

KERNELS OF LEARNING

Personalized Education Newsletter— Generation 4 & 5 Edition

October 2022

Uncovering Babson History

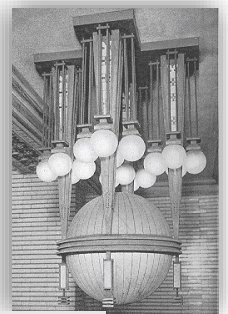
The Edison Shop - 229 South Wabash - Chicago Loop

We recently came across a **new family history find**. The Edison Shop, completed in 1912 and owned by Henry Babson, was a four story commercial building where Edison phonographs were sold. William Purcell, George Elmslie, and George Feick, along with interior designer George Niedecken, created this striking building that we hadn't previously known about. This was the only Chicago office building designed by these architects. Not a coincidence, it showed similarities to the Gage Building on Michigan Ave that was designed by Louis Sullivan. Turns out, Sullivan and Elmslie worked together on a number of projects including our very own Babson house in Riverside, Illinois.



The shop seemed designed for the comfort of its customers. Upholstered wooden armchairs, tables, sofas, and elegant rugs created a luxurious waiting area. There was hardly an item of merchandise in sight with the exception of a couple of tall phonographs that were visible in the first-floor display window. It is fun to note, George Niedecken (the interior designer), was involved in making the mahogany case for the Tall Clock in the Riverside house (see the History Minute on page 3).

The Edison Shop's first and second floors contained listening booths where customers could listen to phonographs in comfort. Additionally, the first floor featured a Concert Room for musical performances or auditions of Edison phonographs. The Concert Room featured wicker furniture, a small stage with an Edison upright cabinet phonograph, and upper walls decorated with a mural of tree branches, leaves, and hanging lanterns (pictured below). Edison advertisements for "The Phonograph with a Soul," has audience members try and guess: *Is it an opera singer, or is it an Edison?*



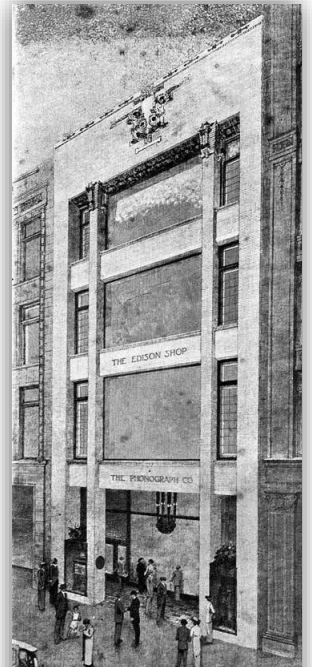
Hanging electrolier over the main entrance above the display window

During the building's history, it was known by other names: Edison Building, Edison Phonograph Shop, and the Babson Brothers Building. Designated a Chicago Architectural Landmark in 1959, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks described the shop as "a place of dignity and

beauty." Nevertheless, the building was demolished in 1967, erasing important links to Chicago's commercial and architectural history. Where it stood, is now the parking behind the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and by DePaul University College of Computing and Digital Media (pictured at right). You can also see the "L" train tracks which is short for Chicago Transit Authority's "Elevated" rail system.



Source: https://runningintomyself-blog.com/?page_id=8328



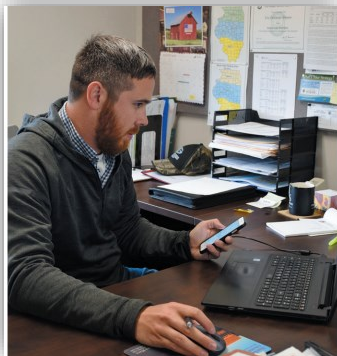
*Rendering, The Edison Shop
Babson Brothers, Chicago*

SOIL

Agronomy 101

Smart Farming - Internet of Things (IoT)

As we learned in the last newsletter, it is estimated that ag production will need to increase by 70% to meet population demands in 2050 (9.7 billion people). Just as other “smart” technologies have revolutionized the way we live and do business, so it has with farming. Smart farming involves the integration of modern technologies that have arisen out of the Fourth Industrial Revolution such as Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI), which has led to accelerated processes, cost-efficiencies, maximization of resources, minimized environmental impact, and increased production. Here are some examples:



Our very own Eric Shearer was featured in the DeKalb County Ag Magazine article “Smart Tech for Smarter Farming” where he talked about how drones are helping BFI to see what is needed in the fields or what issues they can mitigate to hopefully make the farms more efficient and to increase yields.

the supply chain. By using this technology, if an imported vegetable poisons consumers, the source of the outbreak can be easily traced and only the affected products withdrawn.

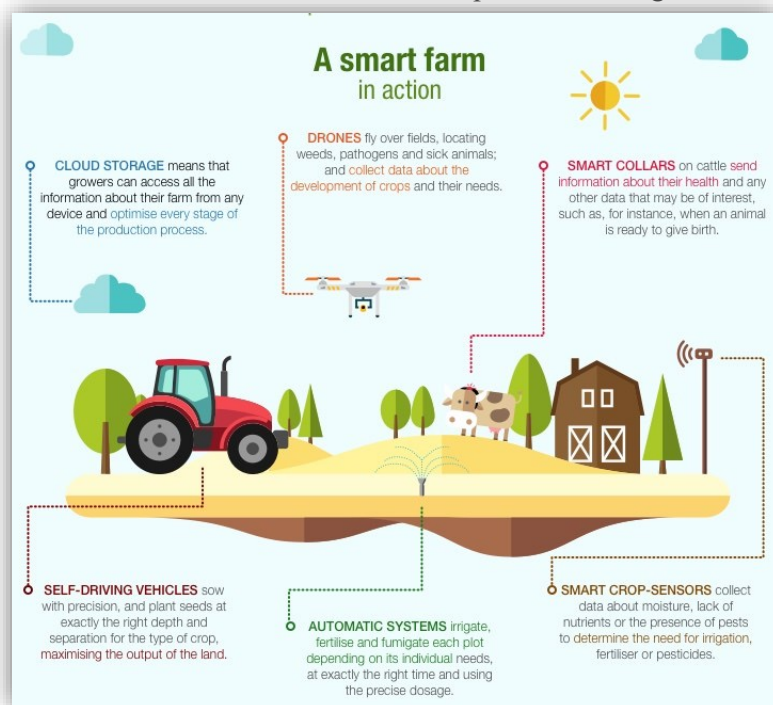
Artificial Intelligence and robotics are helpful by automating the processes of seeding, watering, harvesting, sorting, and interpreting field images to **apply fertilizers and pesticides with surgical precision.** This also helps in avoiding human errors.

Drones simplify supervision tasks for farms by being able to **cover hundreds of acres in one flight** to gather a wide variety of information about the condition of the land, irrigation needs, crop growth, and the existence of pathogens.

Internet of Things (IOT) makes it possible to **optimize the monitoring of farms**, mainly through **smart sensors**, making it easier to make all sorts of management decisions. With driverless tractors and new IoT enabled machines, tasks like seeding and planting are becoming more flexible and effortless instead of a time-intensive manual process. Additionally, farmers can now resolve problems like sowing the seeds in-depth and spacing it at an appropriate distance for better plant growth, as well as combine mapping and sensor data to analyze soil texture, quality, density, moisture and nutrient levels to ideally increase yield.

Big Data provides farmers with the ability to analyze massive amounts of information obtained from drones, IoT, and other measuring instruments and **integrate it both with historical information for the farm and with weather data**, in order to optimize all stages of the production process.

Blockchain makes it possible to monitor crops from growth to sale, improving, for example, **the traceability of**

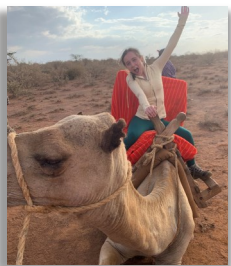


Sources: <https://community.nasscom.in/communities/digital-transformation/agritech/smart-agriculture-methods-and-strategy-for-farmers.html>

<https://www.iberdrola.com/innovation/smart-farming-precision-agriculture>

Family Spotlight

The Atlanta Kirkpatrick's went to Kenya this summer to visit the school that was constructed through their partnership with TFalls Foundation. Mary Elizabeth had a summer job at a juice / smoothie store named D-Tox. She is in her senior year and will soon be submitting college applications.



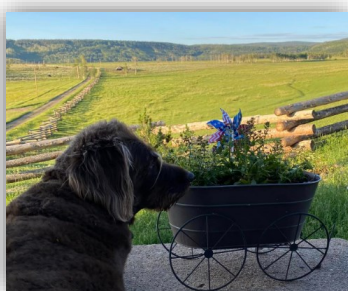
Sarah had a busy summer at the lake with friends and won The World Grand Championship Stake for 13 and under three gaied on her horse Oh What An Asset (Fruit Loops). She is in eighth grade and playing travel lacrosse and diving + cheer and horse back riding.



The Denver Kirkpatrick's had a nice time in Steamboat over Labor Day weekend and continue to enjoy time away from Denver at their place in Florissant. Henry is excited to be learning French and has a lead role in the 5th grade musical - Magic Tree House: Knight at Dawn.



The Steamboat Kirkpatrick's are staying busy with Antlers, Hummingbird Acres, the farm, and ranch. Congratulations Cho on your Doctorate degree!



Wheelocks JT was in Gaithersburg, MD over the summer doing an internship taking care of a 20-horse barn while receiving dressage coaching. In May he attended the Land Rover Kentucky 3 Day Event in Lexington where he met a number of competitors including three-time Olympic medalist, Phillip Dutton (pictured at right). JT is now a senior. Chuck is still at UC San Diego as Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. He and Zeff went on an Alaskan fishing trip in July. Zeff and Andronica are enjoying their relatively new home and Koi pond.



Check It Out

Babson Memories Slideshow <https://vimeo.com/231610306>

History Minute

Tall Clock, 1912



This handsome tall case clock was designed by the firm of Elmslie & Purcell for the Babson House in Riverside, Illinois. Although Louis Sullivan designed the house in 1907, a large part of the scheme, including the built-in and

freestanding furniture, was actually executed by Elmslie, who was then working for Sullivan. In 1912, Elmslie and his firm made additions to the house, including eight pieces of furniture. This elegant clock's works and nine chimes were imported from Germany and its hands were made by Chicago metalsmith Robert Riddle. Elmslie worked on this with the same interior designer firm, Niedecken-Walbridge, that was doing the Edison Shop interiors (front page).

Celebration

- Tim's Birthday September 14th
- Dave's Birthday September 15th
- Molly's Birthday October 1st
- Taylor and Molly's Anniversary October 1st
- Zeff's Birthday November 24th
- Taylor's Birthday November 26th
- Chuck's Birthday January 9th
- JT's Birthday February 9th