

## Government and Politics

# Up And Down, Still Going Strong

Floyd Sarisohn has been up and down so often in local politics that it is difficult to know just when he's on top and when not. But there's little doubt that the battling Smithtown Democratic Chairman has acquired more than a reasonable share of friends during his 15 hectic years at the heart of the community political scene.

Those friends, about 250 of them, were on hand at the Watermill Inn Friday to pay tribute to Mr. Sarisohn at a testimonial dinner which turned out to be more like a family party than a political rally.

It was refreshing to find a political party testimonial in which the microphone was under the control of old friends rather than the politicians with the claim to highest office or the most influence. But that was the earmark of the Sarisohn dinner.

The master of ceremonies was Floyd Sarisohn's brother Bernard; the toast was offered by his father, Harold J. Sarisohn; and the main speaker was the best man at his wedding, now his law partner, Joseph Thierman. There's little Mr. Sarisohn has done over a decade and a half to which political motivation has not been ascribed, but any observer would be hard put to find political reasons for the selection of that lineup.

That, of course, does not mean that no politicians were on hand nor does it mean that they were there and remained silent. However, while County Democratic Chairman Dominic Baranello was present to proffer Mr. Sarisohn

a gift and some kind and ribbing words as was Babylon Town Chairman John Braslow, the party remained in the control of old friends of the honored guest.

But, like many a family gathering, there was some notice of those who stayed away. County Legislator Angela Christensen was not present nor were any members of the New Democratic Coalition. The NDC once again will be bucking the party organization, and Mr. Sarisohn, when they back their own candidate in the Democratic Primary for County Legislator in the Seventh District. The choice of the town committee and the county organization is Robert Baum; the NDC standard-bearer will be Peter Ferentinos.

Mr. Sarisohn was described as a man of great vision . . . "he wants every job he can see" . . . and, for hockey fans, as "the Dave Schultz of Smithtown politics." What he has been is a man of great energy, of great zest for political action.

While his political tactics have often justly been criticized by his opponents, the most important facet of his political career has often gone unnoticed in the heat of the controversies in which he is often enmeshed.

Floyd Sarisohn is a man of strong conviction and firm principles. He has worked hard to improve our political system and to extend its benefits to all Americans. He deserves a testimonial.

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