

City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Cultural Affairs

Lois Weisberg
Commissioner

Chicago Office of Tourism

Dorothy Coyle
Acting Director

Chicago Cultural Center
78 East Washington Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 744-2400 (Voice)
(312) 744-2359 (FAX)
(312) 744-2947 (TTY)

<http://www.ci.chi.il.us/Tourism>

CHICAGO OFFICE OF TOURISM FAX

TO: LUREN BILLINGS

COMPANY: MUSEUM OF HOLOGRAPHY

FAX #: 312/829.9636

FROM: LATORRIS GATHERRIGHT - (P.R DEPT)

PHONE: 312/744.2391

FAX #: (312) 744 - 2359

DATE: 3/4/1999

MESSAGE: Congratulations!! The following
Article ran in the Nov.
Issue of Home + Away, which
has a circulation of 190,000

Number of pages including cover sheet: 2

Please contact the number above if all pages not received

The information contained in this fax is confidential and should be forwarded to the contact on this cover sheet upon receipt. If this fax has been sent to a wrong number, please notify sender at your earliest convenience. Failure to forward this information or interrupt receipt by intended contact is punishable by law.



by **john handley**

Surprising Chicago

*Now let's
call the
Windy City
"Serendipity City,"
a town full of
unexpected delights
that are fun to find.*

In the shadow of the Water Tower, the Waterworks Visitors Center still operates as a pumping station.

EVEN IF YOU KNOW CHICAGO, there exist many special places just beyond the obvious, another layer of riches for the visitor—fascinating offbeat museums, overlooked but worthwhile attractions, hidden wonders.

So after visiting all the famous sights, check out these lesser-known nuggets that deserve to be discovered.

Here's a sampling:

UNDERGROUND CHICAGO

Not everyone knows about the 40-mile network of passageways that criss-cross under parts of downtown. Located mainly beneath Randolph Street, between Grant Park and City Hall, and in the office/hotel/retail area south of the Chicago River and east of Michigan Avenue, the Pedway system comes in handy on inclement days. And there are no stoplights to slow you down.

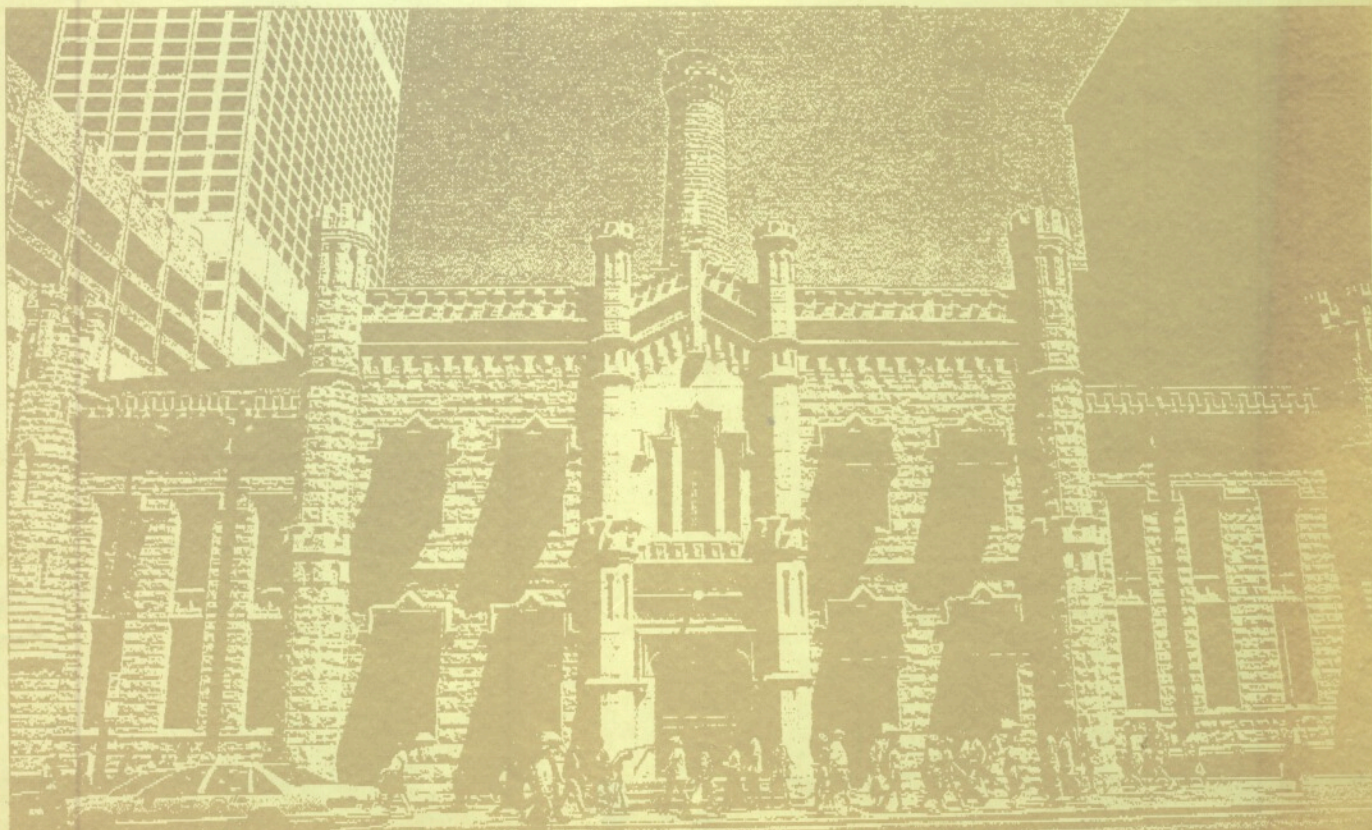
The subterranean walkways also offer

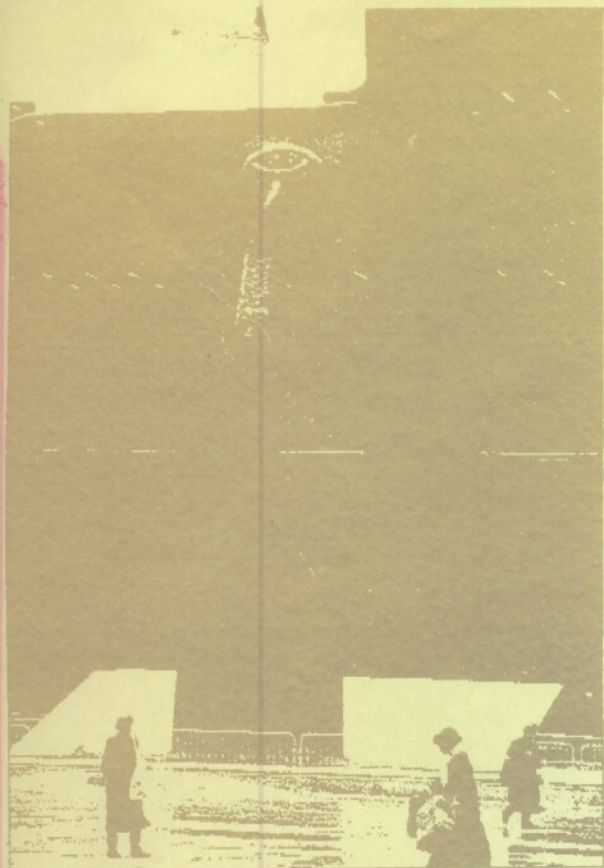
shopping opportunities. You can buy flowers, have your shoes repaired, visit a travel agency, buy a magazine or stock up on fast food. Marshall Field's department store is on the Pedway. A map of the system can be picked up at the visitor desk in the Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St.

ALL PUMPED UP

The famed Water Tower, a Chicago landmark, gets all the attention and appears in countless pictures. Almost totally ignored by photographers is the Pumping Station. Built at the same time (1869) and located across the street from the Water Tower at Michigan and Chicago avenues, it features the same medieval-castle architecture and limestone construction.

Now called the Waterworks Visitors Center, it houses a tourist information desk, a snack bar and a gift shop. Plus,





Chicago surprises with Pablo Picasso's sculpture on Daley Plaza.

URBAN GOLF

Who would expect to be able to tee off in the shadow of skyscrapers? It's true. A nine-hole course and 92-station driving range are right downtown, and it's open all year. The Family Golf Center covers 36 acres at 221 N. Columbus Drive, which is just a long shot with your driver from the Chicago River and not much farther to the lake.

The facility also offers a golf shop, learning academy and a restaurant. For more information, call (312) 616-1234.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Chicago never will be confused with Tinseltown, but its streets have starred in numerous movies and television shows.

Just to mention a few: Lake Shore Drive was a background in *When Harry Met Sally*, Wrigley Field was in *The Babe*, the Daley Center in *The Blues Brothers* and O'Hare International Airport in *Home Alone*.

Two other unique locations that are favorites with moviemakers are the elevated tracks and the Michigan Avenue Bridge, said Rich Moskal, director of the Chicago Film Office, a city agency that promotes filmmaking.

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

Chicago is a-sizzle with first-rate steakhouses. For those on a budget there are other eateries where you can get your fill with minimum damage to your wallet.

One of them is Mr. Beef. What it lacks in elegant decor is more than made up for in tasty Italian beef sandwiches. Located at 660 N. Orleans St., Mr. Beef has the distinction of being one of Jay Leno's favorite spots when he is in town.

The comedian's visits have been documented on the unofficial Leno Wall of

Fame—more than 20 photos of *The Tonight Show* host displayed across from the counter.

The best hamburger? A strong case can be made for Boston Blackies at 164 E. Grand Ave., just east of North Michigan Avenue.

Served super fast, your Boston Blackies Burger is a half-pounder slathered with grilled onions and strips of bacon. On the side is a thick tomato slice, lettuce and a delicious dollop of cole slaw.

ON THE AIR

Yesteryear's radio and television programs still live at the Museum of Broadcast Communications in the Chicago Cultural Center.

You can check out relics of technology, like the round-screen television set that was popular in 1948, and watch news clips from the past, like the first Nixon-Kennedy debate, as well as long-ago sports highlights.

Fans of vintage radio will enjoy opening Fibber McGee's closet and walking into Jack Benny's vault. The comedian would have loved the museum: it's free. For information, call (312) 629-6000.

PIER TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

If you had planned to "anchor" at North Pier for some downtown fun, you are too late. Actually, the renovated brick building along Ogden Slip, just north of the Chicago River, is still standing—but the name has been changed.



you can peek inside the still-operating pumping station, which is connected via a two-mile tunnel to a water intake out in Lake Michigan.

MAGIC OF 3-D

The huge dinosaur skull juts out toward you. It moves, watching as you walk by. Its jagged teeth look dangerous. You are transfixed.

This is the surreal world of 3-D, where flat pictures appear to come to life. It happens at the Museum of Holography, located at 1134 W. Washington Blvd.—about one mile west of the Loop, but worth the trip.

The most memorable holograms move as you watch them, such as the miner panning for gold and a jitterbugging couple.

As well as displaying holograms, the museum makes them using a laser light process. It also runs a school, and offers an array of holograms for sale. For more information, call (312) 226-1007.

TROPICAL GETAWAY

When Chicago's weather turns cold and nasty, you can escape to a palm-filled oasis, and it won't require an airline ticket. Perfect climate-controlled weather prevails year-round at Navy Pier's Crystal Gardens. The six-story glass atrium is filled with 70 fulsize palms, dancing water fountains, a restaurant and

Now the complex of shops, waterfront restaurants, and docks for sightseeing boats is called River East Plaza. The mall is being transformed into new stores that will open next spring and face Illinois Street.

OLDEST SURVIVING HOME

The Widow Clarke House is not nearly as well known as some of the city's other famous residences, such as Glessner House and Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House.

But the Clarke House, built in 1836, can claim the title of oldest in town. Located at 1827 S. Indiana Ave. in the Prairie Avenue Historic District, just two miles south of the Loop, it can be toured at noon, 1 and 2 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, call (312) 326-1480.

CUTTING EDGE

The squeamish may not want to visit the International Museum of Surgical Science before lunch. Nevertheless, it is one of the city's fascinating discoveries. Housed in a Gold Coast mansion at

1524 N. Lake Shore Drive, it traces the history of surgery. Among the earliest artifacts are 4,000-year-old skulls from Peru with holes in them from trepanning operations.

Other unusual displays include a replica of a turn-of-the-century drugstore, amputation kits used in the Civil War and blood-letting instruments. Souvenirs for sale include key chains with skeleton hands or feet. For more information, call (312) 642-6502.

COURTING HISTORY

One of the trials of the century was staged in the former Cook County Courthouse at 54 W. Hubbard St., a short walk west of North Michigan Avenue. Built in 1893, the massive seven-story building now is called CourtHouse Place and has been converted into offices.

But the lobby is open to visitors who can view a gallery of pictures that recall the bad old days, including the infamous murder trial of Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb in 1924. Defended by attorney Clarence Darrow of "Monkey Trial" fame, they were sentenced to life.

Other photos show Carl Sandburg as a cub reporter in 1923, and Ben Hecht, who, along with Charles MacArthur, turned his reporting experiences at the courthouse into the 1928 play *The Front Page*.

PICASSO/MIRO FACE-OFF

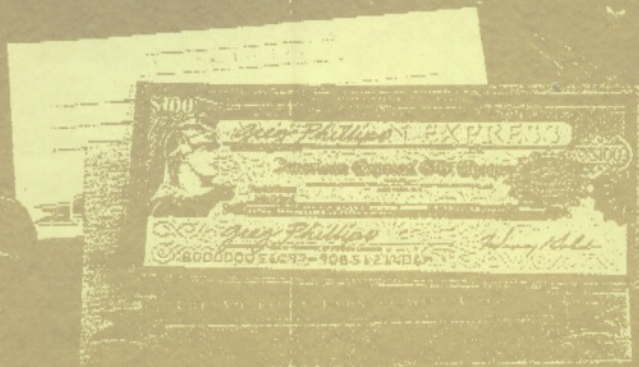
What famous Spanish-born artist designed a special sculpture just for Chicago? Pablo Picasso, you say? Right. But you also would be correct if you said Joan Miro.

Miro's 39-foot sculpture of a female figure is tucked away in a courtyard at 69 W. Washington St., across from Daley Plaza and the 50-foot Picasso. The two sculptures appear to be staring at each other from a distance. Miro made the ceramic tile for his design in his Majorca studio.

For more vacation information, call the Chicago Office of Tourism at (312) 744-2400, and the Illinois Bureau of Tourism at (800) 487-2446. ■

JOHN HANDLEY is a freelance writer who works in Chicago.

Give Everyone What They've Always Wanted



Available at your
local AAA Club.



Gift
Cheques