

LOOKING BACK

by Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young

Quote from the Lake George Mirror, August 2, 1974: "The tornado moved into the Silver Bay Association from the west across Route 9N going through the center and out onto Lake George. The storm apparently did not touch down at any other point in Northern Warren County but several trees were down on Route 8 in the Town of Horicon and other trees were blown over by high winds at Rogers Rock Campsite further north on Lake George."

August 7, 1974 –
Hague Historical
Society
account–Tornado
Hits Silver Bay

A violent windstorm, classified as a tornado by the Weather Bureau, struck the campus of the Silver Bay Association on Monday, July 29, [1974] at 8:15 P.M. More than 100 trees were torn down or uprooted, many of them being century old pines. The campus was plunged into darkness as power was cut off by the falling trees.

Miraculously, only two persons were injured, a girl suffered a fractured arm and another girl received lacerations of the hand from flying glass. Property damage was limited to four buildings including the inn, which had part of its roof knocked down. A station wagon parked along a cottage was demolished and a smaller car sustained minor damage.

The Hague Fire Department responded and gave

immediate assistance and by 2 A.M., all persons on the campus had been accounted for. The Hague Highway Department was also on the scene removing fallen trees and other debris from the highway.

The following day, the Highway Department was back at work and scores of children were assisting the clean-up crews. A number of men were taken off a logging operation at Bolton Landing and brought to the scene...and to remove trees.

When the tornado hit, approximately 500 persons were attending the New York Year Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. There were also about 200 employees of the Association on the premises.

In appreciation for their help, the Association entertained the Hague firemen several nights later at a dinner in the Association dining rooms. In addition, a check in the amount of \$800 was turned over to the Fire Department, about \$600 of which, were receipts from the production of *Guys and Dolls* on August 15.

UPDATE: Today, the Inn at Silver Bay Association is as grand as ever.

Anyone interested in this historical happening (or any other historical or up-to-date information) should either visit SBA or contact SBA Historical Archivist Carol Kanis, who aided us in writing this article.

For more information, call 518-543-8833 or go to silverbay.org.



TOP AND MIDDLE ROW: tornado aftermath; BOTTOM ROW: The inn October 2024.