

# 5 THINGS YOU (probably) DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT CHICAGO

1

## Bears escaped from Lincoln Park Zoo "almost nightly"

In the late 19th century, bears became expert at climbing up the rough, rocky sides of their dens, and in time it was their almost nightly practice to escape and roam around the Park.



2

## Chicago's early skyscrapers float on rafts.

Chicago sits on a bed of clay, so how did early architects keep ever-taller buildings from sinking? John Wellborn Root designed a "raft" of crisscrossed iron bars encased in concrete, which essentially kept the buildings afloat.



3

## The Monadnock's revolutionary exterior owes its design to pigeons.

The northern half is known for its sleek exterior. Peter Brooks of the Brooks Brothers insisted that Burnham and Root design a simple face because projections and decorations meant dirt. Even worse, they would attract pigeons, and Peter hated pigeons.



4

## Peter Brooks really, really hated pigeons.

He hated pigeons so much he wanted his building at the corner of LaSalle and Adams to be called anything but The Rookery. He gave Burnham and Root a list of at least twenty potential names. You can see how that worked out.



5

## A runaway built the Wrigley Building.

William Wrigley, Jr., got in so much trouble at school, and ran away so often, that his dad finally put him to work in his soap factory, then let him work as a traveling salesman at the age of 13. By the time he was sixty, he'd made so much money selling five-cent packs of gum, he paid cash for his skyscraper.

