

10 CENTS

the village

Voice

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Village Groups Unite, Earn a Slight Delay

Persistent work (and a batch of telegrams) by a group of Village associations helped to change the Manhattan Borough President's mind last week.

Addressing the Board of Estimate Thursday, Hulan E. Jack recommended that the proposed widening of West Broadway be delayed until it had been studied more fully.

Two days before Thursday's meeting, representatives from the Greenwich Village Association, the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Planning Board, the Lower West Side Civic League, the Washington Square Association, and the Washington Square Park Committee, together with Democratic Senatorial candidate Eleanor Clark French, had met Jack and requested that a decision on the widening of West Broadway be delayed.

"We told him that we couldn't see any reason for the rush, nor, indeed, any reason for the widening to six lanes," Mrs. Shirley



SHIRLEY HAYES

Hayes, chairwoman of the Washington Square Park Committee, told The Voice.

"As a matter of fact, the only reason we can see why they want to widen the street for a mere three blocks is that it is part of a larger plan to increase the traffic through Washington Square."

The Borough President listened carefully to the deputation's request to study the situation further, but would make no commitment. So, the following day, the Village group sent telegrams to every member of the eight-man board.

"We believe that the reason why the delay was granted when the Board met on Thursday," Mrs. Hayes continued, "was because of the effectiveness of all Village groups being in agreement. It is worth remembering that by acting in unison we got something accomplished."

No date has been set for the meeting to discuss the proposal further.



Voices: Justice Cook

TIPPED OFF ABOUT AN ATTEMPT to storm McSorley's Saloon last Thursday, Voice photographers (also disguised as men) got this picture of the girls being ejected. Left to right are an unidentified customer, Sophie Reinsner, photographer Molly Cook, Mary Horton (partly hidden), and Renée Snitkoff.

Oliver Johnson's Village

No Ale, Just Farewell for Trio Who Storm McSorley's Saloon

by Oliver Johnson

If there was one thing that John McSorley was certain about, it was that liquor and women—even separately—brought trouble. He believed it so fervently that he banned both of them from his East 7th Street saloon.

That was 102 years ago, and though nobody can vouch for the liquor part (it has been served occasionally), the rule concerning women was still in force last week.

Enter Mary Horton, Sophie Reinsner, and Renée Snitkoff. "We didn't seriously think we could get away with it," says Mary, "but there are times when no girls can resist a challenge."

To put it briefly, the cigar-smoking trio decked themselves up with pants, jackets, and soft felt hats and tried to get into McSorley's last Thursday night. But, with an experience sharpened over the years, McSorley's adept door-watching regulars didn't let them get far.

"What a fiasco," says Renée. "We had only just sat down at a

table when we were recognized as girls and asked to leave. We didn't even get a chance to order."

They weren't, of course, the first women to storm the all-male stronghold. Manager Harry Kirwan, 52, told The Voice: "Every now and then somebody will try to sneak his girl friend in, and back in Prohibition days we had a lot of trouble with girls dressed up as men, who tried to get a drink."

"So women have been in here—sometimes even by invitation, if they're wives of old customers—but no woman has ever been served. Why, many of our customers are here just because it's one place they can get away from women."

Even Kerwan's wife doesn't set foot in McSorley's—which isn't very remarkable except for the fact that she's the owner. Her father, Daniel O'Connell, bought it from Bill McSorley in 1936, and Bill took it over from his father, John, at the turn of the century.

Continued from page 3

Got A Dumbbell?

Greenwich House gymnasium lacks dumbbells, and co-director Fred Antonelli offers to send a station wagon to your door to pick up any you may wish to donate. Call CH 2-4140.

35 Starts Your Xmas Fur Club. Lewis & Lewis, 19 E. 9th St.—Ad.

Furs make lasting gifts. Lewis & Lewis, 19 E. 9th St.—Ad.

WHAT'S INSIDE.....

The girl on the right was in the Village last week. She's a Parisian, Suzanne Bernard, 24, and readers of a French daily newspaper saw her picture in their paper this week. You wonder why? See page 3 . . . Elsabelle Field vs. William Passannante: an interesting fight says political columnist Casper Citron (p. 5), while in the Campaign Corner on page 4 Congressional opponents Akers and Coudert let fly at one another, no holds barred . . . A story about one of America's top book stores, the Village's 8th Street Book Shop, begins on page 3.



Architect Promises Survey:

Will the House of Detention Do for a Community Center?

A Brooklyn architect and city planner, Vito P. Battista, has volunteered to study the Village's 12-story Women's House of Detention and see how suitable it would be for a community center. He'll be assisted in his project by students at Brooklyn's Institute of Design and Construction, of which he is director. No charge will be made for the survey.



Voices: Decker

HOUSE OF DETENTION

GVA Will Present 'Most' Candidates

A meeting at which Villagers can meet almost all local candidates for political office will be held at Greenwich House next Tuesday night.

It is sponsored by the Greenwich Village Association, whose president, Philip T. Lombardo, yesterday told The Voice: "Almost every candidate except Jacob Javits is expected to be present. The candidates themselves enjoy such meetings, because they're about the only available opportunity they have of meeting voters who represent opposing sides."

Furriers over half a century. Lewis & Lewis, 19 E. 9th St.—Ad.

In a letter to the Greenwich Village Association (directed also to the Lower West Side Civic League and the local Community Planning Board), Battista says that the idea of a centrally located community civic center "is not only sound from an economic standpoint, but is good, long-range city planning as intensifying integrative, progressive forces in the local area."

No Alternative Yet

Philip T. Lombardo, president of the GVA, explained that although plans to vacate the House of Detention were announced a year ago, no alternative use for the building had been revealed.

"There are three immediate things that could be installed there," he yesterday told The Voice. "The Village needs a new central library that is larger than the one at Jackson Square; a new police headquarters will be required when the one at Mercer Street is demolished under the South-East project; and the Board of Health has made requests for land on which to build a Health Center."

'More Logical'

"Instead of acquiring land and constructing three separate buildings, it would be more logical to house all three in one existing centrally located structure."

Lower West Side Civic League president Nicholas A. Rossi, together with Community Planning Board chairman C. Leo Calarco and the GVA's Lombardo have told Battista that while they take no official stand on this suggested use for the building until they can ascertain public opinion, they are "sympathetic" to the idea.