



There was a Consolidation Centennial observance 1997 in the Big Apple. In 1897 a document mandated more than 40 local government units merge into a single multi-borough municipality. Mayor Giuliani presided over the Celebration (NYC's 107th Mayor) Officials in New York City during the 1800 and 1900s had massive problems which they handled one at a time. The sheer volume of residents and immigrants caused water, sanitation, correctional/judicial & police, to be dealt with more effectively.

Thus the celebration of the 100TH Birthday of Five Boroughs - Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and the Bronx continued throughout 1998.

Our feature concerns **Warden Ed Dros *1905-1978* W2PVR** and his commitment to NYC Corrections. Warden Ed eventually headed up Hart Island Correction Facility, which accomplished far more than just a lockup. Problems of the homeless/elderly were addressed, the mentally ill, sick & contagious and incorrigible/unwanted. Dros was responsible to see that NYC Potters Field aka (NY City Cemetery) ran with dignity on little Hart Island, in Long Island Sound. Hart Island was only approachable via launch ferry from City Island in the Bronx. Officials had homes designated to them on the grounds at Hart Island Corrections facility.

Warden Edward Dros W2PVR - W4SJE born 5 April 1905 Jersey City NJ to Richard A (Diamond Cutter) & Mary (both from Holland) Ed had 3 sisters and two brothers.- In joining the U.S. Navy as a boy, had a keen interest in wireless and graduated from Great Lakes Naval Training radioman school around 1920. He was assigned various ships in the South China patrol. He then took a job with NYC Telephone as a lineman, then to sea again with the U.S.C.G. as a radioman. In 1928 worked for Con-Ed as a high tension switchboard operator. Appointed to NYC Corrections for the remainder of his career, until 1966 when the Hart Corrections facility was shut down.

By the way the period of the 1950's the U.S. Army built a Nike rocket base on the island, causing a lot of extra construction and activity. This Peace Monument constructed by the prisoners was adjacent to the Nike Base, stands as a Sentinel to nearly one million unwanted, and unclaimed. See www.correctionhistory.org

Yet, "Potters Field" still operates to this very day. The Warden retired to Bellaire Bluffs Fla issued the call W4SJE. Pictured is Ed's 1940s 2PVR.

W8SU 2006

