



**Willmott's  
and Why-Not**  
BY DAVID J. WILLMOTT, Editor

## INADEQUATE PARKING

Last summer, eventhough the tourist season was way off, practically all beach parking facilities were terribly inadequate. The worst offender was Southampton Town. The right of way on Dune Road right next to the infamous Tiana Beach Club was closed for the season causing many of the young crowds to use the other open beaches. One of the few remaining right of ways was roped off on occasion for the use of only Hampton Bays residents. The large Town parking lot at Tiana Beach was inadequate on weekends. It was completely filled by mid afternoon. Any and all cars that were illegally parked along Dune Road were promptly decorated with a ticket - some were towed away which cost the owner \$30.00. We are sure Southampton Town officials want their area to prosper yet they seem intent upon discouraging the tourist business which is one of their prime means of revenue. Why should visitors fight bumper to bumper traffic to come to Eastern Long Island and then not be able to enjoy our beautiful beaches on a hot summer's day? Soon, the summer season of 1965 will be here. What have our Town officials done to alleviate this ridiculous lack of parking facilities? Absolutely nothing. If they don't get busy soon to enlarge present parking facilities and to modify their existing parking permit system, 1965 will send more summer tourists to other vacation lands where guests are treated with hospitality and not a cold shoulder.

## BEACH GARBAGE

Unfortunately, Southampton Town is the culprit, again. There are large disposal cans at the tops of most beaches but they are not emptied often enough to accommodate all the refuse. As a result even those beach visitors who make the effort to keep the beach clean are stymied by overflowing refuse cans. A wider and wider area around the cans becomes heaped with rusty cans, broken glass, and unsightly, smelly garbage. What a marvelous way to enhance the beauty of our unsurpassable beaches. Paying the garbage man may be costly but it will be much more costly if we loose our tourist trade. Now is the time to make plans for cleaner beaches in 1965. Let's get busy. And Why Not!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Greenport, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Willmott;

In reference to the letter describing the dire consequences to follow any further invasion of our countryside by City People, may I as one of those City People, take this opportunity to reply. I was horror-stricken to realize that we City People have so badly slipped up that it was necessary for someone to inform the general public about what to expect from us.

I must admit that I too am at fault in this matter and I apologize for being so remiss in my duties. I am ashamed to admit that it has been much too long since I have sped through the quiet streets of Greenport in my souped-up hot rod with the mufflers wide open. To make matters worse, we City People have been very lazy about arranging our schedules with the result that we have not been all descending on Greenport at the same time. Because of this, the air over Greenport has remained disgustingly free of exhaust fumes.

In order to make amends, I am arranging to build a series of frankfurter stands at 50 foot intervals along the main approaches to Greenport. I have also contracted for the construction of a gambling house and opium den with a private entrance for certified mafia members. In addition, I am delighted to announce that I have been able to contact several teenage street gangs who have agreed to hold Saturday night rumbles each week in the various towns.

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## SUMMER CROWS

Last week a person with the nom de plume of Samantha wrote a very satirical letter about the "natives" image of the summer vacationer. Unfortunately it was not as far fetched as we would like to believe. Many of us hold a rather warped view that fair Suffolk's visitors are from outer space. Surely there is always a difference between the working community and the resort community. A Long Islander who goes to far away places hardly acts the same as he does at home when arising at seven he's off to work by nine - earning a living at least five days a week. It's amazing that we would expect the summer resident or weekender to act as if he were not on vacation.

Each year that terribly unrespectable summer guest pours millions of dollars into our economy through purchases of food, beverages, clothes, miscellaneous items, and property taxes. Their expenditures contribute greatly to our present high standard of living. If we cannot welcome them with open arms we should at least learn to tolerate them they tolerate us.

For many years the Hampton Bays area has been crowded with young people during the summer months. They rent cottages that would normally house a small family, in groups of five to ten people. The real estate agents collect twice as much rental to turn over to the landlord. The rest of the community constantly complains about their behavior. Originally most of the groups were made up of professional men and women between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five. Their main crime was to be young, carefree, and from the Metropolitan area. Of course, there were a few big parties but doesn't your neighbor down the street ever have more than twenty-five guests? Haven't you ever had company after midnight? Our newspapers and the New York papers ran article after article depicting wild crowds running amuck of Long Island's South Shore. As a result of all the bad publicity anyone looking for a "blast" now comes running to Eastern Suffolk. Any nice, summer groups have long since gone to greener pastures. If we are to change this bad situation, it is up to the owners and real estate agents to be more careful of who they rent to. Wild crowds can't come if they have no place to stay. As long as the agents and owners rent to just any one - just any one will crowd our beaches and drive a more lucrative tourist business away. Now is the time to plan to upgrade the summer of '65. And Why Not?

## 18 IS OLD!

It would appear that Governor Rockefeller is yielding to the demands of Connecticut and New Jersey. He promises to approve a bill raising the minimum age to "21". Connecticut and New Jersey complain that our low drinking age limit causes their teenagers to make flying trips over the state-line for intoxicating beverages. Some have had accidents on the way back due to driving while drunk. Rockefeller has also been pressured by different church groups to raise the minimum age from "18" to "21". Many feel that keeping teenagers from drinking in public places or buying booze from package stores will keep imbibing within the realm of parental supervision.

We are against raising the minimum age limit from "18" to "21". Drinking is a personal matter. If one is free at "18" to drive a car, marry, earn a living, and die for one's country one should be free to drink or not to drink in public. It is true alcoholism has become a major ill of the United States but will raising the legal age in New York to 21 abolish Skid Row? The present legal age is hard enough to enforce. Why raise it by three years only to make a mockery of the law. New Jersey and Connecticut with their "21" legal drinking age have not stopped teenagers who wanted a drink from getting alcoholic beverages in public places and in private homes. This has been pointed out vividly at Darien, Connecticut and Wildwood, New Jersey.

Prohibition proved that you cannot legislate against one's eating, drinking or moral behavior. A persons life is his to do with as he pleases, within the bounds of his conscience. This is the way life within a democracy should be. And Why Not?

Letters to the Editor start on Page 4

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## GOOD DECISION

We applaud the County Board of Supervisors decision to appeal to the Supreme Court a lower court's ruling that the Board must be reapportioned according to population only. The appeal will take time and cost the taxpayers money but it is in the best interest of all Suffolk County.

We feel our suggestion of a dual legislative body — one based on population and one constituted of a representative per town — is the best solution to the problem. Supervisor Edward Ecker of East Hampton put this very same proposal before the Board and it passed almost unanimously.

If the court rules that Suffolk must realine itself by population, it should be ready to put into effect this dual house plan by which Suffolk would be governed by both representatives of towns and by population districts.

Personally, Suffolk Life feels this is a truer and fairer system of government than the present system we are operating under. Both ends of this county should have equal representation. And Why Not?

## DESERVES SUPPORT

Recently, a committee of concerned and interested citizens announced a proposed plan for a new parking district that will revitalize Riverhead's retail center.

Main Street, Riverhead, has been suffering painfully from inadequate shopper-parking facilities and time consuming, aggravating traffic jams. This stultifying situation gets worse every year as more people move to Eastern Long Island.

A major part of this proposed plan is the creation of several, large, well-lit, off-street parking lots. One will run along Peconic River from Peconic Avenue through McDermitt Avenue to the Auteurieth property. Another will encompass the present First Street parking area plus the property on the other side of First Street. These are but two of several parking facilities included in Riverhead's face lifting.

Another part of the revitalization program is the bulkheading of the Peconic River adjacent to the shopping district to insure marine berths for seafaring purchasers, diners, or just plain visitors.

Last but not least is the remodeling of Main street itself — a beauty treatment long overdue the county seat of Suffolk. The committee wants to make sure Main Street, Riverhead, doesn't lose out to new, modern shopping areas springing up on Eastern Long Island.

It is unfortunate that some people are not happy about streamlining the Town's shopping district. However, progress always necessitates changes whether they be great or small. Riverhead's retail center has already suffered painfully due to inadequate parking, traffic jams, and old fashioned buildings. A drastic plan must be put into immediate action if it is to be saved and enjoy a prosperous future.

The proposed parking district which encompasses the retail area will be footing the bill for all costs of this project as they will be the ones directly benefiting from it. However, this dynamic and imaginative program deserves the support of every resident. We will all benefit by a new, modern, prosperous Main Street.

Let's not cause Riverhead to become a ghost town with empty streets and stores like many blind western towns that did not plan for the future. We must be able to compete successfully with the new shopping centers that have mushroomed across the Nation. And Why Not?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



*Letter to Editor Cont'd from March 10 issue.*

If any visitor would like to take in all of our Nature's Beautyspots or historical Memorabilia at, for instance, at Southampton, Sag Harbor, East Hampton, Montauk or Mattituck, New Suffolk, South-

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## ANOTHER STEP BACKWARD

For the past weeks most mediums of communication have been flooded with publicity on the Oyster Bay Westchester Bridge. Powerful Robert Moses wants this bridge. He is doing everything he can to make his dream a reality. If Eastern Long Island is ever to prosper, now is the time for the advocates of the Orient Point Rhode Island to speak out loud and clear. Robert Moses is doing more as one man to fight for his bridge than all the residents of Suffolk County put together. Our Industrial Commission has been so quiet one wonders if it exists. Surely one of the main community aspects industry looks for is good transportation. Doesn't the Commission realize how important the Orient Point Rhode Island Bridge is to Suffolk's future economy? Where is our County executive and Board of Supervisors on this question? It would seem that all voices of Suffolk have acute laryngitis. Unless this laissez faire attitude on the part of the Industrial Commission, County Executive Dennison, and the Board of Supervisors is remedied immediately we will undoubtedly lose out to Robert Moses. He will win his bridge while Suffolk County takes one more step backward. And Why Not?

## ON THE BALL

Once again it is our pleasure to congratulate East Hampton Town. It is good to see at least one of the eastern towns doing something to preserve their open spaces and particularly their wetlands. Supervisor Edward Ecker announced this week that East Hampton was creating a scenic easement plan. Through this plan, which was authorized by state law a few years ago, a town may give some tax relief to owners of properties that are left in their natural state. It is most important and vital to the tourist economy of East Hampton that they are able to offer the vacationer something more to look at than rows of houses. Granting tax concessions to owners of open land will encourage these people to retain such property rather than sell to developers. We feel it would be wise for the other eastern towns to consider a similar plan. We must keep as much of the open country out here as possible. Too much is being eaten up by the disease called metropolitanitis. Planning like East Hampton proposes will go a long way towards a prosperous but beautiful future.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



February 26, 1965  
Center Moriches, N.Y.

Gentlemen;

Our first annual license drive was a success. Thanks is hereby extended to your staff for the tremendous help the notices in your paper gave the Club in attaining this success.

Sincerely

Joseph L. Healy  
Chairman

*Continued from last issue*

Be that as it may, but true enough, this installation gave steady employment to a considerable number of Suffolk County residents. Not only that, but a contract was entered into between the Department of Agriculture and the Ferry - line to transport the workers twice each day to and from Orient Point Ferry-terminus to dock-facilities at Plum Island.

And so a 3rd vessel, similar to the first two in service could be added and the line enabled to maintain year around schedules at a profit, instead of just breaking even due to heretofore seasonal deficiencies.

This then was the picture, when little by little the workers contingent for their ferry - trip of about 15 minutes duration to and from the Island reportedly commenced to complain bitterly of almost unbearable inconveniences endured during these trips.

Such as: insufficient seats, lack of sanitary facilities, dirty and littered

*Continued on Page 4*

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**IT'S UP TO US**

Tuesday, March 23rd, Supervisor Robert Vojvoda announced that Riverhead will soon have a Town ambulance if the necessary monies can be raised. Vojvoda and Chief of Police Stephen Grodski are heading a community fund raising drive which began Sunday, March 28th, and will run until April 10 to collect at least \$12,000 - the cost of a fully equipped ambulance. It is hoped that the local service and civic organizations will do their part but the main burden and responsibility will lie with each and every resident of Riverhead Town.

Supervisor Vojvoda has announced that the ambulance will be purchased by the Town and operated under Town auspices since high insurance and operating costs would make private ownership prohibitive. However, there will be no charge for ambulance service to any resident of the Town of Riverhead.

All of us must be aware that the lack of an ambulance in emergency situations has caused many needless tragedies. How awful to be smashed up and bleeding in the road or stricken at home with no facilities to take us, or a loved one to the hospitals. We cannot allow this terrible void to remain unfilled any longer.

Suffolk Life urges every resident to contribute as much as they can to make this direly needed ambulance a reality. Yours may be the next life it saves.

Send your contribution to:  
**COMMUNITY AMBULANCE FUND**  
Supervisor - Town of Riverhead  
220 Roanoke Avenue  
Town Hall, Riverhead, New York

**MASTER PLAN UNVEILED**

The chaos of Western Long Island has taught us a bitter lesson. In hopes of avoiding a similar fate Riverhead Town officials recently unveiled a Master Plan for a better, progressive tomorrow. This plan has been formulated none to soon if we are to harness Suffolk's rapid growth into organized development. The Master Plan bases our economical growth on light industry while taking into consideration farming, roads, housing, recreation, and the preservation of our natural resources. It shows the path to follow if we are to avoid slums, ugly factory buildings, and massive housing de-

velopments.

This Master Plan is a step toward progress and prosperity but its words must beget concerted action on the part of our officials and the whole hearted cooperation of this community if it is to be a realized dream. We would advise the four other eastern Towns to get busy on similar studies. To stand still is to go backward. And Why Not?



**LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR**

RE: Stamp Project  
Eastern L.I. Hospital

Suffolk Life  
143 Griffing Ave.  
Riverhead, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

About a week ago we asked you to kindly insert an article requesting stamps in your edition. You did so and we do want to thank you.

It may interest you to know what happened. The second day after publication we received our first package of stamps!! We were told that the package was small but the time was too short to deliver more-but, they were going to gather more and send larger packs in the near future. Every Day after that we got either stamps or a letter stating that time was short and they could not get enough stamps to send us. However, soon we would get more. What might be more important to you - we got stamps from people in some cases, 100 miles away. Finally, stamps and letters are still rolling in.

Once more let me thank you for insert.

Very truly yours,  
Edythe C. Romeo

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