

A Trostel family history

Family From Page 6

interior finish . . . includes costly carved marble and some of the finest woodwork in Milwaukee."

Following the fire, the house that once was valued at more than \$333,000, sold for \$500 to Frank A. Pipkorn, a wrecker. He reported that he found 500 bottles of wine in the cellar.

Word of the house and its contents got around.

Gary Cooper's gardener heard about it from Charlie Chaplin's gardener, who had once worked for the Trostels. Cooper learned about it and wired, "Hold items of value for my observation. Will see you the latter part of next week."

Pipkorn replied, "Hold nothing. Come quick."

Pipkorn took in \$8,000 the first day of the sale of the house and its parts.

Shoe executive Ralph Weyenberg bought stone-and-glass sections of the greenhouse to enclose a swimming pool and to build an orchid house.

William Vauter II of Benton Harbor, Mich., paid for tearing down and shipping another section of the greenhouse to reconstruct at his home.

For his Pine Lake place, Robert Friend of the Nordberg Manufacturing Co. bought 1,200 feet of green marble at \$1 a foot. He bought a giant vase, which originally cost \$2,000, for \$500.

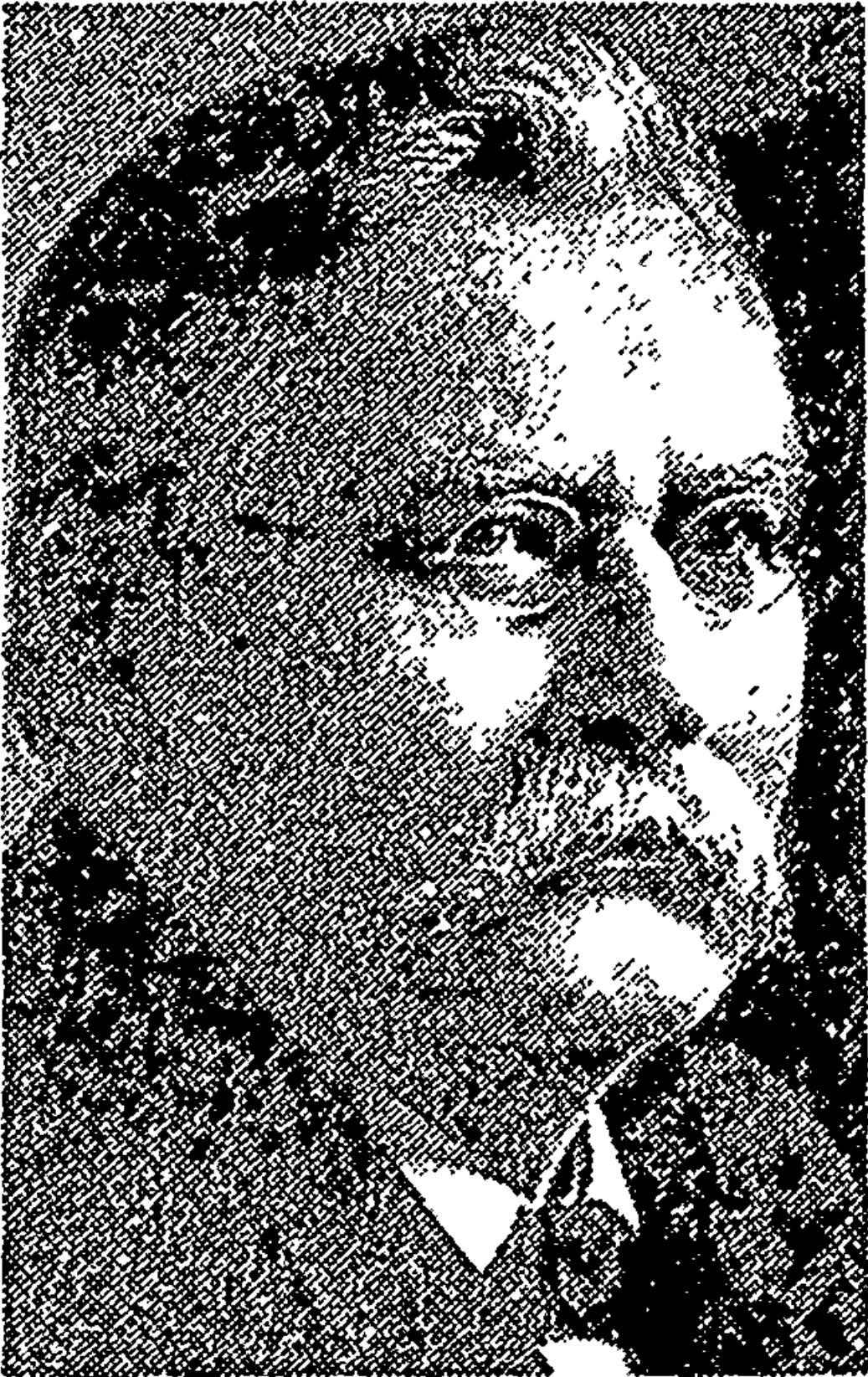
Vitamin processor Royal Lee, who was building a laboratory in Elm Grove, paid \$300 for the carved stone entrance which had cost thousands. He paid \$500 for the bronze interior entrance doors.

Sylvia Graf, who headed a soft drink company, paid \$1,000 for the main front bronze doors and the turntable in the garage.

For \$600, Graf bought "all of the irreplaceable Tiffany glass fixtures made to order for the mansion . . . they will go into her home."

Wayne Miller, of Whitewater, bought 15 solid oak doors, all the red stone flooring, the red roof tile and bricks for \$30 a thousand. Originally the price had been \$80.

Marble from the Trostel recreation rooms went to the Grafton Hotel for its lobby. The State Teachers College, predecessor of the University of Wisconsin — Milwaukee, got Circassian walnut bookshelves. A dozen of them had been made for the Trostels at \$2,000 — each.



Albert O. Trostel
second generation



Albert O. Trostel III
Fourth generation
1961 photo

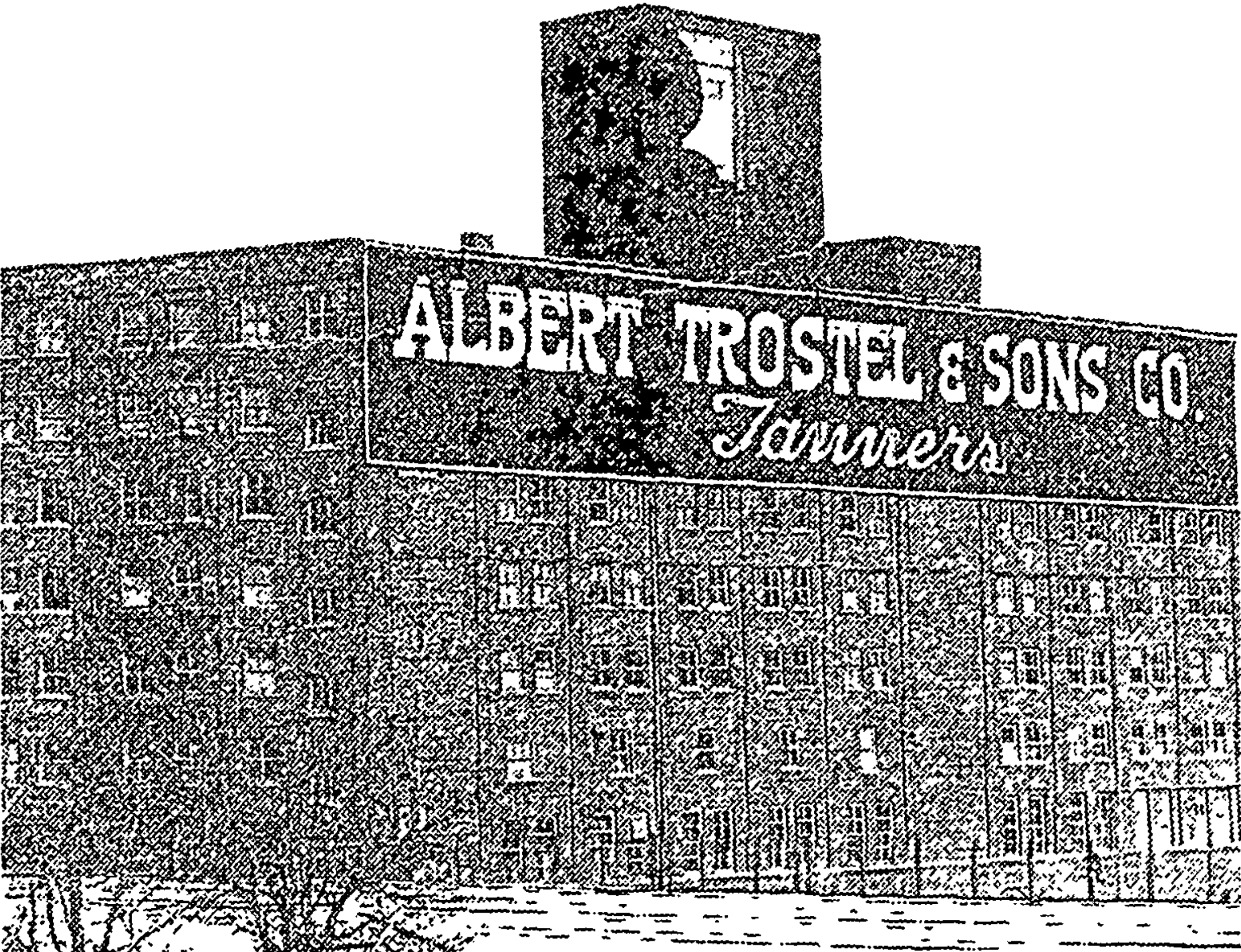
The Trostels had two daughters and a son, Albert Jr., who had become general manager of the tannery in 1931 following his graduation from Dartmouth College.

When the father died in 1936 at the age of 70, Albert Jr. became president. He married Kendrick Orr of Evansville, Ind.

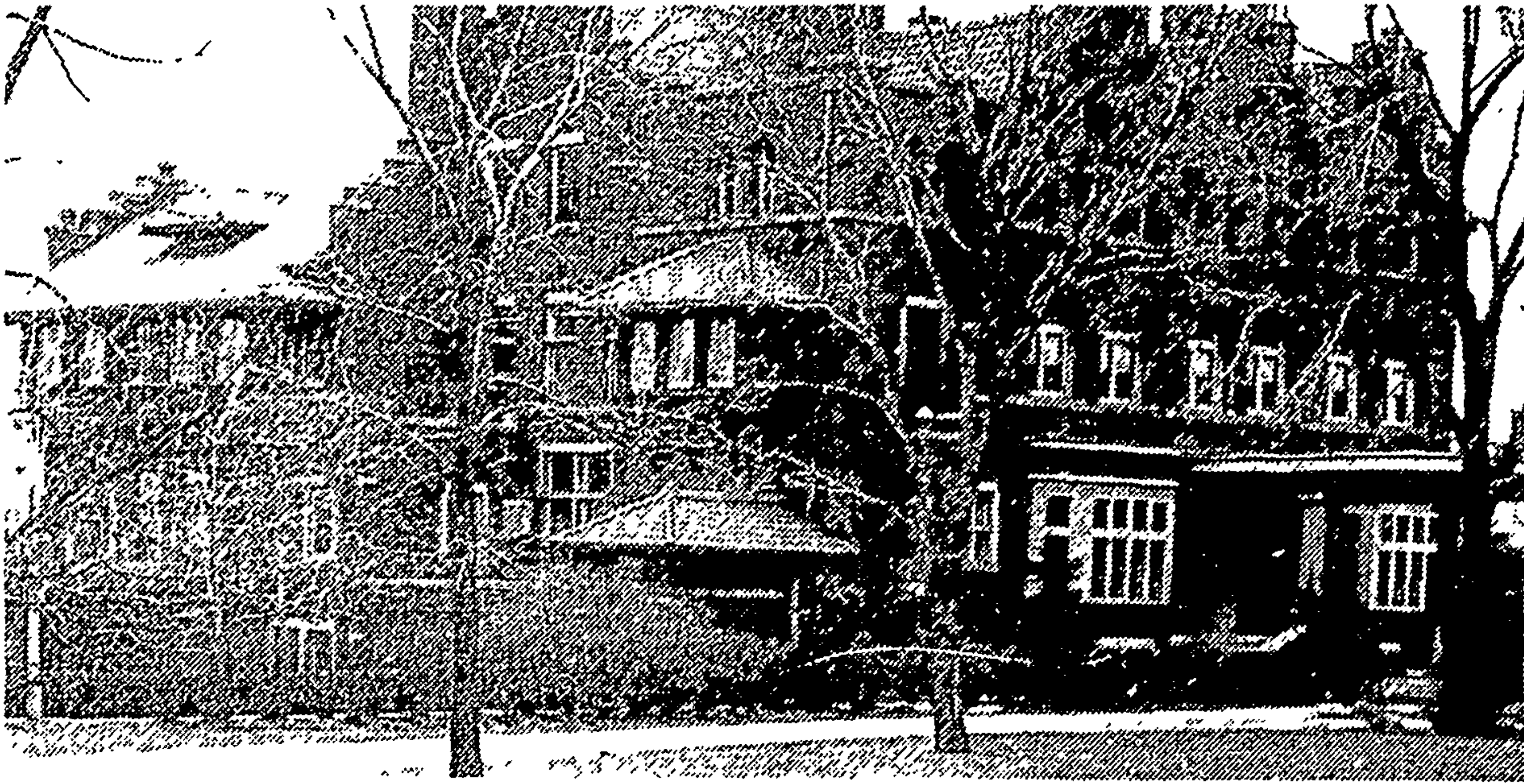
Albert Trostel Jr. took over the company when it was in poor condition during

the Depression and developed it into a prospering industry. He also developed more than a dozen Trostel subsidiaries. He died at the age of 53 in 1962 of complications of surgery to improve blood circulation.

The Trostel tannery stands dark and silent. The family mansion has vanished. But the name remains in the news. And the family fortune, apparently, remains quietly intact.



The Trostel tannery may be turned into a state prison.
— Sentinel file photos



Albert O. Trostel home, once located on N. Lake Dr., was torn down in 1937

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