
If Americans are going to come to terms with their industrial cities of the nineteenth century, they will need some guidance. This volume is a step in that direction. Two urban historians briefly sketch the development of seventeen community areas that together form a triangle extending roughly eight miles south and southwest from the mouth of the Chicago River. These community areas, or neighborhoods, were defined by sociologists nearly fifty years ago as a way to analyze the city. Glen E. Holt and Dominic A. Pacyga largely accept the validity of these units and conveniently use them as the organizing device to bring together a variety of information about the city.

Each community is presented in several ways. First, an essay weaves together data on the original settlers, the development of urban transportation, institutions located in the community, centers of employment, demographic patterns, and types of housing. Second, a portfolio of illustrations, each with a helpful caption, presents the "look" of the community over time. These pictorial resources are, in many ways, the heart of the book.

Much less satisfying is the early-twentieth-century city street map that has been cut into fragments and reprinted in seventeen sections to give a spatial description of each neighborhood. Since the map is dated 1904, it needs analysis itself as a historical document and has many limits as a guide to the communities. Because each area is only a fragment of the whole map, street names often do not appear on the reprinted section; thus, using the maps as locational aids for places mentioned in the text or described in the illustrations often becomes an exercise in futility.

However, Holt and Pacyga are not primarily interested in geographic description or architectural landmarks; instead, they are after the broader themes of demographic movement and community change. In most cases the transitions they describe seem so rapid, so fundamental, and so constant that one gets a feeling of basic instability. Only in a few cases has the flux been moderated enough to create the stability which makes a community liveable from one generation to the next. The most unstable areas that the book describes are the Loop, the Union Stock Yards, and the Central Manufacturing District. The
Loop, it is helpful to remember, was a primary residential area for most of its history, a function it may regain in the near future.

Much thought has been given to ways in which the central business district might maintain its vitality. The old streetcar neighborhoods deserve the same consideration. How have they changed in the past? How are they changing today? How can change be managed in the future? As urban planners ponder these questions about Chicago’s South Side, this volume should serve as an excellent place to begin building the answers.

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This study examines the public service activities of Chicago’s first generation of academic professionals. Beginning with the founding of the University of Chicago in 1892, Steven J. Diner describes the role of faculty and administrators in the urban progressive movement. The account ends in 1919 with the unsuccessful attempt by Charles Merriam, a political scientist from the University of Chicago with an impressive record of political achievement, to unseat Mayor William Hale (Big Bill) Thompson in the Republican primary election.

Two major themes essential to the process of modernization provide the background for this book: (1) the development of a complex, interdependent urban pattern of life and (2) the emergence of the university as the major agency for the discovery and dissemination of knowledge. In discussing the relationship between the city of Chicago and its four universities—Chicago, Northwestern, Loyola, and DePaul—Diner attempts to explore the evolution of “our modern mechanisms of public policy” (p. 87). He does so by examining community service, that area of faculty performance which was then, and is today, least understood in terms of professional role.

Diner considers major public policy issues, including public education, criminal justice, social welfare, and urban planning and administration. Academicians identified with these subject areas participated in shaping related policy, albeit in limited numbers and with varying degrees of success. These specialists,