

# Scoutmasters Petition To Prevent Sale of Camp

By Sam Washington

A group of irate Nassau County scoutmasters started circulating petitions yesterday that they plan to send to Suffolk County Executive Klein urging him to defer that county's purchase of a Boy Scout campsite in Wading River.

G. Robert Crockett, 44, of East Rockaway, one of the leaders of the petition campaign and a scoutmaster for 15 years, said last night that he and other scoutmasters will ask Klein to delay county acquisition of 420-acre Camp Wauwepex for use as a public park until the group can present "viable alternatives" to the sale to the Nassau County Boy Scout Council. The petitions are being circulated only in Nassau, Crockett said.

On Tuesday, the council voted 35-1 to offer the camp property to Suffolk County, saying they would use the proceeds to pay more than \$1,000,000 in debts. The council contended that the indebtedness is a threat to Scouting in Nassau.

Following the council's decision to sell the campsite the Suffolk County Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the county purchase it. The council would retain 132 undeveloped acres adjacent to the camp.

But Crockett, who heads 85-member Troop 332 in East Rockaway and Lynbrook, said he and other Nassau scoutmasters feel the council could get the money to pay off the debts without selling Camp Wauwepex, which he said serves over 50,000 Scouts each year. He said the scoutmasters had offered five alternatives to the sale, but their suggestions so far have been ignored by the council.

Crockett said about 500 petitions were being circulated yesterday and added that a majority of the more than 200 Scoutmasters in Nassau's 11 Scout districts were taking part in the effort.