

# Vive le Sixth Arrondissement!



—French Gov't Tourist Office

## Greenwich Village of Paris Celebrates 1400th Anniversary

The Greenwich Village of Paris, this week celebrating its 1400th anniversary, has reached out across the sea to establish rapport with its somewhat younger counterpart in the United States. And it has linked hands specifically with the Village as represented by The Village Voice.

The Greenwich Village of Paris is the area in and around the district of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, so named after the famous little Left Bank church, once a Benedictine abbey, at its core. hard by such more recently famous existentialist hang-outs as the Flore and Cafe des Deux Mages. All these lie in the French capital's Sixth Arrondissement—one of the score or so of small "boroughs" into which the city is divided.

### Ceremonial Program

The Mayor of the Sixth Arrondissement has arranged a month-long ceremonial program high-

lighted by four days of opening festivities under the auspices of the President of the Republic. Events of the month include an exposition of paintings of the area, a series of lectures on the history of the abbey, parades and band concerts, special Pontifical Masses.

A few days ago the editor of The Village Voice received a letter from the Cultural Attache of the American Embassy in Paris, outlining some of the things the Mayor of the Sixth Arrondissement had planned for the celebration. After mentioning the art show, the Cultural Attache, W. E. Weld, Jr., went on to say:

"To accompany this exhibition the Mayor would very much like to organize some kind of manifestation which would demonstrate the spiritual ties which unite Greenwich Village, New York with the Saint-Germain-des-Prés area. To do this he has invited American painters now resident in Paris to expose some of their contemporary work alongside the figurative show which will commemorate the Sixth Arrondissement.

### More Direct Expression

"He would, however, be particularly pleased if he could have on this occasion some more direct expression of community of spirit from Greenwich Village. It is in this connection that I turn to you . . .

"Do you think it would be possible for you at this late date . . .  
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**THE CAFE DES DEUX MAGOTS** (left photo, and at left in photo above) and the **CHURCH OF ST. GERMAIN-DES-PRÉS**, in the heart of the Sixth Arrondissement of Paris—the French capital's Greenwich Village. This week is the 1400th anniversary of the building of the church as a Benedictine Abbey in the time of the Merovingian kings, and the Mayor of the Sixth Arrondissement, which contains St. Germain-Prés, is celebrating the occasion with an art show and other events. So is The Village Voice, with the special articles herewith. For full details, see story at right.

## The Night People

by JEAN SHEPHERD

### A Malted at the Deux Magots

One night last year I sat outside the Cafe des Deux Magots quietly ruminating on the romanticism of man and particularly of Americans. It was the tail end of winter and there was a distinct tinge of spring in the air, so naturally, being Paris, the streets and cafes were loaded with people pleasantly killing time.

As I sipped the coffee I had a nagging feeling that all of this reminded me of something I had known before, but I couldn't for the life of me put my finger on it.

I tried to concentrate on what was being said by the guy who had steered me around town for the past couple of days. He was a Dane who had come to Paris six years before and now was a professional Bohemian with all the trimmings of the breed, including  
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LIKE BOY AND GIRL



# FUN AND FRANCE

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# The Night People

## A Malted at the Deux Magots

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beard, black sweater, and heady aroma. He had the usual catalogue of inanities on how the Americans had not only bespoiled his beloved Paris but were responsible for all the human ills going back to the Punic Wars. Between tired cliches he kept bringing up the possibility of me throwing around some weight in order to get him a rate on passage to the States.

### Odd Assortment

As he droned on and I nodded in the soft air of early evening, the tables around us began to fill with an odd assortment of thugs and priests, blooming teen-age

girls and withered ancients, causing the sullen waiter to step if up a bit as he edged from couple to couple with his round tray. He handed us a couple of drinks and handed over the small paper receipt which is an incongruous oddity of the place, picked up his tip, and went back inside without a word. The Dane prattled on and I began to understand why the whole texture of the place, the weather, and the people had seemed so irritatingly familiar and strangely comforting at the same time.

We were sitting at a tiny round table to the right of the doorway leading into the cafe itself. The yellow light bulbs inside spilled out onto the sidewalk and gave everyone a sort of sallow parchment-paper look. It was too early in the year for suntans, especially on the Left Bank. Students stood about in groups or sat in cars parked along the curb a few feet from the outside ring of tables.

### Silver Mercedes

One guy in his late teens or early 20's drove up in front and made a flamboyant stop. He was driving a silver Mercedes 190 with the top down. A couple of minutes passed as he sat in the car and pretended to ignore the girls who ogled him listlessly. He started the car quickly and sped loudly away. Several minutes later he was back again and the whole cycle started over. He kept it up for hours. The girls continued to watch, and from time to time another shift would take over as others tired of the game and left.

By now the Dane was hitting the Suez fiasco hard, and by a spectacular feat of tortuous illogic had tied in the distribution of

American CARE packages with France's problems in the Middle East. His tirade had a nice beat to it and provided a restful counterpoint to the traffic. It rolled on and on without pause, as though he had run over his script so often that he no longer heard his own words.

A couple of bearded Americans wheeled up on bicycles, glanced around, and left, obviously not finding something they were looking for. I noticed that the Mercedes was now talking to a chick who hung over the door while her ponytail stuck straight up in the air. She finally got in the car and they left. I felt relieved.

### There It Is

It was that feeling that finally made me realize what about this spot in the world had been so damn familiar. I suddenly realized that the whole atmosphere was much the same as a dozen

## NEWS ITEM

Everyone who thought that Sherman Was brusque, aloof, and cold Found that under the gruff exterior There beat a heart for gold.

—Dan Balaban

springtime drugstores I had known in the Midwest of my youth. This is a hell of a thing to say about the Cafe des Deux Magots, but nevertheless, there it is.

Somehow it didn't seem right to think such a thing, and I recognized why. It was the old Dream again, constantly battering itself against reality. Few people dream more than Americans. I paid for the Dane's drinks, set him up to a couple more, and walked back to my room alone to sleep.

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