



VOLUME 20 No. 12

HAGUE, NY 12836

DECEMBER 1992

CHRISTMAS COMES TO HAGUE

The Community Christmas party held on Saturday, the 12th, was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of Georgina Lindquist, chairman and her faithful elves. The center was a thing of beauty, with colorful decorations and a huge community Christmas tree. Penelope the Clown was there in fine fettle, as was the magician, Eric Conover, who had the kids, (of all ages) enraptured. Community members came through with lots of goodies which were served by Fran Clifton, chairman and her helpers.

Of course Santa and his spouse were there and all the kiddies were invited to sit on his lap and have their pictures taken.

One of the main attractions was the naming of the Senior Citizen of the Year, which had been kept a deep dark secret until the moment of revelation. This year's well-deserved honor went to ETHEL ANDRUS, former Silver Bay Postmaster. Since her retirement (and before) Ethel has been very active in community affairs and aprojects, the latest of which has been the organization of the Meals on Wheels Program. CONGRATULATIONS FROM ALL OF US!

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AT HAGUE BAPTIST

The annual Community Candlelight Service will be held on Sunday, December 20 at 7:00PM at the Hague Baptist Church. The ChristChild candle, the last of the advent candles, will be lighted during this service. The Hague Baptist Church invites all members of the community to attend. A birthday cake for the Baby Jesus will be served in the annex following the service.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

invites everyone to the CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGY, Thursday, Dec. 24. A Service of Light will begin at 6:00PM, followed by the Celebration of the Eucharist at 6:30PM. For information call 543--8828.

THE HAGUE WESLEYAN CHURCH

Church members will be caroling on Wednesday, December 16, meeting at the church at 7PM. Any others in the community are most welcome to join them. On December 20 the Sunday School presents its Christmas program in the church at 10:30AM and that evening church members will be attending the community candlelight service at the Hague Baptist Church. On December 24 the church will be open for members and friends to drop in for a family communion from 6-8PM.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

The Hancock House on Moses Circle in Ticonderoga is all decked out for Christmas. The annual Festival of Trees is being celebrated for the fourth year with beautifully decorated trees from various groups and individuals in the community. Hague's own Hague Baptist Church has entered a tree this year, done in a religious motif.

The Festival of Trees is something you won't want to miss. Stop by between 10AM and 4PM Wednesdays through Saturdays through Jan. 9 for a real boost to your holiday spirit.

ANOTHER HOLIDAY TREAT

The Master Singers of Glens Falls will present its annual Christmas concert at 3:00PM at the Christ United Methodist Church on Bay St. in Glens Falls. Directed by Tom Booth, the approximately 60-member Mastersingers will present both secular and sacred Christmas music. A reception will follow the concert.

HAGUE'S MEMORY TREE

Donations for the 1992 Memory Tree have been coming in very well. Names are posted daily on the felt tree at the Community Center and the bulb tree will be lit at the Community Christmas party on December 12. Donations will be accepted throughout the Holiday Season, until January 1. Remembrances are \$1 per light. Please make checks payable to HAGUE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, and send to Imogene Frasier, Memory Tree Chairwoman, Hague, NY 12836. All donations will be forwarded to the Hague Emergency Squad.

Lights can be lit in remembrance of a loved one, to celebrate a new birth, or just a "thinking of you" message.

Many thanks for the enthusiastic response to this project thus far. . . ks

The following names already appear on the Memory Tree. Those too late for publication this month will be included in the January issue.

Jamie Achey, Shakey Agajanian, Wally Allison, Merle Anderson, William Andrus, Ruth M. Auerbach, Balcom, Smith, Fitzgerald family, Mary Beadness, Barbara Hoffay Beaver, Bobby Beekley, Barbara A. Belden, James Belden, Joe Belden, Esther Belden, Maud Belden, William Kay Belden, Nell Belknap, M. C. Beste Steven A. Bevins, James N. Bly, Pauline Bolton, R. J. Bolton, Mame Bolton, Jody Braisted, James Braisted, Helen Braisted, James A. Brink, Albert Brink, James Broderick, Margaret Broderick, Edsal Case, James Casillo,
(Cont. on page 2 - Memory Tree)

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

MEMORY TREE (Cont.)

Edward F. Cassidy, Augusta Clifton, Frances Clifton, Mattie Clifton, Eleanor Conlon, Mabel Conlon, Wally Conlon, Charles Conlon, Ernest Conlon, Wilbur Conlon, Carrie Conlon, Irene Coveney, Alison Craig, David M. Darrin, Gene Delsignore, Gene Denno, Marion Denno, Joe Denno, Archie Denno, Sr., Archie Denno, Jr., Sarah Denno, Edward Dunklee, Westhill Densmore, Louise Densmore, Vincent E. Dwyer, Earl Elthorpe, Gladys Elthorpe, Kenneth G. Engler, Sr., E. R. Ferguson, Sr., Nellie K. Ferguson, Mary E. Ferguson, Fred Fish, Charles Fish, Floyd Fish, Sr., Helena Fish, Herman Fish, Myra L. Fish, Eric Fitzgerald, John Fitzgerald, Robert Fitzgerald, Lawrence Fortier, Noble Fortier, Alice Frasier, Carl Frasier, Clifton Frasier, Dale Frasier, Donald Frasier, Donna Lynn Frasier, Hazel Frasier, Lee Frasier, Mary E. Frasier, Mary Ross Frasier, Richard S. Frasier, Samuel R. Frasier, Stanley Frasier, Valeda Frasier, Veril Frasier, Valeda Frasier, William Frasier, Anne Marie Frederickson, Donohue F. Glennon, Donald M. Goodfellow, Joan Grady, Bethany Granwehr, Earl Hayford, Evon Marie Hayford, Floyd Hayford, Mary Hayford, Richard Hayford Ernie Heidingsfeld, Dorothy Henry, John T. Henry, Happy Homer Henry, Robert E. Henry, Archie Herrick, Gert Herrick, Jim Herrick, Rev. John J. Hogan, Sam Hoyt, Joseph Howard, Lisa Howard, George Huestis, Edward P. Hume, Louise Hume, Robert E. Hume, Joseph Hunter, Robert Hunter, Gerald Hutchinson, Adelaide Igoe, Frank Igoe, Alice Johns, Florence Johns, Ray Johns, Willard T. Johns, Willard T. Johns, Jr., Curtis Jordan, Robert Wilson Keller, Jack Kennedy, Betty Lambert, Harold Lambert, Bob Larter, Ray Laundree, Marge Laundree, Rev. David Lawrence, Richard M. Leonard, William Lyon, Joseph Malloy, Don Martin, Frank Martin, Jessie Martin, John Martin, Barbara May, Madeline May, William May, Gordon May, Elaine McKee, James McKenna, Elizabeth McKenna, Rev. John A. McCarthy, Robert S. Meade, Roy Meeker, Roy Meeker, Alvin Middleton, Walter Middleton, Betty Monroe, Byron Monroe, Eva Monroe, Harry Moore, Anna Novotny, Helen Novotny, Louis Novotny, Jr., Louis Novotny, Sr., William Novotny Sr. Alfred Ostrander, Laurie Pannell, Mary Peria, Charles Peria, Anna Peria, Kingsley Peria, John Peria, Tom Peria, Claire Piantadosa, Jason Polachek, Leane Polachek, Scott Polachek, Camille Pomponio, Harold Porter Louise Prentiss, Ruth Rand, Reginald Rand Sr., Thelma Rand, Harry Rand, Margaret Robinson, Mildred B. Ross, Julia B. Ross, Wilford C. Ross, Wesley Ross, Gerard Santaniello, Forrest Shattuck, Mabel Smith, Thomas G. Smith, Louis Spelman, Sr., Louis Spelman, Jr., Ione Spencer, Anne Spreeman, Frederick Spreeman, Harold Stafford, Marshall Stark, John Sullivan, Clarence Swinyer, Dolly L. Swinyer, Jack Tinker, Tobin Family, John Trombley, Meirlda Trombley, Anna Trudeau, Clifford Trudeau, George Urice, Jay AA. Urice Sr., Jeane Urice, Marguerite Urice, Dorcas Walsh, Dr. James Walsh, Elizabeth Conlon Waters, Francis, Ethel M. Watts, Walter W. Watts, Walter G. Watts, Walter L. Watts, Edward G. Watts, Ray Weisgerber, Burton West, Bessie West, C. Frank West, Lucinda West, Adrian Wiltsie, Miriam M. Wray, Theodore Wray, Val H. Wilson, Lottie Yeoman

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On Wednesday, Dec. 16, the Hague Historical Society will hold its annual Show and Tell night at the Hague Community Center. Social Hour will get under way at 7:30PM with the meeting to begin at 8PM. Each person attending is invited to bring some article of interest which is over 50 years old (other than one's spouse) to talk about.

Things are fairly quiet with the Chamber this month, now that the Senior Citizen of the Year has been chosen, and the Memory Tree project is under way. Many thanks to Tom James and his committee members for helping choose the 1992 Senior Citizen, and to Imogene Frasier for her help with the Memory Tree.

The Chamber Christmas party is scheduled for December 16, hosted by Bob and Lyn Patchett. Members have been called, and we thank the Patchetts for this annual hospitality during a very busy holiday season.

Congratulations to the 1992 Senior Citizen of the Year, and Happy Holidays to all. . . ks

RECENT ACQUISITIONS IN THE HAGUE MUSEUM

- A copy of the Pictorial History of the Silver Bay Association, donated by Mark Johnson.
- A copy of the Warren County Susquicentennial issue of The Post Star 1963.
- A pair of women's winter leggings. Both of the above items donated by Doris Bolton.
- Crosscut log saw used on the West Farm prior to 1930. One of the early Industrial Arts tools, it was donated by the Town Historian. Frank Koenig fastened it to the Museum wall.
- Two pictures of students of West Hague Dist. No. 3 1920 and 1922. One is of the complete student body. Both are on the bulletin board.
- High School yearbooks from 1967--1979 are on display on one of the new shelves. Can someone spare earlier copies of the yearbooks?
- A copy of graduation exercises June 25-26, 1954
- Also many copies of graduation invitations over a span of several years. A fantastic gift from Michele Brunet.

"STUFF"

Betty Buckell's latest endeavor, STUFF, has just been released and is available at the Bookmark and Dragonfly Book Store in Ticonderoga for \$15.00. The book is 186 pages, includes 90 pictures - old photos and prints, besides art work by Buckell.

This is a collection of love STUFF, huntin' STUFF, historical STUFF, knee slappin' STUFF, and just plain STUFF STUFF that happened round about the Lake George-Champlain shores - or deep in the haunts of the Adirondacks.

Of local interest are whoppers about Mace Stone, a character who lived a long time ago near Rogers Rock. Included also are tales about Fort Ticonderoga, a legend about buried gold near Hague, sea-monster nonsense of both lakes and lots more.

Credit is given on the frontispiece to The Hague Chronicle and its editor for the use of a story about Jack Carney's unusual way to catch a deer, which appeared in this paper a number of years ago.

Other books by Buckell include No Dull Days at Huletts, Old Lake George Hotels, and Boats.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 11/19/92

James Howard (20-1-13.1) received an area variance with conditions from the ZBA for a mobile concession stand to be placed seasonally on the Nelson Waters property on Rt. 8. This project goes back to the Planning Board.

At the same meeting Doran (60-1-3.3) received a variance for his residential addition. . . gl

HAGUE PLANNING BOARD - 12/3/92

The Hague Planning Board meeting was long due to an extensive agenda which included a proposal by David Darrin (30-1-36) for an inn and restaurant on the old Beachside property on 9N. The Inn would contain 40 rooms and the restaurant would seat 75. A public hearing has been set for Jan. 7 at 7PM.

Although James Howard (20-1-13) received an area variance, with conditions, from the ZBA for his mobile concession stand, the proposal was denied by the Planning Board with a 3-ayes and 4-nays vote. The board was very concerned that the location would provide a traffic safety hazard.

After reviewing James Ward's Marine Storage (19-1-4) application a motion was made to approve with SEQR conditions. All members voted yes.

Doran (60-1-3.3) application for a residential addition presented no negative reasons against. A variance had been received from ZBA. A public hearing has been set for Jan. 7 at 7:15PM.

A residential addition, 10'x14' has been requested by Ryder (28-1-14). Many questions and the request for a visual concept by the owner was made by the board. A public hearing has been set for Jan. 7.

A public hearing will be held on Jan. 7 for a minor sub-division request by Kruger (8-1-15:16).

Site plan reviews have been set for the Darrin, Ryder, Doran and Kruger applications.

A discussion followed the regular part of the meeting in which a recommendation for inspection of mobile homes was suggested. The matter will be brought to the attention of the town board. . . gl

TOWN BOARD - 12/8/92

At the beginning of the town board meeting David Lawrence, chairman of the School Tax Investigating committee read a lengthy letter which can be read in its entirety on page 5 of this issue of The Hague Chronicle. Bruce Caza, assessor, suggested we follow the guidelines set by the committee but felt the town should wait to see if a change is possible in legislation. Hague is only one of many towns in NYS facing this same problem and if we present a class action suit alone it could prove very expensive.

Nelson Waters read a letter he received from the state defining conflict of interest. This he used to illustrate why he felt that Alison Craig (Planning Board) should be removed from that board.

Communications and Petitions:

A letter of thanks to Elwin (Curly) Monroe for those beautiful Christmas trees.

Wendy Serbent wrote the supervisor about an inci-

dent with a runaway town truck which could have had serious consequences. Supervisor Belden has written a letter of apology and discussed the problem with the highway supervisor and committee.

Supervisor Belden wrote letter of thanks to Reale Construction for bridge work well done and materials and work on boat launch. A letter of thanks also to Jim Hirsch for work with town on bridge project.

Dr. Robert Collins, Ti School Superintendent, wrote with information for Resolution to commend Senator Stafford for his success in helping reduce transition assessment of State land.

Mr. Soliday protested (in a letter) any granting of a variance on Open Hearth Restaurant property permitting it to return to that capacity after a more than 2-year hiatus.

Special Committees:

The Holiday Craft fair held by the Youth Committee in Nov. was a great success. A skating party is planned for Dec. 29 at the new skating rink, beside the Community Center. If rink is not complete, the skating will be held at Silver Bay. Time: 2:30-4:30PM.

Regular Committees:

The old town hall has been closed for the winter. Delivery to Highway Dept. has been made of new sander.

Planning and Zoning plans training session in 1993. David Darrin has proposed the building of Inn on Beachside property.

More organization for 1993 at the landfill.

Short Term Committees:

Motion passed to approve Charles Parlin and Dick Frasier to serve on hospital board as representatives of Hague. The new hospital board will take over on Jan 1, 1993.

New Business:

A suggested resolution for a Safe Homes Program was tabled.

End of Year meeting December 29 at 6PM to audit the town books by board.

Kiwanis Club will sponsor a skating rink on the Community Center property.

Warren County has given 100% approval to a contract with Hudson Falls burning plant. This should help keep Hague's tipping fees down.

A RABIES CLINIC WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 16 AT THE HIGHWAY DEPT. 6-7:30PM. . . gl

HAAGUE YOUTH COMMITTEE

Karen Costello

The Craft Workshop for Kids held last month was a big hit with 43 kids attending. They created many nice things from angels and candleholders to tiles and ornaments. Thanks to the crafty people who taught the handiwork: Fran Clifton, Lois Strum, Carolyn Bailey, Shelley Gautreau, Debbie and James Girard, Cindy Coon, Debbie Breitenbach, Karen Costello and their helping hands, Dottie Henry, Kitty Zacharenko, Val Lawrence, Bobby Porter and the many parents there. Refreshments were served (good trail mix, thanks to Evelyn Monroe and Debbie Girard) and door prizes were awarded. Good time!

(Cont. on page 4 YOUTH)

YOUTH (Cont. from page 3)

The December activities are depending on the weather and an important project that needs helpers. On Sunday, Dec. 13 at 11:30 there will be a work party to begin construction of an ice skating rink at the Hague Community Center parking lot. The Kiwanis Club of Ticonderoga has very generously donated materials, time and laborers to build the rink. Materials are being provided by Rudd Van Voorhis; Walt Waters has given time and the use of his equipment. Dave DeLarm will be transporting the materials. We thank all who have aided this exciting project and hope the community will enjoy the ice rink this season. Thanks also to Mary Laundree who has offered use of a snow blower for maintenance. A big thanks to Al Johns, Arcady Bay Estates, who is volunteering his time and effort to head the committee of Kiwanians in charge of this project.

As I said, our next activities planned are ice skating parties on the new rink on Tues, Dec. 29 and Thurs. Dec 31 from 2:30-4:30. Hot chocolate and donuts will be served to keep the energy level up. So sharpen your skates and come exercise those ankles!

A reminder that the Ti Youth Commission activities outlined in a monthly newsletter distributed in Ti Schools, are open to Hague youth. We encourage participation as we provide funding for their program for our youth.

CUB SCOUT PACK 21 NEWS

Karen Costello

Thanks again to all who participated in our fall fundraiser. Top earners were Thor Gautreau, Peter Hutchinson and Josh Plass.

Den #3 members have all completed requirements for the Webelo badge and are working on Citizen, Family and Scientist.

Den #4 learned some "hard lessons" about disabilities, created seed art, enjoyed the legend of Hiawatha, overcame some backyard obstacles and took a star-gazing trip to the Ti Planetarium - all in one month!

Den #2 has "launched" into the season with homemade catapults, while working on their Engineer pins. Nate Lawrence has earned his Sportsman pin. They tried their hands at wood-burning, making room signs. They're planning their own Christmas party with a movie, special treats and gift exchanges before a 2-week break (for their leaders).

Happy Holidays to All!

MOSES-LUDINGTON PARENT BOARD LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

"The reorganization of the MLH Board of Directors is moving smoothly", reported Edward LaRock, chairman of the Parent Board of the Moses-Ludington Campus in Ticonderoga, NY. One of the changes that the three towns who have contracted with the hospital for medical services for the coming year wanted to see instituted was a down sizing of the current board. In addition to the downsizing, officials in the towns of Ticonderoga, Hague and Putnam also wished to have

representation from each town on the new hospital board. LaRock indicated that the towns will have two representatives each who will sit on the new board.

The balance of the thirteen member board will be made up of five members from the area, plus the International Paper Co. Mill Mgr. by virtue of his position and the President of the Medical Staff, by virtue of his position. Currently the towns are in the process of selecting their representatives. Hague's appointed representatives will be Richard Frasier, town board member and Charles Parlin, Jr.

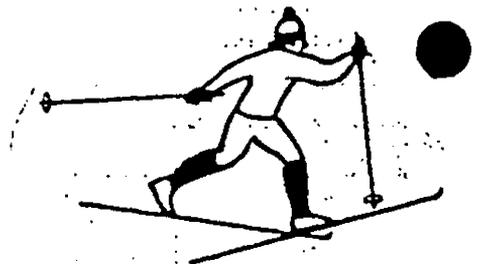
The new hospital board will face a formidable task to stabilize the rural facility. The NYS Dept of Health has recognized that Moses-Ludington has the distinction of being the most remote hospital in the state. Thus the Health Department realizes the importance of providing continued health care services to the area. The department has therefore directed the hospital to form a task force to work with the Adirondack Rural Health Network, Glens Falls Hospital and the Hudson Headwaters Health Network to explore all possible options of health care that could be provided to the residents of the area given the utilization and the reimbursement system. Moses-Ludington will be one of four pilot projects in the state to see if solutions to adequate rural health care can be found. The department is providing a grant to assist the work of this group. The task force has been formed and the initial meeting has taken place. It is much too soon to expect any results from this effort, but it can be said that there are some encouraging possibilities that might be forthcoming if all of the pieces can be put in place.

The search for a surgeon who can perform Caesarian Sections continues unabated. We had hoped that by this writing it would have been resolved, but unfortunately, as so often is the case, another roadblock to this solution has appeared. A surgeon on board would allow the hospital to reopen the recently closed maternity unit, thus giving a big boost toward increased utilization.

Meanwhile the search for a permanent Campus C.E.O. is moving forward. The search committee, made up of members from the Hospital, Nursing Home and the Towns, has narrowed the list of applicants to those that they would like to interview. Letters have gone out with additional information to help these candidates decide if they wish to pursue their application further. Three candidates have already been scheduled.

The object of all these efforts is to provide the highest level of health care in the Ticonderoga area at no additional cost, or if that is not possible at a very minimal cost. There is every reason to believe that this objective can be met. Two critical ingredients to the success of whatever evolves are a willingness on the part of everyone to give it a fair chance and for the entire seven town area that the hospital serves to become a part of the solution and to work in unison toward that goal.

... Bruce Craig



BRUCE CAZA, TOWN ASSESSOR

As the new sole assessor for the town of Hague, Bruce Caza, IAO, North Hudson, is responsible for reviewing and updating all assessments for the town. Replacing Harold LaRose on August 24, 1992, Bruce is not only the assessor for the town of Hague, but also for Chester and Horicon.

Mr. Caza has been an assessor for eight years, is married and the father of four children. He is presently on the Executive Board of the NYS Assessors Association, past president of the Warren County Assessors Association, 1989-91 and past president of the Essex County Assessors Association, 1987-88. He also holds the position of chairman of the Board of Assessors of the town of North Hudson. He is a member of the Institute of Assessing Officers (IAO), with a professional assessor designation from the NYS Division of Equalization & Assessment.

Since taking over the reigns in Hague, Mr. Caza has defended 42 small claims for the town of Hague. The town won four of these claims. 21 claims were settled, with less than 25% deduction, 14 at 25% or more and three with no decision. An additional 13 claims have been referred to the NYS Supreme Court under Article 7.

Mr. Caza has been busy acquainting himself with the various properties in town and meeting with property owners. He is in Hague on most Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30PM - 8:30PM. However, it is best to call the Town Hall, 543-6161 during office hours (8AM-5PM) to make an appointment.

A questionnaire will be sent out in the near future to all property owners. It is important that they be filled out and returned, so that any mistakes can be rectified.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I feel it necessary to respond to your November editorial entitled, "Is this Democracy?" First, the time given by our town board for public input prior to the monthly board meeting is a "Right" and not just a privilege. This is one of the most important cornerstones in a Democracy. Your suggestion to have it taken away or limited suggests the dreaded communistic/Totalitarianism way of life that is collapsing throughout the world today. This time should not be taken away. This 30 minutes each month is little enough to give to our tax payers compared to what they give to this community.

Responsible members of our community applaud Mr. Belden for allowing our people to make comments and ask questions. The world today. This time should not be taken away. This 30 minutes each month is little enough to give to our tax payers compared to what they give to this community.

Responsible members of our community applaud Mr. Belden for allowing our people to make comments and ask questions. The November meeting was in no way out of order. Thank God that people care enough to come out to the Town Board meetings. This past year we have been able to depend on one time and date for each meeting. So what if three or four people

spoke out in the business part of the meeting. There are many things that need to be questioned and finally some accountability called for, from the Town Board and other boards that affect our town folk.

Then you suggest that a Sargent at Arms be used to control.....control the ones who are concerned enough to come out each month? Outragious!

You suggested that I had an axe to grind...that I had ridiculed members of the Planning Board. I simply explained to the Town Board what that group of people had put us through for nearly 9 months to place one mobile home on our 65 acres. You were there Editor. Surely, you must have observed their making us come back month after month...asking for more information each month....the same game that is perpetrated on many other people in our community. Information was given to the Town Board to enable them to act in behalf of the people they were elected to help. If they allow that board to play favorites after that information then their true motives will be exposed to the community at large.

You suggest that the citizens want to abolish those regularity boards. These boards could help if they would...help without favor of a few. If they continue as they have for the year that I have watched them we may be better off. It is in frustration that some may have suggested this alternative. This paper has never, as far as I know, addressed the hypocritical attitudes of some of those on our boards that are so obvious to the most of the people in our community. It seems obvious why to most that real issues of concern are neglected and people like myself are attacked by this publication.

We all want our democratic principals to work for the betterment of our community and have our right to address the leadership of our community without being accused of not being democratic. We will continue to exercise them, Editor. It is our right. I urge you to be more objective and less bias in your reporting. This paper could help remove many of the concerns in our community by doing some expository reporting to help those in leadership be accountable for thier decisions that affect us all. . . . /s/ Nelson Waters, Decker Hill Rd,

Editorial comment: I feel compelled to respond to the above letter. I have researched the privilege/right issue and quote from TOWN LAW, Art. 4 l #5 "Public Participation - Generally"

"The residents of a town must be permitted to attend town boards meetings, but may participate therein only to the extent permitted by the rules of the town board.

"The annual public hearing on the town budget differs from a town board meeting in that its very purpose is to give the public an opportunity to express its views and to make inquiries in respect to budget matters, hence, the public may freely participate in such a meeting."

The town board is required to hold one meeting every month to conduct its business. Those who wish to attend this meeting may, but once the meeting is called to order, it is strictly a meeting of the town board and anyone is out of order who interrupts. It has been the policy of the town board (but not in writing) that people may express concerns prior to the meeting. There is actually no time limit (such as 30 minutes) set aside for this. It is this editor's suggestion that if there are too

(LETTER Cont. from page 5)

many concerns to consider prior to the business meeting, that a special town meeting be held, apart from the official business meeting, when the town board will listen to the concerns of the people . . . djh

The following letter was written by The Hague School Tax Committee to the Supervisor and Town Board and presented at the Town Board meeting on December 8.

The meeting between the New York State Division of Equalization and Assessment and various representatives from Warren County towns was most revealing. However, it only revealed what the previous tax committees already found. Equalization and Assessment must abide by its present day structure and way of doing things. The only way to change their ways is through legislative action.

The town of Ticonderoga over-assesses International Paper; Equalization and Assessment corrects that over-assessment with an equalization rate which drops the full value of Ticonderoga for apportionment of taxes with the Town of Hague. Then Ticonderoga turns around and uses the over-assessed value of International Paper to distribute a favorable tax rate to its smaller property owners. International Paper is suing the Ticonderoga School District as a party in this purposeful over-assessment practice. Equalization and Assessment acknowledges the discrepancies between values given to International Paper by Ticonderoga's assessor, International Paper's appraisers, and Equalization and Assessment. One property owner cannot officially protest another property owner's assessment. Equalization and Assessment cannot officially question any town's assessments. The whole scenario is similar to what Equalization and Assessment curiously terms, "stealing the lag", when equalization rates are inaccurate due to a time lag. In our case the Town of Ticonderoga "steals the lag" as a matter of procedure.

What it comes down to is that Ticonderoga is over-assessing International Paper and "stealing the lag" from Hague and all only to benefit the smaller property owners in Ticonderoga. Stealing may be legal in the mixed up world of property taxes, but it is still a mean way for Ticonderoga to treat its neighbors and major employer. The practice must be protested at Town of Ticonderoga official meetings as a matter which is unfair, albeit legal, and correctible by the Ticonderoga officials who have any sense of fair play.

It seems amazing to us that we entered into yet another tax deal based on property values with the Town of Ticonderoga to bail out the failing private enterprise, Moses Ludington Hospital, without more soul searching and protest of the school tax problem. Once somebody steals, it is hard to trust them again. The chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Warren County was adamant in warning our town supervisor not to enter into a contract with Ticonderoga and the hospital. We only hope our town will not be liable for any long tail expenses accrued during the time period of our contract, but which are still payable long after the fact.

Be that as it may, now International Paper is well positioned to win its suit against the Ticonderoga School District. If they do win, millions in back taxes may be applied to both towns in the Ticonderoga School District. Again, based on the present way that the Town of Ticonderoga "steals the lag", and on the fact that Equalization and Assessment's value for International Paper is even lower than International Paper's own appraisal, Hague would pay much more than its fair share of back and present day school taxes. Remember this is all with the backdrop of having gained nothing throughout the years of Ticonderoga's over-assessment of International Paper and process of "stealing the lag" from Hague.

The Town of Hague may have gained in terms of education by joining the Ticonderoga School District, but in terms of property taxes for the school, Hague came out the big loser. The Town of Hague lost more each year thereafter, and the Town of Hague stands to lose again, and to lose a lot more, whether or not International Paper wins its suit. If International Paper wins its suit and seeks back taxes, the loss would be unprecedented for Hague property tax payers.

After much consideration, our simple recommendation to the Town of Hague supervisor and the Town Board is that we hire a top notch tax attorney who would take steps toward two class action suits. In order to challenge this "stealing the lag" in the environment of International Paper's suit, we suggest that our tax attorney prepare a class action suit against the Town of Ticonderoga, The Ticonderoga School District, and the New York State Division of Equalization and Assessment. At the same time, this attorney should prepare to defend the Town of Hague against the application of any back taxes to our town via the International Paper suit. The second class action suit should be against the Town of Hague and its previous assessor for the preparation of an unsatisfactory re-evaluation.

In the meantime the School Tax Committee should publicly recommend that citizens file Small Claims Court and Article Seven actions against the Town of Hague, as very few of the re-evaluations seem to stand up in court. Likewise, if the Town of Hague is unable or unwilling to take any such legal action, we further recommend that the School Tax Committee act on behalf of and with the support of the people of Hague by taking any of the above or other actions necessary to solve this problem that will never go away and which only will get worse. . . Hague School Tax Committee

HAGUE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

In November there were 3 ambulance runs, involving 430 miles and 67 man hours. There were 3 fire calls in October and 4 in November.

Annual elections results: President - Lu Megow; Vice President - Mark Johnson; Treasurer - Linda Coffin; Secretary - Joan Belden; Fire Chief - James Young; Asst. Chief - David Hoffay; Captain - John Breitenbach, Jr.; Lieutenant - Martin Fitzgerald, Jr.; Foreman - Mark Rutkowski; Property Man (Hague) - Ron Graser; Asst. Property Man (Hague) - Jim Snyder; Custodian - David Snow; Property Man (Silver Bay) - Martin Fitzgerald, Sr.; Asst. Property Man (Silver Bay) - Reginald Rand; Custodian (Silver Bay) - John Breitenbach, Sr.; Asst. Captain - Bill Montgomery; Food Chairman - Joyce Monroe; Directors for '93 - Norman Strum, George Shoemaker, Mark Martucci. . . ewa

HAGUE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

The Hague Senior Citizens Club will NOT have a meeting in December, but please recruit your energies for our first meeting in the New Year. On Jan. 26th we will have a party (a vote to delay our Christmas party was unanimous) and we are looking forward to a large and loyal attendance.

Our November elections resulted in the following officers: President - Georgina Lindquist; Vice President - Doris Bolton; 2nd Vice President - Marguerite West; Treasurer - Ethel Andrus; Secretary - Ethel Andrus. . . ewa

SOUNDINGS

DIED - Robert Wilson Keller, Bronxville, NY, son of Ruth Bobnet Jenkins, West Wellington and Silver Bay, in October. Besides his mother he is survived by his sister Jean K. Miller and 3 nieces and a nephew.

DIED - Doris A. King, 82, in Menlo Park, CA on Nov. 25. A former resident of Silver Bay, she is survived by daughter Edith Bartlett, son David, both of California, 10 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren.

DIED - Howard (Spike) Barnett, 80, native and long-time resident of Hague, on December 20 in Lake Mary, FL. Surviving are his son Peter, two grandsons and two sisters.

Last month we reported the death of Kenneth Engler, Sr. in Summit, NJ. We neglected to include the name of his widow, Kathryn in the list of survivors. We deeply regret this omission.

MARRIED - Peter Belden, son of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Belden Sr., Graphite, to Kelly Garafalo, Stottville, NY on July 5, 1992. Peter and Kelly now reside in Stottville.

FIRST QUARTER ACHIEVEMENT ROLL FOR
TICONDEROGA MIDDLE SCHOOL

The following Hague students attending Ticonderoga Middle School were recognized for their achievement on the first quarter marking period at Ticonderoga Middle School:

MELISSA BRUNET, MICHELLE DeFRANCO, DAVID FITZGERALD, JESSICA FRASIER, LINDSAY FRASIER JAMES GIRARD, KARAJOHNN JOHNSON, CHRISTINE LAWRENCE, CARYL MAY, TRACY SCHLOGL, BRITTANY STULL.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU!

TELKS ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Ticonderoga Lodge #1494 announces the arrival of the 1993 round of Elks National Foundation and NYS Elks "Most Valuable Student" Scholarships. The Elks National Foundation is the largest scholarship granting program in the country, behind the federal government.

The Ticonderoga Lodge accepts scholarships from students in the Ti, Moriah, Schroon Lake and Crown Pt. school districts. Applications have been sent to all area guidance counselors.

The NYS Elks Scholarship program is for top students who are sons or daughters of Elks. The National Foundation Scholarships are for any talented and deserving students. Special scholarships are available to sons or daughters of deceased Elks. Contact Mr. Bill Connors at 585-7177 for information.

PLANETARIUM SCHEDULE

The next program at the Ticonderoga High School planetarium will be held on January 13, entitled "Winter Stargazers Show". The program will be begin at 7:30PM. There is a \$1.00 donation per person.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Are you looking for that unique Christmas gift? Here is a thought for you. Why not give that hard-to-buy for person a piece of history in the form of the Pictorial History Book of the Silver Bay Association. The book is hardcoverd and contains over two hundred reproductions of antique photographs covering the period from the early years of the Silver Bay Hotel to 1935. The pictures are collected in seven chapters -- Wilson/Paine Era, Campus Grounds and Buildings, General Activities, Special Occasions, Groups and Conferences, the Emps, and the Silver Bay School. Chapter introductions were written by Mark Johnson. Cost of the book is \$50 plus \$3.50 tax. Shipping, if desired is \$5.00 additional. The books may be purchased at the Silver Bay Association office (543-8833).

Ed. - I have just had an opportunity to preview this book recently. A lot of TLC went into the preparation of this book. Wonderful history of Silver Bay Assoc.!

FRIENDS OF MOSES LUDINGTON HOSPITAL

Friends of Moses-Ludington Hospital is a not-for-profit task force of individuals organized solely to support the hospital and community health care needs. These individuals are involved as private, concerned citizens. The group encompasses a wide variety of people with different skills, talents, interests and abilities. With a recognized common goal this diverse group of people has unified to accomplish a difficult but positive and rewarding task. A number of people from Hague have taken leadership in this effort. The steering committee includes William Brennan, Chair, Charles Parlin, Richard Frasier, Chair of the Contract Negotiation/Reorganization Committee, Mark Johnson, Chair of Fund Raising, and John Breitenbach, Jr.

The Fund Raising Committee includes Dottie Henry and Wendy Serbent of Hague. A general fundraising letter is being prepared for a mailing toward the end of the year. The Committee has also developed an interpretive brochure about the work of the hospital and a case statement for major donors. Other members of the Committee are working on a number of fund raising activities for the coming year. The goal of fund raising is to generate approximately \$500,000 per year over the next three years and to create a program of giving which will continue in the future.



NATURE NEWS
Laura Meade

During the Christmas season almost every home has a decorated evergreen tree under which gifts are placed. Sometimes "Santa" puts the presents there on Christmas Eve and, in some homes, the decorated boxes appear days or weeks before Christmas Day. These evergreen trees (or conifers as they are known to scientists) are cone-bearing trees with needles that stay green year-round. A conifer needle is really a leaf. Conifers are perfectly designed to survive in a stressful environment because the exterior of the needles is waxy so that moisture loss can be reduced when roots are unable to absorb water due to frozen ground. Hence the reason why conifers are preferred for Christmas trees.

Conifers are the most numerous and widespread gymnosperms. There are 550 species worldwide. Most are trees of cooler climates, found either at high altitudes or in high-latitude zones, where they are the dominant species. All have branches emerging in whorls from the central trunk.

In Hague there are many conifers. Most in number are the large, eastern white pines seen on the mountain slopes, roadside woodlands and islands. Also, one sees many hemlocks, white cedars and red cedars. Occasionally there is a red pine, red spruce, balsam fir or tamarack. Some blue spruces and Scotch pines have been planted to enhance landscaping. Rarely one will see a pitch pine which is a conifer germinated only by fire. (There are seven at the entrance of Paine Hall at the Silver Bay Association and some on every island in the Town of Hague). I know of only one white spruce hidden in the forest off the trail to Springhill Pond.

Some characteristics of these conifers are:

- Eastern white pine has 5 long needles in a bundle and has large cones.
- Red pine has 2 long needles in a bundle and medium-sized cones.
- Pitch pine has 3 long needles in a bundle and is germinated only by fire.
- Scotch pine has 2 very sharp needles in a bundle and is excellent as a Christmas tree.
- Spruce needles are four-angled and are on pegs so twigs feel rough.
- Balsam fir needles are flat and do not roll easily between fingers. It has cones that stand straight up.
- The small, flat needles of hemlock quickly drop after it is cut. It has small cones.
- Tamarack needles are clustered in large numbers into tufts on woody spurs. Tamarack is the only conifer whose needles turn golden and shed in autumn.
- Cedars have small scale-like needles overlaid like shingles on the bough. Cedars have small cones.

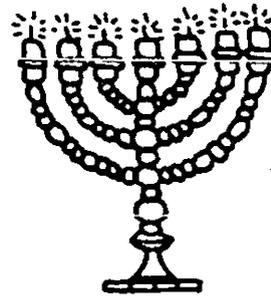
Can you find a tall blue spruce in Hague hamlet? Or two matching slender white cedars next to a building at Silver Bay Association? Where is there a tamarack close to the edge of the West Hague Rd? What conifers have been planted near the Hague Community Center? Who can "discover" a pitch pine?

"I wish us all a world as kind as a child can imagine it." . . . Dorothy Thompson

WHAT ABOUT SONAR REGISTRATION?

What is stalling state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) action to register SONAR? The state Dept. of Health (DOH) has made a determination that SONAR can safely be used within existing drinking water quality standards. This should have cleared the way for a positive decision. However DEC has been silent to date.

At press time, LGA is calling on DEC Commissioner Thomas Jorling, State Senator Ronald Stafford and Gov. Mario Cuomo to end DEC's stalling on this vital issue. "No more delays, no more fabrications. Register SONAR today." . . L.G.A. News Nov/Dec 1992



**HAPPY
HANUKKAH!**

KEEPING DOCKS CLEAR OF ICE

It is becoming standard practice for Lake George dock owners to operate ice eaters in winter. Many LGA members have expressed serious concern about the risks to people using Lake George when ice eaters prevent large areas of the lake from freezing normally.

This fall the LGA appointed a special task force to look into just what is the best way to lessen such problems. The task force's detailed report, "Ice Eaters and Alternatives" is available at the LGA Center, Luzerne Road, Lake George 12845.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETS IN HAGUE

For a second time the Ticonderoga Board of Education brought its meeting to the Community Building in Hague for the benefit of Hague citizens who find it difficult to get to the meetings in Ticonderoga.

A major concern of some of the Hague parents was the time their children must spend in a bus during a school day. It seemed particularly applicable to kindergartners. The School Board will look into this matter and see what, if anything, can be done to solve this problem.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS WINTER WEEK ENDS

What is a Winter Weekend?

Nature hikes on snowshoes and/or cross country skiing, a visit to a deer yard, ice fishing, learning winter woods lore and safety, meeting new friends and old and enjoying the heat of a wood burning stove.

Location

4-H Camp Sacandaga, Speculator, NY where participants stay in the winterized Seabee Lodge.

Time

10AM Saturday to 3PM Sunday

Cost

A \$10.00 deposit must be paid at the time participants pre-register. \$5.00 of the deposit will be returned to those who participate. No money will be returned to those who do not participate. Participants bring their own food.

Transportation

This is the parent's responsibility. Car pooling with other parents is strongly encouraged

Chaperones

The trips are well chaperoned and led by an experienced Adirondack Guide and a certified Emergency Medical Technician. Adults who would like to assist are welcomed.

How to sign up and for further information!!

Contact the Cornell Coop. Ext. of Warren County office, HCR 02, Box 22B, Warrensburg, NY 12285 (623-3291 or 668-4881) NOW as there is a participation limit
9-11 year olds Jan 15-17
12-13 year olds Jan 30-31
14-19 year olds Feb 20-21

You do not need to be a member of the 4-H Club to participate.

MAGAZINE RECYCLING DROP OFF DATES

The town of Hague will be collecting magazines for recycling at the Community Center on Dec. 16 through the 20th

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Magazines and advertising inserts
- Envelopes
- School & office paper (all colors)
- Non metallic wrapping
- NCR paper (carbonless forms)
- Catalogues
- Sweepstakes forms
- Junk mail
- Text books (covers removed)
- Real estate brochures

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

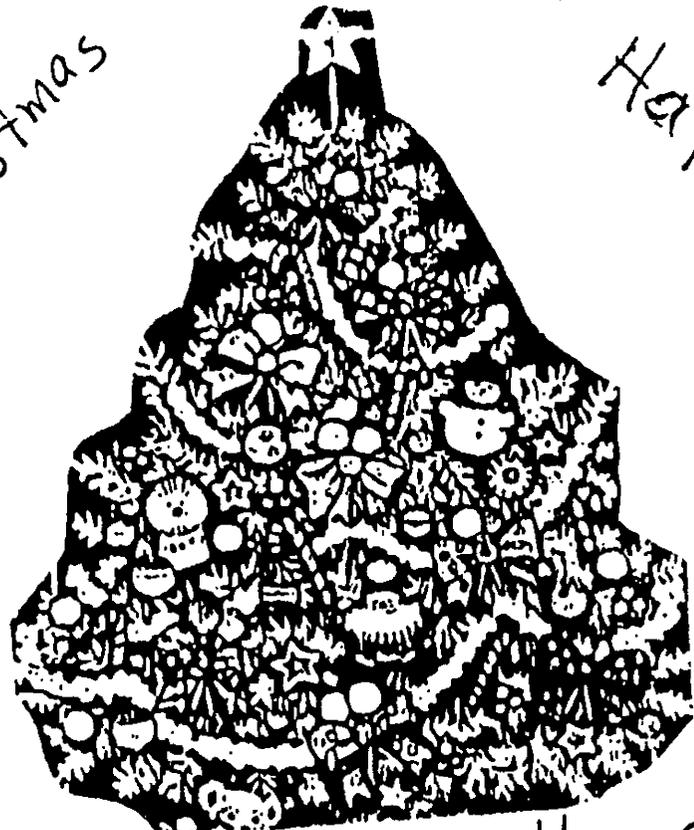
- Newsprint (Use regular Hague recycling program)
- Box board
- Carbon paper
- Foam, padded or bubble envelopes
- Corrugated Board (Use reg. Hague recy. prog.)
- Telephone books
- Blueprint paper
- Plastics
- Photographs

DON'T FORGET THE RABIES CLINIC ON DEC 16 FROM 6--7:30PM IN TOWN SHED. \$5.00 FEE IF POSSIBLE.

MEALS ON WHEELS is off to a good start. There are 6 participants in the town of Hague and to date 10 volunteers who pick up the food at the Meal Site in Ticonderoga (it comes from Elizabethtown) and deliver it before 12 noon. If you would like to volunteer for this project, please call Kathy Santaniello, Coordinator, at 543-6441

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year



from the staff of The Hague Chronicle

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY '93

DECEMBER

- 5 Fish and Game Club party - 6PM - F&G Clubhouse
- 6-20 Magazine Recycling at Comm. Ctr - see p 9
- 6 Senior Citizen Bus to Glens Falls
- 6 Garden Club luncheon at Eddie's
- 6 Rabies Clinic at Town Shed - 6-7:30PM
- 16 School Board meeting, 6PM, THS Cafeteria
- 16 Winter Concert H.S. Music Dept - 7:30PM THS Aud.
- 16 Hague Historical Society - 7:30PM (p2)
- 16 Chamber of Commerce Christmas party (p2)
- 17 Zoning Board of Appeals
- 17 Gleaning program at Community Center

- 20 HAPPY CHANUKAH
- 20 Community Candlelight Service - HBC (p1)
- 21 Winter begins
- 24 & 25 - Town offices and landfill closed
- 24 Christmas Eve Serv. - Church of Blessed Sacrament
- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
- 29 Gleaning - Community Center -
- 29 Town Board Audit meeting - 6:30PM

JANUARY

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR
- 5 Home Bureau - 10AM, Community Center
- 6 Senior Citizens Bus to Glens Falls
- 19 Home Bureau - 10AM, Community Center

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

*Speak of your caring
Understand and forgive
Find beauty in others
Reach out, be a friend
LOVE*

*Remember the forgotten
Trust yourself and others
Admit your mistakes
Be willing to change
BELIEVE*

*Encourage youth
See the wisdom in age
Take pleasure in nature
Consider your blessings
LAUGH*

*Listen from within
Make the time
Strengthen your faith
Work for your dreams
HOPE . . . - Nancy Steed*

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