

Willmott's and Why-Not's

By David J. Willmott, Editor

Dollars Talk

This past week, our congressman Otis Pike charged that oil industry contributions to congressional campaign funds had neutralized the ability of our congressional leadership to act on our behalf on oil matters. He stated further that these same men retain an artificial high quota on oil imports into this country which results in the average homeowner in the northeast having to pay an extra \$140 per year to heat his home. Finally, he said that if these quotas were relaxed, it would be unnecessary to deplete our own reserves, thus obviating the necessity of seeking offshore oil -- the tapping of which is potentially ruinous to our ecology.

It took guts to make this kind of statement, and we are happy to see that Pike still has the ability and willingness to stand up for what he believes in. Even though none of this is new or really startling news, it is good to hear one of the "Club" stand up in public and give it to his congressional associates on an issue that affects all of us so vitally.

As we said in last week's editorial, we have nothing against the oil industry as long as they can get it out of the ground without harming our quality of life. We stated in the editorial that we question the intentions of those in the oil industry. Last week, we noted that Interior Secretary Rogers P. Morton proposed funneling some of the income from offshore oil drilling into New York State coffers. This is nothing more than a blatant bribery attempt to weaken the resolve of our legislators. Now our congressman has charged that this industry is attempting to buy congress. If they have no regard for our form of government, what regard will they have for your individual rights? That oil company silver lining is getting more tarnished all the time. And why not?

Common Sense

We were delighted to see that Southampton Town Justice Mercator Kendrick threw out the charges of blue law violations against four area establishments. In today's day and age, these laws are unworkable, and it is questionable if they are even constitutional. In our wide circle of acquaintances, we know of no one who

abides totally by the orthodox rules of keeping the Sabbath holy. Each of us, in our own way, do pay some respect to this day, but most of us use this day for relaxation, recreation and for getting things done that we can only do on this day.

We do not mean to imply that we advocate a seven-day work week or hope to see businesses open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week as is the case in some areas of New Jersey and California. Blue laws, like alcoholic beverage laws, trip all over themselves due to many amendments and the changing times. They should be repealed for the good of the people of this state.

It should be mandatory that the legislature use part of its time each year to repeal laws that are no longer germane to the times and bring grief to those trying to live within the law. We were glad to see Kendrick use common sense, the trademark of the Town Justice Court, in reaching this decision. And why not?

Talk Not Cheap

Talk will no longer be cheap (not that it ever really was) if the Public Service Commission goes ahead with its plan to allow the telephone company to abandon its flat rate method of selling local service. What the telephone company wants to do is force all of us to take the message unit form of billing on local calls. This means that even if you are only calling around the corner, you will be charged for each minute your phone is in use, and you won't get an itemized bill. At a rate of five cents for each message unit a twenty minute call would cost \$1.00. How many twenty-minute phone calls do you and your family make each month? At present, they don't cost you anything besides your monthly fee to make local calls, no matter how long you talk. Under this new system, there would still be a monthly fee plus you would be charged for each unit - local or long distance.

This is the telephone company's way of getting a substantial rate hike on top of all the others they have gotten. Is there anything you can do about this? You bet there is! Write now to the Public Service Commission telling of your opposition to this plan. Put it in plain language. What is even more important, write promptly to your Assemblyman, Perry Duryea, and

State Senator, Leon Giuffreda. They are the ones who are able to put pressure on this commission. In effect, they are the bosses of the commission. Tell them very pointedly that if they don't run their employees for the benefit of YOU, their constituents, you will not hesitate to replace them in the next elections. Their address is as follows: State Office Building, Albany, New York.

Don't put this off. Do it today. If the commission and the phone company don't get the message loud and clear, you may have to pay many times what you pay now for phone service or drastically curtail your phone usage - probably both. And why not?


Congratulations

It is not our intention to use the editorial column for a commercial message, but we would be neglectful if we did not take note of Garsten Motor's expansion into their new automotive facilities. It is particularly heartening to observe this kind of growth in an age of bigness, mass merchandising and fierce competition.

Suffolk Life is particularly proud of its eight-year affiliation with Garsten Motors as their primary means of advertising. We take great pleasure in the fact that we have been a helpful contributor to their success.

This week's edition of Suffolk Life contains a twelve-page section devoted to the Garsten Motors story. We hope that you find it as interesting to read as we found putting it together.

Our heartiest congratulations to Garsten Motors. And why not?



SUFFOLK LIFE

Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton, N.Y. 288-3900
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You Should Know

Since Suffolk County took over the airbase, the whole situation has been cloaked in dishonesty, lies and hidden information. Even though this facility will play the most important role of all in the development of the six eastern towns, no one seems to know what is going on.

It was hoped that some kind of definitive plan would be revealed to the public after election, but all we get is the same old runaround. This past week, the new County Transportation and Aviation Committee met in secret session. A member of this committee is one of the two representatives (if you can call him that) in the legislature from the East End. He is Beecher Halsey of Westhampton.

They met in secret, issued no press release after the meeting and seemed to be confused as to what went on at the meeting, except to say that it was of no importance to the general public. They purportedly discussed leases with private industry, the expansion of runways and the acquisition of more land.

Well, we have news for this committee. Everything and anything that is discussed pertaining to the airport is of the gravest importance to the people out here. When they talk about leases, we want to know what kind of companies will be allowed into this facility, what type of work they will conduct and how many jobs will result. When they talk about extending runways, we can only assume it is to permit larger aircraft in. And when they talk about acquiring more land, OUR LAND, it affects our tax roles and, in some cases, our very existence.

Mr. Halsey's statement that the committee meeting was closed because ".....it seems the press is going to create a lot of controversy and will rile up the public, unnecessarily so," was not exactly calculated to win him any friends here on the East End. Many people, and this publication for one, do not trust Beecher Halsey or his judgment. His behavior on this sensitive airport matter, which is so closely tied to our future, has been questionable. He was one of those who held back the release of the Dixon-Speas report while, at the same time, saying that the airbase would never become a jetport. The report states just the opposite unequivocally.

One of the things that the new county

executive assured us in our interview with him before election was that nothing would be hidden from the public with respect to the airport development. It is less than three months after election and already the first meeting on the subject has been held -- in secret. It is because of things like this that we say the East End cannot wait for the politicians to get off their dead xxx and create a new county. It must be done now so that the people can control their own destiny.

We believe that most East End residents are sick and tired of being played for first class suckers on this project. We have been used and abused. We demand that the county come out with a concrete plan as to what, how and when this facility is going to be developed. Just what are the plans? Our economy and environment are at stake.

Instead of hiding gutlessly behind closed doors, will this committee please have the decency to stand up and make a statement as to its intentions. And why not?

Support No-Fault

If you drive, it is to your advantage to support the concept of no-fault insurance. At present, existing law tells us that if we are involved in an accident with another vehicle, we must sue the other person and his insurance company for damages. This often results in years of waiting and heavy legal expenses, even if we were without fault. Additionally, court calendars are clogged with cases, and waits of up to five years are not uncommon. During these long waiting periods, memories fade, witnesses disappear and the chances of winning a case diminish substantially.

Last year, the legislature defeated a no-fault bill. This year, the governor has come back with a demand for its passage. The plan most likely to succeed is the Gordon bill. It calls for medical payments of up to \$50,000 and 80 percent of loss of income up to \$1,000 per month for three years. Financial reimbursement is paid by the insured's own insurance company.

A similar system has been in effect in Massachusetts, and it is estimated that insurance premiums have been reduced between 21 percent and 53 percent. The system seems to be working as far as the driver is con-

cerned. Friends and business associates in this state report that the average person feels that the system is good. Most assuredly, it is a heck of a lot cheaper. Some insurance companies are still fighting this plan, and it has come under bitter and constant attack from attorneys who specialize in accident litigation. Needless to say, their livelihood from this kind of human misery is in jeopardy, and they like things the way they are.

There is intense lobbying action going on in Albany from both the trial lawyer association and some insurance companies to block the no-fault insurance legislation. Worse than blocking this legislation would be its watering down to a bill with many loopholes, and such is the strategy of many who profit from accident cases. A bill without teeth is worse than no bill at all.

As this bill could conceivably save you several hundred dollars a year in insurance costs, and would provide you with just and fast compensation if you are involved in an accident, we recommend that you communicate with your legislators now. Be sure to indicate that you want a strong bill -- one that will give you the protection you deserve. It will take a tremendous amount of pressure to pass this legislation because the legal profession has the largest percentage of representation of any group in the legislature. You might call it a built-in lobby. We do feel, though, that these men will live up to their responsibilities and provide you with the kind of law that is necessary if they know that is what you want. Write Perry Duryea, Peter Costigan, and Leon Giuffreda, State Office Building, Albany, N. Y. Write today. And why not?



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Pike's Wrong

In connection with Otis Pike's attempt to have the government seize Gardiner's Island, last week we published a series of questions on the matter which were answered by both Mr. Pike and Mr. Gardiner.

Pike is a logical type of person known to possess some degree of common sense. By birth he wasn't a cliff-dweller and is known to enjoy the outdoors. He likes to project an independent image and has the people back home on Eastern Long Island thinking of him as conservative. For these and other reasons, we find it hard to understand his wanting to take Mr. Gardiner's Island away from him.

Perhaps there is something between Mr. Pike and Mr. Gardiner that has escaped the public eye.

Gardiner's Island is a bit of the past - America as it was two-hundred years ago. The Gardiner family have owned it for three-hundred years and have not permitted it to be altered. Those who have been privileged to visit this bountiful paradise rave about its woodlands boasting trees older than the date of the earliest inhabitants. They speak of the teeming wildlife including wild turkey, which is found nowhere else on Long Island. It is really quite immaterial whether the island is owned by Mr. Gardiner or by the bank that administers the trust that will protect and hold this island in its wild state for the family to enjoy. The fact is that the Gardiners have proven, through over three-hundred years of devoted stewardship, that they are capable of keeping this island as it should be. They have even established a trust to keep it unspoiled in the future. To be kept forever in its wild, natural state is only possible through private ownership.

Under Pike's plan, it would be open to public trespass to a limited extent. Once allowed on this land, people would defile it as they do any other piece of public property. Ignorance, thoughtlessness and sloppiness would destroy this ecological wonder.

As we stated in another editorial on the same subject, it is part of the great American dream to be able to hear at least one person say, "I have an isle of my own." This editor has never had the privilege of visiting Gardiner's Island, but to know that it does exist and that one man owns and preserves it is enough to give us hope that at least there is still one place left that is really worthwhile.

There may be some who would begrudge Mr. Gardiner his inheritance, but to us we feel nothing but a sense of pride and goodwill that there is a family who, for three centuries, have realized the worth of what they had and have had the intelligence to ward off development.

We find a total lack of logic in Mr. Pike's proposal. There is just no way the government could take over Gardiner's Island and have it remain unspoiled the way the Gardiner family and heirs have done. By Mr. Pike's own estimate, the government is not the protector of the public good that it would have us believe. Just last week, he had to take his colleagues to task for selling out to the oil interests.

We know that Mr. Pike finds it hard to back down on any subject once he has set his course, but this time his craft is taking him up the wrong canal.

He would do all of his constituents, and all of the people of this country, a favor if he backed down. We urge you to write to Mr. Pike and request him to do so. At the same time, write to Congressman Wayne N. Aspinall, Chairman The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, 1324 Longworth Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and ask that he reject Pike's bill. And why not?

Forever Wild

Over the last ten years, the county has been acquiring lands for future preservation and use. Very often these lands are taken in the name of ecology, and very often they are a town's prime wetlands. Most of us have encouraged this and have willingly supported it with increased taxes. We have been led to believe that these lands would be kept in their wild state so that there would always be pockets of open land for us to enjoy.


All along the Peconic River, from its headwaters in Yaphank to Peconic Bay, land has been taken for this purpose. In all parts of the county, this land acquisition has been repeated and is still going on today. The only problem is that these lands are not being preserved the way we were told they would be. Instead, they are being developed according to man's specifications and not being allowed to remain wild. The Peconic River in Calverton has been badly mauled by road construction. Your new county jail is sitting on what used to be prime

woodland and bog. Indian Island, a wonderland of nature, is being turned into a farce complete with concrete pads for campers, outbuildings and a golf course. We understand the riverfront will be built into a marina. These may all be worthwhile projects but do not quite fit the image of "forever wild" that we were sold.

There was a very important reason for leaving this land as it was. Huckerbuck, the area around Indian Island, is a known spawning spot for weakfish, crabs and other forms of marine life. Starlings and blackbirds roost by the millions in the area. In short, this spot is a microcosm of Mother Nature's wilderness - a laboratory of life which plays a very big part in the overall scheme of things. We fail to see how cutting down the trees, filling in the bogs and coating the land with concrete pads and grass that will need artificial insecticides and fertilizers will help the balance of nature in this area.

We believe that it is morally, ethically and probably legally wrong for the county to take lands on one pretense and then use it for other purposes. If it is not legally wrong, then laws should be passed that make it so. We would like to see a law passed that would require a public referendum before public land usage could be changed from what it was originally intended. Until such laws are passed, all taking of lands by the county must be stopped. Without such laws, the public is being led up a blind alley without recourse. This is our money they are spending, and they are not spending it as we were given to believe they would. And why not?

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John McKay - Production Manager
Sherman B. Chace - Advertising Manager
George Valyo - News Editor

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Dear Buzz

A few months ago, you said we never gave the Republicans credit for anything. Well, we now give you 100 percent credit for increasing the Suffolk County sales tax by 18 percent. Your one-cent hike brings the sales tax up to seven cents, effective September 1st. The bill to increase the sales tax was proposed by your Republican County Executive and passed by your Republican county legislature.

We further give you and your boys credit for not having the guts to tell the

voters last November that this increase in taxes was forthcoming. We hope that the voters remember to give credit to the legislators who fail to represent their constituents the next time they are up for re-election. After all, this is what you were asking for (wasn't it?) -- for them to be given credit when credit was due? And why not?

FEBRUARY PROJECT

Test any held over seed you expect to sow this spring. Place samples between sheets of blotting paper and keep moist in 60-65 degree temperatures. If sprouts do not appear in a reasonable period, discard the lot.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Open Letter:

Dear Congressman Pike:

I have been informed that the Army Corps of Engineers is shortly going to conduct an 'Environmental Impact Study' of the Port Jefferson Harbor. Since the Army Corps of Engineers has already stated their support for the dredging of Port Jefferson Harbor, it seems ludicrous to now have this group conduct an Environmental Impact Study of the proposed dredging on the harbor. It also appears to be a direct conflict of interest.

I state again that the \$50,000 for this study could be better spent in cleaning up the harbor so that it will not be an eyesore, so that the fish and shellfish

cont. on page 5

"The Big Red Show Place"

"Seeing Is Believing"

Open 9 to 9 Fri., 9 to 6 Mon. thru Sat.

EVANS KILLEEN'S Home Beautiful

403 GRIFFING AVE. RIVERHEAD TELEPHONE 727-2355



The Big Sale you waited for . . .

Washington's Birthday Weekend

Thurs. thru Mon., February 21st.

Storewide Savings 10% to 60%

Here's a sample of our famous bargains . . .



Bourbon Barrel Sofa, was \$289.00, Now \$189.

Large Swivel Rockers, were \$169.00 Now \$89.00

Spanish Sofa and Chair in Naugahide, was \$347 Now \$247



Valet Seats, were \$26.95 Now \$14.95

Finished 5 Drawer Chest, was \$55.95 Now \$29.95

Finished Child's Rockers, were \$12.95 Now \$7.95



6 Unpainted Ladder Back Chairs, were \$13.95 Now \$8.95

Unpainted Rocker, was \$24.95 Now \$14.95

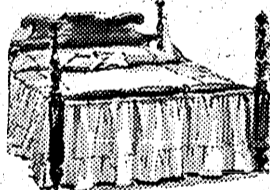
Contemporary Black Vinyl Sofa and Chair, was \$314.95 Now \$199.95

Beautiful Colonial Sectional, was \$880 Now \$675.00

Black Vinyl Recliner, was \$104.95 Now \$69.95

See Our Left Over Ratan Furniture to 50 percent off

6 piece Solid Maple Bedroom, was \$488.00 Now \$349.00



6 piece Spanish Bedroom, was \$420.00 Now \$299.00

Solid Maple Bunk Bed, 5" Post, was \$169.95 Now \$99.00

42" Oak Stained Walnut, Hanger Base and Hanger Top, may be used as hutch, was \$250 Now \$139

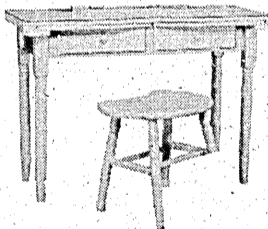


Bar Stools, odds odds and ends, 25 to 50 percent off



Heavy Maple Finished Capt. Chairs, were \$42.90 Now \$29.95

Unpainted vanity with Bench, was \$42.95 Now \$24.95 4 left



Pine Finished Mates Chairs, were \$26.95 Now \$19.95

Modern Glass and Chrome Etagere, was \$203.95 Now \$129.95

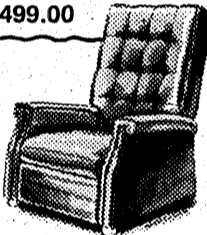
6 piece Rattan Group, was \$452.00 Now \$269.

Complete Modern Sectional, was \$251.95 Now \$188.00



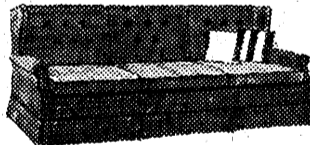
Contemporary Sofa, was \$299.00 Now \$199.

Sample Kitchen, 8' 3" with Sink and Faucets and Appliances, was \$750.00 Now \$499.00



Swivel Rocker, was \$129.00 Now \$69.00

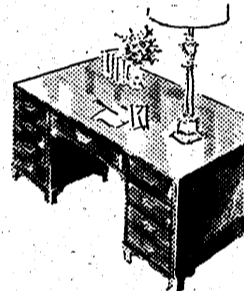
Colonial Sofa and Chair, was \$320.00 Now \$244.00



42" Round Finished Pedestal table with (2) 12" Leaves and 4 Captains Chairs, 2" stock, was \$414.95 Now \$275 as shown



All Unpainted Furniture as marked, 25 percent off, some 50 percent off



Broyhill Desk and chair, white, was \$146 Now \$99

24" Unfinished Vanity \$29.95, 30" Unfinished Vanity \$39.95, 24" Vanity Distressed Avocado, \$49.95

Parson Cocktail Table, only 3 left, 17 x 54 x 16, was \$33.95 Now \$19.99

25 to 50 percent off on all Bedding Samples

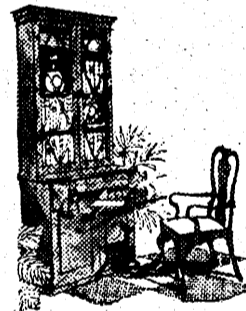
Modern Convertible sofa, was \$249.95 Now \$199

Cocktail, and Lamp Tables, 20 to 40 percent off as marked

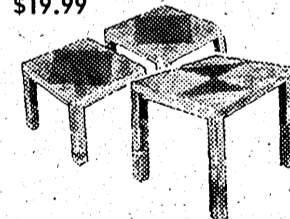


Solid Oak Trestle Table with 2 Benches Finished, was \$249.95 Now \$179.95

Fibre Chairs, were \$14.95 Now \$9.99



Parson Tables, 30 x 31 x 31, only 5 left, Sale \$19.99



6 Ft. Colonial Hutch, Top and Base, 2" Stock, finished was \$600 Now \$395 as shown

42" Knotty Pine Hutch with Cross Back Doors and Formica Top, was \$325 Now \$159

Unfinished Barrels, assorted sizes, Half Price

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Why Are You Here?

A few weeks ago, a speaker at a Lions Club meeting Southampton asked several of the members to stand up and tell why they had come to Southampton to live or had remained in Southampton instead of moving away. The answers varied but in one particular they were identical - it was the quality of life available on the East End that held them here and made them turn down the opportunity for better economic gain elsewhere.

Having established the reason why people settled here, the speaker then asked, "What do you want the area to become?" The answers also varied here. Some wanted full-scale development; some wanted a return to the old days, but, for the most part, everybody wanted the quality of life to remain the same while encouraging a stable and growing economic base. Are the two compatible? The answer is "Yes," if we plan for our growth and seek out development that blends with what we have. This, of course, is what has been proposed by knowledgeable people for the Suffolk County Airport - that it become a center for corporate headquarters and also research and development.

In the first place, there is plenty of land for development; secondly, there is the existing facility for corporate jets. Considering the railroad proximity, when the trains are running on time, Westhampton is as close to the New York metropolitan area as those parts of New Jersey and Connecticut that have already attracted business of the sort that we want. The overriding selling point is the fact that we have clean air, the recreational facilities, the well-stocked shopping areas, the schools, the churches and the civic associations that are indicative of an area that cares for itself.

This is what your Grade A industries and business want. These things are as important to management people and research teams as money. They want to work in an area which is close

to home and which provides a healthy climate for their families. They want the same things that brought us here or have kept us here.

Selective industrial development will provide well-paying jobs for the semi-skilled worker in our area. It will provide opportunities for our young who will begin to take advantage of local offerings instead of seeking employment elsewhere.

The right kind of development is within our grasp if we will only reach out and take it. All of which leads to the next question, "What are you willing to do, as an individual, to make it happen?" Those who were asked the same question, at that Lions Club meeting, with regard to their own lives provided the answer - they made it work for themselves through commitment and involvement. This takes considerable work.

It means contacting your elected officials to tell them how you stand on what they are doing in your area. It means telling them what you want the area to become. More importantly, it means contacting the committeemen of your political party in your area and telling them that you won't vote for their candidates unless they represent the kind of growth that you believe in. This is the crux of the situation.

Committeemen are your direct voice to the officials on all levels of government. They are the ones who are charged with feeling out the opinions of the people. As has been brought out many times, if just one person in every election district had gone to his Republican committeeman and said that he would not vote for Duryea without a firm pledge of support for the Peconic County bill, the chances are that the pressure would have pushed it through. All of us neglect this vital link in our government, and the result is that we are witnessing the development of our area in a manner that we have sacrificed a lifetime of financial gain to avoid.


It would behoove all of us to ask ourselves what we intend to do specifically with regard to the future of the East End and then DO it. And why not?

No Sense

The whole oil picture just doesn't make sense. Tax wise, we allow a depreciation allowance to those in the oil industry. This encourages people to take as much oil out of the ground as they can; thus depleting our reserves. We maintain an oil import embargo, which results in the average East Coast family paying over \$100 per year more than necessary for petroleum products according to the Christian Science Monitor. This means we could buy foreign oil cheaper and save our own, but our government refuses to do this and has all of us support the oil industry by paying higher prices. At the same time, the depletion allowance rewards the industry for depleting our oil supply.

On top of this, the government is pumping our tax dollars through the Interior Department for exploration of new oil reserves within the United States. Sometimes these new fields have the potential to ruin the ecology and the economy of the area they are found in.

None of this makes any sense except that the people have been neglectful in telling their elected officials that THEY are the government, not the powerful oil lobby. You might take things into your own hands and write to the president of your concern about this subject. It is an election year, and, by the looks of things, he will be concerned about every vote. And why not?



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Letters To The Editor - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion thru the Letters to the Editor Column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.
News and Photographs - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and can not be returned for any reason.
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