

Charles A. Purcell House (1909).

Designed by William Gray Purcell and George Peick for Purcell's parents, Charles and Edna, for which they left their large 1893 home on Forest Avenue in Oak Park (incidentally, just a few doors down from Frank Lloyd Wright's Heurtley House.) It was later elaborated upon by Louis Sullivan's chief draughtsman George Grant Elmslie, who by 1909 had left Sullivan to partner with Purcell.

Philander Barclay. My personal favorite of all the famous Oak Park residents, Barclay was the loner son of a Marion Street druggist, later operating his own bicycle shop around the corner on North Boulevard, in his spare time collecting photos and stories of the area, and eventually taking hundreds of his own over a period of decades—all of which are now on deposit at the Historical Society. In a 1931 Oak Leaves interview he said "Nobody ever thinks about saving the past until the past is gone." A morphine addict, he committed suicide in 1940 at the age of 61.

The Illiniwek. Based on a 1735 drawing by French artist Alexandre de Batz (1685 - 1759) "Desseins de Sauvages de Plusieurs Nations," which includes the earliest known depictions of the Illiniwek (or Illinois) peoples.

Robert McCormick, the owner and publisher of *The Chicago Tribune*, in an effort to shave some time off his downtown car commute from his estate in Wheaton, Illinois bought a Sikorsky S-38 amphibious plane (approximately \$50,000 in 1928 dollars) and took to the open air instead, where he reportedly met up with a waiting boat in Lake Michigan to row him ashore to the Tribune Tower.

Mammoths and Mastadons. No dinosaur fossils have yet been found anywhere in the Illinois region, but the later, large Pleistocene mammals were abundant.

George Elmslie and William Gray Purcell, architects. Though it's unlikely that Elmslie met with Purcell when the latter was planning construction of his home, it's not altogether impossible. Elmslie later detailed the distinctive fretsawn ornament on the front porch gable as well as helped add on to the garage.

The original colors of the house were described by Purcell as "plaster: greenish buff; framing: neutral olive, with sashes and outlines [the color of] old brass."

Arthur B. Heurtley House (1902).

Probably Frank Lloyd Wright's great early masterpiece, it typifies what became known as the Prairie Style, though in vibrant autumnal tones and stretching tiers of sparkling art glass. Wright here visits the second owners of the house, his sister Jane Porter and her husband on the upper veranda, sometime in the early 1940s.

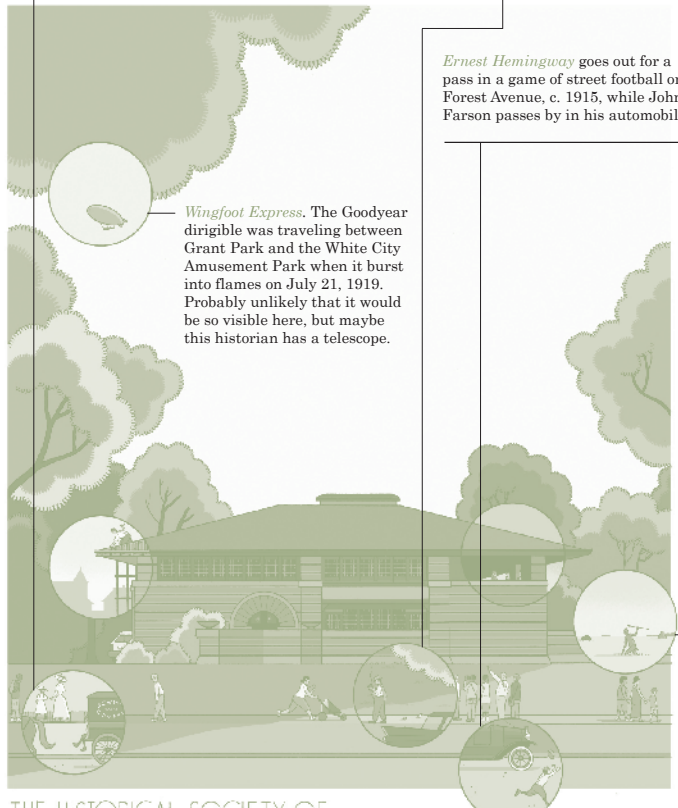
The Potawatami. Residing in various and disparate midwestern locales from what is now Michigan to Wisconsin to Illinois, the Illinois tribe is perhaps best known for the 1812 Battle of Fort Dearborn, suffering profoundly from the "Removal Period" which followed.

For Whom the Bell Tolls (1940). Here, a passing pedestrian reads a jacketed first edition of Hemingway's work sometime in the late 1960s, when the Heurtley house had been divided into apartments and fallen into neglect.

Bowman Dairy Co. was a Chicago Dairy with facilities in Oak Park, amongst others. It was purchased by Dean Foods in 1966.

Ernest Hemingway goes out for a pass in a game of street football on Forest Avenue, c. 1915, while John W. Farson passes by in his automobile.

Wingfoot Express. The Goodyear dirigible was traveling between Grant Park and the White City Amusement Park when it burst into flames on July 21, 1919. Probably unlikely that it would be so visible here, but maybe this historian has a telescope.



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