



A Jim Mooney picture

A look at the Patchogue River, this time from the south. The date is March 9, 1973. The boating season has not started yet and the river looks a little deserted. In the foreground is the Brookhaven Town owned Sandspit and Beach. Three oil tank farms are visible on this picture: The Patchogue Oil Terminal on the left, was built in 1931. Twelve large storage tanks on this tank farm had a storage capacity of over 2,000,000 gallons. The tanks in the center of the picture belong to the Swezey Fuel Oil Company. Permission was granted to Swezey's in 1956 to erect 9 storage tanks here. On the right, or east side of the river, are the tanks of the Marran Heating Oil Company which had a storage capacity of close to 1,000,000 gallons. Oil deliveries to all these tank farms by boat stopped in the 1970's, and all have been dismantled by this time. A large fire at the Patchogue Oil Terminal in 1949, involving a truck and the loading platform, nearly turned into a disaster. Quick action by the manager and the Patchogue Fire Department and the use of tons of foamite prevented the total loss of the facility and possibly the whole harbor, since none of these tanks had protective berms around them to contain any spillage.