# THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN ARCHITECTS
WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS
BUILDING CONGRESS OF WISCONSIN



Registration of Architects and Engineers

1936 CONVENTION

Report of the Resolutions Committee

# THE 1936 CONVENTION

OF THE

# STATE ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN ARCHITECTS

WILL BE HELD

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31st

AT THE

HOTEL SCHROEDER IN MILWAUKEE

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL MEET ON THE PRECEDING DAY IN MILWAUKEE

WATCH FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT, WHICH WILL CONTAIN THE PROGRAM FOR THE CONVENTION

#### Registration of Architects and Engineers

(Following is the body of a talk delivered by Gerrit J. De Gelleke before the 38th Annual Convention of The League of Wisconsin Municipalities at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, during the Building Inspectors' Session.)

The subject of the Registration of Architects and Engineers is not only of vital interest to the two professions, viz: Architects and Engineers, but as I view the matter, is important to the entire building industry, including material men, manufacturers, contractors, builders, mechanics, and that special branch of the building industry, represented by the Building Inspection Departments of the City or State, to whom is delegated, the field of general supervision to protect the interests of the public.

No man is able to render judgment and interpretation of laws where his own interests are involved: therefore it is necessary for a disinterested person or group to make the decisions and this is the particular field of

effectiveness of the Building Inspector.

The building industry has suffered from many ills within its body and one of them has been the practice of incompetent men in the fields of the Architect and Engineer. It is the business of the building industry group to realize its defects and clean house, and place the industry in the proper light in the eyes of the public. Do not blame the public for the troubles in your business but combine your efforts for the purpose of removing the evils by recognizing these ailments and strive to elevate the members of your body.

In order that we may meet upon common grounds, with an understanding of the facts back of the Registration Laws for Architects and Engineers, I am going to take time to present to you a short history of the enact-

ment of the Registration Laws.

The Registration of Architects and Engineers is not an innovation. In this country, the Registration Law for Architects and Engineers has been advocated many many years ago. In our own State, the Architects made several attempts to have a Registration Law passed as early as 1910, and after a number of failures, finally succeeded in having a law passed in 1917; but certain defects in the law for the registration of Architects, and particularly the advantage to the public of closer cooperation between Architects and Civil Engineers made it desirable to the public, as well as to Architects and Engineers themselves, that a change in the Architects Law be considered.

In 1931, an Amendment to the Law was passed, regulating both the Architects and Civil Engineers. Again in 1935, the law was amended changing "Civil Engineers" to "Professional Engineers" which term embraces all of the several branches of Engineering.

This short resume appears to be full of the creation of laws to restrict the freedom of the individual which naturally is resented by a number of people. Let me say, frankly, that I can appreciate such a reaction because all Architects are fundamentally free men, individualists, constantly striving toward freedom in thought and action and that one of the cherished ideals of American life is "Liberty" and that here "Freedom" may be enjoyed to its fullest extent. Yet we know that the very happiness of mankind, wherever men are, either by necessity or choice, grouped together, depends upon human restrictions.

There are many opportunities for people to have honest differences of opinion as to what is fair, therefore any form of unrestricted society is impossible. We must set up rules or laws, and these to be just, must be for the good of the majority.

In the beginning of American liberty, our forefathers wrote a Constitution, setting up rules to insure justice and equality, and to provide a control that would insure them that future laws which they knew were to be made, would be framed in a just and righteous manner.

In our early civilization, the pioneer on the frontiers, with his family, his ox, his cow, his gun, his strength and courage, was largely independent of his fellowmen, and had freedom and liberty without restriction. He also had his full share of hardships and privations. With the developments of communities and community life, he had more security and safety and less of hardships, but in return, in order to protect his individual rights, together with the rights of his neighbors, study and attention had to be given to restrictive rules and regulations, and the older and more settled the country, the more the people realized that there were few things that needed no restriction if the rights of the individual were to be maintained.

For a long time, men held very strongly to the right of the free use of their property and sincerely resented the encroachment of laws restricting the use of property, declaring such laws deprived them of their freedom.

In recent years, however, the public has begun to realize that property rights must be restricted, for freedom to do as you please in this field, is dangerous to organized society and detrimental to the public welfare and the individual's.

To correct the errors of the past, and to provide for the future, a guide and control of the building industry, there have been earnest men who have striven for and succeeded in passing City Planning Laws, Zoning Laws, Slum Clearance Laws, and Registration Laws, which are advisable and necessary, for we have developed into highly organized communities which require these restrictions.

I present this statement in behalf of the Registration Laws because it is necessary that anyone who is connected with the carrying out of these laws, has some kind of a true picture of their foundation and it is even more necessary that they realize, from beginning to end, that all registration laws must have, for the reason of their existence, the good of the majority of people of that State.

I know that many have the feeling that the reason for passing these laws is to elevate the standards of the professions, or more frankly, to keep business in the control of reliable men, some even going so far as to state that the reason Registration Laws are passed is so there will be a weeding out of undesirables, and therefore more work in this particular field for those that are left and Registration Laws do all of these things. Professional standards are raised because that is a necessary step in assuring the public the services of qualified men.

The quack, the shyster, the incompetent, the crooked and unethical should be and are debarred from practice. Benefits will result to those who are qualified. All of these benefits are, I grant you, a necessary part or result

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of the legal procedure but never the reason for the law. Fundamentally, the principal benefit and the reason for the Registration Law for Architects and Engineers is the protection of the public by insuring that the Architects and Engineers have the proper qualifications before practicing.

Members of the legal, medical and dental professions have been under the control of license laws for many years, and it is generally admitted that it has been of decided benefit, both to the public and to the professions themselves. It has been said that no comparison can be drawn between the Registration of Architects and Engineers and the licensing of Doctors and Lawyers, inasmuch as the Doctor and Lawyer deal with the individual as a client. No matter how ignorant or illiterate the citizen, he has a right to feel and know that his Doctor or his Attorney has been vouched for by the State so far as average competency is concerned.

On the other hand, it is held that the services of Architects and engineers are sought primarily by people who possess capital and trained intelligence with resources and time sufficient to determine the qualifications and fitness of the Architect or Engineer they seek to employ, and therefore only competent men will be employed.

What assurance in fact has the public that parties interested in the erection of buildings or engineering projects will not hire the cheapest man they can get, regardless of his ability? Those familiar with the process know that it is a common occurrence. Is not the general public as vitally interested in the average competency of those who design and supervise its structures, involving the health and safety of the people, as it is in the competency of lawyers and doctors? The Architect and Engineer deals with the welfare of the masses and the public has a right to know that the State passes upon the competency of the men who design and supervise the construction of buildings and works which the public uses daily.

It is also true that there still remains the opportunity for the individual to demonstrate his initiative, ability, energy and willingness to render service to his client in his field so that after he has been registered, and the State has thereby certified to the fact that he has the minimum qualifications to practice his profession, the Architect and Engineer can enjoy Liberty and Freedom to contribute to the fullest extent, his knowledge and ability in the service of the people and receiving in return, a reward of merit insuring him reasonable financial returns and the honorable consideration of his fellow citizens.

That has been the history of other fields that have been controlled by rules and laws and we can readily dismiss our fears of the restriction of our Liberty and Freedom.

I have presented to you:

First—The History of the Registration Law Second—The Reason for the Registration Law.

We now arrive at the third point — the Operation of the Registration Law, which I wish briefly to outline.

The Board of Examiners consists of four (4) Architects, one of which must be the State Architect, and

three (3) other Architects appointed by the State Industrial Commission from recommendations of the Architectural Societies of the State.

Also four (4) Engineers, one of which is the State Engineer and three other Engineers appointed by the Industrial Commission from recommendations by the Engineering Society of the State.

The Dean of the College of Engineering of the University is Chairman of the Board. There is a total of nine (9) members on the full Board. The Architects Division consisting of the four (4) Architects, together with the Chairman of the entire Board, examine and pass upon the candidates for Architectural Registration. In the same manner, the Engineers Division of four (4) Engineers, together with the Chairman of the Board examine and pass upon the candidates for Registration as Professional Engineers. These two divisions report their recommendations to the entire Board and action on these recommendations by the entire Board is necessary. All decisions as to general policy are decided by the Board as a whole.

At the present time, we have passed the period for the admission of applicants who were in practice before the passage of the Law and all candidates come under two (2) classifications.

- (a) By examination, either Junior or Senior.
- (b) Transfer from other States having Registration Laws, such a candidate must be registered by examination in his own State and is not accepted if his home State Registration is by Exemption.

This provision is made because an Architect or Engineer who is registered under the "Grandfather Act" has not shown by Examination that he is qualified, and therefore, is not acceptable in transfers from one State to another.

The term "Grandfather" refers to the body of men who were in practice at the time the laws were passed and therefore were registerd without an examination.

Application of Architects from another State must be made through the National Council — Architectural Registration Boards.

We have outlined the methods for Registration but in order to have a practical effect it is necessary to find some method for the enforcement of the Registration Law and it is in this field that the Building Inspectors have been able to be of great assistance.

Permits must be secured for all construction projects. Drawings for structures for which Permits are required must be submitted to the City and State Building inspectors for examination and when the drawings are not stamped with the seal of a Registered Architect or Engineer, the first act of the inspector is to determine whether the plans provide for a building having in excess of 50,000 net usable cubic feet of space. This checking decides whether or not a permit can be issued.

There has been splendid cooperation on the part of the Building Inspectors, and the Board of Examiners appreciates the fact that without this cooperation the enforcement of the Registration Act would be very difficult.

We further ask for the help and cooperation of the members of the entire building industry for it is our belief that it is of vital interest and benefit to all of us to

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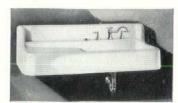


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strive to raise the standards of the Architects and Engineers and to combine our efforts to provide ways and means of assuring the public that only qualified men are registered, thereby protecting the interests of the people. The present law is the instrumnt through which we must work, but let us learn from experience, and by the study of conditions about us, working together for such changes and additions to the law as may be required and justified to more adequately protect the welfare of the public.

#### Report of the Resolutions Committee

Mr. President and Members:

Following is the report of the Committee appointed by President T. L. Eschweiler to prepare Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects making it mandatory that all members pay dues. These Amendments are to be voted upon at the annual convention to be held in Milwaukee, October 31st.

Amendment No. 1-Article 8 of the Constitution, opening sentence, which now reads, "The members of this Association shall consist of all resident architects. etc.", shall have the words "consist of all" deleted and

the word "be" substituted.

Amendment No. 2—Article 1 of the By-Laws on Membership is to be deleted. It now reads as follows: Section a. Membership in this Association shall be

divided into two classes; namely, Active and Associate.

Section b. Every Architect who shall have paid the current dues and assessments levied by this Association shall be an Active member.

Section c. Architects who for any reason shall not

have paid such current dues and assessments shall be Associate members.

Section d. The privileges of both classes of membership shall be identical, except in respect to holding office. All members may attend Meetings or Conventions, and may address and vote at such meetings, but only Active Members may hold office or be members of the Advisory Council.

The substitute article shall read as follows:

Section a. Membership in this Association shall consist of Active members only.

Section b. The annual dues shall be five dollars. Section c. Members failing to pay their dues within the first six months of the fiscal year shall be automatically suspended. Immediate notice of suspension shall be sent such member by the Secretary.

Section d. For the present there shall be no initia-

tion fees.

Section e. A suspended member may be reinstated by making proper application for membership and by paying a reinstatement fee of \$10.00

FRANK DROLSHAGEN H. W. BUEMMING PETER BRUST, Chairman

#### Rudolph R. Jahn

In the passing away of Rudolph R. Jahn, who died suddenly on Sept. 8 at his home in Sheboygan, District No. 5 suffers the loss of one of its senior members, a man who had gained the esteem and liking of his fellow architects as well as of all others who came in contact with him.

Mr. Jahn was born in Germany in 1868, coming to

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this country with his parents at an early age. He passed the major part of his years in this community, first as a carpenter and builder and then as architect, securing his technical education through correspondence courses and practical experience. He interrupted his practice for a number of years to serve the city as Building Inspector, resuming it at the expiration of his term. A number of school buildings and a department store, to mention only his major achievements, testify to his professional attainments and to his share in the building up of his home town.

He always showed an ardent interest in the affairs of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects, serving as advisor, director and president of the Fifth District, and attending the district and state meeting with exceptional regularity. By nature of a quiet kindly and sincere disposition, his departure from the ranks is felt with regret by all of us.

-IVAR LOHMAN

#### Observations at the Gas Company Show

Up to a quite recent date the main objection raised against gas for home heating was that it "cost too much."

With Milwaukee Gas Light Company's new low home heating rate gas is now a competitive fuel from the 'economy angle.' This is evidenced by the fact that almost 300 families switched to gas heating thus far during 1936.

After the first several minutes spent in the Winter Air-Conditioning Show in the lower showroom of the Gas Company, one is convinced that tremendous strides have recently been made in the modernization of heating equipment. The modern heating plant must do more than just warm the air; it must properly distribute it so that summer comfort is general in the home, not only so in certain rooms; it must control the moisture content of the warmed air because this is vital from a health standpoint, and it must clean the dust and other small foreign particles out of the air in order to satisfy the demands of Mr. and Mrs. Modern.

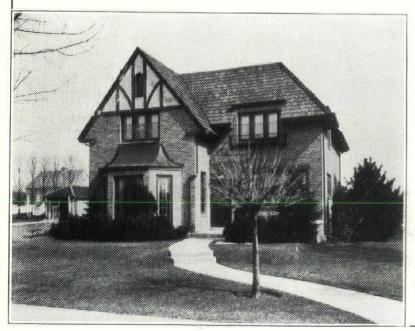
The extreme flexibility of gas and the ease with which it is controlled make it a fine fuel for any heating equipment designed to give the 1937 home owner all that he has a right to expect from a Winter Air-Conditioned installation.

Nationally known manufacturers, Bryant, L. J. Mueller, Sunbeam, Carrier, Lenox, Surface Combustion are represented in this Show. So also are the manufacturers of heating controls and auxiliaries among those present. Minneapolis Honeywell shows an exceptionally new forced circulation water system. The various "Thrush" water and steam auxiliaries are also represented.

The basement of today must be a liveable one. With gas as a fuel the problem of home heating is certainly an effortless one. The modern family wants effortless heat.

We have received many calls for the address of "Wecolator"—the new elevator for the home. Write: c/o W. E. Cheney, 735 N. 34th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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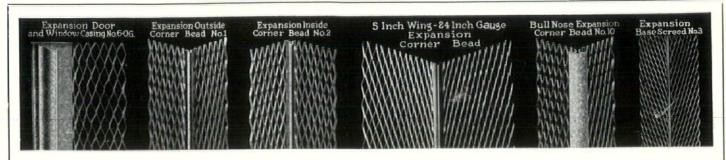
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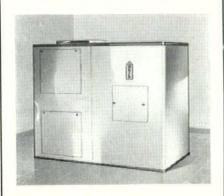


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