

Willmott's and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

They Ain't Worth It

This past week it was announced that Suffolk County legislators were seriously considering giving themselves raises amounting to an average of 90 percent. This is absurd. We'll be damned if they're worth what they're being paid now.

At the time when the county government was reapportioned, their predecessors were being paid \$5,000 per annum. There were 10 men who did all the work on a part-time basis, as they doubled as town supervisors. Somehow they managed to run the county government from these positions, and from what we've seen they did a far better job of it. Now there are 18 of them. That alone is an 80 percent increase in this work force. They started out at \$6,000 per annum and have given themselves, in less than four years, a 100 percent increase, bringing them to \$12,000. They are now asking for an unheard of \$20,000 per man, plus extras for the majority leaders, minority leaders and for the chairman of the board. This is for part-time, slipshod work, if you can even call it that.

When you see the quality of these representatives, as depicted in our own two East End legislators, Tom Strong of East Hampton and Beecher Halsey of Westhampton, we must shake our heads in amazement. Both do a first-class lousy job of representing the people. Neither one has demonstrated any particular ability to lead, and both display a decided lack of imagination and creativity. The only thing that either of them has going for them (and this is not particularly an asset to the people who are paying their salaries) is that they are registered Republicans and notorious political hacks.

If the county legislators had, in the past, demonstrated abilities to run this county economically and productively, then they might be justified in asking for a raise. As it stands now, the county government is one great big state of mass confusion ---- our tax monies are being squandered and wasted by the handful, services to the great majority of people are non-existent, and the county government has become a taxpayer's nightmare but a politician's dream.

It is costly, fat and unwieldy. There is no criteria for productivity nor does there seem to be any intention of setting any up. This group of men has

seen fit to raise taxes beyond the capabilities of the citizens to absorb them. They have made absolutely no attempt to keep county government spending within the county's ability to generate taxes.

If they had pulled this kind of stunt in business they would have been fired long ago, but government is not business. It is our fault that these men are in the positions they are in today. We, as voters, blindly elected them. Our stupidity does not give them any right to grant themselves raises arbitrarily, particularly raises that are far out of proportion to the value that they give to the county.

The Republican leadership of Suffolk must step into this matter. They were able to convince the voters to elect these people, solely because they were Republicans. They sold us a bill of goods, claiming that if they were Republicans they could do no wrong. The Republican leadership is the only group that can exercise any control in this matter. We doubt that the people who control the Republican machine would put these legislators to work in their own respective businesses at the salaries they are now making. They couldn't afford this kind of luxury (sic) and they wouldn't be fools enough to jeopardize their own businesses by putting these incompetents in the position of making decisions.

If the legislators are granted these proposed raises or, for that matter, any raise at all, it will be the sole doing of the Republican Party here in Suffolk. If the raises are not granted, it will also have been stopped by the leadership of the Republican Party. The voters will be watching. And why not?

Welcome Aboard

With the summer season officially here, perhaps it's a good time to welcome new and old visitors to Eastern Suffolk County. We all have a long summer ahead of us and both year-round resident and traveler might, perhaps, take a few minutes to think about one very important word: "cooperation".

Eastern Suffolk is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty and clean, adequate facilities to house, entertain and, in general, provide everything that a resort area should

have. But lack of cooperation and carelessness has, over the years, deteriorated to the point where the summer landscape begins to look more and more like one gigantic litter basket. No one person or group is totally responsible --- it's a mantle of shame that must be worn by a sad majority of the people.

Cooperation -- the keynote to a clean and healthy retreat from the every day. Cooperation comes in the form of obeying simple rules set down by authorities to protect the general welfare; it is observance of the common rules of decency and cleanliness that knows no age limit; it is doing unto others and theirs what you would have done unto yours.

In this spirit and with the thermometer climbing higher, Eastern Suffolk residents and visitors can enjoy, together, many hours of relaxed fun and companionship. It's up to all of us. And why not?

Some Good News

The sun actually broke through last week..... Brookhaven Town Board upzoned one-third acre lots to one-half acre in Mt. Sinai..... Klein's veto of jetties held up and avoided a disgraceful waste of more taxpayer's money..... "Agnes" loved Long Island but spared her feminine fury by splitting in half in Jersey..... It was formally announced that my secretary, Judi Wiley, became engaged to Perry Lunn, SUFFOLK LIFE's star Riverhead Account Executive..... School's out for several thousand eastern Long Island kids, and they have 2½ months of pure, solid fun to look forward to. A NOTE ON THIS: Please watch out. The kids are all over the streets now at any hour of the day and night, and we all, as drivers, are placed in a greater amount of danger of hitting one of them..... Night Town Board meetings being well attended, almost always an overflow crowd, and not with people

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EDITORIAL from page 3

with personal gripes, but with citizens genuinely interested in the overall aspects of their local government.....

Archie Knobler appointed Industrial Commissioner for Town of Riverhead. A real sharp businessman with true desire to see the town grow properly and prosperously. Should do heck of a good job..... Patchogue Chamber of Commerce holding famous annual "Carnival Days" this week, with big, big money-saving bargains to be offered..... And, we're running out of space, which should be the best news of all. And why not?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Willmott:

In the several right-to-life letters printed in your paper during the past few weeks, a strong paradox has appeared. In one sentence the consensus has blatantly stated that there is no environmental-population problem: God will provide man an ecosystem to suit all his needs. The following sentence develops the concept that industrial technology (man's manipulation of and attempts to understand the world he lives in) will reverse itself and magnanimously create a surplus of material wants and needs, while cleaning the filth of technologies of the past. Nowhere in these premises are there even precursors of a plan developed. Perhaps those plans are all in God's provision, but where are the bases for the industrial technological revolution? These promised surpluses: are they to

be created from farms which have been paved with subdivisions? from bays whose waters are deemed a health hazard due to fecal counts by the Health Department? from the sea which is irrevocably being plated with a stifling blanket of crude oil?

The main theme of these letters has been an extremely negative approach...either damning or misquoting eminent scientists such as Dr. Paul Ehrlich (chairman of the Graduate School of Biology, Stanford University) and Dr. Ansley Coale (director of the Office of Population Research at Princeton University) who foresee potential problems in the environmental-population arena and have laid down the outline of possible solution or preventive courses for society to follow.

Perhaps God and industrial technology can provide, but if the past is any criteria, there has never been much of a partnership. And the scientific technologists...persons with expertise in biology, demography, social services, etc....loudly but seemingly to no avail are enunciating that problems now presently exist and are being aggravated. If those who are concerned by populations that will double in thirty years on a world-wide scale and environments that are being noticeably destroyed by man (even to the most calloused eye), are labelled "ranting lunatics", then our civilization in truth is in desperate trouble.

ZPG, one of many cooperating environmental-population concerned organizations, is shocked by the premise laid down in this series of letters that abortions, sterilizations and other personal matters are MANDATED in the goals of these organizations. Such statements could not be further from the truth and border on slander.

Those who wish to negate positive work being done to make a better world for all should at least do a minimal of research before they publish their emotional diatribes. But then it always has been easier to destroy than build.

We in ZPG, as always, open our meetings to all. One of our main goals is education so as to effect real solutions to the problems that face us, not to take the easy way out and go under the concept that God will provide solutions to all selfish acts and mismanagements of His creation that man commits. Above all, man, through the dangers of war, starvation, racism, and pollution, may even come to understand that he did not create the earth and that he was put into it as part of creation...to have dominion or responsibility as a caretaker within God's plan.

Sincerely,
Charles R. Hedberg,
Chairman Hampton ZPG
Westhampton, N. Y.

Dear Dave:

I thought you might be interested in the attached letter our Southampton office received from an anonymous, and apparently transient, subscriber. It speaks for itself.

Tom Milsap, District Manager
N. Y. Telephone Company
Riverhead, N. Y.

Dear Manager of N.Y. Telephone Co.
55 Windmill Lane
Southampton, N. Y.

While on a trip through L. I., several years ago, I used a pay telephone near Bridgehampton, at a group of small white cottages. I found that a number of dimes were in the slot drop and used them. I realize this was a dishonest deed, so am enclosing a dollar bill to cover same. Please add it to you Co. bookkeeping. May all of us realize that big or little, dishonesty is dishonesty.

Dear Mr. Willmott:

The North Fork Auxiliary to the Association for Retarded Children would express appreciation to your media for the picture coverage given the 5th annual benefit dinner sponsored by Griswold-Terry-Glover Post 803 of Southold.

Chairman for the annual fund raising event is Curtis Horton, Past Commander of the Legion. Post members with the assistance of the Ladies' Auxiliary, purchase, prepare and serve the meal with the entire proceeds from the sale of tickets benefiting the North Fork Auxiliary.

The Southold Legion has to date donated in excess of \$10,000 to promote programs for the retarded residing on Eastern Long Island.

Thanks, again, for all your cooperation.
Sincerely yours,
Lillian Cowan
President North Fork Auxiliary

Open Letter to:
Riverhead Recreation Department
Riverhead, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

I am a senior citizen, living in East Moriches in the Town of Brookhaven. Last year I called your office to see what the chances were of getting a beach sticker for the Wading River beach. I was told that no special permits were given out to anyone.

We senior citizens can get school tax relief (if we wish to), reduced prices at shows and movies so will some one please tell me why an exception can't be made in this case.

I KNOW I can use the beach at Shoreham but it is not half as nice as Wading River, thanks to LILCO. I would be most appreciative if you can grant me this favor. I would probably use a permit 3 or 4 times a year but it would be awfully nice knowing I could without cheating.

Thank you very much.
Very truly yours,
Fannie R. Huggler
Mrs. E. Huggler
P.S. to Suffolk Life:

I will let you know how I make out and as this has been a project of yours for some 10 years, I thought you'd be interested.
f.h.

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While some insist it gets tougher to cover the local sports scene, the Suffolk Life WEEKENDER is fortunate to have Perry Wiesen and his limitless file on local sports happenings and personalities as a weekly feature. If it's happening, Perry knows about it and pulls no punches as he passes it along to our readers. Don't let it pass you by this week!



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