



## Willmott's and Why-Not's

BY DAVID J. WILLMOTT, Editor

### Where Are We Headed?

The time has come, in eastern Long Island history, to ask ourselves just where are we headed? To many this may seem a foolish question in light of the many master plans that our various towns have developed and the plans that the county executive keeps espousing. All of us know that something is about to happen. We keep hearing about jet ports, bridges, improving our tourist industry, providing a sanctuary for the senior citizen and creating a situation where our young people can find adequate employment. Most of these plans contradict each other and offer no real solution to our future. Eastern Suffolk is about to explode, and we are not prepared for it.

Eastern Suffolk County is a study in contradictions. We have a little bit of everything but not enough of anything to make us prosperous. We have many beaches and waterways, but our towns make it difficult for tourist outsiders to use them. We have lands for agriculture, but high taxes have forced many farmers to sell or contemplate selling to real estate developers. We have room for industry but do not have the fast transportation facilities needed to move products and personnel in and out rapidly. Our area is ideal for retired people but the real estate tax is causing many to move to less demanding areas. We have young people with initiative, drive and education but the better jobs are waiting elsewhere. In short, we have everything but we have nothing.

Eastern Suffolk is a hodge podge. Worse yet, we are not coordinating our efforts towards common goals. Each town is headed in its own direction. Both ends of the county, in fact, are headed in different directions. Draw a line down Wm. Floyd Parkway in Brookhaven and the people to the west are interested in industrial growth and a more sophisticated way of life. The people in the east are interested in progress but not at the cost of giving up a conservative, self-reliant way of life.

Our leaders seem to be as confused about which way to go as we are. They seem to be groping in all directions but are gaining no momentum in any. The only man who seems to be proceeding in a determined direction is the county executive but we heartily disagree with that direction. For all practical purposes he would like to see this county covered, from sound to ocean and from county line to both points, with pavement and buildings. He has continually failed to recognize that there is a difference between the east and the west — a difference that is not only physical but, more importantly, human. The physical differences can change in the span of a few short years, but

the human differences may never change, certainly not within the lifetime of the county executive.

What the east end needs is a well - thought - out and complete blueprint for the future. It should be a plan that definitely defines the wants and needs of this end of the county and gives it a direction to head in. Our leaders must make up their minds and interpret what the people want for the future. We cannot go in all directions at one time, but we must set a course that will lead us to a better future for ourselves, our children, and the people who will follow us here. And why not?

### The Youth Vote

The governor has asked the legislature to grant eighteen - year - olds the right to vote. We are happy to see this move. It is the opinion of this publication that eighteen - year - olds are as ready to vote as those who are 21 or over.

As we have stated in past editorials our young men and women are expected to take up the reins of responsible adulthood when they get out of high school. If they go to work they will pay taxes that our elected officials will spend. If they go into the military they will fight wars that our elected officials will decide to get us into. Should they not have a voice in these matters?

The youth of today care deeply about what is going on. They are more aware of government and politics than many of their elders. This is partly because of their schooling and the fact that all facets of government are brought into focus on a daily basis. They are taught, during their formative years, both in school and at home, to become involved in the world around them. To ask them to be responsible citizens, and then deny them the right to vote, is, in our opinion, contradictory. When they get out of school at eighteen there is a lapse of three years before they are allowed to enter into the mainstream of civic life. This hiatus of three years often results in a deterioration of their desire to be interested and politically active citizens. At a time when our government is crying out for all its citizens to be interested in their government we can ill afford to turn our backs on our young people.

Cont. on page 4

## SUFFOLK LIFE

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S.W. ADVERTISING SERVICE, PUBLISHER

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## EDITORIALS From page 3

We feel that the great majority of today's young people have earned the right to vote. The ridiculous and irresponsible behaviour of a small minority of nincompoops should not anger us to the point of denying the vote to a reasonable and responsible majority. Let us make a way for our young people to enter into the responsibilities of adult life immediately and not deny them this avenue of legitimate expression. And why not?

## Boat Show Date Advanced

The unusual enthusiasm shown by Suffolk County boat dealers has forced us to advance the date of the Suffolk Life Boat Show to April 25th, 26th and 27th. A tremendous upsurge in last - minute exhibitors, many of whom were hampered by late boat deliveries, resulted in the change from March 7, 8 & 9 to the last weekend in April. The advent of warmer weather in late April will make possible some outdoor exhibits at the Riverhead Armory on Rte. 58. Somewhat hampered by space inside the Armory, the new date will give exhibitors a chance to spread out a little and the public wider aisles for more elbow room. As we go to press, four new exhibitors reporting eight boat exhibits have rented space. Be sure to mark April 25, 26 and 27 on your calendar. See you at the Boat Show! And why not?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Willmott,

Although I have seen you produce some good editorials which perhaps have made you seem to be a good citizen who was looking out for the welfare of his fellows; your last editorial, "Can We Afford It?" has undone every good thing that you have ever done. First off, I would like to commend you on the timing of your editorial. I figure, as I feel you must have, that by the time any rebuttals to this editorial are printed; the issue will have been long since voted down. If as you say, Mr. Willmott, you represent the voice of the people, why didn't you put this editorial in a month before and let the people judge it and voice their opinions?

Setting your brilliant editorial techniques aside, let's examine the issue. Mr. Willmott, have you heard that the cost of building such a school, as is undoubtedly inevitable, is rising 1% a month or 10% per year? This means that if we postpone the building of this school one year, the price of this school will be raised 1 million dollars. I did not notice these statistics in your editorial. Perhaps if you had left off the decimal places on the figure \$9,500,000.00 you could have fit this in, after all don't you want to present the whole picture?

Anyone can tell you about statistics, but only a student can tell you the conditions in the present school. Every facility is overtaxed with more pupils than can be handled. The rooms, the desks, the lighting, the gym, the locker rooms, the cafeteria, the auditorium, the administrative offices, everything in the school was built 30 years ago. They were new when you taxpayers went to school and they were not overcrowded. Well

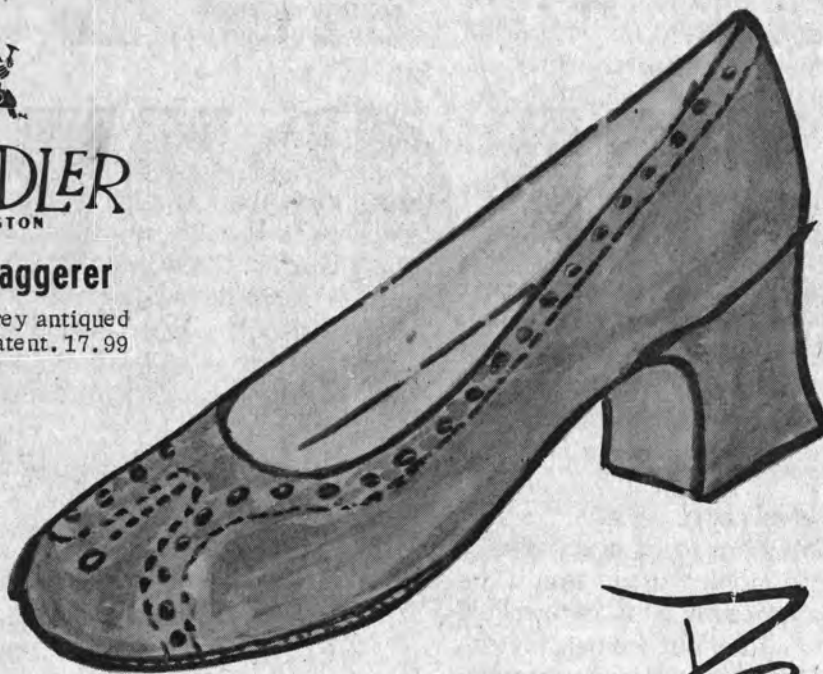
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## Save The Beach!

The ocean shore front in Westhampton and on Fire Island has taken a terrible beating in the past six months. Mother Nature has dealt this area some mean nor'easters. In Westhampton, just west of the jetties, the beach has been awash several times since last October. As a result, Dune Road has been eliminated for quite a stretch, several structures have been swept away and other buildings are in imminent peril.

As many of us can remember, who were raised in this area, twenty years ago the dunes were a lot taller and the beach was a lot wider. With the passing of the years the beach has been eroded and the dunes have been leveled through the work of wind and tide and, sometimes, man. In an attempt to halt erosion, a few years back, several jetties were placed along limited sections of Westhampton and in the general area of Easthampton. The jetties did shore up the area in their immediate vicinity but it appears that they created another problem by causing further severe erosion just west of the westernmost jetty.

Suffolk Life originally opposed the creation of the jetties for two reasons. First, after getting the opinion of several people who had lived in areas with similar beach erosion problems, it seemed to us that limited jetties along a coastline, such as Westhampton, would cause erosion west of the westernmost jetty. It now appears that additional jetties should have been erected up to the Moriches Inlet. The job was half done and the results are there for all to see — disaster. The second reason we opposed the jetties was that they were being erected for the protection of a few people's houses and the public was being denied the right to use the rights-of-way that had to be acquired to put the jetties in. It was our contention that if millions of dollars were going to be spent to shore up the ocean front, then the taxpaying public was entitled to the use of the beach that they were paying to preserve. We still maintain this position.

We are sure that the question in most people's minds, at this point, is whether or not there is some other way of protecting and preserving the barrier beach. This is a fair question and deserves an answer as soon as possible. For the immediate future, however, no effort should be spared to rebuild the dunes as soon as possible. It is now not just a matter of protecting a few at the expense of many but of preserving the barrier beach which must be saved at all costs. If it is decided that additional groynes should be emplaced up to the inlet, it is our firm opinion that provision must be made for rights-of-way to the beach for the public to use. They're paying the bills. They're entitled to use the beach. And why not?

## A Word of Thanks

As the winter fades into spring (cross your fingers) we would be remiss if we did not pause and thank all of those who made life a lot easier here in the boon-docks during the recent snows. We can truly say that our highway crews in the east end towns, including Brookhaven, did a fantastic job of clearing the roadways. This is not only a tribute to the highway superintendents but to every man who labored many extra hours in rough weather to make sure that our highways and back roads were passable when the traffic started to flow. They had a job to do; they did it well and deserve a hearty round of applause.

Some of the unsung heroes of these storms were the police who got people where they had to go and home again after their work was accomplished. Also, we should be grateful to many of our tremendous volunteer fire departments. Many departments asked for volunteers to spend the night in the fire houses, on fire watch, so that any alarms could be responded to speedily and efficiently. Many men gave up a night's sleep, without any pay, to sit in a dreary fire house so that our lives and property could be better protected. We cannot find words to thank them enough.

All in all, we can be thankful that we live here on eastern Long Island where our neighbors care about us and where there are big hearted people who do the jobs that have to be done without asking for any thanks or rewards. This is one of the many small things that make living out here so rewarding. And why not?

## Culture Comes To Riverhead

Saturday evening, March 29, 1969 at 8:00 P.M. the Luigi Dell' Orefice Opera Society will present the opera CARMEN at Mercy High School. Sponsored by the Riverhead Chamber of Commerce this fine group has a world-renowned reputation and their production of CARMEN has drawn rave notices. Patrons, who contribute \$10. will have a listing in the program and will receive two complimentary tickets. Prospective patrons should contact the Opera Committee at 727 - 7600 as soon as possible. All seats are \$3.00.

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## To Kill Or Not To Kill

Once again the New York State legislature has before it an abortion law. This year there seems to be a chance that it will be passed.

The law supposedly will only allow abortions in cases of rape, incest, pregnancies involving very young girls and when the physical and mental health of the mother or child are in jeopardy. The bill purportedly sets up safeguards to prevent mass abortions by having the above conditions certified as true by two medical doctors and a psychiatrist.

Suffolk Life believes that life begins with conception and that man has no right to interfere with this life for any reason. To deliberately snuff out life is murder. We do not believe that passing a bill changes this fact.

Proponents of legalized abortion feel that life does not begin until the child has left the sanctuary of the mother and come into the world. Life is not considered human until it is born, but, as yet, no proponents of these arguments have explained to us how life can exist if it has not had the first few weeks of incubation. Life is a process that begins when the egg is first fertilized. We believe that whether this life is just a few days old or 100 years old it is morally wrong to interfere with its existence.

This is our opinion. We believe the proponents are being hypocritical in their rationalization for this bill. They are using the emotional arguments of rape and incest to justify abortions. They throw in the catch - all "mental or physical health of the mother or child" to justify mass abortions without coming out and saying that abortions for any reason are, they believe, justifiable. To say that mass abortions will be held in check by the "safeguard" of medical and psychiatric certification is ridiculous. Be assured that if this bill is passed there will be untold numbers of physicians who will certify the necessity of abortion for any women so long as she has the money to pay the bill. As we have ambulance chasers in the legal field so we will have abortion chasers in the medical field.

If you agree with the proponents' main argument that life does not begin until it enters the outside world and that abortions are a personal matter to be decided by the individual involved, why not pass a bill to this effect? Why hide your justification for its passage under a lot of hypocritical catch - all reasons?

We believe that one has two choices in this argument. Either we accept that life begins with fertilization or that life does not begin until the baby comes into the world. If you accept the second argument

then why should you allow a bill to be passed that permits the state to interfere with your right to have an abortion? Why should you have to go through the red tape, cost and trouble of having two doctors and a psychiatrist certify that you have a right to an abortion? This is no half - way measure. Either you have a right to an abortion for whatever personal reasons you may have or man has no right to interfere with a fetus for any reason whatsoever.

Each and every resident of this state should stand up and be counted on this issue. Either be for complete abortion or against any abortion. We are talking about the taking of life. If this bill had been passed before you were born, perhaps it would have been your life. And why not?

## Bad Deal

Like Spring, politics is in the air. Some of it, we believe, is SICK politics. Winning in politics is the name of the game. This year, in order to win, deals are being made all over the place. Blocks of votes are being traded like stocks on Wall Street with the same motivation - profit.

We understand the reasons, but are disgusted with the way the three major parties in the county are acting. Both parties are courting the endorsement of the conservatives. This would be alright if endorsements were being courted on individual issues but blanket endorsements on everything from county legislation to local dog catchers in some towns is sickening and we feel that to do so compromises the principles of all three parties.

There is good and bad in every party. In the Republican and Democratic party there are people running for office who are to the left and to the right of the party line. For the conservatives to compromise themselves by endorsing a liberal, as part of a package deal, is unthinkable to this editor. It is said that politics is the art of compromise but to compromise principle is wrong.

A tragic example of this occurred in Brookhaven Town two years ago. The conservatives gave their blanket endorsement to the Republican party. The

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## SERVICE

### EDITORIALS from Page 3

two democrats, running in the election, would have, in our opinion, given us far better conservative representation, but the conservative/republican coalition was unbeatable. Both democrats were defeated. One of them had been the only non-republican voice on the entire town board. In the last couple of years we have seen the unfortunate results that can occur in a one-party town.

We believe in bargaining and cross endorsements only on individual issues. Blanket endorsements and swaps do nothing for better government. We hope that when all of the talking and bargaining is over and done with that we will not be faced with total cross endorsements in any of our towns. And why not?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Mr. Willmott:

On behalf of our senior citizens of Suffolk County, I believe some action should be taken in regards to seeking a higher property tax reduction. At present we are allowed 50 per cent with an income of not more than \$3,000, including social security. Being the richest state in the union, I think it is about

time we put some pressure on our town fathers and the state to increase the exemption to \$5,000, the same as the state of New Jersey, with an 80 per cent refund. As you know, most of the retired people are only living on their social security. Most of these people will have to give up their houses due to the rise in both taxes and living expenses. Don't you think it would be better to give them this type of relief instead of having them go on welfare, which would cost more. Hope you will be able to give some attention to the enclosed in your paper.

Yours truly,  
Charles L. Guise  
East Quogue, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Please let me take a moment of your time in which to say thank you for your splendid editorial of Feb. 19th, in Suffolk Life. I hope that every taxpayer in eastern Long Island read it, and that they digested it to its fullest extent. It is about time that the over-burdened and weary taxpayer came to the front and sounded off. We are sick and tired of being pushed around by organized minority groups who are forever finding ways and means by which to get the good old taxes raised. Too many have their hands in our pockets now, therefore, lets try to stop some of this and take a stand. Keep up your fine expressions in your little paper. It certainly is timely and appreciated by many of us, and we need someone such as you who will come forth and state facts. Thanks again, Mr. Willmott.

Very truly yours,  
Mrs. L. T. Griffin  
Southampton

Dear Dave,

In your fight to create Peconic County I have a suggestion that might help a bit . . . how much I don't know.

It is simply to urge all summer residents who own property in the proposed county area to register and vote down here rather than in their winter towns.

A lot of characters here have done this. In addition to helping increase the nose count for Albany, it also gives these people a proportionately greater influence than a vote lost among the millions in Manhattan or such.

Regards,  
Bob Moran

Dear Mr. Willmott:

You really reach the buying public. 12 hours after your North Shore edition came out, I had 3 calls for my snow blower, and sold it. Since then I've had 4 more calls. My sincere thanks.

Enclosed is payment for my classified ad and a 2 year subscription to Suffolk Life. Many Thanks.

Yours truly,  
Harold R. Lukert  
East Moriches

Dear Editor:

A word of thanks should be printed for the emergency crew of LILCO, who, in all kinds of weather, exert extreme effort to maintain service and keep everyone comfortable to the very best of their ability.

William G. Sieber  
East Quogue



## Incentive

At the beginning of the year we printed a letter from a Mr. Carl Stagg who suggested that the maximum welfare grant to any person or family not exceed the minimum wage for a forty hour week of work, less the normal deductions that are taken out of everyone's paycheck. We felt that this was an excellent suggestion and one that, if implemented, would alleviate many of our chronic welfare ills and bring the cost of welfare back into line.

The proposal has even more merit now that there is a national movement afoot to make welfare standards the same throughout the nation. Welfare today is one of the biggest problems that this country faces. The system in use today has cured few evils and perpetuated many. With the liberalization of standards and the increased funds available, being a welfare recipient could almost be categorized as a heaven on earth. With some it has become a lifelong occupation.

The system itself breeds more welfare. The more dependents one has, the larger the take - home pay. As we know in business, there is a point at which your overhead is reached, and the more business you do the larger the profits are. This is the case with welfare. Not only that but the dependents see the advantages of being on welfare and there is little incentive for them to change this pattern.

In many cases welfare today pays better than working. A man with three children (total five dependents) will receive, from welfare, a weekly check far in excess of the minimum wage for forty hours of work, plus he will receive a rent supplement, plus all medical and dental bills paid for, a clothing allowance, a telephone etc. The money he receives is all take - home. He pays no state or federal income tax, no social security tax, no union dues or medical insurance. This money is tax free and is his to spend as he sees fit. He is free to sit home and watch TV or breed more welfare recipients or to do whatever he likes.

The result of this farce is that you cannot find men to do non - skilled jobs. Throughout the business community we constantly hear businessmen complaining about the poor labor market. They say that they have jobs available for laborers that pay anywhere from \$65 to \$150 per week but they can find no one to fill these positions. They relate the story of people coming to work and quitting after one week with the excuse that they can make just as much by staying home and doing nothing. In a sense you cannot blame them. The system exists, and they are taking advantage of it.

Their taking advantage of it costs all of us. The loss in potentially productive manpower is incalculable. It costs us additional taxes while worthwhile projects are stymied for lack of funds. Our schools are a case in point. Often school budgets are defeated in reaction to the exorbitant taxes we are forced to pay to cover the cost of welfare. Many projects that would prepare people to make a living cannot be offered because of the demands made upon our tax dollars.

When a man can make more by not working there is no incentive to get off the dole. When a woman is paid a bonus for having illegitimate children, she will have more. The money she is paid does not guarantee that the children will be any better housed or fed. It only guarantees more of the same in years to come as long as people will be able to make the system work for them.

The whole welfare system must be changed. We are for a maximum welfare payment that is no more than a man can make sweating for a forty hour minimum wage, less normal deductions. We feel that this will fill a lot of unskilled positions which pay considerably more than the minimum wage. We also feel that the maximum grant for mothers with dependent children should also be the minimum wage for a forty hour week, irregardless of the size of the family. This would remove the incentive to increase the size of the family.

If you are just a little bit fed up with supporting those who refuse to work, why not speak up? Why should you be asked to pay more than the minimum wage to a person who sits home and refuses to pull his own weight? We urge you to write your assemblymen, state senator and federal senators and congressmen to endorse these proposals. And why not?



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Three cheers for the articulate young man, Jeffrey Corwin, whose letter appeared in the March 5 Suffolk Life! I, among others, was appalled at the editorial he comments upon, "Can  
Cont. page 4

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