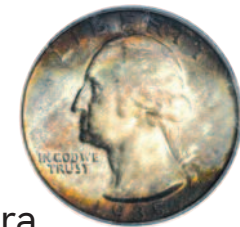




# Humble beginnings, some rough waters and a whole lot of determination.



Portuguese immigrant Arthur Agra begins operation of speed boat rides from the south east corner of Navy Pier with a boat carrying 6 passengers. 1935

Grandfather Art Agra in rocking chair at Navy Pier. 1941

Father Bob Agra Sr. driving speed boat with Paul Harvey. 1940s

Arthur and son Robert Sr. move their operations to the south west side of the Michigan Avenue Bridge at Wacker Dr. as Mercury Sightseeing Boats and expand with vessels carrying 40 passengers. 1950s

The Agras expand to include sightseeing boats both at the State Street bridge and the Michigan Avenue Bridge with vessels carrying 100 passengers. 1960s

Bob Sr. dies suddenly and Robert Agra Jr. takes over the operation, closing State Street operations and experiencing growth at the Michigan Avenue location. 1970s

Bob Jr. & Holly Agra take over business. After the first Taste of Chicago on Michigan Avenue, a light bulb went off to really capture weekday riders. 1981

Bob Jr.'s wife Holly expands operations by adding Chicago's First Lady Cruises, a sister company operating the first riverfront fine dining vessel in Chicago. Holly becomes the first female President of The Passenger Vessel Association. 1991

Chicago's First Lady Cruises expands its company and the partnership with The Chicago Architecture Foundation that began in 1993. Three vessels operate within her fleet and complement the original Mercury, Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline, which continues to operate 2 sightseeing vessels.

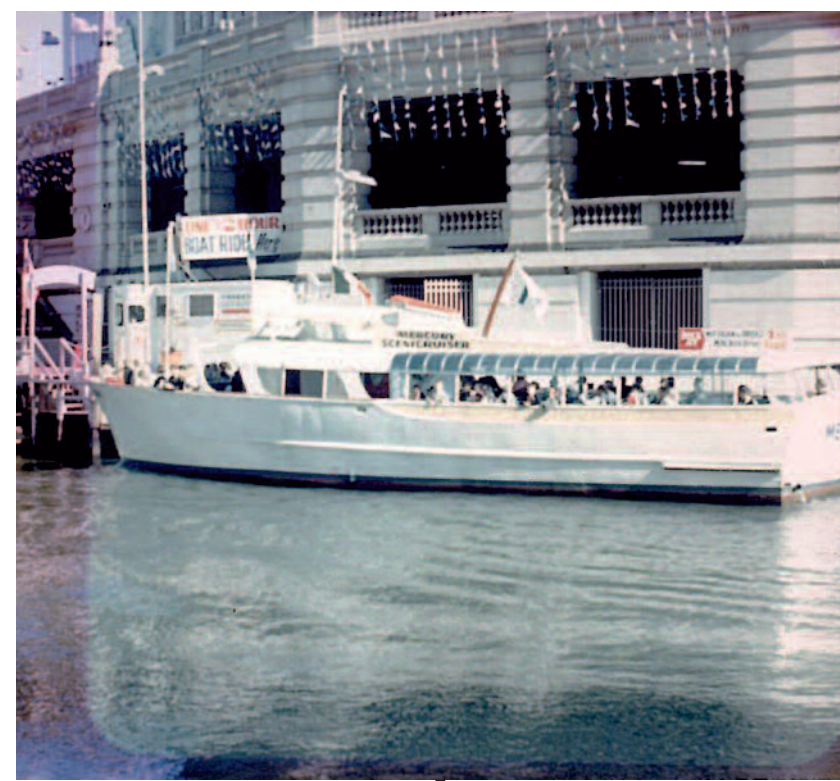
Chicago's Little Lady 1999

Lady Grebe 2004

Chicago's Fair Lady 2006

Agra family 2010

Chicago's Leading Lady 2011



1930s

1940s

1950s

1960s

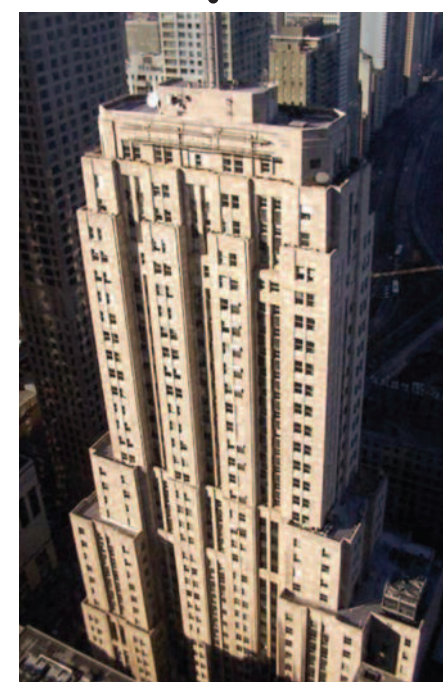
1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

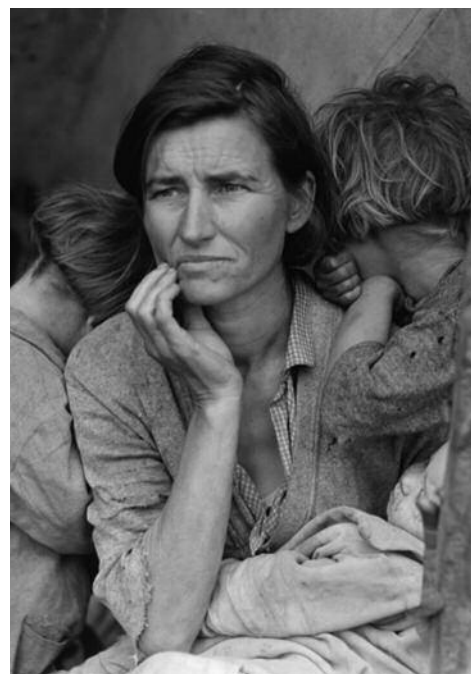
2010s



Palmolive Building 1929



Al Capone sentenced to 10 years in Alcatraz 1933



The Great Depression 1929-1939

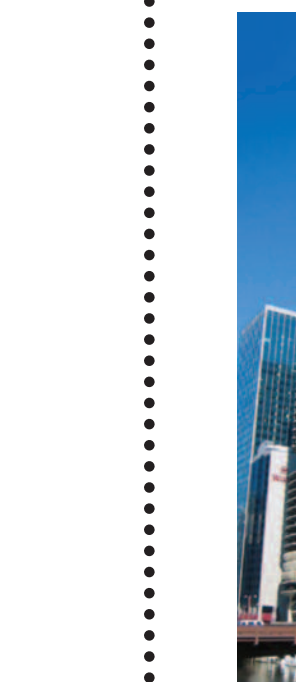


World War II 1941-1945



One Prudential Plaza 1955

Richard J. Daley becomes Mayor 1955

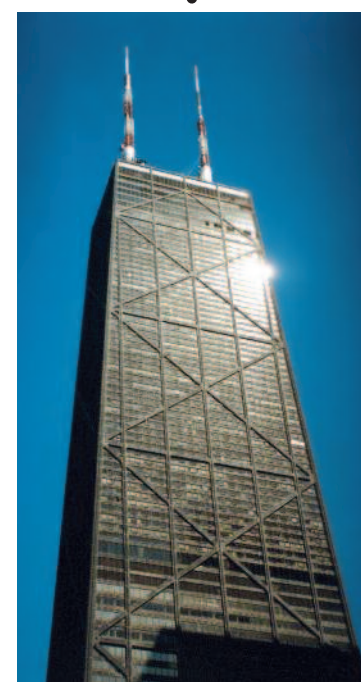


O'Hare Intl. Airport opens 1955



Marina City 1964

State Street becomes a major shopping district 1960s



John Hancock Center 1969



Standard Oil/Aon Center 1973



Sears/Willis Tower 1974

The first Taste of Chicago 1980

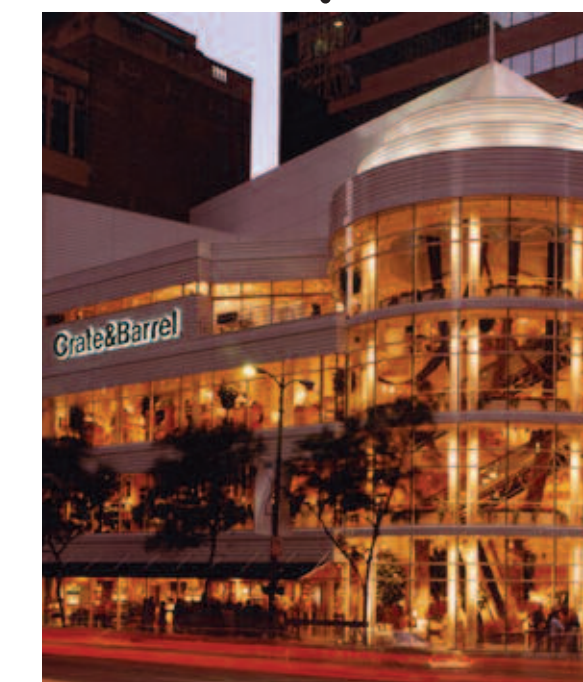


333 N. Wacker Dr. 1983



NBC Tower 1989

Richard M. Daley becomes Mayor 1989



Crate & Barrel 1991

Chicago hosts World Cup Soccer 1994



McCormick Place South 1996



Park Tower 2000



Riverbend Condos 2001

Millennium Park opens 2004



Hyatt Center 2005

America elects first African-American president from Chicago 2008



Aqua 2009



Trump International Tower 2009

Rahm Emanuel becomes Mayor 2011

