



Wrecking a Swift Company building in the Union Stock Yards.

Why did the Stockyards Close??

In the late 1940's and 1950's, the United States built big highways for cars and trucks. Refrigerated trucks were invented close to the same time. Highways and trucks changed the meat business. Meatpacking companies used refrigerated trucks on highways to ship meat. Instead of big factories in Chicago, the companies built small factories in farm areas. In 1955 the big meatpackers started leaving Chicago. By 1971, they were all gone. The Chicago Union Stockyards closed.

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<http://www.chicagohs.org/history/stock.html>**