

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

No fishing for the poor

Some people feel Suffering County isn't a place for poor people to live.

Suffolk County Legislators held a hearing last Tuesday that added more credence to this statement. They discussed a proposed law to regulate fishing from county bridges and overpasses.

Places in the hands of the Commissioner of Public Works the power and authority to set rules and regulations and to forbid fishing off any bridge he deems appropriate. The law carries with it a fine of \$100 and up to fifteen days in jail for the violation of this provision.

Thousands of Suffolk residents use the various bridges for fishing and crabbing. Fishing provides a source of recreation for the whole family, and in some cases, makes the difference between whether the family will eat a nourishing meal or not.

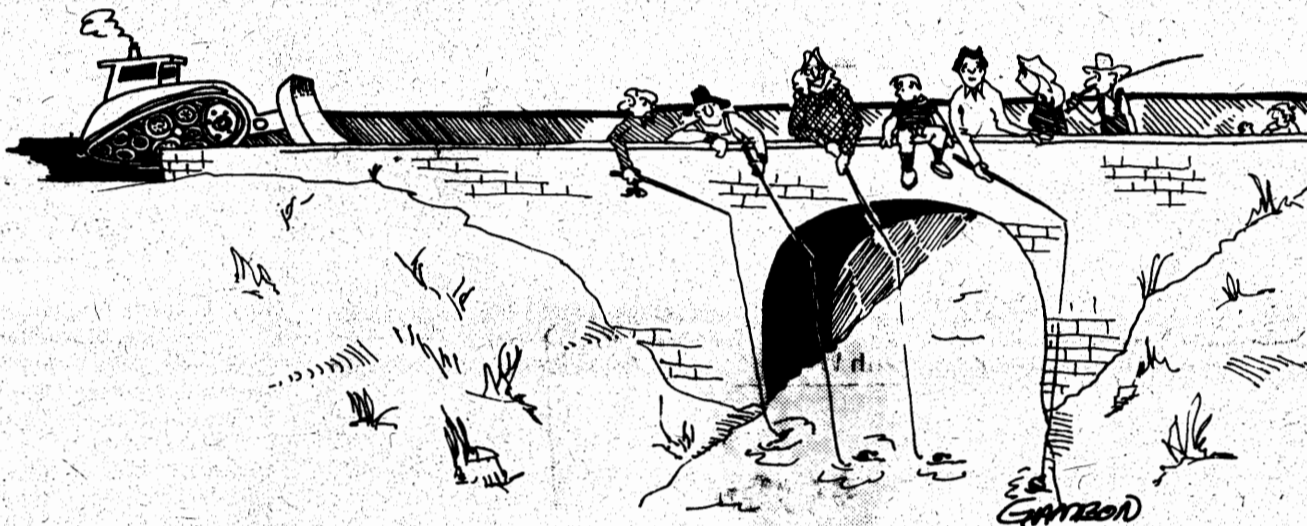
Pressure has been subtly brought to bear in the past to stop people from fishing from bridges.

The areas surrounding the bridges were posted, even illegally, with "No Parking" signs. On occasion police have been instructed to check more carefully than otherwise the registrations and licenses of people on certain bridges.

It would seem some people just can't stand the idea there is something left in this country to do that doesn't cost money. In Florida, fishing from bridges is encouraged. The state even goes to the trouble of building catwalks and providing other minimum services.

Why is it here in Suffolk County we have to do everything possible to make life as unenjoyable as it can be?

This local law has not yet been voted upon. We encourage you to contact your legislator immediately. And why not?



"Hey! Here she comes again."

Letter to the editor

"Constitution framers did not provide for election of judiciary"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I feel somewhat compelled to respond to your editorial in your Wednesday, Sept. 8, 1976 edition wherein you stated that you felt that elections should be conducted for the office of Justice of the Supreme Court and "less prestigious positions" in the Judiciary system.

There is, needless to say, much to be said for the election of all public officials-however, I think many possible exceptions to this general principle exist when one is talking about a very specialized field requiring a tremendous amount of education, both formal and practical. In this regard, to say that a Judge should be selected by the electoral process is in some ways akin to saying that the average voter should make a determination as to who the most competent brain surgeon might be even though the average voter might have no idea as to what the intricacies of brain surgery are. In many ways the law is probably as intricate as brain surgery although I, as a voter, do not profess to know a great deal about brain surgery or other such highly specialized fields and consequently would not hold myself out to be competent to make determinations with reference to them.

Although I agree that great care must be exercised in creating a system whereby Judges would be appointed, I would merely point out that the framers of the United States Constitution when considering the necessity for a Judicial Branch of the Federal Government did not provide for the election of the Federal Judiciary but rather provided for its appointment in order to keep it free from petty politics. As a testimonial for appointing Judges, the United States Supreme Court speaks eloquently.

In your article you stated that a Judge "should be held up to the scrutiny of the voter. He should always know his decisions and actions in court are subject to the approval of

the people." While on one hand I wholeheartedly agree with this statement, I cannot help but think of a charge to a Jury who is about to deliberate and the admonition that the Jury should not consider the popularity or unpopularity of their decision but rather only the law, the facts and the ultimate justice of their decision. Many seemingly unpopular decisions have been rendered by many Courts and have ultimately ended up being fair and just notwithstanding the unpopular reception of them by the community. Justice for a minority, for example, may not please the majority but that does not make the decision any less just.

Over the past several years we have seen increasingly commercial and "slick" commercials being utilized by individuals seeking high Judicial office when in reality, the qualifications of these individuals have not been widely publicized. It is my opinion that members of the Judiciary should not be selected on the same principals as which deodorant soap is used.

Quite frankly I have not made up my mind as to whether or not the present system of electing Justices and Judges is superior or inferior to a possible alternative method of manning the Judiciary, however, I do feel that some of the points which I have made in this letter are valid and should be considered along with the positions taken in your editorial. (LP3)

Very truly yours,
Jess Ronald Marchese
Farmingville

Ed. Note: If you need brain surgery you are free to choose the surgeon to perform the operation. If you are brought before the court, you do not have the opportunity to choose your judge. Only in an election and the process working up to it are you able to influence who will be judging you.

Feeling frustrated

Being editor and publisher of a newspaper like Suffolk Life can probably be one of the most rewarding jobs in the world.

But, it also can be one of the most frustrating.

Part of my frustration is brought about by the mechanics of this newspaper.

We have run roughly a 65-to-35 per cent advertising-to-news ratio. The advertising portion of our paper is designed to pay for all of its own costs plus produce a profit for the business. The news portion of the paper is partially supported by subscriptions.

We ask every family who receives Suffolk Life to voluntarily pay \$4.99 annually for their subscription. This helps defray the cost of maintaining our news department and pays for, in part, the space that is used to print the news.

Each year we send every family who receives Suffolk Life a subscription renewal envelope. It is the only actual billing we do. We depend upon people's honesty, integrity, and recognition of the value of Suffolk Life to voluntarily place in this envelope a check for \$4.99 once a year.

Thousands of people do, but there are thousands who don't. We have had some of these don'ts tell us 'why should I pay for your newspaper when my neighbor might not?' We answer because your neighbor has chosen to take advantage of Suffolk Life's method of distribution and circulation doesn't mean it is right'.

What we would like to tell them is because your neighbor didn't pay for his subscription, we couldn't afford to put that reporter on the South West Sewer District story when he should have been. Maybe because we didn't have a reporter on that story four years ago, the cost has risen from \$250 million to almost \$3 billion.

Story after story doesn't get into the paper because we don't have a reporter covering it. We just can't afford it.

The end result is Suffolk Life is not the newspaper it could be, and that's one of the most frustrating things I have to deal with.

If you are one of these who has not paid for their subscription this year, I implore you to please do so. Every subscription which is paid for is used to build you a better newspaper.

An annual subscription to Suffolk Life is only \$4.99, two years \$6.88, and three years \$8.77. Paying for Suffolk Life is the best darn investment you can make if you think about what Suffolk Life has been able to do for this county collectively and for you individually. And why not?

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Keep cops local

Morale and discipline problems of the East Hampton police department have aroused outsiders' cries for the East End towns which maintain their own police forces to join with the county's police department.

The county police came into existence when the five western towns voted to merge their local forces into a county force. The five East End towns rejected this idea.

Local East End associations all favor joining the county force because the Suffolk County force is the highest paid force in the country. They favor this, not for better police protection, but because they, as individual members, would make out better financially.

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Town officials and most residents still favor keeping their own police departments. They feel local police have a far better knowledge of the area and people, and instinctively can provide better protection. The cost of maintaining a local police force is more economical than joining and paying maintenance of an enlarged county force.

The problems involving the East Hampton police department are a disgrace and the town board must rectify the situation immediately. But scandals of this nature are not the exclusive property of small departments.

Look at New York City. It is noted for

corruption caused by rambling, oversized police departments.

We favor the towns retaining their own departments, partially for economics, more because of the secure feeling of knowing personally the police that serve on the local force. We believe an officer who works and lives in the same community is a better deterrent against crime than if he just puts in an 8 hour shift and is known only by the number on his squad car. Most residents feel as we do.

We hope none of our town boards are panicked into making a change because West Enders want to totally control the East End. And why not?

Letters to the editor

"I applaud your gun claim"

Dear Editor:

I applaud your claim that a gun can be quickly made with nothing more than a drill press and a lathe. If you could persuade all gun lovers to arm themselves thusly, prior to such callous ambushment of harmless creatures as is called hunting, you would equalize the odds of survival for both hunter and the hunted, delight naturalists, and rescue the Suffolk Town Board from limbo.

Your rationalization, like a water lily, is passably fair at the surface, but is rooted in the muck of man's primordial nature from whence it draws its sustenance.

How sad it is to find man, who in dread of their nature, drove wolves to extinction, sitting on their hillock and baying the moon.

Sincerely yours,
T.J. Kusto

"Seat belts editorial laughed at"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

Your editorial about seat belts on the buses is to be laughed at.

Did you ever think about the kind of kids who would use them?

We have up to 62 kids on our buses, all ages and shapes. The Middle School kids are the hardest to control. They would tie knots, trip over them, and very probably use them to hurt other kids with them.

I wish you could sit behind the wheel and see if you can tell if they are wearing them. You can't.

Just imagine how you can make them wear them. If they are sitting down, 3 in a seat and reasonably well behaved, is enough of a job, plus driving in all kinds of weather, with all kinds of other clowns who cut you off, don't stop when you let kids off and other problems we bus drivers run into everyday without worrying about if they have their seat belts on.

The Safety Commission has looked into this matter many times, it is not practical on big buses with so many children to look after.

Yours truly,
Marianne J. Schucker
Yaphank

"'Dead Sea' editorial impact"

Dear Sir:

Being an avid water sport enthusiast, I read with great zeal your editorial on "Long Island's Dead Sea."

I have witnessed firsthand, man's utter destruction of the sea during the past eight years, as I have been a lifeguard at Smith's Point Park in Shirley since 1968.

Deterioration of our beaches has been a steady progression, but until this year most neophytes to our beautiful shores could not see the signs until being slapped in the face first hand by a sludge line in early June.

Reading your paper made me think what impact, if any, an editorial would have upon your constituents.

Being a Learning Disability teacher, I need high interest material and had an idea your editorial, along with my anecdotes of daily occurrences at the sea shore, would spur my students to make an active role in community affairs.

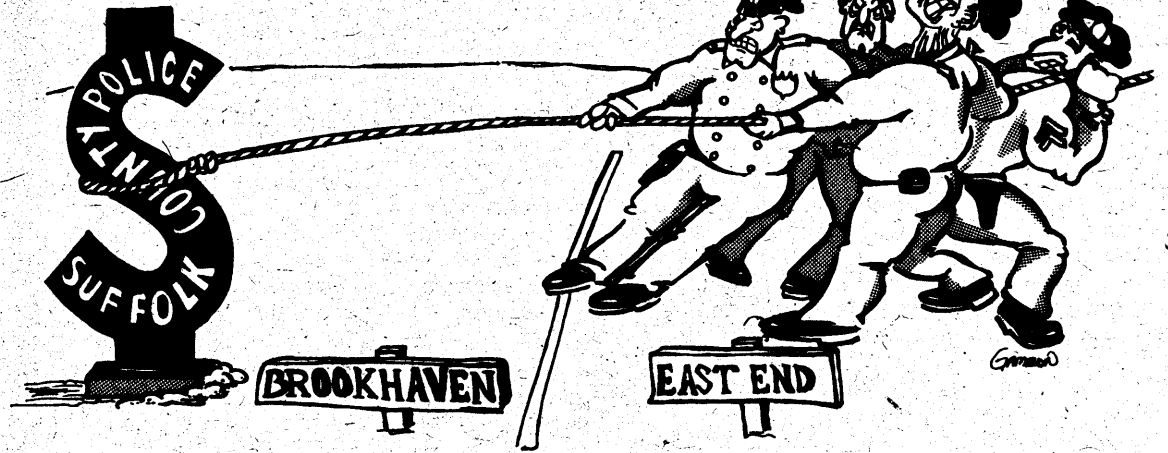
The idea was a sound one, as students whom are difficult to motivate each took the time to write a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency.

For most of my students, it was the first letter they had written to a congressman or environmental group. A few of the students were so intent on this letter that it took them over an hour to write it. They would accept nothing but perfection in vocabulary, and penmanship.

I hope the rest of your readers will follow these fine young people's example.

Also, it will be interesting to see if the assemblymen, senators, and congressmen answer my students' letters.

Sincerely,
Brian M. McCarthy
Selden



Suffolk's own phones

Some may think we are becoming soft or senile in our old age, but at long last we can agree on something with John Klein. Klein has urged the legislature to install a private phone system in the county offices. This system would require an initial cash outlay, but will save the county several times that amount in rental fees from the telephone company.

Many major companies who have extensive phone systems have already made this switch since the savings are enormous.

The telephone company in the past virtually had a monopoly on this equipment. The prices they charged for equipment rentals were out of line.

After a lengthy federal court battle private companies were able to install their own phones and accessories in place of the equipment they had previously been forced to rent from the telephone company.

Suffolk Life, some years ago, when faced with expanding its phone system, weighed the cost of renting equipment from the telephone company against purchasing equipment from Executone, a private company. We chose the private system. The rental fees the phone company would have required of us actually paid for the system within 27 months of service.

We have had this system now in operation for almost 2 1/2 years and estimate we have saved over \$10,000 on the limited number of phones we have in operation. There has been a minimal number of breakdowns on individual phones. Service to have them repaired has been prompt. In most cases the cost was covered by a service contract.

Klein is absolutely right to encourage the legislature to install a private phone system for the county offices. We have been able to save thousands of dollars; the county most likely could save in the millions.

This move has been opposed by the phone company. They do not want to lose their


lucrative business with the county. When we were first considering the switch to private equipment, the phone company's presentation depended on emotionalism and fear. They attempted to create grave doubts about the competence of outside companies. There were vague suggestions the phone company might not be as cooperative if there was a breakdown in their part of the system. We presume similar arguments were used on the county, and it is obvious the legislators bought this reasoning. From our own experience we found it doesn't make financial sense to pay the telephone company for equipment you can buy outright.

We hope the county legislature will take an additional look at his proposal and reopen this matter as it could save Suffolk County money in the future. And why not?

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Ford's foot in his mouth

President Ford has been depicted by some segments of the press as a bumbler. We have felt, at times, this has been unjust criticism. Last Wednesday night, in the second of the great Presidential debates, he put his foot in his mouth so far he may never recover from it. President Ford said, "There is no Soviet dominance of Eastern European countries."

As we sat there watching, his statement seemed so far-fetched we recall thinking we must have misunderstood him. He could not have been referring to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and East Germany?

Only an idiot who has not paid any attention to world affairs in the last 40 years could possibly make a statement like that. Yet Ford's own words condemned him. What he really was trying to say we can only guess. Every one of us have made statements that mean one thing to us,

but are interpreted differently by others.

In our excitement or our desire to make a point, we have left out a word, paused at the wrong place, or transposed words and thus given our listener a totally different impression of what we were trying to convey. This is a human weakness of which all of us have been guilty at one time or another.

On the other hand, can we afford to have a President who makes mistakes like this? Do we have a right to expect a President to be God-like and infallible in his communication arts?

Ford's statement, as it stands, is so preposterous, we will withhold our own judgement. Maybe out of this muddling of political rhetoric will come the true and real beliefs of the candidates so we can choose between our Presidential candidates wisely. And why not?

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David J. Willmott, Editor

Death by neglect

Neglect is about to kill an important segment of our economy. Even worse, this neglect will kill someone reading this editorial within the next year.

The Shinnecock and Moriches inlets have been badly neglected. Moriches Inlet is officially closed to navigation and it's predicted Shinnecock will be in the same condition by the end of this coming winter. Some commercial fishing boats using Shinnecock Inlet have already made arrangements to move this coming year. A number of sport fishermen are talking of abandoning the Shinnecock area for other ports.

Shinnecock and Moriches Inlets are the only passages to the Atlantic Ocean from Fire Island to Montauk. Both inlets have been allowed to become a danger to navigation by filling with sand. Moriches was the first to be affected and for the last several years has been officially closed to navigation by the Coast Guard. The inlet appears open to the naked eye. It provides a temptation to mariners, therefore, each year a number of boats are wrecked needlessly. At least once during the year a headline proclaims someone has been killed.

Shinnecock Inlet remained, until last year, in fairly good condition. Changes in tides and currents, however, have caused a sharp build-up of sand. As far as a half mile out of the inlet there are sand bars with as little as 7' of water covering them. Right now when there is a heavy surge or sea, mariners are forced to Montauk for shelter.

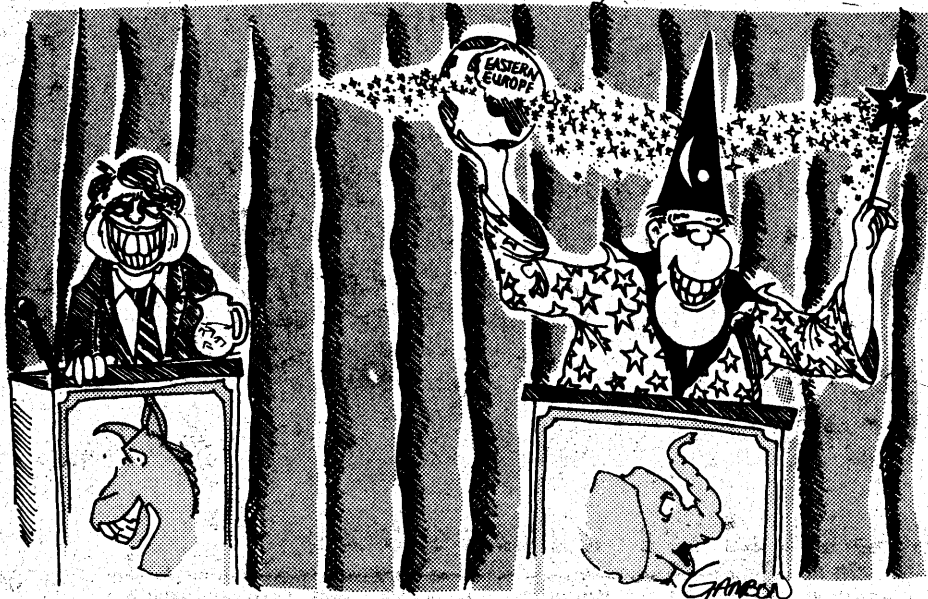
The sport and commercial fishing industry in Shinnecock is worth several million dollars annually. If you figure in the effect of this loss on the economy, it is plain to see the closing of this inlet will bring disaster to the area.

The Corps of Army Engineers who are responsible for keeping these inlets opened have dragged their feet persistently on this project. It has been suggested politics is the reason. We will be damned if we can see where belief in any one political ideology is worth the loss of human life.

The restoration of the Shinnecock and Moriches Inlets are not pie-in-the-sky projects. They are not make-work schemes. Their restoration is absolutely necessary. It's vital to the safety and well-being of mariners and the economy of eastern Long Island. The need for this project has been more than adequately demonstrated. It should be top priority.

New York State and Long Island pay a disproportionate share in taxes to the federal government. We should be able to get a little of this money back for necessary projects. We encourage you to write to the President and the Corps of Army Engineers demanding they institute work on both these inlets immediately.

We cannot afford to wait several years, or until the political atmosphere is right. And why not?



FOR MY NEXT TRICK...

Why, And why not?

I have been asked many times why I persist in ending my editorials with, "And why not?" It seems this ending irks some, and others feel it reduces the impact of what I have said.

When I first started writing this page, sixteen years ago, I was twenty-one years old. At that time, most weekly newspapers were considered local institutions, and the editors a kind of god whose word was law, not to be challenged. I felt these conceptions were wrong.

A newspaper is not a hallowed institution, but should be a mirror of the people it serves. It should vibrate with life. This is what it was designed for. It should not be a journal of the select few the masses can peek at, but not be a part of. Many weekly newspapers were this way in those days.

I designed Suffolk Life to be a paper about the average person. A paper filled with photos of everyday happenings, news columns and reports revolving around the average person and the issues affecting his quality of life. Some publishers of old traditional weeklies have joined us, resulting in today's papers being more representative of people than they have been.

As far as the editorial column and my ending, "And why not?", it is a reflection of my desire for the average person to have a voice. I write plainly, and in everyday language. I don't pretend that this column is something it is not. I do not want the reader to feel what I say is necessarily gospel. I want my ideas challenged. This is the reason for "And why not?"

By ending my editorials with this question, I am saying to readers, here is only one man's

opinion. What is yours? Do not accept what I say. Think about it. Form your own conclusions. Check my facts. Challenge my logic. You have as much right to your opinion as I have to mine.


Exercise this right and your responsibility to make your own and very important opinion heard on all issues. To me this is the only real purpose and importance of any editorial column.

Only an editor who is a pompous idiot would use his column to dictate his beliefs to others. And why not?

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Where is America's ingenuity?

America became a leading industrial nation because of her natural resources, and her capitalistic system of rewarding those who produced.

America is still at the top of the heap but is teetering because of the cost of energy and her inability to cope with it. The price of fuel and power has wreaked havoc with the general economy. It has caused rampant inflation and serious unemployment.

The energy problem has plagued us for more than two years and an end is not in sight. When we were first hit with the energy crunch, alternatives were mentioned, some were explored, but none have been seriously sought

Solar energy which once was a science fiction concept, could today be a reality, particularly to heat and cool buildings. Almost nothing is being done to encourage the development of this energy source. It's strange when you consider the billions of gallons of oil that could be saved each year if the power of the sun was harnessed.

It is also strange that the federal government and our state's government have not provided tax incentives for those who would invest in these systems. The increasing costs of oil and electricity is the only incentive for businesses or homeowners to convert to solar heat.

Why are we not exploring "free" methods of generating electricity? Why are not wind-powered systems being developed? There is a free source of the raw material needed to generate our power needs.

We are faced with an ever-growing pollution problem in our oceans from sludge and sewage being dumped wantonly and willfully. It has been proven that these "undesirable" waste



HEY... MAYBE THIS WILL WORK!

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elements can also be converted into fuel and power.

The federal government spends millions of dollars each year on research and development; they hand out grants in wholesale lots to examine trivial projects, yet, America's number one concern and problem appears to be put on the back burner.

We wonder if this is not being done because of profit motives. Free sources of the raw materials needed to produce energy are not profitable to big oil companies, nor are they profitable to utility companies whose rates are supposedly based upon the cost of producing the electricity.

Are these companies asserting their influence on our governments? Are they keeping us from finding real solutions to our energy problems? Are they milking the country for every last dime they can get by using expensive and limited sources of oil and uranium? Are we allowing ourselves to be enslaved and our economy ruined by the greed of a few?

We don't pretend to know the answers but we find it too coincidental that we are not developing alternative means of producing power and allowing ourselves to be totally dependent upon petroleum, coal and uranium, whose sources happen to be controlled by the same owners of the major oil companies. This is a question that all candidates who are running for election this year should be addressing themselves to. And why not?

No one can afford a medical insurance increase

Blue Cross-Blue Shield petitioned the State Insurance Department for a combined 30 per cent increase in medical and hospitalization rates this week.

This is the sixth such rate increase request in the last four years.

We all have become numbed by inflation and have come to expect rises in our living costs. But this is ridiculous. Who the hell can afford it? No matter what the income level of people we talked to, the story is the same.

Everyone has run out of "discretionary" income. Every nickel, dime and penny they are making is committed. They do not have any money left for luxuries, emergencies and increasingly so, even necessities.

Medical insurance is not a luxury. It is not something you have much choice of "doing without". But we wonder how we are going to come up with another \$25.00 to \$30.00 per month to meet the latest "Blues" demands. Most people do not have even this leeway in their income. They have already cut back, done without, and stretched money as far as it can be stretched.

The unfortunate solution to this problem is a non-solution. Thousands of state residents will be forced out of medical coverage if the "Blues" are allowed to raise their rates by the amount they have petitioned the insurance department for.

New York State residents will be forced to expose themselves to the liabilities of financial ruin if they or a member of their family faces serious illness. Hospitals and doctors will not get paid, only furthering the demand for higher insurance rates. Taxes will have to be raised to compensate for the increase in welfare and Medicaid costs to cover those who qualify and are without a plan.

Is socialized medicine the answer to the "Blues" insatiable demands for increased rates

and the intolerably high hospital and medical costs? It appears this reprehensible possibility is coming closer.

The only thing that can forestall the full socialization of medicine is a voluntary effort by hospitals and doctors to end their spiraling charges.

If the medical community refuses or is unable to solve this problem, the ultimate answer, although unpleasant, will be to take medicine out of the hands of free enterprise. With it will come the worse inefficiencies of government coupled with outlandish tax cost. Because the system is

socialized there will be a deterioration of services and productivity, which in this case means lives.

The New York State Insurance Commissioner must refuse the "Blues" rate increase request now, because no one in the state of New York can afford it. By refusing to honor the "Blues" rate request, pressure will be brought on hospitals and doctors to tighten up on those practices which has caused medicine to be a leader in the inflation spiral.

We encourage you to write to Thomas A. Harnett, State Superintendent of Insurance, Albany, New York, and tell him how this rate increase is going to affect you personally. If there is an outpouring from the public, the Commissioner will be more inclined to turn down the "Blues" request. And why not?

Letter To The Editor

"Biggest lulu of all!"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I was quite disturbed when I read your article "Perry loves a lulu" in the July 7th issue. What right has Mr. Duryea to threaten anyone and to force them to vote for lulus? We elect the men to legislative bodies and we, as senior citizens, are taxed to the hilt for all expenses the legislative body considers necessary. We do not need the extra burden of lulus because Mr. Duryea is in dire need and hungry for an extra dollar.

We are 100,000 strong here in Suffolk and as a senior citizen, I shall do my utmost to inform all those senior citizens I am acquainted with to see to it that Mr. Duryea doesn't get our vote when election time comes. I implore everyone, senior and junior citizens alike, to remember your article "Perry loves a lulu" when it is time to cast your vote and vote against this tyrannical dictator, Mr. Perry Duryea!

For five years I have requested several men in the legislative body to take social security off what is considered earned income for senior citizens. If we are slightly over \$6,500, we have to pay full taxes on a small amount. There are approximately 26 States in the Union that do not consider social security as income. Tell Mr. Duryea we want to know when the senior citizens are entitled to some lulu. We have worked hard all our lives and did not get paid for absenteeism.


We do not need a man in office who holds threats over the heads of the men we voted for. Let's get rid of the highest lulu of all - Mr. Perry Duryea!!!!

Mr. Arthur V. Gregory
Lake Ronkonkoma

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS

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Hampton West	Sayville	Rocky Point
	Ronkonkoma	

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Listen to the cold hard facts

People have been threatening to move out of New York State because of the high taxes. Politicians who create these taxes have chuckled this statement off to so much emotionalism of the illiterate electorate and nothing more. They have gone their merry way raising taxes on everything in sight, always believing the taxpayer can pay more.

Last week, we ran an article about a housing development that is systematically being taken over by foreclosures, not hot air, but testimony to the real facts of life. Our circulation manager told us this development was not an isolated example. One of the biggest problems he has is houses being abandoned throughout the locale. New areas, old areas, poor areas, rich areas... people are just packing up and moving out. It is not only homeowners, but also small businesses as well.

Our salesmen report an unusual number of businesses just packing it in and quitting, not even having the traditional 'going out of



YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS IN YOUR STATE.

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

When is enough enough?

Riverhead Town policemen have involved the public in their negotiations with the Town Board for increases in pay and benefits. The police have been circulating a petition to town residents requesting their demands be granted.

Most of us appreciate the Riverhead Town Police Department. It is a good one, made up of our neighbors and friends. We all want to see them enjoy a decent quality of life and be adequately rewarded for their endeavors.

We must, however, keep in mind what this service costs us as taxpayers. The last estimated per capita income in Riverhead was \$3,545, the total family income was \$13,825 -- which is the combined total of the husband and wife's income, encompassing both main and secondary jobs.

The total cost of the police to the residents of the Town of Riverhead is just in excess of one and a half million dollars.

We examined the budget projected for the Riverhead Police Department for the coming fiscal year and found the lowest paid officer will cost town residents \$20,616 annually, \$396.00 weekly or \$11.71 per hour. The average cost of a police officer will be \$29,346, a weekly cost of \$546 and an hourly cost of \$16.67. The highest paid officer other than the chief costs \$40,098 annually, \$771 weekly or \$27.78 hourly.

These cost figures are what the officer receives as a base salary plus fringe benefits. In addition, Riverhead Town Police are granted from 10 to 27 days paid vacation each year. They receive up to 175 cumulative paid sick days which they accumulate at the rate of 18 sick days per year as well as 5 personal days.

To pay the officers their requested cost in 1977, the Riverhead Town Board has proposed to eliminate five positions. It is the only way Riverhead Town can keep the tax rate increase below 30 per cent.

The police have rejected this solution.

Riverhead Town residents must ask themselves when is enough, enough?

We as town residents must decide who we wish to support: the police union's demands for the increased salaries and benefits as outlined, or the town board's reluctant decision to grant their wage increases but eliminate the five positions.

When we evaluate what the police receive in salaries and fringe benefits, we find the officers

receive salaries substantially higher than the earnings of the average Riverhead Town taxpayer. The benefits are substantially out of proportion with what Riverhead Town taxpayers receive from their employers. The number of vacation, sick and personal days are out of proportion with that of the private sector.

The Town Board has acted courageously by finally saying "no", and if there is going to be a "yes", we are going to have to cut the force. This means less police protection unless the police themselves willingly increase their productivity to gain the additional cash and fringe benefits.

Most of us in the town of Riverhead receive an average of two weeks vacation (ten working days), take less than an additional week off for sickness, bereavement and personal days. We work an average of 245 days a year. The average under the past contract any officer worked is 220 days. Some worked substantially less than this because of vacations and sick time above the average. The police can receive what they are asking for if they reduce their vacation time in half. This will still give them from one to three weeks vacation and if they give up those 18 days cumulative sick leave and accept the same

business' sales. They are too disgusted even for this, and don't even have enough merchandise to warrant the expense.

We wish our County, State and Federal Legislators would take time out from their campaigning to go out into their districts and see the devastation they have caused, and feel the bitterness, anger, and frustration of good productive citizens who are giving up and moving in hopes of finding a better life elsewhere.

If they talked with the people we have talked with and if they listen to their pleas and their plight, not as hot air, or idle threats, but as real problems and cold hard facts of life, they would realize what the real issue is that concerns Long Islanders.

We are in big trouble here on Long Island, and unless our legislators learn to listen, there are going to be less and less people left for them to talk to. And why not?

Letters to the editor

"Why a cop?"

Dear Editor:

I am a senior invalid and just read in the paper that two policemen were laid off - why? There seems to be plenty of money to give to thousands of people that are too lazy to work. Why, I ask again, a cop, whom every time he puts on his uniform, he goes out of the home leaving his wife and children, never knowing if he will return.

I fell out of bed and it took me over an hour to crawl to my phone for help and they were here within five minutes. Maybe the people that fired these five wonderful men might someday be in the same condition and I have a question...Can they sleep at night?

Just one of the taxpayers of Southold township.

"Suffolk policemen are second to none"

Dear Mr. Willmott:

I read a recent reply from Vincent Michalski. Understand that I'm not a policeman, but I surely respect and admire their position. Servicemen all over this world, in a lot of cases, have another job! No rhetoric about that fact! In times past, we have had occasion to summon help from Suffolk police and it is my considered opinion, they are second to none. I'm reasonably certain many residents of Suffolk would echo my thoughts!

R.J. Hennessy
Coram

terms most of us in the private sector receive, which is five sick days per year. (Extended illness to be handled on an individual basis). There is little need for personal days. The police work rotating shifts and have days free during the week to take care of personal business.

If these reductions in vacation time, sick leave, and personal days were effected, it would give the Riverhead Police force the equivalent of an additional seven officers.


Riverhead Town is already paying Suffolk County for the 7th Squad. The 7th Squad is a detective bureau designed to investigate all crimes committed on the East End. Having our own detective and investigating department is a duplication of effort and cost. With the elimination of detective grade another regular patrolman's position could be filled.

If the Riverhead Town Police and the Town Board can agree on the compromise we have outlined, the police can receive the increases they feel they are deserving of and the residents and taxpayers can receive better police protection through increased productivity. Both can benefit and the tax rate can be held which is of utmost importance to every one of us, police and public alike. And why not?

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Oil companies blackmail New York State

The American oil industry has a heritage of murder, robbery, blackmail, collusion and just about any other horrendous crime that can be committed. The image built in the early days of the industry subsided or at least went underground until 1973.

The oil barons took advantage of the Arab oil embargo to rape America again.

The scandalous profits created a public uproar. People demanded the government dismantle the monopolistic oil industry.

Since then, the American public has been bombarded with ads from the oil companies extolling their virtues and concern for the environment and the economic well-being of the country.

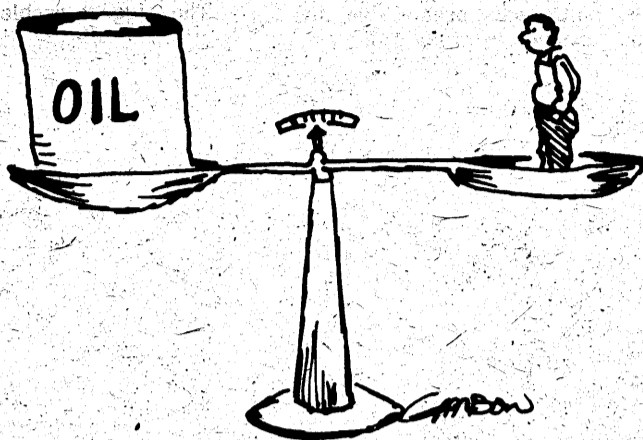
Many of us suspected this new corporate cage was plain old-fashioned hog-wash.

Almost to prove the skeptics were right, and to give tangible evidence the oil companies have not changed their colors since their founding days, they resorted to blatant public blackmail this past week.

The major oil companies reportedly have let Governor Carey know New Yorkers would not be considered for off-shore oil production jobs unless the state of New York dropped their environmental suit against the oil drilling operation in the Atlantic Ocean.

Carey kowtowed to the oil companies' blackmail. He has instructed Attorney General Louis Lefkowitz to drop the state's suit. The suit was brought on environmental grounds that ex-

ploratory oil drilling off Long Island was not fail-safe. The oil companies had not given satisfactory proof that drilling for oil and its transportation would not harm our environment.



Who will win?

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

New York is suffering a high unemployment rate caused ironically in part by the high cost of energy. Manufacturing firms have moved from the New York area to other locations that can produce electricity more economically. Those areas are not tied as tightly to the oil companies' apron strings.

The pressure the oil companies put on Carey and New York State residents indicates their greed has not subsided in the least.

The seven sisters, as the seven major oil companies are known, control the petroleum industry from the oil fields straight through the marketing facilities. Not satisfied with just oil, the seven sisters now also control both coal and uranium in the United States.

They have this country bound hand and foot. We are at their mercy. What hope do we as individuals have if they can make the Governor of New York cower at their feet?

Our only solution is to find an alternate means of producing energy employing a "free" raw source. Solar, wind, or tidal power may be the answer. But, we fear the technology will not become available until the oil companies first figure out how they can gain control of these sources as well. Only when they can sell us the air we breathe, the currents and tides, and the sunshine, will they allow the growth of today's technology to provide tomorrow's energy.

Reasonable energy costs will never become a reality as long as the seven sisters control the United States government. And why not?

Playing games with the county budget

King John has done an incredibly masterful job creating his '77 production called the County budget. It's designed to boggle the weak-minded and drive anyone with an ounce of intelligence to insanity.

King John's '77 production should be titled "Amateur Night At the School Board." It follows the familiar script played out by school boards who fatten up a budget, knowing full well the public will not buy it. They allow it to be voted down, then bring it back minus the "people programs" such as busing, interscholastic sports, books, and hot lunches.

When parents realize they are going to be inconvenienced they get in an uproar and go out and pass the budget. This scenario has been played time and time again all over Long Island.

King John, never one to let an opportunity slip by has copied the school boards' technique.

He took the programs which affect the people and deliberately stripped them down, hoping to create an outcry.

Klein eliminated almost 75 per cent of the rangers from the parks. He is counting on the rangers to convince people they will be raped and robbed in county parks unless Klein restores this cut-back. He slashed the cultural arts activities' budget, counting on those who are involved to be highly vocal and protest loudly.

His overall budget is not much different from last year's. It still contains thousands of unfilled salaried jobs. Klein has juggled the tax monies for these jobs in the past to create the illusion he is keeping taxes down when it suited his needs. If we do not need the employees, they should be cut out of the budget now and reduce the budget by the amount of their salaries.

The budget should not be a stash fund for Klein's shell games that create hardships for Suffolk residents. Suffolk County government is a cumbersome bureaucratic octopus that can be streamlined and reduced substantially. There are many little ways that this can be

accomplished. Last Spring, we editorialized on growing wild flowers in the divider on a county highway. Last week we watched a Department of Public Works employee driving a tractor cutting what at this point was nothing more than burnt-out late October stubble. There was a man drawing a salary, a piece of equipment worth a couple of thousand dollars, and the high price of gas all going to waste.

Klein's own staff has grown from the handful who worked under former County Executive H. Lee Dennison to almost 200 employees. Some of that number are unnecessary photographers and public relations agents there only to glorify the King himself.

The Citizen's Advisory Committee, after working long and hard, presented to the Legislators and Klein a bare bones budget for operating the county airport. It called for approximately \$90,000 in county funds to run the airport for this coming year.

When the budget was revealed, the committee found the County Executive had added \$130,000 to their bare bones budget.

It appears that the County Executive wants to continue the guard services which the committee had recommended (with reservations) as not being needed. This little item will cost over \$70,000. The fixed base operator is responsible for his own security. The National Guard, which occupies a sizeable portion of the airport, provides their own security; and the balance of the airport that today is basically abandoned, because of the County Executive's refusal to rent the buildings is all that is left to protect.

Klein's budget, as it stands, will necessitate a 30 per cent hike in your real estate taxes. Klein shrugs this off by saying it only amounts to a few cents per \$100 assessed valuation. He should be in the position of many Suffolk residents faced with paying an outlandish real estate bill or feeding their hungry kids. To allow this budget to be passed, even in a

shadow of its present form, is an open admission of incompetence by the Legislature.

The Suffolk County Legislature has the final voice on the budget. This year it is controlled by Democrats. Most are in office because taxpayers got fed up with rising real estate taxes and they took the chance that new faces would make the difference.


The Legislature's acceptance or rejection of this budget is their crucial test. They should not accept a single item in this budget until they are totally satisfied need is vital and absolutely justified. If they fail this test, they may well meet the doom of their predecessors.

Taxpayers are faced with the grim reality of survival. Survival to many is reduction in their real estate taxes. Klein's '77 production leaves a lot of room for a fearless, competent Legislature to make this happen. And why not?

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willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Time to eliminate electoral college

Since late Spring we have lived in constant fear the people of the United States will not elect a President on November 2nd. No, not that the people would not turn out to vote, but people would choose one man as President and another would be elected because he carried the needed number of electoral votes to upset the people's majority.

This almost happened in 1960 during the Kennedy-Nixon race. Kennedy just squeezed in by a narrow margin by defeating Nixon in Illinois. The electoral college vote then went the way of the popular vote.

It was later revealed if Nixon had protested voter irregularities in Cooke County, he would have won Illinois' electoral college votes. He would have become the President in 1960 against the will of the majority of the people.

Last August we started outlining and projecting the areas in which Ford and Carter had their probable strengths. It appeared to us this race was going to be a toss-up. There was a good chance then people of the United States would elect one President, but the electoral college would elect another.

We hope this Wednesday we awake to the results of Tuesday's election knowing this fear is unfounded. Either Ford or Carter will win both the popular vote and the votes of the electoral college. We can think of nothing more devastating than to have the American public elect one man and have their decision nullified by the archaic system of the electoral college.

After the closeness of the Kennedy-Nixon election, there was a country-wide movement to do away with the electoral college system. The projected closeness of the Carter-Ford race should give Congress impetus to eliminate the electoral college system once and for all. And why not?

Ward system means better representation

Southampton will vote Tuesday on a local proposition authorizing the creation of a ward system. A ward system is another name for a councilmatic district.

At present the four councilmen making the rules and regulations governing Southampton Town are elected at large. Southampton Town is comprised of some twenty-five individual hamlets. Each one has a distinct and different identity from the other.

The problems concerning the people of Eastport and Speonk are of little concern to the residents of the village of Sag Harbor. By the same token, what goes on in the village of Sag Harbor is of little interest to those living in Flanders.

When you have councilmen elected at large, no

particular area receives adequate individualized representation. When a councilman is selected to represent a ward or a councilmatic district, he is first and foremost responsible to the people of that district. He must take care of their needs and be sure their desires and-or problems are brought before the town board.

Councilmatic districts give the average resident a chance to have an effective voice on the town board, providing better representation as the councilmen are closer to the people in their district.

We strongly encourage the Town of Southampton to authorize the creation of a ward system for the selection of councilmen. And why not?

So you are turned off

It is estimated almost 50 per cent of those eligible to vote in this year's Presidential election will not exercise their franchise.

We will be the first to admit the Presidential race has not produced a candidate anybody can get all that excited about. We can blame it on politics as usual, the Vietnam War, Watergate or just our general distrust of anybody in the federal government.

But if you are looking for the real reason, let's be honest and look at ourselves for the cause. Yes, you and I. **We are the government.** We are the cause for our government being what it is. Our government is us and it's what we make it.

We've shirked our responsibility by not being involved, by not keeping abreast, by not making our voice heard. We have been to damn' lazy to find out what was going on in our government during the four years between Presidential elections.

The majority of people in this country are registered in a political party. Yet, about 95 per cent of the people have never voted in a primary. They allocate the running of their party and the choice of the candidates to the power brokers within the party.

Now half the people in this country say 'I am not going to vote in this Presidential election because of what has happened.'

That's an absolute cop-out. They just don't

appreciate what they have.

They should put themselves in the position of the average Chinese citizen when Mao Tse Tung died. How much choice did they have in the selection of their next leader? His wife opened her mouth and voiced an opinion. It's now reported she has gone on to her great reward along with a handful of others who verbalized an opinion as to who they wanted to lead their country. This is not new in China. It is estimated 600 million Chinese were eliminated because they did not agree with Mao Tse Tung when he held the reins of power.

That's the price people pay in a county not governed by a democracy. Is that what we want?

If you are one of those 50 per cent who plans to sit it out this election, don't cry in your beer if during the next four years your taxes go up, if you have another Watergate or you have your sons and daughters fighting for some politician's cause in another war.

You and only you can make the difference in who will lead this country.

If you have not yet decided who you are going to vote for, read everything you can get your hands on during the next two days, then exercise your right and your responsibility as an American citizen. Vote on November 2. And why not?

Vote 'yes' on gambling

Voters will find a local proposition on the ballot authorizing their community to set up fund raising gambling events to be run by churches, fire departments and other charitable organizations.

The events run the gamut from Monte Carlo Nights, which are currently and illegally being held by churches and temples, to the everyday carnival or bazaar that is a favorite fund-raiser of the fire departments, ambulance corps, V.F.W., and other such groups.

The voters in New York State passed a referendum last year allowing the citizens to choose if they wanted to allow these events to be held in their municipalities.

Suffolk Life supports this method of fund raising.

There are few of us who don't gamble in one form or another. We bet among ourselves and on bridge and poker games in our own homes. Many of us attend Turkey Shoots, Monte Carlo

Nights, bazaars other activities where there are games of chance. To avoid the stigma of illegal gambling, some join junkets and fly to the Caribbean or Las Vegas.


There are few people who are 100 per cent pure when it comes to gambling. To deny our local organizations, churches and temples the right to hold gambling fund raising is hypocritical. Legalizing these forms of gambling will put a crimp in organized crime.

Organized crime recognizes the fact that people will gamble, legally or illegally, and provides the outlet for this. Organized crime gains the profits. If games of chance are legalized in New York State, people will have a legitimate outlet in which to gamble and the benefits will go to charitable organizations instead of the Mafia.

We encourage you to make legal what is already commonly being done illegally. And why not?

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