

Quote

"The last of the human freedoms is to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances."

-Victor Frankl

While I will keep emailing time-sensitive updates as they arrive in my mailbox, after a hiatus of nearly 9 months, I am pleased to offer this SHORT but REAL newsletter. Enjoy! -Donna

From the Federal Reserve...

...Do you know this Member?



Photo submitted by **Candidate Guide, Emilia Pérez-Ellsworth**. Who is it? (*Answer:* Look up the contact for CTPA Associate Member **Chicagoland Transportation Solutions**.)

What I Learned on My Summer Vacation...

Certified Tour Guide Aileen Mandel wrote to share a few things she learned while on vacation in Greece.

The tour guides I encountered had knowledge of art, architecture, archaeology, history, geography, religion, mythology and multiple foreign languages—a much more daunting task than we are ever required to know, especially since their knowledge must date back to 3500 BC! The guides are university trained and have constant educational updates, particularly in regard to new excavations and the treasures buried therein.

We had day guides to Delos and Akrotiri, the latter a site dating back to the Bronze Age where the excavations started a mere 10 years ago because it was covered with volcanic ash. The ash was a result of an eruption 3500 years ago that was greater than Krakatoa on what we presently call Santorini

Island. Our guide said that the dig will require another 100 years to excavate—so extensive was this advanced Minoan civilization and so incredibly well preserved are the buildings (still with their frescoes in tact as well as other artifacts of daily life) due to the extent of the ash which hid the site from view all these years.

All of the Greek guides indicated that they are looking forward to a break after the high tourist season, so it appears that tourism is healthy and alive in Greece. Lucky Chicago guides don't have to work for hours upon hours climbing, hiking and walking over sites in the grueling heat and intense, unrelenting sunshine!

Queen's Landing...Forgotten?

Even old dogs like me can learn new tricks! While touring with some Rotarians (and my mother), Mom informed me (out of ear shot of the others and for the first time in my life!) about Queens Landing.

Do you know what/where that is? I didn't, but now I do and had to share!

Queens Landing is the staircase and walk east from Buckingham Fountain to the water! I asked **Jerry O'Connor, CTG**, to help me flush out the story:

In 1959 British Queen Elizabeth II and her Prince Philip sailed on the (now retired) royal yacht Britannia from Southampton, across the Atlantic, through the newly opened St. Lawrence Seaway in order to arrive in Chicago and attend an International Trade Fair. They anchored off-shore due east from Buckingham Fountain.

Then on July 22, 2005 (about a month after the Rotarians left!), the Chicago Tribune had more information to offer about the occasion.

They wrote that the trip "...marked the first time a reigning British monarch had come to Chicago. The royal couple sailed down the new seaway in the royal yacht Britannia and were brought ashore by a royal barge...more than a million people gathered along the shores of Lake Michigan to greet the queen and prince. Joining the Britannia was a fleet of seven warships and hundreds of smaller craft, including two Chinese junks. Smartly dressed, wearing white gloves and her trademark handbag, the queen walked across a

red carpet that had been rolled over Lake Shore Drive and delivered a brief speech upon her arrival in Grant Park.

As Jerry pointed out, this true story should prove to the doubting tourists that Chicago is, indeed, connected to the Atlantic Ocean (as well as the Gulf of Mexico!) and capable of harboring deep-water vessels.

Red Doors...or “Another One Bites the Dust”

What can I say, *Jerry O’Connor, CTG*, is one of my “go-to guides.” About the time I was asking him about Queens Landing, he wrote to tell me about a letter to the editor of the Chicago Tribune which he had written and been told would be published.

The letter commented upon the historic importance of the wooden, red double-doors on the side of the CBS Studios on McClurg Court. Alas the letter was not published. But at my request, Jerry offered this explanation about the history of the ill fated doors:

The CBS Studio building (a former riding academy in the twenties) was sold and will come down for a, yes, high-rise condominium. I felt that the developers (or the Chicago Historical Society) should save the doors, because they are the same ones through which separately entered Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy for the historic first ever television debate in 1960. The studio where the debate took place has changed, but the doors are the same. JFK went into the debate as the underdog, but carefully studied Nixon by watching film of his speeches. An overconfident Nixon, having re-injured a knee earlier that day, appeared nervous, unshaven, sweating, and clearly ill at ease. Along with half the country, I watched the debate on television. JFK emerged the winner according to AC Nielsen and most viewers, and the rest is, of course, history.

Errors? Omissions?...the Encyclopedia of Chicago

Last year we sold copies of the then “new” and long awaited Encyclopedia of Chicago at greatly reduced prices. Almost immediately our members started to talk about what wasn’t included or what was wrong!

As this short newsletter shows, we have a few members who have “been around the block.” Jerry O’Connor, CTG, is a noted historian and author. He wrote me this late last year:

While quickly browsing only a few sections of the Encyclopedia of Chicago, I caught an error in the incorrect size comparison of the Ferris Wheel

and the Eiffel Tower. The Eiffel Tower, at almost 1,000 feet, is much taller than was the great wheel.

Also, there is no separate article about the Midway, which survives geographically virtually unchanged. And nothing about the *Fountain of Time*, Lorado Taft’s noble work at the Midway’s west entrance.

Nor any mention of the visionary but unfulfilled plan to convert the former pleasure grounds into a cultural attraction after the Columbian Exposition. Intended were monumental and soaring Parisian style bridges over a canal cut through the center of the Plaisance. Alongside each canal bank for the entire mile would have been works of enduring sculpture and statuary of the great men and women of history. Only the *Fountain of Time* was commissioned and will finally be fully finished next spring (**Editor’s note:** now unveiled!).

Incidentally, the canal was actually dug and the depression for it still exists along the center of the Midway. The plan for the Midway’s redevelopment was the subject of my first article for the Chicago Tribune Sunday Magazine in the mid 60s. *Lorado Taft’s Boulevard of Broken Dreams* had cover mention and three full pages, but the photo dominating the cover was that of a young congressman from the North Shore shown in mid air over a trampoline, apparently a part of his exercise routine. His name: Donald Rumsfeld.

My Tribune Magazine article identified a funding source (The Benjamin F. Ferguson Fund) that resulted in money for the then crumbling work to be restored. It was re-dedicated by Mayor Richard J. Daley and Senator Paul Douglas (D-IL) with the Fire Department Band in attendance and yours truly, with wife Joanne and (then) young son Michael in the first row. I suggested the wording for the marble plaque on the site. (**Editor’s note:** Today Michael works at the firm begun by his late-mother, Joanne O’Connor, founder of *Chicago Is..., a CTPA Associate Member.*)

Perhaps CTPA members may have comments or corrections about the otherwise concise and carefully organized encyclopedia about our great city.

If you have more Encyclopedia corrections, we have the space to publicize them!

Event of Interest...Prairie Avenue?

While Aileen Mandel, CTG, had my attention, she also shared this upcoming event note:

There are **Prairie Avenue History Tours** led by William Tyre from 2-4 pm on August 28 and also September 11 and 25. You do have to make reservations at Glessner House.