

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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HAGUE, N.Y.

FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING

The Town has received \$9,168 from the Office of Revenue Sharing for the period January 1 - June 30, 1973. Regulations under the revenue sharing statutes requires that citizens be informed about the money which the town is receiving and its plans for the use of the money. When formulated, the plans are to be published in a locally circulated newspaper and will be available to the public during business hours.

A plan was submitted by the supervisor at the regular meeting on May 8 and at a special meeting on May 22, the plan was approved. The plan was submitted as a "four year plan" (1973 through 1976) with the understanding that, although subject to review at the commencement of each 6-month period, the same plan would be in effect in each period.

For example: the plan provides for the expenditure of \$2000. for repairs and improvements to the Town Hall, with the understanding that a total of \$16,000. will be spent for this purpose over the four-year period; \$400. is appropriated for the Fire Department and \$250. for the Ambulance Corps (\$3200. and \$1600. respectively for the four-years); and \$400. for a communications system (two-way radio for town trucks \$3200. for four years).

There are 33 specific allocations of money in the plan. All of the items are the same as those appearing in the Board's regular budget which was approved last fall. What the plan basically calls for, therefore, is simply a supplemental budget of \$9,168. each six months, 1973 through '76.

The 1972 revenue sharing funds were previously committed for a new truck and a road sweeper. In addition the Board has authorized the purchase of a new typewriter and a mimeograph machine at a cost of \$604.

and a lawnmower at a cost of \$79. Thus total amount expended is about \$12,000. leaving an unexpended balance of about \$6000.

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JAMES BLY ELECTED TO SCHOOL BOARD

James Bly, who was appointed in February to fill the unexpired term of Ralph McKee as member of the school board, was elected to a full five-year term on May 2nd. As the only announced candidate, he received 130 votes. There were 10 write-in votes for Emil Seerup and 7 blanks.

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HAGUE SENIORS VISIT WASHINGTON

With Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Streeter as chaperones, 11 members of the senior class visited Washington, D.C. on April 20-21. The trip was made by school bus to Albany and by Allegheny Airlines from Albany to Washington.

The group stayed at the Crystal City Motel in Alexandria, Virginia where the manager reported on the day of their departure that their behavior was exemplary. Each morning a bus from the Van Zile Tours met the group and took them to the various sights in Washington and surrounding areas and then brought them back to their motel at day's end. Highlights of the trip were the visits to the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, Mount Vernon and many of the governmental buildings. Time did not permit a visit to the White House. On one evening the group attended the Ringling Brothers Circus at the Washington Coliseum and on another they visited the famous Wax Museum.

Cost of the trip ran to about \$145. per student. About \$70. was paid out of moneys earned by the class through the previous year on various class projects, \$50. per student was paid by the school, and the in-

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dividual student made up the balance. The students who made the trip were: Don McPherson, Alta and Annie Waters, Mary Jo Belden, Martha DeLarm, Donna Cameron, Marty Spelman, Ernie Frasier, Doug Laundree, Judy Hoffay and Paul Davis.

This was the fourth trip for which the Streeters were Chaperones. To quote them - "We enjoyed every minute of it." The students showed their appreciation by dedicating the Class of '73 Yearbook to Streeter.

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PLANNING BOARD MEETS

The Hague Planning Board met on May 3 with members Hoyt and Streeter absent. Supervisor Smith and Councilman Cobb were also present.

There was general discussion of policies, programs, etc. which the Board might develop. There was some feeling that some of the lands in the town which the Adirondack Park Agency had designated as Resource Management areas should be opened to development for retirement colonies or second-home developments and representations to that effect should be made to the Adirondack Park Agency. It was also suggested that the Graphite area be designated industrial. These items were taken under advisement.

The Board met again on May 17. It was announced that Mr. Streeter had expressed an intention to resign from the Board and Dr. Harold Gelhaar of Sabbath Day Point was present as a new member subject to confirmation by the Town Board. In addition to the other members of the Board, Supervisor Smith and Mr. Denno were present.

It developed that tax maps of the town were available and that those were of sufficient size and detail for the Board's use and Supervisor Smith offered to obtain a set of them for the Board.

Since the previous meeting of the Board,

the state legislature had adopted the Adirondack Private Land Use and development Plan. No one had seen the law as finally enacted and without a copy it was impracticable for the Board to take any affirmative action. It was then recommended that an effort be made to get a member of the Agency's staff to attend an early meeting of the Board to explain the law and advise what steps should be taken by the town if it wished to have changes made in the Land use designations. The supervisor said he would undertake to do this.

There was more discussion concerning plans for the future of Hague. Several members expressed the opinion that they like things the way they are and that the town should not seek nor make provision for establishing additional industrial or commercial land use areas. No one foresees any appreciable growth in the number of year round residents and that growth, if any, will come only from additional tourists and summertime residents.

The Board will meet again on June 14.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETS

The Hague Historical Society met on May 16th with excellent attendance. The program for the evening was on Graphite with Mr. West and the Mrs. Brock, Andrus and James Fitzgerald in charge.

The word graphite comes from the Greek word 'to write'. Thus graphology is the study of handwriting. As everyone knows, graphite is used in lead pencils and as a lubricant.

According to the World Book Encyclopedia, graphite is the softest material known. One of the wonders of nature is that this greasy black material is the same chemical substance as the hardest known substance, the diamond. When diamonds are heated to 3452 degrees F. in the absence of air, they turn to graphite. At the price of diamonds in the jewelry store compared to the price of graphite, we're not apt to see this transmutation very often.

It is incorrectly stated in the World Book that one of the first graphite mines in the United States was at Ticonderoga, N.Y. Actually the first mine was in ...

Lake Shore Mine, evidences of which can still be seen behind the present Hague Town house. Some authorities say it was activated in 1850. However the larger and more productive mines were at what is now known as Graphite along Route 8 about two miles west of Route 9N. Here graphite was discovered by Samuel Ackerman, the great-great-grandfather of Mrs. James Fitzgerald, while skidding logs. The area was leased to American Graphite and in 1887 mining operations got underway. Ore was taken from a shallow pit mine and from deep underground. The ore came to the surface in a tramway car, thence down an incline to the crusher and mill to the processing plant. One carload of ore produced a 110 pound bag of processed graphite. The daily output of the mines was about 65 bags. These were taken to Hague by horse and wagon and then to Ticonderoga by barge. Here the Graphite was refined and used in the manufacture of pencils, the famous Ticonderoga pencils which every school-boy remembers.

About 250 men were employed at the mines and the area developed all of the attributes of a small town - a movie, U.S. Post Office, three saloons, and a two-room school (also used as a church). The population of Hague which was 682 in 1890 swelled to 1042 in 1900 and this was maintained until 1920. The mines closed on April 1, 1921 and the population quickly returned to approximately 700 which continues to this day. A number of reasons were given for the closing of the mines - labor troubles, the transportation of graphite from other countries cheaper than it could be produced here and the production of artificial graphite from coal or coke at Niagara Falls, N.Y. where powerful electric currents reproduce processes in a few minutes which takes millions of years in nature.

The June meeting will be held on June 20th at 7:45 P. M. at the Hague Baptist Church Annex. A Williamsburgh film - The Hammerman, will be shown. Officers for the forthcoming year will be elected. Annual dues of \$1.00 are payable. Decision will be made at this meeting as to the site of the September trip. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings of the Society.

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SCHOOL BUDGET APPROVED

About fifty persons attended the annual meeting of the School District on May 1 at

which time the 1973-74 budget was presented. Mr. Tom Smith was appointed annual meeting chairman. He presented Mr. Robert Denno President of the School Board, who reviewed the budget, item by item.

From time to time the Board has been requested to produce a more meaningful budget with substantially more detail. Another suggestion requested the Board to make comparisons in the budget with actual expenses and revenues rather than with budgeted expenses and revenues. Both suggestions were ignored by the Board.

The matter of the \$45,000. carry-over from this year's operations produced a number of questions. Answers were vague and indefinite, partly because no one really seemed to know with certainty and partly because of the poor acoustics in the meeting-room.

It has been learned that the Board actually works with a budget with more detail than that presented in the budget distributed to the public. The 'Board's budget' contains 59 separate items while the budget distributed to the public consolidates the 59 items into 42. Some of these consolidations are inconsequential but others are important. For example: the 'public budget' lists health services as \$600. and it would appear that this is the total cost of health services. Actually, health services will cost about \$9800., \$9200. of which is included in Board of Co-operative Educational Services expenses. Similarly there is no item in the 'public budget' to cover psychological services and yet about \$1500. will be expended for this type service in 1973-74. These are examples of areas where the budget does not tell the whole story. Since the Board has the breakdown in its budget, there is no reason why it cannot be shown in the budget distributed to the public. This proposal should have the Board's consideration.

The Board also presented its proposal to provide a new heating plant at a cost not to exceed \$16,000. Rather than finance the expenditure over a period of time consistent with the life of the heating plant, the Board chose to assign the entire cost to the 1973-74 school year.

Voting on the budget and the heating plant resolution took place on May 2. Both were approved by a vote of 105 to 44. Thus there will be an increase of about \$32,000.

in the amount to be raised by taxes or about \$4. per \$1000. of assessed valuation. The bills will be out in September.

the subject of rebate for the past few years with the permanent residents wanting to keep government regulation and interference at a minimum and the rest of the state wanting to protect the park from spoliation and excessive development.

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the School Board was held on May 14 with all members present.

DeLarm Dairy submitted the only bid for supplying milk with a price of 9¢ a half-pint, up one-half cent from the current year. The bid was accepted. Two bids were received for supplying bread. No action was taken pending study of other possible sources.

An owner-architect agreement drawn up by Barker and Henry for preparation of specifications and other details relating to new heating plant was presented. Subject to approval by the Board's attorney, the president was authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the Board.

Since the Reynolds, LaPann and Laundree homes are within 5 miles of St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga, their requests for transportation were approved. The Black and Getta homes are more than ten miles distant and their requests were denied.

The Board approved bus transportation for the seventh grade students to visit the Sholburne, Vermont museum on either June 2 or June 9.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on June 11.

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THE ADIRONDACK PARK

Within the borders of the Adirondack Park there are 2,300 lakes, 6,000 miles of rivers, 30,000 miles of brooks and streams, fifty species of mammals, 220 species of birds, 66 species of fish, 46 mountains over 4000 feet, 2000 miles of foot-trails - and 55 varieties of mosquitoes. There are 125,000 permanent and 90,000 seasonal residents.

The park consists of 2.3 million acres of public lands and 3.7 million acres of private lands. The public lands are guaranteed 'forever wild' by the state constitution. The disposition of private lands has been

Although we have not seen the law as finally enacted by the legislature, we understand from newspaper accounts that the major features of the Park Agency's original proposals (see February issue of the Chronicle) were retained. However there were some increases in the number of buildings permitted in the various land use areas, namely, Resource Management Areas, one building for each 42 acres instead of 64 acres; Rural Use Areas, one building for each 8.5 acres instead of 10 acres; Low intensity use areas, one building for each 3.5 acres instead of 4 acres. There were some slight modifications in the shoreline restrictions but basically they remain as earlier reported.

Another Adirondack resident would be added to the nine-member agency and the State Commerce Commissioner would also become a member. A review board chosen by the county legislators in the Adirondacks, would be set up to monitor the activities of the Agency, but without veto power.

One significant benefit to local communities was the agreement by the state to drop its long standing plan to cut state payments that are made in lieu of taxes on public lands.

Specific land use regulations for the Town of Hague will be developed by the Planning Board. They are required to be at least as restrictive as the regulations of the Park Agency.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Town Board held its regular meeting on May 8th with all members present except Frank Fitzgerald.

On recommendation of the Town Park Commission, the Board authorized the following appointment of Frank Samascott as park caretaker to work 15 hours weekly to July 1 and 20 hours weekly July 1 to Labor Day at same wages as is paid highway workers. Appointment of Clifton West as flower bed atten-

dant. Procurement of necessary signs for the park area. Prohibiting the bringing of dogs into the park. Authorizing school and gym classes to use the park. Prohibiting the parking of boat trailers in the park parking area. Items under consideration by the Park Commission for possible adoption next year: purchase and installation of Porta toilets; employment of a full-time attendant for the park; assessment of fees for use of park by non-residents; development of docking area; and installation of pumping facilities for emptying boat holding tanks.

The supervisor announced that Warren County had now completed contract arrangements with a car crushing company and an effort would be made to get permission from owners of junk cars to have them hauled to the site of the old dump where the crusher company would be asked to set up its equipment. A number of junk cars have already been brought to the site and anyone wanting to get rid of a junk car is requested to get in touch with Dave Hoffay.

The Board accepted the resignation of Jim Bly as custodian and appointed Mrs. Shirley Bly in his place.

Mrs. Florence Smith was re-appointed to the Board of Assessment Review. Her term will run to October 1, 1977.

There was some discussion of the Town Youth Program, but no action taken.

Federal revenue sharing plans were discussed and put over for a special meeting to be held on May 22.

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AS INFORMATION

The Town of Hague consists of 64.9 sq. miles of land and 15.2 sq. m. of water. This is the equivalent of 41,536 acres of land and 9,728 acres of water. Of this the state owns 21,457 acres. Other large land owners are International Paper, 4,085 acres; Dixon Crucible, 1926 acres; and Silver Bay Association 1384 acres.

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CHRONICLE NOW REACHES TAI PEI, FORMOSA

A note from Mrs. Edwin Hincke with a generous contribution to the Chronicle, tells

us that her copy of the Chronicle is sent to daughter Holly in San Francisco and then on to daughter Maggie in Tai Pei, Formosa. The Hinckes moved last year from Monclair, New Jersey to Santa Fe, New Mexico but will continue to spend part of the year in their Silver Bay home. Daughter Holly is being married on June 24 to Robert Lloyd Sunhorst of Watsonville, California.

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POLLUTION CHECK FOR LAKE GEORGE

In cooperation with the Lake George Park Commission, sixteen state technicians have been assigned to work all summer to ferret out defective sewage systems that have been contributing to lake pollution. The inspection team will check as many residential, commercial and public sewage disposal systems as possible.

The team is made up of fourteen men and two women, most of whom are recent college graduates and all of whom have some environmental studies in their background. Cyrus Woodbury of the Commission's staff will serve as an advisor to the inspection team.

Members of the inspection crew will be looking for obvious signs of defective sewage disposal systems such as ground effluent but they will also be watching for such signs as excess ground water that might point to poor drainage. Part of the checks will employ the use of dyes to determine if there is contamination to the lake, however, this will be on a limited basis only. Householdors will be interviewed concerning the age of disposal systems, types of tile fields, incidences of clogging or sewage breaking ground and frequency of cleaning. The latter is expected to be widespread.

Owners of sewage disposal systems found to be contributing to lake pollution will be given a specified deadline for correction.

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FLYING FIRE OBSERVERS

Many fire towers are not being manned this year due to cutbacks in the state budget. In their place, pilots have been engaged by the Department of Environmental Conservation to fly two routes, the one over this region operating from Warren County Airport north to Black Mountain, thence west

to Gore Mountain, thence south over the Northville area and return to the airport.

The number of flights each day will be regulated by the fire load rating as determined by the dryness of the woodlands and readings from fire danger stations. A light fire load will call for one flight a day while a very high reading will initiate continuous flights from 10 A. M. until dark. Reports of fires will be relayed by the pilots to observers manning strategic towers in the southern Adirondacks.

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AROUND THE TOWN

A baby boy was born to the Rev. and Mrs. Loring Carpenter at the Glens Falls Hospital on May 7. Baby has been named John Loring, Jr. Mother and child are doing well.

The Datsun car which plunged through the ice this past winter has been raised by the state police. If you want to see how an automobile looks after being in the water 4 months, the car can be seen alongside the Lakeshore Garage.

Home Bureau cookbooks will be available about the middle of June. You can reserve your copy by sending \$1.75 to Mrs. Emil Seerup, Silver Bay or Mrs. Martha White, Hague. The book will contain 100 favorite recipes of the women of Hague.

Randy Perkins was presented with the first annual Scout of the Year Award. He is 12 years old, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Perkins. He has been a member of the troop

since February, 1972 and is currently the leader of the Eagle Patrol. The troop has welcomed two new members, Steve Jordan and Steve Ross. Both boys are former cub scouts.

Congratulations to Donna Cameron and Ernest Frasier, Valedictorian and Salutatorian respectively of the Class of 1973.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

June 4 is Primary Day. There are contests for local offices on the Republican ticket only.

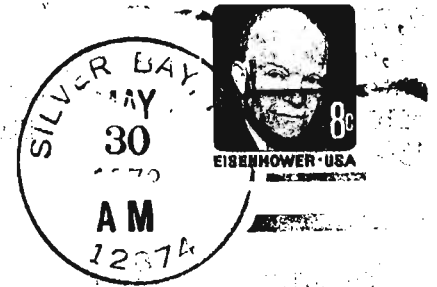
The Board of Assessment Review will hear grievances on Tuesday June 19 from 4:00 to 8:00 P.M. at the Town Hall. Forms for filing grievances may be obtained from any of the local assessors and will be available at the Town Hall on Grievance Day.

The Hague Historical Society will meet on June 20 at 7:45 P.M. at the Hague Baptist Church Annex. The public is invited.

Commencement exercises for students graduating from the eighthgrade will be held on June 21 at 7:30 P.M. at the school. High-school Commencement will be held on June 22, at 7:30 P.M. The public is cordially invited.

The Hague Arts Fair will be held on Saturday, August 4 from noon to 6:00 P.M. If this affair is to be a success there is need for greater participation by individuals and organizations who have works of art and/or handicrafts for display or sale. Get in touch with either Mrs. Brock or Mrs. Crabbs.

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