LOOKING BACK

by Hague Historical Society Board Members Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young

Hague Chronicle – March 1976 – 50 years ago

Fifty years ago, readers of *The Hague Chronicle* were introduced to a brand-new masthead.

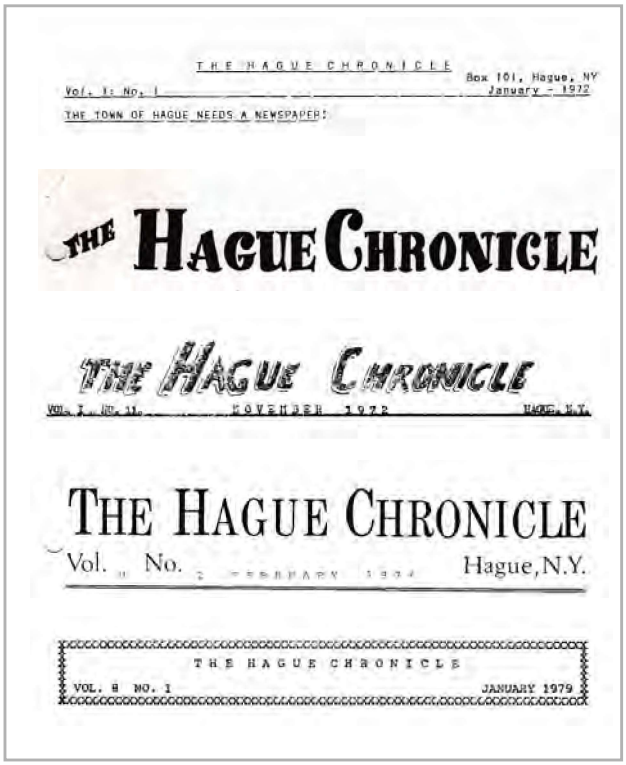
"The new masthead which was used for the first time last month," the paper reported in March 1976, "was provided by H. Weston Conant of Rutherford, N.J., and a long-time resident of Silver Bay." The editors wrote that they were "forever in his debt" for the time and trouble he took in creating it.

Mr. Conant graduated from Pratt Institute Art School in Brooklyn in 1931. He had planned to become a magazine illustrator, but during the Depression, "one took what he could get." He first traveled with a marionette show — "but," he said, "it wasn't very remunerative." Four years later, he took a job as a page with NBC. Over the course of 41 years, he moved from radio sound effects into television, serving in a variety of technical positions. In his final years with NBC, he supervised a technical area that supplied television shows with the extra and specialized equipment they required.

Upon retiring, Mr. Conant hoped to devote more time to painting in watercolors and oils. The demanding schedules of the broadcasting business, he noted, had prevented him from enjoying many activities. "Soon I hope to find out what it is like to live like people," he added with humor.

Fifty Years Later

The Hague Chronicle's masthead has continued to evolve over the decades.



GROUP OF FIVE, TOP: The mastheads used in the 1970s represented many iterations. GROUP OF THREE, BOTTOM: Starting in 1985, the masthead became more of an illustration. It, too, evolved through the years, culminating into the current one, in color, shown last.

In 1985, a design contest was held for a new masthead. Laurie de Buys Pannell, daughter of Harry and Betty de Buys of Hague and Birmingham, AL, created the winning entry. Her design depicted a gull flying over the lake with mountains in the background. Over time, repeated copying caused the image to lose some of its crispness.

In January 2009, the paper began using an updated version by graphic artist Christine Quaglieri, who volunteered her services to improve clarity for printing.

Another redesign debuted in January 2014 when Hague artist Richard Stout created a refreshed masthead that continues the tradition while sharpening its visual impact.

The above history appears on *The Hague Chronicle's* website and reflects the care that has gone into maintaining the paper's identity while allowing it to grow with the times.

Board member and Layout Editor Chris Quinn recently shared archival images with the Hague Historical Society, noting, "Thought you might enjoy seeing how it's evolved a little, but is still holding up very well."

We agree and hope the design continues to serve the community well into the future.

For decades, *The Hague Chronicle* has remained an informative, easy-to-read addition to the life of our small town. Without relying on advertising, it has been sustained by donations from readers and the dedicated efforts of volunteers who spend countless hours writing, editing, publishing, and distributing each issue.

Kudos to all who have helped keep *The Hague Chronicle* strong for fifty years — and counting.

Note from the editor: See the Soundings section on page 6 of this month's issue for the obituary of H. Weston Conant's son, Ted Conant.