

Housing: A Picture of Hope to the Residents of Greenpoint

(Last winter, The Star published a public service series entitled "Greenpoint: To Be or Not To Be." This series explored the Garden Spot's need for rezoning. Through the work of the Civic Council's "Madden committee," that rezoning is fast becoming reality. The next step for Greenpoint's rebirth is the building of privately-financed housing. The importance of this housing to Greenpoint's future and how

it may possibly be obtained will be examined in a new Star series. The first article in this series appears below.)

Greenpoint today is a proud, old community in the throes of a contradictory situation.

It's need for greater living space is desperate; yet its population is shrinking.

The pride of its sons and daughters who have moved to neighboring communities

is as great as ever—but few of them could move back if they wished.

WHAT has happened?

Few new homes have been erected during the last 10 years and during the same period, not a single multiple dwelling or apartment house has been built in the Garden Spot.

Yet numerous city and state projects such as the Oakland street expressway

now being built have resulted in many old homes, being torn down.

AT THE same time, Greenpoint's youth has been growing up, marrying, raising families—away from Greenpoint.

In spite of this, the overall picture is one of hope.

A short walk through the Garden Spot would indicate that Greenpoint's housing problem is quite unlike that

of some nearby borough communities.

Where others face overcrowding caused by a mass influx of outsiders, Greenpoint remains a stable community with a neighborhood character all its own.

WHERE OTHER communities have faced the problem of accepting public housing as an alternative to slum conditions, Greenpoint is not in danger of becoming

one—nor accepting the other.

A short walk from Manhattan avenue into any side street off the main thoroughfare will illustrate this fact.

Along almost all these side streets, the viewer will see well-kept homes which, even if they were not built yesterday, retain all the charm of former times.

STOPPING to talk to the people who live in these

homes, he will discover a sense of belonging rare in city neighborhoods today.

"I have four grown children, all of whom are married and have children of their own," a Garden Spot grandmother says.

"They had to move away from Greenpoint. They didn't want to. They had to. They couldn't find anywhere to settle down here."

Incidentally, she adds, all four of her sons were em-

ployed in Greenpoint when they moved away.

"They had every reason to stay here but they couldn't find a place to live," she concludes.

IT WOULD BE most unlike Greenpoint citizens, always devoted to their community, to sit by doing nothing while waiting for outsiders to do something instead.

Greenpointers have spent

See HOUSING—Page 2

Serving
Greenpoint
Garden Spot
Of the World . . .

Greenpoint Weekly Star

Established March 27, 1875

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. . . And
Williamsburg
Its Friendly
Neighbor

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GREENPOINT, N. Y., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1959

CENTRAL SERVICE

Second class matter at the Postoffice at Greenpoint, N. Y., under Act of March 3, 1879.

5 CENTS

ACADEMIC PROGRAM URGED FOR AUTO H. S.

Ex-Cop Gets 20-to-Life In Slaying

A burly 26-year-old ex-police officer was given 20 years to life for the brutal slaying of a 60-year-old grandmother in a Greenpoint parking lot last February.

The killer—Francis J. Rogers of 78-15 62nd street, Glendale—displayed little emotion as Judge Samuel S. Leibowitz imposed the sentence in Kings County Court last Friday.

"This," said the judge in measured tones, "is a tragedy



FRANCIS ROGERS

for the family of the deceased and for the family of the defendant." His eyes rested momentarily on Rogers' father and brother—both police officers—and on the former cop's mother, who were present in court.

"It is also a tragedy," the judge added, "for 24,000 policemen in this city." The crime, he indicated, committed by a trusted officer of the law, naturally reflected on the city's finest.

ROGERS pleaded guilty to second degree murder at his trial April 17.

The slain woman was Mrs. Viola Mirman of 42 Newell street, Greenpoint.

Thomas Murtha, 22, of 62-05 80th road, Glendale, a truck driver who was arrested with Rogers as an accomplice in the killing, was acquitted by a jury in Kings County Court, May 13.

The sentence imposed by Judge Leibowitz was the minimum sentence for the offense. The jurist explained he was taking into consideration the fact that Rogers turned state's evidence at Murtha's trial.

POLICE charged that Rogers and Murtha forced the elderly woman into their car, beat her senseless with a blackjack, assaulted her, and dumped her out of the car in Greenpoint.

Italian Leaders To Meet

All Greater New York Italian-American civic, political and labor leaders have been invited by the Italian Historical Society to attend a conference Sept. 26 at the Statler Hotel, Manhattan.

Subject of the conference will be the efforts of the Italian-American community to synchronize its efforts with city and state law enforcement agencies in order to crush juvenile delinquency.

"No public official or organizational leader can afford to be absent," John LaCorte, society director who made the arrangements, declared.

Khrushchev Replies To Anfuso's Letter

Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev told a visiting U. S. congressman on the eve of his departure for the United States that Russia favors international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space provided East and West have "equal footing." Khrushchev made the statement in a letter to Congressman Victor Anfuso of Greenpoint, invited to Moscow to discuss international cooperation in the exploration of space with Soviet officials and scientists.

It was in reply to a letter from Anfuso proposing creation of a space committee under U.N. auspices with "proportionate representation" from East and West. Anfuso urged Khrushchev to discuss such a committee in his talks with President Eisenhower but the premier made no mention of this in his answer.

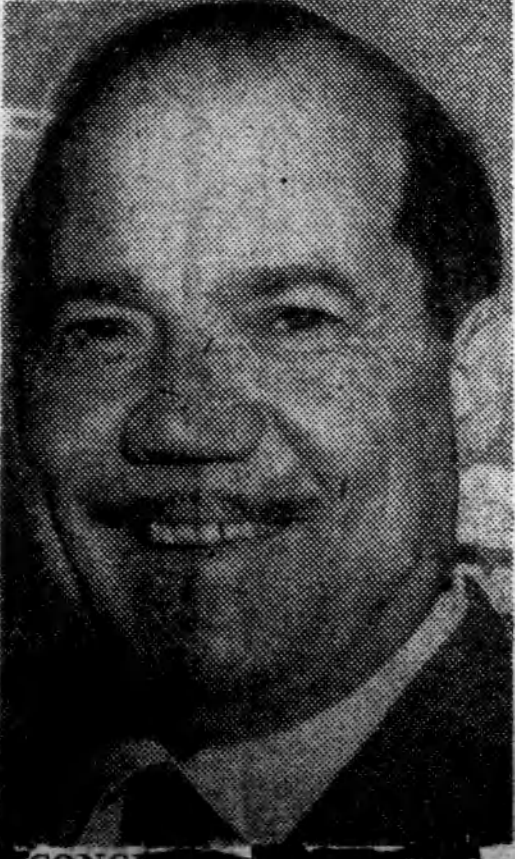
Khrushchev's letter, on plain white paper, was delivered to Anfuso late Monday by the Congressman's spokesman to newsman.

IN IT, Khrushchev declared: "We have always stood and we now stand for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of cosmic space, but cooperation in which the Soviet Union and other Socialist (Communist) states, conducting large-scale space explorations, would have an equal footing."

The premier said the U. S. and Soviet delegations to the United Nations had no disagreements about the need for setting up an international space committee and the function it should exercise.

He said the Soviet delegation had tried to secure conditions

See KHRUSHCHEV—Page 2



CONGRESSMAN VICTOR ANFUSO

Light Voting Noted in 'Point

Voting in Greenpoint during Tuesday's primary was estimated as light, but it would be several days before the results are known, Election Board officials said.

Because there was no contest in the 4th and 14th Assembly Districts, comprising Greenpoint and Williamsburg, figures for these districts would not be tabulated until after figures for areas in which there was a contest were in.

Anthony Liotta Dies; Son of Civic Leader

A requiem mass for Anthony Liotta, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Liotta of 69 Meserole avenue, will be offered at 10 A.M. Tuesday in St. Alphonsus' Roman Catholic Church, Greenpoint.

Burial will be in St. John's Cemetery, Middle Village, under the direction of the Evergreen chapel at 131 Nassau avenue.

A rosary service will take place in the chapel at 8 P.M. Monday.

Mr. Liotta, a native of Greenpoint, died Thursday at Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, D. C., following a long hospitalization for a liver ailment.

A GRADUATE of John Ericsson Junior High School, 126, Brooklyn Technical High School and City College, he was employed as an electrical engineer in Clifton, N. J.

His mother, Grace, is head of the Greenpoint Property Owners Association and the Affiliated Property Owners of Kings and Queens Counties. His father is a professor of chemistry at City College.

Besides his parents, Mr. Liotta is survived by his wife, the former Millicent de Palma of Dumont, N. J., whom he married three years ago; two brothers, Michael and Alfred, and a sister, Anita.

New Position Created in Scout Troops

New positions for volunteer leaders with an interest in the outdoors have been especially created for the 1960 50th Jubilee Anniversary Year of the Boy Scouts of America it was jointly announced by Brooklyn Council, Boy Scouts of America, by Walter Oberstbronn, scout commissioner and William C. Crager, camping chairman.

A new position in the Boy Scouts troop, the "unit outdoorsman" has been created to enable every boy possible in Brooklyn Scout Troops to have the opportunity to participate in the three highlight program events of the Jubilee Year.

The outdoorsman will work directly with the District and Neighborhood Commissioners. Additional positions have been created on the borough-wide and District Camping Committees.

A MAJOR responsibility of the new men will be participation of as many Brooklyn Scouts as possible in the huge 50,000-boy National Jubilee Jamboree, to be held at Colorado Springs, Colorado July 22-28, 1960.

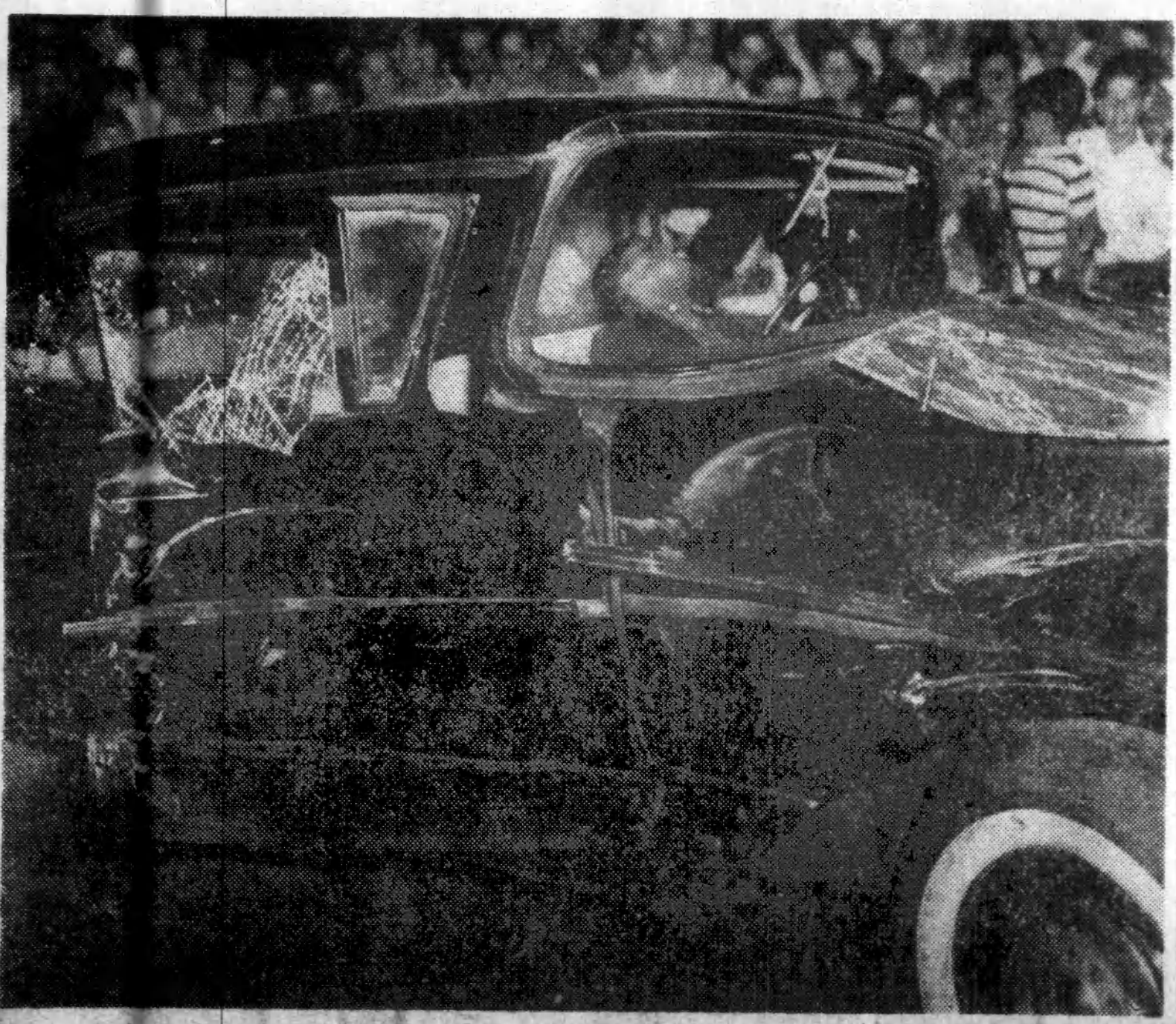
Another concern will be the qualification of the borough's Troops to be part of the Jubilee Camporee to be held simultaneously with the National Jamboree on Randall's Island. Over 5,000 city Scouts and Explorers are expected at this largest encampment ever held within the City of New York.

The third responsibility of the new men will be the 1960 Jubilee Camping Season, especially in regards to giving as many boys as possible the experiences of the unique anniversary camping program at the Greater New York Council's famed Ten Mile River Camps at upstate Narrowsburg.

Eastern (Greenpoint-Williamsburg) District commissioner to assist the new unit outdoorsmen is Frank DiLalla. Eastern District's camping chairman is Ralph Arca.

BULLETIN!

Dr. Joshua H. Friedman, Democratic Leader of the 14th A.D., has announced that Chester Straub Sr. will be sworn in as secretary to Commissioner Max Perlman of the Department of Markets some time next week. The job carries a salary of \$8,300.



SMASH-UP—Walter Jordan, 32, of 205 Seigel street, lies in his smashed car at the intersection of Meserole and Humboldt streets. Police said his car was in collision with another vehicle driven by Rios Casper, 32, of 100 Hart street. Jordan was rushed to St. Catherine's Hospital and was reported this week in good condition at Wyckoff Heights Hospital. Casper was unhurt. The accident happened at 8:20 P. M. Sunday.

Churches Make Preparations

Pulaski Day to Be Gala Affair

Every organization of St. Stanislaus Kostka and St. Cyril and Methodius Roman Catholic Churches is making preparations for Oct. 4, Pulaski Day.

Man Stabbed, Chases Thug

Bleeding from two stab wounds in the chest, a Green street grocer gave chase to his assailant early Sunday morning, but the thug got away, Meserole avenue police said.

It was quiet at 5:45 A. M. Sunday when Tadeusz Mazur, 51, opened his grocery store at 183 Green street. But not for long.

Before he could ask a would-be customer what he wanted, the unknown man asked Mazur for money, police said.

"IS THIS A joke? Get out," Mazur replied, and walked from behind the counter to put his words into action.

Just then, police said, the man struck Mazur with an unknown object and, while the grocer was still dazed by the blow, stabbed him twice in the chest.

Groggy and unaware he had been stabbed, Mazur set out after the bandit, running after him to Oakland street.

When Mazur realized he had been wounded, he retraced his steps to get aid, while the bandit got away, police said.

MAZUR GOT AS FAR as the candy store at 179 Green street and went inside where he waited while the candy store proprietor, Alexander Butko, called police.

Mazur was taken to Kings County Hospital where he was reported later this week in fair condition.

Detective James Matherway of the Meserole avenue squad is investigating.

SELECTED

George G. Badame Legion Post at 386 Graham avenue has announced that four members have been selected to represent the unit at regular meetings of the United Civic Association. They are commander Cono Gangone, Anthony Pastena, Anthony Gangone and Dominick DeGrussio.

Move Begun To Utilize Vacant Seats

A new Civic Council drive got underway this week to open the Brooklyn High School of Automotive Trades to Garden Spot academic students next September.

The new civic campaign was started Tuesday night at the council's first fall meeting after Mrs. Hilde Hassberg, co-chairman of the schools committee, reported Automotive is now underutilized.

She said that a study by the committee showed that there would "possibly be enough room to accommodate all of Greenpoint's academic students next September."

Figures for last year at Automotive, she said, showed that there were 172 pupils below capacity and that figures over the past few years indicate a slow shrinking of the school's attendance.

Therefore, Mrs. Hassberg said, the schools would be able to accommodate more able to academic students.

THE IDEA to convert Automotive into a comprehensive high school was first suggested to the parents by Mrs. Grae Bartos, treasurer of the John Ericsson Junior High School 126 Parents Association.

It was first broached by Mrs. Hassberg at a special council meeting earlier this month.

Precedence for such a move was given by Baisley Park parents who succeeded in having under-utilized Woodrow Wilson High School made into a comprehensive institution.

Mrs. Hassberg also asserted that, at present, many pupils were attending Automotive who had no interest in auto mechanics but were "marking time" until they were old enough to work.

She urged, therefore, that the council insist on higher standards in the admission of vocational pupils at Automotive while pressing for Board of Education adoption of the comprehensive plan.

MRS. HASSBERG also said that the committee would continue to press for replacement of antiquated, inadequate public school buildings by new buildings in Greenpoint proper.

Under no circumstances, she

See ACADEMIC—Page 2



Civic-minded Greenpointers hear Mrs. Hilde Hassberg outline Greenpoint school problems at the council meeting. Mrs. Hassberg is co-chairman of the council's schools committee.