

I N D E X - 1956 (Jan. to June)

Barbershop Quartet Contest
Bayside Dock Reconstruction
Beach Release
Bicycle Paths
Boxing Tournament (amateur)
Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute (commencement address)
Central Park Pony Track
Concerts - City Symphony Orchestra, Naumburg
Cromwell Recreation Center
Dancing - Music - Square dancing- Brooklyn Dance Festival
Egg Rolling Contest
Fishing - A & S, Nathan's
Flushing Meadow City Bldg. - ice skating —
" " Remodelled Boathouse
Golf Courses
Gowanus Parkway
Lasker Plantings
"Learn to Swim Campaign"
Irving & Estelle Levy Foundation
Magic Entertainers - FAME
Marble Shooting Contest
Marionette Shows
National Tennis Week
22 Years Park Progress
Playgrounds - Van Voorhees #659 - #660 to #647
Rockaway Branch Opening Celebration
St. John's Recreation Center
St. Mary's " "
Shakespeare Festival
Softball Tournament

Springtime Plantings

Tavern-on-the Green

Tennis Courts opening - playing permits

Wollman - Ice skating



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

FOR RELEASE

Saturday, June 9th, 1956.

6/8/56 REGENT 4-1000

Mail Del 6/8 - 3:45 PM
Hand Del 6/8 - 3:45 PM

1-1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

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The 22nd Annual Barber Shop Quartet Contest Finals conducted by the Park Department will be held on ^{June} Monday evening June 11th 1956 at the Mall in Central Park. The competing quartets were selected in elimination contests held in the five boroughs. The finalists are competing for the City championships. First, second and third place winners will receive awards. *my City's finalist competing barbershop quartet*

The contest, open to male quartets, rings a nostalgic bell to all who recall the turn of the century, when the art of Barber Shop Singing made it's greatest contribution to the social life of the community.

The following rules will govern this contest: Each quartet may sing two numbers; two medleys or a combination of one song and one medley of the American ballad or barber shop variety. Judging will be based on musical technique, originality, expression and stage presentation. Costumes appropos to the "Gay Nineties" period must be worn by the finalists.

The competing quartets and the songs they will sing are as follows:

THE NEW YORKERS

(Queens)

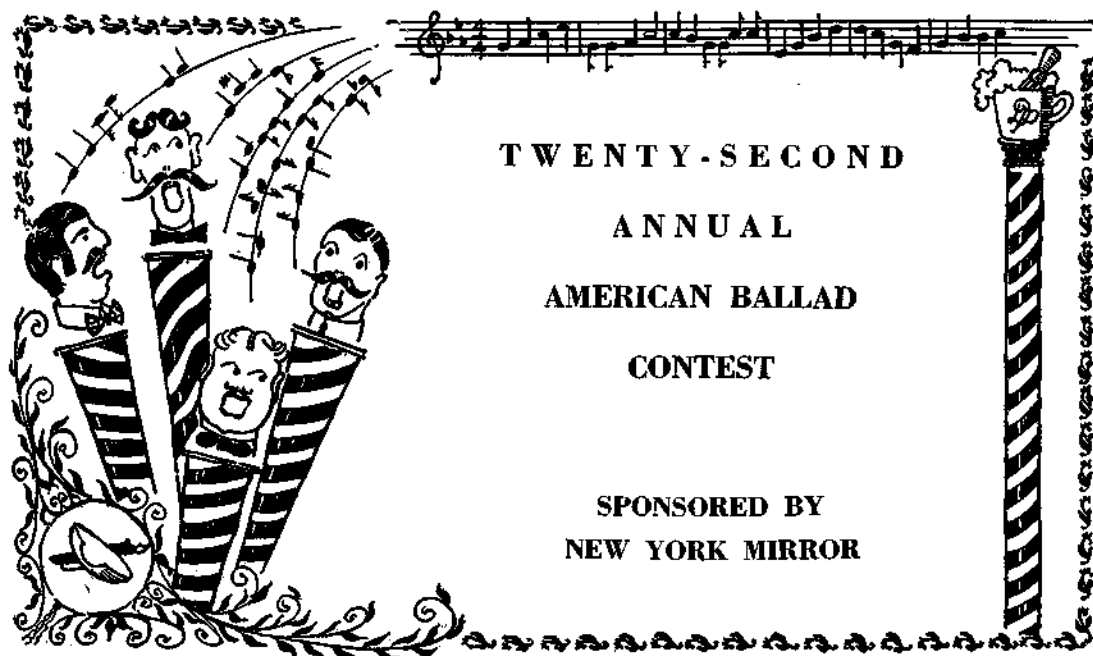
"Somebody Stole My Gal"
"Going Home"

THE SOUTH SHORE FOUR (Richmond)

"Mississippi Moon"
"Love Me And The World Is Mine"

- - - -MORE- - - -

**CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS**



**TWENTY-SECOND
ANNUAL
AMERICAN BALLAD
CONTEST**

**SPONSORED BY
NEW YORK MIRROR**

BARBER SHOP QUARTETS

ON THE MALL, CENTRAL PARK

JUNE 11, 1956

8:30 P.M.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

HON. ROBERT MOSES, Commissioner of Parks

STUART CONSTABLE, Executive Officer

JOHN A. MULCAHY, Assistant Executive Officer

GEORGE L. QUIGLEY, Director of Maintenance and Operation

CHARLES H. STARKE, Director of Recreation

JOHN J. MCCORMACK, Assistant Director of Recreation

HONORARY JUDGE

HON. ROBERT F. WAGNER

Mayor of the City of New York

JUDGES

HON. ROBERT MOSES

Commissioner of Parks

JAMES F. EVANS

CHARLES B. McCABE

JAMES G. CLARK

SIGMUND SPAETH

J. BAILEY HARVEY

LUTHER C. STEWARD

GEN. JOHN REED KILPATRICK

HINSON STILES

PAUL T. WINSLOW

PROGRAM

SELECTIONS BY FIRE DEPARTMENT BAND

Courtesy of Fire Commissioner, HON. EDWARD F. CAVANAGH, JR.

HON. DEPUTY CHIEF GEORGE F. BRIEGEL, *Conductor*

STUART CONSTABLE, *Executive Officer, Department of Parks*

Master of Ceremonies

SINGING OF THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

THE MANHATTAN CHAPTER CHORUS

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing
in America, Inc.

Chorus Chairman—ROBERT T. DECAMP, JR.

Director—JAMES MCADAM

COMPETITIVE QUARTETS

The New Yorkers
Queens

"Somebody Stole My Gal"

"Going Home"

The South Shore Four
Richmond

"Mississippi Moon"

"Love Me and the World Is Mine"

The Prospectors
Brooklyn

"I'll Be Back"

"How Can You Believe Me When I
Tell You That I Love You When
You Know I've Been A Liar All
My Life"

The Barber-Cues
Manhattan

"Cruising Along in My Old Model T"

"Swanee"

The Close Chorders
Bronx

"Mississippi Moon"

"Lonesome for You Annabelle"

GUEST STARS FROM STAGE, RADIO, AND TELEVISION

Cass Franklin and Monica Lane, Elaine Malbin, Eugene Conley

Lenny Kent, Irving Fields Trio

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES TO WINNING QUARTETS

AULD LANG SYNE

SELECTIONS BY FIRE DEPARTMENT BAND

COMMUNITY SINGING

SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK

East side, West side, all around the town
The tots sing "ring-a-rosie," "London Bridge is falling down"
Boys and girls together, me and Mamie O'Rourke
Tripped the light fantastic,
On the sidewalks of New York.

DAISY BELL

Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer true,
I'm half crazy, all for the love of you.
It won't be a stylish marriage,
I can't afford a carriage,
But you'd look sweet, upon the seat
Of a bicycle built for two.

LET ME CALL YOU SWEETHEART

Let me call you sweetheart, I'm in love with you
Let me hear you whisper that you love me too.
Keep the lovelight glowing in your eyes so true;
Let me call you sweetheart, I'm in love with you.

SILVER THREADS AMONG THE GOLD

Darling, I am growing old, silver threads among the gold
Shine upon my brow today; life is fading fast away;
But, my darling, you will be, always young and fair to me,
Yes, my darling, you will be, always young and fair to me.

SWEET ADELINE

Sweet Adeline, My Adeline
At night dear heart
For you I pine
In all my dreams
Your fair face beams
You're the idol of my dreams
Sweet Adeline.

AULD LANG SYNE

Should Auld acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind
Should Auld acquaintance be forgot
And days of Auld Lang Syne
For Auld Lang Syne my dear
For Auld Lang Syne
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
For Auld Lang Syne

Broadcast and Public Address System provided by Station WNYC

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THE PROSPECTORS

(Brooklyn)

"I'll Be Back"

"How Can You Believe Me When I

Tell You That I Love You"

When You Know I've Been A Liar

All My Life"

THE BARBER-CUES

(Manhattan)

"Cruising Along In My Old Model T"

"Swanee"

THE CLOSE CHORDERS

(Bronx)

"Mississippi Moon"

"Lonesome For You Annabelle".

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6-8-56

Ray Hesper



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

SUNDAY, MAY 27, 1956

*5/24 - 11:30 AM
Hand Delivery
Regular Mail 5/24*

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

The Department of Parks will conduct preliminary competitions for the 22nd Annual Barber Shop Quartet Contest, in each of the five boroughs beginning June 1st.

Amateur male quartets will compete for the honor of representing their borough at the finals to be held at the Mall in Central Park on Monday, June 11.

The borough competitions, all beginning at 8:30 P.M., will be held as follows:

Friday,	June 1 - Queens	- Music Grove, Forest Park, Main Drive west of Woodhaven Boulevard
Monday,	June 4 - Manhattan	- Mall, Central Park
Tuesday,	June 5 - Brooklyn	- Brooklyn War Memorial, Cadman Plaza, Fulton and Orange Streets
Wednesday,	June 6 - Richmond	- Clove Lakes Park, Clove Road and Victory Boulevard
Thursday,	June 7 - Bronx	- Mullaly Recreation Center, 164th Street and Jerome Avenue

The quartets will sing songs of the American ballad or barber shop variety, which were popular at the turn of the century.

The public is invited to attend on these evenings. There is no charge for admission.

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5-24-56



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 1956

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

Ray Glesper
5/16 - Hand Deliv 3 PM
Regular Mail 5/16

Entry blanks are available for the 22nd Annual Barber Shop Quartet Contest to be conducted by the Department of Parks at the Mall in Central Park on Monday evening, June 11. Entry blanks may be secured and filed at Department of Parks borough offices.

The contest is open to amateur male quartets. Each quartet may sing two numbers, two medleys, or a combination of one song and one medley of the American ballad or barber shop variety. Judging will be based on musical technique, originality, expression, and stage presentation.

Preliminary contests will be held in each of the five boroughs at 8:30 p.m. as follows: Queens - Friday, June 1 at Forest Park Music Grove; Manhattan - Monday, June 4 at the Mall in Central Park; Brooklyn - Tuesday, June 5 at Brooklyn War Memorial, Cadman Plaza, Fulton and Orange Streets; Richmond - Wednesday, June 6 at Clove Lakes Park; Bronx - Thursday, June 7 at Mullaly Recreation Center.

The winning quartet in each borough will be eligible to compete in the finals at the Mall on June 11. Costumes appropriate to the Gay Nineties period will be required to be worn by finalists.

Prizes will be awarded to members of winning quartets in the borough contests and to first, second, and third place winners in the city-wide event.

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5-16-56

Ray Glesper



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1956

1-1-3-30M-703834(35) 114

*5/1/56
Hand Delivered 1 P.M.
Regular Mail 5/1/56*

The Department of Parks announces that arrangements have been made to provide limited services during the reconstruction of the Bayside Dock, located at the foot of 28th Avenue in Little Neck Bay, in the Borough of Queens.

Starting Saturday, May 5, 1956, the basin will be opened on a limited basis on weekends until Saturday, May 19, 1956, at which time daily operation will be in effect.

As the progress of work in connection with this project advances, additional services will be restored and when completed, new and modern facilities will replace those which were previously provided.

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5-1-56

Ray Glasper



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

MAY 14, 1956

Hand Deliv - 4 PM
Regular Mail 5/11

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

The Department of Parks announces that the bathing and swimming season at the 17.96 miles of municipally operated beach will open May 19 and seventeen outdoor swimming pools will officially open on Saturday, May 26, 1956.

From May 26th to June 9th, the pools will be opened for weekends and holidays only, and from June 16, until the end of the season, they will be open daily with the following operating schedule: On weekdays, Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., there will be a free period for children 14 years of age and under, during which hours no adults will be admitted to the pool area. After 1:00 p.m. on weekdays, and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, there will be a 10¢ charge for children 14 years of age and under, and a 25¢ charge for older children and adults.

The aquatic program at park pools during July and August will include the annual Learn-to-Swim Campaign held Monday through Friday during the free period for boys and girls 14 years of age and under; twelve competitive swimming meets, six for boys and six for girls to be held at a major pool in each borough. Free instruction classes in swimming for patrons 15 years of age and over will be held on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, and applicants may register at the pool at which they will participate. Instruction in life-saving and first-aid will also be

included in the aquatic program.

Orchard Beach located in Pelham Bay Park, Bronx; Jacob Riis Park Beach and Rockaway Beach on the Rockaway Peninsula, Queens; Coney Island Beach and Manhattan Beach on a limited basis, in Brooklyn; South Beach, Great Kills Park and Wolfe's Pond Park on Staten Island will also open for bathers on May 19th. An additional 1.1 miles of beach adjacent to South Beach, formerly known as Midland, Graham and Woodland Beaches, is now under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks. Of this newly acquired area, approximately one half mile of the southerly portion will be available to the public this season for bathing. Bathhouse accommodation at Jacob Riis Park, Great Kills and Orchard Beach will be open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. until the end of the season.

At Great Kills Park there is a total of 4,000 lockers, and a parking space for 2,000 cars is provided. At Orchard Beach there is a total of 9,145 lockers for bathhouse patrons and parking space is provided for 7,500 cars. At Jacob Riis Park the bathhouse accommodates 11,400 people and parking space is provided for 14,000 cars. Wolfe's Pond Park has parking space for 1,600 cars.

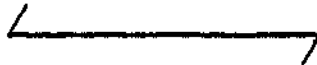
Parking at these four beaches will be 25¢ per car and, with the exception of Wolfe's Pond Park which has no bathhouse facilities, bathhouse fees are 15¢ for children's lockers and 25¢ for adult lockers. Dressing rooms are available at Jacob Riis Park for a fee of 50¢ per person. Recreational area game courts at Jacob Riis Park, Orchard Beach, and Rockaway are available to the public free of charge.

At Jacob Riis there is also an eighteen hole pitch putt golf course at which a charge of 75¢ is made for each round of golf,

which includes clubs. A 50¢ deposit is required on each ball. The pitch putt golf course will operate on a full time basis starting May 19th.

Beach Chairs and umbrellas may be rented at a nominal charge at Orchard Beach, Jacob Riis, Rockaway, Coney Island and Great Kills. Beach shops are provided where bathing accessories can be purchased and food concessions are provided at all beaches with the exception of Manhattan Beach.

Seven parking fields are available at the Rockaways (Beach 32nd Street, Beach 53rd Street, Beach 59th Street, Beach 62nd Street, Beach 64th Street, Beach 68th Street and Beach 69th Street) for the convenience of the many visitors who will visit the beaches during the coming summer. These parking fields will accommodate 1,940 cars and will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight at a fee of 25¢ per car.





DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

SUNDAY, MAY 27, 1956

L-1-3034-703834(55) 114

Ray Glicker
5/24 - 11:30 AM
Hand Delivery
Regular Mail 5/24

The Department of Parks announces that more than 54 miles of bicycle paths are available in the parks of New York City. The location of these bicycle paths and other park facilities are included in "Recreational Facilities for New Yorkers", a booklet issued by the Department of Parks. A copy may be secured by calling in person at any Park Department borough office, or by sending a 4"x9" stamped self-addressed envelope with each request to Brochure, Department of Parks, 64th Street & Fifth Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.

Bicycle paths are provided in all boroughs for the enjoyment of participants of this activity, however, the use of bicycles is prohibited in other park areas under Article IV, Section 45 of "Rules and Regulations of the Department of Parks, which provides in part as follows:

"...No person shall ride a bicycle, velocipede or scooter in any park, except in places designated for such riding; but persons may push such machines in single file to and from such places, except on beaches and boardwalks".

Because of the heavy usage of park facilities during this season of the year, the Park Department earnestly requests the cooperation of bicyclists in refraining from using pedestrian paths and other areas not designated for bicycling, because of the potential hazard to mothers, children and elderly persons.

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5-29-56



Ray Glesper

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

X-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1956

*5/22 - 1 P.M. -
Hand Delivery
Regular Mail 5/22*

The city-wide championships of the Department of Parks Annual Amateur Boxing Tournament sponsored by Maurice Rosenfeld, prominent civic leader and philanthropist, will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 25th at the 69th Regiment Armory, 26th Street and Lexington Avenue, Manhattan.

Twenty-six boys ranging in age from 14 to 19 years will compete for championships in four junior, five intermediate, and four senior division classes. The contestants, best of more than 625 boys who participated in boxing classes at the 10 Department of Parks boxing centers, have won their borough championship and semi-final matches earlier this month. They will be matched as follows, on Friday:

JUNIOR DIVISION

112 Pound Class		
Raul Rios	Opponent	Dennis Williams
(Redhook Play Center)		(West 134th Street Gym)
119 Pound Class		
Charles Zarsky	"	Carlos Rios
(East 54th Street Gym)		(Redhook Play Center)
125 Pound Class		
Mario Rivera	"	Gene Barker
(West 28th Street Gym)		(Redhook Play Center)
132 Pound Class		
Joe Cavella	"	Arthur Ptesiuk
(Astoria Play Center)		(East 54th Street Gym)

- more -

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

119 Pound Class		
Mike McCallion	Opponent	Tony Carabella
(Astoria Play Center)		(St. Mary's Rec. Center)
125 Pound Class		
Frank Sanchez	"	Clifford White
(McCarren Play Center)		(West 134th Street Gym)
132 Pound Class		
Lucius Allen	"	John Roberts
(West 134th Street Gym)		(Redhook Play Center)
139 Pound Class		
Gregory Casale	"	Louis Rodriquez
(Redhook Play Center)		(Astoria Play Center)
147 Pound Class		
John Dobrucky	"	Richard Prescott
(Astoria Play Center)		(St. Mary's Rec. Center)

SENIOR DIVISION

125 Pound Class		
Patrick Harris	Opponent	Angelo Petito
(East 54th Street Gym)		(Astoria Play Center)
135 Pound Class		
Martin Kelly	"	Franklin Gray
(Redhook Play Center)		(West 134th Street Gym)
147 Pound Class		
David Scott	"	Louis Garcia
(St. Mary's Recreation Center)		(Rutgers Gym)
156 Pound Class		
Vincent Tepedino	"	Teddy Panebianco
(McCarren Play Center)		(Astoria Play Center)

In addition to prizes awarded in borough competition, Mr. Rosenfeld has donated Benrus watches to be presented to the champion and runner-up of each match on Friday.

The public is cordially invited to attend these bouts. Tickets may be secured without charge from borough offices of the Department of Parks.

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Barney Fellet

Del 6/13/57 Hand Del. - 1 PM
mail Del. - 3 PM

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
BY 158 - Personal List sent to
ROBERT MOSES 127 - Editors List
AT 15 - Polytechnic Inst. Trustees
BROOKLYN POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
WEDNESDAY JUNE 13, 1956 Prominent Bklyn People - 2MM LIST
THE CONTOURS OF SCIENCE Eng. Soc + Publications - 11
L Do College List - 39
Board of Ex + Counselmen:

I thank you for the privilege of joining the distinguished alumni
of this famous nursery of the engineering profession. Your hood will at
least help me to dress up and masquerade on an occasion when, if I may
use an atrocious pun, it is asked only that I act on the level.

This I shall try to do, speaking primarily to recent graduates,
as a layman who has spent most of his working life with engineers and who
has reason to believe that engineering is more than an exact science whose
honest, undeviating, tireless application will lift you to the top echelons.

If there were nothing to engineering but logarithms, surveying
and drafting, formulas, textbooks, field and office experience, standard
practice, line and grade, cut and fill, stresses and strains, copying of
precedents, pure and applied scientific research and unadorned, styleless
writing, you would all be on your way to fame and fortune, and those who
made the best grades in school would continue to shine and win the top prizes
in later life.

Unfortunately - or perhaps fortunately for posterity - this is not
the case. The elements which make for accomplishment in your profession
and for advancement and success, material or otherwise, are to be found
largely in qualities and talents which cannot be taught in the best of schools,

and in factors which develop later and often in the most unexpected and astonishing ways.

We must of course accept at the start the Biblical warning that the race is not always to the swift, the battle to the strong, bread to the wise and favour to men of skill, because time and chance happen to them all. God in His infinite wisdom handicaps some of the choicest spirits and cuts off some of the noblest and best in their prime. Every graduating class must be prepared for such mystifying and tragic fatalities, which can neither be anticipated nor questioned. Most of you, however, will be the architects of your own future, and you will have yourselves to blame if you do not face the facts and prepare for them.

Those who expect to advance must know that skill in the use of the tools of your trade alone will not get you far. You must have the ability to face unexpected problems, to command men, to use commonsense rather than formulas and equations, to study politics and people, economics and finance, sales and psychology, to work with and for people of totally different training and habits of mind, to become administrators who happen to reach the goal by one of a number of accepted roads.

Let me be a little more specific, because practical illustrations teach more than thousands of words. First, let me describe an incident to show that in a highly developed, mathematical branch of engineering, common-sense may determine whether a great work is a success or a failure. We built a suspension toll bridge not long ago, one of the most beautiful of our time. Perhaps it was a little too beautiful, too spidery. Maybe the engineers

went too far with the architect of this gossamer structure. Let me make it quite clear that there was no cheating as to standards, no effort to save at the expense of safety, no compromise with recognized standards. Nevertheless the bridge developed a little too much vertical motion, and some women drivers one morning became frightened, jumped from their cars and ran. The word went out that this was another "Gallopig Gertie". We sent for the top engineer, a man of uncompromising honesty, who kept repeating, "the bridge is safe". So it was, but what good would that have been if the public were frightened by sensational stories and refused to use it? So we put weight on it by means of heavy through trusses, which certainly made it less beautiful, and the excess motion stopped. The moral is obvious.

Let me offer another illustration. In recently selecting a man for a top engineering post of a managerial character, we had a list of a dozen promising aspirants. The man selected was not the most brilliant, not the most learned, not the most skilled, and engineering in the strict sense played no part in the selection. He looked like the best executive and we figured we could give him plenty of first-rate technicians and consultants. It is a curious fact that in no case was the school from which these men graduated or their record in college even mentioned. Nor did anyone refer to family or politics or fraternities. It got down to character, courage, leadership, to some extent personality and manners - the imponderables which govern all promotions. We do not have in this country the exaggerated respect, amounting almost to worship, of the learned professions which

prevails abroad, and there is an absence here of the guild spirit among educated men. I have known of instances, and they are now almost standard in some corporations, where a man's wife is much more important than his business connections, an observation opening a fascinating vista which unfortunately cannot be fully explored on this occasion.

Many a fine designer will not make a squad boss. Many a superintendent will not shine as a general manager. Many a good deputy has been spoiled to make a poor commissioner. Many a topnotch consultant is a poor financier, a tongue-tied witness, a feeble expounder of policies, a dead loss in an emergency. There is room in a great profession for all sorts of people. A man is not a failure because he falls short of being what in vaudeville used to be touted as a "Protean artist". One of the most over-worked and yet valid clichés is that experts should be on tap, not on top. But even the expert must rise above his books and his laboratory to be really valuable.

Many great inventions have been stumbled on by searchers looking for something else. Intuitions as much as brains have lighted the path to the nuclear world. The prospector is still as potent as the geologist in the discovery of oil and minerals. It was luck, not logic, that gave the treasure to the Count of Monte Cristo. The successful engineer must be more than a faithful bookkeeper. In his devotion to absolute exactness and certainty he should recall that algebra was the gift of Eastern mystics addicted to symbols, that quaternions are known as the poetry of mathematics and that

the basic formula governing time and space rests on relativity.

Let me turn to another field - the design and building of great modern thoroughfares. Their location is supposed to be pure mathematics. You get your origin and destination surveys, your graphs on cars, trucks and buses, your population figures, your by-pass and through route possibilities, add them all up in an IBM machine and out of the slot comes the answer. If you have two points fixed at either end, the shortest distance between them will pretty nearly give you the same result without the mechanical brain furnished by my very good friend Tom Watson who, by the way, continues to tell you to think. That's the traditional, classical method. Actually most of us don't do it that way, or we use these recognized conventional devices ex post facto to support the conclusion we have reached by the commonsense, the judgment, the hunches which guide experienced men.

The average motorist out for a pleasant drive, pursuing business or headed for home, regards the origin and destination card thrust at him when he stops at a toll booth or traffic light as an impertinence, an intrusion and a field day for anonymous coarse jokes and slapstick humor. If he writes anything at all he is likely to say that he has just left his Aunt Jemima sobbing in Skunk's Misery and is on his way to Uncle Jake at the Poor Farm to pick a peck of pickled peppers. Mere numbers of conscientious replies mean nothing in such a scientific lottery, and weighted samplings even less.

A straight line is very often not the shortest distance between two points. In between are the great imponderables, tall buildings and other

structures, people to be moved, topography, utilities, sentiment, stubborn opposition, relative costs, politics, personalities and whatnot. A marginal waterfront road, swinging in a great arc, may be not only more beautiful and scenic, but also more economical and therefore shorter than the straight line, because among other advantages there will be fewer crossings at grade. We no longer locate great arteries to please, conciliate, avoid or profit powerful people, but we don't ignore the obstacles or fail to consider practical alternatives if we expect approval and financing. I hate compromises, but complete inflexibility is a bar to accomplishment.

I am often told that some improvement lacks imagination, scope, insight into future demands, that is, it is too small, too timid, inadequate. Such criticisms are sometimes in a sense justified, but usually they blithely ignore the problem which faces the builder. It is all very well to say that a thirty dollar pair of imported English custom made boots will last longer than the ten dollar local product and are therefore more economical. Suppose you don't have thirty dollars. Do you go unshod? Suppose you can't get the three hundred foot right-of-way dictated by prudence and foresight. Maybe it represents too much corned beef and cabbage for the Governor, the Mayor, the Board of Estimate, the legislative body or the Budget Director. Science says 300 feet, but you take 200, or as much more as you can get. You risk the uncomplimentary remarks of posterity to get going.

Does the keen, unclouded look far ahead dictate a thousand-car garage? Why do you settle for 800? Simply because car stalls cost about

\$3500 apiece and if you can't raise \$3,500,000 you take less, perhaps with curses or ill grace, knowing that later you will be labelled as a chump by smart alecks who don't know what you were up against. Do you stop working because Ivory Tower planners say your little objectives are a waste of effort and money, since the entire town will be rebuilt or moved in a short time? They can prove it on paper by the simple arithmetic of congestion and the trend to the suburbs. You go right ahead, if you have any sense, with your limited objectives, because you know that the immediate future is not to be plotted by formulas skillfully contrived by radical thinkers. There is nothing wrong with taking half a loaf if you keep working twice as hard for the other half.

And in this context consider how many uncertainties and alternatives beset the engineer. There is the safety factor, for instance, which can be insufficient, moderate or extravagant. How many inches of concrete are really needed on an air strip? In building there is more than form following function. What about architecture, the facade, decoration, landscaping, esthetics, the so-called amenities? Where do they come in? How much of a welcome do they get from the engineer as compared to stresses and strains, utility, economy and a product which in a way will serve without adornment? Many an engineer asks what the architect and artist are needed for anyway in the modern age. Why make a partner of a dead craftsman or potential rival?

Engineering is as wide as the world and as thin as its surface.

Depth is something which must be acquired, can't be taught. Curiosity, observation and the habit of study and reflection are the only means to reach it. The engineer abroad and in the field is at best the modern conquistador, blazing and smoothing the way for others. At worst he is a lump, a stranger everywhere, creating aversion, learning only enough for the give and take of business. I have known wives of engineers who, at the end of ten or twenty years in a foreign country, have not bothered to learn more of the native language than enough for shopping, who don't cultivate the neighbors and speak pidgin English to underpaid help. There are others who are our best ambassadors of goodwill. These leave a greater impression than our entire diplomatic corps which almost never gets down to the people. If you and your family have not made up your minds to like the foreign country and its people, assuming your assignment is abroad, don't go.

When all is said and done, you who graduate here today are equipped with little more than the tools of your trade, the habit of study, the spirit of inquiry, the lessons of the past. You will need a lot more to succeed, but don't let this dismay or dishearten you. Some will tell you tearfully that your best years are now over - the happy, golden, carefree boyhood days. There is nothing wrong with the sentimentality of the alumnus returning to his reunion. The college days may not in truth have been quite as gilded as they seem when the quartets are singing the old songs to Alma Mater. The best days, of course, are before you. The best, as Browning said, is yet to be, the last for which the first was made. You have acquired a foundation

to build on. The rest is up to you.

One more bit of final gratuitous advice. If you have not taken advantage of English courses in college, and have not as yet learned to read and write simple Anglo Saxon, it is not too late to learn afterward. Engineers are notoriously bad writers, and it is precisely because so much of their professional life is concerned with subjects other than engineering that I urge them to rise above the jargon of the trade to what Stevenson - the Samoan, not the Egghead - called a consideration of the art of life. Medicine has produced some of our best writers, men like Osler, Cushing and Zinsser. Why not engineering?

Mr. President and trustees, I thank you again for the honor you have done me and for the privilege of meeting face to face the bachelors and masters of engineering whose task it is to rebuild the world.

Ray Glesper



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

MARCH 29, 1956

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

CENTRAL PARK PONY TRACK

*3/27-56 Hand Delivery
11:15 AM
Plan # ML-10-1213
Regular Mail 3/27/56*

The Department of Parks announces that a contract has been awarded in connection with the rehabilitation and improvement of the Pony Track in Central Park and work will commence in the near future.

Located at 63rd Street, just off Fifth Avenue, adjacent to and south of the Central Park Zoo, the facility has long been in urgent need of rehabilitation. However, limited funds in the Department's annual budget delayed the scheduling of this work.

A generous gift from the Altman Foundation, through John S. Burke, President, has made this improvement possible. The Altman Foundation was founded by the widely known New York merchant and philanthropist Benjamin Altman.

Thousands of children have enjoyed the use of this popular facility each year; now the youthful Hopalong Cassidys are assured of a modern corral and good trail riding.

The plans for the improvement include landscaping, realignment of the track, replacing the deteriorated wooden curbing with concrete, reconstruction of the pony shelter, new benches and other incidental work.

A feature of the reconstructed Pony Track will be a new drinking fountain for children, combined with a watering trough for ponies. The following inscription will be cut in the granite of which the

- 2 -

fountain will be built:

"THIS PONY TRACK IS THE GIFT
OF THE ALTMAN FOUNDATION IN
MEMORY OF BENJAMIN ALTMAN,
1956"

.....

3-27-56



D E P A R T M E N T O F P A R K S
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1956

1-1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

The Department of Parks announces that the second of a series of six concerts by the City Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Franz Bibo, will be held on Saturday June 30th, 1956 at the Mall in Central Park at 8:30 P.M.

This second concert is made possible through the cooperation of Faberge' Perfumes and will feature a performance of "Die Fledermaus" by Johann Strauss.

Marjorie McClung, Soprano, will be featured in the title role of Rosalinda, and is supported by an outstanding cast of concert performers.

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6-28-56



B. Felix

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-915094 (54) 114

FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1956

6/19/56 - Hand Delivery
12 Noon

Regular Mail 6/19/56

The Department of Parks announces that beginning Saturday, June 23, 1956 the City Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Franz Bibo will resume its regular series of six summer concerts on Saturdays at the Mall in Central Park.

The first concert is made possible through the cooperation of General Motors Corporation and will feature a performance of Franz Lehar's Operetta "The Merry Widow" in the English version by Adrian Ross.

Rosemary Rotolo, Southern Regional Winner of the Metropolitan Auditions of the Air will head the cast of outstanding young singers who will contribute their services. Eugene Green, Barbara Meister, Donald Bryan, Hibbard James and Hans Herbert are the other featured singers in the cast.

All Concerts will start at 8:30 P.M. on Saturdays.

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ELKAN NAUMBURG

Decoration Day Concert

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 30th, 1956

EIGHT THIRTY O'CLOCK

CENTRAL PARK - : - ON THE MALL

THE NAUMBURG ORCHESTRA, *Dr. Boyd Neel, Conductor*

THE MALL — CENTRAL PARK

1905-1956

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 30th, 1956, at 8:30 o'clock

DECORATION DAY CONCERT

THE NAUMBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

DR. BOYD NEEL, *Conductor*

MELINÉ KULHANJIAN, *Soprano Soloist*



Program

"THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER"

1. Overture "Raymond" *Thomas*
2. Symphony No. 3 — "Scotch" *Mendelssohn*
Scherzo and Finale
3. Aria — "Ballatella" — Pagliacci..... *Leoncavallo*
Meliné Kulhanjian
4. Ballet Music from Faust..... *Gounod*

I N T E R M I S S I O N

5. Intermezzi from the "Jewels of the Madonna"..... *Wolf-Ferrari*
6. Suite No. 3 — Theme and Variations *Tchaikovsky*
7. Aria — "Der Hölle Rache" The Magic Flute..... *Mozart*
Meliné Kulhanjian
8. Pomp and Circumstance *Elgar*

"AMERICA"

THIS CONCERT is contributed by MR. WALTER W. NAUMBURG and MR. GEORGE W. NAUMBURG, sons of MR. ELKAN NAUMBURG, who donated the bandstand on the Mall and lived to see it put to the purpose he had in mind of erecting a veritable Temple of Music.

MR. ELKAN NAUMBURG had been impressed with the need of an adequate bandstand in Central Park by reason of his custom, long years of practice, of contributing Orchestral Concerts of high quality, in the cause of good music for the people, on three holidays, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day. His sons, continuing this custom in his memory, have added a fourth concert to the NAUMBURG series by giving a similar concert on July 31st, the anniversary of their father's death.

THE NAUMBURG concerts for the season of 1956 are therefore set down for May 30th at 8:30 P.M., July 4th, at 8:30 P.M., July 31st, at 8:30 P.M., and Labor Day at 8:30 P.M. These dates are remembered by lovers of good music.

CITY OF NEW YORK

HON. ROBERT F. WAGNER, *Mayor*

Ray Messer



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

SUNDAY, MAY 27, 1956

X-1-30M-703834(55) 114

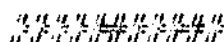
*5/21-13⁵ Hand Deliv
Regular Mail 5/21*

The Naumburg Symphony Orchestra will give the first concert of the season at the Mall on Wednesday, May 30 at 8:30 P.M. Dr. Boyd Neal will conduct and Meline Kulhanjian, soprano, will be guest soloist.

The Naumburg concerts are given four times each season: on three holiday evenings - Decoration Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day, and on July 31st when a special concert is given in memory of Mr. Elkan Naumburg, who donated the bandstand on the Mall to the City of New York. His sons, Messrs. Walter W. Naumburg and George W. Naumburg have continued his custom of contributing concerts of high quality for lovers of good music.

The program for the Decoration Day Concert will be:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Overture "Raymond" | Thomas |
| 2. Symphony No. 3 - "Scotch"
Scherzo and Finale | Mendelssohn |
| 3. Aria - "Ballatella" - Pagliacci
Meline Kulhanjian | Leoncavallo |
| 4. Ballet Music from Faust | Gounod |
| 5. Intermezzi from the "Jewels of the Madonna" | Wolf-Ferrari |
| 6. Suite No.3 - Theme and Variations | Tchaikovsky |
| 7. Aria - "Der Hölle Rache" The Magic Flute
Meline Kulhanjian | Mozart |
| 8. Pomp and Circumstance | Elgar |



5-21-56



Ray Glesper

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1956

5/16 - Hand Deliv 3 PM
Regular Mail 5/16

The operation of Cromwell Recreation Center, located on Pier 6, Murray Hulbert Avenue and Hannah Street, Richmond, has been extended through the spring and summer seasons. This is the first time the center will remain open for recreational activities since the facility was opened to the public in 1938 under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks.

Facilities available for use at the center include eight basketball courts on the main floor and rooms for quiet games and ping pong.

Hours of operation will be from 3 P.M. to 11 P.M. on weekdays and from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. on Saturdays and Sundays. Children under 14 years of age are not permitted to use the center after 6 P.M.

The public is invited to use the available facilities as outlined above.

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5-16-56



B. Felix

D E P A R T M E N T O F P A R K S
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 1956

1-1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

*6/19/56 - Hand Delivery
12 NOON
Regular Mail 6/19/56*

MUSIC AND DANCING IN NEW YORK CITY PARKS THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 24

8:30 P.M.

- Mall, Central Park - Guggenheim Memorial Concert - Goldman Band - Request Program

Monday, June 25

8:30 P.M.

- Mall, Central Park - Guggenheim Memorial Concert - Goldman Band - School Bands Program

8:30 P.M.

- Colonial Park, 146th Street and Bradhurst Avenue, Manhattan - *Name Band Dance - Hal McIntyre and his orchestra

Tuesday, June 26

8:30 P.M.

- Victory Field, Woodhaven Boulevard and Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, Queens - *Name Band Dance - Hal McIntyre and his orchestra

8:30 P.M.

- Wollman Memorial, Central Park - Square Dance - Ed Durlacher and his Top Hands

Wednesday, June 27

8:30 P.M.

- Mall, Central Park - Guggenheim Memorial Concert - Goldman Band - Request Program

8:30 P.M.

- Poe Park, 192nd Street and Grand Concourse, Bronx - *Name Band Dance - Hal McIntyre and his orchestra

Thursday, June 28

8:30 P.M.

- Prospect Park Music Grove, Lincoln Road Entrance - Guggenheim Memorial Concert - Goldman Band - Original Band Music

(continued)

Thursday, June 28

8:30 P.M.

- Wollman Memorial, Central Park -
*Name Band Dance - Larry Sonn
and his orchestra

Friday, June 29

8:30 P.M.

- Mall, Central Park - Guggenheim
Memorial Concert - Goldman Band -
Original Band Music

8:3- P.M.

- Prospect Park Dance Area, Prospect
Park West and 11th Street, Brooklyn -
*Name Band Dance - Jerry Mercer
and his orchestra

8:30 P.M.

- Riverside Park at 104th Street -
Square Dance - Ed Durlacher and his
Top Hands

Saturday, June 30

8:30 P.M.

- Prospect Park Music Grove,
Lincoln Road Entrance - Guggenheim
Memorial Concert - Goldman Band -
Morton Gould Program

8:30 P.M.

- Mall, Central Park - Concert -
City Amateur Symphony

* Name Band Dances are sponsored by The Consolidated Edison
Company.

6-19-56

B. Filip



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

6/14 '56 REGENT 4-1000
Hand Del. 1 P.M.
Mail Del. 1 P.M.

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY, JUNE 18, 1956.

1-1-1-30M-915094 (54) 114

Outdoor dancing to the music of popular dance orchestras will begin at 8:30 P.M. on Thursday, June 21 at Wollman Memorial in Central Park.

This is the 15th Annual series of Name Band Dances contributed by The Consolidated Edison Company and conducted by the Department of Parks in major parks. The series will terminate on Thursday, September 6th.

Dances will be held as follows:

Manhattan

Wollman Memorial, Central Park - 64th Street and Fifth Avenue entrance. Thursdays: June 21 to September 6, exclusive of August 30.
Mall, Central Park - 72nd Street and Center Drive, Thursday: August 30.

Colonial Park - 146th Street and Bradhurst Avenue, Mondays: June 25, July 2, 16, August 20, August 27.

Brooklyn

Prospect Park Dance Area - 11th Street and Prospect Park West, Fridays: June 22 to August 31.

Bronx

Poe Park - 192nd Street and Grand Concourse, Wednesdays: June 27 to September 4.

Queens

Victory Field - Woodhaven Blvd. and Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, Tuesdays: June 26, July 10, July 24, August 7, August 21, September 4.
Playground - 34th Avenue and 77th Street, Jackson Heights, Queens, Tuesdays: July 3, July 17, July 31, August 14, August 28.

Richmond

Cromwell Recreation Center - Murray Hulbert Avenue and Hannah St., Tompkinsville, Wednesdays: July 11, July 25, August 8, August 22.

All dances begin at 8:30 P.M.

Admission is free.

6-14-56.



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

FOR RELEASE

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 1956

13 Felix
6/13/56 REGENT 4-1000
Hand Del 3:00 PM
Mail Del 3:45 PM

1-1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

MUSIC AND DANCING IN NEW YORK CITY PARKS THIS WEEK:

Tuesday, June 19

- 8:30 P.M. - Wollman Memorial, Central Park, 64th Street and Fifth Avenue - Square Dance - Ed Durlacher and Top Hands

Wednesday, June 20

- 8:30 P.M. - Mall, Central Park - Guggenheim Memorial Concert - Goldman Band - Opening Concert

Thursday, June 21

- 8:30 P.M. - Prospect Park Music Grove, Lincoln Road Entrance - Guggenheim Memorial Concert - Goldman Band

- 8:30 P.M. - Wollman Memorial, Central Park
*Name Band Dance- Tony Pastor and his orchestra.

Friday, June 22

- 8:30 P.M. - Mall, Central Park - Guggenheim Memorial Concert - Goldman Band - Miscellaneous program

- 8:30 P.M. - Prospect Park Dance Area, Prospect Park West and 11th Street, Brooklyn
*Name Band Dance- Larry Sonn and his orchestra.

- 8:30 P.M. - Riverside Park at 104th Street - Square Dance - Ed Durlacher and Top Hands.

Saturday, June 23

- 8:30 P.M. - Mall, Central Park - Concert - City Amateur Syphony

- 8:30 P.M. - Prospect Park Music Grove, Lincoln Road Entrance - Guggenheim Memorial Concert - Goldman Band - Miscellaneous Program

* Name Band Dances are sponsored by the Consolidated Edison Company.



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

FOR RELEASE

6/13/56 REGENT 4-1000
Hank Del 3 PM
mail Del 3:45 PM

1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 1956

A summer series of twenty outdoor Square Dances will begin on Tuesday evening, June 19. Dances will be held at the Wollman Memorial, 64th Street and Fifth Avenue, in Central Park on Tuesday evenings, June 19 to August 21 inclusive; and at Riverside Park and 104th Street on Friday evenings, June 22 to August 24 inclusive. All dances begin at 8:30 P.M.

These dances are contributed anonymously for the enjoyment of New Yorkers and visitors to the City.

Ed Durlacher will be the caller and the music will be supplied by his Top Hands.

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6 - 12 - 56



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

FOR RELEASE

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1956

B. Felix
6/12/56 REGENT 4-1000
Hant Del 3:00 P.m.
Mail Del 3:45 P.m.

1-1-1-30M-915094 (54) 114

BROOKLYN PARKS HOLD 41st ANNUAL DANCE FESTIVAL

The Department of Parks announces that four hundred fifty dancing children from playgrounds in the Borough of Brooklyn will take part in the 41st Annual Dance Festival on Saturday, June 16th at 2:30 P.M. on the Long Meadow in Prospect Park.

The programs will consist of dances which the children have learned in neighborhood playgrounds under the direction of the Department of Parks' staff of trained Recreation Leaders, as part of a year-round supervised recreation program.

The program promises to be varied and colorful, with dances ranging from modern rythm to traditional folk numbers. The program consists of eight dances presented by children of the following areas:

Sailorettes	Bill Brown Memorial Playground
La Soyotte	Brownsville Recreation Center
Cowgirl Capers	Borough Hall Section
Bugs and Butterflies	Col. Marcus Playground
Swiss Scottische	Flatbush- Marine Park Section
Mambo Calisthenics	Bushwick-Stuyvesant Section
Dungaree Dolls	Greenpoint-Williamsburg Section
Scotch Blend	Bay Ridge Section

- - - MORE - - -

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The children will assemble at Grand Army Plaza entrance to Prospect Park at 1:30 P.M. and will form a procession to the dance area at Long Meadow. The public is invited to attend. There is no admission fee.

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6 - 13 - 56



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

THUR. 4/1
FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1956

*3/29 - Hand Deliv 1 P.M.
To - City Editors Picture
Editors-TV-Movie
News Agencies -*

Hundreds of youngsters 5 through 13 years of age, are expected to participate in the 10th Annual Egg Rolling Contest to be conducted by the Department of Parks under the sponsorship of Arnold Constable, at the Great Lawn, 80th to 84th Streets, in Central Park on Saturday, ~~March 31~~ *4/1* at 2 P.M.

The boys and girls will use wooden spoons to roll gaily colored wooden eggs along courses of various lengths. The youngest age group will compete in 20 yard races, the intermediates in 30 yard contests, and the oldest group will roll a 40 yard course. Eggs and spoons will be provided by Arnold Constable.

Those placing first, second, and third in each final event will be awarded prizes donated by Arnold Constable. The youngest girl winners will receive a doll carriage, large doll, or roller skates in that order and the boys a bicycle, scooter, or roller skates. Winners in the other age group competitions will be presented merchandise certificates for \$25, \$20, and \$15 respectively.

Children who have not yet filed their entries, may do so at the Great Lawn at 1 P.M. on the day of the contest.

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3-29-56



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 1956

Ray M. Glesper
3/23 -
Hand Deliv. - 12 Noon
Regular Mail 3/23

Eggs as gaily colored as crocus will herald spring on Saturday, March 31, at 2 P.M. when the 10th Annual Egg Rolling Contest will be conducted by the Department of Parks on the Great Lawn, between 80th and 84th Streets, in Central Park.

The contest, for boys and girls from 5 through 13 years of age, is sponsored by Arnold Constable of Fifth Avenue. For the many children who have been competing annually since the first contest was held in 1947, this will be the last opportunity to participate as they will be over the age limit when the contest is held next year.

Youngsters may file their entries at Department of Parks playgrounds and borough headquarters and at the contest booth in the Boys and Girls Department on the second floor of Arnold Constable, 40th Street and Fifth Avenue, Manhattan. There is no fee for filing. Entries close March 30.

Competition is not difficult - the children merely propel wooden eggs, using a spoon as a mallet, down a course suited to their age group. The wooden eggs and spoons are provided by Arnold Constable. The events have been arranged as follows:

Group I	-	Boys	5-6-7	years of age	-	20 yard course
Group I	-	Girls	5-6-7	years of age	-	20 yard course
Group II	-	Boys	8-9-10	years of age	-	30 yard course
Group II	-	Girls	8-9-10	years of age	-	30 yard course

(continued)

Group III - Boys 11-12-13 years of age - 40 yard course

Group III - Girls 11-12-13 years of age - 40 yard course

Prizes donated by Arnold Constable will be awarded to the winners in each group. For boys competing in Group I, there will be a bicycle for 1st place, a scooter for 2nd, and roller skates for 3rd. Girls in Group I will receive a doll carriage for 1st place, a large doll for 2nd, and roller skates for third. In Groups II and III, boy and girl winners will be awarded merchandise certificates for \$25, \$20 and \$15 for first, second and third places respectively.

* * * * *

3-23-56

Ray Glesper

5/18/56- Hand Delivery
3 PM
Regular Mail 5/18

MEMO TO PHOTO ASSIGNMENT DESKS

More than 3,000 contestants, from youngsters under four years to old-timers in their eighties, are expected to take part in the Sixth Annual Coney Island Fishing Contest, the largest pier-fishing event in the East, which begins tomorrow. (Monday, May 21)

The contest provides wonderfully colorful picture opportunities -- in the past five years we've had whole families out fishing together, fishermen with the most ingenious home-made rigs, dowager-type ladies with black hats gingerly holding drop-lines over the side of the pier, an authentic Indian princess (1951-- in mufti) and lots of kids, kids, kids!

We cordially invite you to cover this gala event. Park Department personnel supervising the contest on the Pier and representatives of the sponsor (Nathan's Famous in Coney Island) will be happy to aid your cameramen in every way.

PLACE: Steeplechase Pier, Coney Island Boardwalk at W.15 Street

DATES: Monday, May 21 through Sunday, May 27

Opening: Monday, May 21 at 3 p.m. Juniors (age to 16)
compete Monday through Friday, 3 to 8 p.m.;
Seniors same days, until 10 p.m.

Final Days: Juniors Only -- Saturday, May 26 at 8 a.m.
to 3 p.m.
Seniors Only -- Sunday, May 27 at 8 a.m.
to 3 p.m.

(Prizes awarded on final days at 3 p.m.)



D E P A R T M E N T O F P A R K S
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY, MAY 21, 1956

X-1-30M-709234(55) 114

SIXTH ANNUAL CONEY ISLAND FISHING CONTEST
OPENS TODAY, MORE THAN 3,000 CONTESTANTS
EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE.

Prizes valued at \$2,000 offered in week-long event
conducted by Park Department and Sponsored by
Nathan's Famous; contest open to all.

The Sixth Annual Coney Island Fishing Contest, the largest regular pier-fishing competition in the East, which is conducted by the Department of Parks and sponsored by Nathan's Famous, noted Coney Island restaurant, opens today at 3 p.m.

More than 3,000 contestants of both sexes and all ages are expected to participate in the week-long event, which is held at Steeplechase Pier, off the Coney Island boardwalk. Prizes in 33 separate categories, valued at \$2,000 and donated by Nathan's, will be awarded to the winners in the mammoth fishing derby. Prizes consist of the latest models of salt-water fishing equipment, plus a fishing cap for every contestant. There is no fee for entering the contest.

Competition will be held from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. today and every day until Friday, May 25, for junior contestants to age 16, and from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. for seniors. Final day for juniors only will be Saturday, May 26 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and final senior day will be Sunday, May 27, during the same hours.

Four grand prizes, each consisting of salt-water fiberglass spinning rod and reel, tackle box, casting shirt, waders and other

accessories comprising a complete fishing outfit, will be awarded at the end of the week to the contestants landing the heaviest fish in each of the four divisions; boys, girls, men and women. There will also be a second-place award in each division, as well as special prizes for the most fish caught by one contestant, the youngest and oldest contestants catching fish.

Two daily prizes, consisting of salt-water fishing kits, including rod, reel, line, knife, hooks and sinkers, will be awarded at the end of each day's fishing, one to the junior and one to the senior contestant catching the heaviest fish of the day. On opening day, there will be special prizes for the junior and senior landing the heaviest fish caught in the first hour of competition.

In addition, separate prizes will be awarded to junior contestants catching the largest skates in daily competition and for the full week, and each junior who catches a fish, of whatever size, will be awarded a special bait container.

The quarter-mile-long pier, which juts out over the ocean from the Coney Island Boardwalk at West 15 Street, has been decorated by the Park Department for the contest, with carnival-striped canopies, spotlights, banners and other displays, and a public-address system has been installed, which will regale the contestants with music and announce the names of leading anglers as the contest progresses.

Initiated in 1951 with a two-day tournament in which 700 fishermen competed, the Coney Island contest grew rapidly to 3,000 contestants in 1955, with an even greater number expected this year, on the basis of advance registration. Entries have been accepted for the past three weeks at all Park Department playgrounds throughout the five boroughs and at Nathan's, Surf and Stillwell Avenues, Coney Island, where the prizes are on display. Late entries will be taken on the pier itself while the contest is in progress.

Ray Glesper



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 1956

*5/10/56 - Hand Delivery
3 PM
Regular Mail 5/10*

1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

MORE THAN 250 ITEMS OF SALT WATER FISHING GEAR OFFERED AS PRIZES IN 6TH ANNUAL CONEY ISLAND CONTEST

More than 250 items of up-to-date salt-water fishing equipment, including the latest models of spinning tackle, will be taken home by the winners of the 6th Annual Coney Island Fishing Contest, which begins on Monday, May 21. Conducted by the New York City Department of Parks under the sponsorship of Nathan's Famous, Inc., noted Coney Island restaurant, the contest will be held for a full week on Steeplechase Pier, off the Coney Island Boardwalk.

The awards are grouped in 33 separate prizes, including four grand prizes to be awarded to the contestants landing the heaviest fish of the week in each of the four contest divisions: Junior Boys and Junior Girls (each under 16 years of age), Senior Men and Senior Women. Each of the grand prizes consists of a salt-water spinning rod and reel, elaborate tackle box, waterproof wading pants and hooded casting shirt, 200 yards of nylon fishing line, 24 assorted hooks, sinkers, a device for weighing and measuring fish and a belt-attached bait box.

Second prize in each of the four divisions will consist of stainless steel reel and fiber-glass rod, plus tacklebox and other fishing paraphernalia. For the Junior and Senior landing the heaviest fish in each day's competition, there will be a daily prize,

consisting of full salt-water fishing kits, including rod, reel, line, fishing knife and accessories.

Special awards, including tackle boxes, creels and other fishermen's gear, will be given in a number of other contest categories. In addition, each junior contestant who lands a fish will receive a bait container, and every contestant, whether he lands a fish or not, will be awarded a souvenir fishing cap.

Valued at a total of more than \$2,000, the contest prizes are on display at Nathan's Famous Seafood Counter, Surf and Stillwell Avenues, Coney Island. Applications for the contest may be obtained at any Park Department playground or at Nathan's Famous.

* * * * *

5-10-56



Ray Glasper

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

SUNDAY, MAY 6, 1956

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

SIXTH ANNUAL CONEY ISLAND FISHING CONTEST
TO BE HELD FOR FULL WEEK, MAY 21 to 27

*5/3/56 Hand Delivery 2:30 PM
Regular Mail 5/3/56*

Youngsters and Adults Compete for Prizes in 33 Categories
in Fishing Derby Conducted by the Department of Parks,
Sponsored by Nathan's Famous, Noted Coney Island Restaurant.

The Sixth Annual Coney Island Fishing Contest, conducted by the Department of Parks and sponsored by Nathan's Famous, noted Coney Island restaurant, will be held at Steeplechase Pier on the Coney Island Boardwalk for a full week, beginning Monday, May 21st and ending Sunday, May 27th.

Prizes in 33 separate categories, consisting of luxury salt-water fishing equipment valued at \$2,000 will be awarded to winners of various classes in the four divisions of the contest: junior boys and junior girls, to age 16, senior men and women aged 16 and over. The competition is open to all and there is no entry fee or other requirement.

More than 3,000 contestants took part in this contest in 1955, making this event one of the largest pier-fishing contests in the country.

A grand prize will be awarded in each of the four divisions to the contestants landing the heaviest fish of the week, plus a second place award in each division as well. In addition, daily prizes will be awarded the junior and senior contestants catching the heaviest

fish in each competition. Added special awards include a junior and senior prize for catching the greatest number of fish during the week, and a junior and senior prize for the contestant in each category taking the first fish during the first hour on opening day, Monday, May 21st and a special prize for the junior contestants landing the heaviest skates.

The hours of competition will be as follows: junior contestants from 3:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Monday, May 21st through Friday, May 25th, and on Saturday, May 26th from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Senior contestants from 3:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. Monday, May 21st through Friday, May 25th, and on Sunday, May 27th from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Applications for the contest are now available at all Park Department playgrounds throughout the city and at Nathan's Famous seafood counter, Surf and Stillwell Avenues, Coney Island.

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D E P A R T M E N T O F P A R K S
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1956

R. Gleason
Hand Delivery only
4/5/56 - 3 P.M.

The Department of Parks announces that the free ice skating session for children on Saturday morning, April 7th from 9 to 11 a.m. will terminate ice skating for the season to the public at the City Building in Flushing Meadow Park, Queens.

The rink will be the host to the National Speed Skating competitions to be conducted by the Middle Atlantic Skating Association on Saturday afternoon, April 7th, at 1 p.m., Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon, April 8th, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., after which the rink will close down for the season.

The admission charges for the National Speed Skating events are: single admission 75¢, a strip of three tickets for admission to the three sessions \$2.00. Prices include all taxes.

* * * * *

4-5-56



Mr. Felix

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

FOR RELEASE

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1956

REGENT 4-1000

6/7/56

Hand Delivery
Mail Delivery -

Picture # 28967

1-1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

Opening

Remodelled Boat House

Flushing Meadow Park

Local oarsmen and lakeside sailors will get a chance to ply their talents when the Park Department opens the doors to the newly remodelled boat house, situated on Meadow Lake at Flushing Meadow Park on Saturday June 9th at 10:00 A.M.

Located at 69th Street and Horace Harding Boulevard, Queens, and adjacent to the Amphitheatre, this facility provides a snack bar and outdoor dining services, as well as row boats which may be hired for the nominal rental fee of forty cents per hour per person and fifteen cents per hour for each additional person. One dollar deposit is required on each boat. Forty boats are available.

Meadow Lake is an old familiar sight to the residents of Queens, and to the autoists using the Grand Central Parkway. The area was the boundary between the Corona Ash and Garbage Dumps and the Arrowhead Golf Course. Developed during the World's Fair of 1939 as a Lake, swan boats now in use in Prospect Park in Brooklyn, were provided for use by visitors to the exposition.

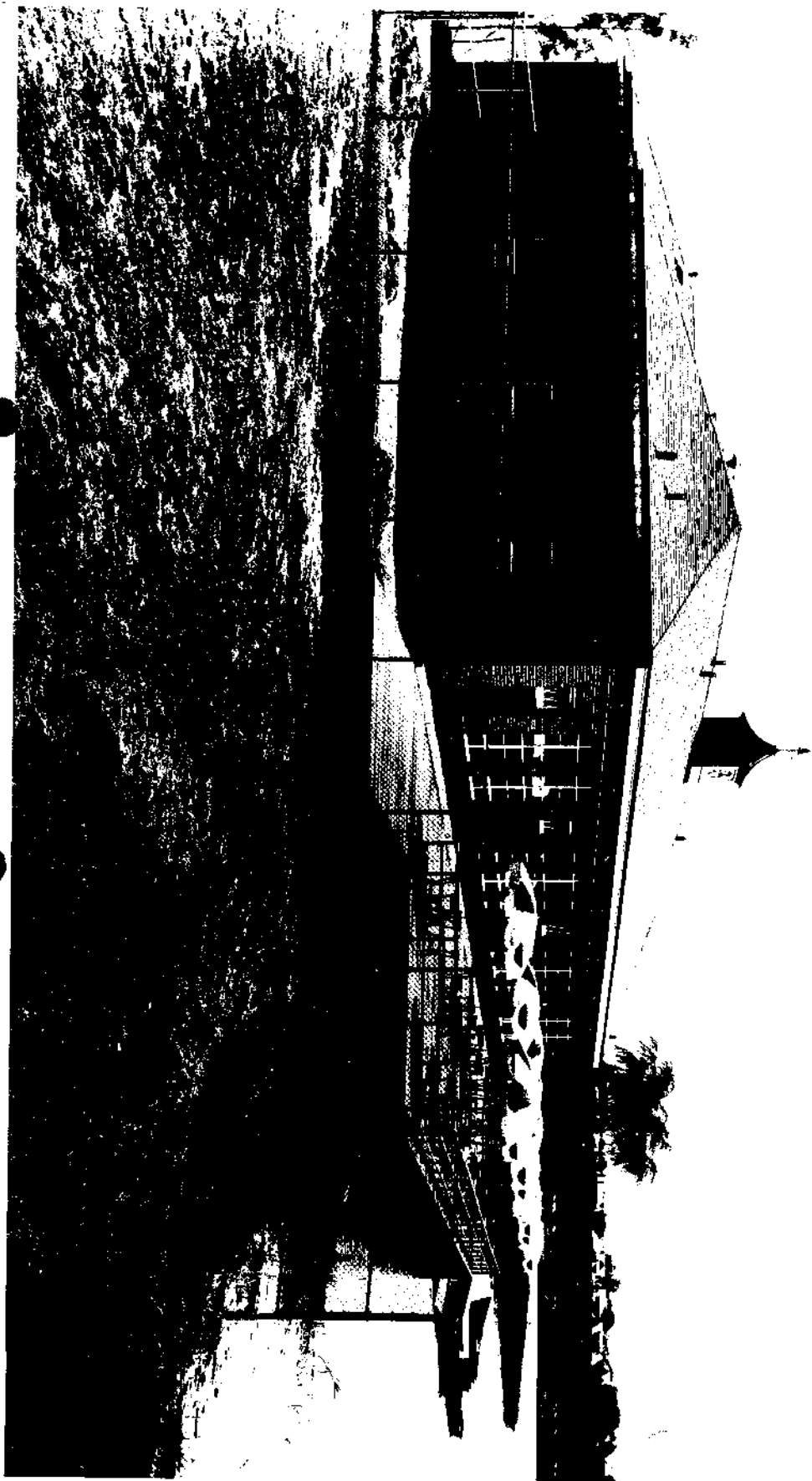
The boat house was one of the three permanent buildings constructed for use after the Fair. However during World War II the structure was occupied by the United States Army and subsequently

-- More --

returned to the City after the war. Vandalism and previous Army use necessitated the complete rehabilitation of the structure. Redevelopment of the surrounding area was included in the present plans to make this facility practical for use by patrons seeking this activity.

Other improvements in the immediate vicinity will be the construction of a new road and spacious parking area to be opened in August.

During the last decade the Borough of Queens has been the center of real estate demand with the result that hundreds of apartment houses and small family homes have been constructed. Consequently increased recreational facilities must be provided not only for residents of the community but also for visitors to Flushing Meadow Park.





DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1956

I-T-1-30M-703834(35) 114

Ray M. Giespen
3/23 -
Send reply - 12 Nov
Regular Mail 3/23

The Department of Parks announces the opening of the following six golf courses on Saturday morning, March 31, 1956 at 6 A.M. The club houses, with food facilities, golf shop, golf pro services, locker and shower accommodations, and other facilities, will be opened at the same time for use by the public.

BRONX:

Van Cortlandt Golf Course,
242 Street and Broadway, Van Cortlandt Park

Pelham Golf Course,
Shore Road, north of Hutchinson River Parkway,
Pelham Bay Park

Split Rock Golf Course,
Shore Road, north of Hutchinson River Parkway,
Pelham Bay Park

QUEENS:

Kissena Golf Course,
North Hempstead Turnpike and Fresh Meadow Road,
Flushing

Forest Park Golf Course,
Park Lane South and Forest Parkway, Forest Park

RICHMOND:

LaTourette Golf Course,
Forest Hill Road and London Road

The following courses which remained open for winter play will be re-scheduled to open at 6 A.M. on the same date.

BRONX:

Mosholu Golf Course
Jerome Avenue and Holley Lane at Woodlawn

BROOKLYN:

Dyker Beach Golf Course
86 Street and Seventh Avenue

QUEENS:

Clearview Golf Course
23 Avenue and Willets Point Boulevard, Bayside

(continued)

RICHMOND: Silver Lake Golf Course,
Silver Lake Park on Victory Boulevard and Park Road

The fee for annual permits is \$15.00 and may be used on any course. An Additional daily fee of 50¢ per round entitles the permit holder to play on weekdays, and an additional charge of \$1.00 per round is made on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. For non-permit holders, the daily fee per round from Monday through Friday will be \$1.50, and \$2.00 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

* * * * *

3-22-56

Ray Klepper



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1956

4/4/56
Hand 4/4/56 2 30 PM
Regular Mail 4/9

1-1-1-30M-915094 (54) 114

The Department of Parks announces that work will start on re-paving the roadways on the parkways listed below:

Starting at 8 A.M. on Monday, April 23, 1956 the southbound roadway of the Gowanus Parkway will be repaved from Henry Street to the Prospect Expressway.

Starting at 8 A.M. on Monday, April 30, 1956 the northbound roadway of the Henry Hudson Parkway will be repaved from West 143 Street to West 148 Street.

Traffic will be limited to one lane at both of these areas during the hours from 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. from Monday through Friday. During all other hours, including Saturday and Sunday, the entire roadways will be open for traffic.

It is expected that work will be completed on each of these contracts approximately three weeks from the starting date.

* * * * *

4-19-56



Ray Gleeper

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 1956

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

*5/11
Hand Delivery 4 PM
Regular Mail 5/11*

Colorful plantings of more than fifty-thousand tulips in bloom are on display at five park areas in New York City: in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Avenue and 82nd Street; in the Plaza at 59th Street and Fifth Avenue; in front of the Public Library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street; and in the Park Avenue plots from 52nd to 54th Streets and from 70th to 72nd Streets.

These spring flowering bulbs are a gift of Mrs. Albert D. Lasker as part of her extensive program of beautifying New York City and making it more attractive to both visitors and residents.

The plantings at the New York Public Library and at the Metropolitan Museum consist of red and white tulips; the plantings at the Plaza and in the Park Avenue plots are a combination of pink, white, and red varieties.

The second phase of Mrs. Lasker's program will be the planting of annual bedding plants at the Plaza and the Public Library; the setting out of tubbed oleanders in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Public Library; and replacing tulips in the Park Avenue plots with tubs of geraniums and ivy.

The third and final phase of the Lasker planting program will involve new displays of chrysanthemums at the Public Library and the Plaza. The planting of daffodil bulbs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and in the Park Avenue plots; and tulip planting at the Public Library and the Plaza will prepare for a colorful flowering season

next spring.

Mrs. Lasker first began her gifts of flowers to the City in 1942 with plantings of chrysanthemums in memory of her mother, Mrs. Sara J. Woodard. These plantings, known as the Sara J. Woodard Memorial Plantings are renewed annually by the Park Department. Mrs. Woodard who died in New York City on January 8, 1940 was one of the founders of two public parks in Watertown, Wisconsin, and a member of the Park Association of New York City, Inc.

5-11-56



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 1956

1-1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

"LEARN TO SWIM CAMPAIGN"

B. Felix
6/22/56
Hand Delivery
1:30 P.M.
Regular Mail

The Department of Parks announced today that the "Learn to Swim Campaign" for children gets under way at the 17 Park Department outdoor swimming pools beginning July 2nd and will continue until August 17th.

Children 14 years of age and under will receive instruction in swimming fundamentals. Successful participants in the qualifying tests will receive buttons, silver, and gold pins, denoting the class of test they have passed.

Junior tests will be given on July 20th. Each participant must attend a minimum of 10 lessons. They must push off from the side of the pool and swim 50 feet using the American Crawl stroke. Those passing will receive the Junior swimming button.

Intermediate tests take place August 3rd. In order to be eligible, a student must have attended a minimum of six lessons. The test consists of a shallow dive from side of pool and a swim of 100 feet using the American Crawl. Also a 50 foot backstroke swim is required, using a scissors kick and sculling motion with the hands. Silver pins will be presented to successful candidates.

The final test is for advanced swimmers and will be held on August 17th. This is the highest swimming award given by the Park Department and is presented to those passing a test consisting of a

dive and 50 yard swim using the American Crawl, demonstrating a correct racing turn against the side of pool, pushing off from side of pool using backstroke with a regular overarm recovery. Participants in this class must attend at least six sessions of instruction.

Park Department lifeguards specially trained to teach this course will take charge of the activity. It is the desire of this department to teach every non-swimming child using the pool facilities the elements of swimming and prepare them for any aquatic emergency.

The courses will be held during the morning free periods for children scheduled from 10 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. weekday mornings only.

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6-22-56

Ray Mueser



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 124

MARCH 28, 1956

*3/27 - 1 P.M.
Hand Delivery
3/27 - Regular Mail*

The Department of Parks announced today that a grant of \$35,000 from The Irving and Estelle Levy Foundation will result in the construction of another marginal playground in Central Park between the southwest corner of the Metropolitan Museum and the 79th Street Transverse Road.

The Irving and Estelle Levy Playground will be similar to other marginal playgrounds for small children which have been built at convenient intervals along the edges of Central Park and other large parks. It will resemble particularly the Osborne Memorial Playground north of the Metropolitan Museum, another gift to the City and its children by generous private donors.

The Levy Playground will be shaded by many fine, existing trees and will contain benches and a variety of apparatus for small children. The area will be enclosed by a wrought iron picket fence and entered through ornamental gates bearing a plaque inscribed with the name of the donor.

In accepting the gift from the Levy Foundation, Commissioner Moses said: "This public-spirited contribution is one more instance of private generosity meeting the needs for special recreational facilities in Central Park and the Park Department is most grateful. The Wollman Ice Skating Rink, the Loeb and Kerbs Boathouses, the Osborne Memorial Playground, the Friedsam Merry-Go-Round, the Newman

Memorial Garden for the blind and the Altman Foundation's grant for the reconstruction of the Pony Track, are other splendid examples of how the Park Department and the users of Central Park have been benefited in recent years through private philanthropy. We hope that other individuals and foundations will wish to follow these examples by donations which will create, in other parks, facilities to meet special needs which the City cannot undertake to supply."

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3-26-56



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-30M-703834(35) 114

TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1956

5/28/56 -

Hand Delivery 1:30 PM
Regular Mail 5/28/56

The Future American Magical Entertainers, known as FAME, will present their 3rd Annual Gorden Beck Memorial Magic Show on the Mall in Central Park, 72nd Street and Center Drive, on Sunday June 3rd at 2 p.m.

Gorden Beck, a former president of The Park Department magic club, died of leukemia at the age of nineteen.

The FAME has been in existence since 1930. The members, ranging in age to nineteen years, have performed on TV, at hospitals, recreation centers, and at various agencies serving young people; and have given performances for scout troops and for the aged. A contribution of funds, received recently from The New York Community Trust, enabled the group to secure new equipment to expand their aims.

The public is invited to attend on Sunday. There is no charge for admission.

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5-28-56



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

SUNDAY, MAY 27, 1956

Ray Glesper
5/25/56 REGENT 4-1000

1 P.M. - *stand delivery*

Regular mail 5/25

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55)

114 The Department of Parks will conduct the 12th Annual

Marble Shooting Contest for boys and girls 14 years of age and under, at park playgrounds beginning Tuesday, May 29. Youngsters who want to "knuckle down" and vie for the city championship title must compete in playground eliminations which will be held as follows:

Manhattan Playgrounds	- Tuesday, May 29	- 4:00 p.m.
Brooklyn Playgrounds	- Thursday, May 31	- 4:00 p.m.
Bronx Playgrounds	- Thursday, May 31	- 4:00 p.m.
Queens Playgrounds	- Friday, June 1	- 4:00 p.m.
Richmond Playgrounds	- Saturday, June 2	- 11:00 a.m.

Contestants desiring to participate may do so by applying at their playground on the day of the contest. Playground winners will be eligible to compete in district contests to be held June 4 to June 8. District winners will then compete in the borough championships to be held on Saturday, District winners will then compete in the borough championships to be held on Saturday, June 9 at 2 p.m. at the following locations:

Manhattan	- Heckscher Playground, Central Park, 62nd Street and West Drive
Brooklyn	- Parade Grounds, Coney Island and Parkside Avenues
Bronx	- Mullaly Playground, 164th Street and Jerome Avenue
Queens	- Victory Field, Myrtle Avenue and Woodhaven Boulevard
Richmond	- Silver Lake Park, Clove Road, Victory Boulevard, and Forest Avenue

City-wide championships will be held at Heckscher Playground in Central Park on Saturday, June 16 at 2:00 p.m.

In case of rain, all contests will be postponed until the next day.

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5-25-56



D E P A R T M E N T O F P A R K S
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 1956

VB. Felix
6/20/56 - Hand Delivered
2 30 PM
Regular Mail 6/20/56

The Department of Parks Marionette Theatre will begin a tour of Manhattan parks and park playgrounds on Wednesday, July 4. Seventeen performances of "Happy The Humbug" will be performed according to the following schedule:

Wed.	July 4	2:30 P.M.	Amphitheatre, East River Park, East River Drive, south of Grand Street
Thurs.	July 5	11:00 A.M. 2:30 P.M.	Heckscher Playground, 63rd St. & West Drive in Central Park
Fri.	July 6	2:30 P.M.	Amsterdam Houses Playground, 63rd Street West of Amsterdam Avenue
Mon.	July 9	2:30 P.M.	J. Jay Playground, Cherokee Pl., East 76th Street & East River Dr.
Tues.	July 10	10:00 A.M. 2:30 P.M.	Bellevue Hospital, Parking Lot East of Hospital Chelsea Playground, 28th St. bet. 8th & 9th Aves.
Wed.	July 11	2:30 P.M.	Hamilton Fish Playground, Pitt & Stanton Sts.
Thurs.	July 12	11:00 A.M.	J. Hood Wright Playground, 173rd & Ft. Washington Ave.
Fri.	July 13	11:00 A.M. 2:30 P.M.	Mt. Morris East, 123rd Street & Madison Avenue Abraham Lincoln Houses Playground, 5th Ave. & 135th Street
Mon.	July 16	2:30 P.M.	Colonial Park, 146th St. & Bradhurst Avenue
Tues.	July 17	2:30 P.M.	Thomas Jefferson Playground, 112th St. & 1st Avenue
Wed.	July 18	2:30 P.M.	Amphitheatre, East River Park, East River Drive, south of Grand Street

- more -

-2-

Thurs. July 19	2:30 P.M.	Playground at 83rd Street & Riverside Drive
Fri. July 20	2:30 P.M.	Inwood Playground, Isham St. & Seaman Avenue

Miss Pink Elephant, the Ballerina heroine of "Happy The Humbug" has a remarkable talent - crying strawberry tears from which delicious ice cream sodas can be concocted. Children secretly sympathize with the villains, Cock and Bull, who kidnap her in order to profit by her unusual gift. However, as the plot unfolds, they understand why Happy must rescue her and want to see the villains outwitted.

Perfromances of this puppet drama run for about one hour.
Admission is free.

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6-20-56



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 1956

Mr. Felix
6/8/56.
Hand Delivery - 2 P.M.
mail Del. 1-3 P.M.

The Department of Parks Marionette Theatre, will open its 16th annual Spring and Summer tour of parks and park playgrounds on Monday, June 18. Performances will be given through September 7.

The park puppeteers will visit 66 locations and give 78 performances of "Happy The Humbug", this season's offering.

Happy The Humbug is an entomological oddity. He has the body of a turtle, the neck of a giraffe, and simian facial features. The main characters of this puppet drama are the unique Happy, his friend, Hunkey The Monkey, Miss Pink Elephant, and Cock and Bull, the frustrated villains of the piece, who have been exploiting Miss Pink Elephant's remarkable talent for crying strawberry tears.

The puppeteers will visit the five boroughs according to the following schedule:

Bronx	-	June 18 to July 3
Manhattan	-	July 4 to July 20
Queens	-	July 23 to August 9
Richmond	-	August 10 to August 17
Brooklyn	-	August 20 to September 7

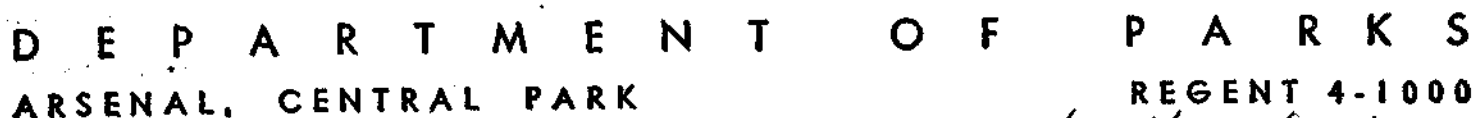
The complete schedule for the Bronx will be:

Mon. June 18	3:30 P.M.	Claremont Park, Teller & Mt. Eden Aves.
Tues. June 19	3:30 P.M.	Devoe Park, University Av. & 188 Street

- more -

Wed.	June 20	3:30 P.M.	Marble Hill Houses Playground, West 230th Street & Marble Hill Avenue
Thurs.	June 21	3:30 P.M.	Playground at Watson & Gleason Avenues
Fri.	June 22	11:00 A.M. 2:00 P.M.	Edenwald Houses Playground, East 229th St. & Scheiffelin Avenue
Mon.	June 25	10:00 A.M. 3:30 P.M.	Patterson Houses Playground, East 148th St. & College Avenue
Tues.	June 26	3:30 P.M.	Playground at Waterbury, Edison & La Salle Avenues
Wed.	June 27	3:30 P.M.	Pelham Parkway Houses Playground, Williamsbridge Road & Mace Avenue
Thurs.	June 28	3:30 P.M.	Gun Hill Houses Playground, Magenta Street between Holland & Cruger Avenues. -g
Fri.	June 29	3:30 P.M.	Poe Park, Grand Concourse & E. 192 Street
Mon.	July 2	2:30 P.M.	Bronx Park, East 180th Street and Boston Road
Tues.	July 3	2:30 P.M.	St. Mary's Park, Trinity Avenue and East 145 Street

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1956

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) ~~SECRET~~ 114

The Department of Parks announces that in observation of National Tennis Week, tennis courts will be made available to the United States Lawn Tennis Association and the Professional Lawn Tennis Association for the purpose of conducting free tennis clinics for boys and girls. The clinics will be held in Central Park, 93rd Street and West Drive on Monday, May 21 and Thursday, May 24 from 3 to 6 P.M. and at St. James Park, 193rd Street and Jerome Avenue, Bronx on Monday, May 21st from 3 to 6 P.M.

Teaching professionals from various clubs and professional tennis stars will participate in introducing young people to the game of tennis.

The clinics are scheduled as follows:

Central Park - May 21st:

Robert Cahill, Bronxville Field Club
P. Kenneth Komaski, Point O'Woods Club, Fire Island
Pierre Etchbaster, Racquet & Tennis Club of New York

4:15 P.M. :

Exhibition Match - Doris Hart and Lois Felix

St. James Park - May 21st:

Tom Byrne, New York A.C.
Lester Cummings, no affiliation
Roland Dufton, no affiliation

Central Park - May 24th:

Charles Costello, Quaker Ridge Golf Club, Scarsdale
P.Kenneth Komoski, Point O'Woods Club, Fire Island
Sidney Lewellyn, no affiliation

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5-14-56



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 1956

22 YEARS OF PROGRESS - BROCHURE

REGENT 4-1000

*6/27/56 - Hand Delivery
3 P.M.
13 pictures - 22 years
3 graphs Brochure
Regular Mail*

Commissioner Moses released to the press today his biennial report on the work that has been accomplished by the Department of Parks in expanding, developing and rehabilitating the City's park system since its consolidation under his leadership in 1934. The report is in the form of a profusely illustrated brochure, "Twenty-two Years of Progress," recording the Department's achievements, its current program activities and problems, its plans for the future, and the philosophy underlying its work.

Opening with a brief account of the history of the consolidated park system, Mr. Moses states the principles which have governed the design, improvement and extension of the City's recreational facilities and analyzes the proper functions and relationships of state, county and municipal parks.

The report reviews the various methods by which it has been possible to increase the City's park area from 14,000 acres in 1934 to 28,500 acres at the present time. Outright purchase, condemnation, gifts of property and tax lien foreclosures have all contributed to the building up of a great recreational system. Another important source of additions to the City's usable park lands has been the reclamation or landfill program on which the Department of Parks has been cooperating with the Department of Sanitation. Fresh Kills, Great Kills, Jamaica Bay, Ferry Point, Flushing Meadow, Marine Park,

Sound View and Orchard Beach are among the areas of great existing and potential usefulness in which the City has benefited from the reclamation program.

The wide scope of the Park Department's activities and responsibilities is described in considerable detail. The history of some of the larger parks, such as Flushing Meadow with its background of rubbish dump, World's Fair site and U.N. headquarters, and their present progress toward full development, is outlined. New Yorkers are reminded of the Department's zoos; its care for public monuments and many old, historic buildings; its million-dollar recreation center buildings; and its outdoor facilities ranging through golf courses, football, baseball and cricket fields, running tracks and tennis courts to bird sanctuaries and picnic tables.

The list of gifts which have been received from foundations and other private donors is an impressive indication of the manner in which the Park Department has been able to attract generous contributions of park facilities which the City could not undertake to construct. Mention is made of such gifts as the Brownsville Recreation Center, the Loeb and Kerbs Boathouses in Central Park, the Wollman Memorial Skating Rink, the late John Golden's bequest of his 23-acre estate in Bayside, Queens, and other similar benefits to the cause of wholesome public recreation from private philanthropy.

The report points out the increase in park playgrounds from 119 in 1934 to the present figure of 661. These areas are the closest elements of the park system to the people of the City

and are necessary to provide a well-rounded, easily accessible recreation program. Ranging in size from one to ten acres, they include marginal playgrounds in the major parks, neighborhood playgrounds, school playgrounds operated jointly with the Board of Education, housing playgrounds constructed in cooperation with the New York City Housing Authority, and playgrounds created in connection with the development of the parkway and expressway program. Commissioner Moses describes the principles governing the design and operation of the different types of playgrounds and the various methods by which they are acquired and their construction financed.

The Park Department's beaches have increased from one mile in 1934 to 18 miles in 1956 and now include such popular resorts as Coney Island, Rockaway, Jacob Riis and Orchard Beach; the new public beaches at Great Kills, Richmond, and Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn, and South Beach, Richmond, presently being expanded and improved. The importance of the City's pollution control program is stressed in relation to the Park Department's beaches, boat basins and other shore-front facilities. Supplementing the beaches, seventeen large, modern outdoor swimming pools have been built in congested sections of the City and 1,999,550 persons made use of these pools in 1955, alone.

Commissioner Moses emphasizes the relationship between the park system and the construction of parkways and expressways, and the important cooperation between the Park Department, the

Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority and other City, State and Federal agencies concerned with the arterial program. The program outlined by Mr. Moses will eventually provide a total of 282 miles of parkways and expressways at an estimated cost of \$1,840,000,000, including those already constructed.

The report discusses, under the heading of "Maintenance and Operation," the many complicated problems involved in administering New York's great park system and its varied activities. The Park Department's budget was \$6,000,000 in 1934. In 1955 it was \$26,700,000, an increase of four and one-half times. However, park facilities have increased six times while the purchasing power of the dollar has decreased to a point where the current budget has an actual value of only \$14,500,000 in comparison with 1934. Large sums of money which could be devoted to meeting increased public demands for new park developments and facilities must be used to repair damage caused by vandalism, storms, and hard usage. The careful supervision of clean, efficient and attractive concessions and revenue-producing facilities, however, has resulted in an increase in income to the City from \$200,000 in 1934 to more than \$3,000,000 in 1955.

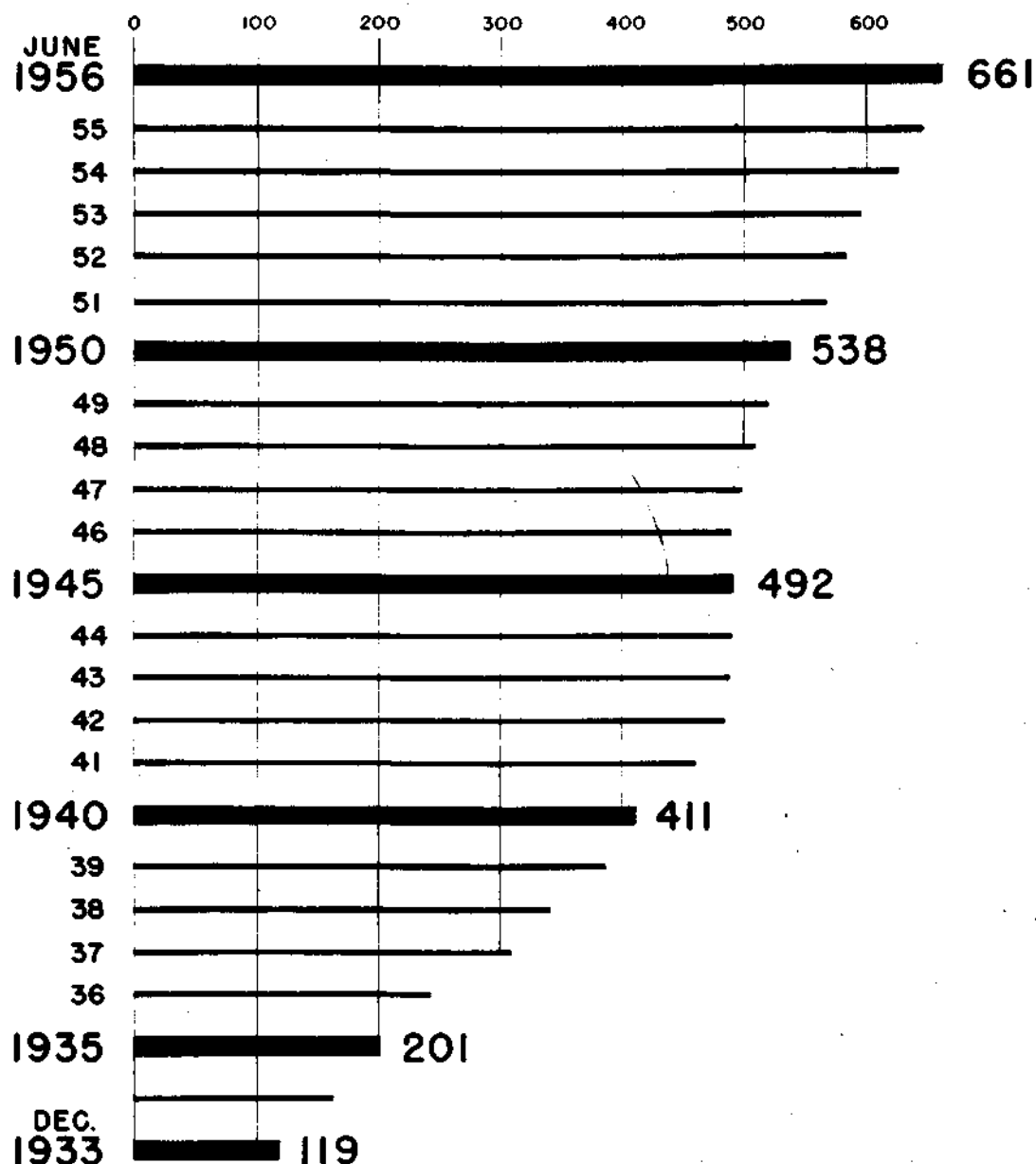
Twelve of New York's great cultural institutions, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the New York Zoological Society, occupy city-owned buildings under the jurisdiction of the Park Department and most of them are located on park property. The Park Commissioner serves as an ex-officio member of their governing boards and is responsible for processing their requests for city

funds for capital improvements, as well as for ordinary maintenance and operation expenses. These functions of the Park Department have become increasingly important in recent years when rising costs, fewer large private gifts and a decreasing relative value of endowments have been felt by even the largest, most heavily endowed institutions. Greater financial support from private citizens is urgently needed by all of the museums and cultural institutions if they are to avoid increasing dependence on the City.

In closing the report, Commissioner Moses expresses his gratitude to all those in official or private life who have given the support and cooperation which have made possible the Park Department's fine record over the last twenty-two years, and states that: "A vigorous, progressive park program must be maintained in order to make highly industrialized urban life not only bearable but happy, interesting and attractive."

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6-26-56



PLAYGROUNDS IN OPERATION PRIOR TO JAN. 1, 1934 — 119
 JOINTLY OPERATED WITH BOARD OF EDUCATION — 85
 CONSTRUCTED WITH AID FROM HOUSING AUTHORITY — 51
 CONSTRUCTED WITH NEW YORK CITY CAPITAL FUNDS
 OR AS PART OF ARTERIAL PROGRAM SINCE JAN. 1, 1934 — 406

PLAYGROUNDS TOTAL **661**

PARK AREA

14,000 acres

1934 _____

1955 _____ 28,500 acres

PLAYGROUNDS

1934 _____ including 51 housing &
119 85 school playgrounds

1955 _____ 661

POOLS

1934 _____ 2 pools

1934 _____ 200,000 bathers

1955 _____ 17 pools

1955 _____ 2,000,000 bathers

BEACHES

1934 _____ 1 mile

1934 _____ 5,000,000 bathers

1955 _____ 17.96 miles

1955 _____ 55,000,000 bathers

GOLF

1934 _____ 6 courses

1934 _____ 300,000 games

1955 _____ 10 courses

1955 _____ 628,977 games

TENNIS

1934 _____ 240 courts

1934 _____ 14,000 permits

1955 _____ 455 courts

1955 _____ 23,486 permits

CONCESSIONS

56 Newsstands
116 Restaurants and food bars
274 Carretinas
8 Bootblack stands
2 Riding stables
14 Gas Stations
72 Miscellaneous

CONCESSIONS & REVENUE PRODUCING FACILITIES INCOME

1934 _____ \$200,000

1955 _____ \$3,120,000

**AVERAGE INCREASE
IN FACILITIES**

1934 _____

1955 _____ 6 TIMES

BUDGET

1934 _____ \$6,000,000

1934 _____ \$26,705,381

1955 _____

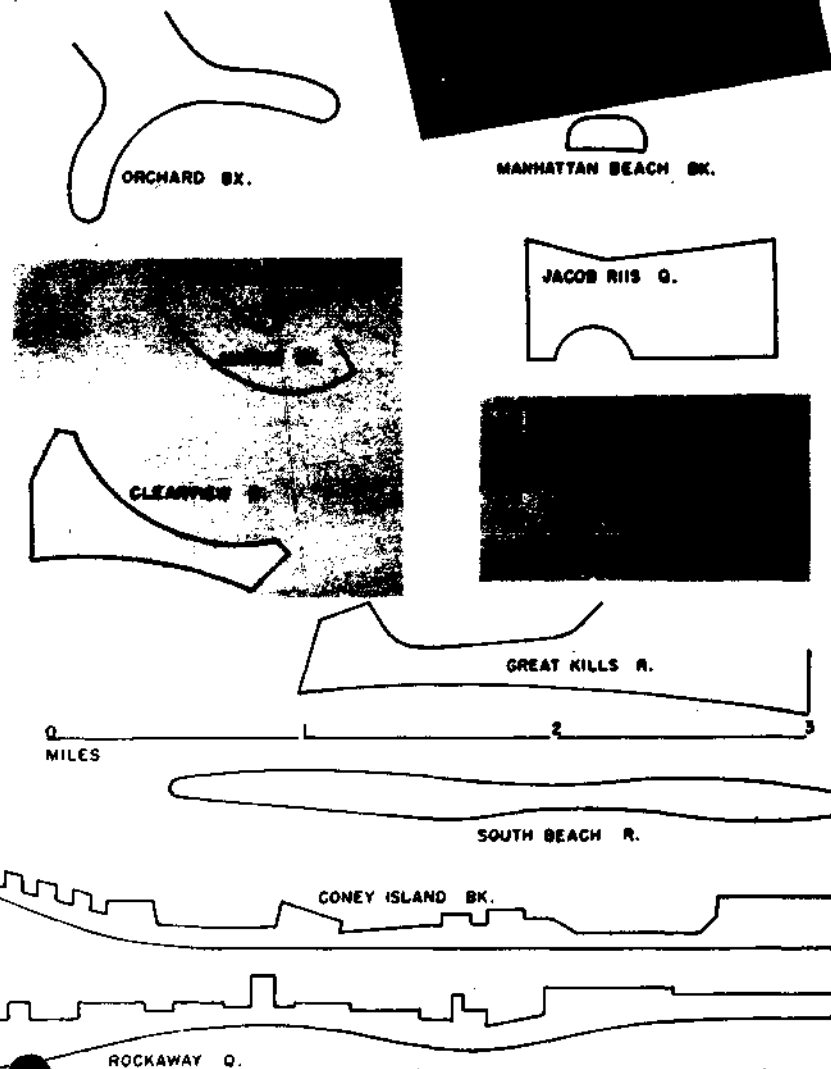
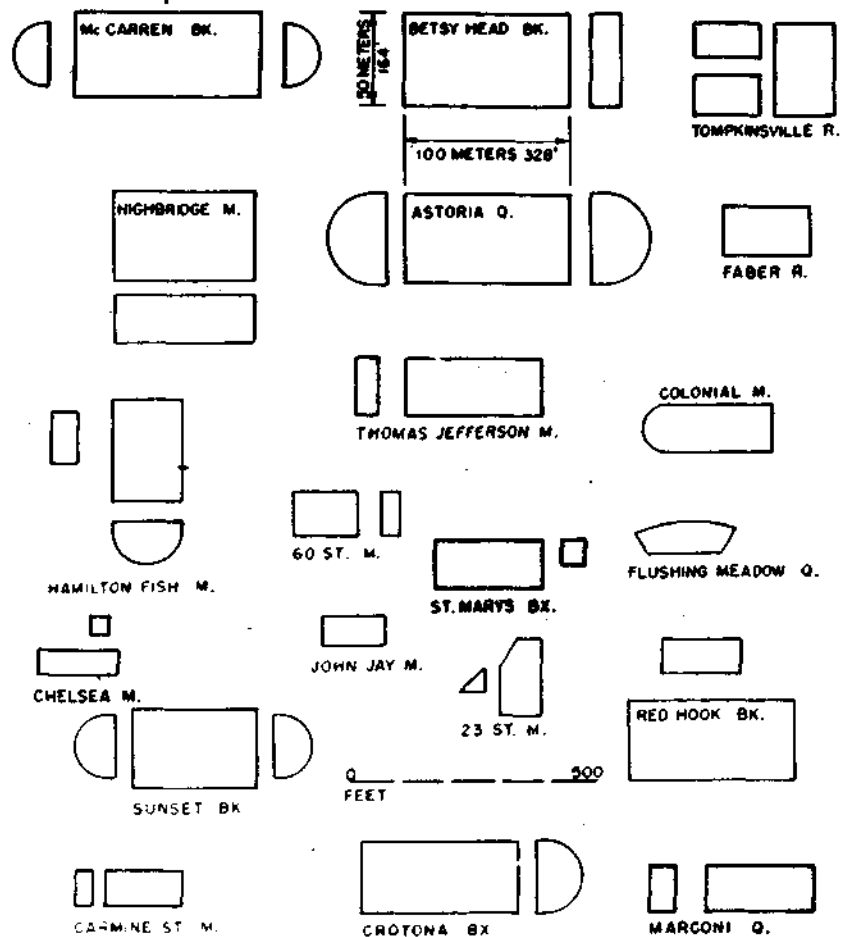
POOLS

1934 — 2
1956 — 17

BEACH MILES

1934 — 1
1956 — 17.96

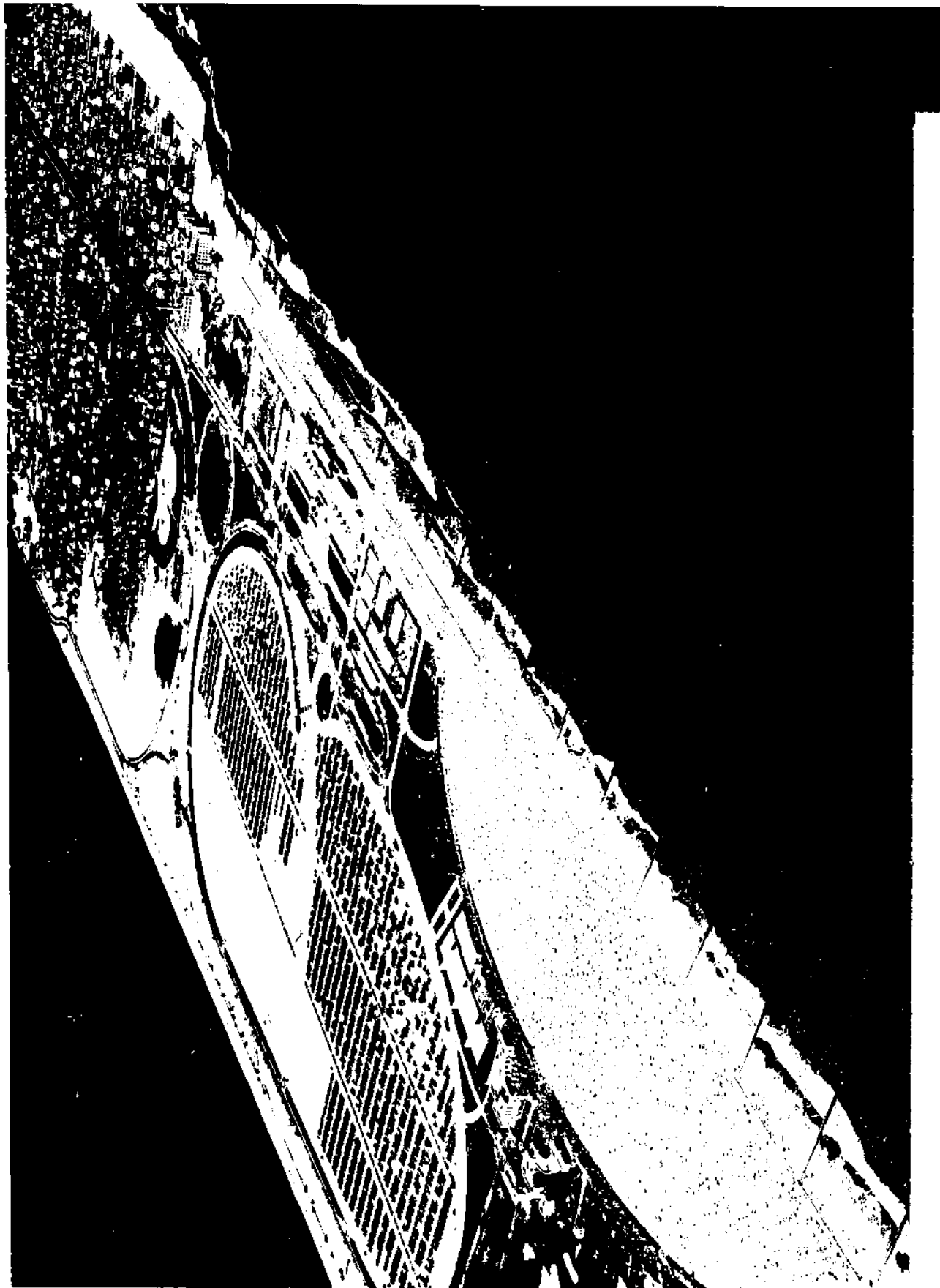
■ = PROPOSED

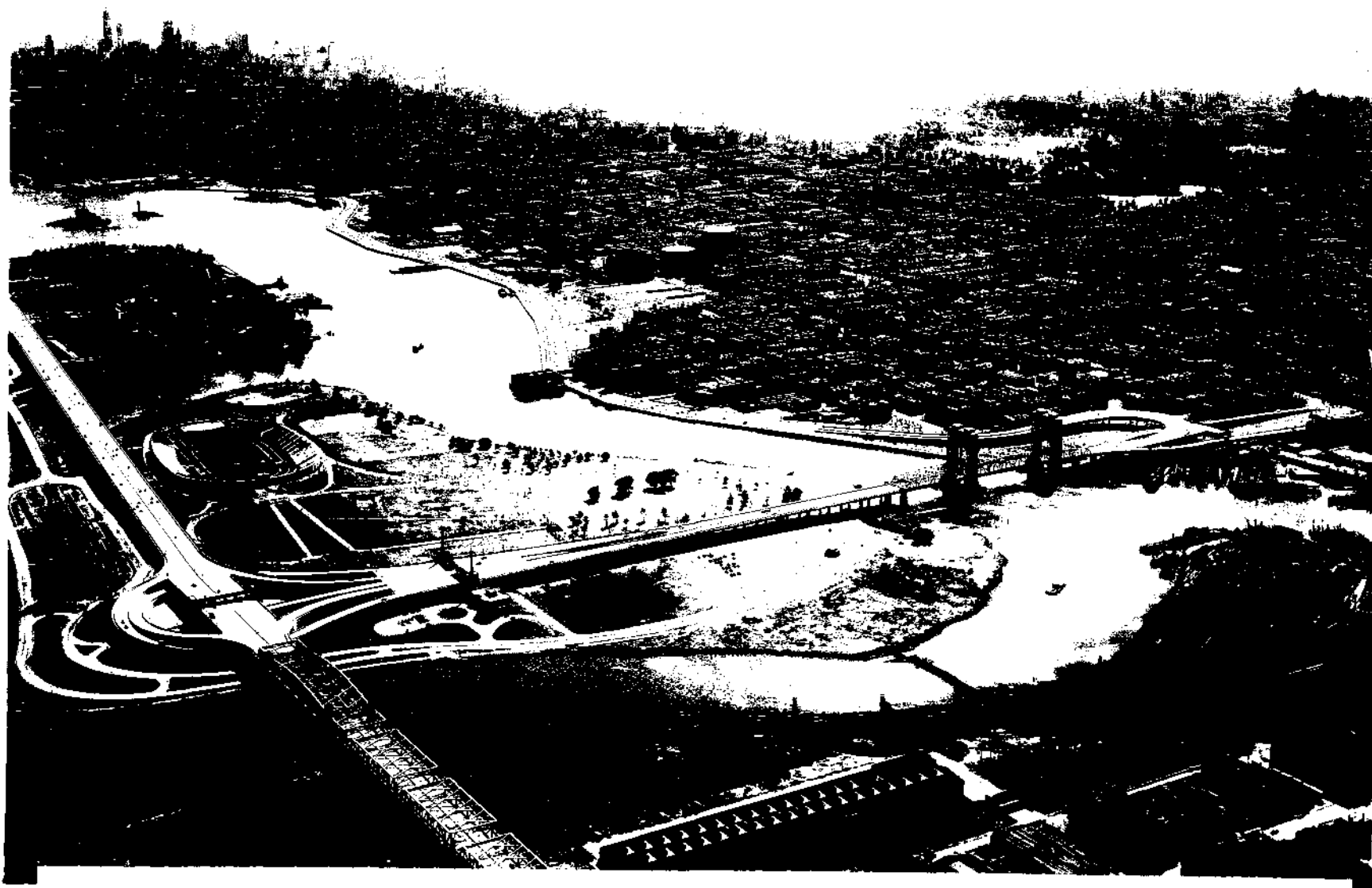




BATTERY PARK MANHATTAN.

JACOB RITS PARK QUEENS.





TRIBOROUGH BRIDGE INTERCHANGE ON RANDALL'S ISLAND.



HENRY HUDSON PARKWAY AT 74TH STREET MANHATTAN.



FLUSHING MEADOW BOAT BASIN

.....

QUEENS.



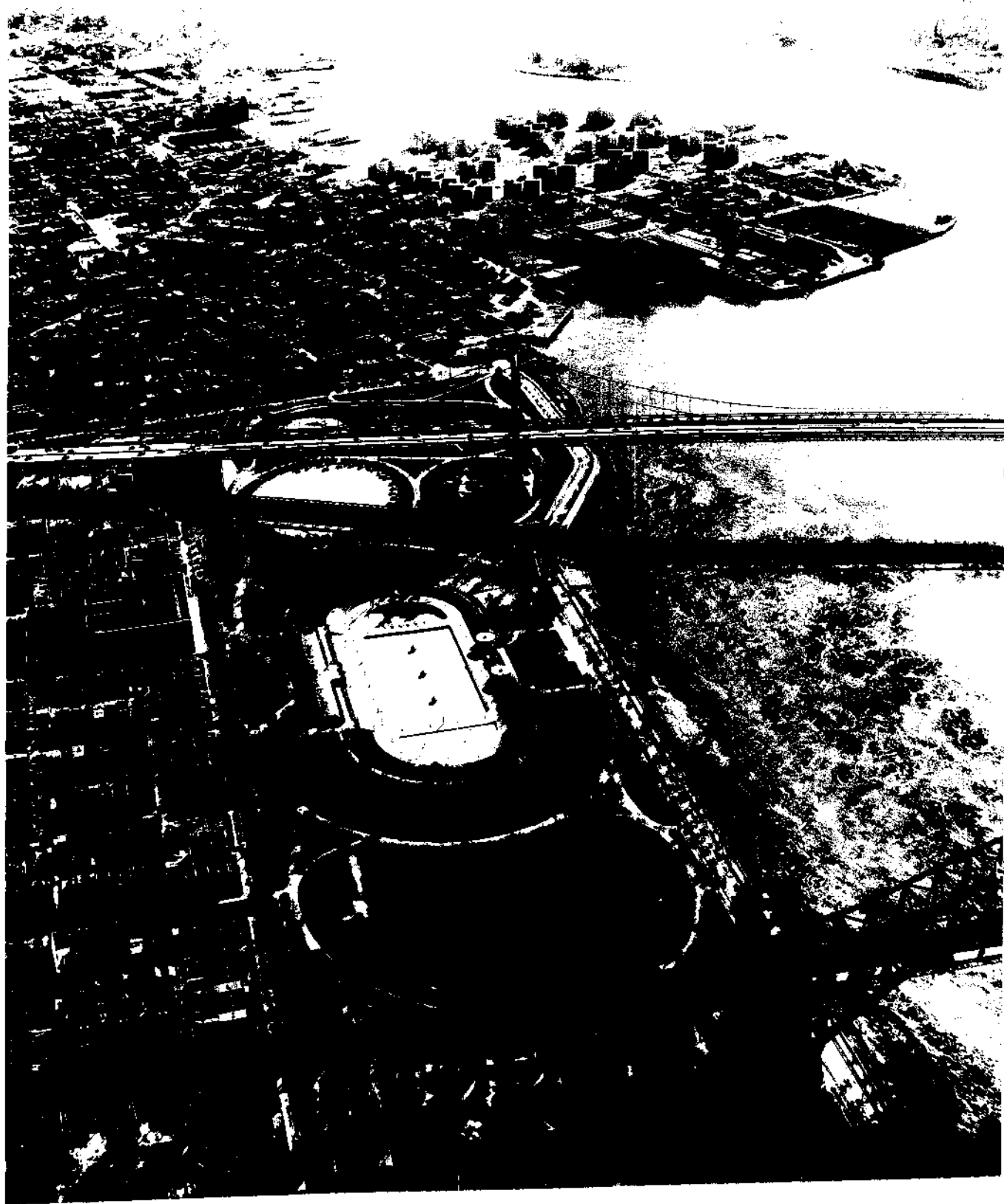
FT. TRYON PARK MANHATTAN



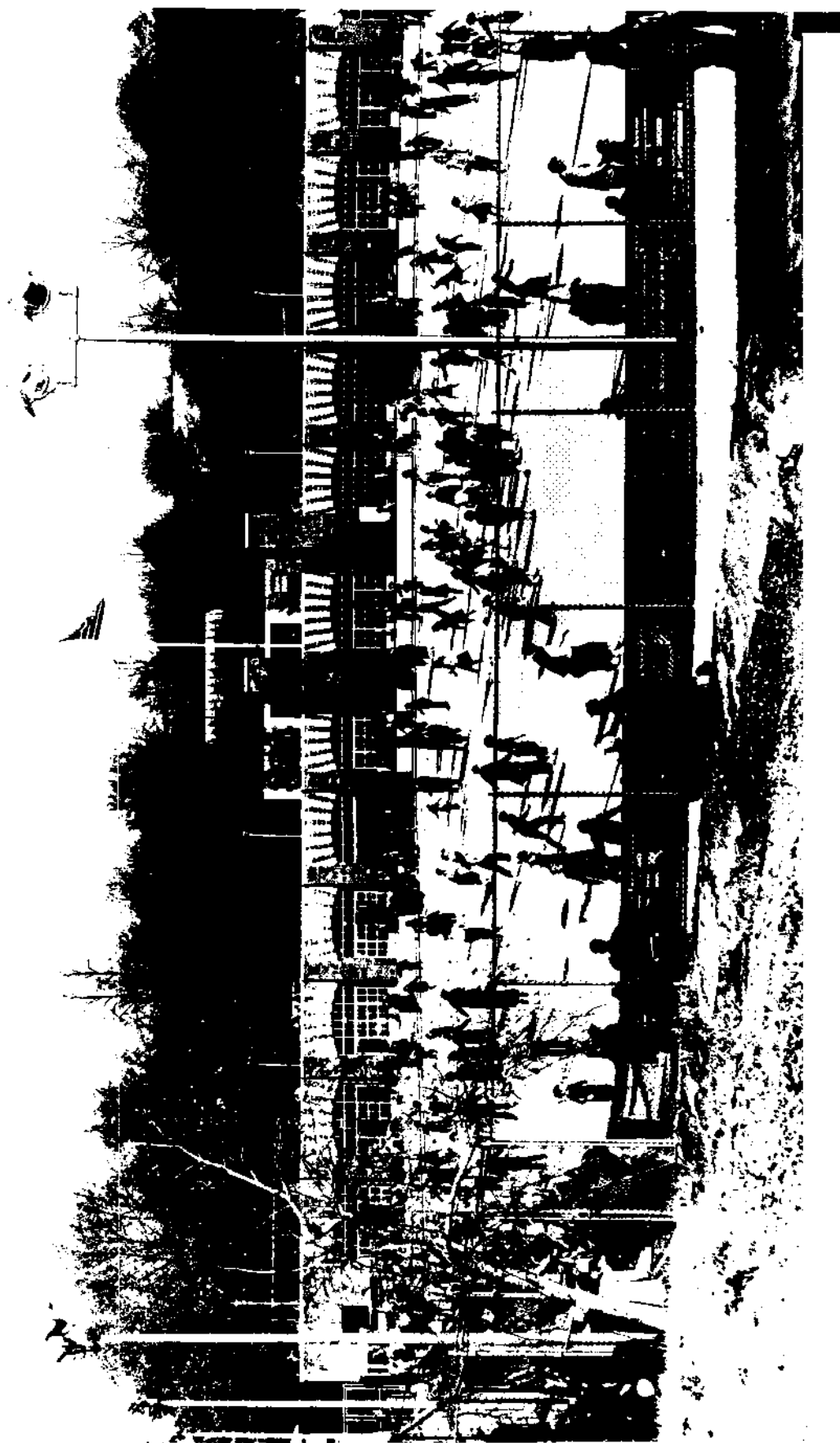
PICNIC AREA ... ALLEY PARK QUEENS.



PLAYGROUND ... GENERAL BERRY HOUSES RICHMOND.



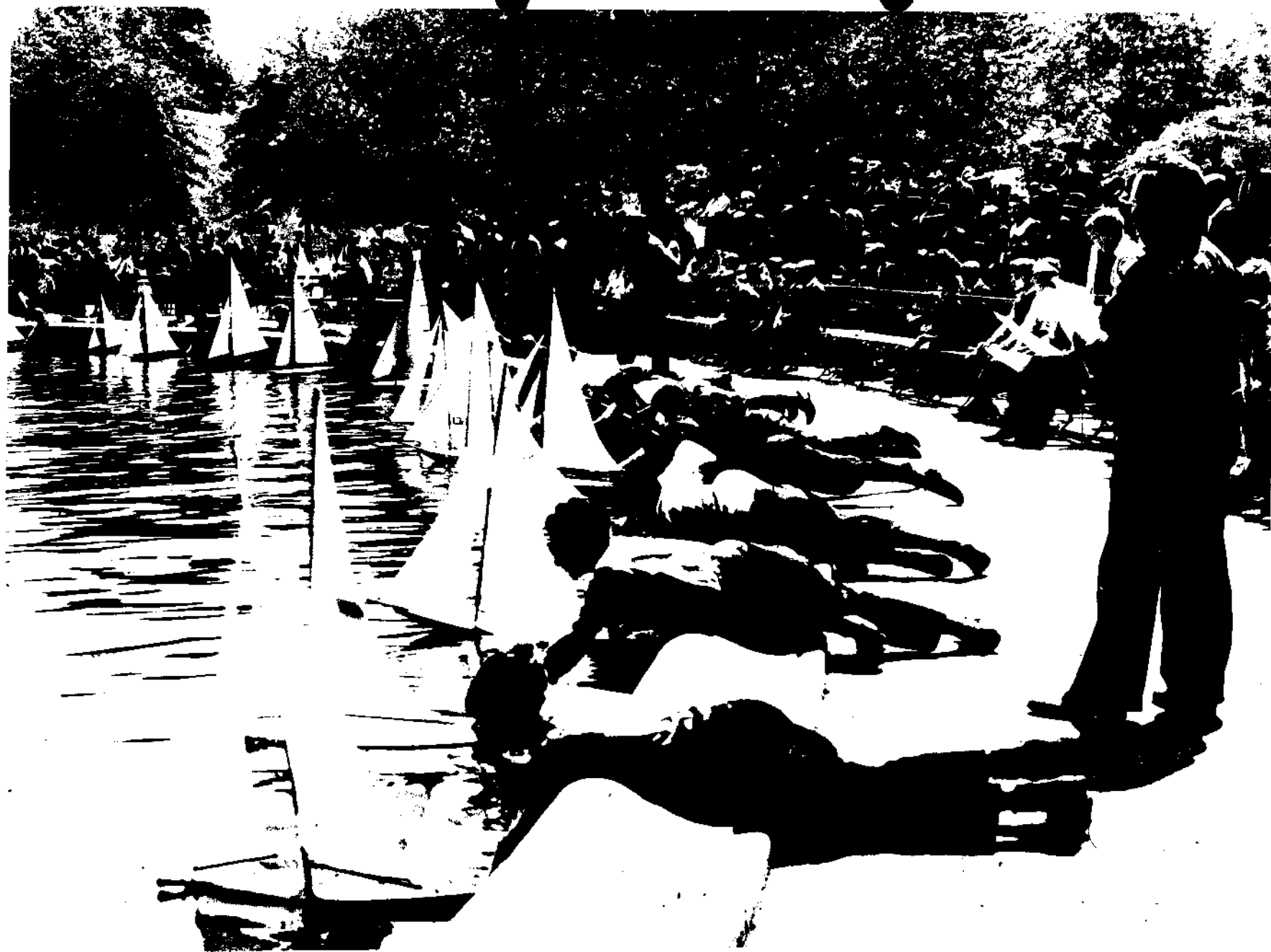
ASTORIA POOL QUEENS.



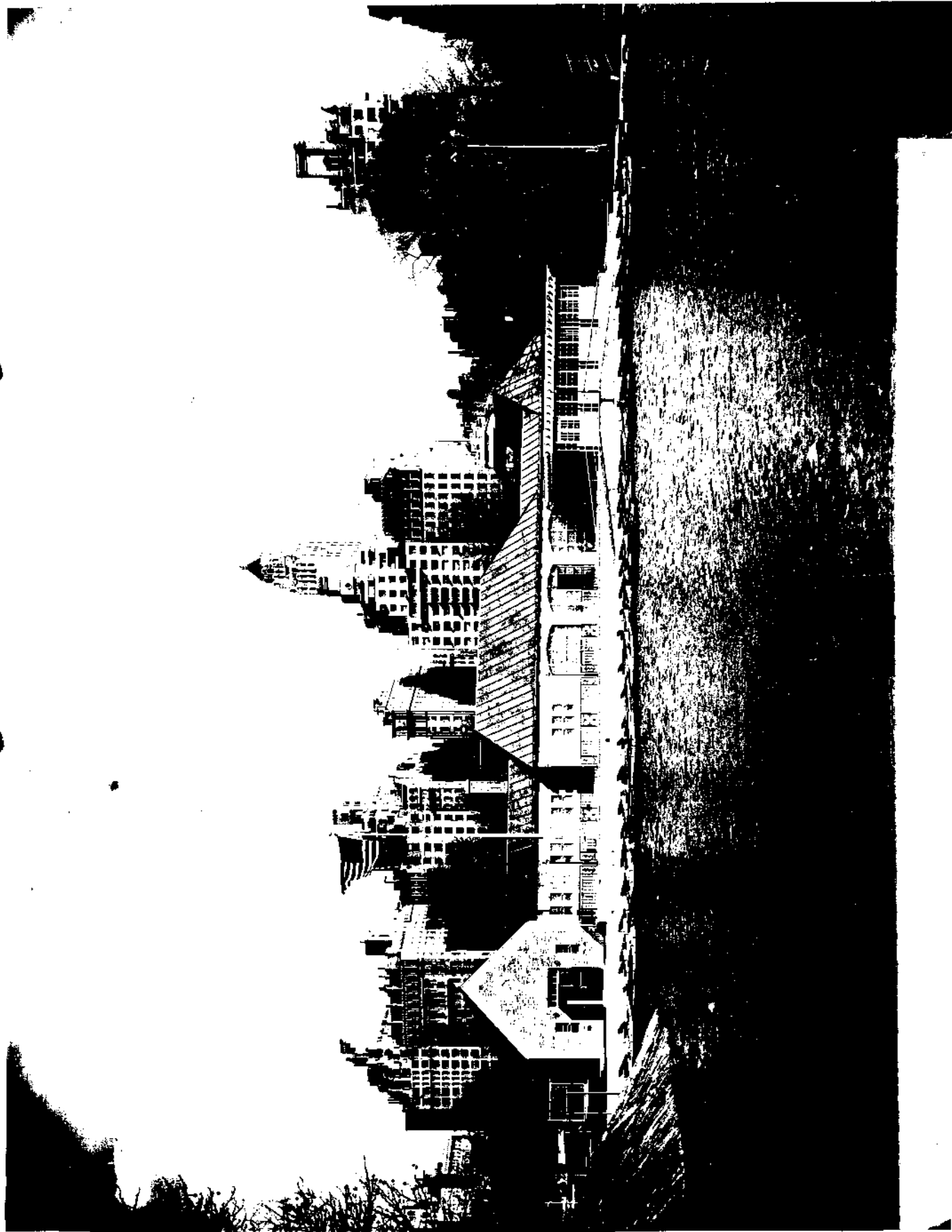
WOLLMAN MEMORIAL

.....

CENTRAL PARK.



MODEL SAIL BOAT RACE ... CONSERVATORY LAKE CENTRAL PARK.



LOEB MEMORIAL BOAT HOUSE

.....

CENTRAL PARK.



ST. MARY'S RECREATION CENTER BRONX.



Ray Sleeper

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1956

1/24/56 - 10:50 AM

Hand Delivery
PICTURE # 28707

PLANS QL-21-3201-

Regular Mail 3202
1/24

The Department of Parks announces the opening of a new
playground adjacent to J.H.S. 74 at ^{*}Horace Harding Expressway and
Oceania Street in the Borough of Queens.

This ^{1.247}~~3.673~~ acre playground is located opposite Cunningham
Park and will provide additional recreational facilities for residents
of the community and pupils from J.H.S. 74.

Divided into two sections for control purposes, the
northerly section is an area for older children and contains basket-
ball courts, handball courts and a roller skating area. The southerly
section provides for a comfort station, shower basin, quiet games
area with tables, swings, slides, see-saws, sand pit and jungle gym.

In accordance with the policy of joint operation, the area
for older children will be operated by the Board of Education during
school hours and by the Department of Parks at all other times.

With the addition of this playground there are now 647
playgrounds in the park system.

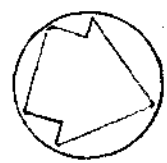
* * * * *

Now known as Long Island Expressway 1-24-56



BOROUGH OF QUEENS





CUNNINGHAM PARK

OCEANIA

STREET

RAMP
BICYCLE
RACKS

SHOWER
BASIN

PLAY
SLIDES

SEE
SAWS

KIND.
SWINGS

KIND. SLIDES

SAND

F. P.
COMFORT STATION

GAME TABLES

HANDBALL

COURTS

BASKETBALL

COURTS

ROLLER SKATING

NO. 74

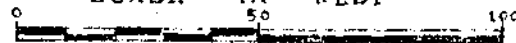
U.S.N.

210TH ST.

BOROUGH OF QUEENS

84TH AVE.

SCALE IN FEET



Q-4-21-3203

PLD AD: TH 8 74

JAN. 18, 1956 MD.



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1956

R. G. Gerson
2/9/56 REGENT 4-1000

Hand Delivery 4 P.M.

Mail Delivery 5 P.M.

Photo #28761

Plans OK 362-103

104

The Department of Parks announces the opening to the general public of a playground adjacent to P.S. 148, north of Northern Boulevard between 89th and 90th Streets in the Borough of Queens.

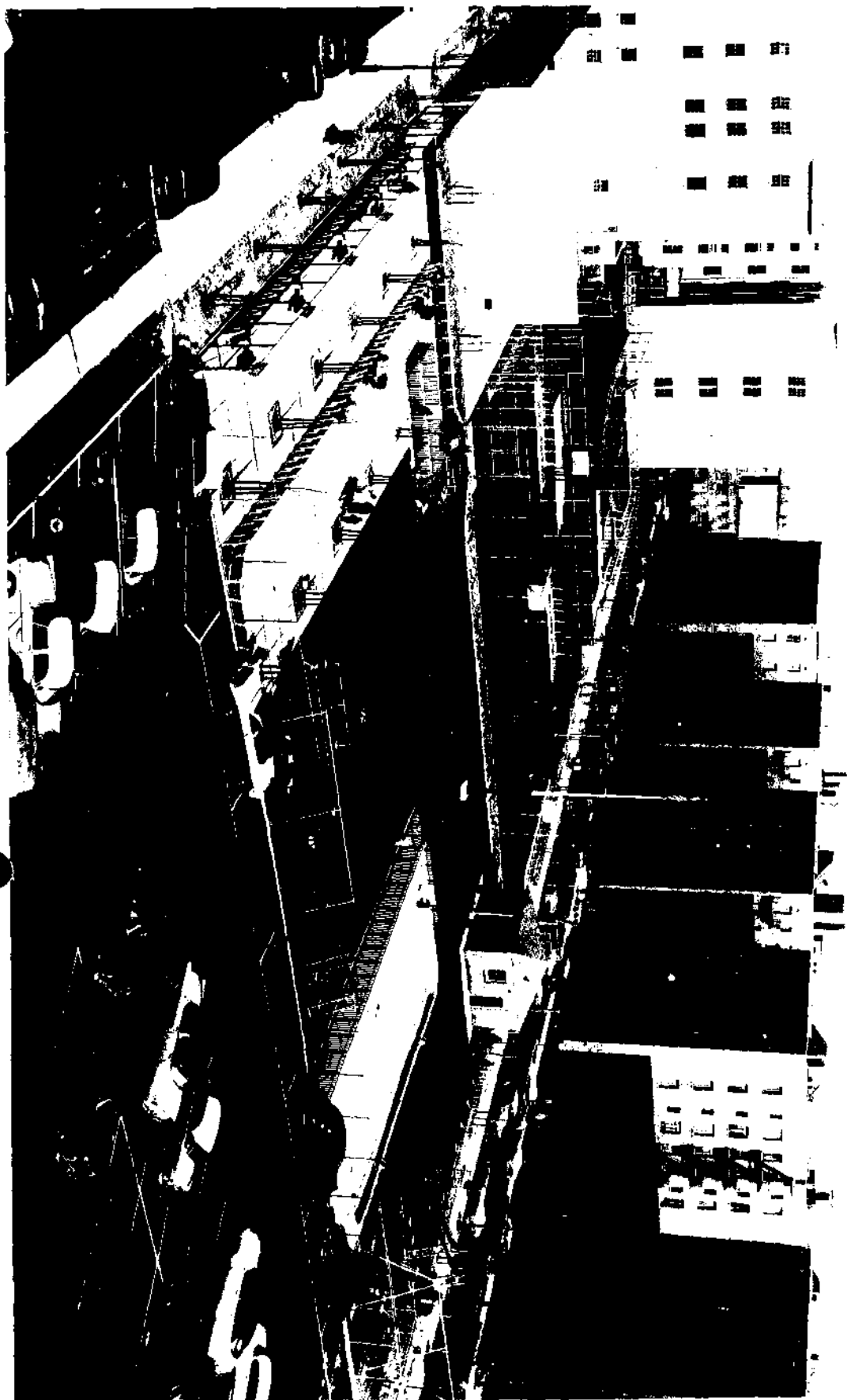
Located in the Jackson Heights section of Queens, this 1.3 acre playground will provide recreational facilities for residents of the local community as well as for pupils of P.S. 148.

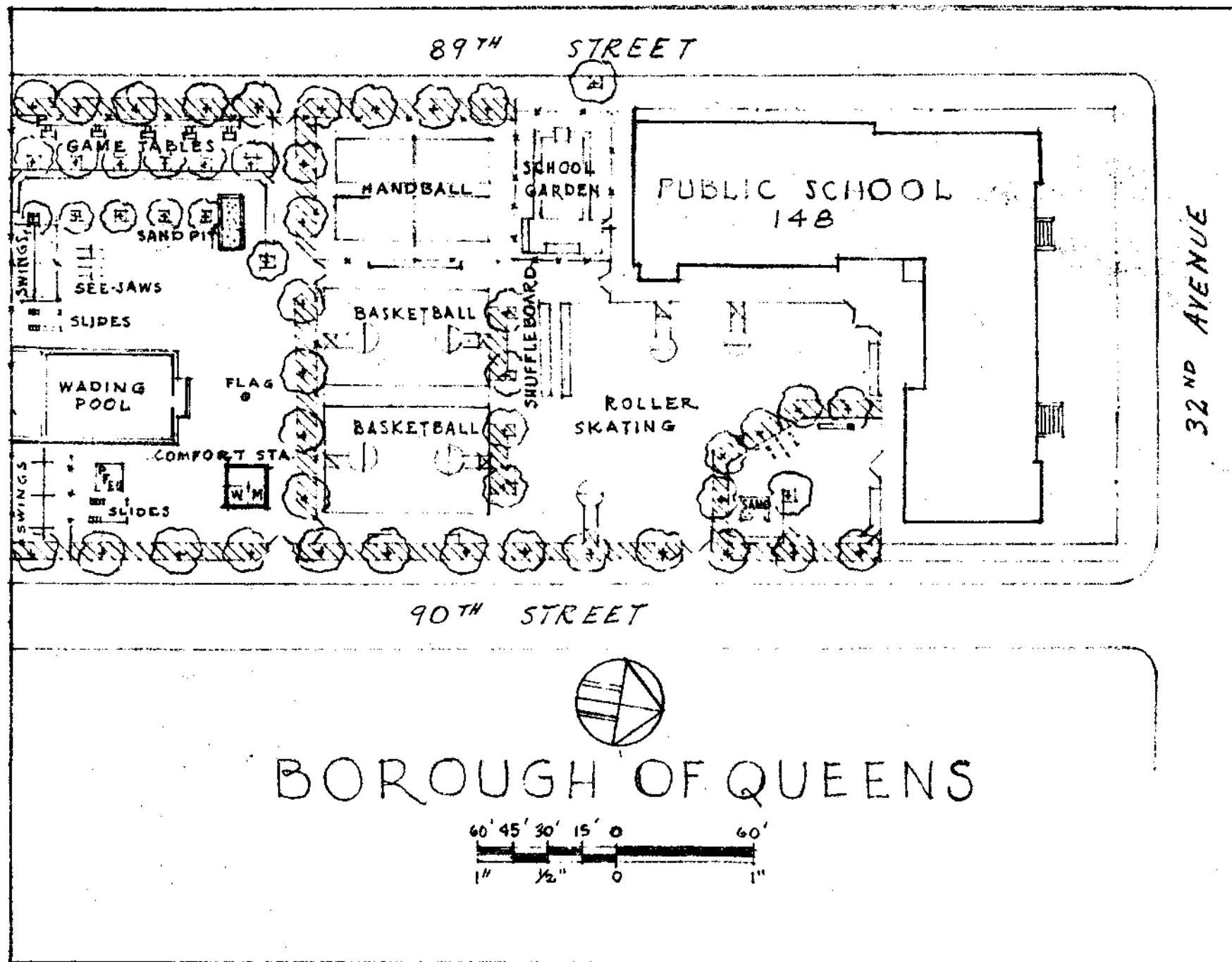
Divided into three sections for control purposes, the southerly section contains an area for small fry with see-saws, slides, jungle gym, swings, sandpit, a wading pool and a comfort station. Adjacent to this area on the west is a section for quiet games with tables and benches provided. These sections will be supervised by the Department of Parks at all times.

The northerly section provides for basketball, handball, shuffleboard, roller skating area, school garden and a kindergarten area. The Board of Education will supervise the activities of this section during school hours and, with the exception of the school garden and kindergarten area, the Department of Parks will operate this section at all other times.

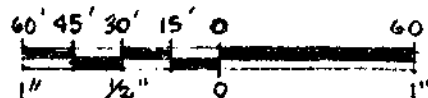
With the addition of this playground there are now 649 playgrounds in the park system.

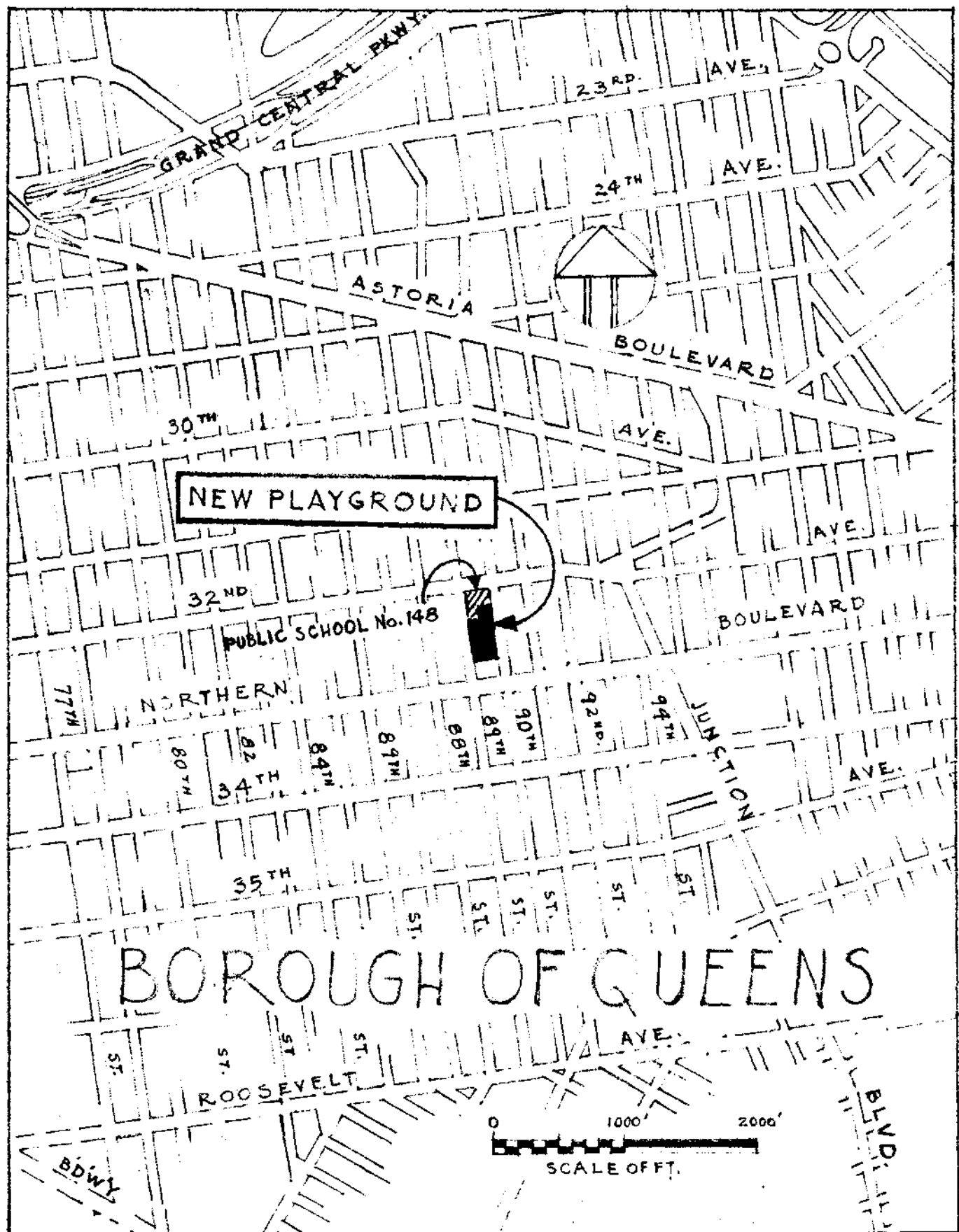
#####





BOROUGH OF QUEENS





Ray Glasper



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29th

7/28/56 Hand Kelly 11:15 AM
PICTURE # 28786
PLANS # ML-216102-216103
Regular mail 7/28/56

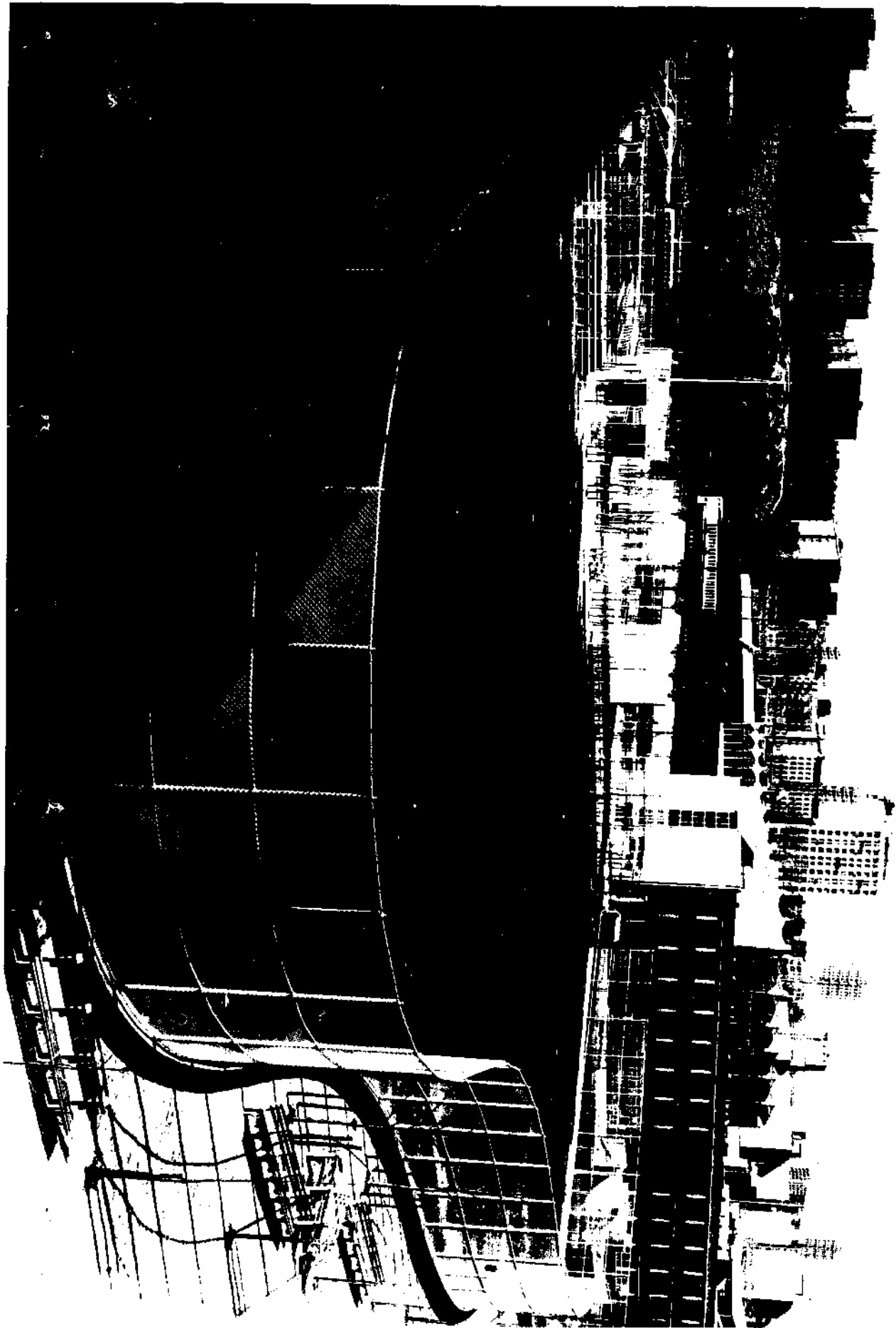
The Department of Parks announces the completion of construction and opening to the general public of a playground located at West 155th Street between Harlem River Drive and 8th Avenue, adjacent to P.S. 156 in the Borough of Manhattan.

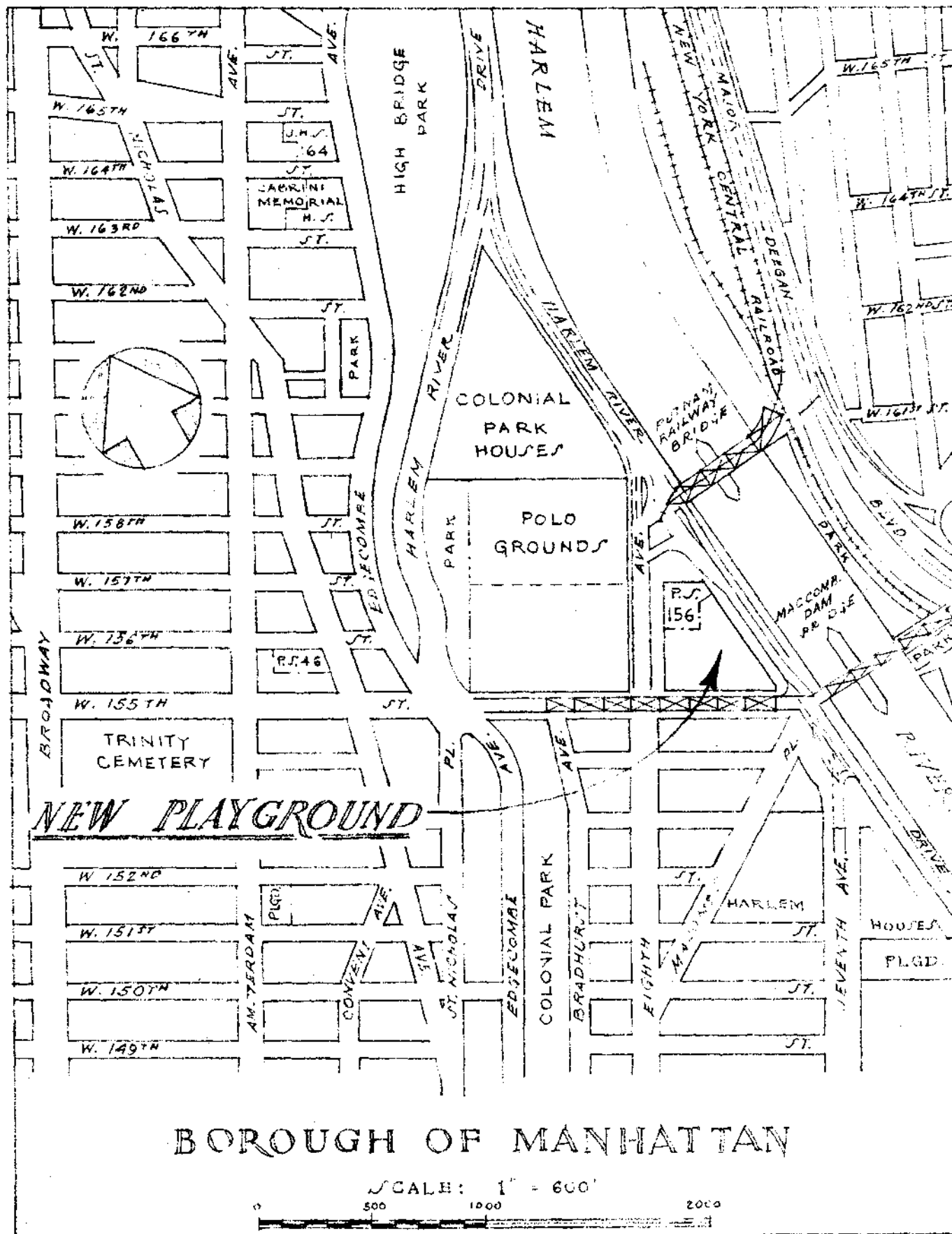
This new 3.125-acre playground is divided into three sections for control purposes. The westerly section provides for a softball field with bleachers and benches for players; the easterly section contains basketball courts and handball courts and an area for young children, with a comfort station, slides, swings, wading pool, see-saws, flagpole, and a jungle gym. Shade trees have been planted throughout the area and benches have been provided around the perimeter.

In accordance with the policy of joint operation, the sections for older children will be operated by the Board of Education during school hours and by the Department of Parks at all other times. The area for younger children will be operated by the Department of Parks at all times.

With the addition of this playground there are now 651 playgrounds in the park system.

2-28-56





PLAYGROUND ADJACENT TO P. S. 156
N. OF W. 156 ST. BETWEEN HARLEM R. DR. & 8TH AVE, BORO. OF MANHATTAN 2-21-56 NO.

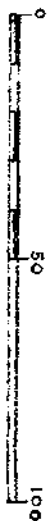
M-L-216-102

PLAYGROUND ADJACENT TO P.S. 156
 N. OF W. 156TH ST. BETWEEN HARLEM A. DR. & 8TH AVE., BORO. OF MANHATTAN 2-21-56 AD.

M-L-216-103

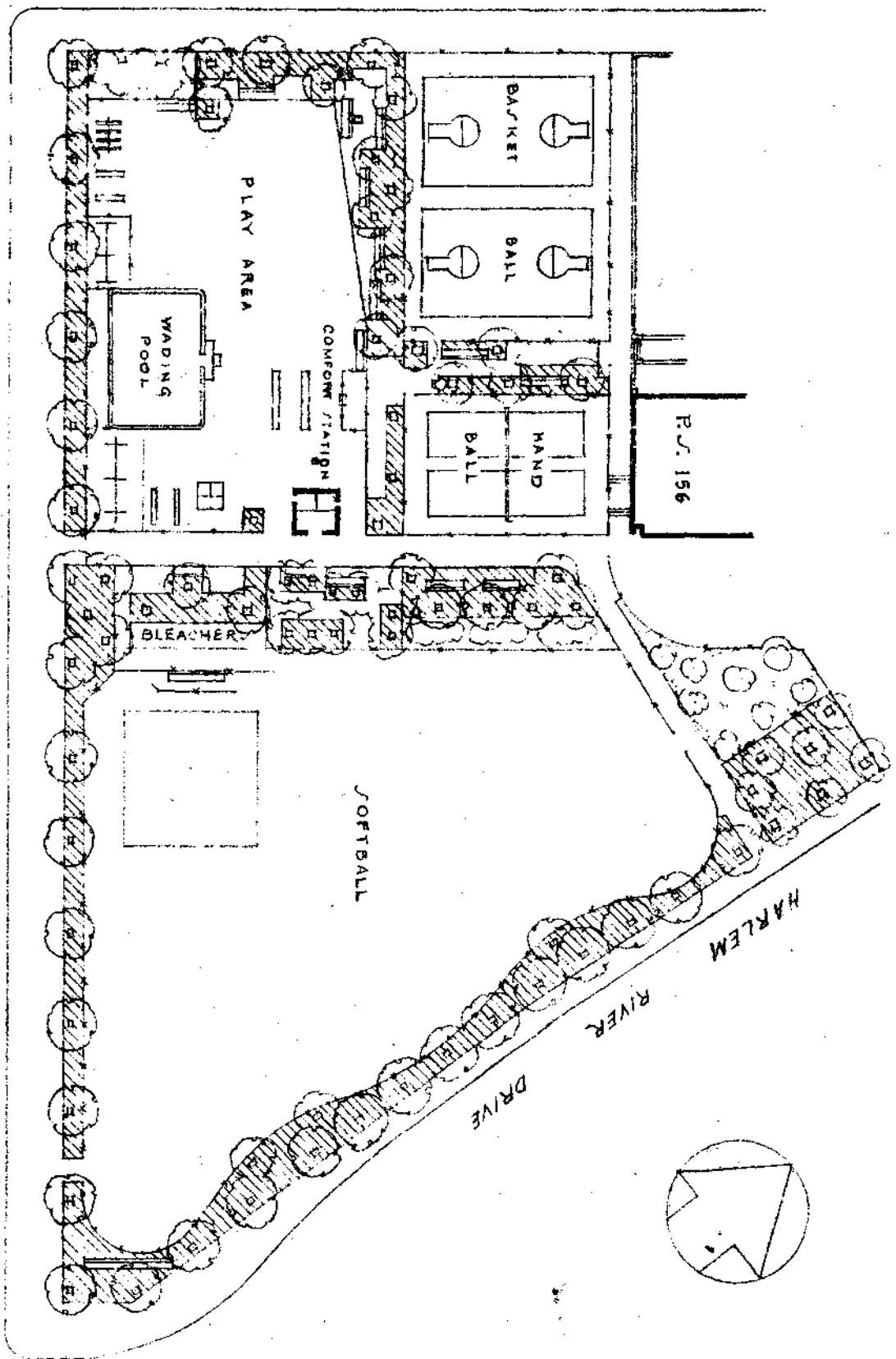
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SCALE: 1" = 40'



WEST 155TH STREET

EIGHTH AVENUE



Ray Slesper



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(35) 114

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1956

3/13 - 3 P.M.

*Hand Lily
Picture 28813*

*PLANS # QL-358101
358102*

Regular Mail 3/13

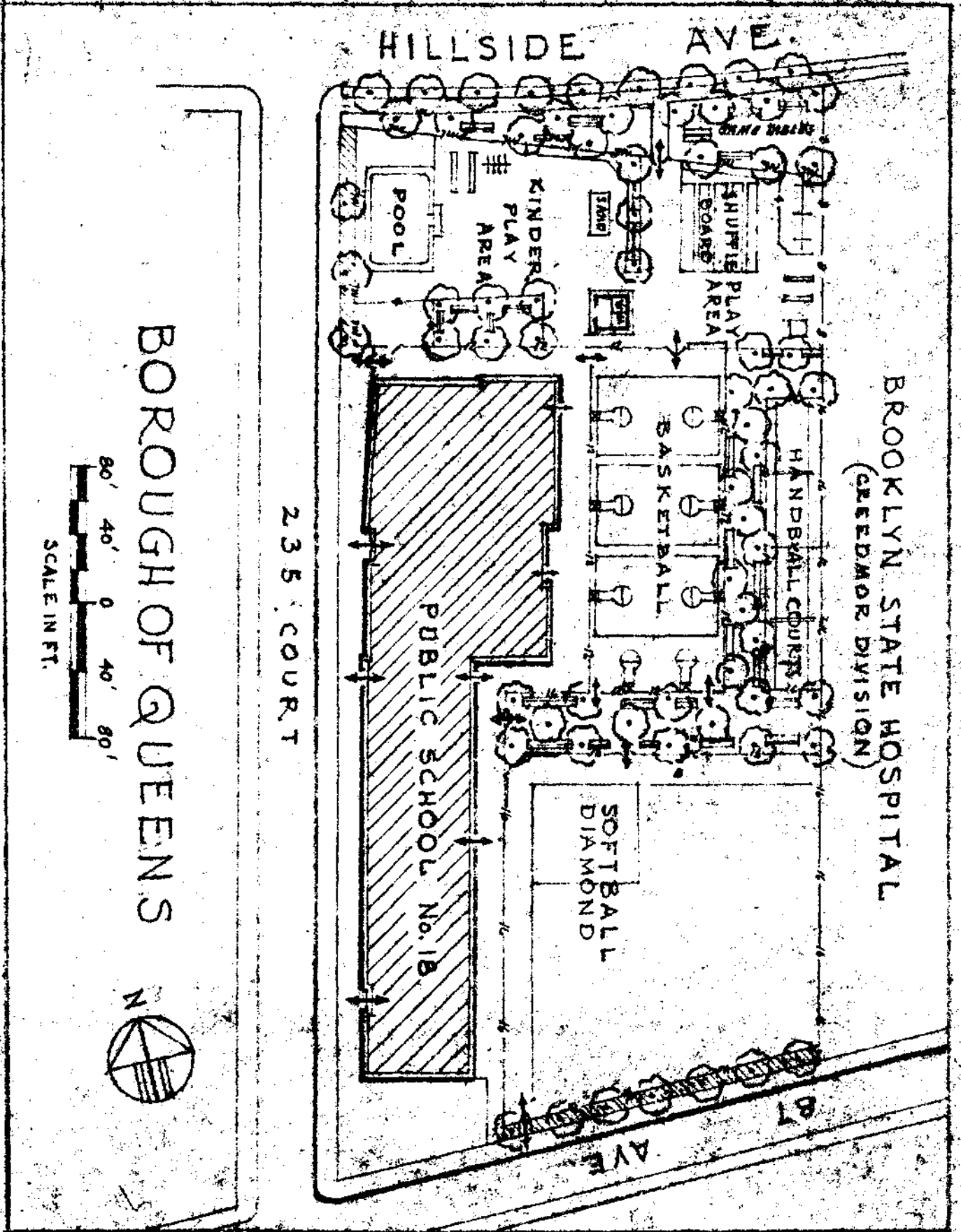
The Department of Parks announces the completion of construction and opening to the general public of a playground located in the south side of Hillside Avenue and east of 235th Court, adjacent to P.S. 18 in the Borough of Queens.

This 2.709-acre playground provides for basketball, handball, softball, shuffleboard, a quiet games area and an area for small fry with a comfort station, wading pool, swings, slides, sand pit, see-saws, jungle gym and benches for guardians of children.

In accordance with the policy of joint operation, the area for older children will be operated by the Board of Education during school hours and by the Department of Parks at all other times. The kindergarten area and the quiet games area will be operated by the Department of Parks at all times.

The entire perimeter has been landscaped with shade trees and with the addition of this playground there are now 652 playgrounds in the park system.

3-13-56

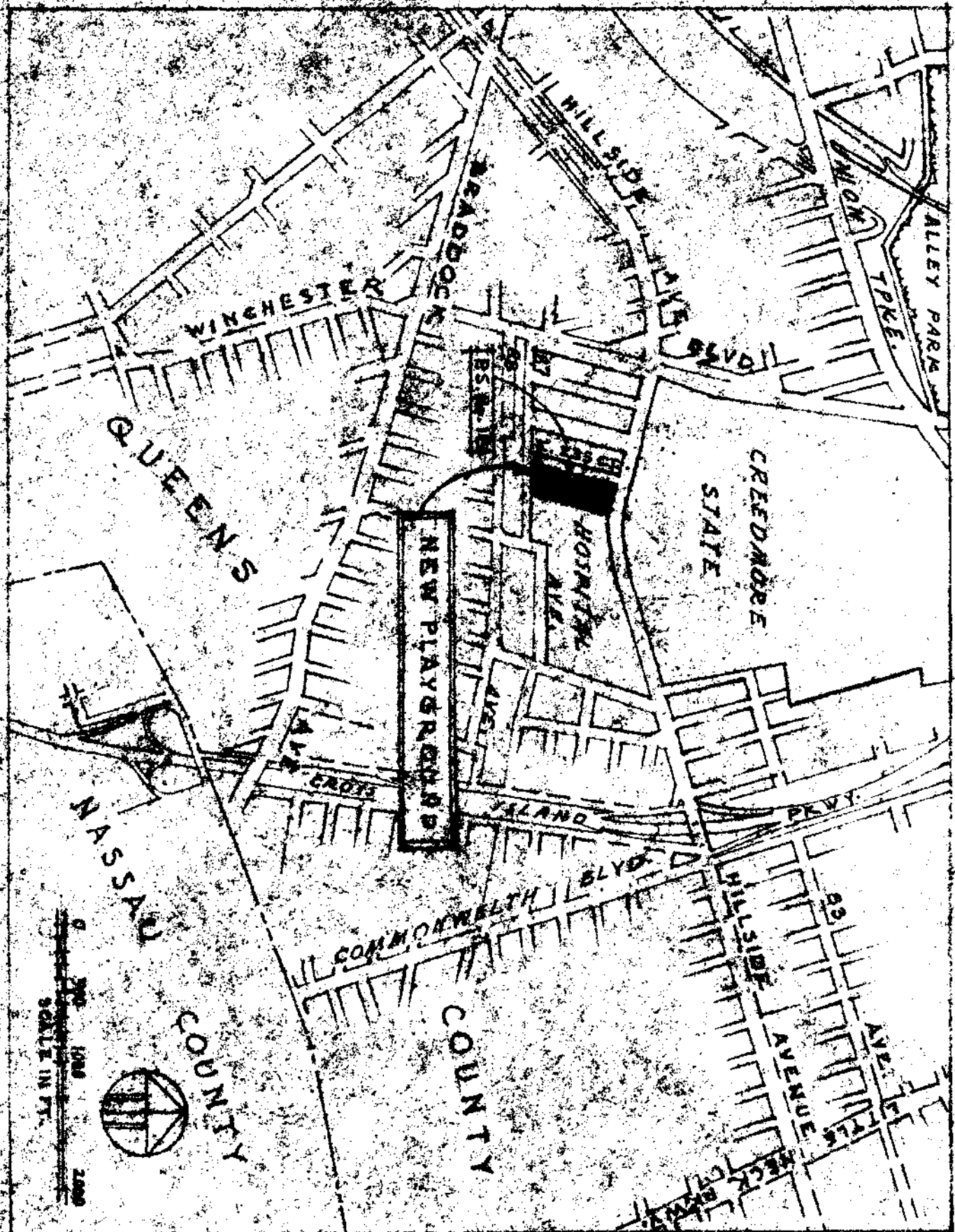


BROOKLYN STATE HOSPITAL
(GREEDMOR DIVISION)

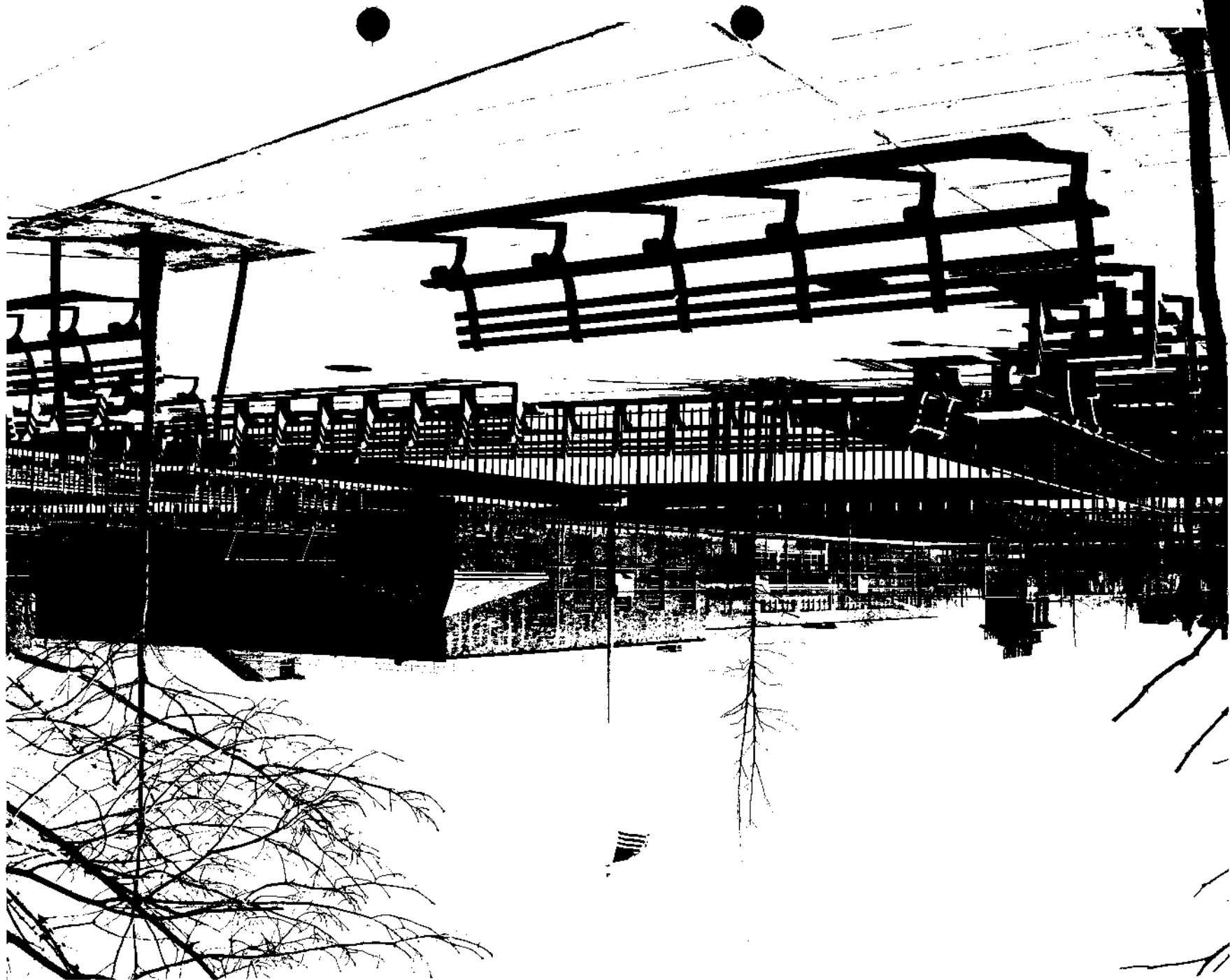
BOROUGH OF QUEENS

80' 40' 0 40' 80'
SCALE IN FT.

LOCATION MAP - REG. P.S. 11 - QUEEN'S CO. 6/15 E.L.R.



NO. 12-1-358-1/81





Ray Mueser

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

FOR RELEASE

APRIL 27, 1956

1-1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

No picture
4/26 - 1 36 PM
Hand Delivery -
PLANS Q-L-G - 112502-12503
Regular Mail 4/26

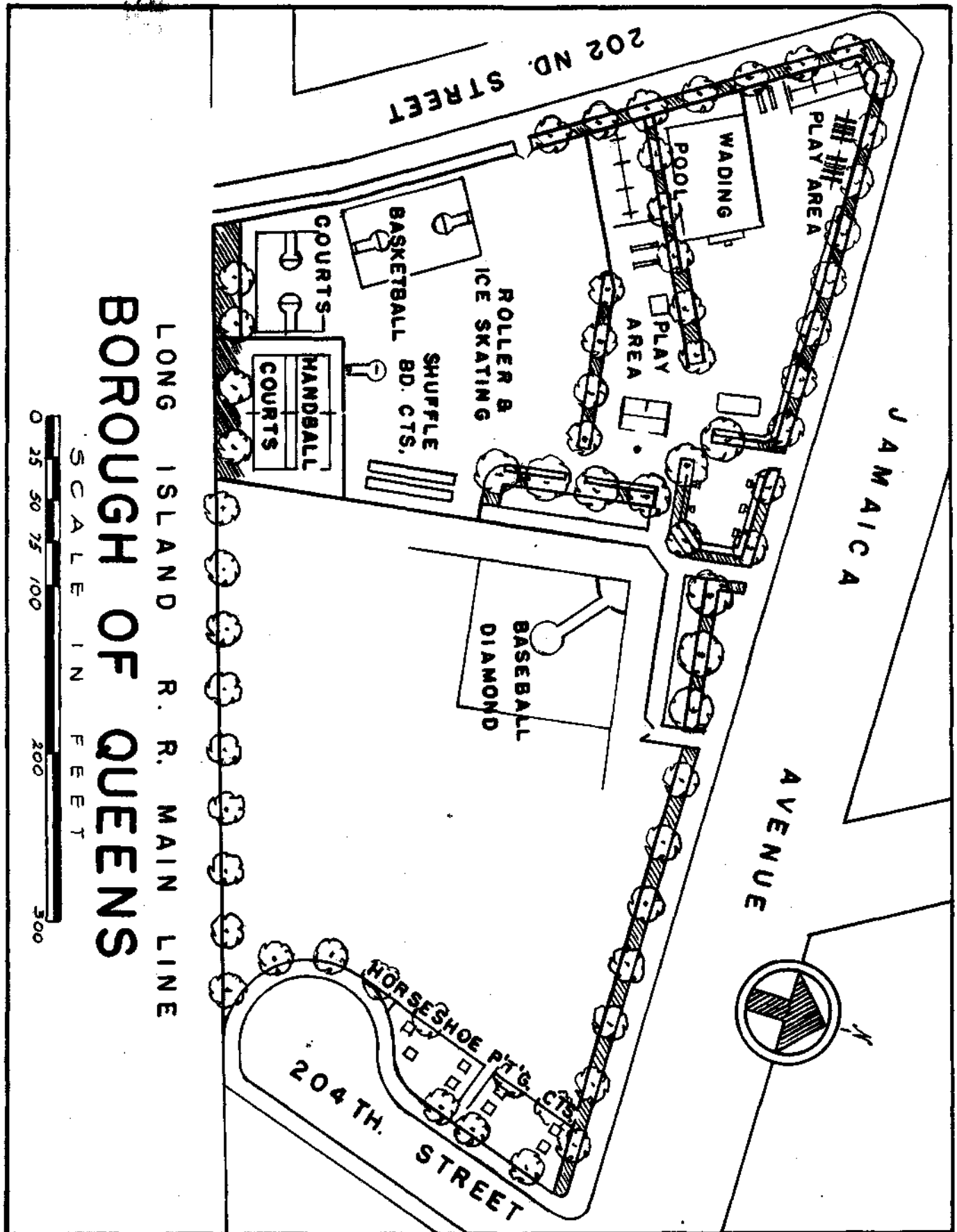
The Department of Parks announces the completion of construction and opening to the general public of a playground located at the south side of Jamaica Avenue between 202 and 204 Streets in the Borough of Queens.

This 4.33 acre playground is divided into three sections for control purposes. The northwesterly section provides an area for pre-school age children with slides, swings, see-saws, wading pool, play area, comfort station and a quiet games area. The southwesterly section is an area for older children with a roller skating area, basketball, handball and shuffleboard courts. The easterly section provides for a baseball diamond and horseshoe pitching courts. The entire area has been landscaped with shade trees.

All of these facilities are now available for use by the public with the exception of the baseball diamond. At the present time the stand of grass is insufficient to permit usage of this area, however, it is expected that within a month it will be available for use.

With the addition of this playground there are now 653 playgrounds in the park system.

4-26-56



CONSTRUCTION OF PLAYGROUND
 BET. JAMAICA AVE. & L.I.R.R. MAIN LINE FROM
 202 ND. ST. TO 204 TH. ST. BORO. OF QUEENS.
 M. B. 2/20/51

Q-L-G-12503 ✓



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENI 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1956

Ray Glasper
2/21/56 - 12 Noon
Hand Delivered
Picture # 28763
PLANS - BL 258100
BL 258101
Regular Mail 2/21

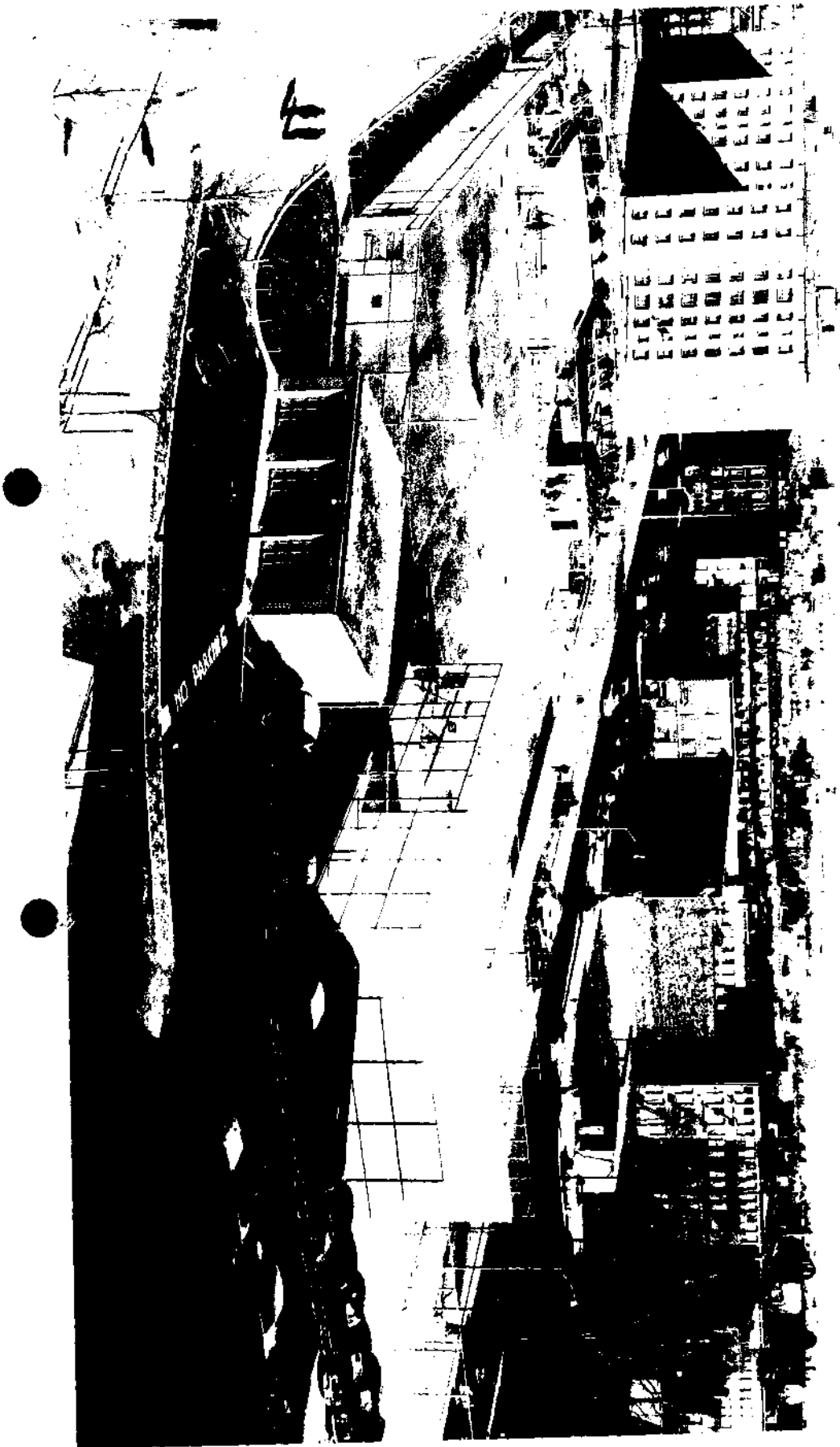
The Department of Parks announces the opening of a playground adjacent to the Brevoort Houses at Ralph Avenue, between Sumpter & Chauncey Streets in the Borough of Brooklyn.

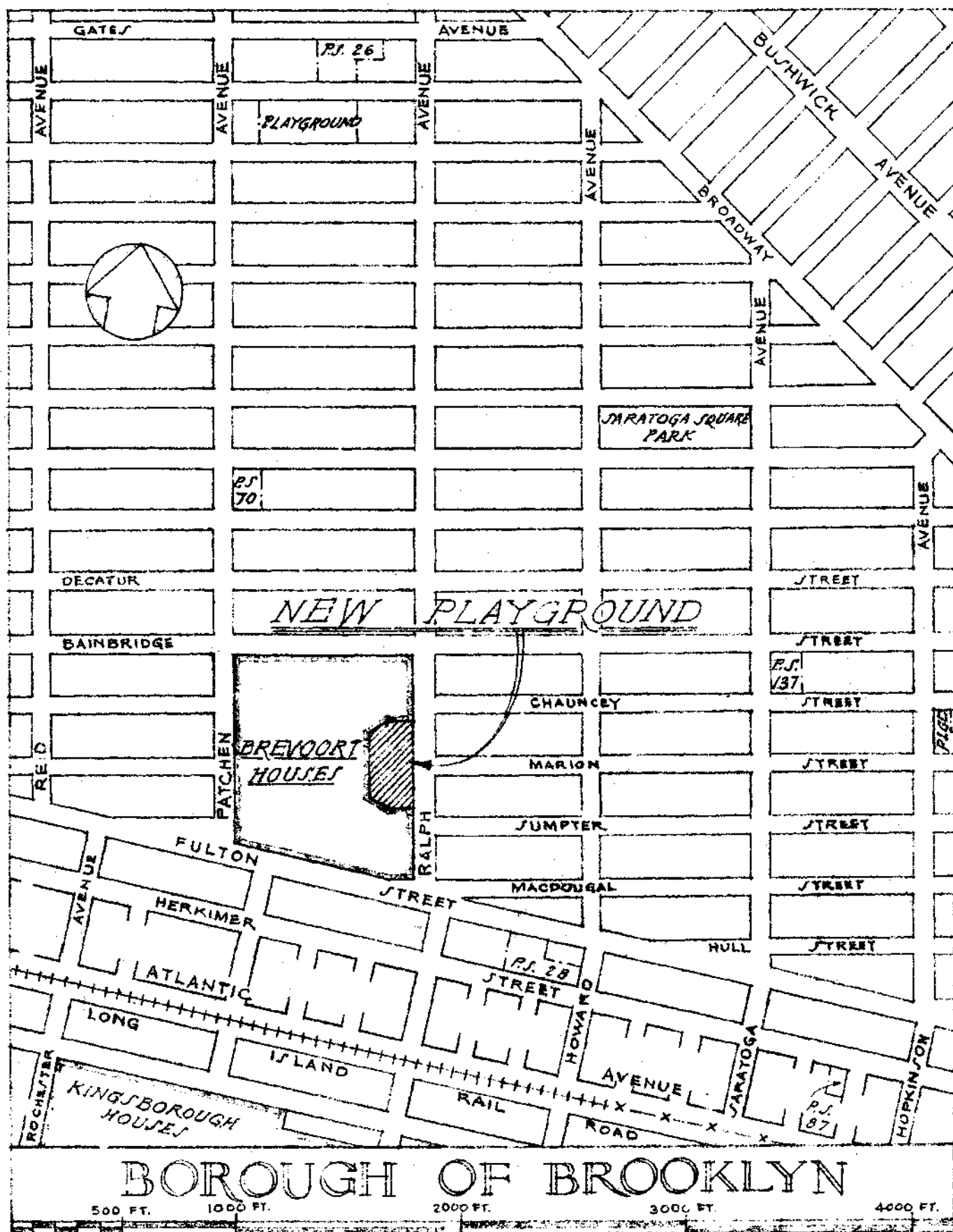
The playground, an example of close cooperation and coordination, was built with New York City Housing Authority funds and will be operated by the Department of Parks.

This 1.818-acre playground provides for handball, basketball, roller skating area, swings, slides, jungle gym, comfort station and an area for pre-school age children with a wading pool, sand pit, see-saws, swings and slides. The perimeter has been landscaped with shade trees.

With the addition of this playground, there are now 650 playgrounds in the park system.

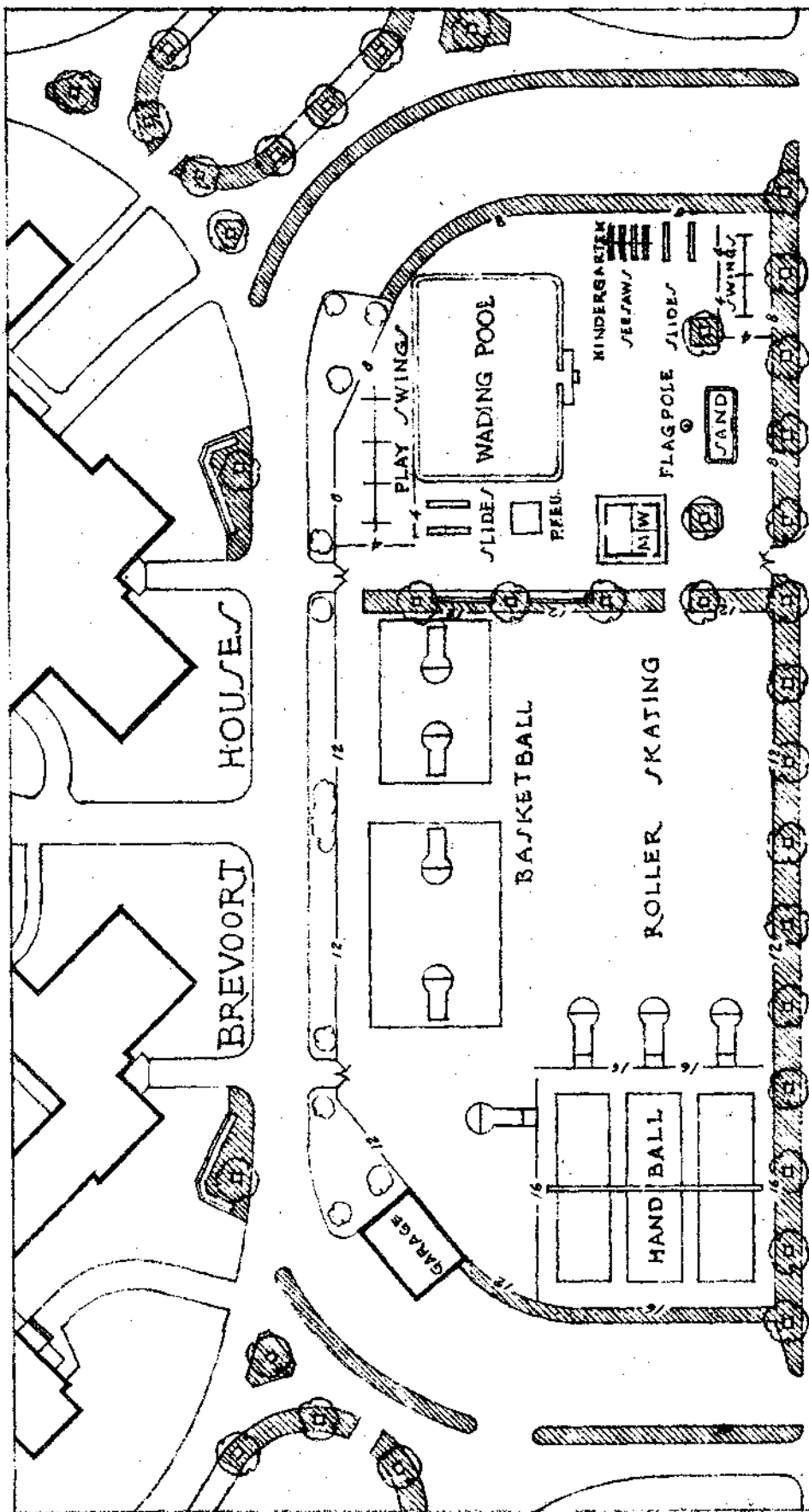
2-21-56





CONSTRUCTION OF PLAYGROUND - BREVORT HOUSES
RALPH AVENUE - BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN 2-17-56 M.D.

2-17-56-100



AVENUE

RALPH

NEW PLAYGROUND BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

50 FEET

100 FEET

CONSTRUCTION OF PLAYGROUND - BREVOORT HOUSES
RALPH AVENUE - BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN - 2-17-56 M.O.



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

FOR RELEASE

X-1-30M-703234(55) 114

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1956

R. Glasper
7/4/56 REGENT 4-1000
Hand Delivery - 11 30 AM
Mail " 12 Noon
Picture # 28711
Maps # L 335-101
102

The Department of Parks announces the opening to the general public of a playground adjacent to J.H.S. 190 at 68th Avenue between Booth and Austin Streets in the Borough of Queens.

This 1.469 acre playground is located in the Forest Hills section of Queens and will provide additional recreational facilities for residents of the local community as well as for pupils of JHS 190.

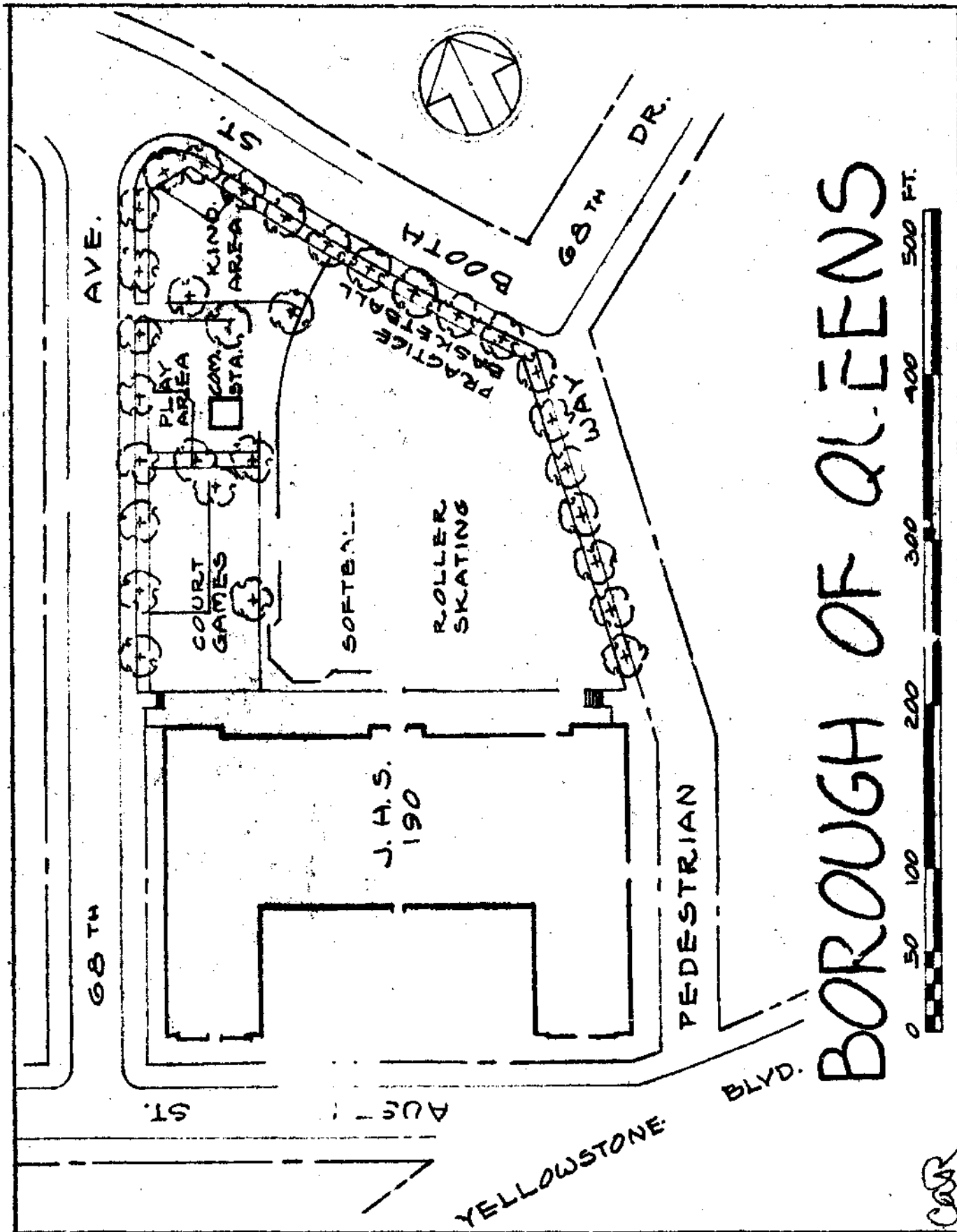
Divided into two sections for control purposes, the southerly section is for older children and provides for softball, practice basketball and roller skating. The northerly section provides for handball, shuffleboard, a comfort station, jungle gym, swings, slides and an area for small fry with a sandpit, see-saws and slides. Benches for guardians of small children are provided and the entire perimeter has been landscaped with shade trees.

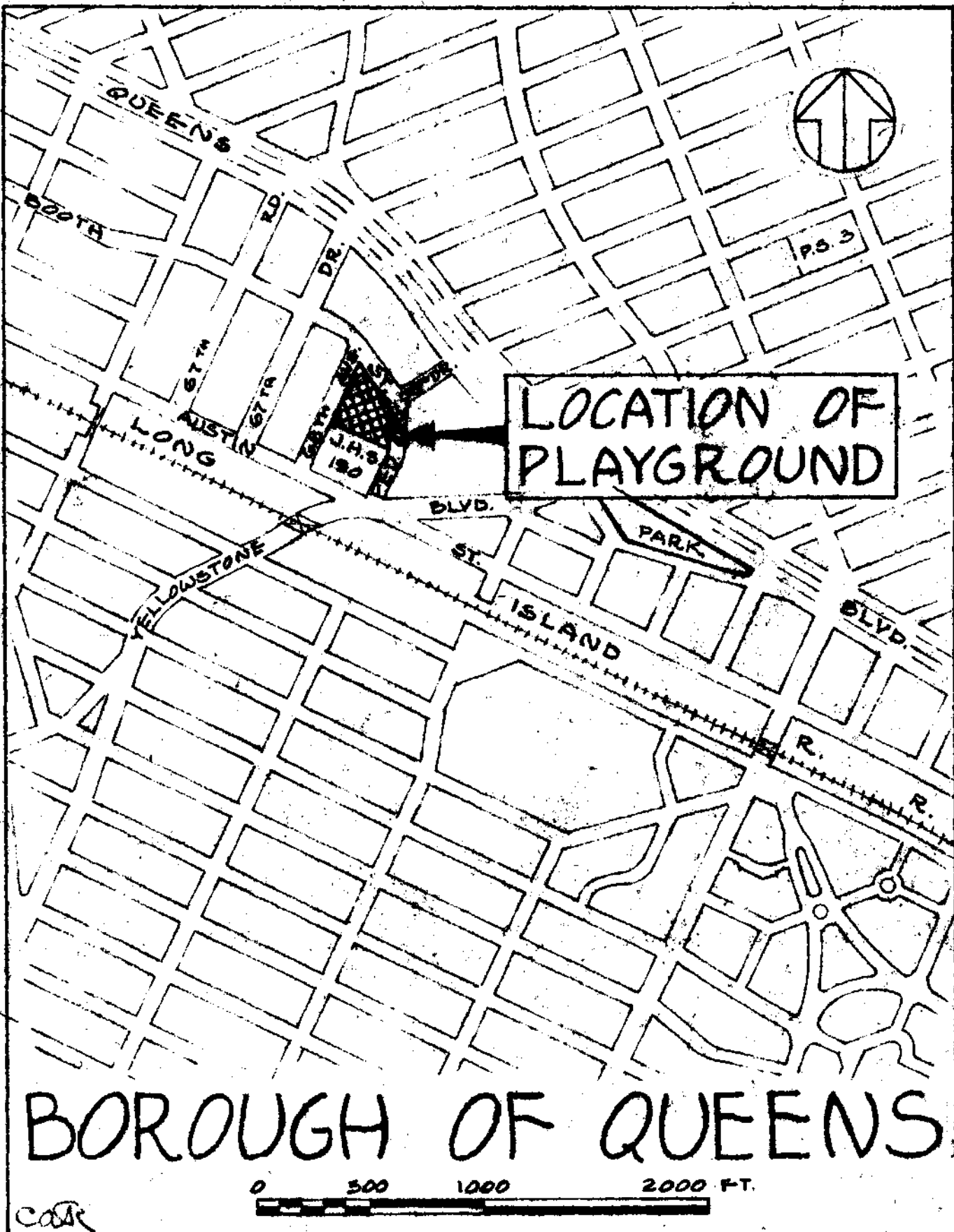
In accordance with the policy of joint-operation the area for older children will be operated by the Board of Education during school hours and by the Department of Parks at all other times.

With the addition of this playground there are now 648 playgrounds in the park system.

* * * * *

2-2-56





PLGD. AT PEDESTRIAN WAY & 68TH AVE.
W/O BOOTH ST. ADJ. TO J.H.S. 190
JAN. 29, '36

Q-L-335-101





DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

FOR RELEASE

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1956

1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

4/7/56

REGENT 4-1000

Mr. Felix
Hand Delivery - 2 P.M.
mail Delivery - 3 P.M.
Plan. Q.L. 3/61 - 101
Picture 28954

The Department of Parks announces the completion of construction and opening to the general public of a playground located at Broadway and 45 Avenue, West of Elmhurst Avenue, in the Borough of Queens.

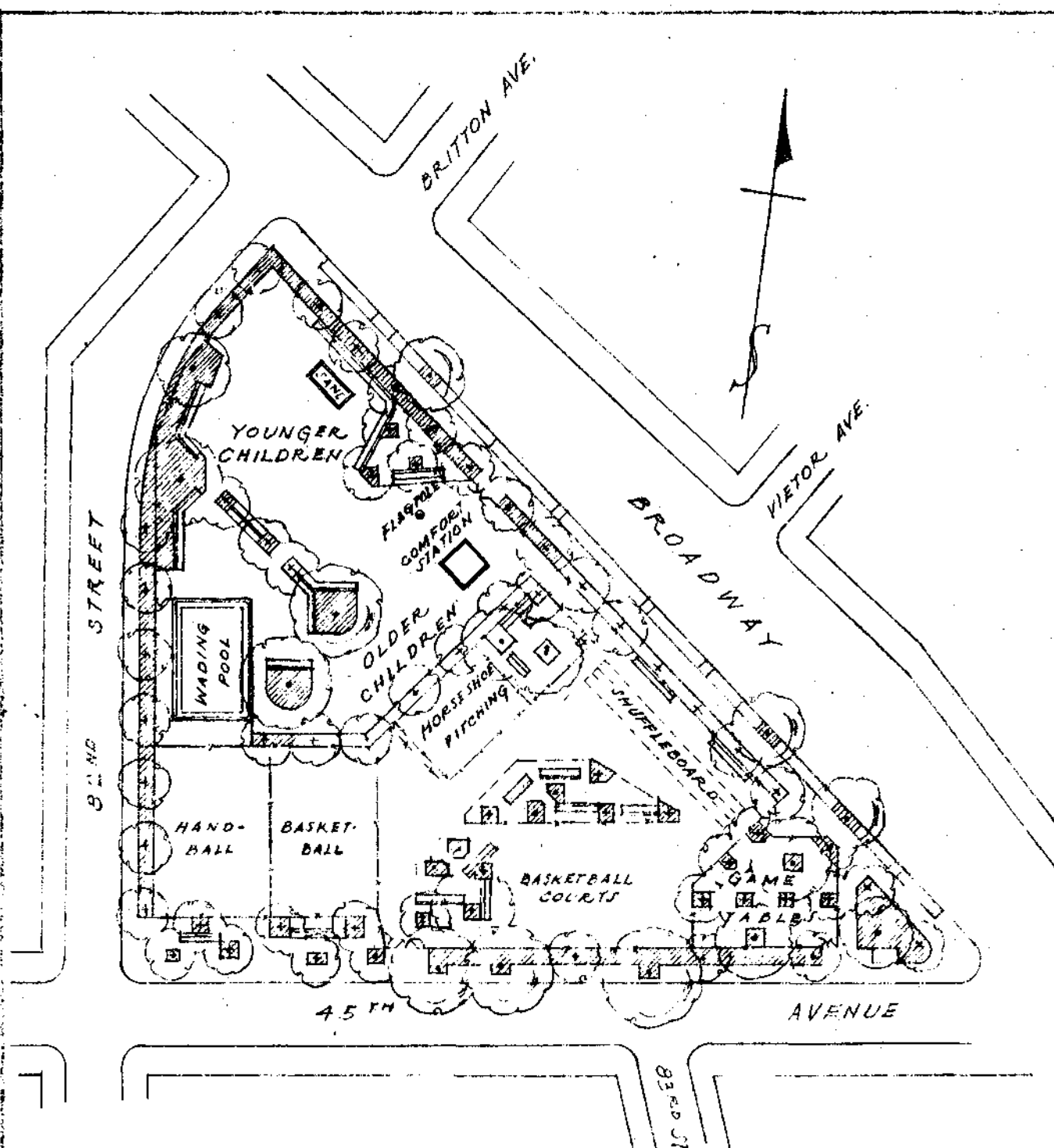
The westerly section of the new 1.978 playground provides for a kindergarden area with slides, swings, see saws, sandpit, and a wading pool, and an area for older children with slides, swings, jungle gym and a comfort station. The easterly section provides for handball courts, basketball courts, shuffle board and a quiet games area with tables and benches.

In the plans for the development of this facility, provision was made to preserve many of the existing trees throughout the area. Under these trees many benches have been provided for use by patrons seeking passive recreation.

The entire perimeter has been landscaped with shade trees. With the addition of this playground there are now 660 playgrounds in the park system.

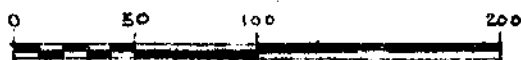
* * * * *

6 - 6 - 56



BOROUGH OF QUEENS

SCALE IN FEET



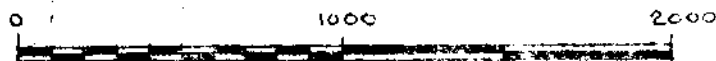
PLAYGROUND AT BROADWAY & 45TH AVENUE,
WEST OF ELMHURST AVENUE
1956 M.D.

G-4-361-101



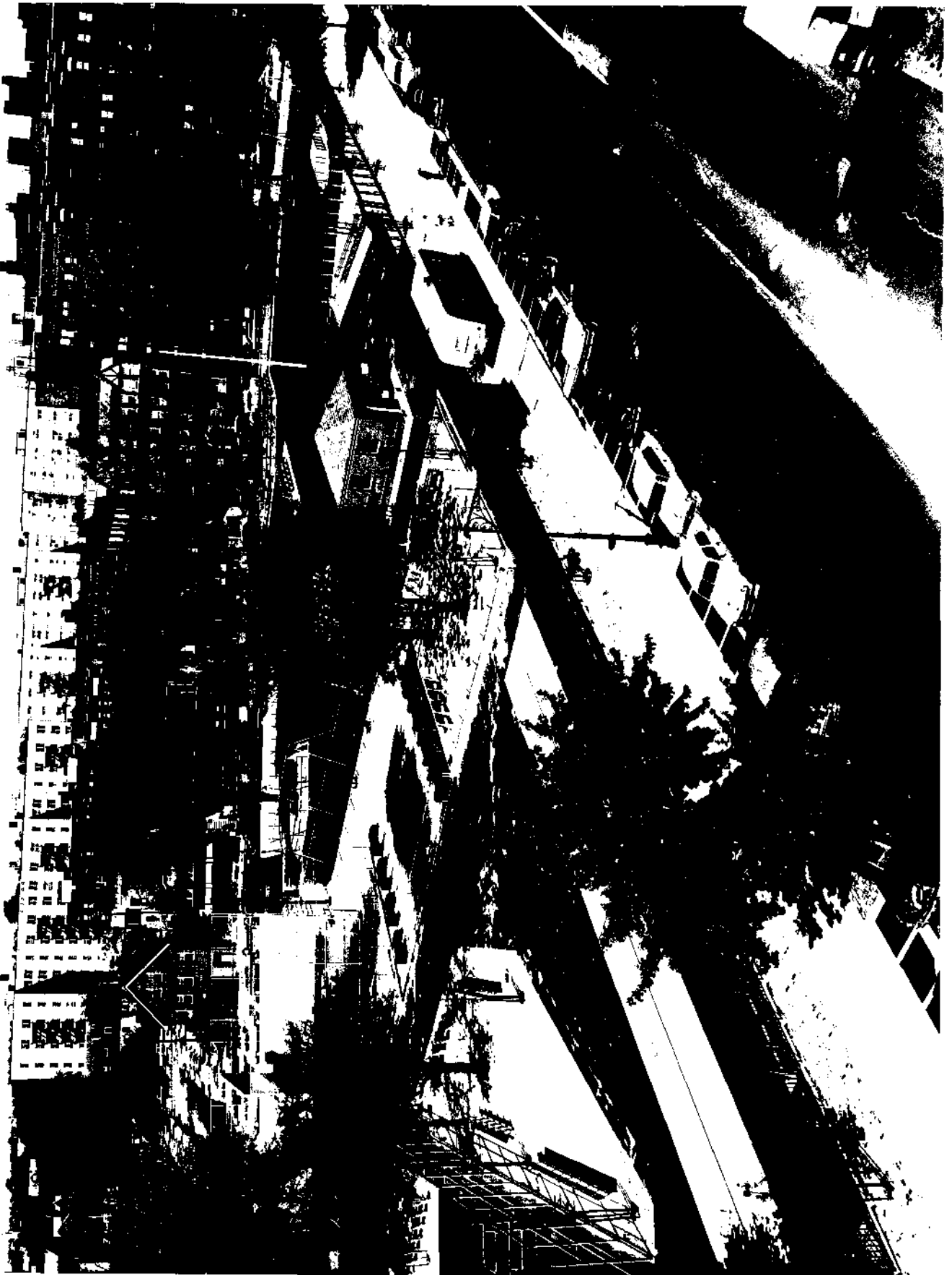
BOROUGH OF QUEENS

SCALE IN FEET



PLAYGROUND AT BROADWAY & 45TH AVENUE,
WEST OF ELMHURST AVENUE
1956 M.D.

Q-L-P61-100





DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 1956

6/1/56 - 2:15 PM

Hand Delivery

Picture 28958

Plan BL-50-300

50-301
Regular Mail 6/1/56

The Department of Parks announces that dedication ceremonies marking the completion of the development of Steven Coerten van Voorhees Park, which is adjacent to the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway between Congress Street and Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, will be held on June 4, 1956 at 3:30 p.m.

The Honorable John Cashmore, Borough President of Brooklyn, Mr. Edward M. Fuller, President of Long Island College Hospital, Mrs. Raymond Vail Ingersoll and Mr. Tracy S. Voorhees, Consultant to the Secretary of Defense will participate as speakers. The Invocation will be delivered by Reverend David Monroe Cory, Prayer by Rabbi Alter Abelson and Benediction by Reverend Jaime Pico, Protestant, Jewish and Catholic Chaplains respectively of the Long Island College Hospital. The Honorable Robert Moses, Commissioner of Parks, will preside. Music will be furnished by the Department of Sanitation Band.

The property forming the nucleus of Van Voorhees Park was given to the City by the nearby Long Island College Hospital, one of Brooklyn's oldest institutions, which raised a special fund for this purpose through contributions by private individuals. The fund was established with the aim of providing recreational facilities in the adjacent neighborhood which had none and where the need was great. The balance of the property was acquired by the City through

condemnation.

The idea of creating Steven Coerten van Voorhees Park was first suggested to the Park Department in 1939 by the late Borough President Raymond V. Ingersoll and the late Councilman Genevieve B. Earle. In more recent years Borough President John Cashmore, in connection with the planning and construction of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, has cooperated with the Department of Parks and Long Island College Hospital authorities in developing the property as a neighborhood park and playground.

Named in honor of the pioneer member of one of Brooklyn's oldest families, the park includes a playground at Hicks Street and Atlantic Avenue which was opened to the public in 1952. The newly-completed remainder of the park area provides two basketball courts, four handball courts, a softball diamond, an area for roller skating or ice skating, a wading pool, a sand pit, playground apparatus, a flagpole and a comfort station. Benches have been provided for adults accompanying children and shade trees will make the park attractive and comfortable for visitors in the summer months.

Three bronze plaques will be dedicated in Van Voorhees Park. Two of these - one in the playground which was completed in 1952 and one in the newly constructed area - are identical and bear the following inscription:

"STEVEN COERTEN VAN VOORHEES, THE ANCESTOR OF ALL OF THE VOORHEES FAMILY IN THE UNITED STATES, EMIGRATED FROM HOLLAND TO AMERICA IN 1660 ON THE SHIP BONTEKOU AND SETTLED IN FLATLANDS, PART OF THE PRESENT BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN. THIS PARK WITH ITS PLAYGROUNDS IS NAMED IN HIS MEMORY."

The third plaque is placed at the base of the flagpole

in the area to be opened on June 4th, in recognition of the efforts of the late Borough President Ingersoll which led to acquisition, planning and eventual construction of Van Voorhees Park. Its inscription is as follows:

"RAYMOND VAIL INGERSOLL
BOROUGH PRESIDENT OF BROOKLYN FROM 1933-1940
WAS LARGELY INSTRUMENTAL IN THE PLAN
FOR THE CREATION OF THIS PARK AND PLAYGROUND

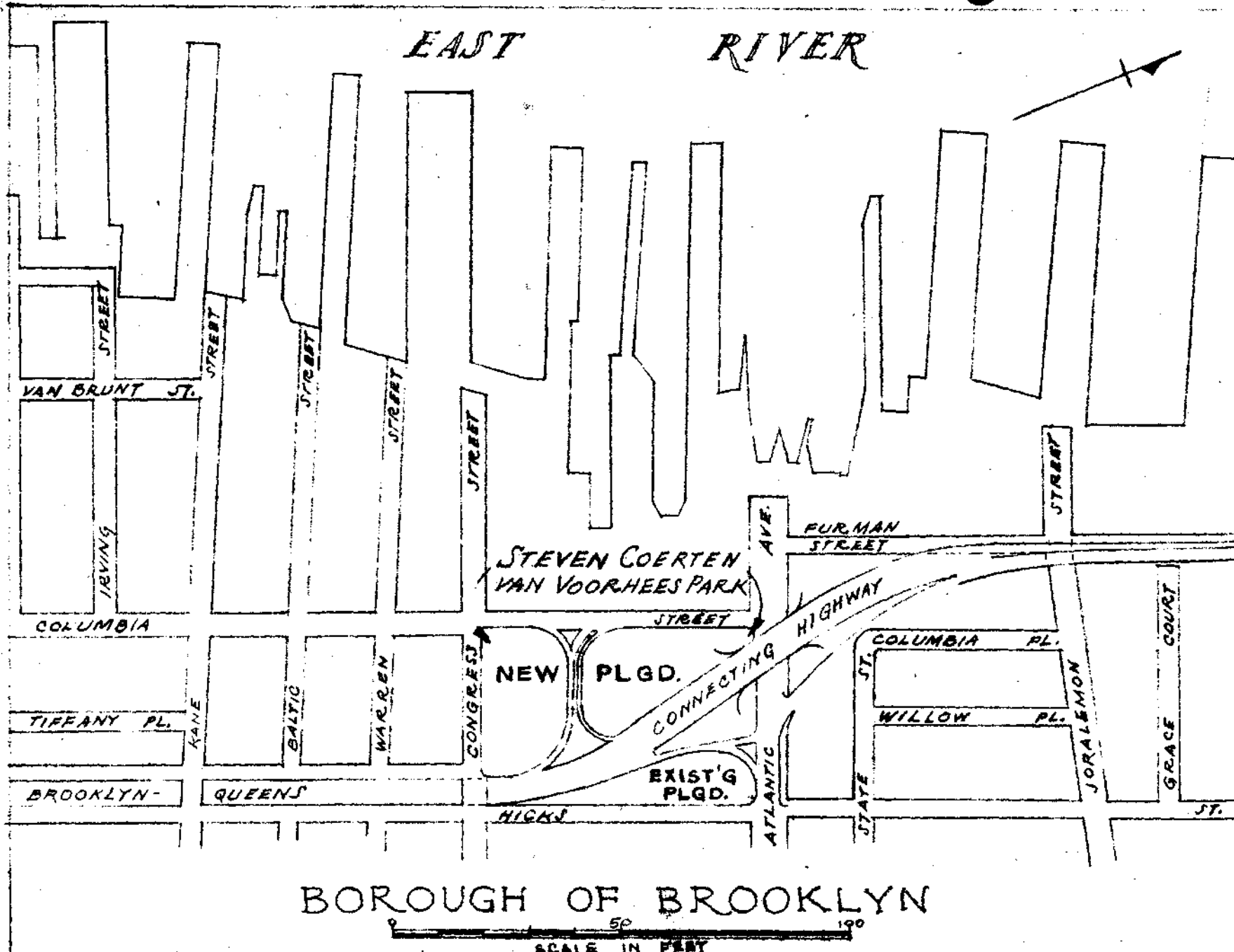
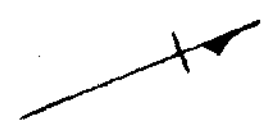
IN MEMORY OF HIM, THIS FLAG AND FLAGPOLE
THE TREES SURROUNDING IT, AND THE PARK
ITSELF ARE LIVING SYMBOLS."

With the addition of this playground, there are now 659 playgrounds in the park system.

: : : : : :

6-1-56

EAST RIVER

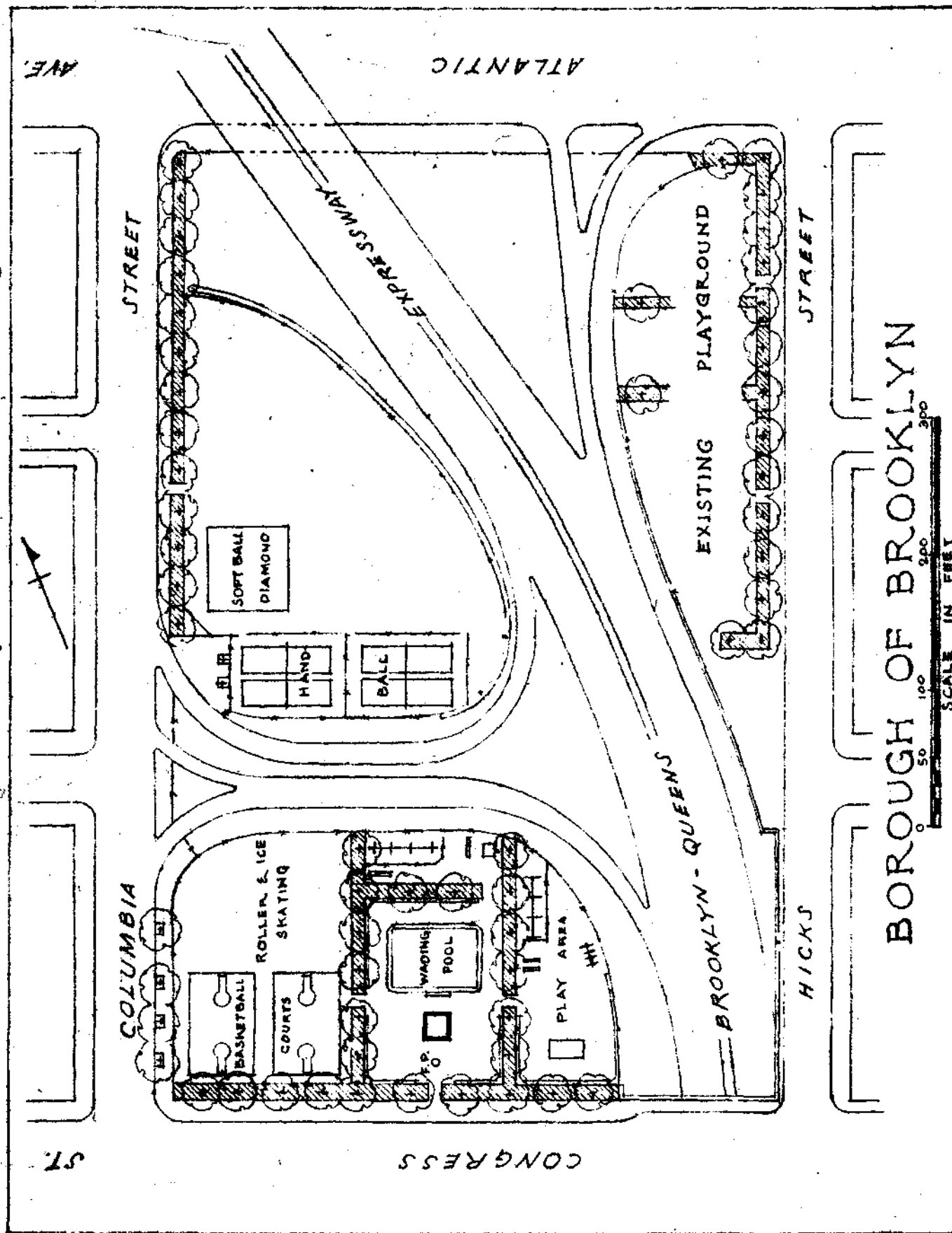


BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

SCALE IN FEET
0 50 100

PLAYGROUND BETWEEN CONGRESS STREET & ATLANTIC AVENUE,
AND BETWEEN COLUMBIA STREET & HICKS STREET,
STEVEN COERTEN VAN VOORHEES PARK 4-19-56 MD.

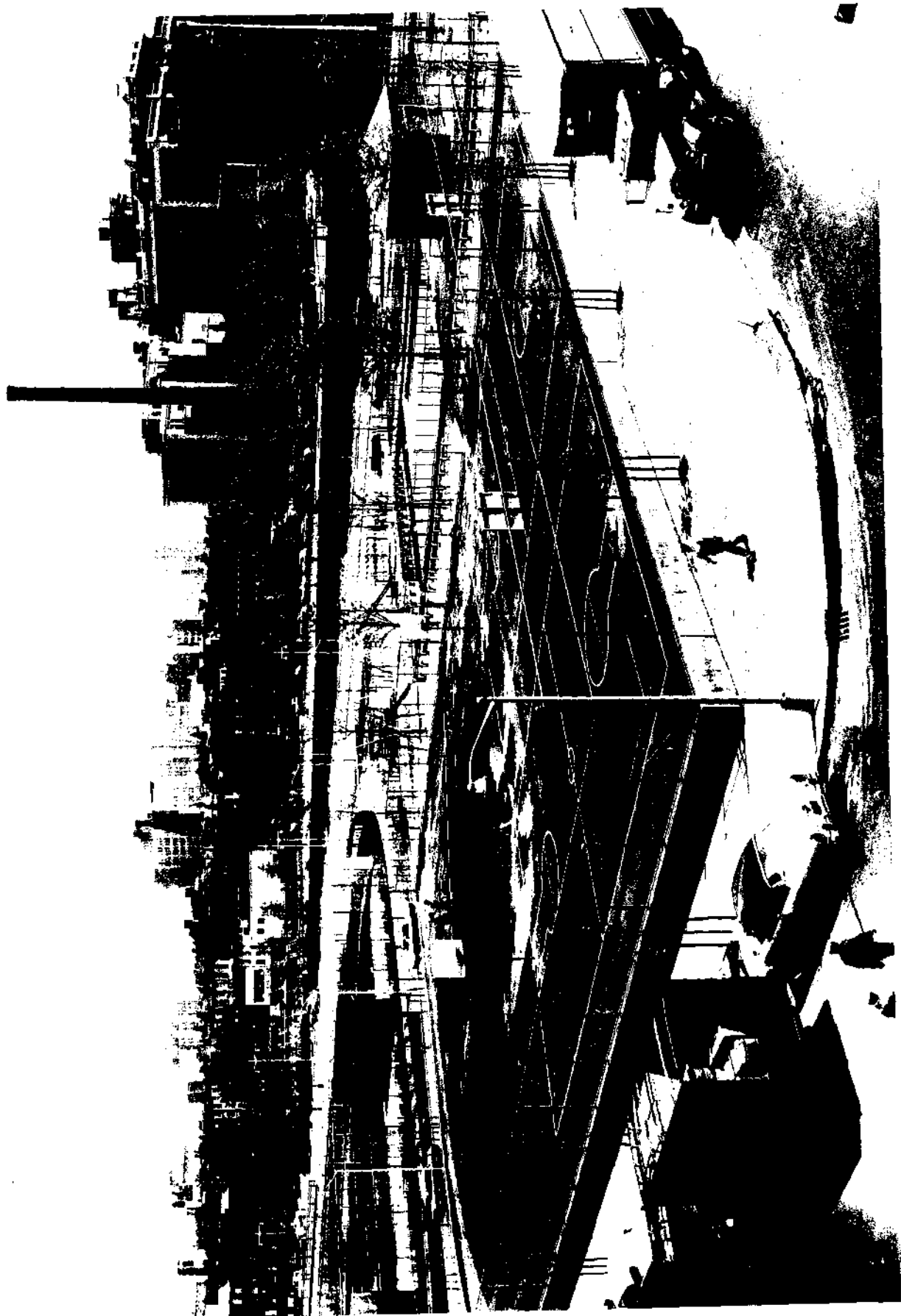
B-2-50-300



BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

0 50 100 200 300
SCALE IN FEET

PLAYGROUND BETWEEN CONGRESS STREET & ATLANTIC AVENUE,
AND BETWEEN COLUMBIA STREET & HICKS STREET,
STEVEN COERTEN VAN VOORHEES PARK 4-19-56 M.D.





Barney Felix

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

MONDAY, JUNE 4, 1956

*6/1/56 Hand Kelly 2:10 PM
Picture 28956
Plow QL-15-1955
15-1956
Regular Mail 6/1*

The Department of Parks announces the completion of construction and opening to the general public of a marginal playground located in Forest Park at Park Lane South opposite Abingdon Road in the Borough of Queens.

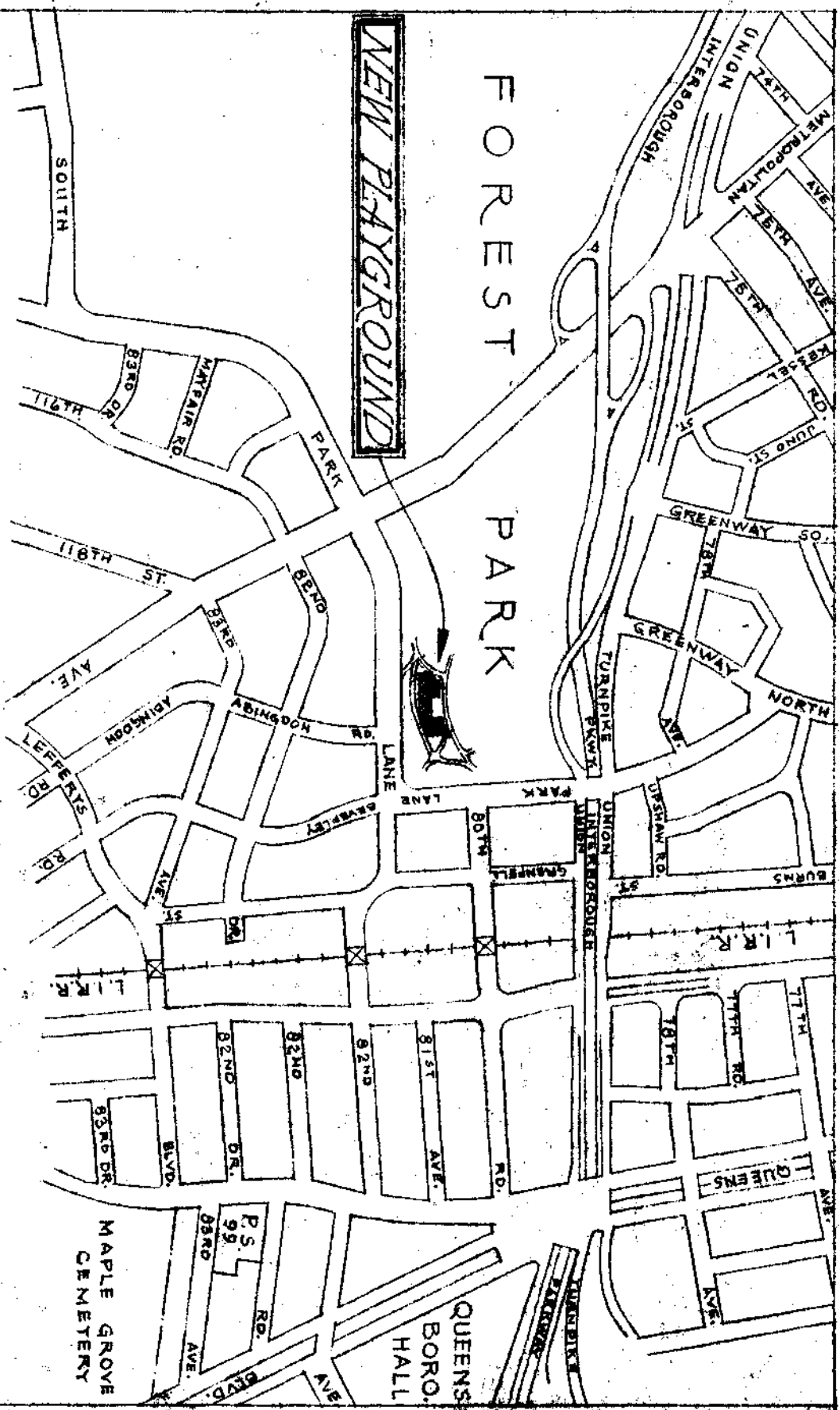
This new 0.4 acre playground was constructed in accordance with the plan for reducing the traveling distance for park patrons seeking recreation, to provide facilities for all age groups, and to help in maintaining the larger landscaped areas.

Included in the newly built area are quiet games tables, shuffleboard courts, slides, swings, handball courts, basketball courts, sitting areas, and a comfort station.

With the addition of this playground there are now 658 playgrounds in the park system.

* * *

6-1-56

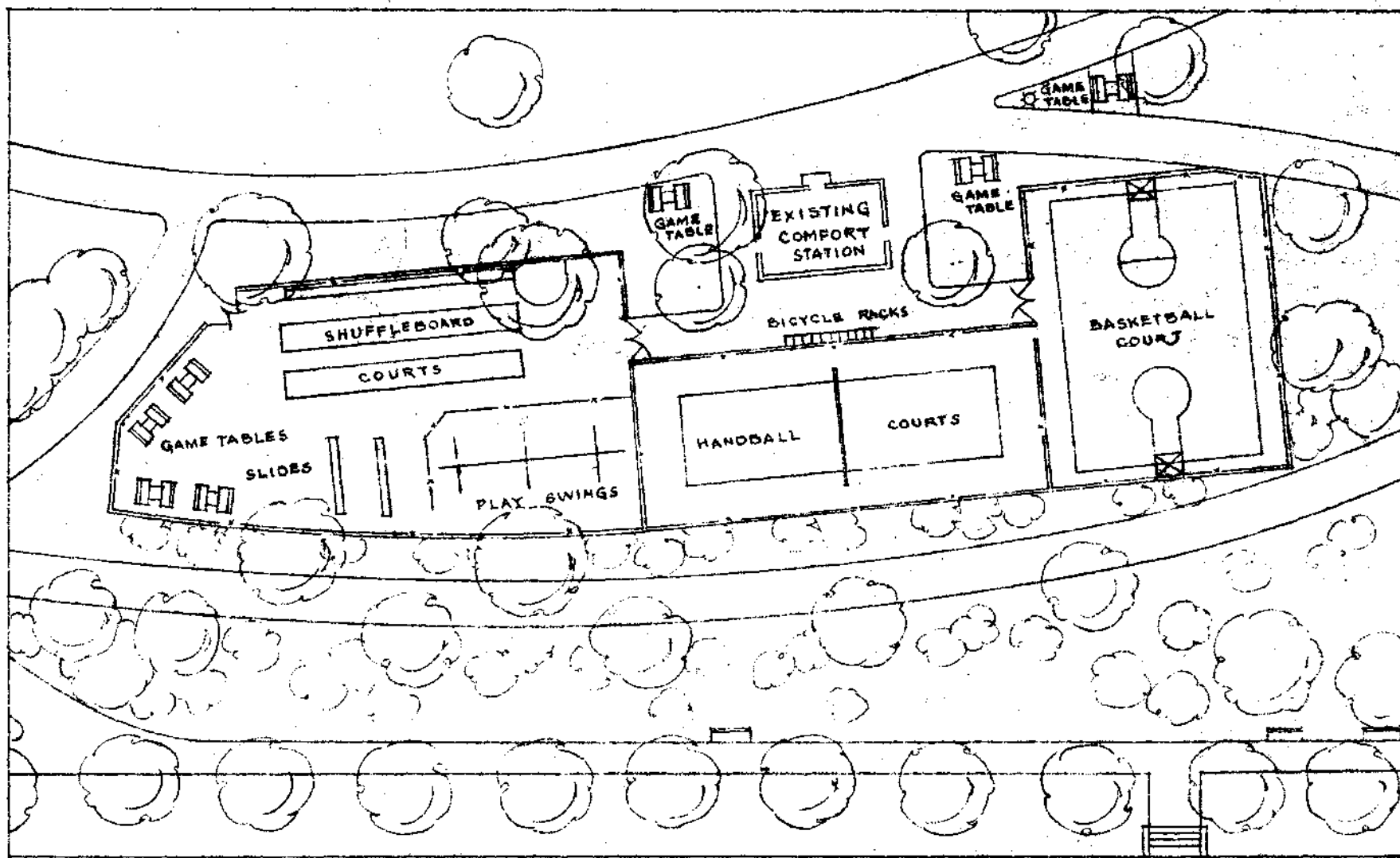


BOROUGH OF QUEENS



PLAYGROUND IN FOREST PARK
NORTH OF PARK LANE SOUTH
MAY 3, 1936 M.D.

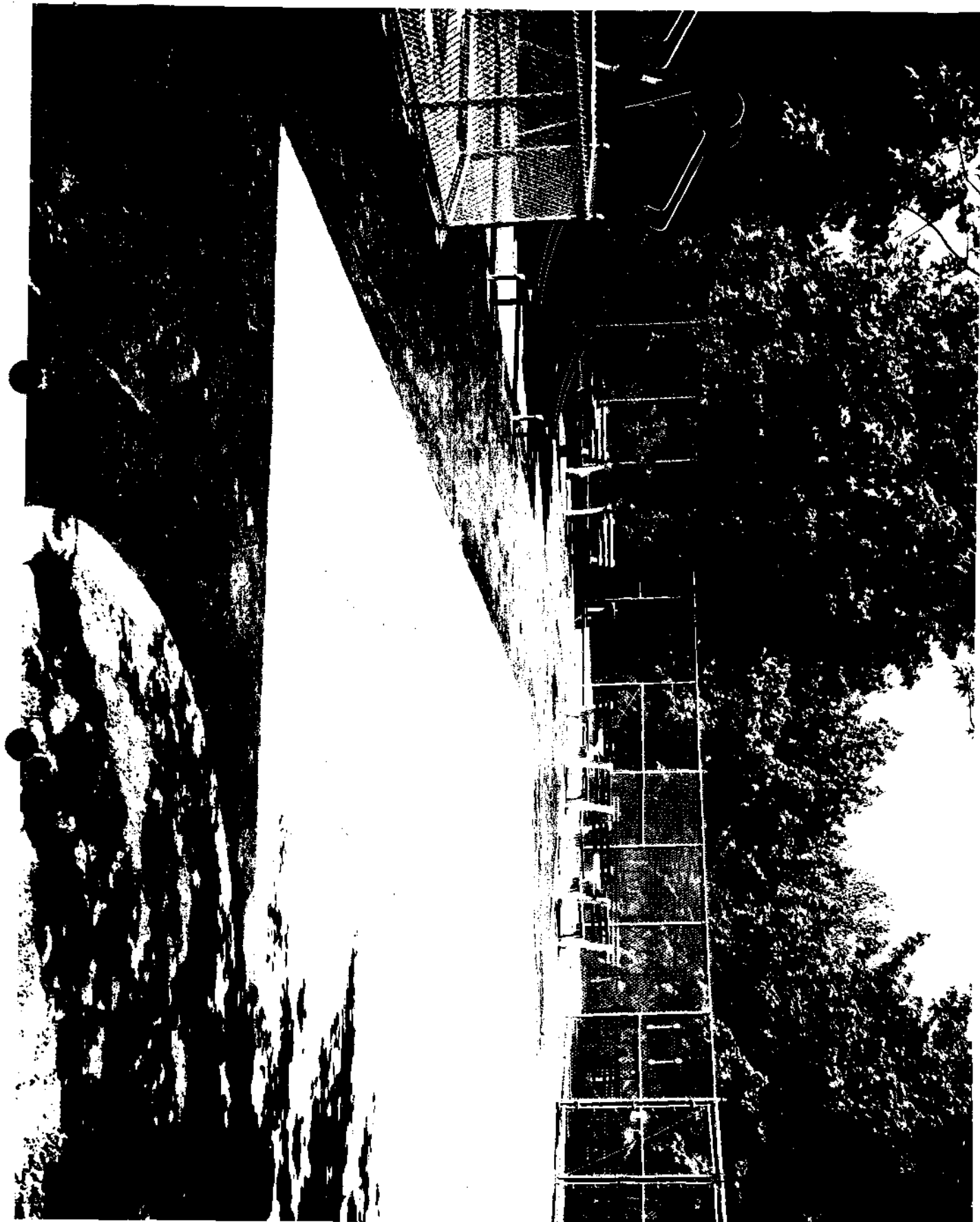
Q-2-15-1936



PARK LANE SOUTH
BOROUGH OF QUEENS



PLAYGROUND IN FOREST PARK
 NORTH OF PARK LANE SOUTH - OPPOSITE ABINGDON ROAD
 MAY 9, 1956 M.D.





Ray Glesper

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1956

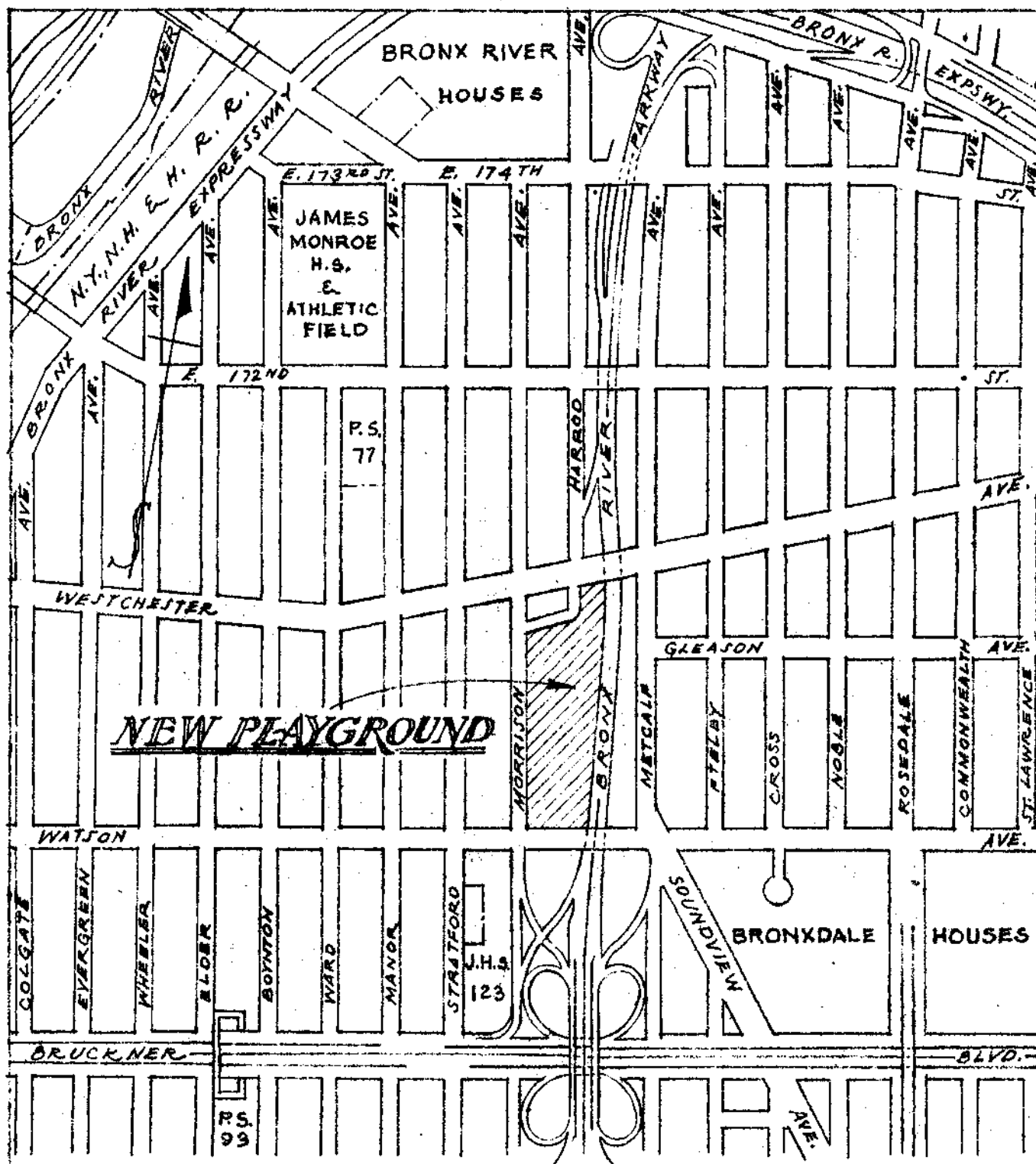
*5/31- Hand Delivery 3:30 PM
PICTURE # 28950
PLANS XL-441400-441401
Regular Mail
5/31*

The Department of Parks announces the completion of construction and opening to the general public of the playground located adjacent to the Bronx River Parkway, north of Watson Avenue and east of Morrison Avenue in the Bronx.

Located in a neighborhood of apartment houses and nearby J.H.S. 123, this 4.638 acre playground provides for three softball diamonds, an area for older children with a shower basin, swings and slides, a quiet games section and an area for young children with a sandpit, see-saws, slides, swings and a comfort station.

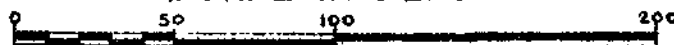
With the addition of this playground there are now 657 playgrounds in the park system.

5-31-56



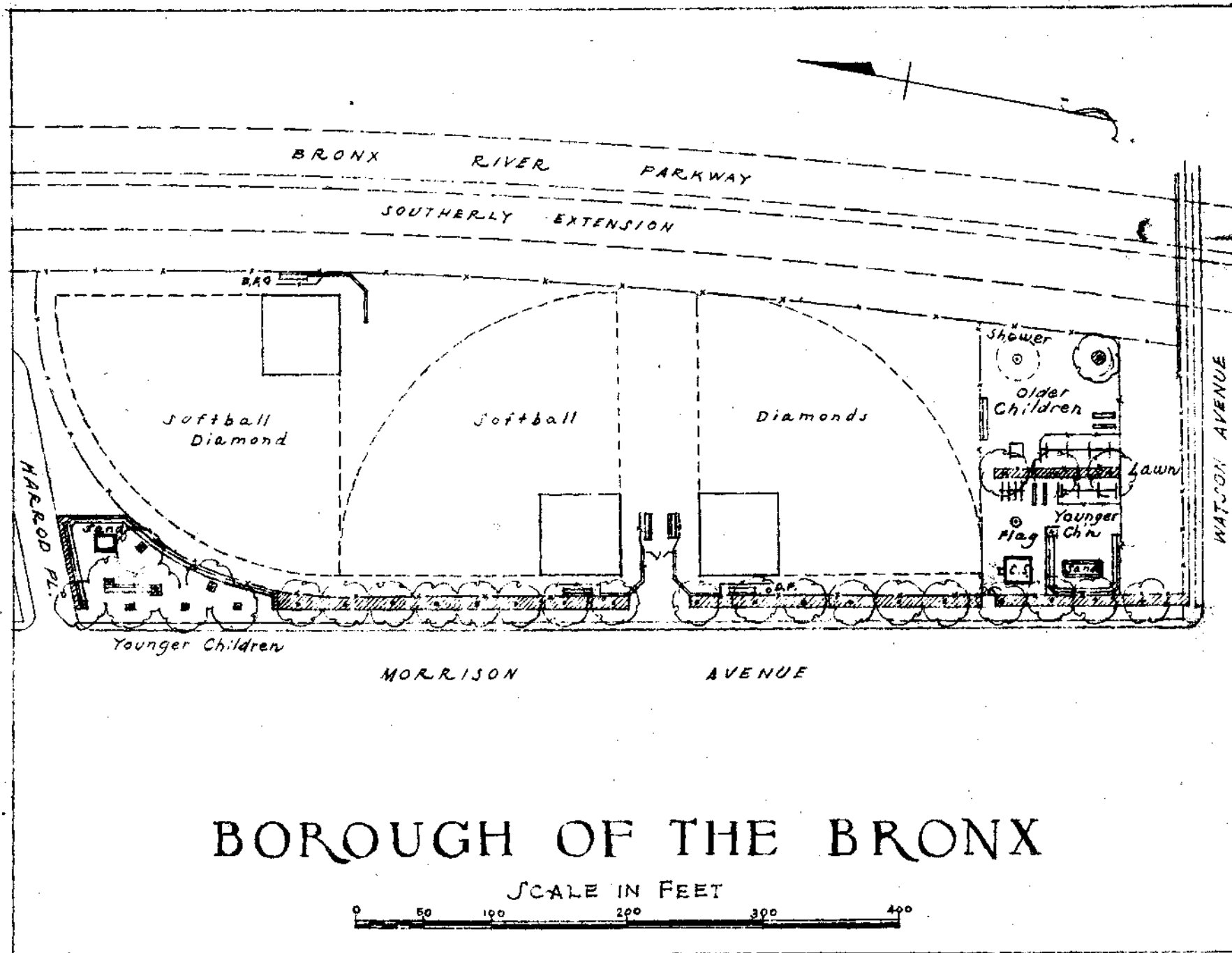
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

SCALE IN FEET



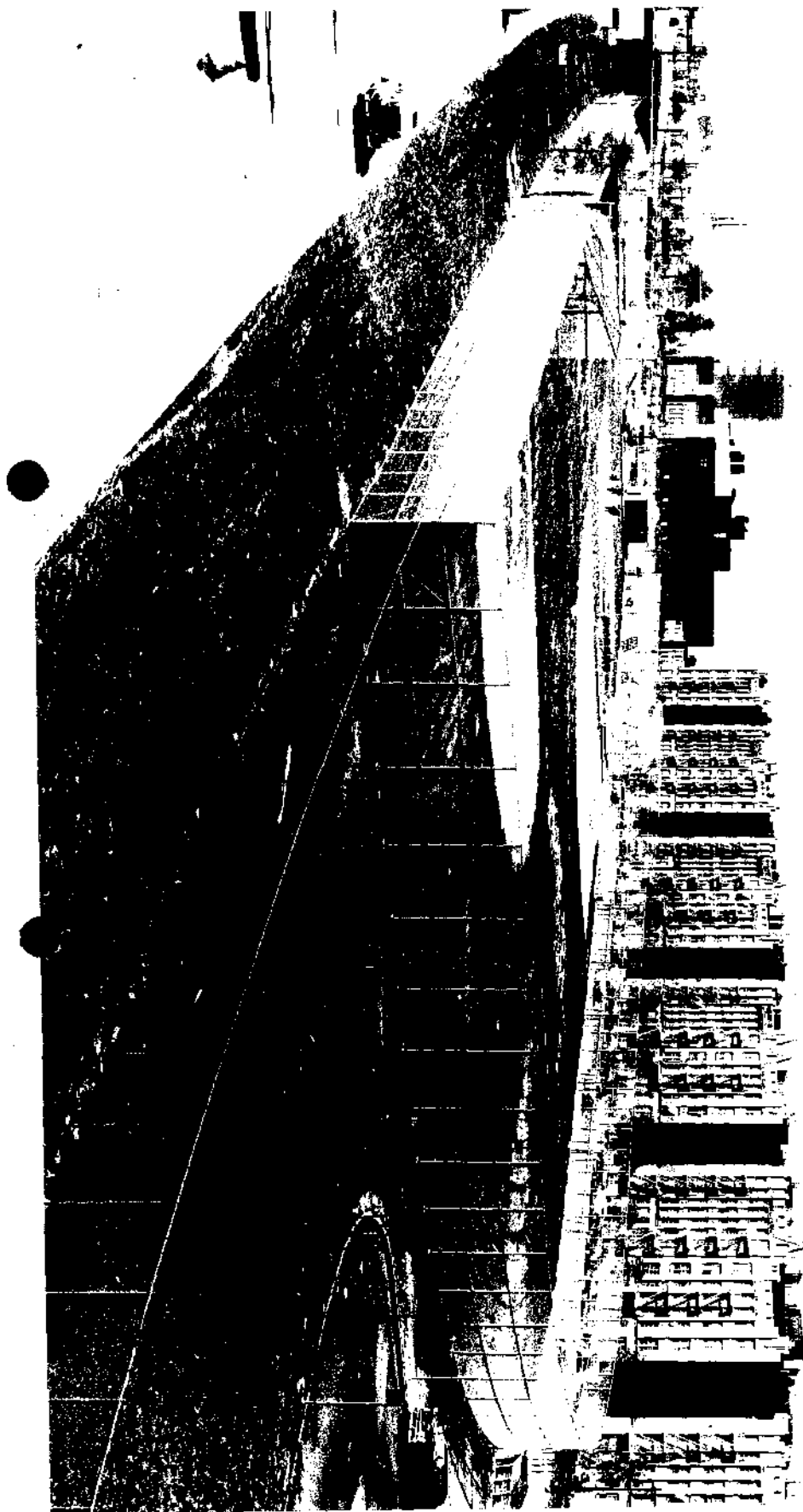
PLAYGROUND & SOFTBALL DIAMONDS
NORTH OF WATSON AVENUE, EAST OF MORRISON AVENUE
THE BRONX
MAY 23, 1956 M.D.

X-2-4A-18001V



PLAYGROUND & SOFTBALL DIAMONDS
 NORTH OF WATSON AVENUE, EAST OF MORRISON AVENUE
 THE BRONX MAY 23, 1956 M.D.

14-01





DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1956

REGENT 4-1000

Roy Kleyer
 5/29/56 - Hand Delivery 11:30 AM
 Picture # 58953
 Plus PL 262101 -
 262102
 Regular Mail 5/29/56

The Department of Parks announces the completion of construction and opening to the general public of a playground located at Tompkins Avenue between Halsey and Macon Streets, adjacent to PS 258, in the Borough of Brooklyn.

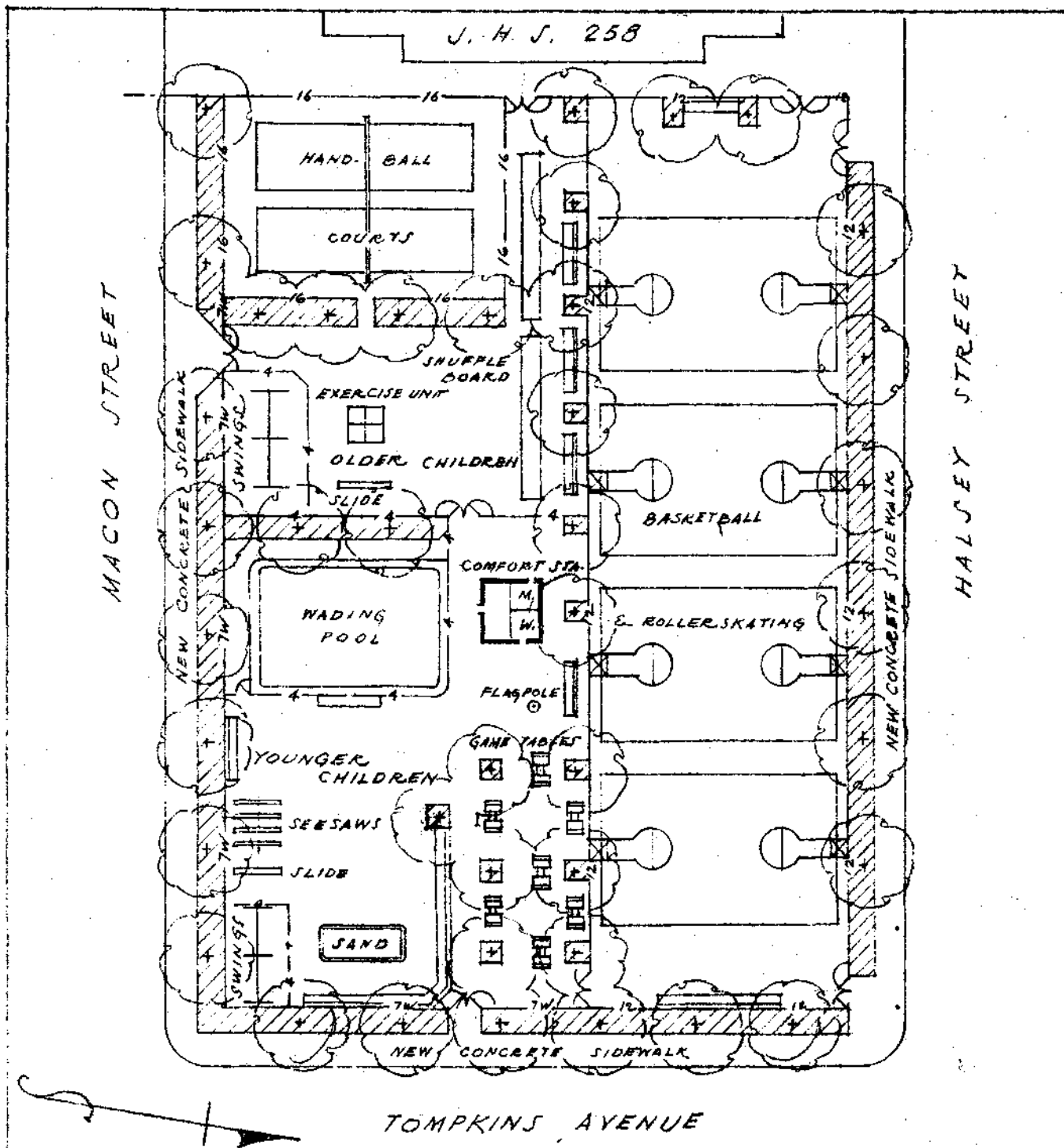
This new 1.315 acre playground is divided into three sections for control purposes. The northerly section contains five basketball courts, the southwesterly section provides for two handball courts, shuffleboard, swings, slides, and a jungle gym; the southeasterly section is an area for pre-school age children and provides for a wading pool, comfort station, see-saws, slides, swings, and a sandpit. A quiet games area in this section is equipped with tables and benches.

In accordance with the policy of joint operation, the Board of Education will operate the areas for older patrons during school hours. The Department of Parks will operate the pre-school age children's area at all times and the other areas after school hours and during vacation.

With the addition of this playground, there are now 656 playgrounds in the park system.

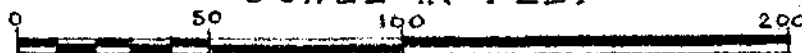
oooooooooooo

5-29-56



BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

SCALE IN FEET



PLAYGROUND ADJACENT TO J.H.S. 258
 WEST OF TOMPKINS AVENUE, BETWEEN HALSEY & MACON STREETS
 BROOKLYN B-262-154 MAY 18, 1956 M.D.

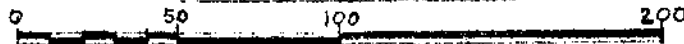
B-L 262-10R ✓



NEW PLAYGROUND

BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

SCALE IN FEET



PLAYGROUND ADJACENT TO J.H.S. 258
WEST OF TOMPKINS AVENUE, BETWEEN HALSEY & MACON STREETS
BROOKLYN B-262-154 MAY 18, 1956 M.D.

B-2-262-101-V





DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1956

R. Sheperd
5/29/56 - 11³⁰ AM Hurd Kelly

Picture 28933

Plans BL-259106
259101

Regular Mail 5/29

The Department of Parks announces the completion of construction and opening to the general public of a playground in Underwood Park located at Waverly and Washington Avenues, north of Lafayette Avenue in the Borough of Brooklyn.

Located in a neighborhood of private houses and private housing developments, this 1.187 acre playground is divided into four sections for control purposes.

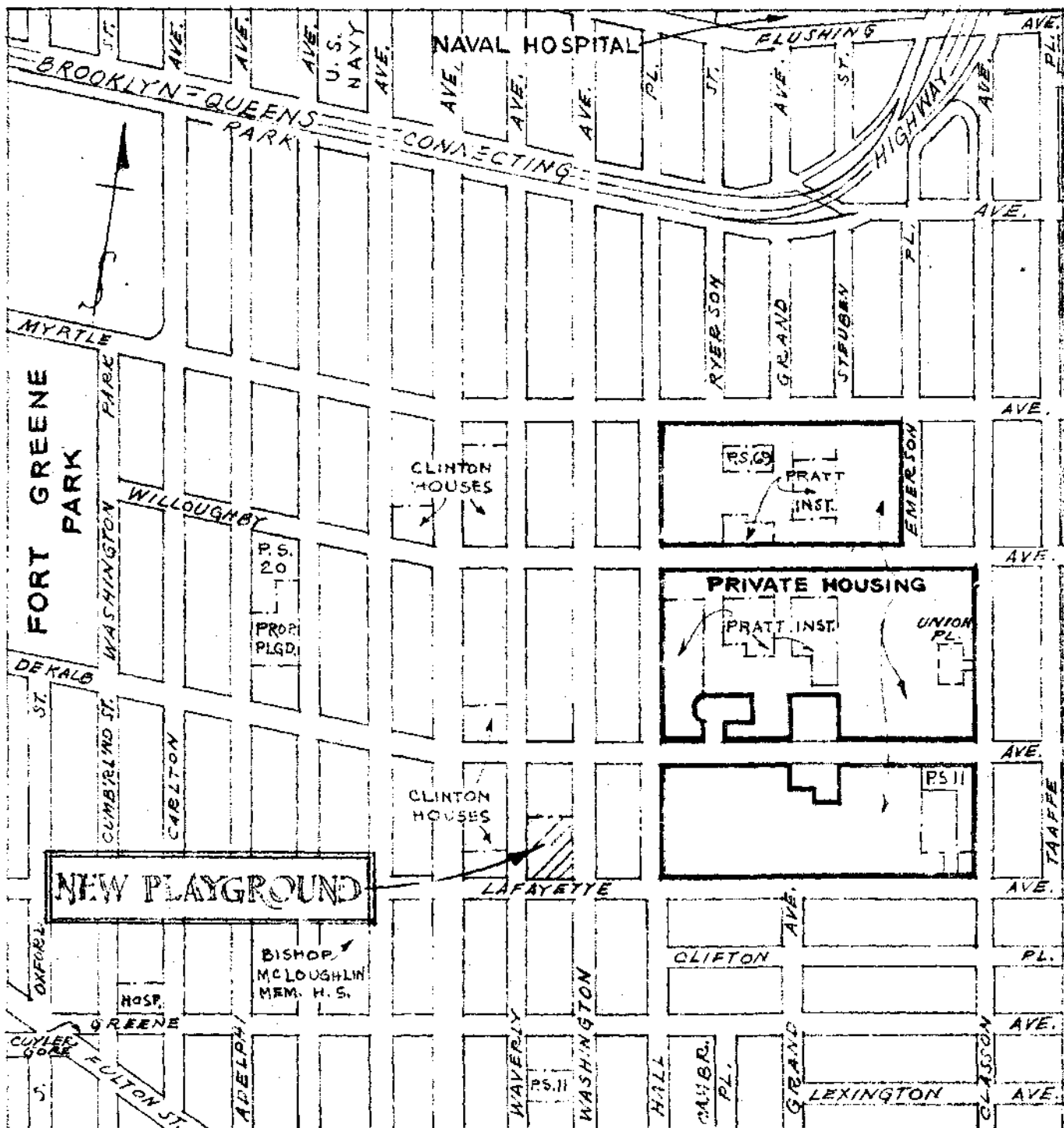
The southwesterly section is an area for small fry and contains a sandpit, swings, slides, and see-saws. The southeasterly section is for older children and provides for a jungle gym, slides and swings; the northerly sections provide a comfort station, wading pool, a quiet games area with tables and seats, and a lawn area. Benches are provided throughout the entire facility and the perimeter has been landscaped with shade trees.

With the addition of this playground there are now 655 playgrounds in the park system.

* * * * *

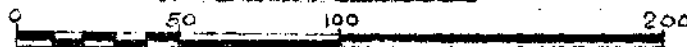
5-29-56





BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

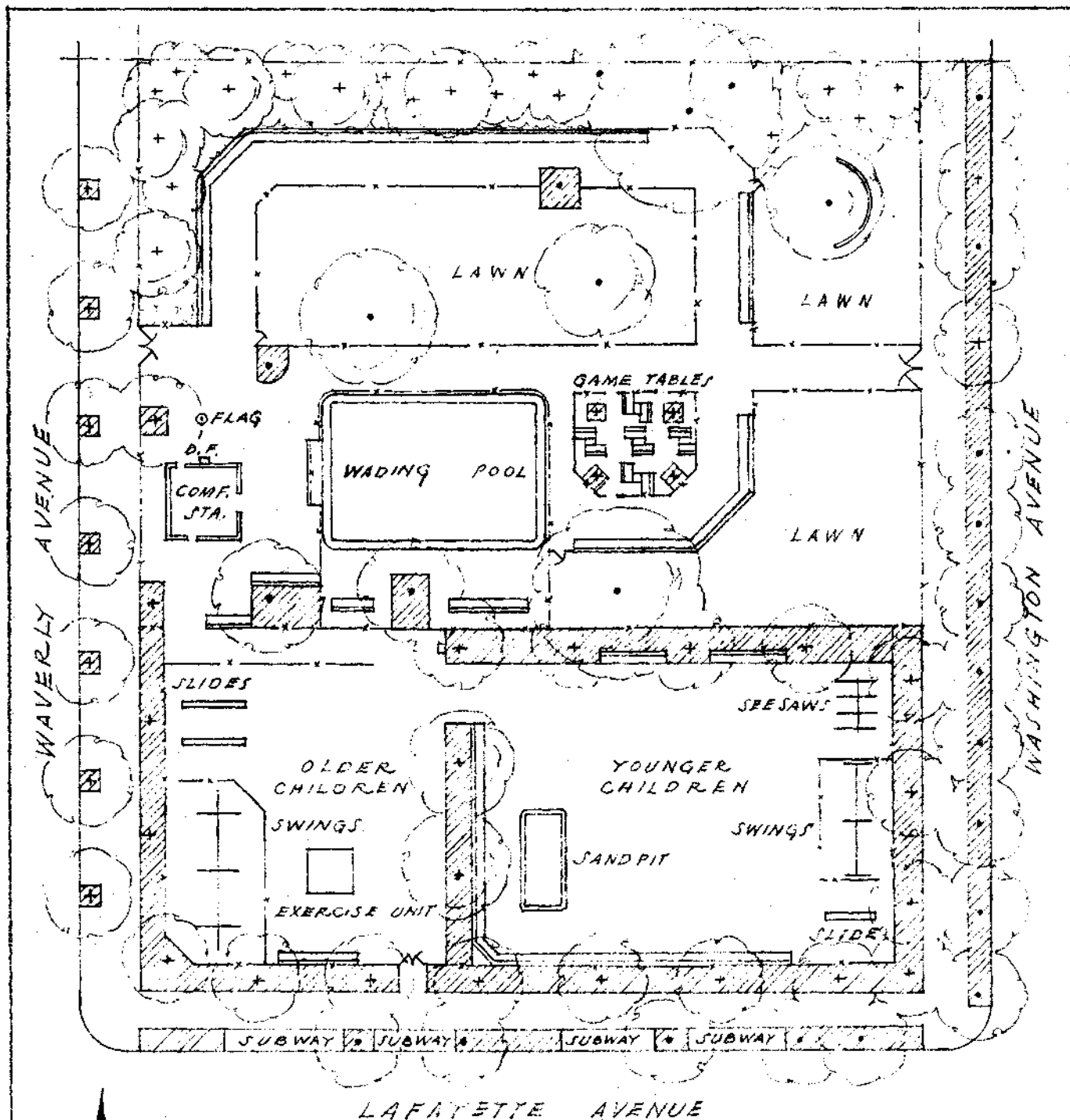
SCALE IN FEET



PLAYGROUND BETWEEN WAVERLY & WASHINGTON AVENUES
NORTH OF LAFAYETTE AVENUE IN UNDERWOOD PARK

MAY 15, 1956 MD.

B-L-259-101 ✓



BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

SCALE IN FEET



PLAYGROUND BETWEEN WAVERLY & WASHINGTON AVENUES
NORTH OF LAFAYETTE AVENUE IN UNDERWOOD PARK

MAY 15, 1956 M.D.

B-2-254-161 ✓

Roy Klappen



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

5/29- 11:30 AM Hand Delivery

FOR RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1956

Picture # 28951

*Plans ML-125-500-
125-501*

Regular Mail 5/29

1-1-1-30M-703834(35) 114

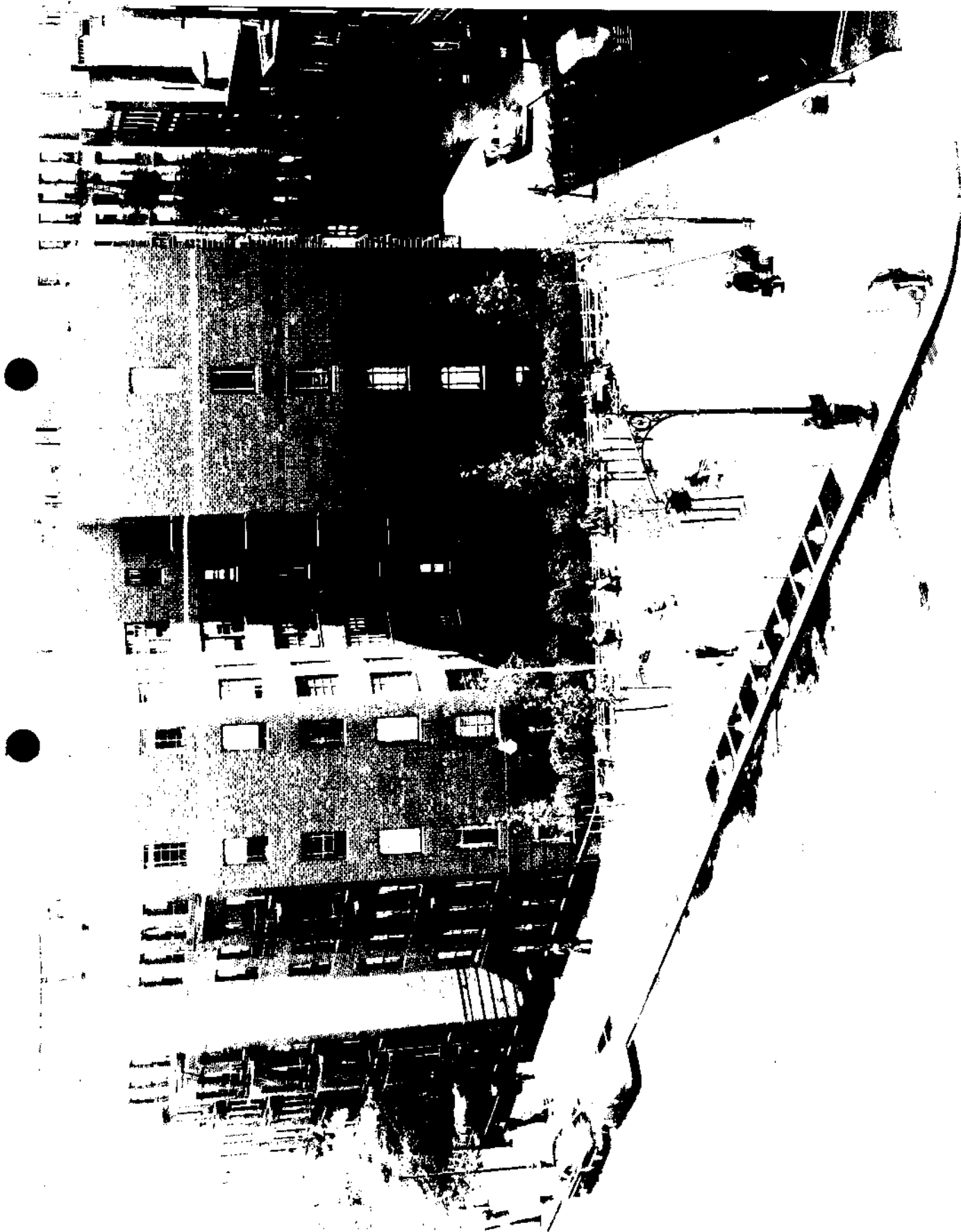
The Department of Parks announces the completion of construction and opening to the general public of three sitting areas in the Greenwich Village section of the Borough of Manhattan.

Two of these areas are located between Minetta Lane and Minetta Street on the south side of the Avenue of the Americas and provide for benches and shade trees. The third area is situated on the northwest corner of Downing Street and the Avenue of the Americas and provides a sandpit for small children, benches and shade trees.

In providing these facilities for the public, the Department of Parks continues its policy of developing small areas for useful park purposes in congested areas.

.....

5-29-56





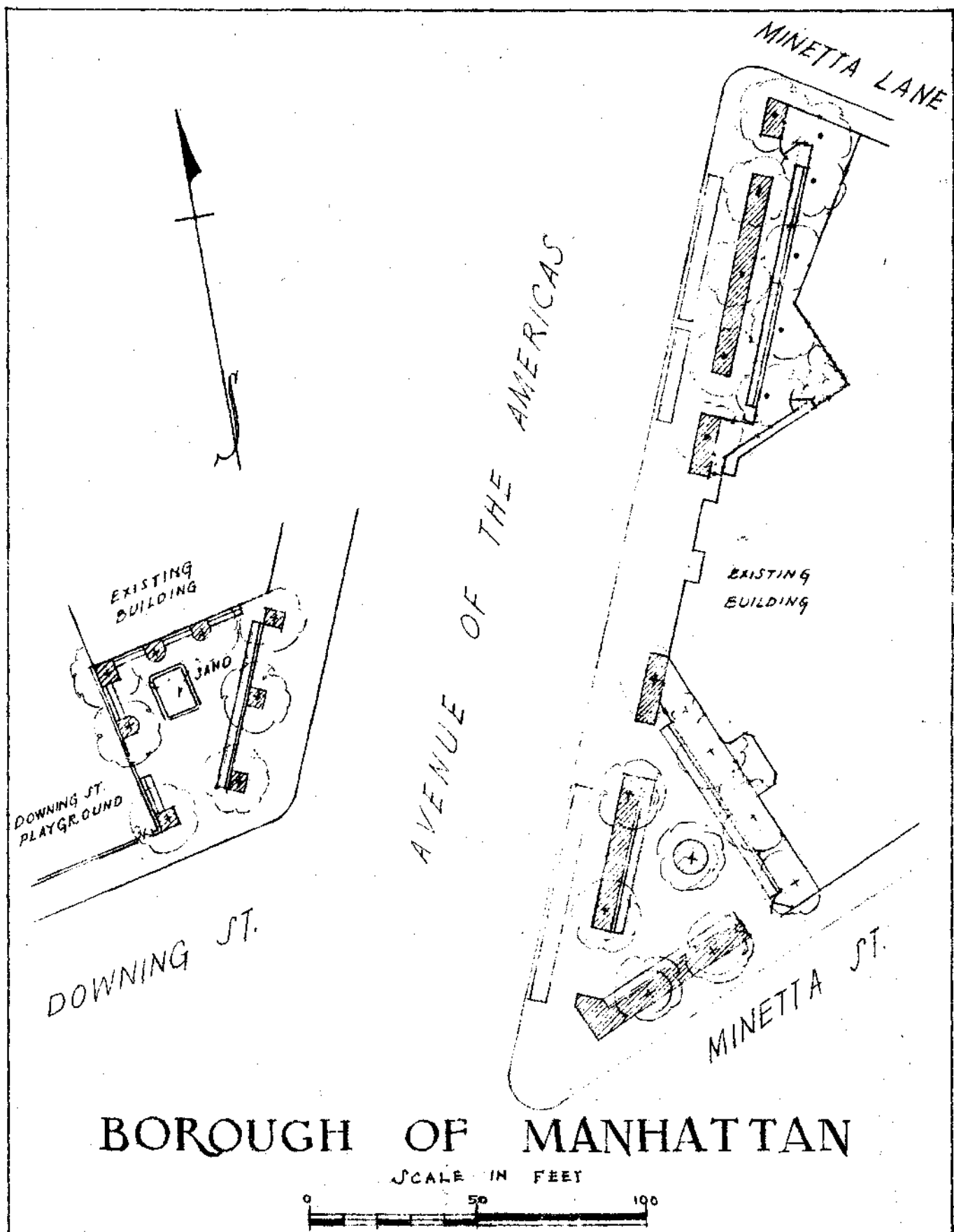
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SCALE IN FEET



CONSTRUCTION OF THREE SITTING AREAS
 BETWEEN MINETTA LANE & MINETTA ST. ON S. SIDE OF AVE. OF THE AMERICAS
 & ON THE N.W. COR. OF DOWNING ST. & AVE. OF THE AMERICAS, ADJ. TO DOWNING ST. PLAZA MAY 24, 56 M.D.

NY-2-125-500



CONSTRUCTION OF THREE SITTING AREAS
 BETWEEN MINETTA LANE & MINETTA ST. ON S. SIDE OF AVE. OF THE AMERICAS
 & ON THE N. W. COR. OF DOWNING ST. & AVE. OF THE AMERS., ADJ. TO DOWNING ST. PLGD. MAY 24-56 M.D.

M 125-1001

Ray Kleeper



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1956

579 - Stand Kleeper 3 4th PM
PLANS OL-352100
352101

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

PICTURE 28917
Regular Mail 579

The Department of Parks announces the completion of construction and opening to the general public of a playground north of 82nd Avenue between 256 and 257 Streets adjacent to JHS 172 in the Borough of Queens.

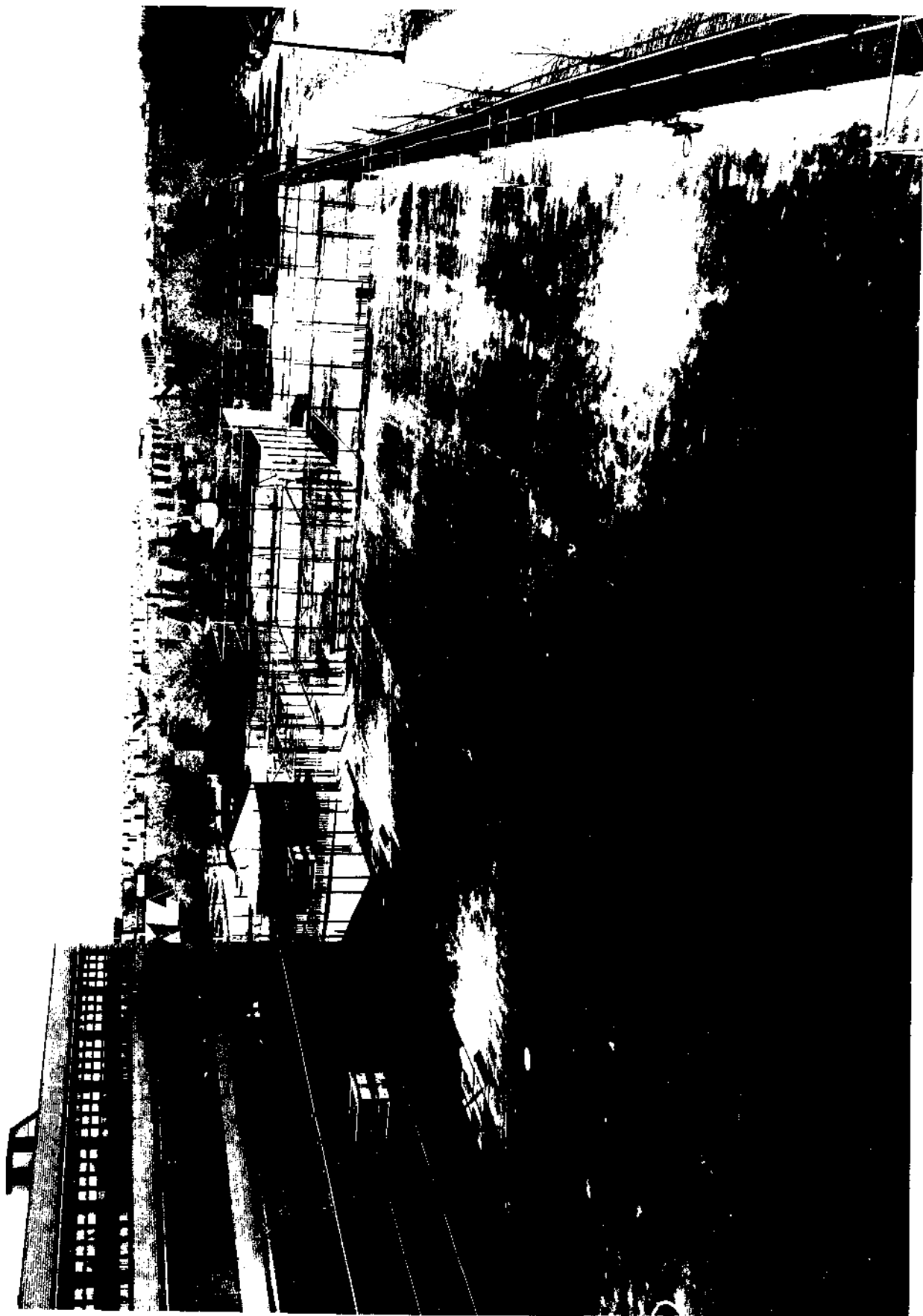
Divided into three sections for control purposes, the westerly section provides an area for roller skating and practice basketball courts; the southwesterly section contains basketball courts, handball courts, slides, swings and a play area. The southeasterly section is an area for small fry with a shower basin, seesaws, slides, swings, comfort station and a flagpole. The perimeter of this 1.16 acre playground has been landscaped with shade trees, and benches are provided for guardians of children.

In accordance with the policy of joint operation, the areas for older children will be operated by the Board of Education during school hours and by the Department of Parks at all other times. The area for pre-school age children will be operated by the Department of Parks at all times.

With the addition of this playground there are now 654 playgrounds in the park system.

.....

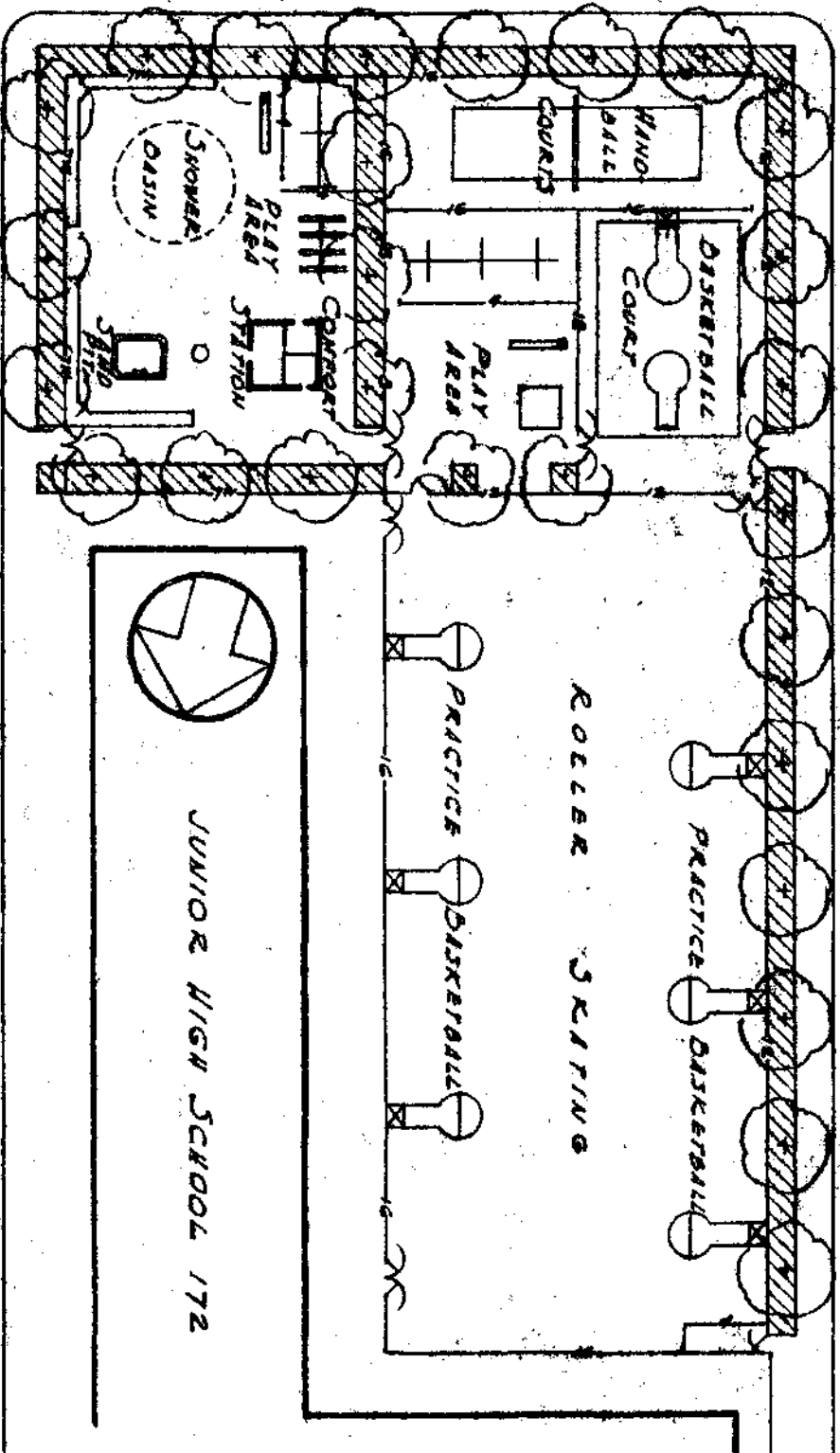
5-9-56



82ND AVENUE

256TH STREET

257TH STREET



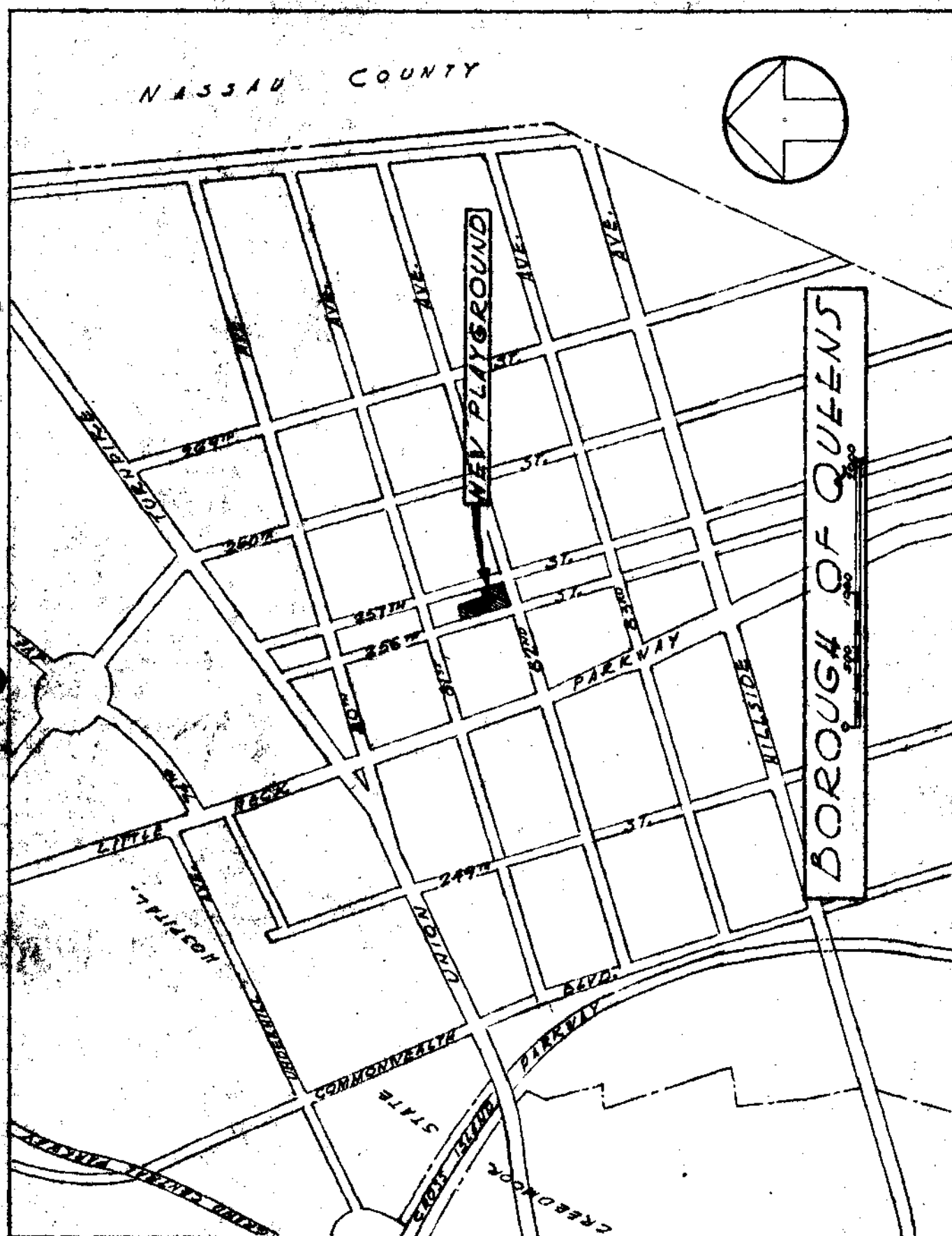
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL 172

BOROUGH OF QUEENS



PLAYGROUND ADJACENT TO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL 172
NORTH OF 82ND AVE BETWEEN 256TH & 257TH STS. BOR. OF QUEENS
4-19-56 M.K.

Q-L-352-101



Q-4-352-100

PLAYGROUND ADJACENT TO J.H.S. 172
NORTH OF RAMP FIVE AET 16 11 04-TH

Ray Glesper



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 1956

REGENT 4-1000

no picture
4/27 - Hand Delivery 10:30 AM
PLANS X L-153100
X L-153101
Regular Mail 4/27

The Department of Parks will open with ceremonies an additional recreation area to the playground located at Ogden and University Avenues, Merriam Avenue to 168 Street, in the Bronx, on Wednesday, May 2 at 3:30 P.M.

The Honorable James J. Lyons, Borough President of the Bronx, the Right Reverend Monsignor William C. Humphrey, Pastor of the Sacred Heart Church, Rabbi Nathan Taragin of the Jewish Center of Highbridge, and the Reverend Charles P. Harder of the Woodycrest Methodist Church will participate as speakers. Stuart Constable, Executive Officer of the Park Department will act for Commissioner Moses and preside. Music will be furnished by the Department of Sanitation Band.

This playground was partially opened to the public in 1949. The completion of this facility was delayed because of the existing buildings and tenant relocation problems. Acquisition of the property was jointly sponsored by the Department of Parks and the Borough President of the Bronx for park and playground purposes so as to provide active recreational space in the congested Highbridge section, west of the Grand Concourse. This densely populated residential neighborhood was completely lacking in recreational facilities.

The newly opened area provides four handball courts, a

basketball court, a basketball practice area, sandpit for younger children, sitting areas for adults and open play space.

With the addition of the recently opened area, this completes the park program to provide recreational facilities that can take care of all age groups of the community.

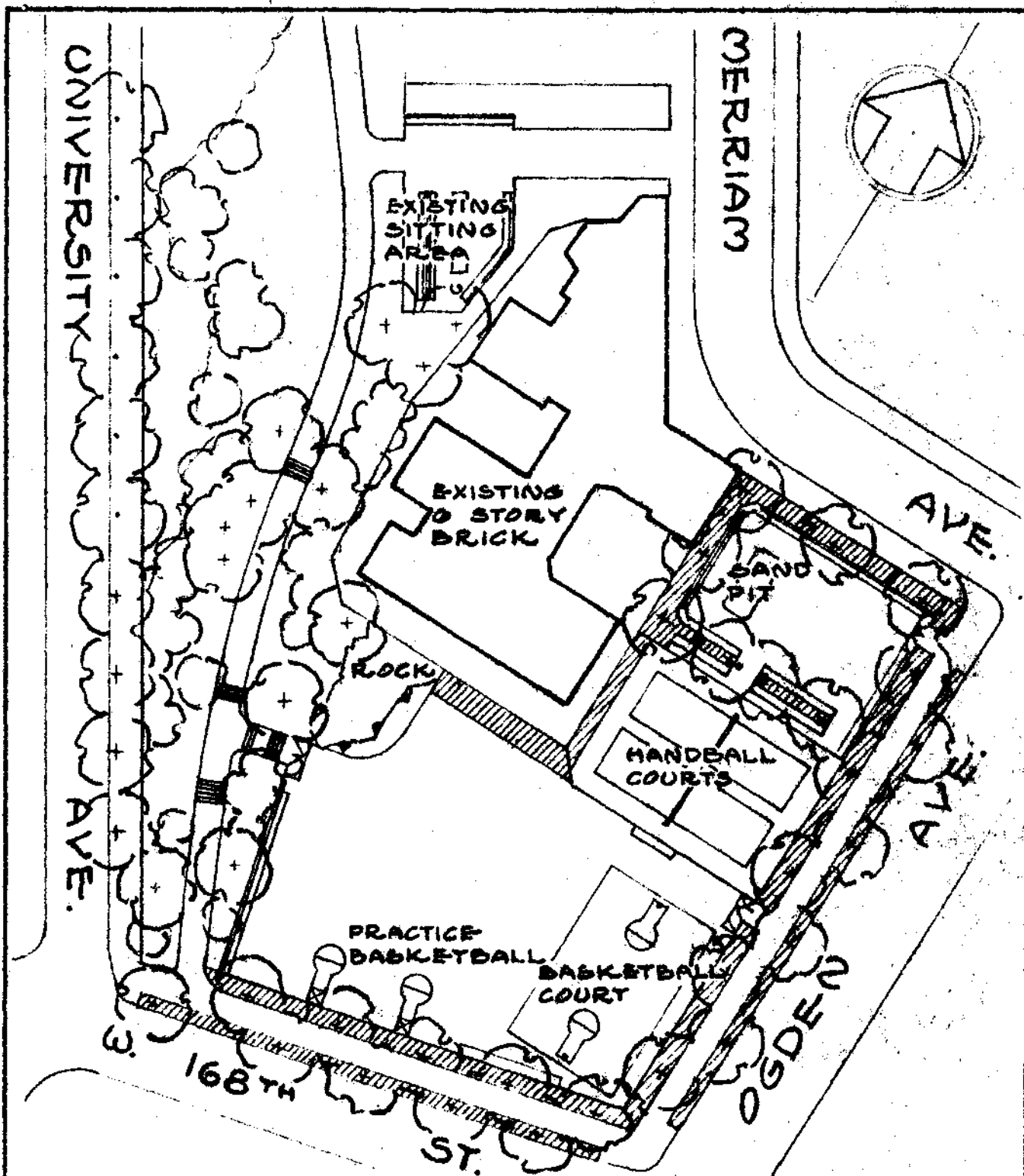
4/27/56



CONSTRUCTION OF PLAYGROUND BETWEEN
UNIVERSITY AVE. & OGDEN AVE. FROM
MERRIAM AVE. TO 168TH ST.
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

4-12-50

X-1-153-100



BOROUGH OF THE BRONX



CONSTRUCTION OF PLAYGROUND BETWEEN
UNIVERSITY AVE. & OGDEN AVE. FROM
MERRIAM AVE. TO 168TH ST.
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX. 4-12-56

X-1-153-101 ✓

Ray Glesper



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1956

*11 AM - Hand Delivery
4/24/56*

*Regular Mail
4/24*

Attached is correspondence between Commissioner
Moses and Geoffrey Carleton of the Linnaean Society of
New York, regarding the Wildlife Refuge in the Jamaica
Bay Islands.

4-23-56



ROBERT MOSES
COMMISSIONER

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL
64TH STREET AND FIFTH AVENUE
CENTRAL PARK
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

STUART CONSTABLE
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
JOHN A. MULCAHY
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER
GEORGE L. QUIGLEY
DIRECTOR MAINTENANCE & OPERATION

April 18, 1956

Mr. Geoffrey Carleton
40 West 12 Street
New York 11, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Carleton:

Thank you for your letter of April 10th, with its very welcome information concerning the birds which you and others active in the Linnaean Society of New York have observed in the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. It is most gratifying to all of us in the Department of Parks to know that the Society has found such substantial evidence that our hopes, plans and hard work for the preservation and restoration of wildlife among the islands of Jamaica Bay are bringing about the desired results.

We shall continue our program of protecting and improving the Refuge and making it available to students and others who are interested in birds and aquatic wildlife. The cooperation and support of the Linnaean Society is greatly appreciated.

Cordially,

/s/ ROBERT MOSES

Commissioner

40 W. 12 St.,
New York 11, N.Y.
April 10, 1956

The Hon. Robert Moses
The Arsenal
Central Park
New York

Dear Mr. Moses:

The Jamaica Bay Wildlife Sanctuary has been a phenomenal success. It has been a source of pleasure and instruction to hundreds of bird students in this area known as the New York City Region.

Two species each of Egrets and Night Herons frequent the ponds, and some have bred. Even the rare Louisiana Heron has occurred.

According to the Brooklyn Bird Club, normal counts for the fall of 1955 were: Mallard, 100; Black Duck, 800; Baldpate, 250; Pintail, 100; Green-winged Teal, 50; Canvasback, 150; Shoveller, 25; Redhead, 20; American Merganser, 20; Hooded Merganser, 20. These are unusual ducks for Jamaica Bay.

Other birds that have occurred in the Sanctuary that were formerly very rare or unknown in the Jamaica Bay area are:

Canada Goose	Northern Phalarope
European Widgeon	Forster's Tern
Florida Gallinule	Roseate Tern
Golden Plover	Caspian Tern
Wilson's Plover	Black Skimmer
Common Snipe	Mockingbird
Hudsonian Curlew	Short-billed Marsh Wren
Stilt Sandpiper	Loggerhead Shrike
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Philadelphia Vireo
Marbled Godwit	Ipswich Sparrow
Wilson's Phalarope	Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Common birds as well have been favored and have increased, for example: Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Greater Scaup, Clapper Rail. I note that a high platform has been built and hope that an Osprey will nest on it. We of the Linnaean Society of New York appreciate the courtesy your staff at the Sanctuary has extended to us.

Very truly yours,
/s/ GEOFFREY CARLETON

Harold Kennedy

B. Felix

*To be sent to the papers
just before 5 P.M. today.
6/28/56 Hand Deliv 4:30 P.M.*

Copies to Publicity List

Mayor

Ad of Estimate

Councilmen

Transp. Authority

*all members of
Rockaway Chamber of Commerce*

TALK BY ROBERT MOSES

AT THE

ROCKAWAY BRANCH OPENING CELEBRATION

PARK INN, ROCKAWAY BOARDWALK

THURSDAY EVENING JUNE 28, 1956

Regular Mail

6/28/56

Rapid transit now follows vehicular express travel to the Rockaway Peninsula and opens it to millions more for residence and recreation.

These successive reefs from Coney to Montauk are the dearest possession of Long Island and their value increases with accessibility.

Let me give you briefly the milestones in the history of Rockaway Causeways over Jamaica Bay from the mainland to the ocean.

I speak, of course, as an interested party, having had with my fellow executives and assistants some part in this saga through various authorities, the City Park Department, the office of the City Construction Co-Ordinator and the Long Island State Park Commission.

I was also for my sins a member of a commission which included Judge Patterson and Judge Lockwood which was supposed to reorganize the Long Island Railroad, and of a committee appointed by the Mayor which actually did negotiate, with the indispensable help and blessing of Judge Harold Kennedy, the purchase of the old trestle now rebuilt and reopened by the City Transit Authority.

Here are the steps taken in the last twenty two years:

1. The Corporation Counsel clears up the Rockaway Beach titles.

2. The City Park Department gets back Riis Park and rebuilds it.

3. The Marine Parkway Authority builds the Marine Bridge and its approaches. The New York City Parkway Authority, later merged with Triborough, rebuilds the Cross Bay Boulevard bridges and approaches and cleans up a slum area, a mile and a half long, back of the boardwalk and rebuilds the entire boardwalk.

4. The Long Island Railroad grade elimination in the Rockaways, elevating the tracks, providing a boulevard and landscaping underneath, eliminating a traffic hazard and blockade of streets leading to the beach, is accomplished after many years of futile agitation.

5. Beach Channel Drive is improved.

6. The meadowlands in Jamaica Bay and the waters and Bay bottom are conveyed to the Park Department, ending the threat of port development, permanent garbage disposal and water pollution, and substituting a tidal salt water lake of some 9,000 acres of meadows and lands under water for swimming, boating and fishing and a refuge for wild birds.

7. The North Shore of Jamaica Bay is protected and improved by the Belt Parkway, with a frontage set aside for all time for park improvements, and with proper zoning for residential devel-

opments north of the Parkway. These residential developments, including public, quasi-public and private housing are largely constructed or well under way. A garden type State Hospital is being planned east of the twenty-six ward treatment plant. The new park areas are being built by means of controlled sanitation and hydraulic sand fill - a huge operation proceeding smoothly, on schedule and without serious hardship. The new recreation areas include Marine Park, which when finished, will be the second largest park in the city.

8. The Atlantic Beach Bridge connecting the Rockaways with Atlantic Beach and Long Beach across the Reynolds Channel was built by the Nassau County Bridge Authority.

9. Pollution has been largely eliminated by the construction of the twenty-six ward Rockaway and Jamaica disposal plants and will be further reduced by the proposed enlargement of the Rockaway and Jamaica Plants.

10. The first five jetties in a comprehensive State-aided beach protection program along the Rockaway oceanfront are completed at Edgemere. These will be followed by additional jetties constructed step by step under an agreed, realistic seven-year program.

11. Slum Clearance by private capital to rid Rockaway of two bad sections fronting on the Boardwalk and the Ocean is under way, and a large public housing project to provide for tenants who must be moved from present slums will be built on

vacant land adjacent to a new park in the Edgemere section of the Peninsula fronting on Jamaica Bay.

12. Finally we have rapid transit over a new causeway to provide access for those who do not come by car or bus, daily commuters and an immense number of visitors, impossible to overestimate, who will seek relief on the oceanfront from the noise, overcrowding and heat of the City.

For years they celebrated the wedding of Venice and the Adriatic Sea. We celebrate here today at Rockaway the wedding of Bay and Barrier, Inlet and Inland Sea. We signalize not only the preservation of a great natural heritage, but also the defense and maintenance of our sanity against the din and strain of mechanized city life. To all who have played parts in this accomplishment future generations will owe a debt of gratitude.



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1956

*3/29/56 Hand Delivered
with brochures
Regular Mail 3/30*

ST. JOHN'S RECREATION CENTER OPENING

The Department of Parks announces ceremonies marking the opening to the public of the new St. John's Recreation Center in St. John's Park, Prospect Place between Schenectady and Troy Avenues, Brooklyn, on Monday, April 2, 1956 at 2:30 P.M.

The Honorable Abe Stark, President of the City Council, the Honorable John Cashmore, President of the Borough of Brooklyn and the Honorable Miles A. Paige, Justice of the Court of Special Sessions will participate as speakers. The Honorable Robert Moses, Commissioner of Parks, will preside. Music will be furnished by the New York City Fire Department Band.

The center contains a gymnasium, a swimming pool 42 feet by 75 feet, locker and shower rooms, a woodworking shop, rooms for meetings, arts and crafts, domestic science, boxing and exercise. Its opening marks the completion of one of the finest year-round recreation areas in the City. St. John's Park, completed in November of 1953, provides active outdoor recreation facilities for all age groups. The addition of the center will enable the Department of Parks to establish a well-rounded recreation program in the heavily populated Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, where such a program is urgently needed.

At St. John's Center, as at the St. Mary's Center in the

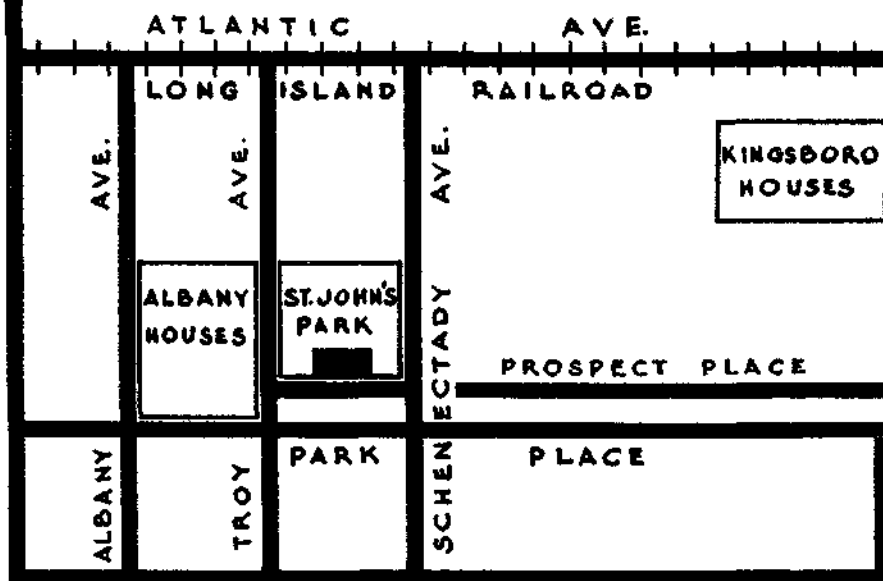
Bronx and the Brownsville Center in Brooklyn, all public schools and neighborhood agencies will be encouraged to make use of the excellent facilities. The center will be open daily from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. The program will be conducted in four daily sessions -- one in the morning, two in the afternoon and one in the evening.

oooooooooooooooo

3-28-56

ST. JOHN'S RECREATION CENTER

IN
BROOKLYN



CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

CITY OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

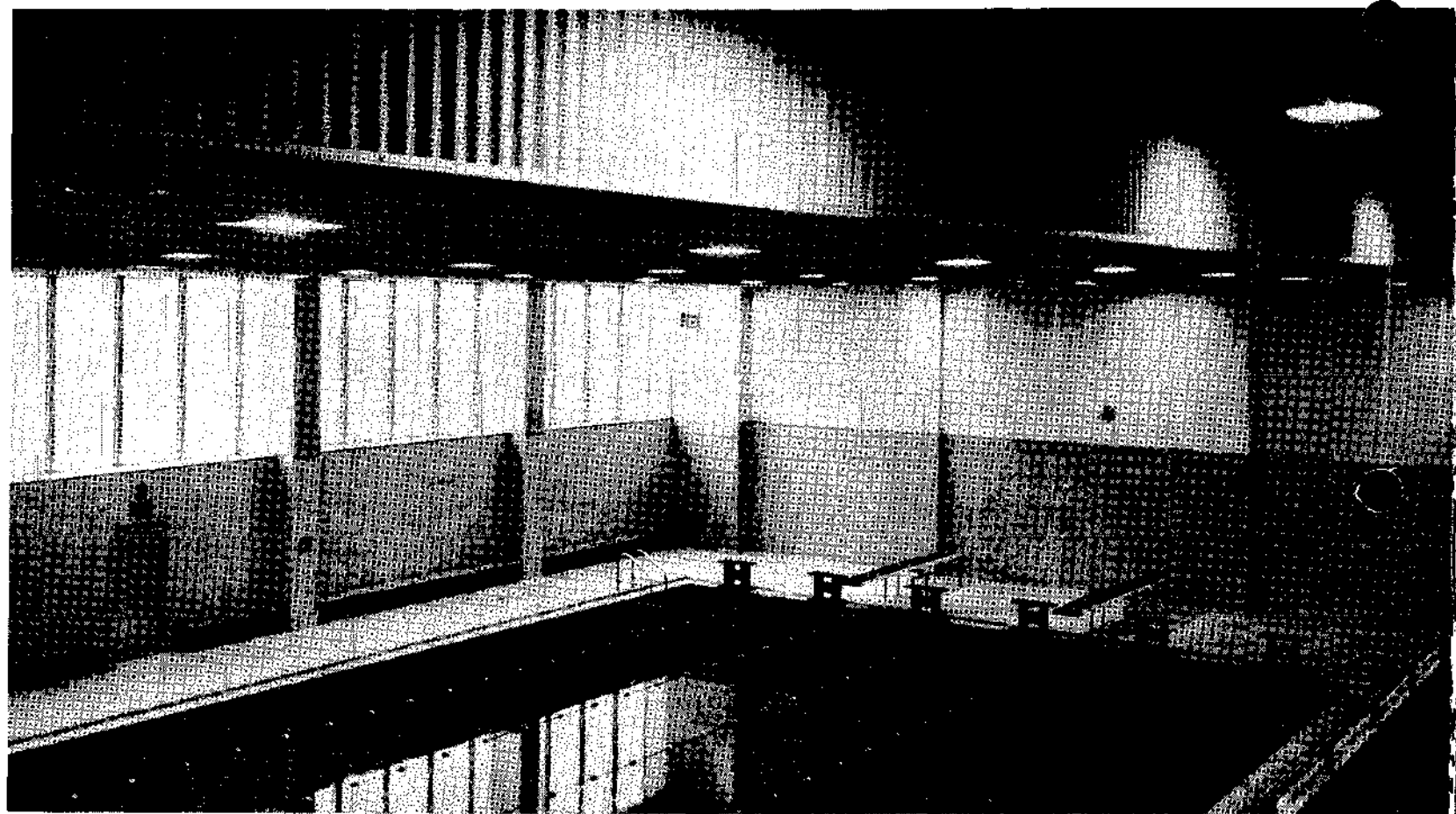
ROBERT MOSES, *Commissioner*

STUART CONSTABLE, *Executive Officer*

JOHN A. MULCAHY, *Assistant Executive Officer*

GEORGE L. QUIGLEY, *Director of Maintenance & Operation*

CHARLES H. STARKE, *Director of Recreation*



SWIMMING POOL

ST. JOHN'S RECREATION CENTER
PROSPECT PLACE BETWEEN TROY
AND SCHENECTADY AVENUES,
BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

APRIL 2, 1956

The St. John's Recreation Center in St. John's Park, Brooklyn, is the third complete year-round center to be placed in operation by the Department of Parks. The first in St. Mary's Park in the Bronx has been operating for five years. Its club now has a membership of 4,436 and average daily attendance is 645. In Brooklyn, Abe Stark, President of the Council, gave his Brownsville Boys Club building to the City with the understanding it would be operated as a Recreation Center by the Department of Parks. This fine center now has a membership of 6,086 in its club and an average daily attendance of 710. This new center like all other Department of Parks Recreation Centers will be open every day on a year-round basis.

The opening of the St. John's Recreation Center building marks the completion of one of the finest year-round recreation areas in the City. St. John's Park, completed in November of 1953, provides all sorts of active play areas for all age groups. The opening of this building will enable the Department of Parks to establish a well-rounded recreation program in the heavily populated Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn where such a program is urgently needed.

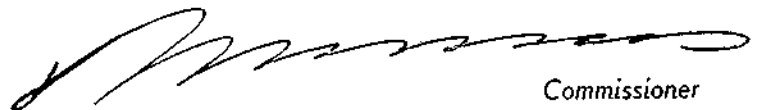
At the St. John's Center, as at St. Mary's and Brownsville, all neighborhood groups who can make use of the facilities will be welcome. The Department of Parks hopes to establish cooperative programs with the local schools, the New York City Housing Authority, the Brooklyn Nursing School, the Community Serv-

ice Center, the Boys Welcome Hall, the Brooklyn Jewish Center, the Presentation C.Y.O. Center, the Hebrew Educational Society and any other organization operating in the neighborhood which might be able to render better service to the community by participation in a program which would make use of the fine facilities provided in this new indoor recreation center.

The building contains a gymnasium, a swimming pool measuring 42 feet by 75 feet, locker and shower rooms, a woodworking shop, rooms for meetings, arts and crafts, games, domestic science, boxing and exercise. Complete and modern equipment is provided so that a flexible and well-rounded program can be conducted.

The Department of Parks wishes to acknowledge the support of Mayor Wagner, Council President Stark, Borough President Cashmore and the other members of the Board of Estimate without which this center could not have been built.

The operation of this center will contribute substantially to the happiness of many people both young and old in this neighborhood, and it is hoped in the not too distant future such facilities will be made available in all neighborhoods where they are now either non-existent or where existing facilities are inadequate and are not operated every day on a year-round basis.



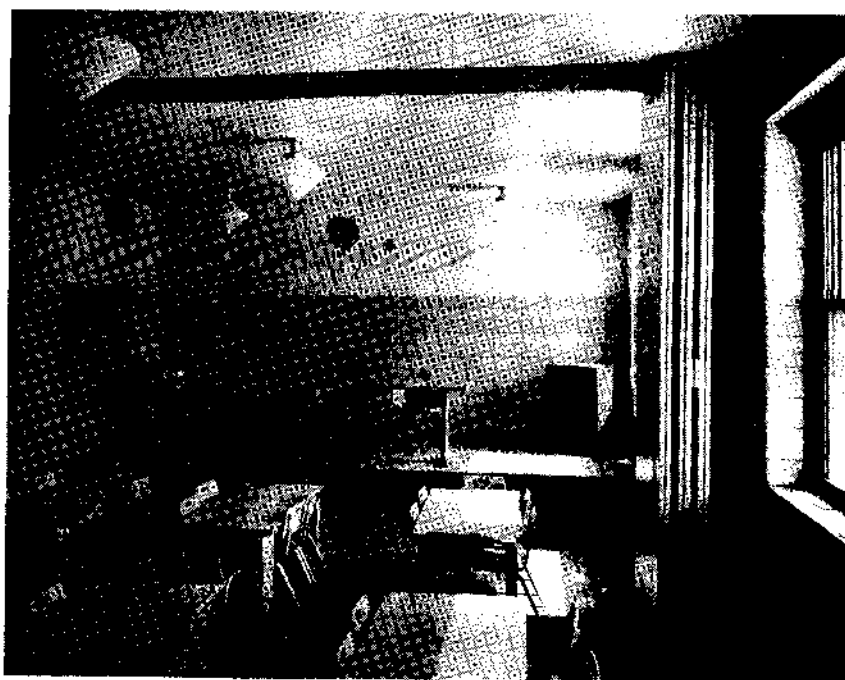
Commissioner



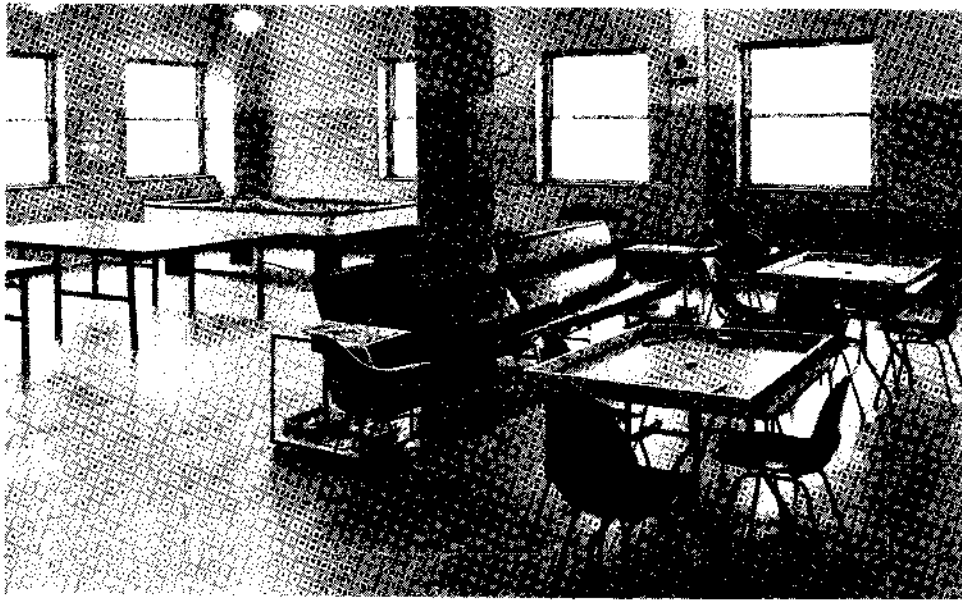
GYMNASIUM



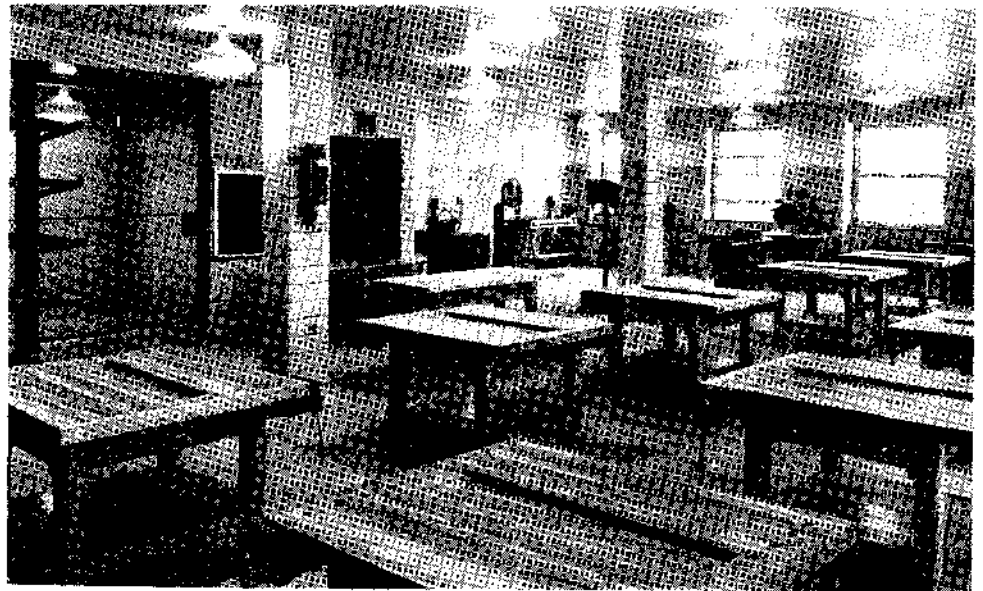
DOMESTIC SCIENCE ROOM



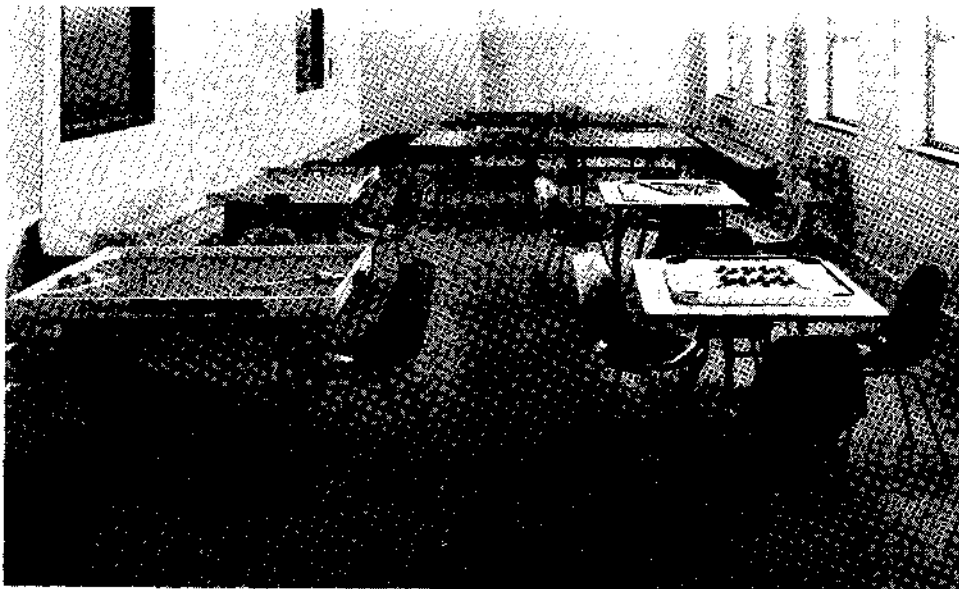
MEETING ROOM



SENIOR
GAME ROOM



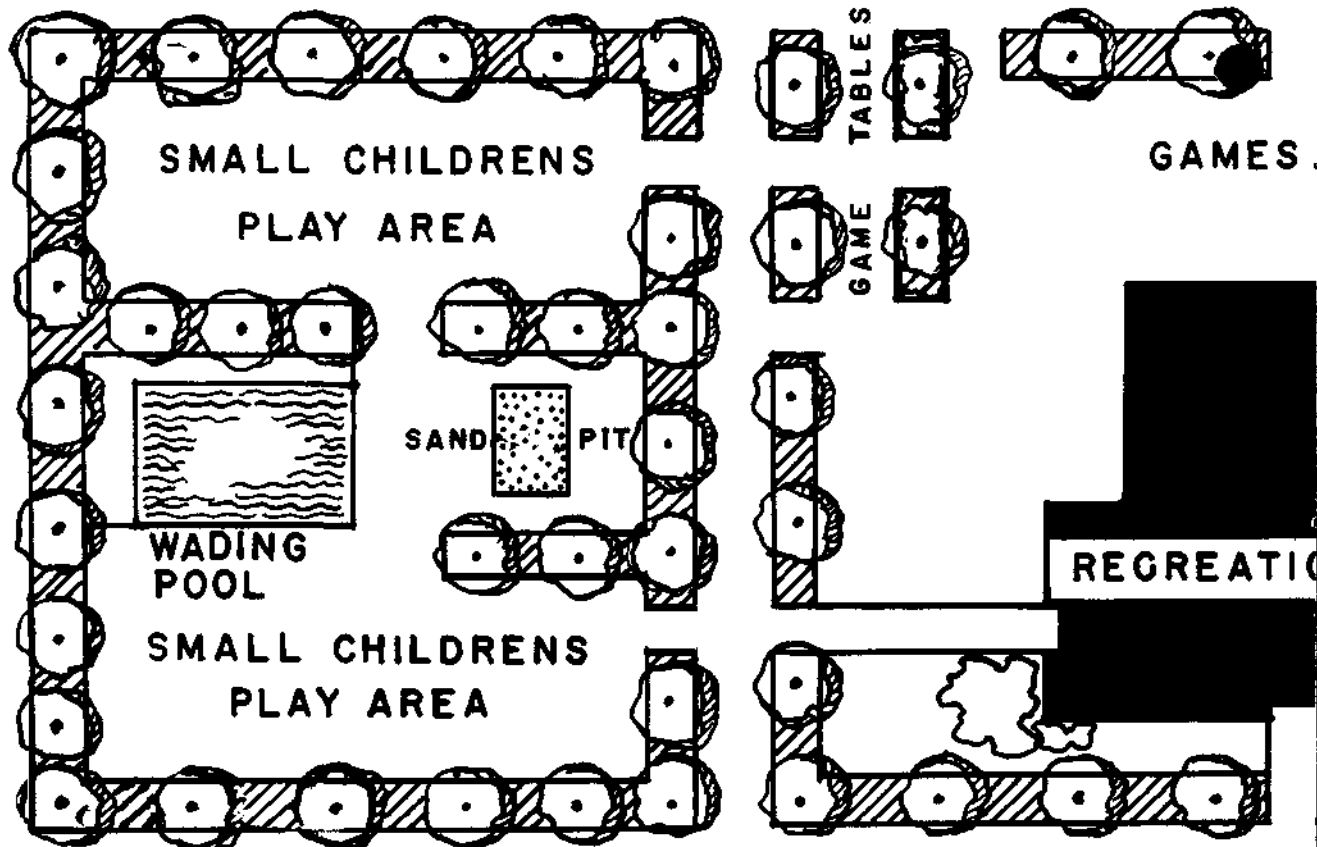
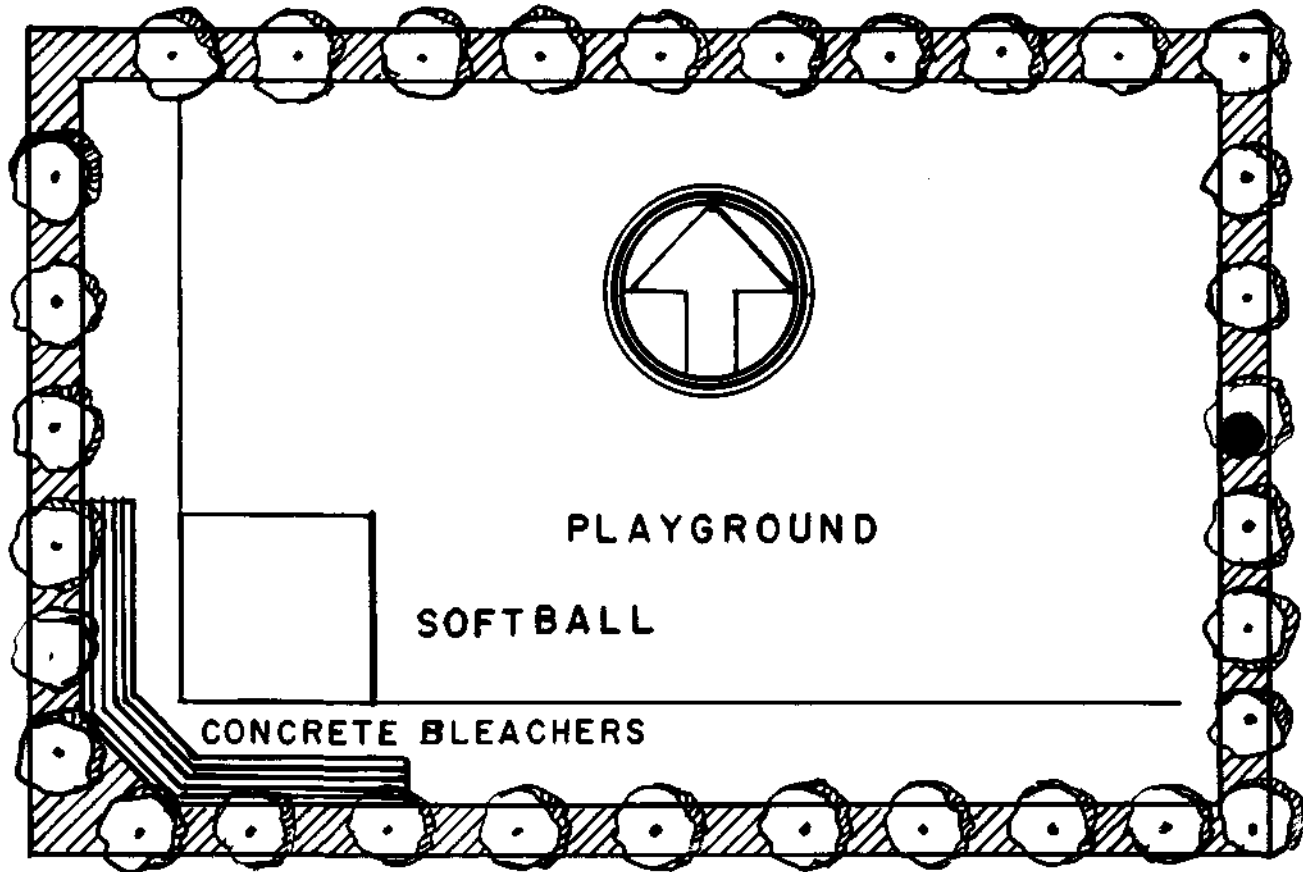
WOODWORK
SHOP



JUNIOR
GAME ROOM

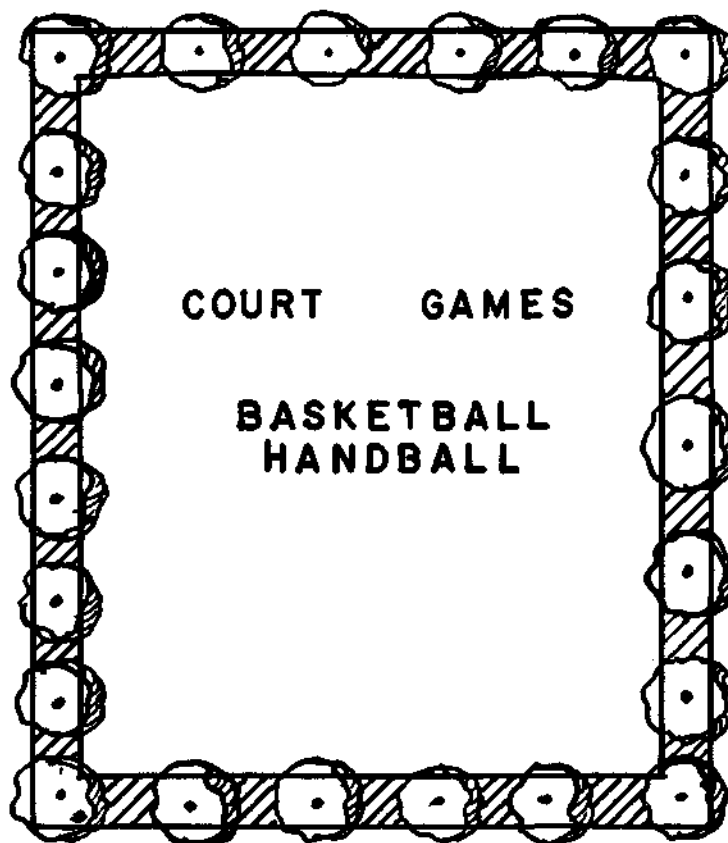
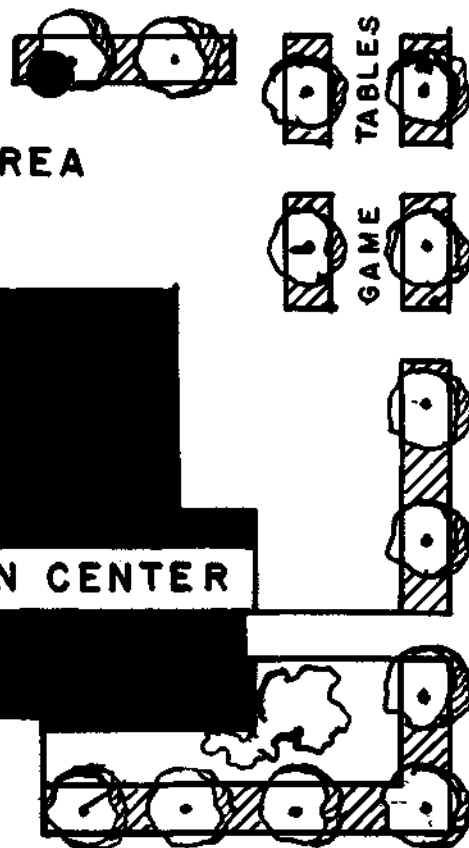
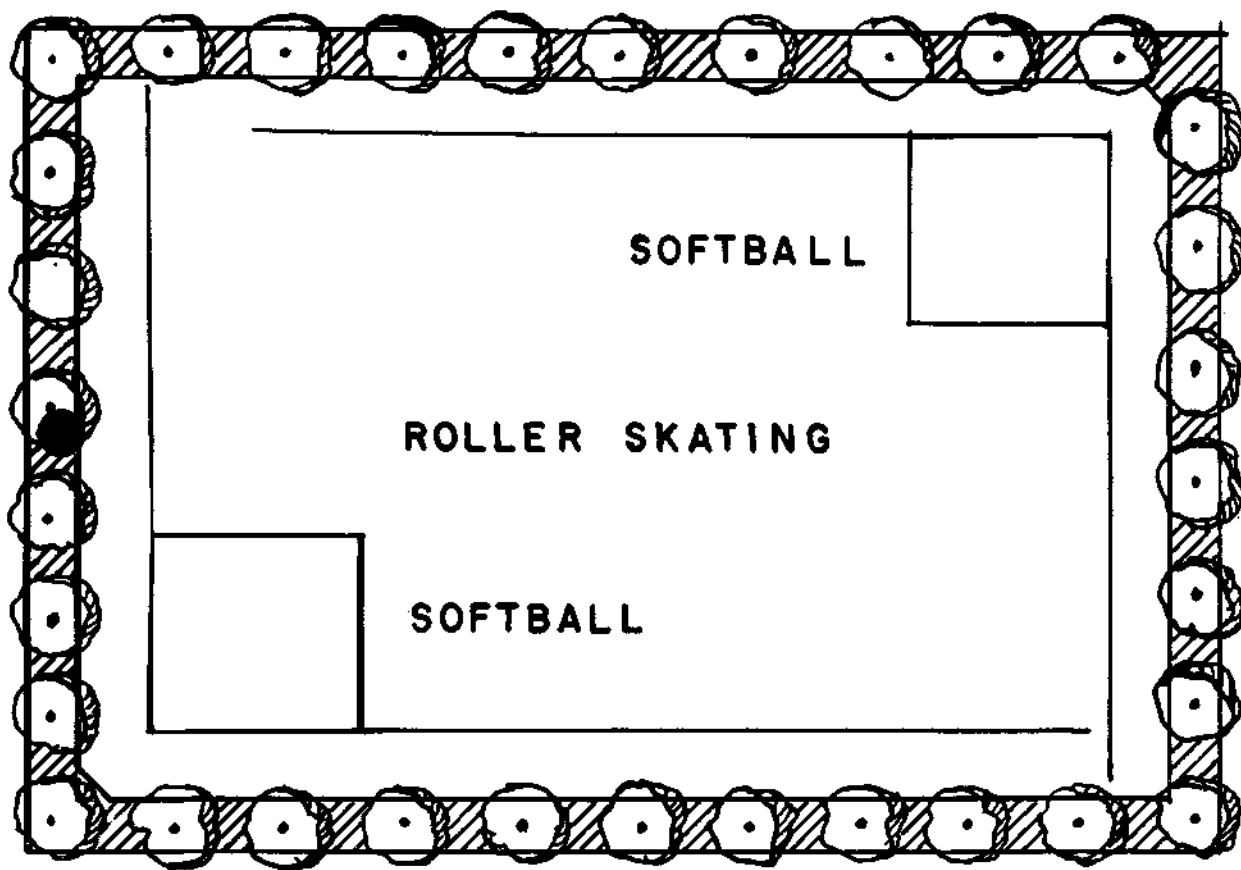
BERGEN

TROY AVENUE



PROSPECT

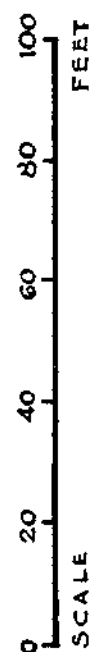
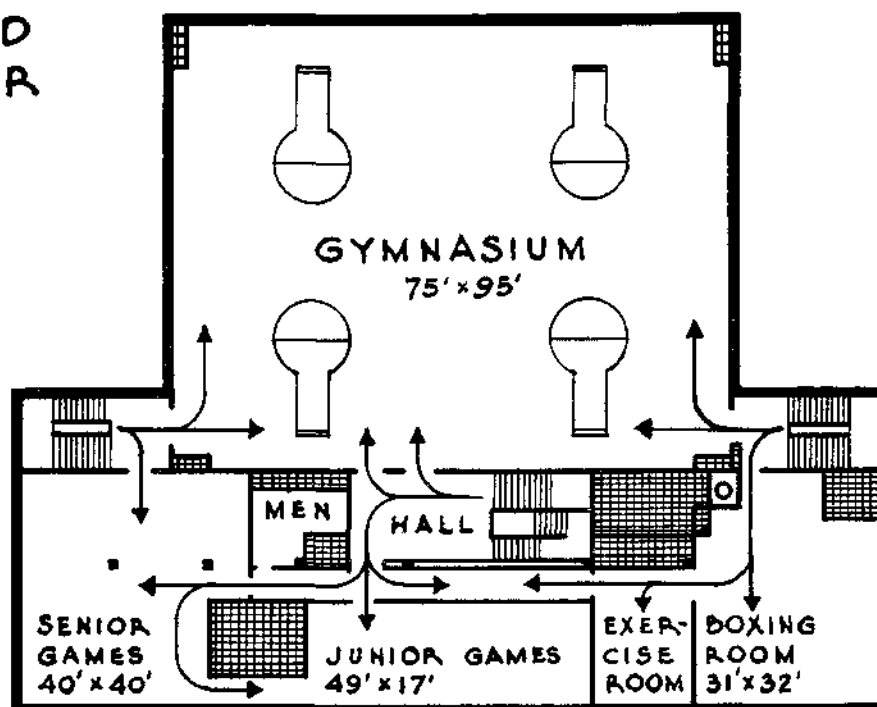
STREET



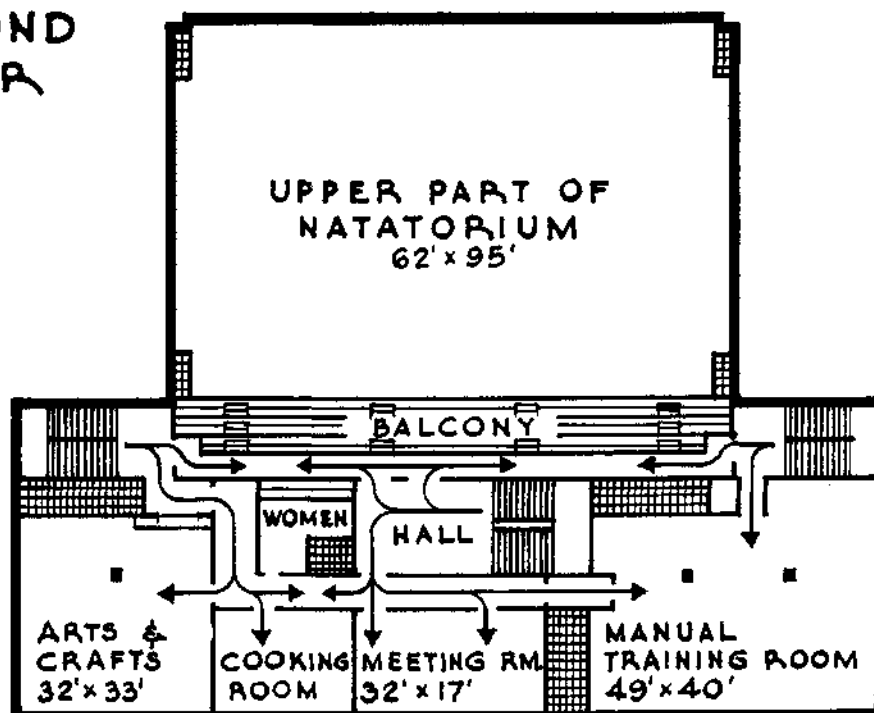
SCHENECTADY AVENUE

T PLACE

THIRD FLOOR

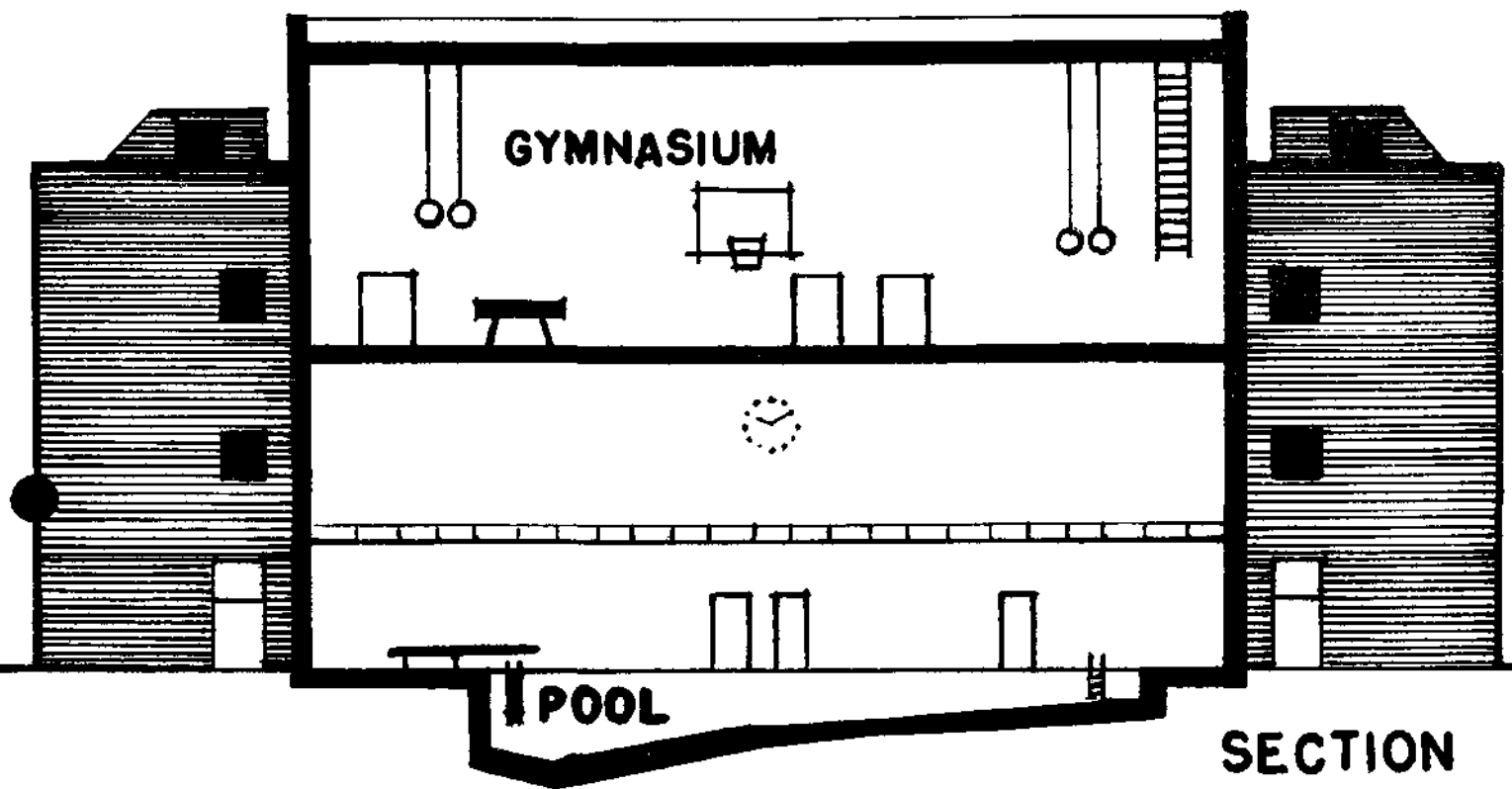


SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

NATATORIUM (POOL: 42' x 75')
 MAINTENANCE~LOCKERS
 SHOWERS & TOILETS



SECTION

SECTION SKETCH

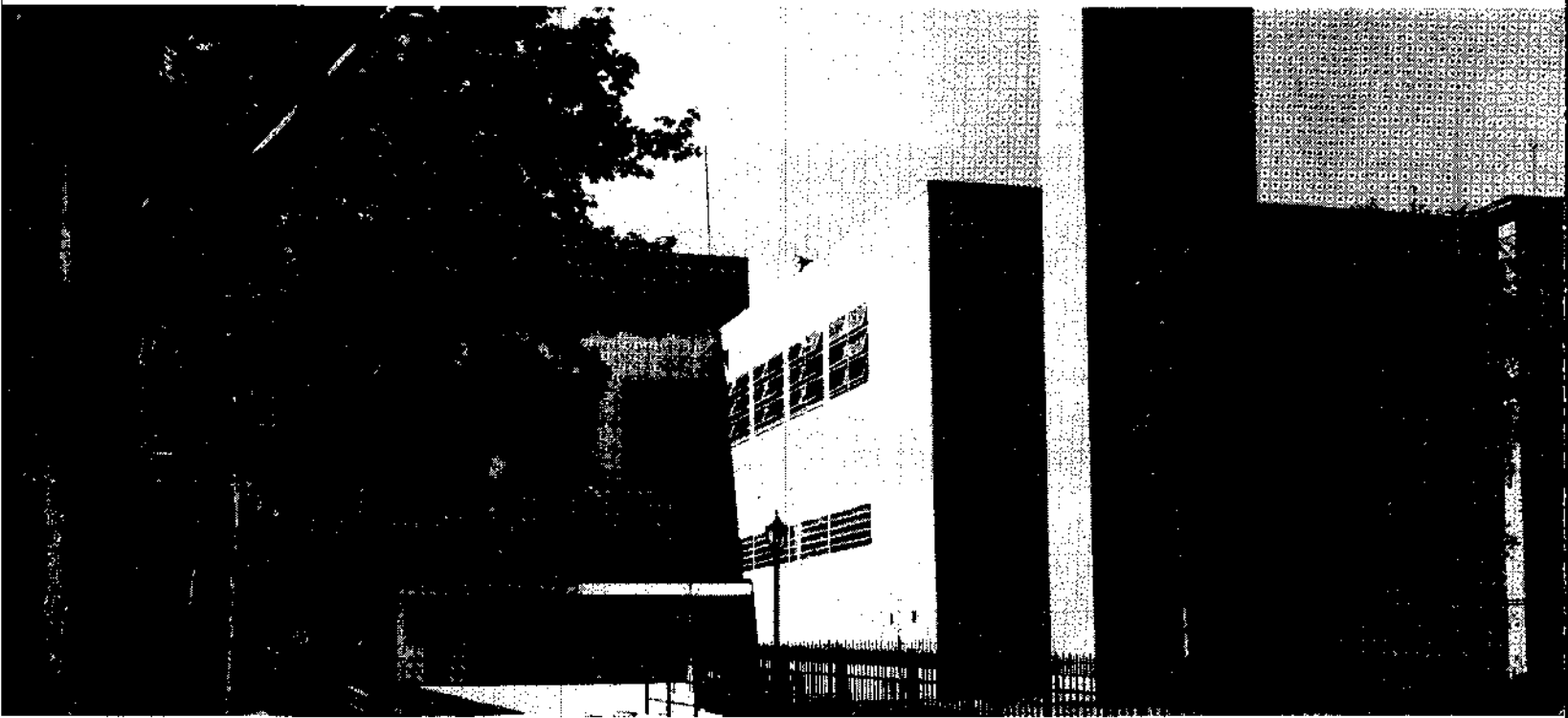
St. John's Recreation Center will be operated daily from 10 o'clock in the morning to 10 o'clock at night with a program arranged to fill the requirements of the community. Citizens of the neighborhood will be encouraged to participate in planning the program which will be conducted in four daily sessions: one in the morning, two in the afternoon and one in the evening. A total attendance of 10,000 persons a week is anticipated.

Fifty-one employees, each a specialist in some field such as gymnasium work, swimming, manual training, arts and crafts, cooking, and building maintenance, will be required to operate the center.

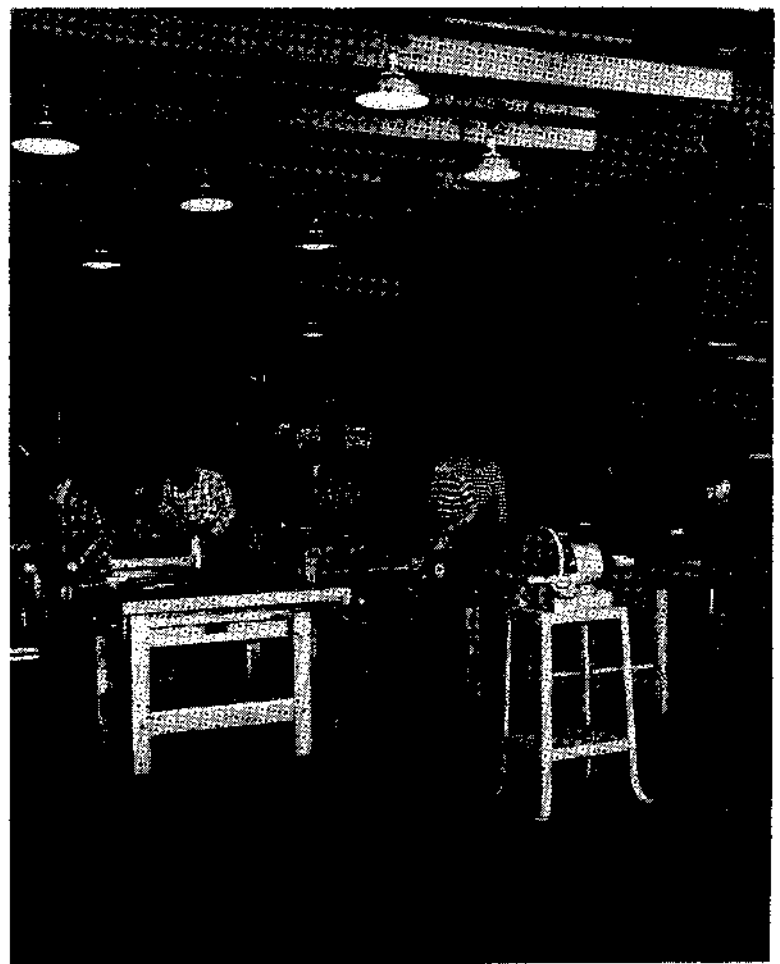
Supplementing the regular program, special events and demonstrations will be scheduled at periodic intervals. Folding bleachers with a seating capacity of 200 persons are provided in the gymnasium and 150 spectators can be accommodated in the balcony of the swimming pool.

In addition to the rooms equipped for special activities, other rooms will be available for general use such as group meetings, movies and dancing; television, radio and juke box; billiards, ping pong and other games.

ST. MARY'S RECREATION CENTER

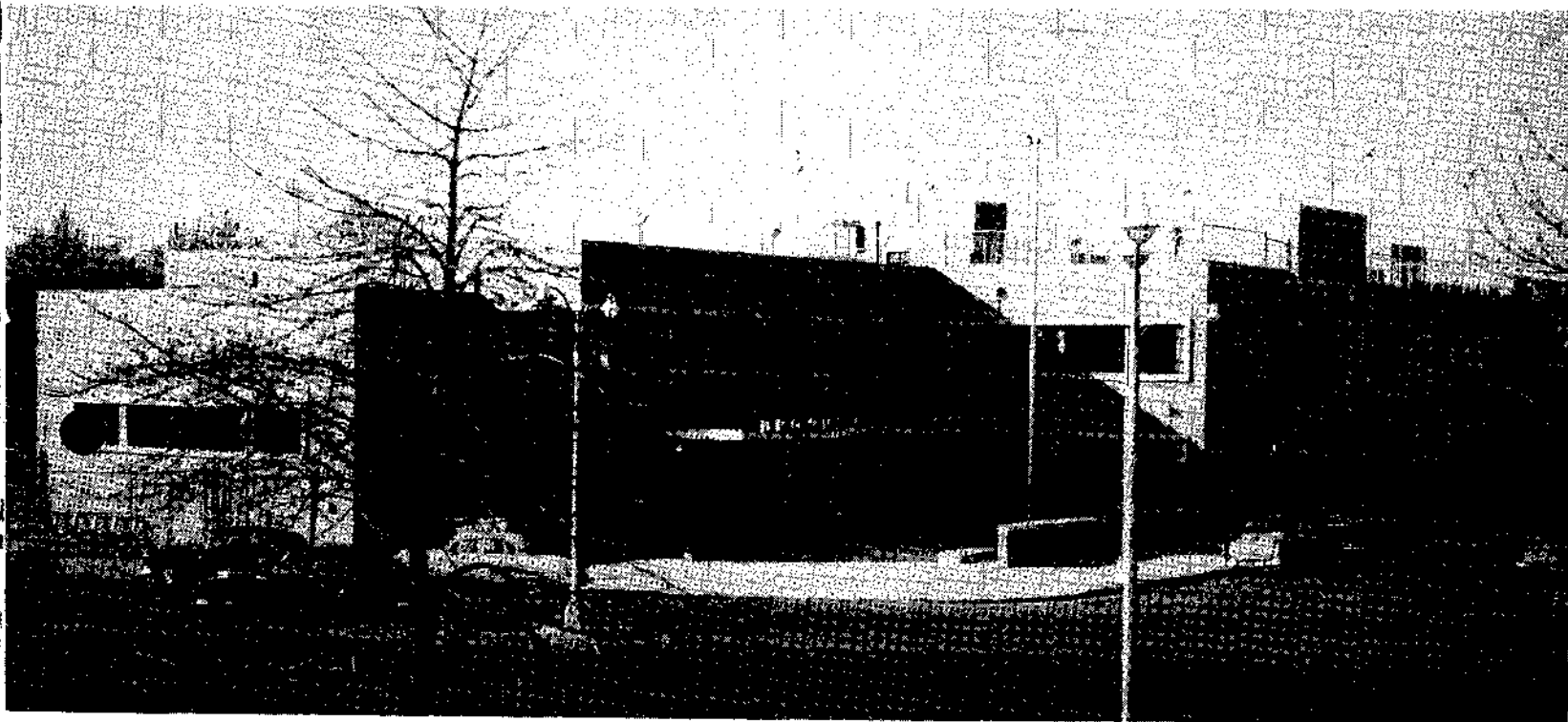


SENIOR GAME ROOM

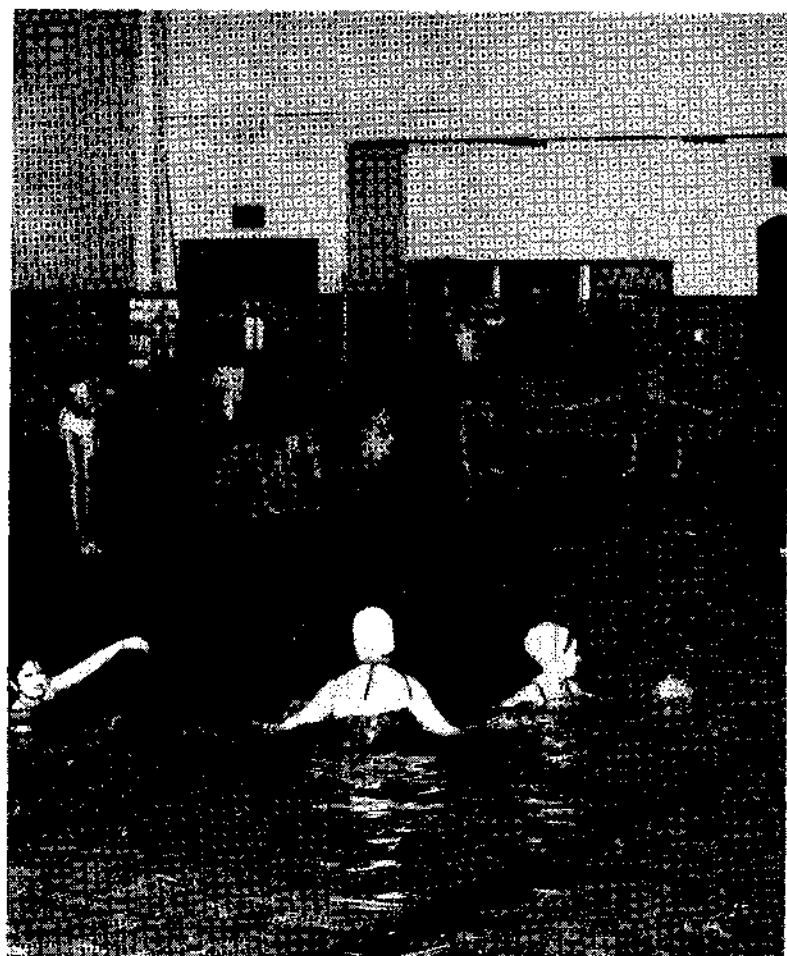


WOODWORKING CLASS

BROWNSVILLE RECREATION CENTER



GYMNASIUM & AUDITORIUM



SWIMMING POOL



Ray Glicker

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

APRIL 26, 1956

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 124

Although springtime and its flowers have seemed unusually tardy this year in marking the passing of winter, the Department of Parks announced today that the City's parks are bursting into bloom at last. Long established flowering trees and shrubs are more mature and spectacular than ever before. In a number of parks the plantings have been enlarged and enriched with additional specimens. Colorful displays of spring flowering bulbs will be available for New Yorkers to enjoy. During the next few weeks Forsythia, Daffodils, Azaleas, Tulips, Dogwood, Magnolias, Flowering Crabapples and Cherries will combine to give a magnificent succession of bloom.

In Central Park, Manhattan, the sunken garden surrounding the Seal Pool at the Zoo will have a wide band of daffodils, or narcissus, enclosing great masses of rose-colored blossoms of the flowering crabapple trees. The park's East Drive and Bridle Path will feature Japanese cherry trees with a concentration of these beautiful trees in the area west of the Obelisk, or "Cleopatra's Needle," where magnolias will be the center of attraction. No section of Central Park will be without some colorful sign of spring but the outstanding display will be at the Conservatory Gardens, 105th Street and Fifth Avenue, where tulips, narcissus, flowering quince, crabapples, magnolias and lilacs will bloom.

Riverside Park will have a fine showing of forsythia, crabapples and many other flowering plants concentrated particularly in the area along Henry Hudson Parkway from 72nd to 86th Streets.

At Fort Tryon Park, in upper Manhattan, the areas around the Heather Gardens and the Cloisters will be noteworthy for their magnolias, flowering crabs, flowering cherries, azaleas, bridal wreath, dogwood and many other blossoms.

In Queens, Grand Central Parkway from Parsons Boulevard to Francis Lewis Boulevard will provide a fine showing of hawthorns, crabapples, cherries and magnolias. Crocheron, Cunningham, Forest and Alley Parks will have outstanding displays of shadbush, dogwood and flowering crabapples. The City Building in Flushing Meadow Park is the center of a colorful collection of azaleas and flowering crabapples, while the Queens Botanical Garden on the easterly side of the park will again have hundreds of bulbs and plants in a riot of bloom.

Prospect Park, Brooklyn, has many fine specimens of magnolias and other flowering trees and shrubs throughout the park but the plantings of azaleas and forsythia at the Grand Army Plaza entrance will present an outstanding display of color.

In the Bronx there is a fine collection of Japanese flowering cherry trees along Shore Road opposite the Split Rock Golf Course in Pelham Bay Park. Bronx and Van Cortlandt Parks and the borough's parkways contain many shadbush, dogwood, flowering crabs and other spring flowers.

The parks of Richmond are particularly beautiful at this time of year and well worth a visit by Staten Islanders and New Yorkers from other boroughs who wish to enjoy spring blossoms

in a natural and uncrowded setting.

New York City's parks offer the beauty of springtime to anyone interested enough to stroll or motor through them. Buses and subways make enjoyment of the flowers in even the most distant park easily available to everyone.

4/23/56



Barney Felix

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

6/1 2:10 PM - Hand Delivered

FOR RELEASE

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 1956

Regular Mail 6/1

X-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

Entry blanks are available at Department of Parks playgrounds and borough offices for a variety of sports tournaments to be conducted during the coming summer.

Entries for the Annual Softball Tournament for boys 14 through 17 years of age close June 24. Play begins June 26.

Swimming tournaments for boys and girls, with special events for swimmers registered with the A.A.U. begin July 9. Events for girls will be held at 5:00 P.M. each day, as follows:

Monday,	July 9	-	Astoria Pool Queens
Wednesday,	July 11	-	Tompkinsville Pool, Richmond
Friday,	July 13	-	Sunset Pool, Brooklyn
Wednesday,	July 18	-	Crotona Pool, Bronx
Friday	July 20	-	Highbridge Pool, Manhattan

Swimming events for boys will be held at 5:00 P.M. as follows:

Tuesday,	July 10	-	Crotona Pool, Bronx
Thursday,	July 12	-	Thomas Jefferson Pool, Manhattan
Monday,	July 16	-	Astoria Pool, Queens
Thursday,	July 19	-	Tompkinsville Pool, Richmond
Monday,	July 23	-	McCarren Pool, Brooklyn

Entries close for all swimming events, one week before the day of the event.

Tennis tournament play at 39 locations in the five boroughs will be held as follows:

Men's Singles	-	June 16
Junior Boys' Singles	-	June 18
Women's Singles	-	June 30

Entries close June 30.

Contestants must file three attested score cards, by June 30,

for the Annual Municipal Golf Tournament to be held at the 10 Park Department Courses. Cards may be filed with the Supervisor of the Course at which contestant desires to play. The 64 low gross scorers at each course will be eligible to play in local course championships to be held as follows:

Men and Women	-	July 8
Junior Boys	-	July 16

6-1-56



Ray M. Glavin

D E P A R T M E N T O F P A R K S
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-30M-703834(35) 114

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 1956

ST. MARY'S RECREATION CENTER OPEN HOUSE

*4/6/56 - Hand Kelly
4 PM
Regular Mail
4/6*

The Department of Parks cordially invites the people of The City of New York to Open House Week at St. Mary's Recreation Center at St. Ann's Avenue and St. Mary's Street in the Bronx.

St. Mary's, the first in the Department Program of large scale recreation centers, has been in operation for five years; and has proved of immense importance to the people of the south Bronx. A wide variety of activities, exhibits and demonstrations of the activities conducted in the center is planned.

Attached is a program of the events for the week.

Attach.

4/6/56

HIGHLIGHTS - OPEN HOUSE WEEK - APRIL 9 - 15, 1956

ST. MARY'S RECREATION CENTER

- Mon. April 9 Arts & Crafts Room - 7:00 P.M.
Exhibit of Handicrafts
Party and Social - Mothers' Craft Group
Craft Awards.
- Tues. April 10 Indoor Pool - 4:00 P.M.
Junior Div. - Novelty Swimming Events,
and Races.
- Gymnasium - 8:00 P.M.
Mothers' Gymnasium Play Group and Social.
- Wed. April 11 Little Theatre - 3:30 P.M.
Feature Movie - "The Charge at Feather River"
- Gymnasium - 7:00 P.M. Basketball Tournament
Championships.
- 1st Game: Ramblers vs Intermediate All-Stars.
2nd Game: Squires vs Unknowns - Senior
Championship Finals.
- Senior Game Room - 7:30 P.M.
Annual Spring Social Dance. Seniors and Adults.
Music by 4-pc. Band; Refreshments.
- Thurs. April 12 Indoor Pool - 4:00 P.M.
Intermediate Division. Swimming Races;
Achievement Awards.
- Fri. April 13 Indoor Pool - 4:00 P.M.
Demonstration Water Safety, Life Saving
Techniques.
- "ST. MARY'S NITE" - Gymnasium - 7:30 P.M.
Presentations by Center Members and
Groups of exhibitions reflecting some
aspects of the Program of Activities.
The Events on the Program will consist
of Dances, Drills, Tumbling and Hand-
balancing, Gymnastics, and Sports Skills.
- Sat. April 14 Little Theatre - 3:00 P.M.
Feature Movie - "Virginia City"
- Indoor Pool - 7:30 P.M.
Water Polo Match - West Point Academy vs
N.Y. Community College.
- Gymnasium - 7:30 P.M.
Dual Gymnastic Meet - West Side "Y" vs
St. Mary's Rec. Center
- Sun. April 15 Indoor Pool - 2:30 P.M.
GIRLS' Novice and Age Group Swimming Meet
Park Dept. - Met. Assn. AAU
Events for Girls ages 11 - 16 incl.

B. Felix



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 1956

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

*6/25/56 - Hand Delivered
2 PM
Regular Mail 6/25/56*

The Park Department announces the first New York Outdoor Shakespeare Festival, free to the public, will open the Summer Season on Friday evening, June 29th, 1956 with "Julius Ceasar" at the 2,000-seat East River Park Amphitheatre, East River Drive and Grand Street.

In cooperation with the Department of Parks and produced by Joseph Papp for the Shakespearean Theatre Workshop, this popular Shakespearean work will be given on Thursday and Friday nights over a period of three weeks, terminating July 20, 1956.

"The Taming of the Shrew" will open the following Friday, July 27th and play through August 17th. "Twelfth Night" is under consideration as the third presentation in the play series. The final play will have its opening on August 24th and be performed through September 7th.

Directorial reins for the entire season are in the hands of Stuart Vaughan. He recently directed the two successful readings of Sean O'Casey's autobiographies.

A list of the project's sponsors include Julie Harris, Cornelia Otis Skinner, Elia Kazan, Mark Van Doren, Ezra Stone, Norris Houghton, Galen Drake, Clarence Derwent, Mrs. Clark Williams and Mrs. John T. Pratt.

* * * * *

Ray Glesper



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1956

*3/26/56 - 12 No. 11
Hand Delivered
3/26 - Regular Mail*

The Department of Parks has granted a permit to the Shakespearean Theatre Workshop, Inc. to present a summer festival program of Shakespeare comedies at the East River Park Amphitheatre, East River Drive and Grant Street in Manhattan. Performances will be given at 8:30 P.M. on Wednesday and Friday evenings beginning June 20 and terminating September 7.

The four plays planned for the coming summer are: "The Taming of the Shrew", "Much Ado About Nothing", "As You Like It", and "Twelfth Night".

The Shakespearean Theatre Workshop is an educational, non-profit organization chartered by the State Education Department. Its purpose is to encourage and cultivate interest in poetic drama with emphasis on Shakespeare.

A distinguished sponsoring committee, formed to give impetus to this cultural project, includes Cornelia Otis Skinner, Julie Harris, Clarence Derwent, Ezra Stone, Norris Houghton and Galan Drake. The Chairman of the committee is Joseph Papp, Managing Director of the Shakespearean Theatre Workshop.

* * * * *

3-26-56

Ray Klesper

*5/1/56 - Hand
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from 270 Rm
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from Arsenal
5/2/56*

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

IMMEDIATELY

May 1, 1956

Following are the answers to questions directed to me or Mr. Constable by the press about the Tavern on the Green Concession.

1. It has been asked whether agreements for establishing, extending and equipping concession facilities such as restaurants are unusual or unprecedented.

The answer is emphatically no. Such agreements have been made in national, state and municipal parks in many cases in recent years, and are considered standard practice where substantial investments are required for which public funds are not readily available or which can best be accomplished by private enterprise. Such private investments are always on public property and always belong to the public agency, and revert to such public agency after the investment has been retired.

For example, the National Park Service recently advertised twenty-year contracts authorizing Hamilton Stores, Inc. to continue operating stores, automotive shops and service stations in Yellowstone Park, involving the investment of \$600,000 by this Corporation. This State and others have done the same thing in numerous instances in state park systems in instances involving gasoline stations, restaurants, food bars and other facilities. The process is to contract with the concessionaire to build, extend

or improve facilities on the basis of amortizing a considerable part of his investment within the revenues due the State until such investments have been completely retired after which the State fully owns the facilities and can rent or dispose of them as it pleases. This, for example, has been done at Bear Mountain Inn, at Jones Beach as to all food concessions, restaurants, etc. without which this great and widely admired park could not operate and at other parks.

In this City the same procedure has been followed for years in numerous instances involving food and restaurant facilities, gasoline stations, etc.

I have been the head of the State System 32 years and of the City System 22 years and am very familiar with such operations.

2. Question: Is it correct to state that the City is actually paying for the improvements at the Tavern on the Green out of City funds?

Answer: This is not true. The concessionaire in this case repays most of his investment out of the monies due the City under his contract and the City owns the facilities in the end. If the City were to pay for these improvements, it would be a burden on the Capital Budget at a time when funds are short. The concessionaire would not have the same interest in these improvements and the City, would, of course, have to pay out of the revenues derived from the concessionaire for amortizing on the bonds issued

under the Capital Budget.

All plans are, of course, approved in detail by the Park Department and by the Art Commission. In the case of the Tavern on the Green, specifically, the plans were approved by the Art Commission after appearing on the calendar of that Commission.

3. Question: What are the specific provisions of the concession agreement of the Tavern on the Green?

Answer: The concessionaire pays the City a percentage of gross receipts. This percentage is 5% on all items requiring service and 10% on items not requiring service, such as bar items.

It should be noted that the prime purpose of the Park Department in making restaurant contracts of this kind is to obtain first-rate service and that operating a restaurant in a City park under seasonal conditions is a risky matter.

In the last year the City received from this concessionaire about \$60,000. Part of this was retained by the concessionaire to amortize previous investments.

4. Question: How long will it take to amortize the amount required under the new contract for improvements, extensions, and parking at the Tavern?

Answer: The total amount of the new investment is \$539,000. Of this amount the concessionaire will be reimbursed \$434,000. This is on the agreed basis that 80% of this investment shall be

amortized out of revenues due the City, and 20% shall be paid by the concessionaire himself and is not reimbursable. This 20% amounts nonreimbursable approximately to \$105,000. We estimate the entire amount will be amortized in nine years.

5. Question: Was an existing playground uprooted and destroyed to make way for the present improvements at the Tavern?

Answer: This statement is completely false as indicated to the Committee on City Affairs of the Council this morning. There was no playground at this location. There are playgrounds and park facilities for all ages in the immediate neighborhood, superior to those found in most parts of the City, including a small children's playground immediately to the west, the large Heckscher Playground only a few blocks away, a small sitting area nearby and many recreation facilities within easy reach.

Question: Is there any analogy between the contract cancelled by the City at the Casino and the Tavern contract?

Answer: There is none. The Casino was a cafe society racket. The contract was a bad one. The prices were outrageous. A previous Mayor left unpaid tabs of \$4,000 and a former Commissioner of \$2,000. Food prices have doubled in the last twenty years, and even today Tavern prices are half those then prevailing at the Casino. The Casino concessionaire refused to make improvements or to admit any Park Department supervision. Therefore the Casino permit was cancelled and a playground substituted.

7. Question: Were a large number of trees taken down for the small additional parking space at the Tavern?

Answer: This statement is false. Very few trees were removed, and at a time when the Park Department has been conducting an active and successful tree and shrub planting campaign on a large scale in all parts of the city, including among other things the planting of trees on Third Avenue under a contract let by the President of the Borough of Manhattan at the request of the Park Department which has charge after the contract is completed.

8. Question: Are play facilities being reduced in Central Park?

Answer: This statement is also false. Many acres have been added to the usable recreation facilities in this park including the new marginal playgrounds and numerous other recreation facilities of various kinds, some of them the result of private donations such as the Wollman Rink, the Loeb Boathouse and surrounding planting and other facilities, the Kerbs Memorial with planting, shrubbery, benches, etc. the Chess and Checker House, the new Carousel, the Pony Track, etc. The filling in of the Lower Reservoir represented a conversion of fenced and unusable property to improved active recreation space and landscaping for all ages.

9. Question: Has the Park Department neglected park and play space throughout the City?

Answer: This statement is both false and malicious. The fact is that there were 119 playgrounds when the present park administration took charge, that there are now 653, that the total acreage in the park system has been increased from 14,000 acres to 28,000 acres, that there are, generally speaking, five times as many active play facilities now as there were in 1934.

The planting of trees and shrubs in parks and along parkways is unprecedented in any other city in the world. As the result of our efforts, there is an adequate playground jointly supervised by the park and school systems in connection with all new schools.

There are similar new playgrounds in every housing project, designed and operated by the Park Department.

There are tremendous reclamation areas which have been filled or are being filled with sanitation or hydraulic fill for the establishment of hundreds of acres of new parks.

The entire Jamaica Bay has been converted into a park and game refuge and almost continuous parks are being established on the north shore of the Bay in both Brooklyn and Queens. No such park and reclamation and conservation area exists within the limits of any other large city in the entire world.

Innumerable improvements, which include recreation and landscaping, have also been made by the Park Department in

cooperation with museums and similar agencies such as the botanical gardens, the Bronx Zoo, etc.

Waterfront reclamation, including building new frontage on bordering streams and waters, has been conducted by the Park Department on a tremendous scale. In the narrow Riverside Park alone in connection with the Henry Hudson Parkway improvement, a hundred and thirty acres were added to the park system and made accessible to the general public. This has been true of all parkway improvements.

It may be added that numerous facilities, primarily for the enjoyment of people of this City, have been provided in the suburbs and in adjacent counties by the State Park Authorities under my immediate direction.

The charges recently circulated by irresponsible people that those who have been in charge of the City park system and the State park system in the suburbs are not genuinely interested in recreation or in playgrounds for young people or in planting, landscaping and conservation is grotesque in the light of these proven and manifest facts.

Conclusion

In the face of this record, we have been subjected to a flood of unprintable Billingsgate, threats of violence from

crackpots stirred up by false insinuations, and even to sly insinuations that the Commissioner is related to a concessionaire and is profiting personally at the Tavern and by implication at other concessions.

I am happy to be leaving the City briefly for a breath of fresh air elsewhere.

ROBERT MOSES

Commissioner



ROBERT MOSES
COMMISSIONER

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL
64TH STREET AND FIFTH AVENUE
CENTRAL PARK
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

STUART CONSTABLE
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
JOHN A. MULCAHY
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER
GEORGE L. QUIGLEY
DIRECTOR MAINTENANCE & OPERATION

April 27, 1956

Ray Glesper
Stand Delivery 4/27/56 P.M.

Honorable Joseph T. Sharkey
City Hall
New York 7, New York

Dear Joe:

It is a source of regret to me not to be able to attend the meeting of the City Affairs Committee of the Council on the Tavern matter on Tuesday. I have other meetings at that time and urgent scheduled work of what I fondly believe is a constructive nature. I like Council meetings and hope you will give me a rain check.

Mr. Constable will represent the Park Department, flanked by Mr. Lebwohl and others, and will be glad to answer questions on Resolution No. 761. I have asked Mr. Dougherty who knows the State park system to be present also, recalling that not long ago Stanley Isaacs screamed that we were ruining the entire Palisades Interstate Park of some 50,000 acres by filling in a lovely swamp which Stanley says he frequented in his youth.

Meanwhile I send you several copies of our original reply to Stanley and his chums on their Tavern charges.

Let me add that Stanley's wild statements as to the unusual character of the Tavern improvements is of a piece with other similar charges he has made over the years.

Stanley turns up at every ballground well in advance of the game, equipped with broken bottles, stink bombs and Bronx kazoos. He waves the bloody shirt and practices yelling foul before the game has started, and works himself into a frenzy while other rooters are eating peanuts.

Stanley has bitterly opposed practically everything I have worked on, and in the rare instances in which he has been on my side I have always been vaguely uncomfortable and have restudied the subject, on the assumption that Stanley's usefulness lies in guiding successful enterprises in the opposite direction.

I would not have it otherwise. The Minority Leader has given me endless pleasure. He is what the late Henry L. Mencken, shrewdest observer of American life, called a "wowser." Mencken

Honorable Joseph T, Sharkey

-2-

April 27, 1956

learned to spot wowzers in the Aurignacian epoch of his youth and as a police reporter to analyze the righteous gore that flecked the streets of Baltimore.

Stanley is one of those lads who take advantage of the weekend cut telephone rates to communicate with the Angel Gabriel. Since this is not a person to person service he seems to get a lot of wrong numbers.

The late Jimmie Walker characterized a reformer as a guy who delights to ride through a sewer in a glass bottom boat. This remains an admirable definition. Another practical philosopher remarked that there is nothing more unpleasant than a virtuous person with a mean mind.

One thing more. At the hearing please don't let Stanley put on the record that he is my friend, but has to be loyal to principles and not to people. I can stand everything but that.

See you soon, I hope, at the new Brooklyn Sports Center, another Isaacs' aversion.

Cordially,

/s/ Robert Moses

Commissioner



ROBERT MOSES
COMMISSIONER

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL
64TH STREET AND FIFTH AVENUE
CENTRAL PARK
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

STUART CONSTABLE
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
JOHN A. MULCAHY
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER
GEORGE L. QUIGLEY
DIRECTOR MAINTENANCE & OPERATION

April 17, 1956

Mr. Arnold Newman
33 West 67 Street
New York 23, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Newman:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 11, 1956 and of the attached statement relating to the changes in Central Park in the area of the Tavern On The Green.

You did not wait for a reply from us, but repeated to the press the false statements contained in your communication, attempted to picket and hold a mass meeting at the Tavern and paid a visit to City Hall to complain of the action of this Department. Because of these actions, I am releasing our answer to the press, so that the facts about Central Park will be clear to all.

Very truly yours,

/s/ ROBERT MOSES

Commissioner



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK
REGENI 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

APRIL 17, 1956

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

STATEMENTS BY MR. ARNOLD NEWMAN, ET AL, CONCERNING
RECONSTRUCTION OF THE TAVERN ON THE GREEN

The statement attached to Mr. Newman's letter of April 11 makes the following objections to the construction of the new parking field between the West Drive and Central Park West north of 67 Street. The facts follow each objection.

1. A comfort station and other provisions for safety and convenience are needed not a lot full of parked cars.

The Facts: No comfort stations were built to serve the twenty marginal playgrounds in Central Park. They are for the use of mothers and children from the immediate neighborhood. In the twenty years these playgrounds have been in operation no serious complaint concerning lack of comfort stations and none concerning unsafe conditions have been received. The nearest comfort station in this case is at West 61 Street.

2. These additional parking facilities will reduce the play space available, make the area less safe and contribute to juvenile delinquency by placing what is called "the temptation of parked cars" before the children using the area.

The Facts: The area was never a play space, the half acre being devoted to parking was bisected by the bridle path. Furthermore, there will remain in addition to the marginal playground over five acres of open park area between West 67 Street, West 72 Street, the West Drive and Central Park West. Careful observation convinced us the parking field could be built at this location since there has never been more than very light public use of the area by anyone except users of the bridle path. The parking field will be used for cars only after 5 P.M. It will be available for roller skating and tricycle riding during the day. Cars will always be attendant parked and the field will have supervision at all times.

3. The path which leads from 67 Street and the West Drive to the playground is being eliminated and the only entrance for many blocks available to mothers with baby carriages is by a flight of steps near 67 Street and Central Park West.

The Facts: The distance from the corner of 67 Street and Central Park West to the playground entrance via the path being removed is only 150 feet shorter than distance via the 69 Street entrance just two short blocks. Furthermore, those using the path being removed have to push carriages up a two-story rise between the West Drive and the playground entrance. For anyone living north of 67 Street the 69 Street entrance is much closer to the playground entrance.

4. The site between the exit from and entrance to the 65 Street Transverse Road should be used for a parking field not a mothers' and children's recreation area as there is a traffic hazard and gasoline fumes are heavy at that location.

The Facts: This area is not accessible from the entrance to the Tavern On The Green and construction of a parking field there would be very expensive. Access would constitute a serious traffic hazard. The present use provides a small easily accessible recreation area for those living south of West 67 Street. The fumes there are no worse than anywhere else around the boundaries of Central Park.

5. You were not forewarned of the proposed change and protest that park area should not be taken from children for the convenience of night club patrons.

The Facts: On January 18, 1956 the press announced the proposed enlargement of the Tavern On The Green. The article said a new parking field for eighty cars would be built.

The Tavern On The Green supplies a definite park need. It is patronized by hundreds of thousands every year. Half an acre more to provide for their comfort and convenience is justifiable on any reasonable basis.

In recent years the use of the Tavern On The Green in Central Park has increased so greatly that enlargement of the building and provision for additional parking area have become necessary. Patrons of this restaurant are drawn in substantial numbers from the thousands of users of the park, from the neighborhood and from other parts of the city and out of town.

The opening of the Coliseum on April 28, the relocation of the Metropolitan Opera House, Philharmonic Symphony, Fordham and other improvements at Lincoln Square, will greatly increase the number of people using the park for recreation and also greatly increase use of this restaurant. Recognizing the need for increased capacity at the Tavern On The Green, the Department of Parks planned the enlargement of the building and construction of the new parking field. The project was carefully studied and approved by the Art Commission as well as the Park Department. The plans were made carefully and no cause exists for any anxiety on the part of genuinely interested citizens. This improvement will increase enjoyment and use of park facilities and not reduce them.

The Tavern On The Green building was designed by Olmstead and Vaux in the original plans for Central Park. It was built in 1870-72 as a Sheepfold where a flock of sheep used in keeping down the grass in the meadows of Central Park and providing a pastoral atmosphere were housed. In the early 1930's the Park Department, with the aid of WPA funds, reconstructed the building as a park restaurant in the heart of the city, taking full advantage of the traditional Victorian Gothic architecture associated with Central Park and an important element in its charm.

Since 1934, this and many other important improvements have been carried out in Central Park and many other steps have been taken to meet recreational needs without violating the basic purposes for which Central Park was designed and created. These have added usable area to the park as well as new recreation facilities of inestimable value to the people of New York City.

The filling of the old receiving reservoir and construction of the Great Lawn on its site added thirty-four acres of usable space, a new lake and two playgrounds to Central Park. The extravagantly expensive Casino adjacent to the Mall was demolished and the Mary Harriman Rumsey Playground constructed on its site. The beautiful Conservatory Garden replace four and five tenths acres occupied by obsolete park greenhouses.

Twenty marginal playgrounds for small children have been created around the boundary of the park. The Heckscher Playground has been reconstructed, as was the Harlem Meer, and the lake at 59 Street has been improved. The Zoo was completely rebuilt.

Private generosity has built the Wollman Memorial Ice Skating Rink with its playground built on two and five tenths acres of swampy unusable land, the Loeb Memorial Boat House at the 72 Street Lake with its six tenths acre parking field, the Kerbs Memorial Boat House for model boats at Conservatory Lake, the Friedsam Carousel building and the Osborne Memorial Playground. The improvement of the Pony Track with funds provided by the Altman Foundation

is a current project. These and other important Central Park projects completed since 1934, under construction or to be started in the near future are shown on the attached map.

While building these important projects which have added so much to recreational values in the park, the Park Department has consistently opposed the use of any part of Central Park for any other than park purposes. Proposals which would have converted large acreage into public parking lots, used the park as a world's fair site, sold the park as building lots to balance the city's budget, taken sites for various public and quasi public buildings together with a host of others have been defeated.

The space set aside in the park for restaurants is much smaller than in most other cities here and in Europe. The Tavern On The Green occupies a modest site on the edge of the park, it fills a genuine public need, is well run and its prices are reasonable. The present work is not a financial burden on the city since it is being paid for by the concessionaire who will be reimbursed for eighty per cent of the cost out of future revenues due the city under his concession agreement.

So much for the specific Central Park allegations and the facts.

Now as to the general charges which you have made or have caused some others to make that in the City park system children's play has been neglected, that facilities for children have been reduced and that recreation for the many has been subordinated to favors for a few, I suggest you make a guided tour, read our printed reports and get acquainted with a park program without parallel in any other city here or abroad which has multiplied by five the facilities available when the present executives took charge in 1934. You might even find something to be proud of.

/s/ ROBERT MOSES

Commissioner

Ray Glesper



ROBERT MOSES
COMMISSIONER

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL
64TH STREET AND FIFTH AVENUE
CENTRAL PARK
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

STUART CONSTABLE
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
JOHN A. MULCAHY
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER
GEORGE L. QUIGLEY
DIRECTOR MAINTENANCE & OPERATION

April 17, 1956

4/17/56

Hand Delivery 4^{30 PM}

Mail Delivery (Stew 2)

4/18/56

Mr. Arnold Newman
33 West 67 Street
New York 23, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Newman:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 11, 1956 and of the attached statement relating to the changes in Central Park in the area of the Tavern On The Green.

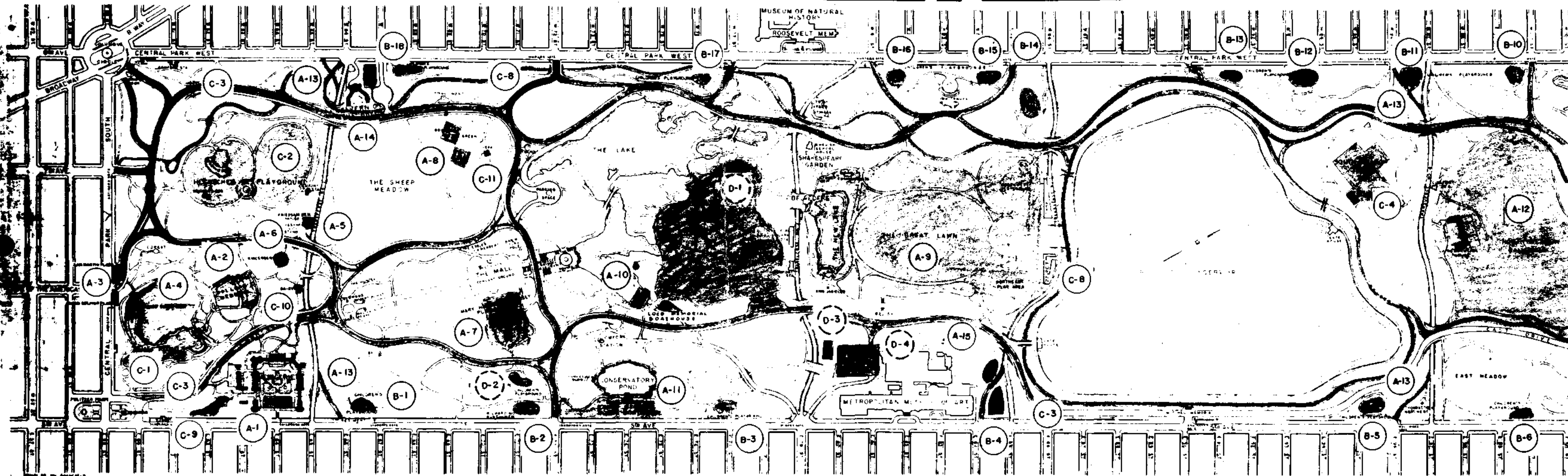
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Very truly yours,

/s/ ROBERT MOSES

Commissioner

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN



CENTRAL PARK

IMPROVEMENTS SINCE 1934

A - NEW IMPROVEMENTS

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 MENAGERIE | 9 GREAT LAWN INCLUDING NEW LAKE & |
| 2 WOLLMAN MEMORIAL ICE | 2 NEW PLAYGROUNDS |
| SKATING RINK | 10 LOEB MEMORIAL BOATHOUSE |
| 3 SAN MARTIN & BOLIVAR PLAZA | 11 KERBS MEMORIAL MODEL BOATHOUSE |
| 4 BIRD SANCTUARY | & CONCESSION BUILDING |
| 5 CAROUSEL | 12 NORTH MEADOW BALL FIELDS |
| 6 CHESS & CHECKER HOUSE | 13 ACCESS ROADS TO 65 ST. & 96 ST. |
| 7 RUMSEY PLAYGROUND | TRANSVERSE ROADS |
| 8 BOWLING GREEN | 14 TAVERN-ON THE GREEN |
| | 15 OSBORNE MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND |

B - NEW MARGINAL PLAYGROUNDS

18 PLAYGROUNDS NUMBERED B-1 TO B-18

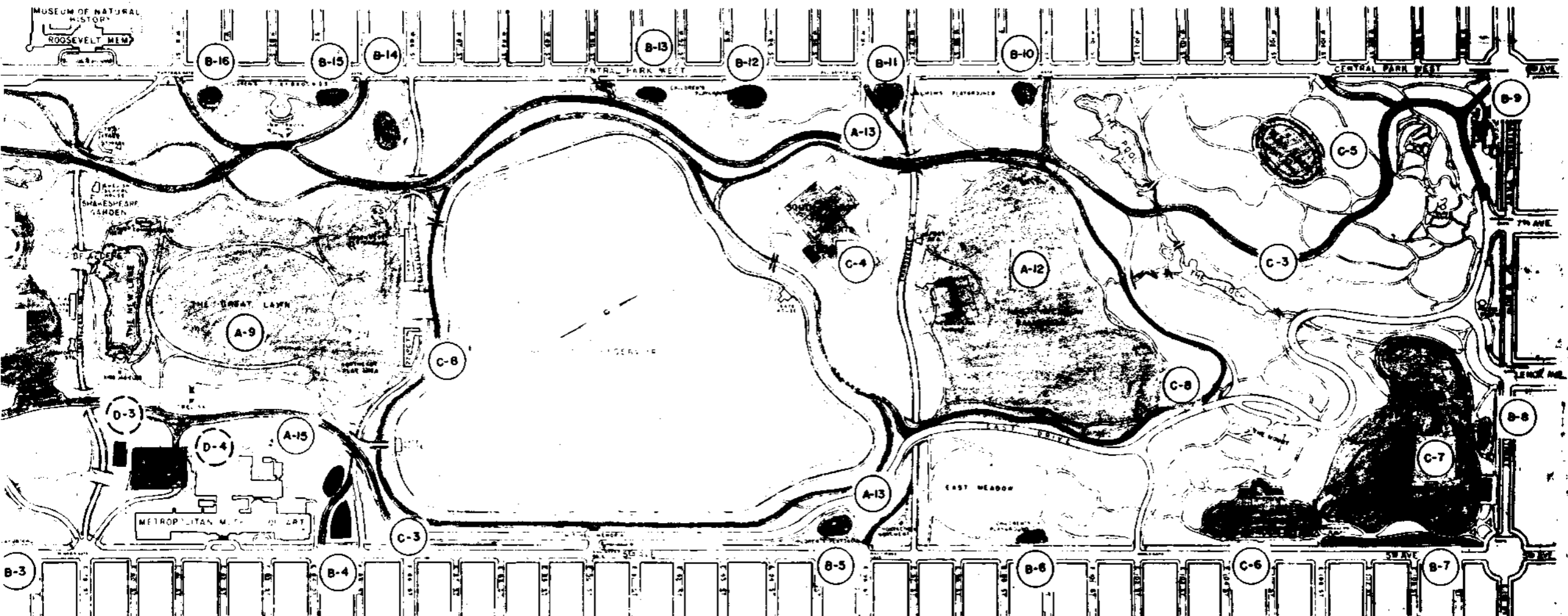
C-REHABILITATED FACILITIES

- 1 THE POND AREA
- 2 HECKSHER PLAYGROUND
- 3 REPAVEMENT OF EAST & WEST DRIVES
INCLUDING NEW BICYCLE PATHS
- 4 TENNIS COURTS
- 5 PLAY AREA (106 ST. CIRCLE)
- 6 CONSERVATORY GARDEN
- 7 HARLEM MEER
- 8 BRIDLE PATHS
- 9 PONY TRACK (UNDER CONSTRUCTION)
- 10 DAIRY BUILDING
- 11 MINERAL SPRINGS HOUSE

D - PROPOSED

- 1 RAM
- 2 GARI
- 3 IRVI
- 4 PAR

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN



Map of Central Park
 showing various facilities
 and improvements since 1934.
 The map is divided into sections
 A, B, and C, each with its own
 set of numbered facilities.

CENTRAL PARK

IMPROVEMENTS SINCE 1934

A - NEW PLAYGROUNDS

UNDS NUMBERED B-1 TO B-16

C - REHABILITATED FACILITIES

- 1 THE POND AREA
- 2 HECKSHER PLAYGROUND
- 3 REPAVEMENT OF EAST & WEST DRIVES
INCLUDING NEW BICYCLE PATHS
- 4 TENNIS COURTS
- 5 PLAY AREA (106 ST. CIRCLE)
- 6 CONSERVATORY GARDEN
- 7 HARLEM MEER
- 8 BRIDLE PATHS
- 9 PONY TRACK (UNDER CONSTRUCTION)
- 10 DAIRY BUILDING
- 11 MINERAL SPRINGS HOUSE

D - PROPOSED FACILITIES

- 1 RAMBLE AREA
- 2 GARDEN FOR THE BLIND
- 3 IRVING & ESTELLE LEVY MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND
- 4 PARKING FIELD



INDICATES IMPROVEMENTS SINCE 1934



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1956

Ray Glicker
4/2/56 Hand Delivered
Regular Mail 4/2

⁴⁶³
~~455~~ The Department of Parks announces the opening of its
Tennis Courts at various locations in the five boroughs on
Saturday, April 7, 1956.^{13 1957}

Regular Season Permits cost \$5.00 and are good for play every day, including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, on all courts.

Junior Tennis Permits cost fifty cents and will be issued to children who will not have reached their 15th birthday by November 15, 1956.¹⁴⁵⁷ Proof of age must be presented with applications. This permit will be valid for use on hard surface courts only, and when there is no demand for these courts by regular season permit holders.

Applications may be secured by calling in person at the borough offices of the Park Department or by mail, enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope with the request. A new photograph, passport size, must accompany the application.

4-2-56

Ray Glesper



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENI 4-1000

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1956

*2/16 1:30 PM
Hand Deliv
Mail Deliv 2/16*

FOR RELEASE

1-1-1-30M-703834(55) 114

Starting Monday, February 27, 1956, applications for season playing permits for tennis and locker permits for tennis and other recreational activities, with the exceptions noted below, will be accepted at each of the five Borough Offices of the Park Department. Application may be made either in person or by mail. Application for a playing permit for tennis must be accompanied by a face photograph of passport size, taken not more than thirty days prior to date of application. Applications filed by mail must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and the address must include the postal zone, if any.

Annual golf permits, which are currently on sale, cost \$15, and are valid for use on any course that is open for play. Daily golf fees for permit holders will be 50¢ per round on weekdays and \$1.00 per round on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Daily golf fees for non-permit holders will be \$1.50 for weekdays and \$2.00 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

A season golf locker permit costs \$5.00 and will be valid until December 2, 1956 at the course of issuance.

Because the demand for men's golf lockers at Mosholu exceeds the supply, permits for men's lockers are not being issued at this time. Applications for men's lockers at Mosholu will be accepted from annual permit holders only at any Park Department Borough Office from February 27 to March 13, 1956 and a public drawing will be

conducted at the Bronx Office on March 22, 1956 at 10 A.M. to determine the successful applicants.

Season locker permits for Pelham-Split Rock, Van Cortlandt, Mosholu (women's lockers only), Dyker, Forest Park, Clearview, Silver Lake and LaTourette courses may be obtained by annual golf permit holders starting February 27, 1956.

A tennis permit costs \$5.00 for the season and is good for play everyday of the season on any of the City's 449 public park tennis courts. No daily permits are issued for tennis.

Junior tennis permits cost 50¢ per season and are limited to children who will not have reached their 15th birthday as of November 15 of the current season. Proof of age must be submitted. These junior permits are for use on hard surface tennis courts only, subject to priority of \$5.00 season tennis permit holder.

Applications for seasonal recreation lockers, located at various athletic fields and tennis court areas, also will be received, starting February 27. Locker rental is \$5.00 for the season.

Season locker permits for the Field House at the North Meadow in Central Park may be secured by personal application only at the Permit Office in the Arsenal Building, 64th Street and Fifth Avenue, starting February 27. Only one locker will be issued to an applicant.

Park Department offices in the five boroughs are located as follows:

MANHATTAN: Arsenal Building, Telephone: REgent 4-1000
64th Street and Fifth Avenue
New York 21, N. Y.

BROOKLYN: Litchfield Mansion, Telephone: SOuth 8-2300
Prospect Park West and Fifth Street
Brooklyn 15, N. Y.

QUEENS: The Overlook, Telephone: LIggett 4-4400
Forest Park
Union Turnpike and Park Lane
Kew Gardens 15, New York

BRONX: Administration Building, Telephone: TAlmadge 8-3200
Bronx Park East and Birchall Avenue
Bronx 60, New York

RICHMOND: Clove Lakes Park, Telephone: GIbraltar 2-7640
1150 Clove Road
West New Brighton, Staten Island 1, New York

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2-15-56



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

FOR RELEASE

B. Filed
6/13/56 REGENT 4-1000
Hand Del. 10:30 AM
mail Bldg. - 12 Noon

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 1956

1-1-1-30M-915094(54) 114

The Department of Parks announces that roller skating at the Wollman Memorial Skating Rink will terminate at the close of business, Sunday, June 17, 1956.

Starting Tuesday, June 19, this facility will be operated daily from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., except on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, as a free recreational area.

On Tuesday evenings, starting June 19, free square dancing, sponsored by a civic-minded organization, will be held from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

On Thursday evenings, starting June 21, free name-band dances sponsored by the Consolidated Edison Company, will be held from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

The Wollman Memorial Rink is located to the west of Central Park Zoo, opposite 64th Street, and may be reached by the B.M.T. subway to the Fifth Avenue Station, the East Side I.R.T. subway to the 59th Street Station, or the Independent subway to Columbus Circle.

Ray Glesper



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

REGENT 4-1000

FOR RELEASE

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1956

*4/4/56 - Hand Delivered
Regular Mail*

I-I-1-30M-703834(55) 114

The Department of Parks announces that ice skating will terminate at the Wollman Memorial Rink in Central Park at the close of business on Sunday, April 8, 1956.

Since the beginning of the current ice skating season, 350,000 persons of all ages have used this facility. With the coming warmer weather, people are turning to baseball, tennis, fishing, boating and other outdoor sports.

Starting Saturday, April 14, 1956, the Wollman Memorial Rink will reopen daily for roller skating with sessions as follows:

AFTERNOON SESSIONS 2:30 to 6:00 P.M.

EVENING SESSIONS 8:00 to 11:00 P.M.

ADMISSION CHARGE PER SESSION 10¢

Persons bringing their own skates will be permitted to use them, provided they are equipped with fiber or wooden wheels. The Park Department will rent clamp-on skates at 25¢ and shoe skates at 50¢ a session.

The skating rink in the City Building in Flushing Meadow Park also will close for the season on Sunday, April 8th. The total attendance for the season at this facility was 300,000.

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4-3-56