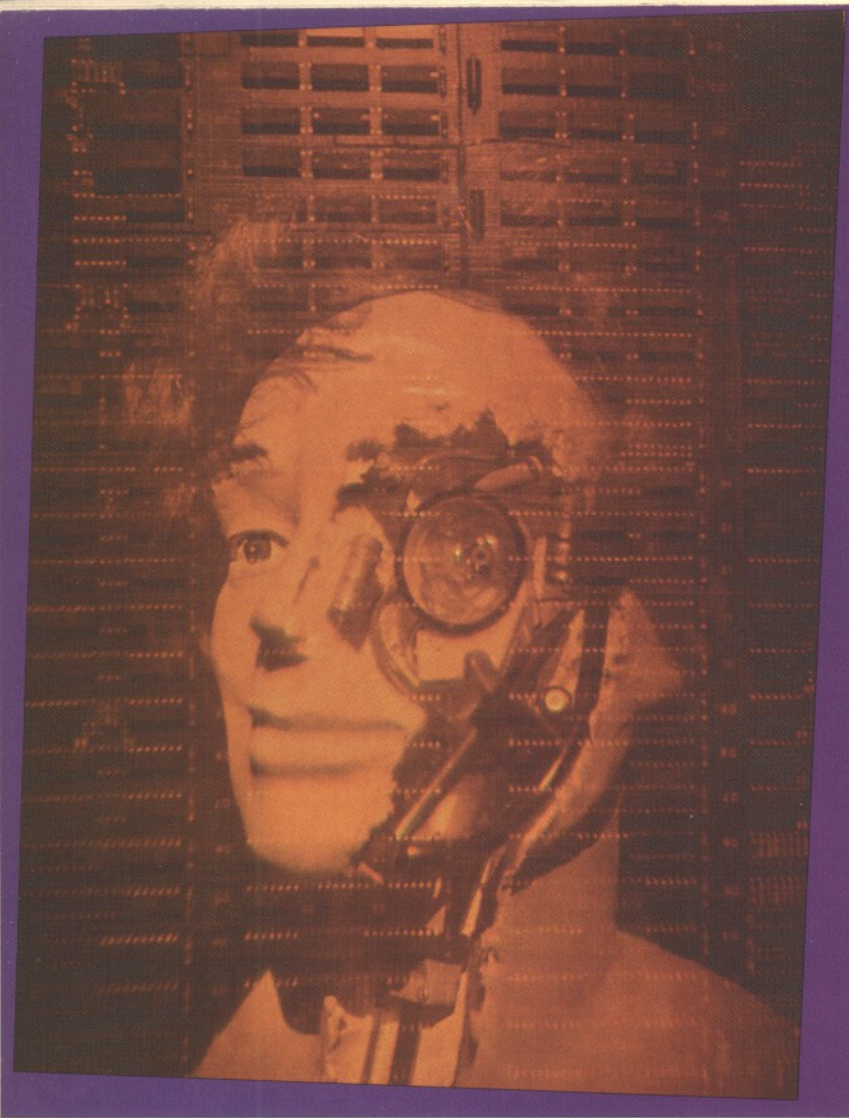


COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF HOLOGRAPHY

Offbeat Chicago

IF YOU'RE LIKE MOST ROCKFORD RESIDENTS, when it comes to visiting Chicago's biggest and best tourist attractions you've "been there" and "done that." Who hasn't toured the Museum of Science and Industry, the Shedd Aquarium or the Art Institute at one time or another? (School field trips count.) With the adventurous tourist in mind, we've collected a list of Chicago's more unusual points of interest, slightly off center and mostly off the well-trod path. There's nothing dour about any of these places. But what would you expect from the city that gave the world 3-D movie glasses, pay toilets and lie detectors?

By John Harris



COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF HOLOGRAPHY

Cheap tricks

Considered by many nabobs to be fun-house tricks, holograms frequently have been derided as cheap and tacky. Well, not at the **Museum of Holography**.

In the simplest terms, holography is the ability to produce three-dimensional representations down to molecular exactness.

The process, which dates back to 1960, involves recording on a photographic plate the pattern of light waves reflected from an object illuminated with laser light. *Whew.*

By presenting some 75 holographic works of art in a gallery setting (sans the price tags), the Museum of Holography, founded in 1976, elevates the hologram to museum status. You'll marvel at the three-dimensional, laser-generated images of birds, faces and landscapes, which look real and seem to leap off the wall—provided, of

course, that you view them from the proper angle.

It is, however, the museum's gift shop that presents some of the most interesting, and smallest, work. And, yes, price tags are stuck to the gift shop's pieces.

Museum of Holography, 1134 W. Washington Blvd. (312/226-1007). Open 12:30-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. Admission: \$2.50, children under 6 free.

Ode to 'Scarface Al'

Before it was built, the Windy City's newest museum caused quite a stir among the city fathers and Chicago's Italian-American community. Neither group, apparently, wanted a downtown tourist attraction that glorified Al Capone, an Italian American and the 1920s' most notorious gangster. Bad for the image, they said.

Set back from Ontario Street at the northeast corner of Clark and Ohio streets, **Capone's Chicago** is sandwiched between the Hard Rock Cafe and the rock 'n' roll-themed McDonald's. You'd be hard-pressed to find a better location.

The brand-new building, constructed to appear 70 years old, resembles a small theme park.

Inside, you'll find the mammoth Four Dueces gift shop, stocked with assorted T-shirts, trinkets and key chains; a concession stand rivaling those at some of Chicago's movie theaters; and a 30-minute multimedia presentation about Chicago's colorful gangland past.

Customers enter a large and very dark auditorium, sit on the floor and watch as the story of Chicago's Prohibition era unfolds.

The story comes alive through wax museum-quality figures that move and "talk." (The museum calls this process "anamatronics.")

Sets light up, then go dark again, as the tale, told by the likes of jazz trumpeter Louis Armstrong, presidential candidate Al "The Happy Warrior" Smith and "Scarface Al" himself, progresses.

To its credit, Capone's Chicago does not make its protagonist out to be a hero, and it does a pretty good job of teaching folks about Chicago

COURTESY OF CAPONE'S CHICAGO

