

Willmott's and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

Suffolk '82

The Port Jefferson Chamber of Commerce sponsored an interesting luncheon this past week which took a look at what lies ahead for us in the next ten years. This is the second year in a row that this group has called together various government officials, local through state, to examine both the problems of today and of the future for the area.

Mayor Robert Waldbauer of Patchogue was selling the idea of decentralization as the method that would best serve the people in the future. What he proposes is that as many localities as possible incorporate into villages, as Patchogue has done. He maintains that this is the only form of government that can be responsive to the needs and desires of the people. In order to be responsive to the wishes of the people, you must be close to them, and the village form of government is the only one left today where this is possible.

When one looks at the county of Suffolk with its spiralling mass in both area and people, and the form of government that represents them, you can better understand Waldbauer's comments. Since reapportionment in 1968, we have been saddled with practically invisible representatives. It's believable that they would never appear if they did not have to run every two years. Trying to find your representative is a joke and making a personal appearance before the County Board is a laugh. It's like talking to a wall.

The town level is almost as bad. In Brookhaven, with its immense size (which is bigger than many states), pretending to have a local government is tantamount to having no government at all. In this town, most governmental functions are run from an auto showroom in Medford and only a mock showing to meet the letter of the law goes on in Town Hall. In the town of Riverhead, you have three very distinct and different communities. What happens in Wading River has little relation to Jamesport, and Riverhead proper is removed from both of these centers. Southampton is even worse. You have two different worlds lying on either side of the Shinnecock Canal. To complicate matters even more you have distinct and individual hamlets within these multiple sections which operate independently of each other.

There is little communication and coordination in towns the size of these,

and this leads to a void that is filled by politicians who most people do not know. Incorporated villages pretty much bear out the fact that a small municipality can operate as economically as a large town. The cost of operating a small municipality such as a village is not much different than that of running a large town. In most cases here in Suffolk (28 incorporated villages), the tax rate for essential services is almost identical to that of the town in which they lie.

In some cases, the village tax rate is higher because the residents of that town have requested additional services of its government. The fact is that these small municipalities are very responsive to the residents in giving them both economy and services that they want. They can be responsive because the management, or the political organization, is knowledgeable of the feelings of the residents, and to stay in office, they must be responsive to these needs.

We are talking about 1972 and how villages are responsive to the people because of their closeness to them and how our towns have become a no-man's land because of their size and immensity of people. Just think what 1982 will be like. The population in this area of Long Island is projected to climb 4 to 5 times what it is now. It will be impossible for our communities to remain the same. How they develop will be dependent upon the residents' desires and their ability to communicate with their government leaders.

There is virtually no hope that open lines of communication can be maintained in large governments. There IS hope that they will be in incorporated, small municipalities. We believe, as Mayor Waldbauer, that the hope for a decent quality of life lies in decentralization and incorporation of local municipalities. And why not?

Time For Maturity

Senator Eagleton's disclosure last week that he had received treatment for depression in the past caused shock waves that are still being felt. It is tragic that he did not reveal this to his running mate, George McGovern, prior to the public disclosure. For this he was at fault. Only a fool could have thought that his past would not be revealed and his lack of sense in disclosing this has put needless jeopardy on the McGovern ticket. At this point, we leave off in faulting

Eagleton.

It is time, in our history, that we recognize that many people have used the services of modern-day psychiatry that there are many people in desperate need of it who refuse to avail themselves of this for fear of public ridicule. The mind, like the body, can become ill. If you cut yourself, have an infection or a pain, you seek help from a medical doctor which in most cases is a general practitioner. With proper care and modern medicines most people are cured and restored to full health. It is not any different with illnesses of the mind. They too can be cured with proper care and medical attention.

It is a wise man who recognizes his need for this help and seeks out competent counseling. As with a physical illness, once it has been diagnosed and treated properly, the patient can enjoy full health and well being. To say there is anything wrong with Eagleton because he had the courage and the foresight to seek out this help when needed, is cruel and uneducated. In most cases, when a person has completed successful treatment, he is a lot more together than the average person. He has an acute awareness of himself, what his problems are and how best to avoid them.

Most people have some sort of pressure point. It may be ulcers, migraine headaches, asthma, bursitis, irritable colon, etc. In some, it is depression, nervous or mental fatigue.

As with all these illnesses, it is a question of whether a person recognizes these shortcomings and seeks out treatment. In Eagleton's case, he did. Instead of continuing to suffer from depression, he had the sense to seek treatment and overcome this adversity. This is what counts.

The doctors who have administered him have indicated that he no longer suffers from this condition and this is really all that we need to know. His past, now that it has been made public, should not be of any further concern. The question should be how he stands on the issues and what he can do as a running mate of McGovern. And why not?



SUFFOLK LIFE

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David J. Willmott, Editor

Big Disappointment

All of us here on Long Island have watched with bated breath for the announcement that Grumman had secured the 6 billion dollar space shuttle contract. To most of us, it was a question of WHEN they were going to get it, not WHETHER they were going to get it.

Grumman has been the name most significantly linked with the space program. It had tremendous accomplishments to its credit and it was inconceivable that any other firm could possibly be named as the prime contractor. This, coupled with the fact that on the Island we have a 9 per cent unemployment rate (which is a direct result of the government's cutbacks in defense spending) should have made this company the government's first preference for this project.

Being good at hindsight, it is obvious that we sat on our duffs and were too complacent about Grumman securing this project. The result is that North American Rockwell of California has the contract. They will have the employment to offer the residents of that area employment that should have been Long Island's.

It's obvious that politics played an important part, as it always does, in the placement of these large federal projects. To our sorrow, California's politicians are more adept and skillful than our Long Island contingent. We cannot lay all the blame on our elected officials, as the job of securing this contract was the responsibility of the Long Island community as a whole. The fact of the matter is, Long Island has not been getting anywhere near its share of these lucrative federal projects and it has hurt the economy in general. Something must be done to turn this drastic situation around.

The research and development companies, such as Grumman, have outstanding talent which makes up the backbone of the economy of the Island. This talent will leave the area in numbers for more lucrative positions if our companies continue to be unsuccessful in securing these large projects.

We as a community here on Long Island must examine the situation and find out what we have been doing wrong, and hopefully learn from our

mistakes. When there is business to be had such as this, we must have the right formula for getting it and not settle for allowing it to go elsewhere. And why not?

Getting Together

Last week we were discussing with a political leader the difficulties that political leaders have in finding qualified candidates to run for office on the East End. There are many reasons, but the most pronounced was a lack of communication between the leaders and people who might be interested in running. Most people do not know how to express their desire to become involved in the political spectrum. The leaders are left with a primitive method of hunting and picking in their search for candidates. It's just a real stroke of luck when qualified candidates are brought together with the politicians who have the office to fill. The result is many offices are not filled until the last moment. The leadership is forced into a position of running people whom they are not entirely satisfied with or who don't have the qualifications for the job.

In our travels we have run across people that would make great public servants. They have the talents to do a commendable job and are beyond reproach. They have an interest in serving their community. Their names never become known and they are not offered the opportunity of running for office.

In hope of putting these people together with the various political parties, SUFFOLK LIFE, as a public service, will set up a department to pass on to the leaders of the various parties the names of citizens interested in running for office. We ask those who might be interested in finding out more about running for an office to write to SUFFOLK LIFE. We will forward your names to all party leaders in your area. It is our hope that a pool of qualified candidates can be established. If you are interested in running for office or you know someone that you feel would be a good candidate, we urge you to write, directing all letters, to Political Office, c-o Box 262, Westhampton, New York.

We will forward your letters as directed. Let's hope that this effort will result in the presentation of better candidates for you the voters to choose from. And why not?

Cross River Drive

Once again the county has announced that they are ready to commence work on the infamous Cross River Drive east of Riverhead. We'll believe it when we see it. Just about this time every year the Suffolk County Department of Public Works or some political figure announces that this project is eminent. Everybody says hallelujah. That's where it ends. Of course the results of their procrastination has never been more obvious than this year with the harrowing traffic tie up at the Riverhead Circle. This past Sunday night, traffic was backed up from the Hampton Bays bypass all the way to the Circle. Bumper to bumper. It's reported that some cars took as much as 2½ hours to complete the 7 miles. The Cross River Bridge and drive connecting Sunrise Highway, Montauk Highway, Rt. 25 and eventually the Long Island Expressway will eliminate this problem. We hope this announcement isn't another attention getting publicity gimmick and that the construction will start this fall. And why not?



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Letters To The Editor - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion thru the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a non de plume.

News and Photographs - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and can not be returned for any reason.

Errors - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

Willmott's and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

A Bad Joke

There are a number of bad ethnic jokes going around and the worst is that the government has perpetuated the closing of the Bayview Hospital. Unfortunately, it is not a joke. This small community hospital has struggled almost since its conception to make a go of it. The one thing that has kept it together is the people - the people of the bay area. These people for the most part were originally from the tenements of the city, first and second generation Italians. The hospital has been a rallying point for the entire community. Thousands of lives have been saved by the presence of this hospital. It has provided good medical attention, and as important, was its availability.

They have had their problems, like so many other hospitals, making ends meet. We know of no hospital today that is a profit maker which serves the community at large. Somehow this hospital has been able to survive. To illustrate the kind of spirit and cooperation that this hospital has had - at one point there were no funds to pay the personnel and they voluntarily agreed to wait for their wages. The people of the community have shown enthusiasm for the hospital. Thousands of hours of volunteer work have been performed on its behalf. With this kind of support you might ask yourself why is this hospital being closed?

There is an underlying feeling in the community that the hospital was a pawn in a power play. The state has practically conducted a vendetta with inspections, citing such violations as minor dust on top of cabinets and not enough toilet tissues in a holder. All tolled there were ninety-six violations at the last inspection, and of them only a handful would warrant serious attention. As representatives of the hospital have asked, why not these same inspections of the larger hospitals? How do they allow the state hospitals and big city hospitals to stay open with the conditions that prevail there?

The state maintains that the health needs of the community can be adequately served by the Brookhaven Memorial Hospital, seven miles to the west. The fact of the matter is that there are between fifty and sixty thousand people in the Southern Brookhaven area right now that need this hospital. There is talk of a "super city" for this area in the very near future. Even if this does not come to

pass, it is reasonable to expect this area to grow two to three times in the next seven to ten years. We cannot see how Brookhaven Hospital will be in a position to serve this community fully now or in the future. What it boils down to is a new hospital will have to be created from scratch within the decade. In the meantime, how many lives will have been wasted because this hospital was closed?

The counties intention of taking over this facility as a clinic is nice but this is not what is needed. Why can't these monies be used to supplement this full time facility instead of creating a part time clinic?

There are an awful lot of questions that should be answered. The biggest and most important is who wants to and why do they want to close this vital bay area facility? The Bay Area residents deserve answers to these questions. And why not?

Trust McGovern???

Have times changed! It used to be that the first thing candidates did was to get honesty printed in front of their names. They would go out of their way to tell the voters how honest and wonderful they were. Now with our new breed of politicians, exemplified by McGovern, a "rip-off" is something to brag about. Last week McGovern pulled just about the best "rip-off" of the year.

He informed the networks that he had a major story, the announcement of his second running mate. He wanted prime time for this major story. He got it. Fifteen minutes of prime Saturday evening, coast-to-coast, exposure. How he used it is a different story.

He only gave a short introduction to his running mate and then proceeded to spend almost 90 percent of his remaining time in what should have been a paid commercial. In other words, as an opening political move he cheated the network out of millions of dollars. Some may look at this "rip-off" as an accomplishment, some may say he was smart and shrewd. We have never looked at a deed like this as an accomplishment. This time was granted by the networks for a major news story. In itself, it was political and the intention was to give him a fair chance to build an image of his running mate. It was expected that he would devote this free time to building up this man. Instead, he used it for a

campaign speech.

One good thing that has come out of this is now we know just how far we can trust this individual and what we will have to look forward to if he is elected. And why not?

New Gimmick

Ma Bell, as the telephone company is commonly called, is a tricky creature. She has more ways of raising her rates than the government has ideas for taxation. Her latest gimmick is petitioning the Public Service Commission to charge subscribers for information. She claims some of us have been taking advantage of her and she wants protection. When you first look at her request you can almost agree with her. All of us are lazy and do have a habit of calling up, asking information for a number when it would be just as easy to hunt around, find the telephone book and look up the number. Our laziness does cost the telephone company more money, but aren't we paying for some of this service in our monthly service charge? At the rates they are getting we would think so. Even if this is not the case, her request for this extra charge just ain't going to work. If you take a look at the telephone book it only has local numbers, in our case, Suffolk County's. Does this mean that Ma Bell is going to supply us with books for all the areas that we might be calling so we can get off our lazy butts and look up the numbers all over the globe? If she isn't, is not her charge for information actually a rate increase or a limitation of services? We believe it is.

The Public Service Commission has a habit of giving the Old Lady just about anything she wants, almost a maternal instinct. We hope this time, if they approve the request, they will have the decency of also giving us a way of using our phones to call people whose numbers we don't know, without charge. Maybe they will supply everyone with a crystal ball. Come to think of it, this might be an improvement in service. And why not?



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Eleven Years of Seeing You

With this edition of SUFFOLK LIFE, we enter our 12th year of publishing. It doesn't seem like we've been around that long, but that's what the masthead tells us. We suppose, to do anything you like makes time pass quickly and it seems like only yesterday that we were publishing our first paper. The years have flown and are filled with memories -- a few bad ones, but thousands of great ones.

Helping SUFFOLK LIFE to grow to the newspaper it is today has been a challenge and a fascinating adventure. We have tried to take this newspaper in the direction that you wanted it and present the news you wanted to see. For the most part, we have kept it the happy, human news, leaving the dry, hard news to those who prefer it. We have attempted to give direction to the area through our editorials and feature stories. We have seen cases where our message reached a responsive audience. The most noteworthy is the active interest that people are taking in their government by their personal participation at board meetings and public hearings.

SUFFOLK LIFE could not be what it is today without two very important ingredients. First is YOU, the readers who responded and have given us support over the past 11 years. Your continual reminders to the business community that you read their messages in SUFFOLK LIFE lets them know that their investment in SUFFOLK LIFE is productive. We thank each and every one of you for this. The second, and important, part of SUFFOLK LIFE's success is the people who work so hard to produce this publication. Every person that is here at the paper goes all out to give you the finest newspaper that we are capable of producing. Their efforts are more than a job. It is a blending of fine teamwork for a common goal. We are all lucky that we have people like this, who have the dedication and desire to produce something of value that reflects their every effort. Every person in our organization exemplifies this feeling and every position is looked upon with the same degree of importance, be it a part time errand boy or someone in management. For the many times we have neglected to say thank you individually, we say a collective thank you to all.

This coming year will be a year of growth for our publications. We will be expanding our circulation area to bring our paper to more people. We are able to do this, having the confidence that you, our readers, have been and are behind us. This gives us the purpose to renew our dedication to you and to bring you the finest weekly newspaper we are capable of publishing. We will continue to be responsive to your desires and shall endeavor to play our part in leading Suffolk to greatness. Again, thank you for your support and encouragement. And why not?

Don't Abandon Them

It is less than three weeks away from Labor Day -- time for our summer visitors to start casting their eyes back home -- time to get the kids ready for school -- and time to start thinking about putting the summer home in order for the fall and winter months ahead.

Many of our summer residents will have acquired an added member of the family this summer in the form of a pet. A little puppy or kitten acquired in June is now almost a grown animal. Many will take this loved pet back home with them and for years will return to vacation with it. For those who find themselves in the painful situation of not being able to take this pet back with them, we implore you not to just abandon this animal.

There are few good samaritans who will take this animal and give it a home, but they are few and far between. In most cases, your animal will die a very painful death from starvation, or if it is lucky, it will be caught by the dog warden and be put out of its misery. Your cats, most likely, will be killed by a dog or die of starvation. Your dogs will have a tendency to "pack up" and revert to a wild beast. They will run down deer, attack domestic animals, birds and have been known to even attack children. Usually, they are only able to scrounge up barely enough to ward off starvation and rapidly become susceptible to diseases and die very painful deaths.

If you love this animal enough to keep it over the summer and you can't take it home with you, please have the decency to take it to one of the animal shelters. If they cannot care for it, our local veterinarians will humanely put

them out of the way for very reasonable fees. If you cannot afford this, the town dog warden will generally perform this service free. As cruel as this may seem, and as hard a decision it might be for you to make, please bear in mind that you will be doing this animal a bigger favor than if you turn it loose to die on its own.

If you own a pet and can't care for it back home, this is the most important preparation you have to make in ending your vacation. And why not?

Klein's Sales Tax

In October, when John V. N. Klein was running for office, he said he didn't think there was a need for an additional sales tax. In November, after he was elected, he proposed one. At this time it was questioned: "Was it really needed?" But the answers were vague.

There was much discussion on the Board as to when the tax would have to be implemented. Some said before the summer vacationers got here, so we could soak them an additional 1 per cent. Still others felt that it wouldn't be needed until the following year. Finally a compromise was reached saying the tax would go into effect September 1st.

The Democratic minority of the County Legislature this week tried to introduce a resolution postponing the effective date for this tax until the new year. The information and figures they had gathered indicated that there wasn't a need until then. From the preliminary figures that they had compiled, it appears there will be a surplus in county funds this year.

Klein, the County Executive, was reported to be upset by this move. For some reason not explained, he wants this tax imposed NOW. He should have had the same information that the Democrats were able to obtain and presented it to the residents of this county. The result is the neophyte Democrats presented the resolution too late, as he informed them at the

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EDITORIAL — from page 3

Board meeting, to make any changes. It appears he has found a number of technicalities that have to be met in order to postpone a tax of this nature.

We will all be paying 1 per cent more in sales tax come September 1st. You can thank the Honorable John V. N. Klein, the Republican County Executive of Suffolk County. There isn't much that we can do about it now, but cringe as you pay 1 per cent more for goods and services. Unfortunately, Klein won't be up for election for another three years, so there isn't much that we can do about him now. We're stuck with him. However, you can take an active interest in what's going on in the County and make sure that he and his Board do not get away with passing any other questionable taxes. It will pay you personally to do so. And why not?

Congratulations John

It finally happened. Hard as it may be to believe, John Bellport, lone Conservative councilman on the Brookhaven Town Board, actually had

a meaningful resolution seconded. Not only seconded, but passed unanimously by the other Republican members who comprise the balance of this Board.

John had proposed a new formula for controlled growth zoning, called the Ramapo Plan. Utilizing this, the town could control its destiny and rate of growth. The legality had been tested in higher courts and rulings were favorable. John proposed a resolution instructing the Planning Board to investigate the ramifications of this new plan. This was the first actual and meaningful resolution that he has been successful in getting passed since he became a member of the Board in 1970.

John Bellport is a bit of a maverick and as a result, he has ended up the "people's favorite" as he is in the forefront, fighting the battles against the machine. He has been alone in these battles, as the rest of the Board is there through the courtesy of the Republican organization so aptly run by Richard Zeidler. Everything that is to go on at the Town Board is settled beforehand at an Executive Meeting. What actually goes on at the Town Board meeting, where Bellport represents the people, has already been decided. Bellport gets up and makes his resolution in all earnest. While the people cheer him, the rest of the Board twiddle their thumbs, catches 30 winks and does whatever they have been told to do.

John Bellport, we congratulate you. Don't allow this one victory to give you a swelled head. It isn't likely that this phenomenon will repeat itself. And why not?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Valyo:

I read with interest the letter to you from Mrs. H.A. Neuhaus in the August 9 issue of Suffolk Life.

You will probably receive many letters telling you how wrong she is, but I wish to make certain you and your readers know the other half of her half-truths.

First of all, Mr. Peterson is a fine, upstanding citizen, one of the nicest people one could want to know. He is a hard working, sincere, dedicated and devoted family man. Mrs. Neuhaus's vicious attack on Mr. Peterson was grossly unjust and unfair.

I would like to give you some insight to the problems the Mobile Home Owner has, particularly in the East Quogue Mobile Home Park. As president of the Mobile Home Owners Association, I can tell you that we have on record numerous complaints against Mrs. Neuhaus from tenants in her park.

Mrs. Neuhaus says there were never any evictions when the tenant promised seriously to cooperate and work things out with her but she doesn't go on to explain that cooperating means doing exactly as she says, when she says, no matter how unfair, unjust, or illegal her demands may be. These people can't afford to be evicted and therefore are forced to comply with her demands.

Mr. Peterson and a few others have the courage of their convictions and stood up against Mrs. Neuhaus's unjust demands. Result, eviction notice.

Incidentally, Mrs. Neuhaus also neglected to mention that another tenant, Mr. Hinspeter, also got an eviction notice. It's just that Mr. Peterson earned her wrath double-fold for exposing her publicly.

Mrs. Neuhaus mentions a lease in her letter. Mr. Peterson does not have a lease, the normal annual sort of thing. No tenants do. Mobile home owners live in parks on a month to month basis. Hence threats of evictions come easy. What Mr. Peterson in fact, was given and told to sign (or be evicted) was a list of park rules and regulations. After buying his mobile home from Mrs. Neuhaus and after living in her park for four months, he was then given the rules and told to sign.

No matter how much Mrs. Neuhaus claims that proper parks charge for driveways, the I.R.S. said it is illegal, and that Mrs. Neuhaus must pay back the \$70.00 to those tenants who have already paid. She neglects, also, to mention that until Mr. Peterson checked prices, she originally was charging her tenants \$100.00 for the driveways.

East Quogue Mobile Home Park is truly a beautiful and clean park but that's largely because its tenants keep it that way. Is Mrs. Neuhaus insinuating that without her rules these people would live in a less desirable way?

The latest harassment Mrs. Neuhaus has pulled, is a true picture of the type of person Mr. Peterson and the other tenants have had to deal with. She called Mr. Peterson's supervisor and is trying to have him fired from his job. This is the ultimate in her personal vengeance.

I wish, on behalf of the Mobile Home Owners Association, to thank you for your coverage, and hope you will follow up on Mr. Peterson's story. Many people do not realize the problems that beset mobile home owners and some could care less. It restores faith to know fair-minded reporters and papers still exist.

Sincerely,
Soni Geis
President Mobile Home Owners Association

Dear Sir:

I am asking you, should you publish this letter, not to quote my name, as I am now, through serious illness, no longer able either to enter into politics, or become deeply involved in what might be "hectic" debate.

I am writing to protest the letter from a Mr. Vail of Riverhead, who has had much to say about our

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