

willmotts and why-nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Yield For Safety

In the past few days, we have been up and down the Long Island Expressway and Sunrise Highway on a number of occasions. There is a group of drivers who use these roads that, because of their attitude, is presenting a tremendous hazard. These drivers drive their cars in the outside fast passing zone at a slower speed than the posted speed limit and refuse to yield to cars wishing to pass. This causes accidents. Drivers, coming from behind have a tendency to go into the slower lane and try passing. First, it is illegal to remain in this lane if you are travelling under the posted speed limit. Second, when a driver is notified by the car behind him that he wishes to pass by the tooting of a horn, or flashing of the headlights, he is obligated to move to the right as soon as is practical. Third, drivers who are not accustomed to driving in this high-speed lane and persist in doing so at a slower rate of speed cause jam-ups which tie up traffic and hold up everybody. Of course, of utmost importance is the fact that drivers in this lane, even though they are legally going under the speed limit, cause as many, if not more, accidents than fast drivers.



Move over -- please

We encourage all drivers to use the fast lane only for passing. If you find yourself in the fast passing lane and someone comes up behind you who wishes to pass, yield to their horn; pull to the right at the first opportunity. You will help move traffic faster, and you will save lives by preventing accidents. And why not?

Paper Shortage

Paper - the life blood of the newspaper and advertising industry - is in critical shortage. This has been caused by two of the largest mills being on strike for the past month, and a Canadian Railway strike for the past ten days. Most dailies and weekly newspapers have been forced to alter their normal schedules and formats to try to conserve their rapidly dwindling supplies of paper.

Tighten Our Belt

Even though Suffolk Life had a rather large supply of news print at the beginning of these labor troubles, our stockpile is reaching a point where we must also impose restrictions. Effective with this week, we are dropping from our Western editions the TV Guide until this situation improves itself. We have generally tightened up our over-all publication and will be doing more so for the next few weeks.

Do It Now

We recommend to advertisers that they make reservations now for space which they plan to utilize through Christmas. Even if this strike is settled within the next ten days, as all of us are hoping, there will be a substantial backlog of orders and normal supplies of news print will not be rolling until late October and possibly into early December.

Bear With Us

We hope our readers and our advertisers will be understanding of the situation that prevails. We will attempt to publish the best paper we can with our limited supplies. And why not?

This Is The Big One

This is the big week in our Back-To-School Shopping Spree. This is the last week you will have an opportunity to enter this fabulous give-away and win one of two scholarships. Each scholarship is a cash scholarship; one


for \$500 and the second for \$250. These scholarships may be used for any educational purpose the winners determine is in their best interest, but they **must** be used for educational purposes. They may be used for tuition to a trade school, college, junior college, night school, or what have you.

Where Does It Come From?

The funds for the scholarship are provided by the local merchants participating in the Suffolk Life Back-To-School Shopping Spree. The entry fee they pay for this promotion is used 100 per cent for the scholarship monies. Our local business community cares about their customers. They want your patronage and feel by combining and participating in this promotion, they are showing their good will towards their customers. We hope you reciprocate by patronizing their stores.


Try Your Luck

To enter the contest, fill out the coupon found elsewhere in this paper and take it to any one of the participating stores. The stores also have additional coupons available free of charge, for you to fill out. This week's winners are listed in Suffolk Life. Each winner is the recipient of a \$10 gift certificate redeemable at one of the fine stores participating in this promotion. Congratulations to the winners, and good luck to all the contestants. And why not?



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Who Runs The County Government?

As a newspaper, we have asked this question of several leading officials in Suffolk County. Being in the position of a newspaper and fairly close to many government officials and agencies, you would think we would have an answer. Not only do we have no answer, but when officials are asked this question, they don't either.

Big business

Suffolk County Government is big business -- very big business. It operated on a budget of \$369,917,555 in 1973. It has approximately 9,000 employees. Supposedly, it is run by a County Executive and a board of directors, which is the County Legislature. These people are supposed to take guidance and direction from their political leaders who are supposed to receive guidance and direction from their town leaders, who are supposed to receive guidance and direction from the Committeemen, who are supposed to be in touch with the average person. This is the way government is supposed to work. In Suffolk County, it doesn't. Physically, we have the boss who is the County Executive, and physically, we have the County Legislature, and physically, we have the parties and their intimate parts.

No guidance

There are many casebook examples of the various departments appearing to be running themselves without the direction and guidance of either the County Executive or the County Legislature. These departments are run by appointed officials who are not answerable to the public except through the Legislature and the County Executive.

A perfect example

The Northville Turnpike situation exemplifies the problems that exist. Here you have, brought out by pressure exerted by Suffolk Life, the fact that the Department of Public Works proposed one particular expansion voted for by the Legislature, and vetoed by the County Executive. The Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, in a letter of correspondence to Suffolk Life, contradicts his own capital budget

proposal which, when voted on, becomes law, and says this is not what he really meant; the Commissioner is then contradicted by the County Executive who states that this is the law. You then have the Legislator from the bordering district who proposed the expansion based upon the Department of Public Works' recommendation, claim that what he understood it to be was entirely different from the proposal he made. You have Suffolk Life's request to the head of the Republican Party for clarification ignored, and what you end up with is a totally confusing \$4 million expenditure that no one seems to know anything about. We know of many husbands who would raise holy hell with their wives if they planned on spending \$4 but didn't know the reason why; and in today's times of women's liberation, there would be many wives who wouldn't allow their husbands to spend \$4 without any reason.


Who's running the show?

This brings us back to our original question: Who runs Suffolk County's government? No one seems to know. No one seems to care. Everybody seems to be going in whatever direction they see fit, spending money like drunken sailors, refusing to listen to logic, showing no sense, and the taxpayer, resident and citizen is sitting back totally confused and bewildered, but continuing to pay the bills because he has no choice. The way it is set up now, no, we definitely do not have any choice. We didn't have much choice when the County Legislature was first put together. The County Legislature was supposed to be an improvement over the former County Board of Supervisors. With the County Board of Supervisors, you had some pretty sharp, savvy men -- some good and some bad, but mostly pretty sharp. When we first interviewed the candidates for the County Legislature, out of the 15 or 16, only one even had a vague idea of what job he was running for -- and he was defeated because he wasn't a Republican. The original group that ran had absolutely no business being placed in a position of being a director on the board of a multi-million dollar business such as Suffolk County. Yet, we, the people, allowed our political parties to nominate these people. Some of them,

unfortunately, are still with us. Some of their replacements have been better, some have not.


Question the choice

This November the voters will have an opportunity to choose a new Board of Directors. We hope and pray they will use more discretion than they have in the past. Forget politics and look at each candidate as an individual and a businessman. Think of him as we try to think when we endorse candidates. Would I hire this man to run this business? Would I trust his integrity, his judgement, and does he possess intelligence? Does he think, and how does he react? If necessary, could we leave him alone and have him do a competent job on his own? Will he increase our profits or will he decrease them? Will he help us grow or will he hinder our growth? Does he possess leadership and can he motivate people? Does he understand how hard it is to make a dollar and why it is so important to make a dollar stretch? During the next two months, we are going to be blitzed with smiling faces, warm handshakes, pretty pictures, and empty heads. Look beyond the public image. Look at the individual as a person. Don't accept what the public relations agents and the media are trying to sell you. Look beyond it at the real person and determine if he is the person you want running your business, as you are the government of Suffolk County. And why not?



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We'll Buy You

Where does the money go?

Under today's labor practices, the crew of any fishing vessel receives 60 per cent of the catch, leaving 40 per cent to the ownership, the captain and the management of the fishing company. This 60 per cent gives the average fishing crew an income around \$15,000 each, according to Fortune Magazine, and verified by discussions we had with fishermen from Gloucester. What happens is that our fishing fleet is in disrepair because the money is not there to repair and to modernize. With the crew receiving 60 per cent of the value of the catch, there is no incentive for management to build modern labor-saving, fast, economical boats. The only exception to this is the tuna clippers from the West Coast, where negotiations with organized labor changed the formula from 60 per cent to 40 per cent. By comparison, the tuna clippers are floating palaces, complete with French chefs, fireplaces, and luxurious accommodations for not only the captain, but for the entire crew. These ships are the only bright light we have in the American fishing fleet.

"Foreign" fish

The foreign fishing fleets fishing off our shores have modern vessels that can stay out fishing day and night for years on end. They are serviced by a mother ship which has complete processing facilities aboard. These mother ships are the size of a city block. Crews are transferred at sea with the boats remaining in the fishing grounds on a constant 365-day basis. What is happening is that because of this modern technology employed in fishing, 80 per cent of the fish that come into Gloucester for final preparation, come from foreign countries. Not only does it come from foreign countries, but it comes to Gloucester at a more economical price than the catch that is brought in fresh by American ships. This means 80 per cent of the price of the fish which is processed in Gloucester is being paid to foreign fishing forces, contributing seriously to the imbalance of trade and a huge American deficit. We, the American capitalistic geniuses, are being outsmarted at our

Nikita Khrushchev, a past Russian leader, in his visit to the United States, made the famous statement, "We'll bury you". This was an insult to the American people, but it made us all quiver that he would have the audacity to make a statement of this kind in this country. If he came back in 1973, and made the statement, "We'll buy you", we would have even more reason to quiver because this is what it appears the Russians and other foreign powers are doing to the capitalistic country, the United States of America. They are beating us at our own game -- money. You get some insight into how this is happening by taking a look at some recent events.

No cure-all

Suffolk Life has been a proponent of a 200-mile fishing limit for foreign powers. We realize now that this is a very narrow view. It would not solve the problem by itself. It would help, but would not be a cure-all. At present, foreign fishing fleets are coming within 12 miles of the coastal waters of the United States. They have almost totally depleted the halibut population by over-fishing; they have overharvested many other species to the point of near extinction. It seemed logical to us if we, as many other countries, extended our territorial waters to 200 miles, this would take the pressure off the fish and thus preserve our own fishing industry.

Last century's leftover

A recent article in Fortune Magazine, and a personal trip and investigation to Gloucester, Massachusetts, which is one of the largest fish producing ports in America, has proven to this editor that his original premise was a fallacy. Our fishing industry is outmoded and a 19th century leftover, by comparison to the sophisticated, well-managed fishing fleets of the foreign countries. Our labor practices prohibit modernization and thus keep American fishermen captive of 18th and 19th century practices. Our work ethic, which is a farce, calling for everybody to work a 9-to-5 job, eliminates the possibility of us competing openly and actively in the international fish food market.


own game.

Some deal

Another example of having a capitalistic system turned upside down on us is a recent wheat deal in Russia. It has been reported that the Russians, a year prior to the public announcement of the wheat deal, went into Swiss banks and bought wheat futures of the American market. It is our understanding they bought these at one-half of what they sold for once the wheat deal was in the works. Literally, this means the Russians paid nothing except the profits they made by using the capitalistic system for the wheat they purchased, which has resulted in skyrocketing prices for domestic foodstuffs at home.


Bought, not buried

There are no easy, fast answers -- such as extending our fishing limit to 200 miles to solve our problems. This would be a help and would preserve the fisheries from overharvesting off our coast, but it is only part of a vital, long-run plan that would take the full cooperation of the American people to once again bring us back to a strong competitive capitalistic power. Our economy is in serious shape and our government officials must give us positive leadership to bring the United States back to world dominance. If they don't, and persist in following their outmoded plans, our competitors will not bury us. They will buy us. And why not?



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Recreation... Not Regulation

The Suffolk County Parks Commission is supposed to create recreational facilities and opportunities for citizens of this county. This it does, and in doing so it has the third largest budget in the County. Over the past year, this newspaper has heard more and more complaints from the citizens about the Parks Commission, not so much about the facilities they have created (even though these do warrant some criticism), but in the attitude that prevails in the Parks Commission -- the attitude that the public is a bunch of non-deserving nincompoops with the intelligence and manners of three-year-old brats, as one rather irked citizen explained was his feelings. We must agree in part.

They're watching you

In creating the recreational facilities, the Parks Commission has also created an unbelievable list of regulations that make the utilization of these facilities frustrating and fruitless. Added to this is Dominy's Army of Rangers, complete with their oppressive green uniforms and side arms. These men heavily patrol all the recreational facilities and create an ominous atmosphere. They take the joy out of going to the beach for a carefree afternoon. There is something very threatening about an armed guard watching over you. The attitude of many of these employees is anything but commendable. There are exceptions, of course, of Parks Department personnel who bend over backwards to be both friendly and accommodating, but all too often, we have seen this uniform, complete with side arms and the assumed authority, go to these men's heads.

Recreation is a very important part of our life out here in Suffolk County. One of the great things about our recreational facilities is that they are supposed to be free and easy. Unfortunately, with the Parks Department rules and regulations, they are anything but. The fun is taken out of recreation when it becomes over-regulated and over-supervised. Anybody will agree that some of these rules and regulations have to be followed, but in many cases, they have been written overzealously and carried out in a manner that is of-

fensive. We seriously doubt whether these are needed in their entirety, and if they are for the good of the public.

Make your feelings known

This is an election year. Your county legislators do have authority over the Parks Department even though the Parks Commissioner is appointed. Why not convey your feeling about the conditions existing within the Suffolk County recreational field to your local legislative candidates? Let them know that you want recreation -- not regulation. And why not?

Getting It Together

In what appears to be a long overdue and logical move, Suffolk County Executive John Klein announced this past week that he is setting up a system of liason between the County government and the Townships and Villages. He will appoint a person to coordinate the activities of the County government with those of the Town. It is our understanding there will be one person appointed to cover each municipality. This in itself is an excellent move, but it has an inherent danger in it of which Klein should be made aware.

On whose behalf?

In the past, Klein and the County government have depended upon the supervisor to coordinate the Town's activities and feelings with that of the County. There have been vivid examples of the supervisor not acting on the people's behalf. The county golf course on Indian Island in Riverhead is a classic example. The then supervisor of the Town, a noted golf buff, expressed his desire to the County Board that this property be made a County golf course, when the feeling of the people of the Town was that this land be kept forever wild as a nature conservatory and wetlands. The townspeople were caught totally unaware when plans were developed. As a result there was no coordination between the County and the Town which caused numerous problems in relation to roads, right-of-ways, water and sewerage.

This can be a valuable move if the liason agent keeps his ear to the ground and picks up the grass roots vibes, but if he becomes just another political hack who has been appointed to a job as patronage, the taxpayers

will end up paying for more beaurocracy and less representation. We hope Klein is sharp enough to keep this from happening. And why not?

Election '73


Suffolk Life has sent out questionnaires covering a wide range of subjects of importance to the voters, to all candidates for supervisor and those who represent election districts covered by Suffolk Life's circulation on the County Legislature. The answers to these questions, together with the findings of our personal interviews will be published in a unbiased manner in Suffolk Life during October. We hope that the voters will be able to see the candidates and their positions clearly and this will enable them to make an intelligent decision in choosing officials to represent them in November.

And Parties

In addition, starting with the first week of October, Suffolk Life will publish an Issues and Answers column. Each town party is being offered space each week to present that party's views and to answer questions that may arise during this frantic pre-election time.


Be Informed

Suffolk Life wants its readers to have the best government obtainable and feels the only way this can be achieved is by being supplied with all the information from all the parties. This is the purpose of a newspaper. And why not?



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