

Astorians Fight Against 'Slum' Label

500 at Rally Denounce City 'Degradation'

By THOMAS FINNEGAN
Home owners who settled in Astoria 20 and 25 years ago sat with tears in their eyes last night as they heard details of the City Planning Commission's proposal to label their community a "slum."

Such action, John Holley told them at a meeting of the Astoria Property Owners Association, would clear the way for the city to condemn a large part of the area for public and private apartment house developments.

In the audience of 500 were some young war veterans who had purchased homes in the area for their families.

They came with their wives and children to hear of the threats against their individually-owned one and two-story dwellings.

AND THEY, LIKE the older home owners, pledged to support the association in the "fight to a finish" against the planning commission's proposal to classify a large section of Astoria as a "redevelopment area," the term used for "slum clearance" neighborhoods.

Outlined by the association's attorney, Stanley Sragow of Astoria, the members and home owners pledged the following program:

1. To attend the commission's hearing on Wednesday at 2 P. M. in City Hall when the question of designating the section as a "slum" arises.

2. To bombard Mayor Wagner, the planning commission and the Board of Estimate with letters and postcards of protest against the plan.

3. To force the Legislature to amend the present "Redevelopment Law," so only legitimate slum areas can be included in rehabilitation programs.

MANY OF THE home owners came to the meeting with a feeling of disbelief that the city would classify their homes as slums.

They told how they had worked for years to pay taxes and improve their homes and land. They contended that it was "impossible" for the city to direct such an action against them.

But Holley had maps and copies of the planning commission's resolutions pertaining to the large section, between the Queensview Houses and Astoria Park, that will be included in the city's Master Plan as a "slum area."

THE HOME OWNERS were stunned when they learned that staid old sections of Astoria such as 9th and 10th streets off 26th

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No Reconciliation Joe's Pitch No Good To Marilyn

By ALINE MOSBY
HOLLYWOOD (UP)—Joe DiMaggio is trying to win back Marilyn Monroe but so far, their friends said today, he's failed and "he doesn't stand a chance."

Since Marilyn was granted a divorce Oct. 27 on grounds Joe was "cold and indifferent" to her famous charms, the Yankee Clipper has been trying to mend his ways and talk her into resuming their relationship.

Marilyn finished work in her movie, the "Seven Year Itch," and planned to enter Cedars of Lebanon Hospital tomorrow night for a minor gynecological operation Monday morning.

DR. LEON CROHN, who had revealed a month ago that the operation was coming, said that Marilyn would stay in the hospital until Thursday. Friends of Joe speculated he probably would visit her in the hospital.

Her friends say Marilyn is "willing to listen" and "there's a possibility" she may not even pick up the divorce decree when it becomes final in a year.

But the majority of observers on the Monroe-DiMaggio combination think the famous pair will not be sharing bed and board again, at least, not for a long time.

"JOE HAS seen Marilyn twice," a close friend of the baseball hero revealed. "They met at her new apartment."

"But things are worse now than they ever were, if that's possible. Every time Joe opens his mouth he sticks his foot into it. Everything he says is wrong. They wrangle and fight practically the minute he gets inside the apartment. I don't think he stands a prayer."

Once Joe saw Marilyn on the excuse of celebrating the 12th birthday of his son, Joe Jr. Marilyn gave the boy \$25 and Joe gifted him with \$20.

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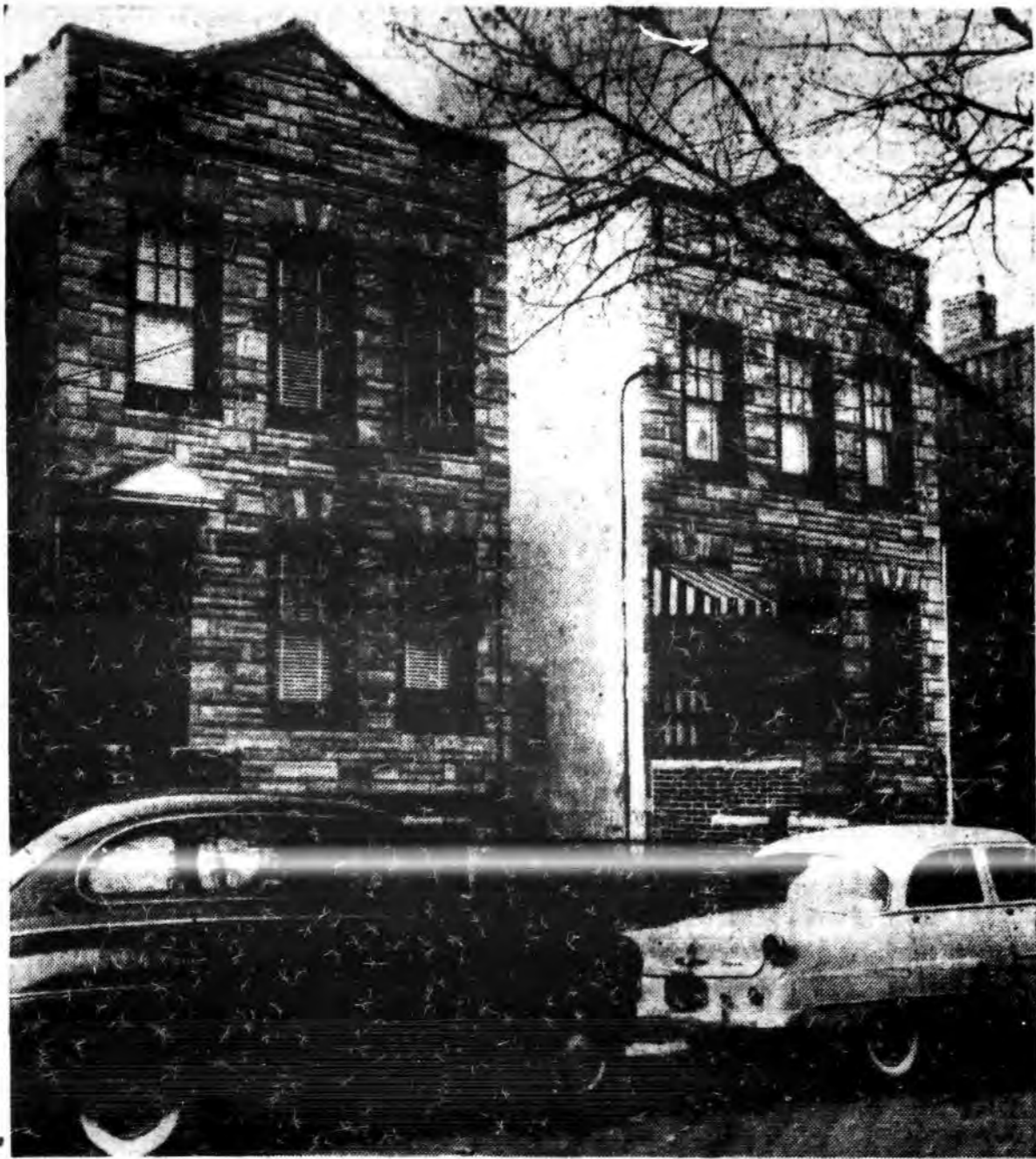
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CITY WIDENS PROBE OF GRAFT

IVES PICKS UP 640 VOTES

THIS Is a Slum?



MUST THEY GO? — These twin two-family houses, done over in modern, expensive bond stone, are like hundreds in the Astoria area that the City Planning Commission proposes to designate for "slum" clearance. Such designation almost automatically depresses property values and the owners could hope to recover only a fraction of their cost in condemnation proceedings. These homes are at 33-54 and 33-56 10th street.

'Brooklyn' Program Hits Queens

TA Slashes Service On Two Bus Lines

The Transit Authority today announced plans to discontinue or curtail service on more than a dozen Brooklyn bus and trolley lines, including two bus routes that connect Brooklyn with Queens.

The authority said the slashes were made because alternate or parallel service was available or because operating cost was far higher than revenue.

PUBLIC hearings on the proposed changes were set for next Monday at 10:30 A. M. at the Board of Education Building at 110 Livingston street, Brooklyn.

The authority has already announced privately to its employees that it plans to take more than 50 buses out of service in Queens. But it has not yet made any announcement of "survey data" such as accompanied today's Brooklyn report.

One "Brooklyn" change curtails service only in Queens. Operating personnel, the authority said, has recommended that the Brooklyn-Queens B-53 bus line be discontinued between Metropolitan avenue and 171st street along Jamaica avenue in Richmond Hill and Jamaica.

THE AUTHORITY said the same route, a distance of 1.6 miles, is covered by two other bus routes, the B-22 (Atlantic avenue) and B-56 (Jamaica avenue) lines, as well as the Broadway-Jamaica BMT Subway's elevated tracks. The authority said these lines provided "more than adequate" service. Free transfers would be given at the new terminus of the B-53 line.

The second route involving Queens is the B-59 Grand street line, which the authority wants to discontinue between 7 P. M. and 5 A. M. and all day Saturday and Sundays.

The B-53 line, the authority said, could handle the B-59 commuters from Williamsburgh Bridge Plaza to Metropolitan Bridge where free transfers will be given to take the B-57

Flushing avenue trolley coach which ends up at the same terminal in Maspeth. The change will save \$100,000, it was estimated.

MEANWHILE, Borough Hall, bombarded with complaints from angry commuters, moved quickly today to divert itself of any responsibility for the sudden chop.

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Mrs. Roosevelt Escapes Injury

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — A big spotlight exploded while Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt was visiting a movie set yesterday. She was unhurt.

The widow of the late president had just walked onto a Paramount Studios set when the 1,000-watt light exploded with a roar during the making of the film "The Desperate Hours."

Humphrey Bogart, one of the stars in the picture, was cut by flying glass, as were three crew members.

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Parking Speedup 30-Minute Hour Meter

Time flies, but parking meter clocks . . . at least some of them . . . fly even faster, according to Milton Saltzman.

Saltzman says he was short-changed for his dime, and drew a parking ticket to boot, because Meter No. 4063152 can't tell time.

Saltzman, who operates a radio and repair service in Jamaica, says he couldn't talk the cop out of the ticket.

"But I knew I hadn't parked overtime, although the red flag was up," says Saltzman. "So I invested another dime and timed the meter. Sure enough, in half an hour on my watch . . . and it's a good watch . . . the meter recorded an hour's parking."

SALTZMAN sent his tag summons and a letter of explanation to Chief Magistrate John M. Murtagh in the hope (a faint one) that Judge Murtagh will tear up the ticket.

The faster-than-time itself meter reported by Saltzman is on Northern boulevard, between Lawrence and Prince streets, Flushing. It stands in a two-hour parking zone, and the face of the parking meter reads "120 minutes."

Saltzman thinks that at one time when the meter was repaired, a mechanic accidentally put back a one-hour clock instead of a two-hour clock.

Star-Journal reporter Mel Elfin also checked the meter and found that in 30 minutes by his watch, the meter clicked off 54 minutes.

Balloonist Lost On Test Flight

INLET, N. Y. (AP)—Garrett Cashman and his homemade balloon rig soared into the clouds over the Adirondack Mountains today and disappeared.

Two hours after the 27-year-old Albany balloonist took off into the chilly mountain air, an examiner for the Civil Aeronautics Administration said that five bush pilots flying in the area had been unable to find him.

Cashman, trying to qualify for a license to fly his contraption, had planned to rise no more than 600 feet and then descend.

BUT HE headed north from here at 3,000 feet and was seen again a few miles north an hour after his 9:15 A. M. takeoff.

Lost L. I. City Hunter Found by Wardens

PITTSFORD FARM, Me. (AP)—Stephen Fitzmaurice, 44, of Long Island City, lost for 24 hours while hunting in the wild Sebomook Lake area, has been found, Sheriff Martin J. Gallant said today.

Fitzmaurice became lost Thursday and was found yesterday. Game wardens came out of the woods today and reported that the hunter was in good condition despite his night in the open. The weather was not severe.

Ave's Lead Cut To 9,016 by 7 Upstate Areas

Canvasses by election commissions in seven counties today gave Republican U. S. Senator Irving M. Ives a net gain of 640 votes to cut Democrat-Liberal Averell Harriman's lead for governor to 9,017 votes.

The official tabulation gave Ives 2,545,063 votes to 2,554,080 for Harriman.

The revisions of the unofficial returns of Tuesday's election were made in Cortland, Schoharie, Washington, Yates, Rensselaer, Schuyler and Suffolk Counties.

WITH THE exception of Suffolk County, all of the new figures are official canvass totals. The new Suffolk figure is a revision issued by the Board of Elections and still subject to official recanvass.

The official canvass of the votes in the close election will be made in all counties of the state.

Preparations for the canvass in the city were made yesterday at a meeting of the Board of Elections with attorneys for the Republican, Democratic and Liberal Parties. The city canvass will start next Tuesday.

DEMOCRATIC state headquarters announced it is watching the official tallies and canvasses "like a hawk." Teams of lawyers have been sent from the headquarters to every county in the state to make certain that the official counts are accurate.

William J. O'Shea, chairman of the law committee of the Democratic State Committee, started getting the lawyers together late on election night after Harriman's apparently safe majority began to melt.

Some of the lawyers were recruited by telephone after they had gone to bed following Ives' concession of defeat.

FIFTY-FOUR lawyers were on their way from New York by 7 A. M. the day after election, O'Shea said. Other lawyers were sent from Buffalo, Rochester and Utica to various counties. Democratic headquarters also telephoned to county chairmen, instructing them to put accomplished local lawyers on the job.

Nathaniel L. Goldstein, a Republican, continued his investigation of suspected voting irregularities. The probe is going on in the city and Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Albany and Erie Counties.



\$40,000 DIAMOND — This is a close-up of the diamond ring found among the loot in the Glen Oaks home of Morris Hyman, the "Jekyll-Hyde" burglar who was killed by a policeman's bullet last month. The ring, valued at \$40,000, is among the swag wait-for identification by victims at the Glendale police station. (Story on Page 2.)

Scratch Traps Youth, 15

Ex-Altar Boy Confesses Sex Killing of Teen Girl

NORWOOD, Mass. (UP)—A 15-year-old former altar boy allegedly confessed today the sex-slaying of a 15-year-old school girl whose nude body was found in a garage.

Police said Peter Makarewicz Jr., 15, a ninth grade student, admitted slaying pretty Geraldine Annese who was strangled with her own necklace.

Peter, who once served on the altar of St. Peter's Polish (Catholic) Church, was an ex-suitor of the attractive brunette whose body was found yesterday.

THE BOY, a neighbor of Geraldine's who dated her up to six months ago, confessed after a nightlong interrogation by police. His younger brother also was questioned in an attempt to break down the older boy's first denials.

Peter was taken in handcuffs to the garage and was set upon by the slain girl's step-brother, Philip De Rose.

"My sister is dead and my mother is dying!" De Rose shouted as he lunged for Peter. He started to pummel the boy and was pulled off by police.

OFFICERS had taken Peter to the garage to reenact the crime after he confessed.

Peter's mother said the boy had been suffering from epilepsy. Police said Peter bore a long scratch on his face which he said he received in football practice. One of Geraldine's fingernails was broken, presumably as she struggled with her assailant who police said tried to rape her.

Investigation centered on Peter

when Police Chief Mark Folan said there appeared to be "discrepancies in his story."

Mistaken Identity Cop Shoots Cop In Street Fight

Two New York policemen in civilian clothes emptied their service revolvers at one another early today in a case of mistaken identities. One was wounded.

Patrolman Arnold Francis, 27, of the Port Authority Police, saw two men beating up a third while he was driving home through Harlem.

He drew his revolver, got out, and took the two men into custody.

DETECTIVE Clarence Brown, 28, driving by, saw Francis covering the two men with the gun and thought a holdup was in progress.

He drew his revolver and got out. The exchange of gunfire followed. Francis was wounded in the left side and taken to a hospital.

The two men seized by Francis were taken to a police station but released when the man they allegedly assaulted could not be found to testify against them.

The Weather

Fair (40) Tonight;

Fair (50) Tomorrow.

5 Departments Involved in Bribe Inquiry

A sweeping investigation was under way today into graft and corruption in five city departments.

Touched off Thursday, when Fire Commissioner Edward F. Cavanagh suspended three battalion chiefs on charges of taking bribes, the probe spread today into the Police, Housing, Health and Air Pollution Control Departments.

The fire chiefs — Edward F. Heeg of 89-223 238th street, Bellerose; Joseph A. Massaro and Daniel M. Regan, both of Brooklyn — were accused of taking \$100 bribes to permit fires on demolition jobs.

THE BRIBES, according to Cavanagh's charges, were paid by Atlas Demolitions Inc. of 646 Lorimer street, Greenpoint, whose books were seized Wednesday by Chief Fire Marshal Martin Scott. Scott said yesterday he had revoked the company's demolition permit "permanently."

The other four departments in the investigation are involved in various phases of permit issuance for demolition work.

Back of the bribes, it was explained, is the fact that demolition of buildings can be speeded and is less costly if the wrecking crews are permitted to set fires.

Police Commissioner Francis W. H. Adams joined the investigation with a scathing denunciation of "traitors" under his command.

AT PROMOTION ceremonies for 18 officers he told more than 300 of his high-ranking subordinates:

"I'll mince no words . . . we have traitors, men and women, who have not hesitated to sell us out for a few dollars. They have not only degraded themselves but have attempted to destroy us all through their conduct."

"It will not go on if I have to emasculate this entire department."

"I don't care if it is \$2 from a peddler or the highest possible amount. This is your responsibility as well as mine, and you will be held entirely accountable."

IN OTHER developments, Housing Commissioner Bernard J. Gillroy of Flushing said an inquiry was under way "to see if any of our people were involved" in graft-taking charged against the three firemen.

Of the three suspended fire chiefs, Cavanagh said, two admitted taking gratuities and had put in their papers for retirement. These two were Massaro and Regan, both of whom have been with the department more than 25 years.

The third, Heeg, denied the charges, according to Commissioner Cavanagh, and said a representative of Atlas Demolition handed him an envelope contain-

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Riders Take LIRR for Ride

Wyer Sings Swan Song of Swindle

Nearly as many people take the Long Island Railroad for a ride as vice versa, Trustee William Wyer admitted yesterday in Brooklyn Federal Court.

Wyer told his troubles, to Judge Mortimer Byers as he stepped down after nearly three years as trustee of the line during its bankruptcy.

Some of the fast ones were pulled by commuters; others by railroad personnel. All told, Wyer estimated they nicked the line for hundreds of thousands of dollars a year.

THE FIGURE, Wyer explained, is based only on those who were caught.

He cited the case of a train conductor—"one of our oldest men"—who had a "private club" of 40 passengers he permitted to ride free.

They in turn rewarded him with small gifts, said Wyer. The day he was caught, there were

34 non-paying commuters riding in his car.

ANOTHER railroad worker hoodwinked the line on a fast estate deal. He chalked up a quick profit of \$46,000. "The case is pending in court," said Wyer.

The man lived on railroad property and wanted to buy it. The line refused to sell because of a company rule banning real estate sales to employees.

"He turned around," Wyer said, "and got a neighbor to buy it for \$4,000. Then he bought it from the neighbor and resold it for—\$50,000!"

A COMMUTER found a way of protecting his commutation ticket from the conductor's ticket-puncher. Then at the end of the week, he sent in the unpunched ticket for a full refund.

"He agreed to refund us \$1,200 when we caught up to him," Wyer said.

But not all Wyer's experiences as court-appointed trustee were setbacks. He listed some of these accomplishments.

(1) Hooking up of automatic speed controls to guard 85 per cent of the trains in operation.

(2) Installation of safety glass in passenger cars, warning markers on the rear of trains, and other improvements.

(3) Economic reforms and "studies" that may point the way to future savings.

(4) Reinstatement of \$3 million in disaster insurance with Lloyds of London.

Wyer said "improvements in service" during his regime have given the Long Island a record of 95.9 per cent of all trains operating on time.

"Our on-time performance is superior to that of any other railroad in the state," he said.