

# Richard Wunderlich

## & Carl Geyer

### Chicago

- 1891 Richard Wunderlich (1860-1934) establishes a music store in Chicago.
- 1892 Store at #227 Blue Island Ave; Richard is naturalized.
- 1895 Carl Geyer (1880-1973) is an apprentice instrument maker in Markneukirchen, Germany (top photo & page 2).
- 1900 George A. Bare (1859-1933) is making valves for Wunderlich, #269 Blue Island Ave. George Wunderlich is a brass finisher (census).
- 1902 Richard Wunderlich, musical inst., #261 Blue Island Ave.
- 1903 Wunderlich advertises in a Leipzig newspaper looking for a brass repairman & Carl Geyer responds to ad.
- 1904 Carl Geyer emigrates on April 13 & starts working for Wunderlich making French horns.
- 1908 "R. Wunderlich, manufacturer of brass instruments at #261 Blue Island Ave, who claims to be the only manufacturer of a double French horn in Bb and F in America, says he has many testimonials of leading French horn players eulogizing its merits." (*Music Trade Review*)
- 1910 George Bare is the instrument factory inspector then later that year leaves to become a physician. Wunderlich store now at #1214 Blue Island Ave (dir).
- 1911 Carl Geyer, instrument maker, #1214 Blue Is. Ave (dir).
- 1915 Geyer is naturalized a citizen.
- 1916 Wunderlich closes his store and Carl is on his own.
- 1918 Carl is the owner of a musical instrument making business at #218 S. Wabash Ave (from WWI draft listing).
- 1922 The French Horn Co., #218 S. Wabash Ave (directory).
- 1923 Richard Wunderlich, musical inst., #4410 Madison. Carl Geyer is manager of the French Horn Co., #218 S. Wabash.
- 1930 Richard Wunderlich; retired from music store (census).
- 1934 Wunderlich dies on March 3, 1934.
- 1942 Shop still at #218 S. Wabash; Kagan & Gains at #228.



- 1950s Jaroslaw Lechnink joins Geyer repairing horns and doing engraving, then later works for Schilke.
- 1955 Geyer sells the business to a partnership of Frank Brouk, Jimmy Polacek & Joe Cali. Geyer continues to make horns.
- 1963 A new Geyer French horn sells for \$680. His shop is part of Kagan & Gaines Music store, #228 S. Wabash Ave.
- 1970 Geyer retires at 90 with over 1,400 horns made.
- 1973 Geyer dies on October 18. His wife Sophie dies one month later; home is at #392 South Cottage Hill in Elmhurst.
- 1977 Steven W. Lewis Orchestral Horns is founded. Lewis trained under Lechnink until his death in 1976 (Lewis).
- 1982 Kagan & Gaines is sold and moves to #7655 W. Roosevelt Rd in Forest Park, IL; bought by Joseph Cali, Sr. who worked for them starting in 1942 and was a partner in buying the Geyer business in the 1950s.
- 2003 Steven Lewis incorporates the name "Carl Geyer Chicago Co." on June 27<sup>th</sup> in a move to stop the use of his name by other makers (Lewis).

Photos: 1<sup>st</sup> three instruments on page one are marked "Wunderlich"; all others are Geyer including a rare flugelhorn below; photos from Horn-u-copia.net and auction sales

