

Willmott's and Why-Not's

By David J. Willmott, Editor

Voter Apathy

It never ceases to amaze us at this time of the year, where all the people go who have complained so bitterly about the costs of financing their educational systems. We have just witnessed some of this year's round of school budgets presented for voter approval and seen as little as 2 percent of the eligible voters bother to find out where their money is going.

When you consider that the cost of financing schools consumes almost 60 percent of your real estate taxes, and as few as 2 percent of the voters turn out to vote on their school budgets, something is wrong. You may lay the blame for this apathy on the school boards for failing to give the budget hearings adequate publicity so that people can attend the hearings, examine the budget and ask questions, but this is not the crux of the problem. The real problem lies with too many people who just don't give a damn about their communities. They don't care whether their schools are being run efficiently or economically. Apparently they don't care what it costs them in taxes, and, worst of all, they couldn't care less about the end product of our educational system - our students.

Do we, as a people, have no sense of priorities? Do we have no respect or concern for the communities we live in? What about the young people of our area? Money alone is not going to insure that they get the best education. It takes the dedicated concern of parents, neighbors and friends. What we are actually saying to our youngsters, and to the people charged with educating them, is that we don't care what is done with them as long as we don't have to be bothered with any of the responsibility.

We believe that the great majority of the residents of eastern Long Island had better take a long, hard look at themselves with regard to these matters. Better than 90 percent of these residents indicated, this past week, that they just don't care. By choosing not to take an active part in seeing that their community schools are run properly they have abrogated their responsibility; certainly they have no right to complain about their taxes and how their tax money is being spent.

If we sound somewhat bitter, you had better believe that we are - not only upset but downright disgusted. To those who will continue to complain, without taking an active part in community affairs, we can only say, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen!" Maybe we have had too much faith in the people of this area. And why not?

Dear Perry

We would like to know who you represent? When the masses of your constituents cried out for your assistance in freeing them from the repressions of the west and asked for your help in the formation of a new county you gave us double talk. You told us that separation could only be accomplished through lengthy, legal maneuvering - that this was the way and you would see to it that our wishes were fulfilled. We listened to you and now what do we have - nothing but an area being assaulted by the west-end power brokers - raped for their personal gain. We suppose that this is

politics, and to a politician who has ambitions he will look in all directions that are advantageous to his goals.

We can only surmise that it is the same reasoning that has caused you to guide through, without opposition, the bill to erect jetties and other so-called "anti-erosion" projects at the public's expense. You know the almost total opposition of your own constituents on this matter. You know that we have pleaded with you for economy during this session of the legislature - to the point where we are willing to have our own property taxes increased in order to have a state budget within control.

Remember the screams when your hand-picked Republican boss, Buzz Schwenck, forced the bill through to approve the construction of additional jetties in the Westhampton area? We believe you are fully aware of the study done by Southampton College which proved that jetties only add to the damage they are supposed to correct. You know now that the monies appropriated will never pass the county legislature again and that the county has doomed this project. Why then, Perry, did you allow this bill to get through the legislature which by-passes the homerule message of need and desire?

Please don't give us any double talk about this project being supported by those it is intended to serve. Only 9 percent of the monies will be paid by the erosion district. The other 91 percent is going to come out of the pockets of all the taxpayers. You may find it politically advantageous to court the support of the moneyed people who have expensive beach homes built where they never should have been - but we don't.

You seem to have forgotten that you were elected to represent all the people of the First Assembly District. Your first obligation is to them, and it's about time you started putting their interests ahead of your own political ambitions. As things stand now, Perry, you will have to run once more for assemblyman before you get a crack at the governorship. You will have to win this district or you will be out of the race. You've had an easy time of it in the past, but there is no

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Offices and Plant Located on Montauk Highway, Westhampton, N.Y. 288-3900

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guarantee that you won't have some real competition next time.

The people of the First Assembly District have shown their faith in you. They believe in you. Why throw this to the winds. Give these people the representation they are entitled to. You are capable of it.

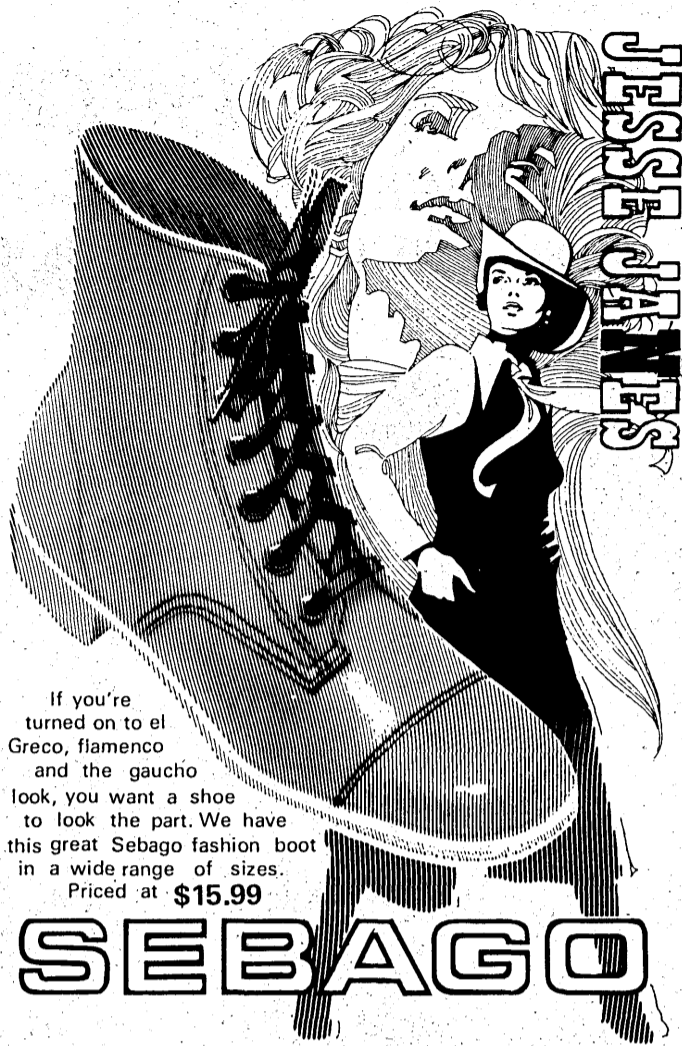
Perry, for your constituent's sake, get this bill stopped. They don't want it. It will ruin the seashore, and it is not in the best interests of the taxpayers. And why not?

Need For Peconic County

If anyone has any doubts about the need for a separate county out here on the east-end they have only to look at the result of the vote taken last week by the county legislature which would allow the voters to decide this issue.

The county board refused to pass a home-rule message to the legislature permitting a vote to be held on this question. The power brokers refused to let the people of the east-end determine their own destiny. The west-end politicians want to control what will happen here. They want a piece of the action as to our future. We all know what the cost will be. Are we willing to stop it?

If we are free men and want to see this part of the island develop with some semblance of sanity we are going to have to tear ourselves away from the politicians' greedy claws. By their vote it is plain to see that they do not care to allow us to determine our own future. This might spoil their plans for their own, personal gain. And why not?



If you're turned on to el Greco, flamenco and the gaucho look, you want a shoe to look the part. We have this great Sebago fashion boot in a wide range of sizes. Priced at \$15.99

SEBAGO

Ivans Shoe Store

When you think of SHOES, think of IVANS, everyone else DOES
 Railroad Ave. Shopping Center, Riverhead
 (opposite Railroad Station)

ONE WEEK ONLY!

Wendy Fabrics 16th Anniversary

Sale

20¢

BACK

ON ALL FABRICS IN THE STORE

Choose any Fabric, Dress, Slip Cover, Drapery, etc. and even from our gigantic yarn department.

For every dollar you spend we will give you 20¢ back. This is our way of saying "THANK YOU" for 16 Years of Business.

*except notions, trimmings, patterns and rods.

Wendy Fabric Shop

RIVERHEAD SHOPPING PLAZA, RTE. 58, RIVERHEAD 727-3525

Master Charge & Unisard

Open til 9 pm Thursday and Fridays

Peconic River

by

Edythe Gordon Hulse

Dear Mr. Willmott,

I thought perhaps you would be interested in this poem written by a lovely lady. Mrs. Hulse, a native of this area is now 76 years old and almost blind, lives alone in Riverhead. She was a school teacher for many years and taught in Westhampton, Greenport and Calverton.

This poem was written 30 years ago. I thought it most appropriate at this time when Peconic County is being proposed.

Sincerely,
 Marion Dillingham

Have you watched the maples crimson
 On the old Peconic River?
 Have you heard the red-winged blackbird
 Calling to his mate in spring?
 Have you seen the gay young alders
 Shake their tawny curls at morning?
 If you haven't, oh, my brother
 You have missed a joyous thing.
 Have you gathered luscious berries
 From the banks along the river,
 Where deep in swampy thickets
 Silver lichens creep and cling,
 Have you fished for water cresses
 With a pronged stick to assist you?
 If you haven't city brother
 You have missed a thrilling thing!
 Have you "bobbed" for eels by moonlight
 On the calm Peconic River
 When the cat-fish, too, were nibbling
 And you soon boasted a "string,"
 While young tadpoles played a fanfare
 In the safety of the marshlands,
 With such gusto that the hillsides
 With their echoes seemed to ring?

Willmott's and Why-Not's

By David J. Willmott, Editor

A Giant Step

You have probably noted by now that today's edition of Suffolk Life is a little different - a little bit cleaner, sharper and more colorful. There is a good reason for this. This edition of the paper was printed by Ad View Publication Printers Corporation. Ad View is located right here at the Suffolk Life Graphic Art Center in Westhampton. This new corporation, which is associated with Suffolk Life, possesses the largest web offset press on eastern Long Island. The press capacity, with its companion bindery, is 96 tabloid pages. The press itself prints 18,000 complete papers per hour and is also capable of producing four-color process work.

This new corporation will be managed by Garson Wolitzky who is well-known as one of the most knowledgeable men in the web offset industry. He has recently resigned as Director of Training of the American Newspaper Publishing Association. In this capacity he directed their training school and headed their laboratory at Easton, Pennsylvania. Garson has been personally involved in setting up most of the large daily newspaper's conversions to offset printing. He was also responsible for the development of our new press while employed by the Graphic Equipment Division of the Fairchild Camera and Equipment Corporation.

The installation of this press completes Stage One of the long-range plans of Suffolk Life's Graphic Art Center. Today, under one roof, we have one of the largest and most modern graphic art plants in the country. All typesetting is done by computer and every mechanical step in the production of Suffolk Life is highly automated. This sophisticated equipment is operated by dedicated, highly-trained personnel whose aim is to give you, our readers, a technically perfect and interesting newspaper. All of us here are very excited about this addition. It means that we will be able to give you a better product by being able to control production through every phase of our operation.

Like every other big step we have taken, your support has made it all possible. We cannot thank you enough. You, our readers, have been great. Your continued support and patronage of our advertisers, and your subscriptions, have made this all possible. We can only assure you that we will work even harder to justify your support by giving you a better paper. Thank you! And why not?

We're Not Ready

The Riverhead Town Board had its public hearing on the proposed shopping center and multi-family housing project. If the Board follows its general pattern it will have taken the matter under advisement and will release its decision in the weeks to come.

Looking at this project from all sides it should be obvious that the east end and the Town of Riverhead are not ready for such an undertaking. We do not have the population to support a center of this magnitude. We do not have the necessary roads constructed to

properly handle the traffic flow to and from such a project. In short, we just do not have the need for it. As far as the housing portion of this proposition is concerned, we simply cannot afford the luxury of high-density housing. Our school taxes have just gone up 25 percent. A project such as this could virtually bankrupt the residents of the town.

The Town Board has no alternative but to say "No" in the interests of sound planning and growth. Perhaps at some other time, and under different circumstances, the Town Board might welcome such a proposal. For now "No" must be the answer. And why not?

Spring Is Deadly

Spring is one of the most beautiful times of the year. It also can be one of the most deadly. Everyone flocks to the outdoors. People who have barely ventured out of their homes during the winter suddenly decide to go for rides. Children who have been cooped up throw caution to the winds and unwind outside. These two ingredients can spell tragedy.

We plead with all drivers to exercise extreme care while driving - particularly through residential streets. Kids will run out from behind bushes. They will chase balls onto the roads without looking both ways first. They will fall and hurt themselves and run for their parent's arms without bothering to see if a car is coming.

Little children can be forgiven for not thinking, but could anyone of us ever forgive ourselves if we were going too fast or weren't paying full attention and hit one of these children?

We encourage our law-enforcement officials particularly to be on the lookout for those who drive irresponsibly. Let us not have this a tragic spring. Drive slowly and carefully. And why not?



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Redistricting Fairly

Suffolk County must redistrict this year to meet the new population requirement. At last count the politicians were working on their eighth map. No one seems to be happy with the gerrymandering going on - and rightly so.

The system adopted to meet the Supreme Court ruling that the county be apportioned according to population has been a catastrophe since its inception. For over a hundred years the county board was comprised of one representative - the elected supervisor - from each town. Each supervisor had equal say regardless of physical size or population within his town. Somehow the county managed to get by without any major crises and provided the people with manageable government. In 1969 these ten men were expanded into eighteen at ten times the cost of the old form of government. Now that two years have elapsed it is quite obvious that nothing startling has been accomplished to warrant this huge additional expenditure.

It was obligatory that the former county board establish eighteen districts. They could have set up 1 or 100 so long as they were of equal population. Nassau County, faced with the same predicament, chose to keep its former system of representation of one representative from each town but to have them vote on a weighted ballot principle. This makes more sense. First, and most important of all, it is much more economical. Secondly, it gives each town and area an equal voice while still allowing the voting to be representative of the population.

Where the politicians are running into so much trouble is trying to cut up the pie to fit their own personal likings and ambitions. Would it not be better for them to scrap this ineffective and costly way of running government and establish a system which would give each one a voice while meeting the court's approval?

In order to survive a business must constantly streamline itself. It must find ways of producing more efficiently at less cost. How about our county legislature doing the same thing. And why not?

Grants Expands

Normally we do not use this column for commercial announcements, but we do think that we would be remiss if we did not take note of the gigantic expansion of the W. T. Grant store in Riverhead which serves the entire east-end. This store, which opened just six years ago with a little over 60,000 square feet of space, has now expanded and reopened with 128,000 square feet. It is not only the largest store on the east-end, comparing favorably with such giant retailers to the west as Macy's and A & S, but Grants, Riverhead is the largest W. T. Grant store in New York State. It is a full-fledged department store containing everything from fashions to automotive items.

The store's growth is not only a testimonial to its capable management but also to the excellent retail climate and willingness of the residents of the east-end to shop at home as long as they can get what they want.

We believe that the W. T. Grant Company's decision to undertake such an extensive enlargement is a wise one and will be justified by good business. This company has successfully kept abreast of the fashion market by providing in-depth merchandise in a wide range of sizes and it has held prices to a level acceptable by most shoppers. The addition of the many new departments will give their many already satisfied customers an even wider range of goods.

We are happy to offer our congratulations to this company on its faith in the east-end, and we wish them every success in this large undertaking. And why not?

Memorial Day 1971

We pray for those who have given their lives so that we all can be free. That is the least we can do. What is done is done, and for those of us who believe in God, we can pray that our soldiers have found peace in the larger life.

We pray that this war, in which we are involved, will come to an immediate end, and that whatever possesses man to fight against his brother will be replaced by reason, right and brotherly love. And why not?

Saving The Wetlands

By now just about everybody is aware of the value of the wetlands. The problem is that there are two distinct and opposite points of view on their value. To the owner and the developer they are a potential goldmine. They can be filled in, dredged out, cut up and sold off at an enormous profit. To the conservationists and ecologists they are breeding grounds that cannot be replaced. Both points of view are valid.

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Decoration Week-end Welcome to Summer



This is our biggest annual summer sale. For 7 years we have saved the best for this gigantic sale with unbelievable values.

Coupon

Outdoor Imported Jute Rope Mats
Oval and Rectangular

Reg. \$3.49 **244**

WITH THIS COUPON ONLY
Limit 1 to a Customer

Oval Braided Rugs

6 x 9 Area **SALE 29⁹⁹**
9 x 12 Area on sale at \$39.99

100% Nylon Shag Carpet
Tri color - Reg. \$9.99 Sq. Yd.

SAVE \$3⁰⁰ Sq. Yd. **SALE 6⁹⁹** Sq. Yd.

100% Nylon Sculptured
Regularly \$6.88 Sq. Yd.

SAVE \$2⁰⁰ Sq. Yd. **4⁸⁸** Sq. Yd.

100% Nylon Printed Shag
Regularly \$8.99 Sq. Yd.

SAVE \$2¹¹ Sq. Yd. **6⁸⁸** Sq. Yd.

Lee's 100% Acrilan Carpet
Regularly \$9.79 Sq. Yd.

SAVE \$1.35 Sq. Yd. **8⁴⁴** Sq. Yd.

9x12 100% Nylon Tweed Rug

SALE 39⁹⁵

"Only 100" 27x18 Scatter Rugs

SALE 88^c

100% Wool Random Shears
Reg. \$12.99 Sq. Yd.

SAVE \$3.00 Sq. Yd. **9⁹⁹** Sq. Yd.

Lee's 100% Wool Twist
Regularly \$15.99 Sq. Yd.

SAVE \$3.55 Sq. Yd. **12⁴⁴** Sq. Yd.

100% Nylon Kitchen Carpet
Printed - Reg. \$9.50

SAVE \$1.62 Sq. Yd. **7⁸⁸** Sq. Yd.

100% Nylon Bathroom Carpet
With matching lid cover 5 x 8
Reg. \$29.95

SALE 22⁸⁸

27x54 Scatter Rugs
Only "75"

SALE 3⁴⁴

Assorted Area Rugs
With decorative fringe

SALE 8⁹⁸ up

Storewide savings on all carpet, broadloom & rugs 4 days only

NORTH SHORE CARPETS

Riverhead Shopping Plaza Rte. 58 Riverhead, 727-1747

SAVING THE WETLANDS—cont. from page 3

From the public standpoint the wetlands must be saved. The good that they create helps keep our waters from becoming polluted. The food that they provide creates fish and shellfish. The wildlife that they nurture are dwindling and must be preserved. From the owner's point of view the wetlands represent an investment and he should be entitled to a just profit. He had the foresight to buy these wetlands, which we used to call meadows and swamps, that no one else wanted, and now that they are valuable he wants to dispose of them at a profit.

We cannot expect these wetland owners to donate the property to the public, yet, on the town and county level, we do not have the funds available to buy the land at the going real estate rates. We have been buying bits and pieces here and there but not in enough quantity to really do justice to the preservation of these valuable and venerable assets. Not only do we, as towns and as a county, not have the money to buy these lands in sufficient quantity, but to purchase them would remove valuable land from the tax rolls and cause a large tax loss.

If we turn to the state and federal government for assistance, we will lose all control over the utilization of these lands. Yet, without government funding, we can do nothing to stop their development. It is also questionable whether or not the state or federal government has the resources to buy the wetlands in the state and county, and this is what should be done.

We find ourselves on the horns of a dilemma knowing that if we do not acquire all remaining wetlands we are committing our lakes and rivers, bays and littoral areas to sure death. Yet we do not have the necessary moneys available to do the job as it should be done.

We do not pretend to have the answers. We are very interested in hearing from our readers as to what they think the solution to this problem might be. We encourage you to write to us on this matter so that we can share your ideas with our readership. You may possess the right answer. And why not?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Willmott:
The fine newspaper you edit reaches most of the people in our area, the Middle Island Central School District No. 12, and thus is an important means of getting news to people.

The 1971-72 Library budget is scheduled for vote