

William Frank Co.

Chicago

- 1892-1899 William Phillip Frank (1876-1932) is in Williamsport, PA and working for the Henry Distin Co. (DAMD)
- 1899 “William Frank, an employee of the Henry Distin Manufacturing Co., Williamsport, has accepted a position with one of the largest band instrument factories in Toronto, Canada.” (*Music Trade Review*, August)
- 1901 William is living in Toronto with wife Pearl and brother Jesse Good Frank (1886-1977) (census)
- 1909 the William Frank company was started this year according to ads in the 1930s so perhaps he was doing this part time while still with Holton
- 1910 William Frank, vice-president, Frank Holton & Co., home at #2638 Gladys, musical instrument superintendent; Jesse Frank, foreman in instrument factory (census)
- 1911 William Frank Co., #542 S. Dearborn, h. #122 E. 56th
- 1915 the National Band Instrument Co. was incorporated this week with \$50,000 capital (*MTR*, July 10th); “The National Band Instrument Co., #227 West Austin Ave, Chicago, has changed its name to the William Frank Co.” (*MTR*, Dec.)
- 1918 Jesse is working for William Frank Co. located at #227 West Austin Ave. in Chicago (draft)
- 1919 William Frank Co., #227 W. Austin Ave, purchased land at the corner of Clybourne & Lewis streets to build a one-story factory (*MTR*, March); the Army Quartermaster Corps recently ordered “G Trumpets” for Army bands from William Frank Co. (*MTR*)
- 1923 William Frank Co., #2033 Clybourne Ave., Chicago, William Frank pres, Arthur Davis sec, Jesse Frank tres, musical instruments (dir); they had a large growth of business during the year (*MTR*, January 1924)
- 1926 “The Charles W. Noll Co. has been organized to take over the eastern representation as a branch factory for the William Frank Co.. Charles Noll, formerly head of the Imperial Band Instrument Co., Williamsport, PA, is president of the new company.” (*MTR*, Sept. 13)
- 1926 Frank opens a retail store at the factory, #2035 Clybourne (*MTR*, December)



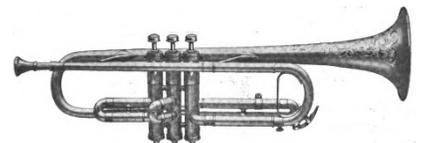
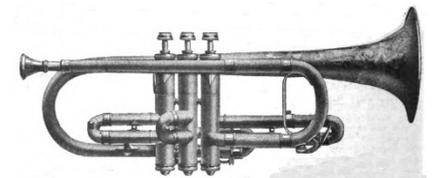
- 1930 William and Jesse are listed as band instrument makers; William's son Wilbur Melvin Frank (1907-2002) is a musical instrument machinist (census)
 - 1930 the William Frank Co., #2029-2033 Clybourne, has a 40,000 square foot factory; their new catalog shows the Classic, Excelsior, and Student models of brass band instruments as well as Excelsior saxophones and clarinets (MTR)
 - 1932 William Frank dies (death cert.)
 - 1934 start of "American Prep" line of student instruments
 - 1940 Jesse is listed as an executive of a band instrument factory; Wilbur Frank is vice-president of the company (census)
 - 1942 William Frank Co., #2033 Clybourne Ave. (Draft)
 - 1945 Barrington plant opens (photos 2 & 3 are a "Classic" model trumpet made in Barrington, author's collection)
 - 1956 company is dissolved and equipment is sold to Schilke
- Despite many references found to William being a horn player for the CSO, that person is actually Wilhelm Frank (1869-1936), born in Germany, who came to the US in 1901.

Photos are from Horn-u-copia.net unless otherwise marked.

Photo 4 is New Era model trumpet #3345 (auction photo)

Photo 5 – National Long Model Cornet

Photo 6 – National model Trumpet



\$35.00 **A REMARKABLE CORNET**

COMPLETE IN CASE **A REMARKABLE PRICE**



UNLIMITED GUARANTEE LENGTH, 17 INCHES

Here you see illustrated the NATIONAL Long Model Cornet. A strictly high-grade Cornet—every inch of it. A Cornet built to realize an ideal—A Cornet that must not and can not be judged from the standpoint of its astounding low price.

It has and always will be the purpose and policy of this Company to achieve a standard of quality and value—not merely a standard of price.

We might attempt to tell you about its tone and quality, its ease of blowing, its perfect tune, but we much prefer to have you try the Cornet for six days, free, and establish the facts for yourself. Then, and only then, will you realize what a wonderful Cornet the NATIONAL Long Model really is. For the first time, perhaps, you will experience the indescribable sensation of playing on a Cornet that is absolutely faultless.

Space will not permit us to name even one-half of the surprisingly good features embodied in its construction. But—accept our assurance—there is a tremendous surprise in store for you when you first try this Cornet. Then, we predict, your first query will be—“How is it possible to build such a Cornet for \$35.00?”

Send for Catalog number four.

WILLIAM FRANK & COMPANY
Makers of High-Grade Band Instruments
229 W. AUSTIN AVE. CHICAGO, ILL.

Regulation Trumpet, in G, with Slide which may be drawn to F—

Every Military Company, Home Guard, Cadet or Scout Trumpeter and must have one or more. This Trumpet possesses a powerful, brilliant, far carrying tone, which is equally good for field or band purposes. Perfectly in tune.

Made by the World's largest producers of high-grade Trumpets



Price, \$5.50

Send for Circular
Wm. Frank Company
229-231 W. AUSTIN AVE., CHICAGO, ILL.

1919 Bugle ad