

Exploring the City Around Its Edges

By MAUREEN DOWD

In the concrete jungle, stalking Mother Nature can be an arduous task.

"Some people would just as soon stay in bed on Sunday morning, and I don't blame them," said Cy Adler as he strolls through a field of rubble in the South Bronx, waiting for the Bronx River. "It gets disconcerting out here sometimes."

While more-sedentary New Yorkers sip mimosas at brunch or browse through the Sunday papers, Mr. Adler conducts weekly expeditions of his hiking group, known as the Shore Walkers, along the city's shoreline.

The intrepid hiker has covered more than half of the 500-mile waterfront, guiding his group from Wall Street to Harlem, from Sheephead Bay to Dead Horse Bay in Brooklyn, from Kili van Kull on Staten Island to the Virgin Islands in the Bahamas.

Traversing many of the islands in the New York archipelago over the last year, shore walkers have braved wild dogs, wilder rats, irate golfers, poison ivy, voodoo sacrifices, dense reed forests and even incipient frost-bite.

"It started snowing on a Staten Island hike, and a couple of women turned blue," Mr. Adler recalled, a

bit blithely. "They weren't prepared." He gave them some brandy, which he carries in his knapsack in a plastic hydrogen-peroxide bottle "for medicinal purposes," and they dropped out and caught a cab back to civilization.

The walks are informal, attracting anywhere from 2 to 20 people, depending on the weather and the advance publicity. Mr. Adler keeps the pace brisk, intermittently barking, "Walk faster!"

With buildings constantly going up or coming down along the shore, the group often takes labricious detours or precarious paths, such as the two-foot-wide concrete strip that separates the East River and Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive.

"A lot of people just come once and decide they can't keep up," said Mr. Adler, a 56-year-old writer and some-

times and utilities that are the essence of New York, he said. "Here you can see how the city really works — where the food comes from, where the garbage goes, where the energy comes from."

Mr. Adler, who deplores the real-estate development along the shoreline, has talked to the city's Ports and Terminals Department about creating a continuous hiking trail along the shores of the Hudson River from the Battery to Mount Marcy in the Adirondacks.

A Rural Feeling

But mostly, Mr. Adler and Mr. Metzger agreed, the walks are a good way to get some exercise and see some interesting scenery.

"All these city people in New York are glued to their offices or their television sets or running in Central Park with a herd of other beasts," Mr. Metzger said. "Here you can get back to a rural type of feeling. If you want to stop and look at white pines, you can stop."

As the men walked along the Bronx River, admiring the aliantan trees and the sumacs, Mr. Metzger said the hikes were always adventures. Once, he said, he even roasted some cattails for lunch. "It seemed more interesting than the chicken I had brought from Roy Rogers," he said.



Cy Adler, left, and Norman Metzger consulting a map during a hike along the shoreline in the South Bronx.

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time teacher who lives on the Upper West Side. "You have to be pretty vigorous to do this sort of thing."

Yesterday, as the temperature hovered at 15 degrees, not too many Shore Walkers were feeling vigorous. Mr. Adler waited in a lonely vigil at the starting point on Southern Boulevard in the South Bronx. Finally, one other stalwart arrived, Norman Metzger, 50, a chemist with the city's Transit Authority.

The two headed off in search of water. A dog wearing a navy-blue suit jacket trotted past the men.

"I see things on these walks you wouldn't see anywhere else in New York," Mr. Adler said. "We saw crows in Staten Island, oysters in the Bronx and pheasants above the George Washington Bridge. We saw dead chickens hanging from trees on the Harlem River that looked like they had been part of a voodoo sacrifice."

A Noisier Address

Hikers who stick it out are also rewarded with all manner of intriguing coastal trivia.

Shore walkers who attended a tour of Manhattan's eastern shore last spring, for instance, figured out that the fabled address of the apartment building in the television show "I Love Lucy" — 623 East 88th Street — would be floating somewhere in the middle of the East River if it had really existed.

They learned that the East River is not a river but an estuary that divides Manhattan from Brooklyn and Queens.

"They see the contrast of the old and the new — the crumbling West Side piers that were once hubs of New York commerce and the modern developments like Waterside on the East River. The shore changes from day to day, some parts rotting, some parts ripening," Mr. Adler said.

Along the waterfront are the facto-

U.S. Attorney Steering Office in New Directions

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half the total budget of \$14 million for this office," he explained. "Drug dealers and white-collar criminals, instead of the public, should have to pay the costs of funding the system of criminal justice."

"Narcotics, organized crime, white-collar crimes and public corruption were cited by Mr. Giuliani as his four investigative priorities. The priorities will be "balanced," he said, adding:

"You have to keep the ball in the air in each one of these areas. That is the way to create general disaffection and to dispel cynicism about law enforcement by showing we treat everyone alike, whether you are a major criminal or a low-level drug pusher."

Criticism From Some Quarters

The shift in narcotics strategy, however, has been criticized by some of the attorneys on Mr. Giuliani's staff and several Federal judges. They have said privately that the office and the Federal District Court in Manhattan lack the resources to prosecute large numbers of low-level drug dealers in the city and that the narcotics campaign would impede more vital matters.

The attorneys and judges said Mr. Giuliani might have been seeking favorable publicity by announcing the narcotics crackdown and by personally appearing in court last month to ask for

long prison terms for the first two convicted dealers.

Mr. Giuliani, in a recent interview, said he was aware of the criticism. But he emphasized that new narcotics policy was "long overdue" and was the opening move on his part to make his office "more relevant" to the needs of the community.

'Elite Attitude by Attorneys'

"I know there is a certain resistance among some of the judges and an elite attitude by attorneys that God put us here to do only important cases," he said. "They have got to stop sitting in ivory towers and deciding on their own what is important. One of the problems this city has is drug dealing on the Lower East Side and if the city can't handle that problem because it is overwhelmed by other crime problems than we have a responsibility to help."

Last July after watching heroin sales along Eldridge and Rivington Streets and Avenues A and B, Mr. Giuliani encouraged the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration to crack down on street sales on the Lower East Side.

He said his decision was also influenced by Mayor Koch, who in a meeting with his staff complained that Federal officials were chiefly interested in "big cases" and had ignored drug dealers in such areas as the Lower East Side.

So far, Federal agents have arrested

more than 20 suspects for narcotics sales on the Lower East Side and 12 have been convicted in the Federal District Court in Manhattan, most of them for the sale of heroin. They have received sentences ranging from probation to 10 years in prison.

Mr. Giuliani said he would keep the pressure on the Lower East Side for at least two years. "That neighborhood had become an area of immunity for drug dealers, affecting the lives of tens of thousands of people," he said. "The dealers also are supplying heroin for the rest of the city and the Northeast. Sure, we can't catch all of them, but we want to send a message to them; when we catch you, you go away for a long time."

According to Mr. Giuliani, the public and news organizations "have a more benign view of organized crime and white-collar criminals than they should," because they wrongly view such criminals as having committed victimless offenses.

His own family, Mr. Giuliani said, was victimized by an organized-crime group at the turn of the century when his immigrant grandfather was forced to close several cigar stores in the city rather than pay "protection money" to gangsters.

Organized crime and white-collar criminals, who usually are involved in frauds and corruption, he said, "hinge the law for everybody and en-

course other people directly and indirectly to commit crimes of violence."

Since his appointment, Mr. Giuliani said he was aware of "gossip and rumors" that he took the post in the hope that the attention it brought would help him begin a political career. "I have no such plans," he said, "although it is impossible to convince some people of that."

He declined to comment on suggestions that he planned personally to conduct the courtroom prosecution soon of a major organized-crime figure. Last September, F.B.I. officials said they expected that Federal indictments of key organized-crime leaders would be announced this year in Manhattan.

"There are a couple of cases I am thinking about," Mr. Giuliani said, refusing to be specific. "Part of the excitement of this job is being able to try a few cases."

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Jan. 8, 1984

New York Numbers — 149

New York Win 4 — 3130

Jan. 7, 1984

New York Lotto — 11, 12, 28, 41,

43, 7; supplementary, 19

2 Gunmen and Officer Slain in Elmira Battle

ELMIRA, N.Y., Jan. 8 (AP) — Two gunmen who killed a police officer and wounded two others today were found dead after a shootout with the police at an apartment here, authorities said.

The bodies of the gunmen were found by a remote-controlled police robot just after 8 P.M. after an exchange of gunfire and tear gas. The robot, which belongs to the New York City Police Department, was flown to Elmira in a private plane owned by the Corning Glass Works of nearby Corning.

The gunmen were identified as Jerry Mitchell, 23 years old, of New York City, and Frank B. Sobushko, also 23, of Elmira. The officer killed was identified as Sgt. John C. Hawley, 40. Patrolman Daniel P. Collins Jr. and Inspector Joseph C. Marrone were wounded.

Asked whether police fire had felled the two gunmen, Deputy Police Chief John Lido said, "At this time we feel we got them."

The police casualties came earlier when officers went to the apartment in a low-income housing project to investigate the abduction of a taxi driver.

The two men had abducted the driver in Binghamton and had driven the taxi to a park outside Elmira, where they tied the driver to a tree, according to the Chemung County District Attorney, James Hayden.

An inquiry led officials to believe the two men were armed and were wanted on a parole violation warrant.