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 {space} Public 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 {C} cleaner then others. The buildings on Newbury St. were much cleaner than those on Boylston St.

Q: What most impressed you?

A: The {space} Public Gardens. 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 {sign} traffic 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 {T} traffic problem, a {T} parking problem. Typical Boston drivers.

(Signs?)

None other than the through traffic and a couple of {sign} store signs. I remember {sign} Bonwit Teller's sign, and the {sign} Ritz 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 areas.

Q: Was there anything that gave this area 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 {Space} Boylston, about average on Newbury. {Pa} Cement pavement. 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.

- 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 expect 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.