

# IOWA

# ARCHITECT



## Iowa Chapter American Institute of Architects

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### Architects Spark New State Group

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#### Aim To Preserve Historic Sites

Two members of the Iowa Chapter, in a matter of a few short weeks, have succeeded in creating a new state-wide group organized for the preservation of Iowa landmarks of historic or architectural interest.

The movement was started by Prof. Leonard Wolf, Iowa State College, and William Wagner, chairman of the Iowa Chapter's committee on historic buildings.

Backed by stories in the Des Moines Register, the idea caught the interest of hundreds of persons throughout the state. Many have written to Wolf and Wagner suggesting buildings to the attention of the organization.

Governor and Mrs. Leo A. Hoegh expressed their interest and support of the movement. The first meeting of the new organization was held Thursday,

(Continued on page 3)

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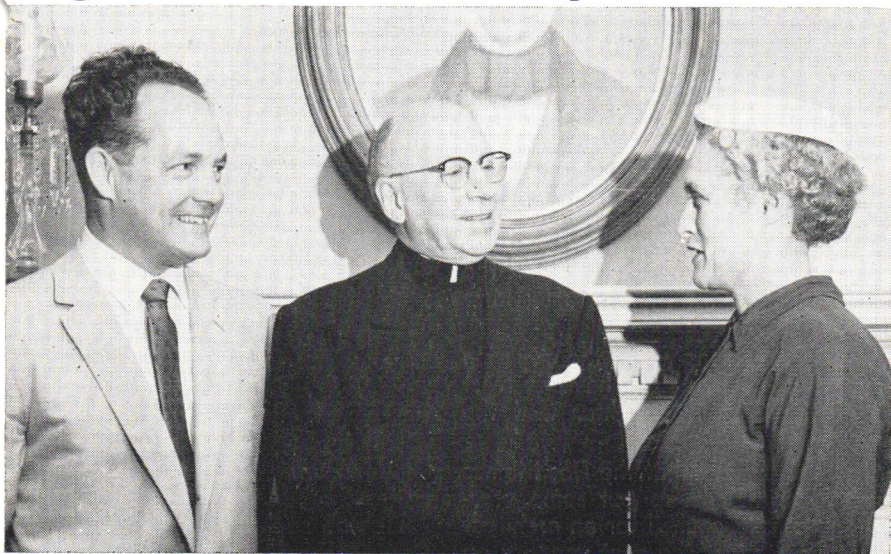
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# Wagner Named Secretary-Treasurer



William Wagner, left, member of the Iowa Chapter, A. I. A., has been named secretary-treasurer of the new state group for the preservation of historic buildings. President is Rt. Rev. M. M. Hoffman, center, of Dyersville. Vice-president is Mrs. Otha Wearin of Hastings. Prof. Leonard Wolf was named to the committee to prepare a constitution and by-laws for the new group.

May 31, in the Governor's Mansion in Des Moines. Mrs. Hoegh acted as temporary chairman for a group of 70 persons from throughout Iowa.

The Rt. Rev. M. M. Hoffman of Dyersville was elected president. He is a noted historian and author of the book "Antique Dubuque." Mrs. Otha Wearin of Hastings, wife of a former congressman, was named vice-president, William J. Wagner, Des Moines architect who lives in Dallas Center, was chosen secretary-treasurer.

## Mrs. Hoegh

The officers were selected by an executive committee named by Mrs. Hoegh.

Monsignor Hoffman said the officers and committees will serve until the next

## Architecturally Designed

New fathers are Ed Munzenmeir, Savage and Ver Ploeg, a son; and Stan Lyles, Woodburn and O'Neill, a son. Congratulations.

meeting, which probably will be in October. He appointed this committee to select a name for the organization:



Wolf

John Adams, secretary of the Greater Des Moines Chamber of Commerce; Simpson Smith, Des Moines, and J. C. Moore, publisher of the Madisonian at Winterset.

Selected to prepare a constitution and by-laws were:

Monsignor Hoffman, Mrs. Wearin, Prof. Leonard Wolf of Iowa State College and George Mills, Des Moines Register reporter.

Among structures already nominated for the attention of the new organization are an 80 year-old eight-sided barn near Delta in Keokuk county, the Caleb Clark stone house in Winterset.

# Urge Architect on City Plan Group

Clyde Lighter, a former member of the Des Moines city plan and zoning commission, told architects meeting in Des Moines June 6 they should urge that an architect be appointed to the commission.

Since Lighter's term expired last April, there has been no architect on the 15-member commission.

Lighter spoke at a meeting of the Iowa chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

"I feel very strongly that the city plan commission should always have at least one architect on it," Lighter told the group.

"I would suggest that the Des Moines members of the group put some pressure on the city council for an architect to be appointed at the next vacancy on the commission."

City Councilman Robert E. Conley, who participated in a panel discussion at the meeting, replied to Lighter:

"I've had a lot of pressure for a real estate man to be appointed, too. I haven't anything against Clyde.

"The main thing is your public interest. You don't have to be on the plan and zoning commission to engender some influence on what's to be done."

Conley said the next vacancy on the commission will occur in March of next year.

Prof. John R. Fitzsimmons, head of the landscape architecture department at Iowa State College in Ames, and Walter Voss, administrative assistant to City Manager Leonard Howell, participated on the panel with Lighter and Conley.

A total of 31, including the panel members, attended the meeting which had a "Rock-N-Roll" musical background from a teen-age dance in an adjoining room.

The plan and zoning commission is an advisory body which makes recommendation to the city council on matters concerning the future development and layout of the city.

It tries to foresee problems in such things as public transportation, street layouts and traffic flow, and in the growth of subdivisions and outlying commercial centers.

It also aids in planning the design, location and functions of public buildings.

Lighter said at the meeting at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club that Des Moines architects have been "a little lax" in trying to get an architect on the commission.

He said that as far as he knew he was the first architect appointed to the commission since the early 1930's. He was appointed in 1948.

After the meeting, Lighter said the commission needs an architect "because of his knowledge of planning."

"It's right along his line of work, and it seems to me they should take advantage of the skills and training that an architect has," he said.

Conley said that come planning experts recommend that planning commissions have no more than nine members.

"Even with our 15 it seems that we can't get everybody represented," he said.



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## Architects Aid Civil Defense

Des Moines members of the Iowa Chapter have turned out in some force to make an unusual contribution to the function of the Des Moines Filter Center, a key point in the aircraft warning system in this area.

The architects are doing the art work on a huge grid used in locating and tracking aircraft from the reports of observers out of the state.

This is the first time that work of this type has been done by a volunteer group anywhere in the country. Reports of the job being done by the Des Moines architects have reached top civil defense authorities in Washington and, apparently, the project is being watched with considerable interest.

It seems possible that the architects' job in Des Moines may become a pilot

## Five Names Submitted For Board Appointment

Names of five architects have been submitted to Gov. Leo Hoegh for consideration in filling two vacancies on the Iowa State Board of Architectural Examiners. A poll of registered architects determined the names and the order of Chapter preference, as follows:

1. William L. Parish, Davenport
2. Gerald I. Griffith, Des Moines
3. O. H. Thorson, Waterloo
4. Charles B. Silletto, Des Moines
5. William L. Perkins, Chariton

project that will be copied in other communities throughout the country.

Architects contributing their time and talent at the filter center during evening hours are Jim Lynch, Stan Haynes, Herb Shane, George Peterson, Keith Shirk, Richard Goewey and Bill Taylor.



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# THIS I BELIEVE

By Paul Rossiter

Many years ago a respected individual of mature years and superior wisdom called my attention to these words of the Psalmist:

"Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children."

"And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it."

As time passed, its meaning started to unfold. I saw that David's petition for evidence of God's glory or omnipotence, evidence of His beauty or harmony, the Psalmist's desire to organize his work, and the assurance that this work has a spiritual cause came to light.

All this sounds quite transcendental to the practitioner of the most practical of the arts, but is it? When we answer the question on fees to owner, would we be willing to repeat it to the Chapter? When a commission is of an ordinary nature, can we accept the first study? When the owner demands a design, a material selection, or a color combination below the standards of the architect, can we live with ourselves if we don't try to sell him an improved design?

With the awakened realization that there is Someone much bigger that we reflect should we not say, ". . . Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and . . . yea, the work of our hands establish thou it."

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## Summer Meeting

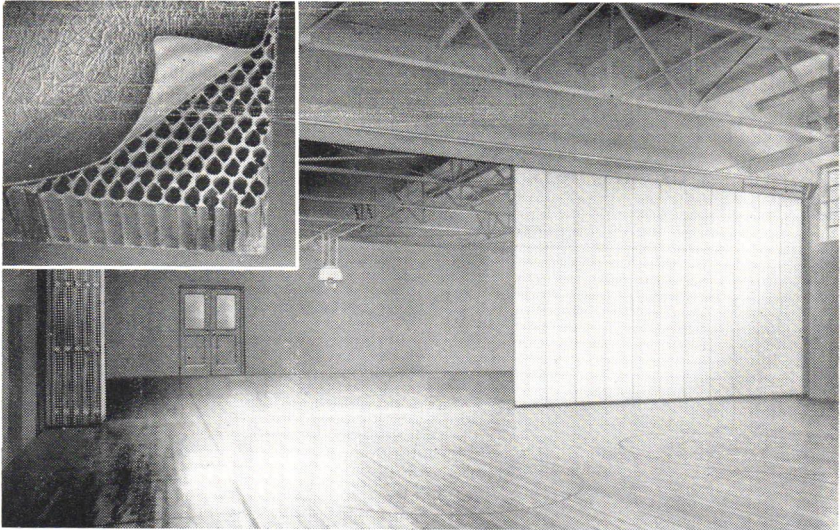
The summer meeting of the Iowa Chapter will be held July 28 at the Hotel Blackhawk in Davenport. Members and their wives are urged to attend. A traditional feature of the Davenport meeting will be the boat trip on the Mississippi. The boat went up the river year before last, down the river last year, and is expected to go "sideways" this year, according to one member. Anyway, plan to attend.

## On The Move

Bob DeVoe, formerly of Thorson, Thorson and Madson, Waterloo, has joined Bob Grow in partnership in the latter's office at 403½ Main St., Cedar Falls.

Ray Thurston has joined Wetherell and Harrison, Des Moines, and Ken Steffen now is with Lyle Howard in Ottumwa. Berney Voelker has joined Smith, Voorhees, Jensen, Silletto Associates in Des Moines.

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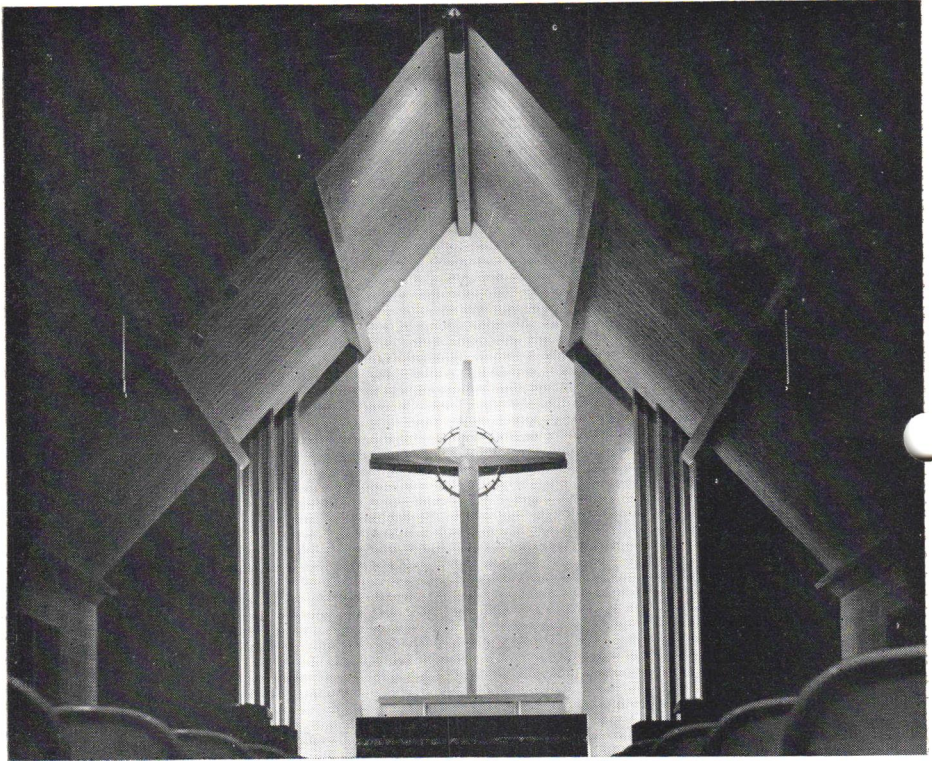
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By

Iowa Architects



This is the second in a series of pictures illustrating the work of members of the Iowa Chapter. Architects submit the pictures from their own files. The scene above shows the interior of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in West Des Moines. Savage and Ver Plogg were the architects. William Breiholz was the contractor. Members are invited to continue this series by submitting pictures of their work to James Lynch, editor.

# The Service Scoreboard Lights Up

This is a gratifying issue of Iowa Architect. It contains no less than three articles reporting public or civic service by Chapter members: The formaton of the new state group for preservation of historical sites, the volunteer work of members at the Des Moines filter center, and the movement to place an architect on the Des Moines city planning commission. Coming after months of almost fruitless searching for small items to list under our Service Scoreboard, these three reports are outstanding, indeed.

But there is one point that may have some significance: The volunteer work at the filter center and the group for preservation of historical sites are programs resulting from the activity of a **few** individuals. These programs are not actually a result of over-all **Chapter** planning and effort. The two programs are excellent and the individuals involved are to be congratulated for taking the lead. We are sure they would wlcome the support and interest of other Chapter members. Perhaps this is an opportunity to begin the long-sought **Chapter** public service program.

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