

# THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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Hague, N.Y.

## A FOUR SEASON RESORT AREA

An economic profile of the Adirondack Park compiled by the Adirondack Park Agency discloses that in 1970 family income in the Park was only 66% of the state average; unemployment was twice that for the rest of the state; and some 16.9% of the families were at the poverty or near-poverty levels as compared to 12.8% statewide. The 111,355 persons who resided permanently in the Park in 1970 had an average income of \$2427. compared to \$3634 statewide. Long before the current national recession unemployment was 8% compared to the state average of 3.7%. There is no reason to believe these statistics are relatively different at the present time. Unemployment, for example in some areas of the Park is currently 19%.

There is little industry within the park; in Hague there is none at all. Farming, the principal industry at the turn of the century, has completely disappeared. Construction is severely restricted because of restrictions on building within the Park. This leaves us with tourism as the only industry with a growth potential.

For many years tourism has been regarded as having a 70-day season - late June to Labor Day. As highways improved and leisure time was expanded, the season was extended to the fall when visitors from miles around came to see the fall colors: for some this was extended to winter when ski resorts became available. Perhaps the snowmobile gave winter tourism its greatest impetus - now access to the mountains and the forest lands were opened to winter visitors.

All of this has prompted Chambers of Commerce and business men generally to promote the region as a "four season resort area" - and with some success. This winter the Lake George Chamber sponsored "five weekends of family fun at the Lake George Winter Carnival". Every conceivable outdoor winter activity was promoted including motorcycle and sports car racing on the ice; golf on the ice; snowmobile and snowshoe races; etc. etc. The promotions have borne fruit. Last year \$1.2 million were deposited in local banks on a selected Monday; this year \$2.3 million were deposited under the same conditions. A restaurant in Luzerne has reported that its receipts in January and February this year exceeded receipts for last July and August.

At a meeting of the Hague Chamber on March 10, members enthusiastically endorsed a program to promote Hague as a four-season resort. While the immediate concern is the coming summer, they all have an eye on next winter.

Bob Patchett who owns and operates the Trout House Village Resort has already had some experience in developing winter business. He and his family came to Hague initially as summer residents, found the area to their liking and bought a home on Pine Cove. After several visits to the area during winter they decided two years ago to make Hague their year-round home and for a source of income purchased Trout House Village.

Advertising primarily with direct mail, they have been able to draw a full house every weekend. Many of the guests are summer people who come up to Hague to check their property. The Patchetts can accommodate upwards of 30 people. They promote what they

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(continued from page one)

describe as a mini-weekend which begins with dinner on Friday night, three meals on Saturday and brunch on Sunday. Cooking facilities are available for guests who wish to provide their own meals. One weekend they had 30 guests and 22 snowmobiles.

Burgev's Beachside Motel and Warren's Hague Motel offer similar year-round facilities. Campsites are also available at Tom Smith's Brookside, Bea Frasier's Green Acres and DeLarn's Wintergreen Lake.

What is needed is more winter recreation facilities. The Ski tow which the town is building should draw tourists. The snowmobile trails are an excellent drawing card. Ice skating facilities are needed. There should be more winter promotions. The Hague Fish and Game Club promoted Winter Fun Days for years - why not take over again?

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ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS RESOLUTIONS

There were a number of resolutions adopted by the Association of Towns at its annual meeting last month which give some insight into the problems of the small towns today. Some of the more important are -

Environmental Mandates: There should be a moratorium on further environmental mandates without a consideration of the fiscal ability of the towns to implement them. The towns generally oppose further mandates of any kind.

Land Use Control: The Association strenuously opposes legislation which would diminish the zoning and planning powers of the towns. In a sep-

arate resolution, the Association called for a repeal of the Adirondack Park Agency Act which has already seriously limited the zoning and planning powers of the towns located within the Park.

Real Property Tax Administration Aid: The assessment of real property on the basis of its full value is now required under a recent decision of the Court of Appeals. Due to the cost of such revaluations and maintenance, state aid for such purposes should be provided.

Alternative to Property Taxes: The real property tax which continues to be the principal source of local revenue, imposes a disproportionate burden on property owners. Alternative sources of local revenue must be explored and the Association requests the governor and the legislature to institute a broad study for determining new sources of local revenue.

Equality in Distribution of Powers to Towns: Towns should have the power to reorganize themselves similar to that conferred upon counties, cities and villages.

Pension Costs: A resolution which passed by a narrow margin calls for a halt in the rise of pension costs and fringe benefits and that every means be explored to reduce these costs, including consideration of a contributory pension system.

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KNOX TREK UP-DATE

In the January issue we told the story of the Knox Trail Trek and the re-enactment which was taking place 200 years later. We left the modern day Henry Knox making his way on land after the trip down Lake George. Here's the up-date.

Al Robbins, an employee of the State Department of Transportation who played the part of Henry Knox, was the only person to cover the entire 300 miles of the trip. At the Massachusetts border a suitably round fellow named William O. Wilbur

attempted to take charge as the official Henry Knox selected by the Massachusetts Bi-Centennial Commission. However, Robbins stood his ground and the problem was resolved only when Wilbur was told by the Massachusetts organization to drop out because the oxen he was driving were "too slow" and were bogging down the entire operation.

Notwithstanding this and other problems including some of the worst weather imaginable, including below zero temperatures, the caravan arrived in Boston on schedule after the 47 day trip. Robbins was honored at a dinner on March 4 at Lake George with more than one hundred dignitaries present.

The event inspired a poem (author unknown) honoring Henry Knox.

Three hundred pounds of basso profundo  
Was Henry Knox.

A heavy, hearty, light-hearted party  
Was Henry Knox.

Enthusiasm always in high,  
The kind of man who'd never say die,  
Robust, rotund, congenial giant  
Was Henry Knox.

Henry Knox, at the age of twelve,  
Was forced to go to work.  
To support his mother he got a job in a  
Bookstore as a clerk. And while he  
worked,

He also read, a lot of books and filled  
His head 'til he was an authority  
On guns and artillery.

At twenty-one he opened up  
A bookstore of his own.

At twenty-five enlisted to  
Oppose the British throne.  
Big promotions came rapidly  
In five months he had a colonelcy  
And he was put in charge  
Of artillery small and large.

(repeat first eight lines)

At the start of the war  
The British force held Boston town  
And the home team didn't have half  
Enough heavy guns to wear them down.

So Henry Knox and his men were sent,  
Ticonderoga is where they went  
see if the Fort could spare  
The captured cannon there.

Three hundred miles of snow  
And thaw across the wild terrain,  
But Henry Knox successfully delivered

That noble train.  
Then up to Dorchester Heights  
They hauled the cannon  
And when they were all installed  
It started to explode.  
The British hit the road.  
(repeat first eight lines)  
Henry Knox was with Washington  
When the Delaware was crossed,  
Said the General to the Colonel,  
"Shift your weight or all is lost."  
When Henry Knox thought there  
Should be a special kind of  
Academy to teach the gunner's art,  
West Point got its start.  
At Washington's farewell  
When he relinquished his command,  
Henry Knox was the first man  
He approached to clasp his hand.  
Full of energy, full of drive,  
In seventeen hundred eighty-five  
Congress picked him for  
Secretary of War.  
(repeat first eight lines)

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#### FOAM ON THE LAKE

During the late fall we have seen from time to time stretches of foam-topped water. These have now been examined by the biologist from the Department of Environmental Conservation who states that it is a natural phenomenon.

In technical language it is described as amorphous glucosidal compounds commonly called saponins which are found in plants. "As plant material, especially leaves, decays in water", he concludes, "saponins are released. Aeration of water containing saponins releases gases and results in the foam condition we commonly see in many streams and lakes. Normally, this has no detrimental effects, but large concentrations can cause toxicity to trout".

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#### WATER LEVEL OF LAKE ABNORMALLY HIGH

Despite having the gates at the outlet dam in Ticonderoga fully open since February 4, the level of the lake is considerably above normal for this time of year. The recent warm

weather and accompanying precipitation are responsible and it is predicted that the spring run-off for the Lake George Basin will be at 136% of normal.

During the winter months the land portion of the watershed accumulates a certain amount of water which is stored in the form of ice and snow. The land area of the watershed is 4.3 times that of the lake; thus, one inch of water covering the land will be 4.3 inches when concentrated in the area of the lake. It is estimated that there are four inches of water on the ground now, mostly in the form of ice and snow, which could bring about a 17 inch potential rise in the lake level.

Of course there will be losses through evaporation and infiltration but April showers can usually be counted on to replace that portion of the ice and snow which is lost to the air and ground.

The Lake George Commission advises that it will require an extraordinary combination of meteorological events and luck to keep the lake in control this spring. Areas of shoreline which are less than one foot above today's lake level stand an excellent chance of being inundated this spring and precautions should be taken to secure and protect any facilities located in those low-lying areas.

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THE TOWN LIBRARY

A new group has been formed to push for a library in Fague. They have held several meetings and more are planned. No formal organization has been established; however, some of the people behind this move are: Mr. and Mrs. Meola, Mrs. Ida May, Mr. Ronald White, Mrs. Louis Brock, and Mrs. Marion Dunklee. Several of the school children have also attended these meetings.

The initial effort of the group will be to petition the Town Board to hold a referendum to determine if a majority of the townspeople are in

favor of establishing a town library and to have the Town Board agree that it would be bound by the results of the referendum.

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YEAR 'ROUND AT THE LAKE

I came off exit twenty-four  
And there it was, that place  
So special and so lightly called  
The lake or just, up north.  
It took my breath. I gazed and thought  
"My God, it's beautiful".

That day it was a sapphire set  
To sparkle in the sun  
That night a mirror dark with swath  
Of gold beat to our feet  
The next day hammered silver framed  
With brooding gray-blue-greens.

And so it went from soft pastels  
Of early morning mists  
Through flashing blaze of autumn rain  
To winter's black and whites  
With diamonds in the moonlit snow  
And birds that stay and sing.

As good a way as I have found  
To measure anything  
I check the status of my being  
Against the time that's passed.  
Since last I looked around and thought  
"My God, it's beautiful."

V. Shattuck  
March, 1976

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

All members, except Aaron Middleton, were present at the meeting of the Board on March 9.

Proposals submitted by the Town Park Committee (reported in the January, 1976 Chronicle) were briefly reviewed. Policy matters to be considered by the Board are whether charges should be assessed for use of the boat launching facility, mooring boats in the slip, parking cars, use of the beach, etc. Hopefully policy decisions will be made at the next meeting of the Board and suitable ordinances drawn. Meanwhile, the Board authorized the supervisor to adver-

tise for a full-time park employee to work a total of 20 weeks during the late spring and summer at a cost to the town of \$3000. He will perform all maintenance required at the park including supervision of the parking of cars and boats, the boat launching facility, mow the lawns, tend the flower gardens, etc. and will collect any fees or charges which the town may decide to assess.

The supervisor reported that he had been informed by the State Health Department that if as many as 50 people used the town beach, lifeguards and life preservers are required. To keep the beach open from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. seven days a week will require the services of two lifeguards, one of which will be employed to teach swimming, etc. as a part of the youth recreation program.

The highway superintendent advised that a "chipper" can be purchased by the town at a price of \$2500. The original cost was \$6200. when purchased new in 1974 and is in excellent condition. The "chipper" will reduce branches up to 8" in circumference to chips which can be disposed of easily at the landfill. The Board authorized its purchase from Federal Revenue Sharing Funds.

The proposal to buy a replacement truck for the 1968 International was again discussed briefly. It was indicated that a replacement would cost about \$33,000. The question will be studied further.

A 'junk car ordinance' prepared by the town planning board was presented. After considering some of the language it was concluded that each member of the board would review the proposed ordinance and it would be brought up again at the next meeting.

The matter of a town policeman for the summer months was discussed and the supervisor was authorized to advertise for candidates. Questions relating to hours of employment, salary, etc. will be considered at the next meeting.

Mr. Al Perkins attended the meet-

ing to propose that the town youth program be revived. He reported that the school was available for various youth activities and that he felt a worthwhile youth program could be undertaken. After some discussion, Mr. Perkins was appointed Director to serve until June 30. He was directed to prepare a program for the remainder of the fiscal year and this would be presented at the next meeting of the Board for its approval.

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#### SCHOOL NEWS

The School Board met for its regular monthly meeting on March 8.

George May, whose term as a member of the Board expires this year, will seek re-election for an additional term of five years. May has also been nominated to serve on the Board of Directors of BOCES with headquarters in Plattsburgh. There are 15 directors on this board who serve for three years.

The program reviewed last month whereby a highschool junior can enter college and receive credit for his last year in highschool, provided he does satisfactory work, was adopted by the Board.

The four students who comprise the senior class have voted not to take the customary trip to Washington this spring. They are considering a trip to Boston or Montreal.

Harry White, Chairman of the Board of Assessors, advised the Board that if the 50% real estate tax exemption for 65 year and older property owners who otherwise qualify, will reduce assessed valuations a total of approximately \$72,000. and result in a loss of school taxes of \$1128. based on last year's school tax rate. The proposal to grant the exemptions was approved. (The town and county have already approved). Applications for the exemption must be in the hands of the assessors by May 1.

Edna Frasier and Sharon Fitzgerald will attend a one-day "negotiations

workshop" at Albany on April 10.

SBA APPOINTS DIRECTOR

Resignation of Rev. Edward Elliott as assistant custodian effective on March 28 was announced.

William Glenn has been appointed Director, Silver Bay Association to replace Charles Cross who has been Acting Director since the resignation of George Ludlow last fall.

Remember: Registration for new voters, April 24, 1 to 5 P.M.; Annual Board Meeting, May 4, 7:30 P.M.; voting on the budget and Board member election, May 5, 1 to 8 P.M. Since classes will not be dismissed early on May 5, voting will take place during the first few hours in the trailer alongside the school - afterwards it will move to the gymnasium.

Glenn has had a long association with the YMCA. Most recently he was Development Officer and International Consultant in the YMCA's Northeast Region with headquarters in Boston. He has had previous service in Detroit and for a number of years was with the International Division of the YMCA, a part of World Service, as its executive in Hong Kong.

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ESSAY CONTEST

A prize of \$25. will be awarded to the Hague Central School student who, in the opinion of the judges, has written the best poem, essay, story, etc. on any subject related to Hague or the Hague Central School. Messrs. Meola and Seerup have been selected as judges, a third will be selected later.

The Glenns, who have several grown children, will be making their home in Silver Bay. They will be arriving in mid-April.

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THE WEATHER

Entries may be submitted at any time before June 1 to Mr. Meola or any of the Hague school teachers. The winner will be announced at the highschool graduation exercises and the winning entry will be published in the Chronicle. The donor of the prize wishes to remain anonymous.

The 1975-76 winter can best be described by telling you that from December 31 to January 19 we burned an average of 10.68 gallons of fuel oil per day as compared with 9.53 gallons per day a year ago. From January 19 to February 10 we used a daily average of 10.68 gallons as compared with 9.53 gallons a year ago.

In fact, we consumed more oil in January and February this year than in any period since 1970.

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