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NEW HOMES FOR OLD

By H. Evert Kincaid, Executive Director, Chicago Plan Commission

Urban America is awakening to the complexities of the economic and social problems of cities as never before in its history. Almost every sizeable community throughout our country has revitalized its planning commission and the other public bodies charged with the responsibility of providing for the long neglected needs of the people. Newspapers and magazines have found city planning to be first-class news material for their readers. Aspirants to political office have built their platforms on "greater city plans." State after state has passed new laws enabling cities to broaden their planning programs, to establish special authorities with vast administrative powers, and to authorize the sale of bonds for purposes never before included within the scope of municipal expenditures.

Yes, our American cities are on the march toward new municipal goals — better transportation — safer highways — greater opportunities for stable employment — more parks and playgrounds — expanded educational opportunities — more homogeneous neighborhoods — and adequate homes for the people. It all sums up to one objective — "Better cities in which to live and work."

Can it be done? Can our cities afford all this? The answers are quite obvious. Certainly it can be done and we cannot afford to neglect it if we want our cities to thrive. Over half of the people in our country live in the cities. These people manufacture the commodities required by all the people throughout a war-torn world. Cities are important as our centers of culture and as the seats of democratic government. We cannot let them fail.

To meet all of these problems requires the utmost of collaboration among all the public and civic bodies, both national and local. Snap judgment or selfish motives will not supply the answers at any stage. Neither will wishful thinking or stubborn idealism be realistic. Decisions must be firmly grounded on research and deep study of each phase of city activities. Then, each step of the way must be coordinated one with the other. Such a program calls for comprehensive city plans, which in simple summary are just orderly programs for developing the public and private urban physical improvements and implementing them with adequate financial measures and practical financing.

All of these objectives are included in the peacetime programs of our City of Chicago and our State of Illinois.

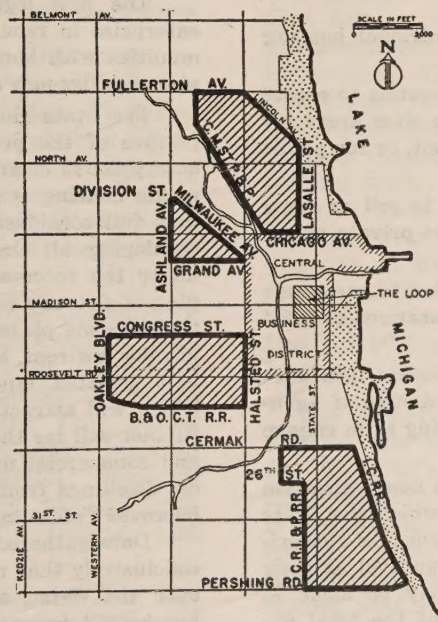
Chicago's Official Plans

Chicago, cognizant of its opportunities for a great peacetime development, is well advanced with its plans and action program for providing such improvements as are needed to complement the world, the commercial, and the industrial life of the community. Early in the year the City Council adopted

the recommendations of the Chicago Plan Commission as contained in its report entitled, "Master Plan of Residential Land Use." This comprehensive study of residential Chicago carefully inventoried the city's existing housing supply and designated those areas which are worthy of conservation and those which have reached a stage of obsolescence where redevelopment should be made.

In formulating the plan of residential land use, full consideration was given to the industrial and commercial land use needs of each community in order to integrate closely every part of the city. The Plan makes provision for an anticipated future population of about 3,800,000 within corporate Chicago to be housed in approximately 1,100,000 dwelling units. In accepting this population estimate, the City Council also adopted an overall population density pattern based on standards which seem to be practical, both economically and socially. These densities range from 10,000 to 50,000 people per square mile.

Following that determination, the City Council accepted by ordinance a First Stage System of Expressways encompassing approximately sixty-three miles of wide limited-access, safe, and attractive improvements designed to serve the major populated sections and industrial areas of the city and to connect with and be a part of the inter-regional highway system. At the same time, with the aid of Cook County, the "green light" was given to the purchase and clearance of right-of-way for the Congress Expressway from State Street to Ashland Avenue. Assurance has now been given by the Governor that the State of Illinois will bear one-third of the cost of developing the Congress Expressway within the city, and one-half of that outside the city and within the county. Thus Chicago has progressed far in the preparation and official adoption of its plans.



BLIGHTED AREAS SELECTED FOR EARLY REDEVELOPMENT

Bond Issue Approvals

On June 4, 1945 the voters of Chicago gave their approval to a program of proposed public improvements that are needed to implement and improve upon the residential neighborhoods of Chicago. They should have great influence upon the future development and activities of the fifty-nine communities within the city as now designated by the Chicago Plan Commission. The voters authorized the following:

Establishment of a Chicago Transit Authority and Public Ownership.

New Parks and Park Improvements—\$26 million.

Airport Development—\$15 million.

Refuse collection and Street Cleaning Equipment—\$1,500,000.

Garages for Equipment—\$500,000.

New Fire and Police Stations—\$2 million.

Clearance of Slum and Blighted Areas—\$5 million.
Total—\$50 million.

Housing Legislation

The last item (Clearance of Slum and Blighted Areas) is a brand new one in municipal bond offerings. Never before has Chicago authorized funds to initiate a huge program of clearance and rebuilding of the old and deteriorated neighborhoods, of which there are some nine square miles. The action was made possible by State enabling legislation which provides "that municipalities may acquire by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, improved or unimproved realty, the acquisition of which is necessary or appropriate for the rehabilitation or redevelopment of any blighted or slum area; to remove buildings from such property; to hold or use it for public uses; and to sell, lease, or exchange such property as is not required for public purposes."

The General Assembly approved a group of other bills designed to aid in the clearance of blighted areas and to provide better housing. These legislative acts are well summarized in a report of the Illinois State Housing Board entitled, "Your State Plan for Slum Clearance and Better Housing." Specifically the new legislation provides:

1. An appropriation of \$10,000,000 to the State Housing Board for grants to assist private and public housing development.
2. Power for cities and villages to clear slums and blighted areas.
3. Authorization for counties to form regional housing authorities.
4. Permission for cities, villages, and counties to create land clearance commissions to acquire slum areas for private or public housing redevelopment, or for public purposes other than housing.
5. Power for local housing authorities to sell or lease property acquired by condemnation, to private enterprise for housing redevelopment.
6. Liberalization of the State Housing Act to encourage organization of limited dividend corporations to build and operate housing developments.
7. Authorization for Illinois and out-of-state insurance companies to invest in bonds and securities of agencies and corporations engaged in housing or to engage in housing development directly.

The principal incentive furnished by the new legislation was the appropriation of \$10 million with which the State Board is authorized to make grants to local housing authorities and land clearance commissions, upon approval of their applications for assistance. These grants may be made in amounts not exceeding the pro rata share of the total appropriation based on the ratio which the population of an area of operation bears with respect to the population of the state as a whole.

Chicago's share will be approximately \$4 million which, when added to its own authorized \$5 million in bonds, will total \$9 million available for the acquisition of blighted properties and the preparation of the sites for new attractive home building.

This fund, important as it is, will provide only a token amount of the total estimated cost of ultimately acquiring and assembling all of the now blighted areas suitable for redevelopment. The available funds at most may not provide for the purchase of more than a total of 350 acres of land and the existing structures. No one should anticipate miracles to be performed in the early stages of the program. The important factor is to get off on the right foot by pre-determining:

1. Major areas determined as blighted and suitable for redevelopment for various land uses (residential,

commercial, industrial, and other community amenities.)

2. Comprehensive pattern of future population density.
3. Highest and best use of the land in relationship housing needs, value of location, and character occupancy.
4. Specific sites of not less than 25 acres in area suitably located to conform to the comprehensive land use plan.
5. A proposal for the relocation upon selected sites people now housed in existing structures within the area selected for redevelopment.

Toward that end representatives of the Illinois State Housing Board, the Chicago City Council, the Chicago Housing Authority, and the Chicago Plan Commission have collaborated in selecting the four general areas shown on the accompanying map. This group accepted the following broad principles:

1. All projects should be confined to the four general blighted areas designated for clearance.
2. Lands so acquired should be utilized primarily for housing and essential neighborhood facilities appropriate to the various income groups to be served.
3. Private enterprise should have first opportunity to develop new residential structures on the cleared sites.

Highest and Best Land Use

The new legislation emphasizes assistance to private enterprise in rebuilding the now decayed areas of our communities with homes that will appeal to a broad market. It also provides new aids for the housing of low-income families.

The State Housing Board points out that an important feature of the program is "the flexibility provided private enterprise in clearing and redeveloping blighted areas where public housing is not required." This is interpreted to mean that full consideration will be given to the objective of redeveloping all cleared areas to their highest and best use under the recommendations of the comprehensive land use plan of future Chicago. That means thinning out of population in some places and increasing it in others. It means replacing low-rent, blighted housing now occupying some of the best situated land with economic-rent bearing structures which will attract a new group of occupants. The plan will further call for the clearing out of non-conforming industrial and commercial uses from residential districts and clearing old dwellings from industrial districts.

Improved Purchasing Power

Data gathered in connection with the studies have shown conclusively that not all families living in the blighted areas, even the worst, are poverty stricken or in the low-income brackets. A large number of the structures (40 to 70 percent) are occupied by owners, most of whom are able and in many instances willing to pay more for better housing if it were made available to them. Others have remained in the old neighborhoods because of property holdings, church affiliations, convenience to employment, and social attachments.

It is firmly believed that if the best located parts of the four designated areas were rebuilt with attractive and comfortable homes with all the necessary amenities for neighborhood life provided, many families who have sought residence in the peripheries of the city and beyond will be re-attracted to "close-in Chicago." It is important that this goal be achieved. Purchasing power as well as new buildings are essential to the welfare of the city and its industrial and commercial interests. Those people who can afford no more than low rent accommodations should be adequately housed as close as possible to the areas in which they now live but not necessarily on land that is suited to a higher and better use. With the acute housing shortage that now exists there will

(Continued on page 7, Col. 2)

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The daily press reported recently that C.I.O., represented by its secretary in Milwaukee County, Wis., has offered to buy from the U. S. Government the model village Greendale, located immediately south of the corporate limits of Milwaukee. This model village was one of three projects projected in 1935 under the Resettlement Administration, presided over at that time by Rexford Tugwell, ex-professor at Columbia and one of the early New Dealers and now Governor of Puerto Rico.

The Suburban Resettlement Division of this Resettlement Administration had projected three of these villages; one, Greendale here mentioned, another in Maryland close to Washington, D.C. and a third elsewhere. Harry H. Bentley, architect of Chicago was selected as principal architect for Greendale. In the I.S.A. Bulletin of April-May, 1937, appears an article on Greendale, written by Harry H. Bentley.

A few years ago it was announced that the Federal Government was desirous of disposing of all three of these model villages through sale. As far as known all three are still under government ownership. Greendale comprises in the town and its own surrounding land 3,400 acres. The government has spent about \$10,500,000 on the project since 1936 when building was begun. Greendale has a very attractive plan with its principal street running south from the town's administration building, with the

stores grouped on this avenue and with dwellings on other streets, many of which are cul de sacs.

There is a large proportion of single houses, a minor percentage of group and twin houses and a small percentage of small units in multi-family buildings. A good sized school is provided, though not a high school. A Catholic church and a Lutheran parish have purchased sites for their churches and parochial school buildings. Meyer Adelman, Milwaukee County C.I.O. Secretary is quoted as saying in case the C.I.O. acquires the village, that organization would repurchase the church property, that any churches built would be supported by tax money or rental income from village property, the clergymen paid by the village and no collection taken. A natural interpretation of the last thought is that the preachers would get their pay from the C.I.O. and therefore would take orders from that body. How does this jibe with the American principle of freedom of thought and freedom of speech! But the sale has not yet been consummated.

Readers of the I.S.A. Bulletin are familiar with Dean Hudnut's (School of Architecture, Harvard University) arguments in favor of war memorials that have a utilitarian use. Mr. Hudnut continues his argument in favor of such monuments in the September ATLANTIC in an article entitled "The Monument Does Not Remember." The essay is a display of erudition with sarcasm. Here is an example: "Queen Hapshepsut (sic) explains and warrants her temple with the story of her birth carved on the granite walls of Dier-el-Bahari, and the renown of the Emperor Trajan, secure in the magnificent sequences of his Forum, must yet be defended by a ribbon of his soldiers wound around a marble column. An infatuation with monuments is the common trait of Pharaoh, Philip, Caesar, Napoleon and Hitler."

The Bulletin believes Robert Moses' views on this subject are much broader and more tolerant, than Mr. Hudnut's. Mr. Moses, also, is a scholar and is the conspicuously outstanding New York Park Commissioner, as well as serving on many other public boards. Recently he addressed the National Sculpture Society and in his talk referred to suitable and fitting war memorials. Of these he said: "Let me offer as an illustration the current silly controversy over living as against dead war memorials. In this battle little has been heard from the artist. Lay extremists have held the field, in the face of the quite obvious fact that there is room for all sorts of memorials and that local considerations should govern the decision in each case. In the recognition of service men, alive and dead, who have stood between us and barbarism, there is room for chairs of logistics, electronics, or high explosives to protect us against future wars, for grants to poets who can write great epics like John Brown's Body, for groves of trees, for recreation centers, for amphitheaters and meeting places for veterans, and for monuments of arresting beauty. Each is desirable in a particular context and community. No one of them is the universal answer. The perfect tribute of one group is the white elephant of another."

Illinois Society President's Report

This report of the activities of the officers and directors of your Society marks the beginning of a regular feature of the Bulletin.

Under our constitution the officers and the board are the governing body of the Society, though no method is provided of telling the membership about what they do. Believing that our members should be more fully informed about what is being done for their and the Society's good, the Board of Directors decided these reports should be made. They will appear in each issue of the Bulletin so that the full membership may be reached. This report covers those items, outside routine affairs, that have occurred since the annual meeting last June.

An open meeting was held by a committee of the City Council under the sponsorship of Alderman Lindell for the purpose of finding ways and means of getting housing, detached and multiple, started in Chicago. Representatives of many organizations attended, including the Society. There was much discussion. All agreed the need was urgent, that something must be done, but no one could tell how to do it.

E. V. Buchsbaum sent to the Board a letter on competitions. His position was highly commended and, if more generally followed, would benefit our entire profession. A communication was received from the Southern California Chapter opposing the proposed action of the Institute in providing governmental agencies with listings of architects for various kinds and classes of building work. Their action was endorsed by the Board and Southern California Chapter so advised. It was felt that no listing could contain the names of all men in any district who were competent and qualified. The opportunities of many men would be restricted and it would practically shut off from any consideration the younger man starting practice who might be particularly capable and experienced.

At the instance of Prof. Loring H. Provine a meeting was held Sept. 8th at which were present representatives of the Chicago Chapter, the Central Illinois Chapter, the Institute and the Society, for the purpose of exploring the possibilities of architectural unification. An informal round table discussion was held which covered possible methods of unification within the state and yet which would maintain the identity and autonomy of the Society. The need of some method of co-ordinating the actions of the various organizations was also discussed so that on local and state matters affecting our profession we might present a united front and course of action. It was finally decided that two delegates be appointed from each of the organizations attending the meeting to meet further and continue the discussions. Later developments will be reported in this column by Wm. Paul Fox and the writer who have been appointed as delegates.

On Sept. 12th we attended a meeting of the Chicago Building Congress sponsored by the National Producers Council. The subject for discussion was, what could be done toward getting building construction going under full steam, what and where were the bottlenecks and how could they be removed, what to do about governmental controls and stockpiles of materials, and, above all, where and how to get the necessary manpower needed by architects offices, material manufacturers and building trades. Another meeting is to be held in the near future at which time the various divisions of the Congress are to report fully on the needs of their particular branch of the building industry. It is hoped that a unified program can then be adopted which will be submitted to the various governmental agencies concerned. Suggestions by Society members will be appreciated.

Perry W. Swern has been elected a member of the Board of Directors, filling the vacancy made by the resignation of James Tichnor. David Clarence Wilson of Mt. Vernon and Sam W. Wilkins of Kankakee have been elected to membership.—G. Harold Smith, President, I.S.A.

Illinois Society September Meeting

Ninety-One days have elapsed since the Illinois Society of Architects annual meeting on June 26. This is accounted for by the vacation months, July and August when the Society holds no regular meetings. The meeting on September 25 was unusual in that it was away from skyscraper Chicago and held in the section where social workers in Hull House and the like operate. The question where to assemble for dinner was finally decided by the Board of Directors in favor of Gold's Restaurant, 810 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago. This proved to be a wise choice for an excellent and bounteous repast was served. It got under way a little after 6:30 and by about 8 o'clock the meeting in the restaurant shifted to Chicago Plumbing and Testing Laboratory at 765 W. Cabrini Street.

Forty-one attended the dinner. Eating and conversation consummated, President G. Harold Smith called the meeting to order for a short business session. The company voted down reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. The President had no correspondence of importance to lay before the assembly and contented himself with announcing that Governor Green had signed the new Professional Engineering Act. He then introduced W. W. DeBerard, City Engineer, Bureau of Engineering, William M. Readey, Director of the Chicago Plumbing Testing Laboratory and the architect, old friend Sanitary Engineer Tom Claffy who for nearly half a century has been the architects guide and mentor in the Sanitary Bureau of the City Hall. Two new members were introduced, Samuel W. Wilkins, Kankakee, Illinois and Scipione DelCampo of Chicago. Then the company broke away from the u-shaped board, made for their hats and coats and out into the air bound for the Plumbing Testing Laboratory in Cabrini Street.

It was a solemn procession North in Halsted Street lighted only by the show windows of the stores, the walkers accompanied by slow moving automobiles carrying architects to the laboratory. Cabrini Street was found, the cavalcade turned East and had they continued far enough would have come to the immediate neighborhood where Mrs. O'Leary's legendary cow kicked over the lamp that set fire to Chicago on October 9, 1871, a fire that at that time capped all previous fires. But, 765 W. Cabrini was still two or more blocks West of 558 DeKoven Street where the cow registered the historic kick.

The laboratory building is an old warehouse rebuilt by the City for its testing laboratory. In the third story is the plumbing exhibit where the architects were destined to be put en rapport with the advance and changes constantly going on in the science of plumbing and drainage. Before anything happened every person attending was asked to sign the register. The room has seats facing an elaborate piping and plumbing fixture exhibit arranged in front of rising seats like in a medical clinic. The plumbing fixtures are on a low floor platform and on a mezzanine above. President Smith introduced W. W. DeBerard as the first speaker. DeBerard reminded his hearers that only a few days ago on September 20 a dedication of the not yet completed Chicago South District Filtration Plant at 79th Street and the lake had taken place. This is the largest water filtration plant in the world, it being equipped to handle 320,000,000 gallons per day. Construction work was started in 1938 and the plant should be completed in 1946. Its cost, when completed will be \$24,500,000.00. Of this \$18,800,000.00 had been spent to September 1, 1945. Federal Public Works Administration grant on the project was \$5,745,792.61.

The next man to talk was William M. Readey, Director of the Chicago Plumbing Testing Laboratory. Before going on with his address however, he brought to the front Thomas Claffy who said a few words and took a bow. And now Mr. Readey was again in the center of the stage ready to elucidate the elaborate piping and valves and plumbing fixtures. Many of the pipes were of glass so that clear water or water colored with aniline dyes could be seen flowing through them. Readey was the Hudini with Schanley his confederate at the valves.

Mr. Readey stated by way of preliminary that many groups had come to study the advance in plumbing and

rainage and listen to the exposition given before the examples which the architects were seeing. The thought of such a laboratory dated back to 1933 when in the year of the Century of Progress contamination in the water supplied through plumbing fixtures at the Congress Hotel became contaminated, and an epidemic ensued. That taught the Sanitary Department of Chicago to be more circumspect in plumbing connections, pressure and vacuum, level of water supply with relation to overflows, etc. The speaker made clear that the function of the Water Department was to watch the health of the community and to see that the city was properly paid for the water used. He criticized air conditioning and refrigeration installation in that too often both city water and individual well water were used and often interchangeably with the danger of both waters mixing to the objection of the Water Department. Among the groups that came to take lessons as the architects were learning were plumbers, engineers, medical men, hospital superintendents. Much more was said that the Bulletin cannot mention for want of space, but Mr. Readey dwelt on the necessity of architects designing their plumbing and drainage piping in advance of asking for a building permit. That saved time, trouble and heart-breaks where the city might exact changes by reason of its personal experience and experiments.

No report of Chicago Chapter, A.I.A. meetings appears in this issue. There have been no monthly meetings since the annual meeting in June. Secretary Schlossman states the September meeting has been waived. The Chapter meetings for 1945-46 will begin with the October meeting. The December 1 issue of the Bulletin will carry reports of the October meeting and of November, (provided there be a November meeting).

Architect Eric Mendelsohn, once of Berlin, Germany, then of London, England, then of Tel Aviv, Palestine and now of New York, U.S.A., spoke recently in St. Louis at a luncheon attended by architects and engineers. Among the things he said were these: All cities have to be rebuilt. Europe is defunct culturally and the east coast of the U.S.A. is therefore bound to decline. Its west coast, facing the Pacific and multitudinous Asia will increase proportionately, and a general migration from our eastern states to the south and west was assured. St. Louis, he thought, being in the middle would hold its own.

TIME and other publications have announced that Frank Lloyd Wright is architect for a million-dollar spiral shaped building for the Guggenheim Museum, to be erected in New York City. Pictures are to be displayed along a three-quarter mile ramp, rising in ever wider circles to a height of ten stories. The top story will have a projection of twenty-four feet beyond the building line at the base. "A person could view the entire exhibition in a wheel chair, if he wished," said Wright. Frank's buildings are erected in many parts of this country, but so far nothing yet in New York.

Since all of the Arts, including architecture, are in transition, we are witnessing many trial balloons expressing queer forms and absurd expressions created by men and women who hope to make an impression and cultivate a following. Their work expresses their culture, truly a narrow one. Nevertheless, they possess an uncommon ability to appeal to the public and they succeed in gaining a large following among those enamored of things completely lacking in depth of thought and in profound inspiration developed out of a sound scholarship.—Dean Clarke of Cornell University's College of Architecture in 1939.

"People who live in bamboo houses shouldn't throw bombs."

Single Family Homes Competition

To encourage the design of new single family homes especially planned for the Chicagoland area, The Chicago Tribune announces a \$24,000 prize competition open to architects and others everywhere. Twenty-four cash awards of \$1,000 each will be made for winning designs.

Eight prizes of \$1,000 each will be awarded for the best solutions to each of three different housing problems based on the needs of three typical family groups. Boyd Hill (formerly Huszagh & Hill, Architects) has been retained as professional adviser for the competition.

Free copy of the home contest rules may be obtained by writing to Chicagoland Prize Home Competition, room 1512, Tribune Tower, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.

In Tokyo: In January, 1634, it is related—my information is borrowed from George Caiger's "Tell Me About Tokyo," published by the Hokuseido Press in 1939—some plum blossoms on the hilltop caught the eye of Iyemitsu, third of the Tokugawa Shoguns, as he was returning from a visit to the Shiba mausoleum. He commanded one of his mounted retainers to ride up the steps and bring him a nosegay, and the rider failed. Several other horsemen then tried and were defeated before Magaki Heikuro, a henchman of the lord of Takamutsu, won applause and a reward for getting up and down safely.

The feat remained unrivaled, according to Caiger, until Nov. 8, 1925, when a military groom named Iwaki Yoshio repeated it, but did not get any plum blossoms.

With a little practice riding up and down stairs, Adm. Halsey might become the Paul Revere of a new dispensation.—Vincent Starret in the Chicago Tribune.

ARCHITECTURE, A Profession and a Career, is the title of a 57 page booklet just off the press, published by The American Institute of Architects. In its table of contents are tabulated eight subdivisions entitled respectively: The Drama of Architecture, The Architect and His Relation to Contemporary Life, The Professional Training of the Architect, The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, The National Architectural Accrediting Board, Licensing and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, The American Institute of Architects, Architecture as a Career. In all there are 23 short articles written by well known A.I.A. members, practitioners or teachers in schools of architecture.

Forty-two states, the District of Columbia, the territories of Hawaii and Alaska, now have architectural registration laws. The six states which do not have such laws are Kansas, Maine, Nevada, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Wyoming.

Sign spotted in the window of an ice cream soda parlor by William Meyer: "All our employes at the fountain are experienced soda engineers." Ah, a new class of professional engineers!

The architect covers his mistakes with ivy, the physician with sod, and the bride with a number of things—mostly mayonnaise.—Detroit News.

Pardon, gentle reader, the thin paper used for this issue of the Bulletin. Uncle Sam has decreed that, for the present, the Bulletin be supplied with no heavier paper than is used in this issue.

Judgments are made on the basis of experience and the long experience of man's history gives a sense of balance in the present crisis of that history.—John A. Wilson, Oriental Institute, Chicago

Albert H. Krehbiel - An Architect's Appreciation

By the death of Albert H. Krehbiel on July 27, the Midwest lost a great teacher of drawing. Fortunately for the architectural profession, this gifted painter and superb draughtsman centered his efforts for 32 years on teaching young architects how to draw and use color. First under the aegis of the Art Institute itself, then under Armour's and lately under that of Illinois Institute of Technology, the infectious enthusiasm of this big and kindly man communicated itself to a host of students who hold his name in grateful memory.

Legend has it that about 1898, the late Wm. R. French discovered Albert Krehbiel's talent while on a lecture tour in the high Kansas prairie. J. J. Krehbiel, the father, was a founder and skillful iron worker of Newton and the brawny, big-fisted apprentice son had just completed his studies at Bethel College. He was encouraged to come to the Art Institute in Chicago and in 1903 was awarded a European travelling scholarship.

Krehbiel studied under Laurens at the Julian Atelier in Paris and won prizes. Summers were spent in France and Holland and during the last year abroad he made a walking and painting tour of Spain and studied Velasquez at first hand.

Returning in 1906, he became a member of the faculty of the Art Institute. He pioneered Saugatuck, Michigan, with his friends Clute and Fuhrman and was long a member of the faculty of the Summer School of Painting at the Ox Bow. Later he conducted the popular A.K. School of Painting in a delightful riverside pavillion there, only to discontinue when the war made summer architectural teaching necessary. Many of his winter students did water coloring with him at Saugatuck.

This man's extraordinary energy made possible during the years of teaching, a remarkable series of delicately hued oil landscapes, mostly done along the Chicago North Branch and the DesPlaines Rivers in winter. Days of clinging ice were his delight and he fearlessly braved the rain and snow, disdaining studio comforts. He won the Municipal Art League and the Clyde Carr prizes among other awards.

The walls of the Supreme Court in Springfield contain murals of great size and fine quality executed by Krehbiel as winner of a national competition. Less well known are the brilliantly done large drawings on soft toned paper in colored chalk. In them throng hauntingly composed groups of figures of mystic quality, sure in line and merged in bold areas of gorgeous color. These original and experimental compositions were largely done for the enjoyment of his fellow members at the Cliff Dwellers, where he was often found absorbed in chess.

Albert Krehbiel was honest and unfailingly courteous. His humor was lively and he delighted to recount his fishing exploits. He was conscientious in all teaching relationships — his ubiquitous stubby pencil minutely recorded the accomplishments of his students with copy book exactitude.

It should be noted how greatly manners in architectural teaching have changed during the more than three decades of his service to the profession. But Krehbiel's artistic soundness and great versatility enabled him to extend loyal and effective cooperation to all of his architecture-teaching colleagues and to win their praise. For him perfection of form was equally discoverable in a Donatello or in the living tree itself and his deep knowledge of color harmony was always available to the young architect when desired. Expression of the figure could be either lushly tonal in charcoal or color or it could be precisely lined with the 6H. Fundamentals interested this man more than manners. In teaching drawings he also taught architecture in its deepest organizational sense. Because of this Albert Krehbiel's renown among architects is great.

State Park Architecture in Illinois

In the summer 1945 number of Illinois Public Works, official organ of the State of Illinois, Joseph F. Booton, I.S.A. and Chief of Design, Division of Architecture and Engineering, contributes an illustrated article on the structures erected in the State Parks. The nine illustrations cover three from White Pine State Park, the lodge, a picnic shelter and a detail of the lodge; Starved Rock has a room wing of the lodge and a stone fireplace in that structure; Giant City State Park lodge, whose walls are of local stone; the lodge at Pequot State Park, built in sections, allowing the project to grow as funds become available and finally the proposed bath house and comfort station at Illinois Beach State Park, Zion, Illinois.

After 1930, following action by the State Legislature, the State authorities proceeded to acquire historic and scenic sites for state park purposes. Mr. Booton makes clear that "Parks are classed as recreational areas and while large appropriations go to further the State's health, welfare and safety, small sums go to care for the luxuries of recreation. Rigid economy was especially prevalent during the early thirties when the Illinois Parks were formed, expanded and the rate of development was greatly accelerated. As Robert Kingery, then Director of Public Works and Buildings, expressed it: 'It is possible to build with adequate appropriations, but it is a real achievement to carry on a building program with little or no funds.' And that is exactly what was done under his direction... C.C.C. labor and funds were utilized and P.W.A. grants were matched with State funds and so it went, slowly but surely."

Of the Watch Tower Inn, Rock Island, the author says: "The plan, construction and architecture is interesting because of the unique conditions under which it was erected. Portions were built when labor was plentiful and material was scarce (C.C.C. and National Park Service cooperation), while another section represents the contract system when labor is more expensive than the materials... Illinois, today, has a splendid system of State Parks and we are told her lodges compare with the best in the country, including those in the National Parks... We are sure none were planned and constructed under more difficult circumstances, or were given more thought and consideration."

Housing in Chicago

"The acute need for new housing in Chicago is strikingly illustrated by the fact that at no time within the past 10 years has the rate of new private residential construction even approached the amount needed to replace the 5,000 or more living accommodations which are each year destroyed by fire or which become uninhabitable because of obsolescence or extreme deterioration. This lag in the rate of new building in the face of an increasing population has tended to expand the city's blighted areas and to cause serious over-crowding. The war situation has, of course, greatly aggravated these conditions. And while the total amount of new residential construction has been small, the number of new units built within Chicago's central core of blight has been almost negligible. Except in the few sections reclaimed by public housing projects, the deteriorated sections have grown progressively worse."—*Extract from Chicago Plan Commission 1944 Report released July 1945.*

Illinois Gives Planning Funds

A new law in Illinois makes \$4,850,000 available to local agencies, upon certification by the Illinois Post-War Planning Commission, for the planning of public works. This money will be distributed on the basis of population, with a \$1,000 grant to each unit, and it must be matched by local funds.

Of the total, \$750,000 is for counties, \$3,237,500, for municipalities; \$625,000, for public school districts; and \$237,500 for sanitary and park districts.

For the carrying out of this act, \$25,000 is appropriated

the Department of Finance and \$125,000 to the Illinois Post-War Planning Commission.

According to estimates by the Illinois Municipal League, Chicago will receive, \$1,098,844; Peoria, \$34,964; Springfield, \$25,404; East St. Louis, \$25,437; Oak Park, \$22,336; Evansville, \$22,134; Rockford, \$18,355; Aurora, \$16,245; Rockland, \$14,825; Quincy, \$14,080.—E. N-R

C. Herrick Hammond, Supervising Architect, State of Illinois, and M. Edwin Green, Harrisburg, Pa. architect, Architectural Advisory Committee, Illinois Association for the Crippled, in July, issued an appeal to all planners to construct their buildings and carry out their remodeling in a manner to provide ground level entrances, elevators between floors, handrailings at all steps." The motive prompting the appeal is "to do away with the physical barriers which limit physically handicapped persons in their enjoyment and use of public buildings and facilities."

On July 20, Governor Dwight H. Green approved Illinois House Bill 337, licensing and regulating the practice of professional engineering and appropriating \$55,000 to the Department of Registration and Education for the act's administration.

Priorities For Chicago Private Housing

Priorities will be made available for the construction of 1,100 privately financed family dwelling units in Chicago, according to a recent announcement by William K. Divers, regional representative of the National Housing Administration. Under this program 500 units will be built for rent, 300 will be made available for persons building homes for their own occupancy and the balance of 2,300 will be built for sale.

Maximum sales price will be \$8,000 per unit and the maximum shelter rental (base rent minus refrigerators, cooking stoves, etc.) will be \$65 per month. These ceiling prices represent increases above the former ceilings of \$6,000 and \$50 respectively, said Mr. Divers, and they are a reflection of recent increases in the maximum allowable size of the units.

In addition to the privately financed housing, funds also have been made available for the construction of 800 publicly financed permanent dwelling units, principally for occupancy by negroes. This housing will be constructed by the Federal Public Housing Authority, with the Chicago Housing Authority acting as agent in construction and management. Occupancy will be limited to essential war workers.—EN-R

Wood Preservation

Preservative treatment of window sash and other millwork, by F. L. Browne, FPL Report R919, revised March 1945. Discusses the problems associated with the preservation of window sash and other millwork, the different types of preservatives available and in use, the difference between water repellents and sealers, and the results that may be expected in their application to millwork.

Treating wood in pentachlorophenol solutions by the cold-soaking method, by J. Oscar Blew. FPL Report R1445, revised March 1945. Describes the treatment of seasoned fence posts by immersion for various periods in cold oil-solutions of pentachlorophenol. Absorption and penetration for different species, cost and effectiveness are discussed.

Effect of heat on the properties and serviceability of wood: Experiments of thin wood specimens, by J. D. MacLean. FPL Report R1471, June 1945. A progress report on experiments to study the effect of different temperatures, different heating mediums and different heating periods, on the strength properties of commercial species.

These publications are available on request at U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin.

(Continued from page 2, Col. 2)

need to be built many hundreds of new dwelling units on now vacant land before the displacement of people in large numbers from the blighted areas can take place. Thus, the Plan Commission is preparing its plans and recommendations which, it is believed, will suggest to the administrative authorities a program for an orderly shift of population and the development of idle lands that have been determined to be most useful for residential purposes.

Employment

These studies include careful research into the existing supply and types of housing, present and potential family incomes, and the cost of new construction.

Public Aids

The authorizations under the law fully recognize the cost of acquiring "slum and blighted properties," and provide that the local land clearance commission can make the cleared sites available to private enterprise or public housing authorities at a *new use value*, which in most instances will represent a write-down from cost of acquisition. None of the state monies can be used for the construction of new buildings but can be spent in part in preparing the site.

This brief article does not permit discussing all of the many phases of the housing problem that exists in Chicago. Needless to say, the final answers and plans for accomplishing the many sided objective for making Chicago "a better city in which to live," have not been drawn. It is encouraging, however, to note the important progressive legislative steps that have been taken to initiate the program.

Many hours of hard work have been given by numerous city and state civic leaders and officials in shaping the tools that can be used within the framework of our state constitution. First came the Illinois Neighborhood Redevelopment Corporation Law passed in 1941, which recognized that the clearance of slum and blighted areas was in the public interest and thereby granted the use of eminent domain. This law declared valid by the State Supreme Court, laid the cornerstone upon which the supplementary legislation discussed herein has been conceived. With similar court treatment these new laws will enable Chicago to undertake a course of city rebuilding for which there is little precedent. The task will be difficult and it cannot be completed within any short period of time. The objectives, of necessity, are long range in character. The constructive results that can be obtained will be of lasting benefits to our city and to our people.

A.I.A. Publicity Releases

The A.I.A. announces its employment of the Campbell-Ewald Company of New York as public relations council (up-to-date way of saying advertising council). Their first release has been placed in the hands of U.S. newspapers with a circulation of 10,000 or more. These releases are to be for the reading of the general public, not for the architect. The announcement to architects further states that the Campbell-Ewald Company's work for the national A.I.A. does not contemplate service for any of the sub-divisions of the A.I.A., even though the president of every chapter and every state association member get a copy of the release.

The first release is entitled "A.I.A. Pledges Its Support To Building A Better America." It is an interview with James R. Edmunds, Institute President. He says "We have demonstrated to the world our economic capacity in building for war, but the value of our system will be judged by our domestic economy in peacetime."

Another paragraph for the lay public says this: "Architecture has to do with the establishment of a rationalized order of convenience and rightness in construction and physical surroundings. Architecture is more than the 'Art of building.' Such a definition is as meaningless as to define poetry as the 'Art of spelling and syntax.'"

Hydrated Lime Plaster

Serious trouble with hydrated lime mortar plaster is reported from very many places. The Federal Government, faced with a million dollar patching bill on recently constructed public buildings, set the Bureau of Standards to work to find a solution to the problem. So the Chicago Plastering Institute held a meeting in Chicago on August 27 for a general discussion of the problem and its remedy.

The principal speakers were Dr. Lansing S. Wells of the Bureau of Standards; Dr. Huntzicker of the U. S. Gypsum Company; Henry Schweim of the Gypsum Association and others, including J. C. Orrell of the Chicago Board of Education architects office. Byron M. Balton of the Plastering Institute stated that plaster failures, especially bulging of finishing coat were of common occurrence; falling ceiling plaster was a potential danger to the safety and comfort of occupants of buildings.

Dr. Wells, speaking for the Federal Government also emphasized bulging of finishing plaster and in some cases bulging of the base coat; failures were common to all surfaces plastered—concrete, brick masonry, tile masonry, gypsum or metal lath. In conclusion he stated that constituents of finishing lime caused the expansion of free magnesium oxide expands about 100% in volume and it is this property of high expansion which causes the finishing coat to bulge.

Dr. Huntzicker reported his firm having now a pressure lime on the market. With this pressure lime it is necessary to add the exact quantity of water to make a workable putty.

J. C. Orrell with forty years of experience with plastering, stated that rooms subject to excessive humidity such as toilet rooms, are affected by efflorescence and bulging of the finishing coat. He thought this due to the combining of sulphur with free magnesium, forming magnesium sulphate. Some improvement was achieved where plaster surfaces were coated with aluminum, using a high grade of spar varnish as a vehicle.—*Condensed from the report of J. C. Orrell, I.S.A.*

The Museum of Modern Art proposes to hold an exhibition on war memorials, in both model and photographic form, and to publish a book on the same subject. Material should be submitted to the Department of Architecture, Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53rd St., New York 19, N. Y.

Objectives in Design

"Yes—architecture seems to be afflicted with a kind of schizophrenia. We are torn between two opposing desires. We want to be the scientific, technical, executive, rational and objective beings that we would like the public to believe we are. But we like—Oh, how we like—to indulge in irresponsible self-expressions, to proceed on intuitive judgments, to follow emotionally induced predilections for certain aesthetic fashions. One suspects that even some of our most articulate architectural theoreticians, instead of proceeding objectively, are actually only rationalizing what they subjectively like.

"If the public does not make as much use of our skill as it should, could it be because we have no clear-cut conviction about how to apply our skill—and consequently, no way of explaining it convincingly? Despite all the building that has gone on in this country's last century, despite the efforts of some fifty schools to train architects, there is little evidence of a design tradition that is even partially understandable, communicable, and influential so far as the great mass of building is concerned.

"Don't mistake me. There are obviously able designers among us, who as individuals have that fundamental objectivity about design that produces satisfying buildings. But the point is that not enough of us appear to have had it to create and exploit a kind of building design whose appeal is so strong, whose qualities of 'commodity, firmness and delight' are so unmistakable, that everybody understands it and wants it. Builders of other times and places appear to

have achieved it. Why can't we?"—*From Roy C. Jones, F.A.I.A., Talk before the Ann Arbor Conference.*

Five More on State Planning Board

Gov. Green of Illinois has completed the 24-member power planning commission that will direct the spending of \$101,000,000 in building operations throughout the state the next two years. In addition to this sum, there will be available \$4,950,000 for plans and architects' blueprints helping downstate cities and counties to embark on a large reconstruction program.

Included in the appropriations, made by the last legislature, are allotments to the Chicago area of \$6,000,000 for "little" statehouse, \$4,183,000 for new armories and \$1,100,000 for the West Side Medical Center. For new armories and equipment throughout the state the total is \$11,399,953.

With a \$130,000,000 balance in the general fund of \$101,000,000 will be available just as quickly as the plan can blueprint the improvements and let the contracts.

The five new members are: Franklin J. Stransky, Chicago; and Savanna; Mrs. Hazel Ferguson, Evanston; Fred Kuenen, Jr., Mattoon; Hal W. Trovillion, Herrin; and Wilfred Sykes, Chicago.

Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines, administrator of veterans affairs, has called attention to what the recent \$2,607,187,500 Veterans Administration appropriation will mean to the building industries. Out of the \$84,500,000 granted for veterans' hospital construction during the coming year, funds have been allotted for construction of 18 new hospitals with an 8,725 total bed capacity; additions to 12 existing hospitals have been approved; service alterations and expansions are scheduled for 39 state institutions.

Paul Philippe Cret, internationally known Philadelphia architect died September 8 in Misericordia hospital, Philadelphia, age 68. Mr. Cret was born at Lyons, France. After graduating from the Ecole des Beaux Arts, first in Lyons and then from the one in Paris, he became Architecte diplomé du Gouvernement Français, 1903. He came to America that year filling the professorship of design at the University of Pennsylvania, 1903-37. He became prominent in his profession through the Pan American Union in Washington, D. C. where he, with Albert Kelsey were architects. His buildings are found in many parts of this country and in foreign parts. He was architect for Federal Reserve Bank buildings in Washington and Philadelphia, buildings for the U. S. Military Academy at West Point and the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. His Folger Shakespeare Memorial Library in Washington in a shining example of his skill in modern architecture. In the Chicago's Century of Progress Exposition, 1933, he was a member of the architectural commission and architect of Science Hall. His designs for war memorials commemorating world war one are found executed on many battlefields in Europe. He was awarded honorary degrees by many universities, both in this country and abroad and was gold medalist of architectural bodies abroad, as well as of the American Institute of Architects. He was made an F.A.I.A. in 1913. At his death he was serving as chairman of the A.I.A. War Memorials Committee.

Morris Grant Holmes, Chicago architect for fifty years died in his Chicago home on Dorchester Avenue, August 1, age 83. Born at LaPorte, Indiana in 1862, the years 1882-83 were spent as an assistant in the office of architect S. S. Beman of Pullman fame. He practiced alone in Buffalo, New York 1895-98; a member of Patton, Holmes, Flinn, 1912-15. Holmes and Flinn from 1915 on. His principal work was in schools and hospitals. Among these may be mentioned Mission School and Hospital at Fenchow, China; First Congregational Church and West Suburban Hospital, Oak Park, Illinois; Social Center of McKinley Foundation, Champaign, Illinois.

Mr. Holmes was for a time a member of the A.I.A.