

Lyon & Healy

Chicago

George Washburn Lyon: 1825-1894; born in Massachusetts and worked for Oliver Ditson in Boston before being chosen to start the dealership in Chicago; retired in 1889 and bought out by Healy (top photo)

Patrick Joseph Healy: 1840-1905; born in Burnfort, Ireland; emigrated to Boston in 1850; worked as clerk for Ditson before being chosen to start the dealership in Chicago; errand boy for Ditson in 1854 (2nd photo)

James E. Healy: 1866-?; son of PJ born in Chicago; worked for L&H from at least 1885-1900

Paul J. Healy: 1867-?; son of PJ; president of L&H 1911-1915

Marquette A. Healy: 1883-?; son of PJ; Vice-president & GM of L&H by 1916; President 1921-1925

Columbus Healy: 1891-?; son of PJ; vp in 1923; executive in paint factory by 1930

1864 Lyon & Healy opens in September; #104 S. Clark St.

1867 now at #116 Washington St. (corner of Clark, same bldg.)

1870 move to #96-100 Wabash Ave; fire destroys store in Sept.

1870 move to #150 S. Clark St. after fire

1871 store destroyed in great Chicago fire; some records saved; temporary stores at #287 W. Madison St. then Wabash Ave. church at corner of 16th St.

1872 new store at #162 State St. in October

1876 music dealer Julius Bauer is also listed at #162 State St.

1878 Catalog has rotary and piston-valved instruments with some PV made in Paris by un-named maker

1880 now selling high-quality French made Henry Gunckel instruments as well as mid-quality by F. Jaubert & Co. of which L&H recently secured all US sales

1892 store at #156-162 State St.; PJ Healy, pres; Charles Post, vp; R. B. Gregory, tres; J. E. Healy, assistant tres; J.P. Byrne, sec; factory at W. Randolph & Bryan St. (dir)

1894 store moves to Wabash Ave.; catalog shows that they are selling high quality Higham instruments from England,



French Jaubert & Co., German piston valve economy models, and a new model of French made Beau Ideal brass which is second only to Higham in cost. They also list the “Solo Cornet” as an important addition

- 1896 establishes “Own Make” brand of instruments
- 1897 brass instrument models from lowest to highest quality were German pistons, L&H Silver Piston, F. Jaubert, French piston, Beau Ideal, & Higham
- 1900 store at #199-205 Wabash Ave.; James Healy is no longer the assistant treasurer; factory at same location
- 1901 catalog shows brass instrument models from lowest to highest quality as Silver Piston, Champion (European), Beau Ideal (French), F. Jaubert, Solo Cornet, Own Make, and Duplex Own Make
- 1905 Patrick Healy dies; John Haynes (instrument maker for Ditson) is one of the pallbearers; production begins on the Own Make Duplex cornet; Solo trumpet is a great success
- 1910 R.B. Gregory is pres; J.F. Bowers, vp; #199 Wabash Ave; factory at #1420 W. Randolph
- 1912 catalog shows brass models from lowest to highest cost as Champion Silver Piston, F. Jaubert, Beau Ideal, American Professional, American make Solo, American make Duplex
- 1914 new factory at #4100 Fullerton Ave.
- 1916 new store at #243 S. Wabash Ave opens in May; Robert Gregory, pres; James Bowers, sec
- 1919 ad says that they are manufacturers of band insts & bugles
- 1923 M.A. Healy, pres; Columbus Healy, vp; C. R. Fuller, sec-tres; branch stores at 1018 E. 63rd St & 4648 Sheridan Rd.
- 1924 bought the E. A. Couturier instrument company in LaPorte, Indiana (*MTR*)
- 1925 new president Durham ends all instrument production in Chicago except harps
- 1926 first of the new Jazz trumpets are being sold and are the latest in a line of conical bore instruments; very small bore and a short valve action; said to have perfect intonation (*MTR*, June 10) [photo 5 is rare example, Couturier made]
- 1929 sold the Couturier company to Holton; end of any brass instrument production

Instrument photos from Horn-u-copia.net; #2 author’s collection



Lyon & Healy Bell Inscriptions & Models

1. Early RV brass w/shield, 1860s & 70s?
2. 1870s? w/name & scroll below
3. 1870's RV cornets, name w/scroll & PV cornet
4. Henry Gunckel, Paris, c.1880-before 1894
5. F. Jaubert & Co, Paris, c.1880-after 1912
6. Higham, England, before 1894-before 1901
7. Beau Ideal, French, 1894-after 1912
8. Solo Cornet, made ?, 1880s-after 1901
9. Silver Piston, import, c.1895-before 1912
10. Own Make, US, after 1897-?
11. Own Make Duplex Cornet, US, c.1900-?
12. Champion, European, c.1896-before 1912
13. Champion Silver Piston, possibly new in 1912
14. American Professional, US made, before 1912-?
15. American Climax, US made, after 1912
16. Inspiration, after 1912
17. Henri Gautier Virtuoso, Austria (B&F), after 1912
18. LaPorte, Couturier factory, 1924-1929



Early and late Beau Ideal markings

The stamped script "Chicago" with the curl at the end appears on several models starting in the mid-1890s and is shown in their catalogs from 1901 & 1912.

The "Solo Cornet" early & late markings.



Silver Piston & Champion Silver Piston



Later Champion markings



Own Make models use a logo based on Healy's signature. By 1912 they were called "American Make".

