

{margin note: ✓MDR}
Mr. Philip Griffin
Post walk Interview

I saw the street light as we were {SF} crossing Berkley St. The wide {SP} sidewalk, the {C} stores on both side. I remember seeing the automobiles {T} in the street, it is the one-way st. {1 way} Boylston St. A sort of low brick {SF} wall that came out from one of the buildings on the left-hand side, sticking out onto the wide sidewalk. The church on {B} the corner of Arl. St. I remember the corner of Arl. and Boylston St. with the public {SF} Gardens on the left. Neals of California on Arl. {B} St. Then we turned down Newbury St. and I remember remarking that Arl. St. with the common on the other side reminded me of New York. The stores on the right side of Newbury that were converted from {C} old houses that were once well-to-do houses. That brings us practically to Berkley St. again. Then Bonwit Teller, an amusing {B} kind of store, and then down that filthy {SP} alley and across into the common again, or the Public Garden. I noticed the parking lot {SP} with a goodly number of Cadillacs in it and a man's {B} clothing store at the corner of Newbury and Arl. Oh yes, there were a few Women's dress {C} shops there. In the alley we noticed some women working down in the {P} basement, making dresses or something, The back {B} of the Arl. St. church. Other than that I suppose I was too distracted by trying to walk through that alley, stumbling over {N} ice and {MISC} rubbish. From there we went to the commons.

Thing or event made the greatest impression? Thats impossible to answer. Well I suppose the thing that I noticed that I never noticed before was walking from Berkely to Arl, on the left hand side of the street was a very comfortable feeling at the corner of Arl. and Boylston with the common over there.

Particular buildings? The one they were tearing {B} down; of course, I remember the {B} church. The apartment house on the corner of Newbury and Arlington {B} (Ritz-Carlton) and {B} Bonwit Tellers. And I suppose, though I don't think about them individually, those shops on the right side of Newbury St., the small shops.

Particular features? Well, I'd know them again if I saw them but I cannot describe them except that they had very {C} narrow fronts and they looked as if they were once residences. The church, of course, is a rather {B} ugly brown but when I used to work across the street from the church I noticed that. The only remarkable one is Bonwit Tellers and that only because it is {B} Bonwit Tellers and obviously not what the building was intended for. It could have been a public library in a small town but it wasn't a remarkable building in any way, I don't think, but I've forgotten exactly how it was constructed. I couldn't say whether it was brick or stone. The apartment, I think it was red brick but {B} with trim so that it didn't seem like red brick so much. It was tall and it seemed like it was probably an expensive apartment house.

Particular people? No, the type seemed to be pretty {P} much what you would expect along there. First of all, there weren't very many people, but it being a cold Tuesday afternoon that's not too surprising. They seemed to be mostly business men and women shoppers. Business men, people who were well dressed, men all with ties, and women all with coats, nobody in slacks or bobby-sox.

Sounds? No {SO}

Smells? Yes, I do remember the smell of {SM} gasoline as we were crossing Arl. St. Traffic? They drove rather fast on Arl. St. & {T} you had to be pretty careful there.

Signs? Neals of California. {SI} I do remember some kind of a street sign but I forget what it was (NO LEFT TURNS cor. Arl. and Boylston). Bonwit Teller

Definite Areas? I think you could split it up into the block we walked around as one area, and then walking down Boylston on our right was the same area. Then on Arl. St. on our right was quite a different area and I think, that the other side of Newbury St. was a different area. The feeling was a little different. And, of course, the right hand side of Berkley was different, too. But the alley, I guess you really wouldn't call it an area because even areas have sub-areas. I guess I would say three, you could include the right-hand side of Berkley with the right-hand side of Newbury.

Character? Yes, of course, it is easy to see what gives the Public Gardens their own character. Both sides of Newbury really were once residential and have been converted rather than torn down and rebuilt as a commercial area, it was just adapted to stores. This is very noticeable. On Berkley St, right-hand side, it wasn't residential but again it was converted, it looked more like a public place. The block we walked around well, its just a business place.

Order? That this was planned? Well, I suppose that the shopping area was more or less planned. But I couldn't pick out what gave it its order, if it had any, except what I put into it. No, I don't think so.

Continuity? No, except --well, only in what ever made me separate them from one another. the fact that one was a shopping district, other was a also shopping district converted from a residential district, and another was a public park. Within what they were there was continuity.

Sidewalk pavement? On Boylston St. it was slabs {PA} of concrete or if it wasn't concrete it was pretty smooth and very wide. On Arl. St. it was brick. On Newbury St. I think it was brick too, I can't remember. I can't remember Newbury and Berkley, but I think they were both brick.

Street pavement? Yes, but not from our walk yesterday. {PA} It is all asphalt.

Conception? Since part of it reminded me of New York It doesn't fit in very well because I don't think Boston and New York are very similar. But it does fit in rather well. Well quaintness and backwardness. The fact that they were tearing that building down, of course, surprised me. But it didn't surprise me yesterday because I had seen it before. Well I'd qualify it when I say it does fit in with my conception of Boston. I don't think it is typical necessarily of Boston, pretty typical of downtown Boston though.

Been there often? Yes
Used the area for work but for no other reason

Could find destination

Feel at ease in that part of city? Yes.

Feelings as we walked? Yes, of course, I can describe the feeling of unease because we were recording what I was saying and that took most of my attention.

Like or dislike? That is so subjective. I rather like this part of the city because it was, I thought, somewhat picturesque but I don't like what it stands for so much. It seems to me to be a sort of strived for kind of quaintness, but maybe it isn't really.

Change anything? I wouldn't want to change anything.