

IOWA ARCHITECT

Official Publication of

**Iowa Chapter
American Institute of Architects**

July - August, 1957



Perfect Weather, Location Mark Outing; Many Say "Let's Do It Again!"

From the first arrival until the final groups departed for leisurely trips homeward, the 1957 Summer Outing of the Iowa A.I.A. was a fun-filled, pleasurable excursion for some 30 architects and their families.

A head count showed nearly 100 persons present at one time or another during the two-full days at Vacation Village, located on the northwest shore of Lake Okoboji in the Iowa lakes area.

Fishermen found there were fish to be caught, golfers found new fairways and traps, swimmers found the water temperatures comfortable, sun bathers had plenty of opportunity to stretch in the warm sun, and the evening activities were well planned.

Architects as well as vacationers all around the lake welcomed the weekend of June 28-29-30 because Old Sol broke through and brought warm days throughout the entire weekend after some seven days in which storm clouds had marred each day.

Enthusiasm for the arrangements and facilities of Vacation Village hit a peak during the weekend, and were high enough Friday evening, that those attending asked if arrangements could be made to duplicate the weekend outing in 1958. Bob and Keith Ross,

operators of Vacation Village and Chapter President James Walsh went over the idea at length, but no positive arrangements were made for 1958. The Ross brothers said that four weekends of each June have habitually been taken by groups which have reserved them for 1958. June of this year had five weekends so there was time for one extra group—The Iowa Chapter A.I.A. The same sequence of weekends does not occur for about five years. Midweek dates are available, and the matter is

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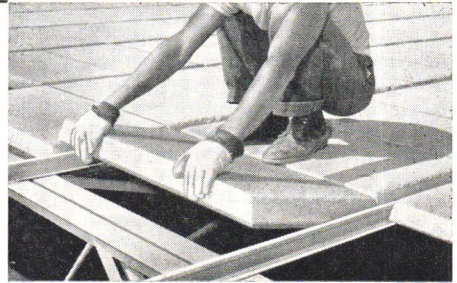
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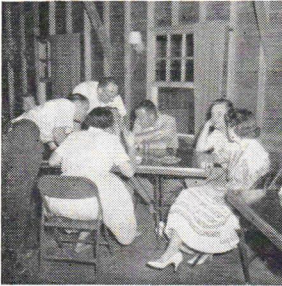
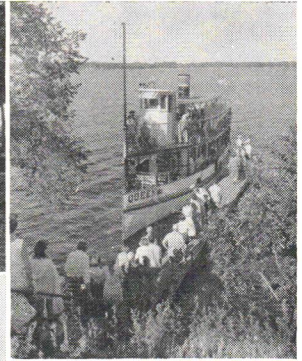
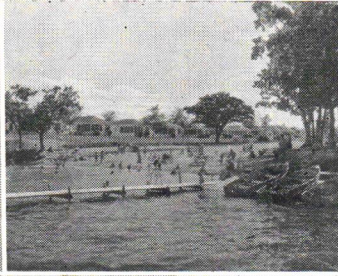
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More About The Summer Outing



Upper left: Speedboat rides were Saturday afternoon thrills. Center: The cooling waters and long slope of sand at Vacation Village's beach. Upper right: The "Queen" arrives and A.I.A. families prepare to embark. Lower left: A good many observations began with "Have you heard the one . . ." Center: Part of the crowd aboard the "Queen." Lower right: A brief view of the Saturday evening dance.

one to be decided by the Executive Board.

A.I.A. President Walsh was host to the entire group for a long cruise around the lake on the "Queen," an excursion cruiser which has been plying the lake for about three-quarters of a century and which has been dubbed "The Flagship of the Iowa Navy."

The "Queen" was well filled with architects and their families for the Saturday afternoon cruise and gave all aboard a fine opportunity to view the entire shoreline of the lake. The tour gave emphasis to the advantages of the Iowa lakes area for summer vacations.

Another pleasant activity set for the Saturday afternoon program was the speedboat rides which were included in the registration. With bows high and wind whipping a pleasant spray across

the decks, two speedboats churned the blue water of Lake Okoboji for more than a hour carrying children and grownups on curving swings around part of the lake.

Meals at the dining room were tasty and abundant, and at appropriate times there were liquid refreshments with adequate arrangements to care for the youngsters as well as the adults.

All ages and sexes found pleasure on the shuffleboard courts, the youngsters enjoyed building sand castles on the beach and there was plenty of playground equipment for all.

Bob Conley's quintet provided excellent music for dancing Saturday evening and a few of the dancers demonstrated that they still can "cut a rug."

The family evening Friday night was highlighted by a presentation of the

(Please turn the page)

**FOR YOUR USE:
"ARCHITECTURE U.S.A."**

Public Relations Chairman James Lynch announces that the Chapter has purchased a print of the 16 mm sound and color film: "Architecture U.S.A."

This film, edited from hundreds of color photos of outstanding pieces of architecture throughout the nation, is now available for use of the A.I.A. members and associates in Iowa.

Should you wish to present the film before a group in your area, send information as to the day the film will be needed to: James Lynch, Public Relations Chairman, Iowa Chapter, A.I.A., 2425 Park Ave., Des Moines, or directly to: Robert F. Bonomi, PR Counsel, Iowa Chapter A.I.A., 415 Tenth Street, Des Moines.

You will receive the film postpaid and you will pay the return postage. (In cases where usage of the film runs closely together, members will receive instructions about forwarding the film to the next user. Each user will be expected to pay the forwarding or return costs, but will receive the film postpaid).

film "Architecture—U.S.A." which the Iowa chapter now owns. The film has been purchased by the chapter and is available to members.

Bernard J. Keninger of James Walsh's office, handled registration at Okoboji.

Architects and engineers at the summer outing included:

C. Altfillisch, D. W. Appell, R. Devoe, G. I. Griffith, R. Grow, B. Higgins, L. Howard, M. E. Jensen, C. Lighter, R. W. Lyon, N. Madson, C. Peterson, F. Pulley, G. D. Robison, G. Russell, R. Savage, H. Stewart, Thorson & Thorson, S. Ver Ploeg, G. Voorhees, K. Waggoner, T. Waggoner, W. Wagner, J. Walsh, W. Woodburn, B. Keninger, R. H. Brom, Bentley and Broshar.

CONDOLENCES

Mrs. Shirley Jean Appell, the wife of Donald W. Appell of Peterson Appell, Structural Engineers, Des Moines, died at Methodist Hospital in Des Moines, July 30, of complications accompanying diabetes.

Mrs. Appell, 33, had read the Sunday comics over Radio Station KRNT for 13 years under her maiden name of Shirley Jean Olson. She was treasurer of Zeta Phi Eta, honorary speech fraternity for women.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Appell is survived by a son, Donald T., and by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Olson, Des Moines.

The Officers of the Iowa Chapter A.I.A., speaking for the membership, wish to extend sincere condolences to Mr. Appell and to the family and friends of Mrs. Appell.

The family had asked that any memorial contributions be made to the Lutheran Welfare League child placement division.

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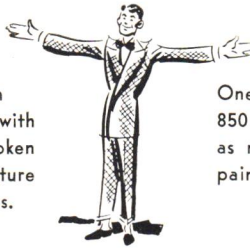
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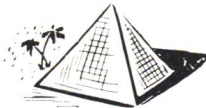
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Griffith, Thorson Named To Succeed Altfillisch, Waggoner on Iowa Board

Two men who have a total of 37 years as members of the Iowa Board of Architectural Examiners have recently completed their tours of duty and have been succeeded by two past presidents of the Iowa Chapter A.I.A.

Charles Altfillisch of Decorah, whose name has been synonymous with Iowa Architectural Examiners for 25 years, and Paul Waggoner of Mason City who has been a member of the board for nearly half that time are the two whose appointments came to an end at the beginning of July.

Gerald I. Griffith of Des Moines, and Oswald H. Thorson of Waterloo, became the new members of the examining board on appointment by Governor Herschel Loveless. Both are past presidents of the Iowa Chapter and have backgrounds which ideally equip them for the tasks ahead.

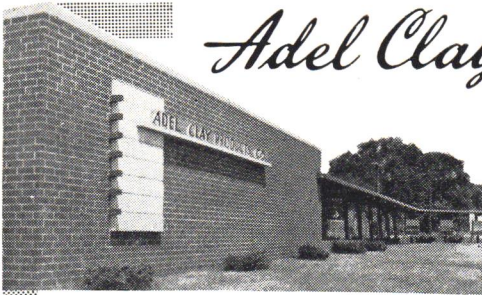
Charles Altfillisch, who is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, had served five successive five-year terms as a member of the examining board. During that period he has seen a definite growth in the number and the size of architectural firms practicing in the state.

Paul Waggoner had been appointed to fill a two-year portion of the term of a former member and then was reappointed for two successive five-year terms.

Griffith and Thorson were each named to full terms of five years.

SEE "ARCHITECTURE U.S.A."

Architects of the Quad-City area arranged for the Quad-City Kiwanis club to view the color film, "Architecture U.S.A." at its June 6 meeting.



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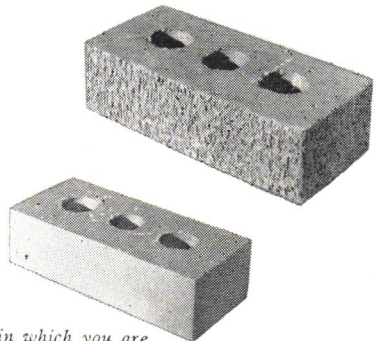
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Charles Altfillisch, senior member of the Iowa Board of Architectural Examiners and Paul Waggoner, sat for a moment with the incoming members of the Board during the 1957 Summer Outing of the Iowa Chapter A.I.A. at Lake Okoboji in June. Standing are (left to right) Gerald I. Griffith of Des Moines and Oswald Thorson, Waterloo, newly appointed members of the examining board who were named by Governor Herschel Loveless to succeed Altfillisch and Waggoner whose terms expired June 30.

DID YOU KNOW?

That several courts have ruled that unless the architect, in all his written agreements (formal and informal) with the owner, specifically includes the statement that plans "are the property of the architect" they are the property of the client.

Conscience is the still, small voice that tells you somebody is looking.

MASONRY OFFICERS

Officers of the Iowa Concrete Masonry Association for the current year are:

Jack Austin Crabbs, Davenport, president; Luke Altfillisch, Iowa Falls, vice president; C. A. "Jack" Phillips, Spencer, vice president, and F. W. Schreiber, West Des Moines, secretary-treasurer.

School Construction Conference Brings Agreement On Need For Educating Public To "Good Schools"

"Make livable Spaces—Don't make institutions," was the way Dr. Walter Cocking, editor of the *School Executive*, summed up his views on school architecture in a discussion before 150 school administrators and architects at the Annual School Building Conference held at Iowa City.

The conference, sponsored jointly by the State Department of Public Instruction, the Iowa Chapter A.I.A., and the Iowa School Board Association in conjunction with the State University of Iowa, was held at S.U.I.

It was agreed that those working with the schools and the public must cooperate in creating within each community a "climate of opinion" which would demand and accept good school buildings, and that school designing must be done with increased imagination and care.

Although many of Dr. Cocking's views may not have been new to architects, his discussion was of extreme value to architecture for his principal advice was that schools "should be planned to fit the nature and characteristics of youth."

Speaking as he was to many administrators and others whose views are often enforced upon designers, it was welcome to hear him advise:

"Junior and senior high students are neither kids nor adults. They are in between. They make an interesting group. But we haven't been planning to meet their varied needs. We plan around subjects—curriculum—instead.

"Make all space flexible; make it usable for several purposes. Your design must be flexible enough to care for any type of change in curricula; Then you have economy for years to come. Future conditions are bound to be different and your buildings must accommodate change."

He also declared:

"Buildings do not fall down. They become obsolescent—they no longer fit the purpose of the time. Make them flexible."

He stressed the need for uncluttered space in the center of rooms, the need for movable equipment that can be fitted to many situations, and he criticized the schoolmen who take movable chairs and tables, then line them up in rows as if they were fastened to the floor.

He recommended large library space,

filled with informal groupings of furniture for study and reading. He called the library "the universal laboratory of the school; the home of self-development."

He recommended elimination of "study halls," declaring that study can not be legislated. He said that such activities should be transferred to large library areas. He advocated the establishment of student centers which would be governed by the students, letting them choose the furniture, and making these centers desirable places for the children to gather.

Two items often made prominent parts of school structures also drew his fire—the auditorium and the gymnasium. He advises against combining the gym and the auditorium, and suggested that auditoriums should seat no more than 500 persons.

"When you go beyond 500, there is no feeling that the audience is part of the proceedings. Repeat plays if you must. Hold the athletic rallies outdoors or in the gymnasium."

Not all those who attended the conference were in agreement with Cocking on all points. There was disagreement with his proposal to make the classrooms "flexible" as to size. He had asked, "Why have a class of ten in a room built for 30?" Some present wanted the rooms tailored to the needs of the subjects to be taught, others said they would settle for standard "model" classrooms in the basic structure.