

Post-walk Interview: {Margin note: Female}

We turned up Arlington and commented on Neal's, and also the Cadillacs. In fact, we saw two, one right after the other, one tan and one blue. Then we went up Newbury St. and we looked at that china which was very pretty, and I also saw the photographer. I don't think he was taking pictures -- at least, I hope not. We commented on Bonwit's, and you also said that many people just notice the first floor of buildings and don't bother to look up. Then we walked down Berkeley. No we didn't! We went down that alley. The street wasn't very wide; not even a car could go through it. It was all garbage pails. I noticed a spiral fire escape. I hadn't seen anything like that before. I noticed on the other fire escape -- one had a pulley on it so as not to go down too fast. Then we walked through the Common, just a bit of it, a corner of it.

{PEOPLE} I remember one man in a blue Chevy right at this corner. The lights had just turned green. This woman happened to be coming by and he let her go by. I remember that because that doesn't happen to often. Well dressed people on Boylston - I remember that. About the same type of people on Newbury St. as on Boylston St.

About signs -- Worth's, that stood out. I remember the lights were on; most of the other lights weren't on. Red, green and black. On Boylston St., the Gray Shop stands out. Best & Co. doesn't have any hanging signs, just the large letters on the building. That Miss {?} Harvey sign when we went through the alley -- I noticed that because I didn't think there would be any signs on that street. Sabien's sign was written in white on a dark background. I remember Elizabeth Arden sign.

Sidewalks on that side of Boylston St. I didn't care for at all. They certainly do need repairing. They just did patch-up jobs as far as I could see. The sidewalk on Arlington St. was cobblestone, near the church.

Sounds -- cars. Conversations -- That person speaking to the woman in the car on Newbury St. She was saying to put her in the back, and they spoke about golf.

Buildings -- John Hancock; I commented on the tower.

Question: Any particular kind of character of this area, the type of person here, the type of activity which goes on, whether this stands out in your mind as a particular place, or whether it is just another street like any other street?

No. I'd say that this section is one of our richest sections, and you see more distinguished people; they're all well-dressed. There are large buildings here -- that one on Newbury St. the Ritz-Carleton. Lamson Hubbard.

Ques: Did you get the feeling that there was any sort of order, or was it disorganized?

Well On that side of Boylston St. there are mostly low buildings, large, very large on this side. On Newbury St. there was fairly order.

I'd say they were mostly on the dull side, brown or gray.

Besides the shops I like the Gardens; there is so much to it. It's beautiful. The scenery, trees, swan boats in the summer. It's quiet there.

Before I worked here, I had been to Boston quite often but the part I didn't like was the North End and around there. But since I've been working here whenever anyone mentions Boston, this is what I think of, and I'd much prefer to think of this section rather than the North End. I haven't been through too many sections. I've been working here only since the first of March. This is a clean section.