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&STYLE



tchester's Tanglewood.' ramoor International Music

al's 56th season has something ryone. 1E

ce to the future. Experts ur options for the aging, ed Tappan Zee - all with high ags and political problems. 1B



h the birdies. Tom Watson the last five holes to share a ay tie after the third round of the PGA. 1C

wanted. This year's crop of graduates is finding few job



ousing squeeze. Market nake less-expensive housing an reality for most home buyers. 1H

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r play. Senate Republicans ready to cede complete power emocrats. 4A

making plea. Secretary of olin Powell stresses U.S. for peace in Sudan. 10A

for news from your community? local index on Page 2B.

VEATHER OUTLOOK

Today: Chance of rain. High in mid- to upper 60s.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, chance of rain. Low in upper 50s. Tomorrow: Partly sunny, chance

Teen denies troopers' account of

Lake Tonetta man did not menace officers, witness says

Jeffrey Scott Shapiro The Journal News

SOUTHEAST — A woman who said she watched a state trooper kill a Lake Tonetta man in his driveway disputed police

Police said Alfred Woelfle, 43, of 158 Shore Drive ran out of the house just after midnight Friday, charged and struck Trooper Erik Sudigala with a 32-inch black metal rod and then rushed toward a second officer, Trooper Phillip Hurst.

When Woelfle failed to heed Hurst's warning to stop, the trooper shot Woelfle twice in the

accounts that the trooper acted in self-defense. chest and once in the right shoulder with a 9 mm pistol, police said.

> Woelfle died at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel shortly afterward. An autopsy was performed Friday night, but a toxicology report was not available yesterday.

State police said a preliminary indication was that it was "a justifiable use of force." The Putnam County District Attorney's Office is investigating, along with the state police internal affairs unit from Albany, police

A witness who watched the shooting said she believes that Woelfle never saw the police and that he accidentally collided with the first officer while running frantically in the midst of a heat-ed domestic argument.

"It's ridiculous," said a woman who identified herself as Leah

PCBs split Hudson groups



Pete Seeger plays aboard the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater while docked in Rondout Creek, a tributary in Kingston. Seeger was one of the founders of the sloop organization in 1966



Photos by Seth Harrison/The Journal News Sharon Ruggi, a town councilwoman in Fort Edward, with her 96-year-old mother-in-law, Amelia, on the family farm in Fort Edward. Amelia Ruggi has lived on the farm

Advocates want toxin out of river

Roger Witherspoon The Journal News

KINGSTON - The rhythm of the river wouldn't leave Pete Seeger alone.

The legendary folk singer responded by creating the environmental group Clearwater and launching a movement to love, understand and protect the Hudson River.

I used to swim off Hook Mountain when I was a kid seventy-five years ago on the west side of the river, north of Nyack," Seeger recalled from his solar-powered home on Mount Beacon.

"A hundred years ago, New York City had floating swimming pools in the Hudson. But it was discontinued in the 1930s - the river was too dirty and people had too much to worry about to clean

Clearwater and other environmental groups -notably Scenic Hudson and Riverkeeper — hav dominated the effort to get PCB deposits dredged from the river. The probable carcinogens have accumulated in fish throughout the river, forcing a ban on commercial fishing off the shores of Westchester and Rockland.

Even if the cleanup takes more than the five years estimated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and even if it disrupts the farm

Please see ENVIRONMENT, 6A



Rescuing the River

Part 4 of a continuing series that looks at the controversy surrounding a proposa to dredge the Hudson River for PCBs.

For mire than 30 years, the Geneal Electric Co. dumped he toxins in the river at two upstate plants.

In Augist, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to decide whether to force GE to dredge some 4 million tons of PCBladen sediment from Troy to Hudson Falls.

The debate pits upstate farming communities against environmentalists from the lower Hudson Valley. Here's

Tomorrow: How the EPA views

Farmers fight poison landfills

Roger Witherspoon The Journal News

FORT EDWARD - Sharon Ruggi doesn't remember the exact day in 1985 when the men from the state Department of Environmental Conserva-tion came to take her land.

"I was fixing dinner and the two men said they were representatives of the DEC," she said. "They simply sat down in our kitchen and announced to us that they were going to take the 100 acres for a PCB landfill. There were no preliminaries.

We were pretty awestruck," Ruggi said while sitting with her husband, Ennio, on the porch of the family farmhouse in this community about 40 miles north of Albany. "We let them finish telling us whatever they were going to say, and they left." Ruggi promptly called Merrilyn Pulver, a

founder of Citizen Environmentalists Against Sludge Encapsulation (CEASE), a farmers group that had successfully fought earlier state efforts to

put a PCB landfill in the region. "They're back," she told Pulver.

Together, Ruggi and Pulver became part of a farmers campaign to oppose dredging that later helped mobilize many upstate communities against the plan.

The grassroots movement grew out of DEC visits like the one to Ruggi's home.

Please see FARMERS, 6A

On the Web: Today's articles, background reports and other information are available at www.thejournalnews.com/pcb

Farmers fight landfills

FARMERS, from 1A

The Ruggi farm

It was the family's first experience with eminent domain, the government's process for taking private land for a public purpose. The state wanted to dredge millions of tons of PCB-contaminated sediment from the Hudson River, discharged over a 30-year period by the General Electric Co. The plan called for dumping it in a nearby landfill. The Ruggis' dairy farm fit the state's needs

"It has dense clay, and they determined it was very good clay for a toxic waste dump," Sharon Ruggi said. "I did not feel flattered."

In fact, she vowed the state wouldn't take the farm, which had been in the family for most of the last century.

Ennio's father, Primo Ruggi, had emigrated from Italy in 1910 and bought the farmland. Twenty years later, he went back to Italy and returned with a bride, Amelia, now

Primo Ruggi died in 1957, but Amelia still lives on the farm. She was in the kitchen when the DEC men came to take the land.

She was really upset about losing her home," Sharon said.

The Pulver farm

What was special about the Pulver farm, on 335 gently rolling acres about three miles from the Hudson, was that it represented everything Merrilyn and David had ever dreamed of

"We were both from Duchess County and grew up on dairy farms," Merrilyn Pulver said. "David and I met showing cows.

In 1967, they bought land in Fort Edward. The clay soil could support 300 acres for feed crops while the rest was used to graze a dairy herd.

"We chose to do this," she explained. "We enjoyed working together on the farm, and not every husband and wife can do that be with each other 24 hours a day and then have your children with you helping you build a home. It was our way of life. And then it was threatened.

In 1979, a neighbor knocked on their door and said the DEC planned to remove some chemicals from the Hudson River and bury them in huge landfills in the region. One of these locations, known as Site 10, was right next to the Pulver farm. It was a 250-acre plot off — the preferred site among 50 considered by the state.

That is when Pulver and her neighbors founded CEASE, and in 1980 they took the DEC to court to block the landfill.

Dut in a toxic waste site. we would not be able to use the cropland," she said. "None of those crops in corn could be fed to the animals. And the perception would be devastating: Ben and Jerry's won't buy milk from dairy farms next to a toxic waste site. It puts you out of business.'



Merrilyn Pulver, town supervisor of Fort Edward, N.Y., with her husband, David, on their farm.

ON THE WEB

Learn more about PCB contamination and the issue of dredging the Hudson River:

■ Environmental Protection Agency:

www.epa.gov/hudson New York state Department

of Environmental Conservawww.dec.state.ny.us/web-

site/dfwmr/habitat/nrd/index.htm

■ Clearwater, a Hudson River environmental group: www.clearwater.org

■ General Electric Co.: www.hudsonvoice.com

■ Agency for Toxic Substances

and Disease Registry: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/DT/pcb0 07.html www.CleanHudson.org

■ Scenic Hudson:

www.scenichudson.org/programs/protect1.htm CEASE:

www.nodredging.com

In 1984, CEASE won the case in appellate court.

"We thought it was over. But it wasn't," she said.

The DEC later asked the Ruggis for a meeting.

"At that meeting," Sharon Rug-gi recalled, "they wanted us to sign an agreement to sell. They said it like this: If you sign the agreement, we will purchase the entire 100 acres. If not, we will take the acreage that we need and you can keep the house and try to sell it for whatever you think you can get out of it.' I have never been angrier. Since when does an agency of the state of New York

engage in blackmail?"

She and Pulver began studying state and federal documents in earnest. They learned to write briefs attacking the state plans and petitions to intervene in the hearing process. They became a team, going to every hearing, every meeting, every community group discussion. They raised money at car washes and raffles and bake sales and held barbecues in the middle of rainstorms.

"On Jan. 9, 1989, they came back with their ruling," Ruggi said. "(Former DEC) Commissioner Tom Jorling announced the siting board had thrown out Site G as a possible location for a landfill. I thought it was over

At that point, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency entered the fray. The EPA had been asked by the state to re-evaluate its 1984 decision that dredging the Hudson River to remove PCB pockets was not feasible.

The federal agency had an open-door policy and created four citizens groups to participate in each phase of the review. Ruggi joined the Environmental Liaison Committee

The involvement of the EPA prompted Tom Borden, head of the Washington County Farm Bureau, to get involved in the winter of 1990. He became head of the EPA's agricultural liaison group.

"I wanted to be a part of the process and see how they worked, Borden said. "At this point, I have become very cynical. did not find them particularly open and honest with us, and they didn't make us feel like our role made any difference for all the time and years we put into it."

EPA officials assert, however, that the entire 10-year evaluation process was open and honest.

The Borden farm

Borden runs a 776-acre farm in Easton with two brothers and his cousin. They grow 30 varieties of apples and Bosc and Bartlett pears, and they tend a small dairy herd. Borden's father, Leonard, now 76, still works the farm with his sons and grandchildren.

The hilly farm has a clear view of the Hudson River valley and Saratoga to the west, with the mountains of Vermont to the east. Only 50 acres in 1837, it expanded as Borden men married the daughters of neighboring farmers.

From a hillside on the farm one recent day, Borden and his father pointed to a field where a few years earlier their plow struck the brick foundation of a long forgotten homestead.

'My dad explained it was a house owned by a guy named Rufus Hall, who had written a diary during the Revolutionary War that's in the local library," Borden said, "He was farming here during the Battle of Saratoga and wrote of sitting on his porch and smelling the stench of the dead horses and hearing the cannon and following the battle. He was just three miles away from the battlefield. That's our land.'

Borden wants to preserve the farm's history, and he is concerned about the details of dredging the Hudson and getting rid of PCBs.

"If they put a landfill in, how would they seal it?" he asked. "What if it develops a leak? What if there is airborne contamination from PCBs?

If the dredging is approved, he said there will be a need for more than a million tons of backfill with no designation as to where to



Benjamin Marra/The Journal News

store it.

There were so many things we weren't sure about," Borden said. We would say no landfill, and they would say 'fine.' Then we would worry about traffic and they would say 'no trucks.' But there is no rail siding around here to handle that much material. It was really aggravating.' In 1997, he lost faith in the EPA

when he learned that the organization had secretly conducted a study of possible landfill sites in

"All along they told us this would be an open process, and that seemed so subversive," he said. "Their credibility was really hurt at that point.

The EPA publicly apologized for conducting the site review in secret, and announced there would not be a landfill in the region.

Caretakers of the land

But the incident was enough to prompt Pulver and Ruggi to run for office, primarily on an antidredging campaign. Pulver is now Fort Edward town supervisor and Ruggi is a member of the council.

Seth Harrison/The Journal News

Following the farmers' lead, 60 upriver communities have adopted resolutions opposing dredging the Hudson to remove PCBs. By comparison, most communities in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam support the EPA dredging plan.

For Borden, an EPA recommendation to dredge was inevitable and wrong.

"I certainly didn't feel comfortable about them doing a big job like this without saying how they would do all this stuff," he said. "There's no way I can support this."

Walking across the land with his father, Tom Borden passed the house his great-grandfather built, the home his father was born in. He pointed to a field of corn once owned by a man named Buckley, who spent the end of the Civil War in the notorious Confederate prison camp at Andersonville, Ga. At the north end of the property is a church where Quaker settlers including the first Borden in the area - made peace with the Mo-

"I put a lot of work into this farm," said Len Borden, Tom's father, walking in the field where his father had taught him to plow behind a horse. "If they put in a landfill, it would take my heart.'

Tom Borden said, "I feel like a caretaker of this land now. I'd hate to be the one to break the link with the land. I'm not going to be the

Environmentalists want government to remove PCBs from river

Glens Falls **Hudson Falls** G.E. plants Fort Edward South Glens Falls Section 1 Griffin Island Edward Dam Section 2 Fort Miller Dam Northumberland Lock 5 Greenwich Stillwate Section 3 Stillwater Dam Lock 4 Waterford Lock 1 Troy Federal Dam John Cornell/The Journal News

Hudson hot spots

About 500 pounds of PCBs per year is stirred up from sediments and washed over the Federal Dam at Troy, flowing into the Lower Hudson. Dredging would involve 493 acres, including 100 acres Section 1: 26,460 pounds of

PCBs will be removed by hydraulic dredging from 20 deposits. ■ Section 2: About 52,920

pounds of PCBs will be removed from 15 sites by either hydraulic or mechanical dredging ■ Section 3: About 22,050

pounds of PCBs will be removed

by mechanical dredging.

ENVIRONMENT, from 1A

communities around the upper Hudson, environmentalists believe that's a small price to pay to save the

"All the environmental groups are unanimously in favor of dredging," said Alex Matthiessen, director of Riverkeeper, the legal organization which seeks to protect the Hudson and its watershed. "Those opposed are groups like CEASE, which is not an environmental group, but a group formed to oppose dredging.

Citizen Environmentalists Against Sludge Encapsulation (CEASE) was formed by farmers concerned that the government might take their land for use as PCB landfills

The river's poetry

"I was 40 when a friend took me sailing and I suddenly realized the poetry of it all," said Seeger, now 82. The wind can come from the north, but you can go east or west. And if you hold the boom close to the boat, in the face of the gale you can go

"That's life. The same pressures that can make one person do a good thing can make another do a stupid thing. And that's poetry, too."

It was an unfocused appreciation until 1966, when a friend gave him a copy of a 1907 book titled "Sloops of the Hudson" by two retired Beacon shipbuilders.

"They were not ocean boats," Seeger said. "They were flat-bottomed and broad and 106 feet long with the overhang boom and 106 feet tall at the topmast. They said these were the most beautiful boats we knew, and they will never be seen again.

He thought of the image of the sailing sloops, carrying cargo, livestock and lives up and down the Hudson, and he couldn't get it out of his head.

A petition drive among com-muters from Cold Spring to Manhattan raised enough support to launch Hudson River Sloop Restoration Inc. in June 1966. The group lat-

er changed its name to Clearwater. Its mission was simple: Build a sloop and take thousands of people on the river each year and teach them to care for it. They launched the sloop Clearwater in June 1969. The sloop now takes more than 20,000 passengers a year - mostly schoolchildren - on educational trips up and down the Hudson. Passengers help hoist the sails

and steer the Clearwater, even on short trips from the sloop's Kingston moorings. Many return to work on river-related projects or join "sloop clubs," which sponsor shoreline cleanup projects and host fund-raisers for Clearwater.

Clearwater under sail

Manna Jo Greene used to be a professional nurse and Ulster County recycling counselor before spending a week on the Clearwater, waking to the sound of guitars and the smell of brewing coffee.

"If I didn't help raise the sail, it wouldn't raise," she said. "If I didn't do my part, the whole world would fall apart. We all had a powerful sense of community. "Many people crave that kind of

sense of community - it's something missing in our busy life. In looking out for ourselves and families, we don't have the sense of everyone looking out for each other. You do with Clearwater. You do with the river." Now she spends her days in the

group's Poughkeepsie office as Clearwater's environmental action director, and she keeps the river close; her desk is in front of a tank full of Hudson fish. In her view, the prolonged debate

over the best way to deal with the

PCB deposits has forced communi-

What are PCBs?

Polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, are a group of 209 manufactured chemicals defined by their molecular composition: two carbon rings linked by chlorine atoms. Manufactured by Monsanto from 1929 to 1977, PCBs were legally and widely used in the production of electrical insulation, plastics, dyes, coolants, hydraulic fluids, lubricants, dyes, adhesives and copy paper. In all, an estimated 700,000 tons of PCBs were manufactured in the United States. Scientists now classify the chemicals as probable carcinogens, and say they can also cause developmental defects in children, hormonal problems and reproductive abnormalities.

ties in the region to focus on the riv-

"People have become keenly aware of what an important and valuable asset it is," she said. To Greene, the debate over the

removal of PCBs is a throwback to the fight 30 years ago to remove more visible pollutants from the Hudson. What we are doing now is trying

to help people understand that the PCBs that are remaining in the upper Hudson River are a threat to human health and the environment," she said. "That's difficult because they are invisible.

"The river looks so much cleaner and is a lot cleaner than it was years ago because people like Pete Seeger and organizations like Scenic Hudson and Riverkeeper had a vision to clean up the rampant pollution."

River of ruin

The river was an open dumping ground then, and the General Electric Co. wasn't the only company pouring toxins in. "You could tell what color Gen-

eral Motors was painting their cars on a given day because they dumped the pigment into the river,

she said of the former GM plant in North Tarrytown, now Sleepy Hol-Until the passage of the 1972 Clean Water Act, rivers around the

nation were used as a form of free

waste removal. The act forbade dumping into the nation's waterrays and provided money for the development of sewage and wastewater treatment plants. "As a result, the river looks a lot

cleaner and smells a lot cleaner, and appears to have cleaned itself," Greene said. And that is the problem environ-

mental groups face in seeking to have the the PCB deposits dredged. "General Electric is playing on

that image of a clean river," Greene noted. "We had to make people aware that 1.3 million pounds of PCBs were discharged over the course of 30 years, and they settled to the bottom of the river, and you can't really see them. It is unfortunate, she said, that

residents of the upper Hudson communities are largely opposed to They have been convinced the

river is cleaning itself, partially by advertising and partially because GE was a major employer in the area and still employs some people there," she said. "People in the upper Hudson River don't seem to beeve the evidence.

Riverkeeper and its predecessor, the Hudson River Fishermen's Association, began publicizing the need for PCB removal in the early 1970s, Matthiessen said. Both organizations are part of Friends of the Clean Hudson, a coalition of environmental groups supporting the

dredging proposal.

In Poughkeepsie, Ned Sullivan, director of Scenic Hudson, and Rich Schiafo, the group's environmental manager, helped coordinate the prodredging movement along the river.

"I've spent more than a dozen years working on Hudson River issues," said Sullivan, a Yonkers native who grew up in Mount Kisco. "I love this river. I've hiked along it, fished in it, canoed in it. It's one of the most beautiful rivers, and the Hudson Valley is one of the most majestic areas of the country.' In 1989, Scenic Hudson played a

role in persuading the state Department of Environmental Conservation to ask the federal EPA to reconsider dredging the Hudson, Sullivan said. There was a commercial fishing

industry that was eliminated because of the PCBs, and that shut down a multi-generational lifestyle and source of livelihood," he said. Fishing is a passion for many people, and it helps link people with the river. Scenic Hudson is not going to allow that resource to be written off."

Schiafo said the organization has consistently maintained that the PCB-soaked sediment be removed. Both Scenic Hudson and Clear-

water also are urging the EPA to expand its dredging proposal to remove about a half-million tons of contaminated sediment in addition to the 4 million tons of sediment now slated for removal.

The expanded operation would add at least two years to the project, which now calls for five years of "Even if it takes seven years, a

couple of extra years are worth the long-term benefits," Schiafo said. Pete Seeger thinks so, too. He still

takes his banjo out on the Clearwater sloop and picks and dreams about the river's future. "If there is a human race here in

a hundred years," he said, "I'm pretty sure it will be swimmable from

one end to the other.'