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Trip with John Leonard on Saturday Morning

May 22, 1971

Started on Broadway into 15th Ward--to "Broadway and East 55th"--Polish Neighborhood--Past Republic Steel (and Jones Laughlin?) which is in 15th Ward.

To Broadway and Fleet--2 story, 1 1/2, 2 1/2 wooden frame houses, tree lined streets, old but well kept lawns, flowers, shrubs--circled around East 65th Street.

14th Ward. The same as 15th. Back to Broadway--East on Aetna-industrial RR tracks area--to East 93rd Street. First Black people
appeared here.

South on East 93rd, turn on Union. Area known as "East 93rd and Union." Now in 28th Ward--50% Black, 50% White.

Gets to be all Black at 102nd. Street going up Union.

Turned on East Boulevard (right) broad tree lined avenue with small Bagley-like homes.

Turned on Farrington, pleasant residential area, old small homes, some trees--coming to East 131st and Corlett in 28th Ward, East 131st is business street, serving larger residential area on both sides of it--2 story mostly single-family homes, some with columns and up and down porches, tree lined streets.

To Marston in 30th Ward. We continued down 131st Street till area became mixed White and Black and then, by 131st and Christine it was nearly all White (30 Wd. Precinct 0).

Just beyond is Garfield Heights, up Forest dale in G. H. and turned around on Dressler, which was quite countrified, to Osborn to Ohio, and past East 147th Street This was Black area again "old colored area" had Negro Mayor till 1931 "Miles Heights"--incorporated into Cleveland. Mayor Stokes wants public housing here and has had big hassle but has been defeated. Local Ward leader Clarence Thompson is vs. it. It was a dirty area, I thought--Seville area. John spoke of Gilliam Wale and Thompson as Stanton Councilmen.

Went up Seville Road to Lee Road, "Lee-Seville" 30th Ward north on Lee Road.

Stokes grew up in 17th Ward at 69th and Woodland Avenue.

30th Ward ends at Harvard. We were on Lee Road to Harvard. "harvard-Lee."

Right on Harvard and north (left) on E. 177th Street in 13th Ward. "Harvard-Lee" newer homes, bricky; wood, small 1 1/2 stories.

(John stopped here). Young trees, very pleasant, shrubbed yards, people mowing, watering, etc.

"This is the newest area we'll be in."

To Scottsdale Avenue (into Shaker Heights, big elms and big difference in homes).

To 10th Ward on Bartlett to East 14th and Kinsman. "Solid black"-large wooden 2 1/2 story homes, porches up and down.

L. S. stays with his mother at 126th and Shaker Boulevard.

10th Ward is William Franklin's ward.

Down Kinsman, heart of Mt. Pleasant business area and into the 16th Ward.

13th and 30th have "some White."

Went to East Boulevard; left on Buckeye to "Buckeye-Wood Hill" area. Jack Russell's "stronghold". He's white and ex-President of City Council. Here we're in 16th Ward.

Right on East 89th up into 18th Ward. Crossed Quincy into 18th Ward. A much older area, run-down, some industry, still trees and some well kept homes, 2 1/2 stories high along East 89th. Big old homes that were at one time quite elegant—now renting apartments.

Into 20th Ward, East 89th and Hough, "Hough area" past Carrie
Cain's office, stores with iron grates in front. "Hough Avenue is
the worst street in the city." A dying street.

Left on East 105th Street.

Main streets here are East 105th, Superior and St. Clair.

"That's where the trouble is", "just about as rough as any part of
the city"--"on the side streets there are nice people who can get
along with anybody."

Glenville is "the best of the poorest areas Virgil Brown' ward. We're on East 105th Street. Brown defeated an alcoholic Democratic Councilman.

Into 24th Ward at 105th and Yale. Lee Jackson's ward. St. Clair and 105th Street is heart of 24th Ward. Still Glenville.

Onto St. Clair, right (South) on Lakeview past school where Minister threw self in front of bulldozer and was killed.

27th is like 25th.

Left on Castlewood, right on East 123rd. Trees, 2 story houses, shootout was on 123rd near Lakeview, past boarded up Black nationalist headquarters on Superior Avenue. Having turned right off 123rd onto Superior in 25th Ward.

Past 105th and Superior. "The worst place to travel after dark."

Right on Ansel Road in 21st Ward. Left on Slowinski, looking for "the Kat's House", i.e. Katalinas. "I notice a lot more colored are moving in here now." A mixed ward, explaining Katalinas' support of Black rebel caucus in Council.

Right on East 79th, past Pulaski. Looked all White--back to St. Clair (left).

Into 23rd Ward at 7400 St. Clair.

23rd--more White. Slovenian poor.

21, 18, 23, and 16 are poorest wards.

Compare 23 with 14 and 15, he said, people take care of their homes in 23rd even if they rent--like 14 and 15.

Turk is Councilman in 23rd Ward.

Back toward center of town.

Gilliam and Jack Oliver "glue fingers." "Anything you lay down, they pick up." They took some money from fund raising party and were kicked out of Caucus for not making an accounting and then for coming up short.