

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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S E P T E M B E R 1 9 7 6

HAGUE, N.Y.

THE VOTE ON ANNEXATION

For the third time in the past five years, the proposal to annex the Hague School District with Ticonderoga was defeated. In 1971 there were 486 residents who voted, 194 for annexation and 292 against; in 1974, 540 voted, 242 for annexation and 288 against; and on August 20 this year there were only 479 votes cast with 235 for and 240 against annexation. The margin of victory for those voting to keep the school in Hague has shrunk to five.

One puzzling feature of the voting is that while more than 285 people signed the annexation petition, perhaps as many as 60 to 80 failed to support it with their votes. It would be interesting to know why.

A bitter campaign was waged by both sides. One group calling itself "Concerned Parents" aligned itself with the School Board which in a second newsletter again opposed the merger. In opposition was the "Concerned Citizens of Hague" which presented the arguments supporting annexation. Despite the propaganda and the arguments, the only point established by the referendum appears to be that the town is pretty evenly divided on the issue.

In its most recent newsletter, the Board states: "Annexation is not in the best interest of the community and we are opposed to it. However, we want to reflect the opinion of the majority of the people in our school district. To that end we are planning to conduct during the 1976-77 school year an opinion survey concerning the future of our school. Should the school remain as is, should the highschool be sent to Ticonderoga on

a tuition basis, or should the Board actively seek some form of reorganization. We will be guided by the results of the survey".

It was our understanding that this is what the Board had asked the state education officials to conduct last month and that this has been done. Anything further seems to us like beating a dead horse. Nevertheless, we'd like to hear more.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT BENEFIT NETS \$550

The premier performance of Once Upon A Mattress was presented by the Silver Bay Association employees for the benefit of the Hague Fire Department on August 13. The more than 400 persons attending the musical made it possible to provide the firemen with receipts of \$550.

This is the sixth year in succession that the SBA has staged a musical performance for the benefit of the Fire Department.

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JUSTICES NOT TO SERVE ON TOWN BOARDS

In second class towns (those with a population under 10,000) the town board consists of two councilmen, two town justices and the town supervisor. For some years there has been a growing feeling that justices serving on town boards violate the doctrine of separation of powers since they serve in both a judicial and legislative capacity. Some courts have held that it is improper for a town justice who participated as a member of a town board in enacting an ordinance to subsequently sit as a justice in a case involving the ordinance.

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(continued from first page)

To meet this problem, the New York State Legislature passed a law at its last session providing that town justices elected after July 1, 1977 will be barred from serving on town boards. The law provides that two additional councilmen may be elected to take the place of the justices. However, subject to permissive referendum, a town may reduce its governing board to three persons, the supervisor and the two town councilmen.

Justice Harvey Yaw's term expires at the end of 1977 and he will be permitted to serve on the town board until then. Mr. Seerup's term runs to the end of 1979.

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U.S. COAST GUARD VISITS AREA

The U.S. Coast Guard made an unannounced visit to Lake George over the August 13-16 weekend. The vessel, a Penn Yan type, painted white with a red stripe, was launched from a trailer at Mossy Point, Ticonderoga. After a trip around the lake it left as quietly as it came.

Because of substantial differences between state and federal laws, nothing but confusion will result from an assertion of jurisdiction by the Coast Guard.

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LOCAL YOUTHS ENTERTAINED

The Kiwanis Club of Ticonderoga and Silver Bay Association teamed up on August 24 to provide Hague and Ticonderoga youths with a day of sports, refreshments and relaxation on the

Silver Bay Association Campus. About thirty-seven boys, nine to fourteen years of age, accepted the invitation of the two organizations and with perfect weather participated all day in a variety of activities, including a cook-out.

Hopes are running high that the event will be repeated next summer.

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HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hague Historical Society will open its fall schedule of meetings with a trip to the Stockade area in Schenectady, N.Y. on Saturday, September 18. There will be a walking tour beginning from the YWCA at 44 Washington Ave. at 10 A.M. Lunch will be at the Van Dyck Hotel at about 12:30 P.M. and a visit to the Schenectady County Historical Society has been arranged for the afternoon.

Since reservations are required for both the lunch and the walking tour, please let Ethel Andrus know later than September 7th if you plan to attend. Her phone number: days-543-6613; evenings - 543-6098. Also, if you need a ride or can accommodate extra riders, please call her.

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BEAUTIFICIATION WINNERS

Dr. Harold R. Gelhaar of Sabbath Day Point was the winner in the Lake George Commission Annual Contest of a Merit Award as Most Beautiful and Well Kept RESidence when viewed from the road. Werner's Marina, also of Sabbath Day, was presented with a Merit Award as the most improved Marina.

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PROPERTY OWNERS MEET

A presentation was made by the Hague Boy Scouts at the meeting of the Property Owners of Silver Bay on August 14. The Boy Scout troop and Cub Scout Pack are sponsored by the Hague Fire Department.

Contributions were made to the following: Fire Department, \$125.; Boy Scouts, \$25.; Lake George Association, \$25. The group also made arrangements to have the Chronicle mailed to all members.

Officers for the coming year will be: President - Keith McKeeman; 1st VP - Charles Gosselink; 2nd VP - Paul Paparella; Recording Secty - Anne Konet; Corresponding Secty. - Dorothy Goodfellow; Treasurer - Ethel Andrus.

Because of conflicts with other meetings held on regular meeting days (2nd Saturday in July and August) it was decided that the July, 1977 meeting would be held at night. Members will be notified.

Silver Bay property owners who wish to join may do so by sending dues of \$3. to Mrs. Andrus.

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HAGUE ARTS FAIR

An all day rain forced cancellation of the Hague Arts Fair which had been scheduled for August 7. However the following day turned sunny and warm and although the number of exhibitors and visitors were substantially fewer than anticipated, the general consensus is that this annual event was a success for the fifth year in a row.

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The school board met on August 9th with all members present.

A deposit of \$1. will be required on locker keys beginning in September. If at the end of the year the key is returned, the dollar will be refunded.

Bids on furnishing milk and bread were opened and awards made to Interstate Bakery for bread and Mohawk Dairy for milk.

Mrs. Sandy Hutchinson was appointed remedial reading teacher.

Debbie Waters has successfully passed the civil service test for the position of clerk-typist and will be continued in that position.

The request of the Richard Boltons for transportation for their child to St. Mary's was approved.

Mr. Meola announced that he cannot obtain liability insurance on the school's trampoline and there is, therefore, some question of its continued use.

Approximately 80 children will be eligible for the free school-lunch program.

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TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

The Town Board held its regular meeting on August 10 and special meetings on the 16th, 21st and 25th.

At the regular meeting the matter of the Orchard Beach Road was discussed and agreement reached as to what has to be done to bring the road up to the town's requirements. It is anticipated that work will be completed shortly and that action by the board will follow.

Dr. Harold A. Gelhaar's resignation from the Town Planning Board was read and accepted. Alfred Zeese was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Mrs. Helen Samascott was appointed Democratic member of the Election Board and Mrs. Genevieve Denno was appointed the Republican member.

Dan Belden reported on flood damage repairs. He indicated that the estimated cost would be \$422,700. and that he had agreed with the federal government to accept 90% of this amount and that the town would then be free to proceed in any way it saw fit to make the repairs.

At the August 16th meeting Mr. Joe Hayes of the New York Office of Disaster Preparedness advised that the federal government had had a change of heart and that the agreement pre-

viously entered into would not stand. It now appeared that the town would be required to assume full responsibility and that it would be reimbursed for its costs.

On the 21st the Board reviewed bids for performing the emergency work of cleaning debris from the brook and removing about 40,000 cubic yards of sediment from the lake at the mouth of the brook, the beach area, and the boat slip and trucking it to the landfill where it would be used to cover refuse. The Reale Construction Company of Ticonderoga was awarded the contract at a price of \$200,000.

Some of the larger dump trucks can carry about eight cubic yards of material at a time. Since the work is scheduled for completion by October 20th its going to take a lot of trucks to make the 5,000 trips up to the land fill and back, well over a hundred a day.

At the meeting on the 25th the bid of \$79,320. submitted by the Standard Bridge Co. of Albany for rebuilding and restoring bulkhead along the brook from the school building to the lake was accepted. Work will be commenced as soon as possible and it is expected to be completed before winter. The contract also calls of restoration of sidewalk along Route 8.

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HAGUE FISH AND GAME CLUB

The Hague Fish and Game Club held its third annual chicken barbecue on August 22 with about 200 in attendance. Allan Perkins and Dan Belden won the horseshoe pitching contest with Jacques Thibeault and Elvin Frasier finishing second.

The club will participate in the statewide observance of hunting and fishing on September 26 at the clubhouse. The public is invited. A fishing contest will be held for the youngsters. Refreshments will be served.

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MRS. HERRICK RETIRES

Over two hundred friends and fellow workers of Mrs. Gertrude Herrick surprised her at a retirement party on August 24. Mrs. Herrick who lived in Hague for many years and now resides in Ticonderoga will retire at the end of the summer season from Silver Bay Association where she has been head of the housekeeping department since 1949.

The party was hosted by the Silver Bay Association in Morse Hall. Mrs. Herrick received gifts of a painting by Adele Hepbron, a rocking chair, and money together with the best wishes of her host of friends. She plans to remain in the area.

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