

Take One Concert—Jean Shepherd

10 CENTS

the village Voice

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As Others See Us

Three national magazines have turned their telescopes on Greenwich Village, and found it a place to be reckoned with. Though the land below 14th Street is seen as unique and vital, the burgeoning interest in the Village raised occasional misgivings in the hearts of the authors.

"Some people think it lives a bit too well," says Frederic Morton in an article called "An Artful Guide to Greenwich Village" in the July issue of *Holiday*. "It thrives too furiously. Its personality has become that of a pseudo-

THE REPORTER

THE MAGAZINE OF FACTS AND IDEAS
Full for his encouragement of off-Broadway. The *Village Voice* ("a weekly newspaper designed to be read"), which is to the Times what off-Broadway is to Broadway, in last year initiated the *Off-Broadway* series, the off-Broadway equivalent of the Times and *Oscar*.

THE PRODUCERS OF THE *Off-Broadway* series, who have been in the business since 1954, say they have

esoteric penny arcade that packs them in with its sideshow." But of the Bohemians, he says, in mitigation: "They are the last bohemians in our panting civilization. Among them poverty is fun and disrespectability can be worn as a boutonniere. Even though they are all too self-consciously aware of it, they are the real thing."

In the June 13 *Reporter*, Gerald Weales adroitly analyzes the virtues and the vices of the booming off-Broadway theatre in an article called "Little Theatres Become Big Business." If the balloon

HOLIDAY

...springs from their being the taste businesses. And how about the *Village Voice*? Within a year of its birth it attained a five-figure circulation. The celebrity of its contributors (from Norman Mailer to Steve Allen, from J. B. Priestley to Gilbert Seldes), the daintiness of its dispatches (Carmel, Soho, Remel, and the scope of its subscription list (forty-one states and eight foreign countries) have made it the organ of the Egghead International. I think it has earned its present position because of—not despite—the fact that its publisher is a still practicing psychologist, its editor a free-lance writer, and neither ever came near a linotype machine before.

Yet there is no doubt that the *Village Voice* is the most

burts, Mr. Weales says, "the old experimental quality may come back into off-Broadway activity, but, one hopes, not the old amateurishness."

"New York's Spreading Upper Bohemia" is the title of a feature

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Board of Estimate Sets Hearings for Playground Site

The stage was set last Thursday by the Board of Estimate for final action on the long-fought-for playground in the south Village. The Board set June 27 as the date for a public hearing on the question of authorizing the Borough President to acquire title to the proposed area which is bounded by Thompson, Spring, and Sullivan Streets. At the same session the city legislators approved a map-change that would allow for the playground.

Once Borough President Hulan E. Jack is authorized to acquire the land, as he undoubtedly will be, construction of the recreation area will begin as soon as the commercial tenants now occupying the site can be relocated. Mr. Jack's office reports that the Park Department is prepared to proceed immediately.

appearing in the July *Esquire* in which you are almost certain to recognize one or more old friends among the photographs. *Esquire* pivots on Third Avenue's Five Spot Cafe, with a few excursions into Washington Square and the galleries. The anonymous author of this article is titillated by the painless emergence of the Upper Bohemian into the lair of his Lower colleague.



(right). (Voice photos by Gin Briggs)
POLICE BARRIERS were needed to keep the crowds in line at the midnight jazz concert sponsored by the Village Voice and JEAN SHEPHERD (left). Among the entertainers who won an ovation from the audience was the great jazz singer BILLIE HOLIDAY

Voice Concert Sell-Out, Turn Away Hundreds

The Village Voice and Jean Shepherd proved last Saturday night that one of the liveliest of the "lively arts" has a massive appeal in Greenwich Village. "Jazz music," said Monday's *New York Times*, "successfully invaded new territory at midnight Saturday when 2500 people packed Loew's Sheridan Theatre in Greenwich Village to hear a program headed by Billie Holiday and the Modern Jazz Quartet."

Interest in the show was so intense that fully one hour before curtain-time the entire square block on which the Sheridan is located was encircled four-deep by people waiting to get in. Jazz-lovers who were admonished by patrolmen to get to the end of the line were thrown into confusion trying to find the end of a line which had no end. The entire house was sold out, with more than 500 people being turned away.

The evening went off smoothly before an enthusiastic audience. The only suspense was involved in getting jazz singer Billie Holiday, who was performing in a Philadelphia club until 12:30 a. m.,

back to New York in sufficient time to sing on the stage of the Sheridan. The Voice driver made it, and she was able to close the show with some 10 songs, including her classic "Don't Explain."

Beside Miss Holiday and the Modern Jazz Quartet, the biggest jazz event ever to be held in the Village displayed the talents of the Randy Weston Trio, Barbara Lea, the Charlie Mingus Quintet, and Flamenco dancer Ysabel Morel. Jean Shepherd acted as master of ceremonies and participated directly in the program by improvising words to go with a musical composition of "Mingus" called "The Clown." Art D'Lugoff produced the show.



Voice: Gin Briggs
BASS MASTER CHARLIE MINGUS, handsomely clad in Bermuda shorts for the occasion.

Rosenman to Discuss Future of Democrats

Judge Samuel I. Rosenman, one of the late President Roosevelt's closest advisors, will speak at an open meeting of the Tilden Democratic Club, 603 Sixth Avenue, tomorrow (Thursday) at 8:30 p. m.

A political associate of former President Truman and Governor Harriman, Judge Rosenman will talk on the "Future of the Democratic Party."

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Apartment Wanted

A central figure in the recent battles over segregation in the South is coming to NYU this fall to work for his doctorate in education. As a result of his insistence on the law being obeyed—a crucial factor in achieving local integration—D. J. Brittain, Jr., this month presided over the graduation of the first Negro student from an integrated public school south of the Mason and Dixon Line. Mr. Brittain, the Clinton, Tennessee, high-school principal whose every act became headline news last fall, is looking for an apartment in Greenwich Village.

As someone suggested, if John Casper, the race-agitator who sparked the violence in Clinton, could find a place to live in the Village—which he did when he frequented these parts several years ago—there certainly should be a place for one of the men who routed him.

Mr. Brittain, who will be at NYU's School of Education for the next couple of years, is looking with his wife for a two-and-a-half or three-room furnished apartment, on which they will place a deposit now for occupancy in September. Anyone who knows of such an apartment should call Mrs. Ryan at the Village Voice, WA 4-4669.