## willmofts and why-nots David J. Willmott, Editor

# Into the '80's

As the decade changes, so will the environment surrounding Suffolk's government. Peter Cohalan took the reins on Jan. 1, hopefully bringing the management, skill and the perception to lead the county into a progressive future.

Cohalan has been handed an inquestionable mandate by the people of Suffolk County to cut back on the size of government, reduce the budget, improve the economy and make this county of ours a desirable place to live in the future. He inherits an overstuffed bureaucracy badly in need of trimming and refining.

Cohalan is in the process of selecting and appointing his top staff of highly qualified professionals, who hopefully will be loyal to him, to the pledges he made to the taxpayers and to the citizens of Suffolk.

We look forward to Cohalan eliminating many of the 52 departments that are tripping over each other and duplicating services already provided on the town and state level. With the elimination of these departments, excess personnel will have to be either reassigned or furloughed out. This is a hard fact of life, but one that must be faced if the taxes strangling Suffolk are ever to be controlled.

We anticipate that under Cohalan's regime, Suffolk will become an easier and better place to do business. Hopefully, when we attend meetings in other parts of the area and try to interest businesses and individuals into coming here, we will not be faced with the predicament or the attitude of the past: "Do business in Suffolk? You have got to be kidding."

Those who will remain in county government should realize by now Cohalan will show no compassion or understanding for acts of misconduct or outright corruption. Suffolk County is no longer for sale. It would be wise for Cohalan to develop a non-partisan, non-political Hoover-type commission to dig into issues and determine how Suffolk County can be run most economically, yet serve the greatest number of people.

Suffolk County has a number of retired and semi-retired giants of industry who could be called upon to serve on this commission, men and women who have no political in-

volvements, no vested interest in the power structure of the county. Their sole interest is seeing Suffolk develop into a healthy, well-balanced community, preserving our present quality of life while offering fertile ground for legitimate, economic growth. These people have never been tapped, never been asked to serve. But many would serve willingly, if approached properly. Their years of multi-million running dollar businesses, multi-national corporations, could help put Suffolk government on its feet.

The • one thing Cohalan has promised to do is listen to people. Unlike his predecessor, his only obligation is to you. No political bosses are telling him what to do or how to do it. If you are interested in how your county is running, write to Cohalan, give him your ideas, your hopes and your aspirations.

The County Legislature also moves into a new era. It's better organized and hopefully will perform maturely as a co-partner, as well as being a check on the county executive.

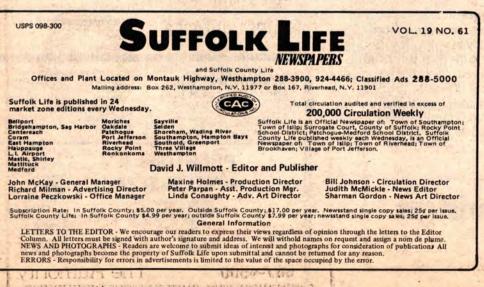
We look forward to Michael LoGrande continuing the pattern of progressiveness set by Cohalan when he was supervisor in Islip.

Pat Vecchio, in Smithtown, should have things slightly easier during these next two years than he had during his first.

Joel Lefkowitz's term of office in Brookhaven promises to be politically stormy. The Democrats in leaving office set into motion some booby traps Lefkowitz probably will be unable to avoid. Lefkowitz, himself, already has raised many an eyebrow by bringing back into power the old Zeidler structure. His justification is they know what they are doing. They have had the experience, but isn't that the reason why the Republicans lost four years ago? Lefkowitz himself is a sharp, smart, dedicated man, and hopefully he will live up to the faith the voters put in him.

Marty Lang should have a board he can work with. His old adversary, Claude Jones, retired, and the voters elected a new board to serve with him.

In East Hampton, Mary Fallon should have no problems carrying out her duties as supervisor. She has an



intimate knowledge of the town and a sincere desire to carry out people's wishes. She should, though, watch her political advisers. They have been known to lead more than one person down the primrose path.

Barbara Keyser of Shelter Island will be the most colorful supervisor in Suffolk. She is ideally suited to ward off the bureaucracy and should be a solid protector of the heritage and the quality of life Islanders are fiercely proud of and want to keep.

In Southold, William Pell will fulfill his driving ambition of the '70's as supervisor. His past years' experience as a councilman should aid him immensely. Southold will face rapid expansion during the next two years, and residents made a wise choice in picking an experienced executive to guide them through this trying period.

In Riverhead, we are not optimistic. Allen Smith was one of the best damn supervisors ever to serve in Suffolk. His defeat shocked everyone ever close to his administration. He set a pattern hard for anyone even with qualifications to follow. With the infusion of state and federal grants came the red tape and the bureaucracy. Smith knew how to handle it, how to cope with it.

Joe Janoski, the new supervisor, did not appear to us before the election any way qualified for the job he was seeking. Some of the moves he has made since winning in November have appalled us. We fear the upheaval that is forthcoming.

We hope we are wrong, and Janoski will prove himself an able supervisor. But, we have an unpleasant feeling the town is going to be run by the councilmen and Janoski will be nothing more than an expensive figurehead. Whatever the political climate is for the '80's, to be successful all of us must be involved. Whether it be town or county government, it is our government. It is going to be as good as we make it, or it will be as bad as our apathy allows it to become.

Overall, we have elected some very fine people. Given direction, ideas and encouragement, they will carry out our dictates and make Suffolk a place you want to and can afford to live in. Let's all in this new decade become involved and do our part. And why not?

**Readers' Opinion** 

#### "We are pleased and proud"

frightening

to print our side.

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your editorial in the Dec. 5 issue of Suffolk Life was certainly hitting the nail on the head, as to the problems of the seniors.

We are pleased and proud to know you see our problems our way.

Many do not know what it is to have X number of dollars coming in, and X number of dollars plus more going out. It is

#### Sincerely, Middle Island Senior Citizens Club 33 Joseph Dysko

**Corresponding Secretary** 

## **1980 Suffolk Life Subscription Bill**

All subscriptions are due for renewal to Suffolk Life on the first day of the new year. Rather than send you an individual, personalized and very costly subscription bill, we print one in Suffolk Life.

We ask you and every other reader to voluntarily pay \$4.99 per year for Suffolk Life so it may be delivered to your door every week during 1980. If you have not already, won't you sit down today, fill out the coupon printed below and send in \$4.99. The funds from our paid subscriptions are used to pay for the news portion of Suffolk Life.

Your editorial certainly is a splendid and

unbiased one. Many thanks for your courage

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## It's For The Birds

Just before Christmas, Rep. William Carney announced he was urging federal approval for the creation of a Peconic Estuarine Sanctuary. Preliminary information indicated it would preserve Robins Island.

With the rush and excitement of the holiday season, few of us paid much attention. Who could get excited about a bird sanctuary? At a holiday party, word began to spread that this proposal for a bird sanctuary was a Trojan horse. This sanctuary plan affects not only Robins Island, but the entire Peconic Bay area. That covers the headwaters of the Peconic River, bordering on Riverhead and Brookhaven towns, all waterways in Island and Southold, Shelter Southampton towns, leading into or bordering on Peconic Bay.

The plan gives the federal government virtually 100 percent control of all land and its use within 500 feet of any water flowing into and including Peconic Bay. The alleged purpose of the plan is to provide a sanctuary for birds, but its broader goals strip the East End of control over its destiny and future.

If the plan is approved, federal authority would supersede that of the villages, towns, county and state in matters of planning and zoning. All building, remodeling and development on affected lands would be subject to federal approval. The federal government would assume jurisdiction over all fishing, hunting, boating and recreational use of the bay.

Even more frightening is establishment of the Estuarine Commission. There would be 11 members, six from off Long Island, and a minority of five from Long Island. No provision is made to insure that any would come from the East End.

Undoubtedly, commission members would be radical ecologists, insensitive to the needs, particularly the economic needs of the East End. The towns affected already have substantial amount of land removed from the tax rolls, for parks, agridistricts, churches, schools, green belts and wetland preservation.

This has caused a disproportionate tax burden on remaining land holders. Local real estate taxes would have to be increased if the plan is enacted, as it calls for taking additional lands throughout the bay area. There are no provisions for federal subsidies to make up the loss of these taxes.

We find it amazing the estuary plan is supported by Carney, congressman from the First District. Carney was sent to Congress as a Conservative. It was hoped his conservative thinking would have an influence on the liberal, federal government. Obviously and unfortunately, it appears the opposite has happened.

We know of no strong support by the East End for the creation of an estuary at the expense of the local real estate taxes. We have heard of no one locally who advocates squandering our federal tax dollars on a home for birds on the East End. We know of no one on the East End liberal enough to want further regulation over their lives by outsiders and Washington bureaucrats.

Carney has lost his perspective or is desperately grasping at a scheme to gain headlines during a year when he is up for re-election.

We strongly recommend you immediately write Carney, voicing your disapproval and demand he withdraw his support. Write also to Senators Pat Moynihan and Jacob Javitz, requesting they oppose this damn fool nonsense. Our quality of life, our economic life and our freedoms are at stake.

And why not?

asinine proposal from a man we had hoped would display common sense in this coming term. The Legislature traditionally has drawn to it some of the worst elected officials of any governmental body. It has had a dismal record of failure in communicating and relating to voters and taxpayers. It has been characterized as a circus by those who have sat and observed their antics.

There is a serious movement underfoot, across the county, to abolish the Legislature and return this government to a Board of Supervisors, with a weighted vote. Twoyear terms are long enough, in many cases, too long. Four-year terms would do nothing more than isolate the incompetent from voter removal. How much more arrogant, wasteful and useless would legislators become if they knew they faced no contract renewal for four years instead of two?

Noto, himself, has criticized individual legislators and the performance of the Legislature as a whole. No one likes to have to face review because at that time you must be judged on your performance. Delaying this judgment by 100 percent is unthinkable. If the Legislature itself had demonstrated a concern for the citizens it governs, was functioned economically and produced meaningful legislation, there would be less objection.

From a strictly selfish standpoint, Noto, as a leader, should be grateful the Legislature can be changed every two years. What kind of leader can he be with incompetents? He should be grateful the worst can be weeded out every two years, rather than waiting four.

Noto has missed the feeling of the voters in this proclamation. Across the country, and right here in Suffolk County voters are advocating systems of recall. Thereby, the public, when it becomes dissatisfied with the performance of elected officials, can call for a new election. Four-year terms go against both the expression and desires of the voters. Let's hope Noto was acting out of holiday good cheer and will now show some sense and bury this proposal. To be a great leader, he must be aware of voters' feelings and show common sense. If he doesn't, he will only add to the argument that the legislative form of government is useless and a Board of Supervisors preferable. And why not?

**Feeling Good** 

I just received a subscription renewal from Steve Chmela. In his note, Mr. Chmela said, "Here is my \$4.99 subscription for your great reporting on Brookhaven Town's real estate tax grievance procedure and follow up on the same. Please keep it up. Thank you."

His postscript really made me feel good. It said, "You saved me \$400 in taxes for 1979." Publishing a newspaper can be a very frustrating experience. You write millions of words, print thousands of pages of news, and are left wondering what you have really accomplished. When somebody like Chmela writes about how our work has tangibly affected him, it's fulfilling. We hope we have helped directly and indirectly almost every other resident who receives our paper.

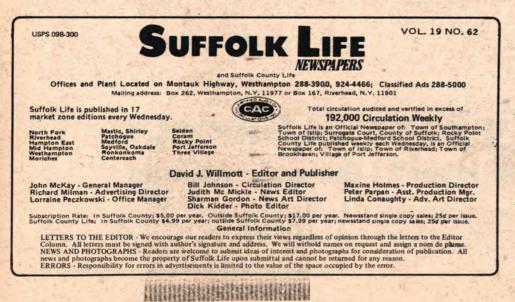
We have known in the past we could have done better if we had the funds to work with. That is why we ask you to voluntarily renew your subscription for \$4.99. Let's face it, \$4.99 is less than the cost of a carton of cigarettes, yet for this investment you receive reporters covering every aspect of government that affects you.

They act as your watchdog, investigate, write and publish their findings. Isn't it worth \$4.99 to you to have us continue being your watchdog? Won't you send in your \$4.99 today and renew your subscription for 1980?

And why not?

# No Four Year Terms

The presiding officer of the Suffolk County Legislature proposed changing legislative terms of office from two to four years in his opening address to this body last week. This is a totally unacceptable and



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# Is the Governor's memory failing him?

Gov. Hugh Carey is hardly old enough to be suffering from senility; but, to Eastern Long Island residents he appears to be.

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Less than a year and a half ago, he announced with great fanfare that the state had received one of the largest corporate gifts of land in history. The RCA Corp. was donating its receiving and transmitting sites in Rocky Point and Riverhead to the state for tax considerations. We editorialized that this could be a Trojan horse for local taxpayers. Carey assured both officials and residents that the state would pass necessary legislation to minimize the tax loss for local residents. Of course, that was an election year, and any talk was election bull. The school districts of Riverhead and Rocky Point, neither of them wealthy, are suffering. They have lost upward of \$100,000 in school tax revenues that paid for books, heating and salaries. These school districts have no alternative but to cut back on education and raise taxes. The town and county also are hurting from tax losses.

We doubt elected officials would have looked at RCA's gift to the state with enthusiasm if it had not been for Carey's promise. What good is a promise if the man who makes it reneges on his word? What good is a man who fails to keep his word? When Hugh Carey gets up tomorrow morning and looks in the mirror, he should ask himself these questions.

While he is at it, he should think about another promise which apparently will be broken on Jan. 29. Carey promised prior to his reelection that Jamesport was dead. As far as the state was concerned, permission would never be given to build a nuclear power plant at this site. Carey appointed the commissioners who sit on the siting board. He has the power to hire and fire them. It appears either he or his appointments secretary didn't screen these appointees.

Two of the members are involved in the atomic energy business. A quick glance at their resumes would have indicated this to anyone who cared to look. One of the commissioners is a member of the Nuclear Hall of Fame. Tom Toomey, the environmentalist lawyer hired to fight these atomic energy plants, sat in our office the other day bewildered. He claimed Carey's commissioners had not bothered to read the reams of testimony taken over the last two years. He said their actions at the latest hearing appalled him.

One of the commissioners, discussing the geological formation of the site proposed, thought it was similar to the bedrock under Three Mile Harbor. When informed Long Island is made up of sea and sand, she stated, "Well, maybe if there is an accident the sand will be fused together by the heat and turned into a solid substance."

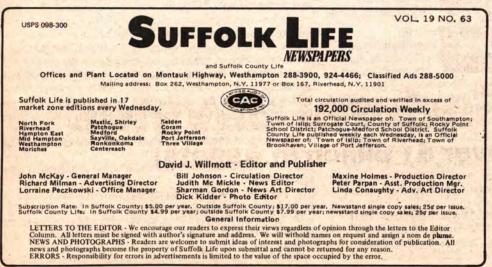
Testimony as to evacuation was even more frightening. A pro-nuclear commissioner said callously, "We will distribute iodine pills to all the residents; in that way we will not have to evacuate them when there is an accident, and those who take them won't be hurt that bad." He further stated, "To avoid the traffic jams, we will ban all driving. There are a lot of boats on Long Island -- people can escape on them." These commissioners are talking about our lives, our safety. None of them live here; none of them give a darn about what will happen if an accident did occur.

Those people are only interested in protecting Long Island Lighting Company's investment and helping the dangerous nuclear energy industry. Carey, himself, should read the testimony of these last three hearings. The testimony is grounds for dismissal, and that should come before the Jan. 29 announcement.

Carey could at least keep a promise he made to us as individuals, that the state under Carey would never approve Jamesport as a site for nuclear generating power.

Yes sir, Gov. Carey should take a deep, hard look at himself tomorrow morning as he shaves. For, in the mirror he will either see a man of courage or a man without honor. The choice is his and he will have to live with it.

And why not?



## Most affected, last contacted

Rep. William Carney couldn't have done a better job of exemplifying what is wrong with the federal bureaucracy than in his recent newsletter.

Carney was attempting to defend his support for the Eastern Long Island estuarine sanctuary program by saying, "Early in the new year, we learned that some local officials were unaware of the plan and had not had the opportunity to participate at an early stage of the proposal. Regrettably, these local officials had not been able to ask the questions about the plan which I had before I gave it my support."

Carney's job as congressman is to represent the 1st Congressional District, keep us informed about Washington, particularly what Washington has planned for us. It was Carney's direct responsibility to inform all local officials and the media of this plan and its ramifications. Carney did not do this. He failed to keep his constituents and the town and county government informed. Carney was sent to Washington in hopes he would spread his Conservative philosophy. Many voters expressed the thought that, although he was not the smartest Congressional candidate, he had at least espoused a Conservative philosophy and would do nothing to harm us. None of us, friend and foe alike, expected him to become a demi-god, making decisions without asking for local feelings and comment.

Carney has let the people of the district down badly. By his own admission, local officials he should have sought out never were given an opportunity to have their feelings, or their constituents' feelings, known.

If Carney had not been so overwhelmed by the Washington mystic, he would have done his homework and found Eastern Long Islanders were unhappy about the estuarine plan.

Carney can still salvage the damage done, by withdrawing his support and announcing the public's opposition to this proposal. And why not?

## Fighting with one arm

We thought Vietnam had taught the leaders of this country a lesson. Never again would we fight a war with one arm tied behind us to insure defeat.

President Carter obviously did not feel the outrage felt by most Americans during the '60's and now as we enter the '80's. He speaks boldly, but in substance his words have little meaning.

As an example, when Russia invaded Afghanistan, he announced cancellation of our grain shipments, but later it was learned he was only talking about the extra grain. He still intended to fulfill our commitment under the original contract and sell eight million tons of Americanproduced foodstuffs to our enemy. At the same time, he announced he was ousting the Russian Consulates. We had visions of federal troops ushering the Russians to the airport. The next night on the news, a Russian interpreter nonchalantly said it might take them a month or more to close the Consulate and leave. They were in no hurry. He indicated this was hardly more than an inconvenience.

No wonder the world looks at America as a clown. We are all huff and puff, but a pushover for pipsqueaks and giants alike. What America needs is a leader with guts who can portray American feelings with meaning.

And why not?

## Why is gas 15% cheaper?

I just returned from the mountains, a good 200 miles from the closest seaport or refining facility. I expected to find gasoline 3 to 10 cents a gallon higher than here on Long Island. To my amazement and bewilderment, gasoline was selling 13 to 20 cents per gallon cheaper. Why?

Most petroleum products are either refined in New Jersey or brought to a tank farm by sea. Gas sold in the mountains must then be trucked from the seaport to the mountain regions. Trucking costs from 3 to 10 cents per gallon would be considered normal. How then can gasoline be retailed at 10 to 20 cents per gallon under the cost we are being forced to pay? This defies logic and deserves investigation. Why are the major oil companies allowed to rip us off in the metropolitan area?

We are paying an average of 15 percent more for the same product being marketed outside the metropolitan area. Our Long Island delegation and governmental leaders should join hands in an uproar that will get Albany and Washington off the seats of their pants. What more proof do we need the monopolistic marketing practices of the major oil companies are flagrantly abusing consumers in our hard-hit region. We can only assume this rip-off pertains to fuel oil as well as gasoline.

How many billions of dollars have we had drained from our spendable economy to enrich the Seven Sisters? Who are they paying for this privilege? What are we paying our taxes for if we have a government that is unable or refuses to protect us from such a scandalous outrage?

This is a new year, and if our elected officials want to start it off right, let them find the reason for this abuse.

Ferret out the abusers, prosecute and penalize. This outrage is robbery -- plain and simple. It should be treated as such and attacked with a vengeance.

And why not?