scenes

JOEY SKAGGS and AUDREY BOYER —Jay F. Good

If the community stereotype is still predominantly lily-white, the interiors of its grocery stores are redolent less of Permesan cheese and tomato paste and more of goulash, bean curd, and arroz frito. Since 1940, there has been a sharp decline in the number of southern Europeans, with concurrent increases in people from eastern Europe, Asia, and the Americas. Especially intriguing is the mushrooming number of Russians. The 1960 Census indicates that of the "foreign born" category (those who are foreign born or are the children of at least one foreign-born parent), almost one-tenth were Russians, an increase of 100 per cent in 10 years. How and why they came are questions for the 1970 Census.

No one will be surprised to read that Village rents are higher, but

is comfortably equipped with most modern fixtures, and her view of the Manhattan skyline, especially at twilight, is quite spectacular. A few other artists have converted barges into loft-type studios nearby, and farther down the shore is a floating antique store. Commuting to Manhattan, by speedboat or car, is no time at all.

Joey Skaggs, artist and salty dog, has just towed in 10 barges and expects to bring in five more. In partnership with Audrey, he is planning to install plumbing, wiring and heat in each barge, then rent them out to artists who can dig the transition to a liquid environment. The interior space is tremendous, about 3000 square feet, and renovative possibilities are endless. He would also like to see some of the barges used for galleries or happening arenas, which might further the art scene's migration from uptown to downtown to waterbound.

While he is fixing up his own houseboat, Joey lives in a school bus, which he has transformed into a movable pad complete with shower, toilet, stove, and fireplace. Since a phone hasn't been installed yet, he can be reached at Audrey's between 5.30 and 8 p. m. Call 201-868-8777 if you're an artist and are interested in shipping out.