

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

Continued from page 1 trouble," and to all the candidates of both parties and to the City

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 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. Pas-sannante 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 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 Committment Not a Com-mittee," "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 Dis-crimination, 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 through.

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 regal conde-

scension. 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 in-scrutable 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

Pive minutes after the Late Em-pire desk clerk had waved a bellboy toward my measley 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 ame as those in the seedier showbiz-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 plastress, which is the local small change. Folding money comes in pounds. There are 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 re-flected 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 Ftat station wagons, labeled "The Last Cars to Go Thru Washington Square" and owned by Stanley Tankel and Mr. Jacobs made the final symbolic drive-

turned 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 Bowery burn.
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 overlook-ing the Mediterranean. The water was directly below. Water-skiers buzzed back and forth in the blinding sun, at 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 iced bottles. As though they had been born wearing glittering German Zeiss sunglasses.

Beirut is the Riviera of the entire Middle East and is where oilrich Arab princes come to relax 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-byhangs the lovely aroma of well-aged good wine. Two U. S. de-stroyers stood just off the quay Continued on page 10

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# theatre uptown

Continued from page 6

because he is separated from his wife, who is both charming and a harpist. So, to settle the problem, everyone gets together in the second act, including the wife's new fiance, and from the resultant chaos comes the third act and the happy ending with man and wife reunited and equipped with a tiny parcel of insight, the one for the other. There are a lot of gags arising from the fact that the pair never bothered to get married in the first place, so that in order to get a divorce, etc., and a good deal of laughter from quips on the music scene in New York—a lot of it "inside" (Russian Tea Room, Sol Hurok).

#### Didn't Materialize

Joseph Cotton plays the con-ductor. He seemed on the second night self-conscious and tentative. There were great gaps where laughs should have been but ow didn't materialize. lene Francis as his wife is very buoyant and secure, and it is she along with Walter Matthau (the conductor's agent) who keeps the show moving. One fine scene with Leon Belasco as an oversensitive violinist being calmed by Miss Francis and Mr. Matthau stands out as the comedy high point of the evening. For the most part, though, the proceedings are pretty drab. —J. H. Livingston

# Trouble in Beirut?

Continued from page 3

and looked about as out of place Side pet shop specializing in toy poodles. They were the one note of reality in the entire scene. But then, on the other hand, is the dinosaur more real than the poodle?

I had been in Beirut not more than three hours, and already the slow beat of the place was getting me. From the balcony the view is such that there is some feeling that Heaven would look like this from a well-situated high-rent-district cloud. This is the same place the tabloids back home were describing as little short of the back porch of Hell. From where I sat I could see a couple of the poor GI's sitting under a golden beach umbrella sip-ping Dutch beer while ogling a bush-league Bridget Bardot slithering on the rocks 15 feet away. I rushed into my swim trunks and rang for the elevator. On the way down to the lobby I asked the beliboy what he thought of the trouble in Beirut. He said: "You mean the war, sir." I nodded. He went on: "Oh, that doesn't start until 8 p. m., sir, every night. At dinnertime, sir." He stuck his nose back into the pages of his comic book. I went out to the terrace feeling like a bit player in a Sidney Greenstreet movie.

KNOPFIAN JAZZ
The Paul Knopf Trio, formerly heard at the Complex and the Duplex: in the Village, supplies "Knopfian Jazz" every Wednesday from 10 p. m. on, at Otto Beyer's Columbia Restaurant, 2824 Broadway. Knopf's first release on Playback Records will be issued in the near future:

(Special to The Village Voice)

Kicking Horse Pass in the Ganadian Rockies has an altitude. of'5296 feet. 16.305