

Rebuilding the Lincoln Tomb at Springfield, Illinois

Excerpts from a Report by Joseph F. Booton, Chief of Design
Illinois State Division of Architecture and Engineering.

Supervising Architect C. Herrick Hammond's objective was to create an interior with an atmosphere of solemn and imposing dignity, and to inspire respectful contemplation and reverence.

The original conception of the monument was a sculptural one. The competition sponsored by the National Lincoln Monument Association in 1868 was won by a sculptor, Larkin G. Mead, Jr., of Brattleboro, Vermont. The Tomb and Memorial Room, of course, were basic features in his scheme, yet he and the members of the Association never visualized the vast army of pilgrims who would visit the Monument-Tomb in the years to come. Mead admitted he could not carry out the architectural portion of his design, so a new contract was arranged with him covering the statuary only, and another contract was signed with Russell Sturgis, architect, of New York City, to carry out the architectural and construction work.

Returning to 1930, with the Tomb nearly leveled to the ground, and a new structure, so far as the interior was concerned, about to rise, to adequately accommodate the throngs who beat a path to this shrine. The exterior was to be rebuilt exactly as it had been.

Until 1931, the visitor entered Memorial Hall, through the only door at the south end. In this room, since 1921, were displayed extensive exhibits of Lincolniana. The Memorial Hall was lighted with heavy skylights and the roof construction was supported by columns. After studying the exhibits the visitors would leave by the same door and walk around the base of the monument to the opposite end. There they would peer through an open grill into the "Tomb" — a semi-circular room containing a wreath decorated sarcophagus of the martyred President.

Today all is changed. The visitor still enters the same south door, but he now steps into a beautifully proportioned oval room. From here he passes through a corridor to the black and gold cenotaph chamber.

In 1928 the tomb needed repairs which were estimated to cost \$50,000. In February 1929, Supervising Architect Hammond made a complete examination of the structure. He planned to provide an interior connection between Memorial Hall and the Tomb."

New Plan Develops

Plans of the tomb at that time were meager. Shortly a plan was developed and estimates pre-

pared. The sketches were enthusiastically received. Eventually the necessary funds, \$175,000, were appropriated by the Legislature, working drawings were prepared, bids received and contracts let.

Work at the site started May 12, 1930. The contract called for the complete removal and re-setting of the granite facing of the shaft. The balance of the work was confined, in the main, to the interior. As the dismantling work at the site progressed the brick backup was found to be soft, spongy and damp.

It was decided to tear down the entire structure excepting the outside walls (which eventually came down to a level six feet above grade), and the masonry masses supporting the shaft and the surrounding bronze sculptural groups, which were removed down to a line about 12 feet above the ground floor line. Thus a maintenance job grew into a major construction operation.

Rebuilding Begins

The outside walls were carried up to their former height, the shaft slowly rose stone on stone to assume its familiar form.

The plan is simple. One enters the rotunda at the far end of which are two openings. The one to the right leads to the east corridor and thence to the cenotaph chamber; the one to the left connects with the west corridor which serves as a return passage from the chamber to the rotunda. The materials are few; marble floors, marble walls with bronze trim, grills, tablets and plaster ceilings.

The idea of substituting bronze for the original eight marble urns was adopted. In cooperation with Lorado Taft, Mr. Hammond secured from the St. Gaudens family a small scale replica of the famous St. Gaudens Lincoln at Lincoln Park, Chicago. Taft arranged for the small sized copy of Lincoln as a young lawyer, on the University of Illinois Campus; Daniel Chester French sent a replica of his seated Lincoln from the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D. C., and a copy of his standing Lincoln at Lincoln, Nebraska; the seated Lincoln by Adolph A. Weinman, at Lincoln's birthplace, Hodgenville, Kentucky; Crunelle sent his "Lincoln the Soldier" at Dixon, Illinois, and his "Lincoln the Debator" at Freeport, Illinois. There were two niches still to fill and two phases of the life of Lincoln still to cover, so Fred M. Torrey, sculptor, Chicago, was commissioned to furnish two original statuettes — Lincoln the Ranger and Lincoln the Circuit Rider. Later through a suggestion from Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, Mr. Hammond secured a casting of the famous head of

Lincoln by Gutzon Borglum. The original is under the Capitol Dome, Washington, D. C. Nowhere else can these masterpieces be seen and studied together at one time.

Now the Cenotaph Room, the focal point. The cenotaph is a "solid block" of Red Ark Fossil Marble upon a base of the same material, resembling Egyptian Porphyry. The black pilasters and architrave, together with the gold leaf ceiling form a beautiful foil for the simple cenotaph bearing the lone inscription — Abraham Lincoln—1809-1865.

Tomb Rededicated

During the reconstruction work the vaults containing the bodies of Mrs. Lincoln and the children were torn down. The remains were removed to a vault outside the monument and were reinterred upon completion of the reconstruction. The body of the grandson of Abraham Lincoln was removed and reinterred in Arlington Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, where his father Robert is buried. Early in June, 1931, the work was completed. On June 17, 1931, at 2:30 P.M., the Tomb was rededicated by Herbert Hoover, President of the United States.

"A more beautiful place of pilgrimage than the reconstructed tomb does not exist in America. A difficult task has been accomplished with reverence, judgment and delicate feeling. All is right. All is meaningful. Relics have been swept away. The memorial now is worthy not alone of Lincoln, but of the State which far more than his native state may be said to have given him to the nation. The spirit of the place is the spirit of dignity, reticence, solemn beauty and eloquent symbolism". So wrote James O'Donnell Bennett in the Chicago Sunday Tribune of May 31, 1933.

In 1946, three hundred thousand visitors came to the tomb of Abraham Lincoln.

—*Illinois Public Works, Spring Issue, 1947*

Haywire Housing

The senate banking committee has given bare, and apparently grudging, approval to the housing bill sponsored by Senators Wagner, Ellender, and Taft. It is to be hoped that the full senate takes a less charitable view of the measure, because most of its provisions won't work and those that might work shouldn't be allowed to.

It is an omnibus plan, designed to promise something to almost everybody and to put a fictitious frosting of free enterprise on what is fundamentally a further, vastly expensive venture into socialized housing. The bill provides home purchase plans, sharecropper and rural nonfarm housing subsidies to soften up the country congressmen, and government aid in slum clearance. The bulk of the appropriations however, which eventually will cost the government 7½ billion dollars, is for extension of the public housing program.

It is doubtful whether the provisions designed to aid the purchase of homes will have much effect. The bill provides that FHA loans may be made on

houses costing up to \$5,000 with a down payment of only 5 per cent, or \$250. The FHA act now permits loans up to 90 per cent on \$6,000 homes.

The sponsors of the bill are apparently proceeding on the fallacy that building is being hampered by a shortage of money in the country. The most casual observation contradicts this. Building has been hampered by shortage of material and, until the present, by the shortage of building mechanics. It hasn't been slowed by any lack of financing, although many people with money to build wisely refrain from doing so at present costs.

Apartment houses are intrinsically cheaper to build, per dwelling unit, than detached dwellings. The public housing section of the bill permits construction costs as high as \$1,750 a room for dwelling facilities alone in proposed public housing projects. This does not include utilities, such as heating plants, which would increase the permissible construction cost for a four room dwelling unit to \$8,000 or \$9,000. Just how the sponsors of the bill, envisioning these costs for relatively cheaper apartment house construction, expect any of their 95 per cent borrowers to go out and find a detached house for \$5,000, the maximum allowed for such loans, is not explained.

Most of the federal expenditures under the bill, however, would be for public housing. There are some intricate provisions for subsidies in the form of profit insurance. This is a new way of pushing money out of the treasury. It was found in the existing projects that construction costs were so high that tenants could be required to pay only for the actual operation and maintenance of the buildings. The capital cost was written off 100 per cent at the expense of the taxpayers. Whatever device is adopted for subsidizing such housing, the end result would be the same.

The majority of taxpayers, many of whom would like to build their own homes, but feel they cannot afford to do so, are asked in this bill to pay income taxes to provide free homes for a privileged minority. Those who disregarded present costs and built anyway would find their own costs further increased by the competition for mechanics and materials for the public housing they were taxed to pay for.

Chicago Tribune Editorial, April 28

Competition for Jefferson Memorial at St. Louis

To obtain the best design for a memorial to Thomas Jefferson at St. Louis, Mo. a competition open to architects and engineers is announced. The memorial is to cost \$30,000,000. The site comprising 82 acres, purchased and cleared by the federal government, is on the Mississippi River bank. The memorial will commemorate the Louisiana Purchase. Prize money has been contributed by St. Louis citizens. There will be a preliminary and a final competition. For further particulars communicate with George Howe, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Commission, 415 Market Street, St. Louis 2, Missouri.

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Editor Monthly Bulletin

ARTHUR WOLTERS DORF, 520 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.

Another landmark in Chicago's architecture has disappeared. This time it is a tower — a conspicuous tower — erected through public spirit to accent and beautify Chicago's Champs-Elysees, Michigan Avenue, facing Grant Park. This tower, like the tower of the early Madison Square Garden on Madison Avenue and 26th Street, New York, was crowned by a sculptured weathervane. In New York it was Diana. In Chicago it was Progress fighting the Pathway of Commerce. Augustus St. Gaudens modeled Diana, W. Massey Rhind the Progress.

The architect of the building and tower was Richard E. Schmidt. The Chicago tower was built, and the weathervane set, October 20, 1900. Madison Square Garden in New York was completed in 1891 and that, too, has disappeared and has become history.

The Chicago structure was a part of the Montgomery Ward & Company building on the corner of Michigan Avenue and Madison Street. Mr. Ward, a public spirited citizen, was proud of Grant Park, which extended from Roosevelt Road to Randolph St., and was created by filling in the Lake from the sand beaches east of Michigan Ave. out to the present shore line. On a sand spit at Adams St. there had stood since the 1870's Chicago's Industrial Exposition Building which was wrecked to make room for the Art Institute, opened for the Columbian Exposition in 1893. In the late 1890's Grant Park as we know it today, was created after the Burnham Plan. Montgomery Ward believed whole-heartedly in keeping the park free from buildings beyond the Art Institute, and to this end created in his will an endowment fund with directions to his lawyer to fight any effort to build in this Park other permanent buildings beyond the Art Institute. The Field Museum of Natural History and the Crerar Library, public institutions, sought sites in Grant Park. The Ward will fought these efforts successfully in the courts so that Grant Park remains free of buildings.

The Field Museum, the Planetarium and the Aquarium are near the Lake south of Roosevelt Road and beyond Grant Park, and the Crerar Library stands on private property on Michigan Ave., and Randolph St.

The Ward property was sold and the business moved elsewhere in 1912. Other architects remodeled the building, removing the white marble facing through the first three stories and creating commercial store fronts. The imposing Michigan Avenue entrance with sculptured pedament by Philip Martiny was removed and a modest entrance substituted. After a few years, the building underwent a second remodeling; 4 stories were added to the entire structure and a few more stories created a tail on the west end of the tower. This heightening reduced the effectiveness of the tower and now the spire and the Progress are gone.

On October 21, 1900, the day following setting of the weathervane, appeared in the Chicago Tribune a poem to the sculptured Progress written by Professor of Literature at the University of Chicago, Horace Spencer Fiske. Elsewhere in this issue that poem is reproduced.

Engineering News-Record Construction Cost Number (Apr. 17, '47) carries interesting statistics highlighting the advance in costs for both labor and materials brought down to date.

The article says: "Construction costs rose to unprecedented heights during 1946 and the first quarter of 1947. Despite rising costs, which had retarding effect on new construction, total construction volume showed substantial gains during 1946. Further gains were evident in the first quarter of 1947, when the volume averaged \$91,000,000."

"The steel industry is now operating at close to capacity levels. . . . On the basis of 1913 as 100, material prices and wage rate trends rose to 368.10 in December, 1946 and reached 391.93 in the first quarter of 1947." Wages of common labor in 20 cities averaged an increase from \$.938 in December 1945 to \$1.123 by April 1, 1947, per hour — an increase of 19.7 percent. The skilled labor average rose from \$1.681 to \$1.923 in the same period — an increase of 20.6 per cent. The structural steel base price in May 1946 of \$2.35 per cwt, rose in February 1947 to \$2.50 per cwt. — a gain of 6.4 per cent.

Lumber prices rose 30 per cent from December 1945 to December 1946, and an additional 15 per cent during the first quarter of 1947.

The design for the Milwaukee, Wis. War Memorial has been entrusted to the Eliel Saarinen firm of architects (Eliel S., Eere S., Robert W. Swanson) of Cranbrook, Mich. On Saturday May 10, an exhibition of Saarinen inspired work in America was opened to the public at the Milwaukee Art Institute shown by models, renderings and photographs. Sculpture and painting by Carl Milles, Zoltan Sepaschy, David Friedenthal and Harry Bertolia supplement the exhibit.

Illinois Society April and May Meetings

The Illinois Society of Architects met in the club room of the Chicago Art Institute for its monthly meeting on April 22, with an attendance of 60, which included 4 ladies, namely Mrs. Florence Carleton, programmed speaker of the evening, and Mesdames G. Harold Smith, J. Burnham Millard and Robert McLaren.

President Smith functioned as chairman. He called upon Secretary Koenigsberg to read the minutes of the March meeting. The secretary responded, stressing particularly the speakers in March. The minutes were approved as read. There were no committee reports to present. The president was willing to take up new business but nobody proposed any, so he turned to the program of the evening and introduced with royal grace Mrs. Carleton, who in the meeting notice to the members was featured as interior decorator for Holabird & Root.

Mrs. Carleton's subject was "The Natural Design Sequence." She made clear that she preferred to be known as an interior designer rather than interior decorator. She dwelt mostly on domestic architecture of moderate cost — its interiors. In this class of work the architect often ended with undecorated plaster walls, doors and windows with trim. There would be the electric outlets and the radiators located. But to finish this work the furniture should be planned, the location fixed, color and size considered, and this often entailed change in electric outlets and radiators with the designer determining the furniture, its color and location. Where older furniture is to be used, the designer should sketch and measure it and show it in his or her interior perspective.

Part 2 of the speaker's presentation was a series of slides in black and white, interiors of many classes of architecture that the lady had not touched on. These pictures were of buildings from Maine to California, the work of many architects. There were questions and answers. Very often the answers were by Society members. Some architects insisted that they designed their own interiors, including furniture.

A good dinner and a pleasant evening was had by all, even though the message on interior decoration, or better, interior design, was not an indelible one.

Forty attended the May 27 dinner meeting of the Society in the Art Institute club room. President Smith presided. The Secretary read the minutes of the April meeting which were approved as read. Irwin Tugarman, new member, was introduced. The June meeting where the annual election results will be announced was touched upon. Two nominating committees, one for each ticket, administration and members tickets, were appointed from the floor.

The President next introduced the speaker of the evening, Alden D. Walker, Chicago representative of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Detroit Architects and Engineers. Mr. Walker served as major with a corps of engineers, U. S. A., and saw many problems caused by tardy industrial expansion which through haste produced waste of man power and time. Mr. Walker read a paper much of which was inspired by rulings of the Internal Revenue Bureau, U. S. Treasury. He began by complimenting Daniel Hudson Burnham I as a generator of buildings and community stimulator. He charged architects as a whole as not being leaders. He spoke approvingly of the Rubloff plan as worked out by Holabird & Root for upper Michigan Avenue as stimulating. He then treated enterprise capital and passed on to depreciation and obsolescence. Those present were furnished schedules on this question showing where the Revenue Bureau figured 95% for depreciation and 5% for obsolescence for industrial buildings, specifying years of write-off running from 50 to 67 years.

He said future wars would rely much more on industry and its quick production than heretofore. He spoke of the proposed Capital Recovery Reliance Act and explained its 7 points. He said "politicians have used the housing problem as a political band wagon long enough. This is a building problem pure and simple. If the architects can't solve it no one will, but the first step in the solution is a return of

invested capital in a reasonable time." He criticized Grand Park frontage on Michigan Avenue and wanted to see commercial buildings on the east side of the street.

Then came questions and answers which were voluminous and showed the members disagreed with the speaker in many points. Mr. Chance of a government bureau spoke on G. I. homes and the lack of buyers. Tomlinson of C. P. A. spoke of bills before Congress.

President Smith now took the floor to tell about plans for the annual meeting on June 24, which is the 50th birthday of the Society, a society throughout its life that has given service to its members, their profession and the public interest. All architects in Illinois with their ladies are invited to attend. The meeting will take place in the quarters of the Chicago Bar Association, 29 South LaSalle Street, and the dinner will be preceded by cocktails at 6 P. M. The principal speaker of the evening will be Louis La Beaume, I.S.A. - F.A.I.A., of St. Louis. His subject, "All old fools were young fools once." Mr. La Beaume needs no introduction to the profession since he is one of the foremost speakers and writers among the architects of America. Mark June 24 on your calendar.

Report of the President

Mr. Palmer and I attended a public meeting of the Mayor's Emergency Housing Committee, held in the City Council Chamber on April 18th. Like all such open meetings it provided a sounding board for spokesmen of minority groups, the real estate board, home builders and advocates of public housing. Real estate men and builders claim they will provide housing if only rent controls are taken off; the Chicago Housing Authority maintains that subsidized housing is the only answer. This debate has gone on for years with no definite conclusions. The high spot of the afternoon was the reading of a letter from Governor Green, in which he recounted how the State some two years ago had appropriated several million dollars to the Chicago Housing Authority, with no visible results in housing to date.

A resolution of the Western Society of Engineers has been filed with the City Council seeking to amend the City Code so that registered professional engineers may file plans with the Building Department and secure building permits. The Board objected to this as an invasion of the architectural and structural engineers acts. Few, if any, professional engineers as registered under their act are qualified either by training or experience to practice architecture. A resolution of the Board has been sent the proper committee of the City Council protesting this amendment.

A resolution of the Board has been sent the Mayor of Chicago calling his attention to that section of the City Code requiring that the Building Inspector be either a registered architect or structural engineer with not less than ten years experience.

With others we attended the reception held at Navy Pier in honor of Dr. George D. Stoddard, new president of the University of Illinois. We took advantage of the occasion to go through the architectural department, see the students, and some of their work that was on exhibition. Freshman students are being given design problems and the excellence of presentation of many of those hung on the walls was really quite surprising. The air of enthusiasm in the department was also very noticeable.

Irwin A. Sugerman has been elected to membership in the Society.

—G. Harold Smith, President, I.S.A.

The Editor: The wisdom of Angelo Testa in his own words is presented in "Arts and Architecture" thus: "Textile design must accept the new freedom and conception of space articulation which has related contemporary architecture to 20th Century Man and to 20th Century living." Ha. —V.A.M.

"The Golden Eagle" bridge is being planned to cross the Mississippi River from a few miles north of St. Louis, Mo. to the southern tip of Calhoun County, Ill.

Chicago Chapter A. I. A. April and May Meetings

The April dinner-meeting fell on the 1st of the month with an attendance of about 50. President Gerhardt presiding as flanked at the speakers' table with the guests, Messrs. Egg, Kuehner and Stewart from the Producers Council and Mr. Casey of the F. W. Dodge Corp. These guests will be touched on later in this report.

Two questions occupied most of the time: First, a resolution on Chicago on-site parking for automobiles and second, discussion of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill before Congress. Harford Field was chairman of the Chapter committee handling both these questions. His presentation without exception (shall we call it lackadaisical?) was not conducive to active interest. His on-site parking resolution says: 1st. Steps taken by public officials are inadequate. 2nd. Fee parking facilities to provide adequately for them is urged. 3rd. Recommendation to be made to the Chicago Plan Commission urging amendments to city zoning ordinances. The resolution urged requirements for on-site parking facilities for hotel and apartment population with consideration for population density — that on-site parking facilities be provided as required for department stores, office buildings, theatres, institutional buildings, etc.

After Field's statement Louis Guenzel was granted the floor. Mr. Guenzel agreed with the resolution except in the use of apartment houses. He read a paper explaining his position wherein he claimed that apartment buildings would not be erected except for people of unlimited means; that for the better class medium sized apartments rents could not be raised sufficiently to assure proper returns where building costs run to \$10 or more per square foot. On-site garages for such apartments were a fire hazard and should be prohibited in residential districts. Far more necessary is breathing space and recreation ground for children. Guenzel's paper cited the valuable and desirable near North Side properties where on-site garages could not be included if returns on these buildings were to be made; that North Clark and Wells Streets were the proper and desirable locations for garage buildings to accommodate the afore mentioned apartments. He recommended that the 1942 zoning ordinance now calling for on-site garage space for one-third the number of tenant units be revoked.

It was moved that the resolution be redrafted and presented for further consideration at the May meeting.

Field's other resolution had bearing on the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Bill before Congress. The resolution was critical of the Bill as passed by the Senate but never taken up by the House. The Chapter Committee considers the Bill highly inopportune, undesirable as a potential deterrent to equity investment in rental housing by private capital, that it tends towards socialization of housing under the rule of a single administrator faced with bureaucratic authority over both private and public housing; that the Chapter is opposed to the end toward socialized housing such as this Bill fosters. The resolution was put to a vote and carried. Jerrold Loeb rose to say that Field's committee apparently were unaware of certain amendments that had been incorporated in the Bill. He assumed an air of authority that was amusing.

President Gerhardt now turned to the subject of a building products center which is proposed to be established on the third floor of the building 18 South Michigan Avenue; an exhibition of building materials open to architects, their clients, building contractors — in fact the public; rooms for meetings of architects, engineers, builders and the like. The gentlemen at the speakers' table, referred to at the beginning of this report, were the active men in securing an option on these quarters. The Chapter is associated with the Producers Council in this project and expects to hold its meetings regularly in the building products center.

The meeting closed with a showing of colored pictures on a screen accompanied by a talk by L. Morgan Yost. The subject was California Architecture. Yost had recently returned from that state, where he had made a study of residential architecture. His colored pictures were fine, but to those sitting back of him his speech was not understandable — it was a mumble. Your reporter sat through the presentation of a large residence of which Frank Lloyd Wright had been the architect, and then some houses by an architect, still. Your reporter left the hall after these two showings because he could not understand the speaker.

With an attendance of 95 — 70 members and 25 guests — the Chicago Chapter met at the Builders Club on May 6th

for its monthly dinner meeting. President Gerhardt presided. He introduced the guests at the speakers' table who were nearly all representatives of the Chicago Chapter of the Producers Council.

The President then called on Secretary Faulkner for a report of the A. I. A. Convention terminated on May 1st at Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. Faulkner's report was short but touched on the high lights of the Convention. A report of this Convention will be found on another page of this issue of the Bulletin.

Howard Cheney rose to say he thought the time had arrived for Chicago to have the National Convention held here — that the last time it was in Chicago was in 1922 — and he proposed that the Chapter issue an invitation to that effect to the A. I. A.

President Gerhardt followed with a statement that since the Grand Rapids Convention was substituted at the last moment for the expected convention floating on a reconditioned ocean liner chartered for a cruise between New York and Bermuda, the Directors felt the floating convention should occur in 1948, and to this end the Directors were looking to the newly conditioned Holland-American liner, New Amsterdam, to serve. Field read a newly drafted on-site parking resolution which was put and carried.

Nominations for the next Chapter year were read and Albert Heino was an additional nomination for Director. There was no other Chapter business introduced so President Gerhardt turned to the guest speaker of the evening, Mr. G. A. Saas, Public Relations Director, Citizens Gas & Coke Utility Company, Indianapolis, Ind. Mr. Saas has humor and entertained the listeners for some time. His talk revolved around selfishness and misunderstanding and finally the panacea.

Our civilization is sick because it does not produce an art of its own — you might say that America has never produced its own art — yet it now seeks for a cultural expression it no longer can find in its European past — within primitive cultures. It seems to gain present robustness only by an imitation of savage brutality. I have long thought that the rejection by the people of America of the Chicago School of Architecture as it appeared in the 1880's was not so much a rejection of a Nouveau civilization; not so much the "hanging on to" of European home traditions as much as it was a subconscious appreciation that it did not in itself offer enough. That we in America needed much more because, for a people rich in skills and resources, it offered too little opportunity for leisured enjoyment. It was too austere and entirely without grace.

—Frank Walker, F. A. I. A.

Facts About "Coal Savers"

The idea that the burning of fuels can be improved by mixing or pre-heating them with chemicals persists even though the U. S. Bureau of Mines states that since its establishment in 1910 it has continually received inquiries concerning the value of "fuel savers," and has tested many in accordance with the instructions of the purveyors, but the results were all negative and "within the accuracy of measurements the products had no effect on the burning."

Bulletin No. 404, "Burning of Coal and Coke Treated With Small Quantities of Chemicals," published by the Bureau of Mines states "The tests of eastern coal treated with certain proprietary products showed that the treatments made no difference in the results within the range of duplication possible in tests of commercial boilers operated under conditions simulating normal operation. The tests definitely disproved the claims of the vendors for large saving of fuel, elimination of smoke and soot deposits, reduction of clinkering or any other change measurable in such tests."

—Anthracite Institute Bulletin

Old Grad: "Professor, I've made some money and I want to do something for my Alma Mater. I don't remember what studies I excelled in."

Prof: "In my class you slept most of the time."

Old Grad: "Fine! I'll endow a dormitory."

Highlights of the A. I. A. Convention

Grand Rapids, Mich. April 29-30, May 1, 1947
Reported by Carl E. Heimbrodt, I.S.A.-A.I.A.

The A. I. A. convention recently held in Grand Rapids Michigan, was one of the best attended in the history of the Institute. Our hosts at Grand Rapids were put to the test of accommodating almost twice as many people as the normal estimate for a normal convention. Grand Rapids did this job in marvelous fashion.

The large attendance was symbolic of the extreme interest being shown in the building industry today and for the Architects — their convention was to them the source of information on many things they have been thinking, wondering and also hoping about. To the writer it assumed the proportions of a pilgrimage to seek and hear the words of the wise. Post-war reactions contributed to this feeling and also just a bit of the spirit of anxiety of the future was evident.

The Convention swung into action in the customary manner, speeches of welcome, introductions, and finally settling down to routine procedure of handling scheduled items. Many subjects appeared on the Board's report — in fact so many and diversified that some caught the spirit of Big Business, while others were reminded of the catalogue of any of our large mail-order houses.

In the main — the delegation was made up of a variety of personalities, the oldsters, the rights — the lefts, conservatives, bureaucrats, some autocrats, and last and far from least — fiery youth. As the sessions continued, it was quite evident that on vital things, some of which were vital to certain personalities, there was a well organized movement to see that things went "right." On some subjects — notably the TEW bill discussion, pyrotechnics were in evidence; however, nothing like the recent "Governors" of Georgia Show. A few "squibs" did a bit of sizzling too.

The unheard of thing at the Convention was the fact that the Chicago Chapter came "instructed" to vote against this bill. Such things seemed to be against the spirit of the day and after Secretary Faulkner made his very fine presentation of the Chicago Chapter's position, one of the delegation, a member of the national committee of the Institute who hob-nobbed with senators and such on the TEW bill, assumed the roll of disenter and embarrassed the chapter delegation in speaking for the bill. This, of course, was to vindicate his earlier stand as a

"National Figure". Perhaps he does not recognize that the instructions to the chapter may have been repudiation of an individual rather than opposition to an idea.

If my recollection serves me, the Convention took a 50-50 stand on the matter of relations with the Federal Government. Those things that give evidence of apparent immediate good returns were automatically supported, while those that might be termed a "long-term" investment were not so popular. This I think reflects our present day thinking — "of the moment".

The most interesting session to the writer was the afternoon that was turned over to Professor Bogner and his panel of fiery youth. Mr. Koch gave an excellent presentation of his and other young members of the profession's ideas of what they thought of the Institute and what they thought it should be. Many things he said were not news and this matter is always a "current condition." Mr. Koch and his colleagues are to be commended for their complete and courageous presentation. A wise Institute will look to assimilating these young men, encourage them, and profit by their fresh, vigorous spirit, and ability.

The Institute was generous in its presentation of honors. The story and list of recipients is now history. The Gold Medal of the A. I. A. was awarded to Mr. Eliel Saarinen. A listing of Mr. Saarinen's achievements need not be repeated here. His contribution to architecture is rated superior.

The Chicago Chapter was honored by the award of Fellowship to three of its members, Messrs. George Elmslie, Carl Erikson, and Howard L. Cheney. The above awards were made at the annual banquet.

The banquet was a sell out, 704 persons attending. President Edmunds introduced Mr. Roger Allen—"the Mr. Dooley of Grand Rapids". Allen introduced the mayor of Grand Rapids. His subject was appropriate, timely, and valuable. I know he made some friends.

After the banquet the convention convened again on Thursday, May 1, for the "clean up". Then followed visits to various Grand Rapids industries, notably furniture manufactories. A goodly number attended. Others, like your reporter, folded their tents and slipped off into — the rain.

On Post-war Housing in Sweden

During the years immediately preceding World War II, the tempo of residential construction in Sweden had been at an exceptionally high level, due to the influence of the favorable economic conditions and the rapid growth in the number of households. The annual output of new dwellings had thus risen from 30,000 units in 1935 to 45,000 units in 1939. The outbreak of war radically changed the situation, and housing production fell to 20,000 units in 1940 and to

13,000 units in 1941.

The crisis of 1940 & 41 originated mainly on account of the tightening of credit conditions. The raising of long-term interest rate from 3% to 4 1/2%, rendered credit terms so unfavorable as to discourage further initiative in the field. Then the steady rise in the price of materials and other building costs gradually came to be the decisive factor. Moreover, prospects for a housing market were considered very doubtful; it was feared that the demand for dwellings would fall off in consequence of war time conditions and of the fact

at high production of the immediate pre-war years would eventually entail a surplus of houses.

The close of 1940, however, indicated a shortage in dwelling units and it became clear that vigorous steps would have to be taken to counteract the building crisis. The rise in interest rates ceased, but remained at a level that was high profit terms for housing construction as compared with the pre-war period. Besides there was a steady increase in building costs.

However, no really effective measures were adopted until 1941. These entailed a combination of State subsidies for house-building, subject to an adjustment of ground-site prices, building costs, and rent control, as applied to dwellings built with State aid. State credit was given as a primary mortgage loan combined with a guarantee that interest payable on primary and secondary mortgage loans during a period of 10 years would not exceed a certain level for primary loans $3\frac{1}{2}\%$). In this way it was hoped that new dwellings could be produced and the annual costs would be in keeping with the prevailing level of rents.

The measures taken in 1941 nevertheless proved inadequate as a means of reviving production of new dwellings. Accordingly in 1942, they were extended by the addition of a direct capital subsidy intended to cover the extra cost due to the rise in building costs, which extra cost could not be financed if rents were to be maintained at the 1939 level. This additional cost was to be met very largely by a State supplementary loan free of interest and amortization. Thus the system of State support in counteracting the housing crisis had reached its final form. At about the same time a general rent-control was introduced, which essentially had the effect of freezing rents at about the same level as the rents for newly built houses in 1939.

The effect of these measures has proven highly satisfactory — a strong and steady increase in housing production has set in, in spite of the fact that the shortage of labor and of essential building materials led to the introduction of legislation for the general control of building operations by means of labor permits and building permits. However, owing to the increase of households, the rising output did not suffice to make up the deficit of houses that had accumulated during the early war years. But it did take the edge off the scarcity of houses.

Rent levels remained constant during World War II as was the case throughout the 30's. Since there has been a deep rise in money wages, a marked change for the better has taken place in the relation between income and rents.

The program of the Housing Commission has several immediate objectives in view — the improvement of housing standards, the prevention of a production crisis in the house building industry, the promotion of better conditions for the creation and enlargement of families (Sweden's population problem), and the making up of the existing deficit of dwellings.

It is deemed desirable that the greatest measure of stability should be maintained in housing production to tide over the anticipated critical period. A production program has been proposed for the five year period 1946-50 comprising a start with 50,000 new housing units and subsequently 45,000 units a year. Further, it is considered that the standard of housing accommodations should be raised, so that the size of the average housing unit in the current production should be 3.5 rooms (at present 3.2 rooms, before war 3 rooms). During the subsequent 5 year periods 1951-5 and 1956-60 it is assumed that the shortage of dwellings will have been made good, and the automatic demand for new houses will decrease.

The carrying out of a general rise in the housing standard will depend ultimately on the consumers' ability to pay for higher rents resulting therefrom. Before the war the rent for a modern flat consisting of 2 rooms and a kitchen absorbed 25% of the earnings of a working class tenant. As a result of the above mentioned change in the ratio between rents and incomes, this proportion has now gone down to 25%. These rentals are considered excessive; it is considered reasonable for rents not to exceed 20% of the family's income. Equilibrium can be achieved either by lowering the rent 20%

or by raising the income 25%, or a combination of both. The housing Commission proposes that this be done by (a) speeding up rationalization, thus reducing building costs (b) by subsidies out of public funds.

The Commission divides into 3 groups the forms of enterprise that are to be in charge of housing. First the planning of housing schemes should be under the control of local authorities. As to "property administration" and property ownership it is held that speculative profit interests should be avoided. Finally "housing production" may be in the hands of private builders, who however assumed, will be working mainly as contractors to the municipal and cooperative undertaking.

—Stanley M. Freehling, U.S.A. Exchange Student at U. of Stockholm, Sweden

William R. Greenley's Statement Before Princeton Conference

"In cities we find amenities and services not achievable elsewhere, but we find social chaos and degeneration. We would like to cause the city to grow from a chaos to a cosmos by recognizing human dependence upon community organization. We would divide the city into neighborhoods, providing their citizens with self-government, with education and recreation, with some morale building institutions like the church; and where possible with industry and commerce. . . .

"In the open country another point-of-view dominates. It is proper that a portion of our population should be protected in their desire to live among the surroundings that nature provides, and to enjoy some freedom from human intrusions, and some opportunities for meditation and self-renewal. . . .

"The tendency to have every shopping center in America look like every other; to produce houses by the thousand all the same, like trailers; to have mail-order lamp-posts and hydrants and street signs; this is banality not only, but it ends in apathy and stultification. . . .

"There is enough ennui from infinite repetition of the same auto, the same fedora, the same standard store front.

"In the towns we find whatever there is of encouragement along these lines. Many towns do deliberately encourage and preserve a distinctive atmosphere and lay down for themselves a manifest destiny.

"In the open country conservation of what is provided by nature comes first. Modification of the scene by man must be at a minimum, or at least in harmony with the preponderant note of nature."

Objection to Heino's Statement

The Editor: Recently there was called to our attention an article entitled, "Jim Plans An Air Terminal Building" by Mr. A. F. Heino, Architect for the United Air Lines, which appeared in the Monthly Bulletin of the Illinois Society of Architects, March-April 1947 issue. In this article the author stated that he could find nothing in the library "but moth eaten textbooks written before the advent of large scale air transportation."

Certainly this statement would imply that there were no books recently published dealing with the subject of airports. As a matter of fact, there are several books with rather recent publication dates on the subject, including two which we published: Froesch & Prokosch's "Airport Planning," published in June, 1946, and Sharp, Shaw & Dunlop's "Airport Engineering," published in October, 1944. In addition, several other books dealing with this subject have appeared from other publishing houses. Our author, Mr. Charles Froesch, wrote to Mr. Heino recently concerning his article and in Mr. Heino's reply he mentioned that he was acquainted with the Froesch and Prokosch book.

We, of course, appreciate that your Society cannot be responsible for the statements made in articles which you publish, but we do think that such rash statements as were made by Mr. Heino should be discouraged.

—John Wiley & Sons, Inc. by E.P.H.

Progress Lighting the Pathway of Commerce

On the wings of the light or the darkness,
Borne beautifully there aloft,
With thy flaming torch upreaching
And thy winged wand waved oft,
Thou leadest the eyes of Commerce
Like a spirit of sun and air,
And seemest afar like a golden star
To the men who know and dare.

Like Mercury touching a hilltop,
Thou poisest upon the world —
Thy serpent wand a magical power,
And thy torch-flame never furled;
Thou lookest outward and upward,
With a clear prophetic gaze,
And weary eyes to thy radiant skies
A myriad workers raise.

For first in the dawn's gray flashing
From out the silvery lake,
Thou lightest thy torch at the day spring
To lead for the people's sake;
And last in the sunset's reddening,
Through the ruddy city smoke,
Thou gleamest on high in the mellow sky
Like a being that men invoke.

And through the night's thick darkness,
When the toilers sleep and dream,
And only the sentinel walks his beat
Where rushed the human stream,
Thy glowing figure floats above
In the blackness vast and deep,
And watches alone till the night be o'erthrown
By the sun in his upward sweep.

Then a song to our radiant woman
Who leads through the chartless sky,
With her quenchless torch and her winged wand
And her hopes that never die;
And a song for the mighty city
That works 'neath her guidance high,
With its pulsing heart and its dauntless will
And its soul's aspiring cry.

—Horace Spencer Fiske

Toledo Area Sanitary District was given approval by the Ohio State Department of Health to proceed with its mosquito control program. The first year's cost including outlay for equipment is \$118,693. The process consists of spraying and dusting, using various insecticides. Dusting will be done by a U. S. Government plane.

The report released by the U. S. Department of Commerce on rammed earth house construction of a damp mixture of sand, silt, clay and gravel recommends a protective surface coating against heavy rainfall. The report says cement-stabilized rammed earth is sturdier than the ancient product and that the latest development is asphalt-stabilized adobe blocks.

Childs & Smith, Architects, announce removal of their offices on April 15, from 480 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, to new offices in the Opera Building, 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago.

Eugene & Max Fuhrer, Architects, Engineers, Appraisers, announce the removal of their offices to Suite 1354, 120 South La Salle Street, Chicago.

Fox and Fox, Architects and Engineers, announce their new address at 30 North La Salle Street, Chicago.

McCarthy & Smith, Architects and Engineers, announce removal of their offices to 68 West Delaware Place, Chicago.

Wayman and Stuermer, Architects and Engineers, announce the opening of their office at 37 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago.

Stone With Date 31 B. C.

MEXICO CITY—The Smithsonian Institution has just ended an eight-year archaeological "dig" in Veracruz. The name "La Venta people" has been given to those who lived there long ago. They go farther back than the Zapotecs, and probably were older than the Mayas. These calculations are based on a carved stone which bears a date corresponding to our 31 B. C., the earliest date yet found in the New World. Findings also disclose that La Venta life was peaceful and religious and that these people used the invaluable zero concept 600 years before the Europeans!

Excavation work is progressing also in North Guatemala where ruins of ancient cities are being restored. At present interest is centered on the ruined city of Zaculeu, 3 miles from Huehuetanango, onetime capital of the Mam Mayan kingdom of the pre-Columbian era. This ancient city reached the zenith of its fame in the sixteenth century when the Mayan Indians made their heroic stand there against the southward advance of the Spanish Conquistadores.

Fountains Abbey Ruins in Yorkshire, England, long a mecca for tourists with historic interest, is to become a war memorial to those of the allies who gave their lives in the two World wars.

Benedictine monks founded the abbey in 1132; it was surrendered to Henry VIII in 1540; fell in ruin in 1546. The Catholic Church is sponsoring the restoration.

Guttom A. Viker, age 73, Chicago architect for 30 years in the employ of Fairbanks, Morse & Co. died May 7 in St. Francis Hospital, Evanston. Born in Norway, he became founder and early president of the Norwegian Technical Society of Chicago.

Arthur Jacobs, Chicago architect, died in his home in that city March 28, age 57. His education was had at Crane Technical High School, Lewis Institute, Armour Institute, all in Chicago. When licensed to practice architecture, he was 23 years old, the youngest practicing architect in the state. His practice was industrial and apartment buildings. It also included considerable war housing. Jacobs was a member of the Illinois Society of Architects since December 1920.

Ernest Flagg, prominent New York architect, died in New York City on April 11, age 90. Mr. Flagg was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., and had practiced architecture at New York since 1891. To mention but a few of his outstanding buildings, let us enumerate St. Luke's Hospital, New York; Corcoran Art Gallery, Washington, D. C.; U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, and the Singer Building and Tower, New York City. In recent years, he was much interested in housing of moderate cost. Of his published writings may be mentioned *The Parthenon Naos*, *Small Houses* — *Their Economic Design and Construction*.

Charles Leonard Morgan, architect, widely known for his architectural renderings, was drowned April 5 while vacationing at Port Richey, Florida. He was 56 years old. Born in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, he entered the U. of I. as a student of electrical engineering and later transferred to architecture. He received his B. A. degree in architecture in 1914. Following his graduation from the University he maintained an office for free lance art work, primarily architectural renderings and design. He taught free hand drawing at the U. of I. in 1918; was associated with Frank Lloyd Wright in 1929; was associate architect with Alex Capraro for the Italian building at the Century of Progress. He was associate architect on the Teatro Columbiano, Bogota, and other buildings in Bogota, Baranquilla, Medellin, Cucuta and in Quito, Ecuador. Later he was associate professor of Aeronautics at the University of Kansas. He was decorated Chevalier of the Crown of Italy, 1934. He was a member of the Illinois Society of Architects as well as of the A. I. A.

After a quick trip in 1926 to Spain, France and England, where he made rapid and effective sketches of architecture in crayon and pastel, the Western Architect brought out a book of reproductions in color of these sketches in 1927. These very effective renderings had an introduction by Professor Rexford Newcomb of the University of Illinois. The book is cherished in architectural libraries.