

# Jim Carroll: Important Places

By Cassie Carter for CatholicBoy.com

## Carroll's Bar and Grill

**Nagle Avenue (sometimes called 10th Avenue) near the corner of Dyckman Street.**

Before WWII Jim Carroll's father Thomas Sr owned and operated Carroll's Bar and Grill.

Source: Tom Carroll Jr

To research

## Patrick's Bar and Grill / Dyckman Bar and Grill

**Dyckman Street**

"After the war, Carroll's father Thomas Sr worked for many years at 'Patrick's Bar and Grill' (later named Dyckman Bar and Grill). That was located on Dyckman Street about 4 stores west of Broadway. I worked there for a while during the Telephone Company strike in 1971." Source: Tom Carroll Jr

To research

## Bellevue Hospital

**462 1st Ave., New York, NY 10016**

Jim Carroll was born at Bellevue Hospital:

This is the day I was born, twenty years ago in Bellevue hospital, New York City, at three minutes past midnight (*Forced Entries* page 1).

In *The Basketball Diaries*, Carroll associates "going to Bellevue" with hallucinating and doctors being unable to help (Spring 66, p 185).

## 585 Isham St

**585 Isham Street, New York, NY, USA**

Jim Carroll was born, died, and lived much of his life in Inwood. Most of the time he lived in Inwood, he lived at (or near) 585 Isham Street, a location featured prominently on the cover of the Jim Carroll Band's first album, [Catholic Boy](#) (1980), which depicts Carroll with his parents (Tom Sr and Agnes) in front of 585 Isham Street. This building is also 99% likely the basis for Billy Wolfram's childhood home in [The Petting Zoo](#). Although Carroll later in the writing process relocated Billy's childhood to Washington Heights, he was not able to change the geographical details in the novel pointing to Inwood before he died.

According to Carroll's brother Tom Jr, at some point their mother became unable to manage her apartment upstairs at 585 Isham Street and traded with Jim for an apartment on a lower floor of the same building. To narrow down the time frame, from around the time Agnes died in 1986, and post separation from Rosemary, Jim was living down the street at 603 Isham Street, with his girlfriend Tamela Glenn, probably until around 1995 when he moved downtown to Chelsea. (When Agnes passed, I believe Thomas Sr moved to a home or in with Tom Jr, so the rent controlled apartment may have been lost or Jim just didn't know he was entitled to keep it. Tom Sr passed away in 1990.)

Check out Patti Smith's book [Camera Solo](#) for her photo of Jim Carroll's bed after his death. Meanwhile, in [The Basketball Diaries](#), teenage Jim moves with his family from the lower east side to Inwood during the spring before his freshman year of high school. During the time he describes in [The Basketball Diaries](#), Inwood was a predominantly Irish neighborhood.

## Church of the Good Shepherd

**4967 Broadway, New York, NY, USA**

The [Church of the Good Shepherd](#) is located directly across the street from Jim Carroll's home base at 585 Isham Street in Inwood. This was the church Jim Carroll attended as a child, where he went through catechism, where he was baptized and did first communion, the whole bit. He also attended [Good Shepherd School](#) until high school. He mentions it in *The Basketball Diaries* when he refers to his red tee-shirt with "GOOD SHEPHERD FALCONS" right across the front of it" (BD page 58).

In [The Petting Zoo](#), the church across the street where Billy's mother cooks for the priests is almost certainly modeled on Good Shepherd.

On the Isham St side of the church is a cross made from beams from the World Trade Center.

## 603 Isham Street

**603 Isham Street, New York, NY, USA**

Jim Carroll lived with his girlfriend Tamela Glenn at 603 Isham Street for several years from the mid-late 80s, post-JCB and post-separation from Rosemary, until around 1995 when he moved downtown to Chelsea. I have a gut feeling that "Sick Bird" was written at 603 Isham and possibly a few other pieces in [Void of Course](#). Poems referencing anything happening at a window, like "nature," most likely were written before Carroll moved to Chelsea because the Chelsea apartment had a view of an interior cement courtyard. (I hope to test my theory in the [NYPL archives](#) someday.)

## Madison Square Boys Club / Biddy League

**312 E. 29th St., New York City**

**RESEARCHING TO VERIFY LOCATION:** “Madison Square Boys & Girls Club was founded in 1884 to provide recreational and vocational programs to keep young people away from gang activity on the east side of Manhattan. . . . The Club operated in a variety of buildings including public schools, private houses and church basements until 1939, when Herbert Hoover, then Chairman of the National Association of Boys Clubs, opened our first youth-dedicated facility at 29th Street in Manhattan” ([SOURCE](#)). Location 312 E. 29th St., New York City [SOURCE](#)  
PWD: “Herbie pushed Tony from the Boys Club Roof . . .”

BD Winter 66: “I heard from this guy I played ball with years ago in the Biddy League back down on E. 29th that my old friend was in stir on a murder rap. Seems he pushed some guy off a roof when he caught the dude trying to run off with money he sent him to cop a quantity of dope with” (BD 177).

In *The Basketball Diaries*, the character Jim Carroll grew up on the lower east side, while the author Jim Carroll grew up in Inwood.

## Staten Island Ferry

**4 Whitehall St, New York, NY 10004 | St George Ferry/S62, Staten Island, NY 10301**

In the second entry of *The Basketball Diaries*, Carroll and his friends Tony and Yogi sniff Carbona cleaning fluid on the [Staten Island Ferry](#) (pp. 4-5).

IMAGE: ferry.jpg

## Fire on Second Avenue

### **25th Street at Second Avenue**

Carroll describes a “giant fire on Second Avenue” early in *The Basketball Diaries* (page 11). This entire area was razed during Urban Renewal in the 1960s.

## Times Square

### **Intersection of Broadway & Seventh Ave.**

Known as the “Crossroads of the World,” Times Square has been completely Disneyfied in recent years so that it looks nothing like it did during the times Carroll writes about in his diaries. In the 60s and 70s, Times Square was filled with strip joints and porno shops and was a big pickup zone for prostitutes and hustlers. In *The Basketball Diaries*, Carroll describes it as a giant archer's target awaiting an atomic arrow (page 114). Carroll also references Times Square in “Times Square's Cage” in *Forced Entries* (pages 12-14).

# Inwood American Legion Post

## 207th St

BD Spring 66 (p 194) - raffle tickets

BD Summer 64 (pp 56-57) - booze

To research

# Diaper Bandits Territory

East 60s | [40.765211, -73.963144](#)

In *The Basketball Diaries*, Carroll describes his gang's adventures "snatching handbags off ladies" in the east 60s (pages 6-7). For visualization purposes, this is the neighborhood where the Ricardos and Mertzes lived in the TV show *I Love Lucy*.

# Alexander's Department Store

## Grand Concourse / Fordham Rd, Bronx

In *The Basketball Diaries* Carroll describes taking a bus to Alexander's in the Bronx to do a little shoplifting (pages 30-31). Nearby is the Navy recruiting office where Freddie C is "slinging his cock around like a lasso" (page 31).

# Inwood Hill Park

Upper tip of Manhattan: Entrance at Payson Ave. &, Seaman Ave, New York, NY 10034

## Spring 64

The only good thing about this new neighborhood up here in Inwood is the giant park and the woods.

—Jim Carroll, *The Basketball Diaries* (page 41)

IMAGES by Cassie Carter:

Park = inwood1.jpg ; Baseball diamond = inwood.jpg,

# Indian Caves

**Inwood Hill Park: 40.860103,-73.9208574**

## Spring 64

The only good thing about this new neighborhood up here in Inwood is the giant park and the woods. They've got these incredible Indian caves way in deep with all kinds of tunnels and shit you can climb around in. . . . Up at the caves is this old man every day, name of Bill. He gives out chocolate bars and got this big jug of apple cider we swig on and he plays the flute all day

with some weird sound that carries out through the whole woods and a lot of birds come around and squirrels and he tosses breadcrumbs and nuts to them. He's like a saint.

—Jim Carroll, *The Basketball Diaries* (page 41)

IMAGE:

inwood-caves-inwood-hill-park-manhattan-native-american-caves-new-york-city-untapped-cities-city-full-of-history-daniel-thurber.jpg

CREDIT: Daniel Thurber

## Forster's Bar

**Location TBD – Inwood**

BD Summer 1964 (p45)

BD Fall 65 (p138) - blackout

To research

## The Cut

**40.8761309705719, -73.91914312234779**

Located on the north side of the Harlem River, across from Inwood Hill Park, "the cut" is an outcropping of rocks featuring a sheer cliff on the river side and a sharp cut on the north side where the Hudson-Harlem train tracks cut through. Today a giant "C" (for Columbia University) is painted on the rockface.

### **Summer 1964**

Every crowd of young guys has its little games to prove if you're punk or not. . . . Here in upper Manhattan, guys jump off cliffs into the Harlem River, where the water is literally shitty because right nearby are the giant sewer deposits where about half a million toilets empty their goods daily. . . .

The cut is actually only about twelve feet wide, with the Harlem River on one side, and the Hudson-Harlem train line tracks in the rear. It has a series of minor cliffs to jump off, and they gradually get higher until you reach the top, about eighty-five feet. Every plateau you jump has its own separate name, like Suicide and Hell's Gate, Angel's Toe and the top, the elite goal that all this bullshit is about, Hell's Angel.

--Jim Carroll, [The Basketball Diaries](#) (pages 47-50)

PHOTO: cliff.jpg

CREDIT: photo courtesy of Jim Carroll



The Cut as seen from Inwood Hill Park - Jim

Carroll's photo

## Seaman Ave & Cumming St

[40.867093, -73.926908](#)

### Summer 64

So today we met in the park near the basketball courts, Johnny, Danny, and I, played a few quick games, downed a couple of beers, and headed up the street. (Seamen Ave. *[sic]* is the name of the street, in fact, pretty funny name; and I actually know a chick who lives on the corner of Seamen *[sic]* and Cumming Streets, who fucks her weight in guys, but living on a corner with names like that, who could blame her.)

--Jim Carroll, *The Basketball Diaries* (pages 47-48)

IMAGE: seacum.jpg

CREDIT Cassie Carter

## Circle Line Tour

### Departs from West 42nd Street, Pier 83

The Circle Line Tour offers a three-hour, 35-mile narrated tour around Manhattan Island. Circle Line tourists are Carroll's audience when he takes the plunge off "The Cut" in *The Basketball Diaries* (47-50).

IMAGE: circle.jpg

## Long Beach Chamber of Commerce

**780 Long Beach Blvd, Long Beach, NY 11561**

Basketball Diaries - Summer 64 - BB tournament – long beach station p 54-55

Need to verify this is the location in 1964 - no "long beach station" today

# Patio Chef Pizza

**Somewhere in Inwood**

*Basketball Diaries* - Celia Sisters entry (pp 55-56)

To research

# Horace Mann

**231 W 246th St, Bronx, NY 10471**

*Basketball Diaries* Winter 65 - pill mix up (pp 86-89)

# Yankee Stadium

**East 161st Street & River Avenue, The Bronx, New York City, New York, U.S.**

The original Yankee Stadium where Carroll worked no longer exists. Carroll worked as a vendor at Yankee Stadium briefly during the summer of 1964. Unfortunately, he explains in *The Basketball Diaries*, he was doomed to always have the most *unsellable* item for any given day: “Like on Friday night, with the whole joint filled with Catholics, I get franks! On the coldest night of the season, overcoat weather, I swear I got ice cream. On the scorching hot days it's a bet I get the salty popcorn in the bleachers, never fails” (46). He says more about Yankee Stadium on pages 52 and 104-105.

IMAGE: yankee.jpg

# Grand Central Terminal

**42nd Street between Lexington and Vanderbilt Avenues**

A major renovation project was completed in 1998, restoring Grand Central to its original splendor. Carroll observes in *The Basketball Diaries*, “If there were, say, a book like 'The Pervert's Guide To New York City,' the bathroom at Grand Central Terminal should, without any doubts, figure in it” (pages 109-110).

Summer 1965 entry in *The Basketball Diaries*, describing the men's room at Grand Central Terminal: “I jumped back in the middle of pissing while this stately chap grabbed me and wound up spraying all over this Brooks Brothers number this guy was wearing. I had to move down to another whatever they are to finish it off” (BD 109-110).

Brooks Brothers is a high-end men's clothing brand.

IMAGE: grandcentral.jpg

# George Washington High School

## **TBD**

Sugar Bowl All Stars vs Rutgers

BD Summer 65 (pp 115-117)

To research

## Bucket of Blood

### **Somewhere in Chelsea**

BD Summer 65 (p112-114)

BD Winter 66 (p 169-70)

BD Winter 66 (pp 174-750) Willie Bender

## Rye, NY

### **40.9459527,-73.7053621**

Summer 65: "I was catching a train up to Rye, N.Y. tonight to visit my old neighborhood chum Willie . . ." (BD 109).

"I'm sick of the city heat and all its bullshit so I throw my sneakers and a bathing suit into my little airline bag and take the train down to Grand Central to catch the rush hour express for Rye, mN,Y, to visit old friend Willie Goodbody who moved up there a year ago and has a nice scene going for himself" (BD 118).

"It seems I've picked up the clap over the weekend from some debutante little beaver in 'posh' Rye, N.Y. Never know where the fuck it's gonna get yer" (BD 120).

## 116th Street & Lenox

### **West 116th Street & Malcolm X Boulevard, New York, NY, USA**

Lenox in this area has been renamed Malcolm X Blvd.

In [The Basketball Diaries](#), Carroll notes that Larry Newbold was supposed to meet the team at 116th Street & Lenox for the All Star Game trip. When Newbold fails to show up, Carroll gets his spot for the game (page 153).

## Headquarters

### **Post Avenue & West 204th Street, New York, NY, USA**

I don't know exactly where Headquarters was, but it was in this general vicinity according to Jim Carroll.\*

WINTER 65



I've been hanging around lately, with all the other heads in this dreary neighborhood, at this place called "Headquarters," which is actually just the apartment of two friends of mine, Brian and John Browning. It's an amazing place where there are usually anywhere between ten and thirty locals hanging out either laughing insanely from grass fits or simply on the nod from smack. I've lived here from time to time when my parents gave me the toss. . . .

--Jim Carroll, *The Basketball Diaries* (p. 80)

See also pages 143-44, 202, and 209-10

\* Jim Carroll told me that Headquarters was on the corner of Post and 204th Streets, and since (based on a walking tour) this building is the only one that seems to have a clear view of The Cloisters, I'm guessing, if it existed, this is it . . .

IMAGE: hq.jpg

CREDIT: cassie carter

## New York University

### 50 W. 4th Street

In *The Basketball Diaries*, Carroll visits his friend "Bunny Begalot" at her [NYU](#) Dorm (pages 166-167).

IMAGE: nyu.jpg

## Fort Tryon Park

### Fort Tryon, Margaret Corbin Drive, New York, NY, USA

Fort Tryon Park is a gorgeous wooded park with walkways and a beautiful view of the Hudson River. The Cloisters is located in this park.

In *The Basketball Diaries*, Carroll describes a last-gasp project of mugging joggers in Fort Tryon Park (page 200). (& Summer 66?)

## St Mark's Place

### 8th Street, between Third Avenue and Avenue A

St. Mark's Place, a short section of 8th Street in the East Village, was a longtime favorite hangout of Carroll's. In *The Basketball Diaries*, he describes walking around St. Mark's place on L.S.D. with his friends [Marc Clutcher](#) and [Anton Neutron](#) (pages 133-134).

## 1965 Blackout

A Train | W 137th St & St Nicholas Ave, New York, NY

The Great Northeast Blackout of 1965 was a catastrophic power failure that affected New York City and much of the Northeast on November 9, 1965, at 5:27 PM during rush hour. In *The Basketball Diaries*, Fall 65, Carroll is riding the A Train uptown when the blackout occurs, stranding his train between stations. Fortunately, the front of the train made it into the 135th Street station and passengers were able to exit, slowly but surely. Carroll describes exiting the train at 137th Street, hitching a ride in the back of a news truck to 181st St where a food carnival is underway. He swipes a bicycle and rides it up Broadway to Inwood, where he dumps the bike in front of a pizza place and walks the rest of the way home, stopping by Good Shepherd Church across the street from his apartment building for some candles (BD134-138). This is one of two entries in which he mentions his brother, Tom.

## The Cloisters

### **The Cloisters, Margaret Corbin Drive, New York, NY, USA**

Housing an incredible collection of medieval art, [The Cloisters](#), a monastery on the banks of the Hudson River reconstructed block by block, is a branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In *The Basketball Diaries*, Carroll describes going up to “the usual spot near the Cloisters” to cook up and shoot heroin (BD 143).

Carroll highlights the Cloisters in the final entry of [The Basketball Diaries](#), as he looks out the window of Headquarters.

#### **SUMMER 66**

I can see the Cloisters with its million in medieval art out the bedroom window. I got to go in and puke. I just want to be pure.

--Jim Carroll, [The Basketball Diaries](#) (p. 210)

Also Billy Wolfram in *The Petting Zoo*, recalling his childhood friend Marco's exquisite fingernail portraits of nuns, compares them to reliquaries on exhibit at The Cloisters.

IMAGE: cloister.jpg

Credit: cassie carter

## Car Theft

40.78427428796705, -73.94703500574131

In [The Basketball Diaries](#), Carroll, fat Henry, and another friend attempt to steal a Porsche at 96th Street & Second Avenue (pages 191-196). This is one of the longest entries in the book.

## 53rd & 3rd | “The Rack”

**40.75773710993103, -73.96944029710988**

“I was a terrible hustler. When I was fourteen or fifteen years old, I'd be down on fucking Greenwich Avenue and Christopher Street -- until somebody hipped me to the fact that if

everybody's giving it away for free, you ain't going to make no money. A lot of runaway kids would go to Forty-second Street, like in Larry Clark's *Teenage Lust* book, but that was just Midnight Cowboy shit to me. Then some older guy tipped me off to go to Fifty-third and Third, which was the boy-hustling place in New York City."

-- Jim Carroll, *Please Kill Me: The Uncensored Oral History of Punk* (first paragraph in Chapter 19)

Summer 65: "Let's start with Dave . . . not the stranges of the last two weeks but a man with a definite problem. He picks me up on the 'meat rack' on Third Avenue and does he want to suck dick? No way. . . . Dave is going to pay me fifty bills if I attend the day's double header with him" (BD 104).

## Rikers Island

### Rikers Island, New York, USA

*Basketball Diaries*, Fall 65: "I wouldn't trust Fudgy to cop me an aspirin, if he gets enough bread up he may not be back for a week. There's always an excuse, like he got busted and beat it but they took the dope and he had to do a week at Rikers" (BD 141).

In the final Winter 1966 entries of *The Basketball Diaries*, Carroll describes his stay at "Riker's Island Juvenile Reformatory doing three months for possession of three bags of heroin and a syringe" (p178).

Carroll also mentions Rikers in "People Who Died" on the album [Catholic Boy](#) (1980):

Brian got busted on a narco rap  
He beat the rap by rattin' on some bikers  
He said, hey, I know it's dangerous,  
but it sure beats Riker's  
But the next day he got offed  
by the very same bikers

Image derived from photo by DOC photographer C.O. Nishaun McCall.

## Pete the Greek's

### Tbd

*Basketball Diaries* Spring 1966: breakfast post-Rikers. "So this morning I woke up in a place where, for the first time in thirty-one days I could walk out into the pleasures of concrete and sun at my own will, could sit in Pete the Greek's and order whatever breakfast I want" (BD183).

To Research

## 14th St Porno Theater

### TBD

*Basketball Diaries* Spring 66 hustling scene (187-189)

To research

## Poolhall in Inwood

**Dyckman St**

BD Winter 66 (p 150)

To research

## The Tombs

**100 Centre Street, New York, NY, USA**

Mary took a dry dive from a hotel room

Bobby hung himself from a cell in the tombs

Judy jumped in front of a subway train

Eddie got slit in the jugular vein

And Eddie, I miss you more than all the others,

And I salute you brother/ This song is for you my brother

--Jim Carroll, "People Who Died" on [Catholic Boy](#) (1980)

## Riverdale

**Riverdale, Bronx, NY**

In *The Basketball Diaries*, Riverdale is an important basketball rival against Carroll's team. In Fall 63 Carroll's team creams Riverdale (BD 14-15). In Winter 66 Carroll's team is wiped out by Riverdale due to the key players taking the wrong pills (BD 163-165).

## Rice High School

**74 West 124th Street**

Rice High School was a private Catholic high school noted for excellence in basketball. Carroll attended during his freshman year prior to transferring to Trinity School. In *The Basketball Diaries*, Winter 66, when he describes the "very spectacular Nation High School All Star Basketball Game" (BD 153-154) he is probably describing a Rice game.

IMAGE: [lew-alcindor-power-memorial-v-rice-high-school.jpg](#)

CREDIT: Harvey Lippman / Associated Press / Alamy Stock Photo

## Trinity School

**139 W 91st Street**

[Trinity School](#) is an elite private school on the upper west side of Manhattan. With the guidance of “Benny Greenbaum” (see *Basketball Diaries* pages 157-59), Carroll earned an academic/athletic scholarship which allowed him to attend Trinity School during his high school years, repeating his freshman year. He graduated from Trinity in 1968.

FALL 64

It's my first day at the ultra-rich private school that I got a scholarship to come to. I had a hard time trying to figure out what I was doing there, and I got funny looks from everyone and thought how funny it was all those Jewish kids singing away those old Christian tunes like that at the chapel service in the morning.

--Jim Carroll, *The Basketball Diaries* (p. 65)

**Note:** In *The Basketball Diaries*, Carroll (the character) attends three different schools. The first he calls “St. Agnes Grade School” (p. 3); the second is an anonymous public school (*cf* page 18); the third is another Good Shepherd School, a Catholic school in Inwood (page 58), and the fourth is Trinity School. He does not mention Rice High School, a private Catholic high school, which he attended in between Good Shepherd School and Trinity School.

Check out the 1968 Trinity Yearbook photo gallery to learn more about the characters.

IMAGE: trinsch.jpg

CREDIT: Cassie Carter

## Central Park

**Extends from 59th to 110th Streets and from Fifth Avenue to Central Park West.**

In *The Basketball Diaries*, Carroll says that, at Trinity School, “in the warmer part of the fall we have gym periods in [Central Park] . . .” (page 68).

In *Forced Entries*, in “Central Park, Late Fall,” Carroll writes about walking through the park with Ted Berrigan (pages 71-72).

The main part of “Curtis's Charm” takes place in Central Park's Conservatory Gardens (*Fear of Dreaming* 43-254).

In *The Petting Zoo*, protagonist Billy Wolfram has an existential crisis that lands him in Central Park's petting zoo (Chapter 1). Toward the end of the novel, Billy walks through the park on his way to see a psychiatrist (Chapter 5).

IMAGE: central.jpg

## Bogart Movies on Bleecker St

BD Fall 64 (pp 72-73)

To research

## Madison Square Garden (1965)

West side of [Eighth Avenue](#) between [49th](#) and [50th](#) streets in [Manhattan](#)  
Madison Square Garden in 1965 was not in the same place it is today. In *The Basketball Diaries*, Carroll writes about attending a Knicks game at the garden in Winter 1965 (BD pp 77-78). As it happens, shortly after I moved to NYC, I (webmaster) worked at Ogilvy (an advertising agency), which was located where Madison Square Garden was originally. My officemate was the woman who typed *Organic Trains* for Carroll and was Bunty Gargen's girlfriend. I kid you not.

## Grand Union Grocery Store

BD Winter 65 pp 77-78 (also I think Dennis Driscoll worked there?)  
[To research](#)

## Audubon Ballroom

**3940 Broadway, New York, NY 10032**

Carroll references the location of Malcolm X's assassination (February 21, 1965) in *The Basketball Diaries* (Winter 65 P 81).

## Webster Hall

**125 East 11th Street**

[Webster Hall](#) appears to have a glorious history . . . except during the 1960s. Carroll describes attending a Communist Party meeting with his friend [Bunty Gargen](#) in *The Basketball Diaries* (page 84).

## Horn and Hordart

**1557 Broadway, between 46th and 47th Streets**

Horn and Hordart was an automat. It's hard to imagine today because it was like something out of the Jetsons, or at least that's what it looks like to me (webmaster). Carroll describes going to Horn and Hordart in Times Square in a Spring 65 entry of *The Basketball Diaries* (p 93).

## Grant's

### **Across 42nd St from Horn and Hordart?**

In *The Basketball Diaries*, Spring 65, after visiting Horn and Hordard, Carroll crosses the street to get a birch beer from Grant's (p93).

To research

## *Born Free* Theater

### **45th St Times Square**

In *The Basketball Diaries*, Spring 65, Carroll watches the film *Born Free* (1966) and has an encounter with a trans prostitute he meets at the theater's side door (BD 93-94).

## Gussie's Soda Fountain

### **TBD - somewhere in Inwood**

BD Spring 65 (pp 94-96) - Bobby Blake

BD Fall 65 (p 140)

To research

## Jack's Clothing Store

### **TBD - somewhere in Inwood**

BD Spring 65 (pp 97-98)

To research

## Professional Children's School

### **132 W 60th St, New York, NY 10023**

*Basketball Diaries* Fall 65 (p 125): Carroll's long-term girlfriend "Deborah Duckster" aka Devereaux attended Professional Children's School.

## Blimpies

### **56th St**

Sandwich shop mentioned in *Basketball Diaries* Fall 65 (P125).

To research

# Sutton Place

**Between E 53rd and E 59th Streets overlooking the East River**

[Sutton Place](#) is an affluent neighborhood in Manhattan. In *The Basketball Diaries*, Carroll spends an evening with his rich girlfriend Hedi Hunter in her parents' eighteen-room penthouse on Sutton Place (pages 138-39).

IMAGE: sutton.jpg

# Plaza Hotel

**Central Park South & Fifth Ave**

In *The Basketball Diaries*, Winter 66, Carroll says Frank O'Hara's poem "Music" "always reminds me of the [Plaza Hotel](#)" (page 154). Another indirect reference in Summer 65 that's challenging to summarize (p103).

IMAGE: plazahotel.JPG

# Museum of Modern Art (MOMA)

**11 W. 53rd Street**

In *The Basketball Diaries*, the "End of LSD era" occurs at the [Museum of Modern Art](#) (page 185). In *The Petting Zoo*, Billy Wolfram struggles to recall which of his works are featured there.

IN PROGRESS - NEED PAGE REFS

# Porsche Theft

**96th St and Second Ave**

*Basketball Diaries* Spring 66: Carroll and his delinquent friends steal a Porsche that gets towed (BD 195-1930. This one is in the movie.

I'm looking for the address of the "disco go-go dive off 96th and Second" (BD 191). I am so interested in this because I lived very close to this intersection.

# Wagner College

**1 Campus Rd, Staten Island, NY 10301**

Carroll enrolled in Wagner College in 1968, following his graduation from Trinity School, and "signed up for the standard lineup of freshman courses... — English, French, psych, art history, phys ed," according to a 2010 [article in Wagner Magazine](#). He also tried out for and was chosen



for the basketball team. Beyond that, the extent of Carroll's college career is unclear. It seems unlikely he stuck with it beyond the first year or possibly even the first semester.

## St Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery

**131 E 10th St, New York, NY 10003**

Home of [The Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church](#). Carroll began participating in the Wednesday night poetry readings at St. Mark's when he was about fifteen or sixteen. He also served as Anne Waldman's assistant for a time. Carroll says a lot about St. Mark's in his [interview with Frank Andrick](#) in *Back Beat* (1991). The Poetry Project was absolutely critical in Carroll's development as a writer and spoken-word performer.

## Gem Spa

**40.728586326020206, -73.98792466341312**

Located at the corner of Second Avenue and St. Mark's Place in the East Village, Gem Spa was a newsstand and candy store. It is of interest in Jim Carroll's biography because it is where Ted Berrigan first met him when young Jim handed him a copy of his first book of poems, [Organic Trains](#):

Jim Carroll first appeared in my life as a huge white paw hung purposefully from the near end of a long brown corduroy arm. It was late one Wednesday evening, in front of Gem's Spa, the corner at 2nd Avenue & St. Mark's Place, in the Spring of 1967. A slight grey rectangle blocked my further view. I stopped short, although none of this is the least bit unusual at Gem's Spa. But the giant who materialized behind the hand certainly was unusual. It seemed to be saying, Pay attention, and I did so. "I'm Jim Carroll," the giant said and became a very interesting person. "I've just had this book of poems published, and I'd like to give you a copy to read." "I'd love to read it," I said. (That's what I always say.) So, I took the small pamphlet of Jim Carroll's poems home to read.

--Ted Berrigan in [Culture Hero 1969](#)

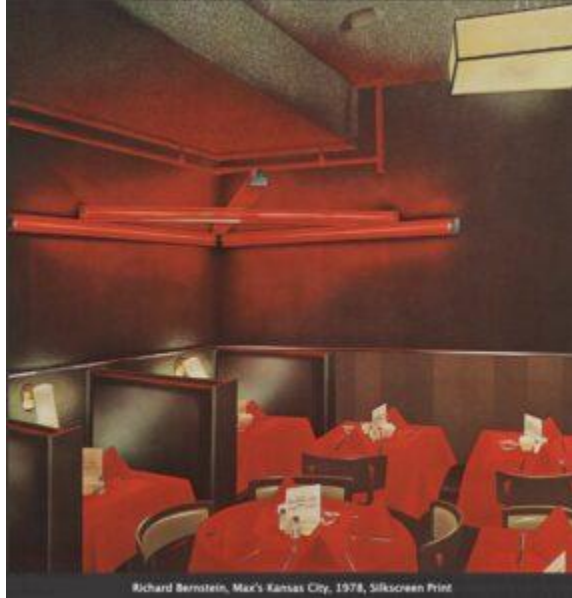
## Max's Kansas City

**213 Park Avenue South, New York, NY, USA**

Max's was the place to be in the late 1960s through the 1970s, and it features prominently in Carroll's [Forced Entries](#). Picture Andy Warhol and his entourage hanging out in the legendary backroom while the Velvet Underground plays upstairs . . . in fact, on the Velvet Underground's

Live at Max's Kansas City album, you can hear Jim Carroll talking between songs (he was holding the microphone).

Photo is a 1978 silkscreen artwork by Richard Bernstein depicting the back room of Max's Kansas City. It shows the Frosty Myers "laser beam" artwork Carroll writes about in [Forced Entries](#).



## Chelsea Hotel

### 220 W 23rd St

Carroll lived here briefly before moving in with Patti Smith and Robert Mapplethorpe. The location is per Morrisroe's biography *Mapplethorpe* (page 74). Gerard Malanga identifies the location as 220 W 23rd, but that's the Chelsea Hotel.

## Loft of Robert Mapplethorpe & Patti Smith

### 206 W 23rd St

Mapplethorpe ("Roger") and Smith ("Jenny Ann") shared the loft for some time, dividing the space when Mapplethorpe "decided he was completely, irremediably gay" (FE page 6). Carroll moved in with Patti Smith briefly, between residing at the Chelsea Hotel and Bill Berkson's apartment.

"It wasn't clear where Jim lived, but he spent a lot of time at the Chelsea Hotel. The following night he came home with me, and wound up staying in my side of the loft. It had been a long time since I really felt something for someone other than Robert."

– Patti Smith, *Just Kids* (page 163)

The location is per Morrisroe's biography *Mapplethorpe* (page74). Gerard Malanga identifies the location as 220 W 23rd, but that's the Chelsea Hotel.

## Cancer Hall of Fame

**42nd St between Seventh and Sixth Aves**

FE p 7-10

To research

## Joey's Apartment

**E 10th St**

Basketball Diaries Summer 65 (p 107)

To research

## Ratner's

**TBD**

BD 107

FE 25-26 Ginsberg

To research

## Bill Berkson's Apartment

**10th St & Third Ave**

Berkson let Carroll stay in his apartment, presumably when he was away. Memorably, this is where "The Poet and the Vibrator" (FE pages 24-29) takes place, in which poet Allen Ginsberg comes to visit and tangles with "Bill B's heavy-duty, plug-directly-into-wall-socket-because-batteries-are-not-enough-to-power-this-mother *vibrator*" (FE 27).

## The Factory

**33 Union Square West, New York, NY, USA**

Andy Warhol's Factory was "[the hip hangout spot for artists, musicians, celebrities, and Warhol's superstars](#)," as well as the actual location of the "assembly line" for Warhol's silkscreens and the studio for Warhol's films. Carroll worked for Warhol around 1970 at the second incarnation of the Factory (1963-1973).

I've been playing constantly with the conversation I had with [Robert] Smithson the other night, and I realize the analogy of an artist's loft as a medieval abbey fits Andy's Factory like white on rice.

--[Forced Entries](#), "The Abbey" (pp 43-44)

Evidence of what Carroll did while employed at the Factory is archived at the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, PA, including the list of character names he developed for the play *Pork*:



See also: AWT-BAG

Photos:

[Dmadeo](#), [Decker Building, 33 Union Square West, NYC \(2008\)](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

## Lincoln Center - New York State Theater

**20 Lincoln Center Plaza | 63rd Street and Columbus Avenue**

In "Invitation to the Dance," in *Forced Entries*, Carroll writes about going to the ballet with [Edwin Denby](#). Looking at the buildings of Lincoln Center, Carroll quips, "Mussolini-style architecture, like the Tombs down on Centre Street" (FE 17).

## Brigid Polk's Room

**George Washington Hotel | 23 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10010**

"Gloria Excelsior" in *Forced Entries* lives at the "Thomas Jefferson Hotel." Warhol superstar Brigid Polk lived at the George Washington Hotel, and Jim Carroll lived with her for a brief

period, during which time he was photographed extensively by Brigid and received a lot of phone calls from Andy Warhol. (See FE 30)

## New Accommodations Arranged by Brigid

### **22nd St a few doors down from Park Ave South**

In *Forced Entries*, after Carroll lived with Brigid Polk for a while, she orchestrated new accommodations for him nearby, within walking distance of Max's Kansas City. His (fictional) description of the laser beam may help ID the location. (See FE 37-38, 41-43)

To research

## AWT-BAG

### **62 E. 4th Street, New York, NY 10003**

AWT-BAG (Andy Warhol's Theatre - Boys to Adore Galore) was a place where Jim Carroll was employed sometime around 1970, following his desk job assignment at the Factory in Union Square:

I don't know if I should think of it as a promotion or a demotion, but the fact is that, although I remain on The Factory Payroll, I'm no longer working at my corner desk up at Studio della Warhol.

--"Transfer--Moving Up, Downtown," [Forced Entries](#) (p 38).

## Spiral Jetty (1970)

### **Spiral Jetty, Corinne, UT 84307**

In *Forced Entries*, Carroll is chasing the laser beam around his neighborhood when he encounters earthworks artist Robert Smithson. Carroll refers to Smithson's then in-progress work *Spiral Jetty* (FE 41-43).

## Andrea Feldman's Suicide

### **51 Fifth Ave**

Warhol superstar Andrea Feldman committed suicide on 8 August 1972 after inviting various boyfriends and admirers, including Jim Carroll, to meet her for a date. Carroll arrived late to find "She's dead. She jumped and she's lying there naked and dead and covered with a blanket that had been leaning a few minutes before against a spare tire in some cop car" (FE page 54).

# The Folklore Center

**110 MacDougal Street, NYC**

Jim Carroll gave his very first poetry reading here. It's now a falafel joint. Here's a page about it at [Walkin' New York](#).

IMAGE: folklore-center-1960.jpg

# The Narrows

**40.61247926735882, -74.04862773207941**

The title of the poem "The Narrows (for [Carol Kane](#))" in *Living at the Movies* and *Fear of Dreaming* refers to the tidal straight separating Staten Island and Brooklyn. See [Wikipedia](#) (Yes, Carol Kane is the actress who played Andy Kaufman's wife in *Taxi* . . . among other things.)

Photo: [Joe Mabel](#), [Verazzano Narrows Bridge aerial 01 - white balanced \(9457282678\)](#), [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

# The Green Bus

**53rd St and Sixth Avenue**

Carroll mentions this intersection in "The Green Bus" in *Living at the Movies* (p11-12) / *Fear of Dreaming* (p13-14). At this location, on the west side of Sixth Avenue between West 52nd and 53rd Streets, is a public plaza completed in 1964 that features three enormous bronze sculptures by Jim Dine, one of Carroll's favorite artists. I believe these sculptures were installed in the 1980s so it's unlikely the sculptures have anything to do with the poem . . . but they certainly make the location worth visiting. This poem also mentions "Warwick Coffee Shop," which could be a reference to the Warwick Hotel at 54th St and Sixth Avenue, but I haven't found any information as to whether there was a coffee shop in the hotel. It does seem that the hotel was a tad run-down by the 1970s, but in its heyday it hosted many celebs. Elvis and The Beatles stayed here, and it was here where John Lennon made his audacious statement that The Beatles were more popular than Jesus Christ.

# 85 8th Avenue

**85 8th Avenue, New York, NY, USA**

Jim Carroll moved to his studio in the Chelsea neighborhood after getting paid for [Scott Kalvert's Basketball Diaries film](#) circa 1995. He lived there until the brutality of NYC rentals forced him out, at which point he moved to Lenny Kaye's apartment on Flatbush Avenue Extension in Brooklyn.

# Pier 54

## **Little West 12th Street - On the Hudson River**

The cover photo of *Void of Course* was taken at Pier 54. This historic pier is where the *RMS Carpathia* dropped off survivors of the *Titanic* in 1912, and it is the pier from which the *RMS Lusitania* departed before being torpedoed in 1915.

[Wikipedia article about Pier 54](#)

# Pools of Mercury Photo Shoot

Two locations I am aware of:

- Evolution in Soho: 687 Broadway, New York, NY 10012
- Somewhere on Elizabeth Street

To research

# 57 Flatbush Avenue Extension, Brooklyn

## **57 Flatbush Avenue Extension, Brooklyn, NY, USA**

In January 2004, Jim Carroll moved out of his Chelsea apartment and into Lenny Kaye's Brooklyn apartment. Carroll stayed there until -- ah, the joys of NYC real estate -- developers decided they needed to tear down the building and put up something else. Be sure to look at the Google street view on this one if you have a moment.

Forced out, Carroll called up the super of his old home in Inwood and moved back to 585 Isham Street.

I have to dig through my archives to find exactly when he left Brooklyn . . . but he was still in Brooklyn for the catastrophic 2007 Brooklyn Book Festival and he was back in Inwood well before spring 2009 when I started working with him on [The Petting Zoo](#).

# Billy and Denny's Apartment

## **E 1st St, New York, NY, USA**

In [The Petting Zoo](#), following his mother's death, Billy moves downtown to share an apartment with Denny. Their apartment is on East First Street. (As a longtime resident of NYC, I was surprised to discover that East First Street exists! It's just above Houston St.)

# Max Beerbaum's Home

## **40.7382131247587, -73.98668234022828**

In [The Petting Zoo](#), Max Beerbaum's home is located on Gramercy Park West, a single block facing the private Gramercy Park (one of only two private parks in the city). Max's home has a

gate from the sidewalk (as do almost all of the buildings on the block today), with a little garden before one walks up stairs. There is no such building on Gramercy Park West matching this exact description, and it is very unlikely there ever was one.

What Carroll is doing here is referencing the exclusiveness of the address. We can, even today, look at the buildings on this block and think, wow, that's expensive.

## Gramercy Park

**40.7367783,-73.9844722**

To describe

## Billy Wolfram's Home

**40.741760500820114, -73.99235773706621**

In [The Petting Zoo](#), protagonist Billy Wolfram owns and lives in an apartment building located on the south side of W 22nd Street between Sixth and Fifth Avenues.

We know it's between Sixth and Fifth Aves because when he returns home from the hospital, he comes down Second Ave then next appears on Sixth Ave. That means he went west on 21st then turned right on Sixth Ave, so he then has to turn right on 22nd Street. We know his building is closer to Sixth Ave than it is to Fifth Ave because he took 21st Street rather than 23rd Street. We know his building is on the south side because he crosses the street when heading north to the Empire State building.

The tenants of the building, in addition to Billy, include "a silver-haired fellow," a young woman wearing a terry cloth robe, a married couple, "three teenage brothers who lived on the top floor," Elsa, possibly the superintendent (they don't always live in the [building](#)), and enough others to cheer the husband for retrieving slippers for robe girl and for "the gathering of sweltering tenants" to turn "festive, resembling a block party."

Although the presence of a "stoop" suggests a small building (four stories, 5-8 apartments), the number of tenants suggests it would have to be a medium-sized building of the type I ([webmaster](#)) am most familiar with that would definitely have been rent controlled or rent stabilized. Such a building does not currently exist on this block of W 22nd Street but, who knows, it may have existed in the 1980s when the events of the novel take place. The fact that someone other than the building owner, Billy, lives on the top floor is curious.

I think Billy Wolfram's building is fiction inspired by multiple real-life buildings (as one might hope for this particular novel). Although I don't know exactly where yet, Jim and Rosemary Carroll likely lived in this neighborhood in the early 1980s. Aspects of Billy's apartment are similar to how Carroll described in performed monologues the apartment he shared with Rosemary. It also bears some resemblances to his descriptions of Robert Mapplethorpe's loft and Warhol's Factory in Union Square. Carroll also had some drafts where Billy lived in Chelsea in a more loft-like, converted industrial environment, and some of those elements remained. And of course



most of Carroll's personal experience as a renter was in huge buildings with dozens or hundreds of apartments and live-in supers.

Meanwhile . . . I took time off work to assist Carroll with finishing the novel, and after he died I finished putting it together for publication, and then I went back to work in 2010. In 2013 a [giant sculpture of a raven](#) appeared in front of my office:



I kid you not. It's a giant raven with a rose in its beak right in front of my office. In the photo looking north you can see the Empire State building in the background. Flatiron building is directly behind the camera and Billy Wolfram's apartment would be behind the camera to the left.



The view looking southwest looks directly down W 22nd Street, where Billy Wolfram lived. This is a Jim Carroll kind of magical coincidence.

→ The sculpture now lives at Michigan State University, where I was a visiting assistant professor immediately prior to moving to NYC. Weird.

## Empire State Building

**350 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY, USA**

In [The Basketball Diaries](#), Carroll says he has never been to the Empire State building (page 104).

In the second chapter of [The Petting Zoo](#), protagonist Billy Wolfram recalls his visit to the observation deck of the Empire State building, where he suffered an existential crisis prior to the main existential crisis at the Metropolitan Museum of Art described in the first chapter.

Carroll never did visit the Empire State building.

Sometime after I (the [webmaster](#) here) moved to NYC, probably around 1999 - 2000, Carroll asked me to do some research for him that included a trip to the Empire State building's observation deck. I took photos and reported back to him on details such as whether the High Bridge was visible.

## Metropolitan Museum of Art

**1000 Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street**

In *The Petting Zoo*, Billy Wolfram's crisis is set off by the Velasquez exhibit at the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#). Billy races down the steps and careens into Central Park in the opening chapter.

## Central Park Petting Zoo

**New York, NY 10021 / 40.767706,-73.9768561**

Located within Central Park Zoo is a children's zoo. As late as the 1980s the children's zoo was almost exactly as Carroll describes it in *The Petting Zoo*, and in fact a 1973 "Little Golden Book" titled *A Visit to the Children's Zoo* provides wonderful visuals.



## Serbian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Sava

**15 W 25th St, New York, NY, USA**

In [The Petting Zoo](#), the narrator talks about the Russian Orthodox church across the street from Billy's home. Although there is no Russian Orthodox church on Billy's W 22nd St. block, there is, however, a very interesting Serbian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Sava on W 25th St.

There's an awesome bust of Nicola Tesla.

[Serbian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Sava](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

# Petting Zoo Hospital

## **Metropolitan Hospital Center, 1st Avenue, New York, NY, USA**

In the first chapter of [The Petting Zoo](#), Billy Wolfram, after an "episode," lands in a hospital on the upper east side. I, as a Jim Carroll scholar, was a little excited by this because I lived on the Upper East Side and knew exactly where Billy was! The real hospital Billy Wolfram landed at was, when Carroll wrote the book, called the Metropolitan Hospital.

Now . . . it appears I don't have a way here to show how Billy got to his home downtown from the Upper East Side hospital, but you can use the "directions" function to get directions to 40 W 22nd St, New York, NY 10010 (that's just a general vicinity of where the fictional building would be).

## OUTSIDE NYC

### Carroll's Gravesite

#### [Saint Peters Cemetery](#)

#### **Haverstraw, Rockland County, New York**

Jim Carroll's grave is located towards the back of the cemetery. His parents' graves are closer to the front of the cemetery.

### Bustin's Island, ME

"The Burning of Bustin's Island" (*Living at the Movies* p15; *Fear of Dreaming* p 17).

In the summer of 1968 a group of poets and artists went to Bustin's Island together. Poet Lewis Warsh published a book of vacation snapshots from the trip (also some from Bolinas) titled *Bustin's Island '68*.

Photo caption: Best and Company picnic, Staten Island Ballfield, Easter Sunday, 1968. Back row, left to right: Peter Schjeldahl (with hand on head), Jim Carroll, Linda Schjeldahl, George Kimball. Next row, left to right: Susan Kimball (with dark glasses), Lewis Warsh, Anne Waldman, Ted Berrigan, Bill Berkson, George Schneeman, Ron Padgett, Dick Gallup (with cigarette), Carol Gallup. New row, left to write: Tessie Mitchell (holding Gwen Rivers), Sandy Berrigan (with hat and polka dot dress), Emilio Schneeman (kneeling between two baseballs), David Berrigan (holding baseball bat), Pat Padgett (wearing sunglasses, holding Wayne Padgett), Joan Fagin (wearing wristwatch), Elio Schneeman (in striped shirt). Photo: Larry Fagin

## Bolinas, CA

### California Theatre

#### **1122 4th Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101**

Carroll gave his first rock 'n' roll performance, with Patti Smith, at the California Theatre in San Diego, 1978.

The abandoned theater has become dilapidated over the decades and has been slated for demolition a few times. Sometimes developers want to put up condos; sometimes someone wants to restore and preserve it. Who knows what may happen to it?

Photo by Matt Lambros 2019 from [After the Final Curtain, April 2021](#)

### Mabuhay Gardens

#### **443 Broadway, San Francisco, CA**

The Jim Carroll Band played here frequently in its early days. [Here's a link](#). And another link: <https://mabuhayvenue.com/about-page/>

IMAGE: MahubayGardens.jpg

Photo by Bobby Castro