

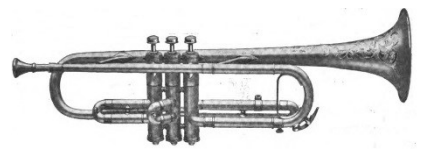
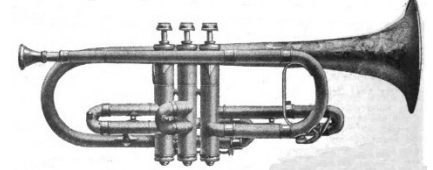
# William Frank Co.

## Chicago

- 1892-1899 William Phillip Frank (1876-1932) is in Williamsport, PA and working for the Henry Distin Co (DAMD).
- 1899 “William Frank, an employee of the Henry Distin Manufacturing Co., Williamsport, has accepted a position with one of the largest band instrument factories in Toronto, Canada.” (*Music Trade Review*, August)
- 1901 William is living in Toronto with wife Pearl and brother Jesse Good Frank (1886-1977) (census).
- 1909 The William Frank company was started this year, according to ads in the 1930s, so perhaps he was doing this part time while still with Holton. [A 1926 *Music Trade Review* article says manufacturing for 15 years = 1911.]
- 1910 William Frank is VP of the Frank Holton & Co w/home at #2638 Gladys; musical instrument superintendent. Jesse Frank is a foreman in an instrument factory (census).
- 1911 William Frank Co., #542 S. Dearborn, h. #122 E. 56<sup>th</sup>
- 1915 The National Band Instrument Co. was incorporated this week with \$50,000 capital (*MTR*, July 10<sup>th</sup>). “The National Band Instrument Co., #227 West Austin Ave, Chicago, has changed its name to the William Frank Co.” (*MTR*, Dec.)
- 1918 Jesse is working for the William Frank Co. located at #227 West Austin Ave. in Chicago (draft).
- 1919 William Frank Co., #227 W. Austin Ave, purchased land at the corner of Clybourne & Lewis streets to build a one-story factory (*MTR*, March). The Army Quartermaster Corps recently ordered “G Trumpets” for Army bands from William Frank Co (*MTR*).
- 1923 William Frank Co., #2033 Clybourne Ave., Chicago, William Frank pres, Arthur Davis sec, Jesse Frank tres, musical instruments (dir). They had a large growth of business during the year (*MTR*, January 1924).
- 1926 “The Charles W. Noll Co. has been organized to take over the eastern representation as a branch factory for the William Frank Co. Charles Noll, formerly head of the Imperial Band Instrument Co., Williamsport, PA, is president of the new company.” (*MTR*, Sept. 13)
- 1926 Frank opens a retail store at the factory, #2035 Clybourne (*MTR*, December).



- 1927 A Bach shop card lists an Aida trumpet bell by Wm. Frank.
- 1930 William and Jesse are listed as band instrument makers. William's son Wilbur Melvin Frank (1907-2002) is a musical instrument machinist (census).
- 1930 The William Frank Co., #2029-2033 Clybourne, has a 40,000 square foot factory. Their new catalog shows the Classic, Excelsior, and Student models of brass band instruments as well as Excelsior saxophones and clarinets. They announce a new Excelsior Fluegel horn in January and a French horn of Frank's design in November (*MTR*).
- 1931 A new baby Sousaphone in Eb or Bb is now available with a 22" bell (*MTR*, January).
- 1932 William Frank dies (death cert.).
- 1934 Start of "American Prep" line of student instruments (*The New Langwill Index*).
- 1940 Jesse is listed as an executive of a band instrument factory. Wilbur Frank is vice-president of the company (census).
- 1942 William Frank Co., #2033 Clybourne Ave (Draft).
- 1943 A 12,694 sf factory is built at 228 James St in Barrington (tax records).
- 1945 Barrington plant opens (source?).
- 1948 William Frank Co buys "unsubdivided" land in Barrington from Harvey Weiss for \$10 (Lake Co records).
- 1950 Jesse is the owner of & Wilbur is an executive for a musical instrument factory (census).
- 1956 The factory property is sold to Walter Bieschke for \$80,000 (or \$8,000 in grantee index) and recorded on 2/29 (Lake Co records). Equipment is sold to Schilke.
- 1958 American Gaylord cornet & trumpet advertised match the Frank American Prep models (see last page).
- 1959 The William Frank Co is dissolved on 9/8 (Lake Co records).



**Regulation Trumpet, in G, with Slide which may be drawn to F—**

Every Military Company Home Guard, Civilian or Scout Trumpet and must have one or more.  
This Trumpet possesses a powerful, brilliant, far carrying tone, which is equally good for field or band purposes. Perfectly in tune.

Made by the World's largest producers of high-grade Trumpets

Price, \$5.50

Send for Circular

**Wm. Frank Company**  
229-231 W. AUSTIN AVE., CHICAGO, ILL.

**\$35.00 A REMARKABLE CORNET**

**COMPLETE IN CASE**

**A REMARKABLE PRICE**

UNLIMITED GUARANTEE LENGTH, 17 INCHES

Here you see illustrated the NATIONAL Long Model Cornet. A strictly high-grade Cornet—every inch of it. A Cornet built to make an Ideal-A Cornet that never out and one not to be judged from the standpoint of its astonishing low price.

It has and always will be the purpose and policy of this Company to achieve a standard of quality and value—not merely a standard of price.

We might attempt to tell you about its tone and quality, its ease of blowing, its perfect tone, but we much prefer to have you try the Cornet for six days, free, and without obligation.

Send for Circular number four.

the facts for yourself. Then, and only then, will you realize what a wonderful Cornet the NATIONAL Long Model really is. For the first time, perhaps, you will experience the indescribable sensation of playing on a Cornet that is absolutely flawless.

Space will not permit us to make even one-half of the surprisingly good features included in its construction. But—accept our assurance—there is a tremendous surprise in store for you when you first try this Cornet. Then, we predict, your first query will be—“How is it possible to build such a Cornet for \$35.00?”

Send for Circular number four.

**WILLIAM FRANK & COMPANY**  
Makers of High-Grade Band Instruments  
229 W. AUSTIN AVE. CHICAGO, ILL.

Photos are from Horn-u-copia.net unless otherwise marked.  
 Photo 4 is New Era model trumpet #3345 (auction photo)  
 Photo 5 & below – National Long Model Cornet  
 Photo 6 – National model Trumpet  
 1919 Bugle ad photo 7

National Cornet #10046, below & top right



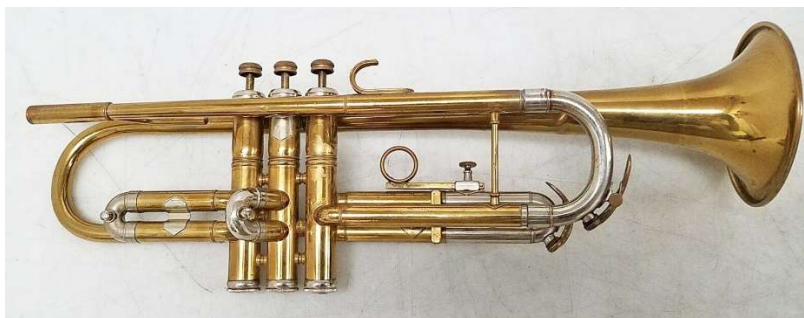
New Era Cornet #4263



Artist model Cornet #11692



Biltmore Trumpet #111334 made in Barrington



1951 Offerings

*William Frank* • **BAND INSTRUMENTS** •

**WILLIAM FRANK  
"CLASSIC"  
B♭ CORNET**



Proudly presented as the finest cornet skill can create or money buy. Made with the precision of a fine watch. Slides are hand-ground to an air-tight fit. Slide tubes are drawn with carbonyl dies for perfect fit and high temper. Valves are precision drilled, with perfectly matched port holes. Pistons chromium-plated. Result: Glorious tone, superb performance, effortless playing. Brass lacquered, nickel trimming. List 139.50. No. M3-100C. Dealer's, each 106.33. **104.20**  
Less 2% net.

**WILLIAM FRANK  
"STANDARD"  
B♭ CORNET**



Frank craftsmanship in a moderately priced and truly fine cornet. All we ask is that you examine and play the William Frank. Note that gleaming beauty, that eager response, and above all note that clear, true, brilliant tone. It's new from mouthpiece to bell, with new precision in grinding and fitting, new refinements and advances throughout. Clear brass lacquered finish. List 127.50. No. M3-202A. Dealer's, each 85.00. **83.30**  
Less 2% net.

**WILLIAM FRANK  
"AMERICAN PREP"  
B♭ CORNET**



Beautiful tone, perfect intonation, extremely easy to blow. Highly responsive. The Ideal instrument for beginners and amateurs. This cornet as well as all musical instruments made by William Frank is fully guaranteed. Dimensions 17 1/2" long, 4 1/2" bell diameter. Gold lacquered finish. List 90.00. No. M3-400D. Dealer's, each 66.00. **58.80**  
Less 2% net.

**WILLIAM FRANK  
"CLASSIC"  
B♭ TRUMPET**



In every detail, the master creation of master workmen. Specially tempered bell. Chrome-plated pistons. Hand-fitted slides. Micro-finished valves. Nickel-silver slides and trimmings. Perfectly proportioned mouthpiece—all adding up to a superb trumpet unsurpassed in appearance, intonation and laying ease, with a crisp, clear, true trumpet tone. There is no finer trumpet made. Brass lacquered, nickel trim. List 139.50. No. M3-110C. Dealer's, each 106.33. **104.20**  
Less 2% net.

**WILLIAM FRANK  
"STANDARD"  
B♭ TRUMPET**



You'll be surprised, when you examine this trumpet, that so much real quality can be bought at so moderate a price. The Frank "Standard" Trumpet is a professional trumpet in every sense of the word, carefully designed and precision-built to thrill the amateur and please the pro. It's perfectly balanced—easy to hold. That Frank mark is a guarantee of rich, true trumpet tone. Clear brass lacquered finish. List 127.50. No. M3-210A. Dealer's, each 85.00. **83.30**  
Less 2% net.

**WILLIAM FRANK  
"AMERICAN PREP"  
B♭ TRUMPET**



A wide model trumpet, with a long, graceful appearance, perfectly balanced, has a tone of remarkable beauty and brilliancy. The ideal trumpet for beginners and amateurs. Exceptional value. Fully guaranteed. Dimension: 20" long, 4 1/2" bell diameter. Gold lacquer finish. List 90.00. No. M3-410D. Dealer's, each 66.00. **58.80**  
Less 2% net.

**WILLIAM FRANK  
"STANDARD"  
B♭ TROMBONE**



A unique combination of the most modern precision equipment and old-time standards of hand craftsmanship endow the William Frank "Standard" Model Trombone with truly extraordinary tone, intonation, carrying power and playing ease. . . . To see the instrument is to fall in love with its flashing beauty. . . . To play it is to realize that you have come to the end of your trail in your search for a perfect trombone. Bell diameter 7". Clear brass lacquer finish. List 127.50. No. M3-221A. Dealer's, each 85.00. **83.30**  
Less 2% net.

**WILLIAM FRANK  
"AMERICAN PREP"  
B♭ TROMBONE**



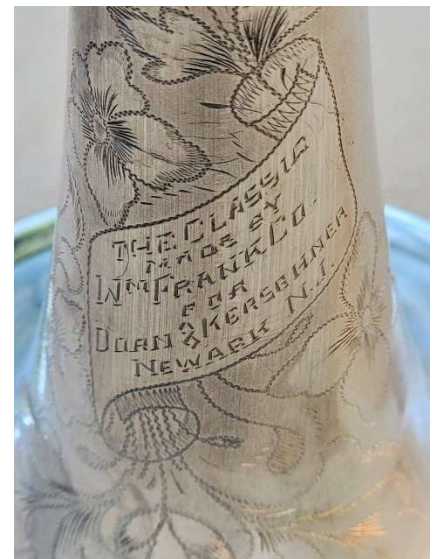
A scientifically proportioned Trombone with extremely light slide action. Perfect Balance. Equipped with a detachable balancer and slide lock. — The perfect Trombone for the beginner or the amateur. Fully guaranteed. Gold lacquer finish. List 85.00. No. M3-420D. Dealer's, each 56.67. **55.54**  
Less 2% net.

ORDER ITEMS ON THIS PAGE FROM

WHOLESALE PHOTO SUPPLY CO.

SEE PAGE 221 FOR ORDER BLANK 229

42 W. CERMAK ROAD, CHICAGO 16, ILLINOIS



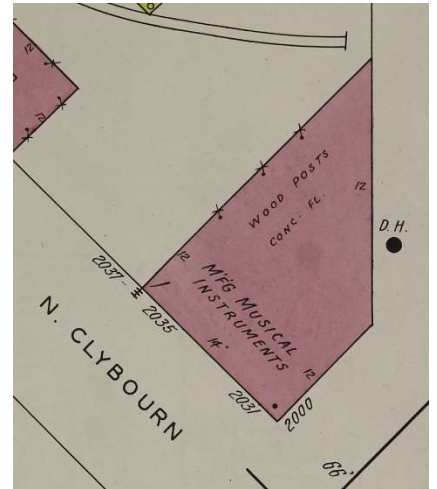
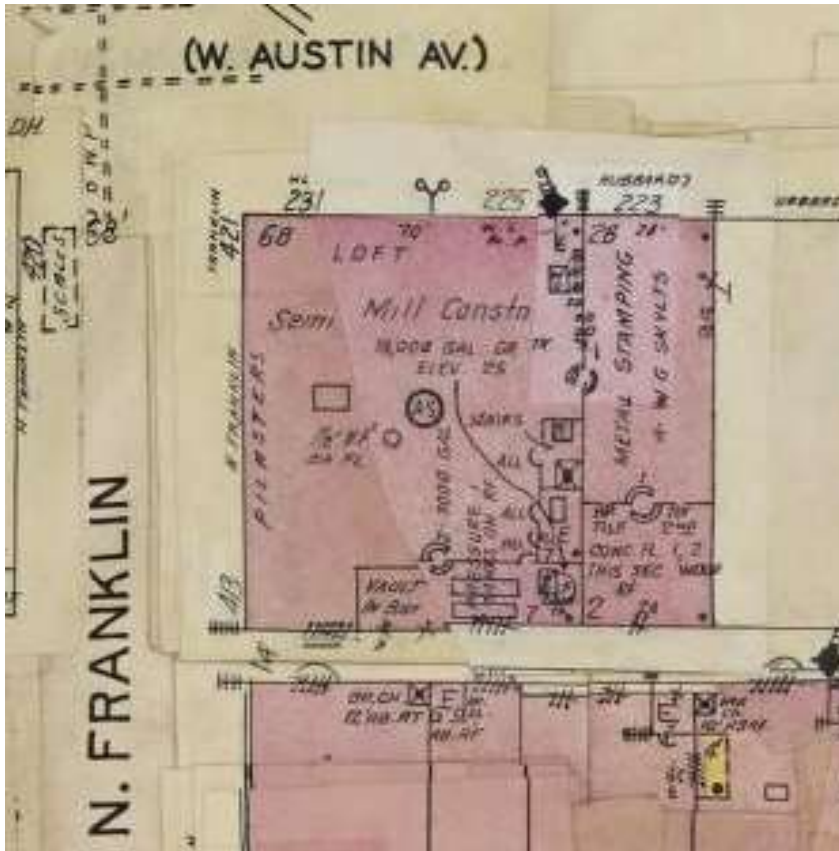
Classic model Trumpet #15150 made in Barrington  
below and top right (author's photos).



## William Frank locations:

**542 South Dearborn, Chicago:** The first William Frank business address was in this office tower built in 1891 (photo 1 at right). He had moved out by 1915.

**227 West Austin Ave, Chicago:** By 1915, Frank was on West Austin Ave (later changed to West Hubbard). The Sanborn map below shows this industrial building at the southeast corner with North Franklin. This building was replaced in 1925 by the current one (photo 2). In 1919 his address was 229-231; the left half.

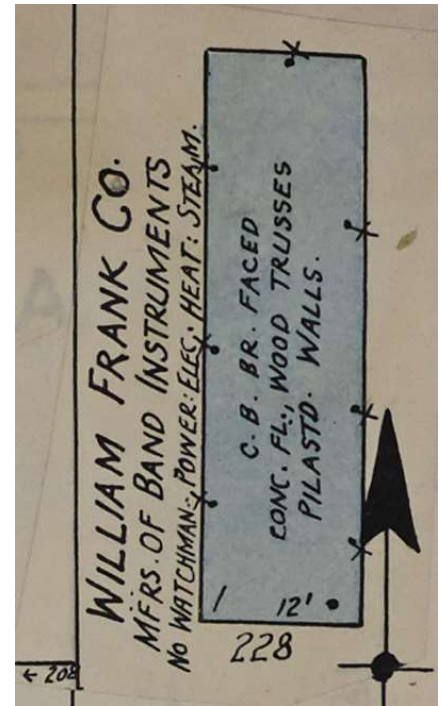
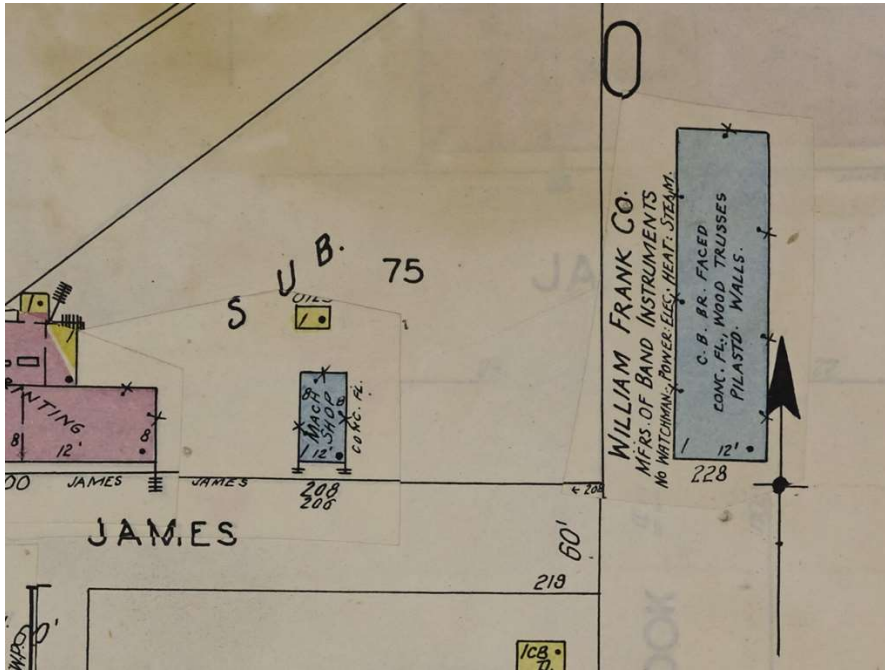


**2033 North Clybourn Ave:** Frank purchased this property in 1919 and built a one-story factory as shown in this Sanborn map at right from 1935. This was located at the corner of Lewis St (now Magnolia). Today this site is a shopping center (below).

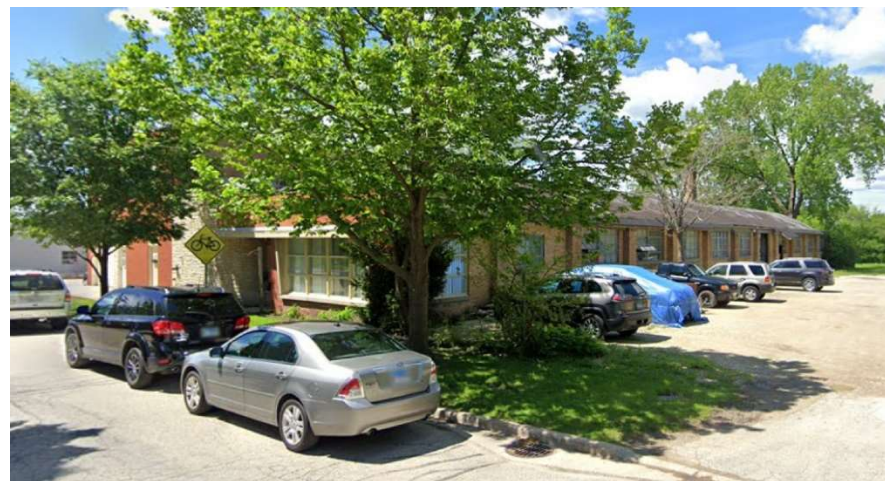


**228 James St, Barrington, Illinois:** The Frank Co moved here in the 1940s and remained here until they closed.

1950 Sanborn map – a one-story block building 22' x 85'



In 2023 it is #234 and a two-story addition is on the left.



“The Classic” trumpet #7901 c.1927 at right (author’s photos).

## American Gaylord Band Instruments:

An interesting possible addition to the William Frank history is this 1958 ad below for American Gaylord instruments sold through the Barth-Feinberg Company in New York. They use the exact same images used in the 1951 Frank advertising at the right.

**AMERICAN GAYLORD BAND INSTRUMENTS**

- GOLD LACQUERED WITH NICKEL TRIM
- PROFESSIONAL QUALITY

**CORNET OUTFITS**  
A beautiful new series instrument carefully made to show and make appearance (1 1/2", 4 1/2", 4 1/2", 4 1/2").  
No. 341—Gold lacquer finish, nickel plated in recessed parts.  
REGULAR PRICE \$54.00  
YOUR SPECIAL PRICE \$49.50  
Complete Outfit

This beautiful Band-Gladstone plain-lined case is included with all outfits.

**TRUMPET OUTFITS**  
Wide mouth trumpet, long angled instrument, perfectly balanced for a long and comfortable sound and excellent "B" tone. 4 1/2" bell diameter.  
No. 342—Gold lacquer finish, nickel plated in recessed parts.  
REGULAR PRICE \$54.00  
YOUR SPECIAL PRICE \$49.50  
Complete Outfit

**SYMPHONY**

American Gaylord instruments found have been stencils of the American Triumph model by Harry Pedler & Sons from the early 1950s. Did this company buy the Frank business or at least the remaining stock in 1956? One former Schilke employee did confirm that they purchased the equipment of Frank when they closed.

Despite many references found to William being a horn player for the CSO, that person was actually Wilhelm Frank (1869-1936), born in Germany, who came to the US in 1901 (census records).

