

To Break Ground For 63rd St., East River Tunnel

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, with the cooperation of the Queens Chamber of Commerce, will officially break ground for the \$69,480,000 63rd Street East River transit tunnel at ceremonies in Queensbridge Park, Long Island City, on Monday, Nov. 24th, according to an announcement by Chamber President Louis D. Laurino of Flushing.

Gov. Rockefeller, Mayor Lindsay, President Laurino, Queens Borough President Sidney Leviss and the City's four other borough presidents will speak briefly at the groundbreaking, slated to begin at 11:30 A.M., with MTA Chairman William J. Ronan presiding.

Other key elected officials and Chamber Transit Committee Chairman Harold Strauss of Rego Park will also be on hand.

Following these ceremonies, kicking off construction of the 3,140-foot-long tunnel for which the Queens Chamber and civic groups throughout the borough campaigned since 1950, MTA guests will adjourn to Riccardo's Restaurant, 21-01 24th Avenue, Astoria, for a reception-luncheon hosted by tunnel contractors, Slatery Associates, Inc. of Maspeth, Peter Kiewit Sons' of Omaha, Neb.; and Morris-Knudsen Co., Inc. of Boise, Idaho.

The new tunnel, according to MTA Chairman Ronan, is a primary element in a \$2 billion program to improve both Transit Authority and Long Island Rail Road facilities serving the metropolitan region.

"This tunnel", Laurino declared, "is the key to new rapid transit for Queens. The Chamber has been asking for it for nearly 20 years. Credit for this accomplishment must go to the late Simeon Heller who served as chairman of our Transit Committee during all those years... and also to the many civic groups in Queens who campaigned along with the Chamber for this urgently-needed transit facility.

"We are pleased, too, that this tunnel embodies an original Chamber recommendation: four tracks, to accommodate both L.I.R.R. and subway trains.

"The real hero on Nov. 24th, however, will be Dr. Ronan, without whose leadership this tunnel may never have been built."

According to Laurino, the subway-railroad tube, upon its completion in seven years, "will open the door to vast new transit services for Queens and Long Island."

Read The LEADER-OBSERVER

Join Club Staff

John Rampolla and Bruce Landry have joined the parttime staff of the South Queens Boys' Club. John is a physical education major at Long Island University and Bruce, a past member of the club.

Bishop Announces Thanksgiving Clothing Drive

The annual Thanksgiving Clothing Collection to aid millions of destitute and ill-clothed men, women and children overseas will be conducted in Brooklyn and Queens' parishes from Nov. 23 to Nov. 29, it was announced by Bishop Francis J. Mugavero of the Brooklyn Diocese.

In emphasizing the urgency of this year's drive to parishioners Bishop Mugavero said, "your contributions may mean the difference between life and death for hundreds of thousands of innocent war victims in Vietnam, Biafra, and Nigeria, the Middle East and Central America."

The annual appeal, sponsored by American Catholic Bishops, is coordinated nationally by Catholic

Relief Services, which last year distributed some 20 million pounds of clothing to the impoverished of every race, color and creed in seventy countries.

During the week of the campaign, Catholic Churches in the diocese's 230 parishes will set up special collection depots to receive all garments in wearable condition, including baby clothes, cotton cloth bolts for girl's dresses and khaki or denim by the yard for boys' clothes. Blankets, bedding and any household items made from cloth are also needed.

"Before families deposit their contributions at the depots, they should separate them, at home, into five basic categories to facilitate handling and packaging for shipment overseas," said Rev. Joseph M. Sullivan, diocesan director of the appeal and executive director of Brooklyn Catholic Charities.

These are: light clothing; heavy clothing; blankets and bedding; piece goods such as bolts and remnants; and low-heeled, paired shoes.

Not needed are such items as: ties, hats, except wollen caps; pillows; ladies' high-heeled shoes and handbags.

"Our American tradition of Thanksgiving carries with it the charitable desire to share our

abundance with our less fortunate brothers," concluded Father Sullivan. "This clothing drive affords every Catholic family the oppor-

tunity to truly give thanks to God by sharing their blessings with those who are so desperately in need."

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The Leader Looks

20 years back 40 years back

Three new large-screen television sets were presented to St. Anthony's Hospital on Woodhaven Blvd. on behalf of the people of the community. Representatives of community organizations which made donations to the fund attended the meeting. Introducing the speakers was Dr. Edward A. Walsh, rehabilitation director at the hospital, who introduced Alfred J. Ball, Leader-Observer publisher; Rev. John Mulz, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, and the Rev. John J. Lorinightus, hospital chaplain. Mr. Ball praised Mrs. Ethel Cleveland for having originated the idea of giving the television sets.

Close to 100 graduates of Public School 97, Woodhaven, attended the first meeting of its newly-formed Alumni Association. Charles Zerwick, a member of the first graduating class, January, 1917, was chosen as temporary chairman and Thomas Burke as secretary of the association.

30 years back 50 years back

Twenty organizations in the Howard Beach area have completed arrangements for a movie and stage show at the Cross Bay Theatre for their annual Christmas basket fund, which is sponsored by the United Regular Democratic Club of 5th A.D.

Two outstanding speakers have been chosen to address a father-and-son banquet to be held at the Highland Park YMCA. The principal speakers will be Edward D. Cray, secretary of the Wall Street branch of the YMCA and Dr. Fred G. Morecombe, pastor of Christ Congregational Church, Woodhaven.

Joseph Honsa, president of Equity Taxpayers Association, compared bus service on Woodhaven Blvd. to that of "the horse and buggy days." Honsa said the buses are overcrowded.

Chauncey G. Cozine will build a modern, 3,500 - seat theatre in Cypress Hills fronting on Fulton St. and extending from Crescent to Pine Sts. According to plans, the building will cost in excess of \$400,000.

Lou Smith is now manager of the Garden Theatre in Richmond Hill, succeeding George F. Mauser, who has moved on to another amusement enterprise in Jamaica. Smith has 15 years of experience in the motion picture business.

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