

TRIPP ✓ MH

Street Interview
Male

At the moment, being a motorist myself part of the time, I'm a little surprised that the traffic ^T is so quiet. Of course, I realize that the rush of traffic going to work is over, but usually this whole area is pretty well filled with cars. Perhaps it's just a change of lights. It's a little surprising to notice that some of the business concerns along here have their lights on during ^C the day. Recently the business concerns along this area have improved their window displays and the fronts of their buildings -- at least some of them have -- remodeled them. Especially on this side, several of the stores along here have improved their fronts. Living in this area, or working in this area, I have often wondered about a place like Plotkin Bros. store over here. I often cut through there when I'm going to Park Sq. Bldg. and I'm surprised to notice how few people there are in the store. I wonder how they can manage to keep going when they have apparently so little business. I often wonder if a place like Schrafft's ^B will ever remodel either its exterior or interior. Apparently they pride themselves in the certain type of architecture on their interior they have had for many years. Perhaps customers like it that way and would be unhappy if they modernized it.

There's a little thing we've noticed lately. We, ourselves, made several requests to have these waste paper trash ^{SF} barrels placed here because so many people were leaving trash all over the church lawn, and so on. Suddenly they all appeared and they have apparently put up some new ones.

It's rather interesting that a new Waldorf ^B has moved in down here, 2 stores removed from the Hayes-Bickford which has enjoyed a prosperous business here for a long time. I was talking with someone about it the other day, and they said that when they discovered when like businesses move into the same area they attract business to one another (business increases). Yes.

It's surprising there are so few people out walking around on a Friday morning which is, I would think, a good shopping day, for housewives anyway. It's amazing how well a city adjusts to narrow streets and narrow ^{SP} alleys for unloading merchandise and so on; the large trailer-trucks manage to get through somehow without tearing out the backs of the cars or the church. We only had a problem once, when one of our parishioners parked there in our parking lot, even though we have signs there saying it's for church staff only, and the bumper of the ^B

car protruded out into the alley and a truck came in and caught the bumper on its wheels.
It took him a half hour to disengage himself without damaging her car.

When you walk by the Ritz Carleton you become conscious of the prevailing ^{problem} ~~fixing~~ about the fact that there is double parking^T, sometimes on both sides of the street. Last year it was interesting to notice that there were something like 5 fires in this general vicinity within 10 days, and the fire dpt., in some cases, couldn't get their trucks close to the area afflicted because of the heavy parking. We're all wondering now whether this new parking lot proposed for under the Common will take care of this problem.

I'm always impressed by the appearance of the shops along here on Newbury St. Even though in most cases they haven't modernized the store fronts, there is a certain dignity about them, and their window displays, although conservative, are done with good taste. It's interesting over here at the church across the street, instead of hiring landscape artists to take care of their shrubs and lawn there is a special committee in the church of dignified ladies who come out and take care of the area^N -- mow the lawn, weed the gardens and trim the shrubs.

Seeing that little wisp of smoke coming out of there reminds me of the fact that very seldom do you see much smoke in this particular area.^N Of course, it isn't industrialized. On the other hand, you would expect to see some, perhaps just because it's a city.

This is an amazing toy shop^B; have you ever been in?

I don't know how true^B it is, but I heard recently that many of the office girls in this area go into Bonwit Teller's, which is quite natural because it's a fascinating store of high quality and so on, but they spend every spare cent they have just so perhaps they can say they've bought something from Bonwit Teller's.

(down the alley) I often drive down this alley at night when I'm coming home from the church. It's always interesting; if you come by at 10:30 or 11 a whole battery of rats^N crosses the street from one sidewalk to the other.

— More —

It's interesting to drive through here at night sometimes and see the systematic way in which the people go through the rubbish barrels. A friend told me recently ^A that they have to have a license to do this. I don't know how authentic that is but they seem very business-like in the way in which they go through the barrels.

I notice they have a dress shop ^B in the basement of that building. I was surprised when someone came into the church last year seeking advice about personal problems she had. She told how many dressmaking shops there are in Boston and I just hadn't thought of that kind of textile industry being wide-spread here in the city.

Every time I look up I tend to look at our church steeple. ^B The weathervane blew off in the hurricane of a year ago last Fall; it took us about 6 months to have it repaired, cost \$10,000 to fix the weathervane, because ^{before} ~~when~~ it fell it weaved around in a circular motion so that it spread the three top courses of stone; it blossomed like a rose. It took that quite a while to repair the stone work as well as mount a new weathervane and pick off the scaling stone, it being made of soft brownstone.

Whenever I walk or drive through this section, especially when we get over toward Charles St., I wonder why the traffic commissioner in Boston hasn't insisted upon painting lines down the street so people would be more apt to drive in lanes instead of weaving all around the way they do on Charles St. ^T

It's interesting that the park dpt. ^{PA} has put a hard surface on these former dirt walks here in the Gardens. ^{PA} Yes, I would think it was much better for snow removal and much easier for people walking through the Park; the other gravel walks were so uneven. Someone made the comment that as long as they were going to resurface walks they might have made them a little straighter instead of the cow-path type of curves they have now. On the other hand, I think that would detract from the beauty of the Gardens and the contours of the pond, trees, and so on.

I get a nice ^B view of Capitol Hill from here. The gold-leafed dome of the State House, and the Court ^B House building behind it. I've always liked this particular section of the city because of the Gardens and more or less attractive stores.