This is the first issue of our long-hoped-for Newsletter. It is under the aegis of ye temporary editor, Patricia Lee Jackson, who offered to get it started. Are their any volunteers or suggestions for a permanent editor? Ed Hochberg, our president, has been looking for one for over a year. Meanwhile, if you have any news, suggestions, whatever, please forward them to P. J. at 129 E 35th St, 10016, res. phone 689-1382, bus. phone 360-5202. Edward Nimon did the sketch of Stiflen Court for which we’re ever so grateful. Our thanks also to those named within who gave news and in some cases edited the rough copy for accuracy.

THANK YOU! First of all, we want to thank some of those who contributed to the great success of our first Block Party in June. The Comedy Club let us use their premises for a cocktail party which kicked off an appeal for volunteer workers for the coming event. Jerry Lepson of the Group Therapy Restaurant provided the libation and Cheese Please provided other refreshments. It was a great party.

All "our" churches gave generously of their space and time. The Church of the Incarnation let us use their kitchen and refrigerator. The New Church offered their lovely garden for the children’s programs. The Community Church provided space for meetings and their terrace for numerous administrative activities such as the blowing up of all those balloons. The Church of Our Saviour gave us the use of their kitchen and pitched in to cut the green and yellow cloths for all the tables. Several meetings were held there also.

Pan Am Airlines sent representatives to welcome the winners of the first prize from the raffle sale: a week in London for two. B. Altman & Co. gave a window display announcing the Block Party. Thank you, too, W & J Sloane! Betty and Mary Flannery worked with Lord & Taylor to put on a fashion show which drew a large audience and much commendation. The New York Telephone Co. gave a speaker system for the fashion show and a phone for emergencies.

Following the Block Party, Jerry Lepson of Group Therapy gave a cocktail brunch for all members of the Murray Hill Committee and the volunteers on the Block Party.

Over three hundred local businesses and individuals gave donations, time and talent. None are forgotten or unappreciated. Many are deliberately not being mentioned publicly to save them from being deluged by requests for their services and donations.

In September, Ohrbachs sent several tickets to a private fashion show. On October 10th, the Murray Hill Committee members were invited by Lord & Taylor to the first of their store-wide salutes to New York City—Person-to-Person. This occasion was in honour of the New York Public Library.

Murray Hillers are becoming known as people in a neighborhood as well as an area on the map.

TREES. Our Block Party in June raised for the Greening of Murray Hill a gross of $14,000 (expenses were $2,000) as was reported at a meeting shortly thereafter. However, Ed Hochberg estimates that to plant all the trees, hoops, and planters we’d like to see in our neighborhood would amount to approximately $50,000. Since then he and Dorothy Shames have been busy contacting the numerous tree-funding programs trying to obtain the best commitment for a supporting program. To receive the benefit of a matching program, we must have our area surveyed (see below) and then plant our share of trees. Were we to plant our trees first without such a prior commitment, we would lose all benefits.
The survey consists of determining where holes can safely be dug for the planting. There are many vaults under the sidewalks (most of them originally used for coal storage) and the City does not have an accurate record of where they are, so it is a matter of having someone go to each building to learn precisely where these are and where other tree-precluding factors exist. A company has been hired for the survey. However, Ed and Dorothy have also been out ringing doorbells. As you can imagine, this can require several trips to some buildings to locate someone knowledgeable about these matters. Yes, the City would do the survey but it just might not be in the lifetime of many of us! In spite of all this, there is a very recent hope that a sizeable gift of trees will be planted in November and our matching tree program will start in earnest in the spring. Those who have given so much of their time to this as well as to other community matters have been so frustrated over the restrictions, sizes of trees available, etc., from the tree funders that they would prefer to see the roots in and branches waving before going out on another limb with estimates of when and how many! Meanwhile, the money is earning interest, but we have sadly learned it isn’t simply a matter of Have Money - Plant Trees!

In the mean time, tree lovers, we need to develop a plan for watering, planting ivy and caring for the trees once we acquire them. Many building owners have agreed to permit trees to be planted in front of their premises, but will not maintain them. We have to respect the fact that trees are not everyone’s Thing, on the other hand we’re hoping for enough would-be gardeners who would welcome the air and exercise to volunteer to adopt one or more. Please forward your interest and suggestions.

PARKS. Dick Lang, our representative on Community Board Six has news of several encouraging developments. The Community Board has just completed an extensive study of the eastside waterfront from 14th Street to 34th Street. Another study, later, will evaluate 35th to 42nd Sts.

Our area has the lowest park acreage per capita of any section in the City, only 4 square feet per resident. This compares with 75 square feet for all of Manhattan. The Bronx has 175 square feet of park per resident, Queens has 67 and Richmond (Staten Island) a lavish 1,170 square feet.

The Community Board is trying to steer the development of the waterfront land for parks and recreation. Fay Baker reports that the Parks Dept. has told her that every park will have a dog run, and the Board Six layout for the waterfront shows one as well as tennis courts, handball, bike paths and even bocce.

Reverend Harrington of the Community Church thinks that if we mobilize our support, we might be able to get a park and playground atop the new three or four story Post Office Building which will encompass the full square block between 31st and 32nd Streets and Lexington and Third Aves. More about this at the next general Murray Hill Committee meeting, Wed., Nov. 14th, see blow.

STREET LIGHTING. Good news! The City will install the sodium lights on the crosstown streets so we are saved that expense. Not-so-good news: as you may have heard or read, these sodium lights we have been so happy about are harmful to some trees, since the heat of the lamps keeps them from hibernating during the winter... Radio Station WINS had an editorial on this problem and mentioned that there is another type of lighting being used in Washington, D.C. We are trying to ascertain the name. Have we any wagers on whether these new lights will be introduced here before the City gets to us to install the sodium ones?... Safest bet is that we won’t have the answer, nor the lighting, by our next issue! We are intending to go along with whatever lighting, since the safety of people takes precedence over the longevity of trees.

ANTI-CRIME EFFORTS. Marty Burack, our liaison with the police, reports the beginning of our participation in the Blow The Whistle on Crime campaign. At our next regular meeting (Nov. 14th, see below) he will give out the supply of special plastic whistles given him by the First National City Bank. These whistles are two-toned and the idea is for people to blow them when they see a crime being committed, and if other people in turn will blow theirs, it could alert enough to reach the nearest police and discourage the perpetrator.

NEW HI-RISE BUILDINGS. Dick Lang also reports that Community Board Six has been active in fighting builders who are attempting to build higher than zoning permits. A recent victory was a building at Second Ave. and 34th St. where penalties were levied against the builders. Another case in point is the proposed building for Lexington and 37th St. which we are contesting. This is still in litigation masterminded by Joel Adler, our legal counselor, and many Murray Hillers who made their presence felt at a city hearing over a year ago.

LONG ISLAND RR PASSENGER TERMINAL. Another facet of the activity of Community Board Six in our behalf is the opposition to the construction of a full-scale rail passenger ter-
minal for the Long Island Railroad under Third Avenue between 43 - 50th Streets. Their stand is that Grand Central Station is now under-utilized and that this construction would come at the same time as the construction for the Second Avenue subway. Largely through the efforts of the East Side Residents’ Associations ("ESRA") and Community Board Six, this matter of the passenger terminal has gone back to the study stage, so there is a possibility that the terminal will not be constructed here. Although this does not affect Murray Hill directly, it threatens Turtle Bay and would concentrate the commercial high-rise office area farther eastward than at present. Ultimately we would feel the fall-out.

OTHER COMMUNITY INTERESTS. There is a committee exploring the feasibility of an historical landmark district for Murray Hill. Another committee is exploring the real estate tax situation in our area.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS. Civic and Social

Sat. Oct. 27th: There will be a general meeting of the Block Associations of the City of New York. Interested members of neighborhood associations may attend. There will be roundtable seminars on the following topics: 1) Safety in the streets, 2) Cleanliness of the streets, 3) Block parties and other fund raisers, 4) Zoning and other legislation. Place: Carnegie International Center, 345 E 46th St., Second Floor Banquet Hall. Time: 10 a.m. seminars, 12 noon a buffet luncheon will be provided, 1 - 3 p.m. further discussion. To insure adequate lunch facilities, it is requested that advance reservations be made. Phone Audrey McVeigh, 757-2216. John McKeen, president of the Tudor City Assn. is co-chairman of this program for NYC. The title of the program is Keep New York State Clean.

Tues. Oct. 30th: The Murray Hill Committee’s Meet the Candidates Night. Place: Community Church, 40 E 35th St. at Park Ave. Time: 7:30 p.m. Jane Adler has worked to bring this about for us, but says she hasn’t a firm commitment from every mayoral candidate. Well, this will let us know who thinks our area is important! Come and find out!

Wed. Nov. 14th: The next General Meeting of the Murray Hill Committee. All neighbors and especially potential members are welcome. Place: Church of Our Saviour, 59 Park Ave. at 38th St. Time: 6:30 - 8:30. Business will be items of interest to the community. The nominating committee will present a slate of officers and trustees to be voted on for the coming year. And, as always a bit of socializing...

Sat. Nov. 17th: At the Community Church. A very gifted young Hungarian pianist, Mr. Tibor Szasz, and Bela Bartok II, son of the great composer, are going to appear in an evening of Bartok. Tickets will be only $2.50 ($1.00 for Senior Citizens or students).

Fri. Nov. 30th: The Church of Our Saviour will have its anniversary party entitled Night in an Irish Castle. Admission will be $25 per person, including refreshments. Raffle tickets for cash prizes are available at the rector of the Church on 38th St., east of Park Ave. PLACE: Lower Church, Church of Our Saviour, Park Ave. and 38th St. Time: 5:30 - 8:30.

A Murray Hill Committee Christmas Party is being planned. Date, place and nature are still being discussed, but hopes are for a dinner party about Dec. 20th or 21st. This will not be a fund-raiser, cost will be whatever the restaurant or caterer charges. If you don’t hear further as time gets closer, call Jane Adler at 532 - 2489.

EXHIBITS. Current until Nov. 4th, at the Community Church, 40 E 35th at Park, an exhibit and sale of The Art of China in the gallery. Hours: Wed. - Sat.: 12 - 4:30, Sun. 1 - 4. On Oct. 21st there was a demonstration of the ancient art of paper cutting. On Oct. 28th at 1 p.m. there will be a demonstration of Chinese Brushwork.

The Vanderbilt Y at 224 E 47th St. is our neighborhood Y and will be happy to give anyone a tour around its beautiful facilities. They have a restaurant, a large swimming pool, a modern library, men’s and women’s physical fitness programs, adult education classes in a variety of interests such as, bridge, cooking (foreign specialities, too), horseback riding, languages, painting, crafts, musical instruments, yoga. Phone 755 - 2410 for a booklet of their activities. Reasonable memberships.

Come, Enjoy, Learn, Grow at your Y. All ages, sexes, races, religions.
Cooper Union Forum. During the extensive renovation of the Cooper Union building, some of their free evening programs will be held at the Community Church, 40 E 35th St. at Park Ave. Monday evenings at 8 p.m., beginning Oct. 29th, there will be a series on the theme, *Dynamics of Public Opinion*. Thursday evenings will feature the *Forum of the Arts* and will include dance, music and poetry. For a complete brochure of the Cooper Union Forum and Adult Education courses, write Cooper Union, Cooper Square, New York, NY 10003.

BEST WISHES

... To Frank Shames who is recovering at home from a taxicab accident. Dorothy was in the accident, but is up and around. She urges that you write Mr. Lowell Dodge, Center for Auto Safety, Washington, D. C. to encourage the mandatory placing and maintenance of seat belts in cabs. In those cabs where they exist, the belts are usually inoperative.

... To Mrs. Jerry Lepson who is recovering from surgery.

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If you would like to join the Murray Hill Committee, please send a check or money order to:
Murray Hill Committee
Marie LaPolla, treas.
143 East 36th Street
New York, NY 10016

Please do not mail cash. Dues may also be paid at any meeting of the Murray Hill Committee.

......... Resident. $10.
......... Business. $15.

Name_________________________________________________________

Address_____________________________________________________

Phone (Res.)_____________________(Bus.)_____________________

If you make use of this form, please make a note of our next meeting. Unfortunately, that announcement is on the other side!