

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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D E C E M B E R 1 9 7 5

HAGUE, N. Y.

THE ELECTION

Four hundred forty-nine persons voted in the local election on November 4th, 402 in person, 44 by absentee ballot and 3 ballots were cast by the military.

The Equal Rights Amendment, the seven proposed amendments to the constitution and the housing bond issue were defeated handily although on the state level it appears that amendments pertaining to judicial discipline and one authorizing the legislature to call special sessions, were approved. Significantly those amendments which would authorize additional government spending were soundly defeated.

Local candidates fared as follows:

Supervisor: William K. DeLarm - 197; Clinton Frasier - 197.

Town Clerk: Maryalice Hall - 221; Josephine Cole - 118; Linda M. Fish - 118.

Town Justice: Emil Seerup - 283; F. Fitzgerald Sr. - 118.

Councilman (4 years): William A. Cobb - 293; Norman E. Strumm - 148.

Councilman (2 years): Aaron Middleton - 293; Irving Fitzgerald - 109.

Superintendent of Highways: Daniel Belden - 329; Raymond H. Monroe - 118; Clifton Frasier - 41.

Assessor (4 years): James R. McKee - 175; Thomas E. Stull - 175.

Assessor (2 years): Harry G. White - 281; Michael G. Fitzgerald - 139.

Thus for the next two years the

Town Board will consist of DeLarm, Cobb, Middleton, Seerup and Yaw. The Board of Assessors will consist of Henry Watts, White and McKee. Mrs. Maryalice Hall (the former Maryalice Scripture) will continue as Town Clerk.

At the county level the Republican Party lost control of the Board of Supervisors for the first time in history. Consistent with the "one man one vote" decision of the Supreme Court of a number of years ago, the Board of Supervisors adopted in 1971 a weighted voting system based on population of the individual towns with each supervisor having one vote for each 309 persons in his town as determined by the 1970 federal census. Under this arrangement, the Town of Queensbury has 47 votes with 14 votes to the Town Supervisor and 11 each to one of the other three county supervisors and the City of Glens Falls has 57 votes divided among the supervisors of the five Glens Falls wards.

The Democrats gained thirty votes in Glens Falls, thereby increasing their total to 57 and added 14 more in Queensbury with the election of Mike Brandt, who, although a Conservative, had substantial Democratic support. Lake George and Hague with nine and three votes respectively re-elected Democratic Supervisors. Thus the Democrats will have 83 votes out of a total of 164, a bare majority.

What this means is that there will likely be a shakeup in personnel in county departments, particularly in those areas where appointments are filled by the Board of Supervisors. The three votes which are controlled by the Hague Supervisor will be of considerable importance on any closely contested matters.

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TOWN BUDGET UNVEILED

The town budget for 1976 was unveiled at a public hearing on November 6th. Two members of the public attended.

General fund appropriations amount to \$99,571. as compared with \$93,385. appropriated in 1975 and \$91,571. actually expended in 1974. Highway appropriations, including snow removal and highway improvements, are \$105506. as compared with \$91,910. in 1975 and \$72,213. actually expended in 1975.

Revenues from sources such as sales taxes, licenses and fees, interest, state aid, etc. and the unexpended balance carried over from 1975 are also higher with the net to be paid for out of real estate taxes only slightly higher in 1976. The town tax rate in 1975 was \$4.82 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation while in 1976 it will be in the neighborhood of \$4.94.

Highlights of the budget: An increase of about 5% has been provided for the salaries to be paid to elected and appointed officials of the town. This will bring these salaries to: Supervisor (plus finance director) \$5285.00; Councilman \$1575.00; Town Justice \$2415.00; Town Clerk (plus tax collector and registrar of vital statistics) \$4249.00; Assessor (chairman) \$2255.00; Assessor; \$1575.00; Superintendent of Highways: \$10,100; Building Custodian: \$840.00; Dog Warden \$225; Doctor \$450.00; Town Historian \$168.00. In previous years an allowance of \$1000. has been made for a town attorney. This has been eliminated in the 1976 budget.

Rates of pay for highway employees have been increased by 30¢ an hour bringing regular employees' salaries to \$3.70 an hour.

Three town highway projects are scheduled for 1976 at a total cost of \$120. with 40% being paid for by state under the so-called Donovan Plan.

Bonded indebtedness of the town will be fully paid off in 1977.

Federal revenue sharing funds and appropriations are not covered by this budget. However, revenues of \$20,724. are anticipated in 1976, an increase of almost \$2000. over amount received in 1975.

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COUNTY TAXES TO RISE

Although the county budget for 1976 has not at this writing been formally adopted, the indication is that expenditures will be increased substantially over 1975 and that the real estate tax rates will increase about 63%. The 1975 rate in the Town of Hague was \$1.00 per \$1,000. of assessed valuation while the 1976 rate is estimated to be \$1.91.

The largest single budgetary increases are in the Department of Social Services with such things as medical assistance, aid to dependent children and home relief showing sizable increases.

The county tax appears on the town tax bill which will be payable during January, 1976. With a town tax rate of about \$4.94 and a county tax rate of \$1.91, the combined tax rate will be around \$6.85 per \$1000. of assessed valuation.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The November meeting of the Hague Historical Society was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Cole who presented an interesting program on scrimshaw.

According to Webster, scrimshaw is the art of decorating, such as a whale's tooth or a shell, by making incisions into which coloring matter is usually rubbed. It is also the articles so produced. Dr. Cole defines the art as idle-hour handicrafts as produced aboard whaling ships. In any event, the articles in the Cole collection represent thousands of hours of leisure work by sailors during long periods of idleness.

The whaling industry flourished between 1825-1865 principally from the New England seacoast area. At one time there were about 700 ships engaged in whaling. It took only six or eight men to operate the whaling ship but small boats from which the whales were hunted were manned by an additional 18 to 24 men. This made for rather crowded conditions and with long periods of idleness there was little for the men to do other than sit. It was here that with jackknife in hand the sailors would work for hours and days etching and scratching designs and pictures on whale teeth and whale bone.

Only the sperm whale has teeth and these were the whales which were hunted principally for the 45 to 85 barrels of oil each produced. The teeth, of which there were about 50, resemble ivory tusks about six inches long, were a by-product and these were divided among members of the crew.

Whalebone, called baleen, found in strips along the upper jaw of the whale, was also used for scrimshaw. Commercially pieces of baleen were used for making buggy whips and corset stays. A sailor having handsomely carved one of the latter sent it to his sweetheart with the following ditty -

"In many a gale
Has been the whale
In which this bone did rest.
His time is past
His bone at last
Must now support thy breast."

The Coles brought their scrimshaw collection to the Hague School on the following day where it was exhibited to the 4th and 5th graders and some of the highschool students. The next day the program was presented to students at the Bolton Landing School.

The Many Ways in Which Christmas is celebrated in this area will be the topic of the December 17 meeting with Clifton West in charge.

ALBERT YAW

Albert Yaw, 79 years of age, died on November 5 at the Moses Ludington Hospital. A lifetime resident of Hague, Mr. Yaw had entered the Moses Ludington Nursing Home in Ticonderoga this past summer. He had been ill for several months before his death.

Yaw spent most of his life working on his Uncle Nate's farm in Hague and also worked on the town roads where his Uncle Nate was Road Commissioner for many years.

Mr. Yaw and his wife who pre-deceased him by four or five years had four sons: Edward of Hague; Kenneth of Crown Point; Henry of Liverpool; and Lawrence of Schenectady all of whom survive him. He is also survived by his brother Harvey of Hague, and two sister, Bertha Thatcher of Ticonderoga and Mabel Davis of Hague.

Funeral services were held on November 7th with burial in the Hague Cemetery.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

A regular meeting of the Town Board was held on November 11 with all members present.

It was reported that the ski-tow is more or less at a standstill because the ground is too wet for bulldozing. Most of the trees have been felled and the runway has been extended to about 700 feet. Work will go forward as soon as weather permits.

The proposal to have a streetlight on the pole in front of the Old Town House was discussed. It was concluded that further information was needed and the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

The proposal to build the library historical museum was tabled until the first of next year.

The supervisor reported that the flag flying over the Town Hall was

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stolen. (Incidentally, the Bi-Centennial Flag which has been flying from the pole in the park, has also disappeared). It is apparent that someone with a sick mind is loose in our town.

The town is again considering a junk car ordinance.

The superintendent of highways reported that there is no longer any outlet for broken glass and there seems to be no good reason to continue collecting bottles at the landfill.

The budget which was considered at the public hearing on November 6th was adopted.

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FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Beattie of Silver Bay and Orlando, Florida celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at Silver Bay on September 5. The event was celebrated with a gathering of friends and family on August 22. However, on the anniversary date itself and with the co-operation of the Silver Bay Postoffice, more than 200 cards and greetings from friends around the country, were delivered. The following day the Beattie's left for Florida where they continue to re-read the many messages of good will, which, they say, reached us "on a day when we might have been alone".

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MACERATOR-CHLORINATOR NOT PERMITTED

In a tersely worded statement, William C. Busch, Chairman of the Lake George Park Commission, stated that there appears to be an abundance of self-implied rhetoric and misinformation with the result that we have a misinformed public on the legality of macerator-chlorinators on the waters of Lake George.

Those of us who draw our drinking water from the lake will be happy to learn that "The statements by individuals, local officials, and, in some

instances, Congressional Representatives, professing that this device is legal on our waters are untrue". Mr. Busch added - "Emphatically, this is not so, it is not legal on classified double 'AA' special waters, and anyone having such a device on Lake George will be arrested and their vessel impounded". He also indicated that in talking to officials of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that "their feelings about allowing such a device on classified waters are identical to ours".

Primary jurisdiction rests with the State of New York. The Environmental Protection Agency has federal jurisdiction. "We have been informed," Mr. Busch concludes, "that no such device will be authorized or even considered on Lake George and that notice of this decision by EPA will be announced shortly by DEC".

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LAKE GEORGE PATROL

With eleven patrolmen manning seven boats during the period May 30 to October 13, the Boat Safety Patrol issued 93 summonses for various violations and issued 602 warnings. It investigated 30 accidents, rendered first aid to the injured on 17 occasions and inspected 660 cruisers for possible sanitation violations.

A one-day survey disclosed that there were 7,325 boats and 3 airplanes on the lake - 1667 canoes and rowboats, 1417 sailboats, 2113 outboards and 2127 inboards and inboard-outboards. There was an increase of 265 over 1974 and 658 over 1973.

Section 35a of the NYS Navigation Law allows adjacent upland owners to place one mooring buoy and one swimming float on the lake. Any additional mooring buoys can be placed in the water only after a permit has been filed for and approved. The Park Commission hopes to have all floating objects in the lake legally permitted at the commencement of the 1976 boating season.

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

A regular meeting of the School Board was held on November 10 with all members present.

Mr. Strumm submitted a report on the status of the social sciences mini-courses. He found that there was a substantial increase in student motivation and recommended that they be continued. Mr. White will report on the mini-courses which he teaches at the December meeting.

The town basketball team sought and received permission to use the gymnasium during the forthcoming winter months whenever it would not conflict with regular school activities.

The Board appropriated \$100. to purchase materials for cheerleader uniforms. The girls and their mothers will make them. About 18 girls are in the program.

The Board is in receipt of petitions filed in the Warren County Supreme Court on behalf of the Forest Bay Property Owners Association and Albert W. Lawrence of Island Harbor in which reductions in 1975 real estate assessments are sought.

Mr. Meola reported that the P.T.O. would discuss the problem of liquor and drugs at its meeting on November 24. He also reported that the open-house which was held on November 13 was well attended and a success.

Other News: Mrs. DeFranco gave

birth to a baby girl on November 2. She is the wife of David DeFranco, Hague teacher. Miss Carolyn Crayton, the home economics teacher, is to be married on November 29 to the manager of the Grand Union Store in Beaton Landing.

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THE WEATHER

Snow finally came to the area on November 14 with a dusting of about 1/2" in the normally warmer areas. The weather throughout the month has been delightful. There was 3.15" of rain up to the 24th.

<u>Date</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Precip.</u>
Oct. 25	64	60	.1"
26	61	43	
27	58	42	
28	61	42	
29	58	46	T r
30	46	36	T s
31	45	34	
Nov. 1	54	40	T r
2	60	40	T r
3	65	56	.55"
4	67	52	
5	67	46	
6	67	39	
7	69	50	
8-10	65	41	.7" r
11	61	40	
12-14	52	32	.9" r
15-20	56	36	
21	51	42	1." r
22	45	33	
23	42	34	
24	44	30	

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