

Willmott's and Why-Not's

By David J. Willmott, Editor

At Long Last

News that the county is going to develop a comprehensive plan for the Suffolk County Air Force base should gladden the hearts of Eastern Long Island residents. The base has come under severe criticism, particularly from this quarter, due to the lack of information with regard to its future. We have also criticized those, who are responsible for the development of the base, for their apparent lack of know-how.

Suffolk Life strongly supported the takeover of this facility by the county. It was our feeling that under county jurisdiction, it could be developed properly and would be a strong asset in the overall economic picture of Eastern Long Island. The base is a natural for a combination of industrial research and development facilities and corporate headquarters. Its most limited application would be as a transportation center since there are only limited roads and rail facilities to get people to and from the metropolitan area. County leaders, under former county executive Dennison, envisaged just such a transportation center. Their ideas were misguided.

OUR FUTURE LIES

We have often said that our future lies not so much in radically changing our area as being able to preserve it. What we have to offer in the way of environment, natural recreation facilities and quality of life is just what many well-financed corporations want for their employees. The move among many progressive companies today is away from the cities to the country. Many corporate leaders do not wish to subject their families to a city environment. They look upon the city as a place to do business or to broaden one's cultural outlook, but shun living there. Many companies have moved their entire operations to the suburbs. An important consideration in selecting a new location is the availability of an airport that can handle corporate aircraft. In today's age of conglomerates, management has to be able to fly quickly from its base of operations to its diversified interests in all parts of the world. It makes little sense to invest ten million dollars in a corporate jet, and then find it frequently waiting an hour for takeoff clearance, which often happens at metropolitan airports.

MANY ADVANTAGES

A close look at Eastern Long Island

and the Suffolk airport will show many advantages to the companies hunting for a new location. We have an excellent labor force of people who are oriented to work and are looking for solid employment with a future. These are people who have shown that they can be retrained to fit most any job requirement. Our schools are excellent. Almost every district rates high in nationwide comparisons. These are several nearby colleges that can provide vital facilities for research oriented firms. There is not an area of Eastern Long Island that does not demonstrate civic pride. Our people are involved in organizations that serve their communities. Just take a look at the number of community organizations that are in existence. Two years ago, in Riverhead alone, there were over 1,000 organizations and sub-chapters in operation. Housing is varied and plentiful with prices ranging from the very luxurious over \$100,000 class to the modest \$10,000 to \$20,000 category.

Houses of worship are in abundance representing every major faith except the far-eastern religions. There is a good spirit of ecumenism, and people respect their neighbor's beliefs while maintaining their own independence through understanding.

When it comes to shopping, one can find every name brand and most lesser-known brands to choose from. There are price ranges to fit every pocketbook. There are few reasons for the consumer to have to travel out of the area, unless it is just for the pleasure of traveling. Even then a ride of less than a half hour puts the shopper at the doorstep of many, major, new shopping malls. Most consumers, particularly those who have moved to this area from more highly congested retail areas, are delighted to be able to shop in stores where personal and friendly service is the watchword. Our retail areas clearly show the pride of our business people. There are new store fronts, modern displays, expanded parking and the best part of it is that this progress is a continual thing - not just a one-shot effort. Those who do not possess this feeling find their businesses dwindling, and they soon disappear from the streets of our retail centers.

OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

We have mentioned just some of the things that are part of the quality of life here on the East End. Our strongest suit is our natural en-

vironment. Even though we are only eighty miles from the heart of Manhattan, our air is clean and our police maintain almost crime-free atmosphere. We have miles of clean beaches for swimming, surfing, walking and fishing. Fresh water or salt - you have your choice; be it ocean, bay, sound, river, stream, pond or lake. It is all here on Eastern Long Island.


The area is comparatively free from tension and strain. There is a harmonious blending of rich and poor - each striving to upgrade and earn their rightful place in the sun. There is a basic respect of persons for one another and for what they are trying to make of themselves. There are few places in the world that have this to offer.

HARMONIOUS BALANCE

Eastern Long Island may be no utopia, but it is the closest thing to it that we know. It is held in delicate and harmonious balance by many things. This is the reason why the Suffolk airport is so vital to our future. The decisions affecting its future could change our area from worthwhile to an extension of New York City. If the plan for the base is to blend it with our rural and bucolic atmosphere, it must become a corporate research and development center. It will then provide employment for our people and bring people to our area who feel the same way we do about this garden spot.

The worst thing that can happen is that the base get off to a bad start. If the wrong kind of development starts, it will be just that much harder to turn the situation around; it will diminish

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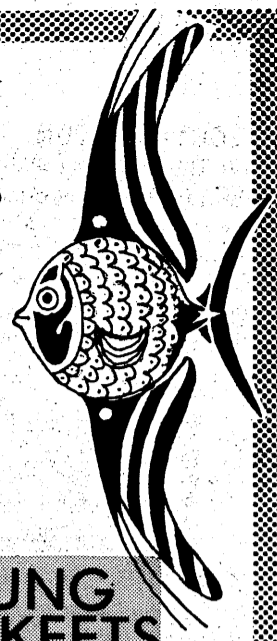
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GENERAL INFORMATION

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ANNOUNCEMENT

EXOTIC AQUARIUM & PET of N.Y. inc. COMES TO RIVERHEAD

EASTERN SUFFOLK'S LARGEST PET DEPT. STORE (OVER 100 DISPLAY TANKS). LOCATED ON OLD COUNTRY ROAD, ROTUE 58 AT THE RIVERHEAD PLAZA (GRANTS). THIS NEW AND EXCITING STORE OFFERS A WIDE RANGE OF TROPICAL FISH AND BIRDS AS WELL AS A COMPLETE LINE OF MERCHANDISE FOR THE ENTIRE PET KINGDOM WITH REAL DOWN TO EARTH PRICES. BRING THE FAMILY AND BROWSE. ALL STORES ARE OPEN EVERY NITE TIL 9pm. SUNDAY TIL 6pm.

GRAND OPENING SPECIALS

10 GAL. STARTER SET-UP

INCLUDES SS TANK
FILTER PUMP HEATER
CHARCOAL, GLASS WOOL
AIRLINE TUBING, BOOKLET,
FOOD & GRAVEL

\$7⁹⁵

20 GAL. DELUXE ALL-GLASS or STAINLESS STEEL AQUARIUM

\$9⁹⁵

55 GAL. ALL-GLASS AQUARIUM WITH FLUORESCENT REFLECTOR AND STAND

\$69⁹⁵

SAVE OVER \$30.00

YOUNG PARAKEETS

\$3⁸⁸

SALE RUNS THRU MON., MARCH 6

VISIT ANY ONE OF OUR FOUR LOCATIONS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS FANTASTIC SALE

COUPON

SPECIAL WITH THIS ADD ONLY FREE

Nothing to Buy! Just come in and ask for an aerating water wheel ornament. An 89¢ value. Limit one per person

RIVERHEAD

RIVERHEAD PLAZA RTE. 58
TEL. 727-8717

BAYSHORE

SO. SHORE MALL MACY'S
TEL. 666-4110

DEER PARK

1739 DEER PK. AVE.
TEL. 586-1637

PORT JEFFERSON

JEFF. SHOPPING PLAZA RT. 112
TEL. 473-3437

EDITORIAL — from page 3

our ability to bring in the right type of business. Prime corporations are fussy about the company they keep.

BIGGER DANGER

The biggest danger we face is from those in the area who are tired of waiting and have become greedy for a return on their investment. They will sell out their own and their neighbor's heritage in return for the opportunity to make a fast buck. Often times, they are inheritors of large tracts of land or speculators who purchased sizeable holdings a number of years ago. It is often to their advantage to obtain rezonings of questionably overall value on their properties. You see them selling various projects at civic meetings and town board hearings. They cry out for the rezoning of certain land to commercial or industrial usage saying that to do so will mean much to the area. In reality they are saying that if we rezone their land the way we want them to, they will make a fat killing.

STRIKE A BALANCE

At present, our land is zoned in such a way as to strike a balance between residential, commercial and industrial usage. The overriding consideration on all major zoning determinations is the availability of potable water. Any zoning that encourages the excessive usage or pollution of our groundwater

resource is bad zoning and detrimental to the general welfare of the people of Eastern Long Island.

There is a great abundance of land zoned for both commercial and industrial needs. Over 30 percent of the Town of Riverhead is zoned industrial.

These lands are situated so that industrial and commercial development will develop in the same general area and in an area suitable to its needs. To recklessly change zones and put new industrial development outside of these areas throws off the delicate balance of an area and interferes with the investment of individuals.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

We can hope that the county, particularly now that Lee Koppelman, Director of Suffolk County planning, has become involved, will develop a comprehensive plan for the base that best meets the needs of the East End. Hopefully, the whole situation will be taken out of the hands of inept politicians who, like the greedy land speculator, look upon this project with avaricious eyes. The base is the center of development for this area. Developed properly, we will enjoy a solid, economic future. Our quality of life will remain unspoiled while we enjoy prosperity. One wrong move, and we will become part of the jungle that we have fled from.

We encourage all residents of the

East End to keep themselves fully informed as to the development of the base and to voice their opinions on the matter. Your whole reason for living in this wonderful area is at stake. And why not?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Dave:

An annoying thought has been bothering me for quite some time now and I am passing it along to you in the hope that an answer can be found to the problem.

As you are aware when it is time for our Public Employees to talk about a new work contract, they select a "bargaining committee," which may be the officers of the union, or rank and file members or a combination of the two. This committee then meets with the members of the public who are assigned to this duty and the terms of a contract are worked out and accepted by the employees' bargaining team, subject to its approval by the rank and file. If the rank and file repudiate the contract, the committee goes back to the public members and tries again. This is all well and good.

Now consider what happens on the public side of the negotiating table. We, the taxpayers, the rank and file, have no voice in the selection of our bargaining committee but must accept some public officeholder not even, in many cases, an elected official. They meet with the union and after a time, a contract is negotiated. Now note the wide difference between the action now and that which may occur on the employees' side. Whatever the contract agreed upon by our side, it is binding. Our rank and file has no voice in the matter; in fact, in most cases, we don't even know the terms of the

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If You've Got It Flaunt It

Last week, we offered some thoughts as to how we felt Eastern Long Island should be developed while still maintaining a decent quality of life. We concluded that we have a great deal going for us out here, but it has to be catalogued and sold to the right parties. The kind of development we want doesn't just happen.

On Eastern Long Island, not one town has a respectable, working industrial commission. The county industrial commission is headed by Gilbert Hanse. Remember him? He was picked to beat Lee Dennison four years ago, but he found it so appalling to have to show up at non-Republican affairs that he was soundly trounced in the elections. As it turned out, he needed a few more years in public office to qualify for his pension. So, as a reward for losing his bid for election, he was appointed Suffolk County Industrial Commissioner.

The industrial commission has been weak and ineffective. It seems to be operating in name only. On occasion, we have needed up-to-date marketing information for business planning purposes on the East End. Calls to the commission office have yielded nothing. Looking through business publications and trade magazines over the years, you will find other parts of the nation vigorously selling and advertising their strong points - but not Suffolk County and certainly not the East End of Long Island.

Take a look at the Sunday Times. Do you ever see material in the Vacation and Travel Section selling the resort capacities of the East End? We've never seen anything, yet this is our biggest industry. When you consider that our vacationland is within an eight hour drive of ninety million people, and nothing is being done to promote it, you know that someone is asleep at the switch. The fact is that the industrial commission virtually ignores the East End.

We pay more than our share of taxes into the county coffers and we are being ignored by this agency. As we said last week, we have a lot going for us, but the industrial commission is holding our candle under a bushel. Our area has to be packaged and sold to the right buyers. As we see it now, the East End can really only be sold by those who appreciate it and know it best. Now that the five East End

supervisors are meeting on a regular basis, it is imperative that they appoint the best possible people from the local communities to serve on an industrial commission that promotes the five East End towns. In this way, all East End interests can be represented, and the job of selling our area can be done without duplication.

We want the East End to develop properly. We want jobs for those who seek them and we want the right business for this area. We also want to see as much of the rural benefits of our area preserved as possible. To make it happen is going to take lots of hard and thoughtful work. Development and growth is inevitable. How we develop depends on what we do now to guide our growth. A slipshod approach will cost us our heritage; done with vigor and imagination, our quality of life can be preserved and a sound economic base established. The stakes are high and the effort worth it. And why not?

Night Meetings


The general public would like their town boards to meet in the evening. Apathy is giving way to involvement, and people are getting tired of leaving government in the hands of mis-managing politicians. Our citizens have asked, loud and clear, for night meetings. The stock answer of the elected politicians is that night meetings have been tried and fewer people attend them than in the daytime. This is pure bull. In Riverhead, just the opposite has proven true. Within the past six weeks, two night board meetings have been held and the turnout has been excellent and enthusiastic. Both meetings have been packed to the point of overcrowding. Neither meeting was publicized as particularly controversial, yet a good turnout of concerned citizenry indicated that the public is hungry for a part in local government. People want to be informed and wish to see their government in action.

Almost all people find it impossible to get off work or break up a busy daily schedule to attend daytime meetings. Even our elected officials admit that this takes time away from their normal duties which is true because most are part-time politicians. It is

also true that many of our elected officials have been delighted to shield themselves from the scrutiny of the public by encouraging inconvenient daytime meetings. An experimental evening meeting schedule in Riverhead had proven overwhelmingly that people will attend and become involved.

In Southampton Town, Dode Hulse has pleaded with his board (and rightly) to go to night meetings. His partisan Republican board has refused for so-called "Personal" reasons. Instead, they are trying to hoodwink the public with a monthly night information meeting which is not official. Neither is attendance mandatory on the part of the board. This sham is worse than a day meeting because it is being done strictly to placate the people and has NO meaning. We strongly suggest that if the board is willing to go to the trouble of bothering to schedule such meetings, why not make them official and meaningful? If they are honest, they have nothing to fear from what the people will ask or suggest.

In other towns that Suffolk Life serves, the request by the public is always the same, "Give us more convenient meeting times." The politicians always respond in predictable fashion, "We will meet at OUR convenience." In other words, the public can like it or lump it. It would appear that the only thing the public can do is to continue putting the pressure on the power structure so that government can be given back to the people. This is the way it should be. And why not?



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Willmott's and Why-Nots

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Pike's Bust

After visiting what was once a beautiful property (Cedar Beach Lighthouse) and seeing the destruction that resulted once it had been taken over by the government, we wrote an article about it. At about the same time, Congressman Pike was beginning to air his scheme to have the government confiscate the beautiful, private Gardiner's Island. The parallel was too obvious, so we came out unalterably opposed to this project. We have since been in the middle of the fight, and we have tried to see both sides of the question as objectively as possible.

Recently the issue has received extensive press coverage; charges and counter-charges have been made by both sides. A few weeks ago, we presented a list of questions that had been composed by Mr. Pike and answered by him. Mr. Gardiner answered the questions also. The answers to those questions, by the opposing sides, made one thing very clear--the two parties could not agree on anything other than the fact that the island is great and should be preserved.

Last Friday night, we attended a meeting in Bellport where Pike was the main speaker. The group sponsoring the meeting was in favor of Pike's proposal. Mr. Pike began his speech, which sounded less than convincing, and promptly found himself as surprised as the audience when a member of the Gardiner family, and heir apparent to the island, stood up to answer him. The family, through this spokesman, publicly denied much of what Pike had said. It was made abundantly clear that the family intended to keep the island in its natural state and had sufficient funds to do so. For the first time in our lives, we saw Otis Pike at a loss for words.

The whole argument is rather silly. The Gardiners have owned this island for over three-hundred years. It belongs to them. If they had wanted to turn their island into a profitable real estate venture they could have done so long ago. They did not choose to do so, and have preserved the island faithfully. Obviously, they value it tremendously. Now Mr. Pike would like the government to come in and take the island over. That would be the beginning of the end for the island as it now exists.

Pike's only argument is that he

supposes the Gardiners will not have enough money in the future to preserve this land. He has no facts to back up his hunch. Personally, we think he's got a lot of nerve to stick his nose into the Gardiner family's private financial affairs anyway. At any rate, everyone agrees that the island must be preserved. Mr. Pike would have you believe that the federal government is the best agency to do this. Just the opposite is true. There isn't an individual that isn't at least 100 percent better than any form of government. If left alone, the individual can do far better for himself than any government. While Mr. Pike likes to think he enjoys a conservative image in the eyes of his public back home, his ultra-liberal scheme to have Uncle Sam confiscate private property won't earn him any Brownie points. Maybe the Washington influence has gotten to him, but we're darned if we can see how Pike's federal government can possibly do any better job of preserving an island than the Gardiner family has already done for over three-hundred years.

Pike evades this question because he must know deep down in his heart that the federal government could never be the caretaker that the Gardiner family has been. As we have said, Mr. Pike has been wrong on this issue from the start. It would be wise if, once in his life, he backed down and had his bill withdrawn. That is the real issue and the only one. And why not?

People Sold Out

All they asked for was a public hearing. They wanted to know why Northville was expanding its loading platform and what its potential effect would be on their lives. The people asking these questions had invested their lives and futures in this area. They had taken cuts in income to live in an area that offered a different quality of life. They felt the sacrifice was worth it.

They did not know whether they were in favor of or against such a move by the petroleum company, but people often fear what they don't understand. So they asked their town board to hold a public hearing to determine the facts. Instead, a mockery of a hearing was held and a resolution was railroaded through, supporting this construction without the facts being brought out. The

people were left with an uncomfortable feeling. They had trusted the board, but the board had apparently responded to a power greater than the people. What power could it be? Who wields such power that the people's right-to-know can be so easily disregarded?

They then put their trust in the federal government. Their congressman came out with a great show of public display and, in his usual vocal manner, demanded that the Corps of Army Engineers hold a public hearing. Some even thought that their congressman might be opposed to an expansion of oil loading platforms. At least his insistence on a public hearing seemed to indicate that he was on the side of the people.

Then the people spoke out loud and clear in favor of a hearing. Many of them took time out of their busy lives to sit down and write to the Corps to ask that all of the facts be brought out. The Corps acknowledged that its mail on this issue had been particularly heavy in favor of a public hearing. It was so heavy, in fact, that they sat on it for almost six months, hoping that the wind would change and things would quiet down. Things did not quiet down, so, as a last resort, they passed the buck upstairs to Washington for a ruling by the big shots.

Well, the ruling came back. There will be no public hearing. Northville can go ahead and build its superstructure. The people can go to hell! They don't have the right to know what is going on. After all, it is only their lives that are being affected to help increase the profits of the giant petroleum industry. The whole thing stinks. It is rotten to the Corps, and maybe that's where the problem lies. And why not?

P.S. The congressman who made the big public show told our news editor last Friday that, as he looked at it more carefully, maybe it wasn't such a bad idea. For HIS information, that's not the point. The people's right-to-know has been abridged. Maybe he has forgotten how he got to Washington in the first place.



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Endless Battle

It's frustrating. It's frightening. There seems to be no end in sight. We're referring to the battle with the oil industry -- the battle between the industry's fight for higher profits and the people's fight to preserve a high quality environment.

Last week Northern Brookhaven Town residents read a report by our staff investigator, Tim Stalker, on the fight over oil in Port Jefferson Harbor. They read how lives had been affected and changed all because of an involvement in this battle. They read how Northville Industries fought Consolidated Oil over the issue of dredging the harbor and how Northville Dock Corp. subsidized a newspaper whose sole purpose was to defeat this move. They did this because they claimed that deepening the harbor would only benefit Consolidated without providing any real good. Now, of course, Northville owns Consolidated, and it is fighting to have the taxpayers' money spent to deepen the harbor for its own benefit. The report suggested that the company used its influence to motivate both the village and town boards. It showed how the town board responded to this pressure rather than to the pressure of the people.

The battle in Port Jefferson affects not only its own residents but also every town on Long Island. Simply stated it is a battle between those who would bring oil into the area by water with all of the attending hazards or by pipelines from the west end. Every week we see the effects of oil upon our environment. There are oil spills of some consequence almost daily. We see oil dripped onto our roads by leaky tanker trucks. Sometimes these trucks, which travel at breakneck speed, are involved in accidents which rupture the tanks. The incidents of oil pollution on our environment are endless.

When you consider the hearing being held this week by the Corps of Army Engineers, with respect to the deepening of Port Jefferson Harbor, you must feel the sense of frustration that we do. These meetings are recurring things. The fact that the company has been turned down before doesn't make any difference. It just keeps pounding until it gets its way. Note that the Corps holds the hearing fifteen miles away in Hauppauge when there are plenty of adequate facilities in the Port Jefferson area more

convenient to the people. Note that the Corps has already granted Northville permission to erect a dock in deep water off Riverhead without giving the people the benefit of a hearing. Northville holds all the trump cards. Even if the company is denied permission to deepen the harbor at Port Jefferson, it will still be able to bring in and unload supertankers at Northville.

The battle with the oil interests is a never-ending one and one that more and more people are beginning to identify with on a daily basis. As the residents of Long Island see their way of life threatened, they will become better informed and involved actively.

The battle will never end until the oil industry finally realizes that the people are tired of being conned. It will never end until the people get the information and the safeguards that they are entitled to.

We recommend your involvement and a strong turnout for the hearing proposed for this coming March 27 at the county center in Hauppauge. And why not?

The Unfortunate Mr. Zeidler

Richard Zeidler is the undisputed political boss of Brookhaven Town. He has accomplished what few men have been able to do - he has put together a formidable, and seemingly unbeatable, political organization like Tammany Hall in New York or the Hague machine in Jersey City.

If you are a student of politics, you must admire Mr. Zeidler's talent whether you like him or not. He has an iron grip over all that happens in this big town. His influence extends through government, business, industry, real estate and into the personal lives of the residents of Brookhaven. As they say, nothing happens in Brookhaven without first being approved by Zeidler.

Zeidler has withstood political, personal, press and even court attacks. His ethics have been questioned publicly and in private, but through it all, his powerbase has grown and thrived. His is an incredible political feat.

The sad fact of life though is that, with all of this political bossism, Mr. Zeidler hasn't been able to accomplish much. Instead of seeing a great town emerge from this impressive political machine, Brookhaven is in a sham-

bles. The town is criss-crossed with slums, misplaced industrial development and spot commercial zoning. When you sit in on a town board meeting, and listen to the residents of Brookhaven crying and pleading for sensible development, you get a feeling of revulsion at the way the establishment has let the people down.


The entire Town of Brookhaven is decaying fast under Zeidler's absolute power and control. The monument that is building is not one that any proud or good man would care to own up to. We pity Mr. Zeidler knowing that he has built this kind of political organization, created this undisputable powerbase, and yet be incapable of doing good with it, a tragedy of monumental proportions. Mr. Zeidler is wealthy, he is successful and yet a complete failure at probably the most important thing he set out to do. He is very unfortunate in the fact that he is not capable of changing this. An unfortunate man. And why not?

Two Counties

If there is a need for two county centers....if the interests of the people in the west are different than those of the east....if the way of life between east and west is substantially different....if the people in the east pay a disproportionate share of taxes while receiving less in benefits -- then there is ONLY ONE logical answer -- two counties. And why not?

Thought for the Day

Who was the guy that arbitrarily made up the boundary lines of the five eastern towns for the proposed new county? The fact is that our last survey indicated that the people of Eastern Brookhaven want to join us in the move for a new county. The fact is that assembly districts are very often county boundaries and that the First Assembly District contains enough people for the creation of Peconic County. And why not?



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Corps of Frustration

We suspect that when our politicians take off their blinders in the privacy of their homes, and sit down with the old martini to do some reflecting, they must see how the outside world has grown so bitter over the government that these same politicians are charged with running. Let's just look at one aspect and see why people become so disillusioned.

Most of the people here on the east end are out here because of the quality of life and beauty of the rural environment. While at times the people may seem apathetic, they are very much aware of the waters that surround them and of the beaches and recreation that are provided. Our residents value this natural resource very highly. They look for it to remain unchanged even though they know that the rest of the island will change. They look to their government to guarantee this. After all, it goes without saying that the government is expected to do for the people collectively what they cannot do for themselves. Government is many-faceted with the average person being aware of the several bureaucracies - federal, state and local. People have the misconception that, on the federal level, the Corps of Army Engineers protects and insures the wise use of our natural resources. This is what they are supposed to do but, in fact, they have a consistent history of doing just the opposite.

Consider the Corps and the things it has permitted on Long Island over the past ten years. The Corps let the Northville sand pit go in and was reluctant to stop it. Only after heavy pressure had been brought to bear did the Corps allow detrimental testimony to be presented that condemned the rape of this once-beautiful piece of land. On the south shore we see that the Corps has permitted jetties which have done more harm than good. This particular snafu was a Corps brain-child. Return to the north shore and observe man's battle with the oil spills that the Corps, through its short-sighted policies, encourages. Tankers splitting; tankers pumping out oil; lines coming undone. On the south shore more oil spillage ruining our waters, fouling our beaches and endangering the bird and sea life. The Corps, however, persists in encouraging the further development of oil resources in our waters.

When people asked for a hearing on

the expansion of the Northville facilities they were denied. When the Corps called for a hearing on the dredging of the harbor at Port Jefferson, they held it fifteen miles away in Hauppauge. These are only a few examples of the attitude of the Corps.

From what we have seen the Corps is not very fussy with who it gets in bed with as long as the interests of its bedmates are not those of the people. It appears that the Corps is very easily swayed and that it is practically a paid lobby representing the interests of a select few. Its behavior is the same everywhere - Eastern Long Island is not an isolated case. Several months ago the Reader's Digest ran a revealing article on the Corps and told how it had created dams that were ruinous to the environment and artificial lakes that benefitted a few while the people were denied free access to these facilities. On the face of it we would think that the Corps, being part of the government, is responsible to the people. Just the opposite is true.

Certainly these things are obvious to our congressmen; Mr. Pike has had his share of experiences with the Corps in his battles with them. Why then is something not done at the highest level to make the Corps responsive to the needs of the people? Are our representatives in Washington ineffective? Do they like things the way they are or is it that they just don't care? These people are elected to office to do a job for us. If they can't do it it's high time we found people with the guts who can. This is an election year and what we are talking about is a valid issue - not a political issue. It will be interesting to see if a man emerges who is willing to take on the Corps of Army Engineers and straighten the whole mess out. And why not?

Fickle Finger Nominee

Each week a particular, popular TV show awards its "Fickle Finger" award to some deserving citizen. We would like to nominate one of our own - Beecher Halsey, a Republican who, by some quirk of fate is also our legislator from the Second District. He deserves the award for his outstanding ability of putting things into their proper perspective. In his weekly column he recently turned his brilliant mind to

the subject of oil spills. After giving us his impressive credentials as former lifeguard and sport and commercial fisherman (he left out developer of wetlands), he announced, through his keen observation, that oil spills just go away in a few weeks if you stick your head in the sand.


His brilliance knows no bounds when it comes to this subject.... "We must realize that nature is capable of absorbing a great deal of pollution and waste created by man." "AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT IS NECESSARY AND VITAL TO MAINTAINING THE BALANCE OF NATURE AND ITS NORMAL PROCESSES AND CYCLES." Beautiful, Beecher, beautiful. You are the first person we know of in the United States (correction, the World) who finds oil spills vital to maintaining the balance of nature. The creative expertise to be found in your statement might even earn you the President's nomination to head up the Interior Department. Just think how much more fun you could have with this than with the Suffolk County Air Force Base. With men of your caliber in high office even George Wallace might have a chance. And why not?

Congratulations

...to the Southampton Town Board for doing as the people asked and holding evening meetings once a month. The board may still not fully realize the wisdom of this action, but we are sure that they will find gratification in the public turnout and spirit that will result. You're back on the right track. And why not?

Happy Easter

The entire staff of Suffolk Life wishes everyone a Happy Easter. We hope that the kiddies find that the Easter Bunny has visited their home, that the ladies look their loveliest and, most of all, that everyone receives the special, spiritual uplift that this high, holy occasion affords. And why not?



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