Hidden gems from Chicago's past

*Tales of Forgotten Chicago* contains twenty-one fascinating, little-known stories about a great city and its people. Richard C. Lindberg has dug deeply to reveal lost historical events and hidden gems from Chicago's past.

Spanning the Civil War through the 1960s, the volume showcases forgotten crimes, punishments, and consequences: poisoned soup that nearly killed three hundred leading citizens, a woman in showbiz and her street-thug husband whose checkered lives inspired a 1955 James Cagney movie, and the first policewoman in Chicago, hired as a result of the senseless killing of a young factory girl in a racially tinged case of the 1880s.

Also included are tales of industry and invention, such as America’s first automobile race, the haunting of a wealthy Gilded Age manufacturer’s mansion, and the identity of the telephone’s rightful inventor. Chapters on the history of early city landmarks spotlight the fight to save Lakefront Park and how “Lucky” Charlie Weeghman’s North Side baseball park became Wrigley Field. Other chapters explore civic, cultural, and political happenings: the great Railroad Fairs of 1948 and 1949, Richard J. Daley’s revival of the St. Patrick’s Day parade, political disrupter Lar “America First” Daly, and the founding of the Special Olympics in Chicago by Anne Burke and others. Finally, some are just wonderful tales, such as a touching story about the city’s first Christmas tree.

Engrossing and imaginative, this collection opens new windows into the past of the Windy City.

Richard C. Lindberg is an award-winning author, journalist, and lecturer who has written and published nineteen other books about Chicago history, politics, criminal justice, sports, and ethnicity. The 2011 memoir of his Northwest Side boyhood, *Whiskey Breakfast: My Swedish Family, My American Life*, was named nonfiction book of the year by the Chicago Writer’s Association.

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Available July 2020

*Tales of Forgotten Chicago*

*Richard C. Lindberg*

“This book goes both deeper and broader than other Chicago history books to shine a well-deserved spotlight on lesser known yet significant and fascinating people, places, and events related to the development of the city. Lindberg is one of Chicago’s most popular historians, so it’s no surprise that this smorgasbord of stories is authoritative yet easy to read, important yet entertaining, somewhat familiar yet surprising. This book is full of engaging pleasures. It’s a must-read for anyone drawn to Chicago history.”—Greg Borzo, author of *Chicago’s Fabulous Fountains and Lost Restaurants of Chicago*
Acknowledgments
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1. The Brothers Booth
2. The Fire, the Family O’Leary, and the Rest of the Story
3. Four Butchers Trying to Go to Heaven
4. Elisha Gray and the Invention of the Telephone
5. Crime and Punishment and the First Policewoman
6. Where Time Began
7. The Scarlet Letter Verdict
8. The Lakefront Forever Open, Clear, and Free
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10. Stars and Bars and the Symbol of a City
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13. Wrigley Field before the Cubs
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17. The Windy City Songbird
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Also by Richard C. Lindberg

Richard C. Lindberg is available to speak about this book or any of his previous books. To schedule him as a speaker, please contact him at rclwriter@aol.com.