr. Bly has been a long time resident of the area and is employed at the Norwegian Marine Base.

There was considerable discussion about the school heating plant and what needs to be done to put it in condition. It was concluded that Mr. McKee would call on the State Education Department at Albany to obtain specifications as to requirements of the State and will report at the next meeting of the Board.

One of the teachers proposed that the Washington trip for the senior class which

has always been scheduled for the spring, should be taken in the fall. In that way, the seniors would have additional time to enjoy the benefits of the trip to their healing. The board felt otherwise and the trips will continue to be scheduled in the spring.

Barlow and Henry submitted a bill for \$2000. covering the plywood sub-floor which had been installed in the all-purpose open classroom. Some of the Board members were surprised and it was decided to discuss the matter in executive session. When the Board returned to the meeting, no action was announced.

The teachers contested an election on February 13th to choose a bargaining agent. The results of the election were not discussed.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETS

At the February 21 meeting of the Hague Historical Society, Mr. Clifton West presented a detailed history of the Hague Baptist Church which he had put together from a number of old documents.

Although the Baptist Church existed prior to 1841, it was not the first religious body to be formed in Hague. The Presbyterians came first and held their meetings in the homes of the members.

There is no record of when the first church was built but it was called a "people's church" and all faiths were welcome. It was constructed below the cemetery on the site of the present Blair Hotel. The first Baptist minister was the Rev. John Barlow.

In 1867 the Freewill Baptist Church was organized and in 1879 the Union Church of Hague came into being. In that same year the Wesleyan Church was built. In 1899 the church received property in Hague under the will of Phil Foote on which the present church was built in 1912. The old church is disposed of to the Hague Grange; the bell in the church tower is now at Camp No. 1. 1890.

The first service in the new church was held on December 11, 1912 with the Rev. Clemens preaching. In 1917 the Rev. Styles

became pastor. He lived in a tent near the church and agreed to stay through the winter when the membership built a one room bungalow for his living quarters. The present parsonage was completed in 1928 with running water made possible through a donation by Mrs. Carpenter of one-half the water rights to a spring in back of the church. In 1925 electric lights had been installed in the church through a gift of \$100. from Mrs. R.E. Henry. The organ was purchased and the entire interior panelled in 1953. Many members contributed new furnishings and on November 13, 1955, the church was rededicated.

The church annex was built in 1962 with the outside work being done by Frank and Martin Fitzgerald and the members doing the inside work and painting.

Membership of the church in 1862 was 30; 61 in 1897; 67 in 1900; 62 in 1967; and 51 at the present time.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on February 13th with all members of the Board present.

The superintendent of highways announced that he was requesting the county to make its road re-surfacing equipment available to the town for re-surfacing during 1973 parts of Overbrook, Sabbath Day Point, Split Rock and Forest Bay Roads. By making the request early, it is hoped that the equipment will be available so that the work can be done before summer.

The supervisor's appointment as finance officer was approved by the Board.

There was considerable discussion with respect to Federal Revenue sharing funds. Improvements to the town hall including installation of a new heating system was estimated to cost \$30,000. The possible purchase of a grader was also discussed. The possibility of expanding town park generated some interest and will be explored further. No action was taken.

Discussions had been held with representatives of the Lake George Park Commission relative to building permits and permits for installing sewerage disposal systems.

There appeared to be some areas requiring further discussions and the establishment of formalized procedures was postponed pending these discussions.

The supervisor reported that there was considerable opposition to the proposal to delay the Warren County Reappraisal Program to May, 1974. However, one benefit from the delay would be the likelihood that hearings at which protests will be heard will probably be held in June, July or August 1973 in preference to the March 2nd date which was initially scheduled for the hearings. The later dates would give the "average people" a better opportunity to appear and be heard.

TAX EXEMPTION FOR THE AGED

A proposal to grant partial exemption from real property taxes in the Town of Hague to taxpayers 65 years of age or over will be the subject of a public meeting to be held on March 13 at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Hall.

Under New York State Law, a town may grant partial exemption from real property taxes on the taxpayer's legal residence which has been occupied by the owners for at least 60 consecutive months prior to the filing of an application. The property must be used solely for residential purposes. Exemptions may be granted where the combined income of the owners does not exceed \$4000. annually or such other amount as is provided by local ordinance or resolution. Most towns grant a 50% exemption where income does not

Return to:

Emil Soreup
Box 2304 - Silver Bay, N.Y.
12674

exceed \$4000. a year. Income includes social security payments, salary, wages, interest, dividends, rents, capital gains, disability payments, etc.

Should the Board enact an ordinance granting the exemption, applications will be available at the assessor's office and if filed before May 1, the reduction will be allowed on the 1974 town tax. It will not affect the 1973-74 school tax bill unless the School Board adopts a similar resolution. It is estimated that there are about eight property owners in the town who would benefit from the exemption.

BOY SCOUTS ADVANCE IN RANK

At a Court of Honor held at the Hague School on February 21, all members of the troop were advanced in rank. Some scouts received as many as 15 awards.

The highest ranking scout currently is Larry Jordan who was advanced to Star Rank. He has been a scout for about 4 years and continues to show an active interest in scouting. He has an excellent chance of obtaining the rank of Life Scout at the next Court of Honor and a good chance to obtain the highest scout rank - Eagle - by the middle of 1974. Larry is senior patrol leader of the troop. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jordan.

The meetings during the month of March will be devoted entirely to first aid. The program will be developed by Gerry Boyd.



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