

### One-Family Home Construction Drops 50 Per Cent

Production of one-family houses nine months of 1958 dropped nearly 50 per cent from the figures for the same period in 1957.

The figures come from the Westchester County-Westchester County Assn. Joint Information Study. Based on reports from residential developments of 10 or more homes, the survey shows 769 homes finished or under construction from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30. A year ago the total was 1,494.

The total of homes in the planning stage shows an increase, but the figure is acknowledged to be "unrealistic" because it includes the new Jefferson Valley "city" in Yorktown which will take several years to complete. The total is 7,014, compared with 5,324 in the planning stage a year ago, but the larger figure includes 3,481 for Yorktown alone.

**Gain in Apartments**

Apartment house building, however, shows a 10 per cent increase. There were 2,745 apartment suites finished or under way a year ago, 2,927 this year. Suites planned jumped from 1,552 to 4,447.

The under-\$15,000 house has disappeared from the development picture. It was listed at a lowly four-tenths of one per cent a year ago.

The big increase is in the \$20,000 to \$23,000 bracket, which accounted for 8.6 per cent of homes being built a year ago, 16.1 per cent this year.

The largest category remains the over-\$30,000 group, which accounted for 26.9 per cent of the total in the first nine months this year. It totaled 31 per cent a year ago.

The 769 houses finished or under way include 107 in Yonkers, 94 in Yorktown, 75 in New Rochelle, 54 in Cortlandt and New Castle, 53 in the Town of Rye, 44 in Ossining, 42 in North Castle, 35 in Greenburgh, 34 in Hastings, 24 in Tarrytown, 22 in Peekskill, 19 each in the City of Rye and Eastchester, 18 in the Town of Mamaroneck, 17 in Briarcliff, 13 in Pleasantville, and 10 each in Dobbs Ferry, Elmsford, Harrison,

### Lee P. Davis Honored by Bar Assn.

Special Referee Lee P. Davis of New Rochelle, who will retire at the end of this year, was guest of honor at a White Plains Bar Assn. luncheon Dec. 17 at the Roger Smith Hotel. More than 125 attended.

A scroll was presented to the former Supreme Court Justice and former District Attorney by Arthur F. Gaynor, association president. The guest of honor responded with typical anecdotes.

Two other members of the original law firm of Clark, Close and Davis reminisced. They were: Robert Y. Clark and former Justice Frederick P. Close.

Other guests included Justice Elbert T. Gallagher and Surrogate John J. Dillon, also former law partners of Judge Davis; Justices Samuel W. Eager, Robert Doscher and Frank H. Coyne; County Judges Hugh S. Coyle and James D. Hopkins, and Children's Court Judge George O. Becker.

Supervisor Salvatore H. Migliacchio and the association choral group sang.

The nominating committee filed a slate of G. Frederic Smyth, president; Harold Miller, vice president; John G. McQuaid, treasurer; Stephen E. J. Roach Jr., secretary; Joseph A. Lichtenthal, Thomas J. Stephens and Mizell Wilson, trustees; and Mr. Gaynor, delegate to the Westchester County Bar Association. Election will be Jan. 19.

### 'Yarn' Art On Display At Center

Twenty "needle and yarn" paintings in unusual color, texture and design, the work of Mariska Karasz of Brewster, are on exhibition at the Westchester Workshop in the County Center.

The art of this craftsman who has had over 60 one-woman shows of her work will be on view through Dec. 20, Mondays through Fridays from 9 to 5 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays from 7 to 10 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Miss Charlotte E. Kizer, director of the workshop operated by the Westchester Recreation Commission, has arranged for the exhibit. Mariska Karasz is artist-director of the workshop course on creative stitching.

Among the paintings are "Haitian W a t e r s," "Kaleidoscope," "Cave Paintings," "Flying Saucers," "Echo" and "Strata with Pebbles."

### Church Society Sets New Year's Eve Dance

St. Mary's Holy Name Society will sponsor the New Year's Eve party to be held in the church hall Katonah on Dec. 31 with Arnold Hanson, general chairman for the event.

Dancing will begin at 9:30 P.M. with a hot buffet dinner being served, which will include chicken, turkey, and the accompanying dishes. There will be recorded music, specialty dances, favors and the usual New Year's Eve hats and noisemakers.

Tickets may be procured from Holy Name members or by calling Mr. Hanson, Central 2-5683 or John H. Dillon, publicity chairman, Central 2-4413.

By MADELAINE WILSON

You don't have to be Spanish to appreciate Frank Becerra's pictures. Their theme is the bullfight. Their colors are the hot oranges and reds of sunshine in Spain, the intense pinks and yellows of flashing bullring costumes.

Becerra lives in White Plains and is art director of Westchester Publishers Inc.

Painting bullfight scenes is a natural for him. His father, Theodore Becerra, also of White Plains, was born and grew up in the province of Cordoba, town of Pya-Pueblo Nuevo, and has a scar on his right leg which he tells his son was received in a boyhood attempt to fight the bulls.

"It's like the boys play baseball here," Frank says. "In Spain, all the boys grow up dreaming of being a great bull fighter."

Becerra's paintings — eight oils and six water colors — will go on exhibit Christmas Day in the lobby of the Plaza Theater in Scarsdale. Two years have gone into the making of the pictures. Summers, he works on the front porch. Winters he retreats to the furnace room in their unfinished cellar where he plays old Stan Kenton records — "And I like 'em good and loud — while he works magic with his paint brushes."

**Married in Spain**

Entirely sympathetic with his evenings spent in retreat with a

paint box is his young wife, the former Isabel Calero, a native of Cordoba, whom he met in 1950 during one of his visits to Spain.

He courted her in Spanish — both verbal and written — and returned to Spain in 1952 to marry her. They have two children, Maria Angela, who will be three Jan. 30, and Frank Anthony, who was one year old Dec. 8.

Frank's mother is Italian and he understands that language but doesn't speak it very well. But the skill he uses in speaking Spanish, swiftly running the words together, slurring softly over the syllables, is to understand why Isabel back in Cordoba thought this

United States was something very special.

His painting days started early, say, along in kindergarten. "And I always painted the posters when they were needed for some high school event."

He remembers that his father was always generous in providing money for art materials.

Following service in the Coast Guard, he attended Art Students League classes at night while working in the art department of a New York advertising agency. After his marriage, while his wife was studying English in night-time adult education classes, he took art classes at the same school. He came to Westchester

Publishers four years ago.

Since he saw his first bullfight at the age of four — "That was back in the days when the banderillas would explode when they were thrust into the bull and they were called banderillas de fuego. The noise made the bull, and the people, more excited" — he has been fascinated by the action, the grace of the matador, the frenzied shouts of the crowd, the hot pounding of the heart.

He has captured these things in his paintings.

**CLOSING OPPOSED**

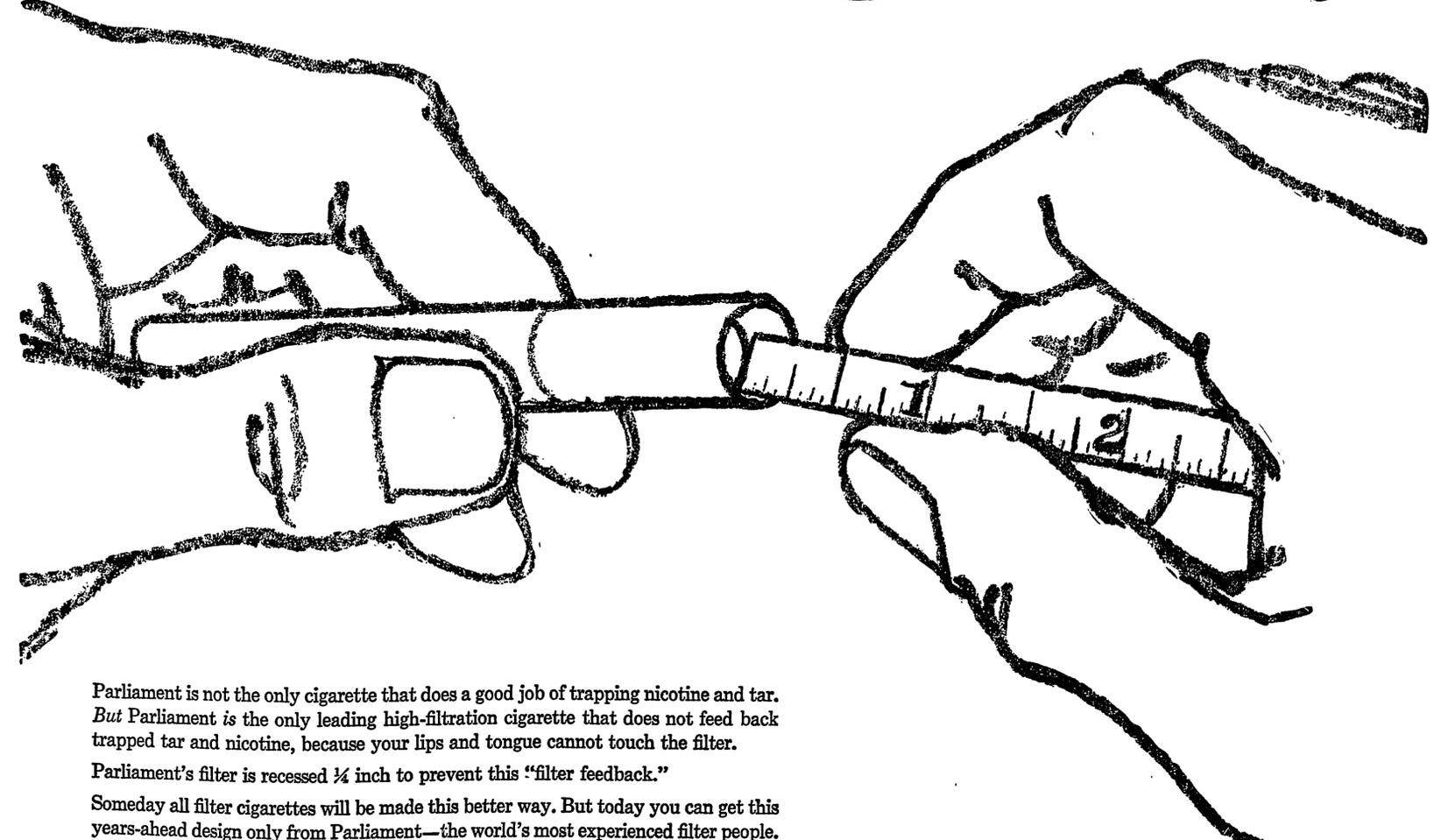
**MOUNT VERNON** — Cosing of vehicular entrances to the New Haven Railroad station parking plaza would be "a hardship on

the people of Mount Vernon," Alderman George E. Van Cott declared at a Common Council meeting Dec. 17, as he asked the corporation counsel's office to recommend action to combat it. A recent agreement between the railroad and Vernon Park Realty Co., owners of the plaza, would allow closing of two of three entrances.

**NEW COMMODORE**

**YONKERS** — John Arthur of 258 McLean Ave. is the new commodore of the Yonkers Corinthian Yacht Club. Elected to serve with him are Harold Dickson, vice commodore, Anthony D'Onato, rear commodore, and a slate of other officers.

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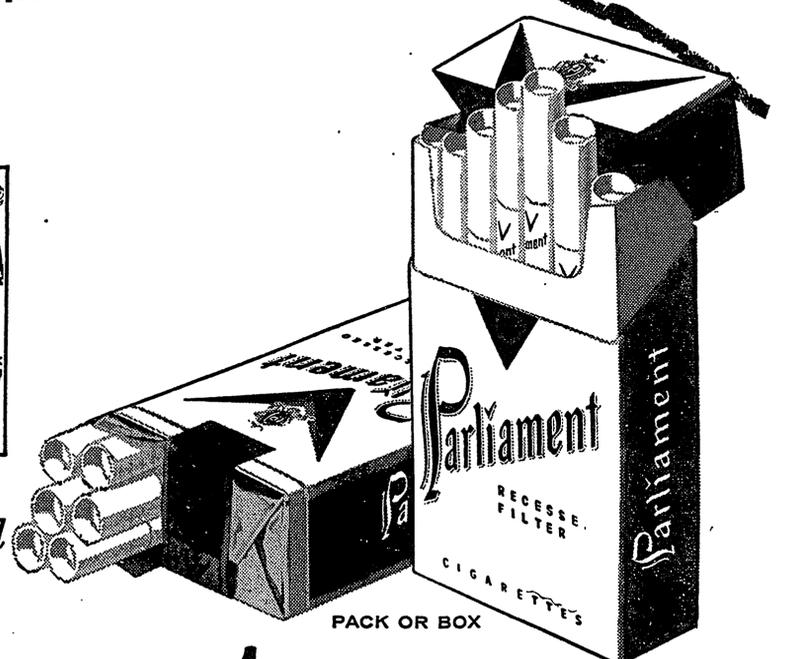
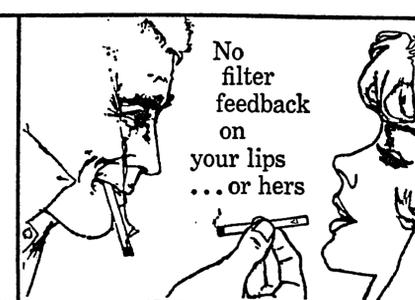
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