

Schilke Music Products

Chicago, Illinois

- 1910 Reynold Otto Schilke is born on June 30th in Green Bay Wisconsin. (Groves)
- 1918 Schilke starts studying cornet under Del Wright. (Groves)
- 1921 Schilke begins his professional career with the Orpheum Vaudeville Circuit and the Holton factory band. (Groves) He observes brass instrument making at Holton.
- 1920s Schilke works for a local gunsmith during high school, learned tool & die making, and started experimenting with mouthpiece making. (Dundas)
- 1927 Schilke starts making custom mouthpieces for all brass instruments with designs influenced by Michael Getz and the L. A. Schmidt Co. of Cologne. (Dundas)
- 1927 Schilke studies for one year at Brussels Conservatory and learns about Victor Mahillon's studies on sound wave nodes that can affect intonation. (Wikipedia & Dundas)
- 1928 Schilke moves to Chicago to study at Chicago & Northwest University and play professionally. He became a student of Edward Llewellyn & neighbor to Elden Benge. (Wikipedia) He starts developing his idea for the tuning bell. (Groves) Schilke gets a part-time job with a small mouthpiece maker in Chicago who made them for Edward Llewellyn [possibly Harry Jacobs]. (Horn-u-copia)
- 1934 Schilke starts helping Elden Benge in trumpet making. (Groves)
- 1936 Schilke starts as the 2nd trumpet player for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. (CSO)
- 1937 A newborn son to wife Alice dies in Chicago.
- 1939 Schilke starts as principal trumpet with the CSO when Benge leaves. (CSO) He designs the Committee model trumpet for Martin. (Schilke)
- 1940 Reynold Schilke, orchestra musician, #6615 N. Fairfield Ave, same home in 1935. He lists his highest grade attained as a freshman in high school. (census)
- 1942 Schilke now playing 2nd trumpet with the CSO. (CSO)
- 1943 Schilke moves to 3rd assistant trumpet. (CSO)
- 1950 Schilke now playing 4th trumpet. (CSO)
- 1951 Schilke ends full time playing for the CSO. (CSO)
- 1955 Schilke designs the Magna model trumpet for Martin.



1956 Schilke Music Products is founded to make high quality brass instruments. Originally with Philip Farkas who later leaves. He initially sells Holton products.

The William Frank Co. ends and the machinery is sold to Schilke who uses it to start his own production. He starts with three workers; Ben Adowski, Bill Biehl, and Will Scarlett (who runs the office until 1966). (Everything Trumpet)

1959 Schilke moves from his home workshop in Evanston to #183 West Washington St, Chicago. (ET)

1963 Schilke moves shop to 223 W. Lake St on the 4th floor of the Lyons Band Instrument Company. (ET)

1966 Schilke is hired as a consultant for Yamaha. (Groves)

1967 Schilke moves to #529 S. Wabash Ave. (ET)

1968 Schilke introduces his tuning bell design. (Groves)

1970 Schilke is granted patent #3,527,135 through Yamaha for the tuning bell design.

1973 Schilke has 34 workers making 59 models. (Groves)

1974 Schilke operates another factory on Beecher St in Winfield, IL where horns were made. The finishing was done at the Wabash Ave plant. (Photo 2 of possible Winfield plant)

1981 Winfield plant closes. (ET)

1982 Reynold Schilke dies in Sun City, AZ. Son Renold E. and daughter Joan assume ownership. (Wikipedia)

1989 Schilke moves to Melrose Park (photo 3). (ET)

2002 The business is sold to Andrew Naumann, a veteran of Getzen, in October. (Wikipedia)

