

Sketch

Volume 25, Number 2

1959

Article 11

River City

Sam Sample*

*Iowa State College

Copyright ©1959 by the authors. *Sketch* is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress).
<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/sketch>

River City

Sam Sample

Abstract

I've seen your buildings Down narrow alleyways And walked your streets As far and fast As
a man can...

River City

I've seen your buildings
Down narrow alley ways
And walked your streets
As far and fast
As a man can.

I been down
Your back ways
And felt the feel
Of those that hate
Because they're hated.

I've seen your great
Thumping buildings
With their great
Thumping archways
And I been impressed.

And I've watched
Your women striding
Dress-full through
The streets of fashion
And felt their playful tug.

And I've seen your river.
Take all the others or leave them
But your river is your music
And I'll be back to hear you
Every now and again.

— *Sam Sample, E. Sr.*

Listen to the laughter in a thousand empty rooms.
Listen hard and don't miss the latest glittering star.
Deafen yourself in smug society's roar —
Then you won't hear someone crying in the next room.

Battle on Tenth St.

If you ever walk along Tenth St. in the Big City you can't miss what's on upper Tenth.

Oh, just listen to the . . .
sluggish hot summer wind
busy hum of neon making the night sky red
honk-honk, grinding gears, police whistles, motor roar
click, shuffle, scrape, slide, clomp of thousands of
shoes on sidewalk and pavement
throbbing pulse of the BigCity, a beehive BigCity with
every waxen cell brilliantly lit in the neon night sky.

If you ever go into one of the brandnew mile-high buildings on upper Tenth St. you can't miss what's in the rooms.

(Everything's bigger and better this year)

Listen to the . . .
laughter in a thousand empty rooms (beehive rooms)
powerful purring from millions of white and piercing
lights
silence of feet in gray plush carpet
tinkle of glasses seen reflecting in sparkling mirrors
whirr of the air conditioner wafting ladies' heavy
perfumes.

Listen hard and don't miss the latest glittering star.

Listen to the laughter,

"We're having fun, aren't we?"

"YesYesYes."

"Opening the Country Club swimming pool —gar-
denias floating in the water, big name band."