Chicago — An Illustrious History

(CEA members @ the annual Golf Outing saying Thanks)

More elevator-industry history has been written in the Chicago environs than in any other place in North America. Elevator World (EW) focus this month on America’s second city with a special section. My father called it the “Crown Jewel of Elevating.” Because of the great fire of 1871, more than 30% of the buildings in Chicago were destroyed, so the area is known more for the originality of its buildings, rather than their antiquity. Its loss of 3,000 buildings spawned a group of architects, now known as the “First Chicago School,” the work of which would have a profound effect upon architecture and, thus, our industry. The new buildings were steel to prevent fire. Between 1885 and 1895, there were more steel-frame high-rise buildings in Chicago than in all of the U.S. This was the birth of the skyscraper and, of course, Chicago held the title of world’s tallest building for almost 25 years. To cover this special issue on Chicago, we solicited feedback from readers in the area. We could have spent much longer, but there is only so much room in one book. This is an area that we will have to revisit many times. The special section begins with the History of CEA. The Chicago Elevator Association (CEA) established in 1911 is the oldest local association in the industry, and the article outlines many of the elevator firsts that occurred in Chicago.

Elevator World by Ricia Sturgeon-Hendrick

Another Chicago Tower Planned

Chicago's Murphy Development announced it has partnered with CIM Group of Los Angeles to develop a glassy 46-story residential tower at 1326 S. Michigan Avenue in Chicago's South Loop area downtown, Curbed Chicago reports. Designed by Solomon Cordwell Buenz (SCB) and bearing a resemblance to Studio Gang's emerging Vista Tower. The building would contain approximately 500 rental units, retail and parking. CIM is developing several other residential high rises in Chicago, and it hopes its stake in 1326 S. Michigan will help the project land financing.

Elevator World