

Mrs. Shaver
Street Interview

This isn't one of the shopping areas, then? (Yes, it's Boylston St.) It's a lot cleaner than I expected. There are no papers in the streets.

Is it because it's so early in the morning that there aren't people, cars or anything? No, actually it isn't early. (You're right, it's really quiet) They don't seem to have pigeons.

If you were looking for a department store, where would it be? (not in this area) These are just separate. So far it looks as if it had just about everything here -- dress shop and toy shop, book store, candy. How far is this from where people live? Are there apartment buildings around?

If there weren't any more people than this, I think this would be a nice place to come to shop. Of course, this being a holiday week-end, maybe they're gone.

This is the Common over here? (The Gardens)

I don't like the brick sidewalks. That's one thing; I'd swear you could break your neck.

One thing that amazes me about Boston is people's complete disregard of "No Parking" signs.

(Newbury St.) Most of those buildings, especially brownish ones, are old but they don't look beaten up or falling apart or anything.

Windy, I notice that walking over.

This side of the street looks like we were getting into the higher brackets. These very definitely aren't department stores.

Look at this! (You can tell you have children) The Mouseketeers. . . That was my ambition when I was little, to have a huge doll.

Bonwit Teller. At least that's familiar.

Down the alley. . . The buildings look different from back here. Even here they're neat about their trash; it's there but it isn't all over. Glass in the street. . . Spiral fire escape. I wonder why they have a yard in there, especially paved with bricks; they can't take trucks or anything in, down some steps.

Wouldn't you hate to be one of those people working down there? Those places look awful. (alternation roams) I suppose they look worse from the outside than the inside. Our places do. There's one advantage to a narrow alley -- cars don't park in it. . . . We'd better get up on the sidewalk or the cars will run over us.

I'm amazed. I didn't think the stores would be open yesterday but they said it was quite crowded yesterday. . . . This is nice, something I have never seen downtown. Those old narrow trees. I can't do anything but take a look at the next tree. They look like vultures perched along the branches in a cartoon waiting for somebody to die. This, I take it, is usually filled with water. Is that a rock garden, or is that just a pile? It looks so out-of-place, with nothing growing. There don't seem to be many people here, but I suppose in the summertime there would be more. Or course, there aren't very many people down here at all today. It's like going downtown on Sunday.

Did this street at one time come up to these posts up here? It seems to me that the width of the street would be more important than the width of the sidewalks. Most places are narrowing their sidewalks to improve the streets.

I noticed a lot of antique shops up here; that's one thing you never see at home. I'm surprised, also, at a safe company right in the middle of all these stores; that isn't something you usually walk in and buy, like a dress. It looks new; it's all fixed up.

Do people use those waste paper things or does somebody come along and pick up the streets? (They don't look full) No, that's why I was wondering. They don't look full, yet the sidewalks aren't dirty. Maybe since the parade came along yesterday they've cleaned up. I don't know where it went. I love that ____ I can imagine nothing better than when you're doing all-day shopping to go and sit down. Most department stores have a lounge or something but it's always full.

This is actually a church. I saw a sign around the corner that said "Church Offices" and I thought maybe it was something that belonged to the church.

I like the looks of the clothes in that store. (Neal's?) Yes. When you get around the corner they look kind of high-hat for us. Notch & Crayon -- I don't know what they sell. (Looks like an interior decorating shop) Oh, look at the silver heels (Aluminum Italian heel. Made right here now, but first came from Italy) Always keeping up with the times. Those are the things you only see in magazines; you never see anybody wear it.

There wasn't any wind on the other side. You get over here and it blows. I hadn't noticed it; the first time around I hadn't noticed the wind was gone over there. Temporary parking -75! That isn't the price you'd want to pay if you were coming down to shop. . . . It's too bad that the people who can afford those kind of clothes don't convert to Venus de Milo. I always think of that.

Do you know what's inside this building? The Academy of Arts and Sciences? It looks deserted. I know what the Academy of Arts and Sciences is but I can't imagine what they use the building for. . . . See the top with the suction cup on the bottom? Did you ever have one of those that didn't have one? Or the kind that you pump up and down? I've been thinking of getting one because Jill loves to watch a top but she keeps knocking it over so that it stops, and now it won't go over. Brooks Bros. looks properly dignified. Bonwit Teller's doesn't look like a store at all.

E N D