

Willmotts and Why-Nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

They're Gonna Kill Somebody!

The lethal cloud that spread over 25 square miles of the city of Bhopal, India—spreading death and serious injury in its path—resulted from an "unprecedented" mishap at a Union Carbide pesticide plant that had reportedly produced the poisonous gas for 25 years without an accident. The fact that this was a first-time occurrence will be little solace to the people who have suffered so horribly. Late last week the death count was at 1,600 and rising, and there were estimates of as many as 200,000 people who were affected by the gas, and fears that 20,000 of that number may suffer serious aftereffects. Many of the injured have been blinded, some may remain permanently so.

Another disaster "without precedent" occurred earlier in Mexico City, where the death count has risen to 452, with reports of another 4,248 injured, some still in critical condition. That unprecedented tragedy resulted from a series of explosions at a liquid petroleum gas storage and distribution site. More than 31,000 people were forced from their homes, and 88 dwellings housing 170 families were destroyed, according to published reports.

Meanwhile, back here on Long Island, the Long Island Lighting Company is proceeding with its request to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to hold a "paper drill" on evacuation from a possible mishap at the Shoreham nuclear power facility. Approval of LILCO's own evacuation plan, which will make use of utility employees in the event of an accident to direct and control traffic fleeing the area, is necessary if Shoreham is to be permitted to go on line.

The paper drill requested by LILCO will not involve the general public. It will deal with a pre-scheduled "incident" for which all those to be involved will be prepared. It will deal with com-

munications, and possible movement of buses on roads that will not carry the heavy traffic that will result from an actual emergency and exodus of frightened people from the threatened area.

One of LILCO's strongest "put the plant on line" proponents, William Sexton, a former Newsday editor who is now a columnist for that publication, took a ride on a bus during a recent emergency drill at Indian Point III. He wrote a glowing account of that experience, citing the seriousness in which the participants played the game.

He told how the driver of his bus kept pulling over to the side of the road to take measurements of radiation, and noted that "in a real emergency they'd tell" the bus driver "when it was no longer safe to remain in the area." They didn't have that problem because they were part of a game—there was no radiation. Sexton didn't say, however, what the driver would have done if the dosimeter had registered at the danger point. Would he have turned tail and fled? To where? What if the dosimeter read danger before he picked up the students he was to evacuate?

Sexton told of heading "... off down a back road well away from the predictable traffic jams on main highways." Could it be that other drivers, in an actual emergency, would do the same, and that back road would suffer its own traffic jam? What then? We'll never know, of course, because it was only a game. We'll never know until the real thing, and then it will be too late!

That back road journey, by the way, by Sexton's admission went like this: "For at least 10 miles the school bus wound through the wilds of Harriman State Park on a twisting, narrow road, struggling over the hills." Have you ever been on such a road, with a slow moving truck in front of you? We

have. It's no fun during normal times. During an evacuation it would be pure horror.

Sexton went on to preach that a nuclear emergency develops very slowly. Based on what experience? From a drill? Where the severity of an accident depends upon the kind that is part of the game? Paper drills are nothing more than a game, played the way the participants make up the rules, not in keeping with reality. "What Three Mile Island lacked was advance thought," Sexton noted, trying to convince his readers that the game he participated in proved that evacuation—without cars and people and reality—is a snap. What Three Mile Island lacked, actually, was the advance notice that is given when we play evacuation games.

Accidents have a way of happening at the worst possible times. Like the early hours of a morning. And in bad weather. Sexton admitted to one "glitch" in the game: fog that grounded a helicopter which Lt. Gov. Alfred DeLoe was to have arrived in. What if that helicopter was to be used to oversee traffic jams, or rescue a sick or injured individual from a crowded roadway? What would have happened in the Indian Point III game if there had been a snowstorm? Would they have simply postponed the game until the weather cleared? Can you postpone an accident the same way?

But, of course, those in our midst who have been staunch nuclear advocates—to eliminate our dependence on foreign oil and to bolster the nuclear industry—will say: "The chances of an accident happening are so minute we need not worry."

Did the people in India and Mexico have reason to worry? Are they suffering the horror of those accidents any less because their accidents were "unprecedented"? A nuclear accident has already happened at TMI. It's no longer unprecedented. The

only question now is how serious the next accident will be. And when and where it will happen.

Two recent comments by members of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, an NRC affiliated group which studies the nuclear scene and advises the NRC, recently had this to say in a letter to James K. Asselstine, an NRC commissioner:

David Ward, acting chairman of that Advisory Committee:

"In conclusion, and as an essentially intuitive judgement, we would consider it reasonable to suppose that, with our present (and proposed) program and a population of 100 reactors, the probability of a core-degrading accident between now and the end of the century may lie in the neighborhood of one in ten—within a factor of a few either way. Whether this should be phrased as "unlikely," or "not highly likely," or just how, we must leave to you."

ACRS member David Okrent: "... in view of factors such as the considerable number of plants designed before 1970, the frequency with which the NRC best estimate of core melt frequency for existing full-scale PRAs exceeds one in ten thousands per reactor year, and the fact that even the better PRAs are incomplete, my own intuitive judgement is somewhat more pessimistic than that given by the ACRS, say by a factor of about 3. I would say that a core melt accident by the year 2000 is not unlikely."

With a core melt accident "not unlikely" by the turn of the century, if the NRC, and LILCO, and other federal agencies continue to play paper evacuation games without the actual experience of reality, they're going to kill somebody.

We can only hope the casualty figures don't climb as high as are those in India and Mexico City. We hope the site isn't Long Island!

And why not?

Response Great - Need More Imperative

"The Group" has come together again this year to open their wallets and their hearts wide, but the need has grown beyond our ability to fund.

We have been contacted by more people than we had anticipated who know of families who have suffered unforeseen tragedies. As a result these families, and the children who are a part of them, face a very bleak Christmas.

"The Group" is a loosely organized group of people who three years ago decided to try to help people who for reasons beyond their control would not be able to give their families a happy Christmas. People who had been working, but suffered a tragedy that left them without income. These are the people whom the safety net provided by government and regular organizations seems unable to help.

In the past, we have provided Christmas for families whose breadwinners were involved in

accidents, suffered illnesses and such that stopped the income from coming into the family.

We had a set budget for this year which we felt we could optimistically reach through the help of individuals who had supported The Group in the past. Almost everybody who has generously supported The Group's efforts in the past has come through. But we have learned of several other families facing problems that cry out for attention. To make a Christmas for these families, we need help; to put aside the troubles of life for just one happy day, we need donations.

Donations given to The Group are not tax deductible. They are given from the heart because people care, and subscribe to the old Irish saying: "There but for the grace of God, go I."

If you would like to be a part of this activity, to help others less fortunate than we, to know that so-

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NEWSPAPERS and Suffolk County Life

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Need more imperative...

Cont. from page 3

meone cares, that they are not alone to carry the burdens of life especially at this very special time of year, please donate what you can. Every penny collected is spent on these families for clothing, food and toys for the children.

For the members of The Group who have participated in previous years, Christmas Day has had a special new meaning just in the knowledge that they have been able to help in some small way for someone else to have a merrier

Christmas.

Time is short. We have volunteers who will do the shopping, the wrapping and the delivering. But we need funds to take care of the many new circumstances we have been made aware of.

If you would like to join "The Group," send what you can. It will be spent frugally and sensibly to help some of those who are in real need. The address is "The Group," c/o Suffolk Life, Box 262, Westhampton, N.Y. 11977.

And why not?

Readers' Opinion

"It has been an uphill battle"

Dear Mr. Grasso:

It has been the concern of many members of the community over the last several years to see that the stores known as the North Shirley Shopping Center on Moriches-Middle Island Road, Manor Park, Manorville, New York, be kept presentable.

We feel as though it has been an uphill battle. Two years ago, together with the help of our neighbor, we submitted a petition to the town with almost 200 names on it. We made requests to get the area cleaned up, fenced, patrolled and generally cared for.

All we got out of this petition were some traffic signs despite all of the efforts of the town. It seemed impossible to get anywhere with the promises of Mr. Montanez, the owner. He was to have had fencing, landscaping, keep the back clean as well as keep the kids from loitering. The list goes on.

Now the owner wants to build new stores on the east side of the existing stores. He has recently been sent a Notice of Violation from the Town of Brookhaven for no Certificate of Occupancy, no fence, litter, pot-holes and signs without permit numbers

displayed.

We don't understand how he can continue to step all over the residents and the town by now submitting requests for parking requirements for the new stores when he never resolved the problems of the existing stores. This abuse has got to stop. We have nothing against a person being in business but he should care for his property and have pride in it.

We now appeal to the residents, the people of Manor Park, North Shirley, East Yaphank and Manorville. Come to the variance hearing on Wednesday, December 12, 1984 at 4 p.m. It is at the Saxton Street School, Saxton Street, Patchogue, New York. Show Mr. Montanez that we do care about our environment for ourselves and our children. His neglectful attitude affects us all.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. We also thank the people of the community for their attention and look forward to seeing them at the hearing.

Sincerely,
Jan G. Trude
Constance Trude
Manor Park, Mastic

"NRC... should be taught some ABC's?"

Dear Editor:

When I was in my electronic courses in high school and college there always was primary emphasis on "Safety First" and the rule of the day was as easy as ABC (Always Be Carefull!).

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission must have a different set of rules as exemplified by the recent NRC panel decision that recommended low power testing of the Shoreham nuclear power plant without the normal backup generators in place. The panel even admits that the economic condition of LILCO played a most important part

in the decision to recommend the testing and that the margin of safety is less than would be the case if normal standards were met. Seems to me the NRC rule is EBS (Economics Before Safety).

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is short circuiting the regulatory process and in so doing is jeopardizing the people of Long Island.

Maybe the NRC should be taught some ABC's?

Michael T. Girardo
Centereach

"A plea for animals"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I want to thank you for your editorial "A Plea for Animals" in your November 14 issue. Suffolk Life, your newspaper, is the first to take a clear stand on this problem that has existed for over 10 years. The Hampton Animal Shelter must be closed down as they have proved that they are not capable, and animals should not be subjected to their lack of care and compassion.

I cannot understand, for over the many years each time their case is scheduled in court it is postponed and eventually cancelled.

Please keep on top of this and let's all help to have this horror story finished with. Very truly yours,
William Sampson
Amagansett

THIS WINTER DONT LEAVE YOUR DOG OUTSIDETO FREEZE.. BRING'EM INSIDE.



J.R.W.

Sir:

Please consider printing this cartoon. Perhaps some child will remind its parents that their dog is outside during a storm. "From the mouths of babes..."

Even if the young are not the composition of your readers, one picture is worth a thousand words and may cause

some neglected and forgotten animals to be brought in.
Grateful,
Mrs. Winfield

P.S. Where are the pound dogs' pictures you were kind enough to print before? Don't stop please.

"We can't take anymore people"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

"A Painful Psychological... Decision," is a good caption for the letter about abortion in last week's paper. I agree with the letter, except for the simple answer to such a complex question.

I can make an answer even simpler: It isn't scientific, philosophical or theological; simply, we can't take any more people.

Born in Suffolk County when it had less than 200,000 thousand people, and to watch helplessly while it grew to almost 1 1/2

million, makes me see quite clearly the problems of too many people.

The bottom line, to many "complex" questions, such as drunk driving, zoning conflicts, garbage, water pollution, aliens crossing the border, leaded gas and many others is too many people. Those in favor of abortion are at least taking a personally responsible position which I applaud.

Yours very sincerely,
Stanley Poole
East Marion

"The proclivities of a rapist"

To the Editor:

The Long Island Lighting Company has exhibited the proclivities of a rapist, bent on having its way with the consumer.

If there is any legal way to prevent it, allowing this entity to remain at large in Suffolk County would be a big mistake.

Section 360 of the General Municipal Laws of New York State authorizes any municipality to TAKE BACK the franchise, granted to a private utility, for the establish-

ment of a municipal power system. Under Section 360, the utility MUST sell its equipment to the municipality.

The county is on solid ground. LILCO is skating on thin ice. Suffolk County should pursue the people's power project with pride.

Yours truly,
B. Hoyer
Shelster Island

"The flurry of concern and love"

Dear David,

Your editorial, "A Plea for Animals," speaks of the flurry of concern and love for animals and charges of overcrowding and the condition of health of those animals at the Hampton Animal Shelter.

Will all those who are concerned for the animals' well being offer their support in any way they can to help overcome the pro-

blem?

What is needed? Financial help? More personnel? Administrative assistance? Spaying facilities or assistance? Additional training? Building repair help? Building maintenance funds?

Do you know how difficult it is to refuse an animal?
Concerned

"Would like to thank everyone"

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Mattituck High School Student Council, I would like to thank everyone in the community who participated in our fasting luncheon on Monday, November 19. We are especially grateful to the Mattituck-Cutchogue Clergy Association and to the various churches on the North Fork for their support. We were honored to have Supervisor Murphy and so many members of the clergy as our guests at the luncheon. Most importantly, we wish to

thank Mr. Al Hirschberger of Statewide School lunches who so generously donated half of the day's receipts to our drive to aid the victims of the drought in Ethiopia. We are sending a check for \$400 to the Save the Children Foundation as part of our ongoing effort to relieve the problems of hunger both locally and worldwide.

Sincerely,
Renee Chituk
President
Mattituck High School Student Council

Willmotts and Why-Nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

The Meaning of Christmas

With all the glitter and hype associated with the commercialism of Christmas, it may be hard to remember the true meaning of this joyous holiday.

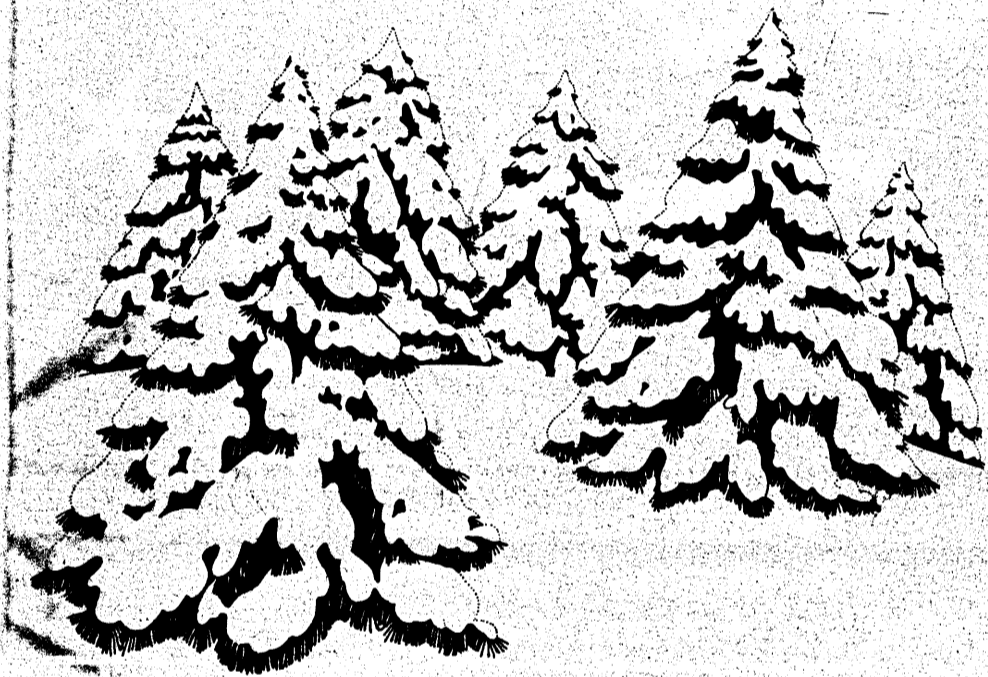
Christmas marks the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of our Lord. Those of us who practice Christian faiths believe that by God giving us His Son in the form of mortal man, born to a humble virgin in a stable in Bethlehem, the gates of heaven were opened for our souls to pass through at the end of our time.

Anyone who is a parent and

feels the deep love we have for our children would be hard pressed to give to other humans the physical life of our child, particularly knowing beforehand the death of that person will result. Yet, this is the love that God has for us and we should have for him.

Put aside on this Christmas day a bit of time to meditate and think about how generous a God we have. How wonderful He has been to all of us. Rejoice with your friends and family. Celebrate the birth of Christ, life eternal.

And why not?



Merry Christmas

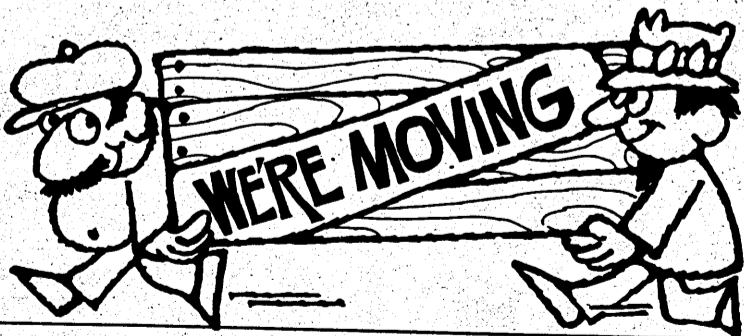
As this year winds down, we would like to wish all our readers a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

All of us here at Suffolk Life thank you, our readers and our advertisers, for your support,

your loyalty. We consider it a privilege to publish Suffolk Life for you and hope to do even a better job in our new home this coming year.

Peace.

And why not?



NEW LOCATION AND PHONE NUMBERS

1461 Old Country Rd. (Route 58)
Riverhead, N.Y. 11901-2026

Main & General
Office
369-0800

News
Office
369-0810

Classified
Office
369-0820



From
the Staff
of Suffolk Life

Chanukah 1984

By SHARMAN GORDON

"Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe Who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah lights..."

On December 18, or the 25th day of Kislev in the Jewish calendar, free Jews all over the world will be reciting the blessing above in Hebrew, and lighting the Chanukah candles. The first night only two candles are lit; three the second day, four are lit the third day, and so on until the eighth day, when all nine candles in the Chanukah menorah are aglow. Families gather together and retell the story of Chanukah, as have generations before, to their little ones.

In the year 332 B.C.E., Alexander the Great established the city of Alexandria in Egypt, and welcomed the Jews living in Judea to settle there. There is evidence that at that time over two-hundred fifty thousand Jews settled in Alexandria, enjoying the equal rights and opportunities afforded all citizens.

After Alexander the Great's death, his large kingdom was divided into four smaller ones. For over a hundred years two of them, Syria and Egypt, battled; Palestine serving as a land bridge between them. The war ended, leaving Syria the victor; and Palestine its possession.

In 175 B.C.E., Antiochus

Epiphanes IV became the ruler of Syria. His ambition to "rule the world" sent him on military maneuvers against Egypt. On his return trip to Antioch, his headquarters, Antiochus issued a decree that all the Jews were to suspend their worship in the Temple, and demonstratively break their religious laws and practices. The faithful who did not obey

perished, repeating the words of David the Psalmist, "Many are the afflictions of the just."

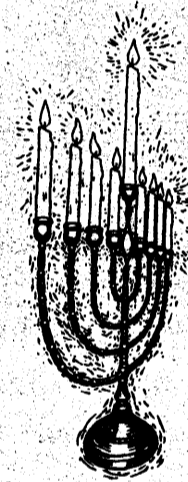
Those who escaped death, fled to the hills and mountains, living the life of fugitives. In the meantime, the Temple was destroyed.

Out of fervent emotionalism was born a militant, puritanical, and patriotic movement that eventually flared into rebellion. Two years later, an official of the king was sent to the town of Modi'in, near Jerusalem, to insure that the decrees were being carried out. He ordered an elderly priest, Mattathias the Hasmonean to worship at his pagan altar. A struggle ensued, leaving one of the king's men dead, and the priest and his family fled to the mountains.

Mattathias and his five sons, Jonathan, Jonanan, Eleazar, Simon, and Judah Maccabee joined with other fugitives and formed a band of guerrilla fighters against the king's soldiers. Under the leadership of Judah Maccabee, they battled successfully against Antiochus' troops, culminating in a final triumph, a battle waged at a town named Emmaus. In 165 B.C.E., they returned to their holy city, to face the enormous task of repurifying the Temple, and ridding it of the Syrian idols.

On the 25th day of the month of Kislev, in 165 B.C.E., Judah Maccabee rededicated the Temple, and

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this decree were to die. On the 15th day of Kislev, in the year 168 B.C.E., Antiochus sent his troops to desecrate the Holy Temple, and dedicate it to his Hellenistic gods.

Thousands were slain rather than forsake their beliefs. A staunch believer named Hannah who refused to deny her faith was called before the king. Her seven young sons were asked to bow before an idol; each refused and was executed. Hannah comforted her youngest before they both

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Suffolk Life on the move: Westhampton to Riverhead

After months and months of planning and even more months of construction work, Suffolk Life is this week making a giant step into the future. We are moving, lock, stock and barrel, from the Westhampton facility which we have outgrown into a spacious new home in the former Great Eastern building located on Route 58 in Riverhead.

For the past few weeks the entire Suffolk Life staff has been sorting out the accumulated material gathered over the years, and boxing that which will move with us. Desks and file cabinets have been marked with the name of the department, color coded so that they can be swiftly routed to their new location in our new home. Because Suffolk Life, traditionally, does not publish during the week between the holidays—we will not be in your homes on December 26—we have a few extra days between deadlines to get our equipment and supplies to our new quarters, and back

up and running. Heavy items and electronic equipment is to be moved today (December 19) along with the boxes and boxes of records and materials that are currently stacked throughout the building.

Our new phone system will be up and running as of today—the list of numbers appears elsewhere in this edition. The installation of our computers for the news and classified departments is underway to take us into a more sophisticated era. Other computers already used will be set up in a new, modern computer room at our new facility.

Two new presses and stackers and circulation equipment are up and running at our new plant. Tests have been underway for the past several weeks in order that the many, many adjustments can be made prior to the actual start of our full production there. Additional new equipment is on its way to further enhance our production system.

The rugs are down, the new furniture is in, the certificate of occupancy has been approved, and we're all set.

Our new facility, which almost triples our working area from that which we've had at Westhampton, will allow Suffolk Life to adequately meet the growth which has been of a tremendous rate in the past two years. As time goes by and new technologies are mastered, Suffolk Life will undergo many changes and much expansion.

This has been a trying time for Suffolk Life staff, meeting the heavy work load demands of the current holiday season, facing tight deadlines, and being involved in our move which requires attention to seemingly endless details. "I can't express enough my admiration and gratitude for the cooperation that each and every member of our staff has given in this very, very busy time," Suffolk Life Publisher and Editor David J. Willmott said this week.

Chanukah . . .

Cont. from page 3

lit the lamps of the menorah. It was decreed that every year, on the same date, Jews were to celebrate Chanukah, the festival of dedication, for eight days. They were to light an additional light each night, recalling the miracle of the oil.

When the priests were preparing for the service of dedication, they could only find one small cruse of unprofaned oil, which would have been sufficient for only one day. It was proclaimed a miracle because instead, it lasted eight days.

Chanukah is a festival of rejoicing, recalling the triumph of the Jewish people in their struggle for freedom with songs and praise and thanksgiving.

In addition to the solemn lighting of the candles, and the singing of tuneful hymns such as "Ma'oz Tzur" (Rock of Ages), American Jewish families enjoy traditional foods such as latkes (potato pancakes), or jelly donuts, which are an Israeli favorite.

According to legend the Chanukah top, or dreidel, was invented during the time of the Maccabee rebellion. On each of the four sides of the tops are letters that stand for "A great miracle happened here." Scholars would be studying the forbidden laws secretly while appearing to be playing a simple, innocent game.

Today, children play with dreidels for pennies, one's luck dependent on what letter falls up!

Some families place an additional unlit menorah out to remember those who are not permitted to celebrate Chanukah or any other Jewish holiday. They designate the "shamash" or candle that lights the others, as "a flame of freedom" to express the hope that next year freedom will come to those Jews.

Many families discuss the meaning of the holiday as it relates to contemporary history and their own identity. Beginning work on a family tree, and discovering family origins can be a holiday activity that is rewarding and fun.

A very contemporary way to enhance the celebration of Chanukah for those video-buffs (mavens?) is the recent introduction of the computer game "Game of the Maccabees." Listed in a Jewish mail order catalog that also featured children's Chanukah books and menorahs, this "exciting arcade-style combat game offers over 100 Chanukah questions. Answer the questions correctly, you get more warriors."

Chanukah recalls the years of struggle against oppression, and the strength of faith that survived despite

many obstacles. As Jewish families light the candles of the menorah, they will be offering their thanks and looking to the future.

NINOW'S

has what you want for Christmas... and at 1982 prices.

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• MUSIC STANDS from \$14.95	• ELECTRIC GUITARS from \$49.00
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• SNARE DRUM KITS from \$59.00	• MICROPHONES from \$18.00
• 3 PC. BEGINNER DRUM outfit \$179.00	• GUITAR STRAPS from \$8.95

NOBODY BEATS OUR PRICES — NOBODY!

NINOW'S

MUSIC STORE OF RIVERHEAD
155 Railroad Ave. OPPOSITE R.R. STATION
727-5595

OPEN SUNDAY TIL CHRISTMAS




Free COLECO CABBAGE PATCH DOLL

will be given at each Mark's Casuals

Winner need not be present to win
BUT
if winner is present in store at time of drawing a

BONUS \$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE
will also be given to be used at Any Mark's Casuals PLUS

Consolation Prizes at each Mark's Casuals Stores of a
\$25.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE
to anyone who is present in the store at time of drawing

Coupon must be presented in store PRIOR TO TIME OF DRAWING
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. 1 winner per family per store.



Drawing will be held Sat Dec 22nd at
3:00 P.M. in Riverhead
4:30 P.M. in Rocky Point
6:00 P.M. in Selden
6:00 P.M. in Hauppauge

ENTRY BLANK

Free COLECO CABBAGE PATCH DOLLS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

mark's CASUALS

213 E. MAIN ST.
RIVERHEAD
369-1002

ROCKY POINT STORE
29 ROCKY POINT RD.
ROCKY POINT
821-2332

253 MIDDLE COUNTRY ROAD
SELDEN PLAZA
(WALDBAUM'S SHOPPING CTR.)
698-9253

591 NESCONSET HWY.
HAUPPAUGE
(ACROSS FROM YELLOW TOP FARM CORNER OF PLEASANT RD.)
360-3345



Ninety-seven percent of the earth's waters are in the oceans.