

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

VOL. IV - No. 6

J U N E 1 9 7 5

HAGUE, N.Y.

HAGUE'S HISTORICAL SITES

With the assistance of Town Historian, Mrs. Vila Fitzgerald, the Warren County Bi-Centennial Commission has published a list of historical markers, historical sites and points of interest in the Town of Hague. Here, in capsulated form, is the list.

Historical Markers - Sabbath Day Point adjoining James Young's place which reads: "Through this place passed General Henry Knox in the winter of 1775-76 to deliver to General Washington at Cambridge the train of artillery from Fort Ticonderoga used to force the British out of Boston". It was erected during the Sesquicentennial of the American Revolution.

Another marker, erected by the Warren County Centennial Commission in 1913 and which can be seen at the town park, reads: "The Town of Hague, known as Rochester until April 6, 1808 formed from the Town of Bolton February 28, 1807".

Historical Sites - Rogers Rock where Major Robert Rogers in the winter of 1757-58, being pursued by Indians, went on snowshoes with his men to the top of the mountain only to be stopped at the precipice leading to the lake. He turned his snowshoes around and retraced his steps down a ravine eventually reaching the lake. He had earlier thrown his supplies over the precipice.

Friends Point - once an Indian encampment. On a dark night two scouting parties met here during the French and Indian Wars and prepared for combat. They discovered they were friends and not foes - hence the name.

Sabbath Day Point - In July 1759 General Amherst landed here with a force of 12,000 men and passed the Sabbath Day in religious services - hence the name.

Points of interest - Calamity Rock about one-half mile north of Hague where the John Jay burned on July 29, 1856. Six lives were lost.

Graphite Mines - On Route 8 where graphite mines operated from about 1880 to 1924.

Silver Bay Association - where the first Boy Scout training camp for leaders in the United States was held in 1910.

Old abandoned cemetery - On Route 9N about one-half mile south of town park where five Revolutionary War veterans are buried.

Wardboro - about 12 miles south of town park, three miles off Route 9N, was once a thriving settlement named for a number of Ward families who first settled there. An old cemetery marks the spot.

West Hague - An area about four miles west of Hague on Route 8. This was the most thickly populated part of the town in the 1800's. An abandoned cemetery remains but there are no other markers.

Tannery Site - Located below the bridge on Tannery Brook in West Hague was run by Irish and Wright.

Cooper Shop - Located on West Hague Road, operated by Andrew Bevins in the early 1800's.

Two Millwheels - Can be seen atop stone pillars on either side of the bridge leading to the NY State De-

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partment of Environmental Conservation fish weir.

Lower Falls - Site of the first grist mill built in the early 1800's. Owned by a Mr. Kenny, later by Rufus Rising and operated by H.H. Harrison.

Upper Falls - Site of a grist mill brushback factory and cider mill which were operated until 1910. The flume and water wheel can still be seen.

Four Chimneys - Brick house about four miles north of Hague on Route 9N. It was built in 1822 by Warner and William Cook and is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Stanley. The bricks were made on the premises.

Jabe Pond - named for Jabe Patchen is located a mile west of Route 9N in Silver Bay. Jabe Patchen was the son of Samuel, the first supervisor of the Town of Hague and a Revolutionary War hero.

Lake Shore Graphite Mines - Located off Route 9N about a quarter mile atop Rising Hill. This unsuccessful mining operation continued from 1898 to 1901. The foundations of boarding houses and store, a waste pile and closed off mine entrances are all that remain.

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LAKE GEORGE GETS RAINBOW TROUT

Perhaps the largest trout stocking program of an inland body of water in the state got underway the first week in May when 41,750 yearling rainbow trout were dumped into the lake at both northern and southern basins by the Department of Environmental Conservation. The trout are 11 inches

long and weigh about 12 ounces each. The fish should live (if not caught) for five years and reach a weight of about ten pounds.

The fish are of the West Virginia strain and possess superior growth and survival rates. The stocking was done from a barge provided by the supervisor of Jake George operations. The fish weighed a total of four tons

Rainbow trout fishing is reported to be better this year than in recent years but it is still not up to expectations.

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BOWEN HOME DESTROYED BY FIRE

The Mortimer Bowen home at Silver Bay burned to the ground on April 22. Both the Hague Fire Department and the Silver Bay Association fire equipment responded. It was not possible to save the building but the firemen did keep the fire from spreading to adjoining buildings. A strong southeast wind carried ashes from the fire to the Silver Bay Post Office and Watts Hill.

Mrs. Bowen had been living alone in the house since the death of her husband last August.

Dr. Hitzrot who owns the property to the north of the Bowens, has asked us to say that he and Mrs. Hitzrot wish to express their gratitude for "the successful efforts of the Hague Fire Department on their property in the fire of April 22". The Hitzrot's dock was slightly charred.

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LITTLE LEAGUE

An official Little League team has been formed with a nucleus of fifteen boys, 9 to 12 years of age. The team which is being sponsored by the Town of Hague is coached by Martin Fitzgerald with Walt Porter as his assistant.

The team will play a regular schedule of games on Tuesday and

Thursday evenings at 6 P.M. with teams from Minerva, Pottersville, Schroon Lake and Chestertown beginning on June 27. Home games will be played at the baseball field on Deck-Hill Road.

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THE LIBRARY

The committee appointed to study the proposal to build a library on land to be donated by Irving Fitzgerald submitted its report to the Town Board at its May 13 meeting. After considering the report, the Board voted to call for a public hearing on June 3 at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Hall at which the proposal will be reviewed.

The committee had considered various forms which a library might take and concluded that the most suitable is that of a book drop within the Southern Adirondack Library System, the type of a library we now have. Under this arrangement the library is entitled to receive books through the facilities of the S.A.L.S. for which it pays only postage.

The present library has about 2650 books, a number of magazines for which it subscribes, an up-to-date encyclopedia and a new unabridged dictionary. During the past ten years, it has obtained the use of about 3,000 books through the S.A.L.S. During 1973, 2969 books were loaned to persons using the Hague library; in 1974 this was about 2600. The library is open on Mondays from 1 to 3 P.M. and on Fridays from 12:30 to 3 P.M. During the summer months it is open only on Tuesdays from 1 to 4 PM.

The Hague School has its own library which it will continue to operate. School children are the principal users of the Town library and would continue to use it at a new location. Children going to the library and returning to school during school hours will be accompanied by teachers and aids.

Library services at the town library are performed entirely by vol-

unteers. Expenses consist only of book purchases, magazine subscriptions and postage on books received from S.A.L.S. Since 1970 its receipts have amounted to \$917.27. The Town has appropriated \$25. a year to the library since 1970 and in 1973 it appropriated \$150. from Federal Revenue sharing Funds. The remainder of its income has come from contributions from the public.

The present library staff believes that if new quarters are to be provided about 1000 square feet would be required. This would provide adequate accommodations for about 4,000 books, a reading area with table and chairs, and necessary facilities for record keeping. If a new building is to be provided, new shelving, furniture, etc. should be furnished.

If new enlarged quarters are to be provided, the library staff would expect to increase its hours of operation to six hours a week and would also arrange for evening hours during the summer months. It does not believe that the library can function any longer with only volunteer help. It feels that a salary rate of \$2.75 an hour (\$3.00 with fringe benefits) should be provided. This will run to about \$1250. a year. Initial costs to furnish the library is estimated at \$1500. and \$450. a year thereafter should be adequate for the purchase of books and cost of postage.

The Historical Society representative on the committee believes that about 800 square feet of space would be required for its use. It is proposed that pictures be displayed on boards, protected by plastic and hung on walls. Larger items would be displayed in glass cases. It is believed that members of the Historical Society would be assigned to manage the museum when open at no cost to the town and that display cases, etc. would be provided by it.

Area contractors have estimated the cost of a one-story colonial type building at \$20. to \$28. a square foot. The cost would include heat, water, sewage disposal, landscaping, painting, finishing, etc. Electric

heat seems to be the most practical and cost of heat plus lighting is estimated at \$600. a year.

A 2000 square foot building at \$24. a square foot would come to \$48,000. and with furnishings and incidentals it would probably come to \$50,000. If financed over a ten year period and with operating costs of \$2300. a year, the total annual costs would be about \$10,300. It is estimated that these costs can be met with an increase in the town tax rate of approximately 50¢.

Whether or not the town should have a new library is for the town to decide. The committee hopes that the facts which it has developed will be helpful in reaching that decision.

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SCHOOL BUDGET APPROVED

Approximately 40 persons turned out for the annual school district meeting, about half as many as attended last year. Mr. Seerup was elected chairman of the meeting. The budget was reviewed, item by item, by Mr. Meola and the meeting was then turned over for questions.

While many questions were asked, few of them proved to be controversial. A number of questions dealt with the balance of \$35,000. which it is anticipated will be carried over from this year and there was no clear explanation of where less was spent than was budgeted. Mr. Meola did point out, however, that some revenue items did prove to be greater than anticipated.

It was also pointed out that in the 1974-75 budget, a balance of \$20,000 from the previous year was anticipated. At year's end, however, this turned out to be \$40,000. If the Board's estimate is as far off this year, we may end with a balance substantially in excess of \$35,000. One speaker pointed out that over-budgeting expenses can easily lead to extravagance.

In any event the meeting produced

no fireworks and no surprises.

A total of 177 persons voted on the budget the day following with 117 voting their approval, 59 registering disapproval, and one ballot was blank. In the voting for board member, Mrs. Barbara Belden, the only announced candidate, received 109 votes, there were 60 votes for a group of 8 write-in candidates with Frank Carney receiving 44, and there were 9 blanks.

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

A regular meeting of the School Board was held on May 12 with all members present. Mrs. Barbara Belden the newly elected member was also present as an observer. She will take office on July 1.

On the recommendation of Mr. Meola the Board approved the granting of tenure to Mr. David De Franco.

Mr. Meola announced that two members of the sophomore class, Charles Jordon and Coleen Thibeault, will be elected to membership in the National Honor Society at an assembly on May 15. To qualify for membership a student must have a grade average of at least 85% in academic subjects and have demonstrated qualities of good citizenship, service and leadership.

Mr. Meola announced that the play, Second Time Around, which was presented by the Hague students on May 8th would be staged for the Bolton students at Bolton Landing on May 14. The Board approved a resolution commending Mr. and Mrs. White, Mrs. Meade, Mr. DeFranco, Mrs. McLaughlin, and Mr. Laundree for their efforts in producing and staging the festival of the arts, the concert and the school play.

Mr. Meola reported that twenty children have been registered for kindergarten in the fall.

The Board approved a motion to grant senior citizens, residents of Hague who are over 60 years of age, free passes to all school activities.

Members of the School Board, the faculty and other school employees and their families will hold their annual picnic at Rogers Rock on June

authorized to make the purchase.

Now that the new police car has arrived, the Board authorized the Supervisor to proceed to obtain bids for the sale of the old police car.

Mr. Meola reported that Mrs. Plass and Mrs. Strumm were attending a work shop at Mineville on teaching the handicapped.

A group of citizens aired complaints of excessive noise late at night and during the early morning hours from one of the local restaurants and proposed to the Board the adoption of an anti-noise ordinance. It was indicated that the State Police had agreed to enforce such an ordinance if enacted. The Board agreed to act post-haste and indicated that because of the need for a public hearing, etc. it would probably be July 1 before such an ordinance could be made effective. The Board will study the matter further at a special meeting at which it will also consider an "Open container" and a "junk car" ordinance. During the discussion it was suggested that efforts would be made to enforce the anti-littering laws that are a matter of state law.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Town Board was held on May 13 with all members present.

The Supervisor announced that Youth Commission funds have been exhausted for this year and proposed that the Board begin thinking about a program for the year beginning July 1.

The Board approved the appointment of election inspectors as follows: Nancy Getta and Alice Watts, Democrats and Florence Smith and Lillian Sobul, Republicans.

The committee which has been studying the feasibility of a ski tow reported that a suitable site had been found on town property abutting the landfill. The proposal calls for a run of about 800 feet with a downhill run of probably 1200 feet. The committee will now obtain prices for needed equipment and it appears that the ski tow will be operational come next winter.

The resignation of George Boyd as a member of the Board of Assessment review was read and accepted. A number of candidates for the post were named and the Supervisor was authorized to find a replacement who will serve the remainder of Mr. Boyd's term which is scheduled to expire on October 1, 1976.

A blue spruce will be planted in the town park to commemorate Heritage Day, May 17. The tree was obtained through the efforts of Dan Belden and Clifford Decker.

There was a brief discussion concerning the feasibility of insulating the town hall in an effort to cut heating costs. There are technical problems and the matter will be studied further.

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GRIEVANCE DAY

The Superintendent of Highways announced that the town tractor is in need of major repairs. The Board authorized the repair work at a cost of \$2500. to \$4500.

The Board of Assessment Review will hear grievances with respect to 1975 property assessments on Tuesday June 17 from 4:00 to 8:00 P.M. at the Town Hall. The law requires that all complaints be made in writing on forms which may be obtained from the members of the Board of Assessors and will be available at the Town Hall on

Warren County has a grader which it will sell to the town for \$1000. It has been inspected and found to be in good condition. Mr. Belden was

the date of the hearing. While it is not necessary that a complainant appear in person, it is mandatory that his complaint be in writing and sworn to before a notary public.

Notices have been sent to about 50 taxpayers whose assessed valuations have been increased. If you did not receive such a notice, your assessed value will be the same as it was last year. Increases are primarily due to new construction and for the entire town will total about \$400,000.

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HAGUE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The financial report of the Hague Volunteer Fire Department for the year 1974 lists expenses of \$20,820, and income of \$17,179.

Operating expenses were \$5776.85; miscellaneous \$799.36; cost of construction of addition to fire-house \$7280.25; payments on tanker \$1409.90 and interest and principal on indebtedness \$5718.43.

Donations provided \$2962.20 in revenues; memorials \$731.93; various benefits \$3600.81; Federal Revenue Sharing \$600; and from the Town of Hague \$3,000. (The Hague Town budget provided \$6000. for the Fire Department. Presumably half was paid in another accounting period.)

As of December 31, 1974, the in-

debtedness of the Fire Department was \$26,500.

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OBITUARIES

Mr. Arthur Pagan who lived in Graphite passed away on May 12 and was buried in the May Cemetery on May 14. Mr. Robert McQueston who resided with his family in Hohokus, N.J. died suddenly during the previous week. The McQueston's purchased the Zimmer home in Silver Bay several years ago and have spent their summers there.

It was not our good fortune to have known Mr. Pagan and we knew Mr. McQueston only slightly. We will be glad to publish proper obituaries if given the opportunity.

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HERITAGE DAY

Heritage Day, May 17, was celebrated in Hague with the planting in the Town Park of a beautiful, perfectly formed, blue spruce about four feet tall. The tree had been obtained by Dan Belden and Clifford Decker several days earlier.

Approximately twelve people participated in the tree planting with Mrs. Vila Fitzgerald, Town Historian, making the dedicatory speech. A suitable marker to note the occasion will be obtained.

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(address correction requested)

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