

Chronicle April Fools Greatest Hits!

By Mark Frost
 Chronicle Editor

As we prep next week's Chronicle 40th Anniversary Issue, I've done a lot of delving into our archive. Now, as always, one of the great pleasures is our April Fool's pranks.

Here's a look at what I consider our 10 best. Long-time *Chronicle* readers, feel free to come back at me with your own favorites.

1. The bridge over Lake George.

Far and away the biggest response we ever garnered for an April Fools story was the one on the bridge to be built over Lake George.

The article said state officials expressed surprise that there was no opposition to the plan. An **angry caller muttered: "Of course there was no opposition — we didn't even knew this was happening."** More than a year later I fielded a call from a woman in New Jersey asking if the story was true. I asked if she wanted it to be. She said, "I have mixed emotions. I don't think there should be a bridge across Lake George, but we have a place at Huletts Landing. This might save us two hours!"



Lake George bridge plan advances

Architect's rendering — The planned "Queen of American Lakes" bridge, looking south from Buck Mountain.



We superimposed the Brooklyn Bridge on Lake George. It was pretty much a bridge to nowhere.

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2002

Expressing surprise that virtually no opposition has surfaced, New York State announced final approval and the timetable for construction of the \$1.3-billion "Queen of American Lakes" bridge across Lake George.

Construction on the span is to begin in the spring of 2004 and be completed in time for the summer season of 2006, under the "fast-track" schedule released by the governor's office.

A job fair will be held in September to gauge local interest in working on the bridge project.

State 'surprised' by lack of opposition

Preference in hiring will be given to enrolled Republicans.

"This bridge will ease traffic congestion on Lake Shore Drive on the way to Bolton Landing, a place that is very dear to me," said Gov. Pataki, "and enable travelers to easily reach points east, including Whitehall and Vermont."

"It will be a tremendous boon to all of Washington County, where I own a farm, and the bridge itself will make a gorgeous lake that much prettier. It should save massive amounts of fuel and wear and tear on highways by alleviating the

Please turn to page 16

2. Rupert Murdoch buys The Chronicle.

Yes, we broke the story that the Australian media mogul, owner of the tabloid *New York Post* and later Fox News, had bought *The Chronicle*, pledging not to change anything and letting Mark Frost stay on as editor.

My story quoted me: "A little more sex, a little more violence, nothing we haven't stooped to already."

A few days later a reader I knew wrote: "Mark, you're so naive
 Please turn to page 20



Retired nurse: Don't put kids in school during pandemic

Dear Sir:

I am a retired RN who was certified in maternity care and then went on to work for Hudson Headwaters Health Network, working a total of 40 years. My concern is the opening of the schools this Fall. Spacing desks 6 ft apart is not

Please turn to page 10



Counting loons on Eagle Lake

▶ 4

Faults Chronicle Page 1: Trump boat parade & defund police push

Mark,

Why the focus on people protesting in their boats on Lake George, while most other people are struggling to pay the rent, make car payments and raise their children?

A "Trump Boat Parade on LG" is not relevant for most

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