

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Summer Pets . . . Winter Pests

Another summer season is fast coming upon us. Homes that have been boarded and vacant over the cold winter months have suddenly burst to life. Schools will be closing in less than three weeks and families will be coming out en masse to enjoy the quality of life offered here on the East End.

Most of us here welcome our summer residents with open arms. They are great people, contribute an awful lot to our community and our economy and make little demands on our services beyond what we are capable of giving.

There is one subject though, about which we must caution you against this year. Many of the summer residents will be offered puppies and kittens and it may seem like a great idea to have a pet for your children and yourself for the summer.

Unfortunately, in the past, too many summer residents have not considered what they were going to do with these animals when they had to return to their apartments and crowded neighborhoods in the fall.

Turned loose

Thousands of cats and dogs are abandoned or turned loose on our highways around Labor Day. Most are caught by our local dog wardens and after not being claimed within five days are put to death with carbon monoxide.

Still, there are those that take to the woods and fields and become wild animals. These are the unlucky ones. They usually starve to death or die of diseases to which they no longer have immunities. It is not uncommon to find the remains of these animals in the woods and fields during the winter months.

Of even greater human importance is the fact that these animals have a tendency to band together and dogs will run in packs. They chase down deer, attack livestock and there have been numerous instances where children have been mauled and maimed by these packs of wild animals that once were lovable summer pets.

Your responsibility

The country is a great place to have a pet. We recommend wholeheartedly that you investigate the possibility of

having one, but if you make a positive decision in this direction, please, now, think of how this animal will fit into your existence in your winter home. You have a responsibility to the animal and to the residents of the East End to care for this animal and to provide for it after you leave in the fall.

It should be noted that as hard as the animal adoption agencies try to accommodate all people that bring animals to them, at the end of the summer and into the fall, they are so swamped with requests to take unwanted animals that they have no room for any more and have to turn owners and their pets away.

Local veterinarians will dispose of your animal for you if you can bring yourself to the point of having your pet put to death. Or the dog pounds will accept these animals under certain circumstances. None of these alternatives are very pleasant but you would be far better off thinking about them now before you assume the responsibility for one of these animals.

We hope you, our summer residents enjoy your stay. We look forward to your company. And why not?

Fait Accompli

Right or wrong, good or bad, it looks like Long Island will be struck with offshore oil drilling regardless of our feelings. The oil companies have just too much clout and own too many people in the government to be stopped.

We can fully expect, fresh from victories of gouging the public with unbelievably high costs of fuel, that they won't produce a failsafe method of drilling for oil off our beaches. The "public be damned" attitude has been the by-word of the oil giants since the days of John D. Rockefeller and hasn't changed much.

Suffolk County Executive John Klein, Nassau County Executive Ralph Caso, their county boards, and just about every other government official and citizen who cares about the quality of life here on Long Island, has protested loudly and vigorously against offshore oil drilling.

All have been unanimous in saying they would not protest it and would welcome it, if the oil companies could

produce a method of developing these oil resources that would be safe from accidents or potential disasters.


The oil companies' answer to this and other criticism was an alleged oil shortage which has only resulted in oil prices jumping 30 to 100 percent. We have a Congress in this country that is gutless. There is virtually no hope that this organization will break up these oil companies and bring them down to size.

The president of this country has his own problems with his tapes, and at this point is unable to give support to motherhood and apple pie. The oil companies have made no bones about it. Their partner in crime, the Interior Department, is biting at the bit to grant leases for this exploration and drilling.

Those of us who have made Long Island our home, have little to say about what will probably ruin the environment and make the quality of life we enjoy, useless.

We could throw out of office those incumbents who have done so little to protest this development of the oil resources in the Atlantic, but by the time the November election rolls around these master politicians will confuse most people with their charm, their smiles, their warm handshakes and the nickel pencils they hand out. What they haven't done about oil will be forgotten.


About the only encouragement we can give you at this point is to go to the beach and go fishing a lot this year. Next year you may be swimming in the world's greatest oil slick and the fish will be gone. And why not?



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Save The Farms

John Klein, County Executive, has proposed an imaginative and practical approach to save the farmlands.

The plan basically would allow a farmer, if he chooses, to sell his farmland now at the current market price less the value of the land to be used for ever more as farmland. What in reality he would be selling is the value of the development rights to this land.

What he would retain would be actual ownership of the land with the restriction that it could only be used as farmland.

The public will benefit from this by having massive green areas and lower school taxes. We would eliminate much of the pollution, need for sewers, and preserve our fresh water supply also. In addition, we would receive a side benefit in being able to buy foodstuffs a little cheaper as it would cost the farmer less to raise his produce.

The one big flaw in the plan which can be corrected by legislation on the State level is a farmer would have to take full payment for these development rights in one year. This, of course, would put the farmer in an astronomical tax bracket and eliminate much of his capital gain. Legislation should be passed allowing the County to pay the farmer a set figure over a number of years, giving a tax advantage for participating in this program.

Not well received

Yet this plan has met with lukewarm to cold response from the farm community. It has been suggested that the plan has not been explained thoroughly enough and that the farmers traditionally are afraid of change or new ideas.

What we think is behind this is quite simple -- greed. Farmers this year, and for the last few years, have had extremely successful harvests. There have been large profits made and losses have been kept to a minimum.

Lean years

This has not always been the case. In fact, for almost two decades it was darn difficult for a farmer to make ends meet and many of the less wisely managed farms met with financial disaster and were bought up by other farmers or real estate speculators.

During this period of farm losses, there was extensive pressure placed upon the communities to tax these

farmers at lower than normal rates. The assessment on the value of this land was placed far below the market value of development land. According to Tom McKay, an ex-farmer who is now the head tax assessor in the Town of Riverhead, active farmers in 1974 are paying up to 200 per cent less in taxes on their farms than a developer is for land.

There has been a hue and cry from many sectors in the community to reassess farmland at its true value to bring it up to par with the rest of the community. There will be substantially more demand for this and it will probably become a reality if Klein's plan, or a better plan -- if there is one -- is not adopted. This will mean it will become more pressing to develop this land, make it profitable -- which will only speed up the process of ruining the quality of life cherished here on the East End.

Look at its merits

We encourage the farm community to take a cold, hard look at Klein's plan. It has definite merit as it will allow the farmer to continue to use his land while not being taxes right off it. It will give him the value, the development rights now and we are sure legislation can be passed that will allow a farm owner to take this money over an extended period of time, thus gaining tax relief. And why not?

Happy Father's Day, Dad

My dad never achieved greatness in the popular sense of the word. He never was elected to office. He didn't become a wealthy man. But, as I think about it, he did achieve greatness in the sense of what a father is supposed to be. He gave my sisters and me a real sense of value, a purpose and a direction and a lot of practical, common sense.

Dad was from the old school and had little use for Doctor Spock and all his theories. He believed in, and he gave us examples, through which we could learn. Dad was no activist or civil rightsman, yet I remember him putting his reputation on the line when a black woman, a domestic, wanted to buy a house and, from what he could see, she was turned down only because she was black. He raised a bit of proverbial hell and somehow she got the mortgage and never missed a payment.

Many times I remember Dad going to the aid of people who were in trouble, finding jobs for those who wanted to work and loaning a few bucks to somebody who was down on his luck and only needed a helping hand to get him up again. Don't get me wrong. He was no pushover. He had very little use for, and told those who thought he was a soft touch where they could go in a hurry.


He took his responsibility as a citizen seriously. He kept himself informed of the issues of the day and spoke out to his friends and associates about his opinions. He had little use for government for he felt each man was responsible for himself and government only got in the way of his accomplishing his goals.

Dad believed in a man getting ahead by hard work and using his natural abilities. Dad was successful in business. Three times he made what was considered in those days a lot of money. But fate struck in the form of ill health of people he loved, and he willingly spent everything he had to help them recover.

Dad had never seen the inside of a college or an institution of higher learning, yet he keenly enjoyed classical music and could answer most any question you threw at him on almost any subject because he read everything he could get his hands on.

Dad didn't tell us to be honest and straightforward. He showed us by his example this was the best course.


One quality that dad developed in all of us for which we can be thankful is the ability and the desire to think. He would challenge us with questions and problems and encourage us to seek the answers and to never accept the obvious as the only answer. cont. on page 41 EG



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He taught us to be proud, and that to be proud you must do your very best at anything you attempt; when you concluded what you were doing you should be able to say, whether you won or you lost, "I put my utmost into it and therefore I can be proud of my efforts and satisfied".

There are so many other things, simple things, things that every father does that all of tend not to appreciate until we really think about it. Don't get me wrong. My dad was no saint. He had his strengths and his weaknesses. But even in his weaknesses he taught us a lesson that no one can be perfect, he taught us some weaknesses you can overcome and others you cannot, but you still must be proud of yourself to be satisfied and happy.

Tell him now

I have never really told my dad the things I am writing in this editorial, as I am sure most children never told their parents even though they feel them in their heart. I feel fortunate in being able to tell my father these things today and to say thanks for giving me an opportunity and an example to grow as a person.

Happy Father's Day, Dad. And to all the other fathers, we are sure your children are wishing you the same. Have a happy. And why not?

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The Incredible Conservatives

A famous saying, "Politics makes strange bedfellows" couldn't have been truer in the dealings of the Conservative Party with their own members, with the Republicans, and with the Democrats.

Shut out

The Conservatives have been shut out for the last three years from offering endorsements to major party candidates by a cross-endorsement ban between the Democrats and the Republicans. The Conservatives have desperately been trying to break this ban during this period of time. Suffolk Life has supported this move as we had seen many good candidates that had been offered by the Conservative Party and by the Democratic Party, down to defeat because of the huge Republican enrollment and machine here in Suffolk County.

This past November, the Conservatives spoke of the possibility of an agreement to break the cross-endorsement ban on the District Attorney's race that will be run this November. The leadership at the time was looking for a candidate who had impeccable credentials, who could meet the Conservative philosophy and yet would be also acceptable to the Democrats.

O'Brien appears

By the early part of the year, Henry O'Brien's name had emerged. O'Brien had once been a Goldwater Republican and for the last year had been registered as a Democrat and had actively worked on one of the campaigns last fall. O'Brien is a sharp young man with credentials that would make him more appealing to the people than to the politicians.

He had spent six years as an assistant district attorney and had earned the respect of court followers, fellow district attorneys, judges and lawyers. He had been, and still is, a special prosecutor.

He was part of Nadjari's staff, investigating and prosecuting official corruption in Suffolk County; and when Nadjari left Suffolk and was appointed special prosecutor to ferret out official corruption in the City of New York, O'Brien was one of his first appointments. O'Brien resigned from Nadjari's staff to come back to Suffolk to take care of his sister, who is incapacitated.

O'Brien is at present a successful

criminal lawyer in Riverhead. Both parties interviewed O'Brien and it appeared that once and for all there could be agreement based upon the qualifications of a man rather than his politics. O'Brien received the official designation from the Executive Committee of the Democrats and it was assumed he would receive, as agreed, the endorsement from the Executive Committee of the Conservative Party.

Make a deal?

In the meantime, the Republicans announced they were going to break the cross-endorsement ban and enter into negotiations with the Conservatives. The price they asked was absolute, across-the-board endorsement of all Republican candidates, which also includes their candidate for district attorney. The rank and file of the Conservative Party were infuriated about this move. The leadership of the Conservative Party damn near ruined the Conservative organization once before by becoming involved in such a move.

Last minute move

In a back stretch effort (we presume to save face), the Executive Committee of the Conservative Party canceled their convention for last Friday night and had it rebooked as an information meeting. This was done to avoid a battle royale.

The Executive Committee then proceeded to produce their own candidate for district attorney. They nominated Fred Block, a man of an absolutely opposite political philosophy of anyone within the Conservative movement. His approach to government and to people is that of a total liberal even though he is registered a Democrat. He is quoted in *Newsday*, after receiving the Conservative nomination, as saying, philosophically, that he has very little in common with the Conservatives.

Politics above principles

When we were told of this proposed move last Friday afternoon by one of the Conservative leaders, we incredulously asked how in good conscience can the Conservatives possibly run a candidate with these beliefs? The simple answer was that in doing this, Block would be indebted to the Conservatives and, therefore, they

could gain from this alliance.


Last Friday was a sad day for Conservatives in Suffolk County. It was a day the leadership of the Conservative Party put politics above principles and gave away the heritage of the rank and file who had turned to the Conservative Party as an answer to the political and moral corruption which has permeated Suffolk County politics.

Champion of the underdog

Over the years, the editorial columns of Suffolk Life have reflected a conservative outlook and will continue to do so. When and if Conservative candidates do come forth who are interested in the good of the people of Suffolk County and are the best, we will support them. We can no longer, in good conscience, support the present leadership of the Conservative Party who placed emphasis on patronage and political doubledealings instead of integrity and principles.

It is sad this all happened in 1974, a year when voters are looking for honesty and for ethics, a year in which many people could have turned and would have turned to the Conservative Party for leadership. We have always been a strong advocate of an alternative to the Republican and Democratic parties and we are a champion of the underdog.


We hope the rank and file of the registered Conservative Party will seek new leadership. Leadership with integrity, principles and courage. Suffolk County needs them. And why not?



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Our Right To Be Independent

This Thursday is July 4th. It is the 198th birthday of our country. It is a day on which every American should rejoice. A day for swimming, picnicking, parades and firework displays. It should be more. It should be a day each one of us individually thinks how fortunate we are to live in a free country.

Taken for granted

Freedom is a word that is taken for granted. It was not taken so lightly 200 years ago when Americans first laid their lives on the line to release the new world from oppressive taxation and control of the mother country, England.

A newspaper editor 200 years ago could not sit down and write an editorial column such as this. A reader 200 years ago could not object for fear of being thrown into prison without trial.

It was a time when you could not elect your own representatives, but had to accept those who were given to you. A time when you were taxed and could not even complain about it or do anything to change the system. A time when you were told what church you could attend and what religion you would practice.

We could go on and on naming endless rules and regulations which the first Americans were made to live under; this brought them to a point where they rebelled against authority and took up arms and defeated their oppressors.

The founding fathers did an incredible job framing our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution. These men, although not lawyers (and many not even educated), wrote this document -- the Constitution which preserves the freedom of each and every one of us. It makes us all equal and gives us all the same opportunities.

Perfect -- for freedom

Today, 200 years later, America may not be the most perfect country imaginable -- but it is the most perfect in the world. Our people have the freedom to stay or to leave. If they choose to leave, they can take their family and wealth with them. If they choose to stay, they have as much right, as much power, as much influence to change the system as the next man.

They can organize, disseminate literature and opinions, choose to practice or not to practice any form of religion or cult they desire. They have the freedom to determine the type of education their children will be given and under what circumstances. They even have the freedom to criticize their elected leader, the President, a freedom which many of us have exercised over the last year. We encourage every American to think about this country, our country, and what it means to each one of us.

Get involved

And we implore you to become involved in government itself through the political system, in helping mold the country and the future. It may seem your one voice and your one vote is mighty insignificant, but this is the most powerful thing you have working for you. It is your guarantee that when exercised, it will keep you and your

children free for generations to come.

Read everything, both pro and con, that you can get your hands on pertaining to your government. Form your own opinions. Debate the facts as you know them. Keep your mind open to other opinions and respect others for having them.

If you feel strongly about an issue, work actively for its passage or its defeat. Don't hesitate to offer your services or your contributions to a candidate you feel should be in office. Never apologize for being involved in the political system or having a different opinion.

We're proud

By being involved, you are insuring the continuation of the system and its success will be the freedom of the generations to come. We are proud to live in America on this July 4th, 1974. And we are proud to be part of the system. And why not?

Hunger At Home . . . Loaded Abroad

This past March, while attending a Rotary meeting at the Yardarm, which sits on the dunes in Westhampton, we watched Russian and other foreign fishing vessels working less than one-half mile off the beach.

A pilot who had flown over this area during the same period said that he had to use his instruments at night to tell where the sky was because the boats were so numerous that their lights looked like stars.

Cleaned out

The foreign fishing fleets, under a ridiculous treaty signed by the State Department, have been allowed to come in and sweep the ocean bottom bare over the last decade. This has resulted in several species of fish reaching the point of extinction, species such as haddock and tuna, to name a few.

Smaller countries have protected themselves by placing a 200 to 800 mile limit around their shores. This insures at least their own fishing fleets will have an area in which to fish and the possibility of a catch.

So much and so little?


The State Department has resisted such a move by the United States on the grounds we have so much and the countries abroad have so little; to avoid world problems we have to feed the foreign nations.

This logic may sound good to some,

but to us it stinks, particularly when we read that foreign countries (most notably Russia and Poland) are grinding up fish that should be on American tables and feeding it to their cattle and poultry.

It's a cold, hard fact -- fish was once an inexpensive and bountiful food for Americans and is now one of the most costly items, eaten more as a luxury than as a mainstay. We are not talking about lobster -- which once could be bought for 50 cents a pound and now has gone as high as \$4 a pound -- we are talking about flounder that used to sell for 19 cents a pound and now, in season, is \$1.49.


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cont from 3 EG

Hurting ourselves

The State Department's quest to be a worldwide do-gooder has crippled entire communities such as Gloucester, Massachusetts. This once proud, thriving seaport, complete with a large fishing fleet and canning factories, is suffering an astronomical rate of unemployment due to the limited catches American boats are able to bring in.

There is no justice for the American people under the present system. We have allowed our State Department with its cockamammy treaty to deplete our aquatic resources to a point of almost no return.

A 200-mile limit must be imposed now. Another year, at best two or three, will leave our coast fishless. We have personally observed over the last 15 years of fishing offshore, a rapid decline in all types of fish. This even

includes the inedible varieties of shark. These are also caught up in the Russian nets and ground up and fed to their cattle.

Who does it help?

If we must feed the hungry nations of the world, let's do it for a profit and make sure it's in cold, hard gold, not credit, by selling them our surplus wheat, our surplus beef, and our surplus fish.

Our do-gooder program of giving away the United States has resulted in

these countries building their gold reserve and ruining the American dollar. Each and every one of us feels this in our own pocketbooks because as the dollar becomes less on the international scene, it is worth less at home because due to inflation it buys less.

For her own

America can no longer afford to look out for the world. She must look out for her own people. A giant first step would be to impose a 200-mile limit now! And why not?

Suffolk's silent signer - William Floyd

by Rick Brand

He could be called the silent signer of the Declaration of Independence.

William Floyd of Mastic, Long Island's only representative in the second Continental Congress which gave later generations the reason to

celebrate the fourth of July, was more a doer than a talker.

Brought up a "rigid Presbyterian" and with a minimum of formal education he wasn't given to long speeches or philosophical pronouncements. Indeed, Edward Rutledge, a Virginia

British loyalist. Floyd's wife and children were forced to seek refuge across the Sound in Connecticut where they remained for the seven year duration of the war.

Even more painful was the destruction of Floyd's 4,000 acre homestead in Mastic which he inherited

Suffolk, being a sparsely populated area, attracted strong-willed independent types who developed revolutionary feeling among the sea of Tories.

A member of the still existing South Haven Church, Floyd was among the parishioners who voted to protest the closing of