

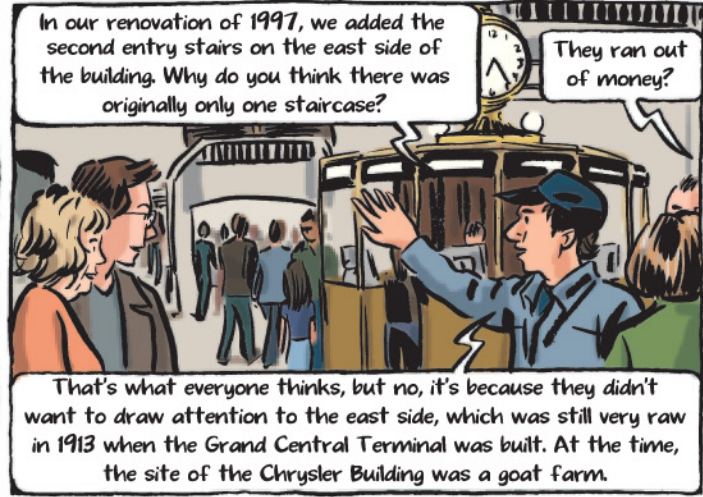
Grand Central

At the Generation 5060 (Chicago alumni from the 1950s and '60s) tour of the Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan, the terminal guide was full of interesting tidbits.



You'll note an ocean motif all over the building. It refers to the way the Vanderbilts, who built the terminal, made their fortune.

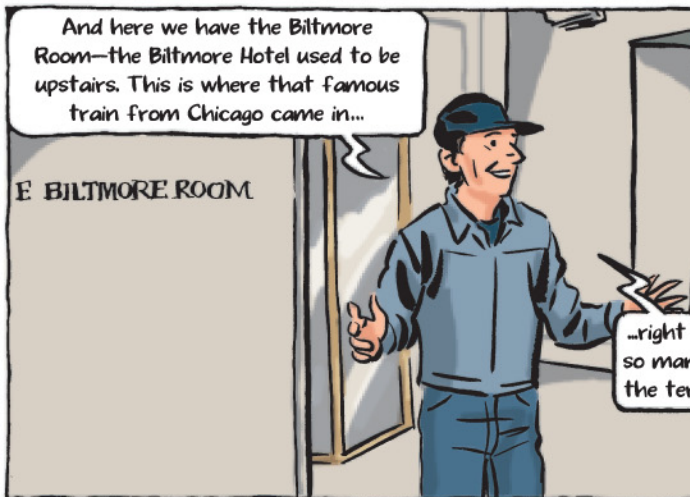
Commodore Vanderbilt was a shipping mogul, and the family only got into trains later.



In our renovation of 1997, we added the second entry stairs on the east side of the building. Why do you think there was originally only one staircase?

They ran out of money?

That's what everyone thinks, but no, it's because they didn't want to draw attention to the east side, which was still very raw in 1913 when the Grand Central Terminal was built. At the time, the site of the Chrysler Building was a goat farm.



And here we have the Biltmore Room—the Biltmore Hotel used to be upstairs. This is where that famous train from Chicago came in...

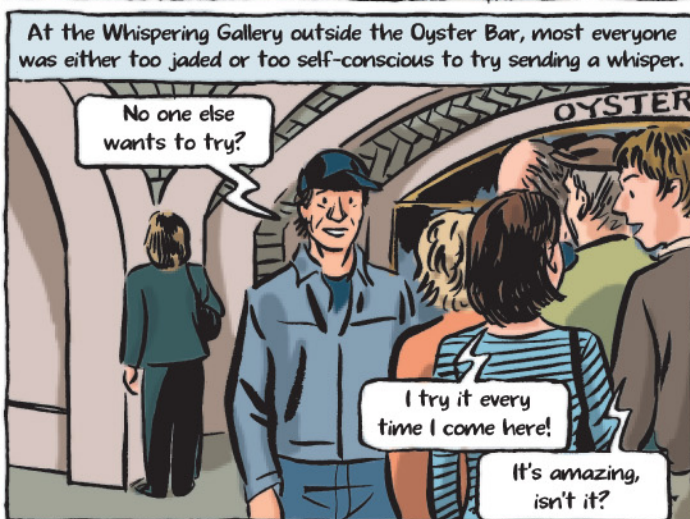
E BILTMORE ROOM

The Twentieth Century Limited!

...right here on tracks 39-40. There were so many joyful arrivals that the staff at the terminal called this the Kissing Room.

It was a nice train—I was on it once. I'm from Chicago. I came here for work.

I came here on the Commodore Vanderbilt when I was eight!

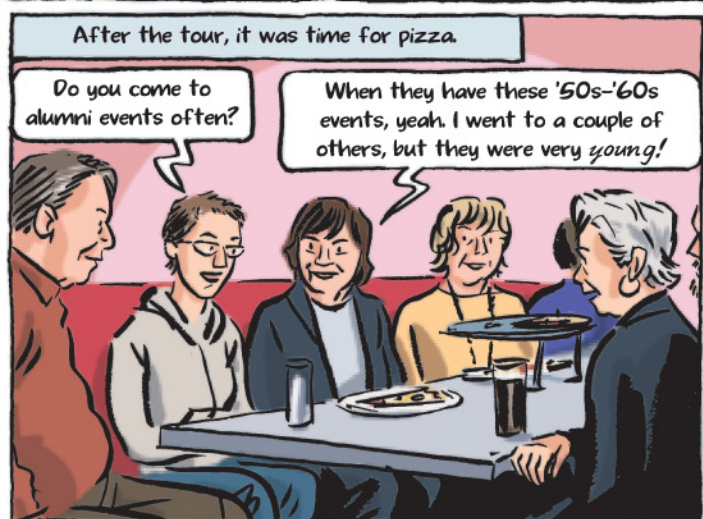


At the Whispering Gallery outside the Oyster Bar, most everyone was either too jaded or too self-conscious to try sending a whisper.

No one else wants to try?

I try it every time I come here!

It's amazing, isn't it?



After the tour, it was time for pizza.

Do you come to alumni events often?

When they have these '50s-'60s events, yeah. I went to a couple of others, but they were very young!