



VOLUME 37 NO 1

HAGUE, N.Y. 12836

January 2008

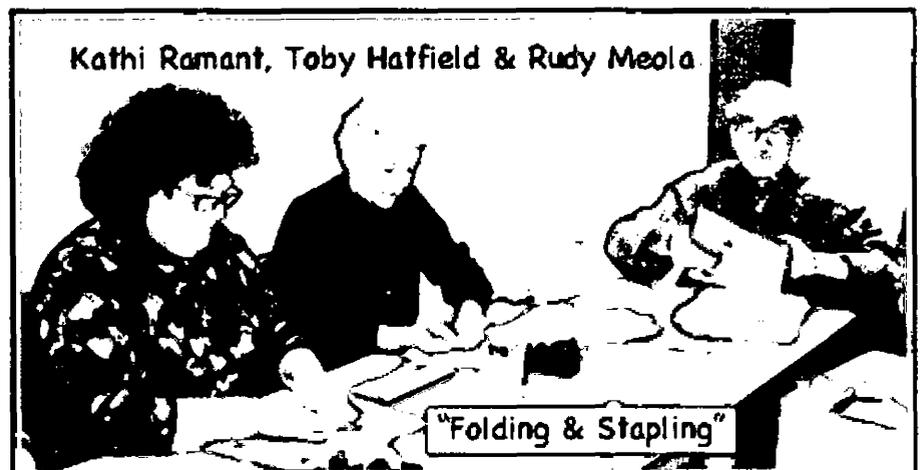
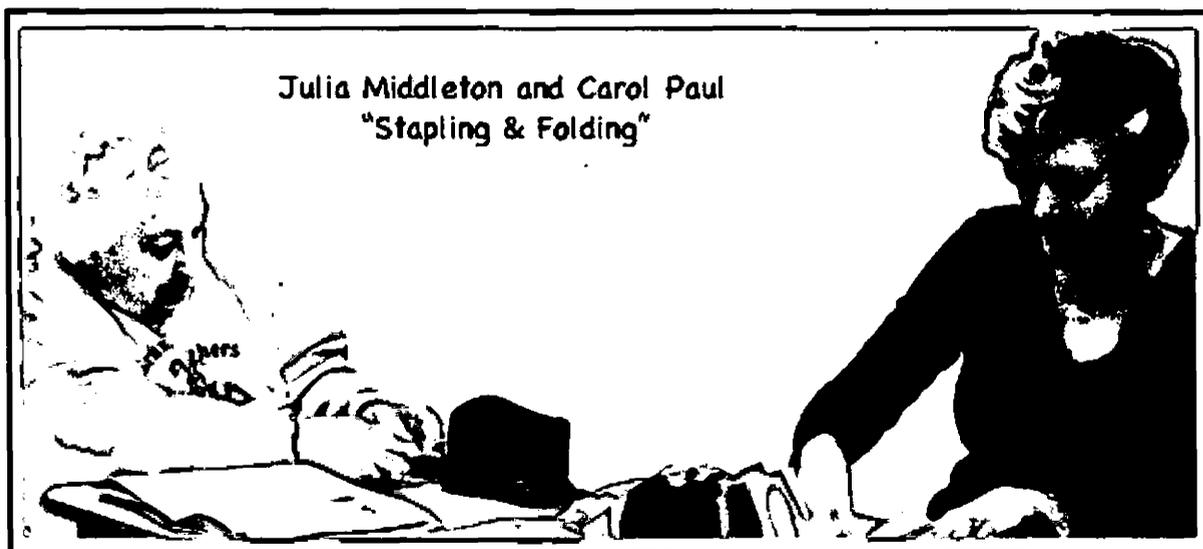
### HAGUE CHRONICLE VOLUNTEER STAFF

In our 37th year of continual monthly publication, we again salute the many volunteers who helped us get the Hague Chronicle out to you each month. They include Dottie Henry, Editor & Publisher, Emerita and Judy Stock, Publisher & Editor along with feature writers Nancy Wotton Scarzello and Joanne DeFranco and cartoonist Stan Burdick.

We thank the wonderful group who worked hard on the mailings including Ethel Andrus, Maureen Cherubini, Dee Dickson, Enid Engler, Ken Engler, Gladys Graser, Toby Hatfield, Georgina Lindquist, Pat McDonough, Rudy Meola, Julia Middleton, Carol Paul, Gertrude Raczkowski, Kathi Ramant, Judy Schultz and Marguerite West.

Additional thanks to Cathie Burdick for indexing, Bertha Dunsmore and Diane Trudeau at the Community Center and Board Members John Barber, Michele Gautreau, Nancy Young, Chris Ianson and George Ianson, Treasurer.

Please contact us if you would like to help in publishing *The Hague Chronicle*.



#### SUMMER JOB

Interested in a job as a lifeguard at the Hague Town Beach or at the Visitor Center next summer?

Send your letter of interest to the Town of Hague, PO Box 509, Hague, NY 12836.

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Happy New Year to one and all! The Seniors Club is geared up to begin the new year.

Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, January 22, at 1:30 pm at the Hague Community Center. We hope you'll shake off the winter doldrums and join us as we celebrate the January birthdays of our members, and in particular the 90th birthday of Julia Middleton.

Membership in the Club is available to all those 50+ and at \$5/year is certainly a bargain. Your membership fee provides you with a myriad of benefits:

- Fellowship at our monthly meetings
- Pertinent speakers on varied topics
- Pamphlets and handouts of interest to Seniors
- Picnics, luncheons, and refreshments (of course!)
- Mini-trips in and around the Adirondacks
- An annual outing

Whether you're new in town or have just never come to join us, being a member of Hague's "swinging seniors" can be a fun experience. Don't let the word "senior" scare you off; we're a vital group of men and women! Don't forget we have put on the Memorial Day festivities for the past five years! Come out and give us a try!

Also on the program will be Karen Laundree with information on the free AARP tax program organized locally by the Chamber of Commerce.

Hope to see you on the 22nd. ...pmm



JULIA MIDDLETON TURNS 90

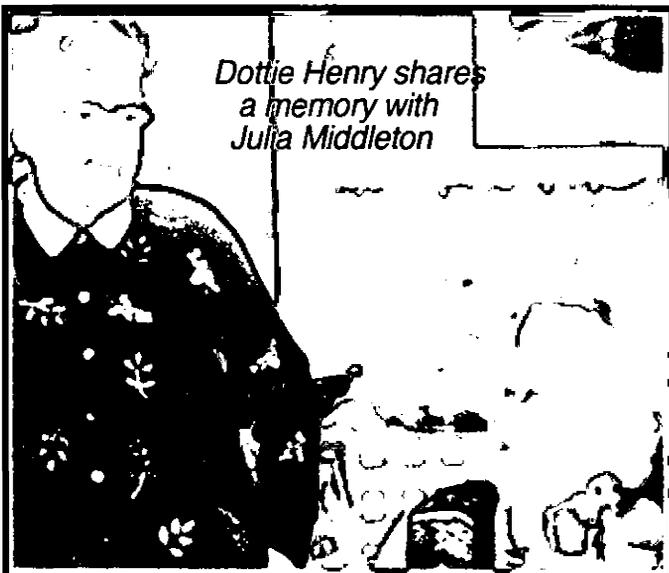
Another lifelong Hague resident has reached a special milestone. Family and friends gathered to celebrate the 90th birthday of Julia (Scott) Middleton in January. Julia is a 1936 graduate of Hague Central School and she and her late husband, Aaron, raised their four children here. All of them, Scott from Ticonderoga, David from Wellsville, PA, Emily Lushia from Acworth, GA and Patricia Moore from Woodstock, GA, were present for the festivities along with many other family members.

Judy Stock presented Julia with a plaque in appreciation of her many years of volunteer work on The Hague Chronicle and Madeline Pelkey congratulated her from the Senior Citizens Club. Town Councilman Rudy Meola remarked that part of the beauty of Hague is the wonderful people like Julia who live here and give back to their community. Dottie Henry and Julia shared remembrances going back over the several decades that they have been friends.

Warmest congratulations to Julia!

NOTE OF THANKS

Julia Middleton and her family want to thank everyone for their cards and warm wishes.



Dottie Henry shares a memory with Julia Middleton

Please help us get the news by sending us any information you have about events, organization meetings or reports, soundings and other items of interest.

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is mailed out by volunteers on the Thursday after the third Tuesday of each month. The news deadline is six days earlier. Please send news or address corrections to Judy Stock at <HagueChronicle@nycap.rr.com>.

The Hague Chronicle is supported by its readers and you may send your yearly tax deductible contribution (check your label) to: the Treasurer, George Ianson at:

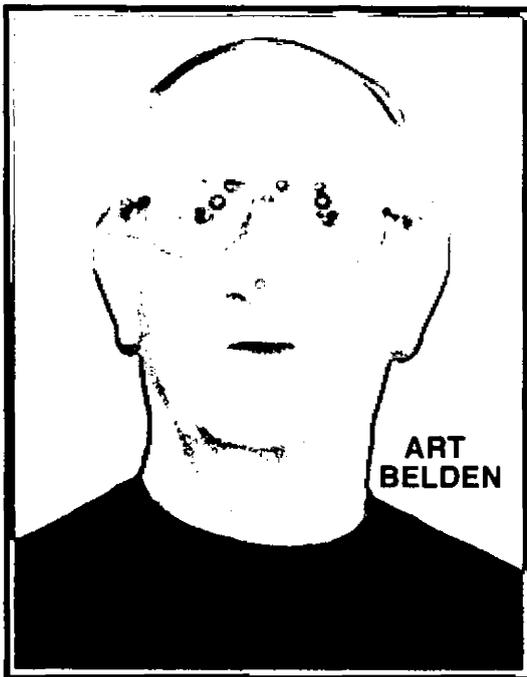
THE HAGUE CHRONICLE  
 PO Box 748  
 Hague, New York 12836-0748

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Our website: [www.thehaguechronicle.org](http://www.thehaguechronicle.org)

FREE TAX COUNSELING



2007 SENIOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Art Belden - Hague's Senior Citizen of the Year!

Born and raised in the Graphite area of Hague, Art Belden knows our town's back roads and trails, its mountains and woods, and the local history connected to them. One of thirteen siblings, only Art still lives in his family's homestead not far from the Elephant Rock.

Art is frequently heard relating stories of Hague history. His storytelling is honest and his memory is sharp. If he doesn't know something first hand, he answers your question with the disclaimer, "I can't say if it's true or not, but I hear tell...." Art tells it like it is.

Art was honored by the Hague Chamber of Commerce as the 2007 Hague Senior Citizen of the Year. He has been an active member of many town organizations, always pitching in and lending a hand with cleanup. As a member of the Hague Fish & Game Club he helped with the winter carnival by plowing the pond and donated and supported raffles for the Beste Scholarship. Art is a communicant of Blessed Sacrament Church, a member of the Hague Senior Citizens Club and an active member for 45 years of the Hague Volunteer Fire Department.

As an active and interested citizen, Art can be seen attending and participating in Town Board meetings and historical society programs.

The honor was announced, and Art was awarded a plaque by the Chamber of Commerce, at the Senior Citizens Club Christmas luncheon in December. (Thanks to Chris Ianson and Sal Santaniello for their contributions to this article.)

BARTON NAMED FOUNDATION CHAIR

Kay Barton of Sabbath Day Point has been named the new Chairman of the Glens Falls Foundation. The non-profit trust provides grants to organizations and individuals to improve the quality of life in local counties.

Mrs. Barton has served for many years on the Board of the Foundation as well as that of several other civic boards in the Glens Falls area.

Free tax counseling and preparation will be available to all area communities. The Hague Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that the Hague Community Center is the new local site of the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program.

The AARP Tax-Aide Program is the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service available to taxpayers with low- and middle-income, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Over 32,000 AARP Tax-Aide volunteers, trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), now help over 1.94 million taxpayers file their federal, state, and local tax returns each year at over 8,000 AARP Tax-Aide sites nationwide.

AARP Tax-Aide helps taxpayers file their personal income tax returns. Volunteers are trained to assist in filing basic tax forms and schedules, including the 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ. Taxpayers with complex tax returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance.

AARP Tax-Aide offers a variety of services each year from February 1 through April 15:

- o Free face-to-face tax counseling and preparation.
- o Free electronic filing (e-filing) is offered at the Hague site. E-filing ensures a more accurate tax return and faster processing of tax refunds.
- o AARP Tax-Aide volunteers also visit hospitals and nursing homes and make personal visits to those who are unable to leave their homes.

Appointments are available on Mondays and Wednesdays for the Free Tax Program in Ticonderoga and in Hague. To schedule an appointment at the Community Center call 543-6161 weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm.

LGA SAYS "DON'T TRASH THE ICE!"

The Lake George Association has launched a campaign to urge Lake George winter sports enthusiasts to refrain from leaving trash on the ice. "Carry On, Carry Off" is the slogan that will be appearing on signs, posters and flyers around Lake George at public access points and in local businesses. The LGA wants to raise awareness that protecting the lake's water quality is a year-round responsibility.

According to Emily DeBolt, the LGA's Education and Outreach coordinator, the campaign will hopefully strike a chord with the hundreds of ice fishermen, snowmobilers, skaters and others who may travel out onto the ice when the lake eventually freezes. "When it's cold and the ice is 2 feet thick, people sometimes lose sight of the fact that the ice is temporary," said DeBolt. "Anything that you leave on the ice will eventually end up in the lake after ice-out."

The Lake George Fishing Alliance is also lending its support to the campaign. The group has helped to pay for some of the signage, and will be working to identify ideal locations for sign placement. The LGFA has also offered to have flyers printed up to be handed out to participants at ice fishing tournaments. Hague, Putnam and Ticonderoga have already agreed to allow the signs at their Town Beach areas.

Chairman Robert Goetsch and members Marty Fitzgerald, Glenn McKee and Lindsay Mydlarz were present and Donna Charboneau, George Ianson and Bill Pittman were absent.

Zoning Enforcement Officer Cathy Clark requested an interpretation of Section 160-63 of the Zoning Code with reference to the conversion of certain existing uses. She wanted the ZBA's opinion on the need for a variance to remove an existing structure and replace it with two houses.

The house in question was built in 1905 and contains a full one-bedroom apartment as well as 17 bedrooms, 7 toilets (4 bathrooms), 3 bachelor kitchens, 1 full kitchen, 1 living room, and 1 dining room. The Assessor lists it as a 6444 sq. ft. residential structure.

A prospective buyer would like to remove the existing structure and replace it with two 3 bedroom houses. The total square footage of the new structures combined would be less than the current 6,444 sq. ft. The property is zoned OC1 and has 3.1 acres of land and 165 feet of shoreline.

The Board would need further information to make a determination, but as it stands it appears to be a single structure which would have to be replaced by a single structure. However, a structure on the same footprint might include a townhouse arrangement.

#### PLANNING BOARD - 1/3/08

Chairman EJ Siwek, Bruce Clark, Pam Peterson and Dick Frasier were present and Rolly Allen and John Brown were absent.

#### AMARA (59.-1-36) 72 Battle Hill Road (OCI)

Approval was given for the two lot subdivision of a 33 acre parcel with one lot of 21.5 acres and the other of 11.5 acres.

#### LUDLAM/ MEYER (60.13-1-16) Pudding Island Lane (TR-1)

Approval was given for the application for an addition/replacement of an existing deck which currently sits 61 feet from Lake George. The replacement deck will sit 51 feet from the lake and no section of the replacement deck will be covered. Approval was also conditioned on including a vegetative buffer.

#### TOWN BOARD SPECIAL MEETING - 12/27/07

Supervisor Belden and Board members Frasier and Martucci were in attendance with Gladu and Steitz being absent for this end of the year meeting.

Those present:

Passed a resolution for the mandatory training of the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Board.

Authorized the Supervisor to make necessary transfers to balance out the accounts.

Approved submission of a grant application for the Lake George Watershed region under a Smart Growth Grant Project.

Authorized an increase in the property tax exemption for older residents with specified income levels.

Supervisor Belden appointed Gerald Crammond to a one year term as Hague Town Historian beginning on January 1, 2008.

Supervisor Belden and Town Board members Frasier, Gladu, Martucci and Meola were all present. They passed the necessary organizational resolutions.

Town Board meetings will be held as usual at 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month with the audit of the bills at 6 pm.

The official bank is TD Banknorth in Bolton, newspaper is Glens Falls Post Star, mileage rate is same as the county (probably 44 cents/mile), the Supervisor is authorized to invest surplus funds and petty cash funds were set up.

Appointments were made for Deborah Manning to be Records Management Officer and Registrar of Vital Statistics, Supervisor Belden to be voting delegate from Hague for the Association of Towns with Mark Martucci as alternate, Dr. James Mack as person for housing seized animals, Daniel Belden to be Budget Officer, Catherine Clark as Zoning Enforcement Officer, Bertha Dunsmore as Community Center Coordinator, Edna Frasier as Care Program Officer and Bertha Dunsmore as Deputy, David DeFranco as Town Naturalist, Linda Benway as Animal and Dog Control Officer, Rudolph Meola as representative to Warren County Youth Board, Dominick Viscardi as Attorney for the Town, Daniel Steitz as Deputy Highway Superintendent, and Edna Frasier as Deputy Supervisor. The Town Board will serve as the Board of Health.

EJ Siwek was named Chairman of the Planning Board and Robert Goetsch was named Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Goetsch was also reappointed to a seven year term on the ZBA.

The Board disbanded the Town of Hague Park Committee. (Any necessary discussion will be initiated by the Town Board Committee on the Town Park -Councilmen Meola and Martucci).

The 2008 Town Calendar and Meeting Schedule is available at the Community Center and the Post Office.

The Board also set the salaries for town employees as stated in the 2008 budget and approved a comprehensive procurement policy concerning bids on supplies and equipment. Councilman Meola emphasized that "all purchased materials must be accompanied by a duly signed and completed purchase order, prior to purchase and prior to audit meetings."

The Board reaffirmed its position of having the agenda set on the Friday before the meeting with any needed additions being added to an addendum.

The Town Board committees are made up of Board members only and any citizens committees may include one Board member. All recommendations from committees must be in writing.

A recommendation by Councilman Meola to have the regular meetings be videotaped and aired on the Ticonderoga public access channel was not approved.

Supervisor Belden and the Board thanked Art Steitz for all of his work on the Board.

*In the depth of winter, I finally learned that  
within me there lay an invincible summer.*

Albert Camus (1913 - 1960)

Supervisor Dan Belden and Town Board members Edna Frasier, Dick Gladu, Mark Martucci and Rudy Meola were all present.

A moment of silence was held for Eberhard Werschky and Tom Malaney.

Marty Fitzgerald reported on the progress for the tubing park at Sabbath Day Point. The Board then authorized the supervisor to sign a contract of \$4500 to do the needed topographical survey.

Shawn Lynch, 4-H coordinator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County, gave information on the 4-H program for youth ages 9 to 19. He said members could be independent or affiliated with a club and that they would like to extend to the northern part of Warren County. They are looking for members as well as adults that might be interested in helping. For more information, see <<http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/warren/4h.html>>.

Joe McCranels spoke to the Board about looking for a new contact with the County Parks and Recreation for the cross country ski trails at Rogers Rock. Mark Martucci said he will work with Tom Haskell. He also renewed his offer to discuss with the park committee a plan for supervision and development of training for the Park staff.

Graham Bailey mentioned that 6 volunteers from Hague will continue the AARP Tax-Aide Program this season.

#### Committee Reports:

Assessor/Justice - Assessor Dave Martucci continues to work on the equalization rate and final numbers will be out in May when a grievance day will be scheduled. A new computer has been purchased for the office of the Town Justice for \$965. There have been multiple complaints about barking dogs filed with the judge and they will be reviewed at the end of the month.

Buildings & Grounds/CC - Councilman Martucci reported that he has the specifications for the ramp and porch renovations for the east side of the building and has contacted 5 contractors to put in a proposal.

Enhancement Committee - The community members of the Town Enhancement committee will meet and select their own chair. The Board committee still consists of Edna Frasier and Rudy Meola.

Finance & Insurance - Board member Frasier reported that there was not an interest in changing banks for the tax collector this year because the accounts have already been set up. In May it could be investigated for next year. She noted that most area towns use just one bank although there are cases where the tax collector uses another bank. Councilman Meola stated that "we owe it to the taxpayers" to have representatives from two banks make presentations to the Board.

Fire Dept - Councilman Martucci reported that the Fire Department is always looking for members and there will be an EMT Course in March. Active firefighters receive a \$200 income tax credit. The Fire Department Board has formed an outside finance advisory committee consisting of Ken Parlin, Steve Young and Pat Ida. Marty Fitzgerald will be the new purchasing agent.

Highway - Councilman Martucci said that more diligence will be given to the salt storage by installing gates. He also mentioned he would like to have all highway department members who drive the trucks to have a CDL license and he will have a proposal for the next Board meeting. Councilman Meola noted that people expect something to be done about the winter condition of roads. The Highway committee can look into some options. Board member Frasier noted that there are several people who travel over the mountains every day who have not complained about the roads.

Museum & Historian - Councilwoman Frasier said she would like to get together with Jerry to see what he needs for a computer.

Personnel - Personnel Committee members Frasier and Gladu will recommend a Planning Board replacement next month.

Planning/Zoning/Stormwater - Another required training session will be held in April for the Zoning and Planning Board members.

Sewer District #1 & #2 - Supervisor Belden thanked Cathy Clark for her help in obtaining a necessary easement for the new sewer district. He hopes that by late February they can advertise for bids on the work.

Town Park - Councilman Meola will contact the park personnel. Positions will be advertised locally and then they may want to hire international students. He also reported that he is lining up the Music in the Park programs and that the visitor center sign needs to be fixed.

Transfer Station - Committee members Martucci and Gladu will look at the current Casella contract and also how to handle yard waste and household chemicals. Plans also need to be made for the "clean-up day."

Under other business, the Board

Approved the job description for the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Did not approve requests from the Hague Chamber of Commerce for additional money since they had already budgeted \$10,000.

Learned that the Chamber is planning new events for the Winter Weekend.

Approved \$200 for refreshments for the APA/DOS zoning and planning training.

Approved \$100 for registration fee for Planning Board member Clark to attend the Association of Towns meeting. (Councilwoman Frasier indicated she wants to make sure that all members of the Boards have the same opportunity.)

Authorized Councilman Gladu to attend the real property meetings at the county. (Supervisor Belden chairs the county committee.)

Councilman Meola reminded the Board that under the regulations they must audit the books of the tax collector, town clerk and town justice by January 20th. The date of January 18th at 4 pm was set for a special meeting to do the required audits. Meola also suggested that the NYS Office of the Comptroller be contacted to do an audit of the Town finances. Councilwoman Frasier noted that they have been contacted twice in the last year and they are too busy auditing fire departments and schools to do it which is why an outside audit is being arranged.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED

Dominick Viscardi, Esq., administered the oath of office for duly elected officers of the Town of Hague on January 2, 2008. Judge Viscardi's remarks are as follows:

**Congratulations everyone. It was a close election for some inasmuch as three candidates ran for two offices. All three were outstanding candidates and therefore the results of the election were close. Now that all of you are duly elected and have been administered your oath, please bear in mind that all times every member of a town board serves in a fiduciary capacity in that each decision reached by a town board member shall always be that decision which is in the best interest of the community that they serve. It is not proper that your actions be designed to further a personal agenda, but rather to act collectively in pursuing actions which will benefit the people of the Town of Hague. I am confident that as you continue to serve the Town of Hague with that understanding, you will continue to succeed as you have in the past. Again congratulations to all and good luck.**



photo courtesy of Catherine Clark

Supervisor Belden, Judge Viscardi, Board members Gladu, Martucci and Meola

2007 REAL ESTATE SALES

Records in the Warren County Clerk's office show the following transactions in Hague for 2007. It is these sales compared to the assessed valuations which affect the equalization rate. Please note that there may be more than one person in town with a given name.

From T. Ross to B. Harrington for \$130,000; F. Montbriand to R. Tamlyn for \$270,000; M. Ross to R. Dickhoff for \$240,000; Lyme Timberlands to NYS DEC for \$23,900,978; W. Dillolo to K. Boyer for \$500,000; D. Derrico to Juniper Design for \$150,000; J. Ferrick to K. Ferrick for \$450,000; D. Sanborn to R. Chase for \$665,500; C. Schmersahl to A. Gorelik for \$1,067,500; J. Whalen to J. Kotoski for \$179,900; J. H. Phillips to T.F. Simmons for \$37,000; D. Bolton to D. Aloï for \$78,000; D. Miller to R. Davis for \$200,000; R. Miller to P. Miller-Zier for \$200,000; K. Raab to R. Christiansen for \$130,000; G. Garrison to P. Pengitore for \$307,500; G. Fisher to T. Buckner for \$1,450,000; R. Levenstein to M. Galow for \$2,500,000; S. Lobdell to P. Mattola for \$138,000; and F. McKeown to J. Andes for \$712,000.

LARAC SCHEDULE

Applications for the June and Fall Festivals of the Lower Adirondack Region Arts Council (LARAC) are due February 29, 2008. More information at <www.LARAC.org/>.

LARAC's Lapham Gallery with the Glens Falls Centennial Committee will present a juried exhibit themed around the Centennial slogan, "It's About Time". There will be a reception with refreshments on Friday, January 25, 2008 from 5-7 pm which is free and open to the public,

NEW PROJECTS FOR HVFD

We are happy to report that a new E.M.T. class will be offered starting March 11 at our Hague Firehouse. Enrollment is open to the public. Contact Renee Swinton at 543-8035 for more information.

On that same note, congratulations to Meg Haskell and Jocelyn Fisher for recently completing E.M.T. certification. They will give a much needed boost to our ambulance crew.

To correct an oversight from our last article, at our annual Christmas party Jim Young was honored as a Fireman of the Year, and Art Belden was recognized for 54 years of service to the department.

In conjunction with the Beste Scholarship Presidents Weekend we will be hosting a Buffet Breakfast on Saturday, February 16, 2008 from 7 -11 am. The cost for adults is \$6.50, for 12 & under - \$4.00 and toddlers free.

On Sunday, February 17, 2008, beginning at 3 pm, our Firehouse will be the host site for a Chili Bake-Off. Chili tasting, other fine edibles and music by our own DJ and local musicians will make this a must event. Admission is \$10. For information call Katy Wells at 543-8847.

At our recent meeting Imogene Frasier made an annual gift from the Memory Tree Fund to the ambulance squad. It was the largest gift ever, given in memory of her son Dale. Such an effort is much appreciated.

In December there was 1 fire call using 15.25 man hours and 9 ambulance calls using 75 man hours.

Congratulations to all for making this past Holiday Season a safe one.

.. JMcC

DIED: Michael Serdinsky, 74, of Manchester Twp, NJ on December 15, 2007. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Rosemary, four children Michael, Joyce Lynne, Jeffrey and Frank, and five grandchildren.

Mike and Rosemary were year-round residents of Hague for many years and were active in local organizations. They lived in the hamlet where Mike had his taxidermy business and Rose had, at various times, a cafe and retail shop.

DIED: Mildred "Billie" DeGraff, 92, of Hague, NY and Miami Beach on December 21, 2007. The widow of Ervin E. DeGraff and the daughter of the late Margaret Hogan and Gino J. Maranghi, she was a direct descendant of Ethan Allen.

She was a member of the Northern Lake George Yacht Club for the last 51 years, active in the New Horizons Club of Ticonderoga, the Silver Bay Association, an early board member of the Ticonderoga Festival Guild and for many years was a correspondent and volunteer for The Hague Chronicle.

Mrs. DeGraff is survived by her sons Bill of Miami Beach, Tom and wife Diane of Seattle, and Jack of Hague, NY; 2 grandsons and 1 great granddaughter.

Donations in memory of Billie DeGraff may be made to The Ticonderoga Festival Guild, Box 125, Ticonderoga, NY 12883.

DIED: Eberhard Werschky, 81, of Hague on January 6, 2008 after a short illness.

Ebby was well-known in the Hague community as an active member of the Senior Citizens Club, a former Meals-on-Wheels driver and the Hague Senior Citizen of the Year in 2003.

He was predeceased by his wife of 50 years, Emma and his brother Walter of Germany.

Survivors include four children, Robert and wife Linda of New Britain, CT, Katherine of Peru, NY, Rosemarie Reginald and husband Ralph, of Ticonderoga, NY and Mark of Ticonderoga, as well as 2 grandsons and several nieces and nephews.

DIED: Thomas Malaney, 88, of Ticonderoga on January 7, 2008.

Tom was known by many as an active member of the community having served as Village Trustee in Ticonderoga, and a board member of the Ticonderoga Golf Corporation and the Moses Ludington Hospital among others. He also volunteered for many organizations, among them *The Hague Chronicle*.

His survivors include his wife of 61 years, Carolyn (Hopkins) Malaney and seven children, several grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as many other family members.

On January 7, I was privileged to be able to hear Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand in Saratoga Springs where I am now residing. Rep. Gillibrand spoke to a capacity filled auditorium of seniors touching on everything from public transportation to the Iraq war.

Gillibrand represents ten counties from Lake Placid to Hyde Park and west to Cooperstown. One of the comments she made was her complete surprise just how long it takes to get anything done in Washington, which is frustrating to her. Included in the major issues she is working on are the solution for the ending of the Iraq War, public transportation (particularly in an area such as ours), Social Security, high fuel costs and most importantly the health care system which is broken and needs fixing.

Her solution to the war is to put Iraq on notice that a date should be forthcoming that the U.S. will leave Iraq. This will give the local leaders time to kick out the al-Qaida and have the U.S. troops shifted from Iraq to Pakistan and Afghanistan where the Taliban and al-Qaida do most of their recruiting. By setting a timeline for withdrawal of troops local leaders would be forced to take stronger steps to get rid of the terrorists and would get on with the business of rebuilding their country. She feels that with a new president this strategy will be a real possibility. She also said that we should insist on accountability for the money that we are sending there.

As for the health care situation, Ms. Gillibrand feels we need to have much more preventive medicine and care. She is working on continuing to make Medicare stronger and drug costs lower. She would encourage more young people to enter the field of nursing and related medical professions. She is a strong proponent of using Internet technology to improve medical care by putting medical records on-line and allow healthcare facilities to share information which would eliminate many costly mistakes.

Global warming is another concern of Ms. Gillibrand's. She feels we should encourage manufacturers and farmers to develop new products and ways to save energy in order to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil.

#### GRAPHITE BOOK

*The History of Graphite, New York* by Wilford C. Ross, originally written in 1976, was reprinted with special additions for Hague's Bicentennial by the author's



great-grandson, Peter J. Hutchinson. This book highlights the "good old days of Graphite" as told by Ross and tells the story of a somewhat forgotten time in Hague's history. Copies are still available at the Community Center. For more information <graphitebook@hotmail.com.>

CONGRATULATIONS to Hannah Cameron who will celebrate her 91st birthday on January 25, 2008.

by JoAnne DeFranco

DECEMBER 16, 2007 - JANUARY 12, 2008

The Hague Historical Society will be researching and sharing with the Chronicle readers this new column, "LOOKING BACK..." in an effort to encourage continued interest in our rich heritage and history. The piece that follows was written by the late Town Historian Clifton West for *The Hague Chronicle* (January 1973 pp 2-3) and was headlined "Apple Cider":

In the "good old days" drinking hard cider was a well-known winter sport. In Hague there was even a group of woodsmen or ice workers who were called the "Hard Cider Gang". With a few casks of fermented apple juice on hand a man was insured of company on cold winter nights.

There were lots of wild apple trees in the area, and some not so wild. Both good and wild apples found their way into the cider casks. Many farmers, some hotelmen and most country storekeepers laid in twenty or so barrels for their own use and to share with their customers. In the store cellars some of the cider was allowed to ferment into vinegar.

The remains of a cider mill still exist in town. It hasn't been used since 1947. Originally it stood on Decker Hill Road next to the grist mill. It was run by water power with a turbine placed in the deep gorge of Hague Brook. Later a gas engine was used. It was an old fashioned one with a large flywheel. Francis Waters was the last owner. When he purchased the mill he moved it to his property near the foot of Decker Hill where it now rests.

A bushel of apples will yield three gallons of cider. One of the mill operators was known to use a 5-peck basket to measure the apples, thus managing to get some extra cider for himself. The apples were first ground - then pressed. As they were squeezed, the juice trickled into a vat below. From here it was funneled into the casks, then rolled on to a wagon and taken home.

Burt West, Clifton's father, ran the mill for two seasons. He was assisted by Rueben Haskins. Before that Clifton's grandfather had operated the mill. Other operators were Melvin Barton and John Jenkins.

Fifty or more years ago the Mother's Club was a West Hague organization open to West Hague Mothers only. Each fall the mothers gave a supper for their families. On one occasion the dinner was held at Frank and Nellie May's farm, presently home of George May. While the boys, including Clifton, were awaiting the supper call Harry May told them that Grampa May had a fifteen gallon keg of cider which was just about old enough to be tapped. A hose appeared mysteriously and copious draughts of the ambrosial liquid were withdrawn. After the thirsts of the small boys were satisfied, little of the cider remained and the next day when Mr. May found only air in the keg, he was peeved - but plenty.

Mr. West concludes - the most highly advertised soda pop today is tame compared to a generous draught of cider two weeks old and freshly drawn from a cask.

December 2007 was the fourth snowiest December on record with 45" of snow. The snowiest December was 1970 with 56.7". We received another 10.5" in January. Most of this snow has melted due to milder temperatures and rain. January 11 was one miserable cold and wet day with 3/4" rain and temperatures hovering at 32°-35°. The average snowfall for our area is 60". If the 2007-08 winter is an average year we are almost to our maximum average snowfall. However, the Farmer's Almanac has predicted more snow than usual. The days are getting longer. It is no longer pitch dark at 5 pm - a glimmer of hope that we are halfway through winter.

Summarizing our past thirty days, we have had snowfall on 12/16, 12/20, 12/29, 12/31, 1/1, 1/2, 1/4 and 1/5. Rain and windy conditions prevailed on 12/23, 1/9 and 1/11. Cold and subzero days on 1/3 and 1/7 with -7° the lowest at lake level. The wind chill on the third was -20°. A warmer trend followed the next week with a high of 55° on 1/8 and 1/9.

The lake is NOT frozen although ice was observed in some bays during the cold streak from January 3-7.

Has anyone observed eagles fishing in the lake? We usually get some sightings this time of year. Please e-mail me at <jdefranco\_10@yahoo.com> if you have seen any eagles or wish to report weather-related items to me.

LGLC PLANS PURCHASE

The Lake George Land Conservancy anticipates purchasing a 1,423-acre tract in the southern Lake George basin, made possible in part by a loan from the Open Space Conservancy. The protection of this land is part of the larger West Brook Watershed Initiative, a collaborative effort between the Lake George Land Conservancy, Lake George Association, the Fund for Lake George, the Village of Lake George and Warren County, which includes the revitalization of the "Gaslight Village" property.



## Hague Memory Tree

Donations have been made in Memory of the following:

Jo Arata, Arthur Anisansel, Dorothy Anisansel, Laura Archibald, Les Archibald, Joe Bach, Anna Balcom, Ralph Balcom, Bud Baldwin, Donald & Gladys Barber, Sr., Barnaby Family, Charles R. Barton, Jr., Mary Beadnell, Esther Belden, Mabel Belden, Maud Belden, James Belden, Joan Belden, Morgan Belden, Howard Belden, Geraldine Belden, Charles Belden, Jack B. Bell, Pauline Bell, Leatha Bennett, Rev. Gary Bergh, MC Beste, Winifred "Winnie" & William "Bill" Blair, James Bly, R.J. Bolton, Mame Bolton, Pauline Bolton, Doris Bolton, Jack Bolton, Frances Boomhower, Jody Lambert Braisted, John M. Braisted, James H. Braisted, Helen K. Braisted, Audrey Breen, Herb Brigham, Murriel Brigham, Brink Family, Catherine Brock, Louis Brock, Jim Broderick, Margaret Broderick, Carol Brown, Punky Brunzell, Bob Bryant, Charlie & Marge Burgey, Betty Burnham, Jane Carpenter, John Carpenter, John Carpenter, Harold Carpenter, Jr., Richard S. Carpenter, Zella Carpenter, George Carter, Roland Carter, Ruth Carter, Edward Cassidy, Simon Chappell, Talley Chappell, Lany Chesky, Donald Close, Mollie Cole, Clara Collins, Rod Collins, Eleanor Conlon, Wallace Conlon, David Connery, Harriet Connery, James Cooke, Jimmy Cooke, Florence Cornell, Pat Cornell, John Costello, John M. Costello, John B. Costello, Lucille Costello, Bruce Courtright, Edward Hubley Crabbs, Eliza Hamilton Crabbs, Edward Hamilton Crabbs, Bertha Reiff Crabbs, David Dent Crabbs, John David Crabbs, David Crandall, Charlie Curtis, Connie Curtis,

Darlene S. Davis, Queenie S Davis, Betty Decker, Clifford Decker, Emerson Decker, Mary Jane Decker, Wilbert Decker, Deek Decker, Michael DeFelice, Billie DeGraff, Ervin DeGraff, Floyd R Denman, Anna Denno, Buck Denno, Gene Denno, Marion Denno, Bob & Geneva Denno, Louise S. Densmore, Westill Densmore, Dorreen S. Devenger, Ezra Devenger, Myrtle L. Devenger, Willard H. Devenger, Ryan Dickson, Vincent DiCio, Ken Drake, Thelma Drake, Annette Dufrane, Eddie Dunklee, Merritt Durgy, Doc Eannace, Jay R. Earl, Jayne Earl, Mildred Eddy, Dr. Fred Eggers, James Eichen, Mildred Eichen, Dottie Engler, Howie Engler, Adolph Englert, John Fadding, Herman Fish, Floyd Fish, Charlie Fish, Albert Fitch, Jane Fitzgerald, Jean Fitzgerald, Barb Fitzgerald, Charley Fitzgerald, Eric Fitzgerald, Ginny Fitzgerald, Martha Fitzgerald, Marilyn Frank, Alice Frasier, Dale Frasier, Mitchel Frasier, Clifford Frasier, Mary A. Frasier, Elaine Frasier, Slip Frasier, Geraldine Frasier, Carl "Chief" Frasier, Veril Frasier, Samuel R. Frasier, Frasier Family, Fred Frasier, Chet Frasier, Justin Ryan Frasier, Kenneth Scott Frasier, Guy Fuller, Leona Gallo, Nellie Galusha, James L. Galusha, James I. Galusha, Helen Galusha, Donald Galusha, Patricia Frasier Galusha, Gus Getta, Carol Giersch, Thomas E. Girard, James Girard, Denis J. Glennon, Harry Gordon, Barbara Gordon, Charlie Goss, Jerome Granger, Harold Granger, Harry Granger, Luther Granger, Mort Granger, Luther Granger, Sr. Ronald K. Graser, James Patrick Gunning,

Harold "Beezer" Hall, Edna Halleran, Eugene Halleran, Helen Halleran, Jack Henry, Alyce Heroy, Archie Herrick, Gert Herrick, Jim Herrick, Debbie Bly Hicks, Peggy & Edwin Hinck, George & Marion Hudler, Pat Inzero, Bessie & Louis Johnson, Curtis Jordon, Margaret Jordon, Ernest "Gramps" Jordon, Donald "Traveler" Jordon, David Jordon, Laird Family, Florence "Topsy" Lambert, Elizabeth "Lib" Landers, John Landers, Fred LaPann, Cyrus LaPointe, Chester J. Lastowski, Janet Lauder, Clifford Lund, Edna Malloy, Joe Malloy, Hope Manning, Eber Masten, Bessie Masten, Bill Mathews, Betty Mathews, Elizabeth Mattison, Ada & Harry May, Gary May, Gordon "Hubcap" May, Kyle May, Andrew & Vivian McCarville, Dorothy McCord, Roy Meeker, Norma Megow, Ludolf J. Megow, Irene Megow, Petey Michael, Aaron Middleton, Alvin Middleton, Linda Middleton, Beatrice Middleton, Emma Middleton, Leonard Middleton, Lee Miller, Ursula Montbriand, Evelyn F. Monroe, Albert E. Monroe, Gertrude M. Monroe, Carmella Morette, J.B. Morse, Doris Morse, Maribel Morse, Rick Morse, Herb Offerman, Alfred Ostrander, Joe Paige, Jane Parmley, Jackie Perkins, Carl R. Perry, Grace Patchett, Nelson Patchett, Agnes Pierce, Joe Pierce, Ginny Plass, Lee J. Pockett, Sue Pockett,

Lucio Ramagli, Connie Ramagli, Karen Ravis, Martha Kuck Reiff, Jack Reynolds, Frank Rives, Melicent Rives, David Rosbrook, Wesley Ross, Leroy Ryder, Esther Ryther, Daniel P. Sanderson, Theodore J. Santaniello, Sierra Rose Santaniello, Harry F. Saum III, George Savage, Erlo F. Schoder, Leroy Scott, Sarah Scott, Marion Shoemaker, Arthur Simendinger, Jean Simendinger, Elizabeth "Corbee" Skahan, Bernard C. Smith, Colleen "Cissy" Smith, Edith Smith, Uncle Jim Smith, John F. Smith, Fredric W. Smith, Bessie Smith, Leaman "Tink" Snow, Brandon Lee Snyder, Louis Spelman, Sr., Fred Spreemann, Bob Stout, Catherine Stull, Frederick Stull, Carl Sunderland, Frank Swinton, Trudeau Family, Mildred Tuminsky, Nick Turno, Anna & William Van Kleeck, Marion Van Kleeck, Hatch Van Kleeck, Betty Van Sleet, Henry Vickerson, John & Julie Vickerson, Sam Vogel, Clayton Warner, Stella Warner, Pete Waters, Sharon Smith Waters, Elizabeth Wells, Leon (Leo) Wells, Margaret Wells, Robert Wesner, Ed Whitaker, Jim Whitaker, Brandon Witmer, Fran Wolfe, Gabriel Wright, Emily Zapolski, Evelyn F. Zeese

Donations have been made in Honor of Rusty Bissell, Fran Clifton, Bertha Dunsmore, HVFD and the Henry grand & great grand children.

January - February 2008

January

- 21 Martin Luther King Day observed  
(Town Offices closed; No school)
- 22 1:30 pm Senior Citizens Club (p. 2)
- 24 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals
- 28 10 am The Hague Chronicle Board meets

February

- 7 7 pm Planning Board
- 12 6:30 pm Town Board (6pm - Audit bills)
- 15-16 Winter Weekend (see flyer)
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day!
- 18 President's Day observed  
(Town Offices closed)
- 18-22 President's Week (no school)
- 21 Next Hague Chronicle mailed



**TRANSFER STATION HOURS**

Wednesday: 9 am to 4 pm  
Saturday: 9 am to 4 pm

TICONDEROGA COMMUNITY SERIES

The following are the next few programs offered on Wednesday evenings:

January 23, 2008 at 7 pm at the Ticonderoga Society Hancock House - *The History and Application of Naval Steam Engines* by Robert Lamb, Independent Historian.

February 6, 2008 at 7 pm at the Community Building and hosted by the Ticonderoga Cartoon Museum - *Treasures in the Attic - Rediscovering the Golden Age of Comic Strips* by Dan Busha, comic historian.

February 20, 2008 at 7 pm at the Ticonderoga Community Building and hosted by the Ticonderoga Historical Society - *Historical Ticonderoga in Pictures* by Bill Dolback.

ONGOING EVENTS

- 1st Monday: Fire Department (7 pm)
- 2nd Monday: Senior Bus to Glens Falls (8:30 am)
- 3rd Monday: Chamber of Commerce (7 pm)
- 1st & 3rd Tuesday: Mohican Crafters (10 am)
- 3rd Tuesday: Fish & Game Club (7:30 pm)
- 3rd Tuesday: Sno-goers
- 3rd Thursday: Carillon Garden Club (11 am)
- 4th Wednesday: Extra Helpings Distribution (noon)
- Every Tuesday at 7 am - Rotary Club meets
- Every Thursday at noon: Kiwanis meets



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