

Willmott's and Why-Not's

By David J. Willmott, Editor

Where Are The Candidates?

Here we are only four months before our local elections and the Democratic and Conservative parties are still scurrying around trying to find candidates to fill the slots for this vital election. In some cases we see familiar names or, better yet, perennial losers being proposed who allow their names to be thrown into the ring, no matter what the job, so that their party can field a slate of candidates. These sacrificial lambs are to be commended, at least, in that they do care for the democratic process and show their willingness to do something.

The main problem, that confronts all but the Republican party at this time of year, is the lack of a smooth-running professional organization. The Republicans have potential candidates for specific offices approaching the leadership for nomination.

The other parties don't, and they seem to pretend that there isn't an election until the very last minute. Then they frantically wring their hands and hope that Mr. Right will come forth and offer his name in nomination. This seldom happens and the result is unsuitable candidates with a poor organization behind them - not exactly the best situation for winning an election. The overall result is one-party rule which is the situation we have with us today.

Many of the parties are still looking for candidates of good caliber. If you are not satisfied with what we have and have the time to give to elected office, if you win, we strongly suggest that you get in touch with the various parties in your area. If you do not know who the leaders are, call this office and we will put you in touch with them.

Even if you are not an active candidate, get involved in the upcoming elections. It matters little which party you get involved with as long as you do your part to insure better government. And why not?

A Free Press

Two weeks ago we wrote an editorial criticizing the government's action in trying to halt the "New York Times" publication of supposedly classified material. Some of our readers have reacted with dismay that we did not defend the government's position that, because this was classified material, the Times was morally and ethically wrong in publishing it. We took the stand that freedom of the press and speech, as spelled out under the First Amendment of the Constitution, was in jeopardy. We still feel that this is the case. Since World War II much of what the people should have known has been classified and kept under wraps. It has been many people's feeling that much of what has been classified was numerous embarrassing mistakes not necessarily in the interest of national defense and that the word "classified" is nothing more than a catch-all term to keep the public from being informed.

With regard to the Pentagon papers, when you think that a man can walk off with forty-six volumes of classified material, without anyone questioning what he was doing, just how secret can that material be? Any damage that could have resulted from the publication of such material probably had been done already. You can rest assured that any foreign power, interested in these so-called secrets, had them years

ago long before they hit the presses.

Trusting Americans have all too long allowed themselves to be duped by smooth-talking politicians who are more interested in their own well-being than that of the nation. This sickness runs the gamut from our local school boards and town boards right up to Congress and the White House. Many newspapers have gone along with this policy of believing everything they are told without question. Even though we often find ourselves at the opposite end of the spectrum politically and don't, for one minute, question that the motives behind releasing these papers was to embarrass the Nixon administration, we stand behind the principle that the people have the inalienable right to know.

Now that this has been brought out into the open there should be no return to hiding behind classified material. We are delighted with the Supreme Court's decision; we hope that you are too. It's a fact - you have a right to know, to discuss and to study what your leaders are doing with your government and your lives. And why not?

They Don't Care

A governmental "public be damned" attitude could not have been more aptly expressed than it was in Riverhead this past week. After its negligence in not bringing the Northville superstructure to the public's attention, the town board covered up for its shortcomings, got a postponement from the Corps of Army Engineers, and called a special, closed meeting to find out what Northville was up to.

Behind all of this is a history of Northville always getting whatever it wanted in the Town of Riverhead. First they were permitted to locate their facility right smack in the center of a prime residential vacation area. The beach on both sides of this facility have been subject to a wash of oil. Northville claims the oil did not come from them. We don't believe it.

The Northville trucks have been allowed to tear up the roads and have been involved in several fatal accidents. For years the storage tanks remained un-

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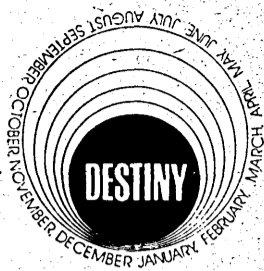
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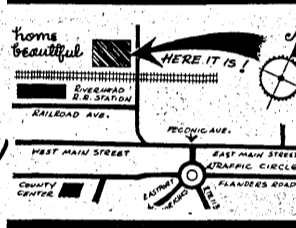
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East Hampton - Mrs. Herbert L. Golden, chairman of Guild Hall's Film Makers of the Hamptons, the festival which for the past two summers has closed the season with a bang, met recently with members of her committee, Mrs. Jerome Minskoff, Mrs. Cliff Robertson, Giraud Chester, Mr. Golden, Robin Green, Robert Gruen, Robert Lawrence, Hans Namuth and Dr. Alan York.

Among the programs thus far selected are the film on Gertrude Stein, "When This You See Remember Me," "Ruby," recently shown in the Whitney Museum's series by young film makers.

During each evening of the five day festival, persons connected with the film being shown will address the audience and there will be an informal reception following the show. Further details will be announced later.

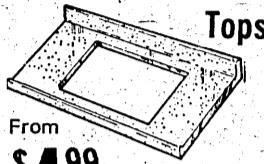
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EDITORIAL from page 3

painted eyesores in an otherwise lovely area. Northville did nothing constructive to improve its property until recently, and, to most residents, it was too little and it came too late. Northville is the kind of industry that every town wishes would settle someplace else.

Last year, unbeknownst to many people, Northville acquired a large tract of land below their present facility - a tract that is much larger than the present property. This area was quietly rezoned, without publicity, from farmland to industrial use. Northville can now expand its operation at will without having to get any further zoning approval.

Many experts feel that, in order to do this, they will have to enlarge and improve their operation in the Sound - that this is what is behind their application to the Army Engineers for a superstructure. A lot of people are very uneasy about what is going on and would like to have their questions answered.

Northville, and the Riverhead Town Board, in order to avoid answering these questions, called this mock hearing last Monday to which only a select few were invited. The public was not invited to it and up until the time, late Monday morning, when our news editor called to see if he could attend, the press was not even invited.

Obviously the town board does not want the people to know what is going on, even though the people have been calling out loud and clear for a public hearing on the proposition. We question, as we are sure most of the public questions, the handling of this entire project by both local and state officials. What are they afraid we will find out about? Why the frantic effort to cover the whole thing up? We do not know the answers to these questions but we intend to find out and publicize the results.

We do know that the behavior of the Riverhead Town Board can no longer be tolerated. The people of Riverhead want and deserve better leadership than they now have. These so-called leaders do as they damn well please and are making a mockery of public representation. Being elected to office does not give anyone the right to be a demagogue or dictator. Elected officials are morally obligated to hear out their public and abide by the public's wishes. By avoiding public confrontation with the people who elected them to office these elected officials are taking a coward's way of doing things. They must be stopped - NOW! And why not?

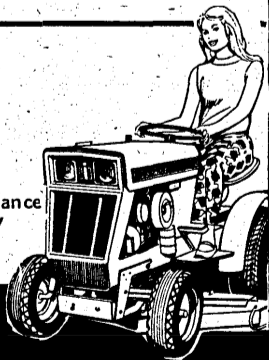
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By David J. Willmott, Editor

Teenage Vote

This paper, along with many others, has long advocated that eighteen-year-olds be accorded the right to vote. Now they legally can.

From early reports these young people are not rushing to the board of elections to register. This is disappointing.

We urge all of our young people, who have not yet done so, to register now. You may not think that your vote means much - but it does! There have been any number of elections, when the total vote was up in the hundreds of thousands, that have been decided by just a few votes. A few years back a mid-western senatorial race, with a total vote of over 400,000, was decided by less than 20 votes.

There is also that indescribable feeling one gets when he steps into the voting booth and pulls the curtain shut behind him. Suddenly one becomes aware of the many struggles that have taken place in our history that have made us such a great country. This is a real, emotional, gut feeling that most people experience when they hold that lever in their hand. At that moment you know you are the absolute equal of any other man - that no other person has any more power or ability than you to change the destiny of his government. This is a feeling that you can only experience in a free country; moreover it is a feeling that no one should cheat himself out of.

If you are undecided or confused as to which political party to enroll in you don't have to enroll in any. This is probably the best move until you find yourself clearly in accord with one political philosophy or another. It also leaves you free to work actively for different candidates, of different political persuasions, without having to feel that you are cheating.

The biggest advantage of registering in a particular party is that you are eligible to vote in that party's primaries, and it is in the primaries where your vote has its biggest personal effect. It is here where you elect committeemen, and sometimes in these committeemen races as few as three votes are cast. Of course, this is not the way it should be, but you can see how effective your one vote can be by your active participation within the system.

A world of opportunity is open to young people, as well as old people, to change our system for the better, but you must become part of it before you can change it. To become part of it register and make your vote felt. And why not?

Rotary Barbecue Aug. 7th

On August 7th the Riverhead Rotary Club will once again present its famous fun-filled family outing - the great old-fashioned barbecue. This tremendous annual affair will be held in the beautiful picnic grove and amusement area of Grumman Aircraft in Calverton.

This barbecue traditionally attracts between three and five thousand visitors. If you have never been to it you may wonder why so many folks turn out, year after year, for the occasion. There are many reasons but one of the biggest attractions is the carnival-type rides for the kids. The children can go on all of these rides as often as they wish without charge. In these days of high amusement costs parents know they can drop a bundle at a carnival on rides. Here you don't. Besides this there is the delicious food served in ample proportions

promptly. In the past, even with thousands to be served, the longest wait was less than twenty minutes. Even at last year's affair, when the fires were put out by a sudden, unexpected rainstorm, the wait was minimal.

Besides the individual benefits to be derived from the barbecue, fun, food and fellowship - there are long run benefits that are most important to the community. The Riverhead Rotary Club has been involved in numerous community projects that have been directly responsible for the good life that has existed in this town for years. The Rotary has lent a substantial, helping hand and has played an important role in hospitals, scholarships, student loans, recreation, YMCA, drug rehabilitation and control, welfare and exchange students to name just a few. The money raised from these annual barbecues has made support of these projects possible. The barbecue is entirely a voluntary affair. All proceeds are used to support these projects.

The price of the tickets, purchased in advance, are just \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. This includes a full-course chicken barbecue with all the trimmings, all rides and entertainment, fellowship, parking and, most important of all, the assurance that the Rotary projects will be continued. Tickets may be purchased from any Riverhead Rotarian or by mail through Suffolk Life at our office on Montauk Highway, Westhampton, N. Y. By purchasing in advance you can save 50 cents per ticket. We encourage you to buy yours early and support this very worthwhile community endeavor. And why not?

Who's Accusing?

At last week's Riverhead Town Board meeting, when Jack Harding questioned Vincent Grodski about the current shopping center application, Councilman Grodski answered, "I refuse to answer on the grounds that it might incriminate me."

To our knowledge no one has accused anybody of anything. We can't understand why members of the town board are so jumpy. Of course, there is that old saying "If the shoe fits, wear it." And why not?



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You're Right, Randy

Randy Moore spoke to the Rotary recently about the future of our area and the role that aviation should play in it. Randy literally grew up in the aircraft industry. He started with Grumman back in the days when they operated out of a garage in the west end. Until recently he was a vice president of Grumman and is now an aerospace consultant. There is probably no more knowledgeable aviation expert than Randy Moore. He is well aware of the aviation industry's advantages, shortcomings and ramifications.

He spoke quite candidly of eastern Suffolk's need for solid future aviation development. He spoke of jets and runways and noise, but, most importantly, he put aviation in context with the style of life residents of our area enjoy. He doesn't want to see that which we value most sold out and ruined. Like all of us he values the quality of life found out here, and he also recognizes that we are going to change and grow. That growth is inevitable and necessary to our future economic stability. We must have businesses and jobs.

What he recommended is that instead of taking what is known in the industry as the low end and least desirable aspect of aviation - non-scheduled and air freight operations - we go after the cream of the crop. That cream is executive aircraft and he feels that our county airport should be developed for corporate headquarters and research and development centers. This is what Suffolk Life has been advocating since we learned that the county was going to acquire the Westhampton facility.

Large, world-wide corporations have been moving out of the city rapidly. Their executives want a better way of life for themselves and their families. They want clean air, natural recreation, desirable land for their homes, good neighborhoods and schools and decent, sound communities. They want to be close enough to New York to be able to get there quickly, but they want to be far enough away from the city to be free of its environment. One of the most critical needs facing a corporate headquarters is an aviation facility capable of servicing its jet airplanes. As it stands now, Suffolk County is just the perfect place. The runways are adequate and would not have to be extended. They will have to be extended if we plan on taking in big, noisy, oversized freight aircraft and charter flights. There is substantial property bordering the airfield that could be used for the construction of private, tax-paying corporate structures. We have an abundance of trained clerical and business help in the area both part and full time.

As Randy Moore pointed out, Suffolk County air base has virtually everything to offer corporate operations. Our area has the land, the help, the housing, the schools and the natural resources that any company would be proud to offer its people. On top of that you can get to New York City faster from here than from

many other Connecticut and New Jersey communities that have been successful in attracting this type of operation.

The residents of this area have a choice to make through their legislature. We cannot have both kinds of aviation development. If the county is allowed to continue on its present course we will have a lot of jet noise and dirty, low-paying air freight. Our leaders must be persuaded to go after the more lucrative, peaceful type of airport development, and they must be persuaded NOW. This is our last chance to see that eastern Long Island remains a nice place to live. We urge you to write to your legislature on this matter as soon as possible. Do it today. And why not?

Postal Strike?????

.....we hope not, but the way things look there may very well be a nation-wide postal strike on July 25. We have decided to continue to publish even if the strike takes place. In some areas Suffolk Life will be delivered by our own personnel, in other areas where the homes are far apart we will have Suffolk Life on your local newsstand.

A postal strike might provide a convenient excuse to close down our plant and let our people enjoy some part of the summer, but we feel that we have an obligation to all of our readers to continue bringing you the paper. Things are happening too fast to let them go unnoted in our pages. Our advertisers have come to depend on our ability to reach you with their messages. Therefore we will do our darndest to get a copy of the paper to everyone. We hope you will be understanding of whatever inconvenience this strike might cause you. We can only hope that the strike, if there is one, will be of short duration. And why not?



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Spirit of Independence

The residents of Southampton Town should be elated at the political "happening" of last week. Out of the maze of political maneuvering has come a candidate who has said to the people, loud and clear, that he belongs to them and not to any political machine. That candidate happens to be Theodore O. "Dode" Hulse,, the popular mayor of Westhampton Beach. He is a man who we, and most others we have talked to, deeply respect, and he is a candidate to be reckoned with.

This past spring Dode Hulse came to our office and said that he was considering running for Supervisor of Southampton Town. He said that he was a political independent and had been offered both the Democratic and Conservative endorsements. He told us of his deep concern for Southampton Town and outlined many of the problems that face the Southampton community. His concern and viewpoints echoed many of the concerns and thoughts that hundreds of our readers have written to us about. He said that he felt the only way the problems that face Southampton Town could be remedied would be for a dedicated and independent supervisor to get in and fight like hell.

Dode discussed the ban on cross-endorsements and told us, in no uncertain terms, that it was a blatant attempt to deny the voter his rights. He said he would not sign an agreement to abide by the ban under any circumstances -- that he would run for the people and would not be part of any political deal. Soon after our conversation with Dode the Democrats publicly announced their support of this independent. We were concerned about what kind of deal, if any, Dode might have had to make. Our concerns were washed away when he also accepted the endorsement of the Conservative party. Here, indeed, was a man keeping his word to run as an independent.

Dode Hulse again showed his fierce sense of independence when the county Democratic boss, Mr. Baranello, told him last Wednesday night that he would be stripped of the Democratic endorsement unless he refuted the Conservative endorsement. Here was the perfect example of the county Democratic leader trying to run Southampton Town government. Dode told him that he was an independent, running for the good of the people of Southampton Town, that he wasn't going to be part of any deal made on the county level and that the county Democratic leader was not going to order him around now or at any later date. Needless to say Dode is now running only on the Conservative ticket. His independence has jeopardized his chances of winning in November but, at the same time, he has clearly shown us that he is a man of principle. That's a pretty rare commodity in politics.

Along with Dode Hulse six other stalwart candidates, running for various town offices, have shown the same kind of independence. They are also to be congratulated.

Politically speaking, Dode and his rebels may have committed suicide, but we have a feeling that the people of Southampton Town recognize the value of courage and independence and that this kind of independent spirit will work for them. Underdogs they may be now, but top dogs we expect them to be on election night. And why not?

Mobile Home Living

In both Brookhaven and Riverhead Town mobile home living has been the talk of the town board. Brookhaven is contemplating amending its zoning ordinance to allow for the development of mobile homes. In Riverhead, where there are already several existing parks, the town board has recently been apprised of abuses perpetrated by some of the unscrupulous park operators.

Mobile home living has changed drastically over the last ten years. Gone are the days when you could see virtual tin cans being towed behind cars. Gone too are the days that saw most mobile home owners as transients. Today the new units are, in some cases, as expensive as conventional homes and almost as big. They offer many advantages over apartment living and can be less costly. They provide ideal retirement quarters, particularly to those who have been used to homes with grounds. They are compact yet roomy, they offer more privacy than an apartment, and, best of all, there is an almost limitless range of diverse architectural styles.

We have been in parks that are a total disgrace, and we have seen others that provide ideal living conditions. What makes the difference is who owns the parks and how they run them. We have seen mobile homes on private property that make stationary houses look sub-standard. We have seen others that downgrade the property surrounding them. Today's mobile homes are really neither good nor bad. It is their owners and how they value things that makes the big difference.

We do think that mobiles make ideal retirement homes and that retired people, with their limited demands on services, make ideal residents of such communities. Mobiles for families are not ideal any more than apartments are. Families need larger houses and more grounds.

The problems facing the town boards on the question of mobile homes are not easy to resolve. A step in the right direction might be to allow mobiles into residential zoned areas. At least the owners would not be the captives of unscrupulous park owners and you would have a comparatively small sized building on an oversized lot. They could bring in a proportionate amount of tax dollars just as a conventional homeowner. To look upon mobile homes today as we did ten and twenty years ago is a bit ridiculous. Mobiles do offer facilities similar to conventional homes and are comparable to hand-built houses in many ways.

The town boards might consider investigating the ramifications of permitting a mobile home on a half acre, if this is what the zoning calls for, in relation to the construction of a 1,000 square foot house. The only difference in the end would probably be in the age of the people who move into the unit, and they could be just as beneficial to the community as if they had moved into a regular hand-built house.

As our need for adequate housing increases mobile homes cannot be dismissed out-of-hand as tin cans that are towable behind automobiles. This is no longer so. They do offer a sound mode of housing and are deserving of being treated as so. And why not?