

# Willmott's and Why-Not's

David J. Willmott, Editor

## Farm Tax Proposal

County Executive Klein released this past week a proposal for preserving the remaining farm lands in Suffolk. The backbone of the plan was that active farmers would be able to postpone tax on their land until such time as they changed the agricultural usage of this land. Towns would continue to assess and tax farms as they are doing at present but the taxes would not be collected until such time as the farms were taken out of agricultural usage. At this time cumulative taxes that would have been paid on the land plus interest would be due and payable. It is presumed that when the land is taken from agricultural use to some other category that lands would have changed hands and there would be cash available to pay taxes. In relation to this Klein's plan also calls for all State and Federal inheritance taxes levied on the estate of the farmer would not come due until the land was taken out of agricultural use or farming category. The purpose of this plan is to keep the maximum amount of land in farming and open spaces.

The reasons for this are both aesthetic and economic. We have witnessed in the past the rapid changeover from farm to suburban developments. This has been perpetuated by the need of farmers to sell their lands to meet their liabilities, and also due to the pressure for more homes. Farmers traditionally have claimed that they were being taxed off their lands, that they could no longer raise produce profitably because of their tax liabilities. Under Klein's plan, farmers could remain on their land as long as they chose to work it and defer taxation until such time as they give up farming and sell the property.

Some very vital questions still have to be answered. First, there is a question of legality. If this type of arrangement is available to those in the agricultural business, it is conceivable that other businesses would demand the same kind of treatment. We are sure in many cases that there would be justification for granting such tax postponement. Second, there is the question of how the towns and counties are going to finance the long term borrowing that will be needed to offset this proposal. As we see it, the immediate result of this particular plan would be that it would be temporarily advantageous for the farmer but in the long run the tax in-

debtedness plus interest would be unprofitable. For the average resident of the area we foresee much higher land prices as a tremendous amount of available land for building purposes would be diminished. We can see no way that the average person will not end up paying more in taxes to finance this plan. It makes little difference whether it is local, State or Federal taxes -- they all still come out of our pocket. This plan has definite merit as something must be done to preserve the agricultural lands but we believe that the public should be made fully aware of all its liabilities and what the costs are going to be.

We would like to offer an alternative suggestion that will encompass all real estate and not just that of the agricultural field. In France they pay taxes on the land in relation to its rental value rather than its true market value as we do in this country. This works very well for the farmer and has helped preserve France's agricultural land. We hope the Suffolk Agricultural Advisory Committee that has done the groundwork on this plan will investigate the French system. And why not?

## We're Going West

SUFFOLK LIFE is proud to announce that we are expanding our circulation area into the balance of Brookhaven Town and the eastern portions of Islip and Smithtown. We will be adding approximately 80,000 new homes to our circulation list. Our total circulation will be in excess of 150,000 and we will be published in eleven local editions.

This move has come about primarily through residents in the new areas we are about to serve requesting their own SUFFOLK LIFE. Over the past year, we have had several thousand inquiries and requests for SUFFOLK LIFE to be delivered outside of our present circulation area. People enjoy seeing the good life and having a newspaper that is totally independent and in which they can express their own views. To these new areas, we will bring basically the same SUFFOLK LIFE that we have given the residents of the East End for the past eleven years. It will be their paper, published to serve their needs.

It will be home-distributed, providing saturation coverage for the advertisers, and we are sure it will

offer the business community the same outstanding results they have been able to achieve from our present SUFFOLK LIFE. It is our intention to provide the same service as a newspaper to these new areas as we have in the past. We hope that all our new readers will use SUFFOLK LIFE to the best advantage and that they will find this new friend as enjoyable and helpful as our present subscribers have.

We're looking forward to this new expansion, as it will offer both a challenge and an opportunity to all of us here on the staff of SUFFOLK LIFE. And why not?

'76

should be

## a good year for Democrats

By Tim Stalker

If Perry Duryea had been in the back room of the Blue Top Inn in Cutchogue, you would have felt the presence of greatness without knowing it was him. It's pretty hard for a man to beat him by handing out little pink cards that look like chances in a Monopoly game, but this may be about all Steve Glose can afford.

Glose, of course, is the man the Democrats have picked to challenge Duryea's throne in the State Assembly. Last Wednesday night, he was just another face at "Working Man's Party" at the Blue Top organized by the Southold Democrats.

When you're introduced to him, he hands you the pink card to remember him by. It's the sort of thing that winds up on the dresser and gets maybe one quick going over before it hits the garbage. The front say, "Hello! I'm Steve Glose, candidate for State Assembly, 1st A.D." Turn it over and it says, "I stand for: (1.) Lower school taxes, (2.) Reorganization of state government, (3.) Protection of the unborn, (4.) Protection of environment, (5.) Honesty in government. Vote Row B."

Meeting Glose only makes you understand more fully how impossible it is for Duryea to be beaten. The suggestion was once made by a writer that the only way to beat the man is to tie him up with one of the yellow rubber bands that he uses to disarm lobster claws and kidnap him.

It seems there are a lot of voters in the 1st A.D. who are far from delighted with Duryea, but it's doubtful that most of them are about to trade away one of the most powerful men in the state and

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# willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## What Size Pipeline?

Northville Industries has made application to Brookhaven Town to start construction on a pipeline that will eventually end up at Northville's leased site in Plainview. The Plainview tank farm stores a maximum of 500,000 gallons of petroleum. Northville has received a number of setbacks on applications for creating their own tank farm in Babylon, Huntington and the Town of Oyster Bay. In these original applications they had requested permission to build storage for up to 12 million gallons of petroleum. Working just inside the law, they arranged to lease the storage facilities of Pride Oil Company, a local Plainview distributor of heating oils. These limited facilities are totally inadequate as a normal terminal for a pipeline. A plant capable of storing what Northville first asked for is more realistic. Those that have followed Northville's history were mystified when the announcement of their acquiring Pride facilities was made public. The pipeline itself will cost several million dollars and such limited terminal facilities will never be adequate or economical. Critics question, why then pour all this money into this project? What are the plans they have not made public? What new scheme have they come up with to circumvent the public's desire and the law?

Searching for an answer after the Brookhaven application was made, we were overwhelmed with the preposterous idea that it might be conceivable that a pipeline could in reality be also a storage facility. Upon closer investigation, it did not seem so preposterous.

Pipelines which are a public utility are virtually unregulated once permission has been granted to construct them. Northville has secured the right to build these pipelines and has the right-of-ways sewn up. They have receiving plants in both Riverhead and Port Jefferson. They have secured right-of-ways along town roads in Brookhaven and west along the Long Island Expressway. All that is needed to complete this project is a terminus to dispense the petroleum at the other end. It appears that Northville will attempt to use the Pride oil facilities as a terminus, the one hitch being that the Pride facilities are not large enough to store the amount of oil that

is needed to make the pipeline economical.

What is Northville up to then? Would it not be possible for Northville to build a pipeline big enough not only to move petroleum but to store it as well? Does a storage tank have to be big and round? Can't a storage tank be long and narrow? Isn't the effect the same? Does a pipeline have to have parts that different types of petroleum are shipped through, or is it one single pipe?

In hopes of finding answers to these questions, we questioned Lee Koppelman, director of Planning for Suffolk County, through an intermediary. His answer was he didn't feel it would be practical. On Sept. 8th, an attempt to find out what Northville's application to Brookhaven Town was exactly, we called the Supervisor's office. No one there would acknowledge that they knew anything about this application. They suggested we call the Brookhaven Town Planning Board. No one there seemed to know anything about it either. They suggested we call the Town Clerk's office. There too, no one acknowledged that they knew anything about it. They suggested we call the Highway Department. No one there seemed to know anything about this. They forwarded us to the Highway Department's Engineering Department. Finally we reached a Mr. Hulse; neither did he know the answer, but said that before Northville could make an application they would have to present his office with a site plan as they would be tearing up the town roads. He stated that he had not seen any site plan or heard anything about one.

In the September 7 (Thursday) edition of The Long Island Press, Supervisor Barraud stated that he felt the Town Board would approve Northville's application at the meeting of the 19th. He stated he had already received a favorable recommendation from the Superintendent of Highways. It seems strange that he could have received this recommendation when the Engineering Department of the Highway Department had not yet seen a site plan. It seems strange that with something of this nature which will affect Brookhaven Town so strongly, no one in the Highway Department, the Planning Department, the Town Clerk's office or the Office of the Supervisor would acknowledge

knowing anything about it. What seems even stranger is that, according to Mr. Barraud, the Town Board is going to approve this application without a thorough investigation or a public hearing. You would think that this Town Board would be concerned with the fact that Northville has a potential of pumping through this pipeline, which will run through Brookhaven Town, highly volatile fuels, and that once the Town Board grants the right to dig up the roads in Brookhaven Town, they will lose any power they have over this pipeline.

We believe that there are a number of questions that residents of Brookhaven have a right to know. The Town Board has the responsibility to call a public hearing on this application and have Northville spell out their entire plan. It's a darned good bet they are not pumping millions of dollars into the construction of this pipeline to fill up a 500,000 gallon tank farm at the other end. It is conceivable that Brookhaven Town roads might end up being an underground storage farm for Northville's petroleum. The residents of Brookhaven must contact the Town Board in writing and in person, demanding a public hearing on this matter. The Board has a moral obligation, and, we believe, a legal responsibility to demand answers and full disclosure from Northville before they grant permission on this application. And why not?

## Energy Crisis

Is it real or is it a figment of a profit hungry industry?

Over the last year the public has been bombarded with article after article hysterically screaming that we are facing an energy crisis in this country, that our electric plants are outmoded and the demand is exceeding the ability of the near-monopolies (the electric companies) to produce. We also hear that our oil fields are running out of petroleum

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**EDITORIAL** — from page 3

and that new fields must be found and opened immediately, that our coal deposits are almost depleted, that it is becoming prohibitive to mine and we have to turn to costly imports to meet the demands. After reading this the average citizen would automatically assume that we are in trouble and must do whatever is possible to meet this crisis. This is the illusion that these articles are supposed to create. We question that there is a real crisis except one that is being created by the high powered public relations departments of the utility and petroleum industries. Almost every

article we have read has the same ring to it. It is the same ring of any publicity release that crosses our desk urging people to turn out for a local affair. To those who write it, it is the most important thing of the moment. But is it critical or is it a crisis? Having a working knowledge of the petroleum industry, we know it is not beneath them to hire some of the best writers in the country just to grind out stories that give their arguments credibility. After you remove the frills you end up with the basics, and the basics do not point towards an energy crisis but spell out the selfish need for profits which will keep the price of the industry's stock up.

If the government would remove the artificial import quota on oil, according to the Christian Science Monitor, the annual cost of heating a home for the average family in the Northeast could be reduced by \$155. This artificial quota is kept in effect to keep prices unrealistically high and keep profits rolling into our oil industry. If there is a need for oil in this country, there would be no embargo on foreign petroleum. What is the purpose of paying a tax incentive to take oil out of the ground faster than it can be found? If there is a shortage, does this tax incentive make sense except to increase the profits of the petroleum industry? On top of this the petroleum industry exports petroleum products. If there is a crisis in this country, why are they allowing our petroleum to flow out of the country?

If petroleum is in such short supply and our wells will run dry in 20 years, as the industry claims, why is the government not working full steam on developing engines that run without

petroleum products? They were able to develop engines that took a rocket to the moon; the same technology should be able to develop a marketable, economical engine that does not burn petroleum to take a vehicle across the country. The credibility of the petroleum industry, because of their history, is in doubt. They cannot answer these questions and instead try to snow us with an artificial crisis.

What is behind all this is the disastrous Santa Barbara oil spill and the awakening of the American public to the wanton destruction caused by the "we-don't-give-a-damn" attitude of the petroleum companies. They got a black eye out of this tragedy and instead of doing something constructive to make oil exploration and pumping fail-safe, they have created a campaign to scare the American people into allowing themselves to be raped. We hope that people will keep their guard up and question the articles that are daily being rammed down their throats by the so-called legitimate press. We hope they keep in mind that in many cases the directors of the nation's press are also directors of many of the big oil companies. We recommend that before the public gives in and allows this industry to cause any further ruination, they demand that the government, with its vast research facilities and technology, develop alternate methods of producing energy other than burning fossil fuel. Under no circumstances should the oil industry be allowed further exploration and taking of oil without fail-safe methods that can guarantee the public that the environment will not be ruined.

We do believe there is a crisis in the petroleum industry. It is a crisis of credibility, it is a crisis of need, it is a crisis of the oil companies' need for increased profits, and it is a crisis of the public's need for protection against an industry that has a history of ruining the environment. There is a crisis for leadership in government that cares enough and is powerful enough to stand up against the power of this industry. And why not?



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# Willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

## To Our New Readers

Some 40,000 families for the first time will be exposed to Suffolk Life and this column. To you we direct this editorial. This is our editorial page. It is a page of opinions and fact. It is things as we see them and call them. It's a strong page. We believe if you have something to say, say it as forcefully and convincingly as you can. We do not expect everybody to agree with us. In fact we would be disappointed if they did. We believe the purpose of an editorial page is to provoke thought, come to conclusions and act accordingly. At one time or another you will be inclined to answer. We welcome this expression of your opinion, be it strongly opposed to ours or in support. We encourage you to speak out as we do. Your opinions will be printed prominently in our Letters to the Editor column which directly follows our editorial page. Your letters will receive the same readership as this page does. You are not restricted to writing on the subjects that appear on the editorial page. You have subjects of your own that we may not touch. We invite you to express your opinions on these. The only restriction we place on letters is that they be limited wherever possible to 250 words and that they be signed. We will withhold your name on request and assign a nom de plume.

Politically Suffolk Life is an independent newspaper. We have no affiliations with any political party. We are not the spokesman for any particular group other than the people at large. We do believe that an individual is basically capable and responsible for taking care of himself. If this is a political creed, then it's our politics. Our staff is made up of people from all walks of life and political beliefs. Their philosophies range from liberal to conservative and right down the middle. We can work side by side because we respect the other fellow's opinion and he does not necessarily expect us to adopt it as our own. In this page and throughout the paper you will find reflections of these differences. We do not dictate to our writers and reporters how they should write a story. We do insist that when reporting they stick to the facts and when they are expressing an opinion it be labeled as such. As you become familiar with Suffolk Life you will find it enjoyable, provocative and at times

annoying. We hope you will keep in mind that this is your paper and a reflection of what you want. And why not?

## What Size Pipeline II

In last week's paper we outlined questions in relation to the pipeline that is under application for Northville Industries in Brookhaven Town and the runaround that we received from all Town departments that had anything to do with this project. We asked that the residents demand a public hearing on this application before the Board be allowed to grant approval, that Northville Industries be required to spell out just what they had in mind before the Town Board gave up its control over this pipeline, which they will do once they give permission for the roads to be opened.

To bring you up to date, on Wednesday of this week we received a call from the secretary of Brookhaven Superintendent of Highways Harold Malkmes. She stated that she finally had been in touch with him (five days after we called) and that the pipeline, according to him, would be 12" wide. We have not seen the plans, specifications or application. We have also learned that the Town Board cannot approve the opening of these roads without first holding a public hearing as required by law.

The public hearing will be as meaningful as the Town Board wants and allows it to be. It is at the discretion of the Board to determine the time and place; they can make it as convenient or inconvenient as they wish. They can allow Northville representatives to be questioned openly so that all details are presented or they can conduct a mock hearing, and just meet the law. The kind of hearing that will be held and how convenient it will be for the residents of Brookhaven Town to attend is up to the Board. We hope the residents of Brookhaven Town will demand a convenient and open hearing so that all of this company's plans can be brought out into the open and a rational, logical decision can be made.

And why not?

## What's Happened To Dode?

Of all the politicians who came walking through our door last November, we felt that Dode Hulse was the kind of person we really wanted to see in office. He wasn't full of pretenses, he spoke plainly and convinced us that he sincerely wanted to do a good job. If he were elected he would be nobody's patsy. He felt there was a job needed doing in Southampton and he was the kind who could do it. He asked for our support without reservations. We gave him the support with no ties other than that he do the best he was capable of.

A few months back he had to preside over a meeting that got a bit out of hand, a meeting that probably came closer to an old fashioned town meeting than anything in the last 40 years. A meeting where townspeople took the officials to task for not doing their jobs. Things got a bit emotional. This was the kind of meeting where there was a lot of give and take, where the officials could measure the frustration of the people. It was the kind of meeting where steam is let off and opinions were on the strong side. It was a real face to face confrontation, a confrontation between the people who are the government and the people they elected and hoped would do a good job of running it for them. The kind of confrontation you might imagine old Abe Lincoln would have gotten himself immersed in. The kind of thing that would have challenged him and he would have come out of a better man.

Dode did not react this way. Instead he came out with a set of rules that, if observed, would choke a horse. The kind of rules that kill off individual spirit and make open meetings closed. We thought this kind of strange, not quite in context with the man who sat

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### GENERAL INFORMATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion thru the Letters to the Editor column. All letters must be signed with author's signature and address. We will withhold names on request and assign a nom de plume.

NEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS - Readers are welcome to submit ideas of interest and photographs for consideration of publication. All news and photographs become the property of Suffolk Life upon submittal and can not be returned for any reason.

ERRORS - Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

EDITORIAL -- from page 3

in our office less than six months before and spoke about the need for the residents of this town to have open meetings, their need and right to information. At the time we rationalized -- he was hassled and reacted ac-

cordingly, that he was still Dode, the guy who wanted to keep everything open and above board.

On a number of occasions over the summer months we have heard from readers and residents of Southampton Town. They spoke of different incidents having to do with Dode that did not sound like him. Short, curt answers to honest questions, at times no answer at all. Failure to return phone calls. We checked this off to the fact that the guy is human, this is summer time and he has been quite busy.

This past week two residents of Southampton came into our office; they were upset. Both had been workers for Dode's election and we knew they had been bent a little out of shape because Dode had not followed all their advice when he became supervisor. We were prepared for this but not for what they had really come to say.

At last week's Board meeting it was brought up in the morning session that the Town was considering purchasing the Stills Beach Club for Southampton recreational purposes. Those in attendance were told that the Town was not going to act on it. Residents who were interested in this proposal, upon hearing this news, left the meeting.

After breaking for lunch, the Board resumed and this proposition was

again brought up. When a resident of Southampton Town reminded the Board of their prior commitment to those in attendance and started to ask questions in relation to this proposal, he was told that this was an executive session, was private and he was therefore asked to leave. He did, but waited outside until the meeting was over and found out that the Board had agreed to purchase this property.

Dode is Supervisor and by law the presiding officer of the Southampton Town Board. This kind of shenanigans is just what he campaigned against. For him to allow it at his Board meeting is totally out of context with what he passed himself off as. We know that dealing with the public can turn you off at times. On the same note, dealing with politicians who are not 100 percent open is mighty frustrating. One of the best ways to turn the public off and have them suspect something is not right is for public officials to try to hide what is really going on. Public officials must remember they are only representatives of the public and are not in any way the government. The people are the government! They have an absolute right to know how their elected officials are reacting and why. Any politician in office who does not want

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David J. Willmott, Editor

## Pipeline III

Brookhaven Town Board has set October 3 as the date for a public hearing on Northville's application to install a pipeline in Brookhaven Town, connecting its Holtsville facility to its pipeline along the Long Island Expressway.

This issue demands interest of all residents of this town. We recommend a strong turnout. As we have stated in our last two editorials, it is essential that the town board requires all the facts to be made public in relation to this pipeline and Northville's overall plans.

Since our last editorial the daily newspapers have hinted that what Northville may be up to is connecting its pipeline to that of Buckeye Petroleum of New Jersey. The Buckeye pipeline has the support of conservationists and of those primarily opposed to Northville's operations. This is a west to east pipeline that will bring petroleum products via pipeline from the oil facilities of New Jersey to Suffolk County. This would mean a demise of the tankers that have polluted our waters and eliminate the oil tractor trailers with the havoc that they cause on the roads.

Again, this is nothing more than conjecture. Both officials of Buckeye and Northville neither confirm or deny this possibility. Petroleum companies could avoid a lot of misapprehension if they would honestly tell the public what their actual plans are. By deceit and the avoidance of this information they cause mistrust. Petroleum companies have a history of not being good neighbors and doing what is not in the best interest of the public.

Petroleum for transportation, heating and power is of prime importance to the present and future of Suffolk County. The Brookhaven Town Board has an opportunity to demand full disclosure by Northville and what their immediate and future plans will be. The price of this knowledge will be permission to open the roads and complete their pipeline. We believe the following questions should be asked and fully answered: What size pipeline will be used from terminus to terminus? Will any of the pipeline be used for storage facilities? Will Northville's pipeline be connected with any other coming from the west? Which way will the petroleum flow, east or west? If this pipeline is to be

connected why is Northville expanding its Riverhead and Port Jefferson tanker facilities? Under existing permits can Northville enlarge their Holtsville storage facilities? Can they justify the economics of using the least pride site in Plainview with its limited capacity? Do they have permission and plans to build any other storage facilities along the Long Island Expressway?

Truthful answers to these questions would be a real start in reestablishing some credibility between Northville and the public. Avoidance of an open hearing that will allow full disclosure, and refusal by Northville officials to make all the facts known, will only cause more suspicion and less progress. And Why Not?

## Off And Running

The winner was announced this week in the quarter horse track sweepstakes. The prize is the right to build Suffolk County's first pari-mutuel horse racing track. A firm headed by F. J. O'Connell, a Garden City attorney, was awarded the right to build this track on land located south of the Long Island Expressway, north of Sunrise Highway and west of William Floyd Parkway in the Yaphank-Shirley area. The promoters of this track plan to operate the facility on a six month basis. The state permit calls for the track to be in operation within a one year period. The promoters state they plan to offer racing by late summer 1973.

There were two primary sites under consideration -- the one selected and the other further east in Southampton Town. We believe the Brookhaven site will serve the most people and the choice of this area is a good one.

Suffolk Life has long favored a pari-mutuel race track for this area. It will add to the overall employment stability and be another great inducement for tourists to take advantage of Eastern Long Island. In addition, on the plus side is the fact that quarter horse racing is not available at any other location on the east coast at the present time. Quarter horses are most often connected with the image of a cowboy. They are capable of great bursts of speed over a limited distance. Interest in this form of racing has caught the vivid imagination of many and is very popular in the west and southwest. We

believe its introduction here in Suffolk County will be met with popular public acceptance.

When you come right down to it most people couldn't care less about improving the breed. They go to a track to wager and hopefully, be a winner. It is our feeling that this track is going to be a good bet for all eastern Long Island. And Why Not?


## Issue of '72

We are still involved in the Vietnam war. We still have paycheck eating inflation. We still have a high unemployment rate. Crime is still rampant and there is an obvious lack of respect for law enforcement. Government spending is spiraling and growing worse with each passing day. Taxes on all levels are at the breaking point -- And these are just a few of the critical issues facing this country.

It not only is incredible, but also a very sad commentary on this year's Presidential campaign, when the biggest issue turns out to be spying by the Nixon and McGovern forces. Politicians have spied on each other since the day of the first campaign. The only difference now is that they are using sophisticated electronic devices instead of good old inside informers. We do not condone this type of action. It is dirty and dishonest but it is a fact of life and has no place as an issue in a presidential campaign.

It is criminal that the real issues facing the American people are not being discussed. Here we are less than six weeks away from when we must make a choice of whom we want to lead this country and the electorate has not been exposed to the views of the candidates.

For the good of the country we hope that this meaningless issue, of which both sides are guilty, will be put aside and the candidates will get down to the real human issues of the campaign. And Why Not.



## SUFFOLK LIFE

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