

New Orleans 11/21/71

Addresses is Russell Thompson's notes

All that are clear and correct are in the same neighborhood, rough and old sections near the waterfront, uptown from the Quarter and/or in the Garden District. They are rundown badly, as the pictures will show. I took a number in each direction at each point or approximate point. In all cases a bar is nearby, in most cases prominently. Except for the cemetery, all are places where no attention would be paid to a stranger, where no questions would be asked of anyone.

Most interesting of all is 1808 Carondelet. This is in the Garden District, almost at Felicite, which is on the Canal Street side. It is on the River side of the street, one of several once-fine old homes. The district now seems to be predominantly black. Pretending interest in old homes, I learned that several years ago a new owner bought this place and started to remodel it. The inside was completed when it was rented, but those renting it wrecked it. The word used was "vandalized". It was rented furnished, and apparently what was not wrecked was stolen. The repair of the outside, never begun, was never made, as the pictures will show. The neighbors are after the city to tear it down. The pictures will also show that the place is overgrown with weeds. The property is for sale, so posted, prominently.

The neighbors could not place the time accurately, but say at least two and a half years ago the place was used and had for a while been used by vagrants. The lock that was then placed on the iron gate in the fence is meaningless, for the fence is low and easily scaled.

What I am suggesting is that this would be an ideal rendezvous for almost any kind of criminal activity. And I suggest that of all the addresses in this large area, it is a rather exceptional coincidence that one of this character shows up. It is odd that anyone could have known of it, and it is a place where strangers were common and unheeded.

St. Joseph appears several times. At one point on the dock side, near the river from which it runs, railroad tracks run in it. Driving on it had to be very slow, the paving is in such bad shape. Getting to it I took Front Street from the Downtown or Canal Street side. I started taking pictures at Notre Dame to give an idea of the character of the neighborhood. These pictures are toward the uptown and the river. I then took two of St. Joseph, both ways. At St. Joseph and Carondelet I took four more.

(at this point in the typing, 9:20 a.m., there was a phone call. I picked up the phone, heard music in the background for a second, and then the caller hung up. I phoned the office, asked if there had been a caller who had hung up when I answered, and was told "Yes, some woman.")

To this point, with the lapse of some time, I had seen but two people, both black, both driving cars. One on Front and one who happened to follow me out St. Joseph, then turned downtown. As I was taking pictures at Carondelet and St. Joseph one of three black wins panhandled me for a quarter and was so exstastic when I gave it to him he called joyously to the other two, who followed him toward downtown on Carondelet.

There is no Polyania, but in the same area there is a Polymnia, where, at the corner of Prytania, I took the last of the pictures on the color film. I began the Triex at St. Joseph and Carondelet where I took, I think, five shots.

The note "W of Carrel I took to mean the west side of a short single block Carrol, running from Poydras to Perdido. An ornate building with "Le Pavillon" on the pediment is the entire west side. The pictures will show this and the garage on the opposite side. On the theory this could be a shorthand reference to them, I took shots of two rather better (as compared with all the others at the general areas noted) cocktail lounges on Perdido. I started taking pictures from the neutral ground on Poydras.

The cemetery address seems to be one of which little can be made. It is at the juncture of Canal and what becomes Metairie or is Metairie Road at that intersection, about the 5000 block of Canal. At this point there is a jog in Canal, which continues through the cemetery, which is a very large one. If one goes out Canal after this jog (the note says "West edge of Greenwood Cemetery on Canal Blvd.") one finds at the first block a small shopping center with a K&B drugstore and a Winn-Dixie store. Between the jog or offset, which is to the right of the straight stretch of Canal as one goes out from the center of town, and this shopping center is a miscellaneous cluster of other enterprises, including real-estate offices and two more bars, first Bob Roth's and then Maximilian's Lounge, both on the right side as one is driven. The other is cemetery. There is also a gas station. His first street is Rosedale.

Except for this cemetery note and the obviously inaccurate ones involving St. Charles, all are in the same part of town, close together, which makes me wonder about Ivon's telling me (I had written him and asked him about these addresses) that he could see no significance in them. That they cluster so is one immediately-apparent significance, and that they are all a tough neighborhood is another. Another is the clustering around St. Charles or its logical extension (the names of the streets change at Canal, on the Quarter side).

St. Charles becomes Royal. I got twisted in trying to check the note "St. Charles between Toulouse and St. Peter" and checked Chartres. I'll have to check Royal for this block, but the character of the quarter is such that without intimate knowledge of such things as ownership it is unlikely anything from which a reasonable deduction can be made will show. That block of Chartres was very, very quiet for a Saturday night, and a very pleasant one. It holds the Alpine Bar, two restaurants (Le Banquette at the Canal end is a fine one known to me, specializing in beef flown in from Chicago). It is or two years ago was owned by a friend of Sciambra!). What predominates in this block is gift and craft shops. There was almost no pedestrian traffic.

I could not find "Joseph at Chestnut and will attempt it again, on the theory that reference is to St. Joseph. There is a Joseph. It runs parallel with Nashville and is a couple of blocks toward the downtown or canal side of it. This is near Audobon Park in what is generally known as the University section. It is a logical extension of the same general notations of locations in the uptown direction, but it is some distance from them. Again, this is a section where a stranger would go unnoticed unless there were something to make him stand out. However, it is not a place one would select without some special point and would not be easy for a stranger to find. It also is close to St. Charles Ave.

12/6-Checked Candelight Room on way to airport. It is on right where 611-11 La cross Airline Highway. Small motel with fire-escape like balcony for access to second floor and back not visible from road.

Flacid Fil Co-separate note, Hunt's, 2500 building 1401 Main St., Dallas, in which Hunt's mail office is 29th floor.