

Willmott's and Why-Not's

By David J. Willmott, Editor

Doves Squawk

Predictably, last week's attempt by a force of Green Berets to rescue American prisoners from a prisoner-of-war camp in North Vietnam was met with much squawking from the doves in Congress. We doubt very much that this raid will intensify the conflict as President Nixon's critics are claiming. Only time, however, will answer that question.

One of the most tragic aspects of this war in Vietnam is the prisoner-of-war situation. The North Vietnamese have persisted in keeping us in the dark about the whole matter. Despite the efforts of many neutral international organizations to gather information about our prisoners, we still lack the knowledge of who are being held and their condition. Thousands of families are suffering from this lack of information. Parents, wives and children have gone, in some cases, as long as five years not knowing whether a son, brother or father is still alive. This barbaric refusal to conform to even the most basic procedures pertaining to prisoners-of-war as outlined in the Geneva Convention only serves to remind us of the kind of enemy we are dealing with.

President Nixon's effort to liberate a few prisoners in this daring raid was a perfect expression of the deep concern all Americans share for these men and their families. We can only pray that word of this mission got to as many prisoners as possible. Certainly, if it did, it may have given them one small ray of hope to know of our resolve to liberate them. Let the doves squawk. We approve of the raid and hope for more. And why not?

Top Cop Still A-OK

Lately the daily press has been full of rumblings that the county legislature is seriously considering replacing John Barry head of the Suffolk County police. The way we get the story the motivation behind this possible move is strictly political.

Barry has run one of the finest police departments in the country. His men do their jobs well and have demonstrated remarkable ability to cope with the explosive growth of western Suffolk. They are well trained, well equipped and perform with commendable professionalism. This is not to say that occasionally the department hasn't had a few of its own problems; they wouldn't be human if they didn't.

The excellence of performance and the high morale of this department must be due to the leadership of Barry. Even though Barry came to his job through politics he has been capable of separating politics from this post and has made his department function free of political interference.

The best police departments are those that are able to remain free from politics. The department should be autonomous and its head should be able to call the shots as he sees fit. In his sensitive position the department leader must be able to command full control and know that his decisions are not subject to countermanding by any political body.

The fact that our Suffolk County Police Department commands both local and national respect is proof enough that the department has been run properly and should not be tampered with for the sake of political patronage.

We urge the county board and the county executive to back off from any intentions that they may have of playing games with the Suffolk County Police Department. And why not?

Conservative Victory

We often hear the argument that it is totally useless to elect conservatives to office because their voices will go unheard in governing bodies dominated by majority parties. Unhappily this is sometimes true, particularly when frustrated minority politicians forsake principle and make deals with the majority.

In Suffolk County last week the influence and voice of the Conservatives in the county legislature was heard loud and clear. The question of raising legislative salaries came up. The Republicans, operating out of Blue Point, had decided to give themselves nice healthy raises. In some instances raises in salary are justified, but, on principle, this is an off-election year which means that the voters do not have a word to say about it. It has become the pattern for elected officials to raise their salaries during these periods. To us and to the thousands of overburdened taxpayers in Suffolk County this is cowardice in its purest and simplest form.

The five conservative members of the county board made it known that they felt salary raises were justified but that it was unethical to raise salaries at this time. Scarcely a year ago they were elected to serve at their present salary level and they had an obligation to the voters to continue at those salaries. Such courage has not been seen in Suffolk since Evans Griffing and Steve Meschutt served on the Board of Supervisors. Blue Point, faced with the embarrassing situation of giving the conservatives a valid issue, backed down and agreed to act ethically.

It was a small thing. A little bit of money was saved for the taxpayer and the big hope is for more conservative influence. Apparently the Conservatives are giving the residents of Suffolk County REAL representation. We congratulate them for their responsible action. And why not?



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Community College At Air Base

Suffolk County is scouting around Riverhead for a suitable piece of land on which to locate a permanent branch of the Suffolk County Community College. We think that this is a great idea - a college to serve all of the students on the east end. However, we wonder why they are looking for additional land to take off the tax roles in the town of Riverhead, when several thousand acres of land are already available at the site of the Suffolk County Air Force Base. A portion of these lands is already earmarked for a state funded aeronautical school. Why not incorporate the community college into these lands?

The air base site is only about four miles from downtown Riverhead. It is just as centrally located as any Riverhead site would be. Why not use this land and save the taxpayers of Riverhead the cost of further condemnations? Already Riverhead has too much land off the tax roles. It is estimated that 31 percent of its real estate is on a non-taxpaying status. Let what land remains be productive rather than a liability.

In our opinion the air base facility, with its ample property and existing buildings would make an ideal location for the community college, now and for its future growth. Let us use our assets now rather than placing any more liabilities on the overburdened taxpayer. And why not?

Santa Will Visit

We have just received word from Santa Claus that he will make special arrangements to visit personally any child who is bed-ridden or for some other reason would have to spend a bleak Christmas. He told us that Mr. and Mrs. Charlie LeBrun, the proprietors of Bambi's Snack Bar in Speonk, have been caring for two of his very special reindeer. They will be available to go with Santa to these extra special homes during this Christmas time.

Santa has asked us to have any family, who might qualify for this extra special treat, to contact our Suffolk Life offices so that arrangements can be made. He asked that you do this immediately as time is running out and he will be very busy during the next two weeks.

The number to call is 288-3900. Please ask for Mrs. Powers, Santa's extra busy helper. She will arrange for an appointment for you. And why not?

Look Now

Smart political organizations already have narrowed down the list of candidates that they feel will be acceptable to the electorate in next November's local elections. It would be wise for the perennial losers to do the same.

Summertime is no time for political parties to be seeking candidates to run for election.

This year, as in no other year, the second string

parties have an excellent opportunity to restore two-party government to Suffolk. In order to do this they will have to try just that much harder, however. The most important fact is that they be able to come up with candidates who are top-notch. The voters must know these candidates and respect them. When the political organizations locate these potential candidates they must be able to offer them full support both in manpower and financing. All too often we have seen good candidates go down the drain because their party waited till the last minute to muster manpower and money for the campaign.

Suffolk Life, in its desire to see the best government possible, offers its news pages and particularly its Letters To The Editor column as a forum in which the political parties can express their viewpoints. There are eleven months left to get their messages to the public. Come November, let there be no cries that they did not have a voice. And why-not?

Fifteen Days And \$2,000 To Go

Only fifteen more days until jolly, old St. Nick will come down that chimney with all of your wishes. Time has flown by. Are you ready? The chances are you have put off shopping for all of your gifts, and, in a way, you are lucky. Just look over the ads here in Suffolk Life and you will see that our stores still have plenty of merchandise to fill all your needs. Most merchants have been successful in obtaining reorders of their best gift items. They have done this so no one will be disappointed with the service and selection here on the east end.

Service, selection and value are the words that best describe retailing on the east end. Most merchants would feel that they had let you down if they were unable to give you the service you have come to expect.

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Christmas Bonus SALE!

ALL OUTERWEAR

TAKE

20% OFF

ANY PRICE TAG

Choose from Famous Name Brands

- SUBURBANS
- CAR COATS
- FUR COATS
- OVERCOATS
- TOP COATS
- RAIN COATS
- LEATHER COATS



1/3 OFF

Fine European Imported

SHOES - BOOTS

REG. \$24.95 to \$35.00

NOW \$16⁶⁷ to \$23³³

All Suits & Sport Coats 20% DISCOUNT

SUITS

SPORT COATS

WERE \$75	NOW \$59.90	WERE \$50	NOW \$39.90
WERE \$80	NOW \$63.90	WERE \$55	NOW \$43.90
WERE \$85	NOW \$67.90	WERE \$60	NOW \$47.90
WERE \$90	NOW \$71.90	WERE \$65	NOW \$51.90
WERE \$95	NOW \$75.90	WERE \$70	NOW \$55.90
WERE \$100	NOW \$79.90	WERE \$75	NOW \$59.50

Expert Alterations At No Extra Charge

Edward Archer

Home of Famous Brands

103 EAST MAIN ST.,

RIVERHEAD, N.Y.

EDITORIAL From page 3

Business here is more than just making a profit; it's pleasing the customer that really counts. That is what makes shopping here so different from the west end.

One of the service features provided by these progressive merchants is the Eastern Long Island Shopping Spree. These merchants who care about you have pooled their efforts through Suffolk Life and are showing their appreciation for your patronage by giving away a brand new 1971 automobile and a trip for two to the Italian Alps. This trip was arranged by Romanda International of Medford. In addition to these super grand prizes you still have two more weeks to register for the thousands of dollars of gift certificates which are yet to be given out. There are five first prizes of \$100 in gift certificates and ten second prizes of \$50 in gift certificates, so hurry in and enter today if you haven't already done so. You could be a winner in next week's drawing.

This week's winners are: **FIRST PRIZE - \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATES:**

Angelina Dixon, Greenport; Mrs. Carl Zeh, Water Mill; G. Ryan, Brookhaven; Elizabeth Breder, Mastic; Mrs. H. Arlitsch, Pt. Jefferson Station.

SECOND PRIZE - \$50 IN GIFT CERTIFICATES:

Joe Ficurilli, Greenport; Christine Carena, Sag Harbor; Marion Early, Sag Harbor; Mary Louise Smith, Greenport; Mrs. J. Sime, Hampton Bays; Dorothy Kerlo, Riverhead; Mrs. Anna Rizzi, Patchogue; George F. Helwig, East Moriches; Samuel Palmer, Medford; Frances Backer, Middle Island.

In addition to the gift certificate winners the following names have been selected to go into the super drawing for the trip and the car.

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING:

Albert Krupski, Peconic; Dorothy Grilli, Greenport; Pauline Case, Riverhead; The Cotgreaves, East Marion; C. R. Meyer, Southold; Mrs. R. Fernandez, Southampton; Daria Petrella, Quogue; Donna Sammis, Bay Shore; Joan Domaleski, Cutchogue; Catherine Antoncic, Hampton Bays; Gloria Gallagher, Riverhead; Richard Carolan, East Quogue; E. Harrison, Calverton; Richard Little, Westhampton Beach; Cathy Underwood, Riverhead; Dorothy E. Raynor, Eastport; Mary Garafola, Port Jefferson Station; Lenore Krauss, Patchogue; Mrs. G. Yarvey, Riverhead; Ed Wissenbach, Jr., Patchogue; Peter Perrino, Lake Ronkonkoma; Sara Zerillo, Coram; Mrs. Louis Lento, East Patchogue; Mr. Peter Paglen, St. James; Helen Keezer, Centereach.

Leo T. Schliephaak, Manorville; John Cilli, Sag Harbor; Kaprolat Family, Miller Place; Mrs. F. Kispert, Southold; Mrs. M. Melanson, Shelter Island. Mrs. Anna English, Center Moriches; Emy C. Beyer, Sag Harbor; Mrs. Jenny Greene, Southampton; Amalia Soarez, Rocky Point; Elaine Lange, Ridge; Mary Gerritz, Riverhead; Anne Mersereau, Calverton; Mrs. Wm. Averell, East Moriches; Estelle Sabol, Calverton; Agnes Satkoski, Southold. Mrs. Adele Neater, Ridge; Mrs. Arthur Noss, Middle Island; Mrs. J. Ardolini, Port Jefferson; Mrs. Blanche Metzger, Miller Place; Grace Maglio, Rocky Point; Mrs. George E. Latham, Orient; Mrs. Kathryn Gallavan, Greenport; Joseph M. Conway, Southold; J. J. Satkoski, Southold; K. G. Brown, Riverhead; Mrs. L. Firth, Riverhead; L. F. Kenny, Moriches; Arthur E. Nichols, Greenport; Winnie Worthington, Aquebogue; G. Gabrielsen, E. Moriches; Mrs. Henrietta Beickert, Medford; James Strehel & Family, Center Moriches; Mr. Harry Ahl, Center Moriches; Mrs. E. T. Plumb, Southampton; Mrs. W. W. Horton, Sag Harbor; Anton Condzella, Wading River; Mrs. Chas. E. Tully, Southold; E. L. Phelps, Riverhead; Mrs. Marian Gladding, Greenport; Jean W. Watson, Shelter Island.

Julia Sycz, Greenport; F. Kunz, Hampton Bays; Eleanor Roth, Mt. Sinai; Pat Greco, E. Patchogue; S. Tracy, Sag Harbor; Mrs. Theresa Slabowski, Medford; Adrienne Mosnier, Riverhead; Carstenson, Riverhead; Estelle Krieger, Port Jefferson Station; Mrs. Mae Lucas, Coram; Margaret Gentili, Greenport; E. Groves, Shirley; Louise Oliver, East Quogue; Raymond Ellis, Southampton; R. Simchick, Cutchogue; Mrs. Everett Smith, Mattituck; Mrs. James P. Dyer, East Marion; Ida May de Benedetto, Greenport; T. Buettner, Southold; Gwene Chamberlaine, Greenport; Sharon Perkins, Riverhead; C. K. McKeever, Water Mill; Chas. Avent, New Suffolk; Herb Heineman, Shelter Island; Mrs. A. Scherger, East Meadow; Marian C. Phillips, Westhampton; Jeff Davis, Center Moriches; Mrs. Anna Rizzi, Patchogue; Philip Muench, Center Moriches; Mrs. F. Marcucilli, Medford; John Plock, Jr., Southold; Carin J. Dorber, Farmingville; Mrs. Agnes Wagner, East Marion; Mrs. Mildred Reeves, East Marion; Evie Hudson, Greenport; E. Scheppy, Middle Island; Mrs. Walter Arlitsch, Port Jefferson Station; Ivan Boyd, Selden; Ruth Florie, Medford; Ken Mathews, Shoreham.



DON'T

READ
OUR
ADS
ON
PAGES
15 & 24
YOU
MAY
WANT
TO
SPLURGE!

NINOW'S MUSIC STORE

155 Railroad Ave.
Riverhead
727-5595
(opposite Railroad Station)
Ample Free Parking



USE
OUR
REVOLVING
CHARGE



Willmott's and Why-Not's

By David J. Willmott, Editor

Borrow - Return

The bleeding hearts in Suffolk County are in a state of pure panic. Welfare Commissioner Kirby has issued a directive that anyone applying for welfare, who owns a house or property, is to have a lien attached to that property in the amount of the welfare grant. The bleeding hearts feel that this is discriminatory and unfair to the welfare recipient. They feel that those who receive a handout from welfare should not be required to pay it back.

Under this directive the lien is applied and remains until the person sells his property. At that time the welfare recipient is required to pay back, without interest, what has been received in welfare grants. He is not obligated to pay back this loan until he has disposed of the property. He pays no interest on the moneys that have been advanced to him during his period of hardship.

The moneys advanced to the welfare recipient come from every one of us. They come from the income that we all work extra hard to obtain. Do we not have a right to expect that these loans be paid back? If we loan a friend or neighbor money do we not have a right to expect that these loans be paid back? Just because we happen to loan this money through the welfare department don't we have the same right to expect repayment? We think so, and we think that most people agree with us.

We applaud Commissioner Kirby's line of reasoning. This is the first sign of fiscal sanity we have seen to come out of the welfare department in a number of years. And why not?

Glasses High....Graves Deep

The next ten days will see thousands of us joining together with our fellow workers to offer good cheer and best wishes in the traditional holiday office parties. In most cases this will be a fun time and result in nothing but happy memories, but for some of us reading this it could bring nothing but grief.

Too often, at these parties, there is a great temptation to let down our hair and throw all caution to the wind. Too many will drink more than they can handle, and then they will have to face the drive home. Some won't make, it, and some will make it months later after a stay in the hospital.

Not to be a spoil-sport we just say.....Have a good time, imbibe in moderation, and if you take too much, be a real hero and call a taxi. And why not?

Curtiss Wright Backs Off

Curtiss Wright, the owners of the Levon properties sand pit on Long Island Sound, has verbally declared that it will not pursue its efforts at this site any further. Before there are any victory parties we must keep in

mind that the zoning on this property still permits this type of operation.

Comments by Riverhead's supervisor, on the backoff by Curtiss Wright, were disappointing. He complained about the loss of the limited amount of jobs connected with this rape job and expressed fear over the loss of the totally inadequate taxes that this piece of property brought in.

As a sand mining operation this facility was paying nowhere near what an operating industry would have paid for the same utilization of land. The jobs created were a far cry from the ten thousand that were promised "in the very near future" six years ago when this project was bought, hook, line and sinker, by the town board which included the present-day supervisor. The ecological disadvantages perpetuated on the north fork by this operation far outweighed the limited compensations that this project was supposed to give. The gravity of the pollution to our water seems to have escaped the notice of Riverhead's supervisor.

Now the county wants to take over this property for another park. The point has been raised that additional dollars will be removed from the tax rolls. This is true, and it is a particularly critical situation in this town that has over thirty percent of its real estate off the tax rolls.

If you are familiar with the entire parcel of land controlled by Levon you can see that more than two-thirds of the property will have very little value to the county as park land. It is open potato fields. Only the shore front, cliffs, lake area and woods could be utilized for park purposes. The county would be wise if it took just this. This would create a north shore beach in the Riverhead area and still leave two-thirds of the property for development. There is a good possibility that the remaining land could be used in conjunction with these park lands for commercial-recreation properties. To do so would complement the area's vacation-recreation industry. The county could have its park and the Town of Riverhead its taxes in far greater proportion than if it ever could have had from a sand and gravel operation. And why not?



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Hypocritical

We noted this week that in Huntington there was a real outcry against a group that wanted to put an abortion clinic into operation. The town righteously turned this request down after an outpouring of public dismay.

Hypocritical? Pangs of conscience? Call it what you may. What difference does it make whether an abortion is performed in an accredited hospital, a doctor's office or in an abortion clinic. The point is that abortions are either right or wrong depending on which side of the fence you sit on. In our opinion abortions are wrong no matter where they are performed.

These people and their public officials may be easing their consciences by not permitting this clinic in their town. The point is, however, that they are not helping to cure the real ill which is the fact that we allowed our state legislature to turn this state into the most liberal abortion mill in the nation.

The question of abortion permits no halfway stands. Your conscience either allows you to live with the fact that abortions are right or they are wrong. Where they are performed is of small concern. By banning them in private clinics or doctors' offices does not bring back the lives that have been thrown into slop pails in hospitals.

If these hypocrites really put much stock in the emotional outpourings at Huntington they should have used their energies to sit down and write to their assemblyman and senator to demand outright repeal of the shameful bill which permits abortions. It is not too late. And why not?

A Christmas Thought

There is an undefinable aura about Christmas. The nearer it approaches the more a certain spirit fills our hearts. If we are young that spirit may be an expectation of wonderful gifts which makes us happy. If we are older, caught up in the material hustle and bustle of Christmas preparation, the spirit may be a remembrance of things past - of simpler times, of loving family gatherings and fellowship. But if we analyze our feelings more carefully that welling up of emotion which fills our beings as Christmas approaches is a reawakening of our religious tradition.

Man is, by nature, a religious animal. He may deny it vehemently. He may spend his days vigorously offending his essential religiosity. The fact remains however, at Christmas (if only at Christmas) man is once again reminded of that spiritual force which uplifts him and gladdens his heart.

It is not an accident that mankind celebrates the birth of Christ close to the new year. The ancients knew that at this time of year, when nature is at her lowest ebb, man is most apt to take time for reflection. Our attention is focused on the babe in the manger. This simple story, so humble yet full of power and drama, is the beginning of our Christian tradition. Though it is

almost two-thousand years old the story of this birth reminds us of the essential youthfulness of Christianity. The beloved clergyman, Austin Phelps, put it so well when he said, "Through its whole history the Christian religion has developed supreme affinities for best things. For the noblest culture, for purest morals, for magnificent literatures, for most finished civilizations, for most energetic national temperaments, for most enterprising races, for the most virile and progressive stock of mind, it has manifested irresistible sympathies. Judging its future by its past, no other system of human thought has so splendid a destiny. It is the only system which possesses undying youth."

So as our hearts become full once again during this Christmas season, let us remind ourselves that, we are in some small measure again being reborn. We want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a blessed holiday season, and may the joy and youthfulness of Christmas remain with all of us throughout the new year. And why not?

Merry Christmas

Now that the last ad has been put together, and the final Christmas copy composed, we can pause and wish all of you wonderful readers the merriest of Christmases.

From this house here in Westhampton, and from all its occupants who endeavor to publish your paper each week, we wish you all the season's best and hope that the true spirit of the season - peace, love and good will to all men - will be with you now and into the new year Merry Christmas! And why not?



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Appreciate America Day

The Association for a Strong America, headed by Joe Werner of Stony Brook, has been successful in having January 1, 1971, in Suffolk County, designated as Appreciate America Day. Werner and his group conceived the idea of having all Americans utilize this day to reflect upon the blessings our country has bestowed upon all of us. The A. S. A., believing that the "willingness of its people to help one another is what makes America strong," encourages all to become constructively involved in civic and community affairs. The major thrust of the A. S. A. is to awaken the "silent majority," the familiar term which Joe Werner originated, to their responsibilities as American citizens.

Suffolk Life adds its wholehearted approval to this worthwhile venture. Few of us could have enjoyed the better things of life in 1970 if it had not been for the country we live in. We are all too prone to look at the bad side, but isn't it about time we took stock of all the positive things America gives us. We think it is high time we took more pride in our great country, and the A. S. A.'s Appreciate America Day is the perfect time to do so.

If you are out celebrating on New Year's Eve, and the band does not strike up God Bless America after Auld Lang Syne, then you request it. What could be a more fitting gesture than to welcome in the new year with a bit of patriotism. And why not?

A Time For Reflection

1970 has been one of Suffolk Life's most interesting years. It has been a year of substantial growth and widened horizons. Our staff has grown from eighteen to thirty and sometimes more when we publish a particularly heavy edition. After a year of careful study and planning last Spring we inaugurated our tabloid format. Your reaction was one of enthusiastic approval which made us very happy indeed. Along with the new size we added new columns and features which gave us an opportunity to serve you better. In addition to our new column "The Better Half of Suffolk Life" written by Helen Humphries, which you have received enthusiastically, we have tried to give you a broader political picture. The political scene, written by spokesmen of all the major parties, has moved many of you to comment favorably. The problems faced by our county and towns are something with which we must acquaint ourselves if we are to chart a bright future for ourselves. We believe that providing you with a forum that treats all sides of a question is a positive thing. Your thousands of cards and letters indicate that you think so too.

Perhaps the most gratifying aspect of publishing Suffolk Life is the tremendous volume of mail we receive from our readers. We know we must be doing something right when so many of you are moved to comment thoughtfully and knowledgeably on the issues brought out in our pages. Your concern about the issues we face here on the east end - ecology, politics, industrial growth, zoning, taxes and schools, to mention just a few, is an indication of your high

degree of citizenship. We doubt that any audience in the country is more concerned and vocal than you, and we are proud to face the issues with you.

1971 promises to be a banner year for Suffolk Life. Your support of our advertisers and remembering to say, "I saw it in Suffolk Life" makes it possible for us to give you more of what you want within these pages. We deeply appreciate your support and can only say, that, without it, we wouldn't be half the paper we are today.

1971? Well, all we can say is you deserve the best. From all of us at Suffolk Life may we wish you a happy and prosperous year! And why not?

Letters Will Help

The Brigade of Midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland has asked that everyone write a letter to the President of North Vietnam expressing their concern for our men held captive by that government. According to the statistics released by the academy there are over 1,500 men held as prisoners. North Vietnam, as recently as last week, has only acknowledged the detention of less than 400 men. The plight of the remaining 1,000 is totally unknown. If they are alive or not, and their condition if alive, is a complete mystery.

The only thing that the North Vietnamese government has reacted to is American public opinion. They have acknowledged our "peace demonstrations." They recognize public reaction not diplomatic maneuverings. It is the feeling of the Naval Academy that if all of us write a letter whether it be in our own words or in a form, we can expect a response from the North Vietnamese. Once they see that we are involved they will no longer play games with the lives of our men.

We urge you to write today. Write as if one of these men were your loved one. Either use the form letter prepared below or put it in your own words - but **WRITE TODAY!** 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 nom 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.