

Bay Ridge Has a Phrase for Narrows Bridge: 'Who Needs It?'



Mrs. Adrian Christiansen of 7314 Seventh Avenue stands outside her home, at left, which is one of about 800 to be torn down. They are in the path of the approaches to the bridge, which will link Brooklyn and Staten Island.

BAY RIDGE SEETHES OVER BRIDGE PLAN

Housewife and Dentist Chafe Over Approval by City of Staten Island Span

7,500 TO BE UPROOTED

Most in Way of 7th Avenue Approach Uncertain on Where They Will Go

By GAY TALESE

Many merchants, housewives and even a mortician were seething in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, yesterday because the \$320,000,000 Narrows Bridge has become more than a specter on Seventh Avenue.

On Tuesday, the Board of Estimate approved the bridge, which will mean demolition of about 800 homes and the displacement of about 7,500 residents.

From the barber shops to Bohack's, conversations bristled with contempt. A man in a cigar store asked, "That bridge—who needs it?" A dentist wondered about new patients. A used-car dealer worried about a new lot. Mrs. Olga Kaidy, a housewife of Fort Hamilton Parkway, asked, "Where are we all going to live?"

Their problem, of course, is not the bridge to Staten Island itself; it is rather the approach to the bridge, an expressway along Seventh Avenue that will necessitate the destruction of all buildings in its path.

Bay Ridge residents long ago formed a "Save Bay Ridge" committee; but Tuesday's development made the committeemen embittered, irate and talkative.

"We don't need the bridge," said J. Gerald Shea, the chairman, "it's ridiculous. The construction of the approach to the bridge will henceforth be known as 'Wagner's Seventh Avenue Folly,' and the bridge will be known as 'Abe Stark's Cross-Brooklyn Ditchway.'"

All to Be Affected

Nearly everyone in Bay Ridge will be affected in one way or another by the Narrows Bridge. Msgr. Edward J. Sweeney of St. Ephrem's Roman Catholic Church will lose about 2,000 members of his parish. Dr. Henry Amen will lose a dental office he recently remodeled at a cost of \$15,000. Joseph V. Sessa, an undertaker, said he would lose about 2,500 families "from which to draw."

Almost all of those owning homes slated for demolition seemed undecided where they would live next. A housewife complained that she did not wish to leave her older, more comfortable home for a newer house "made of cardboard."

Louis Juliano, a builder and contractor, is fed up with moving. About four years ago, when a school was planned on his home's site on Shore Road, he was forced to move; and now he again is forced to move.

Only Mr. and Mrs. John G. Herbert, of 6704 Seventh Avenue, do not seem concerned over their next abode. Which is odd. They have seventeen children, and all but two daughters live with them and a dog and cat in an eight-room house.

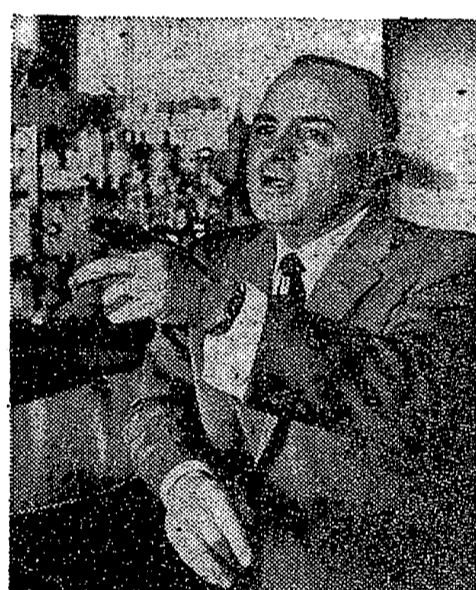
"I'm going to wait until the last minute before I move," Mr. Herbert said. "I'm going to wait until they come with the city truck. I'm letting them worry about the details."



Dr. Henry Amen, dentist, will lose the office that he remodeled lately.



Joseph V. Sessa, undertaker, won't move, but will lose many clients.



Joseph De Maria, manager of a catering service, must get new quarters.



In this house at 6704 Seventh Avenue live Mr. and Mrs. John G. Herbert and fifteen of their children. The house is coming down, but Mr. Herbert said he would delay moving.

The New York Times (by Neal Boenzi)