

# 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<sup>th</sup>, 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 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, listed as retired from music store
- 1934 Wunderlich dies on March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 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; over 1,400 horns made
- 1973 Geyer dies on October 18<sup>th</sup>; his wife Sophie dies one month later; their 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
- 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

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

