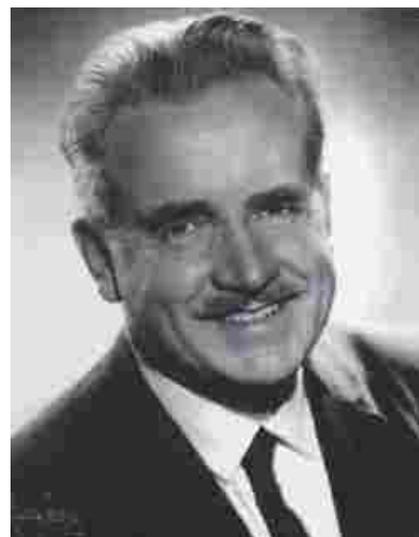


# Schilke Music Products

## Chicago, Illinois

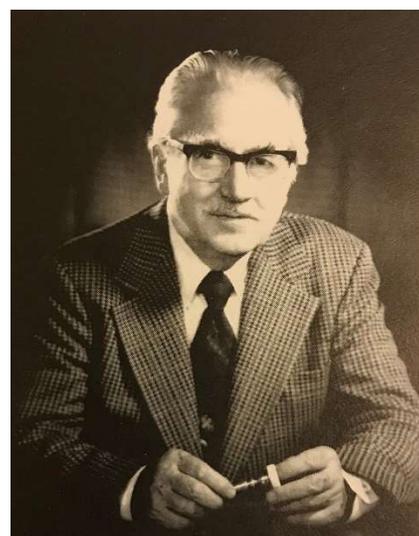
- 1910 Reynold Otto Schilke is born on June 30<sup>th</sup> in Green Bay Wisconsin (Groves).
- 1918 Schilke starts studying cornet under Del Wright (Groves).
- 1921 Schilke begins his professional career with the Orpheum Vaudeville Circuit and the Holton factory band (Groves). He observes brass instrument making at Holton.
- 1920s Schilke works for a local gunsmith during high school, learns tool & die making, and starts 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 becomes 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, #6115 N. Fairfield Ave, same home in 1935. He lists his highest grade attained as a freshman in high school (census).
- 1942 Schilke now playing 2<sup>nd</sup> trumpet with the CSO (CSO).
- 1943 Schilke moves to 3<sup>rd</sup> assistant trumpet (CSO).
- 1947 The Schilke logo is first used on Oct. 30 (TM office).
- 1950 Schilke now playing 4<sup>th</sup> trumpet (CSO). His home is at 926 Belle Plaine Ave, Park Ridge, IL (census).



- 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 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Lyons Band Instrument Company (ET).
- The first use of the trumpet logo is on July 21 (TM office).



- 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 The 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, on October 31. His baroque trumpets are now made there (Naumann website).
- 2012 The "Schilke Handcraft" logo is trademarked (TM office).



## Schilke Locations:

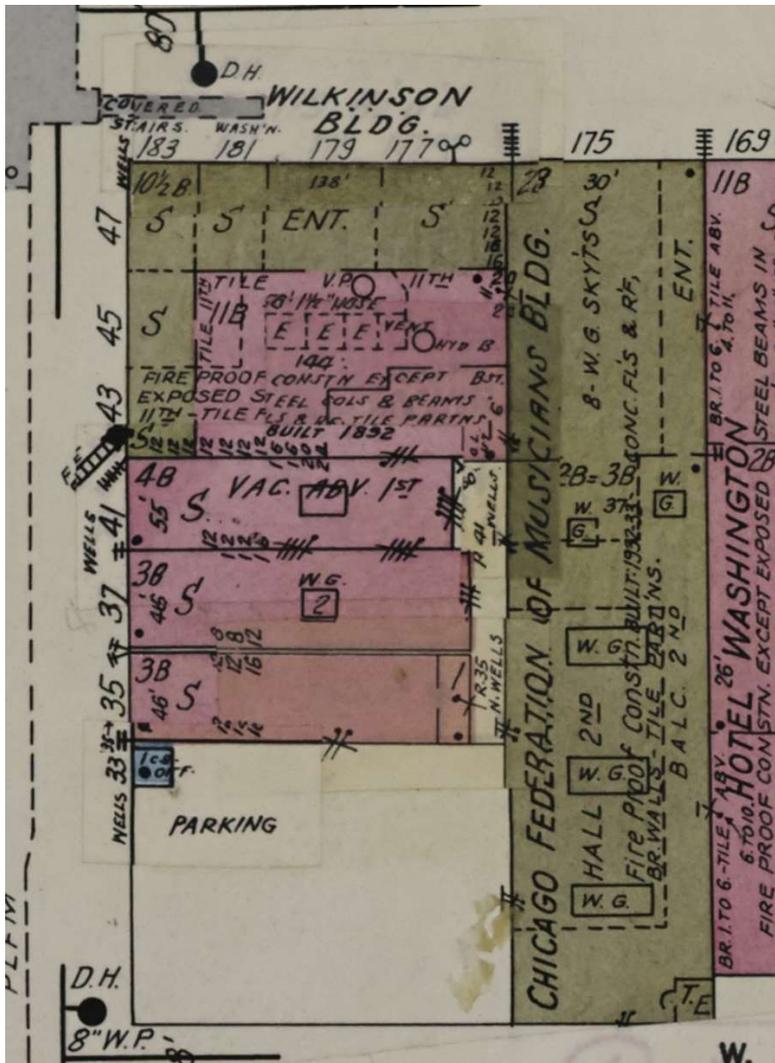
### #6615 North Fairfield Ave, Chicago: 1930s to 1940s

This was the home of Edward Llewellyn where Schilke was living. After Llewellyn's death in 1936, Schilke used part of his mouthpiece business to support his widow Josephine.

### #926 Belle Plaine Ave, Park Ridge: Schilke's home in 1950 as well as his shop (photo 2).

### #183 West Washington, Chicago: 1959-1963

The first separate shop was started here in 1959. This was shown in the 1950 Sanborn map as a 10.5 story building at the corner of Wells and just a few doors down from the Chicago Federation of Musicians building. Photo 3 at right shows the current building which may be the original, highly modified. The old musicians' building is on the left.



### #223 West Lake St, Chicago: 1963-1967

Schilke was on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Lyons Band Instrument building (photo 4).

**#529 South Wabash Ave, Chicago: 1967-1989**

This is now an empty parking lot, but the 1950 Sanborn map shows this as the Red Cross building.

**Beecher St factory in Winfield: 1974-1981**

This was used for an assembly factory. I have not found an actual address, but below is the only factory on the street.



**#4520 James Place, Melrose Park: 1989-present**

This is the current location for Schilke in 2023.

