

Post-walk Interview

Mrs. M. Jacobs

I remember going down the street with the great big wide ^{Space} sidewalk which, compared with Newbury St. coming up, was cluttered with paper. Boylston St., yes, compared to ^{Pa} Newbury St. which was quite clean. It seemed like a middle-class ^P type of people, walking like they were going someplace in a hurry. Very few people who lived around there were out strolling at that part until we got down to the Public ^{Space} Gardens.

The alley seemed like what you'd expect an alley to be. It didn't impress me one way or the other.

Off hand, I can't remember too much more.

(Buildings?)

The buildings seemed to be -- some were quite different from others in regard to their newness and oldness, and some were much cleaner ^C than others. The buildings on Newbury St. were much cleaner than those on Boylston St.

Q: What ^{Space} most impressed you?

A: The Public Gardens. ~~hazzauzz~~ It was naturally a place in the whole area where people could go because they are so situated and so compact that there is no place for them to go, especially for children.

Q: Do you remember any particular buildings at all?

A: I remember the toy shop ^B Newbury St. and one building that had a new facing, and several of the old buildings, but I think that new building, in particular.

Q: Do you remember any particular people?

A: They seemed to be middle ^P class or upper middle class people.

Q: Do you remember any particular signs?

A: Just the traffic ^{Sign} signs. Other than traffic I didn't hear any ^{thing} particular. Nor small.

Q: What did you notice about the traffic?

A: It was like all Boston traffic. I don't think it was any different in that area than in any other area. There seemed to be a traffic ^T problem, a parking ^T problem. Typical Boston drivers.

(Signs?)

None other than the through traffic and a couple of store ^{Sign} signs. I remember Bonwit ^{Sign} Teller's sign, and the Ritz ^{Sign} Plaza -- no, it wasn't the Ritz Plaza -- yes, the Hotel Ritz. No other signs.

Q: How many definite areas did we pass?

A: It seemed that we passed the upper class on Newbury St., then the lower or lower-upper on Boylston, then the Public Garden area. I think those were the three types that I noticed -- ~~three~~ three areas.

Q: Was there anything that ~~gave~~ ^{gave} this area ~~an~~ a character of its own?

A: I think the cleanliness of the Newbury St. area and the comparatively dirtiness of the Boylston St. area. And the Public Garden area -- this is regarded as a place to go and walk.

Q: Was there anything that gave this place order?

A: I thought that there was perhaps order on Newbury St. with the stores and such, but none particular on Boylston St. But I think that was just because one is clean and the other one was not quite as clean.

Q: Continuity?

A: No. Just that on Newbury St. there seemed to be continuity of the upper class stores, where the upper class would do their shopping. No continuity on Boylston St.

Q: How about the area as a whole?

A: No. It, personally, was just a bunch of stores.

Q: Sidewalk pavement?

A: It was quite wide on ^{Spaw} Boylston, about average on Newbury. Cement pavement. ^{Pa}
I didn't notice on Arlington and Berkeley Sts. The sidewalk, I believe, on ^{Pa} Boylston needed a great deal of repairing in a few places.

Q: How does this part of the city fit in with your conception of Boston?

A: It's about my conception of Boston. It's the part I don't particularly care for, but I guess that's just because I don't like living in such tight quarters.

Q: What is your conception of Boston?

A: Just a big town with a lot of buildings and a lot of apartment houses close together.

Q: Have you been here often?

A: Not more than 5 or 6 times. I've only used it for the library; that's as close as I've been to that area.

5 Q: If you come here for any particular purpose, can you find your destination without any trouble?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you feel at ease in this part of the city?

A: No more than in any part. I prefer to go up to Cambridge where I know the area better. Actually, there is nothing I'd really be down in that area for except the library^{because} I wouldn't have any money to go into the stores, and I don't particularly like to walk the streets. I wouldn't feel particularly at ease.

Q: Can you describe the feelings you experienced as you walked?

A: I didn't particularly have any feelings, one way or the other. It was just more or less like I expected of Boston. The Public Garden did impress me very much. The rest of the area didn't impress me.

Q: What did you like or dislike about the area.

A: As I said, I liked the Public Gardens. Other than that I didn't particularly care for that area.

Q: Would you do anything to change the area?

A: Find a parking - place to park. Clean up on Boylston St. I'd do nothing that would harm the Public Gardens - keep it in the same place, and expand it if anything else moved. That's one part they can't afford to lose; they need it.