

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

VOL. V - No. 1

JANUARY 1976

HAGUE, N.Y.

CHRONICLE BEGINS FIFTH YEAR

With this issue we begin our fifth year of publication. Our mailing list has grown to 480 and is intended to reach all year-round residents of the Town of Hague and those summer residents who have requested that copies be sent to them.

There is no subscription charge. However, we could not continue to do this were it not for the financial support we have received from interested readers and organizations and the generous help of the Silver Bay Association in printing the Chronicle as its "contribution to the Hague Community".

To all, we say "thank you". We look forward to serving you for another year.

++++ SEASONS GREETINGS + + + +

THE KNOX TRAIL TREK

Early in November, 1775, the siege of Boston by the colonists had begun in earnest. However, there was a great need for siege guns and the problem facing George Washington was "how to procure guns of sufficient weight and range to throw shot into the beleaguered city".

On May 10 of the same year, Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys captured Fort Ticonderoga from the British and the supply of ordnance which they had captured was lying around the fort unused. Henry Knox, a civilian representative of the revolutionary government who became a Brigadier General on George Washington's staff and later Secretary of War, conceived the idea of sending to Fort Ticonderoga and drag the unused

ordnance to Boston. The plan was to make the journey to Ticonderoga while the snow and ice combined to render streams passable and roads feasible for sleds. In open water, boats could be used and, according to Knox, the whole thing could be done for \$1000. Washington consented with alacrity and Knox was selected for the task.

Knox reached Albany on December 1 and although it was a severe winter with deep snows and unbroken roads, he reached Ticonderoga on December 5. Altogether he gathered eight brass mortars, six iron mortars, one howitzer, 13 brass cannon, 30 iron cannon, a barrel of flints and a quantity of lead. These were lashed to 42 strong sleds and with 80 yoke of oxen were loaded onto barges on December 10 for the trip down Lake George. One story has it that the sea was rough and one of the cannons was washed overboard and considerable time was spent in recovering it. At any rate, Knox arrived at Fort George on December 15 and set out overland for Saratoga, Albany, Kinderhook, Great Barrington and Springfield where new oxen were obtained. A thaw came up while the caravan was between Lake George and Albany and the four crossings of the Hudson were not made without difficulty. Nonetheless the party reached Cambridge, Mass. on January 27. Cannonading began on March 2 and continued for two days. This led directly to the taking of Boston and the departure of Lord Howe who, with his forces, sailed away on March 17 to Halifax.

And that's the way it was 200 years ago.

This event in history was re-enacted with appropriate ceremonies at Ticonderoga on December 10-12, 1975

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when four cannon were loaded onto a barge which was towed by the State Fish Hatchery boat. An overnight stop was made at the Jim Young place on Sabbath Day Point and as this is being written the caravan is making one-night stands at towns along the route. Three of the cannon, including one which it is said made the initial trip to Boston, are on loan from Fort Ticonderoga, the fourth was made of wood by students from the Rutland Vocational-Technical Center.

As the party moves through a town it is planned that a plaque will be presented by town officials with the name of the town and the date of its founding. The Hague plaque was made by James DeLarm and presented by Town Supervisor, Keith DeLarm.

+ + + + SEASON'S GREETINGS + + + +

HAGUE - 1892

In recent issues we have reported on some of the facts found in old state census reports. The first covered the period 1830-1855. This was followed by the census of 1865 and last month we covered the 1875 census. We had expected the next one would have been taken in 1885 but for some strange reason it was not taken until 1892.

We find the name Wilford C. Ross, a child 2 years old, son of Amos Ross a farmer, recorded in this census. While we cannot be sure, we believe Mr. Ross is the only person listed who continues to live in Hague. Other children who, if living, would now be in their eighties were: Ethel N. Shattuck, 4 years old, the widow of Walter Watts, Sr. who passed away about a year ago; then there was Frank and Harry W. May, 1 and 3 years

old; William G. and Charles F. Hart, 1 and 3; James Robbins, 1; Charles H. Foote, 2; James L. Galusha, 3; Wagh-tley M. Shattuck, 2; and Josephine Fish, 3. The Carney name also appears for the first time with the listing of Frank E. Carney, 39 years old, a farmer, his wife Adell, and three children including Bruce, 5 years old. Bruce Carney was the father of John, Frank and Bruce Jr., lifetime residents of Hague. He was a supervisor of the Town of Hague from 1919-1921 and from 1932-1935.

The population of Hague in 1892 was 757. The increase of 78 since 1875 was due largely to the opening of the graphite mines. Thirty-three men listed their occupation as "miner" and there were 39 laborers some of whom probably worked in the mines. Seven of the miners had come from Poland and three had come from England. The mine superintendent, George Hooper was only 30 years of age. One miner was named "Alphonso Shirt Sleeves". A machinist, Louis Snyder, his wife and three children had come from Germany and a cook, Louis Fournier, had come from Switzerland. Richard DeLarm who was listed in an earlier census as a minister was no longer a resident. However his son, William C. DeLarm, now 31 years of age, remained in Hague married to Hannah L. DeLarm and father of John C. DeLarm, 1 year old. Albert C. Clifton who had been the 1875 census enumerator was now listed as a hotel-keeper while his son Bernard A. Clifton, 22 years old, was now the census taker. John J. Wilson, John McClanathan and Gerry F. Marshall were listed as hotel-keepers.

Byron H. Marshall was the town shoemaker and Arthur E. Rand, the town barber. The town boasted of a boat builder, William H. Sexton, and a mailcarrier, John J. Jenkins. Douglas S. Landon, 66 years old, was the town doctor.

Bertha M. Shattuck and Isaac Roberts were schoolteachers, Hoyt Leach and Frank A. Snow, were blacksmiths and James Sawyer was a basket maker. Mary J. Yaw, wife of Nathan Yaw, Mercie M. Sexton and Ella Brew-

ster were seamstresses. Thomas F. Lonergan, whose progeny now live in Ticonderoga, is listed as a laborer although in subsequent years he operated Echo Mountain Hall, a movie-house in Graphite.

With 95 farmers, the chief occupation of the residents continued to be farming.

+ + + + SEASONS GREETINGS + + + +

P T O MEETS ON DRUGS

The regular meeting of the Parent-Teacher's Organization on November 24 was devoted to a discussion of drug use and abuse. Many teachers and parents were present. After a lengthy discussion the conclusion was reached that a problem does exist in Hague and that the situation is not much different from what it is in other communities. It was generally agreed that there is a need for parents to develop more effective ways of communicating with their children to know where their children are, and for the community to change some of the social conditions that lead to drug and alcohol abuse.

Another program on the same subject with an outside speaker to make the presentation will be held on January 26 at 7:30 P.M. All are invited.

+ + + + SEASONS GREETINGS + + + +

TOWN BOARD MEETING

A regular meeting of the Town Board was held on December 9th with all members present.

Mrs. Louis Brock was present and complained of inaction on the part of the Board in reaching a decision on the library / museum proposal. She asked that each member of the Board state whether he is in favor of the proposal or opposed to it. When reminded that the Board had postponed until the January meeting, she urged the Board members to come prepared to state their position at that meeting, Mr. Meola was also present and likewise urged that the Board

take action.

Mr. Meola also inquired as to the status of the ski-tow. Mr. Cobb reported that the ground was too soft to support earth-moving equipment and that there probably will not be much progress until the ground has frozen. Meanwhile, Mr. Belden advised that all of the trees had been cut and most of the stumps pulled. It is anticipated that most of the poles will be in place within another week. Inquiries have been made as to the availability and prices for rope. Although the December first completion date has not been realized, the Board is still hopeful that the ski-tow will be in operation during the winter season. Snow, the most important ingredient, has not yet arrived.

The supervisor pointed out that bus drivers who have been hired by the town in conjunction with the youth recreation program have demanded a wage increase of 50¢ an hour (from \$3.00 to \$3.50) or they will no longer be available. There is some question whether the increase can be granted inasmuch as the budget which has been approved by the state (which pays half the cost) provides for a \$3 per hour wage rate. The supervisor will resolve the matter with the state and appropriate action will be taken.

In a general discussion of the youth program it was reported that there had been some rowdyism, including smoking, on the buses. The Board indicated that if this was not discontinued, programs involving bus transportation would be discontinued. Mr. Meola asked the Board to approve a "Spectators' bus" for away from-home basketball games. This proposal was rejected as not appropriate under the existing youth recreational program.

The installation of a street light on the pole in front of the Old Town House as proposed by Mrs. Patchett at the October meeting was approved. The expense will be assumed by the street lighting district.

The Lake Forest Acres subdivision

asked the town to take over a of Pine Orchard Road which runs the north border of the subdivision, as a town road. The supervisor will advise the owners that when the necessary specifications have been met and the approval of the County Engineer obtained, the Board will act on the matter.

The Board agreed that Christmas tree lights would again decorate the tree at the intersection of Routes 9N and 8 during the Christmas season.

Mr. Yaw indicated that changes in the Town Justice Court Act would likely increase the likelihood of jury trials and the preparation of a jury list and establishment of jury fees should be undertaken. The Board agreed to do this at the next meeting. Mr. Yaw also pointed out the necessity to provide a courtroom in the Town Hall and this will be undertaken shortly.

Mr. Fitzgerald, whose term as Town Justice expires at the end of the year and who did not seek re-election was thanked by the Board members for the services he had rendered the community during the past four years.

The Board will hold its organizational meeting on January 6th at 7:30 P.M. The regular meeting will probably be held on Tuesday January 13th.

+ + + + SEASONS GREETINGS + + + +

SCHOOL NEWS

The School Board met on December 8 with all members present.

The Board approved transportation to Rutland, Vermont for the basketball team to participate in a one-day tournament on December 8.

Admission prices to home basketball games was increased to \$1.00 for adults and 50¢ for children.

The Board approved the use of the gym on Saturday mornings during December and January by elementary school boys who will be playing basketball under the supervision of Mr.

Riley.

Mr. Meola reported that the five students - Donald and Charles Smith, Tim May, Darrell Frasier and Dan Snow - who are attending the BOCES vocational program at Mineville, have compiled a 91% attendance record. Two of the boys are studying small engine repairs, two others are studying auto mechanics and one is taking nursing services. During the remainder of the day, the boys take regular English and social studies at the Hague School.

Mrs. Meade attended the New York State Music Teachers Association meeting in Rochester on December 1-2.

Mr. Meola reported that on January 5, 1976 Mr. Chaim Shkedi, who is spending a year with the State Education Department as a consultant on Israeli life and culture, will be at the Hague School for assemblies in both the morning and afternoon. He will speak on a number of subjects relating to the History of Israel, problems which it has as a new nation with a heterogenous population, and the importance of Israel as a member of the world community. Mr. Shkedi is a native born Israeli and a graduate of Hebrew University in geography and political science. He is currently on leave from his position as Deputy Director of the International Cultural Center for Youth in Jerusalem. This should be a highly interesting program for both students and teachers.

A confrontation between a school bus driver and several of his passengers who were misbehaving, led to their ejection from the bus. This in turn led to a confrontation between the parents of the offending children and the school administrator. All parties were present at the board meeting, at which, after a complete airing of the incident, the driver indicated he had had enough and offered to submit his resignation.

Prompted by the foregoing, the recent issue of the school newsletter requests help from the parents to impress on their children the need for

safe behavior on the bus and that "no rough-housing and no fooling around" will be tolerated. "If a pupil is reported to the office by the bus driver because of unacceptable behavior," the item concludes, "appropriate action will be taken including the suspension of the privilege of riding the school bus."

+ + + + + SEASONS GREETINGS + + + + +

GEORGE LUDLOW RESIGNS

C. Frank Kireker, Jr., President of the Silver Bay Association has announced the resignation of George Ludlow, Director of the SBA, effective on December 31. Mr. Ludlow, who succeeded Walter Vanderbush as Director in March 1973, will be entering private business in Indiana. Charles C. Cross, a member of Silver Bay's Board, has been appointed Acting Director and will serve until a new permanent Director has been appointed.

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SCHOOL CHORUS ENTERTAINS

The Hague Central School Junior-Senior High Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Laura Meade who is also the accompanist, recently presented a program of popular songs for the residents of the Ticonderoga Nursing Home. Selections included "Proud Mary", "My Sweet Lady", "The Cat's in The Cradle", "I Can See Clearly", "Billy, Don't Be a Hero", "Morning Has Broken" with Beth Bolton as flutist, and "Midnight Blue". The boys of the chorus sang "Grandma's Feather Bed" and members of the band performed an arrangement of "Old Joe Clark's Boogie". A reception followed the concert.

+ + + + + SEASONS GREETINGS + + + + +

PARK COMMITTEE REPORTS

The committee of citizens headed by James Fitzgerald which has been studying the park and matter relating to its operations has submitted its report to the Town Supervisor. The committee has recommended the following:

1. The park parking area should be limited to passenger cars and light trucks only. Overnight parking should not be permitted.

2. During the summer months a full-time employee should be placed in charge of the park.

3. A boat launching and haul-out fee of \$3. should be charged. If both services are performed on the same day for one individual, only one \$3. fee should be collected.

4. Use of a mooring site should be limited to one hour.

5. The launching area should be enclosed by fencing. Launching and haul-out services should be available between 8 A.M. and noon and between 4 and 8 P.M.

6. Vending by permit holders should be permitted.

7. No charge should be made for use of park or beach.

8. Amendments to the proposed regulations may be made if experience warrants.

9. The services of a life-guard seem to be unnecessary and the town should endeavor to avoid the expense if at all possible.

The Board has taken the recommendations under advisement.

+ + + + + SEASONS GREETINGS + + + + +

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hague Historical Society met on December 17. The program featured Christmas reminiscences by Clifton West.

Mr. West, who was born in Hague in 1908, discussed the many differences between how Christmas was celebrated when he was a youngster and how it is celebrated today. One Christmas was spent with relatives in Glens Falls to which the family travelled by train, a five-hour ride. Christmases were celebrated in the church with

recitations by the Sunday School pupils who were given boxes of goodies; Christmas hard candy, ribbon candy, and popcorn for filler. Gifts were generally home-made, knitwear by the grandmothers and mothers, sleds, barrel stave skis and skates by the men-folk.

Before the Sexton house was torn down last week, Mr. West was given permission to check for old books and magazines. He found fourth and fifth grade readers from the middle 1800's and magazines and pictures from the same era. Several of these were exhibited by Mr. West.

The next meeting will be held on January 21 and will feature a program of Food, Fabric and Herbal Renewal to be presented by Lona Bartlett, Mildred Ross and Florence Smith.

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FIRST STORY PUBLISHED

B.A. Clifton, author of a short story in the December issue of Yankee Magazine, is the son of Bernie and Fran Clifton of Hague. The story, Black Night Bright Morning, is about an 81 year old man with a broken hip lying helpless in the forest who awakens to see an old wolf with teeth "now dulled and chipped" staring at him. In his delirium he remembers his dog, Barney "husky and shepherd" who died when the old man was 22. He imagines the wolf is old Barney and calls him over to his side to keep warm. The search party eventually

finds the "two cold shapes on the ground" with the old man's arm encircling the wolf and with the wolf's gray muzzle lying across his chest. At first they thought the wolf had gotten the old man but afterwards they concluded "that's not what happened."

This is Clifton's first published story. Although writing is his first love, he is Ass't. Manager of the 1st National Bank of Glens Falls at Bolton Landing where he resides with his wife and daughter. He is 29 years of age, a graduate of Hague Central School and attended Plattsburgh and Paul Smith Colleges. He is an accomplished guitarist and has composed a number of pieces for the guitar.

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THE WEATHER

December's weather was relatively mild with highs on several days in the fifties and lows in the twenties. There were snow flurries on November 25 and 26 and again on December 9. More flurries on the 16th and 17. Two inches of rain fell between November 25 and December 22. On December 19-20 temperatures plummeted to zero along the lake and to well below zero in higher elevations. The lake was a boiling cauldron with the water at 38 degrees and the air temperature at zero. Then the snow came with about eight inches and a white Christmas is assured.

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