

THE

# HAGUE CHRONICLE

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F E B R U A R Y 1 9 7 5

HAGUE, N.Y.

## THE CHEAPEST PLACE TO LIVE WELL

Writing in the December 23 issue of the consumer newsletter, MONEYS-WORTH, Sloan Wilson, author of the Man in the Gray Flannel Suit, A Summer Place, and dozens of articles for the New Yorker, Harper's and other magazines, says that he has devoted a lot of thought and effort to finding "the cheapest place where my wife, my youngest daughter and I can live well". After living on an ancient yacht in Florida for five years the family researched the Greek Islands, Ireland, Mexico and Spain. But after a few months abroad they longed for home and "That's when we started to look for the cheapest place to live well in the United States".

"Luck, not research," he says, "led us to the small town of Ticonderoga". On a visit to Mr. Wilson's mother who has a summer home on Lake George, he found a "lovely house in Ticonderoga with an old fashioned veranda curtained by grape vines and purchased it for \$11,000. "The house had five bedrooms, a living room 26 feet long, a nice little room for a library, a comfortable dining room and a big country kitchen. It was shabby but inspection proved that it was fundamentally sound. The price included a houseful of worn but comfortable old furniture. Taxes are only about \$300. a year. Ticonderoga has school buildings as plush as those in rich suburbs. Although we have a population of only about 5,000 we have five physicians, three dentists, and a small well-equipped hospital. We have magnificent facilities for all outdoor sports in the nearby mountains and the many lakes, streams and ponds which surround us.

When we get bored, we can drive to the horse races in Saratoga, which is

only about 60 miles to the south, or to Montreal which is little more than twice that distance to the north..."

Mr. Wilson then proceeds to discuss the advantages of small town over big town living, comparing costs and benefits. He cites a few cautions, such as, "Don't move to a small town unless you're happily married or like living alone" and "Don't move to a small town unless you can organize your own entertainment".

Mr. Wilson, who is about 54 years of age, concludes: "For those who seek peace and contentment rather than excitement, small towns have a great deal to offer. The ability to spend \$10,000. a year in a small town and live on a scale which would cost two or three times that amount in a city or suburb grows more tempting as inflation and taxes rise. Few people worry about keeping up with the Jones in a small town. In places where most people have very little, prestige is not based on possessions. I have lived in Ticonderoga for three years now, and I still find it a welcome respite from the city. The living is easy, and when I have a good year, I can save money, instead of spending half of it on necessities wondering where the other half went."

What Mr. Wilson found in Ticonderoga, many of us have found in Hague.

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## STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

A study made by Commerce Clearing House based on data obtained from the Department of Commerce has disclosed that for Americans as a whole, taxes levied by state and local governments averaged \$577 per capita in 1974. This is an increase of \$55.

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over the prior year.

The average throughout the State of New York was \$894 which is an increase of \$105. over 1973. For residents of Warren County, the tax load was approximately \$705. per capita.

The New York State figures, which are the highest in the country, may be compared with Arkansas which had the lowest rate, \$342.

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THE WEATHER

The first snowfall of any consequence occurred on December 16 when about 8" of the white stuff arrived. It snowed again on Christmas Day with another 6-8 inches. Over an inch of rain fell on January 12, enough to wash away all the snow, but on the 18th there was another 8" of snow and the countryside is white once more.

Temperatures have been warmer than usual. Along the lake the coldest thus far is 5 above which we had on the 17th. (Today, January 20, it got down to minus 2). During the week of January 6-12 we had what one forecaster described as the 'January thaw'. This is difficult to understand since there was nothing significant to thaw. One morning there was a bit of ice on the fringes of the lake but it was quickly dissipated. Several days ago an Indian Chief and his son performed the Indian Ice Dance in Lake George Village where the promoters are worried about having ice for the Ice Carnival in February. This should do the job. The same Indians were called upon several years ago to do the Indian Snow Dance on Gore Mountain and so much snow fell that they had to be

taken off the mountain in the State's snow plow. In 1973 the lake froze over at Silver Bay on January 6-7; in 1974 it was January 12-13. As you can see, even with the help of the Indians, it will be later this year.

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PARK AGENCY AGAIN CHALLENGED

A second suit has been brought to test the constitutionality of the Adirondack Park Agency Law. The action has been brought in State Supreme Court at Elizabeth town by Wambat Realty, Inc. of New York City. It contends that the law violates the home-rule guarantees of the state constitution which gives local communities exclusive power to adopt zoning regulations.

Wambat has a proposal to build a second-home development on 2,224 acres in Clinton County. The plan calls for one home on every two acres but the Adirondack Agency restricts the development to one home on every 41 acres.

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PARK AGENCY LISTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Adirondack Park Agency listed the following as its accomplishments in the first year of operations:

Under contract with the Fresh Water Institute of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the water quality of four Adirondack Lakes (including Lake George) is being monitored.

Under contract with the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, soil maps (one inch to the mile) are being prepared for all private lands within the Adirondack Park. Data to be provided covers effluent capacity and general water table and bedrock levels.

The development of a comprehensive policy to govern the use of signs within the park. A model sign ordinance for municipalities has been developed. Distinctive highway signs are being developed.

In cooperation with the Adirondack Museum, an inventory of historical and special interest areas in the park has been compiled.

The possible restoration of the Remsen-Lake Placid railroad service has been studied and supported.

Communication with the Lake Placid Olympic Bid Committee has been maintained.

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SILVER BAY TO GET ROAD SIGN

Approaching the Silver Bay Post Office from the south presents something of a traffic hazard because of the upgrade on Route 9N. Several accidents and near accidents have occurred as cars enter and leave the PO parking area.

Mrs. Dorothy Goodfellow brought the matter to the attention of the Department of Transportation and after a study, the Board has found that "the sight distance from the south is enough to justify a warning sign. The presence of Watt's Hill Road alongside the Post Office also adds to the justification of this sign". The Board adds that the Division of State Police have concurred in this recommendation.

As soon as the workload will permit, the Board says, an intersection sign with a recommended speed of 40 m.p.h. below it will be installed.

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SITE FOR TOWN LIBRARY OFFERED

Irving Fitzgerald, a life-long resident, has presented a letter to the Town Board offering a parcel of ground as a site for a public library. The offer is being made in recognition of the Bicentennial year during which many towns and villages are undertaking various projects.

The parcel of land is located directly across from the Hague Brook opposite the Hague Post Office and Hague Supermarket including a necess-

ary right of way across the brook. Conditions attached to the gift are: If the property, for any reason, ceases to be used for a library, title will revert to the donor; plan for the building will be subject to review and approval of the donor; no motor vehicles will be permitted on the premises (a foot bridge would be constructed over the brook); a majority of the townspeople support the project.

It is anticipated that the proposed building would also house a museum, etc. to be maintained by the Historical Society.

Both the Town Board and members of the Historical Society are enthusiastic about the proposal and are hopeful that the support of the townspeople can be obtained.

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HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the December meeting of the Historical Society, Miss Lona Bartlett, a member of the Women's Seal and Stamp Club of Albany for more than twenty years, exhibited her collection of Christmas Seals, beautifully mounted and complete in every detail. Her collection contains seals from the first year issued up to the present and includes those issued in other countries as well as the United States.

Christmas Seals, most of which are truly works of art, had their beginning in Denmark where Einar Holboll, a postal employee, conceived the idea of a tax on the mails to raise money to fight tuberculosis which was and still is a serious disease most prevalent among poor people who lack nourishing food and adequate rest. The idea bore fruit in December, 1903 when the first Christmas seals were sold in Denmark at 9 Ore (about 3¢) for a sheet of 50, the proceeds going to the Danish Tuberculosis Society. Christmas seals made their first appearance in the United States in 1907 when the Delaware Red Cross raised about \$3000. from their sale. Later Christmas seals were taken over by

the National Tuberculosis Society and currently from \$28 to \$30 million is raised annually. In England, Canada, and many other countries, Christmas cards are also sold to raise money to fight tuberculosis.

Mr. Seerup was in charge of the program at the January meeting. He had studied the census records of 1830 and 1855 at the Municipal Building and from these records described the people of Hague and their activities during this period.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry White will be in charge of the next program which will be held on February 19th.

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The School Board met on January 6 with all members in attendance.

A request from Bruce Jordon for permission to use the school gym for recreational basketball was approved.

The principal was directed to request BOCES to supply the same services next year as it is providing currently.

The principal announced that an open house would be held at the school on February 6th at 7:30 P.M.

There was general discussion about what, if anything, could be done to improve the quality of education in the school.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

The meeting of the Town Board was held on January 14 with all members except Joseph Streeter present.

The Supervisor announced appointments to standing committees of the Board as follows: Building and Grounds - Fitzgerald and Yaw; Planning and Zoning - Streeter and Cobb; Highways - Cobb and Fitzgerald; Police - Cobb and Streeter; Town Park and Beautification - Yaw, Streeter

and Cobb; Recreation and Promotion - Streeter and Fitzgerald. Earl Phillips was re-elected to the Town Park Commission for a term of three years. Other members of the committee are James Fitzgerald and Robert Hoyt. Emil Seerup was re-elected to the Board of Assessment Review and to the Town Planning Board for terms of five years. Additional appointments were made as follows: Official newspaper - Glens Falls Post-Star; Depository - First National Bank of Glens Falls at Bolton Landing; Chairman, Board of Assessors - Michael Fitzgerald; Town Historian - Mrs. Vila Fitzgerald; Custodian - Mrs. Shirley Bly; Registrar of Vital Statistics - Mrs. Mary Alice Scripture; Dog Warden, Constable, Ordinance Enforcement and Sanitation Inspector - Herbert Belknap. Town Attorney - D. Viscardi.

Rates of pay were established, as follows: Highway employees, temporary - \$2.80 an hour; regular - \$3.40 an hour; mechanic - \$3.80 an hour. Members, Board of Elections - \$45. per day; Custodian of Voting machine - \$50. per day. Members, Board of Assessment Review - \$60. per year. Allowance when driving own car on town business - 13¢ a mile.

Clifton West will again be asked to plant and care for flowers at the Town Park and other locations.

Mr. Belden proposed that the Town place a suitable plaque in a suitable place in the Town Park memorializing Miss Mary C. Beste for her many gifts to the town. The Board approved and Mr. Belden will make the necessary arrangements.

The Board congratulated Mr. Belden on his recent election as President of the Warren County Highway Superintendent's Association.

The Board discussed the Youth Recreation Program at great length ultimately deciding to meet with Mr. Riley for further discussions and a special meeting was arranged.

Mr. Robert Hoyt attended the meeting and gave a preliminary report on the activities of the Fire Department

A more detailed report will be submitted within the next two weeks.

Preliminary discussions were held with respect to the purchase of a new police car.

The Supervisor announced that the town may be able to get additional help in the way of public service employment through Federal manpower funds which will soon be available. The possibility of having a watchman at the town shed was being considered.

Messrs. Ray Calcagne and Cliff Woodbury of the Lake George Commission's staff are reviewing sewage permits issued by the town. They plan to attend the next Board meeting.

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MARY C. BESTE

Miss Mary Cutting Beste died suddenly at her home in Hague on December 17. She was 91 years old.

Miss Beste was born and raised in York City, the daughter of the late Henry Beste, who was born in Bremen, Germany and Mary Hunter Cutting, of Westport, N.Y. She attended Miss Spring's School until the family moved to Summit, N.J. where she attended Kent Place School. Later she and her sister were sent to Bremen to study music but at the death of her sister, she returned home again to live with the family.

Miss Enid Badgley Alden, friend of her sister and world traveler, took Miss Beste under her wing, and together they travelled throughout Europe and the Bahamas for many years. Miss Alden's mother and step-father discovered Hague while visiting the Watrous family and decided to make it their summer place.

Miss Beste lived in Hague for some seventy years. She was a splendid athlete, a pioneer conservationist, an ardent fisherman. She knew all of the best fishing spots on the lake.

Her contributions to the people

and the Town of Hague are too numerous to list. She will be sorely missed.

At her direction there was no funeral or memorial service. Contributions in her memory may be sent to the Hague Central School Scholarship Fund.

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MYRTLE H. LEACH

Mrs. Myrtle H. Leach who lived on Overbrook Drive passed away on January 8th in the Moses Ludington Hospital. She was eighty years of age.

Mrs. Leach was the mother of Henry Leach and Mrs. Marguerite West, both of Hague. Other survivors included two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted at the Wilcox Funeral Chapel by the Rev. Robert Jensen of the Bible Baptist Church in Hudson Falls. Rev. Jensen is Mrs. West's son-in-law.

Burial was in the Hague cemetery.

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CALISTA L. STREETER

Mrs. Calista L. Streeter died at her home on Streeter Hill Road on January 13. She was 79 years old.

Survivors include seven daughters and four sons: Mrs. Marjorie S. Noyes and Mrs. Helen Fairlee of Albany; Mrs. Marion Bailey of Loudonville; Mrs. Eleanor Sinkle, Mrs. Lillian Murray, and Mrs. Calista Murray of Diamond Point; Elmer E. of Schenectady; Gordon J. of Scotia; Robert S. of Ticonderoga; and Mrs. Ruth Robbins and Joseph F. Streeter of Hague. Mrs. Streeter is also survived by 24 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and two sisters, Mrs. Hattie Holman of Hague and Mrs. Jennie Sturtevant of Ticonderoga.

Services were held at the Wesleyan Church in Hague on January 16 with the Rev. Edward Elliott officiating.

Memorials may be made in the form of contributions to the Wesleyan Church.

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LAURA M. LEDGER

Mrs. Laura M. Ledger of Graphite Road died on December 28 in the Glens Falls Hospital. She was 71 years of age.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Frank Lambert of Ticonderoga and Mrs. Omer Hudson of Old Forge; three sons, Robert of Ticonderoga, Poland of Redwood City, Calif.; and Donald of Richmond, Virginia; 19 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Mrs. Ledger is also survived by four sisters, including Mrs. Lew Hughes of Ticonderoga and Mrs. Patrick Ida of Mineville.

A mass of the Resurrection was offered at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga on December 31. Burial will be in the spring in Valley View Cemetery.

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ELIZABETH KRANE VAIL

Via the New York Times we learn of the death in Dummerston, Vermont on January 14 of Mrs. Elizabeth Krane Vail, a long-time summer resident of Silver Bay. Mrs. Vail was the widow of Charles E. Vail, M.D.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Esther Falk of Dummerston, Vermont and Mrs. Virginia McDonald, M.D.

of Amherst, Mass. and Silver Bay, and five grandchildren.

Memorial services were held at Dummerston Congregational Church January 26th. A memorial fund has been established for the Charles E. Vail Cancer Clinic at Miraj Hospital, Miraj, India which is under the auspices of the United Presbyterian Church, 475 Riverside Drive, New York City.

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TAX RELIEF FOR THE AGED

At its last meeting the Town Board agreed to consider at a public meeting to be held at 7:30 P.M. on February 11, the granting of a 50% exemption to real property owners who meet statutory age qualifications and whose income does not exceed \$5,000. annually. Warren County has already approved such an exemption.

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REGISTER TO VOTE

The Warren County Board of Elections is now conducting central registration at its office on the first floor of the Municipal Building.

Those persons who are now 18 years of age or who will be 18 by Election Day, Nov. 4, 1975, may register. Anyone else of voting age who is not already registered may also do so at this time. The office is open Monday through Friday, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

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(address correction requested)

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