

# THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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AUGUST 1975

HAGUE, N.Y.

## HAGUE ARTS FAIR

Don't forget to attend the 3rd annual Hague Arts Fair to be held on Saturday, August 2nd, 11 A.M. until 5 P.M. There will be more participants, more exhibits, more interest, in fact, it promises to be bigger and better than ever.

The town has made ten more canopies available to exhibitors, background music will be provided, refreshments will be sold and there will be ample parking space.

If you have something to exhibit and have not yet registered, there is still time. Stop in at the Chamber of Commerce booth in the Town Park and register with Mrs. Marion Frasier - or, call Mrs. Seerup 543-6052.

In case of rain the fair will be held on August 3.

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## OPEN CONTAINER ORDINANCE APPROVED

At its meeting on July 8, the Town Board adopted the Open Container Ordinance which had been considered previously at a public hearing on June 10. The ordinance was published in the Glens Falls Post Star on July 14 and became effective on July 24.

The ordinance prohibits any person from having in his possession any open bottle or container containing liquor, beer, wine or other alcoholic beverage while on any public highway, public street, public sidewalks, public parking area or in any vehicle or public place except those premises duly licensed for sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises. A first offense is punishable by a fine of not exceeding \$25.

or 10 days imprisonment in the County jail, or both; a second or subsequent offense is punishable by a fine of not exceeding \$50. or imprisonment in the County jail for 30 days, or both.

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## PARK REGULATIONS TO BE STUDIED

The town park has become a favorite recreation area for townspeople and visitors during the summer months. The boat launch is being used continuously and mooring places are generally filled. There are currently no regulations or ordinances affecting use of the park and the opinion has been expressed that the time has probably come to consider what, if any, regulations are required to insure that the park continue to provide a place of recreation and relaxation for the people of the town.

Accordingly a committee of townspeople has been appointed by the supervisor to consider, among other things, the following:

1. Should the town establish an admission charge for use of the park? If a charge is to be assessed, should residents of the town be exempt.

2. Should a charge be assessed for use of the launching ramp? What, if any, mooring charge should be assessed? Should a time limitation be put on mooring?

3. Should parking fees be assessed?

4. Should a license be required for those who wish to sell food, drink, or other wares in the park? What, if any, charge should be made for the license?

5. Should a full-time attendant

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MOSQUITOS

Early warm weather this year is the cause of many complaints concerning mosquitos. According to John Stapley, Warren County Mosquito Control Entomologist, "the early warm weather combined with the rain gave the mosquitos a head start on the spray team. We have sprayed more in June of 1975 than we did all summer in 1974. The mosquitos became adults much earlier this year.

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be employed during the summer months to enforce the rules and regulations and to generally keep the park in satisfacatory condition?

It is planned to have the committee submit its report to the Town Board in time to take necessary action before the next summer season.

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DEAD FISH

A spokesman for the Environmental Conservation Department says that the dead fish, primarily yellow perch, which have been seen in substantial numbers on the surface of Lake George this summer, are not dying from any new or drastic threat but are dying generally as a result of natural causes. "Specifically," the spokesman continued, "recent spawning, rapid changes in water temperatures due to fluctuating weather conditions and the age of the fish have more than a coincidental relationship. These factors have combined to produce the mortality observed on the lake this spring by rendering these fish especially susceptible to the bacterial and fungal diseases which annually take a varying toll in all fish populations. This is the type of natural control that often prevents a species from overpopulating its habitat."

While the current fish kill is from natural causes, the department stressed that any unusually high concentrations of dead or dying fish, especially if several species are involved in a limited area, should be brought to the attention of the Regional Fisheries Office at Warrensburg.

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The Mosquito Control Program is aimed directly at controlling disease not pests. Breeding areas are under surveillance and adult mosquitos are trapped, frozen, and then sent to Albany for testing. Each catch is labelled so that if a disease is discovered in the lab, the area from which the disease carrying mosquitos come from, is thoroughly sprayed.

Warren County has about 15 species of mosquitos that are capable of carrying communicable diseases that are transmitted by mosquitos. However none have shown up during the past few years.

"Each spring" says Mr. Stapley, "We sample larvae and map the breeding sites of those species capable of carrying the disease and send the larvae in for testing. Spraying is then conducted on a very strict basis. Unlike previous years when mass spraying was conducted by aircraft, now we only cover those areas where disease is suspected or identified."

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CRABBS SAVES ELEPHANT EARS

Some call it "Elephant Ears"; others refer to it as the "Sleeping Elephant" and still others simply call it "The Elephant." What they are referring to is the rock formation along Route 8 a short distance beyond the mine entrance at Graphite which looks like a giant elephant even to the gray color and the ridges along the trunk. Recently the eyes and trunk were outlined in paint which added to its realism.

Highway 8 is being given a major overhaul and as the workmen were approaching the site of the elephant, Crabbs decided to take a look. He was shocked when he was told by the workmen that since it was in the path of the projected new roadway, they would be blasting the rock in another day or two. Mr. Crabbs, who is chairman of the Town Planning Board, lost no time in getting in touch with the Environmental Commission and then with the Department of Transportation and in no time at all word came down to the road crew to save the elephant.

The town owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Crabbs for his quick and effective action which will preserve this landmark.

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REAL PROPERTY TAXES

The 200-year-old practice of assessing property at a fraction of its market value was upset in a recent decision in the New York Court of Appeals. Under a state law which dates back to 1788, assessors have been required to value property for tax purposes at market value but for almost as long, assessors have been using a percentage of full value in basing their tax rolls.

This practice was declared unlawful in a suit brought by a Suffolk County taxpayer. In reaching its decision, the majority held that the practice has time on its side and nothing else. Instances were cited where the use of less than full value for assessment is open to abuse. "The ability to maintain a stable tax rate and to increase revenue by tampering with the tax base - a change which calls for less publicity and less opposition - is naturally desired by the party in power", the court concluded.

In a conversation with the Chairman of Hague's Board of Assessors, he said that he saw no great problem in complying with the court's ruling. Currently property is assessed at 75% of its 1972 market value and it would

require only simple mathematics to increase this to 100%. However, no action is planned until the matter is studied further.

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THE LIBRARY/MUSEUM

The question of holding a referendum on the proposed library/museum has been submitted to the town attorney. He indicated informally that the manner in which the library is to be financed would largely determine whether or not a referendum could be held. He has been asked to put his opinion in writing.

Meanwhile a new proposal has been made to the Town Board. The Streeter family which owns the house adjoining the Town Hall on the west has offered to sell the property to the town for use as a library/museum at a price approximately half that which the library committee estimated the cost of a suitable building would be. Under terms of the proposal, the town would pay half the cost at the time of sale with the remainder being paid over a period of years with no interest charges.

In addition to price and terms of sale there are several other attractive features, such as, proximity to the school, adequate parking facilities, and established sewage disposal and water supply.

The matter will undoubtedly be considered by the Board at an early meeting.

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TOWN LAND USE PLAN MOVES FORWARD

The planning board is getting down to the nitty gritty of preparing a land-use master plan for final presentation to the Town Board.

Areas within the town have been placed in one of seven different categories, tentatively identified and described as follows:

- 1. Open Space - areas which

should not be developed because of restrictive soils (not suitable for septic tank filter fields) and slopes in excess of 25% - minimum lot sizes of 42.6 acres per dwelling.

2. Rural residential - similar to open space areas and which are expected to continue as forest lands - minimum lot sizes of 6 acres per residential dwelling.

3. Low-density residential - moderately severe physical restrictions or having 15 to 25% slopes - minimum lot sizes of 3 acres per dwelling.

4. Moderate density residential - easily accessible and generally already developed - minimum lot sizes of 1 acre per dwelling.

5. Urban density - physical characteristics that favor most types of development - minimum lot size of one-half to one acre per single family dwelling.

6. Lakefront - physical characteristics favorable, commercial uses are in existence along with mainly seasonal residences - minimum lot sizes from one acre for commercial uses to one-half acre for seasonal residences.

7. Commercial - basically the existing Hague hamlet area plus a contiguous area that will allow for hamlet expansion - minimum lot size, one half acre per principal structure.

The next step in the process will be to identify the areas in the various use categories by lot number and other property-line descriptions. This will be done during the next few months with the possibility of a final draft and public hearings shortly thereafter. While everything at the moment is tentative, details as to what is being planned with respect to any specific property may be obtained from any member of the planning board.

TOWN BOARD MEETING

A regular meeting of the Town

Board was held on July 8th with all members present.

A bid of \$401. had been received for the town police car. Since it was the only bid received the car was ordered sold for that amount.

The supervisor announced that he had received the resignation of Shirley Bly as custodian. The resignation was accepted and the supervisor will advertise for a successor.

Prior to November, 1974, the county was using part of the town garage for storage of county vehicles and was paying rent in an amount equal to half the heating costs. The space formerly used by the county is now being used by the school. Proposal that the school be asked to pay rent of \$1,000. a year beginning on September 1, 1975 was approved and the school will be so notified.

The superintendent of highways reported that notwithstanding extensive repairs made recently to the tractor, it has again broken down. Further repairs are apparently cost prohibitive. After some discussion the board approved a resolution to seek bids on a new tractor. Bids will be received up to 7 P.M. July 29, 1975 when they are to be opened. It is estimated that the cost of a new tractor will be somewhere between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

One hundred dollars was appropriated from Youth Commission Funds to provide for a trip to Montreal for Little Leaguers. They will attend a major League baseball game.

Joseph Streeter was appointed Director of the Youth Commission for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1975.

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

An organizational meeting of the School Board was held on July 1 with all members present.

The oath of office was administered to Barbara Belden, trustee.

Officers were elected, as follows:

- President - Edna Frasier
- Vice President - Sharon Fitzgerald
- 1st. Treasurer - Ruth Robbins
- Clerk of the Board - Lela Foote
- Tax Collector - Jean McKee

The following appointments were made:

- School Physician - Dr. Walsh
- School Attorney - Dominick Viscardi
- Census Enumerator - Barbara Waters
- Attendance Officer - Cornelia Blanchard
- School Dentist - Dr. Peter Cook
- Insurance Consultant - G.J. Potter
- Dist. Auditor - Telling, Kelting and Potter
- Official Bank Depositories - State Bank of Albany, Ticonderoga and First National Bank of Glens Falls at Bolton Landing
- Official Newspaper - Ticonderoga Sentinel and Times of Ti

All policies and code of ethics in effect during the previous year were adopted and mileage reimbursement when driving own car on school business was fixed at 13¢ a mile.

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The regular meeting of the Board was held on July 14 with all members present.

Mr. Meola reported that the sale of bonds in the amount of \$150,000 had been completed and the bond anticipation notes had been retired. First payment of interest and principal would be made on September 15.

Bids for supplying milk and bread for school lunches during the forthcoming school year were opened. Mill Brook Bakers submitted low bid on supplying bread and rolls and its bid was accepted. Glen-Mohawk dairy submitted only bid for supplying milk and its bid was accepted. About 4000 half-pints of milk are provided each month at a cost of 10-1/2¢ each.

Cheryl Plass who has been teaching in Hague for the past two years was granted tenure. Normally tenure is

granted only after three years but if the teacher has tenure in another school district, she may be granted tenure after two years. Mrs. Plass has tenure in another school district.

Mr. Meola reported that during the summer months the library is being revamped and other work is being done at the school.

The president read a letter from the Town Supervisor concerning the payment of rent for use of the town garage. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that a meeting with the Town Board would be sought in order to consider the matter further.

There was general discussion concerning the possibility of obtaining programs through the Educational TV Station in Schenectady. Whether improved TV antennae could do this was discussed as was also the use of videotape programs produced by BOCES.

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PROPERTY OWNERS OF SILVER BAY

More than fifty members of the Property Owners of Silver Bay met on July 12. The President, Gerry Boyd, presided.

There was considerable discussion concerning the take-over of Lake George by the Army Corps of Engineers and members were urged to communicate with their senators and representatives to urge enactment of H.R. 7139 and S. 1796, 1843, and 1846 which, if enacted, would have the effect of restoring control of the lake to New York State.

Mr. McKeeman reported that there were now 125 members of the association.

Mr. Zeese urged members to join the Lake George Association as the most effective way to safeguard their interests in the area.

Mr. Seerup reviewed briefly town and school property taxes and also reported on activities of the Town

Planning Board.

Mr. Boyd reviewed the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps activities during the past year.

A suitable memorial to the memory of Dr. Thornton Penfield, who passed away earlier this year and who was the first President of the Association, was approved. The memorial will be in the form of a suitably inscribed gavel that will be passed on from President to President.

The next meeting will be held at the Hague Fire Department on August 9th at 10 A.M.

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DEMOCRATS NOMINATE CANDIDATES

Nominating petitions have been filed by the Democratic Party for local offices to be filled in the November election for the following:

- Supervisor - William K. DeLarm
- Councilman - Irving Fitzgerald
- Councilman - Norman E. Strumm
- Town Justice - Chas. F. Fitzgerald
- Assessor - Michael G. Fitzgerald
- Assessor - Thomas E. Stull

As this issue goes to press, no candidates have been named for Superintendent of Highways or Town Clerk.

In addition to these Republican

candidates named in last month's issue, a nominating petition has been filed on behalf of James R. McKee for the office of assessor.

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LANDFILL TO CLOSE AT 5 P.M.

The gate at the landfill has been repaired and effective August 1 will be closed at 5 P.M. daily. It will be open seven days a week from 8 A.M. until 5 P.M. until September 15.

From September 16 to May 29, the landfill will be open five days a week, Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 A.M. until 5 P.M. On May 30th the seven-days-a-week schedule will be restored.

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HISTORICAL PLATES

The Bi-Centennial Commission is selling a series of six pewter plates depicting scenes of historic interest throughout the County. The issue will be limited to 3000 plates with 500 each of the 6 original designs.

The plates are priced at \$20. each with a pre-subscription price of \$15.

For further details write the Bi-Centennial Commission at P.O. Box 1776, Lake George, New York, or call 668-5466.

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(address correction requested)

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