

## LAKE GEORGE - A NAVIGABLE WATERWAY

The United States Army Corps of Engineers has recently determined that Lake George is a "navigable waterway of the United States." This finding is based on the historical use of the lake for commercial transportation and the transport of soldiers and equipment in interstate commerce from Lake George to Ticonderoga and thence by portage to Lake Champlain and thence to points in Vermont and Canada; that the U.S. Mail was formerly handled by steamboat on Lake George; and that Lake George was used in transporting goods between New York City by way of the Hudson River through the Lake Champlain Canal into Lake Champlain and by coach and rail to Lake George. A waterway which was navigable in its natural state, the Corps argues, retains its character as navigable even though it is not presently used for commerce.

The Corps also points to the conviction several years ago of the Noyles Oil Company for violating Federal law in allowing heating oil to escape into a navigable water of the U.S., namely, Lake George.

The significance of these findings is that the United States now claims jurisdiction over the entire water surface and surface bed of the lake which includes all of the land and waters below the ordinary high water mark.

In commenting on these findings, Cyrus Woodbury of the Lake George Commission points to regulations of the Army Corps of Engineers which will require Federal approval to construct docks, piers and even to extend water lines into the lake. He

foresees great confusion and has brought the matter to the attention of our U.S. Senators and Congressmen urging them to seek relief from what might become burdensome regulations. Regulations concerning the lake are now within the jurisdiction of the Lake George Commission, the State Environmental Commission, The Adirondack Park Agency, and the New York Health Department. It is inconceivable that further regulation by the Federal government is either necessary or that it could possibly produce any public benefit.

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## WINTER LAKE LEVEL

The dam at Ticonderoga is now 90% complete. New gate openings have a discharge capacity approximately 25% greater than the old gate openings. Through these openings, the lake level can be lowered one inch in 24 hours. The capacity of the watershed to add water to the lake, greatly exceeds the capacity of the dam to discharge it. For example, one inch of run off can raise the level of the lake by 5.3 inches in ten hours while it takes almost a week to lower the lake by the same amount.

This winter the lake level is being maintained about 6 inches lower than it has been in the last few years. This will provide additional storage for the spring run off and should result in less damage to docks and shorelines.

With the level of the water lowered, there may be some danger from freezing to pipes not adequately buried. To be on the safe side you should have about one and one-half feet of water covering your water pipe where it comes out of the ground.

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THE WEATHER

The lake finally froze over at Hague on February 7-8. However, at Deer Leap (Sabbath Day Point) there was ice-fishing at least three weeks earlier. Up to February 12 the Warren County Public Works Department had recorded a total of 58 inches of snow compared to 37 inches at the same time last year. The readings were taken at Warrensburg and may vary slightly with other sections of the county. Of note was the 7-8 inches which fell on February 5.

Speculation as to when the lake freezes over and when the ice goes out is a favorite winter pastime. John R. Stickney, retired Warren County Superintendent of Schools, who came to Bolton Landing in 1906, noted in his diary the dates on which these events took place from 1908 to 1967. Richard Bolton was kind enough to make a copy available to us.

Only in 1919 did the lake fail to freeze over. On two occasions it froze over, thawed and froze over again - December 25, 1957 and January 11, 1958; and December 27, 1913 and January 14, 1914. In 1915 and 1918 it froze over on January 1; in 1944 on January 2; and in 1922 and 1927 it was on January 3. The latest date was February 29, 1932.

The earliest the ice has gone out was March 27, 1913. Only in two other years did it go out in March, 1945 and 1946. The latest was May 2, 1910. In every other year it left in April.

The longest period between freeze-up and ice gone was 113 days in 1943. In 1953 and 1967 it was frozen over only 43 days. The average is 81.

Mr. Stickney added a few notes - On January 16, 1913 Dick Wilson took

a picnic party down to Paradise Bay in his steamboat" and "Walter Harris, a well-known boatman of Lake George Village, has the distinction of going through Lake George in a motor boat every month in the year." Mrs. Hoyt Johnson in describing early incider of Hague in the Ticonderoga Sentinel of 1896, had this to say about the local weather: "The year 1816 has come down in history as a cold year. Snow fell in every month of the year except one."

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CONSERVATION MAKES SENSE (CENTS)

Did you know that -

Your hot water heater is the most expensive household appliance to use. It accounts for about 13% of your energy bill.

A setting of 120 degrees is adequate for most domestic hot water needs. When set at 150 degrees, cost goes up 20-25%

A shower takes about five gallons less water than a bath. (Of course this isn't true for those 30 minute showers.)

A faucet that drips a cup of water every ten minutes will waste 3,000 gallons in a year.

A side-by-side refrigerator-freezer uses 45% more energy than an upright model.

Storm or double-pane glass windows will cut your fuel costs by as much as 50%. Failure to caulk and weather-strip can increase fuel consumption by 15-30%.

It is a false assumption that it takes more fuel to bring temperature up to 70 degrees in the morning from a 65 degree nighttime setting than to leave it all night at 70.

There is a savings of from 3 to 10 per cent for each degree below 75 you set your thermostat.

The foregoing is from a study by

the Honeywell Corporation which was discussed in a recent NBC-TV program. The program suggested that we make an analysis of our own situation.

Since the oil shortage during the winter of 1973-74 our thermostat has been set at 68 degrees and we have done necessary weather-stripping, caulking, etc. Unnecessary lighting, leaky hot water faucets, etc. have been eliminated. Here are the results of a survey we made to determine if our conservation measures were paying off.

Oil delivery records from the fall of 1970 to date were examined and these were compared with number of degree days as accumulated by Ti Oil Company, as follows:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>GALS. OIL</u>	<u>DEGREE DAYS</u>	<u>RATIO*</u>
1970-71	1428	7311	5.12
1971-72	1436	7119	4.96
1972-73	1474	6863	4.65
1973-74	1314	6911	5.26
1974 date	688	4218	6.13

\*degree-days per gallon

During all of 1971 and 1972 the price of oil was 19.8¢ a gallon, in 1973 we paid an average of 24.3¢ and in 1974 the price averaged 36.9¢. Currently we are paying 39.4¢ which includes sales tax of 7%. The results of the study were gratifying and we concluded that it makes a lot of sense (cents) to conserve on oil.

We also took a look at our bills for electricity. Our meter is read about mid-month every other month, the actual periods ranging from 59 to 64 days. Each of the years 1971 through 1974 were broken into six two-month periods beginning on January of each year. These periods have been numbered 1 through 6 in the following table. The figures are the average number of KWH consumed each day in the period.

	<u>-1-</u>	<u>-2-</u>	<u>-3-</u>	<u>-4-</u>	<u>-5-</u>	<u>-6-</u>
71	5.18	3.77	3.55	3.99	4.07	5.49
72	5.31	3.59	3.96	3.82	3.01	4.41
1973	5.15	3.26	3.85	4.07	3.38	4.01
1974	4.47	3.70	3.99	3.99	3.65	4.24

While the results of our conservation efforts are not as clear here, we think we are making progress. Early in 1971 the average price paid for a KWH was \$2.10; today it is \$2.90. Here again, conservation makes sense (cents).

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THE BI-CENTENNIAL

Interest in the Bi-Centennial was stirred by the offer of a plot of ground on which to construct a town library and historical museum. At its February meeting the Town Board authorized the supervisor to obtain a sketch of a suitable building with some indication as to costs of construction.

A project of this magnitude is beyond the capacity of the Committee. If it is to be pursued, it will have to be taken over by the Town Board. It would be helpful if you made known your feelings to that body.

Other suggestions from our readers include the following:

Ascertain the ages of our old houses. Cooperation of present owners plus digging into the county records is necessary. Some of the houses falling into this category are those presently occupied by the Wells, Gettas, Yaws, Ray Jordons, the 7-up Club, Scripters, Hazel Frasier's, and Wests.

Pinpoint and map the earlier industries such as grist mills, saw-mills, etc.

Persons who have artifacts (tools, etc.) should be asked to list those that will be available for display in the museum. This information may be helpful in determining amount of space needed.

Another reader suggests that the town procure a modest tablet or stone and position it near a newly planted tree in the park "to commemorate the occasion and rededicate ourselves the principles upon which the Nation was founded".

Still another reader would like to see an up-to-date factual list of things to do and see in the area, including schedules and admission prices. This information which would be of interest to summer residents and guests, tourists, and we may add, year-round residents should be available at the Chamber of Commerce Information booth.

These proposals have been turned over to the Bi-Centennial Committee for study. More suggestions and opinions are needed - keep them coming.

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TAX RELIEF FOR THE AGED

Following a public meeting on February 11, the Town Board approved a resolution granting a 50% exemption from real estate taxes to property owners who meet statutory qualifications and whose annual income does not exceed \$5,000. Income includes social security payments, salary, interest, dividends, wages, pensions, capital gains, disability payments, etc. Applications which must be on file no later than May 1 may be obtained from Michael Fitzgerald, Board of Assessors Chairman.

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

At the meeting of the Board on February 10, Mr. Meola presented and the Board approved a change in curriculum beginning in September, 1975. Presently all courses run for one year; under Mr. Meola's plan, courses which he described as "minicourses" will run for a period of 10 weeks only.

The English Program will consist of 28 courses, nine of which deal with grammar and writing, are required. Some of the elective courses should have wide appeal, such as, a study of books dealing with war; myth and legend; argumentative and extemporaneous speeches; political documents and writings; black literature; an exploration of death through literature; a look at some of the predictions of the future; classical

drama; and humor.

The Art Program will consist of five courses and is offered to students in grades 9 to 12. Any student may take up to four of the courses during one ten-week period. There will also be eight Industrial Arts courses dealing with ceramics, drawing, electricity, graphic arts, metals, plastics, power mechanics and wood.

Seven courses will be offered in the highschool music program. The four which are requested by most students will be those actually given next year. Courses include a study of piano and guitar, creation of simple band instruments, and music theory and history.

The Social Studies Program, grades 9 to 12, will be put entirely on a ten-week elective schedule. Twenty-seven courses will be offered and a student may take as many as his schedule will permit. The courses will cover many periods of U.S. and world history, current events, various political philosophies, sociology, economics, psychology, and the history and culture of China, Japan, Africa, etc.

Year-long courses in the Business Education Program will be offered in shorthand, accounting and typing. In addition there will be ten-week courses in a number of facets of business law covering contracts, insurance, commercial papers and general law. There will also be a number of general business courses dealing with managing money, consumerism, and guidance to job understanding and selection.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board was held on February 11 with all members present. Others present included Richard Bolton, member of the Lake George Commission; Ray Calcagni; Cyrus Woodbury, Roy Cowens and William Glass, members of the Commission's staff; Jack Carney and Rudolph Meola.

The Lake George Park Commission representatives pointed out that the town is responsible for the enforcement of sanitation laws but that the Commission will file complaints where violations are discovered.

Each lake front resident is entitled to have one buoy in the lake not farther than 100 feet from the shore. For additional buoys, a permit from the LG Commission is required.

Thus far the sanitation facilities of 3800 households have been inspected with 56 found to be unsatisfactory. Additional inspections are anticipated this summer.

The LG Commission operates 20 water testing stations on the lake with one located in the Hague area. A sample of water is taken and analyzed for purity every two weeks during the summer. All of those stations north of the Narrows report that the water is pure and of excellent quality.

The Town Board authorized the purchase of a police car to cost \$4004. The car is identical with those being used by the County Sheriff's Department. It will be fitted with a two-way radio which will be tuned to the same frequency as the sheriff's patrol cars.

Mr. Meola asked the Board to receive the proposal to build a ski-tow and the Board agreed to do so.

Mr. Meola also discussed the youth recreation program and questioned whether it was available only to 7th graders and upwards. He urged that it be available to younger children. The Board agreed.

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MAIL SERVICE

All copies of the Chronicle are delivered to the Silver Bay Post Office two or three days before the first day of the month of issue. Local copies are delivered the same or next day. It is obvious from letters we receive that many of those going out of town are delayed.

While time of delivery is not necessarily critical, it is difficult to understand why it should take two to three weeks (ten weeks in one case) for many copies to get to destination. Even at bulk rates we are entitled to better service and we intend to look into it.

But we did want you to know that the delays are not occurring here.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

About twenty members and guests attended the meeting of the Hague Historical Society on February 19.

Mr. DeLarm was present and had with him a rough sketch of a building designed to house both a town library and historical museum on the property offered to the town by Mr. Fitzgerald. The proposed building measures 71'x32' or approximately 2200 square feet. The architect estimated that it could be built for about \$35-\$40 a square foot or about \$80,000-\$90,000. Furnishings, etc. would bring the cost to approximately \$100,000.

Although many inquiries have been made, Mr. DeLarm has been unsuccessful in finding available revenues under any Federal or State grants. If the town were to finance such a project, it could be done through a 20 year bond-issue which would require a payment on principal of \$5,000 annually, plus interest.

The Society voted to consider all phases of the proposals at its next meeting and thereafter make known its feelings to the Town Board.

Mr. Harry White was in charge of the program for the evening which consisted of several hundred slides covering local scenes as well as pictures from trips which the White's have taken to the Carribean, Portugal, Spain, Morocco and Switzerland. The refreshments, provided and served by Mrs. Crabbs and Miss Lona Bartlett were, as usual, excellent.

Mr. Clifton West will be in charge

of the program at the March 19 meeting. He has acquired a book containing the minutes of town board meetings from 1807 to 1820. He will discuss these and related matters from Hague's early history.

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CHAMBER ELECTS OFFICERS

Mrs. Bea Frasier was elected president of the Hague Chamber of Commerce at its recent annual meeting. Mrs. Lynn Patchett was elected treasurer and Mrs. Pat Macaulay was elected secretary. John Warren was named Director of Publicity.

The Chamber now has 36 members all of whom are in business in the Hague area. At a recent meeting, plans for spring and summer promotion were discussed. Some of the members are of the belief that with present snowmobile trails and other winter attractions such as ice fishing, cross country skiing, ice skating, etc. Hague has the potential to develop into a year-round vacation community. Plans to promote this concept are being developed.

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WINTER FUN DAYS

The Hague Fish and Game Club will sponsor "Winter Fun Days" on March 15 and 16 at the Trout House Village beach.

There will be a "snow queen" selected from the girls in grades one through six. There will be ice skating and other activities on the ice but no snowmobile races or events are planned. On the 16th a bonfire will be provided for roasting hot dogs and hamburgers. An effort is being made to revive the ice augur contest which was a feature of the winter carnival for a number of years.

Mrs. Inza Jordon, Secretary of the Fish and Game Club, is chairman of the event.

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BAPTISTS GET MINISTER

The Hague Baptist Church has obtained the services of the Rev. Clifton Bohanan as minister. He and his wife Florence will be moving into the parsonage on February 26 and will begin their ministry on March 2.

For the past few years Rev. Bohanan has served the church in Meredith, N.Y. Before that he was a missionary to the Hopi Indians in Palacca, Arizona. Many years ago he served the church in North Creek-Minerva.

Mrs. Bohanan has a special interest in the various handicrafts.

Services at the Baptist Church are held on Sundays at 10:30 A.M.

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