

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

The Winner Is . . .

The coupon of the Schutz family of King Street, Hampton Bays, was drawn by John Bellport, Councilman of Brookhaven Town, as the winner of the grand prize in Suffolk Life's Sixth Annual Shopping Spree. The Schutz family's coupon was drawn from several hundred-thousand entries in this great give-away. A total of over \$6,000 in prizes have been given away by the local, participating merchants during this Christmas season.

This program was co-sponsored by the merchants as their way of saying "thank you" to everyone shopping in their stores and honoring them with their patronage.

When Mrs. Schutz was called and informed of her good fortune, her statement to John McKay, our General Manager, was, "There still must be a God". We learned that the Schutz family has experienced a number of problems this past year, and this prize seemed to them to come as a godsend. We are glad that this grand prize has helped to end their year on an optimistic note.

Congratulations to the Schutz's, and our thanks to each of the participating merchants and the hundreds of thousands of people who entered this year's contest. And why not?

New Year To Be

At the start of the new year, many people follow the tradition of reflecting upon the past year ... on its strengths and its weaknesses, and how they might have been able to make things better. As a newspaper, we do the same thing.

1972 was a year of tremendous growth here at Suffolk Life. We experimented with a new publication called the WeekEnder, which we designed to fill the void involving our summer residents. In many ways, this publication was a smashing success and in others, it did not meet our expectations. As summer drew to a close, we decided to cease publication for the winter months and use this time to develop a better WeekEnder for next year. In the fall of '72, we expanded out our five successful editions of Suffolk Life to eleven and added an additional 80,000 families to our then current 70,000, giving Suffolk

Life a total circulation in excess of 152,000. We experimented with changes in the news product of our publication, going more into in-depth photo journalism and less coverage of everyday social affairs.

As we enter into 1973, we hope to bring to our readers a blending of top-notch coverage of your social affairs with exciting, interesting and inventive photo features portraying life here in Suffolk County. At Suffolk Life, we make no real attempt to cover the everyday-breaking news. It is our feeling that it is only repetitious for a weekly newspaper to do this, as the important news has already been published in the daily newspapers and adequately communicated through radio and T.V. We feel our news and editorial staff can be better utilized in digging in depth into stories and creating a background that surrounds our local-breaking news stories.

In this coming year we plan to center our attention on the workings of local government, from your school boards through the State Legislature. We will publish instances where government has become self-serving and no longer is of service to you, the people who are paying for it. We will expose bureaucrats who have set themselves up as little gods without credentials or authority. Our purpose in doing this, we hope, will be to make government more responsive and meaningful to the average resident of Suffolk County. It is our concept that the only true purpose of government is to be of service to the people who are using it. Government should and must be as productive and economical as private enterprise. We intend to be fair and impartial in both our investigations and our reporting. We will not be on a witch hunt or seeking to make headlines or win awards. The only thing we will strive for is better government for the residents of Suffolk County.


The entire staff here at Suffolk Life believes that we are publishing this newspaper for you. This is your own newspaper. We encourage you to take active interest in it, to make suggestions for photo coverage, for feature stories, for editorials. You are invited to submit your opinions and ideas, whether or not they agree with ours, in our "Letters to the Editor" columns. We encourage you to send in photographs of your organizations' and clubs' activities that we are unable to cover ourselves. If you are in

attendance at a meeting, and the ideas projected are newsworthy, you are invited to submit these ideas for publication.

Suffolk Life is distributed to you essentially on a free basis. We do ask that once a year our readers pay an annual subscription rate of \$2.50 on a voluntary basis. This is not mandatory, but strictly voluntary. The funds generated from this source are allocated in our budget to pay for our news staff. The more subscriptions voluntarily paid, the bigger and better our news product can be. Suffolk Life has become a great newspaper because in the past, over 30,000 people have paid voluntarily for a subscription. Those of you who do not feel inclined to pay for a subscription are still welcome as readers of our publication and will continue to receive the paper. We do ask that all readers, both paid and free, tell our advertisers that you saw their ads in Suffolk Life. As with all newspapers, the advertising portion pays about ninety per cent of the bills; and it is through our readers' response to advertising messages that our advertisers know their advertising dollars are working productively for them.

We hope that in 1973, your newspaper, Suffolk Life, will be of both value and service to you. We can be as big, as important and as valuable to you as you want us to be. We have been here to be of service to you, and we will continue to be in the future. And why not?

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Nothing Happens

Last week a regular reader of Suffolk Life made the statement that our editorials "hit the nail on the head, but nothing happens". The frustration that he was feeling is the frustration that many of us share.

A newspaper can only bring across the facts to the public...can only tell them what is happening and offer suggestions to correct these conditions. For something to "happen" you, yourselves, have to take these facts and become involved...you, and all the rest of us.

Life, for the most part, is what we make it. Luck has a little bit to do with it, but not much. Our breaks and our misfortunes are generally created by our own actions.

The next time we wonder why "nothing happens" we should look at ourselves and ask what we, ourselves, have done to make "something" happen. And why not?



Off and Running

Listening to Rockefeller's message, it was almost a unanimous feeling of those in attendance that Rockefeller was making more of a campaign speech, kicking off his run for a fifth term, than he was making a State of the State Address.

Looking over his various statements, you realized he was admitting being human and having made numerous mistakes in the past. It appears that during the coming year, he will try to rectify and correct these mistakes. He has proposed numerous programs which, if enacted, he hopes will bring economies to state government.

He missed the boat on one big opportunity in not pushing for the Legislature to enact the principle that where State funds are given to lesser forms of government, their budgets for the current year could not exceed a 5.5 per cent guideline and an adjustment for the number of people they serve. This program was put into effect in the Midwest in dealing with school cost. The program resulted in a substantial drop in educational cost in that state without a reported loss of quality of education.

Units of government are not much different from us as individuals. When your income rises from \$100 a week to \$500, the average person still finds it hard to make ends meet; and, yet when you bring it down to the bare nitty gritty, people still are receiving the basics of food, shelter and clothing but squandering the difference in funds on a lot of excessive frills and luxuries.

The Governor did not mention this guideline, but there is no reason why the State Legislature cannot, on its own, enact such a program. We encourage them to do so, and we will be looking for comment from our local State Legislature. And why not?

Rock Gets Tough

Governor Rockefeller, in his State of the State Address, indicated his intentions of realistically facing our growing addiction epidemic. He proposed mandatory life sentences for pushers of hard drugs and narcotics.

Two years ago, Suffolk Life revealed in this column, that the State of Ohio had enacted similar tough legislation and because of these measures were

able to reduce the narcotics traffic problem in that state by eighty-five per cent. We supported this measure then, and we offer the Governor our wholehearted endorsement on his "get tough" measure.

It's a proven fact that once a person becomes addicted to hard drugs, his chances of recovery are minute. He faces a painful, agonizing experience, resulting in probable death. It is our contention that those who are selling and encouraging the use of these drugs are as guilty of murder as the person who takes a gun and shoots his victim.

The Governor's recommendation of life imprisonment, without hope of parole or time off for good behavior, will be an extremely strong deterrent to the flagrant sale of these hard drugs. We hope that the Legislature reacts favorably to this measure and enacts a strong law, without loopholes, that will make it too dangerous to be profitable for the pushers to deal any longer in death by dose. And why not?

Night Meetings Extended

Last year, Southampton and the Town of Riverhead started holding night meetings in response to residents' requests and an editorial campaign led by Suffolk Life. We are happy to see that both of these towns have extended this policy into the new year.

These night meetings are well-attended, and very often there are overflow crowds of residents taking part in the government processes. The good point of this is that many of the people in attendance are there only as interested citizens and not because of any particular issue.

The system of night meetings is a giant step forward in helping to relay understanding from the heads of government to the people. The towns in the west end of Suffolk Life's circulation area have resisted this move, as have some of the east end towns. We encourage the residents of these towns that do not hold night meetings to strongly request that their town officials make provisions for such meetings. This would make it much more convenient for the average resident to attend and would allow him to take part firsthand in the discussions pertaining to the operation and financing of his community. There have been very few legitimate,

negative points brought out against holding such meetings.

We encourage all town boards to hold night meetings at least once a month so that their residents can attend. And why not?

BOCES Building Proposition

This past week, the Board of Cooperative Education Services, from the First District, revealed their plans to build two vocational training centers in the Eastern Long Island area. At present, BOCES leases numerous pieces of property for the purpose of administration and educating students. BOCES' purpose is to provide education in the areas of vocational training and special services which the local school districts, themselves, cannot afford to offer. Even though their Board is comprised of members from the various school districts serviced by BOCES there is no direct control over BOCES by the local taxpayer. They have operated pretty much autonomously in the past, regardless of the criticism they have come under.

The propositions they are putting forth to the public call for a total expenditure just over \$16,000,000, of which \$1,500,000 will come from Federal aid. Taxpayers throughout the BOCES District No. 1 will be asked to approve a projected average 27 cent per \$100.00 of assessed valuation rise in local real estate taxes. This will

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be on top of whatever taxes are being paid at the present time.

BOCES' system currently serves 573 part and full-time students. It is projected that by 1975, their enrollment of part and full-time students will rise to a total of 1,100. Using the figures released by BOCES, it is costing this system in the area of \$20 per student in building cost on an annual basis. This is rather astronomical when you consider that the Town of Riverhead was able to construct a rather elaborate high school at a cost of approximately \$25 per square foot. This school is projected to house up to 1,500 students and is complete with auditorium, gym, science labs, vocational training rooms, etc. BOCES has proposed to build two schools that will house 1,100 students at a cost of almost \$16,000,000. This is considerably more than the taxpayers have in the past allowed their own local school districts to spend on their first line educational buildings.

There is no question that we are in desperate need of facilities to prepare non-college students with a trade for their future lives. Whether or not BOCES is the answer to this is the big question. At this time, when BOCES is being made to go to the public for approval on this proposed bond issue, it would be an ideal opportunity to demand the answers to all questions concerning the operations and financing of BOCES. At this time, we are neither offering our support nor encouraging the defeat of this building proposition. We hope that BOCES officials will use the various public hearings to answer publicly all questions pertaining to their overall operations. And why not?

Our Hat's Off

Last Friday night on the way home from work we came upon the scene of an unbelievable automobile accident on Moriches Road. It appeared that the pickup had overturned and then wrapped itself around a telephone pole. The cab was crushed to seat level, and where the driver should have been was twisted wreckage of steel and automotive parts.

At the scene of the accident were the Riverhead and the Southampton Town Police and the Riverhead Fire Department. The only sign of life in this vehicle was a hand protruding from the compressed and twisted steel. The firemen were already at work trying to remove the victim from the wreckage. With precision, skill, knowledge, common sense and a tremendous array of equipment to work with, these men miraculously were able to disassemble the wreckage and get the driver out in an incredibly short period of time.

As we watched this operation and saw these firemen at work in this mission of mercy, we could not help but feel a tremendous sense of pride in this organization. The fact that they were there and knew precisely how to go about untangling this unbelievable mess without further endangering the driver's life was a tremendous testimonial to the hours of study and practice put in year-round by volunteer firemen.

Looking back over the various emergencies they have answered and the tremendous diversity of knowledge each man possesses, plus the incredible team work displayed by the whole force, makes us realize how fortunate we are to have volunteer fire departments. We thank God for the fact that these men unselfishly give of their time and their energy and are so fantastically well-prepared to meet most any emergency. We take our hats off to this Department in particular and to all volunteer fire departments for the service they provide for their fellow man. And why not?

Oil Drilling Begins

The following is a news story we would almost bet our bottom dollar we will publish within months after the

inauguration of President Nixon on the 20th of this month:

The President of the United States has declared that we are faced with a national energy crisis. We must immediately start preparations for drilling for oil along the Atlantic Seaboard, particularly in the rich prospective areas lying off the coasts of New England, Long Island and New Jersey. The energy crisis has become so acute that we have become increasingly dependent upon the sources of oil from the Middle East and even the Soviet Union. The President warned that if he had not taken this step, the nation would be faced with almost certain brown-outs and black-outs within the next two years.

Conservationists and ecologists are told not to worry, as the President has plans to create new mini-oceans, complete with sea shells, in our deserts that he guarantees will be one hundred percent ecologically safe.

As a compromise, the oil companies that will be involved in the drilling have agreed to publish and to televise on a regular basis, in place of their commercials and advertisements, pictures of what the Atlantic Ocean and the Long Island seashore looked like prior to 1972.

The President wants everyone to understand that even if the beaches get messed up and marine life is poisoned, he is doing this for their own good; and when the President does something for your good you do not have any reason to fear.

BULLETIN! BULLETIN! BULLETIN!
Wall Street:

Standard Oil prices jumped twenty points in the first hour of trading after President agrees to rape of seashore. Dow Jones average breaks mystical 1100. Loaf of pound cake costs \$2.29.

President ends announcement with "Now you can't have your cake and eat it too, it costs too much and you didn't own any oil stock!"

And why not?

Do You Want Them?

The State Department of Transportation announced this past week plans for two new express roads. One will run from Veteran's Memorial Highway through Northern Brookhaven to the William Floyd Parkway in Rocky Point. (The William Floyd Parkway is the north-south road that connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Long Island Sound, and guess what else?) The other road the master planners have in mind is a new extension of the Sunrise Highway from Southampton to Amagansett. The purpose of this road is not quite clear in anybody's mind except that it might possibly have to do with turning Montauk into the Las Vegas of the East.

From what we have gathered from various discussions with residents of the South Fork, there is virtually no enthusiasm for any additional ex-

pressways in the East End. Most people are quite content to have to spend an additional five or ten minutes on the beautiful South Fork. They are not particularly interested in seeing an expressway down the spine of this area that will encourage any more rapid growth than that which is already projected for the future.


As far as tourism and the vacation industry goes, the longer you can keep people in an area and the more of the area you can expose them to, the better the chances of them increasing their expenditures in that area. The tourist industry on the South Fork is one of the big three industries.

Once people get past Shinnecock Canal, the need to travel at seventy miles an hour seems to diminish. There is something quite relaxing and charming about driving through the quaint and beautiful villages, such as Watermill, Bridgehampton and East Hampton.

We know of no local town officials or East End County representatives or even local State officials who have gone on public record supporting this network of roads. If we have been amiss or have failed to hear of these public officials' desires for this road, we will be glad to publish their views in our publication; and if they are opposed, likewise.

As far as the extension of the Veteran's Memorial Highway through Northern Brookhaven, we can, at this time, see some merit in this project. Northern Brookhaven is densely populated and will become more so in the future, and very large numbers of people have to be moved at a rapid rate. For this reason, this network of roadways should enhance the peoples'

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lives in Northern Brookhaven by making it more convenient for them to get from one point to the other.

We hope that the State Transportation Department will bring out all the facts pertaining to both of these road projects. We encourage both the officials and the residents of these areas to express themselves through our newspaper.

Now is the time to stand up and be counted on both of these projects. Do you want the Northern Brookhaven extension or the extension of the Sunrise Highway to Amagansett? Let us hear from you. And why not?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Justice, Hell!

Politicians and public officials often feel the public should have more confidence in them. It is deplorable examples such as were brought to light this past week that make the public lose faith in it's governmental agencies.

Over a year and a half ago the DA's Fraud Bureau had gone out and set traps for various TV repair shops which resulted in indictments against several individuals and companies. One defendent pleaded guilty, five others pleaded no contest and one, Alex Sabosto of Center Moriches and Westhampton Beach, went through the trouble, the time, the aggravation and cost of pleading not guilty. He demanded and was given a trial and this past week was acquitted of all charges.

The whole case that the DA had against him was a question of whether or not a \$.15 resistor had been installed. This case was a travesty of justice according to the presiding Judge, Ernest Signorelli.

We could not agree more wholeheartedly. First off, we questioned the need for the DA's office to set traps in the hope of catching someone in a mistake. Second off, using this shameful practice to gain headlines a few months prior to the DA's re-election bid makes questionable the ethics of District Attorney Aspland. Of more importance to the average person is the fact that the companies involved and the principals of them were publicly condemned and convicted before they had a chance to defend themselves against this action. The worst offense of all is the year and a half lapse between the time the charges were made and a court decision was rendered. During this time the public, because of the DA's publicity, would consider the shops involved crooked and the reputation of these people ruined.

If charges like this are going to be made, the mechanics must be there to provide fast and efficient justice, that within a matter of days or, at worst weeks, a decision should be reached by the court of either the person's guilt or innocence.

We are happy that Sabosto had the courage of his convictions to fight this miscarriage of justice and did not take the easy way out of entering no plea, which would have allowed the DA to get away with his disgrace.

We hope the DA's office has learned a lesson from this experience and will spend its time looking into the real corruption in Suffolk County. And why not?

Ward System Wins

Supreme Court Justice Frank P. DeLuca recently ordered the Suffolk County Board of Elections to certify approval of the creation of ward districts in Brookhaven Town. This is a victory for the people over the organized political opposition that has become fat and greedy under the "at large" system.

A councilmatic system, or as the opponets call it, a ward system, is virtually no different than our Assembly and Congressional Districts that we use in our State and Federal Government. A representative is elected from a local area instead of being elected by the town at large. The benefits to the residents are numerous. Most important is that they have a representative, in their councilman, who is totally familiar with their area and is answerable to those people.

Under the present system the councilmen are elected at large, and because of the size and population of Brookhaven Town they are first and foremost answerable to the "machine" that put them in office in the first place. This is even more disastrous and more harmful to the average resident when you consider that the "machine" is dominated by the will of one man, and this man's ethics and judgment have been publicly questioned on numerous occasions.

Brookhaven Town residents can expect the Town Board, which is controlled by this one man, to attempt to hold a revote on the question of councilmatic districts for Brookhaven Town. This will necessitate a tremendous additional expenditure of your tax dollars and will serve no purpose other than to help keep the power centered around this political boss.

Citizens of Brookhaven Town are threatening legal action if the Board does as it is expected to do. We almost come down here to a school board vote where the public turns down a budget but has the same question put to them again in hopes of wearing them down.

The people have spoken; they do want councilmatic districts. A Supreme Court Judge has ruled that the vote was legal, and the Town Board will be acting against the public's wishes and not in their interest...but in the interest of only their political boss...if they call for another vote.

We encourage you to publicly attend this coming Town Board meeting on Feb. 20 at 10 a.m. in Brookhaven Town Hall to verbally protest this anticipated action. And why not?

Windmills For Power

At the LILCO Shoreham nuclear power plant hearings last week an ancient, but novel, approach was offered as an alternative to the proposed nuclear power plant LILCO is trying to create in Shoreham. We don't pretend to know enough about the generating of electricity to endorse this proposal, but we fully recognize the need for an alternative to our present methods of creating electricity.

From what we have heard, this idea was not considered seriously; in fact, it was laughed at. This is one of the biggest problems we are having with our energy crisis...those who are in control cannot see any farther than their noses and are refusing to seriously explore new, imaginative means of creating electrical power.

We have the knowledge and technology to send space ships to the

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Hobby Land Marine

262 East Montauk Hwy., Hampton Bays

"on the canal"

RA 8-4313

FINANCING AVAILABLE**EDITORIALS** from page 3

stars, to transplant a heart from a dead man to a living body, and yet with all the advances in technology we have failed to come up with a solution to provide power through a method that is non-polluting, that is economical and convenient.

How many more years can we go on polluting our environment...using up our limited natural resources...before the ceiling caves in? New methods and new means of creating energy and power must be devised. And why not?

Peconic County Now

Once again a bill has been filed in the Assembly and the State Legislature that would create a Constitutional amendment regarding the creation of Peconic County as a separate county from Suffolk. The five East End supervisors have introduced a resolution from their respective towns urging the creation of this new government entity.

The majority of the East Enders have felt in the past and still feel very strongly the need for a body of government that would be representative and responsive to this end of the island. Since Suffolk County has been operating on a re-apportioned basis, the East End has had practically no qualified representation on the County Board, and as a result, has continually gotten the short end of the stick.

This ... being an off year as it was two years ago ... it will be interesting to see whether this bill will pass in the Assembly and Senate, as it did last year, or conveniently fail to pass in the Senate, as it did two years ago. Both Assemblyman Duryea and Senator Giuffreda are pledged to work for the passage of this measure.

We felt two years ago that politics conveniently entered into this matter, and it failed in the Senate. Hopefully, Senator Giuffreda will not allow this to happen once again. It would be too much of a coincidence that he had the strength to get it passed during election year, but lacks the ability during a non-election year. And why not?

Inflation, Phase 3

President Nixon removed the legal barriers on most industries and labor as his Phase 3 plan on fighting inflation. The lid has been kept on some vital industries, but for all practical purposes he is going to allow the market to fluctuate on its own. His top level economists seem to know what they are doing, but the average person is frightened at the idea of a rampant increase in prices across the board.

In talking with a lumber dealer this past week, he expressed concern that building products would jump by as much as twenty-five per cent during the next three months, driving the cost of homes up by at least that much. Couple this with the fact that most people will receive back far more in federal tax refunds than normal due to the over-withholding of last year's federal taxes, and the public could conceivably go on a buying binge that would push retail prices skyward.

From where we sit, we do not like the looks of things. We had hoped Nixon would have kept controls. If prices do skyrocket, as they are projected, Nixon will have to re-establish firm wage and price guidelines for the future. And why not?