

Vigilantes are called off

The Mastic Beach Fire Department has been patrolling the Bay Area at night hoping to reduce local crime. The fire department was forced into this vigilante action after area residents had pleaded with the County to beef up police protection.

The area had been hit with a crime wave and the County maintained it did not have the funds nor the manpower to help.

Last Wednesday the County announced it had found funds to put five more cars in the area, and the fire department announced it was withdrawing its patrols unless there was another outbreak of crime that couldn't be handled by the police.

During the period the fire department had its patrols operating, the crime wave came to a screeching halt. Obviously, this citizens' movement has been effective.

In years past, many local police forces had been augmented by volunteer auxiliaries. The auxiliaries performed routing duties, assisting in traffic direction and augmenting regular patrols by salaried police officers.

We remember back in the '50's, it was not uncommon to see our town residents in police uniforms patrolling the main streets during peak shopping hours. Their presence gave everyone a sense of security. We were positive they were a deterrent to shoplifting, mugging and petty larceny.

The auxiliary police were eventually disbanded, not because they weren't needed nor they didn't provide a service, but because of internal problems between them and the regular police force.

The regular police resented these volunteers because they felt they were taking away jobs. Some of the volunteers were also over-zealous and tried to take on duties for which they were not trained.

There was also fear for the safety of the volunteers. Volunteers are not armed and it was felt a desperate criminal caught in the act might react to the uniform and a volunteer would not be able to handle the situation.

The disbanding came at a time when the economy was booming and there seemed no end to the taxpayers' ability to finance unlimited government.

Today the situation is quite different. Taxpayers have run out of money; we must look for additional alternatives instead of additional

spending to solve our problems.

The climate is right for a reintroduction of auxiliary police forces. There are many men and women who would enjoy serving and be good as auxiliaries. They have time, energy, and ability to give.

These volunteers could be trained to handle normal routines that tie up the officers both in and outside the station house. They could also assist in patrols and traffic control.

A volunteer force could provide both what the regular police and the community need. The police force would be beefed up and residents would have better protection without additional cost.

We encourage our local and county governments and the police departments to rethink this question. Here may well lie the answer to rising crime and our towns' problems. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots
David J. Willmott, Editor



A free press is expensive

In more than two-thirds of the world, the press is entirely owned or directly controlled by the government. People in those nations read only what their government wants them to know. There are no avenues for expression of dissention.

In the United States, we are fortunate our constitution guarantees us the right to a free press.

A free press though, is not free from cost.

In fact, it is a very expensive proposition. It costs Suffolk Life over one-half million dollars

annually to bring you the news portion of this newspaper. This is the reason we ask you, the reader, who benefits from the news, to help pay for it.

Each year between Thanksgiving and Christmas we hold our annual subscription renewal drive. We ask you to voluntarily send in \$4.99 to renew your subscription for 1977. Your participation and support will determine the quality of the newspaper you will receive next year.

During the past year we expanded our news staff substantially. Because of this we were able to be on top of or ahead of most local and county news stories.

We were able to uncover waste and spending schemes that would have raised your taxes even higher. We have covered in depth most school districts, as well as town and county governments. This has been blended with continuing photographic coverage of the everyday life in Suffolk.

Our editorials have been researched and are forcefully written not to convince you one way or the other, but to make you think and reach your own conclusions.

Last month we compiled and published one of the most extensive and complete election guides ever. All candidates, regardless of their political affiliations, were given an opportunity to answer pertinent questions to allow you to make an intelligent choice of who you want in government.

This project alone took several hundred man hours. The printing cost ran over \$20,000. We made this investment because we believe

this is the kind of service a newspaper should provide for its readers. We believe a good community newspaper should present all the candidates and not limit itself to one political party or the other.

We have plans for this coming year to build you a better newspaper. But to do this we need your help.

We ask you to help insure that we can continue to provide unbiased and politics-free reporting in the future by subscribing now. Won't you do your part by making out your check for \$4.99 and sending it in today? And why not?

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Letters to the editor

"Disappointed in Burland"

Dear Editor:

I am very disappointed in Ms. Joyce Burland. I thought she was for the welfare of the people she represents, not her own selfish desires. Good Lord, how dare she or the other legislators think they have the right to a new automobile, or even an old one. For what? To fly around here or there for no apparent reason except to use up gasoline. Many telephone calls can replace wasted travelling for nothing. There is too much of this sort of thing. The county sheriff's deputies who have cars to use at our expense, when they should use their own in the first place. Why should they be given a car at all? Anyone else who has a job must provide his or her own transportation. Why not they? What is so special about them? They're being overpaid to begin with. Why should they be allowed to steal more from us?

This legislator thing is as unnecessary as two Presidents in the first place. In the second place, it (the legislature) was started as a \$6,000 dollar salary and now it is three or four times that. If I'm wrong, I stand to be corrected. But the point is, we do not need it.

More and more, as time goes on we have forced upon us new, created lusus and unneeded officials. Then adding insult to injury when they get elected, they milk us dry. Nuts.

A mad Democrat,
Frank Buonaiuto

"Suffolk's policemen highest ranked"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

As the wife of a Suffolk policeman, I was really incensed by your editorial, Sunday, Nov. 21st, "Biting the hand that feeds" or "Time for citizens to bite back?"

Aren't policemen, their wives and families citizens too? Don't you think we pay the same high taxes as you do; the same higher prices in the supermarket as anyone else? Do you honestly believe for one minute that if the policemen received no raise this year that your taxes would be any lower? You mentioned that the police should "come to grips with today's economic realities..." well, here's an economic reality - the policemen and civil service workers of Suffolk County have received no increments this year, but we are all still affected by this year's higher cost of living, but on last year's salaries.

I also took exception to your comment about the police having the respect and cooperation of the people. Do you judge the amount of respect and cooperation you give your doctor by the amount of money he charges you for his services - or any other professional person? Because Suffolk's policemen are professionals and maybe they are one of the highest paid forces in the United States - but they are also one of the highest ranked, most highly respected, dedicated and professional police forces in the United States.

Very truly yours,
Kathleen Hahl
Hampton Bays

Ed. Note: We choose our doctors and what we pay them. We have no choice with government workers. The editorial did not refer to the raise now in binding arbitration but the cut-backs in need to finance it.

"Suffolk State School problems"

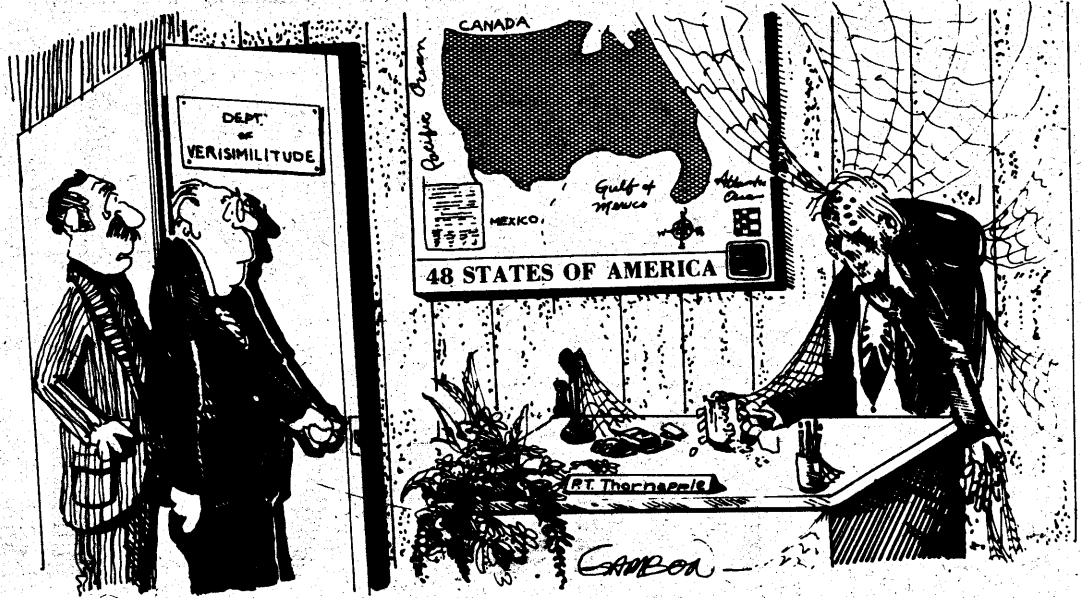
Dear Mr. Willmott:

A complete change of doctors, directors, all supervisors and general help at Suffolk State School would help to solve the problems of most parents who are interested in better care for their children. How can this be brought about?

Very truly yours,
A Concerned Parent

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor



Sunset legislation needed

When New York State Legislature resumes business in January, we hope they will seriously consider the enactment of Sunset Legislation.

The basis of the Sunset Law is all government agencies, committees or commissions automatically go out of business after five years of existence. To avoid being terminated, the body must rejustify its need, cost and reason for being.

The bureaucracy of government allows these agencies and commissions to continue unhampered year after year. Some have long outlived their usefulness. They have become just another budget item that keeps being re-funded and serve no useful purpose.

Last year a man in Washington brought the absurdity of this practice to the public's attention. He publicly asked for work assignments. The agency he served in had not conducted one bit of work during the nine months he was there. His entire work schedule consisted of

going to work in the morning, sitting in a chair for eight hours and then going home.

Sunset Legislation would put an end to this kind of waste in government. Even agencies that are working would have to rejustify their existence. The legislature would be forced to review the original intent of the legislation that created the body and it would have to document its purpose and cost.

Often a government body is set up to take care of a special problem or need and then involves itself in other areas it was not originally meant to. This leads to massive duplication with little or no productivity for the expenditure.

Productivity is needed desperately in government. The enactment of the Sunset Law will be a step in this direction. Our legislators should make the passage of Sunset Legislation a priority when they convene in January. And why not?

What your \$4.99 buys

This month we are asking every reader to pay \$4.99 for their subscription to Suffolk Life for 1977.

It costs us \$126.25 per year per subscription to bring you the paper. The balance between your \$4.99 and the cost is paid for by the advertisers. Another way of looking at it is your \$4.99 pays for about two lines of news.

But your \$4.99 provides a free listing for your club or organization that will help bring out a crowd and make the event successful.

For your \$4.99, you get reporters who dig out situations in government, that when revealed, result in tax savings to you.

For your \$4.99, you can get your letter published to voice your opinion.

For the \$4.99, you get Suffolk Life photographers to take photos at affairs, giving you and your neighbors recognition.

That \$4.99 gives you low cost reader ads so you can turn a used item hanging around the house into quick cash.

For your \$4.99 you get the services of over 2,000 people who are involved each week in bringing you Suffolk Life.

The \$4.99 you pay for your subscription to

Suffolk Life is the best bargain you will buy this year.

Please send in your \$4.99 today. And why not?

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Is Queen Mary up to trickery?

Queen Mary McLaughlin, the county health commissioner, went before a legislative committee recently and stated the county was underpaying its nurses. Because of the low salaries, she claimed she could not fill vacant positions, which amounted to one-third of her nursing staff.

The King's own detective

In the Land of Suffering, King John has been wreaking havoc with his troops. In his alleged effort to economize, he has cut back on police requests and ordered a number of detectives reduced back to patrolman status.

King John said they receive \$2,700 more per year for being detectives than patrolmen. Therefore, unless they are involved in actual detective work full-time, they should be reduced back to beat cops.

Lo and behold, though, when you examine King John's own office you find a Suffolk County detective personally assigned to the King himself, not a patrolman, but a detective.

You might assume King John, on occasion, has someone to investigate confidentially, and therefore, by stretching your imagination you can justify his use of a detective. That isn't the case, folks.

King John admits his personal detective doesn't do any snooping. His sole purpose is to drive the King around and protect him from the masses. If warranted, the job could be performed by a bodyguard or chauffeur at less than half the \$34,000 his detective cost last year.

It seems like it is all right with King John to waste our money on himself by paying the detective to be a chauffeur, but it isn't okay for us to pay our money to have detectives to do detective work most of the time.

Somewhere in that logic we get lost, especially when King John blithely claims he has no control over who drives him around, or his rank. That, folks, is up to his police commissioner.

Lowly folks like us would assume that a king ranks above an appointed police commissioner and King John could order that his personal detective be put to use protecting us.

But hell, we're only one of the masses King John feels he needs protection from, and who are we to question the infallible wisdom of the mighty one? And why not?

She recommended the county increase nurses' salaries by \$2,000-\$3,000 to bring them into line with the private sector of the economy.

The legislature was ready to buy this argument until they found out the county health department actually had hundreds of applications from nurses going back as far as last spring. They have not even been processed. Applicants have been told there is a hiring freeze.

The lack of nurses has virtually closed down the county's visiting nurse program. This program has been one of the outstanding accomplishments of the health department.

Through this program, elderly citizens are able to receive health care within their own homes, who otherwise would have to be hospitalized. The program has saved the county an enormous amount of money.

Whether the nurses' applications were deliberately hidden or only waylaid by red tape, this condition must be eliminated immediately.

Stealing is expensive

During the next three weeks, retail stores will have record sales. There will also be increased instances of shoplifting and a large number of arrests for committing this offense. Shoplifting has become a common crime.

It isn't only the poor or the disadvantaged who resort to rip-offs. People reading this editorial who have money to buy the goods will also engage in this practice.

Shoplifting is stealing just as much as if you were to walk into a bank and hold it up. It needlessly raises the cost of the goods we buy by an estimated 6.5 per cent.

In the end, it's not the store but we, the consumers, who pay for this crime. We encourage anyone who has thought about shoplifting to stop and think about the consequences.

Chances are better than even you will get caught. Your reputation is worth far more than satisfying the impulse of the moment to take something you probably don't need.

Parents should particularly spend some time right now discussing with their children the seriousness of this crime. A few minutes in real conversation with your kids may well save them a lifetime of embarrassment. And why not?

It's one thing when politics, red tape and bureaucratic stupidity just waste money. It's another when it causes needless suffering for Suffolk residents, particularly our elderly. And why not?

Willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor



Carriers will be calling

As you have been reading, we are in the midst of our 1977 subscription drive. Every reader of Suffolk Life is asked to voluntarily pay \$4.99 for their subscription each year.

The funds raised from our subscription drive are used to help maintain a quality news product.

During the next three weeks, our 1,400 carriers will be knocking on the doors of every home they regularly deliver to. They will ask you to pay them for your subscription. Each carrier will be paid for the subscription he sells. In addition, all the carriers are in a contest to determine which of them is the best salesman and the winner will be awarded a deluxe 10 speed bike.

When you pay the carrier for your subscription you will receive a numbered receipt. Hold on to this receipt, for it is your entry into a special contest we are running just for subscribers.

Next week, and during the next three weeks, we will publish lucky numbers on our editorial page. If your receipt matches this number you will win \$100 in groceries.

This is just another way of our saying thank you for helping us by paying for your '77 subscription to Suffolk Life in advance. We need

everyone to subscribe to be able to bring you the kind of newspaper both you and we can feel proud of. And why not?

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Northeast looks for a Southerner's aid

Politicians, at both local and regional levels are looking towards President-elect Jimmy Carter to bail out the Northeast's faltering economy.

In the last decade, the sun belt region of the United States has siphoned away many industries that once were located in this area. Some have gone there because of actions on their behalf by the federal government. Their senators and congressmen were influential in getting better contracts out of the federal government than were representatives of the Northeast.

But, this is only a very small part of the reason why businesses have abandoned the Northeast in wholesale lots.

As a whole, the Northeast region presents to

businesses one of the bleakest economic landscapes in the nation.

Real estate taxes are enormous; almost every state has a sales tax that borders on confiscation. Energy costs, due to the need for importation of foreign oil, adds substantially to the cost of doing business.

Many companies in the fabric and printing fields were driven out of the metropolitan area because of the unrealistic demands of labor and labor's refusal to recognize that the New York metropolitan area's rates had to be competitive with those in other parts of the country.

In addition, from a people's standpoint, the sun belt offered by in large a better quality of life. New plants were constructed away from inner

city areas. Employees, instead of being forced to live in cramped tenement conditions could own homes of their own, where taxes were in a reasonable proportion to income. They could live where air was clean, and free from fear of crime and physical abuse.

The sun belt also is more centrally located for national markets, thus trucking and transportation costs could be cut.

The Northeast, and particularly New York, is known nation-wide by the business communities as one of the toughest places to run a business profitably. With our zeal to control pollution, protect the environment and regulate our quality of life, we have passed laws and fostered restrictions on businesses that make the atmosphere in which they are supposed to survive and thrive downright hostile.

The politicians of the Northeast, as well as New York, because of their desire to remain in office, have built their states into welfare communities.

As an example, the cost of welfare in the sun belt states is about one half what it is in New York, even though both areas must function under the same federal regulations.

The difference is New York has chosen to kill the work ethic by making it financially rewarding for people not to work.

Before the politicians look to the Carter administration to bail out the Northeast, they must look in their own backyard, and clean up the mess they have made.

Only when it is economically advantageous and comfortable to do business in the Northeast, will industries again look at this region as a place to locate.

When we speak of economically advantageous, we are not talking only about corporate profits, we are talking about the work force being able to work in productive surroundings for a reasonable wage and have enough left in their paychecks to buy the necessities, plus a few luxuries.

The Northeast has not only lost productive businesses, but they have lost thousands of productive employees who have fled this area because they no longer can afford to work and live here.

We believe the same politicians who are looking towards Carter to solve their problems, know full well what their problems are, but do not have the courage to correct the situation. And why not?

Recreation is a year-round business

Last year Gurney's Inn in Montauk made an application under the state's Industrial Development Act for funds to expand this fine resort.

This expansion would have helped make Gurney's one of the most desirable convention spots in the Northeast. It would do much to help our year-round economy because Gurney's is a major employer in the East Hampton area.

Gurney's was turned down because it was judged a summer resort. It seems when the bill was passed in the legislature, it exempted year-round or summer resorts from these benefits. Only recreational facilities catering to the winter sports were to be the beneficiaries of these low cost loans.

This is ludicrous.

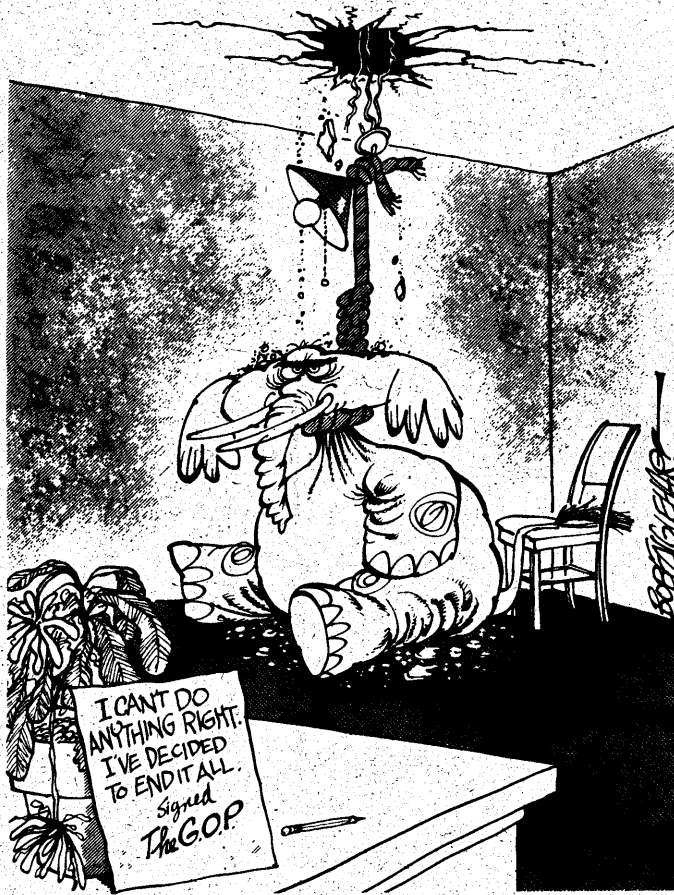
There have been bills pre-filed in the legislature to extend to year-round recreation and resort industries the benefits from which they are now excluded.

We find it hard to believe this bill could have slipped through the Assembly when the Assembly Minority Leader is Perry Duryea, a Montauk resident and a man who should have been fully aware of its implications and the disadvantage at which it placed the eastern Long Island resort industry.

We will accept the fact that Duryea is human and this bill got past him, but we truly hope and anticipate he will put the full weight of his office and his prestige behind the bill this year to insure its successful passage. This legislation undoubtedly will ultimately benefit his constituents on Long Island. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor



Telling them how and where

We want to thank the thousands of people who have already graciously renewed their subscriptions for 1977 during our current drive.

To those people who have not: your local carrier will be knocking on your door within the next week. He will be asking you to voluntarily pay for your subscription.

The carrier will receive part of the subscription price and the rest will be used to continue and to improve the news portion of Suffolk Life.

While you are talking to your carrier, you will have an ideal opportunity to explain to him exactly where you would like your copy of Suffolk Life placed each week. He is instructed, as a general rule, to hang your copy on the door knob.

Some readers have called us in the past and asked for their copy to be placed in some other location on their property. If you have a particular location where you would like your copy placed, please explain to the carrier. He will note it in his carrier book, and we are sure he will carry out your instructions during 1977.

Thank you for your voluntary support. With your help we will continue to be of service to you. And why not?

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Binding arbitration must go

In 1974, firemen and policemen covered by the Taylor Law won the right to an experiment with binding arbitration. The time limit on this experiment ends June 30th.

Under the provisions of the Taylor Law, public employees are forbidden to strike. They must negotiate with our elected officials until they reach a settlement that is amenable to them and can be financed by the public.

Under binding arbitration, when an impasse is reached in negotiations, both sides are allowed to submit their differences to a so-called impartial arbitrator. The arbitrator is charged with investigating the facts and rendering a decision that is just and legally binding on both sides.

The record indicates arbitrators have considered union demands, but failed to take into consideration how the public would be able to pay for these settlements. And, no matter how unreal these settlements are, the public is stuck with financing them.

Binding arbitration has made the Suffolk County Police Department the highest paid force in the United States. Not only have the police unfairly benefited, but, so have other governmental workers and school employees.

This system has raised havoc with the local tax structure. Real estate taxes have been forced up as much as 40 per cent, causing some Suffolk residents to lose their homes. Others facing this have been forced to sell out at a loss and move from the area. A frighteningly large number of Suffolk home owners are currently faced with this dilemma, and next year we can expect an even larger exodus of good productive citizens.

Binding arbitration has removed almost all incentive for the unions to bargain in good faith. Under this system, they make outlandish demands, and if a municipality does not capitulate, they dump the whole package into arbitration.

History over the last two years has shown that the unions get what they are looking for--plus more.

What makes the situation even more perilous is arbiters are not elected; they are not directly responsible to the people. No matter how unrealistic their decisions may be, they do not have to face the people, nor concern themselves about how the citizens are going to finance the settlements.

The power to negotiate settlements with government employees belong to and must be returned to elected officials. They are the people who we have chosen to represent us. They are charged with providing services and negotiating their cost within the tax structure. Stripping

them of this power is driving local governments to bankruptcy.

Unless you can stand for your real estate tax bill to rise uncontrollably each year, sit down today and write your local Assemblymen, State Senators and Governor demanding an end to this ludicrous situation. Don't put it off because you can bet the members of the various municipal employees unions covered by the Taylor Law will be writing to these people demanding just the opposite.

If you do not let your elected official know your

feelings, he is going to vote the way the unions want him to. This will be against your best interest.

You are facing tough odds because many of the Assemblymen, State Senators and the Governor have had their campaigns partially financed by the various governmental unions and they are going to be demanding a price for their support. Everyone is going to have to contact their Assemblymen in order to force them to do what is right. And why not?

Senators:

Kenneth LaValle
The New York State Senate
Albany, N.Y. 12224

Caesar Trunzo
The New York State Senate
Albany, N.Y. 12224

Assemblymen:

Perry B. Duryea
The New York State Assembly
Albany, N.Y. 12224

George Hochbrueckner
The New York State Assembly
Albany, N.Y. 12224

Paul Harenberg
The New York State Assembly
Albany, N.Y. 12224

I. William Bianchi
New York State Assembly
Albany, N.Y. 12224

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor



Please renew now

If you have not already sent in your check for \$4.99 or paid your carrier boy for your 1977 subscription to Suffolk Life, won't you please do so today.

We are in the midst of planning Suffolk Life for the coming year. Shortly we will determine how much we will be spending on the news portion of your newspaper for the next twelve months. The support you give us by voluntarily paying for your subscription to Suffolk Life will greatly influence the job we will be able to do for you in the future.

\$4.99 is a small price for you to pay for the value you receive twice a week, week in and week out from Suffolk Life. Your \$4.99 actually pays less than 5 per cent of the cost of bringing you a Suffolk Life Newspaper.

Your money is used to pay for the news staff and the pages the news is printed on.

Your \$4.99 allows us to have a reporter at most governmental meetings watching out for your interest. Your \$4.99 provides the funds to send out a reporter to investigate the facts and uncover waste of your tax dollars, and projects and programs being planned not with your best interest in mind.

Your \$4.99 helps pay for the photographer who shows up without charge to cover the affair your club is sponsoring. Your \$4.99 also helps pay for the free publicity we have given your club or organization to tell your neighbors about its activities and make the affairs successful.

Your \$4.99 helps in many, many ways to bring

you one of the country's finest, voluntarily paid newspapers. Your \$4.99 is an investment in yourself as your expenditure will give back to you each week a free and independent newspaper dedicated only to you, its readers.

Please send in your check today or pay your carrier boy when he is making his delivery this week. We need everyone to do his part so we may be able to do ours better in the future. And why not?

Clip this coupon and mail to:
Suffolk Life Newspapers Circulation Dept.
Box 262 Westhampton, New York 11977

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Riverhead	Medford/Holbrook	3 Village/Port Jefferson
Hampton West	Sayville	Rocky Point
	Ronkonkoma	

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Merry Christmas from the Public Service Commission

Many years ago in a letter to the editor column, a little girl by the name of Virginia asked if there was a Santa Claus. The editor answered the question in a very moving editorial, which has become a classic.

Another classic happened last week in New York State. For the first time in its history, the Public Service Commission turned thumbs down on Ma Bell's request for a \$390,000,000 rate hike.

Maybe there is a Santa Claus after all.

The Public Service Commission has been notorious for ruling in favor of utilities. So much so, that people felt that members of the Public Service Commission were in the hip pockets of

the utilities, and therefore, the public's viewpoint never would be given the consideration it deserved.

Ma Bell must have reached this conclusion too, for the Public Service Commission turned down her request, charging that the application had substantial and fundamental deficiencies...

It appears that Ma Bell hadn't done her homework, and expected to breeze through the rate hearing as she has in the past, without any problems.

When the telephone company made an application for this rate hike, we seriously questioned why it was needed at this time,

because just a little over a year ago, it had raised its rates by \$345,000,000.

You can expect the telephone company will be back asking for another rate increase in 1977. But, who knows, maybe Santa Claus will come twice. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Why shouldn't investors invest

LILCO is a privately owned, profit making company. A monopolistic utility, its rates are supposed to be regulated by the Public Service Commission.

The Public Service Commission is charged with making sure LILCO's rates are fair to the consumer.

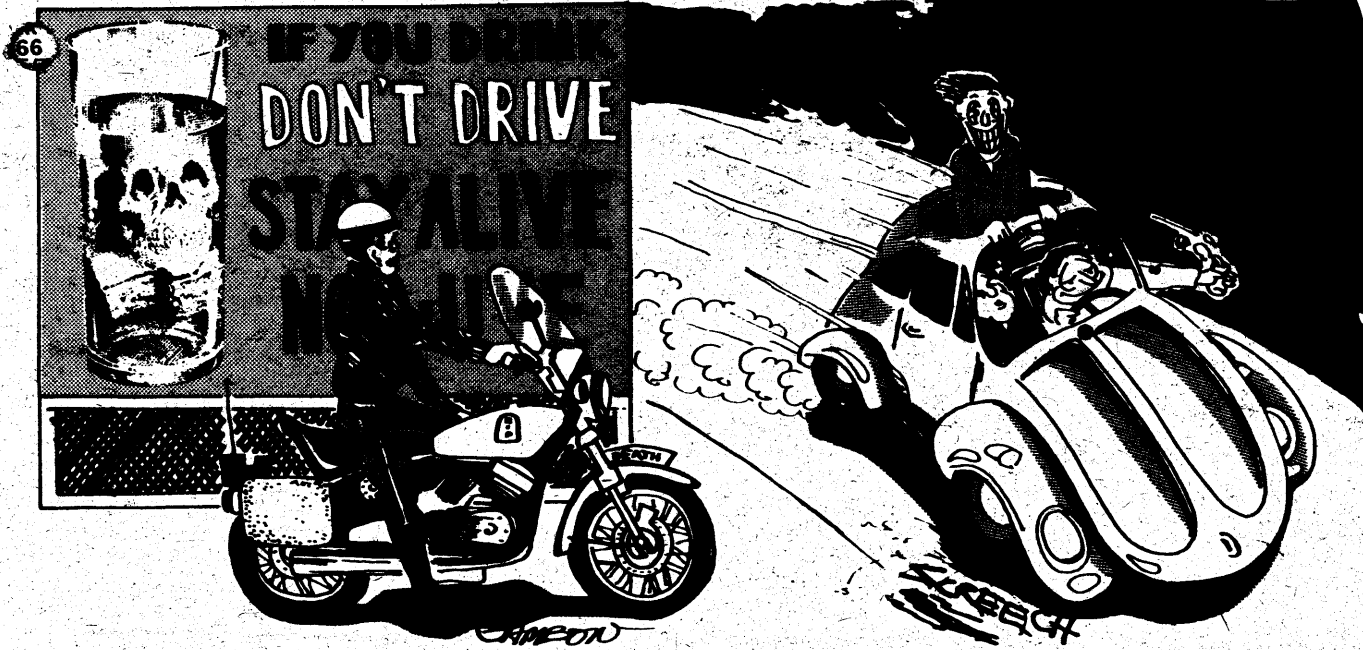
For quite some time, LILCO has been including in its rate base the cost of capital construction. We have found it hard to understand why the Public Service Commission could allow this.

Capital construction is the expansion of the assets of the company, and therefore, the financing for this expansion should come from the company owners and not the consumer.

In effect, the PSC's ruling has made every consumer of LILCO an investor but not a stockholder.

This ruling is being challenged in court by the state's Consumer Protection Board. If successful, it will mean LILCO's customers could receive up to \$20,000,000 in rebates.

Watch this suit carefully, you have a great deal to gain if it is successful. And why not?



The annual Christmas party

'Tis the season of Christmas parties. But many of these joyous occasions turn into nightmares.

Normally sane and sober people have a tendency to throw all caution to the wind and drink more than they can handle. They then attempt to navigate home. Some make it. Some end up on a slab.

We recommend that if you do attend a Christmas party this year, and you plan to drink, make arrangements with someone else who will not be drinking, for a ride home. Even better, make arrangements before the party with a taxi firm to pick you up at a particular hour so you will not be a menace to yourself or someone else.

But there is a way you can drink and still remain sober. According to scientific reports, the average person's body is able to absorb one ounce of alcohol per hour. If you are going to drink, limit yourself to one drink per hour, and chances are you will be sober enough to take the wheel at the end of the party.

There is a great tendency at an open-bar party to drink as much as you can, but let's face facts, once you have succeeded in getting yourself drunk, you miss the fun of the party. You generally become an obnoxious bore to those who have had the presence of mind to stay sober.

This year when you attend the annual party, have a good time, but watch your consumption of alcohol so you will be around to attend next year's party. And why not?

If you haven't, please do

We are in the last two weeks of Suffolk Life's annual subscription renewal drive. Once each year, we ask every reader of Suffolk Life to pay \$4.99 for their subscription.

We do not send out individual bills because this is a very costly and time consuming measure. Instead, all subscriptions are due on the first of every year.

We ask you to voluntarily send in \$4.99 or to pay your carrier when he or she calls at your home. If you have not already paid for your 1977 subscription, won't you please fill out the form below and send it to us today with your check for \$4.99 or give it to your carrier when he comes to your door?

Thank you for paying for your subscription to Suffolk Life. And why not?

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Letters to the editor

'I resent the use of the Lulu brush'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

It is very easy and tempting to paint someone with a particular brush in the hope of winning an issue or discrediting the opposition. Unfortunately, both Messrs. Cohalan and Hogan found out (too late) it wouldn't work in their recent campaigns against Congressman Ambro and Downey, that is, the "LIBERAL BRUSH".

In the same regard, I resent the use of the Lulu brush to my request for additional compensation for additional services rendered. I am the only legislator who sits on these boards.

I have been a devoted and conscientious trustee on the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association Welfare Fund since its inception in 1972; I am likewise, a devoted and conscientious trustee on the other funds. It is my feeling that one should serve as a trustee only as a devoted and conscientious individual.

Other county employees are credited with working for the county for the days they give to the funds as trustees. Employee-designated trustees are police officers; detectives; sergeants; lieutenants; the president of CSEA; an employee from the Department of Public Works; the

vice-president of the CSEA; a group representative from CSEA. Employer-designated trustees receive annual pay equivalent to \$120 and \$140 per day based on a five-day week. If one were to pro-rate the one day a week they worked, we would find they were paid \$120 a day for their county services.

Through my solitary efforts and initiative, I have been able to earn interest income for the PBA Welfare Fund totalling \$75,000 over the past four years on the idle monies which the fund has had available.

Many politicians have spoken of self insurance over the past years. I want to point out we have had self insurance in the Welfare Fund for the past four years. We have also extended the benefits we provide to police officers and their dependents which includes now, dental benefits, prescription drugs reimbursement, optical benefits, maternity benefits and will benefits. Prior to the creation of the fund, the benefit was only for dental work and was through an insurance company.

Your facts are somewhat distorted in your editorial and hopefully you will reveal same to your reading public. We are not raising the cost of county government by 20 per

cent. Seventeen (17) legislators receive \$16,870 per annum. The Presiding Officer receives a higher salary of \$23,250.

I don't know what insiders you speak of - is this attempt being a trial balloon? I have been arguing my case for this with the County Attorney since July, 1975. He has finally agreed my request is fair and I can legally be paid, however, he has required a separate resolution from the legislature.

I also believe and know, as I am sure you must realize as an astute observer, that some elected officials work harder than others and more diligently than others. That is why we get re-elected each time. However, labor must be paid. This is not a 9 to 5 job! In fact, many times the phone can ring on weekends and at 1:30 am and we can be asked to be somewhere at 8 am on a Saturday morning to talk about a constituent's problem or a future proposal. The media clamors for leadership here on Long Island. However, that same media tries to keep those who can be leaders from having motivation. They criticize JVNK, the County Executive, yet they don't cooperate in an attempt to upgrade the legislature. The legislature can be a viable

cont. on page 20

Remember, a billion is four times \$250,000,000

Land of Unreality Kingdom of Suffering Christmas Time '76

In the great hall of Injustice, one can sense it is almost Christmas. The decorations are in place, the merry-makers are jovial, and full of good words. Why just last week, King John and Prince Floyd had a party of sorts to announce to the masses their wonderful Christmas gift. They had found a way to cut the cost of the sewer district of the South West from a billion three to a billion. These wonderful, charitable souls, with one fell swoop had cut the cost of this much needed project by 25 per cent.

Come on peasants, cheer, sing their praises. Alleluia, Alleluia! the great magician and his heir apparent have pulled off the second greatest miracle in two thousand years.

In another part of the Kingdom of Suffering, we find the spirit of Christmas has been replaced with the spirit of Scrooge.

Last summer, a little child after much searching had found a cane he could afford for his poor, old grandma. With this cane she would be able to walk again.

The cane man offered to sell the boy the cane for \$2.50. At the time the child had no money. He was not discouraged, though, and he set about to work, to scrimp, and to save.

Last week he finally had accumulated the money. He joyfully went to the cane man with his treasure, for now his grandma would be able

to walk. Oh! a Christmas gift this would be! But hark! The story does not end here.

To the little boy's sorrow and dismay, the cane man said, "Due to inflation, the high cost of interest, poor management, and just plain politics as usual, your grandmother's cane will now cost \$13.00."

The little boy, reduced to tears cried out, "But this is five times the price we agreed upon."

The cane man answered, "Sorry sonny, you ordered it, you got to pay for it. Just because I

run this joint, doesn't mean I got any control over the cost."

Finally, sensing the little boy's frustration, and in the charitable spirit of Christmas, the cane man said to the boy, "Just for you, I am going to reduce the price to \$10.00."

The little boy answered, "I appreciate your generosity, and the spirit of your giving it to me, but \$10.00 is still four times the price you quoted me and we agreed upon."

The cane man answered the boy in anger. "You ungrateful gutter snipe! Here I go to all kinds of effort and great sacrifice. I cut this price by 25 per cent and you don't appreciate it. What's the matter with you, boy? Don't you know you are living in the Land of Unreality in the Kingdom of Suffering?"

The boy answered, "Yes, but \$10.00 is still four times \$2.50, and I think I have been hustled."

And why not?

Our Christmas wish for you

All of us here at Suffolk Life, Ad View Publishers and We Deliver extend to our advertisers, our readers, and our friends our warmest wishes for a happy holiday. Christmas is a beautiful time of year, a time to remember and a time to make peace.

We hope your memories of 1976 are good ones, and that you will enjoy peace, prosperity and health in '77. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Closed for vacation

Suffolk Life will not be published next week. We will close so that our staff can be on vacation to enjoy themselves with their families during the holidays.

We will have an office open and a limited staff on hand to accommodate those customers who will need assistance during this time.

The next edition of Suffolk Life will be published on January 5th. It will contain some phenomenal January clearance sales, plus we expect our reader ad column to be filled with Christmas items that Santa left at the wrong house.

See you on the 5th. And why not?

Last chance to subscribe

This is your last chance this year to renew your subscription before it comes due January 1.

We have worked hard on your behalf over the last fifty-two weeks. We have put our blood and souls into publishing for you a newspaper both you and we can be proud of.

We want to keep working for you in the coming year. To do so, we must ask you to renew your subscription now. It is only \$4.99.

Please fill out the form below and send it to our circulation department with your check. Thank you. And why not?

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