

THE TOWN OF HAGUE NEEDS A NEWSPAPER!

The town of Hague lies in the northeasterly corner of Warren County. It's easterly bound is the shore of Lake George. To the west, north and south are mountains, which, in a way, isolate Hague from neighboring towns and communities.

There are many sub-communities in the town of Hague - Silver Bay, which has its own post-office, Sabbath Day Point which is a part of Silver Bay, West Hague, Graphite, Friends Point, Forest Bay, and perhaps others. However, no community within the town has any local government, school or fire department. All local functions are administered on a town-wide basis.

The year-round population of Hague ranges between 700 and 800 persons; in the summer months the population swells to better than 2,000. The Silver Bay Post Office area, for example, includes about 175 separate households, but only 34 of them are occupied year-round. The same is also true of the Friends Point and Forest Bay communities.

Town government consists of the Town Supervisor, two town councilmen, two town justices, a town clerk, and a superintendent of highways. The two councilmen and the town justices together with the supervisor make up the town board. In addition there is a town board of assessors consisting of three members who are responsible for determining the assessed values of real properties for the town and school tax purposes. All of these officials are elected by the eligible voters of the town.

Hague also has its own school district which encompasses the entire town except for a small area which is in the town of Ticonderoga. The school district is governed by a school board which consists of five members, one of which is elected by the others as president. There is also a clerk, a treasurer and a collector of taxes. The school is administered by a supervising principal.

Hague has its own fire department. This is a quasi-public organization made up of volunteers. In addition to fire fighting the department serves the community with a highly efficient ambulance service. Although the fire department obtains some financial support from tax revenues, most of its costs are paid for out of voluntary contributions.

Beyond this the town has four churches; Baptist Methodist, Catholic and non-sectarian (Grace Memorial). Re-

ligious services are also held during the summer months at The Silver Bay Association Chapel. There are a number of grocery and general stores, garages, motels, eating places and several marinas.

Hague has all of the usual accoutrements of a small town except one - IT HAS NO NEWSPAPER!

While it is true that the two newspapers published in Ticonderoga, and the papers published in Plattsburgh and Glens Falls are widely circulated in Hague (as are also the New York City newspapers) there is NO local paper of publication of general distribution in the town. News of what is going on is non-existent except that which is passed by word of mouth and all must agree that this source of news is unreliable. Except for those persons actually involved in particular projects, few people really know what is going on. Lack of information or misinformation sow the seeds of suspicion and distrust.

A newspaper devoted to the dissemination of factual news would seem to be the practical solution to this need.

Accordingly, the Citizens Group of Hague has agreed to underwrite the costs of a four-page monthly newspaper for the five-month period, January through May, 1972. The newspaper will be non-partisan, non-political, and purely factual. Representatives who attend the meetings of the various organizations will report on matters presented and action taken. The pages of the paper will be open to anyone who questions the accuracy of any of the reports. Space will be given to announcements of coming events or other matters of general interest to the community.

The paper will be circulated through the mails to all residents of the town at no cost to them. No advertising matter will be accepted. At the end of the five-month period results will be studied and a determination will then be made as to what should be done in the future.

PLEASE BELIEVE - this is a sincere effort to bring the local news home to all residents. Nothing more!

THE NOVEMBER ELECTION RESULTS

There were 434 persons who voted in person in the town election on November 2; 46 cast absentee ballots. This constituted about 90% of the eligible voters.

The results were as follows:

TOWN SUPERVISOR - Thomas F. Smith - Democrat - 254
Richard E. Bolton, Republican - 203

TOWN CLERK - Aaron Middleton, Republican - 362

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COUNCILMAN - William A. Cobb, Republican - 262
Louis Spelman - Democrat - 148

TOWN JUSTICE - Charles F. Fitzgerald III - Republican - 258
Harvey E. Yaw - Independent - 148

SUPT. OF HIGHWAYS - Daniel Belden, Independent - 244
Raymond Monroe, Republican - 165
Thomas Beadnell, Independent - 32

ASSESSOR (4 Years) - Michael Fitzgerald, Democrat - 253
Preston Snow - Republican - 169

ASSESSOR (2 Years) - James P. McKee, Republican - 248
Alfred Stanley, Independent - 60

The new slate of town officers took office on January 1, 1972. Those whose terms were not up are Robert Denno, Justice; Howard Barnett, Councilman; and Clinton Frasier, Assessor

HAGUE SCHOOL DISTRICT

On March 29, 1971 the voters approved a resolution presented by the Board of Education to erect an addition and perform alterations to the present school building and to expend a sum not exceeding \$200,000, of which \$180,000 is to be raised by the sale of bonds. The Board advertised for bids and on June 24 the bids were opened. When it appeared that the total cost of the work as determined by the low bids would exceed the amount authorized by the voters, portions of the proposed work were eliminated and shortly thereafter contracts were let within the limits of the allowable bond issue and work commenced.

Work in the main school building has been completed and the large carpeted open space is now being used by elementary grades three to five. The kindergarten and first grade rooms have also been completed. The new gym floor has been installed and should be in use shortly. The removal of the bleachers and installation of movable bleachers was abandoned for lack of money. The outer structure of the addition appears to be complete but considerable work is going on in the interior. Water seems to be posing a problem.

The matter of busing pupils to the parochial school in Ticonderoga has been before the Board at a number of its monthly meetings. For a time permission was given to transport these pupils in the BOXES bus in the morning but this has not been discontinued. Parents of some of the children are taking legal action.

At the Board's regular meeting in December a petition citing grievances by the teachers was presented and the Board agreed to consider the various items at an early meeting. A petition on behalf of some of the students was also presented and this will also be heard at an early meeting. The specific grievances of the teachers and pupils was not disclosed.

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TOWN TAX BILL IS OUT

Town taxes which are payable without penalty on or before January 31, 1972 are up slightly over 1971 taxes. The 1972 rate is \$14.62 per \$1000 of assessed valuation while the 1971 rate was \$14.48.

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hague Historical Society held its regular Christmas party on Wednesday December 8. Members exhibited toys dating back more than fifty years. The next meeting will be held at The Hague Baptist Church parlors on January 19 at 7:45 P.M. The program is being planned by Messrs. E. Crabb and E. Seerup. You are invited to attend.

Copies of the civic directory which was sponsored by the society last summer and which contains a short history of Hague are still available. Ask Mrs. Andrus, Silver Bay postmaster.

HOME BUREAU FEDERATION

The next meeting of the Mohican Chapter of Federation of Home Bureaus will be held at the Baptist Church Annex on January 18th. Mrs. Martha White will be in charge and will teach the group how to make a paper bag holder out of burlap and felt. The following members have volunteered to attend the Warren County Federation's Spring Craft Workshop at Glens Falls on February 15th: Frances Hogan, Margaret Nielsen, Dorothy Sain, Adra Seerup, and Martha White. At the workshop they will be taught various projects which they in turn will teach to the rest of the group at future meetings of Home Bureau.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department received new fire fighting equipment in the spring of last year. The cost of the new equipment is being paid for out of contributions from the public generally and through many fund raising functions sponsored by the Fire Department. These funds have reduced the indebtedness substantially but continued support of the citizenry is required.

CITIZENS GROUPT OF HAGUE

The regular meeting of the Citizens Group of Hague will be held at the Town Hall on January 20 at 8:00 P.M. Come out and visit with us.

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