

Back To School

Many a parent will breathe a sigh of relief as their kids go back to school this coming Wednesday.

Most parents are typical and will feel secure in the knowledge that their children are being turned over to competent professionals who have been educated and licensed, and who have the best interest of their children at heart.

Some parents will dutifully go to parent-teacher meetings, spending their allotted five minutes of time conferring with the teacher about the pros and cons of Johnny or Sally.

Some parents will occasionally check on their children to make sure that their homework has been done and the grades are acceptable.

Many parents, however, will place blind trust and responsibility in the system, this is wrong. Education of our children is a partnership between the child, the educator and the parent. We all have obligations and responsibilities. The child must appear in school well fed, dressed and with an attitude conducive for learning. The teacher must be prepared, be concerned and provide the leadership and guidance to challenge young minds to think, to reason, to absorb and to flourish.

The parent is the watchdog of both the student and the teacher. When the student comes home and says, "I don't like my teacher," don't slough it off as a typically childish complaint. The child may have a very valid complaint. Question the child, find the grounds for the complaint,

speaking to other students' parents and find out if their children are also complaining. Not all teachers are good. Some are little more than a body that has been placed in a position, and those teachers can do substantial damage to a child. Some teachers are excellent, and demand of the child their full potential and will not tolerate anything less. If you find there is validity to your child's complaints, discuss the matter with the teacher. Discuss the matter with the teacher's administrator. Discuss the matter with the school board.

On the same hand, if you receive a call from a teacher or the administrator complaining of your child's behavior, lack of ability or emotional development, don't take it as an offense. These people are trying to help your child adjust in the world. If they suggest special care or treatment, take it as a challenge and do what is right for your child.

Most important, communicate regularly and often with your child and with his teachers. Don't allow yourself to be misled or bullied by your child, the teacher or by the administration.

We give this advice not only to parents whose kids are first entering into school, but to parents whose kids are in the upper grades and high school. What happens when your child is in school can undo or reinforce what you have done as a parent. Your child's education is your responsibility.

And why not?

Critical Choice for Surrogate

No one likes to think about dying. As a result, we put off writing wills and thinking about the inevitable. Unfortunately, we all will die someday. How well we have prepared for the inevitable will determine the future of those we leave behind.

One of the most critical criteria is

the probate court and the person who is chief surrogate. If the chief surrogate is an honest, caring, no nonsense judge, we can expect our probate matters to be handled fairly. If the judge is placed there by the politicians, we should be suspicious and concerned.

Being middle aged, and with an estate acquired over my life time, I personally am concerned and do not want to see what I worked for destroyed by politics. We remember a situation that took place in college. One of our dorm mates, a rather bright, young man who probably should have been in a better school, told a horrible story of his parents' untimely demise in an auto accident when he was about 15. His parents, through their own hard work, had built a small furniture manufacturing business. At the time of their death, the gross estate was worth just over \$2,000,000. By the time the lawyers, the accountants, the trustees and the banks were finished settling the estate and taking their piece of the pie, he barely had \$10,000 left to complete his limited education. There was grave question whether his sister would ever see the doors of college without her brother's intended help.

During the early days of Suffolk Life, one of our employees was the grandson of a very wealthy man. The grandfather passed away, leaving a trust, an estate of almost \$5,000,000, to his daughter, our employee's mother. Our employee finally had to go to court and sue the trustees of the estate as his mother's annual income from the \$5,000,000 inheritance was less than \$5,000 per year. This amounted to less than 1/10th of 1% of the gross value of her inheritance. You wonder how this could happen. It's easy when you have the wrong kind of chief surrogate.

About 15 years ago, a Republican candidate ran in an election against a very popular Democrat. Most everybody conceded that he was a sacrificial lamb and wondered why he would subject himself to the humiliation of being a loser. Very shortly after his defeat, the surrogate court appointed him as an attorney and a trustee of a large estate. His fees amounted to over \$200,000. We wondered at the time whether these fees were for services rendered to the estate or in payment for being a loser in a campaign he could not win.

The surrogate court is filled with patronage opportunities. Not just the jobs on the staff, but more important, and this is where it affects you, in the over-seeing of wills, estates and other probate matters. The ap-

pointment of attorneys, accountants, banks, trustees and the fees they charge as allowed by the chief surrogate can determine whether your estate comes out whole or is abused as a political patronage plum.

Look back to last fall when the headlines, on a daily basis, were filled with Geraldine Ferrara's husband's shenanigans as a surrogate court-appointed trustee of a senile old woman's estate. The quality and the character of the judge is the difference between fairness and justice or political plunder.

The current surrogate in Suffolk County is Ernest Signorelli, a tough, no nonsense independent person. He has won his right to be judge in most contests by backing the organization, by being independent and by winning primaries where he has been selected by the rank and file. Because of his independence and his refusal to play the political game according to dictates by the Republican leader, he has been denied the renomination by the regular Republican organization. His name, though, will appear on the ballot this primary day on the Republican, Conservative and Right To Life lines.

During the campaign for surrogate, we have heard little of substance other than his refusal to play politics, hardly something that would give us reason to question his honesty and integrity.

His chief rival for this position is Judge Kenneth Rohl, a criminal court judge. Rohl is known as a hard-nosed judge who has personally told us of his love for criminal law. We find it hard to understand why Rohl would consider giving up a court he has professed to love for a more mundane, less exciting court of law. Rohl is out of the Babylon Republican organization that plays the political patronage game to the hilt. Although we like Rohl, we are uncomfortable about his allowing his name and reputation to be used in this race.

The Republican, the Conservative and the Right To Life voters have a very serious decision to make this coming Tuesday. We hope that they will vote for themselves, picking the best man they feel they can trust, one they would want to over-see their probate matters when they are no longer here to protect themselves.

And why not?

Letters to the Editor

'Promoting aviation safety'

Dear Mr. Willmott:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is a public service organization whose primary mission, as defined by Congress, is the promotion of aviation safety on all levels. To the end, we at the Eastern Region FAA sponsor an active program of aviation safety activities at the grass roots levels. Eastern L.I. is an area with many small airports and several medium sized ones. Residents of the area have always expressed interest and concern about the airports and aviation activities in their areas.

The enclosed letter which was received by our Regional Director several days ago deals with an Aviation Safety Seminar held at Brookhaven Airport, one of many in our

program. The purpose of these seminars is to advise and keep up to date, all those concerned with aviation in the area; pilots, airport owners and any community people who have an interest in aviation. Communication is the key to safety.

The FAA hopes that its efforts, at promoting aviation safety, will be of interest to you and your readership.

If you would like more information about the safety education program and the FAA's desire to keep the public informed on topics of interest to it please contact me.

Sincerely,
Mira Rosen
Public Affairs Specialist

SUFFOLK LIFE

NEWSPAPERS and Suffolk County Life

Vol. 25 No. 1

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Willmotts and Why-Nots

David J. Willmott, Editor

Election '85

By now we know the winners of yesterday's primaries and we enter into the final phase of Campaign 1985.

Last spring, as candidates announced their intention to seek office, we assigned reporters and staff to follow these candidates. During the primary campaign we have covered the candidates involved, giving space to their candidacy, their news and their views. Our reporters have been following the campaigns of those candidates who did not face primary challenges.

During the next two months we will increase our coverage of these candidates and their viewpoints. We do not care whether they are Republican, Democrat, Conservative, Right to Life or Liberals. When they say something that is newsworthy, we will publish it in an honest, fair and balanced manner. We will not, however, allow our pages to be used for what should be paid advertising. Every candidate running for a legislative office on the county and town levels will be sent a questionnaire asking for their opinion on a large number of issues and questions. These questionnaires will be published in mid-October. They will give you, the voter, an opportunity to compare the candidates' position with that of your own.

The format requires a yes or a no answer. Some candidates have complained that it is impossible for them to answer yes or no without going into a lengthy explanation. It is our feeling that the only thing that counts when it comes time to vote is whether the candidate voted yes or no. Why he voted yes or no does not affect the outcome of his action and therefore, the format that we use is just a mirror image of how the candidate would be expected to react if elected to office.

During October, our editorial board will interview all legislative candidates. The challenging candidate is brought before the board for approximately a half hour, which is followed by both candidates being interviewed by the board jointly for

approximately an hour. The incumbent candidate is also then interviewed for a half hour, in private, as the challenger had been.

The process is long and tedious. It requires a commitment of over one hundred hours by the editorial board members. We are not seeking answers to questions that we might necessarily agree with. We are not looking for candidates to cow tow to us. What we are looking for is an honest give and take in our attempt to ascertain the knowledge, the ability and the integrity of the candidates.

At the conclusion of our interviews, and discussions with staff members who have followed various candidates, the editorial board reviews our findings and selects candidates for endorsement based upon our evaluation. Those candidates receive the endorsement of Suffolk Life. If a member of the editorial board strongly opposes the view of the majority, that member may write a dissenting endorsement, which is run under the author's name. This has happened on a few occasions and allows for democracy in its best sense.

With the campaigns now officially underway, we will cease publishing letters to the editor which attempt to embellish the image or urge support for a specific candidate. Such letters flood our desks each year as part of the campaign efforts of many candidates. If we were to run such letters for one candidate, we must run those for that candidate's opponent as well, and space would not permit such action. Those supporters who feel so strongly about a candidate that they feel they must express their view are welcome to arrange for the purchase of an advertisement to do so.

We are looking forward to serving you during election 1985 and we hope that our efforts will result in your being able to make an intelligent and unbiased selection of the candidates who wish to represent you for the terms of office they are seeking.

And why not?

Pay 20% More For Nothing

A little known bill is about to be acted upon in congress, a bill that would have a huge impact on all American consumers.

Much of the lumber and pulp comes to the United States from our neighbor and friend, Canada. The American lumber industry, in a desire to increase profits, wants congress to pass a law adding new tariffs to pulp products coming from Canada, thus making them less competitive, eliminating the competition so that American lumber companies can increase prices to the American consumer. The American industry claims Canadian producers of wood products have an unfair advantage over the United States because Canada charges less than Washington for trees harvested from public lands.

The American lumber industry brought their complaints to the Commerce Department. The Commerce Department rejected these complaints. Failing to impress the Commerce Department, the American industry persuaded Congressman Sam Gibbons of Florida to sponsor legislation to impose duties on wood products, an action that could result in higher prices for American consumers. If passed, Americans could look for the cost of homes to increase by an estimated 20 per cent.

Canada, our neighbor, is one of our

largest and best friends. This past summer I visited Canada specifically to look over one of the paper mill operations, their forestry program and the importance of the purchase of pulp to the Canadian people. The production of wood products is, without a doubt, the biggest industry and the backbone of Canada's financial well being.

The United States, as a huge consumer of pulp products, is Canada's best customer. Whole communities, as we would call them here, counties, are dependent on the production of forest products. If we tinker with formulas, causing the Canadian products to be non-competitive in the United States market, we could upset severely the Canada economy and ultimately make an enemy out of a friend. The effect here at home is just as devastating as we, as consumers, could look toward paying 20 per cent more for our homes, our furniture, our paper goods, yes, even our newspapers. The only beneficiaries are the conglomerates that own the American lumber industry.

We encourage our readers to write to our congressmen and senators asking them to oppose Representative Gibbon's bill, #HR 2451.

And why not?

Did You Forget?

We wish to publicly thank the thousands of readers who have enthusiastically responded to our request for a voluntary subscription to Suffolk Life.

Four weeks ago, in an insert to Suffolk Life, we explained to all our readers the need for voluntary subscriptions, and that we did not send out individual bills. We further explained that because of subscription rates being so low, \$5 per year, the cost of billing and record keeping would almost cancel out the revenues received. Having an annual subscription drive, whereby we ask each reader who has received Suffolk Life for the past year to voluntarily send in a subscription payment of \$5, enables us to use these funds to

publish a better newspaper.

These voluntary subscriptions give us the ability to hire more professional reporters, devote more space to news. Thousands of people responded by sending in the form enclosed with their \$5 payment.

We know some people forgot, and that is the purpose of this message. We would like to remind every reader who enjoys Suffolk Life 52 weeks of the year to send us the subscription form printed below with a voluntary payment of \$5. If you have forgotten or mislaid the form, won't you please send in this form and check today.

Thank you.

And why not?

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Here is my \$5.00 subscription.

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Street _____

Town _____

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Please include your
mailing label and check
for \$5.00. Mail to:

Annual Subscription Drive
Suffolk Life Newspapers
P.O. Box 167
Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

Playing Make-Believe

With the primary balloting now over, candidates for office on all levels are now gearing up their campaigns for the general elections in November. Hopefully they are also gearing up their minds to provide the voters with some clear cut positions on important issues and some meaningful solutions which they would strive to implement.

Historically, the campaign season is one of the most frustrating times of the year for us here at Suffolk Life. We spend countless hours in interviewing candidates for both our campaign coverage and for the endorsements we make at the conclusion of the campaigns. Our frustration is generated by the fact that too many candidates come before us with rhetoric, rather than facts, and dreams rather than solutions. We hear candidates say, far too many times, "I don't know too much about that issue, but I'll study the issue after I'm elected." But that's too late! That's asking the voters to sign a blank check. Far too many issues have been studied to death, and too few have been solved by those who didn't care enough to become knowledgeable before they are overcome by the duties of their office.

A prime example of a position taken without knowledge can be found in the campaign rhetoric of those county legislature candidates who support a test of LILCO's proposed evacuation plan for the Shoreham nuclear power plant. What kind of a test, we wondered? Will people be moved? Or do you support the holding of a paper test, which moves people about in make-believe circumstances which have no link to reality? Few who supported a test had sensible answers to those questions.

One candidate on the east end, who hopes to replace an incumbent who has long opposed Shoreham, declares that an evacuation plan must be looked at. Asked what would make a good, true test, he declared, "I really don't know." Where was this candidate when the Suffolk County

Legislature held a number of public hearings on the original evacuation plan devised by the Suffolk County Planning Department, at a cost of over \$1 million, a plan that produced the conviction in the minds of legislators and the public that a safe evacuation is simply not possible.

Another candidate said he supported a test, but backed off that statement when he learned the usual test procedure moves the public on paper, not on the roadways. Frankly, he should have known that before he initially supported a test. He would have if he had done his homework.

It shouldn't take a lot of common sense for candidates who support the holding of a test to realize that the cry of "hold a test" is the motto of all those who support the opening of Shoreham. LILCO insists a test must be held. The LILCO-financed Open Shoreham group declares a test should be held. The Long Island Association, strongly pro-LILCO and pro-Shoreham, has taken a strong "let's have a test" position. LILCO stockholders demand a test.

Why? Because they know that the make-believe tests can be manipulated to make it seem that evacuation is possible. Make-believe tests will put a limited number of make-believe cars on our roadways, thereby limiting the number of make-believe traffic jams that will occur.

Suffolk County Executive Peter Cohalan, before he deserted the people for the LILCO camp, declared, "we must not put into place a 'paper plan'—a sugar coated package of platitudes which serves LILCO's self-interest. That would only lull the public into believing that they are protected when they in fact are not."

Cohalan said something else: "To those who argue that a serious nuclear accident at Shoreham is a remote possibility, I can only ask whether they would have us spin the wheel of fortune and look the other way. Government officials who have sworn to protect the public safety do



MAKE-BELIEVE TIME- Way back when County Executive Peter Cohalan was opposed to the Shoreham nuclear power plant, he was saying "the unique local conditions of Long Island make it impossible to protect the public safety if there were a serious accident" at the plant, and "Effective radiological emergency preparedness for such an accident can never exist in Suffolk County—no matter who prepares or implements the plan." Since his mysterious switch to LILCO's camp, he talks about a test of an evacuation plan, the same "Make-Believe" plan he displays above. Some candidates for the Suffolk County Legislature have joined in the "let's have a test" mentality in recent days. But none can detail what a realistic test would involve. (F28F)

not have the luxury of treating emergency preparedness and the public's safety as a casino game."

Cohalan doesn't say that anymore. He has spun the wheel of fortune and has looked the other way. Those who talk in terms of tests that do not create an actual evacuation situation

are doing the same. Voters who believe their futures and those of their loved ones should not be subject to make-believe games should put some hard questions to those candidates who are hiding behind the "test" position.

And why not?

The People Won

There were a number of winners in last Tuesday's primary. Leading the ticket was Judge Ernest Signorelli for Surrogate. His renomination had been blocked by Mike Blake and company in an attempt to gain for the party the patronage of the Surrogate Court.

Signorelli was forced to take the primary route to retain his designation as the Republican candidate for Surrogate. Bucking the organization is not easy under the best of circumstances. Signorelli did and was victorious, and the people won.

To those of us who observe government and politics, it was repulsive to see Blake and company's crude attempt to take over the Surrogate Court. The Surrogate is charged with overseeing and protecting the estates and affairs of the widows, the orphans and defenseless. It's one thing to turn bidding or jobs into a three ring political patronage plunder, but it is another when you go after the defenseless.

The Surrogate's court is the one place that politics must be kept out.

The rank and file of the Republican party repudiated Blake and Cohalan, as they had repudiated Klein and company six years before.

The message is still loud and clear; the rank and file of the Republican party will not put up with corruption, dishonesty and a lack of ethics. When Cohalan first came into office, he systemically weeded out the old guard. He restored confidence of the voters in the Republican Party.

Over the past couple of years, Cohalan gave up on the people, brought back the old guard, and the party again is in shambles. New leadership is needed from top to bottom. The rank and file of the Republican party spoke loud and clear; they don't want Peter Cohalan and his new brand of old guard politicians. They don't want Mike Blake and his strong arm tactics of fear and intimidation. They want honesty and fairness.

They demand it, and they voted for it. Now give it to them.

And why not?

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The Missing Link

In 1988 Long Island will have "almost" available a thousand megawatts of Canadian hydro-electric power at 20% below the cost we would incur if we generated the electricity from fossil sources ourselves.

We say "almost" because there is one missing link in the equation that everyone is silent and mute about. The missing link is between the northern end of the Marcy South line, and the Long Island Lighting Company's electrical distribution system in Glenwood, Nassau County. Currently there is a connection in place under the Sound that transmits 345 kilovolts of line power which can generate 600 to 800 megawatts of power, which is divided between the New York City Con Ed system and the Long Island system.

During the Cuomo Commission hearings on Shoreham, New York State Assemblyman George Hochbrueckner addressed the problem of this missing link. He had done extensive research which indicated that new technology was available that could upgrade the current wiring to 1,000 megawatts. A companion conduit already in existence that is currently used for the transmission of oil to cool the old wiring could be wired and be able to accommodate an additional 1,000 megawatts of power for a relatively small cost. The cost of building a complete new system is estimated to be \$250 million, a fraction of the cost of Shoreham or building new generating facilities.

Assemblyman Robert Gaffney, who won Hochbrueckner's seat when Hochbrueckner decided to run for congress, along with Assemblyman Tom Barraga brought to our attention this past week that if bureaucracy is allowed to crawl along at its usual snail's pace, the new transmission lines under the Sound would not be available for use until 1993, five years after the Marcy South line has been completed and makes available the means of needed electricity

to Long Island.

The silence concerning this vital Long Island project is deafening. We have constantly read in Newsday's editorials during this past summer about LILCO's projected brownouts due to alleged increased demand and peaks experienced during extremely hot weather conditions.

Newsday, which has been a partner with LILCO in trying to ram Shoreham down our throats, has failed to look at this viable alternative that could produce more reliable energy for Long Island than Shoreham could ever conceivably produce operating at optimum levels. The total output of Shoreham is 880 megawatts of power, if and when the plant is running full tilt. Nuclear power plants traditionally run 40% to 50% under the maximum output, which means that if Shoreham had been built properly without problems, under the best conditions it would produce less than one-half the electricity that could be provided through an interconnection of the LILCO system to the New York Power Authority's Marcy South line.

During the Cuomo hearings, LILCO supporters downplayed Hochbrueckner's important contribution. They claimed the Marcy South line would never get constructed, because upstate legislators would not allow hydro-power to come downstate. The Marcy South line has been approved and is under construction. The LILCO supporters were wrong again.

They further argued that we could not get a firm commitment from Canada to supply electricity in the quantity needed. Governor Cuomo negotiated and has approved a contract giving us basically all the power we need over the next 14 years, with options for renewal. The contract is in place, what is missing is the vital link between the end of the Marcy South line and the Long Island Lighting Company's distribution point. It will not become a reali-

ty unless all of our state and federal legislators put politics aside and work in unison for change for Long Island.

The beneficiaries are the ratepayers on Long Island, the people who those politicians are pledged to serve. The permit process must be shortened. It could be if there is a unified effort by L.I. state assemblymen and senators, and a coordinated effort with our L.I. congressmen and United States senators. This project should have the blessing of every concerned person on Long Island. It's deserving of the all out support of the Long Island

Association, of Newsday and the other papers that claim to represent Long Island.

The only reason why this project would not have the full support of any politician, association or media group is they are so entangled with LILCO, so committed to opening the Shoreham nuclear power plant at all cost, that they would put aside the welfare and the best interests of the residents of Long Island.

Let's get together and join hands for the common good, for the common man as well as the economic well being of all Long Islanders.

And why not?

Regulation Was The Problem

Our entire economy operates upon a very simple principle, supply and demand. When supplies become more readily available, prices normally go down. If demand outstrips supply, prices rise. The basic economic tenant applies to food, clothes and housing.

In the 50's and early 60's, Suffolk County experienced a rapid population explosion. The use of land was basically under-regulated and, as a result, many homes were built on small plots of land. The homeowners who occupied the homes put huge demands on services that far outstripped the municipalities' ability to service or fund.

Local governments enacted zoning laws regulating where different types of development could take place, and on what size parcels of land. Master plans were the next logical development. These documents were supposed to look into the future and by utilizing formulas, create an atmosphere for solid, imaginative, controlled growth. Typical of paper plans, they were costly, were not visionary and after completion were filed away on the back shelves and forgotten.

In the meantime, Long Island has been growing and our housing inventory has not kept up with the demand. This is particularly true in rental housing. As a result, the apartments that had been built when money was cheap are in great demand. Landlords are business people who attempt to maximize the return on their investment by charging what the market will allow.

Rents have skyrocketed, shooting up by as much as 100% at the end of

leases. It is not uncommon for a two bedroom apartment to bring \$500 to \$1,000 per month not only in Western Suffolk, but in the east end as well. To some politicians who hear the complaints and the cries from their constituents, the answer is rent control. They offer different schemes, but each one comes back to the basic of regulation by government over private interest. Regulation because of regulation that initially caused the problem.

We sympathize and we understand the plight of the tenant who is faced with inordinate and unaffordable increases in rent. But, is the answer regulation and limits on these increases that eventually could make the ownership of property unprofitable? We have witnessed this happening in some of our biggest cities. We have seen what had been a beautiful neighborhood with beautiful buildings, decay from neglect, turned into slums, and owners walking away in disgust.

Free enterprise, left to its own devices, will generally solve problems if given a profit motive. Government left to its own devices will regulate a situation until the regulations need regulations, and that is the case we have with housing in Suffolk County.

Rather than develop a whole new bureaucracy and more regulations, would it not make sense to plan for some development of affordable housing by allowing more construction on smaller plots, and a relaxation of some of the regulations that make housing so unaffordable for so many of our citizens?

And why not?

What's On Your Mind?

Suffolk Life's editorial staff is currently hard at work preparing for our extensive coverage of Campaign '85. Included in this effort is a questionnaire which covers a multitude of topics concerning governmental philosophy, and general and specific issues on the town and county levels.

A recent letter from a reader, who asked us to include several pertinent questions in this year's questionnaire, prompted the thought that other readers might have some questions they would like to pose to our

political candidates. What's on your mind? Is there a specific question or two that you would ask a candidate if you had the opportunity? If the answer is yes, here's your chance.

All we ask is that your questions be concise and to the point. They should be restricted to matters of the government to which the candidate seeks an elected position. Since the questionnaires are now in the process of being prepared, time is important. We will make every effort to

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SUFFOLK LIFE

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General Information

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - We encourage our readers to express their views regardless of opinion through 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 cannot be returned for any reason.

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