



HONORED. For having aided the cause of Washington Square, **NATHAN SCHEINMAN**, shown with **MRS. SCHEINMAN**, was presented with an enlarged copy of a Berenice Abbott photograph of the Square by the Joint Emergency Committee at a cocktail party on Saturday, following the closing of the park to traffic. The party was held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, of which Mr. Scheinman is the manager. He had provided quarters for the committee without charge.

City Closed Square

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trouble," and to all the candidates of both parties and to the City officials.

Stanley Lowell, former Acting Deputy Mayor of New York City, said: "I have only one regret—that this is a trial-closing. But I want to assure you that it will be made permanent very soon." He said he was not speaking officially "because I'm now a lame duck." "This is the finest example of political action in a democracy," Mr. Lowell concluded.

Assemblyman William F. Passannante told the crowd that "this has been a long, hard fight," and that he had "joined Shirley Hayes and Edith Lyons about four and a half years ago." "Now my job is to see that this temporary closing remains permanent," the Assemblyman promised.

As he spoke, a parade of signs appeared carried by people who later identified themselves as "Independents for Seymour," Mr. Passannante's opponent.

Some of the signs read: "Why the Rush All of a Sudden?" "We Want a Commitment Not a Committee," "How About a Hand for the 30,000 Petition Signers," and "Why Can't We Get This Kind of Service All Year Around?"

Charles Abrams, a long-time Village resident and chairman of the State Committee Against Discrimination, remarked: "This movement has given life to the city-planning movement." He said that he had been to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, recently, and that every planning student there was talking about the Washington Square fight. The Joint Emergency Committee has proved, Mr. Abrams said, "that city planning is a vital force."

The arts were represented by

The Night People:

Trouble in Beirut? Not Before Dinner

by Jean Shepherd

The Hotel St. Georges in Beirut makes the Plaza seem like the railroad YMCA in Youngstown, Ohio. Not from the standpoint of creature comforts, although there sure as hell are those too, but in the intangible qualities of slightly decadent traditional rogal condescension. The moment I walked up to the desk clerk in the lobby and he had looked clear through me, examining my breeding and bank balance on the way, I knew that I was home free. I had felt this same gimlet, non-committal stare plenty of places before, and all of a sudden the mysterious East was no longer quite as inscrutable as it had been. He spoke to me in a clear clean voice which sported a peculiar liquid accent that would have been worth a fortune in Class B spy movies. As a matter of fact, all the Middle East is loaded with types both male and female that would cause any middle-bracket Wm. Morris agent to break out in acne just to look at them. The women particularly. They are worth at least nine more columns, so it will have to suffice here to note that they are there and that there is a mother lode of talent of all types that is as yet largely untapped.

Small Change

Five minutes after the Late Empire desk clerk had waved a bellboy toward my measly KLM bag and he had turned his back eloquently on me, I was in my room. The bellboy also operated the elevator, which worked about the same as those in the seedier show-biz-type buildings in the midtown Broadway area. From the time he grabbed my bag until he had pocketed the tip, he never took his nose from the Arabic comic book he was reading. The tip, incidentally, was in piastres, which is the local small change. Folding money comes in pounds. There are about three of these to the buck, so at first glance every bill you

Jose Quintero, founder of the Circle in the Square Theatre, who remarked that the park had had an enormous relationship to the success of his venture. He said that he had even done casting in the park, and that the walk through it every day had been reflected in the work he did. "Let's keep the Square as it is today."

The ceremony ended with the tying of a ribbon across the Square. Mary Jacobs, daughter of Robert and Jane Jacobs, assisted by Mr. DeSapio and Borough President Jack, was on one end of the ribbon and Bunny Redlich, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Redlich, backed up by Mrs. Lyons and Mr. Rubinow, handled the other end.

Two Flat station wagons, labeled "The Last Cars to Go Thru Washington Square" and owned by Stanley Tankel and Mr. Jacobs, made the final symbolic drive-through.

JEAN SHEPHERD recently returned from working on a movie in Beirut, Lebanon. He was there during the crisis.

shell out for looks astronomical. Actually, prices are not at all bad by Western standards. In Lebanese terms the St. Georges is about as accessible as the Waldorf is to a Boverly bum.

As soon as the boy had left, a maid opened the French doors of my room, put a folded terry-cloth robe on the bed for me, and left the room walking backwards as she went out bowing. My doors opened onto a balcony overlooking the Mediterranean. The water was directly below. Water-skiers buzzed back and forth in the blinding sun, fat Greek shipping magnates surrounded by slim dark brown girls wearing pink bikinis lounged on the terrace below. They had the look that comes from spending years in the sun being attended hourly by waiters bearing silver trays and ice bottles. As though they had been born wearing glittering German Zeiss sunglasses.

Beirut is the Riviera of the entire Middle East and is where oil-rich Arab princes come to relax and to get away from the old grind, back at the harem. Rolls-Royces and Mercedes 300-M's are as common as Plymouths in Allentown, Pa. Yachts jostle cheek-by-jowl in the harbor, and over it all hangs the lovely aroma of well-aged good wine. Two U. S. destroyers stood just off the quay

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CAST OF CHARACTERS who will appear at the annual Children's Fair at St. Luke's School, Hudson and Grove Streets, from 11.30 in the morning until 5.30 p. m. on Saturday, November 8. The above performers—all professionals—belong to Berne and Lorraine D'Essen of Animal Talent Scouts. They are Victoria, the kangaroo; Linda Lee, the llama; Debbie, the Great Dane; Mingke, the Siamese; and Lola, the Basset. Beside the animals there will be a midway with games, contests, and fortune-telling booths.



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"My daughter and I were chatting on the phone one afternoon when suddenly she screamed, 'Mother, the stove's on fire — get help!' Then she hung up. I dialed the operator, and she had the fire department on the line in a few seconds. As soon as I'd told them where the fire was I called my daughter's neighbor. Before I finished telling her what had happened, she said the fire engines had arrived. They got there so quickly that the only damage was to the lamb chops my daughter was broiling."



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