



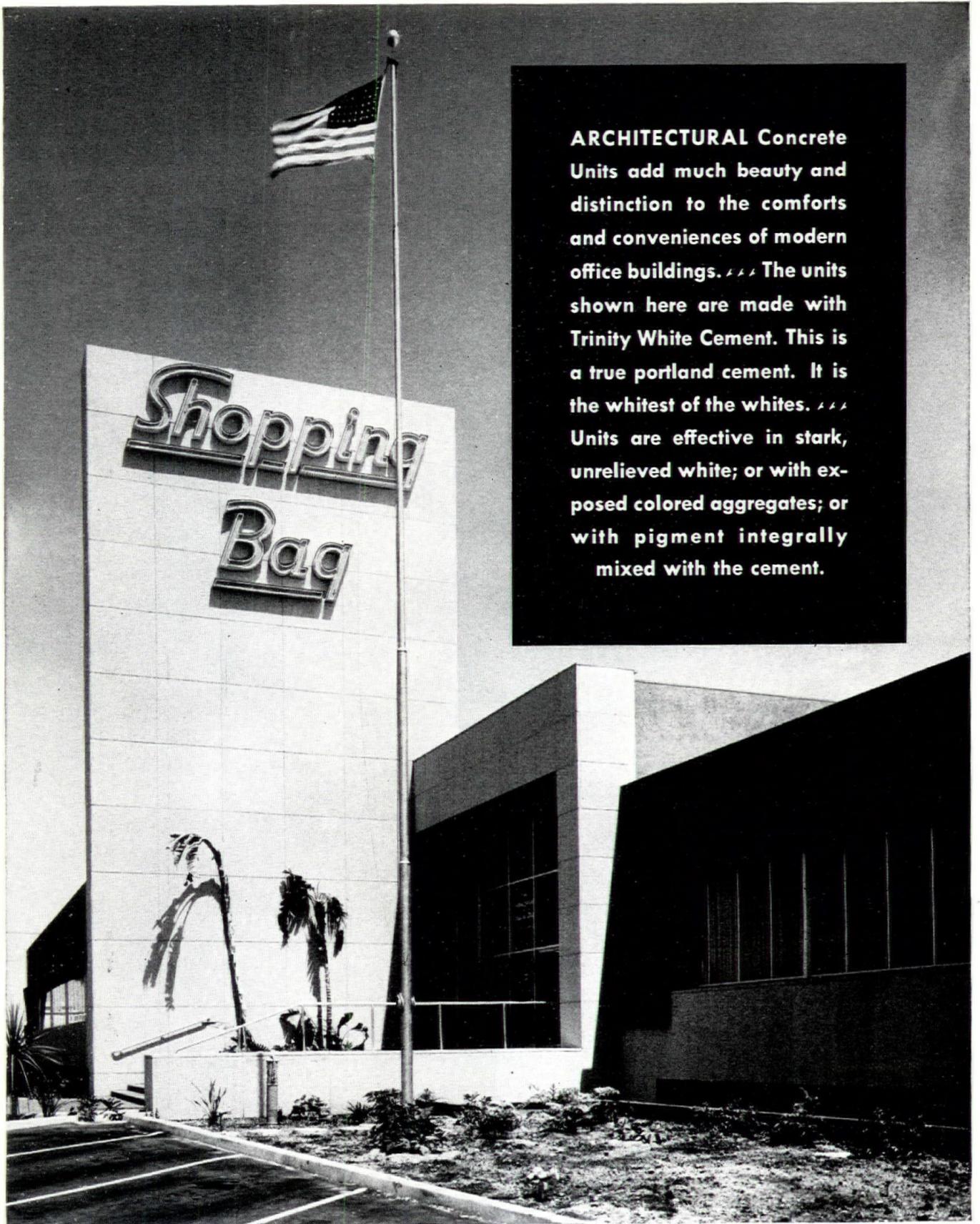
MAY, 1959

College of Fellows, A.I.A.

Panic in Ours Schools

"All the News That Fits..."

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The President's Letter

By

Robert P. Woltz, Jr.
President,
Texas Society of Architects



The Spring Board Meeting, held in conjunction with the Charter Chapter Meeting of the Lubbock Chapter held in the Caprock Hotel in Lubbock on April 17 and 18, was a huge success.

The men of the Lubbock Chapter, especially its President, John Stuart, and its Vice-President, Bob Messersmith, are to be heartily congratulated for taking so much time and trouble "to go all out" to see that the officers and directors of T. S. A. had such a pleasant visit in Lubbock. The wives of the members of the Lubbock Chapter did an exceptionally fine job in seeing to it that the visiting wives were properly entertained.

This Chapter Meeting was run on the basis of a small convention. Everyone was registered, and had name cards in the same fine manner which our annual conventions are held. The Spring Board Meeting opened with the full complement of T. S. A. Officers and 10

of the 16 Directors present, along with a number of the Committee Chairmen present. I personally feel highly complimented that so many of these men would travel the distance they did to attend this Board Meeting. This is the first time the Board Meeting has been held away from Austin, but with the success of this meeting, it will probably not be the last.

One of the main ideas expressed at this meeting was the lack of information disseminating between the Chapters and the State Society, and vice-versa. We are still finding it a very difficult matter to get people to answer their mail within a reasonable length of time. This is something of which Chapter Officers and Chapter Committee Chairmen should become more cognizant, as a great deal of work at the state level must be carried on by this means.

Another idea expressed at the Board Meeting was a suggestion that each Chapter set aside one meeting during the year as a T. S. A. meeting, and invite the T. S. A. Officers to attend. All officers would like, and enjoy a meeting with you, and I promise they will make every effort to attend such a meeting, but it should be done by invitation from the Chapters rather than the officers having to invite themselves.

Any of you having any comments, pro or con, regarding the progress of the magazine, its new format, cover, typography, or any other comments; whether it be good, bad or indifferent, the T. S. A. office will appreciate hearing such comments.

Official Publication of

THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The Texas Regional Organization of
The American Institute of Architects

Harold E. Calhoun, Editor
John G. Flowers, Jr., Managing Editor
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THIS MONTH'S COVER

Membership in the College of Fellows, American Institute of Architects, is the highest honor our profession can bestow upon its members. This month, the TEXAS ARCHITECT is happy to pay tribute not only to the four newly-elected Fellows from Texas, but also to all of the other Texans who enjoy the rare, well-earned privilege of signing those significant letters, "F.A.I.A." after their names. Symbolic of this high honor is the Fellowship Medal shown on our cover. For further details on our "guests of honor" this month, see pages 4, 5 and 6.

New Fellows In A.I.A.

FOUR members of the profession in Texas this year have received outstanding honors of the American Institute of Architects by advancement to the coveted status of Fellowship in The Institute.

Nominated by their colleagues in

BENNETT

A native Texan, Mr. Bennett was born August 22, 1904 in Dallas and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Southern Methodist University in 1923. He was graduated from Washington University School of Architecture in St. Louis, Missouri, with final honors and a Degree of Bachelor of Architecture, in 1927.

Bennett joined the North Texas Chapter, A.I.A. in June, 1939, a year after he became engaged in the general practice of architecture in Dallas. During his presidency of this growing Chapter in 1946, the honoree worked successfully with A.I.A. President James Edmundson to enlarge the membership and to encourage the formation of the Texas Panhandle Chapter and the chapter in neighboring Fort Worth. After division of the North Texas Chapter into the Dallas Chapter he became its first president in 1947.

Mr. Bennett was appointed Texas regional member of the A.I.A. Committee on Office Practice at the Seattle Convention in 1935 and has worked energetically in this and other areas of committee activities of the profession at all levels of the organization.

Beginning as a draftsman and designer for a St. Louis firm during his collegiate years, Bennett's work has been marked by efficient functional planning and especially drawn

(Continued on Page 6)

their Chapter and selected by the Jury of Fellows are:

J. Murrell Bennett of Dallas, Achievement in Design

Herbert Hamilton Brown of Houston, Achievement in Design and Service to The Institute

Hubert Hammond Crane of Fort Worth, Education and Literature

Albert Sidney Golemon of Houston, Service to The Institute.

The new Texas members in the College of Fellows of The Institute,

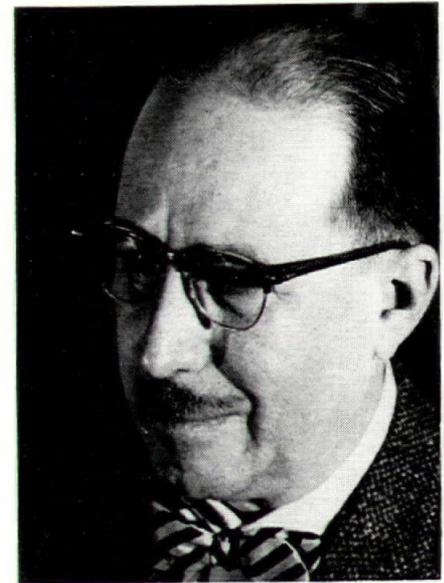
BROWN

Engaged in private practice in Houston since 1937, Mr. Brown was born in Alameda, California, March 23, 1908. He attended the University of California, Ecole des Beaux Arts, Fontainebleau, France, and was graduated with a B.S. Degree in Architecture in 1932 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Houston honoree has played an important role in the activities of the Texas Society, serving as vice president in 1948 when he also held the presidency of his chapter. His long service on chapter and region committees is best exemplified by his part in the establishment of the Group Insurance Program and re-districting of National A.I.A. Regions. He was a member of the National Architectural Accrediting Board and served as chairman of the sub-committee on Public Relations, A.I.A. under the 1949 Convention Arrangements Committee.

Mr. Brown's record in design is best recognized in church and resi-

(Continued on Page 6)



J. Murrell Bennett
F.A.I.A.

along with thirty-five other honorees, will be inducted at a special ceremony during The Institute's annual convention at New Orleans in June. The initials F.A.I.A. will remain a fixture behind their names for life in recognition of their professional competence, public recognition and outstanding service to their chapters, regions and A.I.A.

Thirty-nine members of A.I.A. throughout the nation this year were advanced to Fellowship by the Jury of Fellows. Each was first nominated by their colleagues in their Chapter.

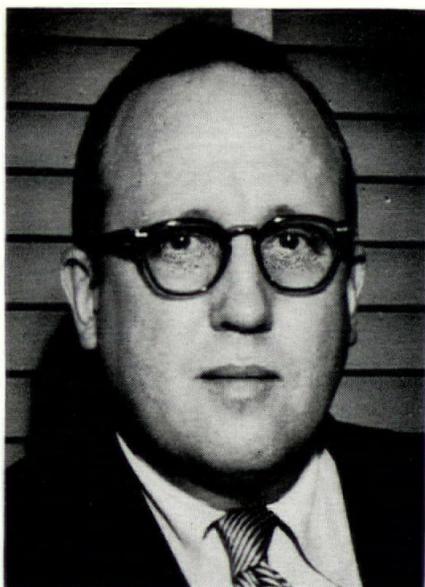
The Texas Society extends its sincere congratulations to these men whose achievements have given the profession recognition and strength to the A.I.A.

GOLEMON

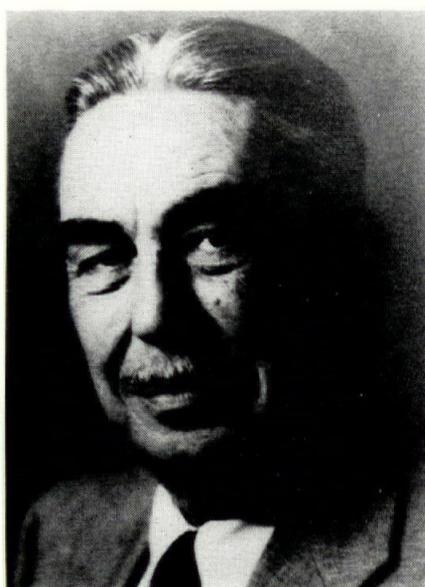
His active participation in the work of his Chapter, the State Society and Region have made Mr. Goleman one of Texas' best known members.

Born in Whistler, Alabama on September 19, 1904, he was graduated from Alabama Polytechnic Institute in 1924 with a B.S. Degree in Architecture. He received his M.A. degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology a year later

(Continued on Page 6)



Herbert Hamilton Brown
F.A.I.A.



Hubert Hammond Crane
F.A.I.A.



Albert Sidney Goleman
F.A.I.A.

In response to TSA's request for biographical material, Hubert Hammond Crane, cited by A.I.A. for Education and Literature, called on Hubertus Junius who submitted the following. In deference to pure literature, the expressive content, unexpurgated, is published in toto. The Editor.

THE BIOGRAPHY OF HUBERT HAMMOND CRANE
BY HUBERTUS JUNIUS

THIS character was born the latter part of April in Louisville, Kentucky, in the year 1893 during a cyclone.

He weighed 2¼ pounds and when this statistic was announced to his father's Irish drayman, he remarked, "Gee! Mr. Crane, you didn't hardly get your bait back."

After long and diligent research we are unable to find a record of this remark having been made about an underweight child prior to this date, so this may be one of the great firsts of the 19th Century.

His early years were spent under the guidance of an indigent medical student who afterward became a famous pediatrician. In return for his services as a guinea pig, he received, like the Elephant Child, an insatiable curiosity.

These years were spent in his father's home a mile or so outside of the city of Louisville, Ky., and his only playmates were the children of three Negro servant families who resided on the place. He thought he was the only white child in the world until, at the age of twelve, he

ventured forth (on mule-drawn street car) to the hallowed halls of the Louisville High School.

His unorthodox training to this point entitled him to membership in three of the four classes in the school. No one seemed to care much which he attended. His attainments here consisted of advanced research in the conservation of energy, a study which he has pursued in later years.

After two years in this institution, and in the Spring confusion of schedule making, he wandered over several blocks and passed the entrance examination to the University of Louisville. At the unexpected termination of his studies due to an Easter morning appearance of the school's statue of Thomas Jefferson in a pair of balloon drawers, he sought employment in his father's firm, a company manufacturing paint.

His sales record was not outstanding but the social connections made with the gentry and the demi-monde of the Southland have survived to this day.

At the outset of World War I, he was accepted for the first Officers Training Camp but was later rejected for a commission for activities far above and beyond the call of duty. The Regular Army offered a safer refuge than his home town where a cousin, three years his junior, had received a captain's commission.

His services were distinguished. His soldierly conduct earned him a commission, a Silver Star and a Purple Heart. The commission was granted at the termination of hostilities when the British in Cologne first permitted whiskey to be delivered into the American sector of occupation in Germany. His abilities were recognized by the division commander who made him his junior aide.

His citation for the Silver Star was rather vague, but his fellow soldiers will vow that it was for his valiant defense of a case of Cognac stolen from the canteen of the Second Engineers and that the Purple

(Continued on Page 12)

BENNETT

to the field of church architecture. Such projects by the Bennett and Crittenden as the new Sanctuary of Lovers Lane Methodist Church, the Restland Funder Home in Dallas, and the First Methodist Church in Ballinger will be displayed at the convention in New Orleans.

The winner of the 1928 James Harrison Steedman Traveling Fellowship in Architecture, Mr. Bennett traveled in Europe for thirteen months making approximately 100 water colors and pencil sketches. From 1931 through 1937 he was designer and delineator for Mauran, Russell and Crowell of St. Louis, employed, among others on the St. Louis Federal Building and the World War I Memorial.

Since returning to Dallas in 1938, he has been active as a member of the City Planning Commission, University Park, the city's zoning Commission, the Highland Park Methodist Church and the Lions Club of Dallas.

Mr. Bennett married Juanita Morgan in Dallas in 1926. They have two grown children and reside at 3717 University Boulevard.

The firm of Bennett and Crittenden, Architects and Planning Consultants, office at 2814 Fairmount.

BROWN

dential design. His works have been published in many magazines of national circulation as well as professional periodicals. His works have been exhibited at the University of Maine Contemporary Churches, U.S.A. Show, 1957; the San Antonio Art League, 1957, and numerous Houston Chapter exhibits.

Works on which he has received recognition include the First Christian Church, Houston; the McClelland residence, Houston; the Ada Oil Company Offices and Adams Petroleum Center.

The outstanding record of the honoree in public service is well appreciated by many people in his

community. His service includes activities in the Houston Foundation for the Ballet, the City of Houston Urban Renewal Committee; Planning Council of Greater Houston; Neighborhood Improvement Council, Friends of the Byzantine Institute, Inc., and Museum of Fine Arts.

A recipient of Houston chapter awards for his work on the Adams Petroleum Center and Ada Oil Offices, Mr. Brown received the Texas Society of Architects 1949 award of Merit for the Hamilton Brown residence, in 1952 an award of merit for the Judge Wilmer B. Hunt residence.

He is currently engaged in practice with Charles M. McKim, Jr., A.I.A. under the title of "Brown & McKim, Architects, A.I.A."

Mr. Brown was retired with the rank of Lieutenant Commander after active duty in the United States Naval Reserve from 1943 to 1946. He was associated with Howard Westfall 1939-1942, and with David C. Baer in 1948.

GOLEMON

and in 1927 received a diploma in Architecture from Ecole des Beaux Arts, Fontainebleau, France.

Experienced as an instructor and draftsman, Mr. Golemon began private practice in Beaumont. He served in the Corps of Engineers during World War II and was honorably discharged as a Lieutenant Colonel.

As president of the State Society in 1953, Mr. Golemon started a policy of visiting all chapters in a successful effort to bring all chapters closer together in accord with A.I.A. activities. He waged a successful legislative program as relating to fee schedules and together with the Board of Directors of T.S.A., initiated plans for establishment of a regional headquarters office in Austin and employment of an executive director.

He has served as a member of the A.I.A. Board of Directors and assisted in development of four new chapters in Texas. These were the

OTHER FELLOWS IN TEXAS

Atlee B. Ayres	San Antonio
Donald Barthelme	Houston
Thomas D. Broad	Dallas
R. Max Brooks	Austin
Ralph Bryan	Dallas
Harold E. Calhoun	Houston
Ralph H. Cameron	San Antonio
James Chillman, Jr.	Houston
Philip D. Creer	Austin
George L. Dahl	Dallas
Roscoe P. DeWitt	Dallas
Arthur Fehr	Austin
Alfred C. Finn, Sr.	Houston
Goldwyn Goldsmith	Fort Worth
Karl F. Kamrath	Houston
Hugo F. Kuehne	Austin
Ernest Langford	College Station
Hermon F. Lloyd	Houston
Fred J. MacKie, Jr.	Houston
Milton B. McGinty	Houston
Howard P. Meyer	Dallas
Donald S. Nelson	Dallas
Stayton A. Nunn, Sr.	Houston
L. W. Pitts	Beaumont
John T. Rather, Jr.	Houston
Walter T. Rolfe	Houston
Louis F. Southerland	Austin
John F. Staub	Houston
Maurice J. Sullivan	Houston
Herbert M. Tatum	Dallas
Arthur E. Thomas	Dallas
Edward L. Wilson	Fort Worth
F. Talbott Wilson	Houston

Southeast Texas, the West Texas, North Texas, and recently the Northeast Texas Chapters.

Mr. Golemon is currently a member of the National Architectural Accrediting Board and there are few activities within the scope of the profession's organization which have not felt his efforts to give it strength and vitality.

A partner in the firm of Golemon & Rolfe, Houston, he has collaborated in design on projects which have received recognition for publication by magazines in this country, England, France, Italy and Spain. The firm has been presented awards by the T.S.A., A.I.A., the Houston Chapter and Progressive Architecture.

He is a member of Rotary International, the American Legion, Serra International, Knights of Columbus, Houston Club, Brae Burn Country Club, Champions Golf Club, Pine Forest Country Club, Houston Chamber of Commerce, Houston Grand Opera Association and the Houston Y.M.C.A.

The Golemons were married in 1930. They have one daughter, Anabeth.

THE COMPLETE WINDOW JOB

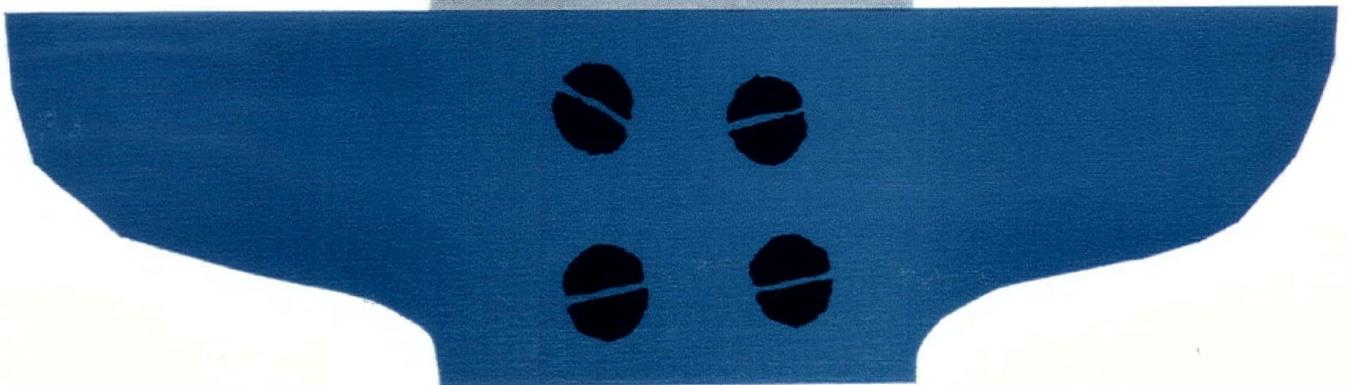
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A GROUP of well-meaning but obviously over-zealous parents in another state recently appeared before their local school board and demanded that fire escapes be installed at every window in all of their city's school buildings.

They exemplified the panic ignited by the tragic fire at Our Lady of the Angels School in Chicago last December and which has rapidly swept the country. That disaster, which resulted in ninety-three deaths and seventy-seven serious injuries, aroused the nation more than any of the other 42,000 fires which have struck schools and colleges in the United States during the past ten years.

Unfortunately, a great many public officials as well as private citizens have "hit the panic button" in recent months. In Pennsylvania, for instance, more than 100 schools have been condemned as fire hazards and closed — although all of them had been approved by fire safety "experts" within the previous year.

There is ample reason for concern. Officials estimate that fire hazards are present in one-third to one-half of the 120,000 school buildings in which 34,000,000 American youngsters attend daily classes.

With school fires occurring at the rate of 4,000 a year, it is time for action.

Recognizing this need, the Ameri-

Panic In Our Schools

Architects are taking the lead in trying to guide into wholesome, effective channels the concern aroused by recent disasters

can Institute of Architects recently launched a nationwide program of leadership that may result, for the first time, in sensible fire codes. It may also guide the public's concern into logical, useful channels.

The first step was taken just a few weeks ago in the Board Room of the Octagon, national headquarters for the AIA. A group of the nation's leading architects met there with representatives of federal agencies, such as the U.S. Office of Education, and a number of national organizations that included the National Safety Council, the National Board of Fire Underwriters, the National Fire Protection Associa-

tion, the National School Boards Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Academy of Science, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and others.

"We're trying to put some logic and common sense in this thing," explained Charles Granger, Austin architect who is chairman of the AIA committee on school buildings and educational facilities.

"School boards throughout the country are being harassed by fire marshals and other well-meaning people — whose attitudes have suddenly switched," said Granger, after returning from the Washington meeting. "And the cost of meeting some of the new, arbitrary regulations being established in some of the states exceeds the cost of new buildings."

SOME of these harsh new regulations actually are creating fire hazards, Granger noted, by forcing school boards to abandon some of their buildings. That overcrowds other buildings and overcrowding is one of the most dangerous factors in American schools.

The death toll in the Chicago fire, for instance, probably would have been much smaller had the school been less crowded. Sixty-three pupils were jammed into a single room



Officials of the Chicago Police Department and Coroner's Office examine the stairwell in which the tragic school fire may have started. (Photo courtesy of "The New World.")



Human error, the foremost hazard involved in school fires, caused Firemen to get a late start in battling the Chicago school fire which caused 93 deaths and 77 serious injuries last December (Photo courtesy of "The New World.")

twenty feet wide and thirty feet long, with their desks fastened to the floor so close together there was practically no room to move between them.

But the experts agree that the foremost hazard — and the one most difficult to do something about — is the human element.

A teacher in the Chicago school discovered the fire a full seventeen minutes before the alarm was turned in — but spent that time trying to find the principal instead of taking action that undoubtedly could have saved many lives.

It is estimated that 90 percent of the fires in America are due to human failures. And, apparently, no

matter how many fire drills are held, even the best-trained adults are likely to panic when faced with a real fire.

In one school recently, for instance, a youngster reported to his teacher that there was a fire in a locker in the hall. The school had held numerous fire drills and the teachers had all been trained to turn in the alarm as soon as a fire was discovered. This particular teacher, however, sent the youngster to tell the principal about it, then filled a waste basket with water and quickly extinguished the flames.

The principal turned in the alarm and the well-trained students began filing out of the building, shortly

before time for the school day to end. Several physical education classes on the playground saw the others coming out of the building, figured it was time for school to be out and began pouring into the building, creating mass confusion.

When this was discovered, another teacher rang the alarm bell again to get the physical education classes out of the building. But, as these youngsters headed outside again, the other students decided the "second bell" meant the "fire drill" was over and started back into the building — creating a second traffic jam which could have produced mass tragedy had the fire been serious.

(Continued on Next Page)

THERE can be little doubt that many of the buildings themselves are firetraps, long on students and short on maintenance. Most of our school fires occur in buildings at least thirty-five years old.

Some of these originally were equipped with "panic hardware" on the doors, allowing quick exits. In many cases, however, school boards short on money have failed to replace this hardware after it became worn out. Principals, trying to protect school property from nighttime theft, have bought chains and padlocks for these doors — thus opening the door to disaster in case of fire.

Most of the old buildings have antiquated wiring, unsafe stairs and narrow halls. Many fire codes leave so much to the discretion of fire marshals that, under the same code, one marshal might condemn a building which another man on the same staff might approve.

Wide variations in fire codes and their interpretations are responsible for part of the fire safety problem. The AIA conference set, as one of its main objectives, the development of uniform, sensible fire codes throughout the country.

"We don't want specification codes which would prevent technical development in construction," said Granger, "but we plan to conduct tests throughout the country during the coming months to find out just what is safe and what isn't in school buildings.

"There just isn't any sense in having widely-differing fire codes in different parts of the country. People are not so different in various parts of the country that they will react differently under stress. And the same materials don't burn much differently in different areas. We're convinced that a uniform code could be developed without sacrificing anybody's freedom.

"We don't want technical development hamstrung," Granger continued, "by codes based on old, historical construction methods. In some places now, you can't use win-

dow-wall type construction — because the code requires that all outside walls must be masonry twelve inches thick. In many cases, the building codes just haven't kept up with educational and building progress."

As an example of the wide variation in fire codes, Granger noted that three states require classroom doors to swing into the classroom while the other require that the doors swing outward.

"These three states," he explained, "have a theory that it's safer to have the doors swinging in during emergencies because they would create a hazard in the halls, they say, if they swung out. That's one of the problems our tests will be designed to solve — to find out which way is safer."

Granger is a member of the steering committee for another AIA national conference on school fire safety to be held in September. It will evaluate various tests that are to be made and develop a report which the architects believe will be most helpful to school administrators, builders and the public.

ASERIES of tests now being conducted in Los Angeles undoubtedly will be helpful in developing the section of the report dealing with construction techniques. The Fire Department and the Board of Education in Los Angeles, with technical assistance from the national Bureau of Standards and financial help from the Educational Facilities Laboratories, is in the process of burning an old school building — from seven to nine times.

This unusual bit of research on an old, three-story building that had to be demolished to make room for a freeway already is yielding valuable information on school fires.

"They get one section of the building burning to a certain intensity, with all sorts of measuring devices to record vital facts, and then extinguish the flames," said Granger. "They plan at least seven fires in the building — and nine if there is enough of the building left for that many."

There is no doubt, of course, that modern buildings have greatly reduced the loss of life in school fires. But the AIA is anxious to make America's schools as safe as possible.

"Human safety has to be our first concern," said Granger.

He believes the September conference is almost certain to recommend that colleges and universities which train school teachers establish courses in emergency techniques.

"There is practically no course in human safety and emergency techniques in any of our education colleges," he noted. "And we must train our future teachers to think rapidly under emergency conditions.

"One problem discussed at the Washington conference, for instance," Granger said, "was this one: if a child's clothing catches fire, which should the teacher do first — try to smother the flames or get the other children outside? Such problems as these have been neglected for too long in training our teachers."

Such training might well reduce panic on the part of teachers in emergency situations — and the report to be developed under AIA leadership seems almost certain to reduce the number of emergency situations likely to arise from school fires.

The AIA conference represented the first time in history that all national organizations concerned had been brought together to concentrate their efforts on solving the vital problem of school fire safety. The architects hope that the final report will be endorsed by all of these organizations as a guide to fire prevention.

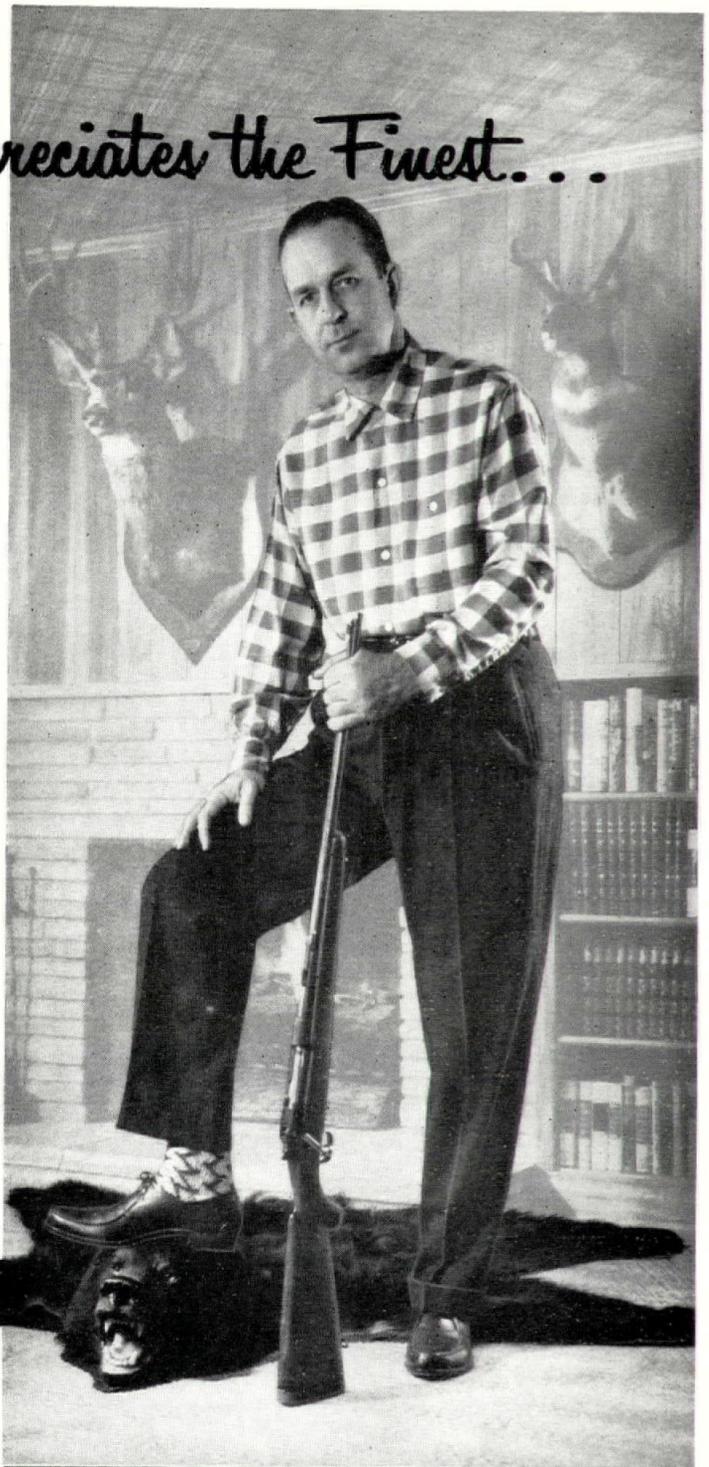
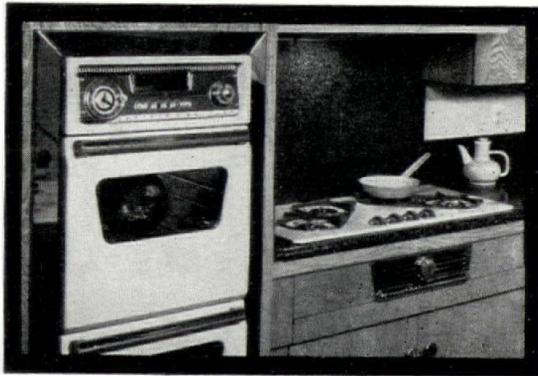
For the first time, the public seems concerned enough to do something about the fire hazards in its public schools; the stark tragedy of Chicago apparently has burned an indelible impression into the minds of the people.

"They've been concerned before, of course," commented Granger, "but this is the first time that genuine concern has lasted longer than six weeks."

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(Continued from Page 5)

Heart was a black eye suffered in the encounter. A Junior or Drinking Aide is a man of broad influence in the better Regular Army circles.

Cupid caught up with the culprit during the latter part of his Army career. In fact, Cupid terminated his Army career. He married, with the assistance of the entire Second Division, a girl who he had tried for nine years to marry before entering the Army. She succumbed to promises of an elaborate military wedding. The groom was incidental.

Rules against entertainers marrying overseas forced him to resign his commission and rush to Paris to prevent, as a private citizen, the deportation of his bride.

A major's commission in the Red Cross with the resounding title of Chief of Motor Operations for Europe, allowed the young couple to live in some elegance until their first child was born a year later. Demands for the personal appearance of the first grandchild by Kentucky grandparents then forced the return to America.

Our hero, like others of his ilk in the past, found that his youthful past refused to lie down and die, so, after one short month, the young couple fled to Texas where they settled in Dallas in the same block with Ralph Bryan.

This proximity to the "Fountain-

head" and a year's apprenticeship in the office of David R. Williams prepared our boy for an architectural career and he opened his office in Dallas in the Year of Our Lord 1922.

A boy was born to these two in 1925.

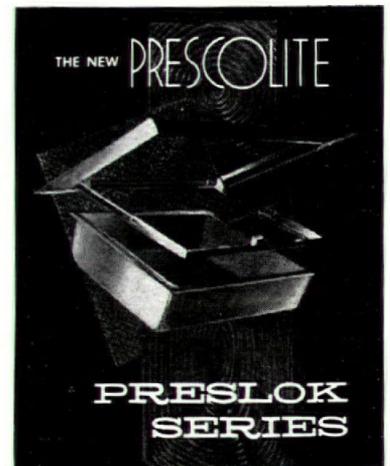
In 1929, under the shadow of the great crash, they moved to Fort Worth where their third son was born in that year. It was quite difficult for a young couple to become acquainted in a strange city.

The greatest achievement of our subject has been the survival, in the practice of architecture, to this date.

The American Institute of Architecture has recently awarded the subject a Fellowship in that august body. In as much as his citation reads "Literature and Education," and Ralph Bryan has already been awarded a 'fellowship' for his education, I feel it is only just that I, in whose name he has won all of his literary laurels, should wear the F.A.I.A. awarded him the Institute for Literature.

ADVERTISERS INDEX

Advertiser	Page
Payne Studios	14
Portland Cement	15
Prescolite	12
Soule Steel	7
Stran-Steel	13
Sun Chemical	16
Texas Gas Companies	11
Trinity White	2
Ward Steel	12



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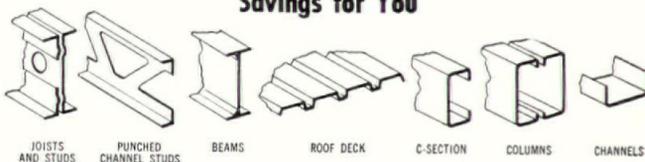
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All the news

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PROBABLY just to make certain we have enough to worry about, Italians have reported that the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa seems likely to lean all the way into obscurity by the year 2,000.

Pisan architects, according to a recent news item, are alarmed by this lopsided situation and are calling for drastic measures to keep the eight-story, 179-foot white marble tower from falling down. They may figure out something similar to what was done a few decades ago, when rain water under the foundation was drained off and 900 tons of concrete injected into holes around the base of the tower.

In 1944, the Battle of Arno counteracted that effort, however, as an artillery shell hit the upper level,

smashing three pillars. That gave the tower another case of the shivers and it has been leaning more and more ever since.

Wouldn't you?

All sorts of plans have been devised within recent months to save the famous tower, which was completed in the year 1350 — almost 200 years after it was begun. Most of them are based on the premise that the leaning was caused in the first place by the original architect's failure to sink the heavy marble foundations deep enough into the soft soil.

That means they're running true to form, blaming deficiencies on the architect. But it seems they're neglecting to give the same guy credit for putting Pisa on the map. Without the leaning tower, who would ever have heard of Pisa?

A lot of these international problems probably could be solved by American dollars — a solution likely to be suggested almost any moment by some of our foreign friends — but, in the meantime, we probably should be counting our many blessings.

In Mexico, it seems that they have been counting something else recently, between siestas. During the International Geophysical Year, the University of Mexico's Geophysical Institute recorded a total of 408,309 earthquakes — enough to scare away almost any architect.

But they came up with a quick alibi: "the high number resulted from installation of more delicate instruments which record minute movements unregistered previously," says a news item.

Leave us hope, as they used to say when the Dodgers were in Brooklyn, that they don't improve their instruments any more; we

couldn't stand any more earthquakes.

HIGH construction costs make it impractical to build office buildings higher than forty stories, according to architects, investors and builders surveyed by *Engineering News-Record*. However, a more detailed analysis of their reasons for this view reveals that the parking problem has a lot to do with it. If elevators become a little larger as the popularity of small foreign cars increases, we may soon have two cars in every office — on the ninetieth floor.

ALL of which reminds us of the architect who went to Washington last winter on one of those flights that serves free cocktails to passengers. He landed during a snowstorm and took a taxi to the Hotel Mayflower.

Snow drifts had trapped the caretaker inside the Washington Monument and the resourceful soul had built a fire to keep from freezing to death. As a result, smoke was billowing out around the base of the Monument as the taxi passed by.

The happy architect turned to a companion and offered: "Ten to one they never get it off the ground."

AND from the Associated Press comes an interesting report delivered by the young Michigan farmer who, bitterly resenting the federal government's regulation of his production, spent ten days scouting Australia as a future home: "Wage scales are about half those in the United States . . . Food is considerably cheaper. Manufactured goods are as high or higher. Housing appears pretty tight. Some Americans who have moved there are doing well, others badly."

Or, in the immortal words of Bibb Falk, University of Texas baseball coach, when asked about his prospects for the season: "Oh, we'll win some, lose some, get some rained out."

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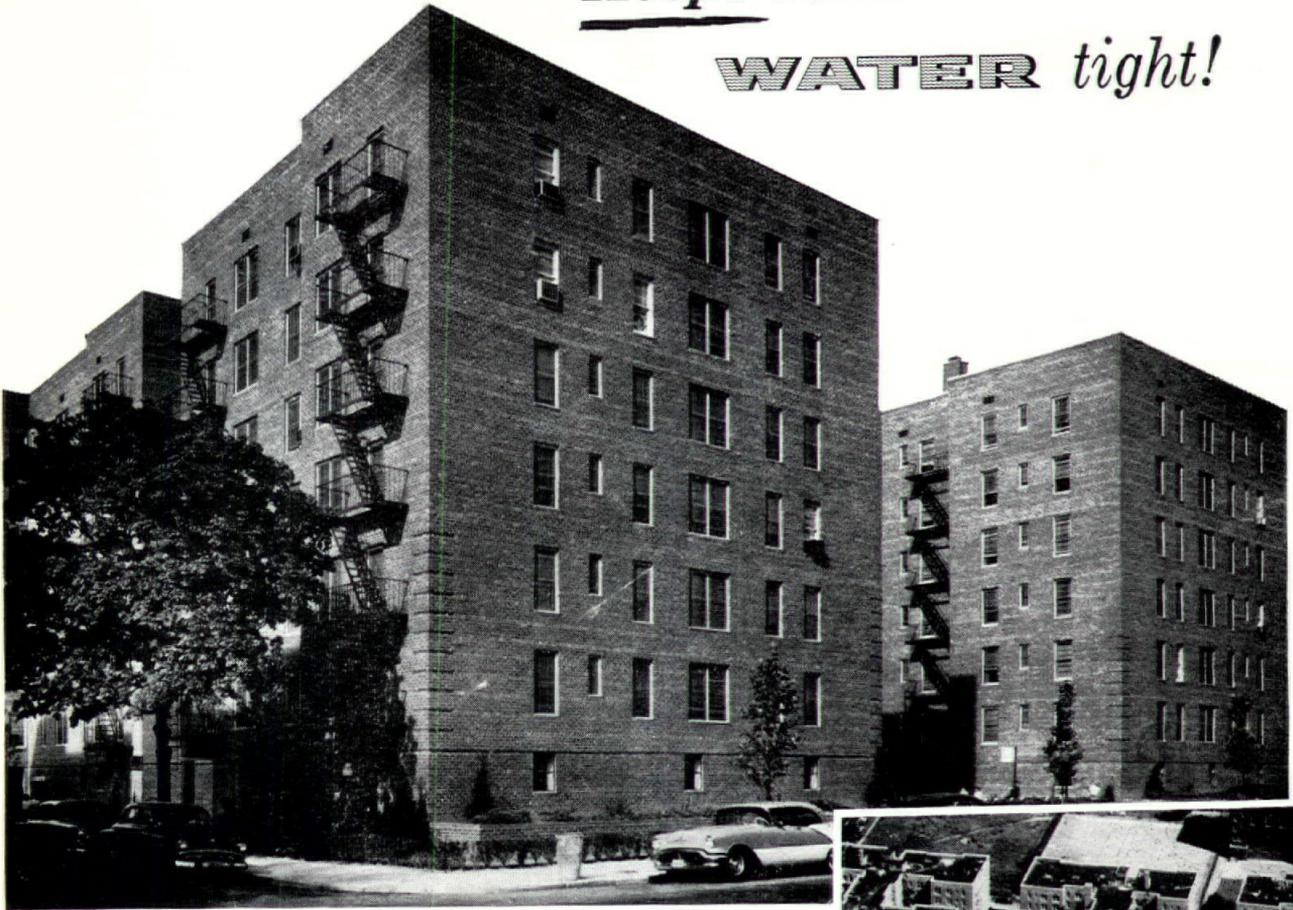
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