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LAKE GEORGE TOUR BOAT TRAGEDY

We are sure all our readers have heard about the tragic loss of 20 people on Lake George on October 2, 2005. The Ethan Allen, a Shoreline Cruises tour boat sank off Cramer's Point with 48 senior citizens aboard. This news, which was the feature story in all major media, unfolded on one of the loveliest days we had this fall.

The Hague Fire and Ambulance Volunteers received a mutual aid call at 3 pm and the ambulance was in queue at the staging area on Trinity Rock Road by 3:35 pm. Among those who responded were Lu Megow, Gerry Boyd, Rene Swinton, Joanne Trudeau, Ray Mury, Tom Haskell and Joel Wright.

Every Warren County town was called on for assistance. Ticonderoga was on standby for any Hague emergency.

For more information on this news see the archived stories at <www.poststar.com>.

IN MEMORIAM TO THOSE WHO
LOST THEIR LIVES ON
LAKE GEORGE ON OCTOBER 2, 2005



LGA EXPRESSES SADNESS

The Lake George Association has expressed being deeply saddened by the sinking of the tour boat, the Ethan Allen. They have released a statement saying, "Our hearts, our thoughts and our prayers go out to the passengers and their loved ones as they cope with the shock of this terrible tragedy."

According to their statement, the "LGA has enjoyed a wonderful working relationship with Shoreline Cruises for well over a decade. The LGA's Floating Classroom program has a lease agreement with Shoreline Cruises to use their boats and pilots. The Ethan Allen is the vessel most frequently used to conduct the Floating Classroom."

"The remaining sessions for this season have been cancelled out of respect for those involved in the accident and in light of the ongoing investigation. In the interim, schools have been offered a land-based program as an alternative."

The LGA continued, "The longtime support of the Quirk Family is treasured by the Lake George Association. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to them, to Captain Richard Paris and to all of the employees of Shoreline Cruises. The LGA has had, and continues to have, the utmost confidence in the Shoreline fleet and its able pilots. They have pledged continued support to the Quirks, and look forward to resuming the Floating Classroom next spring."

"A debt of gratitude and special recognition should go to those who helped with the rescue operation and treatment of those who were injured. Those people include the Warren County Sheriffs Department, the LGPC Marine Patrol, and emergency crews from throughout the region. And most impressive was the fast action by private citizens who responded quickly, admirably and unselfishly. Their efforts are an inspiration in this very sad time."

HAGUE TOWN ELECTIONS

PLEASE VOTE on Tuesday, November 8
from 6am to 9pm!!!

Candidates statements on pages 3 & 7.

HAGUE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB NEWS

Well folks, for those of you who did not attend the Seniors' September meeting on the 27th, you missed a fun afternoon. The GRANT VAN PATTEN, PART 2 program was as good as expected, if not better! We all enjoyed the humorous tales of TV's yesteryears delivered as only this entertaining gentleman can do. Many thanks Grant for sharing your slides and your laughter with us.

The next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 25 at the Community Center at **NOON** - NOTE THAT TIME CHANGE!! We are planning a Catered Luncheon Halloween Party. Prizes will be awarded to the lucky members who dress in costume. Actually, coming in disguise is not a 'must' ,,,BUT...to be a Winner, you must play the part! This should be a very enjoyable afternoon and informative as well, since we hope to have Hague's campaigning political candidates speak.

The Club will be holding a Christmas Workshop at the Community Center on Monday, November 14 at 10AM to make holiday ornaments and decorations. These will be sold at the Senior 'Christmas Shop' during the Holiday in Hague weekend - Saturday, Dec. 3. All proceeds from this effort will go to the Memorial Day Parade Fund. Anyone who would like to join us (non-members included), please feel free to come. You do not have to be a creative genius to help out - just two willing hands are all that are required. We may work through noon, so bring your lunch

November's regular meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 1:30PM at the Community Center. Entertainment for this gathering will be a SURPRISE!! You will have to come to see 'Who or What'??

HAPPY HALLOWEEN! . . . mp



HAUNTED HALL TO BE STAGED

The Ticonderoga Festival Guild will stage "Haunted Hall", a Halloween party for children on October 30th from 4 to 6pm.

There will be a costume contest and parade. For more information call the Festival Guild office at 585-6716.

SATURDAY BUS TO TICONDEROGA

The Town Board has approved the sponsoring of a bus to Ticonderoga through the cooperation of the Ti School District. The bus will run on the first and third Saturdays of each month starting November 5. The bus is available for seniors and other town residents who don't, or cannot, drive.

To ride the bus on a specific Saturday, please call Bertha at the Community Center by the previous Thursday afternoon (543-6161). The bus will pick up riders at their homes starting at 8 AM and will return at approximately 2 PM or earlier. The bus will only operate if there are six or more passengers.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED PROGRAM

Church Women United, will meet at 10:00 A.M. Saturday, Nov. 5, 2005 in the Lachute Hall, Ticonderoga Community Building.

The featured speaker, Maury Thompson of the Post Star, will focus on the media and how it influences our call to be truth-seekers in our communities and in the world.

Thompson, an award-winning journalist, writes for the Post Star including three years as the Ticonderoga and Essex County correspondent. He writes a weekly human interest column, "Behind the Scenes." He may be best known locally from the years he worked in Ticonderoga diners before entering journalism.

World Community Day, an annual celebration event observed as a common worship experience to lift up peace and cooperation among nations, will focus this year on the media.

Prior to Thompson's presentation there will be time for coffee and a brief business meeting.

For further information on this World Community Day program phone Nan at 585-4004 or Mary Lou at 585-3447.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

The Episcopal Church of the Cross, Ticonderoga will hold a Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2005. The Bazaar will feature a cookie walk, collectibles, crafts, jewelry and toys. Raffle tickets will be sold on a turkey basket with all the trimmings and also on a lottery tree. Lunch will be available featuring homemade soup, chili, Michigan hotdogs, potato salad and apple crisp. The Bazaar will be held in the Parish Hall from 9AM to 2PM.

HOLIDAY IN HAGUE

The Chamber of Commerce has announced that planning has begun for the Fourth Annual Holiday in Hague to be held on December 3, 2005.

Downtown shops will be open, the Seniors will have a booth at the Visitors Center, the Town Christmas Party and Wreath Contest will be held, and Santa will be visiting in Hague for a holiday breakfast and wagon rides.

Further details will be available in the next issue of *The Hague Chronicle*.

HAGUE TOWN ELECTIONS

EDNA FRASIER, 4-YEAR TERM

There will be four names on the ballot for Town Council. Art Steitz is the only one running for the 2 year term, which comes up as an unexpired term of Bill Bothe, who resigned. Edna Frasier, Tom LaPointe, both Republicans and Rudy Meola, Democrat are running for two seats on the board for four year terms.

I am a life long resident of Hague, born and raised here. My husband and I have raised four children and sent them all off to college. I am a retired school teacher and have 35 years of business experience working at our family business. I believe I can bring a new perspective to the board.

Dan Belden is running unopposed for a two year term as supervisor and Heather Knott is running unopposed for a four year term as judge.

In the past I served on the Hague School Board as well as the Zoning Board of Appeals. I am committed to devoting as much time as necessary to serve on the Town Board. I have a vested interest in the community, and wish to be more involved in the future of our town.

RUDY MEOLA, 4-YEAR TERM

As your representative on the Hague Town Board for the past four years, I have worked hard and diligently to protect your interests. I have been proactive and I have involved myself in all aspects of town government. My philosophy as a public official is based on the principles of accountability, responsiveness and oversight of town functions. As an experienced town board member and a former public sector administrator, I have the necessary training, knowledge and experience to continue to be an effective representative of all of our residents. I will continue to provide the needed balanced approach in addressing the issues facing our town. I understand the challenges ahead and I am prepared to resolve them.

Teamwork needs to be the focus and goal of our town board. More could be accomplished if we all work together for the benefit of all our residents. Many issues face our town - the extension of the sewer, parking, the Historical Museum and rapid growth and development.

Some of the projects I have worked on and which need my continued involvement include the implementation of the Town Comprehensive Plan, the expansion of the Clifton F. West Historical Museum/Cultural Center, the continued development of closer cooperation with the Silver Bay Association and the expansion of the sewer system to include other sections of our town, insuring that surplus tax revenues are returned to the taxpayers. I will continue to be a proponent for the school district to hold down expenses and will continue to support land development which complements our rural setting and provides for a balance between development and open space.

In the near future we will be celebrating our bicentennial. As we enter our third century, many new and diverse challenges will face the people of the town. Our leadership needs to be sensitive to all our residents in dealing with these issues.

I would appreciate your support on Election Day.

DANIEL D. BELDEN, SUPERVISOR

I am a life long resident of the Town of Hague. I am the incumbent Supervisor and am running for Town Supervisor for the next two years. I would like to have your support in this endeavor.

I have obtained many dollars worth of grants for the Town, grants for HUD (housing rehabilitation), Reclamation (Landfill Closure), Storm Water Management and Sewer, to name a few.

Working with the State of New York we have installed sidewalks on Route 8 and are now working with the Enhancement Committee and the property owners on Route 8 to install proper lighting. Applications have been sent to the State for funding for the Downtown Streetscape Plan. The Town Board and myself have accomplished "No Town Tax" in 2005. I will continue to work on keeping the taxes low.

TOM LAPOINTE, 4-YEAR TERM

Meeting the needs of our community and ensuring a quality of life that I am proud to be a part of...is my main objective as a town board member. I am a life-long resident of the Adirondacks and have a love for this area, which is necessary to do the job.

I would like to commend the Committees, Service Groups and Citizens who participated in the downtown improvements (flowers, flags, etc.). It certainly beautifies the Town. The Sewer District #1 is completed and up and running. We are working on line extensions at this time to form Sewer District #2.

It has been my pleasure to serve the people of Hague for the past 34 years. I want to thank you for your support and look forward to serving you for the next two years.

My background in business allows me to understand the concerns of our seasonal residents, as well as full time residents. My General Contracting business is in its eleventh year of operations with six employees. Budgeting projects, personnel management and assessing project costs are all part of my life.

ARTHUR STEITZ, 2-YEAR TERM

I have been a resident of the Town of Hague for 30 years. My wife Joan and I owned and operated The Hague Market for 18 years and I am also an Electrical Inspector, serving five counties.

I am dedicated to seeing our town board operate as a team, dealing with issues in a professional and business like manner. I would appreciate your support in our upcoming election, and in being your next town board member!

I am genuinely concerned for the welfare of our town. I enjoyed the responsibility of managing town issues when I served on the Board.

If elected I will continue to do my best as your Town Councilman.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 9/22/05

Robert Goetsch, Chairman, Tina King, George Ianson, Bruce Clarke, Mary Lou Doulin and Bill Pittman were present. Absent was Martin Fitzgerald.

A public hearing was held on the Rose property (43.13-1-56, TR-1). Applicant seeks retroactive approval to retain a deck constructed without a Zoning Compliance Certificate. Deck and stairway are located closer than 25 feet to the front property line.

In the regular meeting under Old Business, the Hague Volunteer Fire Department matter was tabled until the Oct. 20 meeting, at the request of John Breitenbach, lawyer for HVFD.

The Rose project on Robin Hood Rd. was approved with 4 yes, one no and one abstention. There were no letters or objections from the neighbors; it was consistent with the neighborhood and the applicant thought he had all the approvals necessary and he conveyed that to the builder. (The house was started many years ago by another builder and Mr. Rose renewed his permit yearly, but it didn't include the deck.)

In an informal discussion, it was suggested that there is a great need to get the word out to the people that they need to find out what is needed before any construction is begun. One can go to the town's web site <townofhague.org>. Click on Departments and then Zoning Enforcement Officer for application forms and the Town Code. Or click on Planning & Zoning and select Zoning Board Homepage or Planning Board Homepage.

For further information see Catherine Clark, ZEO at the Town Hall or call 543-6161.

PLANNING BOARD - 10/6/05

David Swanson, Chairman and members Pam Peterson, Katy Wells, John Brown, Tim Costello and Rolly Allen were present. Peter Foster was absent.

SUBDIVISIONS:

RAGOT (42.20-1-6), Lakeshore Drive, TR-2

The Board had previously disapproved this request due to lack of information. Further information had been sent in but the Board still has concerns about the low lying area and the piles of dirt left there as well as the proximity to Jenkins Brook. An engineered stormwater plan may be needed.

BENEDUCE (42-1-23.1), Dodd Hill Rd., TR-1

The engineers on this project have worked on a new stormwater plan which Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky has reviewed. There are still concerns about the LGPC maintenance agreement and the depth of the test pits. A National Heritage Archeological study may still need to be filed. The Board approved the plan having previously set conditions of:

- 1) 100 ft on either side of the brook (stream) be set aside for open space.
- 2) No development on lots 1 & 2 beyond the stone wall.
- 3) Restrictions on cutting on each lot.

KOSTIDES (26.17-2-2), 8 Lakeshore Terrace, TR-1

Emily Cobb appeared for the applicant Mary Kostides who would like preliminary approval for a subdivision of a 4.62 acres parcel into 3 lots. There was some concern about access to the third lot and suggestions for alterations to the plan were given.

OLD BUSINESS:

COCKRELL (26-10-1-33), Friends Point, TR-1R

The applicant wishes to modify a utility room into a bathroom and turn the carport into a garage/ recreation room. The Board approved the request with the conditions that there be a new septic tank and a new distribution box that are professionally designed and installed.

GALL (11.-1-22), West Hague Road, OC-1

The applicant wishes to have after-the-fact approval on creating a storage shed. Town Attorney Viscardi had given the opinion that the matter has already been appropriately approved and no further action is necessary.

Hague Volunteer Fire Department (25.5-1-16), West Hague Road, OC-1

The Planning Board deferred action on a recommendation to the ZBA upon receipt of a letter from the lawyer for the HVFD.

NEW BUSINESS:

BELDEN (24.-1-48), 9064 Graphite Mountain Road

The applicant wishes to erect a 6 foot stockade type fence on commercial property that has been listed as residential.

BEATY (26.18-1-1.2), 9250 Lakeshore Drive, TR-1

The applicant wants to replace a current summer home with a year-round home and presented preliminary plans to the Board which scheduled a site review.

WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ZEO

The Zoning Office approved the following applications from April through September, 2005:

- For an addition or modification to an existing home - Phelps, Dock Rd; Hines, Friends Pt; Dubitsky, Dodd Hill Rd; Dwenger, Bobkat Lane; Rose, Robinhood Ln; Belden, 2 Old Mill Rd; Strutz, Lakeshore Dr; Cockrell, Friends Pt; Ergood, Lakeshore Dr; Stout, Pine Orchard Rd; Breslin, Pine Orchard Rd; Pariseau, Lakeshore Dr;
- For an accessory structure - Renois, Forest Bay Rd; Stromeyer, Lakeshore Dr; Lobdell, New Hague Rd; Tecler, Lakeshore Dr; HVFD, West Hague Rd; Jankowski, Lake Forest Ln; Best, Lakeshore Dr;
- For a fence - Allen, Graphite Mt Rd;
- For a septic system/work - Snug Harbor, Lakeshore Dr; Aumiller, Forest Bay; Kruger, New Hague Rd; McGregor, Spring Lane; Jeckering, Bass Bay Rd;
- For Logging - Ronning, 5 lots on Forest Lane
- For a sign - Allen, Graphite Mt Rd;
- For a new house - Lipori, Forest Bay Rd; Maggiolo, Skipper Way; Koshel, Bobkat Lane; Jenkins, Graphite Mt Rd; Rajoppi, Graphite Mt Rd;
- For a boathouse - Cuchural, Sabbath Day Pt Rd; IHH Group, Island Harbor Dr;

Nine sewer hookup permits were also issued.

Hard work never killed anybody, but why take a chance?

TOWN BOARD MEETING - 10/11/05

Supervisor Dan Belden, and Councilmen Bob Patchett, Dick Gladu, Lu Megow, and Rudy Meola were all present at the September meeting.

A moment of silence was held for Mike Coffin, Sally Drake (Lynn Patchett's sister), Ruth Olsen, Lynn Stanford and all survivors, victims and their families of the tragic boat accident on Lake George.

Dave Decker, Director of the Lake George Watershed Conference, distributed a report and summarized the activities of the Conference. The Conference is an interagency forum for addressing complex issues facing the Lake George Watershed. Among its members are all the Towns and counties abutting the Lake as well as the LGA, LGPC, LGLC, Fund for LG, Darrin Institute, APA and other state agencies.

Mr. Decker mentioned the highlights of the accomplishments including reduction of non-point source pollution, water quality and wastewater management initiatives, nuisance species control as well as other protection and education initiatives. He thanked the Town of Hague for its support of the LG Watershed Conference.

He noted that the Conference meets the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on November 9th at 10 am at the Queensbury Town Center on Bay Rd.

In response to a question from Bruce Clark about maintaining the storm water systems that are already in place, Mr. Decker said that they will be funding a dedicated crew to supplement the highway departments in order to clean out the catch basins.

Nelson Waters asked the Board about a) the status of the Town's maintainance of the State roads, b) attorneys opinion on a possible conflict of interest, c) the policy on vehicle replacement for the highway department and d) the cost effectiveness of the weekly use of a bus to transport 1 or 2 people to Ticonderoga for shopping.

In direct answers or in discussion later in the meeting, it was noted a) the Town has renewed its snow and ice contract with the State and will be receiving funds from the state for plowing the state roads, b) in the situation where the husband of the ZEO was on the ZBA, Mr. Clark has already resigned but the attorney said that he did not have to resign although he might have had to abstain in some rulings, c) the policy to replace the trucks every 20 years was affirmed, and d) the bus to Ticonderoga runs twice per month (the 1st & 3rd Saturdays) and only if there is a minimum of 6 passengers.

Computers make it easier to do a lot of things, but most of the things they make it easier to do don't need to be done. Andy Rooney

Committee Reports:

Assessor/Justice - Councilman Gladu reported on activities related to tax and assessment issues (see article on page 6). The Board approved his request to put a copy of his tax petition on the town website as well as his proposal to write to the Ticonderoga Board of Education to pursue the possibility of spreading the school tax payments out over 3 installments.

Fire - Thanks were extended to the HVFD, Ambulance Corp and Dive Team for their participation in the mutual aid call for the tour boat tragedy.

Highway - Highway Superintendent Don Smith said they are getting ready for winter by preparing the trucks and clearing out drains.

Museum & Historian - Councilman Meola reported that the museum trustees are forming the essential committees and are going to try to get more people involved.

Planning/Zoning/Stormwater - Councilman Gladu gave a report for ZEO Clark who was attending a work-related conference in Saratoga.

Under unfinished business, the Board:

1. Approved the Personnel Committee recommendation to appoint Lindsay Frasier Mydlarz to fill the vacancy on the ZBA for a term to expire on December 2008.

Under new business, the Board:

1. Considered a proposal for renewal and replacememnt of the floor coverings in the office. The Building Committee should work on the cost and check with the staff for the best time for the installation.

2. Considered a proposal for a salt shed building at the Highway Department. The project needs to be redefined and new bids requested.

3. Approved Assessor Martucci's attendance at a conference in Lake Placid on 10/21/05.

4. Had a nearly 25 minute rambling discussion about a new truck for the Highway Department. The policy is to replace the large trucks every 20 years and the small ones every 10 years. It is time to replace one of the large trucks and the Highway Superintendent said, "If I don't get it now we won't be able to get it for a long time." There are apparently only certain times when trucks are available to buy on state bids and this truck could be ready in a month for about \$90,000.

The Board members agreed that a truck was needed but felt there should have been some prior planning and greater lead time for the proposal to be presented to them. The money had been allocated in the budget and Highway Superintendent Smith assured the Board that he would look at the truck prior to the purchase to make sure it was what they need. Voting for the proposal were Megow, Meola and Belden and against because of the process were Patchett and Gladu.

5. Approved the Town's fair share of \$7000 for the support of the Lake George Watershed Conference.

GLADU DISCUSSES TAX ISSUES

At the October meeting, Councilman Dick Gladu updated the other Town Board members on several activities underway addressing the assessment and tax issues. He is a member of a pro-active tax group in the Plattsburg area and at the last meeting Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, Assemblyman Chris Ortloff, and a representative from Senator Betty Little's office attended along with about 150 concerned taxpayers.

The need for property tax reform as well as inequities in the assessment process was recognized as a major problem that needs immediate attention. Assemblyman Ortloff presented a proposed bill "Save our home act" that caps residential property assessments for primary residents at 3% or inflation rate, whichever is lower, not to exceed 10% over a 5 year period. This proposal is similar to Proposition 13 in California.

Subsequent to the meeting, Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward conveyed to the Essex County Tax Relief Subcommittee a "Proposal to reduce the impact of high real estate taxes". The essence of the proposal is modeled after the plan for New Jersey (www.theplan4nj.com). Gladu noted that the STAR and ENHANCED STAR assessment reductions are now small compared to the assessments for even the modest homes.

Gladu said, "The significance of these proposals is the fact that our legislators recognize the magnitude of the problem and that something has to be done. The Ti Town Board is likely to take the position that there will be no revaluation for 2006 since there is pending the enactment of legislation at the State level and the Town of Hague needs to take the same position."

Councilman Gladu has been collecting signatures on petitions and has over 200 signatures to date. His target date for completing the petitions is the end of October. The petition will be posted on the Town website (www.townofhague.org) for anyone wishing a copy.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS

The Town Board met on September 27th with representatives of Glens Falls Electric about the problems with the proposed downtown street lights. It is felt that the 12 foot poles are not acceptable. The Board agreed to return the lights that had been delivered for a maximum of a 40% restock charge plus shipping and handling. The Board will review other light options with Glens Falls Electric.

On September 21st the Board met with Superintendent Don Smith of the Highway Department to review several issues. The Highway Superintendent is an elected public official and by law is not responsible to the Town Board. However, they discussed safety and personnel issues. The Board does have control over the Highway budget.

NO TOWN TAX FOR 2006

The Hague Town Board will present its 2006 Budget to the Public at 6pm on Wednesday, November 9th, preceding the regular Town Board meeting. (The date has been changed from Tuesday due to Election Day.) The proposed budget again shows no Town tax although there will be some tax for the Fire and Ambulance District and the Street Light District. The Town Board held Budget workshops on September 30, October 4 and October 12 to review and finalize their proposed budget.

In order to hold down spending, the Board limited raises for town employees and the supervisor to around 3% while budgeting no increase for the four other councilmen. The health insurance for employees has been increased about 18%.

On the income side the town has budgeted \$230,000 in county sales tax revenue. Another factor in being able to forego taxes as revenue is the transfer of money from the general fund unexpended balance of \$1,100,000.

A major portion of the budget relates to the Highway department. It was mentioned that the Highway Superintendent needs to keep better records so that the town can be reimbursed by FEMA for storm damage.

There is a budgeted amount of \$100,000 for the West Hague Museum. In a discussion about this budget item there was some concern about the commitment of the public to this endeavor. Councilman Patchett questioned whether the maintenance of the Museum should be the responsibility of the town. Supervisor Belden noted that in his conversations with constituents many felt that a library should be included.

The Hague Chronicle will publish a summary of the budget after it is finalized.

HAGUE REAL ESTATE SALES

Many of the deeds recorded in Warren County are the result of transfers within families or the creation of trusts. However, there were several substantial Hague sales recorded from April through August of 2005. They are as follows:

From Deutsche to Dubitsky, \$105,000; Englert to More, \$400,000; Sunkes to Renshaw, \$167,000; Fitzgerald to Loughlin/McAuliffe, \$75,000; Wood to Lemery, \$5,000; LaPointe to Bergmann, \$100,000; Blain/Davis to Ricciardi, \$350,000; Meehan to Fiallo, \$7,000; Olden to Juvan, \$52,500; Lemery to Sweet, \$5,000; Maggiolo to Ehlert, \$975,000; Takonis to Guest, \$162,500; Fowler to Macionis, \$220,000; Wilen to Berger, \$750,000; Thibeault to Smith, \$80,000; Platt to Cacici, \$439,900; and Wiles to Brown, \$830,500.



~SOUNDINGS~

MARRIED: Beth Barton, daughter of Mrs. Charles R. Barton, Jr., Sabbath Day Point to Chris Navitzky on September 15, 2005 at the Grace Memorial Chapel. The reception followed at the Serlin home on Lakeshore Drive. Mrs. Navitzky is currently vice-principal of Brewster High School in Westchester, while Mr. Navitzky is the Lake George Waterkeeper. They will be building their home on Lakeshore Drive at Sabbath Day Pt.

MARRIED: Sally DeLam, daughter of Mrs. Nancy DeLam Fogwell, Hague, to James Rypkema, son of Mrs. Betty Rypkema, Hague, on September 24, 2005 in a lakeside wedding ceremony in Hague. Mr. & Mrs. Rypkema are residing in Highland Mills, NY and Split Rock Rd., Hague.

MARRIED: Courtney VanVoorhis, daughter of Rudd and Peggy VanVoorhis of Wevertown and Hague, to Jack Batha of Rouses Point, NY on October 15, 2005 at the VanVoorhis home on Mill Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Batha reside in Wevertown.

DIED: Ruth Vivian Olsen, 87, Hague and Brooklyn, NY on Oct. 4, 2005 at her residence in Hague. Mrs. Olsen had vacationed in the Hague area since 1945 and had been a summer resident in Indian Kettles, Hague since 1966. Her husband, Bjarne died on Oct. 7, 2004 and son Steven, Crown Point on Dec. 11, 2004. Survivors include a son, Robert, Brooklyn, one sister Alice Glading, two granddaughters and three grandsons.

ANOTHER KATRINA VOLUNTEER

Brian Sann of Silver Bay and others from the First United Methodist Church in Ticonderoga joined with a group from Texas in Gulfport, Mississippi during the first week in October to help with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

He stated that, "Some of the work was minor such as just clearing away some debris so an owner could get a few things before the house was bulldozed. We did tree cutting and hauling of logs and other debris to the street where it might eventually get hauled away. We did some floor and roof repair on some structures. The major efforts involved totally gutting flooded brick homes as the start of rehab. It is hard, dirty, smelly work. All contents must be taken out. Then wallboard, rugs, appliances, etc. all go and even nails are removed from studs before power washing."

Brian noted that the Texans came well-prepared and well-equipped and everyone was busy with their tasks.

CONGRATULATIONS

Michael Bailey, former pastor of Hague Wesleyan Church, has just completed his certification as Family Nurse Practitioner. Mr. Bailey lives in Hudson Falls with his family.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL

The Ticonderoga Middle School music department will present Fiddler on the Roof on Thursday, October 27 at 8pm in the middle school cafetorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$5 for students.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS

An AAA defensive driving class will be offered at the Hague Wesleyan Church on October 24 and 25 from 6-9pm. For more information call the instructor, Charlie Antonetti at 585-3450.

RUMMAGE SALE

The Episcopal Church of the Cross, Champlain Ave., Ticonderoga, will hold a rummage sale Saturday, Oct. 29, 2005 from 9AM to 2PM. Good useable household items and clothing will be available in the Parish Hall.

CLARK WITHDRAWS FROM RACE

Catherine Clark has issued the following statement:

"Due to my appointment as the Town of Hague Zoning Enforcement Officer, I have withdrawn my name from the Town Council race. I thank my supporters for their confidence in my abilities. As the Town's Zoning Enforcement Officer I will continue to serve the taxpayers of Hague through this important position."

HEATHER KNOTT - JUSTICE, 4-YEAR TERM

I am running for re-election as your Town Justice, a position that I have held since 1994. I believe that I bring significant legal experience to the Hague Court as both a Judge for 11 years and a practicing Attorney for 26 years. Since taking the bench, a top priority has been to computerize our courtroom, which has resulted in more efficient, streamlined court operations. I intend to continue upgrading and improving the court and its systems, and 2 years ago my clerk, Carlie Patch, and I began filing our month end reports electronically. This has resulted in the Town receiving its portion of the fine revenue at the end of every month instead of quarterly as was the case in the past.

As well, in 2003, I was elected to the Board of Directors of the New York State Magistrates Association, the first judge from Warren County to be so honored in about 25 years.

As your Judge, I have been extremely accessible to answer questions and explain procedures to the public. As well, I have been fair, courteous and impartial in the performance of all judicial duties. I am an individual committed to both public and community service and I would be grateful to have your support on November 8th.

The late Hague historian, Clifton West, wrote many reflections of Hague's past. The following is one of the stories from his memoirs.

THE HAGUE FLOOD OF 1947

The date of Tuesday, June 3, 1947, will go down in history as the day of the Hague Flood. Those of us who have read of the disastrous floods which have inundated cities and communities along the large rivers considered ourselves safe from this form of danger.

Following a night of torrential downpour, we awoke to find the Hague Brook, already swollen from a previous rain, now rushing through the valley with a volume of water never before seen by the oldest residents of the town. It was washing over a two-foot stone wall on my property. The brook was at least three feet above its usual flood stage. Two chicken houses were about to be surrounded by water. By eight o'clock the water began to go down. I walked up to the Big Falls, or tried to, but came upon a landslide above the Rock and Rye corner. A forty foot section of the high bank had slid down and mud now covered the road to a depth of two feet.

About eight thirty there was a gradual rise in the brook level, and soon was higher than ever. Inasmuch as the hen houses were now on an island, and the 45 birds living within were non-swimmers, quick action was necessary. Five trips through a knee-deep flood and most of the protesting boarders were in a safer home, the garage. Twenty-four five week old chicks were carried in a burlap bag through the flood. It was necessary to leave five hens in the house. They all laid that day too, probably in appreciation for a floor washed clean. Incidentally, to save the garage I unrolled a roll of chicken wire to catch debris and divert the flow of water around the piers.

By that time the brook was flowing over the bridge and running down the road. In no time the street was a raging torrent. I rushed up to the house and told the family to cross the road before the water became higher. About that time Clifford Frasier came along and we climbed upon his log truck. Rev. Murray's family and Marian Robbins were also among those rescued. Barrels, fireplace wood from Art McKee's and assorted debris accompanied us on our aquatic ride. The nearest terra firma was 'way over beyond the Beachside. As soon as possible I hiked back along the high water mark to the village. The entire Beachside flat was under water. A current of water was pouring through Bob Hoyt's garage. What I remember most vividly was the pile of 20 or more big casks, vinegar barrels or John Keenan's cider barrels, tumbling end over end out the open side of the building. They crossed two wire fences and floated right along to the lake. Such a force of water crossed the highway bridge that Bill Cobb's gas tanks were washed out of the ground. The main road was gullied out as much as six feet deep.

Besides the damage caused in the village, the flood washed out much valuable land on the flats and in West Hague. One favorable result of the flood was that a great quantity of fish came down from the Beaver Marsh. Bushels of bullheads were washed into the lake. People were picking them up on their lawns. The brook was so full of trout that it was an angler's dream. The following year I caught 186 trout, keeping only those over eight inches in length. The Lake George bullhead fishing has been excellent ever since the flood.

Few people realize the amount of water that came down the brook that day and with what force. Trees standing near the stream show bruises eight feet above the normal water level. An eight or ten inch I-beam was bent double around a tree a hundred feet below the Rock and Rye Bridge. It had once been a stringer supporting the planks. Trees were stripped of bark and even uprooted. Stone retaining walls near the stream crumpled under the force of the water. The old log dam which once impounded water to operate the Yaw sawmill was washed out.

Due to impassable roads and weakened bridges school buses were not used for a week and the children enjoyed an unexpected vacation. State, county and town road crews were quickly mobilized to repair the highway damage. A great amount of filling and resurfacing had to be done quickly as the summer resort season was about to begin.

Water undermined the garage by the Wesleyan parsonage. The car owned by the Rev. Clarence Murray slipped into the stream. It plunged end over end, finally coming to rest against the wreckage of Roy Scott's garage. The car was a total wreck. Earlier efforts had been made to rescue it from the doomed garage but the rear wheels had slipped down over a bank. The tow car could not raise it.

I was surprised to find my own poultry houses in place, though flooded. A small cabin, the temporary summer home of the Arthur McKees, was left stranded on the road above my house. As the water slowly returned to normal, the real extent of the damage became apparent. Cellars were flooded, lawns and gardens were gullied or left under a layer of stones and mud. One half of the village park was washed away. The entire length of the Sawmill Hill was impassable to all but foot traffic. In some places less than three feet of macadem separated the washouts. These were as much as six feet deep. All wooden bridges were gone. The cement bridge by the Town Shed was impassable as the five feet of fill over it was completely washed away.

The cause of the flood was a combination of circumstances, all working together. In 1941 the Hague Fish and Game Club improved the beaver dam at the Marsh by building a high dirt dam all across the lower end of the pond and installing a concrete spillway. This job was started on Dec. 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor Day. When the level of the pond raised with the rain, the rowboats drawn up on the shore floated down against the spillway, clogging it. Water then eroded the dam so it soon gave way. Where the stream entered a culvert at the foot of Big Brook Hill there was a long, deep fill. When the pressure of water became strong this gave way and the whole pond was soon on its way down the valley, taking all in its path. John McCoy may have been the only person to have seen the wall of water start its journey to the lake. The stream bed was too narrow to carry this great body of water. The Beaver Marsh was a mile long and, in places, fifteen feet deep. When this amount of water followed the course of the stream to Lake George, things had to happen. The Great Flood 1947 was the result. It will long remain in the memory of those who experienced it.

NATURE NEWS

by Nancy Wotton Scarzello

Staghorn Sumac

With the warm, dry fall there has been a lot of talk about the lack luster foliage, especially among the maples, as many have dropped their leaves without changing. Although the maples usually give us the most dramatic show of color, I think that they draw our attention away from some of the subtler, yet strikingly beautiful displays that occur in late autumn. The buttery yellow leaves of the milkweed plant alongside deep violet asters in pale green grassy fields are often missed when our eyes are drawn to the treetops blazing above them.

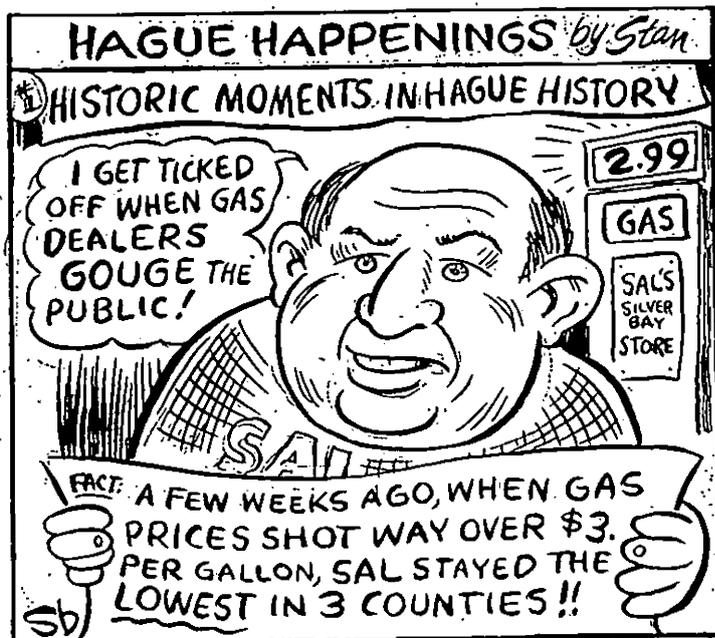
Along the edges of forests, roadsides and old fields is the often-overlooked Staghorn Sumac. This tall shrub or small tree grows from 10 to 30 feet in height with an irregular, open, flat crown of a few spreading branches. The leaves are pinnately compound with 11-31 leaflets 2-4" in length. In autumn, the leaves resemble scarlet-feathered lances, often accompanied by flaming orange and yellow branches on the same tree. What a feast for the eyes when set against a backdrop of a darkly wooded forest! The bark of the trunk is dark brown and smooth, but the twigs are few and stout with a covering of dense brown hairs that resemble a deer's antlers when in velvet, giving the tree its common name of Staghorn.

The trees bloom in early summer with upright clusters of greenish petaled flowers that are loosely formed in the male flowers, tightly packed in the female flowers. Interestingly the male and female flowers are formed on separate plants, the females bearing the one-seeded fruit in numerous, crowded, upright crimson clusters covered in long dark red hairs. The trees do not rely on the fruit for reproduction; instead they spread clonally by sending shoots out from the parent plant thereby forming clumps of female plants in one area and male in another. You can usually pick out the taller parent tree surrounded by smaller offspring of the same sex.

The berries persist throughout the winter on the female trees and are an important food for wildlife in late fall and winter. The fine hairs on the seeds are tart with malic acid, the same flavorsome ingredient found in grapes, but considered very palatable and lemony when made into a drink called sumac "lemonade". The ripe berries are mashed slightly, covered with boiling water and then allowed to steep until well colored. Then strained and sweetened to taste, it can be served hot or cold for a refreshing wild treat. I have also seen it used in East Indian cooking where they call for the ground, dried berries giving the dish a tangy twist to otherwise spicy food.

The wood of the sumac is hollow with an orange pith that can be pushed out to make whistles, small flutes, and blow tubes for making fires burn better. Larger pieces can be sliced and cleaned to form napkin rings of the satiny and often streaked wood.

The palette of color this fall may seem muted to some, but I've found that by looking a little harder I'm discovering an abundance of beauty in places I may have overlooked before.



WEATHER NOTES By Mary Lou Doulin

Midsummer-like conditions continued to the 7th of October. High 70s and 80s were ordinary in an extraordinary way. Past patterns were normally such that once the students returned to school after Labor Day the heat continued for about a week and then fall-like conditions were triggered. (On a personal note, being an avid swimmer I would usually swim until the 9th of September. This year I was able to continue daily until Oct. 7th, which was a brilliant 80 degrees).

Partially due to the extremely active hurricane season we have acquired more rain during the week of Oct. 9 than we have obtained in the last three months, - about 7" total. Flood watches were posted and areas in nearby Vermont and New Hampshire were troubled. After the rains extremely high winds entered our area, which knocked down trees and power lines and resulted in significant power outages. Another piece of evidence of this unusual year has been the slowness in the timing of the foliage change. Once again usually high colors occur mid Oct. locally, yet this year by Oct. 17 the color progression is hardly half way. Surely all the rains and winds will have an impact. According to the farmer's almanac, without a strong La Nina and El Nino this winter, a pattern of wild weather swings will prevail. The Atlantic Ocean will be most important. "With a relatively warm Atlantic and a continued trend of warmer than normal Arctic temperatures, cold air will build over the center of the continent, resulting in a colder than normal winter in the northeast. Snowfall will be above normal." (Farmer's Almanac, p. 96.)

October - November 2005

October

| | | |
|----|------|------------------------------|
| 25 | Noon | Senior Citizens Lunch (p. 2) |
| 26 | 1pm | Extra Helping Distribution |
| 27 | 7pm | Zoning Board of Appeals |
| 27 | 8pm | Middle School Musical (p. 7) |
| 31 | | HALLOWEEN |

November

| | | |
|----|-----------|---|
| 2 | 7pm | Planning Board |
| 3 | 1-3pm | Flu Shots at Community Ctr. |
| 5 | 10am | Church Women United (p.2) |
| 8 | 6am - 9pm | VOTING |
| 12 | 6:30 pm | Town Board |
| 14 | 10am | Senior Workshop (p. 2) |
| 17 | | November <i>Hague Chronicle</i> is mailed |



HALLOWEEN DEADLINES

Chamber of Commerce Photo Contest
www.hagueticonderoga.com

Bicentennial Logo Contest
 email to: townclerk@townofhague.org

Gladu petition signing
www.townofhague.org



FOOD PANTRY

Open every Thursday: 1- 2pm

New Participants Welcome

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Labor Day to June 30, 2006:

Wednesdays & Saturdays
 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Closed all other days

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