

set largely in Lowell: *The Town and the City* (1950), *Doctor Sax* (1959), *Maggie Cassidy* (1959), *Visions of Gerard* (1963), and *Vanity of Duluoz* (1968). These books explore subjects that occupied Jack throughout his life: friendship, family, work, spirituality, art, and nature. Jack's ideas and writing shaped what became known as the "Beat Generation" from the

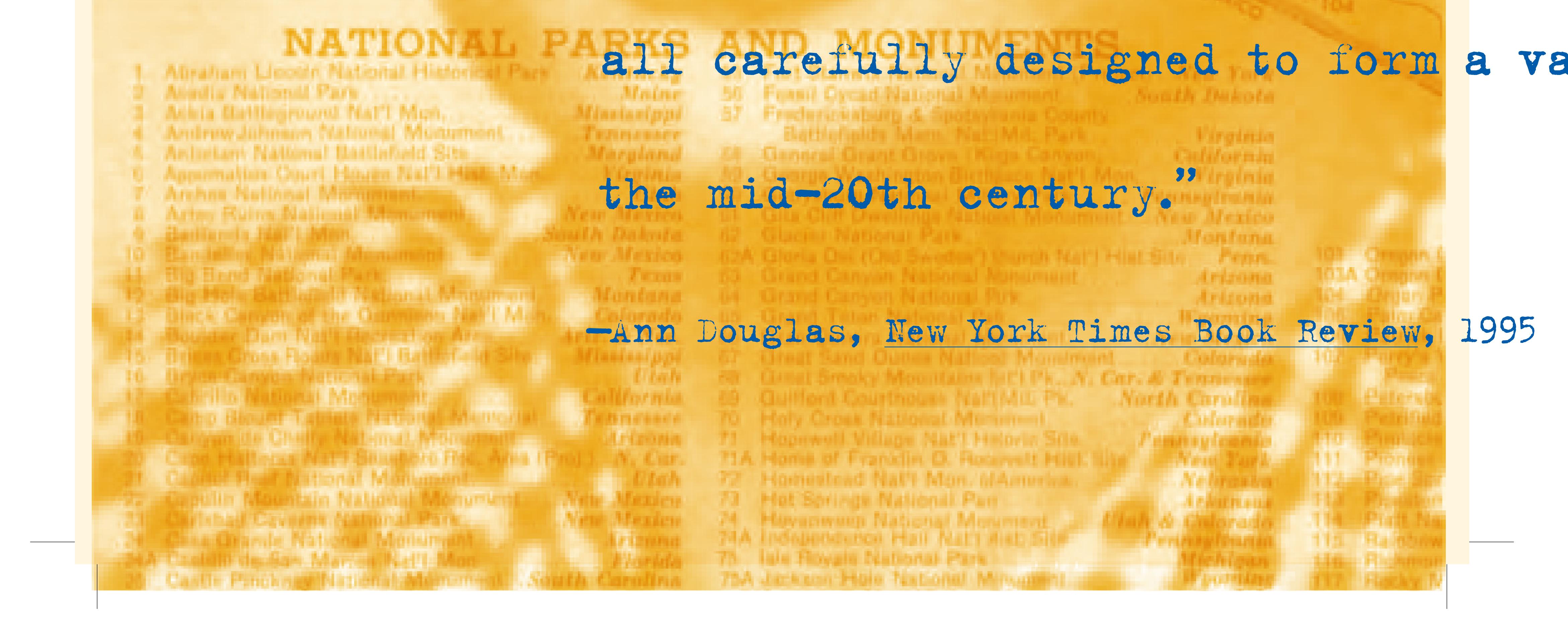
Jack Kerouac writing in 1958. late 1940s to the mid-1960s. His work continues to influence readers and artists around the world.



"Kerouac's work represents the most

and literary form undertaken by an

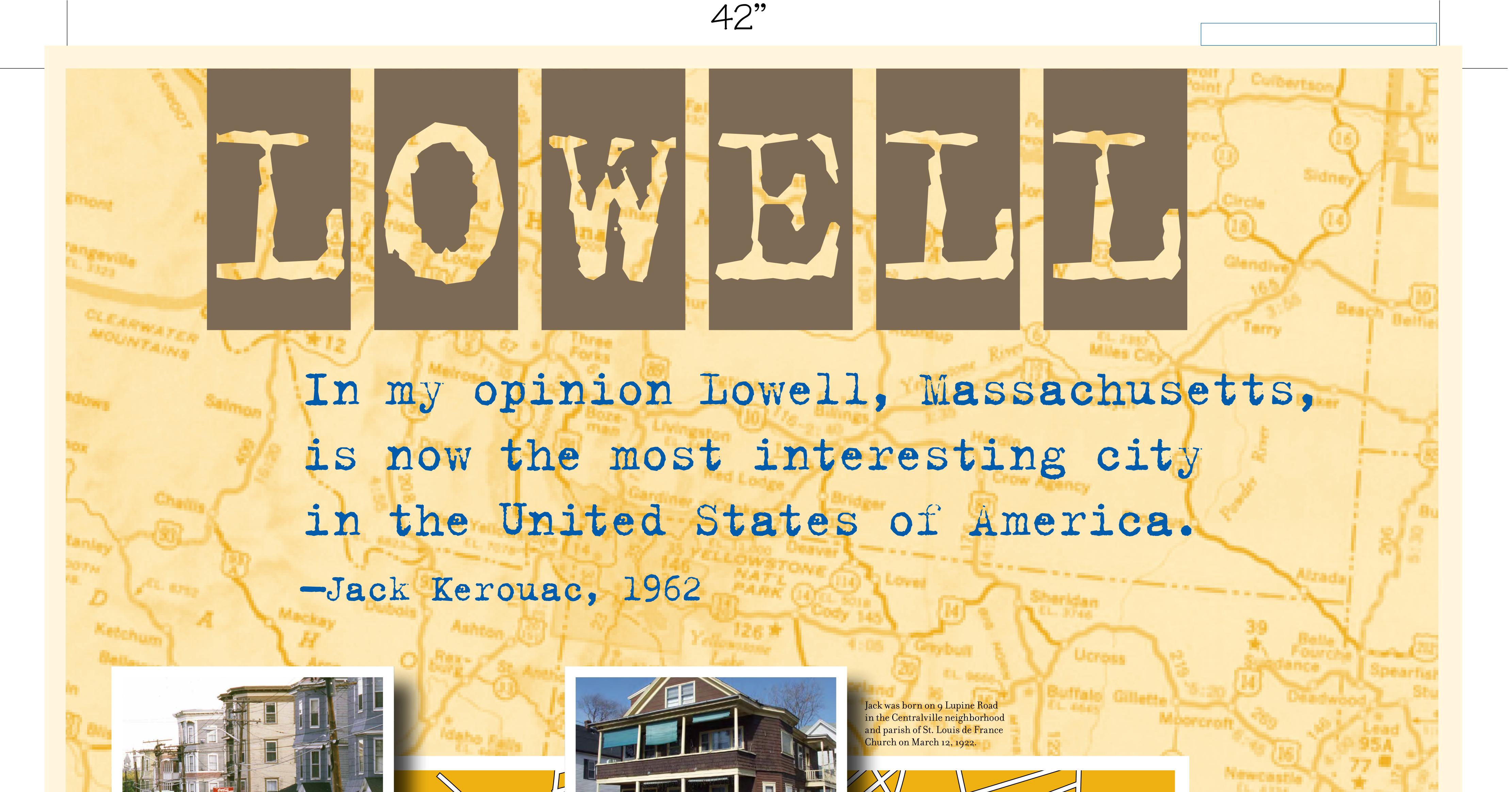
'On the Road' is only one of about a



KEROUAC at the NPS Visitor Center

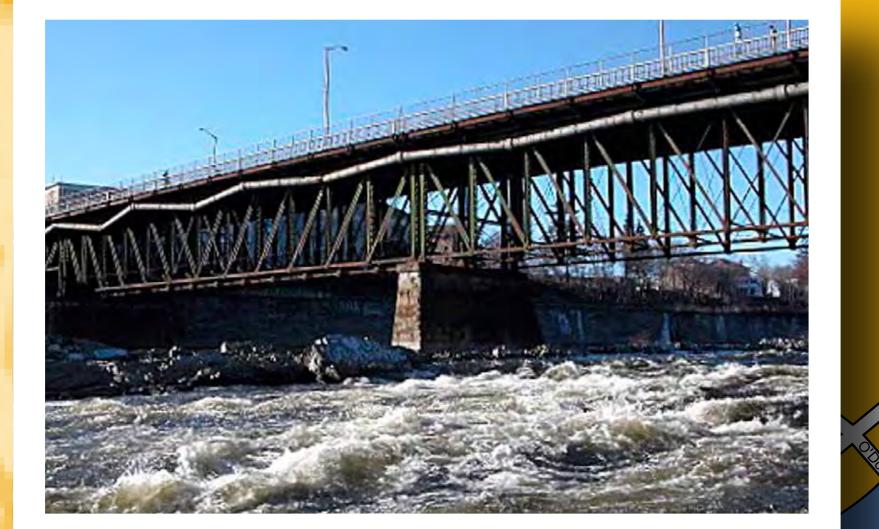
Panel 1

prepared by proun, 05.25.11





Jack and his family lived at 136 Moody Street (now University Avenue) when he was in high school. Scenes from his novel Maggie Cassidy (1959) are set here.



In 1896, a steel bridge was built across the Merrimack River linking Moody Street on both sides. Originally known as the Moody Street Bridge, in 1947 it was renamed the Textile Memorial Bridge in honor of Lowell Textile School students killed in World War II. The School, now part of the UMass Lowell campus, is on the Pawtucketville neighborhood side of the bridge. The dramatic "Watermelon Man" episode in Jack's novel *Doctor Sax* (1959) occurs on the bridge.



Built in 1911, this smaller version of the original Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in France is on the grounds of the Franco American School at 357 Pawtucket Street. This spiritually powerful place figures prominently in Jack's novel *Doctor Sax* (1959).

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Lowell NHP Visitor Center

Mill Girls & Immigrants Exhibit

Lowell High School

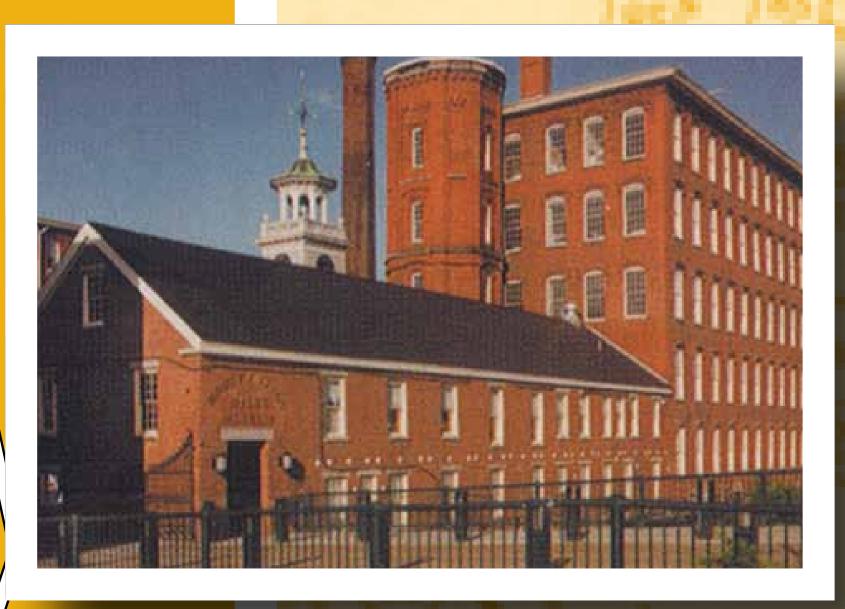
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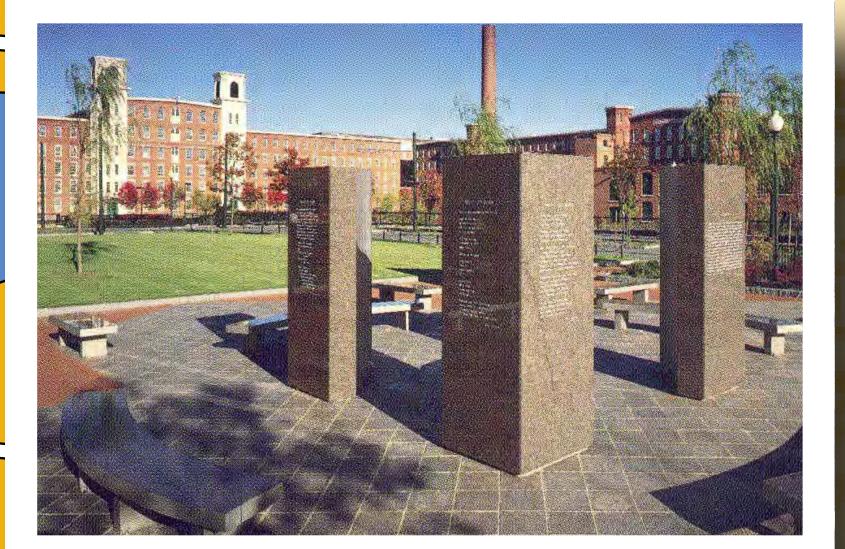
Visitor Center



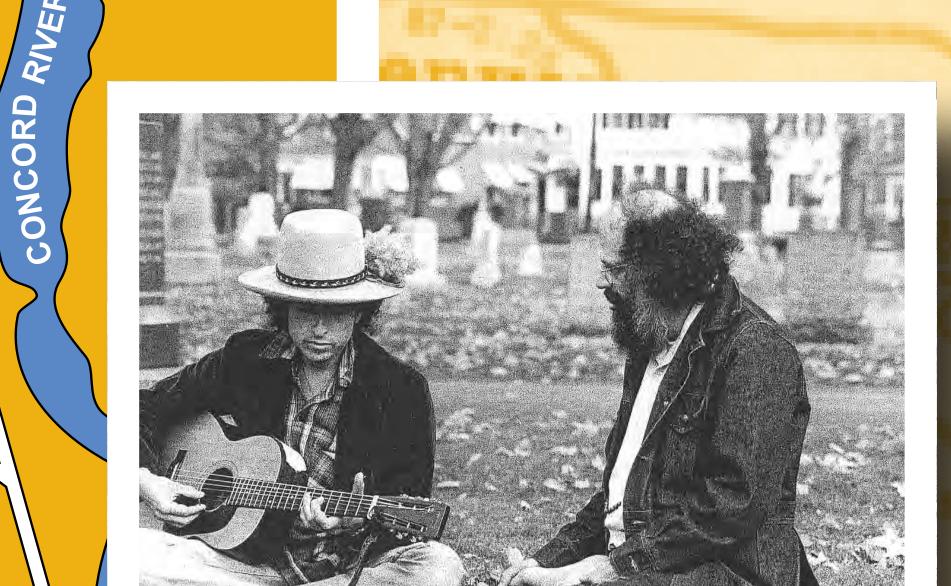
Gallagher Transportation

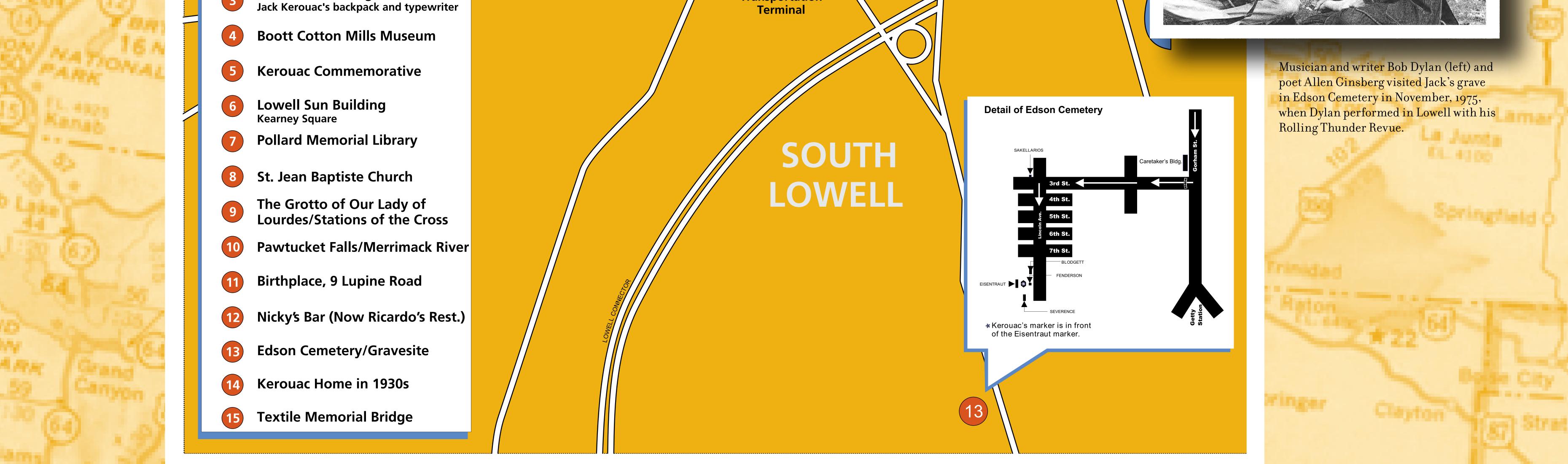


The Boott Cotton Mills complex dates from 1835 and is the centerpiece industrial site of Lowell National Historical Park. About the mills Jack wrote, "O tall red chimneys of the Cotton Mills of Lowell, tall redbrick goof of Boott, swaying in the terminus clouds of the wild hoorah day and dreambell afternoon" (1959).



The Jack Kerouac Commemorative is in Kerouac Park at Bridge and French streets. Sculptor Ben Woitena designed the artwork, which was dedicated in 1988.





the most extensive experiment in language ken by an American writer of his generation. f about a dozen major novels from his hand,

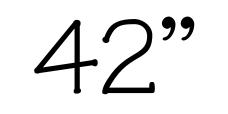
form a vast chronicle of American life in

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Oregon Caves National MonumentOregon Organ Pipe Cactus National MonumentArizona Palm Canyon National Monument (Project)California Patrick Henry National Monument (Project)Virginia Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial Nat'l MonumentOhio Petersburg National Military Park	Alumeda	Van Horn
Pinnacles National Monument. Pioneer National Monument (Project). Pipe Spring National Monument. Pipestone National Monument. Pipestone National Monument. Platt National Park. Platt National Park. Platt National Park. Platt National Park. Platt National Park.		Presidio Marathon Sanderson

KEROUAC at the NPS Visitor Center

prepared by proun, 05.25.11

Panel 2



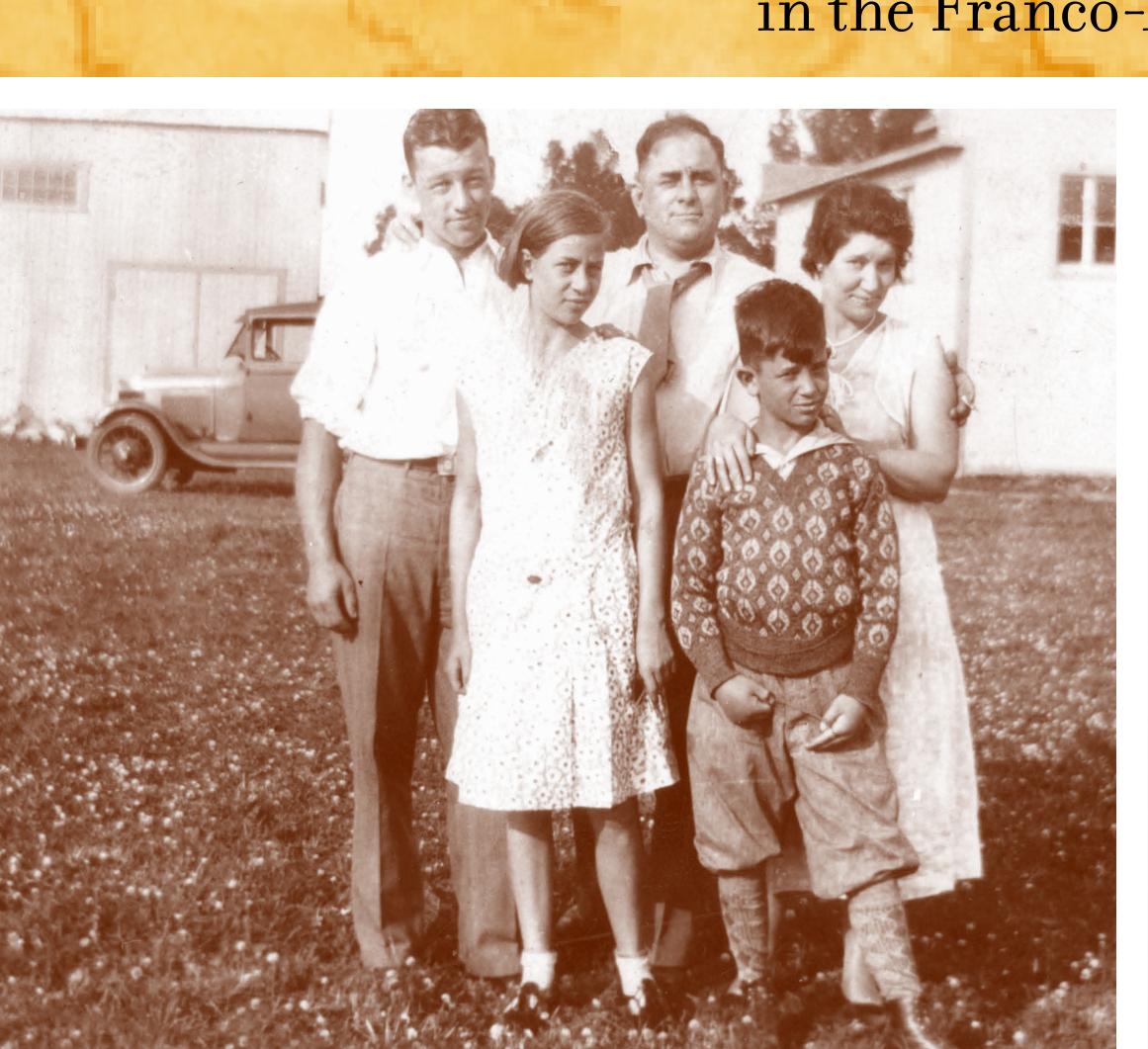
"Jack Kerouac, new Buddha of American into eleven books written in half the creating a spontaneous bop prosody an

-Allen Ginsberg, from the dedication to his long poe

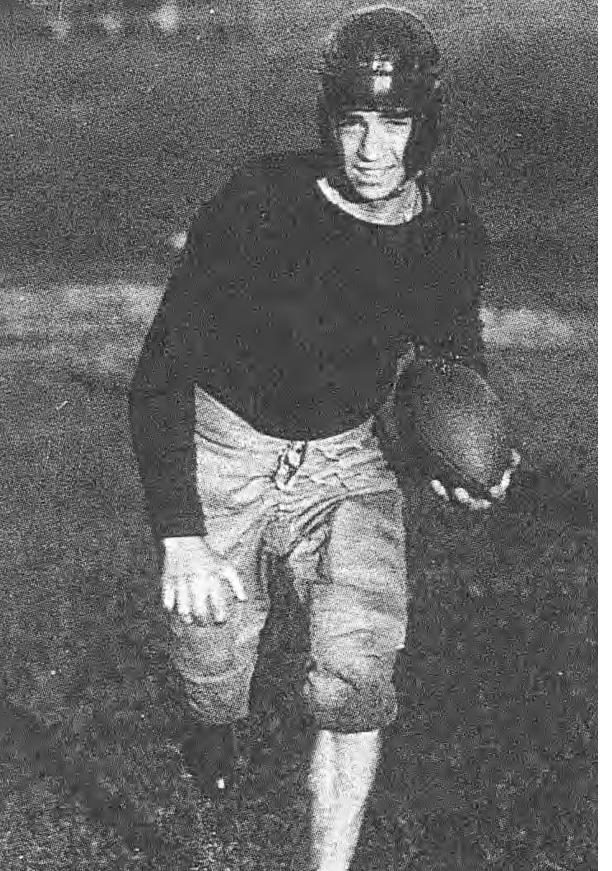




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Caroline, Leo, Jack, and Gabrielle Kerouac with family friend Armand Gauthier at far left, ca. 1931.



Kerouac excelled at football and track at Lowell High School. His performance in the 1938 Lowell-Lawrence Thanksgiving Day game helped him win a scholarship to Columbia University.

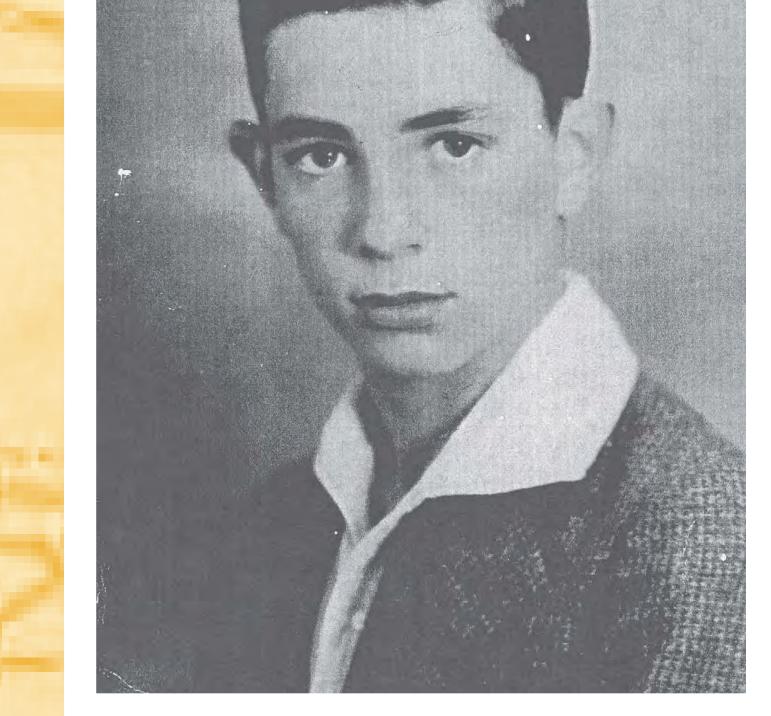


LOLD BE BERGEN LAND With a population of more than 100,000, Lowell had the dynamism of a big city in Jack's

ATTRACE 1

Born in the Centralville neighborhood of Lowell, Jack was raised in the Franco-American community and attended Catholic and

> public schools. His parents were from Quebec, but had moved to New England as youngsters. As a teenager Jack created sports newspapers and wrote stories and poems. He graduated from Lowell High School in 1939, where he was a star athlete and earned a scholarship to Columbia University. In 1944, he met Allen Ginsberg and other young writers who formed the core of the Beat group. The Beat novelist William Burroughs said that by then, Jack "had already written a million words."

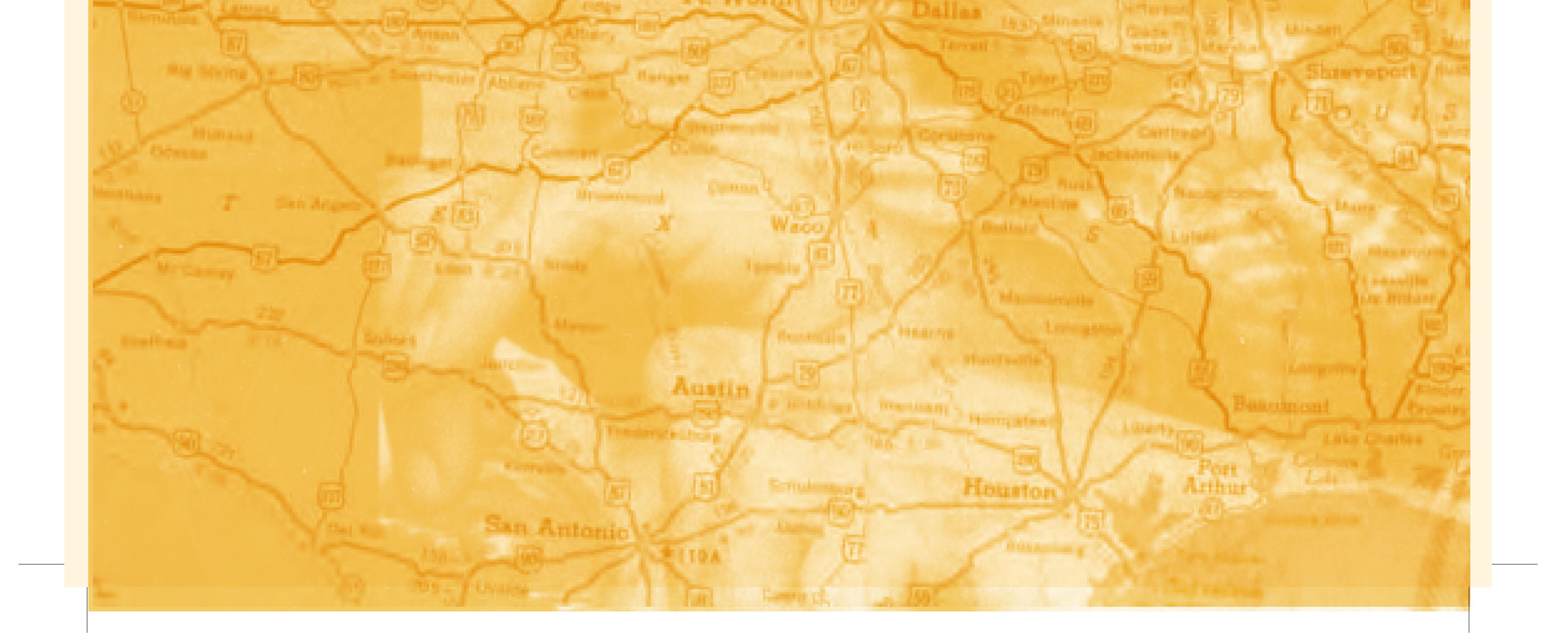




By the age of 12, Jack was already thinking of himself as a writer. "I spent most of my time after school in my father's printing and editorial offices, dashing off publications of my own.... This early association with the printing and publishing business soon enough stained not only my blood but my hands and face with ink" (1943).

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youth despite harsh economic conditions that many families like his endured. Lowell's riverside, multi-ethnic urban culture shaped Jack's view of the world.



KEROUAC at the NPS Visitor Center

Panel 3

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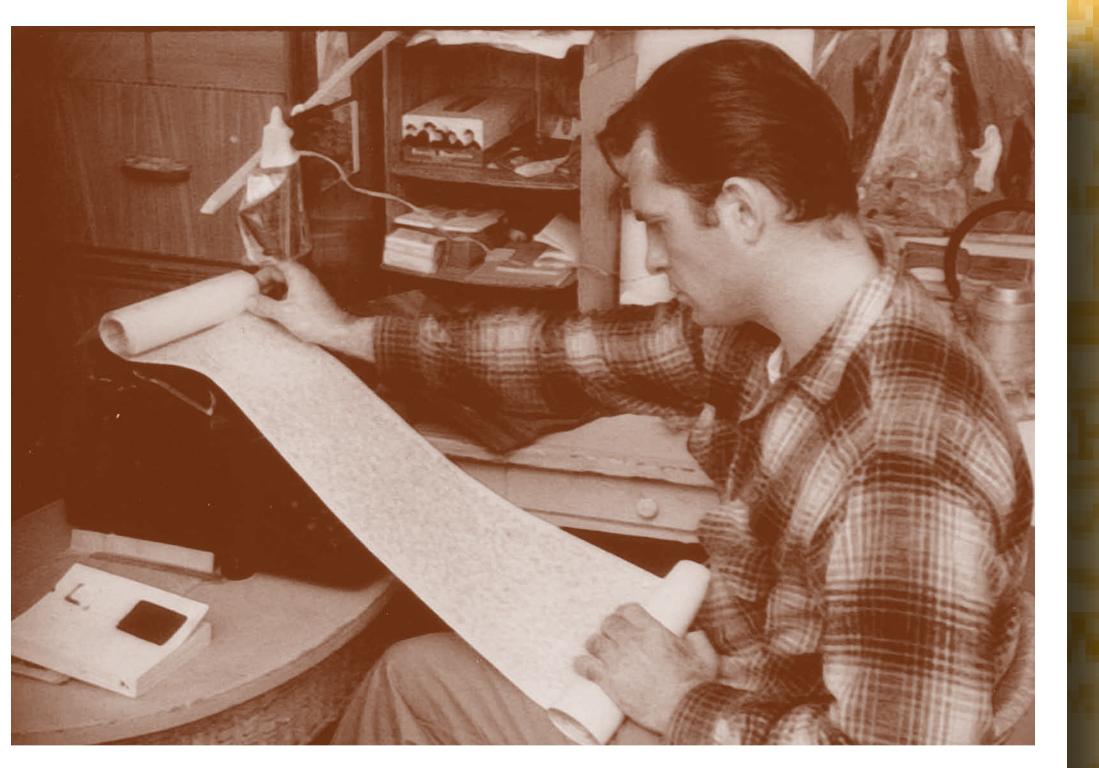


American prose, who spit forth intelligence

- half the number of years (1951-1956)...
- rosody an original classic literature."
- his long poem "Howl," 1956



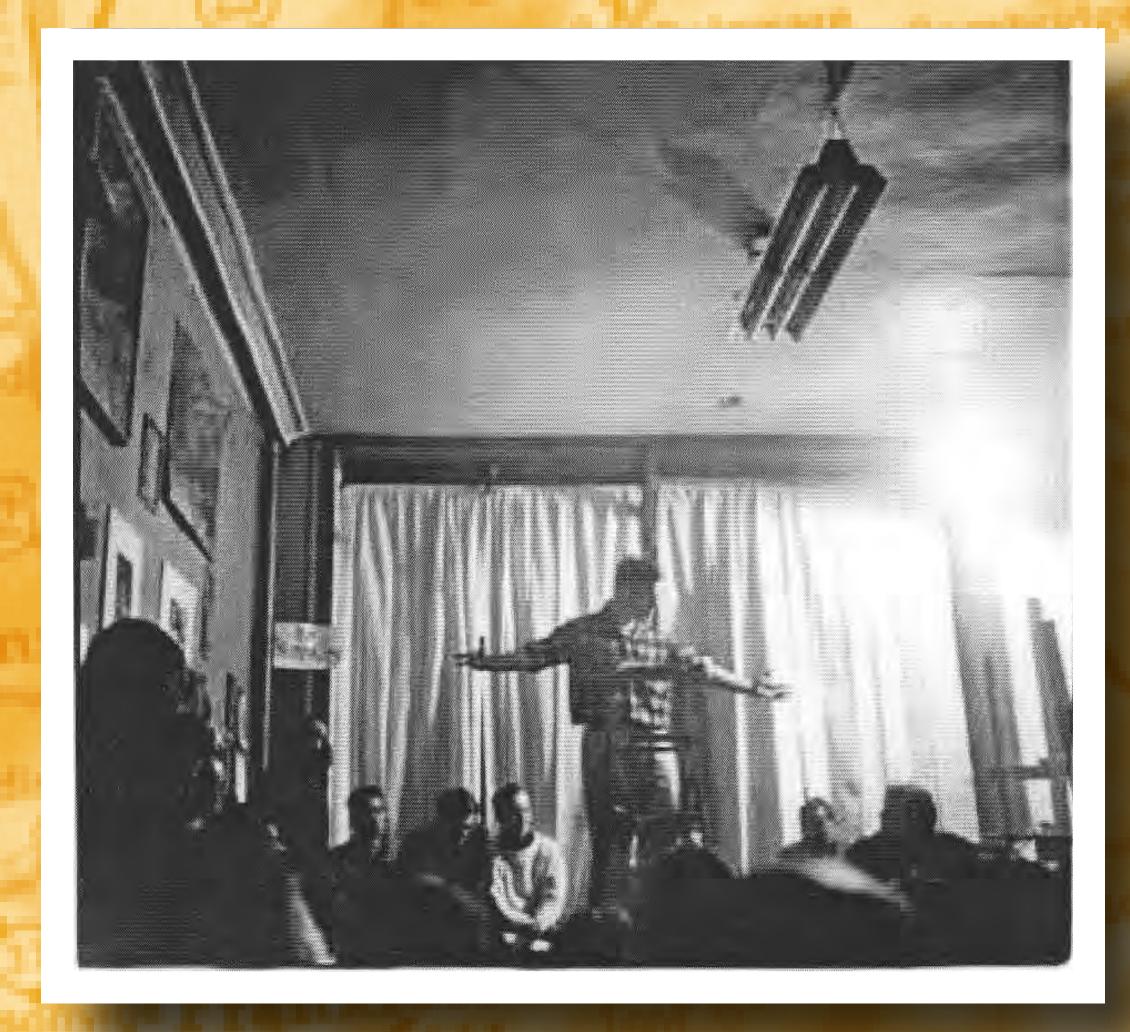
In 1946, Jack made his first trip across the United States on twolane state roads. In the next few years he raced back and forth across the country and deep into Mexico as he explored the soul of



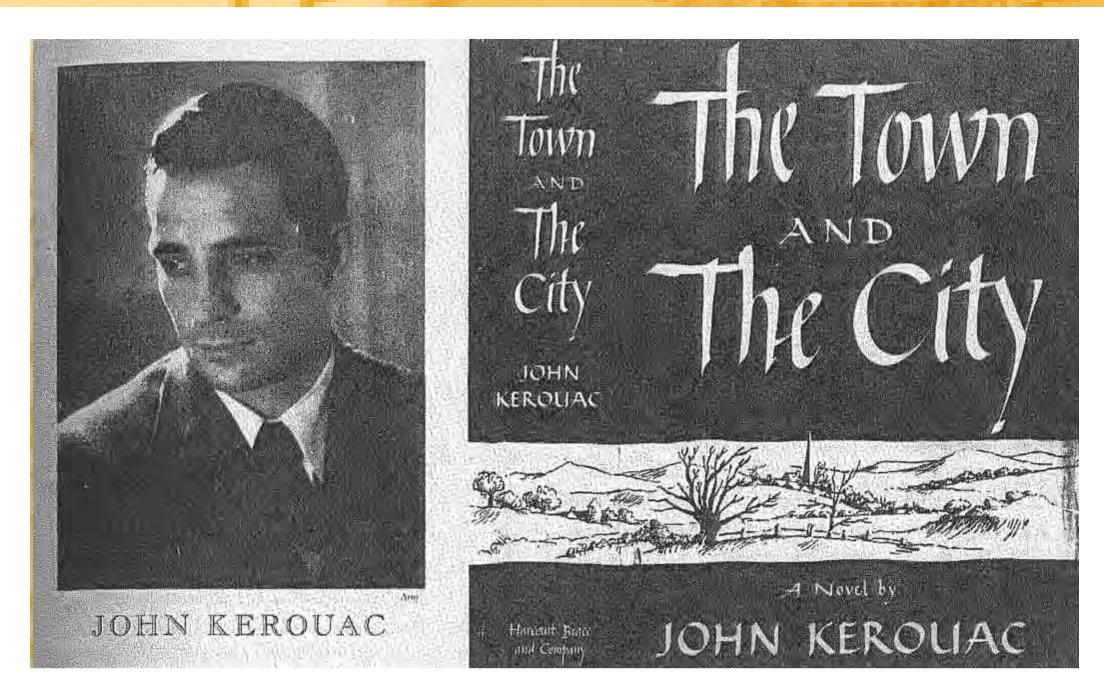
Jack with the scroll typescript of his novel *The Dharma Bums* (1958). Of his compositional method, Jack wrote, "Something that you feel will find its own form."

headed west."

North America. His frequent companion on these trips was Neal Cassady, the prototype for Dean Moriarty, the cowboy at the wheel in *On the Road*. Jack wrote constantly in notebooks about the places and people he encountered. The road journeys combined with memory books about Lowell yielded a series of connected novels that he referred to as the "Legend of Duluoz."



Jack became famous almost overnight when On the Road was published in September, 1957. He was interviewed widely and appeared on stage in places like The Artist's Studio in Greenwich Village, a hotspot for New York



Jack's first published novel was *The Town and the City* (1950), a sprawling family saga set in Galloway (Lowell) and New York City in the years leading up to and just after World War II. The *Lowell Sun* newspaper reprinted

88.5"

sections of the book, and Jack returned to Lowell for a book signing at the then-Bon Marché department store at 151 Merrimack Street.



Jack described lighting out with Neal across

on the dashboard of the '49 Hudson coupe...

the nation: "...in the car jubilant, beating

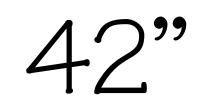
City's bohemian painters and writers.



KEROUAC at the NPS Visitor Center

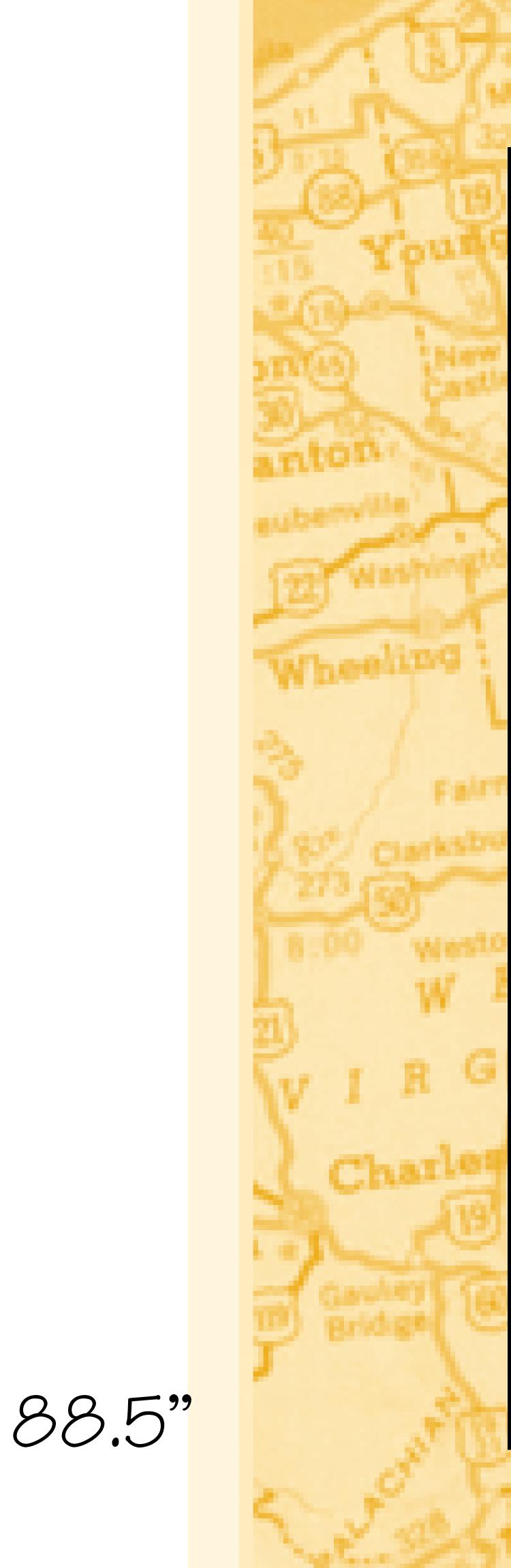
Panel 4

prepared by proun, 05.25.11



"I wanted to take a trip to Lowell to see Kerouac's town. I'd read everything and been inundated with the Kerouac thing.... I was happy not to leave. I was happy to stay there." -Johnny Depp in Vanity Pair, January 2011, about his 1991 visit to Lowell





Jack Kerouac Reads

Kerouac made numerous recordings of his own work. Note how he gives meaning to his words with the cadence of his voice.

- Selections from ON THE ROAD and VISIONS OF CODY with Steve Allen on piano, from the NBC broadcast of the Steve Allen Plymouth Show, Nov. 16, 1959.
- Selections from AMERICAN HAIKUS recorded in 1958 with musicians Al Cohn and Zoot Sims.
- Selection from FANTASY: THE EARLY HISTORY OF BOP, recorded in 1959.
- Selection from "Is There A Beat Generation?" from the forum of the same name sponsored by Brandeis University at Hunter College Playhouse, Nov. 6, 1958.
- • The poem "The Last Hotel" and selections from SOME OF THE DHARMA recorded in 1958 with musicians Al Cohn and Zoot Sims.

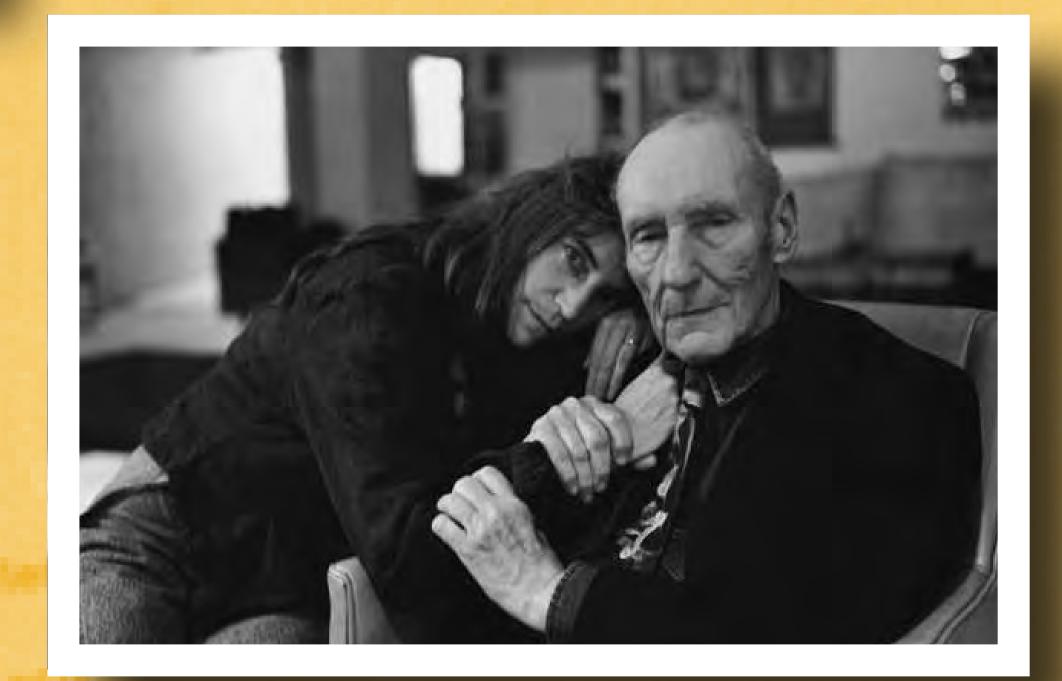
 . . Selections from ON THE ROAD, recorded circa 1960. Jack broke creative ground with his spontaneous prose, a composition method influenced by jazz performance and the concept of word sketching. He poured out a stream of prose, poetry, dreams, scriptures, and more. When he wasn't writing



Poets LeRoi Jones and Diane DiPrima in 1960 at the Cedar Street Tavern in New York City. Jones, later known as Amiri Baraka, founded Totem Press, which published several of the Beat writers.



he was drawing or painting or recording haiku with jazz musicians. His influence transcended literature. He became a cultural icon, standing for liberation and invention, an original American voice. From Bob Dylan and Patti Smith to Tom Waits and Johnny Depp, artists of today acknowledge the importance of Jack Kerouac to their own work.



Musician and writer Patti Smith and novelist William Burroughs in 1995.

Acknowledgements

This exhibit is made possible by considerable support from John Sampas, the University of Massachusetts President's Office, the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell National Historical Park, Mass Humanities, Lowell Celebrates Kerouac! Inc., and UMass Lowell's Center for Lowell History and Jack and Stella Kerouac Center for the Public Humanities. This project benefited significantly from the support and encouragement of UMass Lowell Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney, as well as Dean Nina Coppens and Associate Dean Melissa Pennell of UMass Lowell's College of Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. The exhibit was created by Michael Millner, UMass Lowell English Department, and Paul Marion, Co-Director of the UMass Lowell Center for Arts and Ideas. Exhibit design by Chris Danemayer, proun.



Jack and Stella Sampas Kerouac, whom he had known since his youth, following their 1966 marriage in Hyannis, Mass. Stella provided a loving, stable home life for Jack and his ailing mother in Jack's final years. MURAL IMAGE CREDITS: On the Road book jacket portrait, 1957 (Bettmann/CORBIS); Conoco Official Road Map of the United States (ConocoPhillips); Archival image of Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto (Franco American School of Lowell); Jack at typewriter, 1958 (Fred DeWitt, Courtesy of the Orange County Regional History Center); portrait of Neal Cassady and Jack (Courtesy of Carolyn Cassady); Beat writers in Mexico City, 1956, clockwise from top left: Kerouac, Ginsberg, Peter Orlovsky, his brother Lafcadio Orlovsky, and Gregory Corso (Allen Ginsberg/CORBIS).



KEROUAC at the NPS Visitor Center

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Panel 5