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the village Voice

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'Waterfront' Priest Gives Up Dock Role

Just a year ago the Reverend John M. Corridan told The Voice that he doubted he would ever again speak at another longshoremen's union meeting. Last week the famed "Waterfront Priest" was transferred, at his own request, to a Jesuit college in Buffalo, thus making final his withdrawal from the explosive New York dock situation. This act removed from the scene, once and for all, the dissident longshoremen's most effective ally.

Working Alliance

Between the Xavier Labor School on West 16th Street, where Father Corridan was associate director, and the Sheridan Square headquarters of the International



Voice: Deuter

FATHER JOHN CORRIDAN

Brotherhood of Longshoremen there was a working alliance that almost brought the racket-ridden International Longshoremen's Association to its knees. But the AFL-CIO's Brotherhood never quite managed to overturn the ILA, though it came within a few votes of doing so in one of the three elections held between 1953 and 1956.

The tall, rugged 43-year-old priest realized some time ago that there was resentment against his union activities, even among the predominantly Catholic dock workers. "I have been taking sides, and there are members of our parish on both sides," he said in December, 1955, explaining to The Voice his withdrawal from union affairs. "It affected our parishioners in many ways, including their religious lives. The issues between the unions will be clear next time. I'm not going to let the ILA use me to confuse the issue." But Father Corridan had another disappointment ahead of him when in last October's election the ILA won by a bigger majority than in the two previous polls.

While Father John, as he was

called on the docks, had the unswerving support of a large number of longshoremen, there were many others who did not see the situation the way he did—as "black and white." He never succeeded in dislodging the ILA, but he had the satisfaction of leaving behind him the Waterfront Commission, which he feels has given the longshoremen a better chance than they ever had before.

The man who inspired the part of crusading priest in the Academy-Award winning movie "On the Waterfront" will leave New York, after a 12-year, real-life crusade, to teach economics at Le Moyne College in Buffalo.

Shep Packs Loew's For Film Preview

Last Tuesday evening Jean Shepherd, WOR's "conversationalist," sponsored one of the most interesting movie previews on record. An enthusiastic overflow crowd of more than 1600 jammed Loew's Sheridan Theatre, 12th Street, at midnight, to see a special screening of "Edge of the City," an unusual new movie to be released late in January.

Following the movie, Shepherd MC'd a vigorous exchange of questions and answers between the audience and the creators of the picture—producer David Susskind, director Martin Ritt, writer Robert Alan Aurthur, and actors John Cassavetes and Jack Warden. About 80 percent of the audience remained in their seats for the entire discussion, which was broadcast live over WOR between 2 and 3 in the morning.

Shepherd, who is a regular Voice columnist, discusses his personal reactions to the event in his piece this week on page 4.

E. F.



For apts, jobs, and cars see the Voice Classified.



Voice: Juster-Cook

Henriette Roosenburg, Annalist of Liberation:

The Years of Peace—After the Walls Came Down.

by Dan Balaban

"The Walls Came Tumbling Down," written in English by a "practical Dutchman," as Henriette Roosenburg likes to call herself, is slated for translation into Dutch. "Hopefully by May 6, the anniversary of our liberation."

The timing would be most appropriate. The book is an absorbing account of the journey home of four condemned Dutch political prisoners—Nell, Yolke, Zip (Miss Roosenburg) and Dries, the only male—after their liberation from the Nazis. They made their way across Germany by foot, and by rowboat through territory held by unpredictable Russian occupation forces. Almost within sight of their destination, they were stopped and detained 12 days in a Russian DP camp. But the story ends happily, with the four being traded for Russian war prisoners liberated by the Western Allies, and finally the rush home to their families.

Miss Roosenburg did not feel ready to begin writing about these events until seven years after they had happened, though they were always vivid in her mind. "I couldn't tell you what I had for lunch yesterday, but I remembered every meal we ate then. I would check with my journal!" she started a diary the day of her liberation—"and I was invariably right." Memories of food are not the only marks she bears from that time. "I still eat much too fast," she says, "and I can't stand being hungry. I have to get something to eat right away, a sandwich or a candy bar. I can't wait for mealtime."

Recall was not one of her writing problems, but she had a couple of others. "I had already spent four years in America. English was my language." Miss Roosenburg speaks with a slight burr which people have mistaken for

Scottish. She lacked confidence, understandably, in her ability to handle English. "Although I think my uncertainty was partly a good excuse to keep from buckling down to work. I had the damned-

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Village Gazette

With this issue The Voice begins a weekly column, the Village Gazette, which will bring news and comments about the activities of interesting Villagers and the organizations that play a significant role in the life of this community.

Greenwich Village is both a community to live in and a center of cultural life. We hope to reflect both aspects in the ensuing weeks.

RARE PHENOMENON. New York's "multiple" commissioner, Robert Moses, is on the verge of picking up some friends in the Village. Stuart Constable, the fiery Mr. Moses' executive officer, was so cooperative and agreeable about the Thompson Street playground at a meeting last week that Anthony Dapolite told The Voice: "I don't have a single complaint." Probably the first time this was said about the Commissioner for his aides around these parts in the last dozen years. The blueprint calls for the playground to be set back 10 feet to allow for trees and benches on the outside. Along with the usual accretments for

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TOP-RATED BASS PLAYER CHARLIE MINGUS joins Jean Shepherd at the Voice of Jazz concert sponsored by the Village Voice on February 2 at Town Hall. Mingus will team up with such jazz "greats" as J. J. Johnson, number-one man on the trombone, and Tony Scott, first man in line on the clarinet. A major jazz event, it will be the first of a series planned by The Voice.

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