

# THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

VOL III - No. 4

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HAGUE, N.Y.

## IMPROVED PRINTING

The first sixteen issues of the Chronicle were reproduced on a spirit duplicator which we obtained from the Citizen's Group of Hague. This machine was capable of doing a creditable job on the first 150 copies but the rest of the copies would tend to be illegible. In April, 1973, we acquired an old mimeograph machine from the Christmas Club which was moving out of Ticonderoga. The machine was of ancient vintage but in relatively good condition except for a crack in each of the drums which, you may have noticed, caused a line or two here and there to be obliterated. Efforts to repair the old drums or get new ones were unsuccessful.

With this, the twenty-seventh issue, our printing problems are over. The Silver Bay Association which has an Off-Set press on which they print their brochures, letterheads and related printings, has offered as "a contribution to the Hague Community" to print future issues of the Chronicle. Needless to say, the offer was accepted with alacrity.

The material is being prepared as heretofore including the off-set master. SBA will print the required copies and return them for mailing. Working together we should be able to do a better job for the community.

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## BULK MAILING

With the increase in first class postage rates to 10¢, we have obtained a third class bulk mailing permit which makes it possible for us to send out the Chronicle at an annual fee of \$45. (\$30. in succeeding years) plus 6.1¢ per copy. This brings the total mailing cost to about what it was when we had the 8¢

ward at first class rates. We can solve this problem for those of you who live here but go away for the winter, or those of you who live elsewhere and are here only in the summer if you will let us know when your address changes. In other words, let us know what months you are at your permanent address and what months you are away and we will see to it that the mail is properly directed. Please do it now.

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## REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

As scheduled, representatives of the Cleminshaw Company and the local assessors were available to answer questions and listen to complaints during the week of February 18th. The assessors report that about 80 inquiries were received most of which had to do with errors in legal descriptions and other technical matters.

Complaints concerning the new assessments have come principally from owners of large tracts of vacant land. The Cleminshaw people found that for the most part these lands had been grossly undervalued in previous appraisals and they undertook to place a value on property of this kind in an amount more nearly with what they regarded it to be worth. The owners now complain that with the enactment of the Adirondack Park Agency law with its severe limitations on the use to which this property can be put, the properties are substantially less valuable than Cleminshaw found, in fact, it is more or less conceded that they did not take this factor into consideration in determining values.

The matter came before the Real Property Committee of the Warren County Board of Supervisors and it agreed that this

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that to adopt the proposal of the Real Property Committee infringed on the rights of local assessors, who by law have sole jurisdiction to determine assessed values. In disposing of the matter, Walter Lamb, Chairman of the Board, was quoted as saying, "The Board of Supervisors has simply done the job that was requested of them and will turn over data to the local town assessors for them to use, or reject, as they see fit. It is not the prerogative of the County Board to implement the new assessments."

There the matter rests at the moment. Our local assessors have given every indication that they will adopt the Clemminshaw assessments although no firm decision need be made until May 1.

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The School Board held its regular monthly meeting on March 11 with all members present.

Mrs. Shirley Bly was appointed to the Board to fill the vacancy resulting from the death of her husband. She will serve until the post is filled at the May 8 elec-

hours of 1:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. at the school auditorium on Saturday, April 28th.

Nine highschool students appeared before the Board to protest unsanitary conditions which exist in the toilet, shower and locker rooms. Complaints centered around a lack of ventilation, dampness and resulting offensive odors. It was also suggested that soap dispensers rather than bars of soap be provided. The President appointed two members to immediately examine the girl's facilities and two to examine the boy's facilities, following which, the Board went into executive session. No announcement was made of what, if any, action the Board decided it would take.

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NEW FOREST RANGERS

Last fall, Clyde Black, who had been forest ranger in Hague for a number of years, was transferred to Saranac Lake. In his place we now have two forest rangers - James White which headquarters in Bolton, is responsible for the area south of Split Rock Road, and William Houck of Brant Lake is responsible for the remaining area.

These are the men to consult if you want a permit to burn leaves or other material; our local Fire Chief no longer has this authority. Call White at 644-9461, or Houck at 494-2072. After inspecting the premises and the material to be burned, either of them will authorize the burning and specify the conditions.

Mr. Wilbur Adams was present to urge his appointment as town policeman for the summer season. He presented his qualifications and stated that he and his wife would move to Hague if he were the successful candidate. Several other candidates are under consideration. The matter was left to the Police Committee to make the final decision.

Dr. Thomas Cummins was re-appointed Public Health Officer for another term of four years.

A report was made by the Park Committee on sanitary facilities for the town beach. It was generally agreed that because of the high water table it would be necessary to have a system where waste material would be stored in a large underground tank which would be pumped out whenever necessary. A building with separate compartments for men and women and running water would also be required. While no estimate of costs had been obtained, it was suggested that the project would cost at least \$5,000. The Committee instructed to proceed to get cost figures and report at the next meeting.

Insurance costs for the proposed ski-tow ranged from \$400. to \$1,100. which appeared to be inordinately high. The matter was tabled pending receipt of further cost estimates.

The building committee proposed that the outside of the town hall be painted this summer. The Board authorized the committee to proceed to have this done.

There was further discussion on the proposal to purchase a new truck. It was suggested that it be put over till next year's budget. However, it was then tabled until the next meeting.

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BONSAI

The Japanese word "bonsai" (pronounced 'one-sigh') literally translated, means 'tray planting'. It refers to the Japanese art of

to the United States by Japanese gardeners who settled mainly in California.

Dr. Harold A. Gelhaar of Sabbath Day Point was first introduced to the art while attending an art exhibit in 1969 in Florida. Since then he has become interested not only in growing his own specimens but has participated in shows and lectured on the subject before many groups. He now has approximately 40 specimens which he keeps both indoors and outdoors at his home.

Dr. & Mrs. Gelhaar are members of the American Bonsai Society and Bonsai International. Some of their specimens have been exhibited at the Florida State Fair.

At a gathering at his home early in March, Dr. Gelhaar spoke to a group of local people on the art of Bonsai, mentioning some of the techniques used in growing and miniaturizing the trees so that they will grow and take on the same appearance as is seen in nature. Trees that are grown in small containers are selected from ordinary nursery stock, grown from seeds or cuttings and can easily be gathered on field trips.

Dr. Gelhaar would like to share his knowledge and enthusiasm with anyone who may be interested. He hopes a group can be formed which can get together at a convenient place probably once a month. The meetings would be in the nature of workshops where participants could exhibit specimens and get suggestions from each other. Anyone interested is requested to write Dr. Gelhaar at Sabbath Day Point, Silver Bay, or call him at 543-9661.

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HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the meeting of the Historical Society on March 20th, Mrs. Ethel Andrus related a number of interesting incidents which she had come across in her reading. Among these was the story of the few live pigs which Dr. Sato had with him for food

Peter Kalm, a Swedish botanist, was sent to the United States to locate plants which were not known in Sweden. But instead he set out to determine why the women of America had poor teeth, concluding after an extended study that drinking hot tea was responsible. There was an episode out of the life of General Grant and the story of William Frances Gibbs who designed and constructed the SS United States which was launched from Newport News in 1952 and brought many of the Atlantic crossing records to the U.S.

Perhaps the most fascinating story concerned the postmaster at Ehrenberg, Arizona who served from 1884 to 1894. He was actually removed from office in 1891 but withheld the commission of his successor from the mails for three years and was removed only when a postal inspector from Yuma came to Ehrenberg to find out why official mail was not being answered. It was an interesting evening.

Coffee, Cake and Ice-Cream was provided and served by Mrs. Brock and Mrs. Crabbs which, as usual, was excellent.

The next meeting will be held on April 17th and will be in charge of Dr. Gelhaar.

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PLANNING BOARD MEETING

Mr. George Davis, Assistant Director of Planning, Adirondack Park Agency, met with the Hague Planning Board on March 14th. He reviewed the progress which has already been made in developing a master-use plan and outlined the

before the plan can be submitted to APA for approval. He explained that no town land-use plan has yet been approved although several have been submitted.

Mr. Davis' function is to assist local planning boards who are preparing master plans. For this reason, he will be present at the next meeting of the Board on April 11th.

The Planning Board together with its consultant has prepared a questionnaire which will be sent to each property owner. This will be done within the near future.

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RED CROSS CONTRIBUTIONS

The Adirondack Chapter of the American Red Cross reports that approximately \$300. has been collected from Chronicle readers. This is about 75% of the goal which is needed if the Red Cross is to be able to adequately serve the community during the forthcoming year. Would you please send your check in the envelope provided. If you do not have the envelope, you may send your contribution to me and I will see that it gets to the Red Cross.

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SENIOR CITIZENS TO MEET

There is considerable doubt that the Senior Citizens of Hague want to organize. However, it has been suggested that a date be set for a get-together of those interested at which time a decision can be made to organize or not to organize. Accordingly, such a meeting has been

lands.  
various tribes to fight for their  
white man and worked to unite the

versity. The art was introduced  
I received again from K...