



## Tax Map Needed

County Executive Dennison has campaigned during the past eight years vigorously but fruitlessly for an accurate and professionally prepared tax map of Suffolk County. He has presented sound and logical arguments to support his request, but the county board has turned a deaf ear to his suggestions. It is estimated that there are a great number of parcels of land, in all of the towns in Suffolk County that are not included on the tax rolls or that are overtaxed because of a lack of information. There have been many cases of people who thought that they owned land, but, when a survey was done, they found that they did not own it or only owned a fraction of what they thought they did. The reverse situation also happens: people who end up owning more than they thought they did.

Many of our land maps and deeds hark back to the time when property was described as being bounded by the big apple tree on the east and the stone wall on the west. Both tree and wall have long since disappeared and no one knows who owns what, least of all the assessors. As a result, some people are paying far more than their share of real estate taxes while others are not paying enough.

Mr. Dennison has estimated that if the county were surveyed, and a proper tax map prepared, additional millions of dollars could be raised in real estate taxes each year.

We can see no valid reasons why the county board of supervisors does not go ahead with the tax map survey. The cost of the map could be defrayed in short order from the additional tax revenues that would come in. With prices of land skyrocketing each day the people of this county are losing out. We see little to be gained by procrastinating. We urge the county board to act on this measure now. And Why Not?

## MTA Seeks Mortgage Money

Fresh from conning the voters and tax payers of New York State into authorizing a two and one-half billion dollar bond issue, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority has now proposed that it be allowed to increase mortgage taxes by 50% and apply these revenues to its own use. The MTA claims that the money is needed for the improvement and maintenance of railroad stations. Our county Board of Supervisors heard the same excuse and were sucked

into paying an exorbitant and unsupported bill last year. A similar bill was also submitted to Nassau County and New York City but both decided to withhold payment until the bill was substantiated or until they were made to pay it by the courts. As of this writing both have still not paid the bill and the MTA has not been able to make them.

We feel that the MTA is completely out-of-bounds in seeking new forms of tax revenue outside of its own jurisdiction. The MTA is already sitting on 2½ billion dollars of potential revenue that we, the taxpayers, were led to believe would be all that was needed for the next 25 years. The MTA is supposed to be an Authority like the Triborough Bridge Authority and operate like a business. It is supposed to operate on a profitable basis—not as just another tax sucking government agency.

A few months ago, during the campaign for the bond issue, we questioned the ability of the management of the MTA and that question still stands. It appeared that William Ronan's lack of experience would turn this massive MTA boondoggle into a political pork barrel; it looks like we were right. He seems to lack the basic comprehension of just what all this increased indebtedness and taxation is doing to the average taxpayer who is struggling to get ahead.

We feel that Mr. Ronan and the MTA should strive to streamline their operation and put it on the most economical basis so that their many endeavors can benefit the people of New York at the least possible cost. If they act in any other way they are just stuffing their coffers at the public expense. We also feel that they have no business asking for tax monies from sources that are unrelated to their particular operation — transportation. Let's hope that the MTA puts an end to these wild-eyed schemes for raising more money—as if 2½ billion were'nt enough. And Why Not?

## Asking For Trouble

The Brookhaven Town Board just passed a law that could have the effect of turning all of Brookhaven

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**EDITORIALS** from Page 3

into one big dump. The law requires that all who wish to use the town dumps must purchase permits and the fees are quite high.

We feel that because of the board's action many residents of Brookhaven Town will take the easy way out and dump their litter on the first vacant lot or wooded area that they can find without getting caught. To do so would be a lot easier than driving miles out of one's way plus paying a fee for the privilege of keeping Brookhaven clean and litter-free.

We find it very hard to see any logic in charging residents a fee for the use of town facilities which they are already paying for through their general taxes. In a very real sense this is a double tax and a restrictive measure that will discourage the residents of Brookhaven from using the town dumps. It seems to us that the Town fathers would be a lot farther ahead in making Brookhaven a nicer place to live if they encouraged the use of the dumps rather than enacting measures that can only have the opposite effect. If the people get their backs up and refuse to pay these unjustified costs, which we feel will be the case, then waste will pile up, refuse will be abandoned on the highways and byways of Brookhaven and the town will be faced with a rapidly deteriorating sanitation situation.

Suffolk Life feels that the Brookhaven Town Board should reconsider the impact that this new

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law will have on the people before the entire town turns into one massive dump. And Why Not?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



To the Editor,

It is with profound regret that the writer now proposes to call to the attention of your readers two occurrences with in the short space of one month which clearly demonstrate the marked decline that has taken place in the traditionally eminent position formerly held by our United States among the leading nations of the world.

Early in January it was reported that two military attaches of the United States Embassy in Guatemala were shot and killed while riding in a United States Government automobile in a suburb of Guatemala City. Since that time, the only reference to that crime that I have noted in the press is to the effect that the U.S. Government is endeavoring to get more information on it.

Here we have another example of our government failing to show its' intention of protecting the rights, lives and property of our citizens while abroad. It again tends to indicate that we are more anxious to consider the political aspects of such a challenge to our sovereignty, rather than to take prompt and forceful action to obtain redress from offenders. It is one more example of infirmity of purpose on the part of the elected officers in our Government during recent years.

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## Peconic County

The imperative need to create another county out of the five eastern towns of Suffolk County keeps coming up with more frequency. Just this past week the Supreme Court ruling on reapportionment, on the local level, reaffirmed the dire need for this move. It had been hoped that the Supreme Court would refuse to rule on reapportionment on the local level or that, if they did, they would rule that reapportionment would not apply below the state level. The ruling implied that every body of government, from Congress down to the local school board, must be reapportioned according to population and not geography.

To Suffolk County this means giving up, on the county level, equal representation of the towns in favor of having the three western towns rule the entire county. It means that the east end will have its future determined by outsiders—politicians who lack the interest or knowledge of what is truly good for our area. It will mean taxation without representation. We have witnessed the deplorable growth of western Suffolk: its erratic development, its brand new slum housing, its overcrowded schools, its bankrupting tax powers and its ruination by corrupt politicians. This we do not want for the east end. We have gone to great lengths to develop master plans to determine land uses and how to best develop our area for today's residents and for the expected influx of tomorrow. We are aware of our potentialities as well as our limitations. We know what we want and we are heading in that direction.

To allow the west end to overrule us, just because they have the population edge, is ridiculous.

The only solution that we can see to this problem in the light of the Court's recent ruling, is to set up a bilateral ruling body - one branch, elected at-large, that will represent the population and another that will represent the land mass or geography by towns. This system was good enough to be the basis of the legislative branch of our Federal government—it should be good enough for Suffolk County. This was the system that our forefathers set up in order to provide the necessary checks and balances so that we would not have a situation whereby a few of the big states could rule the entire country.

If this system proved to be unworkable then the other alternative would be the separation of Suffolk County into two counties. Our leaders, and particularly our Assemblyman who is Minority Leader, says that this is impossible at the present time. We do not buy this. We have always believed that nothing

is impossible if you really try and this is particularly true in politics. Peconic County can be a reality if our leaders will pursue it with all of their combined resources. Let's hope that they have the courage to do so. And Why Not?

## Right To Work

The Riverhead Town Board has proposed a severe and unfair ordinance that would regulate the sales profession in Riverhead. Supposedly this ordinance would be for the welfare of the entire community. Its purpose would be to protect the residents from the dishonest individuals who deliberately take advantage of unsuspecting buyers. While the ordinance is aimed at curbing the activities of a dishonest few, it is bound to have the effect of restricting hundreds of men and women from making an honest living in selling. The loss of revenue to Riverhead would be incalculable.

The ordinance requires that all who engage in outside sales must obtain a license and pay a fee of \$75. to \$100. annually. The ordinance affects both local and out-of-town salesmen who call on businesses and homes.

This ordinance is totally uncalled for. It throws a shadow of dishonesty on all sales people. It is an insult to the thousands of people who engage in sales within the boundaries of Riverhead, from the enterprising neighborhood boy who sells garden seeds door-to-door to the professional sellers of goods and services, both local and out-of-town, who make things happen and contribute much toward making Riverhead a dominant factor in the Eastern Long Island market.

The licensing fees proposed have no moral or economic justification. If the ordinance is passed in its present form it will discourage all salesmen from bringing to this area goods and services that would otherwise enable businesses and homeowners to make better profits and enjoy a better way of life. There is no reason why the town should try to create additional revenues from the lifeblood of persons engaged in the honorable profession of sales.

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We hope that the politicians who have dreamed up this harsh and insulting ordinance will have to take out a peddlers license before they go out on the streets a year from November to bang on the doors of unsuspecting homeowners to peddle their questionable wares at election time. And Why Not?

**Did You Forget ?**

Three months have passed since we began our subscription drive. Several thousand readers have responded and have indicated that they wanted Suffolk Life to continue in its present form. They have put their dollar bills on the line and we have entered their subscriptions in our records. At the present time there are still several thousand families who have not yet subscribed to Suffolk Life. We need their subscriptions so that we can continue to publish a combination of news, editorials and advertising. With the tremendous increase in postal rates we have been forced to try and change our postal classification. The only way we are going to be able to do this is to have paid subscriptions.

We have set the subscription rate as low as possible - - 2¢ per week. This does not even cover our distribution costs but it does indicate to the Post Office that our readers do want Suffolk Life to continue, and, if a minimum of 65% of our readers do

subscribe, it will mean that we can be granted a second class postage permit. This will mean a substantial savings to us; it will allow us to continue publishing news and views and to expand the reading content of this publication.

We need your support in this drive. If you have not already subscribed won't you do so today? It is only \$1.00 a year, \$1.75 for two years or \$2.50 for three years. For less than 2¢ per week we will keep Suffolk Life coming to your door. Isn't it worth it? We hope you agree and will send off your subscription today. And Why Not?

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## Fire Fire Everywhere

Last Tuesday, with grim regularity, the fire whistles howled their frightful wail. No matter where one looked the sky was hazed with smoke. It seemed as if all of Eastern Suffolk County was on fire at the same time.

Our woodlands are tinder-dry due to the moderate snow accumulations this past winter and the lack of substantial rains this spring. For the past two months our volunteer firemen have been running themselves ragged putting out fires of all kinds. They have been called on to answer as many as three fires in one day when normally there wouldn't be any. There were 165 alarms in Suffolk County during the twenty-four hour period, between Tuesday, April 9th and Wednesday, April 10th.

Our firemen are to be warmly thanked for their efforts and services to their communities. They have had to give up time from work, family and leisure in order to protect our lives and homes. They have not hesitated to put their lives on the line when desperate fires called for desperate measures. And when tragedy strikes, as it must occasionally upon men voluntarily court danger on our behalf, then we must pause to give prayerful thanks for the bravery and unselfishness of our fallen firemen. We thank God for men, such as George Raynor of Westhampton Beach—family man, civic leader, sportsman—who died for his community. He shall not be forgotten.

Our firemen cannot do the job all by themselves. They need everyone's assistance. They have requested that all open burning be ceased and that the children be kept out of the woods until we have a good substantial rainfall that has penetrated several inches into the ground. We should all watch where we put out our cigarettes. One spark can start a fire that may devastate hundreds of acres of woodland, kill off the animal life, cause ruinous erosion and lay bare an area for years to come.

Let us all use extreme care when out-of-doors. Let us make sure that no fires are caused because of our carelessness or thoughtlessness. Let's keep our woodlands green and our firemen out of danger. It is up to us. And Why Not?

## Mini Vacation

Long Island is at its best in the budding spring and this spring promises to be the absolute best. This is the kind of weather and conditions that make this area so nice to live in. Very often we get so caught up in

the hustle and bustle of making a living or of keeping house that we neglect to take advantage of the good life provided by the natural resources that Eastern Long Island has to offer.

We hope that all residents will take advantage of the area this year and go out to see what we have. Take a mini vacation to Montauk or Orient or just take a day to go to the beautiful beaches which are still undisturbed by the inevitable summer hordes. Take time out to enjoy the wonders of Eastern Long Island. A day or a weekend in one of the nearby vacation spots can be a rewarding experience. Montauk offers tremendous fishing, miles of beaches for walking, numerous trails for horseback riding and excellent restaurants. Orient offers much of the same. Shelter Island is a bit of New England transferred to the East End and is still unravished by the unwanted aspects of progress.

Take time out to see Long Island and it can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your year. Take a mini vacation on Long Island and enjoy it. And Why Not?



## LETTERS

## TO THE EDITOR

Dear Dave:

The editorial in Suffolk Life of April 3rd. in reference to a County Tax Map seems to show how a little knowledge can be most misleading at times.

The Town of Babylon has had a tax map for several years. Babylon now is almost a city within itself in population density, so the tax map works out quite well but is not free of mistakes here and there. The Assessors of Riverhead Town use maps kept up to date by the local surveyor, and they are said to likely do the best job in the County such as having all the parcels properly described and identified, free from double assessment and gaps. Why should Babylon, Riverhead and any other Town doing a good job in assessing be required to help pay for a County Tax Map merely to bail out some of the Towns that have a slovenly system of assessment and do

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## Protecting Our Resources

At present the United States has entered into an agreement with Russia that allows their massive fishing fleets and floating factories to come within the coastal boundaries of the United States. They are allowed to fish within these coastal waters plus base their factory ships in safe waters. In return the Russians have agreed to cease fishing in certain areas during the spawning periods. This agreement is supposedly in the best interest of conservation while also benefiting international relations.

On several occasions the Russians have violated this pact. Their boats were reported fishing in the off-limits areas. They had to be warned, by the Coast Guard, of these known violations before ceasing their illegal activities.

There is talk of extending this pact with the Russians after the agreement expires in November. Suffolk Life can see little value to the United States doing this. What should be done is to extend our coastal limits as several other countries have done. At present we recognize a three mile limit as under our jurisdiction. Many countries have a fifty mile limit; some as much as three hundred miles. We should raise our limit to at least fifty miles and then put even further restrictions on fishing in spawning areas during the breeding season.

Our natural resources, found in the ocean, are too valuable to give away. Fish is as important a food product as any other kind of meat or poultry. Fish can be wiped out forever if they are allowed to be over-harvested, as the massive fishing operations of the Russians are capable of doing. Any sport fisherman can tell you of the decrease in catch, out of our ports, during the past few years since Russia and other countries have been working our coastal areas in force. It was once common for sportsmen to come back with swordfish out of Shinnecock and Montauk. Last year very few boats came back with a sword and the tuna catch was not much better.

It has been reported that the Russians are preparing to place seine nets out for tuna, albacore, blues and many other species this year. This type of netting will virtually wipe out any fish that there are in the nets path.

The ocean and the fish that surround America are valuable as any one of her other natural resources; they should be protected with the same vigilance as our land and other resources.

Not only are we allowing the Russians to rape the ocean but also to spy upon us electronically. It is readily admitted that the Russian fishing ships are

equipped with enormous amounts of highly sophisticated electronic gear. We can count on them to be using it to get a good picture of our defenses and radar installations.

It is very difficult for all of us to figure out why our country persists in allowing the Russians, who are sworn to see our demise, to come so close to our shores when, at the same time, we permit a tenth rate country like North Korea to seize one of our spy ships which was a lot farther off-shore than they are.

In the interests of protecting our resources and the defense of our country we should not consider renewing this agreement with the Russians. We should also extend our territorial limits to at least fifty miles. We owe the Russians nothing. Lets protect our own interests while we still have the opportunity.

We urge our readers to write to their congressmen about these matters and the sooner the better. And Why Not?

## Poor Solution

During a lengthy discussion with the Riverhead Town attorney, concerning the proposed peddlers ordinance, it was brought out that this law is being presented to stop the dishonest salesman from operating within the town. What the law is supposed to do is to make the dishonest salesman go to the police chief and register with him so that the chief can check him out for prior fraudulent activity.

We find this whole thing to be about as naive as you can get. There isn't a chance in a million that anyone who is planning on selling dishonestly in Riverhead is going to first go down and register with the chief of police. The dishonest salesperson knows that he has to get into an area fast and get out fast. He will take his chances in violating a local ordinance that carries a light penalty when he is planning in dealing in fraud or crime. The only thing that this law will accomplish is to inconvenience a lot of honest people who honestly attempt to make a living by selling. To avoid inconveniencing several thousand

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**EDITORIALS** from Page 3

people who sell within the bounds of Riverhead, this ordinance will be so full of exemptions that it will be virtually unworkable anyway.

If the real reason for this ordinance is to protect the residents from dishonest selling practices, then a drive should be initiated against the unscrupulous within the present law. Charge those who sell dishonestly with fraud; push for maximum punishment; demand that full sentences and fines are imposed. Let it be known that this is a tough town for the unscrupulous and you won't have them operating here. To put another law on the books that is unenforceable and a definite inconvenience to several thousand honest people who make things happen in this town is rather asinine.

The measure of good government and of good officials is not in the volume of laws that they can draw up and pass but in the quality of their work. We hope that the town board will reconsider the advisability of passing a new peddlers ordinance and utilize existing alternatives to stop dishonest selling within the boundaries of Riverhead. And Why Not?

**You're Not Eligible**

You will not be eligible to vote in the elections for the Board of Education and on the proposed school budgets in many districts this year if you have not voted or registered in the general school elections in

the last two years. Prospective voters are warned that this election should not be confused with the general election held in November. Your permanent personal registration or vote in the November elections has nothing to do with the school board elections.

In many communities the school budgets that are passed make up almost 50% of the local taxes. The residents of the districts are given the opportunity of choosing those that they want to run their school board of directors. They are also given the opportunity of accepting or rejecting the proposed budgets submitted by these boards. This is the one place in our governmental and tax structure where the voters are given the opportunity to vote directly on who will run their schools and to determine how much the schools will be allowed to spend.

In the true tradition of the apathetic American, school elections, in many cases are ignored by the qualified voters. Instead of taking an active part in selecting their representatives on the school board and voting on the budget at the annual meeting, most citizens sit back and complain about the quality of education and the exorbitant costs of running our educational plants.

In most school districts, registration for the special school elections will take place during the next seven days. If you have not voted or registered within the last two school elections (1966) you must register during this period. Again, Your permanent personal registration for general elections does not qualify you to vote in the school elections. You must be registered additionally with the school board.

Registration dates for Central School District No.2 are TODAY, Wednesday, April 24th and Wednesday, May 1st of next week. You may register at the Riverhead High school on Pulaski Street, Riverhead between the hours of 3 and 8 PM. We recommend that those residents living outside Central School District No.2 call their local school and confirm where, and at what time, their own registrations are.

Be sure you take an active part in selecting those who are going to be running your schools. And Why Not?

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**



To The Editor;

I think it would be very unfair for the Town of Riverhead to take such action against the enterprising people who are willing to work extra hours—Avon Ladies etc.—in order to supplement their incomes. Instead of giving them credit they would be penalized by having to give the Town this money. In some cases I don't think they make any more than \$75. to \$100 a year. After all these people are willing to WORK FOR THEIR MONEY.

I could see a Identification Card for people living in Town who wish to do this on a long term basis. And any outside

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