

# THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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HAGUE, N.Y.

## THE ELECTION

Independent nominating petitions have been filed by three candidates for local office. Raymond H. Monroe and Clifton Frasier will appear on the ballot as candidates for the office of Superintendent of Highways. Linda M. Fish is a candidate for Town Clerk.

The polls will be open on November 4th from 6 A.M. to 9 P.M. Everyone is urged to vote.

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## ODORS TO BE ELIMINATED AT TI MILL

Since the opening of the new paper mill north of Ticonderoga, the noxious odors that frequently floated down to Hague have been pretty much eliminated. But from time to time, particularly on a strong northwind, it is apparent that the odors have not been completely eliminated.

Now, however, the International Paper Company has announced that at a cost of \$3.5 million a new odor control system will be installed which will bring the odor control processes to the highest efficiency within today's technology. While the new equipment will assist in the control of odors, it does not improve the efficiency of the mill's production process. Operation of the system will cost more than \$400,000. annually and will consume over 1,000 gallons of oil per day.

Major components of the new system are now arriving at the mill with the project scheduled for completion in June of 1976.

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## GHOST APPLES

We ran across a poem in the Grand Marais (Michigan) Pilot and Pictured Rocks Review which we would like to share with you. It is entitled Ghost Apples and was written by H.L. Sachs.

Ghost apples left without a will  
Are what I pick. Atop a hill.  
The leaves of autumned colored trees  
blow  
On a lake-born wind that smells of  
snow.

Whose tree this was I cannot know  
There is no house or grave to show  
His name. He found this valley long  
ago.

To mine for copper, didn't know  
That market prices far from here  
Could kill his dream. That pioneer  
Dug and built and planted  
And never reaped what God had granted.  
The mines are gone, mere holes.  
Foundations overgrown mark where  
these souls

Struggled, built, then went away  
Defeated. They never knew that here,  
today  
I'd come to pick the wealth they left  
behind!

A load of apples that remain  
Of all their struggle and their pain.  
God only knows what of our age  
Shall be the next man's heritage.

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## THE HISTORIC HUDSON RIVER

The October meeting of the Hague Historical Society was featured by a presentation "Glimpses of the Hudson River from Wilderness to the Sea" by Mr. and Mrs. Al Zeese. The historical material and many slides were gathered by the Zeese's last fall while on a trip from the river's source to the Atlantic Ocean.

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The river's source was traced to a small lake called Tear-of-the Clouds which is 4,322 feet above sea level in the wildest part of the Adirondack Mountains, near Mt. Marcy, the highest peak in the state. The river flows southward about 150 miles to Albany which is only 6 feet above sea level and thence another 150 miles to the Atlantic Ocean at New York City which is at sea level. Consequently the upper half of the river is replete with falls and rapids while the lower half flows slowly southward but also flows northward on the incoming tides which can be noted all the way to Albany. The Au Sable River which also has its source in the area, strangely flows northeastward to Lake Champlain and thence to the Atlantic Ocean through the St. Lawrence River.

As it flows southward, the Schroon River meets the Hudson at Warrensburg and the Sacandaga at Lucerne. Thus, the river broadens and becomes more rapid. It drops 850 feet from its entrance into Warren County until it leaves to enter Washington County 68 miles later. Here the river becomes a source of power which was used extensively in Glens Falls, particularly in the lumbering industry. At Fort Edward the Champlain Canal which connects Lake Champlain with the Hudson enters the river. The Mohawk joins the Hudson at Cohoes and immediately below at Troy the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes are connected through the Hudson and the New York State Barge Canal.

Below Albany the river passes through areas first settled by the Dutch in the early 1600's. At Kingston the first capital of the State of New York can be seen. Many beautiful and well preserved manor houses line the river as it approaches New

York City. On the west shore are the Palisades, a sheer columned wall of hard basalt which rises from 350-550 feet at its full height. It is a unique geological formation, known in only two other parts of the world.

On both the New York City and New Jersey shores are the many piers and docks where ocean liners are berthed. But the river does not end here. Government survey soundings have discovered the river's channel extending many miles out to sea where finally it drops off the continental shelf.

The river gets its name from Henrik Hudson, an English explorer who, while trying to discover a passage to the East around North America in 1609 sailed up the river in his ship the Half Moon as far as Albany only to discover that from this point on the river narrowed and became unnavigable. Verazano, an Italian navigator, is said to have discovered New York Bay in 1524. Some of his men put out in a small boat and sailed half a league into the land where the river made a pleasant lake. In one of his letters he reported - "We found a pleasant place among low hills where a mighty deep mouthed river ran into the sea."

The next meeting of the Historical Society will be on November 19th. It will be at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Cole who will make a presentation on the history of scrimshaw.

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#### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Hague Chamber of Commerce held a regular meeting on October 16 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Patchett with its president, Mrs. Bea Frasier presiding. John R. Dumas, Director of Public Information and Tourism for Warren County, was a guest.

There was considerable discussion of the tourism business during the past summer season and what can be done to bring about improvements. Mr. Dumas discussed the promotional programs which the County has undertaken and offered to assist the

merchants of Hague in any way he could. He brought the members up-to-date on the County snowmobile trails and stated that the most difficult task was to get easements from the property owners over whose lands the trails will pass. There is little likelihood that town trails will connect up with the County trails this year, although it is hoped that this can be accomplished by next year.

The ski-tow which the Town is sponsoring was enthusiastically endorsed and other winter activities which would bring visitors to the area such as the Winter Carnival and Winter Fun Days, ice-fishing, cross-country skiing and ice skating were discussed. Mr. Dumas stated that lake trout fishing in Lake George is better than it has been in years and will continue to get better. This prompted a discussion of non resident license fees which, it is argued, are too high and as a result do not attract visitors to the area. The chamber adopted a resolution urging the Department of Environmental Conservation to lower these fees to the level of fees paid by residents.

The chamber is in the process of developing its advertising and promotion program for the forthcoming year with Mr. John Warren of the Hague Motel in charge. A drive for new members is also underway with Mrs. Patchett in charge.

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ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY SEMINAR

More than fifty townspeople attended an Adirondack Park Agency informal seminar-discussion on October 9th at the town hall. The purpose was to acquaint town officials and property owners with pertinent aspects of the Agency's jurisdiction. Additionally, Agency staff members were available for private meetings with landowners who had specific questions on how they might be affected by the APA Act. Mr. Crabbs, Chairman of the local planning board, introduced the APA people.

Many of the questions and much of

the conversation had to do with the restrictions placed on development of much of the property in the town. Some regarded this as the taking of their property by the state without just compensation. In addition, many complained that property values decreased substantially following imposition of restrictions and that assessed valuations did not reflect this decrease in real value. Consequently taxes had increased while values decreased.

The APA representatives advised that these are matters of considerable concern and that studies are now underway to determine what, if any, relief should be given for those property owners who have been affected.

From much of the discussion, it was apparent that few people are familiar with the activities of the local planning board and the progress which it has made and is making to develop a land-use program for the town. Accordingly, the following summary may be of interest.

The local planning board was created in October 1972 by the Hague Town Board. In addition to Mr. Crabbs, the current members of the board are Robert Denno, Harold Gelhaar, Norman Strumm and Emil Seerup. The function of the board is to formulate regulations for the development of subdivisions within the Town and after these have been approved by the Town Board, to undertake to develop a zoning ordinance placing reasonable restrictions on the use of private lands within the town.

In May, 1973 the Adirondack Park Act was approved by the legislature. A map of the Adirondack Park dividing the private lands into areas that establish the intensity, type, character and extent of land use and development which would be permissive within each area, was made part of the Act. The Act provides that any local ordinances with respect to private land uses are required to be as restrictive as those provided for in the Act. It also provides that when local land use regulations have been

approved by the Agency they will be administered by local planning or zoning boards except in the case of extremely large projects. Since Hague lies entirely within the Park the planning board is attempting to develop a plan which will meet with the approval of APA and thus insure that the town itself will control its own destiny.

An important step was taken when the planning board obtained the services of Mr. William Davidson, Director of the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board to act as a consultant at no cost to the town. He and his staff have prepared a map of the town on which soil conditions, topography, and all existing structures in the Town have been superimposed. This established that only about 2% of the Town has been developed for residential, commercial or public uses. Seventy-nine percent of the land is in forest or brushland; 18% is covered by marsh or water; and only .002% is used for agriculture. There are 738 residences, 385 permanent and 363 seasonal, the latter being located principally along the shore of Lake George. During the past three years three new seasonal homes were built while permanent homes have increased by 25. There is no industry and few commercial establishments. The town has 21 community oriented public buildings, schools, churches, cemetery, fire departments, post offices, etc.

Concern was expressed as to the ability of the soil in much of the area to function as septic tank filter fields. Also, that regardless of how classified, there is little likelihood that any substantial industry could be developed and that more than likely the town would remain essentially rural with a small population. A population of 1461 by the year 2000 was predicted with a seasonal population of about ten times greater.

A questionnaire designed to get the opinions of all property owners on a variety of matters dealing with living in the town was authorized and in the July 1974 Hague Chronicle the results of the survey were reported.

In the August 1975 issue it was reported that the Board had tentatively identified areas within the town by use categories and the next step would be to identify these same areas by lot number and other property-like descriptions. This is now underway and should be completed within the next thirty days. A final draft and public hearings concerning the plan should follow. After adoption by the Town Board the plan will be submitted to the APA for its approval. It may be noted that to date, only one town in the park has had its use plan approved by the APA.

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FRANK J. SAMASCOTT

Frank J. Samascott died on September 24 at the Vermont Medical Center in Burlington, Vt. after a long illness. He was 64 years of age.

Mr. Samascott was a summer resident of Hague for many years and moved here permanently with his family about seven years ago. He was a retiree from the U.S. Postal Service in Albany.

Survivors include his wife Helen; a daughter Mary, and a son John L. of Middle Grove, N.Y.; a brother John P. of Loudonville; and four grandchildren.

A Mass for the Dead was celebrated at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Hague on September 26th with burial in May Memorial Cemetery.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

A regular meeting of the Hague Town Board was held on October 14 with all members present.

The supervisor read a letter from the Hague School Board expressing the need for a Town Library and offering to assist in any way it could to get one underway.

The supervisor also read a letter from Mrs. Brock in which she urged

Board to take action on the library project. She submitted technical data regarding libraries which she had obtained from the Southern Adirondack Library Association and believed that a suitable library could be constructed and operated at substantially less cost than had been considered earlier. The supervisor also read a letter from an organization which is to explore the possibilities of obtaining funding for a library and which had promised to get in touch with him shortly. Meanwhile, a public opinion poll proposed by the Board at its last meeting will be taken on Election Day.

The committee appointed to study the park and matters relating to it has had several meetings and a report is anticipated.

The proposed ski-tow was discussed at considerable length. Work is progressing and it is anticipated that the tow will be in operation by December 1.

It appears that the Sunday and Monday closing of the landfill has now worked out satisfactorily. Many of the summer people are visiting the area on weekends and are not able to make use of the landfill. Following the Columbus Day weekend, considerable garbage and trash was found at the gate, including some truckloads which conceivably had come from Ticonderoga whose landfill is also closed on Sundays and Mondays. After considering many alternatives, the Board finally rescinded its directive adopted at the July meeting and hence forth the landfill will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The town has been asked to consider whether it would plow and sand Route 9N from the intersection with Route 8 to the top of Tongue Mountain for the state. After considering the pros and cons the Board concluded that it would be in the best interest of the town not to accept the offer.

Ms. Patchett pointed out to the Board that a street light is badly needed on Route 9N in front of the Old Town House. She stated that the

telephone pole in front of the Old Town House is the only one not having a light and this, she believes, has created a safety problem. The members of the Board will visit the area and action will be taken at the next meeting.

Mr. Streeter discussed the youth program and was requested to prepare a schedule of events which he plans for the young people of the town between now and January 1 and submit it to the Board for its consideration.

The Board is in the process of preparing the 1976 budget. Public hearing of the budget is to be no later than the Thursday following the election and the budget is to be acted upon no later than November 20.

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#### SCHOOL NEWS

A regular meeting of the School Board was held on October 13 with all members present.

Mr. Laundree's request that he be permitted to attend an industrial arts conference at the State University at Oswego on October 30-31 was approved.

The Board went on record as being in favor of establishing a new Town library and a letter to that effect is to be sent to the Town Board.

Mrs. Theta Curri was appointed fifth grade teacher to replace Mr. Joseph Streeter who had resigned earlier in the month. Mrs. Curri resides in Bolton Landing where she has been a substitute teacher. She is a graduate of Cortland State and has had four years teaching experience at Cortland and Syracuse.

Mr. Meola reported that he had attended a meeting of the Warren County School Principals Association where there was some discussion about constructing a TV antenna on Gore Mountain capable of bringing in educational programs being telecast by Channel 17. The proposal is being considered by BOCES. Hague, however,

