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WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Volume 13

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 4, 1939

No. 14

25th M. S. A. CONVENTION

A BRIEF OF THE MINUTES OF THE SECRETARY, C. L. T. GABLER

LUNCHEON, MARCH 16.

President Black, George Diehl, Chairman of the Convention and George Haas, Executive Chairman, gave addresses of welcome. Joseph P. Wolff, Commissioner of Buildings, City of Detroit, gave an official welcome and congratulated the Society on its twenty-five years of advancement, saying, "Without an organized effort the Society would not stand on such a high level as it does today. I congratulate you personally and look for ever greater things from your society."

Business Session, Thursday P.M.

The President brought the first business session to order with the words, "We stand in silent reverence to those members of the Society who were with us last year but have since passed on. The Secretary shall read their names."

Arthur S. Coffin, Henry A. Foeller, Charles Z. Klander, Frank L. Molby, Fred E. Moore, George W. Meyers, George V. Rhines, Mm. Stratton, Theophilus Van Damme, Harry F. Weeks.

Minutes of the last annual meeting and annual reports were approved as published.

The Secretary read the report of the Public Affairs Committee published in this issue.

President Black announced the appointment of the following committees: Tellers—Merritt, Ehlert, Tilds; Resolutions—Gamber, Page, Steketee; Auditors—Tuttle, Zimmerman, Chanel.

Treasurer Thornton presented the Treasurer's Report and Membership Report, which was accepted with thanks.

Geographical Membership Chart

	Active	Associate	Total
Michigan	153	31	184
Metropolitan Detroit	250	52	302
Other States	99	97	196
Foreign Countries	2	5	7
	504	185	689
Deceased	1	12	13
Honorary	6		6
TOTAL	511	197	708

Mr. Tuttle congratulated Mr. Thornton on the fine appearance and excellent method employed in keeping the books of the Society and extended the unanimous approval of the Auditors Committee.

Mr. Zisler moved that the Secretary be instructed to write a letter to Charles Sestok and the Firtex Company thanking them for the material furnished for the Builders Show and the M. S. A. Convention. Motion seconded by Diehl and passed.

Communications from the following were read: Louis Kamper, Flint Chamber of Commerce, Ralph A. MacMullan, Arnold Marlow, Hotel Rowe, Grand Rapids, Pantlind Hotel, Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Convention Bureau, George W. Welsh, Mayor of Grand Rapids.

The tellers committee reported on election of officers and directors (published in our last issue).

President Black gave his annual report (published in our last issue). In accepting the report a fine tribute was paid the President for his splendid administration.

Business Session, Friday A.M., March 17

Mr. Ditchy introduced two distinguished guests—Mr. Lee Hunt, a Director of the A. I. A., and Mr. Henry H. Saylor, Editor of The Architectural Forum.

Mr. Tuttle read the report of the Registration Committee. In the report he requested relaxing some of the clauses of the Registration law.

Mr. Morison and others spoke of the intent of the law and brought out that this particular clause had been discussed by the Building Officials Conference

(See CONVENTION, Page 5)

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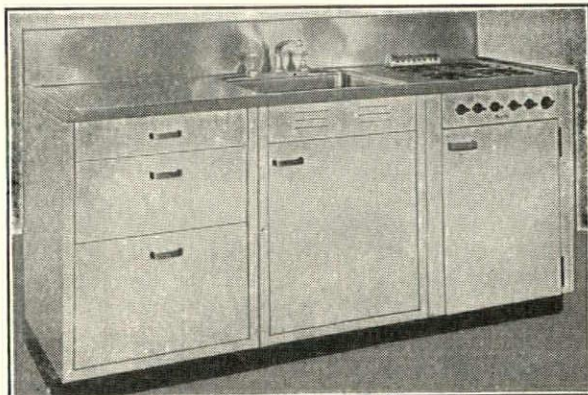
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ANOTHER SNORT FROM SNIFFY

Dear Tal:

To begin—what's in a name anyway? Wirt, please refer to the page following your answer to poor Ole Sniffy and you'll see that even when Allen uses the name of Darling his stuff is still good. That's what we need in this Bulletin—a little less of this smugness and seriousness and more from Allen in his own inimitable manner.

Now Mr. Wirt Rowland or Lowland, Sniffy doesn't mind being jumped on at all, especially by you, for you have always been tops as far as this humble self appointed official observer is concerned. But I don't think that you were justified in making that crack about "Iffy," for he is pretty much tops, himself, and a million readers can't all be wrong. Now his stuff wasn't any the less funny, logical or true when it was simply signed "Iffy" and everybody wondered who Iffy was.

And so, Mr. Kirk Lowland or Highland, I am sorry you were stirred, I am meek and humble and wish to assure you that the report of Dow's lecture was all meant in fun. I've certainly had a lot of fun with the reaction. Why can't we knock down a guy's stuff and see if he can take it? We have heard much from you in the past to know how you really stand, Mr. Highland or Poorland. And as you admitted, it is pretty hard to tell who is being copied and by whom.

As you well know, Mr. Poorland or Goodland, we hear much (much too much) about functionalism and all that stuff, but when the same form is used for homes, offices, canning factories, stores, etc., etc., then Ole Sniffy can't help but wonder WHO is the Black Ace, I mean Screwy.

Now Sniffy loves the flowers like Ferdinand, but praise be we have always had them with us and they have been used for inspiration in Architecture (or is it) then, now and always. And, too, form and color have always been with us. (but better) I say let's all get smart and change our form and color like the smart people who build our cars for one year's use. Then we can forget this traditional permanency and concentrate a little more on how soon we can get out a new model for our client.

And so I could go on and on and I know you could too, but you think this and I think that, and say Dow's stuff is a wow, so let's call the whole thing off. (while I still have my hide. Anyway, nobody's tried to take the pants off me)

Sniff Sniff Sniffy.

SMITHSONIAN COMPETITION AMENDED

Joseph Hudnut, professional advisor to the Smithsonian Gallery of Art Commission, has announced amendments to the program to permit the preparation of working drawings and specifications in the office of the architect under the supervision of the Procurement Division. In the announcement Mr. Hudnut outlined the terms under which the architect is to be employed, which it is understood conform in general to the standard government contract.

The architect is to be paid \$88,500, the sum received as a prize being a payment on account of this sum.

APRIL 4, 1939

NEW F. H. A. BULLETIN

Lancelot Sukert, Chief Architectural Supervisor, Detroit Insuring Office, Federal Housing Administration, has issued under date of March 16, 1939 a bulletin on the following subjects:

- (a) "Finish Floors" without subfloors in upper stories.
- (b) Roof Boards.
- (c) Plaster Grounds.
- (d) Stairs.
- (e) Nailing an exposure of composition shingles.

Recently issued also were bulletins on "Procedure for installation of private wells and septic tanks and obtaining approval thereof" and "Technical Circular No. 1, plywood exterior wall finish."

While it is not possible to reprint these bulletins in full they are of importance to architects. They may be obtained from the Federal Housing Administration Offices at 1170 National Bank Bldg., Detroit.

1939-40 DUES

Treasurer John C. Thornton has called attention to the fact that Society dues for the year 1939 (to March 1st, 1940) are now due and payable. He emphasizes the desirability of members paying voluntarily without necessitating expense on the part of the Society.

As you must know by this time we will get you eventually so why not come across without further ado?

WILLIAM BRICE MUNDIE

William Brice Mundie, eminent architect and teacher of architects, died at his home in Evanston, Illinois on March 27th at the age of 75.

Mr. Mundie, a Fellow of The American Institute of Architects, was a member of the firm of Mundie, Jensen, Bourke and Havens of Chicago. He had been responsible for many important buildings throughout the Middle West.

ANNUAL DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

A limited number of copies of the Silver Anniversary Directory Number of the Weekly Bulletin are available at \$1.00 per copy. This 116 page Bulletin contains a complete list of all architects registered in Michigan, numbering 700 with their latest addresses, also photographs and biographies of active members, numbering over 500.

As so much cost went into this work it is not possible to distribute them free but it is believed that they are well worth \$1.00, which is approximately the cost of production.

CORRECTION

We acknowledge responsibility for an error which appeared in the autobiography of Mr. Henry Christian Hengels of 759 N. Milwaukee Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, wherein we neglected to state that he was born at McHenry, Illinois on December 28th, 1876, that he attended Beaux Arts, Cairo, Egypt, 1912; Beaux Arts, Paris, France, 1925 and that he is registered also in Illinois and Wisconsin.

MR. DOW'S LECTURE AT OUR 25TH CONVENTION

By Arthur K. Hyde

A feature of unusual interest at the Convention was the lecture Saturday afternoon by Alden Dow of Midland, Michigan. The general public in addition to the delegates availed themselves of this opportunity to hear Mr. Dow's lecture which he illustrated with excellent moving pictures in color photography.

Suggesting the future trend in construction he presented several new materials some of which, not now available, are in the process of development. He called attention to the effect of new materials on architectural design and displayed a material which will be available translucent, transparent, or opaque. This will be suitable, in his opinion, for walls and roofs of building.

He stressed the importance of color, prophesying for future architecture a more extensive use of this element which he believes has been sadly neglected in the past. His emphasis on the desirability of color in architecture was easily understood for it formed the key note of his address. Color, says Mr. Dow, must be properly balanced with relation to proportions of red, green and blue. He explained how by tests it had been discovered that a predominance of any one or two of the colors caused excessive fatigue to the corresponding nerve. The three colors in more or less equal proportions relieved that fatigue. This idea of the effect on the nervous system through vision is so basic, he believes, that he defined architecture as an arrangement of form and color which produces a satisfactory effect on the optic nerves.

Relief from the monotony of barrenness or the excess of one color is also important to good architecture. The introduction of interest, as with points of focus and good detail together with the three colors in correct balance is essential. But interest of detail and the presence of the correct colors can still produce a chaotic result. These elements must be organized, arranged, disposed, subservient to some master plan.

He contrasted the heavier masonry materials with lighter forms and substances showing how one acts as a relief for the other and through such relief support each other. An explanation in his own words of that basic law of good architecture, probably as old as architecture itself, which requires a proper contrast between the light delicate form and the heavy structural form; each rationally disposed, structurally honest and in pleasing opposition.

Photography being his hobby, he showed beautiful pictures of nature, flowers, waves, trees, spider webs, drifted snow, clouds, sunsets, etc., illustrating his often repeated phrases, infinite variety, relief by contrast between the heavy form of rocks or building stone and the delicate forms of the growing flowers, variety of color and form in flowers and landscapes or the pattern waves form on the beach. Pictures of his gardens at Midland with its beautiful landscaping and winding lagoons illustrated his point that the sense of mystery is most effective. Lawn areas and water courses which disappear behind some jutting shrubbery or clump of trees adds apparent space and greatly heightens interest.

Mr. Dow also shows pictures of many homes he has designed. A former student at the school of Frank Lloyd Wright, Mr. Dow's work bears a strong resemblance for many to the unique style of that world famous architect.

PRESIDENT BLACK APPOINTS COMMITTEES

Kenneth C. Black, President of the Michigan Society of Architects, has announced the appointment of committees for the Society to serve during the year 1939-40 as follows:

Registration—Edward X. Tuttle, Chairman, Battle Creek; Robert B. Frantz, Saginaw; Orlie J. Munson, Lansing; Walter W. Pearl, Grand Rapids, Thomas M. Tanner, Ann Arbor.

Education—Wirt C. Rowland, Chairman, Detroit; Emil Lorch, Ann Arbor; John P. Baker, Grand Rapids; Frank E. Dean, Albion; and Averton E. Munger, Bay City.

School Law—Henry H. Turner, Chairman, Grand Rapids; Frederick Beckbissinger, Saginaw; Lee Black, Lansing; Lynn W. Fry, Ann Arbor; Maynard Lyndon, Detroit; Lewis J. Sarvis, Battle Creek.

Public Affairs—C. William Palmer, Chairman, Detroit; Branson V. Gamber, Detroit; and Louis C. Kingcott, Kalamazoo.

Small House—Lyle Zisler, Chairman, Detroit; Clair W. Ditchy, Detroit; Samuel C. Allen, Saginaw; Arthur M. Hooker, Muskegon; Carl Kressbach, Jackson; A. Randall Wagner, Kalamazoo; and L. L. Woodworth, Ann Arbor.

Membership—John C. Thornton, Chairman, Detroit; James K. Haveman, Grand Rapids; A. N. Langius, Lansing; James A. Spence, Saginaw; William A. Stone, Kalamazoo; George B. Brigham, Jr., Ann Arbor; J. Russell Radford, Detroit; and Adolph Eisen, Detroit.

Historic Michigan Architecture—Emil Lorch, Ann Arbor; Averton E. Munger, Bay City; Warren L. Rindge, Grand Rapids; Robert B. Frantz, Saginaw; Edward X. Tuttle, Battle Creek; Barry L. Frost, Jackson; George D. Mason, Detroit; Wirt C. Rowland, Detroit.

Committee to cooperate with State Board of Registration—Branson V. Gamber, Detroit; George F. Diehl, Detroit. Alternates—Edward X. Tuttle, Battle Creek; Robert B. Frantz, Saginaw.

USHA Competitions—Kenneth C. Black, Lansing. Building Code Committee—Branson V. Gamber, Detroit.

A. S. H. & V. E. TO MEET IN MACKINAC

Mr. William G. Boales has called our attention to a meeting of the Michigan and Western Michigan Chapters of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers to be held at Mackinac Island, Michigan, July 4-6. Headquarters will be at the Grand Hotel and the meeting is to be known as the Great Lakes Summer Meeting. Attractive rates are offered both by boat and by rail. Further information can be obtained from Mr. Boales, general chairman, 6439 Hamilton Avenue, Detroit, TRinity 2-4242.

R. I. A. I. CENTENARY

The Detroit Chapter, A. I. A., has received from W. H. Howard Cooke, honorable secretary, executive committee, Centenary Celebration, The Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, an invitation to attend this event, which is in conjunction with the Royal Institute of British Architects' Conference in Dublin on June 21st to 23rd, 1939.

A most important program has been arranged together with attractive tours for those wishing to remain after the celebration.

CONVENTION (Continued from Page 1)

and that they were unanimous as to the need of having all public work prepared by architects and bearing their seals, whenever a building permit is required. Several members also pointed out examples where the services of architects were essential for the safety of the public even on small jobs.

President Black suggested the matter be referred to the APELSCOR committee to see if something can be done to stop the practice of stamping plans not prepared by the person stamping them.

President Black appointed the following committee to formulate standards of practice: George Diehl, Branson Gamber, Edward Tuttle, Robert Frantz.

The luncheon at the cafeteria of the Ford Motor Company, a trip through the Ford Plant and Greenfield Village was one of the highlights of the Convention.

Business Session, Saturday A.M.

The Secretary was instructed to write a letter of condolence to the family of the late Governor.

In reviewing committee appoints, it was decided that the committee on practice and registration could best function as a part of the local districts and therefore, it was discontinued as a Society Committee. Committee on local group organizations to be discontinued.

All other committees to remain the same as the last year.

The President was authorized to appoint a by-laws committee as a standing committee to study the by-laws.

President Black opened the matter of a full time paid executive.

Mr. Zisler read a letter he had sent to the President and the Board of Directors relating how one group had formulated an outline as to how the financing and operation could be handled.

The President was authorized to appoint a committee to investigate ways and means for the creation of the office of a full time paid executive, the committee to report back to the Board of Directors at the next quarterly meeting for their consideration and collaboration and subsequently a general meeting of the membership is to be called upon to act on this matter.

The Board of Directors is to call a special meeting when they have approved the committee report.

The President was authorized to appoint a Budget Committee charged with the duty of considering the financial needs of the Society and to correlate these needs with the dues. Mr. Thornton is to be on this committee and recommendations to be presented at the next quarterly meeting, the Board to refer its recommendations to the special meeting of the Society which will be called to consider the matter.

Mr. Hyde presented the matter for discussion of having a Secretary appointed by the president and residing in the same locality. Matter referred to the By-Laws Committee.

Mr. Ditchy moved that the Secretary be instructed to write a letter to the Alabama, Kentucky, Florida, and Indiana Societies extending them the felicitations and good wishes of the Convention. Motion seconded by Hyde and passed.

Hyde moved that a letter of good wishes be sent to George D. Mason. Seconded by Lorch and passed.

The report of the Resolutions Committee was adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Society of Architects, during its preliminary session received the tragic message of the unexpected departure of our esteemed Governor Fitzgerald, therefore be it resolved that the Michi-

gan Society of Architects extend its warmest sympathy to the immediate family, the numerous friends, and the entire State of Michigan.

WHEREAS, the Michigan Society of Architects has been properly subdivided in State divisions as integral parts of the entire Society, therefore be it resolved that such subdivisions will endeavor to instruct their By-Law Committees to create, revise or rewrite these By-Laws in strict conformity with those of the State Society insofar as local conditions and their conscience will permit.

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Society of Architects extends to Governor Luren D. Dickinson, its best wishes for a successful administration and pledges to him its whole-hearted support.

RESOLVED: That the members of the Michigan Society of Architects in Convention assembled convey to their beloved fellow-member, George D. Mason, the genuine pleasure which recovery from his recent illness has afforded us and to express our sincere wishes for his speedy and complete return to health.

RESOLVED: That the members of the Michigan Society of Architects in Convention assembled convey to our distinguished fellow-member, Fred L. Smith, our best wishes for a speedy recovery from his illness.

WHEREAS: The Michigan Good Roads Federation at its recent annual meeting urgently recommended:

"Immediate legislation protecting our tourist roadsides against grotesque signs, shacks and similar commercial developments that mar the landscape", and

WHEREAS: The existence of these ugly blemishes and encroachments on our public highways is greatly to be deplored, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Michigan Society of Architects joins with the Michigan Good Roads Federation in condemning such unsightly commercial excrescences and pledges its support to any movement to eliminate and protect our highways from such nuisances, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Michigan Society of Architects recommends to the State Highway Commission to local road and plan commissions, and to all public bodies concerned or having jurisdiction in such matters, the study of proper control of developments contiguous to and disturbed or affected by street widenings and highway improvements to the end that the value of the vast expenditures involved in these improvements will be best conserved and that such improvements will not be accompanied by physical disfigurement of abutting structures and consequent incipient obsolescence.

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Society of Architects express to Clarence U. Smazel, Director of the Michigan Housing Commission, its concurrence in the opinion and sentiments which he recently reported in the public press in regard to the economic advisability of establishing housing commissions or the equivalent thereof in every community in Michigan and that the Michigan Society of Architects favors a State-wide survey to determine the effect of sub-standard housing on governmental costs.

MOVED: That the Chairman of this meeting be instructed to send to all Michigan Senators and Representatives in Congress a protest against the proposed amendment to decrease appropriation of the National Housing Act to \$3500 per unit.

One thousand representatives of the Building Industry of Detroit in annual meeting assembled, protest to you the proposed decrease to \$3500 per dwelling unit of the allowable costs in low-cost housing projects. This proposed decrease has nothing to sup-

port it in experience recently or economic expediency, and if adopted, would constitute an indefensible blow to low-cost housing which is a field already too long neglected in America.

WHEREAS: The matter of slum clearance and low-cost housing is of vital interest to all of our communities and is one in which the architectural profession is intimately and logically concerned, and

WHEREAS: The City of Detroit has profited greatly in the matter of slum clearance and low-cost housing through the excellent services of the Detroit Housing Commission and its technical staff,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Michigan Society of Architects, in Convention assembled, publicly recognizes the intelligent and successful efforts of The Detroit Housing Commission and its technical staff and commends that body for its valuable accomplishments in the interests of the City of Detroit and, by example, for the State of Michigan.

WHEREAS: The Michigan Society of Architects has been notified of a proposed amendment changing the limitation of the total cost per dwelling unit under the U. S. H. A. program, and

WHEREAS: A proper motion has been adopted on the Convention floor in regard to this matter,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: To instruct the Secretary of our organization to telegraph at once the proper representatives of this State in Washington requesting them to vote against adoption of the proposed amendment.

WHEREAS: The arrangements for the Twenty-fifth Annual Convention of The Michigan Society of Architects have been executed in a most skillful and excellent fashion, and

WHEREAS: The exhibition of architectural work has been presented in a very noteworthy and attractive manner, making it an outstanding feature of the Convention, and

WHEREAS: The display of building materials and equipment has been instructive and interesting and attractively arranged, and

WHEREAS: The local press has cooperated most sympathetically and generally in reporting the proceedings of the Convention,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Michigan Society of Architects in its Twenty-fifth Annual Convention assembled, express its appreciation for the valuable services rendered by the General Chairmen, George Diehl and George Haas; Paul Marshall and the Producer's Club of Detroit, The Builder's and Trader's Exchange of Detroit, the management of Hotel Statler, the several exhibitors of building materials and equipment, Charles Sestok of the Firtex Company, the members of the Convention Registration Committee, the local newspapers, radio stations WJR, WWJ, and WXYZ; Alden B. Dow for his excellent lecture, Roger Allen, our esteemed toastmaster, Dr. Gus Dyer, our speaker, The Ford Motor Company, J. L. Hudson Company, Mr. McCloud of the Stroh Building, and The Board of Commerce; and

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Secretary be instructed to spread this resolution upon the Convention minutes and inform each person, committee and firm herein mentioned of the above action.

WHEREAS: During the past year the affairs of the Michigan Society of Architects have been ably and efficiently administered and great progress in the interval development of the Society as well as increased public recognition for the profession has been achieved,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Twenty-fifth Annual Convention of the Michigan Society of Architects express to President Black, his officers and the Board of Directors, and the various committees of the Society, its grateful appreciation for their outstanding services.

Luncheon was held in the Bagley Room at which Mr. Linn Trout and Mr. E. L. Brandt spoke.

The afternoon was devoted to the lecture by Alden Dow (reported in this issue).

The concluding event Saturday evening was a joint banquet presented by the following: Michigan Society of Architects, Producers Council Club of Michigan, Builder's and Trader's Exchange.

Roger Allen was toastmaster and Dr. Gus W. Dyer was the speaker.

This event will be reported by Mr. Ditchy in our next issue.

ANNUAL REPORT—PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, M. S. A.

Your committee joined with the Engineering Society of Detroit and The Detroit Chapter A. I. A. in local matters combining their efforts with the idea of "In union there is strength".

No State affairs were brought to their attention, although several items for the City of Detroit were given due thought and consideration.

A City Planning Conference sponsored by The Engineering Society of Detroit was held in November 1938. This two day session of interesting speakers from all parts of the United States and healthy discussions on the subject, was engineered by the Civic Affairs Committee of that organization. Two members of your Public Affairs Committee are on this Committee and took an active part in the formation of the program, especially your Director, Branson Gamber.

Your Committee cooperated with the Detroit Chapter A. I. A. in taking an active part in promoting the Civic Center and Waterfront Development for Detroit. Although this project went the way of all flesh, appreciation and praise was given the architectural group for their work and prompt action.

This Committee was also called upon by the Detroit City Plan Commission for consultation regarding several matters involving city planning, buildings and monuments, and we believe gave constructive service.

We were also, in an indirect way, responsible for bringing Frank Lloyd Wright into town to discuss Modern Architecture. While we do feel that we were encroaching on the Publicity territory for the Society, this Committee believes in absorbing "all credit where credit is due."

Wishing you all a Merry Xmas and a prosperous P.W.A. New Year.

Respectfully submitted,
PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

Louis C. Kingscott
Branson V. Gamber
C. William Palmer, Chairman.

N. H. A. RESTRICTIONS DEFEATED

At the request of Walter R. McCornack, Chairman, A.I.A. Committee on Housing, the Detroit Chapter and the M. S. A. last week wired Representatives in Congress expressing opposition to a proposal limiting to \$3500 per unit projects to be financed under the National Housing Administration.

Word has just been received that the amendment was defeated by 289 to 78.

A FEW ORCHIDS

Which would seem to prove that an editor's life is not all headaches.

Mr. T. Coates Hughes
Detroit, Michigan

My Dear Coates:

Let me be the first and loudest to congratulate you on the magnificent convention issue of *The Bulletin*. It is truly stupendous, colossal and also pretty big. You done noble, Coates my boy. I am proud of you.

The photographs of architects, published in such profusion, is an undertaking of great proportions. I doubt if such a large collection of that kind of pictures has ever before been collected since the invention of the Bertillon system. No detective bureau in Michigan can afford to be without this issue of *The Bulletin*; next year let us go a step further and add profile views of all architects. You know how fussy the Department of Justice is.

Every word you said about me in that issue was absolutely true and I defy anyone to say different. The only regret I have is that it took me all these years to learn that you boasted the middle name of Coates. Why do you keep these things from me, Coates? What have I done to forfeit your confidence?

You may roll out the red carpet at the Statler on Friday afternoon as I will arrive at that time. Shake out the red carpet well to make sure there are no architects in it. One thing I cannot bear is to find the lobby carpeted with architects, the nasty little creatures.

I would like to see you vertical at least once during this convention, if this is not asking too much.

In all seriousness, you surpassed yourself on that convention issue. Hurray for you.

ROGER.

Dear Talmage:

I just looked over your Silver Anniversary Number of the *Weekly Bulletin* and Tal you and the boys are certainly to be a lot of credit. This is one of the finest things I have ever seen and your pictures and little character sketches of all the good Architects in the State of Michigan are just fine. You certainly are to be congratulated Tal and believe me I am for you.

Yours very sincerely,

W. A. CORY.

Dear Mr. Hughes:

The Anniversary Directory is splendid. Sorry I was unable to send the photo, but my efforts were futile and concluded by an attack of bronchitis.

Enclosed is \$3.00 for something—dues if my memory is O.K.

And thank you for your splendid work on the directory.

Very truly,

EMILY H. BUTTERFIELD.

Dear Sir:

I wish to compliment you upon your "Silver Anniversary Edition" of the *Weekly Bulletin* of the M. S. A. It is very informative as to the activities of the Society, and the biographical sketches of the members are not only interesting but tends I think to create a feeling of unity and friendship among its members.

Sincerely yours,

ALBERT E. WILLIAMS.

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Your Silver Anniversary Number of the *Weekly Bulletin* arrived this morning, and we think it is a very fine issue, and feel that you should be complimented by all the architects for the great amount of effort and work you have put forth in order to compile such a complete roster of architects registered in Michigan.

We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation.

Very truly yours,

STONE & WAGNER, Inc.

Randall Wagner

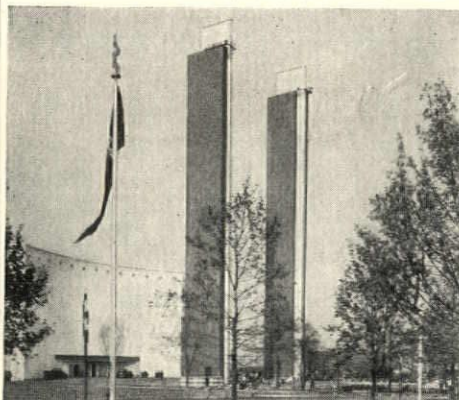
Dear Tal:

I just got in today and have seen for the first time your monumental issue of the *Bulletin* with the very interesting biographies and photographs of the members of the M. S. A.

I wish to congratulate you on this successful issue and I know the tremendous effort that has gone into it in getting the members to come across with their photographs and information.

Sincerely yours,

R. H. MARR.



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SOVIET WORLD'S FAIR PAVILION

Surmounting the seventeen-story pylon a 79-foot stainless steel statue of a worker holding aloft a 12-foot star will welcome visitors to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics' Pavilion at the New York World's Fair 1939. It will be the tallest pavilion at the Fair, and, excepting the Trylon at the Theme Center, the entire 259-foot structure will be the highest at the exposition.

The Pavilion is semi-circular in shape, with the inner court arranged as an amphitheatre seating 450, and the central pylon equipped with a Translux screen for showing films. Atop one wing is an indoor motion picture theatre; atop the other wing, overlooking the lagoon, is a restaurant and bar where Soviet dishes and wines will be served.

The architects of the pavilion are Boris M. Iofan, designer of the Palace of the Soviets, and Karo S. Alabian, designer of the Red Army Theatre in Moscow.

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ARCHITECTS' REPORTS

AGREE, CHARLES N., 1140 Book Twp.

Three Stores—Woodward & Sears Ave. — Masonry let to Pierce Fader Co.; Carpentry, A. Balbier, Tile—Martin Gibson; Gl. Schroeder Pt.—Ptg. N. Kruger — Hrdwe. J. Freeman.

Aaron DeRoy Memorial Building, Jewish Community Center, Woodward & Holbrook, Gen'l. Contract let to O. W. Burke Co.

1 story store building, Woodward & Sears Avenues, figures closed.

Plans for 2250 seat theatre, Lakewood and Harper, ready about April 15th.

of Sears—western Auto Supply C. Taking figures.

E. L. BARBER, DENISON, Iowa, Merritt & Cole, Assoc.

Arch't.—Plans for \$50,000 Church, Cor. Plymouth and Steele Aves.

BENNETT & STRAIGHT, 13526 Michiran Ave.

Theatre, Garden City, Mich., taking figs. March 30. Taking fig on Theatre, Rosedale Park, March 30.

BRANDT, CHRISTIAN W., 3408 Eaton Tower.

Prep. plans for country estate in New York State. Owner's name withheld for time being.

Completed plans for res. for W. T. Brown of Royal Oak. Figures are closed.

DE ROSIERS, ARTHUR, 1414 Maccabees Bldg.,

Plans for Resurrection Aud. & High School, Lansing, Mich.

DIEHL, GEORGE, 120 Madison Avenue

Skeches for Church, Argyle, Mich., Plans for Catholic Central High School; Plans for store alteration, Washington Blvd.

GIFFELS & VALLET, INC., L. Rossetti, Associate —
1000 Marquette Bldg. —

Prep. plans for Municipal Bldg., Holland, Mich.

KAHN, ALBERT, INC. Bids closed on Office Bldg.

Toledo Scale Co. Fig. on structural Steel closed on R. C. A. Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind.

STANTON, HENRY F., 409 Griswold Street.

Bids due Apr. 5, Res. for Warren S. Booth, Martell Dr. Bloomfield Hills.

WEIDMEIR & GAY—CH. 7567

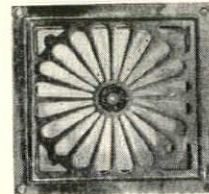
Taking figs. on Store, Livernois Avenue.

WRIGHT, FRANK H., 418 Fox Bldg.

Taking fig. on ten small houses, Britton & Roxbury. Plans for summer cottage for T. & J. Ulrich.

"I had bad luck with both my wives — the first divorced me, and the second wouldn't."

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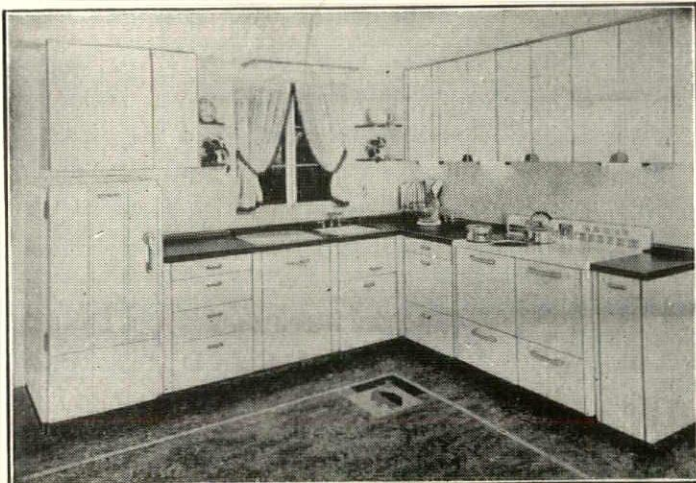
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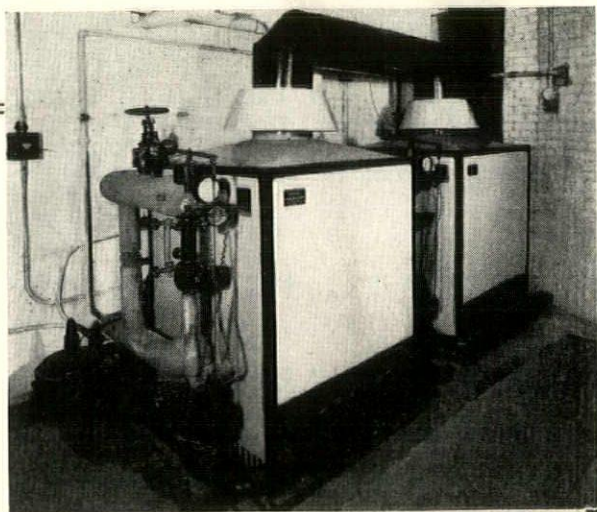
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WEEKLY BULLETIN



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Volume 13

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 11, 1939

No. 15

THE BANQUET

Concluding Event of M. S. A. 25th Convention

by Clair W. Ditchy

Nine hundred members of the building industry gathered at the Statler Hotel for the Third Annual Building Industry Banquet on Saturday evening, March 18. Roger Allen, architect and humorist (one of the funny Allens), acted as toastmaster, and in his inimitable fashion, after noting the fact that the Michigan Society of Architects was celebrating its Silver Anniversary, traced the development of that organization from the date of its birth in 1914, up to Saturday night at seven o'clock.

He referred to the coincidence of the birth of the Society and the start of the World War in 1914, intimating that at even that early date, the Society exercised an international influence. Some of his remarks concerning a certain foreign paper hanger who had yearnings to become an architect, had better be passed over here. He arrived at length at what he termed "The Golden Age of Architecture in Michigan," 1926-1929, when architects finally became so busy that the Michigan Society of Architects had to amend the by-laws prohibiting clients from entering architects' offices, and requiring that they stand in the corridor and throw their



Ditchy

money in over the transom. Mr. Allen with a wistful tremor remarked that this by-law was rescinded early in 1930.

The only other speaker was Dr. Gus Dyer, economist and member of the faculty of Vanderbilt University. Dr. Dyer was suffering acutely from a touch of flu, but appeared in spite of his ailment and delivered a very stirring address on "The Constitution and the Federal Government," Dr. Dyer interspersed his discourse with witty and colorful Southern anecdotes and this together with his vigorous, original and unexpected delivery, his familiarity with his subject, and his background as an economist, kept his audience tense and intact until he closed his remarks with a reverent and impassioned invocation that America may always have preserved for it, its Constitutional rights, its freedom of thought, and the exercise of its democratic liberties.

Dr. Dyer referred to the Constitution as a protection against Government, a means by which the operations of The Federal Government might be kept within certain well defined bounds. He opined that the powers now enjoyed by the Executive and Congress were sufficient for any emergency, that there was no necessity to tamper with economic conditions in the manner in which they were being tampered with today; that we emerged from all previous depressions much more rapidly than we have (?) from

(See BANQUET, Page 7)

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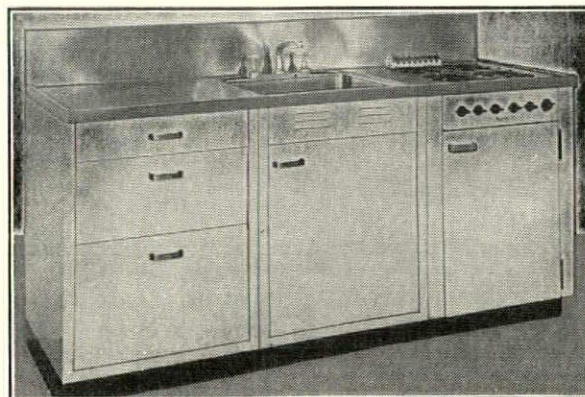
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BEAUX-ARTS DESIGNS TO BE JUDGED IN DETROIT

Mr. Albert Kahn, member of the Board of Trustees, Beaux-Arts Institute of Design of New York, has announced that competitive drawings for Class B, Problem IV - "A Bus Station" will be judged in Detroit on April 15th.



Kahn

The personnel of the Jury is as follows: Roger Allen, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Kenneth Black, Lansing, Michigan; Clair W. Ditchy, Detroit; Robert B. Frantz, Saginaw, Michigan; Prof. Jean Hebrard, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Robert W. Hubel, Detroit; Talmage C. Hughes, Detroit; Albert Kahn, Detroit; William E. Kapp, Detroit; Maynard Lyndon, Highland Park, Michigan; Richard P. Raseman, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; Wirt C. Rowland, Detroit; Eero Saarinen, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; Otto Teegen, Director of the Department of Architecture, Beaux-Arts Institute of Design, New York.

MICHIGAN ENGINEERING SOCIETY 59th ANNUAL CONVENTION

*Columbia Hotel, Kalamazoo
April 13-14-15, 1939*

Architects are cordially invited to attend this important meeting at which will be discussed registration and other subjects of vital interest to our profession. The program is filled with interesting subjects by important speakers and in addition there are to be inspection trips in and about Kalamazoo.

Special features have been arranged for ladies. Registration should be made with C. J. Schweiss, c-o Consumers Power Company, Kalamazoo.

APRIL MEETING DETROIT DIVISION, M.S.A.

*Intercollegiate Alumni Club
Wednesday, April 12th, Dinner at 6:30 P. M.*

We will hear about the architect as an active member of traffic control, street widening and zoning. Other important matters will also come up. It is important for you to be there.

OWENS-ILLINOIS GLASS COMPETITION

Four competitions "For the further development of a versatile material-Insulux Glass Block" have been announced by Henry Saylor, editor of The Architectural Forum and professional advisor to the competition.

Prizes totaling \$15,000 will be awarded in the four competitions consisting of hypothetical problems for the design of (1) Small House; (2) 3 shops; (3) dairy; (4) newspaper plant.

Copies of the program may be obtained by addressing The Architectural Forum, Time and Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York City.

APRIL 11, 1939

L. ROHE WALTER ELECTED HEAD OF D. M. A. A.

L. ROHE WALTER, advertising manager of the Flintkote Co., was elected president of the Direct Mail Advertising Association, which recently opened new headquarters in New York and embarked on a progressive policy of service.



Walter

The new president has a broad background of experience of agency work and creative direct mail. In his present capacity as advertising manager of the Flintkote Co., his sales promotion campaigns were placed among the "Fifty Direct Mail Leaders" for 1936, 1937 and 1938. Recently McGraw-Hill published his book, "Effective Marketing."

Mr. Walter, a director of the Producers' Council, Inc. was recently a speaker in Detroit at a joint meeting of the Producers' Council Club of Michigan and the Detroit Chapter, The American Institute of Architects.

RECENTLY REGISTERED ARCHITECTS

The Michigan State Board of Examiners for Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors announce that at its last meeting four applicants were registered as architects. Following are those registered together with biographical sketches:

Edward E. Bissell, 1184 Edgewood Ave., Birmingham, Michigan. Born March 1, 1897 at Golversville, New York. Attended Detroit Institute of Technology and International Correspondence School. Began as blueprint boy, file clerk and draftsman for Northern Engineering Works, Detroit in 1915, employed by Stahl & Kinsey, General Electric, Detroit Edison Co., Alvin E. Harley, Marcus R. Burrowes, Frank Eurich, U. S. Gov't. Private practice since 1924.

Charles C. Cornfeldt, 462 Woodrow Blvd., Toledo, Ohio. Born December 25, 1884 at St. Paul, Minnesota. Attended St. Paul School of Fine Arts 1900-1906 and Academy of Fine Arts, Chicago, 1906-1908. Registered in Michigan, March 9, 1939 by reciprocity on basis of registration in Ohio. Began practice as principal in 1921.

William Platt, 101 Park Avenue. New York City. Born February 6, 1897 at New York. Grad. Harvard University, 1915-1919, A.B. Columbia Architectural School 1919-1923, B.A. Traveled and studied in Europe, 1923-1924. Registered in Michigan March 9, 1939, by reciprocity on basis of registration in New York. Member American Institute of Architects; Architectural League of New York.

James E. Sexton, 2727 Second Blvd., Detroit, Mich. Born July 4th, 1888 at Bay City. Attended Detroit School of Design (Fine Arts) 1909. Registered Senior Exam. South Dakota. Established own business in 1913. With S. S. Kresge Co. since 1922 in charge of all architectural and engineering work, United States and Canadian Corporations.

*PC-
Johne
JH*

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTS AT WASHINGTON TO BE NOTABLE EVENT

*American Institute Laying Plans for Meeting
Federal Participation Authorized by Congress*

**By: Talmage C. Hughes, Secretary, Detroit Chapter,
The American Institute of Architects.**

September 24-28, 1939 will mark one of the most important architectural events ever held in America, according to R. H. Shreve, chairman of The American Institute of Architects' Committee on International Congress of Architects.

Somewhat over two years ago, in July, 1936, The American Institute of Architects invited the Comité Permanent Internationale des Architectes to arrange that the XV International Congress of Architects be held in the United States. The invitation was accepted. Thereafter, the President of the United States, under appropriate action by the Congress of the United States acting at the instance of The American Institute of Architects, invited the governments of foreign nations to send official delegates to Washington, where, during the week beginning September 24, 1939, the XV International Congress will take place.

During 1937 and 1938 events moved rapidly and effectively to make a great occasion of this assembly. The Congress of the United States made an appropriation of funds for Federal participation through the Department of State, and Secretary Hull designated an official Committee on Organization of which Charles D. Maginnis, president of the Institute, is chairman. Other members are Richard Southgate, Chief, Division of International Conferences of the Department of State; Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect of the Treasury; U. Grand-Smith of Washington, former United States Minister; Edwin Bergstrom, treasurer of The Institute, and Messrs. Harvey Wiley Corbett, Richmond H. Shreve, George Oakley Totten, Jr., Stephen F. Voorhees and C. C. Zantlinger.

These gentlemen, with the exception of the State Department representatives, have also been appointed the official delegates to represent the United States at the XV International Congress. Mr. Grant-Smith has generously consented to contribute his time to the work of the Committee on Organization as an officially appointed member, and as honorary secretary of that Committee. Mr. Grant-Smith's long experience in the diplomatic service of the nation and his familiarity with official procedure and the avenues of international communication will be invaluable in arranging for the Congress and in assisting those who will act as hosts to our foreign guests.

The Board of Directors has appointed a social Institute Committee on International Congress consisting of the president, the secretary and the treasurer of The Institute, ex-officio, and Messrs. Corbett, Levi, Shreve, Totten, Voorhees and Zantlinger. An appropriation has been made by the board to meet the expense of those items of the Congress which are the responsibility of The Institute in the reception of our distinguished visitors.

In addition to the invitations to distinguished foreign architects, every architect in our own country, without limitation as to Institute membership, will be individually invited to attend the Convention and the Congress.

The preliminary announcement, or first notice of the program of the Congress, was broadcast to the world on October 1, 1938. Printed in six languages,

English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish, it was forwarded through diplomatic channels of the United States government directly to official representatives of all foreign governments; as well as to the foreign architectural societies and associations of allied arts.

In the instance of architectural societies in each country an individually written and signed letter, in the language appropriate for that country, has been addressed to the societies' presidents and secretaries bespeaking their cooperation.

The preliminary announcement will be followed by a more complete statement in the form of a prospectus, or brochure, giving detailed information, and generously illustrated to suggest to our friends abroad good reasons why they should be interested in making a visit to the United States to participate in the Congress.

The brochure is being printed at the U. S. Government Printing Office. It will be mailed as an official document.

Official headquarters for the meetings of the Congress will be the Auditorium of the Department of Labor on Constitution Avenue, in the Nation's Capitol. This great hall, with its associate rooms and facilities, has been reserved for the use of the Congress by the State Department, at the request of the Committee on Organization. Here will take place the registration of official delegates, and the formal opening session of the XV International Congress of Architects. The Assembly will be welcomed by representatives of the United States government and by the president of The American Institute of Architects.

Delegates to the Congress, delegates to the Convention of The Institute, members of The Institute, visiting architects, their friends and their families, all are invited. All will be welcome to the meetings of the Congress, to the reception which The Institute will give for those attending the Congress, to the trip to Williamsburg, Virginia, by over-night steamer from Washington via Old Point Comfort, to the formal dinner to be tendered to the Congress delegates by the Federal Government, and to the numerous sessions, trips, interim meetings and receptions which may be expected to mark the occasion of so distinguished a gathering, greater in numbers than any Congress or any Institute Convention heretofore held.

Concurrently also will be held in Washington The Institute's Seventy-first Annual Convention, the National Exhibition of Representative Buildings of the Post-War Period in the United States, and a showing of the architecture of the two Americas.

LAUNCH DRIVE AGAINST ILLEGAL ARCHITECTURE

In a published statement to the press, the Department of Registration and Education of the State of Illinois, through Harry J. Hebner, assistant superintendent of registration, last week announced possible prosecution of many real estate firms, so-called home builders, and contractors for violation of the State Architect's Law.

Hebner states further that the investigation will include all angles of violations of the State Architect's Act, so that architects who are in a sense semi-public servants can exert the same necessary precautions for safe building construction, good planning and clean architectural design in home building as they are required to do in the more technical branches of building construction, which include schools, commercial, apartment, and hotel buildings.

ARTICULATE ARCHITECTS

Quoting Burton Rascoe . . . "Architects are dumb on the subject of their art, whereas painters, sculptors and composer-musicians are astonishingly articulate



Wenzell

and when they turn to writing usually express themselves with clarity and distinction on general and specific ideas (relative to their art). There is no book that I know of by an architect which a layman can read with ease and profit."

This is significant, coming from a literary critic and journalist, and unfortunate for the architect and architecture. I very much doubt if the philosophical Cram or the rhapsodical Wright have much appeal to the layman and while such writings may have some inspirational value to a few architects they are the exceptions.

Perhaps this is all due to a widely recognized fact that for many years now the architect himself knows not where he is going or where he wants to go.

So in some of the latest issues of the Bulletin it is refreshing to find an architect telling of his own work in a way which would indicate that as an individual he has some ideas on the subject. But I'm wondering in regard to Mr. Dow's thesis that architecture "is a matter of exercising and relaxing the nerves and muscles of the body" whether he is not carrying the matter into the field of psychiatry and confusing the architect, to say nothing of the layman. In Mr. Dow's absence I visited Midland and his delightful office and obtained entrance to a number of his houses. While I found much to exercise nerves and muscles I was too much intrigued and delighted to get much in the nature of relaxation. In fact I found myself going up and down steps and continually wondering about the many things which a practical architect does wonder about—such as possible leaks, water pressure, heating problems and other foolish things. The novelty and freshness seemed to worry me at times. I suppose one relaxes when confronted with the familiar and obvious.—H. G. WENZELL.

UNWIN PRAISES HOUSING IDEA

Says Subsidizing Has Helped England

Subsidized housing for low-income groups has been of incalculable benefit in England and should be of great aid in making Detroit a beautiful city, Sir Raymond Unwin, foremost authority on public housing in Great Britain, told members and guests of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council Friday.

"There is no conflict between private construction and public housing," he said at a luncheon in his honor at the Intercollegiate Alumni Club. "The public housing movement in England has steadied the whole industry."

"We have got a stabilization of employment that has been of incalculable benefit and has provided 9,000,000 man hours of labor. We now have 1,100,000 families living in cottage homes equipped with gardens yielding to the tenants incomes ranging from 50 cents to \$2 a month.

"The low-income groups do not have enough, after they've fed themselves, to pay the rents that must be charged by private builders to pay off their investment."

England has enjoyed a building boom of 4,000,000

CITIZENS' HOUSING AND PLANNING COUNCIL OF DETROIT

1719 Penobscot Building
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

April 4, 1939

To Those Interested in Housing.

Friends:

The National Public Housing Conference has brought to this country **MR. JAN BOMMER**, the Dutch Housing Expert, and is sponsoring his Lecture Tour which includes many of the large cities in the eastern part of the United States.

Mr. Bommer will be in Detroit on **Thursday, April 13th**, and the Housing Council is giving a luncheon in his honor to be held at the **Intercollegiate Alumni Club**, on the 13th floor of the **Penobscot Building**, at 12:30 o'clock.

JAN BOMMER is a member of the Amsterdam City Council and Executive Director of the Federation of Public Housing Societies of the Netherlands. Leaders in his own country give these testimonials of his work:

"I consider him to be our best national housing expert. He combines theoretical and practical knowledge in an almost ideal way."—Dr. G. van den Bergh, Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Amsterdam.

"Mr. Bommer is the all-around expert to give detailed information."—J. L. Flipse, Director of Housing, City of Amsterdam.

The tenants' cooperative housing societies of the Netherlands, about which Mr. Bommer will speak, operate under the supervision of municipal housing authorities, and with the aid of national loans amounting to 100 percent of the total cost of the projects they manage. These unsubsidized dwellings, leased to a society and sublet to its members, are made available at rentals slightly higher than the other projects owned by an authority, for which grants have been made. Such tenants' cooperative housing societies, in Amsterdam alone, have been responsible for the building of 24,000 dwellings, in addition to the 12,000 initiated and managed directly by the Housing Authority.

Mr. Bommer will undoubtedly draw a large crowd, so please make your reservations early, by writing and sending the money at the same time. Tickets are \$1.35 per plate. They will be mailed to you or held at the door.

Cordially yours,
Susanne Stoddard,
Office Manager

homes, 1,100,000 of them subsidized by the Government and local communities since the World War, Sir Raymond said. That the movement has not hurt, but has helped private construction, he pointed out, is evidenced by the fact that 2,900,000 homes were constructed in the same period by private industry.

"You have the opportunity of replacing slums with subsidized homes and of making Detroit a beautiful city," the speaker said. "You could save yourself an enormous amount of expense if you got rid of half your streets. They cost a great deal to keep clean and paved and lighted and patrolled. Besides, too many streets clutter up traffic by criss-crossing each other."

Sir Raymond was greatly interested in Detroit's housing problems, stating that there is a wonderful opportunity for public spirited citizens to render a distinct service.

FROM AN OLD FRIEND

Dear Tal:

It is with much pleasure that I acknowledge receipt some few days ago of the Silver Anniversary Number of the M.S.A. Bulletin. I have greatly enjoyed perusing its many interesting pages of the President's message, the Committee Reports and abbreviated biographies of the members together with their mugs. It is just too bad that the gallery is not complete. The Society seal in lieu of a reproduced likeness is not satisfying, though far better than a blank. I am wondering if it might have been modesty alone that caused so many to refrain from sending photographs to you for reproduction. I fear not. It would not be fitting for me to comment on the beauties of the gallery; but, suffice it to say, that many of my old friends look mighty good to me. It is a publication that I shall long retain and cherish.

Reading "CORRECTIONS" in the March 28th issue, prompts a comment in that I wish to extend to my good friend Lyle S. Cole my sincere congratulations on his unusual and most rapid rise to stardom. Think of a fellow being only eight years of age when he received his B.S.A., and then becoming a Registered Architect at the age of sweet sixteen. Almost unbelievable. Is my arithmetic correct, or do I need new specs.

As I read the March 28th issue I noted the very large attendance at the Silver Anniversary Convention. What a convention that must have been, and what a great satisfaction to the committees who had the futherance of it in charge. I regret exceedingly my inability to attend, though I had hoped to be present. It would have been a real treat to have rubbed shoulders with so many of my good friends. I pray for better luck the next time. I am confident, that with our able President, Kenneth C. Black, as the leader, the convention was a huge success.

Up in this neck of the woods, I greatly miss former contacts with the bunch, and I can tell you in no uncertain terms that the Bulletin coming weekly to my desk is a life-saver. Never an issue comes but that every page is thoroughly perused, with a digest of the more important news items. You, Tal, are to be heartily congratulated on its character and its worthwhileness.

It may be interesting to you, as well as to others, to know the derivation of the name WAHJAMEGA. I'll tell you the story. You may think that it is from the Indian, as I did, before I found the truth. I read the following in the history of these parts. Years ago a William A. Heartt owned vast acres in Tuscola County, included in which was the property now owned by the State. This man had a son J. Alonzo, a daughter Martha E. and a son George A. He combined his initials with those of his three children, as I have underlined, to coin the name WAHJAMEGA, which he gave to this particular parcel of his holdings. To me that is very interesting. Wahjamega is the site of the State Hospital for Epileptics, which consists of 1510 acres. There is nothing else at Wahjamega other than the State institution. The present undertaking consists of nine buildings—three so-called cottages for adults and three for children, an employees' building, a dining hall and a school building - as an addition to the hospital; a new power plant with a tunnel heat distribution system, a new system of water mains and sewers and a sewage disposal plant. It is very sizeable as well as a very interesting job.

I extend to you my sincere personal regards, and

DONALD A. STEWART

Donald A. Stewart, registered engineer and president of Stewart-Kingscott Company, Architects and Engineers of Kalamazoo, Michigan, died suddenly of a heart attack, Wednesday night, March 29th in Lansing, where he was in attendance at a meeting of architects and engineers.

The passing of Mr. Stewart is a definite loss not only to his firm but also to the architectural and engineering professions with which he was so closely affiliated. His abilities as an engineer were widely recognized and appreciated and it is impossible to prophesy the height to which his natural endowment would have taken him in his chosen profession.

Mr. Stewart was born August 3, 1882 at Kalamazoo, where he graduated from Central High School in 1901. He attended Kalamazoo College and latter Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from which Institution he was graduated with B.S. degree in 1906. His early experience followed immediately as draftsman with William E. Hill & Company, Saw Mill and Machinery Manufacturers. He was later employed as architectural draftsman on housing work with Charles B. Hays and for several months with Dan Albertson, Industrial Architect, as engineer and draftsman.

Beginning with 1909 he was draftsman and engineer with the Kalamazoo Railway Supply Company, later becoming their Chief Engineer and Assistant General Manager. While with this firm he developed the present line of light railway motor cars and electrical crossing gates.

From 1925 to 1928 he was with the O. F. Miller Company, Contractors, as local manager of their Kalamazoo office. Following this engagement he entered into his own private contracting and engineering business.

From 1929 until his death, Mr. Stewart was senior member of the Stewart-Kingscott Company, Architects and Engineers, designing mechanical systems for schools and other institutional buildings and industrial work.

His professional affiliations included Kalamazoo Engineering Society, Michigan Engineering Society, Michigan State Board of Examiners for Registration of Architects, Engineers and Surveyors, 1933-38. His other affiliations included B.P.O.E. Lodge No. 50 and Masonic Lodge, Kalamazoo. He was treasurer of Kalamazoo Railway Supply Company.

Besides his widow, he leaves two children, ages 18 and 20.

M. S. A. COMMITTEES

In announcing President Black's committee appointments for 1939-40 in a previous issue of the Bulletin, we neglected to mention the Publications Committee. This Committee, whose chief function has to do with the Weekly Bulletin, is headed by Roger Allen with Alden B. Dow and Wirt C. Rowland as members.

would appreciate your kindness if you would remember me to any of the crowd who might be interested in hearing from me.

Cordially yours,
Dalton R. Wells

WEEKLY BULLETIN

DETROIT'S LEADERSHIP

"How To Maintain Detroit's Industrial Leadership" is the theme of the next general meeting of the Detroit Real Estate Board to be held at the Fort Shelby Hotel on Thursday evening, April 13, at 7 P. M. The principal speaker of the evening will be Frank J. Murray, president of the Indiana League of Civic Associations, Inc., and his topic will be "The Realtor's Part in Attracting and Holding Industry Through Good Government and Reasonable Taxation."

Ward S. Van Deusen, president of the Detroit Board, states that Mr. Murray is one of the most interesting and forceful speakers in the country.

"In so many large cities throughout the country, city and state government regulations and taxation have caused much movement of industry and in some eastern cities decentralization is rapidly taking place. However, in Detroit statistics show that 170,000 more men are employed today than at the peak of 1929. Mr. Murray has made an intimate study of this subject and is especially familiar with the situation in the midwest and in the Detroit area. The Detroit Real Estate Board feels that they have accomplished much in bringing Mr. Murray here to speak," Van Deusen said.

According to Albert H. McClatchey, chairman of the program committee of the Detroit Real Estate Board, Mr. Murray's presentation of this vital subject is based on an intimate knowledge of the movement of industry nationally and he is particularly familiar with this situation in the Detroit and middle western area. He will discuss and point out the things that city and state governments are doing to maintain and attract industry as well as adverse actions which are forcing industry to decentralize.

Every business man, industrialist, and real estate man should hear Frank J. Murray if he is interested in the future of Detroit industry, Mr. McClatchey said.

Albert E. Cobo, city treasurer, will also be a guest speaker at the meeting and will discuss industrial taxation.

Reservations already received at the Board offices from industrial and business leaders throughout Detroit indicate exceeding interest in this forthcoming meeting.

In the Forum for February is an excerpt from an article by Mr. Ralph Adams Cram, which describes the futility of the so-called modern style in a few sentences so pat that the writer believes it worthy of quoting . . . "Their excellent principles fail to materialize in any form that is either convincing or permanent. Pleased as children with new mechanical toys, they (the modernists) voraciously seize upon steel, ferro-concrete, chromium and glass as structural material to the exclusion, if possible, of stone, brick or wood. Some one of the cleverest discovers the cantilever and in a spasm of ingenuity he invents ribbon fenestration, angle windows, packing-box balconies, Congo sculpture, stuffed sausage murals, cubist abstractions and all of the funny little gadgets that since they are different, must of necessity be admirable—but are not."

My own observation is that it is these superficial and futile expressions which are seized upon by the younger men who are not sufficiently grounded in fundamentals. And these fundamentals have not been discovered by the modernists.—H.G.W.

ARCHITECTURAL SUBJECTS AT ART INSTITUTE

Mr. Edgar P. Richardson, Assistant Director, The Detroit Institute of Arts, states that the lecture at the Institute recently by Alden B. Dow, architect of Midland, Michigan, was so well received by the public that the management is interested in further lectures on architectural subjects. Accordingly, it is planned to have the Detroit Chapter of The American Institute of Architects sponsor a series of programs next fall of interest to the public featuring community housing, city planning and similar questions to which the public seem to be reacting most favorably at present. The series would be a part of the Institute's regular evening lectures.

D. Varon

In the meantime arrangements have been made for a lecture at the Institute on Thursday evening, April 27th by Mr. D. Varon, architect, author and lecturer. Mr. Varon will speak at the Institute of Arts in the afternoon of that day under the auspices of the Detroit Public Schools and through the cooperation of Mr. Albert Kahn the lecturer has been secured for the evening under the sponsorship of the Detroit Chapter, A. I. A.

A Chapter dinner meeting will be held at Wayne County Medical Society Building preceding the lecture with the board of directors meeting at 5 P. M.

This promises to be a most interesting event as Mr. Varon is an architect and speaker of outstanding ability. Further information will be published in succeeding issues of the Bulletin.

BANQUET—(Continued from Page 1)

this one, and Dr. Dyer believes that Governmental interference will account for the delay in the present instance.

Delving into the history of business, Dr. Dyer stated that it is only within the last two hundred years that business of any sort has been regarded as an honorable and worthy vocation, that previous to this time the professions were the only honorable pursuits. He offered as evidence Napoleon's slurring reference to England as a "nation of shopkeepers." He stated that when business did finally become recognized as an honorable, responsible and increasingly important part of civilization, at that early time Government attempted control and regulations similar to those imposed upon business by the present Administration. After seventy-five years of fruitless effort, these attempted restrictions were abandoned, he stated.

Dr. Dyer gave it as his opinion that the automobile would deliver us from our present dilemma; that many of our woes were due to the unnatural and unnecessary concentration of huge masses of our population in congested centers; that the skyscraper was definitely on the way out as a symbol of modern civilization and that good highways and modern automobiles plus modern means of communication would bring about decentralization and a saner, less expensive and less involved type of civilization. He compared the comforts of the farm with those of the city and found that the farmer enjoys practically all of the modern conveniences that the urban dweller does. In this great change, Dr. Dyer made his audience very happy by saying, the architect, engineer and contractor would become very important and busy people.

WRIGHT OFFICE BURNS, STUDIO NOW IN DINING ROOM

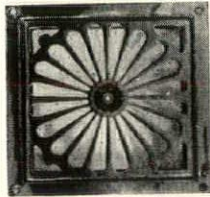
Celebrated throughout the architectural world, John Lloyd Wright is busily engaged this week on a distinct innovation which might appropriately be called "Design for Breakfast."

Suffering from internal combustion in his garage-studio, Architect Wright is now arranging his drafting board in the middle of Mrs. Wright's dining room table, and tearing sheet after sheet therefrom in unrelenting haste.

All the to-do is the outcome of a disastrous \$10,000 fire that swept the Long Beach studio of the master of friezes and pilasters last weekend and which consumed many valuable plans and specifications both finished and in the process of preparation and John's blunt nosed Cord front-drive, then left in its wake a horrid pile of useless ashes and more useful insurance adjusters.

Mr. Wright however, is spending no time in bemoaning his loss but with characteristic penchant has plunged headlong into the task of replacing the destroyed blueprints.

Among the lost plans were those of two important buildings which are to be erected in Michigan City. Mr. Wright declined to divulge details of these structures.



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ARCHITECTS' REPORTS

ALLEN, ROGER, Grand Rapids.
Plans completed \$25,000 res. for Louis T. Girdler, Muskegon.
Completed plans \$20,000 alteration to Allegan Theatre, Allegan Mich. Osterink Const. Co. contractors.
AGREE, CHARLES N., 1140 Book Twr.
Plans for 2250 seat theatre, Lakewood and Harper, ready about April 15th.
E. L. BARBER, DENISON, Iowa, Merritt & Cole, Assoc.
Archit.—Plans for \$50,000 Church, Cor. Plymouth and Steele Aves.
BENNETT & STRAIGHT, 13526 Michigan Ave.
Theatre, Garden City, Mich., figs. closed.
Fig. on Theatre, Rosedale Gardens, Close Apr. 12.
BRANDT, CHRISTIAN W., 3408 Eaton Tower.
Prep. plans for country estate in New York State. Owner's name withheld for time being.
CRANE & HOWARD & Assoc.
General contract Gladmer Theatre, Lansing, awarded Reniger Const. Co., Lansing. Elect. Barker-Fowler Elect. Co., Lansing. Plumbing, heating, ventilating, The Lansing Heating-Ventilating Co.
DE ROSIERS, ARTHUR, 1414 Maccabees Bldg.,
Plans for Resurrection Aud. & High School, Lansing, Mich.
DEHL, GEORGE, 120 Madison Avenue
Sketches for Church, Argyle, Mich. Plans for Catholic Central High School. Store alteration, Washington Blvd., Gen'l let to E. A. Eiserman & Sons.
GIFFELS & VALLET, INC., L. Rossetti, Associate — 1000 Marquette Bldg. —
Plans for store bldg., Federal Dept. stores, Jos. Campau.
Holland Municipal Power Plant plans submitted for approval. Taking figs. soon.
HOOVER, ARTHUR M., Muskegon, Mich.
Prep. plans Muskegon Yacht Club.
KAHN, ALBERT, INC. Bids closed on Office Bldg. Toledo Scale Co. Fig. on structural Steel closed on R. C. A. Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind.
PLATT, WILLIAM and PLATT, Geoffry, New York.
Bids closed \$60,000 res. Gr. Pte. for Mrs. Julian H. Harris.
SAARINEN, ELIEL, Bloomfield Hills; **Eero Saarinen**, Perkins, Wheeler & Will, Assoc. Architects.
Prep. plans for \$100,000 church near North side of Chicago.
STANTON, HENRY F., 409 Griswold Street.
Bids due Apr. 5, Res. for Warren S. Booth, Martell Dr. Bloomfield Hills.
THORNTON, JOHN C., Detroit; **Edward X. Tuttle**, Assoc.
Taking figs. Nurses Home, Sturgis Memorial Hospital, Sturgis, Mich.
WEIDMEIR & GAY—CH. 7567
Taking figs. on Store, Livernois Avenue.
WRIGHT, FRANK H., 418 Fox Bldg.
Taking fig. on ten small houses, Britton & Roxbury. Plans for summer cottage for T. & J. Ulrich.

A. K. RECEIVES MEDAL

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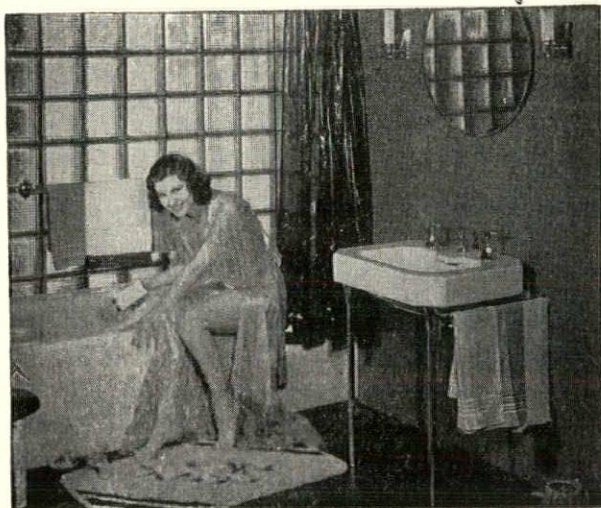
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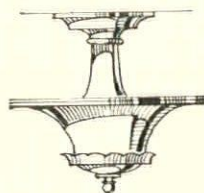
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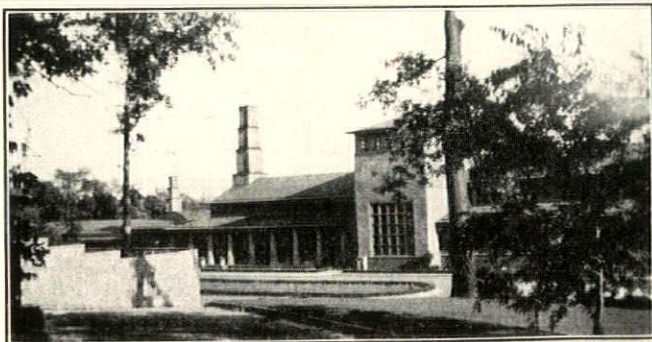


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Volume 13

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 18, 1939

No. 16

HUMAN-ALL TOO HUMAN

By Wirt C. Rowland

CHAPTER I

This is the first of a series of articles by Mr. Rowland bearing on certain comments in recent issues of the Weekly Bulletin

With apologies to Nietzsche, I lay this phrase at the foot of the monument of difficulties which towers so high above the life of the architect.

It is the same phrase which I offer as an excuse for my yearly trip to New York and its attendant tragedies—for my lack of interest in the coming Fair, in fact, a lack of interest in anything but a nursing of my knees and wrists in the throes of the grippe and a cough which refused to be silenced until I had gotten disgustingly near Detroit.

My observations, therefore, in contrast to last year's visit, pertain more to the viewpoint induced

by physical inability. My interest was confined to that portion of the great city seldom seen by anyone but its own neighborhood inhabitants and systematically avoided by visitors.



This was that portion which lies on the East River around and between 8th and 12th Streets and from 4th Avenue east. In its area is included Tompkins Square on which my modest little living place faced and which teems with life

at all times. One approaches this square at noon and is literally washed away by an inundation of boys from a high school nearby who pour out like ants, apparently by the thousands.

My hotel was the only high building in many blocks, four ways, of a sea of three and four story antiquated structures bulging with life. And from my room I could look west to the spine of high buildings which follows 5th Avenue from Upper Manhattan and finally joins the battery. And I could look without envy because life there in the old low parts, though sordid at times, was far more interesting and human.

Early the first Sunday morning, I walked to 3rd Avenue. I found that awakening and certain things going forward as medieval as the habits of their sources in Europe. A storekeeper might step out

from his tiny store and descend into an oubliette in the sidewalk to get his day's supplies. Careful and provident mothers were carrying rolls under their arms back home for their lord's breakfast. Friends tell me of processions through these streets on saints' days when the figure of the Saint is borne aloft at the head of a crowd of devotees—precisely as in parts of Italy.

With this in mind, you have my cause for choosing to remain in such a quarter. And looking toward the sunset one may still see various spires and steeples against the solid bank of high buildings and wish these temples of steel and brick entirely removed to see the old and more normal city stretching over to the Hudson River. And the general aspect of those parts of the city, where visitors seek architecture with great wonder, is that of great stems of fungus growth.

And, moving among these fungus stems, we may find anything and everything in the way of architectural design going into the mouldering of so-called "modern"—so much and so many miles of it, that it—good and bad—solid or superficial is lost in the obliquity of sheer numbers—hopeless—with only now the presence of an old favorite, still holding its own.

Words cannot express the futility of conscientious effort—of a building here and there on which is lavished an idea of better building craft but which is submerged—unnoticed—unsung and can never rise above the monotony after making its maiden appearance in an architectural publication, then to disappear in a complete desuetude of public notice.

(See HUMAN, Page 4)

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SATURDAY APRIL 22

Dick Powell—Anita Louise

"GOING PLACES"

11 P. M.

Joan Fontaine

"MAID'S NIGHT OUT"

SUN., MON., TUES. APRIL 23-24-25

Gary Cooper—Merle Oberon

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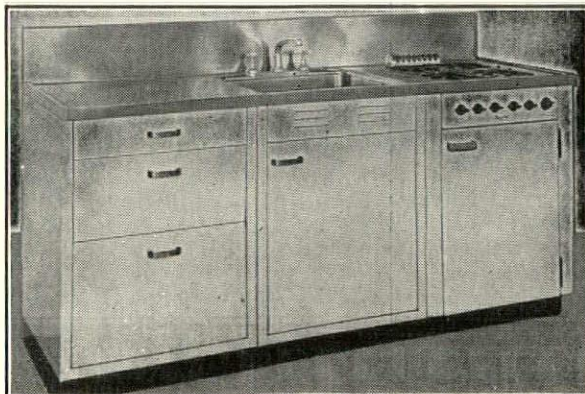
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BULLETIN BOARD

DETROIT CHAPTER, A. I. A.

DINNER MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 27

Wayne County Medical Society Building

Dinner at 6:30 P. M.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 5:00 P. M.

Following dinner members will adjourn to the lecture hall, Detroit Institute of Arts for a lecture at 8:00 P. M. by



DAVID VARON

Architect, Author, Lecturer

Mr. Varon has taught in two universities, written several books and articles and has otherwise distinguished himself as a leader in thought in our profession. This lecture is open to the public and will be of interest to both laymen and architects. The speaker makes use of the phonograph and rapid chalk sketches to add an entertaining feature to his talks. Some of his drawings will be exhibited on the walls of the lecture hall. Mr. Varon is made available under the auspices of the Chapter by Mr. Albert Kahn. It is hoped that a good attendance will be had.

ANNUAL DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

A limited number of copies of the Silver Anniversary Directory Number of the Weekly Bulletin are available at \$1.00 per copy. This 116 page Bulletin contains a complete list of all architects registered in Michigan, numbering 700 with their latest addresses, also photographs and biographies of active members, numbering over 500.

As so much cost went into this work it is not possible to distribute them free but it is believed that they are well worth \$1.00, which is approximately the cost of production.

APRIL 18, 1939

NEW DIVCO PLANT

Within a stone's throw of the million-dollar Dodge truck plant, the Rotary Steel plant and the extensive Carboly factory, Warren Township's newest industrial enterprise, the \$350,000 Divco Twin Truck factory has commenced to take shape.

When completed, sometime during August, the factory will have a potential production of 10,000 trucks a year. It is located on Hoover road, midway between the Eight and Nine Mile roads.

The company manufactures the "stand and operate" trucks used by milk companies and bread firms principally, which are said to be rapidly superceding the older-style of truck.

A new era of expansion is foreseen with the opening of the new factory, and many more men will be employed, it is anticipated by company officials.

Manufacturing and general offices will be centered in the new truck plant, which will be all on one floor, according to the latest modern industrial plans, as formulated by Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, Inc., architects.

DIVISION DUES

Lawrence E. Caldwell, treasurer, Detroit Division, M. S. A., urgently requests all registered architects in the Detroit area to send one dollar for 1939-40 annual dues to the Detroit Division. Obviously, the dues are so low that it would not be profitable to send bills and incur other costs of collecting.

It is hoped that every one of the nearly three hundred architects will respond to his request as your officers cannot carry out the duties of their offices without some funds. Mail dues either to Larry Caldwell, 2000 Second Ave., or to the Bulletin.

STATE BOARD ELECTS

Professor Chester L. Allen of Michigan State College was elected President of the Board of Examiners for the Registration of Architects, Engineers, and Surveyors at the meeting of March 9th.

Andrew Morison of Detroit was elected Vice President and C. T. Olmsted was re-elected Secretary.

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Maxwell Grylls are back home in Parker avenue after their stay of about six weeks in Clearwater, Fla. and in Asheville, N. C.

1939-1940 DUES

Treasurer John C. Thornton has called attention to the fact that Society dues for the year 1939 (to March 1st, 1940) are now due and payable. He emphasizes the desirability of members paying voluntarily without necessitating expense on the part of the Society.

As you must know by this time we will get you eventually so why not come across without further ado?

In a recent conversation (not over cocktails) Mr. Rowland stated that he might contribute something to the Bulletin of a controversial nature. What he did contribute had to do with the "Functionalism of Gothic Architecture." There can be no differences of opinion here and he probably realizes that this is old stuff.—H.G.W.

NEW BILLBOARD LAW PROPOSED

Approved at M. S. A. Convention

Motorists may soon drive over many miles of Michigan's scenic highways that are rid of objectionable billboards, according to the publication, Michigan Roads and Construction.

This is the prospect if an amended version of the Baldwin bill is passed by the current Legislature. The bill would bar signs and billboards along scenic trunk line highways so designated by the State Highway and State Police Commissioners.

Originally modeled after the California billboard law, the measure now contains a zoning amendment at the suggestion of Highway Commissioner Murray D. Van Wagoner, who recently conferred with California authorities regarding the subject. The amendments are acceptable to Sen. Joseph A. Baldwin, sponsor of the original measure.

The bill is drawing widespread non-partisan support. Aside from that of the State Highway Commissioner, the measure is also backed by such organizations as the Michigan Federation of Garden Clubs and the Michigan Press Association.

One factor that may remove any serious opposition to the measure is the absence of more punitive terms contained in previous legislative proposals. The annual permit fees for billboard operators have been scaled down from \$100 to \$50. There are no bonding requirements, as has been the case in prior proposals. There is little change however, in annual permit fees. Those of former proposals were placed at \$2 a board or sign regardless of size, while the schedule in the current bill calls for a 25-cent fee for each sign not more than two square feet in size; \$1 for each sign not more than ten square feet; and \$2 for each sign or board more than ten square feet in size.

Aside from the zoning feature of the amendments, another important amendment is one requiring signs and billboards to meet specifications as determined by the two commissioners. This clause may be a death blow to "fly-by-night" operators and others erecting grotesque signs along the highways.

The revised bill, which is now before the Senate state affairs committee, confers joint authority upon the State Police and State Highway Commissioners for the administration of the proposed act. The original bill conferred single authority upon the State Highway Commissioner.

In addition to the scenic aspects of the bill, the measure contains provisions that the two commissioners believe will reduce the accident toll on the highways. No boards will be permitted within 500 feet of a highway intersection. Signs will not be tolerated that imitate official warning or directional signs in any way. Boards would not be allowed to interfere with a minimum sight distance of 500 feet for motorists. Billboard operators would be required to maintain their signs in a "safe, sanitary, and orderly condition." Boards could not be erected in low areas where they might constitute a hazard to bridge structures during floods.

The measure even contains a censorship clause, although it sets up no board of censors. It simply prohibits the erection of any obscene signs, specifically referring to "any picture or illustration of any human figure in such detail as to offend public morals or decency."

The bill exempts signs and boards advertising the "business conducted, or services rendered, or the goods produced upon the property upon which such advertising structure or sign is placed."

Senator Baldwin, who plans to ask for a public hearing on the measure, characterized it as one that "will accomplish what all lovers of outdoor Michigan desire without putting the billboard operators out of business." He pointed out that the provisions of the bill are restricted to trunk line highways outside of incorporated cities and villages. The only areas where boards would be prohibited by law, he added, would be those designated as scenic highways by the two commissioners.

"This is a regulatory and not a punitive measure," the Senator said. "It will not deprive an outdoor advertising employee of one day's employment. It simply would regulate outdoor advertising in the interests of our scenic resources and public safety."

HUMAN (Continued from Page 1)

The carefully thought out design dies just as you and I will some day to be no more among the world's countless millions.

This is my chief architectural impression on my last visit—you will say—caused by a jaundiced eye. And for the first time returning gratefully to mine own city. I bethink myself of our comparatively modest setting and our own buildings which, because of their limited number become therefore more important and better.

It reminds me of a friend who returned from New York to Detroit to work saying that he would rather be a large toad in a small puddle than a small toad in a large puddle. We may carry this pretty simile further and say that the rocks that project out of the quagmire of New York may loom less high because of their great number than the several boulders which show above the blue clay of Detroit.

Several buildings, more or less, added to the limestone quarry at the R. C. A. center should cause no especial dither—yet New Yorkers view it with wonder. I passed it by with nose aloft and concentrated my attention on certain open volumes of original Audobon exhibited in a show window of which the decorative effect of a page of birds was bewildering in its delicacy and refinement of drawing and color. I was impressed that the old boy must have been an artist first and a naturalist afterward.

Let me say that in the "upper" city there were two new and modest Swedish churches done entirely in brick of different shades—the most successful of that kind of wall treatment I have ever seen and entirely the only modern work which was at all interesting to me in New York. It probably was a segment of Stockholm.

My musical impressions as received on this trip were confined to the environment of St. Thomas Church and Carnegie Hall. Certainly, when surrounded by Gothic piers, and covered by vaulting with the glow of stained windows and surrounded by tapestries and carved wood—nothing may finally reduce you to the world's smallest atom like the great organ which could shake the very rock foundations of the island of Manhattan, itself.

Similar reduction of one's self importance occurs when you mount to the upper gallery of Carnegie Hall. And I can say that the distance down to the stage—in fact the distance to any given point of wall and what I hoped was the main floor so terrified me that I felt that the Valkyries themselves, who ride and plunge through the clouds, had nothing on me as I clung desperately to my seat.

The grandeur of New York! I am not a superman—I still love my little home!

LEONARDO DA VINCI

A Talk by Frank H. Wright before Sigma Chi Phi Fraternity of the University of Detroit

I came here this afternoon to tell you a little about this fellow, Leonardo da Vinci, truly a man of genius, always seeking perfection. We find of all the men of genius who have graced the pages of history



Wright

Leonardo da Vinci stands out as the most prodigious—and the most tragic. In what must have been a moment of complete abandon, the gods showered on him gifts more bounteous than it has been the destiny of any other mortal to receive—Painter, Architect, Musician, Engineer, Inventor, Anatomist, Scientist—there was no sphere of artistic or intellectual endeavor foreign to his phenomenal talent, and no sphere in which he did not excel.

The tragedy of Leonardo lay in his constant ambition to accomplish the impossible, in his gnawing dissatisfaction with everything that was less than perfect. His works are sufficient to make him immortal a dozen times over. But how many more plans he might have carried to completion if they had not been too vast and too amazingly bold. How many more masterpieces he might have finished if he had not striven for utter perfection.

Let's try to understand a few facts regarding this Leonardo. He came into the world 487 years ago, the year 1452, as an unwanted love child. The young Leonardo lived in the memory of his contemporaries as an archangel clad in armor—tall, with narrow hips and broad shoulders, body erect, the head thrown back a little as though he wanted to capture the full sunlight. When he walked through the streets of Milan, his long fair hair crowned with a black cap, and his blond beard flowing down over his favorite rose colored tunic, passers-by drew aside, and whispered to one another, "There he goes to paint the last supper." He would travel from his house across the whole length of the city to work on the picture, mount the scaffold, add two or three touches of color, and then go away; at other times he would paint in the deepest concentration from morning till night, without food or drink. Kings and cities bid for him, as if he were, himself, a work of Art. Commissions were thrust upon him by public opinion; and when one of his cartoons was exhibited at Florence "A vast crowd of men and women, old and young, a concourse such as one sees flocking to the most solemn festivals hastened to behold the wonders produced by Leonardo."

Profoundly religious, he was the enemy of superstition and magic; a poet who loved all outward shapes and forms—children, stern old men, enchanting women, horses, flowers, mountains, trees, and moving waters; and who tracked every outward manifestation of life down to the secret source of its energy. He was filled with the artist's delight in the making of new things. He attempted everything under the sun. He was a master of calculations, a thoroughly modern man. He could mount unbroken stallions, he could bend a horseshoe as if it were a coil of lead. He was left-handed, and it has been fairly well established that he drew with his left hand and painted with his right.

Leonardo's kindness to birds arose from his interest in flying machines and aerial problems.

He would not be hurried. It took him three

years to paint the last supper. This masterpiece was finished in the year 1497. There never was a painting more perfectly composed. He knew of the circulation of the blood, he invented the military tank, hydrophonic devices for communication among ships, roller bearings, and the wheel barrow; he described the flight of birds and made drawings of a bird man and of aeroplanes driven by a propeller attached to a spring motor. He worked out every possible type of domed architecture and designed a cupola for St. Peter's 60 years before Michael Angelo. He planned hygienic cities with underground avenues flushed by canals and houses limited in height to the width of the streets, complaining that "people should not be packed together like goats to pollute the air for one another." He had a cure for sea sickness—well, the list is endless. He was too busy to have a love affair, at least there is not a single record of one. He thought the act of procreation and everything connected with it so disgusting that the human race would soon die out. He sang with a voice of captivating timbre, which those who heard remembered ever after. He would accompany himself on instruments of his own making, instruments of especially rich tone, and the queerest possible shapes.

It seems unbelievable that anyone should want to interfere with a man of his character, and yet one day such an event occurred! An anonymous letter was sent to the authorities charging Leonardo with a very serious offense. In his distress Leonardo turned to everyone who could possibly help him out of his dreadful plight; to his father, uncle, relatives, associates. There was no response. Leonardo found himself an outcast, just through someone's false statement. The trial which followed resulted in his acquittal, but the experience permanently crushed Leonardo's spirit. The sordid discussion of the act in a police court had impressed Leonardo's mind with an ineradicable hideousness. Contempt for humanity dominated his spirit and he imagined himself planted in a world of human ugliness. There began to appear on the pages of his notebook studies of the scum of the streets; toothless old men, quarrelsome old women, fat, foxy people with loose corroded lips, people with terrible features; he brought out everything that was bestial and disgusting—here another wrinkle, here a deeper shadow—until a prodigy of Hell merged, vividly alive, unmistakably human. And who knows how much we owe to the anonymous informer whose letter thus blighted the character of Leonardo? Leonardo the painter of Mona Lisa. Who is there who has not been enthralled by the dreamy eyes and the smile of his Mona Lisa? The model posed four years before the painting was completed.

Within his life most of his masterpieces were destroyed or had begun to decay. His vast knowledge remained unused. When he reviewed his life in his last days he saw it misspent and squandered, with nothing but fragmentary achievements from all its immense effort. There was nothing left on which he could dwell with pleasure, in all he felt he stood condemned. However, we agree with the epitaph of his pupil, "It is a hurt to anyone to lose such a man, for nature cannot again produce his life."

One day he wrote in his notebook, "When I thought I had been learning how to live, I had only been learning how to die." And so, in his will he commended his soul "To our Lord Almighty God and to the glorious Virgin Mary, to all the blessed Angels and Saints, male and female, in paradise." He died at 67, May 1, 1519.

WHERE WAS SNIFFY ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 16?

by Roger Allen

The debate in the refined pages of the Bulletin between Iffy, or Sniff Sniff Sniffy as he called himself last time, and Mr. Wirt Rowland regarding the lecture by Mr. Alden Dow has arrived at a point

where it is necessary for me to put in my five cents worth.

Sniffy need not think that he has won me over to his side by expressing admiration for my writings. No sir, I can not be swayed in any such manner as that. Although I must say that Sniffy's sentiments do him great credit, and that what this country needs is more literary critics with Sniffy's keen judgement. Sniffy is a nice fellow, the rat.



Allen

But Sniffy's attacks are a very serious thing; first he bangs away at Alden Dow, and then he takes a shot or two at Wirt Rowland. It so happens that both Mr. Dow and Mr. Rowland have the honor to belong to the most distinguished committee of which the Society can boast. They are both members of the Publications Committee. Before a man can even hope to aspire to membership on that committee he must not only possess the brilliant intellect of a Plato, the technical ability of a Leonardo and the charm of manner of Miss Hedy LaMarr, but he must be extraordinarily handsome. These requirements are completely met by all three members of the Publications committee.

Who is the third member of the committee? I am.

You can realize that Mr. Rowland and I do not propose to let Sniffy attack our colleague without taking steps. Mr. Rowland and I are better than green hands at taking steps, too. At the drop of a hat Mr. Rowland and I take steps right around the corner to a bar and get things figured out in no time, or approximately two hours. Sniffy, or The Purple Shadow as he is known to his intimates, has little chance against us. We told J. Edgar Hoover we would handle this matter ourselves.

Armed only with a powerful magnifying glass and a corkscrew we took up the case. Mr. Rowland had his Junior G-Man badge; mine hasn't come yet. I forgot to send the box tops. Almost immediately we received a report from one of our best operatives (a bowlegged girl with a hair lip, named Ice House Irene) indicating that Sniff Sniff Sniffy was one of two persons; (a) one Sandlot Lukert of the FHA, or (b) a fellow calling himself Derome Jarling.

Mr. Rowland and I talked the matter over, while trying to catch the bartender's eye. We placed little credence in Irene's report. We were inclined to suspect a well-known underworld character named T. (for Top) Coates Hughes. One thing led to another and in no time at all the bar closed.

This will give you a rough idea of the cold, unflagging persistence with which Mr. Rowland and I have undertaken to expose this fellow Sniffy. It is only a matter of time until we run him down. In the meantime we trust that Sniffy will keep right on writing letters; in the first place, he writes a very interesting letter, and in the second place (no, the second place is where we got the bacardi) in the third place every time he writes another letter we get more clues. Come on, Sniffy; give.

ROGER ALLEN.

NEW BOOK BY A. K.

The late Russell Sturgis, architectural writer and critic, once said that it would be well if architects could be made to refrain from using ornament for a period of years in order to make them depend for the beauty of buildings on proportion, line, color.



Kahn

This comes to mind in perusing a new book "Industrial Architecture of Albert Kahn, Inc.," off the press in January 1939 (Architectural Book Publishing Company, Inc.). In the book's 176 pages of text, illustrations, and some few plans and sections, the fact is brought home to the student that we are living in a machine age and that the buildings illustrated show

vividly the effect of this age upon our culture.

George Nelson is put down as the author of the book, but actually it is Albert Kahn and his staff of helpers. Professors in architectural schools should examine this volume thoughtfully and ask themselves whether the solutions shown are not a first rate demonstration of the drift of thought in our day.

Though the continuous text covers but twenty-nine pages, all the illustrations are accompanied by pertinent notes. The reader learns that the first industrial plants, in contradistinction to home industry of an earlier day, appeared in Sweden and England in 1780; 1796 saw the first suspension bridge; 1851 the Crystal Palace Exposition, London, all glass and iron; and by 1914 what the author calls the "old order," which may be supposed to be mill construction with wood posts and girders and heavy floors, with column bents from sixteen to twenty feet, was cracking up. Then came reinforced concrete, followed by the rolling of deeper and deeper steel structural sections and new materials developed through chemistry.

Mr. Kahn's organization, which is now forty years old and began from scratch, has lived and operated through all this modern development and registers building operations costing \$800,000,000 in this forty year period. The firm's buildings are found on five continents and in 134 cities of the United States alone. In 1928 the Kahn organization operated an office in Moscow where their Russian buildings were designed. Has there ever been a private organization of engineers or architects that can register such achievements?

The book illustrates the exterior and interior of Ford Motor Company's Engineering Laboratory at Dearborn, Michigan. Here is a five aisle building, 200 feet wide and 800 feet long, with continuous lantern windows over the nave, supported on great steel beams cut and bent to the form desired, the two flanking aisles also top lighted, and the two extreme aisles lighted by windows. Ducts under the floor carry all power wiring and the like, leaving the ceilings perfectly clean and clear, with columns spaced forty feet centers. A most impressive interior.

The nudist may present his functionalism in many degrees of efficiency and attractiveness, but on the whole I would prefer to see him properly clothed with clothing designed to express individuality. In fact I have no objection to a carnation if not too discordant. Who was it that said cabbages were necessary and on examination inherently quite beautiful but he preferred roses? I think it was Saarinen.

H. G. W.

A PAST PRESIDENT DISCUSSES A. I. A. MEMBERSHIP

*From Illinois Society of Architects
Monthly Bulletin*

A spirit of democracy was rising in the Institute. It is called "democracy" (is it not?) when each and every individual, whatever his real merit, claims an equal voice in the management of affairs, not only as a voter but as an official. There were those so democratic in their ideas that they wished the Institute to include every practicing architect in the country, no matter what his ethical standard or architectural attainments might be. Theirs seemed to be the American idea that bigness—bulk—was a virtue in itself rather than that virtue in itself should be a test of greatness.

Architecture was the first profession in this country nationally to adopt and to put into effect a code of ethics; although the profession can hardly be said to have taken the initiative. Rather it was the Institute, over which the democratically minded weep, because it does not represent the profession at large. (Thanks be to the gods!)

Originally the Institute was composed of Fellows who, alone, could hold office and vote on Institute matters. Fellows were drawn from an Associate class for distinction in service. In 1889, the Western Society of Architects was merged into the Institute and all were ranked as Fellows. It is easy to imagine that not all the members of the Western Society nor all the former Associates of the Institute were of Fellowship caliber as originally defined, while the large body of Associates which was taken into the Institute between the years 1890 and 1910, must have contained men much superior in attainment and much more entitled to the Fellowship than was the majority of those elevated at the time of the merger. Hence came unrest in the ranks and the demand for equality!

When, in 1910, I came into the presidency, the membership classes in the Institute were most involved and illogical and it devolved upon me to straighten them out, to "democratize" the Institute, and to present the "set up" to the San Francisco convention (of 1910); which I did, arguing the case point by point from the floor, while Walter Cook, the first vice-president occupied the chair—not, strictly, a parliamentary procedure, but it never was challenged.

I purposely eliminated all minor classes, the presence of which might tend to weaken professional idealism in the Institute. Organically, in the new scheme, there were Members only—all on a par as regards voting and office-holding—and Fellows who were set apart from the other members only by having achieved a recognized distinction in their work in whatever prescribed branch it might be.

The hardest job I had in committee was to make it clear to some of the supersensitive that no indignity was being imposed on certain Honorary members in removing them from the Honorary to the Honorary Corresponding class. That word, corresponding, for long had been a stumbling block. No one had seemed to recognize its real meaning in the context. Glenn Brown, who for years in his Secretaryship had done so much to build up the prestige of the Institute in Washington and in the country at large, was hard to convince. He always had regarded the Corresponding as a degree lower than the Honorary (as, to many, architects are lower in the social scale than are other mortals). But finally

he and the others were led to see that "corresponding" had nothing to do with one's ability or duty to write letters, but that it described one who corresponded to and not with the Institute's professional membership.

The constitution and by-laws, ratified at the San Francisco Convention, stood intact and were effective for many years—until a new lot of members, who knew not Joseph—came into the Institute and wanted to make it "representative" of the whole profession; by which they meant, make it "take in" the whole profession, that it might be a power in local and in national politics. With such a leavening in its body, the Institute has found it difficult to travel the narrow path of professionalism and to avoid peanut politics. It will be a happy day for the Institute when it relearns what once it knew: That there lies more potency in a small altruistic body prepared to act, than in a large flabby corporation divorced from Idealism, as such a body is bound to be or become. It took but a few idealists in the American Institute of Architects to save from the vandals the Lincoln Monument site and with it the whole Park Commission's plan for the City of Washington. The Institute was fighting a worthy cause, not selfishly but broadly altruistically, and from the Octagon went out an appeal to every woman's club, every art club, every civic organization in the land, from coast to coast — and the response was overwhelming. Old Uncle Joe Cannon, who led the opposition, had been defeated in his every move. In his bitterness he bellowed in the presence of a group of architects, of whom I was one: "Where the Hell do you get your pull!"

I had on more than one occasion to remind those who would let down the bars of the Institute, that Sodom and Gomorrah would have been spared destruction by fire from heaven had they, in the end, been able to find within their walls only one good man—only one decent architect! Salvation does not depend on numbers.

IRVING K. POND.

(From Chapter 10 of Irving K.
Pond's forthcoming Autobiography)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

I am writing this to announce my opening of a landscape architectural office in Detroit, and further to give you some information concerning my recent experience in government work.

As you know, I am a brother to Eberle Smith of the architectural firm, Lyndon & Smith. Several years ago I had an office in Detroit, but for the past six years have been employed with the government, and have been located in several of the southeastern states. For two and one-half years I was stationed at the Great Smoky Mountain National Park having charge of the design force. Later I returned to Michigan where I was stationed on the Waterloo Recreational Demonstration Project near Chelsea, Michigan. Thence I traveled to Kentucky where I was in charge of landscape work on the Cumberland National Forest. Later I was transferred into Virginia where I had charge of perhaps the largest recreational program of any National Forest in the country during that period of time.

As you can see, my work has taken me into various sections of the country, and needless to say has been most interesting. I am now returning to Michigan, and am opening an office in Detroit where I have lived and practiced in the landscape profes-

sion for a number of years. I hope that I can be of service to yourself, and to any of the other architects of Detroit who may need the services of a landscape architect.

As I stated in our telephone conversation, I am affiliated with the Willow Run Nurseries which is located near Ypsilanti, Michigan, and owned by my parents.

I trust that I will have the pleasure of meeting you and many of the other architects of Detroit, and would appreciate the opportunity of discussing any landscape problems which you may have.

Incidentally I have withheld writing this letter for several days pending establishment of a Detroit office.

Very truly yours,

C. WENDELL SMITH.

C. Wendell Smith
Landscape Architect
304 Stormfeltz-Loveley Building
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ARCHITECTS' REPORTS

AGREE, CHAS. N., 1140 Book Tower.

Bids closed, foundation, Theatre, Lakewood and Harper.

Plans, superstructure, Harper Theatre, ready for bids about Ap. 25.

Prep. plans, housing development, 404 Apts. MacKenzie Manor Housing Corp., owners.

E. L. BARBER, DENISON, Iowa, Merritt & Cole, Assoc.

Arch.—Plans for \$50,000 Church, Cor. Plymouth and Steele Aves.

BENNETT & STRAIGHT, 13526 Michigan Ave.

Theatre, Garden City, Mich., figs. closed.

Fig. on Theatre, Rosedale Gardens, Close Apr. 12.

BRANDT, CHRISTIAN W., 3408 Eaton Tower.

Prep. plans for country estate in New York State. Owner's name withheld for time being.

DE ROSIERS, ARTHUR, 1414 Macabees Bldg.,

Plans for Resurrection Aud. & High School, Lansing, Mich.

DIEHL, GEORGE, 120 Madison Avenue

Skeches for Church, Argyle, Mich., Plans for Catholic Central High School.

GIFFELS & VALLET, INC., L. Rossetti, Associate — 1000 Marquette Bldg. —

Plans for store bldg., Federal Dept. stores, Jos. Campau.

Holland Municipal Power Plant plans submitted for approval. Taking figs. soon.

KAHN, ALBERT, INC. Bids closed on Office Bldg. Toledo Scale Co. Fig. on structural Steel closed on R. C. A. Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind.

Fig. plbg. & htg., R. C. A. Buldg., due Apr. 13.

Fig. on boiler equipment, Chevrolet plant, Tarrytown, N. Y., due Ap. 15.

Fig. on hoist elevator, Ford Press shop due Ap. 18.

Architectural trades con. let t oE. Moss & Sons, Bridgeport, Conn., for Sikorsky Air Port.

STAHL, JNO. C., 1118 Francis Palms Bldg.,

Taking fig. about Ap. 25 on alt. to store, Randolph St.

STANTON, HENRY F., 409 Griswold Street.

Bids due Apr. 5, Res. for Warren S. Booth, Martell Dr. Bloomfield Hills.

WEIDMEIR & GAY—CH. 7567

Taking figs. on Store, Livernois Avenue.

WRIGHT, FRANK H., 418 Fox Bldg.

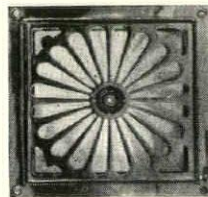
Taking fig. on ten small houses, Britton & Roxbury.

Plans for summer cottage for T. & J. Ulrich.

Ready for bids, Alterations to Chandler Theatre, Harper Ave.; new balcony; new front.

Prep. plans, new front and addition for Disner, tailor, Stephenson Bldg.

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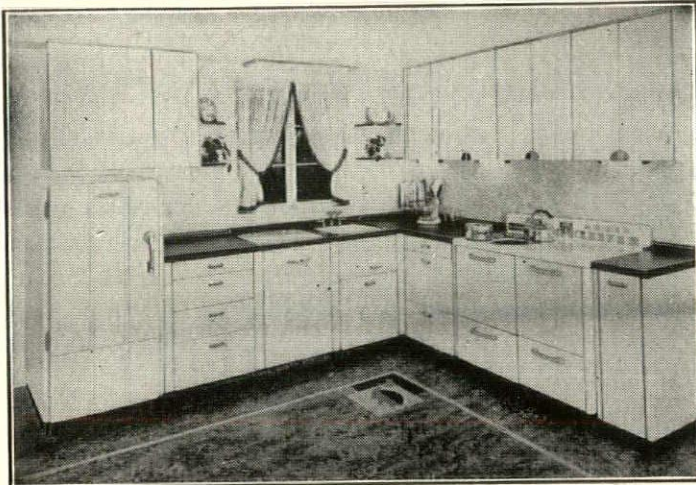
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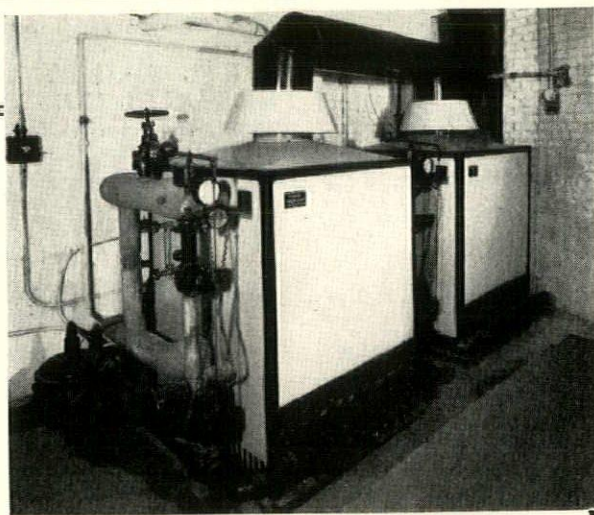
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WEEKLY BULLETIN



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Volume 13

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 25, 1939

No. 17

BUILDING OFFICIALS' CONFERENCE

The 24th Annual Meeting of the Building Officials Conference of America will be held at the Book-Cadillac Hotel, Detroit, Michigan, on May 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, 1939.

The Conference is composed of municipal officials charged with the enforcement of the Building Codes and other laws and ordinances regulating the construction, maintenance and use of buildings and other structures in their respective cities.

The five day program of the meeting will include business sessions interspersed with social events and entertainments. Scheduled on the business program are a number of nationally recognized authorities on questions relating to buildings. Among these might be mentioned Mr. Rudolph P. Miller of New York, the Dean of Building Officials, Professor P. C. Rutledge of Purdue University, Professor Frank B. Rowley of the University of Minnesota and Professor Walter C. Voss of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Among the features of entertainment will be a tour of the Ford Automobile Plant and Greenfield Village, together with a luncheon at Dearborn Inn. Climaxing the meeting on Thursday, May 4th, the Annual Ball and Banquet will be held, at which, His Honor, Mayor Richard W. Reading, will be Toastmaster, introducing Mr. Malcolm W. Bingay, Editorial Director of the Detroit Free Press, who is far famed for the excellent and entertaining qualities of his whimsy and wit. The ball will immediately follow the banquet.

On May 5th, the business affairs of the Conference will occupy the available time until the meeting adjourns.

An important feature of the meeting will be an interesting series of exhibits of materials and equipment for buildings sponsored by the leading manufacturers in their respective fields.

MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

M. S. A.

Battle Creek, Wednesday, May 3

4:00 P. M.

To be followed by dinner meeting jointly with Kalamazoo-Calhoun Counties Association of Architects.

President Black asks that board members reserve this date. Further details as to meeting place will be given in the next issue of the Bulletin.

ARCHITECTS' EXHIBIT

Through the cooperation of the local committee, space has been made available for an architectural exhibition, to which the public will be invited. Lyle F. Zisler and Malcolm R. Stirton are in charge of arranging the exhibition.

The technical session and social events on the program will be open to architects, engineers, builders and others in the allied fields of the construction industry, many of whom will, no doubt, desire to take advantage of the opportunity of participating in the discussions on subjects which are not otherwise available.

BANQUET AND BALL

The chief social function will be the banquet and ball on Thursday evening, May 4th. Special tables will be reserved for architects and tickets may be obtained through the Weekly Bulletin at three dollars per person or six dollars per couple. Dress is optional.

Our friends in the Detroit Building Department deserve our support and since there is not time to make a personal canvas, we are depending upon our good and loyal members to act voluntarily. We know you won't fail us in this respect.

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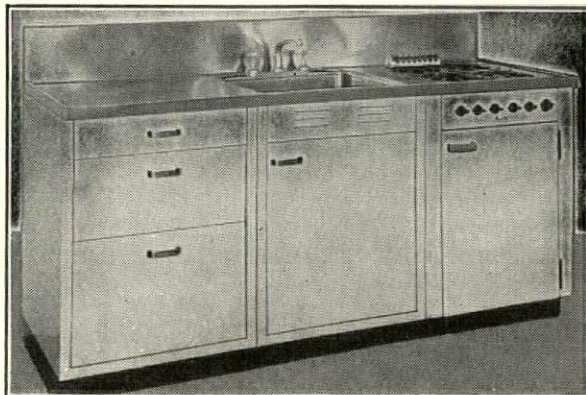
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DINNER MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 27

Wayne County Medical Society Building

Dinner at 6:30 P. M.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 5:00 P. M.

Following dinner, members will adjourn to the lecture hall, Detroit Institute of Arts, for a lecture at 8:00 P. M. by Mr. David Varon, to which the public are invited.



DAVID VARON

Architect, Author, Lecturer

The importance of architecture and art in true education and citizenship will be discussed by David Varon, noted architect, author and lecturer in the lecture hall at Detroit Institute of Arts, Thursday evening, April 27 at 8 P. M. The lecture will be free and open to the public.

This program was arranged following a recent lecture by Mr. Alden Dow, architect of Midland, Michigan, at which attendance indicated that the public are now keenly interested in such subjects.

Mr. Varon, who has taught architecture at the University of Illinois and at Harvard University, will address both architects and laymen, with rapid chalk sketches and the use of the phonograph adding greatly to the interest. A group of the lecturer's charcoal and pastel sketches of buildings in European and American cities will be displayed on the walls of the lecture hall.

Mr. Varon will speak in the afternoon under the auspices of the Detroit Board of Education and it is through the cooperation of Mr. Albert Kahn of Detroit that he is retained for the evening, sponsored by the Detroit Chapter of The American Institute of Architects.

In taking for his subject "The City of Tomorrow and The Era of World Harmony," Mr. Varon points out that the study of architecture is essential to a well-rounded education.

APRIL 25, 1939

DIVISION MEETING

Members of the Detroit Division, M. S. A. met for dinner at the Intercollegiate Alumni Club, Wednesday evening, April 12.

Chief feature was a talk by Mr. F. Gordon Pickell, who has a plan for the future of Detroit which would seem to solve some of its most serious problems; housing, traffic and the reclamation of waste areas.

Attendance was not up to former meetings and it is hoped that members will regularly plan to attend Division meetings on the first Wednesday in each month, for dinner at the I. A. C. The next meeting will be Wednesday evening, May 3.

Change to By-Laws

Upon motion of L. Robert Blakeslee and seconded by Lawrence E. Caldwell a proposal to by-laws was passed creating the office of Executive Secretary as a member of the board, and instruction to the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for Talmage C. Hughes for that office. The change will be voted upon at the next meeting.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHITECTURE OF ALBERT KAHN, INC.

The Bulletin is in receipt of a copy of "Industrial Architecture of Albert Kahn, Inc." by George Nelson (Architectural Book Publishing Co., 112 W. 46th Street, New York City, \$6.00).

Acknowledgement on the flyleaf states, "A portion of the material contained in this book was the subject of the August, 1938 issue of The Architectural Forum. Although the number of copies printed was greatly in excess of the regular subscription list, the issue proved insufficient to supply the numerous request for copies which came from all parts of the United States and from other countries. It was consequently decided to put this material in more permanent book form. For their permission to incorporate it in this book, the courtesy of the Editors of The Architectural Forum and of the publishers, Time, Inc., is hereby gratefully acknowledged."

The book is an illuminating commentary on the changing scene that what was known as "factory building" in the last century has become "industrial architecture" today. The factory was the stepchild of the 1800's, a joy to no one save possibly its owners; it was sooty, ugly, a source of blight wherever it appeared; the condition of its workers was appalling beyond belief. That this category of building has been elevated in our time to the status of "architecture" is not only the result of a revolution in esthetic standards, but also the outcome of certain fundamental changes that have taken place within the factory itself.

The book contains 176 pages, most of which are fine reproductions of Mr. Kahn's industrial work.

HOME BUILDERS SCHOOL

The Detroit News has planned a series of three evening meetings for the purpose of acquainting the public with proper procedure in home building.

On Tuesday evening, May 2nd, in the auditorium of W. W. J. Studios, the program will be devoted to architecture, with one-half hour talks by Clair W. Ditch on Plan Arrangement and Design; George F. Diehl on Structure and Materials and Eric Hyde on Mechanical Equipment.

Other programs in the series will deal with the selection of site, financing and building.

A TRULY REPRESENTATIVE ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION

From Illinois Society of Architects Monthly Bulletin

This article is intended to set forth the problem at hand and suggest remedies therefore in an attempt to stimulate comment, as a result of which a method of attaining a satisfactory solution might be evolved and set into action. In the interests of the architectural profession, you are urged to consider this problem and voice your opinion thereof.

The subject of developing an organization truly representative of all architects properly registered or licensed, both within the State and nationally, has been given much thought and effort during the past several years. Last fall, at the State-Wide Meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects, held at Champaign, President Jensen appointed a committee to meet with representatives of the two Illinois Chapters of The American Institute of Architects to ascertain whether some plan might be proposed whereby the large majority of architects, registered and practicing in Illinois, might be joined in one organization, and the present, after a fashion, competition for members and duplication of effort and interests of the Chapters and the Society, might be eliminated. After studying the problem at a distance, a meeting of the representatives was recently held, and, upon bringing out the thoughts expressed here below, it was determined that the architects of Illinois be advised of this discussion by means of this article, the reaction thereto being the basis of further progress on the plan. Present at this meeting were John Fugard and Bertram Weber, representing the Chicago Chapter; Ernest L. Stouffer and Philip R. Hooten, representing the Central Illinois Chapter of the A. I. A.; Arthur Woltersdorf, Leo Weissenborn, Stanley Fairclough and Paul Gerhardt, Jr., representing the Illinois Society of Architects.

Architects of Illinois, it was stated, are divided into three groups: those who do not appreciate the value of any organization of their profession, those who feel that membership in such a professional organization should indicate a certain prestige or superiority, and those who favor an association of architects but strongly object to an undemocratic scale or classification of memberships. To appease all three groups is essential, for the premise of any plan must be that the strength of such an association rests on its having on its rolls all members of the profession who follow its canon of ethics and who are properly licensed with the State to practice architecture.

It is quite natural that the present groups have no desire to lose their identity, since they are all solvent, progressive societies, which can get along by themselves, but which all appreciate the added strength, advantages and desirability to be gained by some type of consolidation or unification of effort. The fact that they have appointed active committees to study the problem indicates there is a concerted attempt to improve the present situation, if possible.

It is pointed out that The American Institute of Architects has been making some progress in organizing State Associations throughout the country. This has occurred, principally, where such State societies either did not previously exist, or where they were practically extinct and were revived for this program. In respect to Illinois, however, our State Society is most active and flourishing and is unwilling to become subservient to another group whose by-laws and rules at present are such that some consider them rather undemocratic. There are those in the Society who feel that a national organization should serve and

act in a manner similar to that which was intended when our Federal Government was established, a union of sovereign states, rather than in a manner similar to that which recent national policies indicate we are following, all laws and policies emanating from Washington.

Then, too, there is the question of dues. Numerous members of our profession can ill-afford the accumulation of fees necessary to be a member in good standing of the various societies at present. It is felt that with a large membership, eliminating present duplication of expenses, annual dues could be materially reduced, with perhaps a sliding scale arranged to permit those who are just starting to practice to become members at lower rates.

For those who do not fully appreciate the value of a strong state-wide, or, in fact, national organization of our profession, let it be pointed out that were it not for the efforts of the present functioning Associations, we would have no license law protection, no uniformity of contracts, no recognition of lien rights, no competition regulation, no recognition in public building programs, and a host of other similar benefits. With concerted action, these benefits to architects can and will be increased manifold. Furthermore, architects can be kept better advised of developments or intended programs, and the enforcement of architectural practice laws could be more energetically pursued, both with public officials and within our own Association. Beyond that, group meetings could be made more entertaining and instructive by being in a position to invite and properly receive the highest type of talent.

At the present time, the Illinois Society of Architects is undertaking the sponsorship of amendments to the Illinois Architectural Act, a contemplated State Building Code and other legislation of benefit to architects. Added assistance of this type would also accrue to architects.

Taking all the above into consideration, it was proposed that consideration be given to the following plan: namely, (1) That the Illinois Society of Architects, which is now the state-wide active association, widen its scope and reduce its qualifications for membership and its membership fees so as to permit all legally registered architects to join on an equal basis with equal rights, whether practicing as an individual or not; that an active and energetic campaign be initiated to obtain as members all possible members of our profession in the state. (2) That The American Institute of Architects and its chapters refrain from the general solicitation of members in Illinois, limiting its field only to members of the Illinois Society of Architects and discounting the various local classifications of members, limiting themselves to regular Institute members and honorary fellows.

Subsequently, this program having been given a reasonable time for development and found to be satisfactory and acceptable, a means be determined whereby the Illinois Society might become a part of the national organization, The Institute, on a basis as previously referred to, maintaining its sovereignty regarding matters within the state.

It is believed that a plan based on these fundamental principles could be placed in operation with a minimum of change of basic by-laws of the present functioning organizations. Modifications or alterations may be found to be required when the plan is set in motion. Unless serious arguments against it are presented, it is felt that an effort should be made to unite the architects of the state by this or some similar method.

Again you are urged to express your opinion of this plan so that a cross-section of thought thereon may be had.

—Paul Gerhardt, Jr., Chairman.

JAN BOMMER LUNCHEON

By Clair W. Ditchy

Jan Bommer, a tall handsome Dutchman who enjoys the reputation of being No. 1 Housing Expert of The Netherlands, spoke in Detroit under the auspices of the Citizen's Housing and Planning Council of Detroit on Thursday, April 13.

Mr. Bommer's remarks were confined solely to a history of public housing in Holland, with especial reference to Dutch housing problems and the success with which they had been met.

The public housing movement started in 1901 with the passage of the Dutch Housing Act. A great need for good housing for working people of moderate means had arisen because of the great expanse which took place in Dutch industries in the nineties and which brought a great influx of workers into urban communities. The only housing available for the new families was antiquated dwellings and new houses which had been built by speculative builders and which were badly planned and shoddily built.

In 1899 more than 80% of the white collar workers were living in one or two room dwellings. Private enterprise and private capital showed no effective interest in the problem and this gave birth eventually to the Public Housing Act. The philosophy of this Act is; (1) that housing being a national problem and of national importance must be regulated by national law; (2) the actual production of housing is a matter of local action to be undertaken and supervised by local authorities; (3) the responsibility is one of the national government, the local government, and the citizens themselves.

The Act provided for the establishment of Public Cooperative Housing Societies of which there are now more than 1000. Shares in the societies are available at about 25 guilders. (A guilder is worth about 50c). Dwellings when completed are rented to members according to seniority of membership. The members elect a supervisory board to regulate the development.

Once a society has been duly organized and has received its certificate from the National Government, the next procedure is to retain an architect who makes a preliminary survey, leading to the selection of a prospective site and preliminary sketches. When the plans are approved by the local municipal authorities, they are then submitted to the National Government for approval. If the latter approves, the municipal authority is then instructed to proceed. The architect completes the plans, takes figures and cooperates with the municipal authority in letting the contract. The National Government furnishes the money to the municipal government. The income is limited to 4%. Loans on buildings are made for 50 years, on land for 75 years. There are no tax exemptions. Interest rates correspond with the national interest rate which is 3½% at the present time. Annual subsidies are furnished half by the National Government and half by the local government. At the end of fifty years the local authority becomes the owner of the project.

The first houses built are now 35 years old. In another sixteen years they will belong to the local municipality free and clear. These houses cannot be purchased by the members of the Housing Societies but are rented to members only.

Mr. Bommer pointed out that the set-up, which he feels has been very successful, provides that the community supplies the money, assumes the risk and responsibility, and receives the benefit. The national government through its instrumentality insures a sound character to the project and provides the primary impetus for the undertaking.

Mr. Bommer showed some interesting slides of slum dwellings condemned against further occupancy, maps showing the location of many of the more than 1000 developments, and views of the various types of residences offered. In referring to the styles of these houses, Mr. Bommer contrasted what he termed the romantic type with the modern. None of the houses illustrated showed a radical devotion to style. Those which were "romantic" were comfortably but not theatrically romantic, and the others were not spectacularly modern. They reflected the traditional Dutch conservatism. In plan, they differed from ours in mechanical equipment, in the sizes of the kitchen and as near as one could judge in the sizes of the various rooms. In all of these items, the American prototype exceeded the Dutch. The living room was a combination living and dining room with a very small kitchen adjacent. Stoves and fireplaces are used for heating instead of furnaces or central heat.

Mr. Bommer stated that at the present time, there are 220,000 dwelling units which have been erected under the Housing Act. The average rental is about \$12.50 per month, which is equivalent to about one fifth of the income of the tenants. There is a government restriction that the tenant's income may not exceed seven times the rent.

Fifteen percent of the workers live in these developments. In Amsterdam, 22% of the workers are housed in these projects. Twenty-five percent of the projects have been built by municipalities, and seventy-five percent by cooperative housing societies.

Mr. Bommer emphasized the great progress which had been made in promoting better standards of living. In 1899, twenty-five percent of all dwellings were one-room dwellings; in 1930, only four percent of all dwellings could be so classified.

The movement has advanced the welfare of the working people and has brought to light and encouraged talents and abilities which otherwise would have never been discovered. It has created a democratic and wholesome spirit among the residents and increased respect for law and order. The workers have learned to appreciate good housing, and private enterprise, because of public response to this improvement has been influenced to offer much better houses.

In closing his remarks, Mr. Bommer said that the movement was popular with, and supported by all political parties of which, my dear friends, there are normally about ten, but at election time there may be two dozen. (Imagine splitting your vote twenty-four ways.) Mr. Bommer in addition to his premier position as a housing expert, is a member of The Amsterdam City Council.

Dear Mr. Hughes,

Life has been rather difficult with me since I was in Detroit, hence I have neglected many things.

I congratulate you on your great meeting. You had a group of unusual men present. I enjoyed being with you. I am sorry my physical condition was not better. I was in the process of catching the flu while I was with you, but was not entirely conscious of the fact. Perhaps it was well that I was ignorant of the fact more or less.

Your sincerely,

GUS W. DYER.

Branson V. Gamber has been nominated for the office of Director of the Engineering Society of Detroit.

Mr. Arthur K. Hyde was a member of the Nominating Committee who named a slate of six, from which three are to be elected; their terms beginning July 1st, 1939.

HERB CAN'T CRAM THAT DOWN MY THROAT

by Roger Allen

In the April 11 issue of the Bulletin, Herb Wenzell quotes, obviously with approval, some remarks of Ralph Adams Cram in the February issue of the Forum. Mr. Cram says:-

... "Their excellent principles fail to materialize in any form that is either convincing or permanent. Pleased as children with new mechanical toys, they (the modernists) voraciously seize upon steel, ferro-concrete, chromium and glass as structural material to the exclusion, if possible, of stone, brick or wood. Some one of the cleverest discovers the cantilever and in a spasm of ingenuity he invents ribbon fenestration, angle windows, packing-box balconies, Congo sculpture, stuffed sausage murals, cubist abstractions and all of the funny little gadgets that since they are different, must of necessity be admirable—but are not."

If this is Mr. Cram's story, I think he's stuck with it.

Does he suggest that designers should turn their backs on steel, ferro-concrete, chromium and glass? Does he believe that any technological advances made in the last 50 years; any made, in fact, since the last medieval mason laid down his trowel, be cancelled out? He has a perfect right to mean this, of course, but obviously anyone else can suggest that to do this is a form of escapism.

As a matter of fact, I think that Mr. Cram is an escapist; I think he would have been far happier had he been born centuries sooner. But not in the same century with Leonardo. Mr. Cram and DaVinci would never have got along. Leonardo was not only not satisfied with things as they were; he would, if he could have managed it, introduced that most modern of all 20th century inventions, the airplane, into the Italy of the middle ages.

All that any architect can do, in any age, is to build as well as he can with the materials and methods at hand. The architects of the Gothic cathedrals did this. They built of masonry because they knew masonry, and had plenty of masons. They were functionalists themselves; the flying buttress is as functional a conception as the cantilever beam is. I do not think that any of them deliberately tried to build in the manner of five centuries before their time, simply in order to do reverence to the past. They solved their problems in the best manner they could; they took advantage of what they had.

It is a very easy thing to ridicule modernism. But for every piece of functional architecture gone wrong, any traveled architect can quote you half a dozen Gothic buildings that merely encumber the earth. The country is full of court houses and city halls built by someone with a copy of Pugin and access to a stone yard. They will be around for a long time. They sacrificed light and air to the demands of Gothic. They are hard to work in, hard to look at, impossible to keep clean. They are, in short, a mess.

I do not agree with Herb that "my own observation is that these superficial and futile expressions are seized on by the younger men who are not sufficiently grounded in fundamentals." Fundamentals of what? Leaving aside the undoubted fact that most of these younger men are as well grounded in fundamentals of the classic orders, and in Gothic, as any of their elders, do you believe that the fundamentals never change? Do you believe that in finding a solution to a school design, for instance, you can solve it from any other angle than from the inside out? Do you think that a school building erected today presents

the same fundamental problem that a school built in 1885 presented?

As far as I am concerned, I wouldn't trade one of the excellent schools designed by Lyndon and Smith, for instance, (to get right down to naming names) for all the Harkness quadrangles ever built. These schools do what they are supposed to do; provide a maximum amount of ventilation and light, good circulation, and a minimum of non-essentials. It would be interesting to see some confirmed Gothic addict try to translate one of these modern schools into something truly Gothic. The "ribbon fenestration" so distasteful to Mr. Cram has at least one advantage; it admits light.

I am glad Herb Wenzell brought this matter up; Herb has the all-too-infrequent faculty of not getting mad when someone disagrees with him. I think that this is an important matter and one that The Bulletin ought to provide space for. I would like to see Herb amplify his ideas in a much longer article, and then I would like to see someone with a belief in functional architecture (not me; I talk too much and write too much as it is) write on the other side. Everyone in the profession has ideas on this subject; let's hear what they are.

NEW PURCHASING STANDARDS

For years government purchasing agents and others have sought some method to check Metal Lath shipments against the specifications on the job. QQ-101b provides this standard, promulgated May 22, 1936, and now included in the Federal Specifications for Metal Bases for Plaster and Stucco construction. Provisions of this specification follow:

"E-2 Weights—The weights of metal, exclusive of backing in metal base, shall conform to the following:

"E-2a The average weight per unit area of base in a shipment of more than 6,000 pounds of base of one type and weight shall be not less than 97.5 percent of the weight specified in the order."

"E-2b The average weight per unit area of base in a shipment of less than 6,000 pounds of base of one type and weight shall be not less than 96 percent of the weight specified in the order."

"E-2c The average weight per unit area of base in a specum of at least 1 square yard and not more than 2 square yards shall be not less than 90 percent of the weight specified in the order."

It will be noted that for shipments of 6,000 pounds of one type and weight that a tolerance of 2½% is permissible for shipments less than 6,000 pounds a tolerance of 4% is permissible, while in single sheets of lath a 10% tolerance is permissible. These tolerances are obtained by subtracting figures given in the above from 100%.

Dear Tal:

I suppose on the same principle that applies in Kentucky where any normal citizen is de classe unless he has the title of Colonel, your report of the twenty-fifth M.S.A. Convention as reported in your issue of April 4th, confers an undeserved title on me. You have me down there as Editor of *The Architectural Forum*, but as you know, I am merely an Associate Editor under the leadership of Howard Myers whose right to the title of Editor by reason of outstanding ability will not be questioned.

With kindest regards and still enjoying in retrospect the pleasure of meeting all you fellows again, believe me.

Cordially yours,

H. H. Saylor

WEEKLY BULLETIN

HUMAN - ALL TO HUMAN

By Wirt C. Rowland

Chapter II

Being one of a series by Mr. Rowland bearing on certain comments in recent issues of the Weekly Bulletin

The notes on "Articulate Architects" by Mr. Wenzell should enlist the interest of any architect, whether or not they do,—this because of so many elements susceptible of discussion and analysis embracing so broad a scope.

I have not read Burton Rascoe and do not know what grasp he really has of architecture itself. Aside from that, I am well aware that painters, sculptors and composer-musicians, throughout our era, rather than previous ones have written on these several subjects—but—how much to the ease and profit of layman?

I again quote a clergyman of these parts who once said that language and words were the least susceptible of conveying the ideas of art—in other words—the painter's expression is his painting, the figure or bas-relief that of the sculptor, and the performed symphony, that of the composer. In like manner, the most effective thing the architect may have to say is in his completed building.

Perhaps I am convinced that men, so inclined to write, as they grow older, leaving a busy past behind them, do less and have more to say! As also, I sometimes suspect—those in a highly creative field, (all the arts), who begin by writing about it, always remain at that stage of development, form intellectual coteries, establish certain hypothetical styles—and therefore remain inarticulate to the layman, to whom, "faith without works is dead!" The layman must see and comprehend for himself, something in a painting (if not, as in certain cases, he is convulsed with Homeric laughter!). He must perceive in the sculptured figure that which he relates to his own body as something not distorted by rheumatism or bubonic plague. Listening, he must recognize some theme in a symphony which partakes enough of the song of a bird rather than be confronted with the noises of a busy thoroughfare.

Now hardly may we find even among the great creative geniuses of any of the arts, writing that might intrigue the minds of any but the deepest students. Laymen may behold and admire a portrait by Rembrandt—from a bust by Donatello, they may discern the spirit of their own children. In a Beethoven Symphony, they may listen and from its theme, reconstruct an incident in their own past life—vestiges of old tunes.

With regard to the great architecture of the world, I am constrained to ask that—offer to the layman a view of two objects of the greatest periods—the Parthenon and the front of Rheims Cathedral—which will he more appreciate? Now—who shall put all these great men of art and buildings in a category? The critic! Therefore, let him be articulate!

One point may be mentioned—there are at least two instances in history of artists who became articulate in a literary way. Michael Angelo has written several poems. Thomas Hardy was an architect first before he became one of the greatest writers of the Victorian era. But—they both wrote of human life and it is in this way that their writings are of value to us today.

Several years ago, a friend called my attention to a book (my memory does not serve me well) in which the author offered a very logical but terrifying specification of what a complete architect must be. The requirements were pretty much that of a superman—not a human being.

BEAUX-ARTS PROBLEM JUDGED IN DETROIT

Just as American "Industrial Architecture," has superseded "factory buildings," the streamlined terminal is following the modern bus, it was brought out as eighteen architects gathered to adjudge 169 drawings in the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design Competition at the New Center Building here Saturday, April 15.

Albert Kahn, whose new book, "Industrial Architecture of Albert Kahn, Inc.," is just off the presses of the Architectural Book Publishing Co., is a member of the Board of Trustees of Beaux-Arts Institute, whose headquarters are in New York City.

The problem judged here Saturday was for a Bus Station in a medium size city, and prizes had been offered by The Architectural Forum.

First prize went to Ralph Myers, University of Illinois; second to Carl W. Ernst, Jr., Pennsylvania State College and third to Robert G. Booth also of Penn. State.

Following judgment, the jury adjourned to the home of Mr. Albert Kahn where refreshments were served.

Mr. Wirt C. Rowland has consented to write a critique, and a more detailed report from him will be published in a future issue of The Bulletin.

MAIL ORDER PLANS

Under the title "Men Who Build Houses" in Uncle Ray's Corner of The Detroit News, April 17th, the writer has the following to say about the architect:

"Some person may say, 'We didn't have an architect for our home. The contractor built it from plans we picked out in a book.' Great numbers of houses are built from such plans, but you may be sure there was an architect somewhere back along the line. Perhaps a dozen architects drew the plans in a certain book, and perhaps a thousand homes have been built from those plans.

"It may save money when ready-made plans are used, and money saving is extra-important at the time of house building. Most houses cost thousands of dollars, and if a person can save on the cost of a special architect, it may mean something to him.

"On the other hand, many persons want houses built by their own ideas, and are not able to find ready-made plans which fit those ideas. In such cases, an architect is greatly needed."

A current news release from Washington, which seems to have a connection with the above item is as follows:

"The Federal Court of Appeals today upheld the Postoffice Department ban on selling false teeth by mail."

"It ordered the local Federal Court to dissolve an injunction against Postmaster General James A. Farley by Sylvan B. Heininger, of Chicago, whose mail-order teeth had been barred."

"Testimonials showed that some customers were satisfied with the teeth, the Government conceded, but other evidence was that some sets failed by far to come up to promised standards."

Nevertheless—I believe this—that a germ of creative ability, no matter whether of high or low order, need not confine itself to one art—that a comprehension—not schooled comprehension of all arts reacts for the betterment of specialized effort in any one art. An artist cannot hope to be articulate in writing of value or interest to the public who is not yet articulate in his own art. The breadth of it depends on his deep appreciation of all related to it, and above all, his comprehension of life itself.

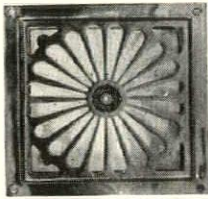
ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP IN A. I. A.

Thomas H. Hewlett and Owen A. Luckenbach of Detroit have just been elected to membership in The American Institute of Architects and assigned to its Detroit Chapter, according to information received from Charles T. Ingham, Secretary of The Institute.

Hewlett, who received his training at the University of Pennsylvania, was subsequently employed in the office of Frank R. Watson of Philadelphia. He became registered in Michigan as an architect in 1935. He is also registered in the state of Ohio.

Luckenbach, also a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, received his early experience with William Wright Co., Decorators; Smith Hinchman & Grylls; and Richard H. Marr. He was registered in Michigan in 1930.

The firm of Hewlett and Luckenbach, 803 Donovan Bldg., Detroit, has gained recognition as leaders in the field of fine residential work and their addition to the rolls of The Institute is received with gratification by their fellow members.



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ARCHITECTS' REPORTS

AGREE, CHAS. N., 1140 Book Tower.

Bids closed, foundation, Theatre, Lakewood and Harper.

Plans, superstructure, Harper Theatre, ready for bids about Ap. 25.

Prep. plans, housing development, 404 Apts. MacKenzie Manor Housing Corp., owners.

E. L. BARBER, DENISON, Iowa, Merritt & Cole, Assoc. Archt.—Plans for \$50,000 Church, Cor. Plymouth and Steele Aves.

BENNETT & STRAIGHT, 13526 Michigan Ave.

Theatre, Garden City, Mich., Gen'l. con let to Board & Yates; Mech., Maurice Garelik, El., WK—Dearborn Eng. Co.

Fig. on Theatre, Rosedale Gardens, Close Apr. 12.

BRANDT, CHRISTIAN W., 3408 Eaton Tower.

Prep. plans for country estate in New York State. Owner's name withheld for time being.

DES ROSIERS, ARTHUR, 1414 Maccabees Bldg.

Plans for Resurrection Aud. & High School, Lansing, Mich.

DIEHL, GEORGE, 120 Madison Avenue

Skeches for Church, Argyle, Mich., Plans for Catholic Central High School.

GIFFELS & VALLET, INC., L. Rossetti, Associate — 1000 Marquette Bldg.

Plans for store bldg., Federal Dept. stores, Jos. Campau.

Holland Municipal Power Plant plans submitted for approval. Taking figs. soon.

KAHN, ALBERT, INC. Bids closed on Office Bldg. Toledo Scale Co.

Fig. on boiler equipment, Chevrolet plant, Tarrytown, N. Y., due Ap. 15.

Fig. on hoist elevator, Ford Press shop due Ap. 18.

R.C.A. Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind.; Structural Steel let to Whitehead & Kales; Arch. tr.—J. L. Simmons, Indianapolis. Stoker—Riley Stoker Co.

Fig. taken on Hanes Hosiery Mills, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

PEREIRA, P. R., 1548 Clairmont

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SAARINEN, ELIEL & J. Robt. F. Swanson Associates, 309 Wabbeek Bank Bldg., Birmingham.

Bids closed April 24, Suomi College Bldg., Hancock, Michigan.

STAHL, JNO. C., 1118 Francis Palms Bldg.,

Taking fig. about Ap. 25 on alt to stores, Randolph St.

STANTON, HENRY F., 409 Griswold Street.

Bids due Apr. 5, Res. for Warren S. Booth, Martell Dr. Bloomfield Hills.

WEIDMER & GAY—CH. 7567

Taking figs. on Store, Livernois Avenue.

WEST, ROBERT, 512 United Artists Bldg.

Taking bids, 4-sty. Apt. bldg., Merrill Palmer Sub.

WRIGHT, FRANK H., 418 Fox Bldg.

Taking fig. on ten small houses, Britton & Roxbury. Ready for bids, summer cottage for Mr. and Mrs. Harold G. Ulrich.

Ready for bids, Alterations to Chandler Theatre, Harper Ave.; new balcony; new front.

Prep. plans, new front and addition for Disner, tailor, Stephenson Bldg.

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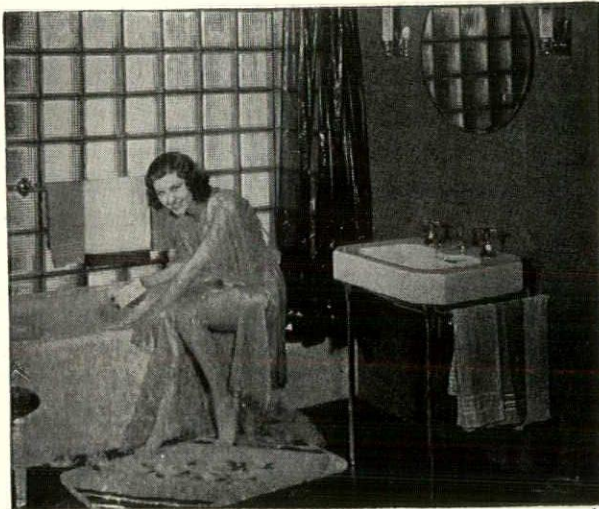
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