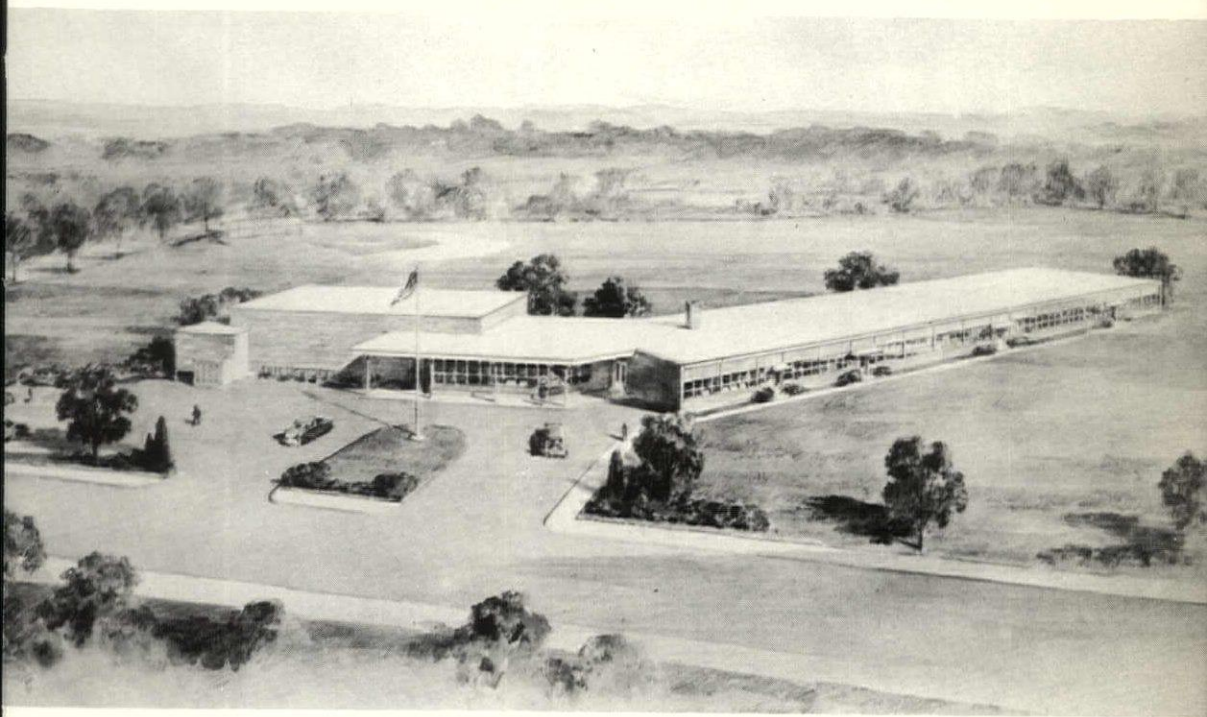


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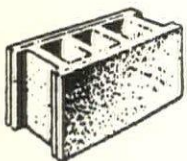
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APRIL, 1955

NO. 9

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OUR COVER

New Southeast Elementary School at Manchester.

—Photos by Durette Photo Co.,
Manchester.

New Hampshire Architect is published monthly at 181 North Main Street, Concord, N. H., under the direction of the president and board of directors of the New Hampshire Chapter, American Institute of Architects, to promote the objectives and public relations of the chapter. Advertising rates furnished upon request.

The President's Message

BUTTON, BUTTON

For many years we have searched from the attic to the cellar of our minds, to find a reference point for our sciences, our art and architecture—it has been here all the time—man.

This awareness of man as the unit of measure, and inclusion of man in calculations is presumed to have been started by Einstein's restatements of physics and mathematics.

A nationally known pollster became acutely aware of his omission of man in his calculation when his predictions proved of little value.

To quote Prof. Eugene Raskin from his book *Architecturally Speaking*: "To treat of architecture without considering the psychological and physiological characteristics of those by whom and for whom it is created makes no more sense than a discussion of the Bach fugues between two baboons, neither of whom has ever heard one."

It is hoped that this inclusion of man will be reflected in future church and government architecture where at present man's exclusion is marked by the impersonal execution of the work. If the element, man, could also be injected into the veins of those who program V. A. and F. H. A. requirements perhaps our contemporary housing would take on the more individual characteristic of man than the very evident consciousness of mortgage limitations.

COMMUNICATIONS

The days of Eeny-meeny-miney-moe design along with Ahems and Garumps for specifications are behind us now, yet it requires concentration to keep these cob-webs out.

Most forms of communication requires that the author, architect, musician and lawyer have something of consequence to say; the "saying" then requires a good amount of editing and if properly edited a paragraph may become a single purposeful word or a building elevation may become a pure white surface with but one black dot or a lengthy concert-piece is condensed to forty-five seconds of superb sound—only then is the message not robbed of its power by the method.

It is important that a message be expressed with symbols and in a language that those for whom it is intended can understand; for my good friend Dr. () to reveal to me his most precious secrets in medical terms would mean no more to me than were he to talk to me in Burmese, yet the colorful vibrant language of a bull-whip to his crew is most powerful and effective because both eat and sleep with the language.

It is a privilege to have a message whether it be expressed in architecture, medicine, or raising babies, yet it takes a tremendous amount of mental sweat to do it properly.



Richard Kochler

School Boards Should Watch For Pitfalls

Several serious pitfalls must be avoided in any new federal or state assistance programs adopted to help solve the national schoolroom shortage crisis, according to an editorial that has appeared in ARCHITECTURAL FORUM, leading architecture and construction industry magazine. As an alternative to direct federal grants, the magazine also points out how federal FHA-type of insurance for local school board loans could make their funds go twice as far, or finance twice as much building.

President Eisenhower has sent to Congress a special school construction assistance message giving his recommendations or "positive, affirmative action, now." Many Congressmen are already impatiently pushing assistance bills of their own. With a federal help program of one kind or another almost sure of enactment, the magazine's statement signed by editor Douglas Haskell warns against any measures that would cripple local school board

initiative through "remote control" and "mountains of rules"; would put a premium on school design by "dopes and drudges" that could prove detrimental to students; or might provide special financing benefits direct to building contractors rather than only direct to official school boards.

Keeping Schools Local

"There are two principles that should be held inviolate," the editorial declares:

"Whatever partnership the local community may enter into, the control of our schools must be exercised primarily by our local communities. Only in this way can we have the direct responsibility, the local interest, the democratic participation of the citizens, on which all that is good in our American school system depends.

"Any financing of schools must be in the hands of the agency that operates the

(Continued on Page 7)

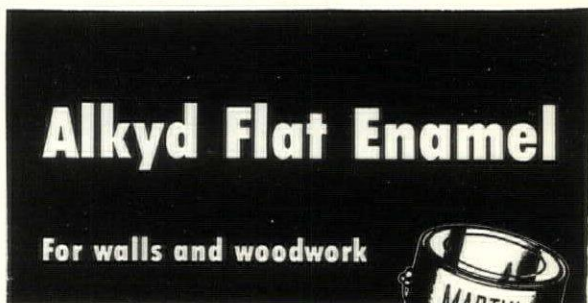
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"Designing for the Community" to be

Theme of 87th Annual AIA Convention

WASHINGTON, D. C.—"Designing for the Community" will be the theme of the 87th annual convention of The American Institute of Architects, it has been announced by A. I. A. President Clair W. Ditchy. The convention will meet in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 20-24, 1955, with headquarters at the Hotel Radisson.

Keynote address will be made on Tuesday morning, June 21, by Albert M. Cole, Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, and the convention theme will be developed further that day—at lunch with James W. Follin, Commissioner of the Urban Renewal Administration as speaker—and at an afternoon seminar "Rebuilding the City." Moderator Richard W. E. Perrin, A. I. A. Executive Director of the Milwaukee Housing Authority, will be joined on the panel by leading architect-planners who will discuss pertinent phases of the architect's role in development and redevelopment projects.

Later in the week there will be another important seminar, keyed to the overall theme, on "Architecture of Community Expansion," led by Norman J. Schlossman, FAIA, of the Chicago firm of Loeb, Schlossman and Bennett, a former 1st vice-president of the Institute.

It is of interest to note that the convention city was among the first in the country to get the green light from the Housing and Home Finance Agency for its urban renewal plan. The workable program presented by the City of Minneapolis was approved early in February.

Other convention seminars are scheduled on Chapter and Regional Affairs and on Office Practice. The latter will include discussions on cost estimating and modular measure.

Entertainment and education will be pleasantly combined on the Cold Spring Cannonball Trip arranged by the Host Committee and the Cold Spring Granite Company for the opening day of the convention, Monday, June 20. Architects and

their wives are to be transported on a special train through scenic lake country to Cold Spring, Minnesota, where they will be guests of the Cold Spring Granite Company. Highlights of the trip will be the visit to a granite quarry and tour through the company's plant, which will present the story of granite production and fabrication in complete continuity from the rough blocks to the finished products.

The President's Reception will be held at the Prudential Insurance Company's new Minneapolis office building, designed by Magney, Tusler and Setter, which is to be officially opened during the convention week. Special guests at the reception will be Prudential's president Carroll Shank and other top company officials.

The Gold Medal, highest honor given by the Institute for distinguished service to the profession, will be awarded at the annual banquet on Thursday, June 23. Additional awards, to be given at an award luncheon, include the Fine Arts Medal, the Craftsmanship Medal and the Edward C. Kemper Award.

Other regular convention features are the Annual Exhibition of Outstanding American Architecture and the display of new building products and equipment.

The Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth Chapters are the convention hosts and chairman G. Clair Armstrong of Minneapolis and members of his host committee are arranging a number of other special events, including architectural tours, and an evening of entertainment—as well as a special ladies program.

During the days prior to the opening of the convention, there will be meetings of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, the Producers' Council, the National Architectural Accrediting Board and the A. I. A. Board of Directors.

School Boards—

(Continued from Page 5)

schools. Otherwise, the initiative, the educational development, the progress that has been characteristic of schools in America, and that has been brought about by specific administrators working with specific intelligent school boards, will be dissipated through remote control and lost under mountains of rules.

"This has already happened under the 'authorities' including the Finance Department of California, which has wrapped school construction into such a ball of wax—intricate regulations on square feet per child, complicated rules whether space under overhangs counts full or half, and the like—that conscientious architects report they have lost thousands upon thousands of dollars trying to plan good schools despite the rules, and a premium put on school design by dopes and crudges, hampering education at every turn for our children, the ultimate consumers."

Control By Educational Agencies Favored

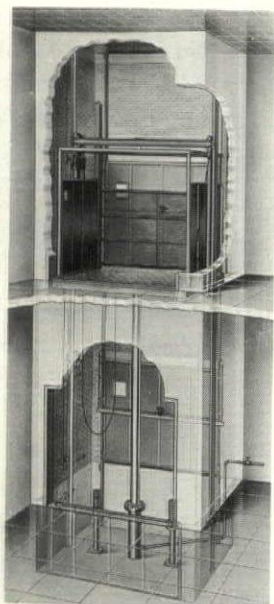
Wise educational policy will oppose the creation of any more purely fiscal state "authorities" as an error costly to both operating efficiency and education, according to the editorial. "Any state or federal aid, any marshaling of the statewide or nationwide credit," it declares, "must at the very least be done through educational agencies—the state education departments and the US Office of Education—which are manned by schoolmen interested in children primarily. Moreover, the best of these confine their regulations to a minimum supervision for health and safety."

Making School Money Go Twice As Far

One method for helping local school boards without direct federal spending might be federal insurance to cover their construction and improvement borrowing. This, the magazine explains, "would use

(Continued on Page 9)

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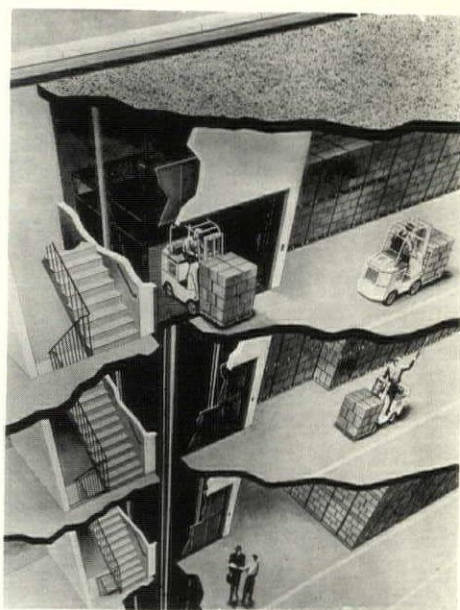
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CHAPTER AFFAIRS

By

Eugene F. Magenau

"Chapter Affairs" is the name of one of those committees with a "vertical" organization in the A. I. A. That is, each **chapter** has such a committee, which in the smaller chapters may be a single individual; each **region** has a committee consisting of Chapter Affairs chairmen from all chapters within the region; finally there is the **national** committee appointed by the Institute Board of Directors, and consisting of a chairman and 12 regional members, each of whom is chairman of his own regional group.

Beryl Price of Philadelphia is National Chairman. He is like a controlled ball of fire.

Running this committee calls for that kind of energy because Chapter Affairs means just that—everything that chapters do seems to come within this committee's scope at one stage or another. This is also true when they fail to do some of the things they should do to accomplish organizational purposes. One of the committee's duties is to work towards **unification of efforts and objectives**, as has been done with the "Chapter Manual." It would not hurt any architect a bit to read this document, or collection of documents, from cover to cover. It might—just possibly—even do him some good right where he needs it the most.

Another committee duty is to **encourage interchange of information**, which is being done with publication "Documents of the Month." These are examples of outstanding chapter activity which are distributed nationally with the hope of ringing a bell somewhere along the line.

Finally, the committee is supposed to **conduct symposiums on Chapter Affairs**.

This has been done with great success in certain localities and regions. However the aplomb (to put it politely) of New England architects has so far withstood most efforts toward group therapy, which Chapter Affairs really is.

Good beginnings have been made in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island because by coincidence the chapter presidents have been exposed to the regional Chapter Affairs chairman at meetings of the New England Regional Council of which he is also a member. So have the presidents of the three northern chapters, except Maine which seldom attends. Vermont would have come through but President Payson Webber is "hors concours" with a serious back sprain; New Hampshire—well, Dick Koehler just hasn't got around to putting the bee on his chapter affairs experts.

Recent work of the Chapter Affairs committees—national and regional—has centered around the following topics:

- * Chapter Awards (look for a Document of the Month on this subject soon).
- * Research on five of the Burdell Survey Commission's Recommendations to the A. I. A.: (1) Summer inspection trips by students, (2) Intensification of student chapter program, (3) Guidance and stimulation of secondary school students interested in architecture, (4) Systemization of candidate training program, (5) Formalization of advanced and refresher training courses for architects.
- * Revisions to Chapter Manual and publication of Volume II, Standard Documents.
- * Revised membership classifications.

A recent attempt to find in what way, if any, the New England Chapters are weak, brought no admissions of weakness. Of course, neither was anything else admitted. Therefore, we do not jump to the conclusion that no weaknesses exist. Chapter Affairs will seek them out and do something about them.

School Boards—

(Continued from Page 7)

the same principle of installment credit through which consumers now buy houses, cars and television sets so bountifully," and in effect make building funds go twice as far.

"The arithmetic is obvious," says FORUM. "Just as FHA in spreading the risk by using the credit of the national community as a whole, has brought down the interest rate on homes from a former 10% (counting second mortgages, fees, etc.) to 4½%, and has spread the amortization period from sometimes five years or less to 40 years, so federal insurance of school paper (whether bonds or mortgages) should help most boards cut their interest rate considerably and at least double their amortization period. This means the money will go at least twice as far, which means the same as having twice the money.

"And this is conservative, for we now have a preposterous situation. Schools which are built so solidly they will last easily twice as long as the average house, must be paid for in half as much time as the house."

Pitfall If Loans Are Made To Builders

There is one important pitfall to be avoided, however, if a federal loan insurance program is adopted, the FORUM cautions. "The insured loan must be made direct to the school board not, as in apartment buildings, to the builder. In home-building the consumers are not organized and the builder, so to speak, is the enterprising man who organizes things for them. In schools the objective is not anyone's profit but education; it is already organized under school boards acting as the agency of all the citizens and all the children. The school board must be able to call the shots."

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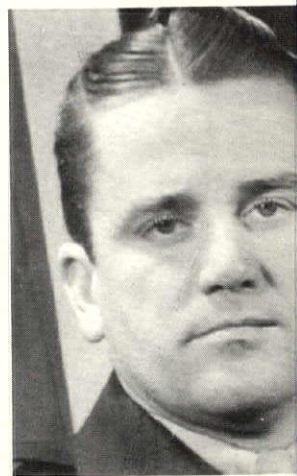
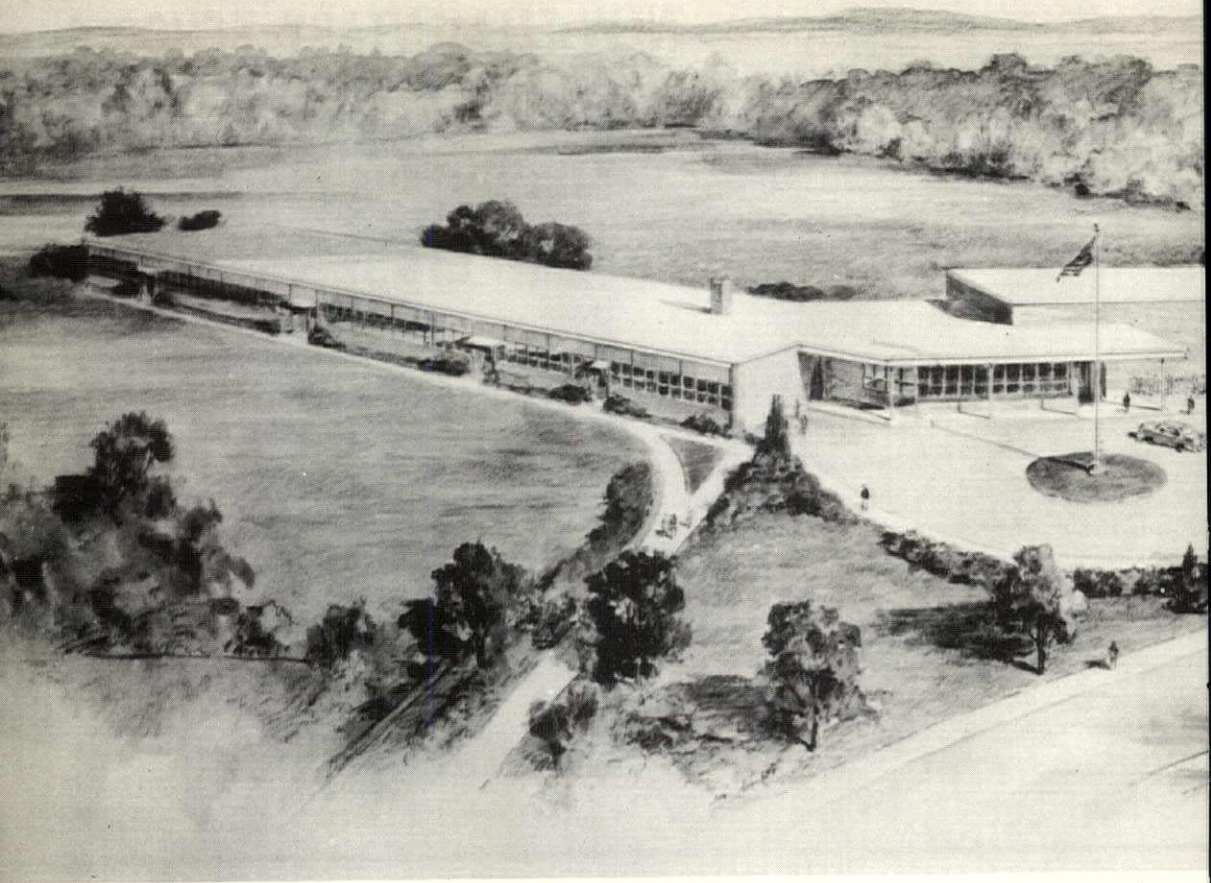
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Joseph F. Lampron, A. I. A., born in Nashua, N. H., August 12, 1912. Attended Nashua High School and University of New Hampshire. Registered Architect in New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont. Employed by Navy Department at Portsmouth and Brooklyne before forming present partnership with M. Dirs in 1946.

John D. Betley, Registered Architect, Manchester, New Hampshire, was born in Manchester. Graduated from Manchester Central High School and University of New Hampshire, B. S., 1936. He attended International Architectural Association School of Architecture in London, England, for advanced planning and design. Private practice from 1936 to 1946. Past chairman of Manchester Committee A. I. A. Director of New Hampshire Chapter A. I. A.

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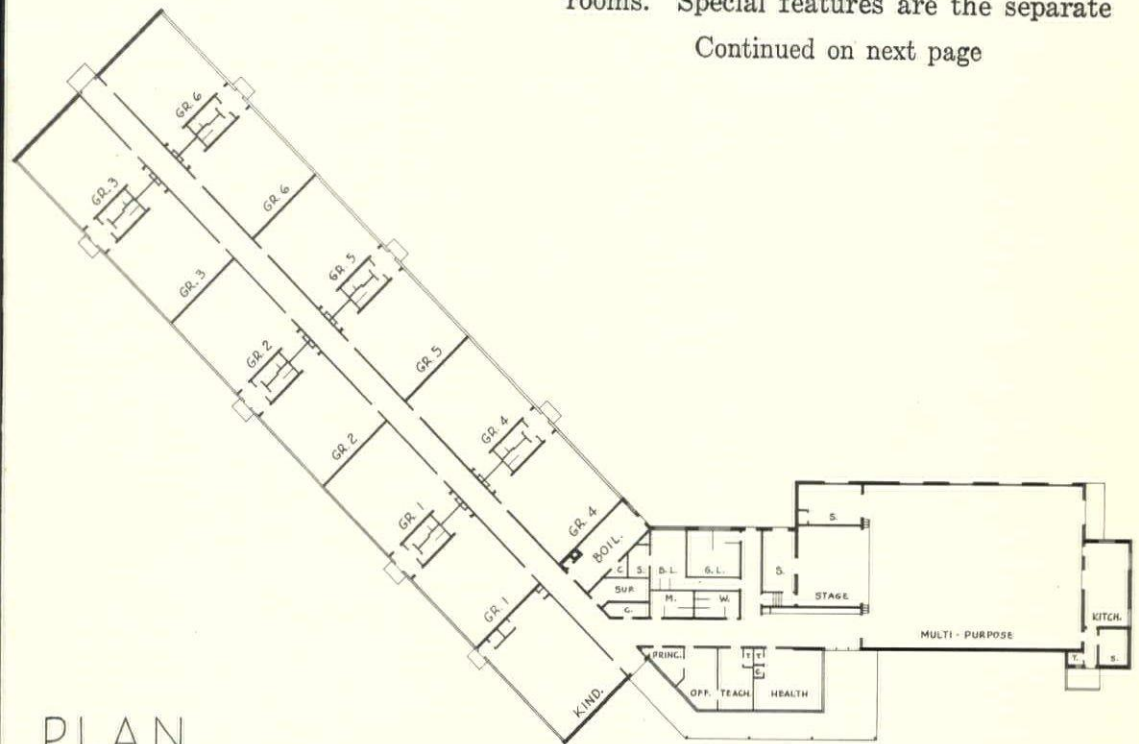
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Continued on next page



PLAN

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Dirsa and Lampron, Chief Architects - John D. Betley, Associate Architect, - Manchester, N.H.

(Continued From Page 11)

toilet facilities located between classrooms and the direct exiting to play areas from each classroom. Six additional classrooms have been planned for future construction. The multi-purpose room wing will also serve as a neighborhood community center, therefore this wing is designed to serve its dual functions with a minimum of interference with the scholastic activities of the classroom wing.

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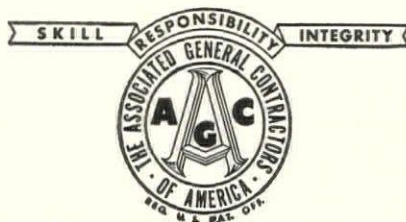
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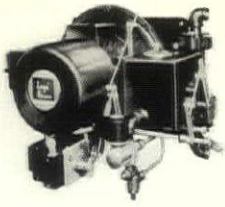
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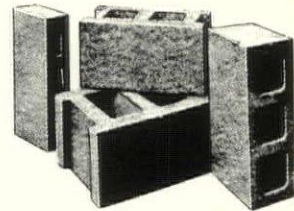
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*e	Architectural Practice	Stephen P. Tracy
f	Chapter Public Relations	Nicholas Isaak
g	N. H. Architect	Alexander J. Majeski
h	Traveling Exhibit	Everett R. Munson

C—MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES—..... Horace G. Bradt, G. C.

a	Convention Committee	Norman P. Randlett
b	Honor Awards	Willis E. Littlefield
*c	Chapter Affairs	Horace G. Bradt

D—EDUCATION & RESEARCH Maurice E. Witmer, G. C.

a	Awards & Scholarships	John Carter
*b	Education	Maurice Witmer
*c	Preservation of Historic Buildings	William L. White
*d	Research & Research Material	Shepard Vogelgesang
e	Hospital & Public Health	Eugene F. Mägenau
*f	School Buildings	Malcolm Hildreth
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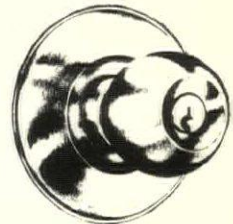
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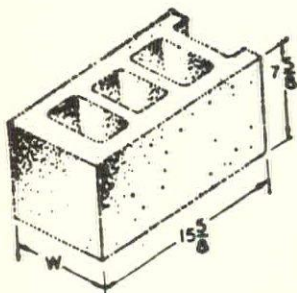
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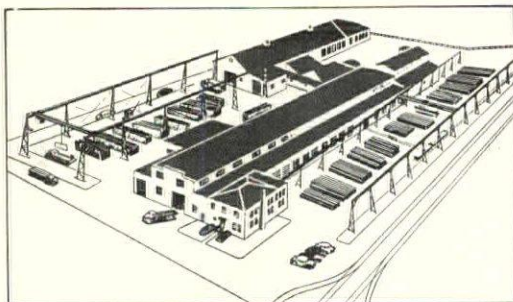
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