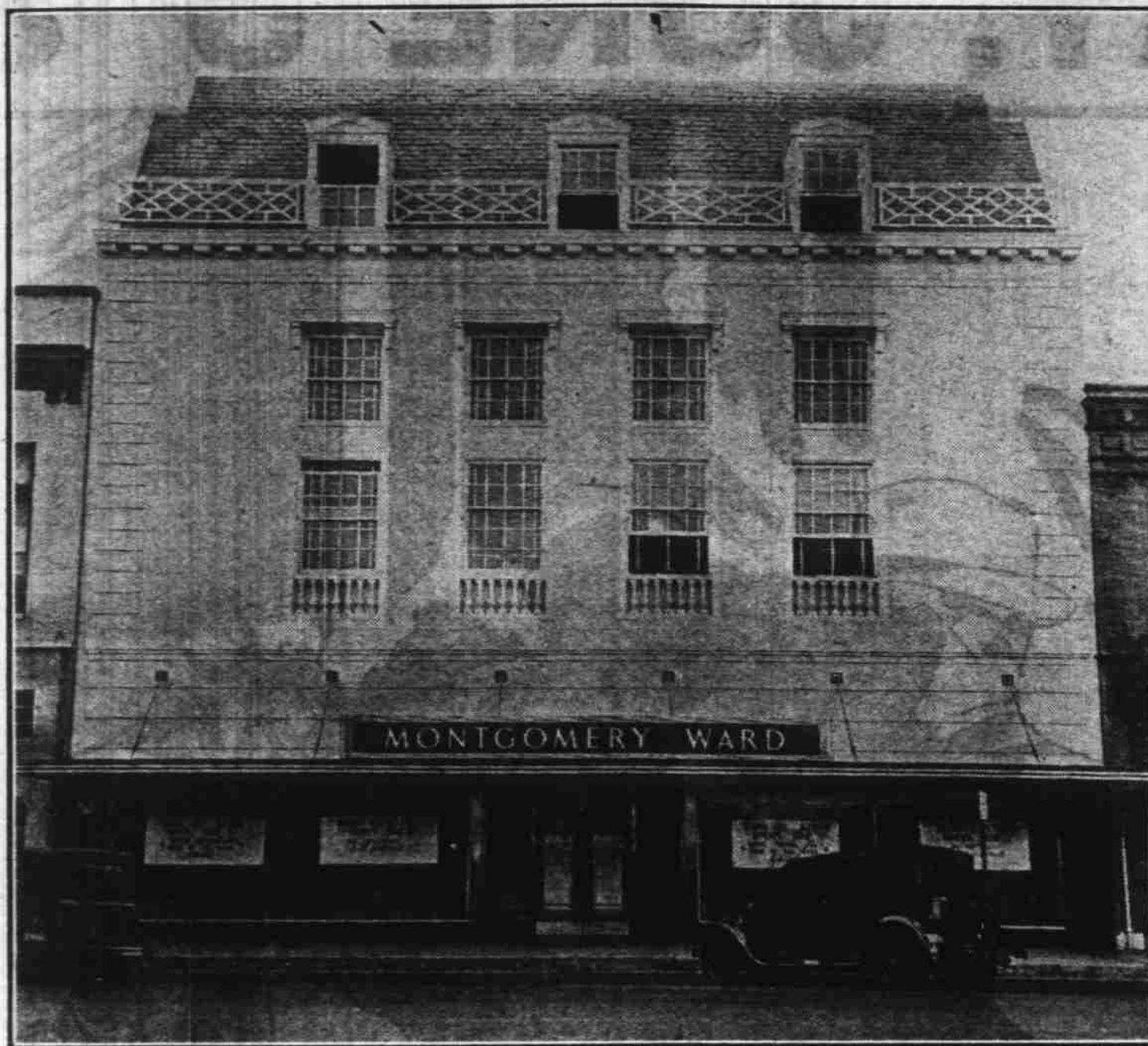


Photos Tell History of Ward Store Site—1867 to 1937

When the new, modern Montgomery Ward store opens tomorrow at 155 Liberty street, the thoughts of many Salem old timers will turn back 70 years. This is especially true of Mark S. Skiff from whom Wards purchased the property. It was on April 4, 1867, that Mark's father, L. S. Skiff, bought the lot. He paid \$1,000 for it. He later sold a 20 foot strip to Reid's Opera House for \$1,500, and still later passed the remainder on to his son, Mark.

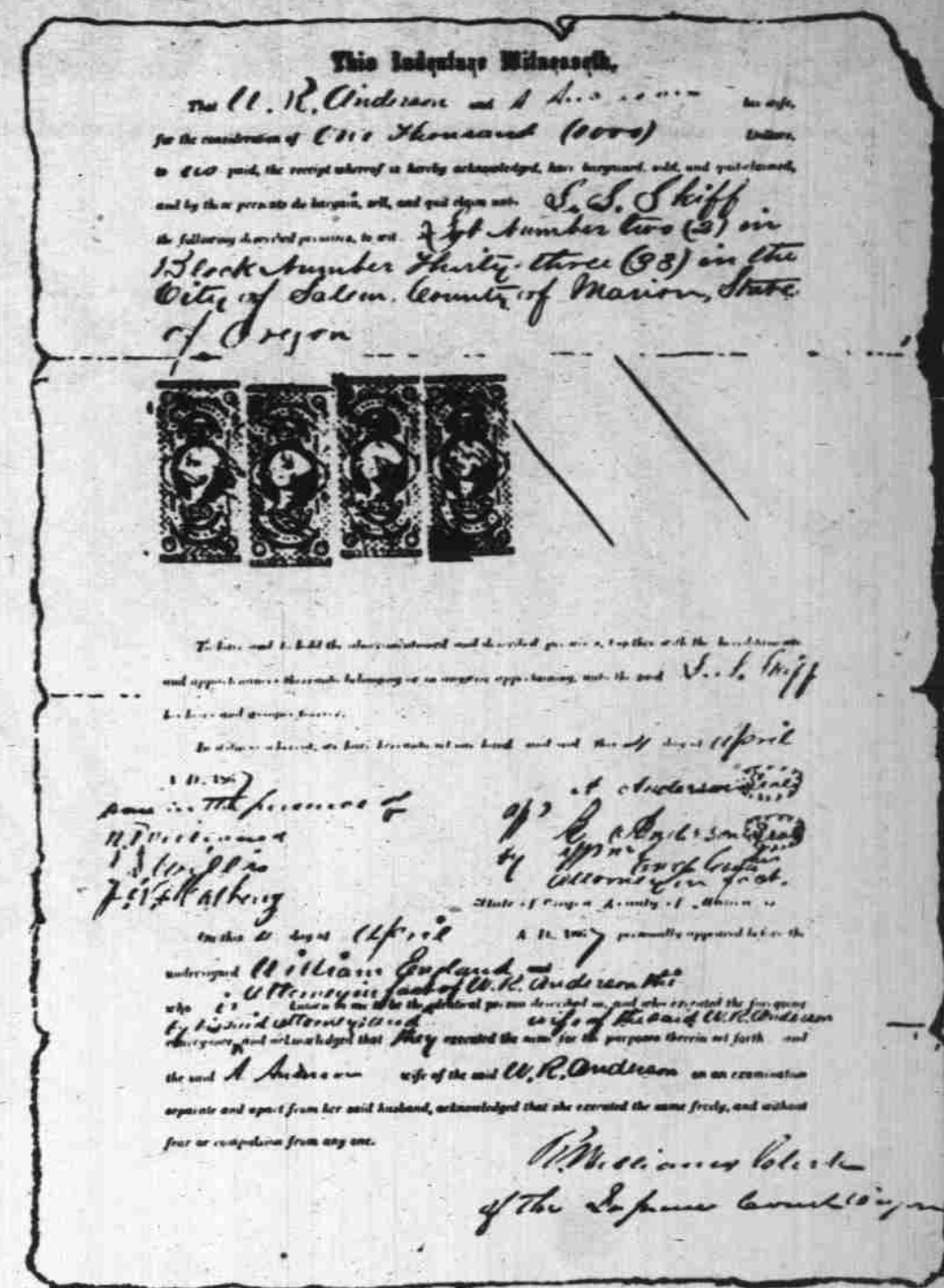
The older Mr. Skiff had purchased the lot for a home, and a few months after he obtained it he built an 8 room frame house with a white picket fence around it. In 1885 he built a dentist's office alongside the house. Mark practiced dentistry in this office for 43 years, filling, pulling or otherwise treating the teeth of every governor and every treasurer of the state as well as hundreds of others in the county. Later he moved to the Masonic building and is now retired.

In the 90's the Worth department store was constructed adjoining the house and later several small shops were built in front of it. Last year Wards purchased the lot for their new store, and the small shops were removed. For the story in pictures read from left to right and down the page.

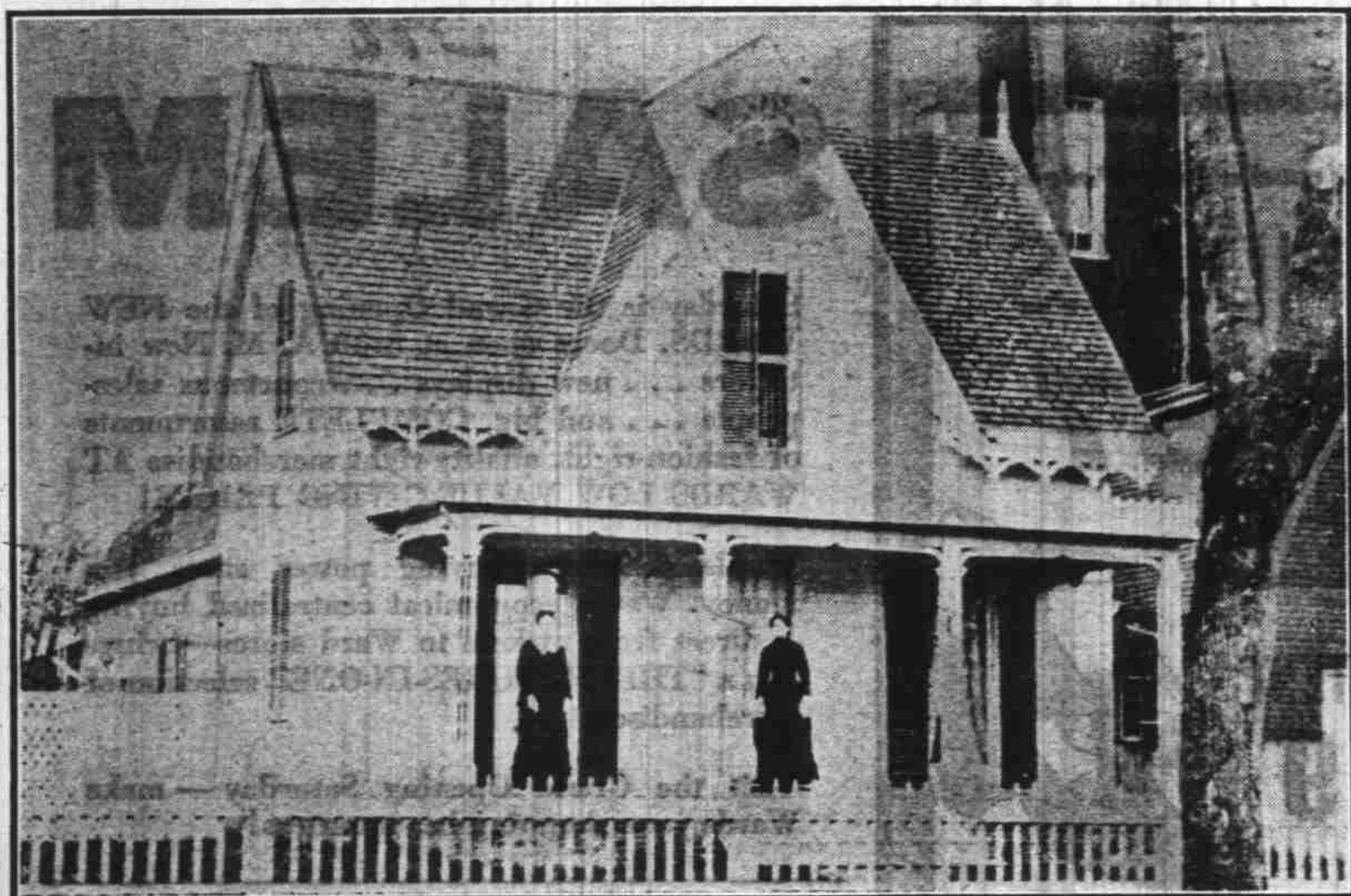


1 The new Ward store opens tomorrow on the historic Skiff property. It will have four floors, a basement and a mezzanine. All floors will have the latest in fixtures and displays. The design of the building is Colonial, but this style has been modified to fit 1937 materials and methods of construction.

It is built of brick painted white. The first floor is faced with granite. A picturesque effect is achieved by the Mansard roof, balusters, chimneys and dormer windows. A sidewalk canopy harmonizes with adjoining buildings.

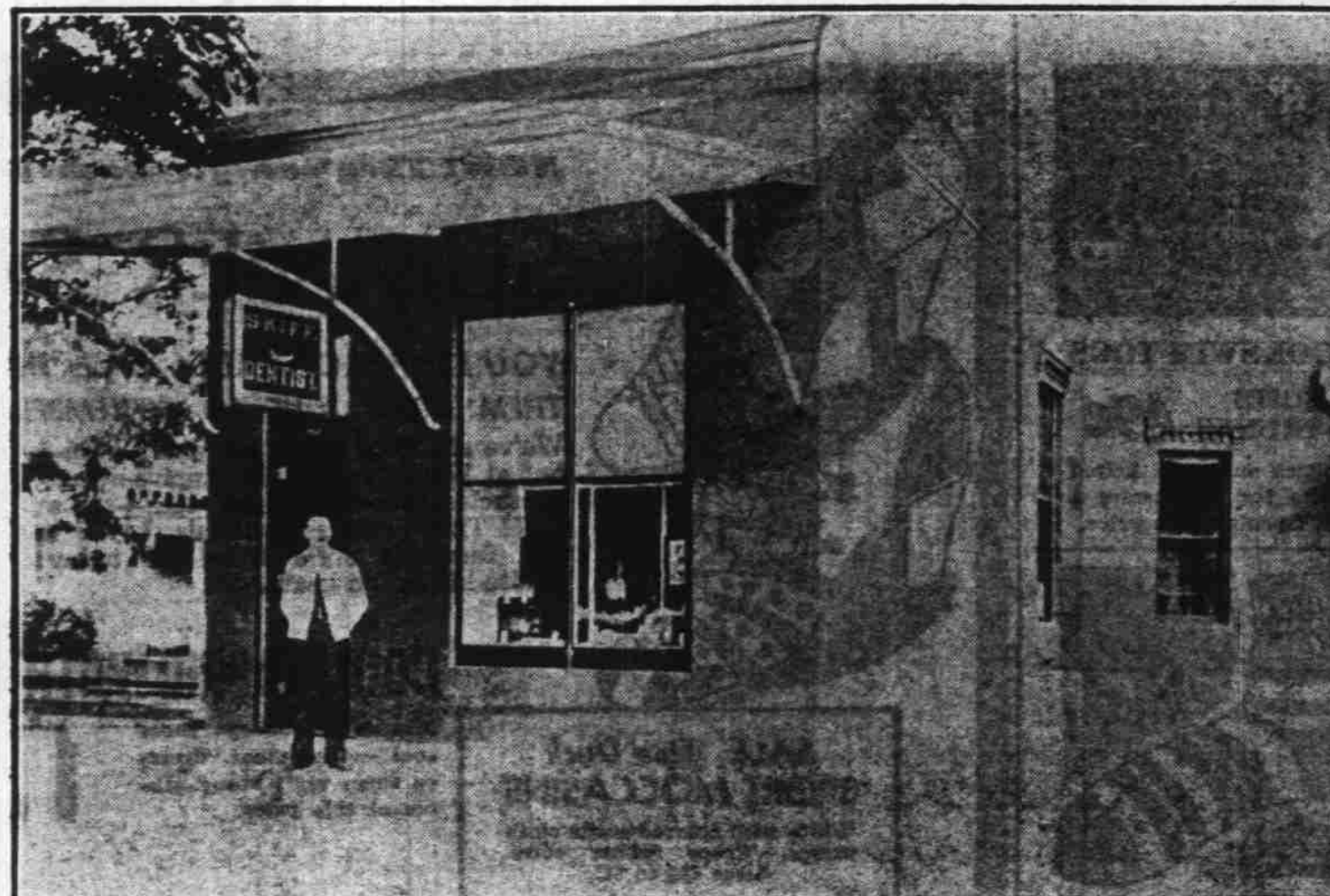


2 This deed dated 1867 is still in existence although worn and frayed. It records that L. S. Skiff paid \$1,000 to W. R. Anderson for the property, now number 155 N. Liberty street. Tomorrow, 70 years and 3 months later almost to the day, Wards opens a new store on the same property, in a building which will be as modern and attractive as any that now stands in Salem.



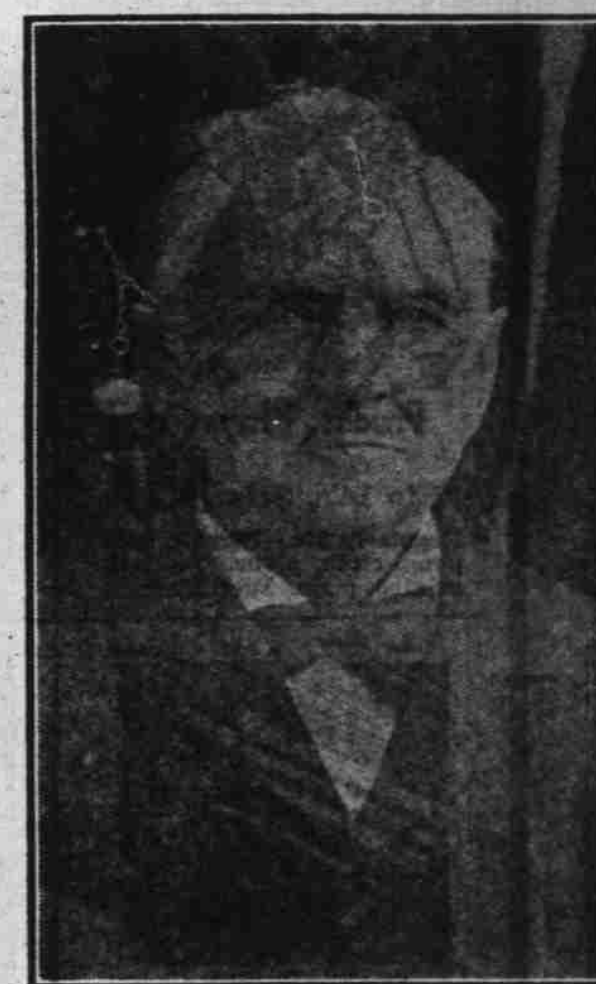
3 This picture was taken in the '90s. It shows the white frame house built in 1867. On the porch are the late Mrs. L. S. Skiff and one of her daughters. Mark Skiff, a son, lived in the house with his wife and practiced dentistry in an adjoining office for 43

years. He also became a "circuit rider" in dentistry, traveling from town to town to treat his patients. There are still families living in Salem on which Mark practiced his vocation for 4 generations, either in the office or on his "circuit."

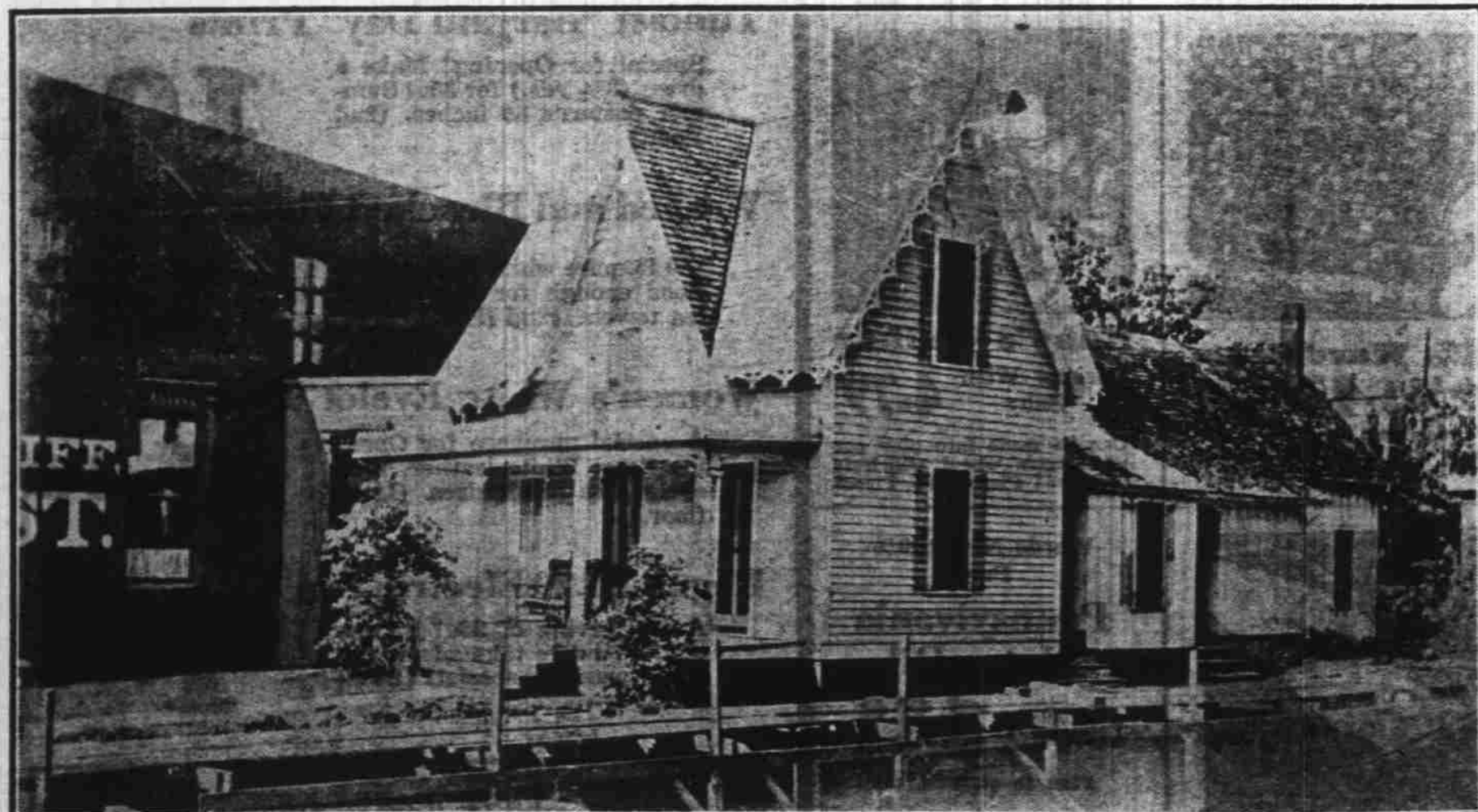


4 The dentist's office alongside the Skiff house was built in 1885. Mark is shown standing in front of the office. In the window is a pail overflowing with teeth which Mark had extracted. These formed a unique dentist display in those days. The house at

the left, on the property adjoining the office, served as a home for many prominent people. Among them were Matt Beery, Dr. C. H. Hall, Thomas Ross and the father of Oswald West. The younger West was the governor of Oregon from 1911 to 1915.

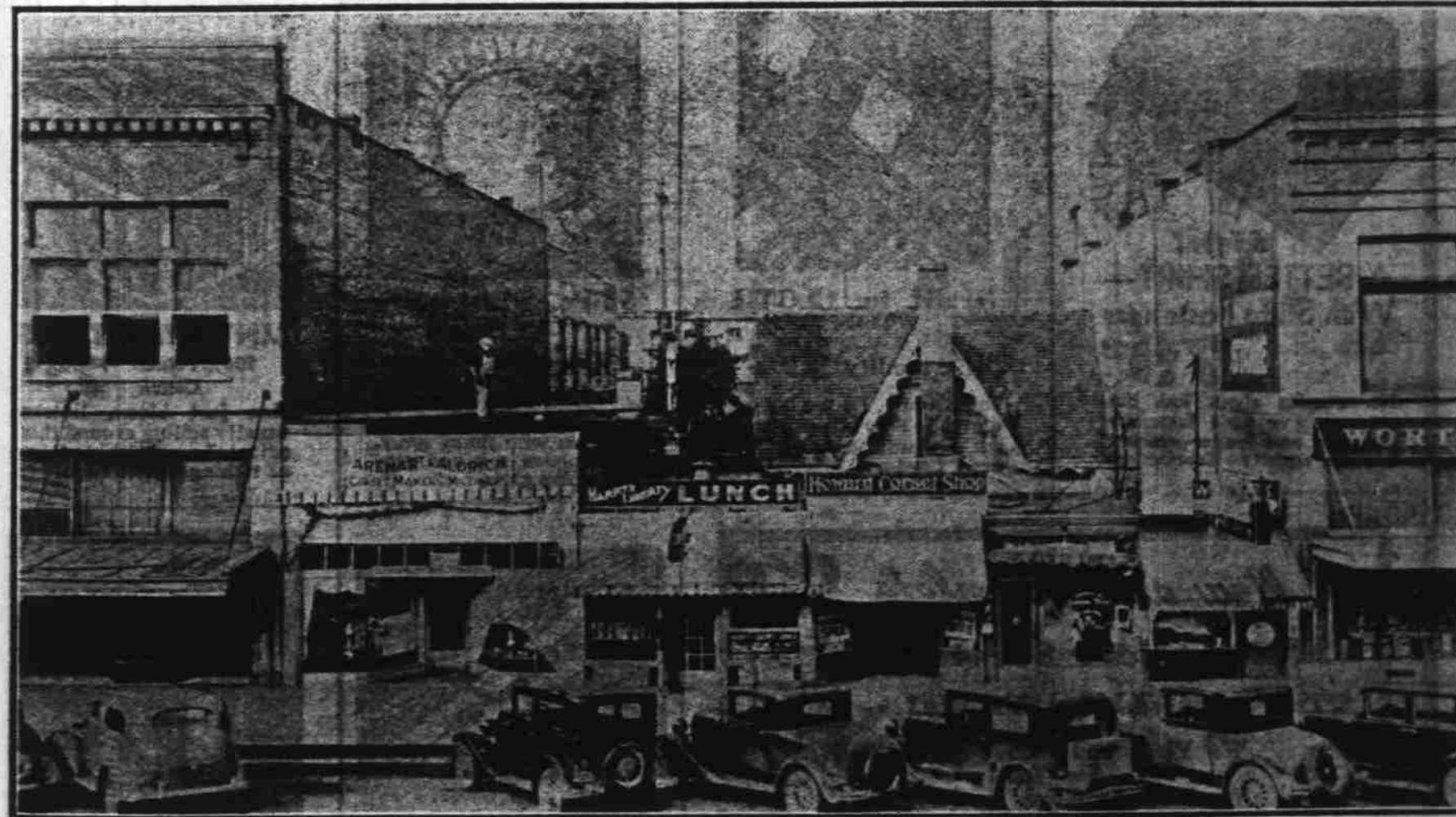


5 L. S. Skiff, who was a pioneer dentist in Salem, he purchased the property where the new Ward store stands in 1867 and it remained in the family until its sale to Ward's in 1936.



6 Modern, commercial buildings began to spring up around the old Skiff homestead before the turn of the century. This photograph was taken in the '90s and shows the beginning of the framework for the Worth department store. By this time Mark was establishing himself professionally and financially. But before his marriage, his prospective father-in-law had ex-

pressed some doubt of his ability to make a living. To prove his earning ability Mark pointed to the fact that he had pulled or filled at least one tooth in every family in the community in a period of ten days. Objections to the marriage were then withdrawn.



7 Other commercial buildings followed the Worth department store, this time actually on the Skiff property. The picket fence was removed to make room for a row of small, frame buildings on the front of the lot. But the white house remained. It can be seen here half hidden from the camera. Shortly after

this picture was taken the buildings and the house were removed and construction work was begun on the new Ward store. Not only is this new above a modern shopping center, but it is generally considered to make the business block one of the finest in Salem. The official opening takes place tomorrow at 9:30.