

At right, tiny Yoshi in a red jacket can be seen. She is standing in front of Boston's oldest brick building, constructed nearly 300 years ago. But it's a distressing photo. My journal entry for Oct. 22, 2005, explains:

On my first morning in Boston, I kept a promise to myself. I walked down School Street from Parker House, heading for the Old Corner Bookstore and its literary associations with Emerson, Hawthorne, Longfellow, Thoreau and other giants. In recent times, the Boston Globe acquired it and renamed it the Boston Globe Store. Okay but damn! It's out of business! A jewelry store has replaced the storied institution. What a shame! The bookstore probably didn't generate the obscene profit margin that newspaper publishers expect. Back at the hotel, I bought a Boston Globe to read over my eggs and corned beef hash. Shitty newspaper.



Gone & Going

It's a wet day at Boston's Downtown Crossing. Two department stores face each other, Filene's on the left and Macy's on the right. Two different architectural styles, Filene's Beaux Arts and Macy's Modernist. Founded in 1881, Filene's grew into New England's

biggest and best-known department store. Well, Macy's has purchased the competition. By next spring, or by summer at the latest, Filene's will go out of business, and its handsome structure will, most likely, become the headquarters of a company selling widgets.

Jackson Sellers, Lake Forest, Calif., November 2005