POLK'S

CHICAGO DIRECTORY

1923

CONTAINING AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN AND WOMEN; CORPORATIONS AND COPARTNERSHIPS GIVING NAMES OF OFFICERS OR PARTNERS; PRIVATE CITIZENS WITH THEIR OCCUPATIONS, BUSINESS CONNECTIONS AND HOME ADDRESSES; A DIRECTORY OF ALL CHURCHES, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS, BENEFICIAL, LITERARY, RELIGIOUS, SECRET, AND OTHER SOCIETIES, BANKS AND TRUST COMPANIES, RAILROADS, A COMPENDIUM OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, OFFICERS OF STATE, COUNTY AND CITY GOVERNMENTS; A STREET AND AVENUE DIRECTORY; ALSO

A BUYERS GUIDE

AND A COMPLETE

CLASSIFIED BUSINESS DIRECTORY

IN THIS ISSUE THERE IS ALSO INCLUDED A HISTORY OF CHICAGO PREPARED AND EDITED BY THE CHICAGO ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE.

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R. L. POLK & CO., Publishers

ESTABLISHED CHICAGO 1877

536 SOUTH CLARK STREET

Member Association of North American Directory Publishers

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INTRODUCTION

The first Chicago City Directory published by R. L. Polk & Company is hereewith presented. It is the 71st edition of the directory and the first since 1917. Chicago received its charter March 4, 1837, when it covered an area of 4,173 square miles and had a population of 4,180.

The first attempt at getting out anything in the way of a Chicago Directory was in September, 1839, when the Common Council ordered the revision and printing of the Laws and Ordinances of the city. This book contained a list of 276 business men of the city with the location of their places of business in addition to the Laws and Ordinances and four and one-half pages of advertising.

The following is a portion of the 1839 Directory which is taken from an article by Reuben H. Donnelley, which appeared in the Directory Journal, December, 1903:

"The Directory proper is contained on nine pages, set in Long Primer, Old Style type, and shows only 276 names. There were six churches. Locations were not given as specifically as now, as indicated by the following example: "Abel, Sidney, postmaster, office, Clark street."" Gedden, William B., East, Kinzie street."" Page, Peter, Mason, Clark street, brick building above Randolph street."" Post, Dr., residence Lake street, office Dearborn street. "The printer’s fancy type was evidently very limited, and not suited for directory work, hence he did not have 'caps' enough for street names, etc., which were therefore put into lower case. "Gray, John, Chicago hotel, Wolf point. "Seaver, Jesse, snug house hotel, market street. "Even this economy of material did not quite serve the purpose, and toward the end he was compelled to use italics and full-face caps in place of roman.

"No attempt was made at alphabetical arrangement beyond the first letter, thus the 'H's' commence with Hard, while full does not appear until the nineteenth line, and the letter closes with Hayward. "In the early days the directory man's life, as now, was full of troubles, as evidenced by the pathetic paragraph with which the publisher closes his modest volume:

"A number of omissions will probably be found in the foregoing Directory, in consequence of the difficulty (sic) in procuring a suitable person to collect names and residences for it; but it is the intention of the publisher, as soon as circumstances will permit, to issue another volume enlarged and otherwise improved. "There are but few copies of this Directory in existence at the present time, and to preserve it from oblivion, it is considered (as nearly as possible a fac-simile) in the Chicago City Directory for 1837."

The first Directory of the city was carelessly canvassed by James Wellington Norris, an attorney, during the latter part of 1843, and was issued in 1844. It contained about 1,100 names. Population at that time, about 8,000. The following is taken from the historical sketch given in the 1844 Directory:

"The credit of the city is now established upon a permanent foundation and cannot easily be shaken. "Our common schools are worthy of special notice. "We have also a medical college chartered by the legislature in 1837 and several schools sustained by private munificence. "The Mechanics Institute and the Young Men's Association are prominent in importance. These institutions will be both useful and ornamental to the city. "We have other societies designed to meet the intellectual wants of the community, among which may be mentioned the Chicago Lyceum—the oldest literary society in the place. "Our theater—a very pretty one—has been in operation the past season, and met with some encouragement; but it must be confessed that, at present, the prospects of the drama are not flattering. "In facilities for the accommodation of the traveling public Chicago has made wonderful progress. Early times our streets were miserable in the extreme. Now we have eighteen hotels and houses of public entertainment, many of them large and splendid establishments, not inferior in any way in the West. "An extensive staging business has grown up here, and may be referred to as an instance of enterprise and public spirit on the part of those engaged in it. The several messengers of stage entering here for speed, safety and comfort are not excelled by any in the country. "Ship building has been carried on here to some extent. A steam propeller, registering 270 tons, was built the past season, and a schooner of about 200 tons burden, to be called the Marin, is now in process of construction by the same builder, and probably will be launched in the spring. "We have four large packing houses here, and all of them have done a heavy business thus far. The pork packing is only just commencing, but will, it is thought, be extensive. "Much must be said in commendation of our fire companies—all of which are highly efficient. "Our military companies will speak for themselves. "Consider the age of the city, and the fact that our population has been derived from almost every nation under heaven and speak so many different languages, and the existing state of its society confederation upon Chicago. "The most interesting respect is paid to the institutions and forms of public worship. "The peace and good order of society is worthy of remark—brawls and affrays are extremely rare in the streets—and it may justly be said that a more peaceful and quiet population can nowhere be found."

In the statistical portion of the Directory a page is devoted to the tremendous growth of the post-office business. The post-office at that time was on the west side of Clark street, between Lake and Randolph streets, and William Stuart was postmaster. "A weekly mail from the East," says the look, "was received here on horseback in 1832—J. N. Bailey being postmaster. The next year it was received in a one-horse wagon, weekly—S. C. Hogan, postmaster. In 1833, a two-horse wagon was substituted. In 1834 a four-horse stage line was established, semi-weekly,—in weekly in 1835. In 1837 there was a daily eastern mail—Sidney Abel, postmaster. There are now received and sent up at this office forty-eight mails weekly, and the receipts of the office amount to $80,000. The receipts of the Chicago post-office for Calendar year ending December 31, 1927, were $46,418,304.99.


Since 1880 to 1917 the Chicago Directory was published by The Chicago Directory Co., from 1880 to 1887 under the management of Thomas H. Hutchinson, and after that date under the management of Reuben H. Donnelley. From 1880 to 1917 it was a two-column book. In 1892 it was changed to a three-column book, and in 1910 to a five-column book. The alphabetical section of this present volume is printed in six columns.

Following publication of the 1917 edition, Mr. Donnelley, having expanded and developed his business interests along other channels, found it necessary to utilize the services of the city directory staff in other departments. Due partly to this, but principally to conditions resulting from the World War, no directory was issued in 1918. However, need for a new edition was
soon manifest. Appreciating the impossibility of success-
fully publishing without an adequate force experienced in city directory work, Mr. Donnelley, not wishing to interfere with work in other departments of his organiza-
tion, yet, having the interests of the city at heart, invited R. L. Polk & Company to take over the publication. After repeated efforts on his part, supple-
mented by the urgent solicitation of business and commer-
cial organizations of the city, R. L. Polk & Company
was induced to undertake the work.
Chicago is indebted to Mr. Donnelley for his untiring efforts in its behalf. We acknowledge with deepest
gratitude the co-operation and assistance rendered by
Mr. Donnelley and members of his organization.
Neither effort nor expense has been spared to make

the information as complete, accurate, and up-to-date as
is humanly possible. All that fifty-three years of ex-
perience and a nation-wide organization could provide,
have been given to the creation of this new edition.

Men occupying executive positions in the Polk or-
ganization in other cities were brought from all sections
of the country to assist with the work. Never before
was so large a force, experienced in making directories,
broken together on any publication. It was this force
that trained and handled the army of local men and
women employed to gather the information and assist
with the compilation. The gathering, compiling and
printing of the information was a stupendous task and
we hope the directory will meet with the approval of
patrons.

POPULATION

There are 1,258,426 individual names listed in this
edition of the directory. Of this number it is estimated
84,071 are names of people who, though in business or
employed in Chicago, reside in the suburbs or outside
the city limits; deducting this number leaves 1,174,355
names of people living within the city limits. Using
the multiplier of two and one-half to allow for the names of
married women, children, and young women unem-
ployed and living at home, which were not included in
the directory enumeration, gives Chicago a population
of 2,935,887, which can be considered a conservative
estimate. The U. S. Census of 1920 credited Chicago
with a population of 2,701,705. While it is doubtful if
in the interval which elapsed between the time the Gov-
ernment took the census and the taking of the informa-
tion embraced in this directory the population increased
234,182, as these figures would indicate, it must be
borne in mind the city directory canvass was handled by
an organization composed of men thoroughly experi-
enced, whose life work, day in and day out the year
round, is to supervise the gathering of names.

For the purposes of the directory canvass, the city
was divided into twelve districts. Offices were estab-
lished in these districts with capable superintendents in
charge and each office had its own individual organiza-
tion of salesmen, workers, enumerators, and examiners
to handle the examination of the information as it was
brought in each day. This served as a check on the
enumerators, and insured both accuracy and thorough-
ness as every house, apartment, and place of business
had to be accounted for. The canvass extended to every
nook and corner within the city limits. Despite this,
wishing to give Chicago the most complete directory
possible, the publishers solicited the co-operation of em-
ployers to furnish lists of their employees showing their
occupations and where they lived. These lists were
copied and the information embodied in the compilation.
While this, of course, resulted in an enormous duplica-
tion of names, and an additional cost of many thousands
of dollars, it served as a double check, insuring the in-
sertion of many names not brought in on the canvass,
and the correctness of the occupations as given at the
homes. Hotels and clubs furnished lists of their per-
manent guests, the names of many of whom it would
have been impossible to secure through any other source.
A careful compilation then eliminated any duplication
of names for the same individuals.

Were the lines of type in the 3,124 pages between the
covers of this directory attached end to end they
would form a chain one hundred and one miles long.

Copies of this Chicago Directory will be placed in
directory libraries maintained in all of the principal cities
in the United States and Canada where they will serve
to advertise Chicago and its business interests.

Directories of other cities are on file in the directory
library in the office of the publishers, 538 South Clark
Street, where they are accessible for reference and a
cordial invitation is extended subscribers to make use of
this library.

A supplementary edition of this directory is being
reproduced in a souvenir volume entitled "Chicago, The
Great Central Market," which will be distributed by and
with the compliments of the publishers to U. S. Embas-
sies, Consulates and Consular Agents throughout the
world, as well as to commercial organizations and im-
portant civic bodies throughout the United States and
Canada.

This special edition contains a story of Chicago
edited by the Chicago Association of Commerce appear-
ing on pages 13 to 153 inclusive, followed by a repro-
duction of the advertisements appearing in the Buyers'
Guide, pages 301 to 796, inclusive; following this the
display insertions in the classified business section,
pages 2832 to 3124, will be reproduced under the head-
ings under which they are listed. Through this special
dition advertisers and those who contracted for display
insertions in this edition of the directory will derive
the benefits of an international circulation in addition
to the local and national circulation of the directory itself.

This souvenir volume is handsomely bound, and, in
addition to the circulation given it by the publishers,
copies will be sent out by the Industrial Department
of the Chicago Association of Commerce to those seeking
information regarding Chicago and its business interests.

In the publication of this edition of the directory it
is hoped a foundation has been laid for the continued
publication of a Chicago City Directory at such regular
intervals as will best serve the need of great and growing
Chicago of the future.

We highly appreciate and thank all, who, by their
patronage have made this publication possible, as well
as those who have contributed to the accuracy and com-
pleteness of the directory by their co-operation in furn-
ishing the necessary information.

R. L. POLK & COMPANY.