

HAGUE CHRONICLE

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HAGUE, N.Y.

ANNUAL RED CROSS DRIVE

In March of each year, The Red Cross conducts a nationwide drive for funds to support its activities for the forthcoming year. This year the Adirondack Chapter asked me to head up the campaign in the Town of Hague. I agreed provided it could be done by mail and could be made a part of the March issue of the Chronicle. The proposal was accepted.

Some of the services provided by the Red Cross are described in the enclosed annual report. You will also note the statement of income and expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1973. With rising costs, problems created by the energy crisis, increasing unemployment, and bleak economic news, it is plain that if the Red Cross work is to be effective during the next year additional money is needed. The goal established for Hague is \$400.00.

Many of you who receive this appeal are not year-round residents of Hague and can say "we have given in our home town". This we cannot gainsay but the fact remains that Hague is your 'second home', your 'home away from home' and the local Red Cross is deserving of your support. If help is needed while you are here, the Red Cross will not ask whether you are a year-round or summer resident.

A postage-paid envelope is enclosed that will speed your contribution back to the Red Cross. You will be sent a membership card receipt. I would also like to have a record of your contribution, but that isn't necessary. The Contribution is the important thing. Went you help?

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REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

In our last issue we reported that if your new assessed value was about 2.108

times greater than the present assessed value, your taxes would be relatively the same as those paid under the present assessed value. The Cleminshaw people now report that the figures given to me late in January have been revised and that the multiplier is now about 2.8. This will make a material difference in determining the relationship between the present assessed value and the assessed value proposed to become effective on May 1, 1974.

I deeply regret that many of you were misled by the information given last month. However, I was assured that it was correct and could be used for the purposes intended. The figures which I have now been given may be again revised but the Cleminshaw people feel that further revisions will be even more favorable - that is, the multiplier may go to 2.85 or even higher.

The school tax rate in 1973-74 was \$35.81 per \$1000. of assessed value; the town tax rate in 1974 was \$15.46 for a combined total of \$51.27. The Cleminshaw representatives feel that assuming the budgets of the town and the school for the forthcoming year are no higher than the present budgets, the new combined rate should be in the neighborhood of \$18.00 per \$1000. You can make a rough determination by comparing the taxes paid with the amount arrived at by multiplying your new assessed value by \$18. per \$1000.

It is too early to predict what action the Board of Assessors will take. It is up to them to decide whether or not the Cleminshaw values will be accepted. This decision need not be made until May 1, 1974.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the town board was held on February 12 with all members present.

The supervisor read a letter from Mr.

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(continued from page one)

Ludlow of the Silver Bay Association asking for an early meeting with the Board to consider proposal to abandon that portion of the Silver Bay Road which runs through the Association's grounds. After some discussion, the Board voted to consider the subject at a special meeting to be held on March 11 at 7 P.M. and Mr. Ludlow would be asked to attend.

The subject of summer police was discussed and the matter referred to the Police Committee to solicit applications. There have been some changes in the law with respect to qualifications of town police and this will apparently narrow the field of prospective applicants.

The matter of sanitary facilities at the town beach was discussed at some length. Mr. Yaw, chairman of the Park Committee, was directed to call a meeting of the Park Commission and after consideration of the matter to report back to the Board with its recommendations.

The truck ordered almost a year ago has arrived in the area and will be shortly ready for use. A proposal was made to replace the 1969 Chevrolet pickup truck which now has about 43,000 miles on it. The replacement truck is estimated to cost about \$4500. After some discussion in which the supervisor called the Board's attention to the fact that there was no provision in the budget for a new truck, the item was tabled until the March meeting.

A recreation committee set up jointly with the School Board has under consideration the erection and operation of a ski-tow similar to those now in operation at Chestertown and Warrensburg. Mr. DeLarm made part of his lands available to such a ski-tow if it was decided to have one. Rope would be used for the tow line and it is believed that an adequate old automobile engine, pulley wheels, and telephone poles can be found for the installation. The tow would be from 600 to 800 feet in length. No

accurate estimate of cost could be made although the figure of \$2000. was suggested. The Board decided that it needed more information as to number of people who would use the tow, insurance costs, responsibility for operations, etc. and the matter was tabled pending receipt of further details.

Michael Fitzgerald, Chairman of the Board of Assessors, reminded the Board that Veteran's exemptions which formerly had to be filed by June 15 were now due by May 1.

The supervisor reported that under a Warren County program that requires able-bodied welfare recipients to work, several persons have been assigned to the Highway Department where they are performing duties. If they refuse to work, they will no longer be entitled to welfare payments.

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OUR SENIOR CITIZENS

Response to the piece on Senior Citizens in last month's Chronicle has been rather meagre. One of our readers wrote, "My thought is that this (a senior citizen program) should be done by a private group and NOT by the town. We have too much government now messing up our lives." Another reader says: "That article relating to Senior Citizens is the best idea to come out of the Chronicle yet...No doubt about it, we are a big part of the population even though we aren't doing much about increasing it. We could use the annex (church) or town hall for indoor sports, cards, etc. and hire a bus to go on trips to museums, etc. It would give us shut-ins a chance to see something different. Even a hot dog roast at the Fish and Game Club pond is good, if it isn't done in fly time...Perhaps we need a first meeting to determine interest. Then go ahead and let the Town Board know we are alive and breathing. Perhaps nothing will come of it this winter, but if the seed is sown, it may sprout and bear fruit by summer."

In talking to Lou Spelman, we learned that his office is not able to finance senior citizen organizations but is able and willing to render assistance. Tilton C. Wilkes is the program specialist in his office and he has sent us several sets of model by-laws and membership cards and has asked us to call on him for any help we may need. Membership in most senior citizen clubs is open to persons 60 year of age

and over and Mr. Spolman tells us there are 175 persons in Haguo in this age group.

The state provides for a recreation fund of 25¢ per year for every person 65 years of age and over provided the town matches with like sum. Since there are 133 persons in Haguo 65 and older, this source would provide a potential fund of \$66.50.

If the Haguo senior citizens desire to organize, it would seem that the first step should be to form an organization committee. Such a committee would call a meeting of all interested senior citizens and then proceed from there. However, even before this is undertaken, there should be a clear expression of interest from the older citizens. It's your move - what do you say?

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SUPERMARKET GETS NEW OWNERS

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Stiffler have purchased the Haguo Supermarket from the Hoyts and have taken over operations effective on February 1.

The Stiffilers, who come from Youngstown, Ohio have been summer residents at Pine Cove for the past seven years and are now living there year-round. For the past twenty-one years Mr. Stiffler has been head of the X-Ray Department of the Youngstown Memorial Hospital Association.

The Stiffilers have four daughters: Margaret, the youngest, is in the seventh grade; Diane is in the tenth grade and is one of the school cheerleaders; Carol is attending the Cincinnati School of Cosmetology; and Joan is a graduate nurse currently at the Mosos-Ludington Hospital in Ticonderoga.

The Hoyts who have operated the supermarket for the past 27 years will continue to live in Haguo. They plan to build their home on the property between the supermarket and the Haguo Post Office.

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JAMES N. BLY

James N. Bly passed away on February 5 at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Albany after a long illness. He was a veteran of World War II and a member of the American Legion of Haguo, a past president of the

Haguo Fish and Game Club, and a member of the Ticonderoga Rifle Team.

In February 1973 he was appointed to the Haguo School Board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ralph McKee and was elected to a full five year term at the annual meeting in May. He was employed for many years at the Morgan Marine Base in Silver Bay.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley; three daughters, Mrs. Bonnie McKeown of Mayport, Florida, Cindy of Glens Falls, and Dobbie of Haguo; a sister, Mrs. Shirley Noon of Whitman, Mass.; a grandson and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted at the Wilcox and Regan Funeral Chapel with the Rev. Loring Carpenter officiating. Burial will be in the May Memorial Cemetery.

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FRANK C. SHARPE

Frank C. Sharpe of Haguo Road, died on February 8 in the Mosos-Ludington Hospital in Ticonderoga. He was 80 years of age and had been a carpenter in Haguo for many years.

Survivors include his wife, Lillian; three sons, Charles of Ticonderoga, Frederick of Haguo, and Martin of Calpin, N.C.; a daughter, Mrs. Edna Scott of Inverness, Florida; eight grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Chapel with burial in the spring in the May Memorial Cemetery.

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TOWN PLANNING BOARD

In December, the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board, submitted a preliminary draft of the first stages of a master land-use plan for Haguo. Included in the draft was a study of soil conditions, topography, population and a map on which all buildings in the town have been superimposed. A draft of further background studies has now been submitted.

Economics - In 1960 there were 239 persons employed while in 1970 there were 302. (These are year round residents and do not

include non-residents who are employed mostly during the summer season). The town's families had a median income in 1970 of \$7900. It is observed that the town has no industries and it is extremely doubtful that any industry will locate in Hague. The town will continue to provide labor for industries located elsewhere - Ticonderoga, Glens Falls, etc. An obvious action to increase economic activity in the town is to take advantage of the town's recreation potential. To develop this potential, the town needs to make use of its natural qualities and "sell" these qualities to potential businesses and visitors.

Existing land use - Only about 2% of the town has been developed for residential commercial or public uses. The largest amount of land, 79%, is in forest or brushland; 18% is covered by marsh or water; and only about .002% is used for agriculture. There are 738 residences, 375 permanent and 363 seasonal, the latter being located principally along the shore of Lake George. During the past three years only 3 new seasonal homes have been 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, comedians, fire department, post offices, etc.

This basically includes all of the materials... The next step, where is Hague... will be gotten off to a start with a questionnaire... will be sent to residents so that they too may have a voice in planning Hague's future.

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. A.P. Herrick, known affectionately by all their friends as Archie and Gert, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at an open house reception held at the home of their son Jim and daughter-in-law Marilyn in Ticonderoga on February 9th. Friends, relatives and neighbors paid their respects throughout the afternoon and left them with many good wishes and a profusion of gifts.

The Herricks were born in Dunkirk, New York and attended the same grade school. They were married in East Cleveland, Ohio in 1924 where Archie was in charge of mainten-

ance for the Cleveland Tractor Company and Gert had taken a job with the East Cleveland YMCA. When the tractor company was sold in 1948, the Herricks moved to Silver Bay where both went to work for the Silver Bay Association, Archie as a member of the maintenance staff and Gert in the housekeeping department. Archie retired in 1963 but Gert continues as head of the Housekeeping Department. The couple now live in Ticonderoga at 325 Montcalm St.

Out-of-town guests included Mrs. Herricks sister, Mrs. H.W. Lang, from Hawthorne, N.J. a niece, Mrs. Michael A. Dorsett and her son from Bear Lake, N.Y., and the Ludlows, Klebes, and Vanderbushes from Glens Falls, representing the Silver Bay Association. There were also guests from Burlington, and Mineville.

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LEONARD J. MIDDLETON

Leonard J. Middleton died on January 30th in Glens Falls. He was born in Horicon and moved to Hague in 1917. He was a mason in the building trade. He was 89 years of age.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Irene Main of Albany; four sons, Ray, of Ticonderoga; Leonard of Utica; Aaron and Walter of Hague; twelve grandchildren, and 24 great grandchildren.

at the Wilcox and Bryan Funeral Chapel. Interment will be in the Spring Hill Burial Cemetery.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hague Historical Society held its regular monthly meeting at the Hague Baptist Church Annex on February 20th.

After a short business meeting, the program was turned over to Clifton West who outlined the history of West Hague School District #3 from old account books which he had uncovered. Mr. West and a number of those present had attended school in the district and there were many humorous anecdotes to relate.

Apparently a school district was created whenever there was an apparent number of children, about 30, to fill a one-room

schoolhouse. West Hague District No. 3 came into being in 1812 and covered the geographic area between the West Hague Road and Route 8 and from the road on which the Sanitary Landfill is now located down to a line drawn from the Mays' home on Route 8 to the Leon Wells home on the West Hague Road. The first trustees were John Holman, John Hartford and William Cook, many of whose descendants continue to live in the area. The first record of state aid for education was in 1870 when \$70. was allocated to the district. The records indicate that the assessed valuation of the property in the district in 1889 was \$15,775. an indication that property taxes were now being levied to pay for education.

Generally there were two terms, one in the winter and one in the summer. In between terms children were needed for work on the farm. In 1900 the teacher for one term was paid \$32. a month and in 1909, \$320. was paid in teachers' salary for the entire year.

The eight school districts in the Town of Hague were consolidated into the present central school district in 1926-28 when the present school building was constructed.

Delicious refreshments, as usual, were provided and served by Mrs. Edith Smith and Mrs. Robert Hoyt.

The next meeting will be held on March 20 with Mrs. Edith Smith as in charge of the program. The subject is "Chaff out of Wheat." Interesting things from history which Mrs. Andrus has come across in her reading.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The Hague School Board held its regular meeting on February 11 with all members of the Board present.

Mr. Hoala reported that the school was now paying 32¢ a gallon for oil, an increase of 10¢ a gallon. He also reminded the Board that the cost of living increase provided for in agreement recently reached with teachers will give the teachers an automatic increase of 8.8% in salaries in the next school year. All this by way of suggesting to the Board that the next year's budget will most assuredly be higher.

A controversy seems to have developed be-

tween the school authorities and the Boy Scouts who have been meeting in the school. After a spirited debate the controversy was resolved with the Boy Scouts agreeing to confine their use to one room of the school.

Gerry Boyd, assistant fire chief, reported that an inspection of the school building turned up only two minor violations. These will be corrected.

A teacher has submitted request for a sabbatical leave the first semester of the next school year. The request was tabled.

It was reported that Mrs. Shirley Bly has expressed an interest in serving out the term of her late husband on the school board. Action was deferred until the March meeting.

OFFICE FOR THE AGING

Lous Spelman, Jr. of Silver Bay has been appointed Director of the Office for the Aging of Warren and Hamilton Counties. In an interview after his appointment, Mr. Spelman was quoted as saying: "The office for the aging's purpose is to serve as a focal point on all aspects of the county's responsibility to older citizens, to plan and develop coordinated programs and policies in respect to needs of older citizens, and to cooperate with state and federal agencies in program development and to operate a program and services for the aging to older citizens." He pointed out that there are about 9,237 persons over 60 years old in Warren and Hamilton Counties according to the 1970 census.

A total of \$40,000. has been allocated for the office in the 1974 budget, \$30,000. of which is from a federal grant. There is also an allocation of \$108,200. with the federal and state governments sharing on a 90/10 ratio for a nutrition program for the elderly. While the program has not yet been formally approved, it is intended to provide a daily hot meal for the elderly. A charge would be made for these who could afford to pay.

Mr. Spelman is a graduate of Syracuse University with a BA degree. He is a life resident of Silver Bay and since 1971 has been executive director of the Warren-Hamilton Counties' ACEO, Inc. program. While in that position he administered such programs

as Meals on Wheels and the Neighborhood Youth Corps.

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HOME BUREAU

Home Bureau continues to meet the first and third Tuesday of each month with many projects underway. Most recently the Mrs. Sain, Nielsen, Moore and Seerup attended a workshop in Glens Falls where each learned a particular handicraft - velvet ribbon corsage, Mrs. Sain; smock velour pillow, Mrs. Nielsen; Tasty casseroles, Mrs. Moore; and huck weaving sampler, Mrs. Seerup. These handicrafts will be taught to the members in succeeding weeks.

The next meeting will be on March 5 at 10 A.M. at the Hague Baptist Church Annex.

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SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME - SSI

A committee headed by Mrs. Sharon Fitzgerald is presently participating in SSI - ALERT, a community effort to reach elderly, blind or disabled persons who may be eligible for monthly government checks under the recently enacted Supplemental Security Income Program. The program is sponsored by the Adirondack Chapter of Red Cross in cooperation with other local volunteer agencies. Members of the local committee are the Mrs. Ethel Andrus, Nancy DeLarm, Edith Smith and Ida May.

In this endeavor, every person in Hague, 65 years of age and over who possibly might be eligible for supplemental income is being reached at his home and informed of eligi-

bility requirements. As a result of this effort, many applications have been filed with the Social Security Office and after investigation, those found eligible will be receiving their monthly checks.

Eligibility rules are quite complicated, but basically, a person must be over 65 or blind or disabled; may own a home valued at under \$25,000.; may have life insurance with a face value of less than \$1500.; may have cash, stock/bonds of less than \$1500. if an individual or \$2250. if a couple; and may have some fixed income, the amount depending on whether the individual or couple are living alone or with others.

Anyone who thinks he may be eligible who has not yet been reached, is asked to call Mrs. Fitzgerald at 543-3648.

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THE WEATHER

Not within the recollections of persons living has Lake George frozen, then thawed, and then frozen again in the same winter. But this winter it happened.

As reported last month, the lake froze over at Hague about the 18-19 of January. Open water appeared about ten days later and at one time there was no ice between Hague and the east shore. However, a week of sub-zero weather followed and once more the lake was frozen.

On February 22, 1.67 inches of rain was recorded in the area which together with melting ice and snow brought flooding conditions. Ah Spring - only four weeks away!

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