

Willmotts and Why-Nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Clean Up Political Pollution

Signs are an important part of political campaigns. They are used by incumbents and challengers alike to build identification and name recognition. Political signs do mar the landscape, but it is a small price to pay if it helps good candidates become our leaders.

From mid-September through Election Day we can put up with these signs blighting the countryside. Unfortunately, they don't come down as fast after Election Day as they went up. There is no area in Suffolk County today that still does not have signs placed by candidates of the election past.

Ironically, we do have sign ordinances which were drafted by many of these same politicians which forbid these signs from being erected initially, or so heavily regulated them that most are illegal from the start. If a business which pays taxes at-

tempted to put up signs as haphazardly, and left them after they had fulfilled their purpose, they would be hauled before a judge, who probably got there as a politician, and fined substantially.

Politicians are inside the system and nobody wants to make waves with the bosses who got them their jobs and are keeping them employed.

The public should, though, raise its voice and demand that all political signs be removed within seven days of an election. These signs not only include legal billboards, but the bumper stickers and cardboard signs attached to trees and utility poles. Next year political organizations should sponsor a political clean-up day the weekend after the election. But in the meantime, let's get this year's signs down now.

And why not?

It Should Be Beautiful

The Riverhead Chamber of Commerce will unveil on Dec. 5 a tree of light using a configuration of laser beam lights. It intends to beam these lights some 3,000 feet into the sky, creating a star of light over this community to commemorate the Christmas season. This unique display should be magnificent to

behold, certainly worth a trip to see.

The project, headed by the Chamber, is a joint endeavor by the Chamber, Grumman, Northville and LILCO. These organizations are to be commended for their community spirit and service.

And why not?

Is Shinnecock Next?

The county, state and federal governments are spending more than \$11 million to repair the damage done to the barrier beach east of Moriches Inlet. For years, baymen, scientists and public works officials had warned the barrier beach was in jeopardy. They recommended the stabilization of Moriches Inlet to ward off impending disaster.

Plans continually were enmeshed in red tape and politics by the Army Corps of Engineers. As a result, nothing was done and the beach fell to Mother Nature's fury. The washout created a new inlet over a half-mile wide. The taxpayers now must pay

\$11 million to rebuild the beach. But, unfortunately, nothing is being done to stabilize the inlet or develop a sand by-pass system to protect it in the future.

Some 14 miles to the east of Moriches Inlet is Shinnecock Inlet. It was fortified by two stone jetties. The jetty on the west side has been reduced through erosion to about one-half of its original size. The jetty to the east also has been eroded away, but more seriously, to the east of the active jetty itself the sand and the dunes have been washed out, the same that has happened at Moriches.

A new inlet is a certainty to occur in

the future. This particular stretch of the duneline is attached to the mainland. If the duneline is washed away, the mainland of Southampton will become vulnerable to the rolling ocean seas.

Shinnecock also is the home port of a large growing commercial fishery. Currently, because of the shoaling off Shinnecock, some fishing boats returning with a full load must wait for high tide to safely navigate the inlet.

We are repeating the history of Moriches at Shinnecock. We are waiting for disaster to occur. Why?

And The Waste Goes On

Every once in a while, an item will come to our attention that is so blatantly wasteful of our taxes it cries out for attention. This month's nominee goes to the New York State Department of Social Services for ordering a million four-color, enamel stock, brochures.

The brochure is aimed at the Spanish-speaking community. Its purpose is to educate parents about health.

As a printer, we know the substantial difference in cost between black and white, black and spot color, and an elaborate, four-color product. We estimate that the cost of this four-color job on enamel stock will run 10

Does no one in government care about the livelihoods and safety of our people? Why should we be willing to spend many times the cost of stabilization to repair? This inlet and Moriches Inlet must sensibly be stabilized and sand by-pass systems must be installed to keep the inlets clear of shoaling and to replenish the beach line with needed sand for continued build-up.

Let us act out of foresight at Shinnecock. We know how costly hindsight was at Moriches.

And why not?

to 15 times what could have been accomplished if it had been printed on newsprint or offset in black and white with spot color. We doubt anyone will pay more attention to the brochure or that it will save a single person's life because it was printed on four-color enamel stock.

Gov. Carey has created an image for himself of being a fiscal conservative. Blatant waste of our tax dollars, as is illustrated by this project, is what we would expect of a liberal big spender. We hope somebody will look into the project before our tax dollars are wasted.

And why not?

Those Who Pay Should Know

Since early last year, the Riverhead Town Police has been negotiating a new contract with town officials. These negotiations have been cloaked in secrecy. The public has been denied the knowledge of what the police are asking, and of what the town is offering.

Instead of both sides being up front with the people who will ultimately pay for the cost of the settlement, both have leaked selective information when they saw fit. These leaks indicate the demands by the police bordered on the ridiculous, demands we are sure would not have been made had they been made public at the onset of negotiations.

The theory behind public negotiations is to demand the moon, confuse the elected officials with hopeless issues, then cut a deal that the public cannot decipher until the real estate tax bills come in and they realize they have been had. If the public must pay the settlement, they

have a right to know what is being asked, what is being offered before, during and at the end of negotiations.

Both sides should be forced to make a last best offer, which an impartial referee must decide the merits of. That decision should be based upon the quality of service offered, the productivity of the employees, the needs of the community and its ability to fund the settlement.

Sending a list of meaningless demands to an arbitrator without the community's ability to pay being considered is totally unfair and should be unacceptable.

A new system of negotiations that provide equity for public employees as well as taxpayers must be devised. The current system we use has led to unreasonable settlements, the heaviest real estate taxes in the nation and poor morale during and even after the negotiations and contract signing.

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

There are now a total of 45 lights that make up the new, complex traffic light system at the intersection of Peconic Avenue, Main Street and Roanoke Avenue in Riverhead. These 45 new lights have replaced less than half that many that had done a reasonably successful job controlling traffic before. Also, a few years ago left turns from Roanoke on to Main Street were prohibited by a \$50 sign.

I don't understand how the New York State Department of Transportation can take it upon itself to spend thousands of dollars to "improve" the traffic control system at this

intersection.

There is one thing, though, that makes me happy. Riverhead will have the distinction of having the most complicated traffic light system in the world. Also, the most traffic lights in one four-way intersection, and the biggest expenditure of State money with no proof that it will improve conditions at this intersection. Perhaps we will make the Guinness World Book of Records!

Very truly yours,
James A. Dreeben
Riverhead

USPS 098-300

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 20 NO. 18

and Suffolk County Life

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Mastic, Shirley
Patchogue
Medford
Sayville, Oakdale
Ronkonkoma
Centereach

Selden
Coram
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village

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David J. Willmott, Editor

Keep Two Year Terms

The Suffolk County Supervisors Association announced an attempt to have legislation passed changing town supervisors' terms from two to four years. Supervisors are like anybody else. Some are very good, some are very bad. We question the wisdom of giving them, collectively, four-year job protection.

Why should the public have to put up with, for four long years, an official who is unresponsive to its wishes or incapable of the job he or she has been elected to hold? We can see why the supervisors want a four-year term. Having to run every two years, in effect, makes them campaign and be exposed to the public during the entire term of the office. The election barely is over and they have to start campaigning again. But is this bad? They are, by necessity, forced to go out and meet their constituents and be responsive to their

requests on a regular basis.

A four-year term could give them a two to three-year period of isolation from their constituents. This would be bad. During this period they would not have to face those they are responsible to. They would not have to listen to their requests or their complaints. There would be little or nothing the public-at-large could do to make them responsive.

If we had a workable system of recall, the term of office would not make much difference. We do not have a system of recall in the State of New York, and therefore it is imperative that we keep the terms of our elected officials as short as practical so their actions can be judged by the people who are paying not only their salaries, but for the obligations that they incur in the peoples' names.

And why not?

Penalty Should Equal Crime

County Executive Peter Cohalan has requested the legislature to adopt a local law making it illegal for political party officials to accept a gratuity for doing a favor, taking a bribe or selling their influence. We are delighted that the legislature is considering this action.

Under our present system political leaders can sell their power to the highest bidder. There is nothing legally wrong with it. The only thing protecting the public is the individual political leaders' morals and ethics. Over the last decade we have seen too many examples of political leaders enriching themselves at the expense of the taxpayers by blatantly selling the power which they control.

As unbelievable as it may seem, it is not illegal for a person who wants a change in zoning, a variance on a piece of property or a municipal contract to go to the leader of the political party in power and pay him a fee or a bribe to have this ac-

complished. Local Law 2124-80 would make this action a criminal matter, a class A misdemeanor.

The proposed law, however, has a weakness in that the penalty for violations calls for the maximum sentence to be not more than one year in prison and a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both. This is like a slap on the wrist. We feel if such a law is going to be enacted, the imprisonment and the fee should be meaningful. The fine should at least be the equivalent of triple damages, which is a common penalty in civil cases dealing with bribery or anti-trust violations. Considering our parole laws, a maximum sentence of one year is a bit absurd for a violation of public trust.

We hope the legislature increases the penalties for violation and passes the law here in Suffolk County. The state should follow suit, as well as the federal government.

And why not?

Justifiable Concern - But...

"The government closest to the people is the best government," County Executive Peter Cohalan is fond of saying. The County Planning Director, Lee Koppelman, indicated last week he was considering asking the county legislature to amend the county charter to make it difficult and meaningless -- to form a new village.

A village is the closest form of government people have. Koppelman may ask the legislature to withhold zoning powers from any new villages. These considerations were prompted by the proposed village incorporation of an area called Islandia, a two-square mile section of Islip that includes a portion of Islip's industrial area and the Colonie Hill complex in

Hauppauge. The residents of this section feel it would be to their advantage to incorporate. Taking in the individual lands and the Colonie Hill complex would definitely give them tax advantages, but at a loss to the rest of the community.

Jack Luchsinger, a member of the county planning commission and chairman of the Brookhaven Planning Board, expressed concern about the ease in which an area can incorporate under the current laws. He gave the example where a few homeowners adjacent to a heavily taxed industrial project can incorporate relatively easily, garnering all the tax benefits from the industrial portion but denying the rest of the community its rightful share of these

much-needed tax dollars. Luchsinger recommended a study be conducted which would require more input from surrounding affected areas, possibly even a vote by all the people nearby who might be affected.

We believe the planning commission's concerns are legitimate, but we also feel no legislation should be passed that develops road blocks stymieing incorporation.

Patchogue Village within the Town of Brookhaven is an excellent example of the value of villages. Having had a village government to work with the Patchogue community

has been able to ward off urban rot and upgrade its downtown area allowing it to be competitive with new shopping malls. If Patchogue had not been an incorporated village it probably would have faced the same fate as Bay Shore.

We, like the planning commission, recognize a potential for disaster in selfish incorporations, but we also recognize the people's right to determine the quality and type of government they wish to be governed by. Nothing should interfere with this right in a free society.

And why not?

Proud We Are

If this sounds as if we are bragging, we are. And rightfully so!

Each year, as part of a check on our circulation department, Certified Audit Circulation engages a responsible, independent market research firm to go into the field and conduct at random personal interviews of residents to determine if Suffolk Life is received regularly and whether it is read. This is done as a backup to its scrutiny and audit of our press and circulation records.

Two months ago we submitted our circulation maps to CAC and between Oct. 23 and Nov. 22 Straight Line Research, a highly regarded marketing research firm, conducted 400 individual interviews in every part of our circulation area. They ranged from Shelter Island and the summer areas of North Woods in East Hampton to the highly congested areas of central and western Suffolk, as well as the estate areas of East Hampton, Bellport and Belle Terre.

The national average from CAC audits, according to Paul Tracy, executive director, is at 85 percent saturation level. This year, Straight Line reported to CAC that Suffolk Life's regular delivery is 97.8 percent. Out of nine people interviewed that did not receive Suffolk Life regularly, most received it occasionally.

Our hat is off to our Circulation Director, Bill Johnson, his dedicated

staff of hard working professionals, to the hundreds of district managers and supervisors and to the 1,100 carrier youths for an incredible job that places them at the very top in the nation.

Of equal importance are the readers of Suffolk Life. Straight Line Research's survey indicates that 88.8 percent of the people who receive Suffolk Life regularly read it every week. The other 11.2 percent read it occasionally, giving us an effective readership, our first time ever, of 100 percent.

We congratulate particularly our news staff for developing the kind of news people want to read, news that is honest, well researched, well written and reported faithfully. Our hat also goes off to our advertising and production staff members for developing the kind of advertising consumers look forward to, which helps them shop and, by being conscientious consumers, fight inflation.

Yes, we are proud. We are dedicated to publishing and delivering the best newspaper we can for the best people in the world, our readers. This independent survey verifies not only our ability to deliver Suffolk Life, but also that Suffolk Life, once in the home, is well read -- which makes it all worthwhile.

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

Dear Mr. Willmott:

The coverage you gave our first Fashion Show at St. Joseph's Village in Selden in October was most appreciated by our residents. They were so pleased to see their friends in their roles as models.

On behalf of our residents, I wish you and

your staff a most blessed holiday season.

Sincerely,
Barbara A. Mahony
Social Services Coordinator
St. Joseph's Village
Selden

USPS 098-300

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Ronkonkoma
Centereach

Selden
Coram
Rocky Point
Port Jefferson
Three Village



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Suffolk Life is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Southampton; Town of Islip; Surrogate Court, County of Suffolk; Rocky Point School District; Patchogue-Medford School District. Suffolk County Life published weekly each Wednesday, is an Official Newspaper of: Town of Islip; Town of Riverhead; Town of Brookhaven; Village of Port Jefferson.

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How Much Can You Drink?

The holidays are upon us. Office and house parties are commonplace. The consumption of alcohol has become the traditional means of celebrating at these festivities. Many people who do not normally drink will join their fellow merrymakers in toasting the holiday season. Everyone likes to think they have a wooden leg. Sometimes it appears we do, at least to ourselves. Chances are though, whether you realize it or not, the alcohol you consume will have an effect upon you.

Consider these facts: 1½ ounces of whiskey is equivalent to four ounces of wine or a can of beer. If you weigh under 120 pounds, less than two drinks over a two-hour period will impair your driving. Your blood will indicate that it has a five percent alcohol content. If you are stopped you will receive a traffic ticket. To be able to continue driving you will have to go through a driver education course that will span approximately ten weeks. Your license still will be subject to revocation and your automobile insurance premiums may be increased up to one-third.

If you are under 120 pounds and have four drinks over a two-hour period you will be considered drunk. If stopped and tested, your blood will indicate that it has 10 percent or more alcohol content. You will be charged with a misdemeanor -- driving while intoxicated. Unless you are able to

plea bargain, you automatically will lose your license and be subject to a heavy fine. If you are involved in a fatality you can be charged with murder.

For the person who says he can drink and "not show any effect," consider the following: For people very much like yourself, after two to three ounces of liquor within two hours your peripheral vision will decrease. Eye reaction has been proven to be slower. Visual acuity is reduced by as much as 32 percent. It takes you seven to 32 seconds longer to recover from headlight glare. Your reaction time is slowed 15 to 25 percent.

A good rule of thumb at Christmas parties or other occasions is do not drink if you are going to drive. If you feel like attempting to beat the odds, drink sensibly. Write on a business card the time of your first drink. Do not have the second drink for at least one hour. Again fill out the time on the card. If you do this, chances are you will leave the party sober enough to drive.

Also, if you are drinking whiskey with a mixer, tell the bartender you will have a glass of water with a splash of whiskey. If you follow these few simple hints, you can still have a good time and end up the next day alive.

And why not?

Deposits Do Work

We are encouraged to see the legislature again talking about legislation requiring a deposit on beverage containers.

This idea is not a new one. It has been proposed a number of times here in the county. It has met with heavy opposition from the unions and bottlers. This pressure seems to get in the way of the common sense of individual legislators and, as a result, our streets and highways are littered with empty cans and broken bottles.

Two months ago town supervisors, at their monthly association meeting, discussed the enactment of a bottle

ban on the town level. The consensus was if the legislature did not have the courage to pass this needed legislation, the towns would take the lead.

Last summer we took a boat trip up the Connecticut River. At the different ports we stopped there was not a bottle or can to be seen. At one port, a couple of enterprising kids were offering to cart off your refuse free as long as it contained deposit bottles or cans redeemable in Connecticut.

Bottlers claim the cost of handling returnables is prohibitive. When soda was a nickel a bottle we could see

some logic to the argument. Today a can of soda retails for 35 cents. We are sure somewhere in this cost there could be absorbed the additional cost of handling.

We cannot see the unions' opposition. Obviously if the bottles have to be returned it will require more manpower to be used. New jobs will be created, jobs the unions should be advocating rather than trying to discourage.

Let's put the profit incentive to work in cleaning up our highways and byways, whether it be on the town,

county or at the state level. Let's require a deposit on all beverage containers. The people who are too lazy to take their containers back can pay the additional cost for their beverages. Those that are willing to cart them back themselves will reduce their cost. Those that still persist in heaving them out the window will find not only kids, but adults as well scavenging the highways and byways, picking up, cleaning up and profiting by doing so.

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

"A special thanks to you"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Just a brief note to extend a special thanks to you and to Suffolk Life for the confidences offered to me throughout my campaign for the United States Senate. I truly appreciate the kind endorsement of my candidacy not once, but twice.

On numerous occasions, I said that New Yorkers are entitled to a Senator who will fight for a dynamic and growing economy, a stronger national defense and a better deal

for our state and its overburdened taxpayers. Obviously, these are issues all too familiar to the readers of Suffolk Life. My victory against overwhelming odds confirms that the people want a new kind of leadership.

You may be assured that I will work to be deserving of your continued support over the next six years.

Cordially,
Alfonse M. D'Amato
United States Senator-elect

"We have not been unresponsive"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

This open letter to the Selden Community has unfortunately become necessary due to the many rumors and false information which has been circulating concerning the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Contrary to recent impressions created in the local newspapers, we have not been unresponsive to the public's need for information about our community service center planned for Selden. In fact, I personally addressed the Selden Civic Association several months ago to explain, in detail, all facets of this project. As a follow-up to this effort, the Society extended a personal invitation to the president of the association to visit our Bethpage headquarters and observe the operation of one of our thrift stores, and to further discuss any questions the association might have regarding the Selden facility. We will continue to follow an open and responsive attitude toward our Selden project.

However, in the interests of fairness, misleading and irresponsible charges directed toward the Society cannot go unanswered. Therefore, we wish to make clear, once again, the important facts on our planned Selden Community Center:

1. The Center will comply with all town building and zoning codes;
2. The Center will consist of two programs and these two programs only: A thrift store operation; and, the training of handicapped persons, by qualified professionals, to learn job skills related to refinishing furniture, repair of small appliances, etc.;
3. The Center will not be involved in any way with drug rehabilitation programming and does not have the professional capability to do so;

4. The Center eventually will offer full-time employment opportunities for as many as 40 local residents, not including the new opportunities which handicapped individuals will receive from their job training at the Center;

5. In addition to employment, the Selden Center will offer many other vital services to the local community including the thrift store operation and emergency assistance for families in need of financial aid, clothing, food, etc.

It is indeed regrettable that there are those who are seeking to create an atmosphere of confrontation between the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and community residents in the Selden area. We are a community service organization and the dedicated and unselfish volunteers who contribute their time and effort to the Society do so out of a deep sense of compassion and concern for their fellow human beings.

Sincerely,
Luke J. Smith
Executive Director
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Bethpage

Note to Editor: It has come to our attention that it has been alleged that we did not send a notice to the Selden Civic Association indicating our inability to attend its recent meeting, even though the president of the Association apparently took it upon herself to commit the Society to attend the meeting. Enclosed, for your information, is a copy of the mailgram which we sent upon learning at the last minute, that we were advertised, without our knowledge, for the meeting.

"Resident refused to answer"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Reference is made to your editorial entitled "Count Again," with reference to deficiency in the recent United States Census.

Your office can add another complaint and probably deficiency with respect to the census.

At the appropriate time, Lilly's and my form for the census was mailed into whatever address was shown on the form. However, approximately three to four weeks later a woman came around to the door asking for statistics on the census.

When she was told it was already mailed in, she said that apparently the office did not have it and that is why she was sent out on our block for our statistics, as well as others on

the length of Plandome Road.

Lilly did state that she would give the census taker the statistics for another form, but when the girl presented one of the large lengthy and time consuming forms, it was explained indignantly that we did not choose to take the necessary time for this.

Thereupon, the girl said that she would put it down in her report that "Resident refused to answer."

The question is now, whether we and many others like this are actually included in what appears to be a deficient count?

With best regards,
Sincerely yours,
Harold R. Hafner
Sound Beach

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Christmas 1981

Years ago, in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, a businessman we were acquainted with paused and said reflectively, "Do you know who the greatest salesman in the world was?" His answer was Jesus Christ. What Jesus started selling 2,000 years ago is still being sold today. There has never been a product or an idea that has had such durability or gone through generations of change without changing.

When you think of it, what kind of mark do we leave between the time we are a babe in arms and a wrinkled old man? Here was a man born of poor parents, under the worst conditions. Yet high thoughts, ideas and expressions have guided a world for more than 200 centuries. His message is simple: it's one of love, respect, and

obedience. It's not His laws but His wishes that people follow.

In these hours before Christmas 1981, we all would do well to reflect upon His birth, His life, His death, the meaning they have had for those before us, the meaning they will have to those after us. Could not each of us change our life in some small way to pattern ourselves after Him?

May this Christmas mean more than gift giving. May its spirit be more enduring than the tinsel. May the holiday leave us with a simple resolve to be a better person. We hope that this Christmas season finds you and your family at peace with each other, feeling love, warmth and well-being. And in the New Year, may you enjoy prosperity, health and happiness.

And why not?

Chanukah's Timeless Call For Freedom

Freedom from tyranny, the enduring message of Chanukah, is a desire as old as humanity and as new as today's headlines. Chanukah's celebration of the miracle that followed the ancient Macabees' overthrow of their Syrian occupiers resonates strongly with the events in troubled parts of the world today.

Everywhere, people are fighting for freedom. One of the tensest battlegrounds in this oldest of human fights is Poland, where, like the ancient Poles, the Poles are struggling against oppressors who would stifle their creativity, their expression, their rights. In Northern Ireland, the

tragic, seemingly insoluble civil war continues. In the very lands where Judah Maccabee and his sons vanquished the forces of King Antiochus, Syrians and Jews still do battle.

What is needed to bring peace and freedom to all peoples? As the eight lights of Chanukah are kindled, we all must realize that our peace, comfort, freedom and security are great blessings. With the lighting of the first candle Sunday night, let us pray that freedom can come without bloodshed for oppressed people everywhere.

And why not?

Our Holiday Schedule

This advanced issue of Suffolk Life replaces the one you would normally have received next Wednesday, December 23. Our publication date for this issue was advanced to give our advertisers a final opportunity to call to your attention the items they offer to meet your shopping needs.

Additionally, Suffolk Life will not be published on December 30. Our offices will be closed and our staff will be enjoying a well-deserved vacation the week of December 21 through Christmas Day.

We will be back on the job and open again for normal business on

December 28, preparing for our next issue, which will be delivered to your homes on January 6.

Enjoy the holidays, and please be careful. We appreciate very much the loyalty of our readers throughout Suffolk Life's 20 years of existence. As it has in the past, Suffolk Life will be dedicated in 1982 to all of you.



• Marie Chapman •

Cynthia Szot • Sheila Domke

Connie Kumpf • Maxine Holmes

Jeannie Oesterreicher • Jeff Sievers

Louis Boccio • Kurt Busse • Lori Fehr

Paul Nadler • Ricky Saladon • Al Chisare

Olympia Lowery • Patrice Small • Charles Green

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Debra Rogers • George Salvaggio • Wickham Hunter • Herbert Corwin

Andree Keegan • Katherine Kollhopp • Deanne Lecky • Maria Mainella

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Mason Angus • Jack Falvey • Thomas Gandolfo • Florence Albin • Carl Blohm

Lora Holdorf • Paul Marlow • Talmadge Resling • Kimberly Skarka • Patricia Trent

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Nanci Fox • Mike Mainella • Steve Becker • Kenneth Nagy • Thomas Roberts • James Schurig

• Bill Johnson • Peter Parpan • Claire Swanik • Bob Andrews • Sharman Gordon • Linda Conaughty •

Lorraine Peczkowski • Barbara Selvin

Lou Grasso • John McKay

Dave Willmott

Happy Holidays from the Suffolk Life Staff



USPS 098-300

SUFFOLK LIFE

and Suffolk County Life

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton 288-3900 Classified Ads 288-5000
Mailing address: Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977 or Box 167, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

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Letter to the editor

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Att: News Department,

Thank you on behalf of the Centereach Rotary Club, the Senior Citizens of Centereach and Selden, and the Children of St. John the Baptist. Your article in which we requested toys for the needy was indeed a success. The generosity of our neighbors in Suffolk was a pleasant surprise.

I would also like to thank Mary Bonsignore of the Senior Citizens' Center and Fred MacGuinness of St. John the Baptist for all their help.

Once again, thank you for all your help.

Patrick F. Gleason,
President,
Centereach Rentals, Inc.

They Have No Choice

We receive more complaints here at Suffolk Life about Long Island Lighting Company's fuel adjustments than any other single aspect of LILCO's operation, including their continuing nuclear program. Every time the bills come out and people see the adjustment figure increasing, our

LILCO has no choice but to pass along the higher cost of fuel oil to its customers. According to Ira Freilich, vice president of LILCO, LILCO does not profit from the cost of energy. They do not add on to or markup this cost. The corporation itself does not profit from the fuel adjustments. As LILCO is forced to pay more on the open market for fuel oil which is burned to generate electricity, it must pass this additional cost on to consumers. If it didn't, it would be out of business and we would be without electricity.

In a recent conversation we had with Freilich, he indicated he understands the anxiety of LILCO customers. He is frustrated that LILCO can't do anything to ease the burden. He recommended the traditional conservation measures and pleaded for the public's understanding in LILCO's efforts at conversion of its oil-fired plants to

coal. In discussing the creation of a coal-fired plant at Jamesport, Freilich said he feared that the corporation would meet with the same adverse reaction as when nuclear was proposed. We told him we felt the public would have an open mind.

If LILCO was to use the modern technology that has been developed to eliminate pollutants, a coal-fired plant might be acceptable. The corporation would, though, have to convince and demonstrate to the public, in common sense language, that it was using the best in technology and would make a conscious effort to meet the economic and energy needs of the area as feasibly as it could. As petroleum costs continue to skyrocket, coal becomes more of a palatable alternative, one that should not be automatically rejected. The energy cost on Long Island is a prime reason why new industries are reluctant to settle here and why residents are being forced to leave. As the cost of fuel continually accelerates, we believe LILCO will find less and less opposition except from the radical hard-core environmentalists who put the needs of people last.

And why not?

Is It Need Or Greed?

A few weeks ago we editorialized about the need for municipal unions and government representatives to make their demands known at the start of negotiations for a new contract. This editorial was prompted by leaked information concerning the Riverhead Town Police negotiations over its contract.

Last week we were given an actual copy of the uniformed officers' initial demands and the town's counter-offer. We also were given a breakdown on current wages and benefits.

In the Town of Riverhead the average person makes under \$10 per hour. He or she works an average of forty hours per week, receiving two weeks' vacation, one week in holidays and, on an average, a week off for sickness and personal reasons.

The police, on the other hand, average better than \$22,000 annually in base salary plus an additional \$22,000 annually in paid benefits. When shift differentials, vacations, holidays, sick time, personal days and bereavement benefits are calculated, the police work a total of 1,099 hours per year or an average of 21 hours per week on a 52-week basis. When this is divided into the average salary plus benefits the police end up receiving from the town better than \$40 per hour, four times the average earned by the community.

You would think there would be little left for them to negotiate for, but their list of demands covers four pages. After we had read their demands we were left with a feeling

we should hire someone to protect us from the police.

It's obvious that public employees feel there is no bottom to the barrel. The people have limited resources and should not be asked to fund unrealistic labor negotiations. We believe that public employees, whether they be laborers or professionals, deserve a fair income, an income that is within the range of the rest of the community and the community's ability to pay.

The difference in the job being performed should certainly be taken into consideration. The professionalism or training that is required also should be compensated for. We question, however, whether we are receiving a fair shake when

policemen currently are receiving four times the average family's income, and still can come up with a list of demands which include working even fewer hours, higher pay and benefits that are beyond the realm of reality.

The Riverhead Police negotiations have broken down and are headed for arbitration. There is a thought

amongst the members of the town board any benefits that exceed the offers made by the town will have to be financed through the elimination of positions on the police force. This is a serious step, but one that may have to be taken if the arbitrator's award is beyond the community's ability to pay.

And why not?

East End Forgotten Again

The membership of the Bi-Partisan Legislative Reapportionment Committee has been announced. There is not one representative on it from the East End.

The legislative districts on the East End are a horrendous gerrymandered mess. Although we did not expect the Democrats or the Republicans to put a majority of East Enders on the reapportionment committee, we did

feel that both parties would have enough common sense to appoint someone from the North and South Forks.

Where the parties themselves have not seen fit to choose members from the East End, the county executive should appoint two independents to represent these distinct portions of Suffolk County.

And why not?

Peace On Earth

Christmas 1980 is upon us and with it will come that wonderous spirit of peace and good will that prevails during the holiday season. Somehow many of our problems seem diminished by the bright, glittering lights of holiday decorations, and the words of friendship that are offered more often at this time of year than any other.

It is fitting that such a spirit should reign at this time of year, the day Christians celebrate the birth of God's gift to the world, His Son, the Redeemer, the promised Messiah. This magnificent gift gave us a message as brilliant as the light of the

North Star: peace, love and fulfillment. If we could only remember that message -- and live it in our lives -- throughout the rest of the year, what a wonderful world we would have.

Peace on earth, good will toward men. What a creed to live by, to foster in our hearts, to promote in our dealings with our fellow man. All our days would be blessed if this could come to pass.

All of us here at Suffolk Life wish you, our faithful readers, a happy and meaningful Christmas.

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

"Political pollution"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

It was with a great deal of interest that I read your editorial of Dec. 3 concerning "political pollution." For many years Babylon Town suffered from the same malady. However, in recent years the town's Republican candidates have refrained from using political signs and posters. We have called on our Democratic counterparts to do likewise.

The results have been impressive. If you don't put a campaign sign up you don't have

to worry about taking it down. Additionally, it always has been our contention in Babylon that no candidate was ever elected because he or she plastered signs on poles, trestles or nailed them to trees. In fact, studies have shown that signs such as these have a negative impact on voters. If you are constantly assailed with four-by-eight foot day-glow signs, while on your way to work or out for a walk, you start to become a little annoyed.

Here in the Babylon Republican organization we strongly believe political signs actually serve two purposes only. They make the candidate feel snug and secure, and they make his opponent nervous and edgy.

We think it's time that politicians (and I work for many of them) realize that in addition to groundwater pollution and air pollution, there also is visual pollution.

While we don't have a written law in Babylon concerning these eyesores, the understanding between Republican and Democratic organizations has been effective. For instance, during the past election we counted a total of six political signs in Babylon Town.

To candidates elsewhere: don't despair. If you're doing a good job the people will know. If you're doing a lousy job the people will know that as well. But you're not going to get elected or re-elected because you nailed the most posters to the most trees.

Yours truly,
Tim Ryan
Campaign Chairman
Babylon Town GOP

USPS 098-300

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 20 NO. 21

and Suffolk County Life
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Controls Don't Work

After the recent shooting of John Lennon, gun control advocates again raised their voices demanding new controls be placed on owners of guns. New York State has one of the most restrictive handgun laws in the nation. New York City has an even more restrictive set of regulations, yet it was in New York City that John Lennon was shot to death.

The gun had been purchased legally in Hawaii and brought into this state. There literally are hundreds of thousands of illegal handguns in existence, many owned by normal, law abiding citizens. Some have been given to them while others have been purchased.

These gun owners are knowingly breaking the law, but feel it is too much of a hassle to go through the lengthy process required to legally register their handgun. Others do not want Big Brother to know they have a firearm in their possession. You can rest assured the criminal element has not bothered to register their firearms; all the laws in the world will not compel them to do so, nor will it keep guns out of their hands.

As our society has changed and the police become less and less effective in protecting residents and their property, more sane thinking in-

dividuals are arming to protect themselves against the elements of society that society can't provide the protection against. There is not a community we know of that is free from crime. Almost every neighborhood has had instances of burglaries. The police seem to be powerless and because of this an increasingly large number of homeowners are attempting to protect themselves by buying handguns. More people in the coming years will do the same.

The red tape should be cut and the system simplified for legally obtaining a permit. Permit holders should be required to take professional instruction on how to safely handle a firearm. We also would like to see mandatory, long-term no-parole laws enacted for anyone who uses a firearm in the commission of a crime.

If such laws were enacted there would be fewer guns used in the commission of crimes. It is the American citizens' right to bear arms and to protect his own and his family's lives and possessions, particularly when organized society is incapable of offering uniform protection.

And why not?

1981 Is The One

Most Americans will have few regrets on seeing 1980 slip into oblivion. Economically we have faced an incredibly tough year. While most individuals and businesses watched their earnings remain stagnant, their buying power severely was eroded by increasing taxation and double-digit inflation.

We are extremely optimistic that in 1981 we will see a reversal. We expect our new President and the new Congress to face the economic inflationary crisis bravely, using tried and true, basic capitalistic principles to harness this condition.

1981 will not be an easy year. It will not be the type of year you can sit back and relax. For those with vision, a spirit of competitiveness and a true desire to prosper it can and will be a

year of greatness. Opportunities abound in every crisis. To harvest these opportunities you only have to find the solution. The solution is simple and it will require a commitment to hard work, a commitment of your energies and your emotions. The weak amongst our society who continually have taken and given little in return will falter. The strong who consistently have produced will grow. Most Americans given the opportunity will use all facilities they have available to gain for themselves the profits they deserve.

We hope each of our readers in 1981 will approach the year with the optimism that we feel and the commitment to get this country back on its feet once again.

And why not?

Don't Blame Your Boss

When you receive your paycheck next week don't blame your boss for cutting your take-home pay. Social security taxes have gone up again on both your portion and his.

You now will be paying social security at the rate of 6.65 percent, and your boss must match it by the same amount. Social security taxes were up eight percent plus the maximum on which your pay has been raised to almost \$30,000. More than 13 percent of what your boss pays you is going to fund social security. This means that during the month of January and into February, you will work for nothing more than social security.

Contrary to popular belief, you are not putting one cent away for your

own old age. The money taken out of your paycheck now is being used to pay benefits to those who currently are receiving social security.

According to most reports we have read dealing with social security, unless mammoth changes are made in the entire system the whole social security system will be defunct before most of us are eligible to receive a dime.

The funding of social security as well as payments will have to be drastically revised in order for the system to survive in the future. This is just one of the major tasks ahead of our new President and the new Congress.

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

"Is Shinnecock next?"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Is Shinnecock next? Maybe it should be. It's about time we realize that barrier beaches should be left unpaved, unfortified, unstabilized, and mostly, unoccupied. Anyone who knows anything about coastal geology understands that a sandy coastline is normal when it is in a constant state of flux. Dunes, beaches, and inlets all change in response to wind and water. If sand is carried from one place it has to wind up somewhere else. You call the widening of Moriches Inlet a "disaster" and talk about Mother Nature's "fury." If you want to see disaster look into the history of what the (Army) Corps of Engineers has done to the New Jersey coastline with their seawalls, groins and jetties. If you want to see fury, talk to people who remember some of those beautiful and delicate coastal areas before they became the "fortresses" you call for.

I sympathize with the fisherman who has to wait for low tide to bring in his heavily laden boat, but maybe the county, state and federal governments should not spend \$11 million to repair Moriches, but to help fishermen develop adaptive technology. Should we destroy the natural state of our coastline for the convenience of commerce or recreation? Should taxpayers support the protection of privately owned oceanfront dwellings that only serve to alter the natural evolution of

barrier beaches and often contribute to the washouts?

Let us end private ownership of these areas and allow Mother or Father Nature to have his-her own way. Let those of us who love the barrier beaches (for what they are) learn to adapt to nature's needs and gain access to these areas with minimal disturbance to the geology, flora and fauna. Let us spend our tax dollars on conservation so our children's children won't have to consult history books to learn about beaches and sand dunes.

By the way, they've already begun dropping mammoth boulders into the "fortification" project at Shinnecock. The Army's war against Nature goes on. When will they learn?

Sincerely disappointed,
Kenneth C. Rice
Lake Grove

Editor's Note: Maybe you would feel different if you lived or worked on or near the beach. The barrier beach must be maintained for the protection of the mainland. The inlets must be kept open to protect the salinity of the bay. Allow them to close and the shellfish die. The earth might be a better place without humans, but the fact is humans are the highest form in the ecological chain and their needs come first.

"An open thank you"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

This is an open thank you to the Riverhead Fire Department.

The swift response of the Riverhead Fire Department was unbelievable. I placed a call at 3:12 a.m. Wednesday morning. By 3:30 the blazing barn a few feet from a wood house was under control.

I might add that the sight of the flames and the hot sparks flying everywhere sent panic through me. Even though I had the fire department number inside my cabinet, I could not think clearly. Thank God I thought of 911 (I could have dialed Operator). However, I'm making a suggestion that everyone place the fire department number right on their telephone or under.

I also would like to thank God for the

dedicated men of the Riverhead Fire Department. From my home I could see 50 or 100 men working swiftly getting the blaze and the thousands and thousands of hot sparks flying everywhere under control within 15 minutes of my call. Then there was deep black smoke they had to endure hosing down the whole area.

It was 5:30 a.m. before they were able to leave the scene.

I personally would like to thank each and every volunteer fireman and congratulate them in their efficiency and team work.

Thank you,
Anne Heinz
P.S. Thanks to my daughter and son-in-law, Carole and Al Hubbard, who immediately came to see that I was okay.

"He is a fatherless boy"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

There is a child in Hampton Bays who needs an adult friend. He is a fatherless boy. He wants to share a few hours a week with a man who will be his special friend. There is a man out there who would enjoy providing companionship and guidance for this boy.

To get started before the holidays, call Kids In Need at 324-6968.

Sincerely,
Peter Berger, Director
Kids In Need
East Hampton

USPS 098-300

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