

September - October 1957

# IOWA ARCHITECT

*Official Publication of*

**Iowa Chapter  
American Institute of Architects**

Vol. IV - No. 5



## **Des Moines Architect's Council Takes Action To Volunteer Services For City's Re-Development**

A series of meetings among Des Moines architects has resulted in the re-establishment of the Des Moines Architect's Council with the avowed purpose of volunteering such services as it can to the program for re-developing the city of Des Moines.

The renewed activity on the part of the council coincides with the appointment of a new City Planner for the city of Des Moines, and the new planner is R. D. Fernbach, who is a member of the Michigan Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The Council was re-organized after the architects had heard a presentation on the need for a coherent urban and redevelopment plan for the city. This was presented by Charles Cownie, Des Moines businessman who has been participating in a program aimed at interesting more persons in the need for civic redevelopment.

The Council elected an Executive Committee composed of Stan Ver Ploeg, Bill Wagner, Grant Voorhees, Clyde Lighter, and Jim Lynch. John Brooks was also to participate. Rich Goewy was named secretary of the group.

The Executive Committee of the council was to volunteer the services of

the council to the Central Business District Bureau of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of giving such services as possible to the Chamber and to the newly appointed Des Moines City Planner.

A.I.A. Chapter officials have expressed approval of the program as a means by which architects are demonstrating their public interest by providing a service to the public.

Fernbach, in commenting to the Iowa Architect on the services being performed by the architects, said:

"The most heartening thing is that these people have come together under their own steam to work on this problem."

OFFICERS

- President.....James Walsh
- Vice President.....Wayne Lyon
- Secretary.....Paul Skiles
- Treasurer.....Lyle Howard

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- James Lynch, Chairman
- James Walsh
- Don McKeown
- Harold Bullington
- William Wagner
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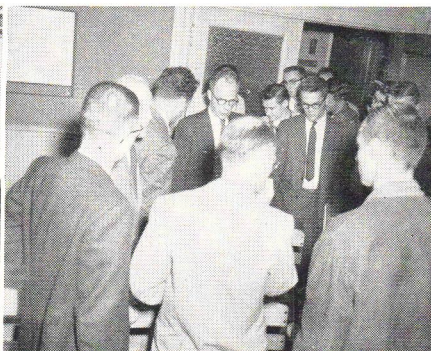
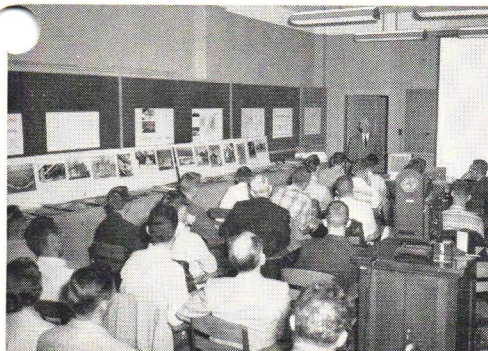


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# Preservationists, Students Hear Chicago's Earl Reed



Earl Reed, a dynamic and interesting personality who is imbued with a desire that the historical architectural works of the past be preserved for study and as a part of our cultural heritage, talked twice September 27.

Reed is Chairman of the American Institute of Architecture Committee for the Preservation of Historical Buildings.

He spoke at a luncheon meeting before the Iowa Society for The Preservation of Historical Landmarks and presented a paper entitled: "Midwest Pioneer Architecture." This paper in part traced the historical development of architectural types along the Mississippi River and into Iowa, calling attention particularly to some of the landmarks which remain as symbols of particular periods of history. He said that central Iowa abounds in styles that are earning respect as historical pieces and he pleaded for the preservation of the outstanding examples.

He also mentioned the noted examples in Iowa which already have been called to the attention of the A.I.A. committee and he urged that more be done toward recording examples of early architecture with the A.I.A.

He had compliments for William Wagner, the Iowa Chapter chairman for preservation of historical buildings, but he said the whole job is much too large to be done by one man, and he urged that the Landmark Society join the architects in recording the existence of worthwhile aged buildings.

Among buildings which he said have already been recorded were the Osage Jail, Old Capitol at Iowa City, the Amana colonies, the Keokuk

the station, Terrace Hill in Des Moines. He noted the Redhead home which was recently dismantled, some other homes, and St. Matthews Chapel at Muscatine. He called attention also to the reconstruction at West Branch of the blacksmith shop as part of the Hoover Birthplace memorial.

He told the students at Ames that: "Because we are interested in present day architecture is no reason that we should abandon our interest in past architecture."

And, philosophically, he observed: "We can only be sure of change in this business; we cannot be sure of improvement."

The Historical Landmark Society agreed on a need for a membership drive and outlined plans for a meeting in May at the Hoover Birthplace at West Branch. Date for the meeting was to be selected later.

Officers chosen for the 1957-58 year were:

Charles B. Chappell, President, of Keokuk.

Mrs. Otha B. Wearin, Vice-President, of Hastings.

Mrs. Ronald B. Engelbeck, Secretary, of Des Moines.

William Wagner, Des Moines, was re-elected Treasurer.



## PLAN TO ATTEND

Iowa AIA Convention  
 January 23, 24 and 25  
 Hotel Savery, Des Moines

## MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY

### CONSIDER CRAFTSMANSHIP FOR ANNUAL AWARDS

AIA Chapter Members and Iowa's contractors are again to be asked to nominate candidates for the annual "Craftsmanship" awards which will be presented at the AIA 1958 Convention Banquet at Des Moines January 24.

The call for award nominations will go out soon and V.-P. Wayne Lyon, chairman of the Chapter Awards Committee, said the considerations will be made at the latest possible time before the Convention in order to assure that full thought be given to each person proposed for the award.

The Craftsmanship awards are among the most successful of the programs undertaken by the Iowa Chapter and provide the architects with an opportunity to publicly commend the men whose work is of an outstandingly high quality.

## AIA Invited To Iowa School Boards' Meetings

All AIA members are invited to attend the sessions of the Iowa Association of School Boards which will hold its 1957 Convention at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Des Moines, November 21 and 22.

Doug Robison of Davenport will represent architecture on a panel Thursday afternoon, November 21, for a discussion of "Building for Iowa's Children." This panel will be in Room C, and Dr. S. J. Knezevich of the University of Iowa, will be moderator.

The Iowa Chapter has purchased a display booth space for the Convention, but details of the display were not complete as this issue of the Iowa Architect went to press.

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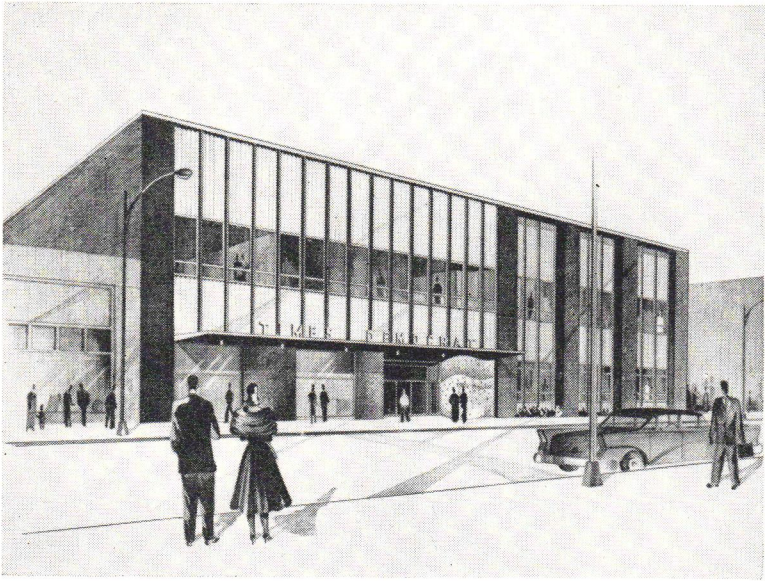
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By

# IOWA ARCHITECTS



This is the designer's presentation of the new front of the Davenport Times Democrat building which makes use of colored anodized aluminum and glass to create a striking pattern.

**Architects:**

**Parish and Richardson, Davenport**

# THIS I BELIEVE

By

E. H. WETHERELL

It is becoming more important that we comb over our specifications.

Misplace one word, or let a typographical error slip past, and the whole thing can become ambiguous or the meaning be changed. Or yesterday's practice can become archaic today. The contractor has only the plans and the specifications to guide him, and cannot read our minds. And he can make a mistake which will cost him or cost the owner. Neither of which we want.

It seems as though this year the ratio of jobs to suppliers, of market to product is becoming smaller. Perhaps it's a trend, perhaps it's only temporary, but competition is sharpening, and after all, the specification is the final word. Projects which a year or so ago aroused only local interest now seem to be crossing state lines and reaching far afield. And we are dealing more and more with those who don't know "our usual practice," and consequently may be less forgiving.

We should study and reread. Then give the best of our knowledge, the best of our experience, the best of our judgment and the best of our English. Then read and reread. This I believe to be the price of a competent specification, upon which the architect can depend, one which gives definite instruction to the contractor, and one which gives the owner the thing which he desires and to which he is entitled.

## RECOGNIZE THE ADVERTISERS

The following firms this month are advertising in "The Iowa Architect":

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# New Instructors Bring Varied Backgrounds to ISC

Two new instructors in architecture at Iowa State College bring backgrounds from Poland and the U. S.

Karol Kocimski and Thomas Killian are the new men and both have histories of instruction and practice.

Kocimski, Polish born and educated, was graduated Lwow Teck University in 1930 and practiced in Lwow and Warsaw from 1933 to 1939 when he became a member of the Polish armed forces. Captured by the Russians, he was a prisoner of war for two years before being released to Britain under an agreement reached between Churchill and Stalin. He then served in the British airforce until the end of the conflict, but maintained his interest in architecture during the entire period.

In 1944 he was vice president of the Polish Architectural Association in London. His practice history includes a period with H. B. Brown, Ltd., London, a Taliesin Fellowship in 1947, two years with B. H. Barrett & Co., London, three years with the town planning and housing division of the London county council, two years with Perkins & Will, Chicago during which time he was a member of a team which designed a \$20,000,000 shopping center (The Mayfair) at Milwaukee. He was professor of advanced design at the University of Illinois in 1956-57.

Killian was an instructor at Washington University, St. Louis, in 1954 and after duty in the armed services was with Harris-Armstrong at St. Louis. He will instruct freshman shades, shadows and perspective.

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*A young school teacher said to her best student, aged seven, "Tommy, if I lay one egg on the table and two on the chair, how many will I have altogether?"*  
*"Personally," answered Tommy, "I don't think you can do it."*

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## ISC Students Win \$1,000 Contest Award

Eugene A. Jahnke of Charles City and Keith E. Wilson of Monroe, Wis., shared in a \$1,000 award for a proposed design which was entered in a contest sponsored by the Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation.

Because of the win by the ISC students in architecture, the Lincoln Foundation has established two \$250 scholarships to be awarded without regard of financial need, but to be based upon scholastic attainment, imagination, ingenuity and ability. Choice is to be made by the faculty for the \$250 awards.

The two winners were graduated with the class of 1957.

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## FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO ARCHITECTS

The Institute of International Education, which is the preliminary selection agency for Fulbright Scholarships, is again hoping to receive applications from qualified students of architecture to study in other countries.

These countries have facilities for the study of architecture: Australia, Austria, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom. There are opportunities for town and country planning in Australia and Chile. Candidates for Japan must know the language.

More specific information about the program can be obtained from the Institute of International Education at 1 East 67th Street at Fifth Avenue New York 21, N. Y.



# Loveless Names Amos Emery To Examiner's Board

Iowa Governor Herschel Loveless has announced the appointment of Amos Emery, widely known Des Moines architect, to succeed W. L. Perkins of Chariton. The appointment is for the remainder of Perkins' term which will expire June 30 of 1961.

Other members of the Board are J. Woolson Brooks, Des Moines, Gerald I. Griffith, Des Moines, Oswald Thorson, Waterloo, and William Parish, Davenport.

The board met during October and established an office in the Iowa Statehouse with Mrs. Susan K. Weresh as executive secretary. The board also chose Amos Emery as its secretary and retained J. W. Brooks as President and William Parish as Vice-President.

Written and oral examinations each were given to about ten candidates during October and two senior examinations were given. Names of the successful candidates are expected to be available for printing in the next issue of the Iowa Architect.

## Miss Pelled Was Here

One of those Gremlins of the most insidious habits is Miss Pelled who appeared in a disguise in the July-August issue of the Iowa Architect. She appeared in the form of an incorrect first name—very cleverly placing the name Paul in place of the name Karl each time the Iowa Architect attempted to identify Karl Waggoner of Mason City, who has completed 12 years of service as a member of the Board of Architectural Examiners.

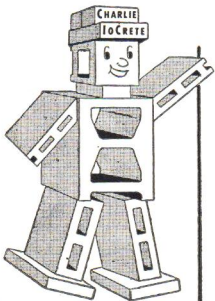
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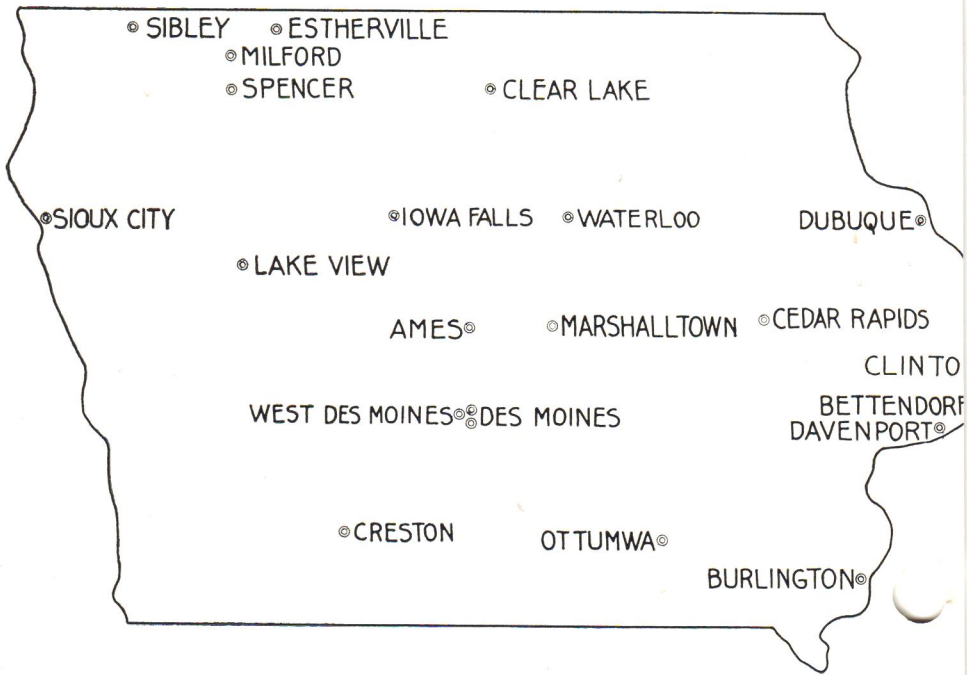
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## "Architect" Expanding; How Many For You?

Acting to move the "Iowa Architect" forward as a service to the profession and to the many fine firms which advertise within its covers, the Public Relations committee is proposing that the number of copies printed each month be increased so there will be enough available to provide one to each professional and technical employee of the members.

To give the editorial staff an opportunity to compute the number of copies necessary, Editor Jim Lynch is asking that each architect or architectural firm please forward a postcard bearing the name of the firm, and the number of copies necessary to provide each professional or technical employee with the "Iowa Architect."

The Public Relations committee expressed belief that the increase of circulation to all persons directly connected with the profession would result in stepped-up interest in the Iowa Chapter A.I.A. and its activities.

"The demonstration of increased interest in the chapter publication has resulted in a definite increase in the number of advertisers. We want to produce a publication which will first serve the Iowa Chapter of A.I.A., and which will be available to advertisers as a means of economically reaching the men who primarily determine the specifications for material used in major constructions in Iowa," Editor Lynch said.

### FOR THE BOOKSHELF . . .

Estimating General Construction Costs, 2nd Edition, by Louis Dallavia. F. W. Dodge, Corp. \$8.50

Acoustics for the Architect by Harold Burrell-Meyer & Lewis Goodfriend. Reinhold. \$10.

Religious Buildings for Today, Edited by John Knox Shear, A.I.A. F. W. Dodge, Corp. \$7.50.

## CONGRATULATIONS To Arizona Architect

Volume One, Number 1 of the **Arizona Architect** appeared during September and proved a bright new addition to the Chapter publications which appear throughout the nation.

The **Arizona Architect** is 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches, and in its first issue carried a most interesting discussion of the history of the development of the Arizona State Capitol Building. Large, excellently chosen photographs of the capitol were used to illustrate the article as it detailed the development of several plans with the final result a "compromise" within the houses of the Arizona legislature. The article carries the subtitle: "Evolution to Mediocrity."

The publication is sponsored by the Arizona Society of Architects which is comprised of the Central Arizona Chapter and the Southern Arizona Chapter of the A.I.A.

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## Architecture U.S.A.

IOWA CHAPTER A.I.A. has purchased for your use, the color-sound 16 mm film, "Architecture—U.S.A." which is ideally suited for presentation to groups which may have interests in commercial or residential construction. Well paced and presented, it is a production that will interest a lay audience. If you'd like to have the film for presentation, write: James Lynch 2425 Park Ave., or R. F. Bonomi, 415-10th Street, Des Moines.

Inform the program chairman of organizations of the availability of the film, tell them they can request it through any member of the Iowa Chapter A.I.A.

## MEXICAN ARCHITECT SAYS EARTHQUAKE DESIGN PROBLEMATIC

Felix Candela of Mexico City talked on some of the problems of attempting to design for "indeterminate earthquake forces" before the New York State Chapter during September. Some of his comments may have been dismaying to those who seek a "pat answer" to the problems.

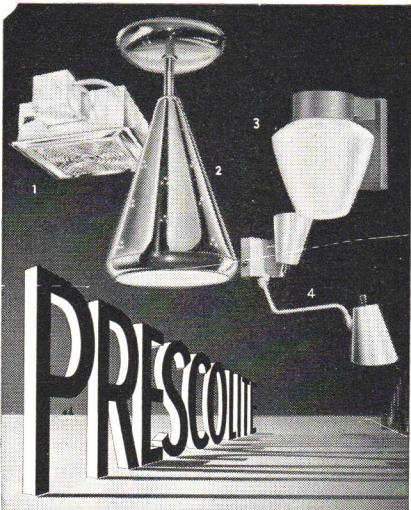
Candela, who is noted for his thin shell structures, told the group in part that "the attempt to design for indeterminate earthquake forces is problematic—success is much the result of pure chance—it is easy to justify something after it happens.

He reported that four or five buildings collapsed completely, all were of very poor construction, one or two are to be destroyed the rest repaired. There were no conclusions given as to the relative advantages of tall or low buildings, concrete or steel frames as the same percent of each was affected. The worst affects were said to have been caused by the coincidence of a natural period of resonance for the building and the quake; when superimposed the effect is multiplied and "becomes too big to design for."

Mr. Candela presented his own thin shell work in a series of slides and, brushing aside the esthetics, stated that he designs curved thin shell structures because "I like them—they are cheaper in Mexico—competition there requires something a bit different."

## CANADIAN COMPETITION

An International Competition has been announced for the new city hall of Toronto, Canada. Eight winners of a first stage will compete in the second stage with the winner to receive a \$25,000 advance on a 6% fee basis. The eight first stage winners will each receive \$7,500. Details are available from Professor Eric Arthur, M.A., c/o City Hall, Toronto, Canada.



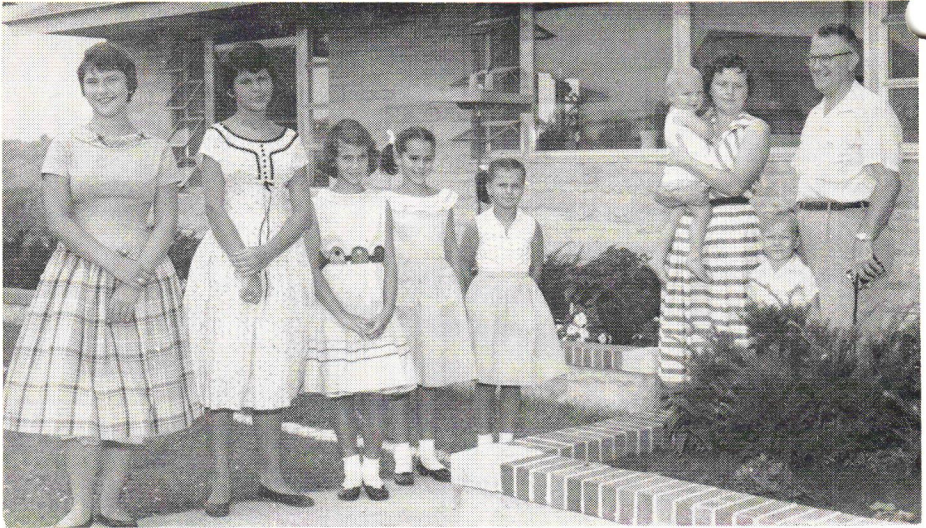
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# Architect's Family Expands Rapidly - By Five Girls



Mr. and Mrs. William Lockard of Decorah and their two sons pose at the right of this picture with the five Clemens girls who have joined the Lockard family in the long, low house Bill built without guessing his family would grow by five girls in one day.

William Lockard of Decorah had the unique experience this year of seeing his family grow by five girls in one day—not quintuplets, but five West Virginia girls ranging in age from 9 to 16 years.

Architect Lockard says he had nothing like that in mind when he designed and built his spacious home four years ago, but the five newcomers find plenty of room for play, study and storage. They have joined Mr. and Mrs. Lockard and two small boys as members of the family at Decorah.

The girls are nieces of Mr. Lockard and came to Decorah from Parkersburg, W. Va., where their mother died about a year ago after having been ill for more than two years. After the death of the mother, it appeared for a time as if the children would be separated to various church schools or homes, and it was then that Mr. and Mrs. Lockard decided they should keep the girls together. Mr. Lockard asked to be appointed the girls' legal guardian and the process is underway.

"Girls are especially welcome in our family," both Lockards claim.

"There is just one little girl on my side of the family," says Mrs. Lockard, "all the rest are boys. You can't think how much my people will enjoy these girls."

The Lockards are doing their best to

help the girls become adjusted to their new surroundings. There is a family council which meets once a week for the discussion of family plans and problems, and allowances have been established according to the ages and needs of the girls.

And all the girls are eager to resume the activities in which they participated in West Virginia—Girl Scout meetings, singing in the church choir, roller skating, etc. The older girls have found babysitting jobs, too.

*Two friends were riding in a crowded bus when one noticed that the other had his eyes closed. "What's the matter, Bob?" he asked, "Are you ill?"*

*"No," answered his friend, "I just can't bear to see women standing."*

## IOWA CONTRACTS CLIMB

Future construction contracts for August in Iowa amounted to \$35,244,000, or 44 percent above August 1956. F. W. Dodge Corporation, construction news and marketing specialists, reported.

Contracts by the major construction categories in August compared to the like month last year showed: non-residential at \$11,976,000, up 36 percent; residential at \$16,621,000, up 29 percent; and heavy engineering at \$6,647,000, up substantially.

Construction contracts for the first eight months of 1957 compared to the year-earlier period showed: non-residential at \$67,579,000, down seven percent; residential at \$99,446,000, down five percent; heavy engineering at \$87,236,000, up 21 percent; and total construction at \$254,261,000, an increase of two percent.

## USE CENTENNIAL STAMPS

Members of the A.I.A. are receiving with this issue of The Iowa Architect a sheet of the A.I.A. Centennial Stamps which the A.I.A. created to use in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Institute.

Because the usefulness of these stamps will pass with the end of the year, the Public Relations committee has instructed that the stamp sheets remaining on hand be distributed to the membership.

It is hoped that those receiving the stamps will make use of them during the remainder of the year.

*A Texas GI was playing poker with some English soldiers. He drew four aces. "One pound," ventured the Englishman on his right.*

*"Ah don't know how you'all count your money," said the Texan, "but ah'll raise you a ton."*



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## ENGINEERS' VOCABULARY

(as thru a glass pleasantly)

**IT IS IN PROCESS**—So wrapped in red tape that the situation is almost hopeless.

**WE WILL LOOK INTO IT**—By the time the wheel makes a full turn, we assume you will have forgotten about it.

**A PROGRAM**—Any assignment that can't be completed by one telephone call.

**EXPEDITE**—To confound confusion with commotion.

**CHANNELS**—The guy who has a desk between two expeditors.

**CONSULTANT (or expert)**—Any ordinary guy more than 50 miles away from home. (Must have briefcase.)

**TO ACTIVATE**—To make carbons and add more names to the memo.

**TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM**—Hire more people and expand the office.

**UNDER CONSIDERATION**—Never heard of it.

**UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION**—We are looking in the files for it.

**A MEETING**—A mass mulling by master-minds.

**A CONFERENCE**—A place where conversation is substituted for the dreariness of labor and the loneliness of thought.

**TO NEGOTIATE**—To seek a meeting of minds without a knocking together of heads.

**RE-ORIENTATION**—Getting used to working again.

**RELIABLE SOURCE**—The guy you just met.

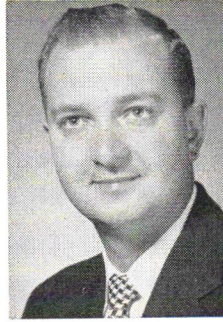
**INFORMED SOURCE**—The guy who told the guy you just met.

**UNIMPEACHABLE SOURCE**—The guy who started the rumor originally.

**A CLARIFICATION**—To fill in the background with so many details that the foreground goes underground.

**WE ARE MAKING A SURVEY**—We

## Kraus Joins SCPI As Field Engineer



Jerry Kraus of Whitewater, Wis., has been appointed a Field Engineer for Region 6, Structural Clay Products Institute, it has been announced by J. E. Neville, Regional Director.

Kraus graduated last spring from the Wisconsin Institute of Technology, and completed the SCPI Engineering Training program at Washington, D. C. this summer. His work will be in Iowa and Nebraska.

need more time to think of an answer.  
**NOTE AND INITIAL**—Let's spread the responsibility for this.

*The Florida Engineer*

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## ISC HAS NEW FILM "CAREER IN ARCHITECTURE"

Colorful and talk-saving is the new ammunition available to Iowa AIA members who are called upon to present "Career Day" talks at high schools during the coming year.

Iowa State College has procured a new film "Your Career In Architecture," and Prof. Leonard Wolf reports that the film is available, that his staff has previewed it and believe to be an excellent choice for career day use.

The film was produced at the University of Washington under the sponsorship of the Weyerhaeuser Lumber Co. It is a 16 mm color sound film, and the running time is approximately 27 minutes.

Architects wishing to use the film should write:

Visual Instruction Service

Iowa State College

Ask for: Film No. 5645NS "Your

## ADVERTISERS

Iowa Architect calls member's attention to two points: 1, the firms advertising in this issue and 2, the other organizations that would be interested in advertising if you will pass the word. Advertising rates in the Iowa Architect, for 6 consecutive issues, are:

Full-page .....	\$45 per insertion
Half-page .....	\$25 per insertion
Quarter-page .....	\$15 per insertion

Rates do not include the cost of cuts, if any. Inquiries or advertising orders should be addressed to James Lynch, editor, 2425 Park Ave., Des Moines.

Career In Architecture."

Prof. Wolf passes the reminder that films are carried at book rates by the postal service, and that the cost of the film is 10c, plus postage both ways. He estimates the cost of the film at 25 cents per showing.

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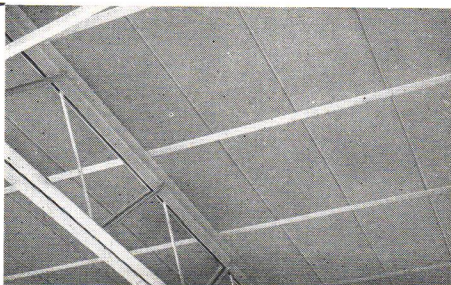
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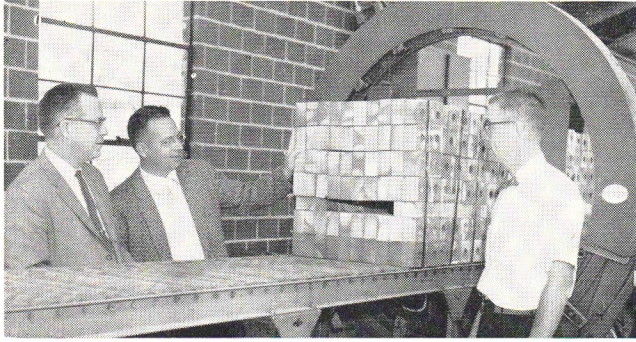
Des Moines, Iowa

CR 9-7844





# First "Brick Packaging Plant" Operates In Iowa



Here is the world's first automatic brick packaging machine. A. C. Frisk, President, (left) Mason City Brick and Tile Co., Bruce Paterson, Manager and William Goodwin, Jr., (right) President of the Des Moines Clay Company, view package of 62 brick coming out of strapping machine at the Des Moines plant.

Architects and Engineers from Des Moines and throughout the State of Iowa witnessed the initial operation of the world's first automatic brick packaging machine, the "SCR package line" \*Reg. T.M. Pat Pend. SCPRF, at the recent annual "Architect's Party" sponsored by the Des Moines Clay Company at their plant in Des Moines.

The Des Moines Clay operation is the first pilot plant test of this automatic brick packaging line which has been developed as a full plant sized machine in the laboratories of Structural Clay Products Research Foundation, Geneva, Ill. Following the test runs, the Des Moines Clay Company anticipates being the nation's first brick manufacturer to offer automatically packaged brick to the public.

W. J. Goodwin, Jr., president of the company, said the machine will automatically package 10,000 brick per hour in a new type of package and provide lower "in the wall costs" for clay masonry as well as assurance of high quality brick with proper color blending reaching the wall.

Robert B. Taylor, Director of the Structural Clay Products Research Foundation, has stated that "in the field of laborer economies we have developed a new type of brick and tile package for the handling of our products by mechanical means from the plant all the way to the scaffold position of the mason at the wall. In it's brick form the package contains 62 brick made up of three strapped bundles of 20, plus 2 spacer brick. This package is adaptable for both large and small types of construction, by both large and small contractors. It can be handled by hand trucks on small jobs, or in multiples on large jobs with mechanical fork lift-

ing equipment. He said tests made using the packaged brick have shown savings of 15% or more, due to labor savings by elimination of much costly handling .

Plans are in progress for a nation wide meeting of member manufacturers of the Research Foundation at the Des Moines Clay Company plant to view the "SCR package line" under actual plant conditions. Additional showings are contemplated for other construction industry groups.

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## FIVE YEAR SCHOOL

Arizona State now offers a five year curriculum in architecture. The offering includes degree programs in building construction and engineering construction in response to recommendations of the AIA, AGC, ASCE, and the ASEE.





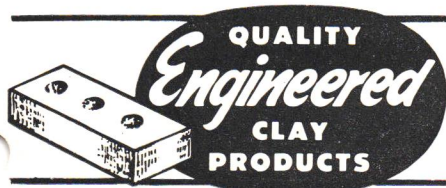
## **BUFF HACKBERRY ADDS DISTINCTION and BEAUTY**

The new, graceful First Methodist Church, Clear Lake, Iowa, is a model of design and beauty built of Ottumwa Chiefs, a lovely buff brick with its rugged, hackberry texture. Architects for this striking structure were Thorson, Thorson and Madson.

Any of these companies will be happy to send you color reproductions of Ottumwa Chiefs or any of the many other colorful face brick and tile which they produce.



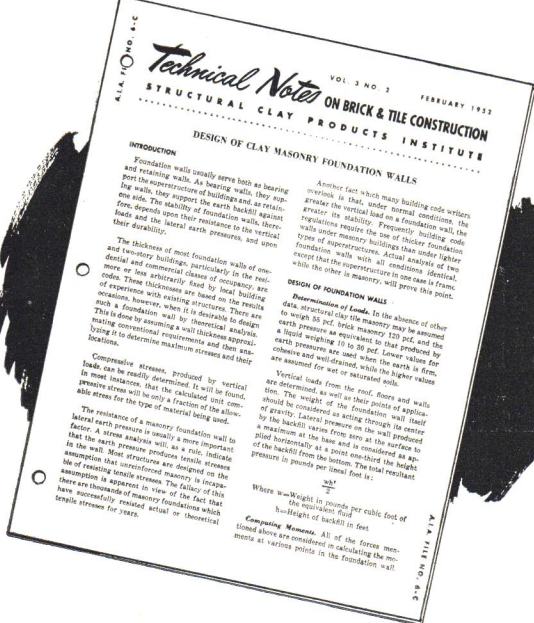
Ottumwa Chiefs are a brick of surpassing beauty. This nature-colored buff face brick has a texture similar to the Hackberry Tree. It is coarse enough to provide the desired depths of horizontal shadows, yet fine enough to be self cleaning.



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# Just To Be Technical . . .

## Is Your File of the TECHNICAL NOTES ON BRICK & TILE CONSTRUCTION Up-To-Date?



Each month SCPI sends you a TECHNICAL NOTES ON BRICK & TILE CONSTRUCTION giving information on various phases of clay masonry construction. Architects and Engineers alike, have found these to be a valuable aid in their work.

Check your table of contents page and index of all issues to date. If, in checking the table of contents, you find you are missing any of the issues, please let us know and we will be happy to send them to you.

Also, if you are not receiving the TECH NOTES at the present time, notify us and you will be sent the complete file and your name will be placed on our monthly mailing list.

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