

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

VOL. IV - No. 4

A P R I L

1 9 7 5

HAGUE, N.Y.

OFF-TRACK BETTING DISAPPROVED

The Finance Committee of the Warren County Board of Supervisors has recommended that any further discussion of establishing off-track betting operations in Warren County be tabled. The committee said it reached its conclusion on the basis of reactions from both within the county and from other counties which are now participating in the system.

When the recommendation of the committee was presented to the March 14 meeting of the Board, it voted to take the matter out of the Finance Committee and then set up a special committee to continue monitoring existing systems and to give the matter further study.

+++++

BI-CENTENNIAL NOTES

During March a strange flag was hoisted on the Town Hall flagstaff. It was the first of twelve different flags of the Revolutionary period which the Warren County Bi-Centennial Commission is rotating among the twelve towns making up the County. The second in the series will be in Hague in April.

The flag now flying is a replica of the oldest flag in the United States. The original was made in England in the 17th century for use by Three County Troop. This cavalry unit from Eastern Massachusetts defended the colonists against the Indians in the late 1600's.

May 17 has been designated Heritage Day. To commemorate the occasion, a Heritage Day brochure will be distributed. Plans also provide for

reproducing the picture of Joseph Warren, for whom Warren County is named. If done successfully all 23 schools in the County would receive a picture from the Heritage Committee. Locally towns are being asked to arrange events of appropriate significance. One suggestion under consideration for Hague is to plant a tree in the Town Park and identify it with a suitable marker.

The Third Annual Hague Arts Fair, now scheduled for August 3, will feature the Revolutionary period. Some exhibitors will be dressed in costumes of the era and handicrafts and art works of the period will be stressed. Further details will be announced.

+++++

HAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARY

As reported in a recent school newsletter, the Hague Public Library has been providing library services to the town since 1959. For many years the library was located in the basement of the school but in 1971 it was moved to the school annex which it now shares with the teaching staff.

Mrs. John T. Henry headed the group which, having failed to get library services through the Southern Adirondack Library System of Saratoga Springs, persuaded the School Board to provide necessary space. Bernard Clifton solicited contributions of books from townspeople, other volunteers served in various capacities in preparing books, etc., and still others built bookshelves and did necessary carpenter work.

Volunteers who have contributed services through the years are Mrs.

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is edited and published monthly by Emil Seerup, Box 2504, Silver Bay, New York 12874. It is supported financially by civic-minded citizens and local civic organizations. News items and announcements of general interest to the community are solicited.

(continued from page one)

William Andrus who was the first director and who now keeps the books and accounts; Mrs. Louis Brock who has been director during the past ten years and is now in attendance on Friday afternoons; and Mrs. Clifton West who is in charge on Monday afternoons. During the past summer Mrs. Donald Knowlton assisted with book repairs and since September Mrs. John Dunsmore and Mrs. Paul Belden have volunteered their services.

The library is a 'book drop' under the state library system through which books not available locally can be obtained through the state system.

During 1974, 2600 books and magazines were loaned by the library. This was a decrease of sixty-nine from the previous year and 400 less than in the 1965-66 school year. Only about one percent of the books loaned were to others than school children.

+ + + + +

NEWS OF THE SCHOOL

The Hague School Board held its regular meeting on March 10 with all members present except Mrs. Sharon Fitzgerald.

Requests from the LaPann and Kowalsky families for transportation for their children to St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga during the 1975-76 school year were approved.

The Board was directed by the State Education Department to establish policy with respect to accounting for extra curricular funds, (receipts for admission to basketball games, etc.). A draft submitted by Mr. Meola was approved by the Board.

The Board announced that an agreement with the Hague Teacher's Association covering the 1975-76 school year had been consummated.

The annual meeting of the school district will be held on May 6th at 7:30 P.M. The budget for the next year will be presented. It will be voted upon on May 7th from 1:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. The term of Board Member George May expires this year. A successor to fill the vacancy will also be elected on May 7th. Registration for the school election will be held at the school on April 26 from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Schools have been closed for only one day this year on account of inclement weather. This made it possible to lengthen the Easter recess by three days.

As we reported in our December, 1974 issue, the Arcady Corporation tax litigation was settled by the town in November, 1974 under terms which cost the Town \$9,499. covering the years 1968 through 1973. The School Board has now been ordered to refund to the Arcady Corporation the sum of \$20,735.98 for taxes paid in the tax years 1967-68 through 1974-75. This is the amount paid by Arcady on assessed valuation in excess of valuations agreed upon in settlement reached with the Town.

+ + + + +

MRS. LOIS LIPPITT

Mrs. Lois G. Lippitt, widow of Walter Lippitt who died in 1956, passed away at the Hallmark Nursing Center in Schenectady on March 5. Memorial services were conducted by Rev. William Groshans, former pastor, and Rev. Cass Gilbert III, present pastor of the United Methodist Church of Ticonderoga on March 7.

Mrs. Lippitt was active for many years in the Order of the Eastern Star and in the Ladies Society of the Ticonderoga church.

The Lippitt family has resided in Forest Bay since 1941, first as sum-

mer residents and following Mr. Lippitt's retirement as Superintendent of schools in Westwood, N.J., they became year-round residents although most winters were spent in Florida. After her husband's death, Mrs. Lippitt continued to live in Forest Bay while spending winters in Schenectady.

Survivors include three sons, Ronald of Ann Arbor, Michigan; Gordon of Washington, D.C.; and Vernon of Rochester, New York; ten grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Internment will be in Valley View Cemetery in the spring.

The family has suggested that memorials be in the form of contributions to the Lois G. Lippitt Memorial Fund of the First United Methodist Church. On August 25 the family will visit the family home in Forest Bay for a further memorial service with neighbors and friends.

+ + + + +

TOWN BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Town Board was held on March 11 with all members except Joseph Streeter present. Others present included Rudolph Meola, Jack Carney, George Ludlow and Gordon Roth of the Silver Bay Association, Dan Belden and Michael Fitzgerald.

Mr. Meola inquired as to what, if any, action was being taken by the Board with respect to the suggested ski tow. The matter was discussed at length with all members of the Board agreeing that the project was feasible and should be undertaken. A committee of the Board was appointed to find a suitable site and obtain cost figures. To be ready for the first snowfall it was agreed that the work would get underway immediately after Labor Day.

Messrs. Ludlow and Roth discussed problems associated with the use of the Silver Bay Road which runs through the Silver Bay Association Campus. Similar complaints had been made a year earlier which prompted

the Association to petition the Board to abandon the road to the Association. That petition was denied and now Mr. Ludlow was asking merely for permission to erect an information booth at each end of the road where a staff member would be on hand to answer inquiries, check cars and persons entering the Association grounds and to generally keep an eye on traffic conditions. Mr. Ludlow also presented petition signed by 26 property owners who reside in the vicinity endorsing the request of the Association. The Board took the matter under advisement.

The Supervisor brought up the matter of flood insurance. Insurance of this kind is available at reasonable rates providing the Town adopts resolutions and ordinances requiring that buildings and other structures in areas where flooding may be expected, be constructed according to specifications established by the Federal Government. The members of the Board indicated their approval and a resolution will be presented at the next meeting. It is necessary that action be taken before September 1.

The proposal to build a library building was discussed at great length. In an effort to reach a conclusion as to whether the townspeople do or do not want a library building, the Supervisor announced that he would appoint a committee consisting of six members of the community whose function would be to determine whether there is a need for a library, what sort of building would be required, the approximate initial cost and anticipated maintenance and operations costs. The Supervisor continues to request that you make your feelings known.

Messrs. Belden and Michael Fitzgerald reported briefly on proceedings at the recent meeting of the Association of Towns. Of significance is the possible decrease in state aid for improvement and construction of town roads under the so-called Donovan Act. Currently the state pays 40% of these costs; the Governor's proposed budget would reduce this to 25%. Mr. Fitzgerald indicated that

there is considerable sentiment for having only one assessor rather than three as some towns now have. He thought it was likely that this would be mandated by the state within the next three years.

Mr. Yaw advised that there is some feeling that Town Justices should not sit on Town Boards. The point was made in a recent suit where it was argued that there is a conflict of interest for a justice, who as a member of a town Board voted for an ordinance, will at a later date, sit in judgment on that ordinance. If Justices were not permitted to sit on town boards, it would require the election of two additional councilmen.

+ + + + +

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Despite bad weather, the attendance at the March meeting was excellent and included the Rev. Clifton Bohanan who is now serving the Hague Baptist Church, Mrs. Bohanan and Mr. Gardner Finley of Diamond Point, an avid student of local history.

Mr. West was in charge of the program. It was built around the first minute books of the Town of Hague and covered official acts of the Town from April 6, 1807 when the Town of Rochester was created by an act of the state legislature, until 1820. Previously the area had been a part of the Town of Bolton. On April 6, 1808 the name of the town was changed to Hague for reasons no one seems to know.

William Cook appears to have been the first supervisor, with Uriah Balcom, Town Clerk and Isaac Balcom and Noah Woodward, assessors. Others who appear to have been leaders of the community were Samuel Patchin, John Holman and Elijah Bailey. Seventeen townsmen were listed as competent to serve as jurors. Some of the more interesting positions which the Board filled were "poormasters" who were assigned to look after the poor in the town; a "poundmaster" appointed to impound horses and other animals which might have strayed; and "fence-

viewers" appointed to see that fences along roadways were adequate and built according to law.

The first act of the Town made it unlawful for hogs, horses and swine but not cattle, to run at large. In these early days it was the responsibility of persons whose property abutted on roadways to keep them in repair and the Board established "beats" and assigned them to specific persons to keep them in repair. At the town meeting in 1808 a motion to raise \$30. for town expenses for the year, was carried.

In the 1808 minutes an agreement is reproduced wherein the Overseers of the Poor, Nathan Taylor and Caleb Balcom, by and with the consent of the justices of the peace, Reuben Smith and James Eare, have "put and placed Harvey Gray, a poor child of the age of one" as apprentice to John Holman until he "shall accomplish his full age of twenty-one years." During this time, Holman will "instruct the apprentice in the art and trade of agriculture" and shall "provide him with sufficient meat, drink and apparel and lodging and shall also teach him to read and write". At the expiration of the term he was required to give him a Bible and was also "to see that he did not become a charge on the town". (Harvey Gray seems to have done all right. He is listed in the 1855 census as the owner of a 250 acre farm with 20 cows and 2 working oxen.)

In 1909 it was decided that \$20. was enough to raise for poor money. A bounty of \$5. was placed on wolves "until there are three wolves killed and no bounty on any more". One cent was required to be paid on each sheep and six cents on each swine that was found on the common or highway. Four years later these fines were raised to 6 cents for each sheep and 12 1/2 cents for each swine.

The relationship between the town and the school is not entirely clear. However, in 1813 the sum of \$30. was voted for the support of common schools and John Holman, John Hayford and William Cook were elected School

Commissioners. In 1819 the amount raised for schools was \$60. At the annual meeting in 1820 it was agreed that the same sum be raised for support of common schools "as shall be received from the school fund the ensuing year". This looks like the beginning of revenue sharing or matching grants.

There is much more material on Hague's early days and from time to time we will relate parts of it to you. Meanwhile, the presentation by Mr. West was of great interest and the refreshments provided and served by Martha White and Irene Coveney, were excellent.

The next meeting will be on April 16. Mrs. Andrus will be in charge. Her subject is Chautauqua.

+ + + + +

NOSTALGIA

"The article in the August issue about Henry Shattuck was most interesting," writes Charles Henderson Jr. Capt. USNR (ret), of Lansdowne, Pa. I remember visiting his shop many times on walks as a boy from our home to Split Rock through Cathedral Pines and across the glen. The Shattucks came to Hague just a few years after my great-grandfather Capt. Robert H. Robinson bought the first property owned by our family from Albert Clifton on the shore just south of the public dock at Hague. That house was in our family until the 1930's, then passed to Kathleen Lyman Reynolds (Mrs. Burton) then back to my mother, until we sold it in 1959 to William Marcy of Albany. He and Bea Frasier were there until Bill Marcy sold it to Howard and Dorothy Geyer last year. Our house, B.O.Q. next door to the south, dates from the 1840's; we are currently rehabilitating it."

And, in a second letter, Captain Henderson writes: "I'm sorry to learn from the Ti Sentinel that Aunt Mamie Beste has gone on from us to that happier land. I can remember as a boy carrying empty bottles in a wire carrier from our cottage at Hague up to Sentinel Pine Farms to get the

fresh supply. Miss Alden Beste had a beautiful herd cattle. Of course, when Hammy brother Jim and I had to way, carefully, through the from the beach now owned by over the fields to the barns and our exchange of empties for fuel got a chance to talk with the others. Did you know that they their old touring car over the on the old military road, from to Hague, sometime in the 20's axe and saw to clear the way? was a few years before the construction of the Tongue Mountain Park now highway 9N.

"As kids we caught lots of just off the mouth of the brook ran through the farm - there was Cape Cod Village, no Norwood Shore no Springdale Manor then - just field and pasture.

"Bob Henry's big dock and boathouse had not been built, he didn't yet own the property, it was the Watts house. And while Enid Alden and Mamie Beste were herding Jerseys and supplying marvelous milk and cream to a lot of summer visitors, the Lake George Steamboat Company struggled through World War I with the 'Mountaineer' and 'Heron' substituting for the big steamers, Horicon, Sagamore and Mohican. Those were the days of history!"

- - - - -

Mrs. Dorothy Goodfellow writes from Pittsburgh. "My December issue has just arrived and various aspects of our old neighbor Mr. Spelman's life were of great interest to me. I remember well when Mr. Spelman was first a guest in the Watts home when I was a child.

"My sister Ruth (Mrs. M.E. Auerbach) and I, as well as my two brothers Henry and John (Watts), were students at the Silver Bay School. My father, fearing lest we not be properly prepared for highschool at our local one-room rural school (District No. 2 on the Split Rock Road) entered us in a small school run as an adjunct to the preparatory school for boys (Silver Bay). It was held in the room below the library

ing, but the classes, taught by the teachers of the preparatory school, met all over the campus. Here in the seventh and eighth grades I had several splendid teachers, including Mr. Huntington for eighth grade arithmetic and high-school algebra, and Mr. Martin for English. Their instruction enabled my sister and me to obtain high Regent's Examination marks and to enter Ticonderoga Highschool with algebra and beginner's latin tucked under our academic belts. Mrs. Michener taught us art, I recall.

"When my father came to Silver Bay resigning his captaincy in the U.S. Army he became a friend of Silas H. Paine, and I recall his big white launch "Oneita" for which Oneida Bay, really Van Buren Bay, was misnamed. I remember going with my father to call on Mr. Paine, who fitted exactly my childish picture of Santa Claus with his white beard. I printed a quotation for him while I was a pupil at Silver Bay which he framed and hung in the library until it was closed. (I wonder what has become of it?)

"Mr. Wilson lived in what is now the White House (my mother's birthplace), and every summer for many years he gave a wonderful party for all the children. There is a photograph among our family pictures of the entire group at one of these parties. I was fascinated by his large music box."

+++++

Emil Seerup, Box 2504
Silver Bay, New York 12874
(address correction requested)

Every five years, the Department of Commerce prepares a digest of public employment in which a tally made of all persons on the payroll of counties, townships, municipalities, school districts and special districts. Federal and state employees are excluded.

The most recent study lists a total of 2,159 full time workers or their equivalent (part-time workers were converted to their full-time-equivalent to permit comparison with other communities) on local payrolls in Warren County at the time the study was made. This amounts to 43 employees for every 1000 local residents and should be compared with a national average of 32 employees per 1000 and an average of 41 per 1000 in New York State.

Payroll costs in Warren County amount to \$32.13 per local resident per month compared with a national average of \$25.16 per capita and a New York State average of \$39.29 per capita per month.

+++++

THORNTON PENFIELD, JR.

Thornton Penfield, Jr., long-time summer resident of Silver Bay, passed away on March 12 following heart surgery. His obituary will be published in our next issue.

+++++

| |
|---|
| Bulk Rate U.S. Postage 6.1¢ paid Silver Bay, NY Permit #1 |
|---|