

## **NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT: BRONX UP CLOSE**

By MATT SEDENSKY

Robert Moses was considered the most “powerful modern builder of all time”. He was known especially for the building of the Cross-Bronx Expressway. This highway connected New Jersey, North Manhattan, South Bronx and ended up in Long Island.

John McNamara recalled watching his friends' buildings being demolished, and he feared his home would be next.

Construction began on the expressway in 1948. It lasted 15 years forcing more than 1,500 families to leave their homes.

In the end, Mr. McNamara's home was spared, but his neighborhood was never the same.

"It was a catastrophe for the people up here," Mr. McNamara, now 88, said.

The building of this new highway system meant that over 60,000 residents would have to be relocated to new areas. Most of these people lived in South Bronx. Moses led the white exodus better known as « White flight » out of the Bronx

As a result of this mass relocation the economy of the Bronx suffered immensely. The South Bronx area lost over 600,000 manufacturing jobs. Youth unemployment rose to 40 percent and in some areas as high as 80 percent.

*Adapted from New-York Times Oct. 7, 2001*