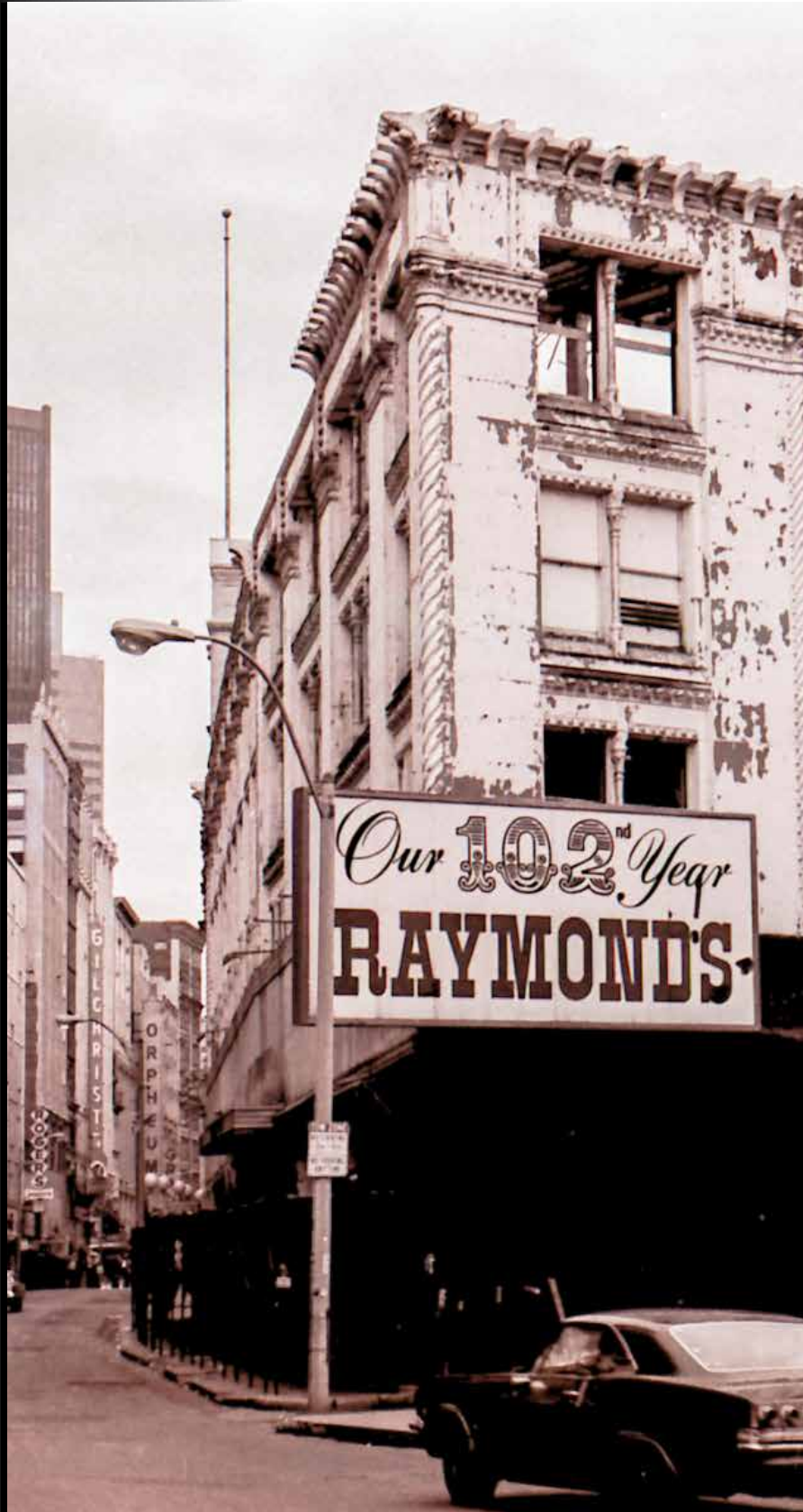


Things Change

*a reflection on the 70s,
now and tomorrow
thru images
of Boston*

Alanna Reilly
Gerald Reilly



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Gerald Reilly**

The Raleigh Press, Publisher

To Kathy, for giving us the opportunity.

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The book is set up as one might walk, albeit erratically, from The Fens through the city to the North End. The table of contents refers in a general way to sections of downtown.

INTRODUCTION

Time is constant. Yet, it can pass in a flash, or seem endless. A span of forty years is geologically infinitesimal but, in human terms, it is generational. In a city, it can be transformative.

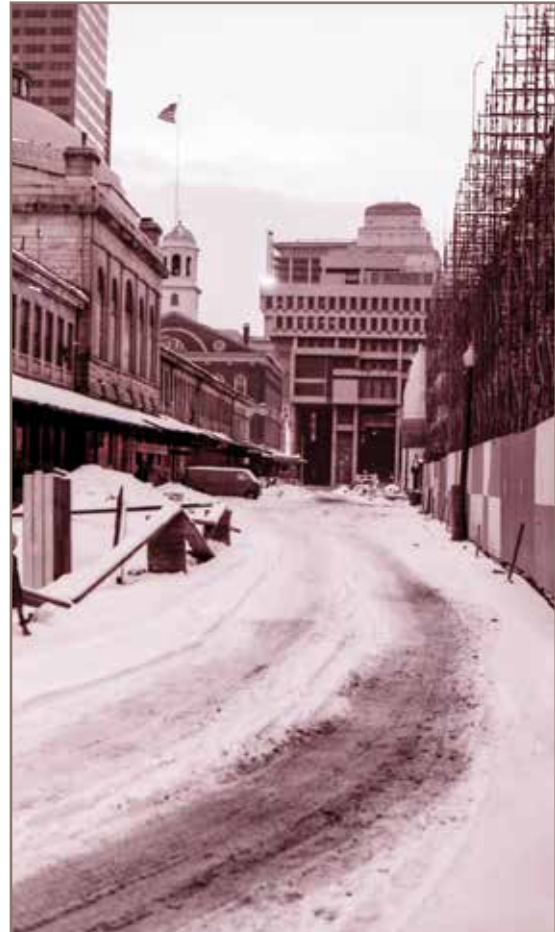
In the wider society, the past forty years have brought incredible changes in culture and technology. Cousin Eddie films your same sex marriage on his smartphone and catches your new mother-in-law, in the bushes, puffing a medi-blunt with your ex. Eddie immediately posts the video online.

Embarrassing? Maybe. But conceivable. Not in 1972.

This book contains photographs of Boston forty years ago and the same situations recreated from similar angles today. The black and white photographs were taken by me with a 35 mm Minolta SR-1 camera when I was twenty-something and living in Boston in the early seventies. The color pictures were taken by my twenty-something daughter, Alanna, while living in Boston and using the camera in her Apple iPhone 4s.

The iPhone camera has few adjustable settings but it does have an 8 mega pixel lens and takes decent color. The lens tends to skew some images, but not disagreeably. We accepted this and worked with it. However, trying to replicate identical shots from these two different cameras was not practical.

The color in the iPhone images was edited in Adobe Camera Raw. The editing process causes some lines to blur which creates an imaginative effect that emphasizes the brevity of the time span and the incredible, but so near, promise of tomorrow. No other editing was done.





The pictures record changes in architecture and buildings in Boston, as well as scenes that appear not to have changed. All this can easily be photographed, cataloged and described in terms of bricks, concrete, steel and glass.

But, the book is also an attempt to highlight other important and dramatic changes that have happened, and are happening now in the digitized, multicultural, oil-fueled world that we share. These changes are extraordinary and they affect each of our lives.

Technology advances are astounding. Flat screen tv's no longer impress. Tablets and smart phones are not old enough to go to kindergarten yet but we can't remember not having them and we can't live without them. And changes that are even more exciting are just around the corner.

Genetic medicine, nanotechnology, 3D printers, e-publishing and online education are getting ready to really rock our world. We spotlight some of these important products and ventures and consider their hope and promise for tomorrow.

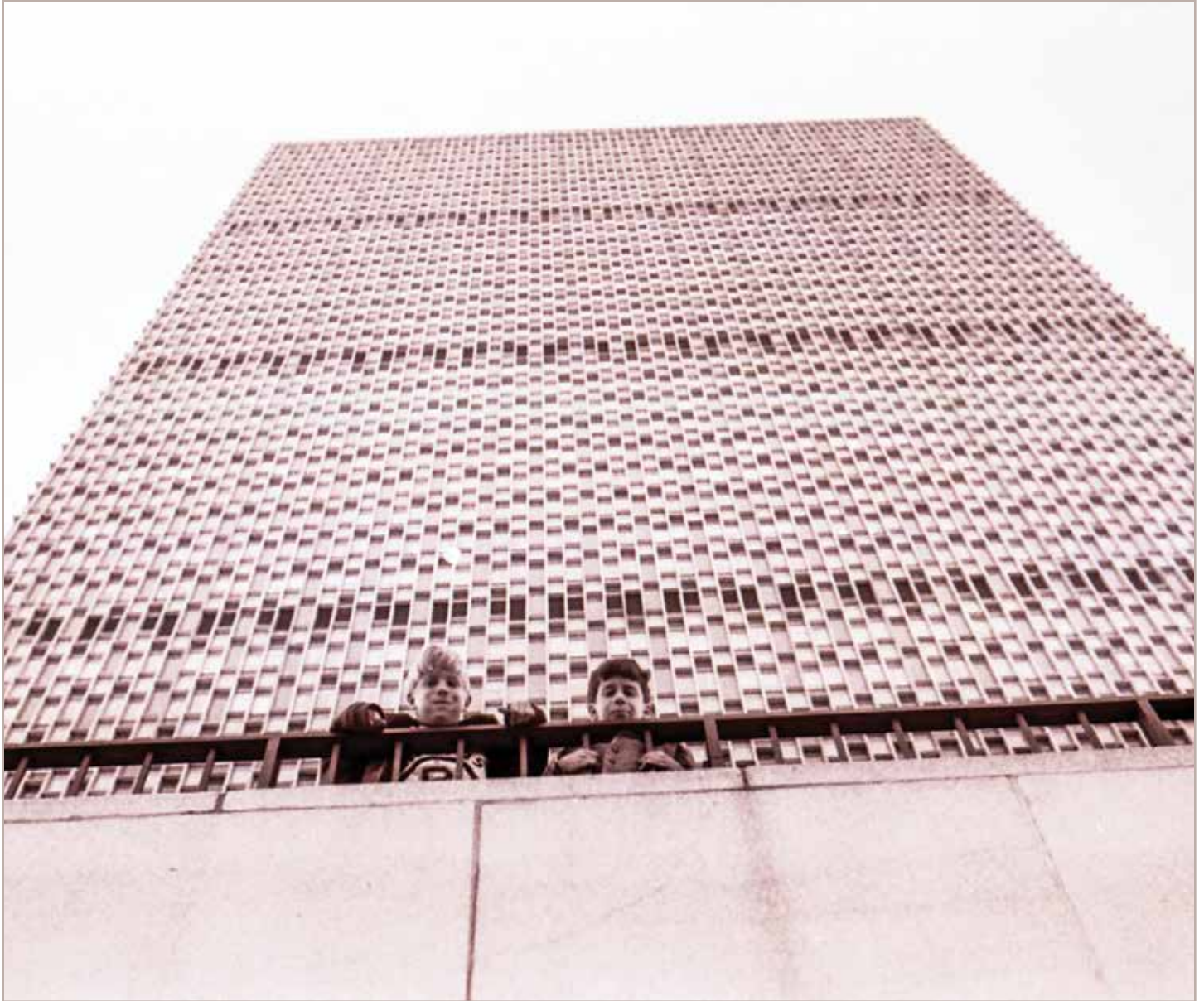
All of the research for this self-published book was done online in the new world of information that is available to anyone and growing everyday. The book is laid out as a person might walk from the Fens to Copley Square and then downtown to Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market, the Waterfront and the North End.

Things Change is not a comprehensive history or an in depth analysis. It is an anecdotal document of changes in Boston, and the larger society, in the past forty years and a look at new ideas that will impact the future.



Boylston Street







At the Prudential Center, 52 floors of offices, and the first tower of the new Sheraton Boston Hotel, were buzzing. Retailers did brisk business on the covered, sunless, open-air plaza opposite the moat that surrounded the tower. Shopping convenience depended on the direction of the wind.

Busy stores on the plaza were the dry cleaner, the store selling film and greeting cards and the stationery store, which stocked plenty of carbon paper.

Windows started popping out of the John Hancock building before it was finished. The first was a fluke. The next was a problem. Then it started raining windows. Streets were closed off and wind tunnels were constructed at MIT.

A pause of concern tarnished the optimism that the beautiful blue glass building had brought to the Back Bay. Plywood temporarily replaced enthusiasm.







Old State House



Nanotechnology is small stuff. A sheet of paper is about 100,000 nanometers thick. It was only 30 years ago that a microscope was developed that can see a nanometer. Previously, it was not even a notion in science fiction.

Nanoscience aims to alter materials on the atomic and molecular level. Nanoscopic machines will be invisible to the human eye and it will take trillions of them to create something tangible. Patients will ingest nanorobots to reconstruct diseased cells.

The potential of nanotechnology to recreate any known material, from food and water to body parts and cells, may be a far off concept, but it is a concept that would fundamentally change our world.



Boston is serious about bicycles.
Green painted asphalt corridors
course through the city and provide
cyclists separation from traffic.

The Hubway bike program rents
bikes from more than a hundred
solar-powered, self-operated
stations in the area.

