

## Group Rentals

In the coming weeks real estate agents along the South Fork will be deluged with young people searching for summer rentals. These youngsters will approach the agents in ones and twos with the story that they, and one or two friends, are looking for a summer place. Once the leases have been signed these "one or two friends" often grow into hundreds who are more than happy to pay their halves, quarters, twentieths and even hundredths of their share for a place in the sun.

This problem, once isolated primarily on the South Fork, has now spread to Brookhaven where college students are grouping together and renting off-campus houses for living quarters. Southampton and Brookhaven have adequate laws on the books to cope with the problems associated with group renting. Trying desperately to come up with new laws that they hope will be cure-alls. Town and village leaders fail to look at the root of the problem, preferring to make fanfare out of the issue without coming up with workable solutions.

The root of the problem is not the fact that young people want to band together to rent homes but their behaviour once they are in them. We doubt that there are many who object to group rentals provided the groupers behave themselves. It is their boorish and noisy behaviour that produces the complaints.

Both towns have ordinances to control sanitary conditions, noise, rowdiness, parking, intoxication and general conditions that disturb the peace. If these laws are enforced on a wholesale basis, with maximum penalties handed down for violations, the problems associated with group rentals could be controlled. Once groupers are made to know that they will obey the letter of the law or suffer the consequences they will either shape up or find greener pastures. No one can object to those who respect the rights of others.

Within the next few days, not months, the town fathers should get together and determine the objections that area residents have made with respect to groups. They then must determine what laws cover these violations and, if the laws are not adequate, they must beef them up. They then should announce that violations of these ordinances will be dealt with harshly. They should call a press conference of the major New York news media, that have given such wide-

spread coverage to the group rental situation on Long Island, and let it be known that it will be a different ball game in the Hamptons this year. If they get this idea across strongly enough, potential troublemakers will think twice before making plans to come out here. Lastly, we must have the necessary police to cope with the problem and they must be backed to the hilt by every resident.

If we do these things we will not have a summer like the last one. We will have an area where all can live together in mutual respect. Well-behaved groupers are an asset to our area. Many of them return later with wives and children as useful and productive citizens. It is the rowdies who must be controlled. The time is now-not next summer when the problem is with us again. And why not?

## First Class Farce

Suffolk County's new form of government, the county legislature, has turned out to be a farce as far as representing the people is concerned. The eighteen men, representing equal population districts, are supposed to give the people better communication with government and, to bring government closer to the people. First indications are that this is not true and we doubt that things are going to get better.

Suffolk County government is being run out of back rooms, mostly at county Republican headquarters in Blue Point. Here is where the committees meet in private and decide the fate of the county. The entire board meets in executive session which is closed to the public, thus the public is denied the benefits of weighing the pros and cons of open discussion. Then, because it is required by law, the legislature presents itself to the public and reads off its predetermined decisions on matters and then stuffs these decisions down our throats, like it or leave it.

This is democracy in action in Suffolk County. This is what the people of Suffolk County will pay \$200,000. plus expenses for during the coming year.

cont. page 4

## SUFFOLK LIFE

Published in five editions weekly. Total circulation audited and verified to be in excess of 44,000.

Controlled circulation postage paid at Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

**S.W. ADVERTISING SERVICE, PUBLISHER**

**DAVID J. WILLMOTT, EDITOR & ADV. MGR.**

SHERMAN B. CHACE, SALES MANAGER

JOHN MCKAY, PRODUCTION MANAGER

J. CORWIN, H. FRANCKE, P. SMITH, S. JONES

PHOTOGRAPHERS

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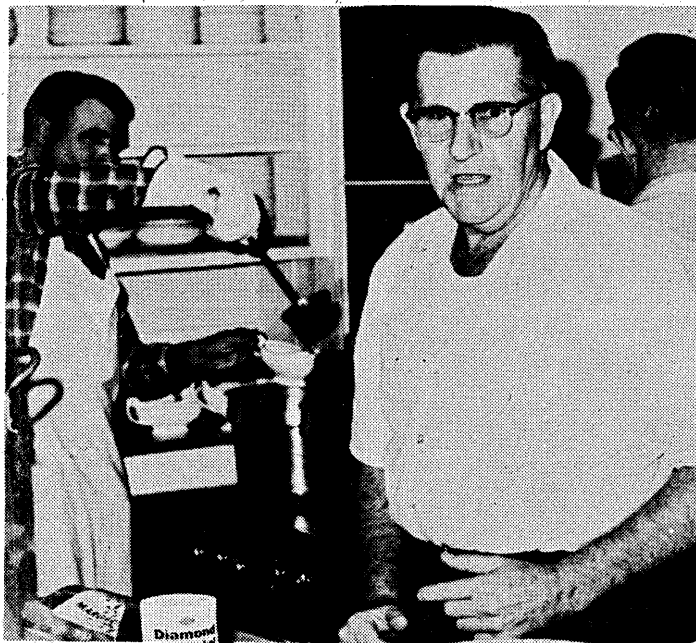
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### SOUTHOLD METHODIST CHURCH SUPPER

The Southold Methodist church held their annual church supper sale January 29th. This was sponsored by the Men's Brotherhood of the congregation. Over 200 people took advantage of a good roast beef supper served at 6 and 7 o'clock. The men did all the work except the baking of pies.



Lou Barnett is the working chairman of the Brotherhood Dinner. cont. on page 8/12

# LAST DAYS

## mid-winter clearance fine women's shoes

30 JOBS LANE, SOUTHAMPTON

(Opp. Parrish Museum) . . . . AT 3 - 2450

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## WENDY FABRIC SHOP

RIVERHEAD SHOPPING PLAZA

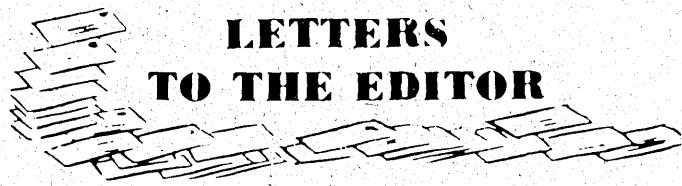
RTE. 58 PA 7-3525

### EDITORIAL from page 3

What makes this situation even harder to swallow is the fact that five of the eighteen members are supposedly conservatives. We believe that they were elected by people who were tired of the political shenanigans of the two major parties; yet we find that they have entered, lock, stock and barrel, into this conspiracy to lock out the public from their government. We had all hoped they would be able to have some influence on the development of Suffolk County. At the outset we don't see it.

It now seems that the county belongs to Buzz Schwenck, the county political boss, and the other power brokers in Suffolk. They will stay in power and run Suffolk as they see fit as long as the people of Suffolk remain apathetic and willing to suffer the consequences. And why not?

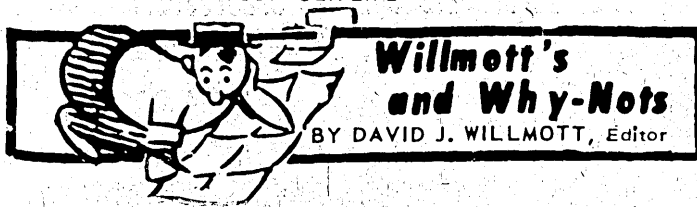
## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Mr. Willmott:

Suffolk County has a greater population than several of our States, perhaps after 287 years our County Government needs

cont. page 16/20



## Oil Refinery Applies

Two weeks ago, residents of the east end were treated to the happy news that major oil companies were exploring for oil off the shore of Long Island, in fact within twenty miles of Montauk. This past week, at an elaborate press conference in the Perkins Hotel in Riverhead, a New York City based firm called Fuel Desulphurization, Inc. revealed plans to construct a huge oil refining plant (they preferred to call it a "processing" plant) for the town of Riverhead.

The plant would be located on the picturesque north fork in the hamlet of Northville just east of the area blighted by the ugly Northville Dock tanks and west of the infamous erosion-producing sand and gravel operation on the Levon properties. The proposed plant will be worth an estimated \$150,000,000 upon completion which could be by 1972 if time schedules are met. The plant would occupy approximately 440 acres of land. It is claimed that the plant would employ from 250 to 300 persons with an average pay scale from \$12,000 to \$18,000 per year. According to David E. Scoll, President of Fuel Desulphurization, Inc., total annual payroll would be in excess of \$3,000,000.

There are many unanswered questions pertaining to the operations of this plant. Purportedly, the plant will aid in the pollution control effort by removing sulphur from residual fuel oil. This is the type of fuel used by hospitals, utilities, factories, schools and other heavy fuel users. The firm claims that it will import up to 1,000,000 barrels which is 3,150,000 gallons of oil a day and remove about 200 tons of sulphur a day in "processing". Residual products from this "processing" will be gasoline, jet fuel, kerosene and No. 2 fuel oil. They propose to use 2,900,000 gallons of fresh water daily which is about 1/7th of Suffolk's total industrial commercial usage. They will also use a like amount of salt water, pumped from the Sound, to cool their plant and then return this water to the Sound in a thermal condition. The oil to be "processed" would be pumped in from the Sound, from super-tankers, through a pipeline and loading platform located about three to five miles offshore. The sulphur, once removed, will be converted into about 500 tons per day of sulphuric acid.

This plant, despite all of the assurance concerning the latest safeguards, modern equipment and knowledgeable manpower, will have the capability of poll-

uting our air, depleting our fresh water to a critical level, polluting Long Island Sound with thermal water and/or spilled oil and just simply befouling the beautiful North Fork. This plant does not fit in with any master plan for the area. Those, who favor industry for the east end have always been careful to spell out the type of industry that is best for our area. Fuel Desulphurization, Inc. is NOT that kind of industry.

The spokesmen for this proposed project were vague in the way they answered questions at the press conference we attended. We were left with the feeling that they were withholding facts from the press. When we asked whether the firm would post a substantial bond to insure the town against contamination and fulfillment of promises, Mr. Scoll hedged and indicated, by his vagueness, that they would not.

Inasmuch as this type of operation does not fit in with the master plan for the Town of Riverhead, that is enough to deny the petition that it filed with the Town Board of Riverhead to rezone the land it wishes to use. We think we know the feelings of the great majority of residents concerning this type of industry and land usage. We know that they are well aware of the threat that such industry poses to our environment. They know the dangers of oil spillage, having experienced the same in Riverhead. More importantly, let's face the fact that this oil "processing" plant is, in fact, an oil refinery and that such a facility will totally ruin the character of the area it occupies.

The Town Board has the power to indicate that is not interested in allowing this farce to continue any longer. It should tell the promoters of this operation that the Town of Riverhead does not want this blight out here. The environment that we enjoy here on the east end is the most precious aspect of our lives. Those who would permit it to be ruined by an oil refinery have surely forgotten the responsibilities they assumed when they took the oath of office a month ago. There must be no Fuel Desulphurization facility in RIVERHEAD! And why not?

cont. page 4

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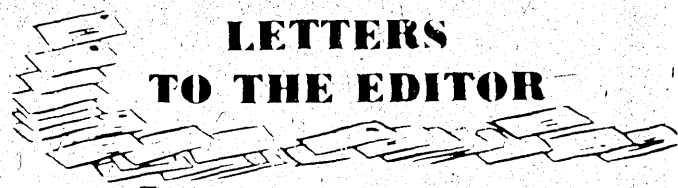
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**WENDY FABRIC SHOP**  
RIVERHEAD SHOPPING PLAZA  
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order to accomplish this we need your support in the form of a subscription. We have set our subscription rate at the lowest rate allowed by the U.S. Post Office \$1.00 per year.

If you have found Suffolk Life of value or look forward to it each week, won't you please send in your subscription today? With our revamped mailing department it should take no longer than 7 to 10 days before you are receiving your own copy addressed directly to you.

Again we say "Thanks!" to those who have subscribed both for their support and for their patience. And why not?



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

The Department of Fire Safety wishes to thank you for your cooperation in helping to reach the public with our Fire Safety Programs during 1969.

With best wishes to all for 1970,  
I am

Sincerely yours,  
Lloyd Case  
Director

EDITORIAL from page 3

## Thank You for Your Patience

Two years ago we changed Suffolk Life from a totally free publication to a subscription paper. At that time we did not fully realize how many people would subscribe, and, we confess, we were not adequately equipped to handle the influx of subscriptions. Since then we have revamped our subscription and mailing department. The last phase of this upgrade was completed this past January when we switched over to our completely new mailing list. Everyone who has subscribed to Suffolk Life is now on an address plate, and they should be receiving their copy of the paper addressed directly to them by name. If, by chance, we have missed anyone we ask you to contact our office and we will immediately put your name on a plate.

We ask all, who have not subscribed, to do so. The subscription rate is only \$1.00 per year. This money is used to help defray the cost of mailing Suffolk Life which has gone up 280% in the last three years. There is another reason why we are soliciting your subscriptions. The U.S. Post Office has ruled that if 65% of our total circulation is paid, then we can apply for a lower second class postage rate. If we can achieve this, then we can use the monies saved to increase our news staff and give you a much better paper. In

Honey Dearer,  
Honest, I didn't forget! But this time I wanted to be a hero with a Valentine closest to your heart. But what then (beginners luck) I got me an idea. Your very own modular, customized YORKTOWNE KITCHEN FROM FLAXMAN'S.

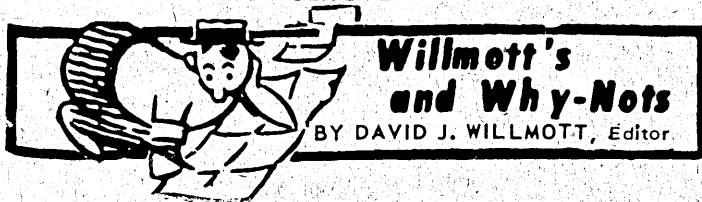
But I couldn't bring it all home under my arm. So this is a promisory note. Besides, I want both of us to have the fun of putting it together. It's easy as playing with blocks.

Yeah, I know. When I got Ship the electric trains, you wondered if I got them for him or myself. But you'll love this dreamy Yorktowne Kitchen and I love you

Mike

"Everything For Your Home Beautiful"

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## Our Biggest Asset

If you had to name the biggest single asset eastern Suffolk County possesses surely it would have to be our natural environment. You can call it rural atmosphere, clean beaches, our waterways, unpolluted air, natural beauty or any number of things that Mother Nature has endowed us with. It is these things that have caused many of us to move out here and many of us to remain here. It seems, however, that we are hell bent on destroying our most valuable asset through neglect and in the name of commercial progress.

What is left of Port Jefferson and Mt. Sinai harbor commercial interests, with the aid of some politicians seem determined to convert to commercial interests, thus ruining the natural beauty of the area. In Shoreham, Lilco plans to erect a mammoth nuclear power plant over the opposition of most of the local residents and conservationists. In Riverhead one of the loveliest areas in the town is blighted by ugly oil tanks and its beaches are subject to a regular treat of oil spill age. To the east of this area an oil refinery is proposed, and to the east of that we have, at present, a huge sand and gravel operation. Continue east and you find the Mattituck Inlet blighted with oil tanks and the odors of the petroleum industry. Head for East Marion and you will find that the same people who are involved in the Riverhead sand and gravel operation want to down-zone acreage in order to erect a family recreation facility, but, again, the dredging and removal of sand and gravel is necessary. Continue on around to the south shore and you find the same interest in a potentially large sand and gravel site at Montauk and the proposal to erect a large housing development

Going farther to the west you find that man has caused excessive erosion by erecting jetties which the "experts" said would prevent erosion. On Dune Road, from Hampton Bays to the Moriches, you run into spot zoning that has allowed everything from hot dog stands to plush weekend resorts to spring up haphazardly. All seems to be scattered about without plan or reason. Thus you see commercial interests spread out hodge-podge between three room bungalows and million dollar estates. Practically nothing has been done to protect the dunes or provide for the natural beauty of the seashore. Apart from the county park area and the national seashore there is

little hope that the shore area will retain its unspoiled beauty. Add to this the daily pollution and ruination of our environment that we are all responsible for as individuals and you can readily see that in the foreseeable future our area will only be an extension of the great metropolitan slum that all have tried to get away from.

Despairingly we ask ourselves why we let this happen. We wring our hands as we watch one of the most beautiful areas of the United States surrender its virginity to commercial interests, shortsighted planning and just plain ignorance.

Don't we have any backbone? Don't we have any desire to control the area we live in? The answer is we don't really care. Apparently we don't consider what is happening to be serious enough to warrant our attention or action. Collectively we could protest the ruination of our environment by commercial interests and prevent further damage. Individually we can have little effect in preventing well-financed interests from pressuring their way into existence but together we have the power to make our wishes known if we do something soon. Very soon, it will be too late.

And let us not minimize the fact that there is much we can do as individuals to keep our environment clean, uncluttered and healthful. We can stop littering. The smallest cigarette butt multiplied millions of times makes a mountain of litter and costs a fortune in taxes to clean up. We can clean up our own homes and offices and make them more presentable. We can stop using hard detergent soaps and substitute products that break down in the ground. There are many ways that we, as individuals, can reverse the current trend towards fouling our own nests.

We have reached the point in time when we are forced to act individually and collectively if we are going to prevent the ruination of our environment. Failing to act soon we will have reached the point of no return. Man is responsible for his environment and that means you and I. We must work to preserve it or it will be ruined forever. The choice is ours. And why not?

cont. page 4

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EDITORIALS from page 3

## By His Example

Strange as it may seem, George Washington's Birthday offers us more than an opportunity to save money at a sale. If we reflect upon his life we soon realize that it was very different from most of ours. Washington didn't like what was going on in his time, and he was willing to do something about it. He became involved.

George Washington was in comfortable circumstances. He had little to gain and much to lose financially from his involvement in the military and political scene of our colonial days. He willingly brought upon himself financial reverses and hard times through his pursuit of a United States of America free from English rule. He made waves that brought about changes.

Most of us are in no way as financially comfortable as Washington was. Sure, we have enough left over for a six pack of beer on Saturday night, and we love to spout off about the problems that confront us in this day and age. The trouble is that we recognize our ills and injustices but we allow them to continue to exist without ever trying to do something about them. It has been said that even the most disreputable politicians are appalled by the lack of interest and involvement shown by the average American. Our national,

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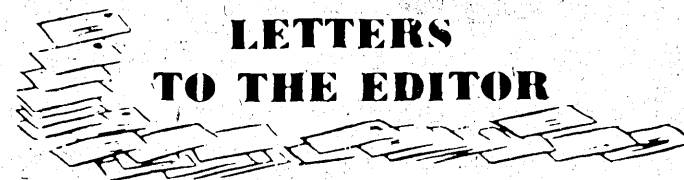
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regional and local problems will continue to grow until we become involved and are willing to make enough waves so the powers-that-be will take notice.

Washington didn't like the bed he was lying in; he changed it. Isn't there a little Washington in all of us - at least enough to make us stand up, look around and become involved in trying to change our world for the better? And why not?



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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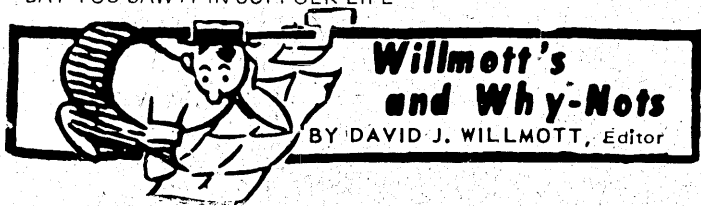
I am a volunteer representative of Friends of Animals, Inc. and would greatly appreciate your help in telling the public about Friends of Animals, and of how it can be of assistance to them.

Some facts:

1. 25 million unwanted pets are born each year.
2. 4 to 6 million cats and dogs are destroyed annually, making the total of those to be abandoned and die in great suffering, close to 20 million.
3. A single cat can be the source of over 2.3 billion cats within a 10 year span.
4. 90% of the animals placed in animal shelters have to be destroyed.

What can be done? Friends of Animals encourages all pet owners who do not wish to keep their pets offspring themselves

cont. page 17/21



## Public Scandal

At a public hearing last week, Congressman Pike charged that Riverhead's industrial park was a public scandal and nothing more than a front for a mammoth sand and gravel operation. He charged that George Semerjian and the Levon Properties had misled the planning board and the town board as to how they intended to use the property. He further stated that the company had neither kept its word nor met any of its projections. Under the circumstances, he said, the Army Corps of Engineers should turn down the company's latest application. The eight-hundred plus people who crowded the public hearing to overflowing could not have agreed more.

Supervisor Zaloga, who was one of the few to support the Levon operation, was rudely booed when he stated that he had been in on the planning from the beginning and felt that the project did not endanger the water supply. He expressed confidence that the area would, one day, become a deepsea port. He felt further reassured by the state water commission which stated that no harm was being done to the water. He informed us, after the hearing, that there is not one letter of protest in the town files opposing this project. We find this very hard to believe. We have heard residents from all walks of life, and of all political persuasions, questioning the Levon project. Many have been violently opposed to it.

It is felt that there is little that can be done to stop this project now even if the Army Engineers turn down Levon's application. Levon still has the approval of the planning board and of the town board of Riverhead to mine sand. An attorney did state that there was a possibility of stopping the mining and re-zoning the zoning on this property if it could be proven that the original down-zoning was obtained under false pretenses. He also stated that this would be difficult to do as no time limits had been set nor assurance given that the area could ever, in fact, become a deepsea port.

As we see it, if the Corps of Engineers denies Levon's application there will be a stalemate. Levon will have the zoning and the right to mine but will find it dangerous and expensive to barge the sand off the property. At this time, a stalemate is all the lovers of the north fork can hope for unless some legal mind can come up with a law under which the zoning can be reversed. If nothing else, this should

teach all of us, and particularly those of us in the press a lesson. And Why Not?

## Problems, Problems, Problems!

Are you one of our problems? If so, we hope you will help us straighten it out. For two years we have worked on getting our mailing list in 100% perfect shape. We now find out that we have done only 98% of the job. There are still a few wrinkles we have to straighten out. To do this we need your help.

If you are getting duplicate papers or not getting your paper mailed to you at the proper address we would appreciate it if you would fill out the coupon below and mail it back to us.

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