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KANSAS CITY CHAPTER

July 1951

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KANSAS CITY CHAPTER
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

1951
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Skylines

KANSAS CITY CHAPTER · AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

JULY, 1951



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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

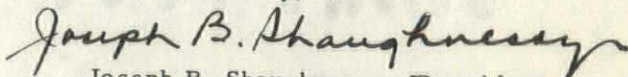
Dear Readers,

With this issue is realized a long standing hope of the Kansas City Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Kansas City has recently begun to acquire a national prestige in the field of building and design. As a result of this recognition, the need for some means to acquaint local and national groups with the activities of the architects in this area has become increasingly apparent. It is hoped that this publication, the official voice of the architectural profession in the Kansas City territory, will satisfy such a need.

We wish to congratulate the younger members of the chapter who have undertaken this literary record of our architectural achievements. However, since one aim of SKYLINES is to stimulate interest among members who have heretofore remained inactive, we trust that the responsibility for future issues will not entirely devolve upon these same men, but that all members will support this publication by contribution of material and constructive criticism.

Yours sincerely,



Joseph B. Shaughnessy, President
Kansas City Chapter, A. I. A.

A. I. A. CHUCK WAGON

Tuesday July 10, 1951

5:00 p.m.

(Dinner at 7:30)

☒ Bar B-Q Beef

☒ Bar B-Q Ham

☒ Corned Beef

☒ with all the trimmings

and all you can eat.

Place

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BEL-AIR PICNIC PARK

7500 BLUE RIDGE EXTENSION

BRING YOUR WIFE

Tickets Stag \$2.00

Couple \$3.50

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTORS

The June directors meeting was concerned generally with the efforts of our Chapter Committee cooperating with the Kansas City Board of Education on their recently approved 18 million dollar bond issue. This committee consisting of Messrs: Leslie Simpson, Albert Fuller, Raymond Voskamp and Clarence Kivett has been laying excellent ground work for future relation of our profession with the program. The feeling of many people concerned with this program is that the whole hearted support given to the election by the A.I.A. Chapter was a great help in the passage of the bond issue. The directors feel that the school program will be spread over a number of years and that much of the detail planning is not entirely worked out and that the chapter can offer much help in a general way to assist as the program progresses. One real help at this moment is to not beseige the board as individuals and attempt to force their decisions.

The June Chapter meeting was pretty largely a business meeting with many reports of recent activities of some of the committees--namely, the publication committee headed by Frank Grimaldi whose efforts become evident with this opening issue of the Chapter paper - the report of the National Convention by the delegates, Shaughnessy, Slezak, Murphy, and Roark - (the report in condensed form appears elsewhere in this issue). Angus McCallum made a report assisted by John Murphy on the recent series of lectures co-sponsored by the Chapter and the University of Kansas Extension Bureau -- "Today's House for Today's People". Coming events cast their shadows; the first Annual Chuck Wagon outing under the direction of Evans Folger, July 10, promises to be an outstanding event, one which we will share with our friends in the Producers' Council; second, the generous offer of Mr. Eugene John Stern to a special open house (with the wives) at the new Kansas City, Kansas Hotel, "The Town House", scheduled for late in July; and last, old by-laws never die, they just slowly "anest" away---according to the last report the committee is at work trying to clarify and simplify the By-laws as recently requested by the board.

SKYLINES for August will feature a story on the lift slab system of construction being used on the Betty Rose Garment factory at 3122 Gillham Plaza. John Adams of the office of Kivett and Myers, the architects for the project, will describe the system with prose and pictures.

1951
1872
79

Henry Ford Hoit, F. A. I. A.

1872 - 1951

Henry Ford Hoit, an outstanding citizen, recognized as a leader in his chosen profession as an Architect. A man who analyzed the problems of his day and who, having made up his mind, fought for what he considered to be right. A man of determination in all that he undertook to do.

Having completed his education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a student in Architecture, he came to Kansas City and became a partner in the firm of Howe, Hoit and Cutler. His accomplishments as a member of that firm, and later as the principal in the firm of Hoit, Price and Barnes, are reflected in the buildings which he designed, not only in Kansas City but elsewhere. His commissions were many, including nearly every type of public and private work. So well studied and designed, many of his buildings were awarded Medals by the Kansas City Chapter of the A. I. A. as the best examples in their respective classifications.

The Southwestern Bell Telephone Building, the Fidelity Building and the Kansas City Power and Light Building are noteworthy contributions to the skyline of Kansas City.

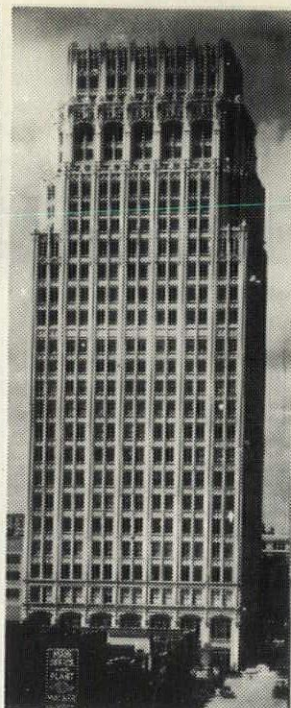
As president of the Kansas City Chapter of the A. I. A. and as a member of various chapter committees, his influence was a guiding factor in the affairs of this organization. In 1938 he was elected a Fellow of the A. I. A. in recognition of his professional leadership and accomplishments, an honor which has been bestowed on only four Kansas City architects. He served as Director for the Central States Region of the Institute. He retired from active practice in 1941.

Mr. Hoit took an active interest in civic affairs. As a member of the City Plan Commission his analysis of recurring requests for changes in the Code were seriously studied and his decisions generally accepted by the other members. He was one of a group of citizens who advocated the Commission Form of City Government as providing a businesslike, economical and efficient method of handling the affairs of the city. His advice and counsel in civic matters were generally accepted as sound and reasonable. His accomplishments as an architect and a citizen have had a very beneficial influence on the growth and life of Kansas City.

A. S. Keene, F. A. I. A.



K. C. Power and
Light Building



Telephone
Building



Fidelity
Building

HOIT, PRICE & BARNES, ARCHITECTS

Conducted Tour Held June 23rd.

Starlight Theatre

Swope Park, Kansas City, Missouri

Edward Buehler Delk, A. I. A., Architect

William L. Cassell, Mechanical Engineer

Universal Construction Co., General Contractor

The tour of Kansas City's 1 1/2 million dollar Starlight Theatre was personally conducted by Mr. Delk who rightly takes great pride in this "outdoor" architectural achievement.

The complexity of this design was more fully appreciated by the sixty chapter members who made the tour after they had viewed some of the "inside" features of the 7600 seat theatre. Tourists climbed the circular stair of one tower to examine the intricate mechanism of the great battery of klieglights on the light bridge, examined the complicated speaker system, walked through the understage tunnel and visited the ballet rehearsal.

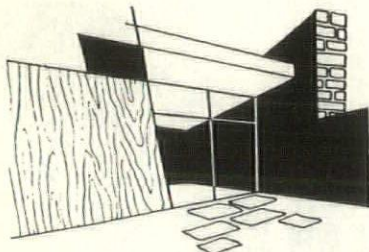
Much activity in staging preparations was witnessed as carpenters, electricians, actors and stagehands were getting ready for the premiere opening night which was held three days later.

After the theatre tour, Mr. and Mrs. Delk were host to the chapter at a cocktail party held at their home.



TODAY'S HOUSE FOR TODAY'S PEOPLE

A SERIES OF 6 LECTURES SPONSORED BY THE
KANSAS CITY CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
AND
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS EXTENSION



Report on
a project of the Committee
on Education and Public
Relations.
By Angus McCallum.

John Murphy, the Chapter's Chairman of the Education and Public Relations Committee, was approached by the University of Kansas Extension early in the spring with the proposal that the Chapter conduct a six-lecture series on Residential Design and Construction.

Five volunteers from the Chapter plus a Mortgage Banker formed a committee with Murphy as chairman, and after a series of conferences a program was established. Dates and a meeting place (the Roof Garden of the Hotel Continental) were arranged. "Today's House for Today's People" was selected as a general title for the course. A mailing piece was laid out (with the help of Herman Scharhag, a Chapter Associate, who designed the front cover) and the University printed and mailed out several thousand copies to a selected list. Ninety-two persons enrolled for the series, including a few realtors, attorneys and material dealers, but men and women with the average layman's interest in home building were in the majority.

April 26 "HOW TO SELECT A SITE" - David B. Runnells, A I A
Runnells opened the series with a short film, "The City", a vivid presentation of the advantages of intelligent community planning as opposed to the dismal consequences possible in un-planned neighborhood and city growth. His lecture period began with a consideration of the proper selection of neighborhood, progressed through examples of good sub-division layout, explained the meaning and purposes of proper orientation, demonstrated correct land utilization, and brought home to the audience the vital importance of beginning the home building program with care and intelligent analysis in the selection of the site.

May 3 "A-B-C's OF HOUSE PLANNING" - Ralph E. Myers, A I A
"How to Determine the Right Plan for Your Family" was the theme of the second lecture. With the help of blackboard sketches and slides, Myers demonstrated the "Do's and Don't's" of the house plan, the effect of family size, habits, interests and activities and the relation of house to site, sun and weather. Room sizes and inter-relation, one and two story plans, the "split level" and expandable house were discussed.

May 10 "WHAT ABOUT FINANCING?"

Dorr Carroll, Jr.

The only non-Architect member of the lecture panel was Dorrr Carroll, Vice President of The City Bond and Mortgage Company. Beginning with a history of the development of home financing methods, Carroll moved on to explain "conventional", FHA and GI programs, the characteristics of a "good risk" and climaxed his presentation with a very flattering explanation of the superiority of the Architect-Designed Home in the eyes of the Mortgage Loan Banker.

May 17 "THE BLUE PRINTS AND SPECIFICATIONS"

Lloyd Roark, A I A

The next step in the accomplishment of the new home was explained by Roark as he described the plans and specifications. The importance of clarity and completeness of expression in the drawings was emphasized by a display of typical competent plans as contrasted to several samples of "horrible examples". A general discussion of the materials of home construction and mechanical systems rounded out the discussion.

May 24 "TAKING BIDS-CONTRACTS AND SUPERVISION"

Raymond L. Voskamp, A I A

In this session Voskamp began with an explanation of the Institute forms and their purpose. He described in layman's language the progression from selection of bidders through the opening of the bids, award of contract, change orders, inspections, approvals and final payment. Emphasizing the statement that "building of a home should be one of life's most rewarding experiences", he brought out clearly the importance and value of complete architectural service.

May 31 "ROUND TABLE BY ALL THE EXPERTS" -

At this final session, each of the experts presented a five minute summary of his topic. Questions from the audience developed a highly informative "round table" period in the best "Information Please" style, and the series was brought to a close with the showing of a color film of the work of some of the country's best known residential architects.

Angus McCallum, A I A, acted as Moderator for the series, introducing each of the speakers and conducting the question and answer periods.

It was the consensus of the participating Chapter members that this venture was very productive in good public relations and this conclusion has been borne out by the fact that the University has approached John Murphy on the possibility of a repetition of the series in the Fall.

The church of St. Francis Xavier, Kansas City, a medal award winner this year, has been included in an exhibit of outstanding American buildings being sent overseas by the U. S. Department of State.

Barry Byrne of Chicago designed St. Francis, J. B. Shaughnessy was associate architect and Alfonso Iannelli of Chicago was collaborating artist.

"Most of us today enjoy a standard of housing at least as good as did the very wealthiest families only a few score years ago. If this is so, who deserves the credit? This advance has been an unparalleled contribution by the building industry--architects, engineers, and manufacturers--to our nations basic welfare. Food, clothing, and shelter--the essential three. Of these, in the last, alone, has the nation shown the greatest progress. The building industry has been so frequently characterized as backward, inefficient and unprogressive that sometimes even we, who should know better, accept it as a complete statement of fact. Instead, we should remember how far building has come; we should take deserved pride in this progress; and we should glory that we are in a profession that had a part in it."

Norman J. Schlossman, F. A. I. A.

83rd Convention

In Chicago last month the American Institute of Architects held its annual convention. With the members and their guests, there were approximately 2500 attending the convention, the largest assembled body in the history of the Institute. From the Kansas City Chapter:

Joseph B. Shaughnessy
John T. Murphy
Lloyd Roark
Frank R. Slezak
Dwight Brown
Robert S. Everett

Chester Dean
Clarence Kivett
Ralph Myers
David B. Runnells
John Schaper
Leslie B. Simpson

Our Mr. Shaughnessy was jarred into reality in the early days of the convention when he learned he was a member of the all-powerful Resolutions Committee. Under the proficient needling of James Gamblers of Brooklyn, Mr. Shaughnessy performed a yeoman service, arising each morning of the convention at 6 a. m. to attend a 7:30 breakfast meeting.

KEYNOTE

"The responsibilities of an architect are not only highly technical and professional but aesthetical, and the product of his work has a very direct effect on the physical, mental and social well-being of his civilization at all levels." This was the message of John E. Burchard, Dean of Humanities, Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the keynote address of the A. I. A. Convention.

Highly optimistic and encouraging, Dean Burchard laid great stress on the direct bearing the architect's work can have on the life of his fellow man. Said our delegates, "The outstanding address of the convention."

ELECTIONS

The election of officers produced no outstanding contests. Our Central States delegates produced perhaps the most spirited election, with Leonard Bailey of the Oklahoma Chapter winning the post as regional director of our district over Thomas Fitzpatrick of Iowa. The new national officers:

President, Glen Stanton
First Vice-President, Kenneth E. Wischmeyer
Second Vice-President, Norman J. Schlossman
Secretary, Clair W. Ditchy
Treasurer, Maurice Sullivan

Lectures and Seminars

"The Architecture of Civil Defense" was the theme for the first afternoon's series of talks. "The Why of Civil Defense," "Building Against Blast," "Group Shelters," "Protective Construction Here and Now," and "What Communities Expect of Architects in Their Civil Defense Programs," were all very learned and well prepared talks, but failed to lead to any concrete recommendations.

Our delegates felt that perhaps the convention was over-programmed in that it was a physical impossibility for a single delegate to cover all of the seminars and activities, and even a difficult task for several delegates to cover. However, in a composite report, they recommend the following as the best of the lot:

--Edwin S. Burdell, Director, The Cooper Union, New York City, gave his progress report on the Survey Commission's work. Not yet completed, the

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survey, with charts and graphs, illustrated many of the trends relating to the forming of the present educational system and the reactions of the profession to the various registration processes throughout the country. The survey, which normally could have been quite dry, was informative and entertaining. Undoubtedly the profession can look forward to a very comprehensive and complete report of this commission's work, and it may well represent the trend of architectural practice in the last half of our century.

--"Relationship of Method and Practice in Education," a talk by Elliot Dunlap Smith, Provost, Carnegie Institute of Technology contrasted the new approach in basic education to the present accepted system of memorizing.

--William W. Wurster made a highly informative illustrated lecture on the work of Bernard R. Maybeck, the 1951 Gold Medalist. He expressed the great pleasure that he has always derived from studying and observing the work of the elderly man who was probably far ahead of his time. Incidentally, Mr. Wurster lives in one of Mr. Maybeck's houses.

--Kansas City played a lead in the "Architects Role in Urban Redevelopment". This lecture, of course, dealt mainly with city planning, and several illustrations showed the work that is being done by the City Planning Department of Kansas City.

--Members of the N. A. H. B. and the A. I. A. were highly optimistic about the progress that is being made by their joint committees. In a round table discussion, they offered several instances where architect-builder relationships had proved satisfactory to both elements. The work of the committees so far has been a matter of defining terms and laying the groundwork for improvement of relations, and as yet, has not defined recommendations or conclusions to pass on to the membership.

Tours

The Chicago Chapter conducted three tours of architectural works in the Chicago Area, on three separate days, approximately four hours each. The first tour consisted of apartment developments, in which the tour visited extremely low-cost projects and super-deluxe luxury projects. There were co-operatively owned projects, publicly subsidized projects, and speculative projects. Perhaps the most interesting and radical was Mies Van der Rohe's 860-880 Lake Shore Drive, which is a steel and glass structure in downtown Chicago. In one of the low-cost projects the delegates saw with their own eyes an 8" brick cavity wall bearing 5 stories!

The second tour was to industrial buildings in the Chicago Area, and none of our delegates attended.

The third tour was the school tour and included work by Childs and Smith, The Saarinsens, and Perkins, Wheeler and Will.

At the Illinois Institute of Technology the tour spent some time with Mies Van der Rohe looking over his models of



880 Lakeshore Drive

buildings which are now under construction in the Chicago Area and are being contemplated for future development, especially the complete layout of the Illinois Institute of Technology. Said our normally very conservative President, "The models were out of this world."

EXHIBITS

For the first time in the history of the Institute's conventions, commercial exhibits were permitted at the convention. Approximately 30 firms exhibited their products, after being screened by a committee. The exhibits consisted chiefly of new products for construction or established new adaptations of existing products. Our delegates thought that they were worth while, and hoped that they would be continued.

Board of Directors Report

The Institute's finances are in, perhaps, the best state they have ever been. The income has increased 38% over last year, while the expenditures have increased only 10%. Reason for the increase in income was due principally to the sale of publications and documents by the Institute.

The membership in the Institute is up again. At the present time, there are 8728 members compared to 3000 in 1940. There is now an induction ceremony available for use by the Chapters on new members.

The Board has set a flat charge of \$10.00 per year for national dues of members in the Service, this being merely the cost of administrative expenses and cost of mailing publications to them.

Fellowships

The procedure of nomination of Fellows in the Institute continues to be an enigma to members of our chapter who have attended recent conventions. We are neither able to understand the procedure or clarify the methods of presentation of candidates. The delegates feel it should be a continuing point of research by our Chapter, but are at a loss to know or recommend any method of procedure.

At the Business Meeting

The ammendment concerning the assignment of Corporate Members to chapters within the area they resided and practiced, was of vital concern to our Chapter. This meant that several of our members would have been assigned to the Kansas Chapter. Our Mr. Shaughnessy gained the floor and proceeded to harrass Mr. Walker by trying to educate him on the geography of the West, namely that Kansas City was not wholly within Kansas, etc. Once Mr. Shaughnessy made his position clear, he was quickly backed by a delegation from the Michigan and Minnesota region with a similar problem, and upon a supporting motion of Mr. Schlossman, from Chicago, the motion was tabled, which defeated it in our favor.

PRODUCERS COUNCIL NOTES

Elmer A. Lundberg, A. I. A., addressed the joint meeting of the P. C. and A. I. A. held in May. The Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. was host for the evening.

New officers of K. C. Chapter of the Producers Council elected in June are:	
President	John Rohde, B.D.R. Engineering Co.
Vice-President	S. Ronai, Devoe and Reynolds
Secretary	Knox Brookfield, Truscon Steel Co.
Treasurer	Harry Gaffin, Kawneer Co.

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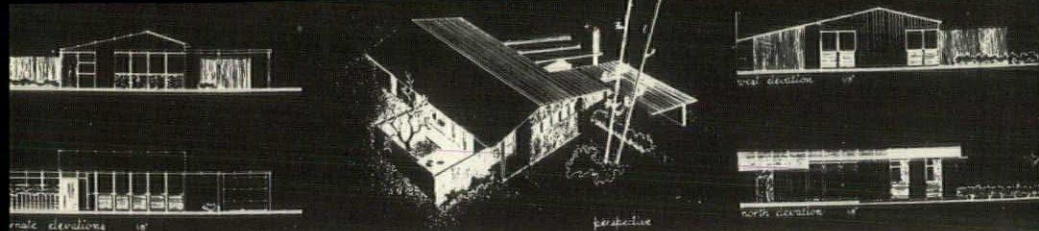
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REPORT OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF ARCHITECTS-HOME BUILDERS COMMITTEE AT THE 83RD CONVENTION

An increased participation of Architects in the house construction field is desirable and attainable if architectural services are promoted among Home Builders and a special fee schedule is developed.

These are the facts:

Homebuilding amounted to 52% of construction last year and 2% of architects participated.

The other 48% of construction had 98% of architects participating.

The Home Builders did one million houses last year, and if we had received only a partial fee of \$100 per house, you can see that the architectural profession would have had \$100,000,000 in fees.

One-third of the houses built last year were ill-designed and poorly constructed and suffer a high rate of depreciation. The other two-thirds quite possibly with benefit of good architectural services would have gained an "appreciation" in value and comfort for their owners.

A Builder will buy a bulldozer if it is going to help him get his job done easier, quicker, cheaper, and better. He will buy architectural services if we demonstrate some of the virtues of a bulldozer. It can be demonstrated that architectural services do not cost the Builder, but that they pay larger dividends; however, few Builders have had the privilege of finding this out, and in this respect we have let the Builder down terribly. He is like any other client, although many of us would like to think otherwise. People, in general, want the best, and the Home Builder is no different.

Extensive experience has demonstrated time and time again that money spent with Architects is the best money invested. For example, Al Balch, a Seattle Builder pointed out that a house for which he spent \$11,000 and paid the architect 10% in 1940 today could be sold for \$40,000, whereas a fellow builder who designed and built his own house suffered a depreciation of value during the same period of cheapening money.

It was urged that a simple contract form be devised and used. Some states require registered architects to do house work, and the usual minimum fee schedules are too high, inasmuch as they are based on individual houses, whereas this market is for repetitive units in group designs.

Kenneth Wischmeyer, First Vice-President of the National A. I. A., pointed out that home building is a practically untouched field which should be a challenge to young architects, where they can be of tremendous service, not only to the general public, but to the Institute itself, by devising means of a greater participation in all construction projects.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A further discussion of this problem will appear in future issues of SKYLINE.

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IF, at the instance of the American Institute of Architects, you found yourself host and guide to a prominent Japanese architect and engineer here

Joseph B. Shaughnessy, president of the Kansas City chapter, had no hesitancy. S. Kojima with Shaughnessy, building a Tokyo, chief of the Kiwi region and manager of the ministry of construction bureau, got a rather intimate

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Skylines P.S.

The associate membership of the Kansas City Chapter A. I. A. is presented a fine opportunity and a large responsibility in the publication of this chapter monthly.

We accept the opportunity with vigor and the responsibility with determination.

The cooperation our president calls for on the lead page is unquestionably needed and we shall expect it without fear of disappointment. We will call upon certain members to contribute material for future issues. These assignments will necessarily go to those who are best qualified to present the story we wish to tell. Unsolicited items are welcome and should be typewritten and given to any member of the SKYLINE committee. When you can illustrate a story with pictures or drawings, do so.

In presenting this first issue we acknowledge the support and help of the Executive Committee and especially:

Frank R. Slezak, who did a great amount of work in securing the advertising which makes this booklet possible;

John T. Murphy, who prepared the mailing list which includes the K. C. Chapter of Producers Council, K. C. public libraries, K. C. Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, and of course the K. C. Chapter A. I. A. membership.

We ask our readers to recognize the firms who are buying advertising: B. D. R. Engineering Company; Chamberlain Company of America;; S. C. McCann Company and Western Blue Print Company. Remember their names and their products; and remember the help they have rendered the Chapter.

SKYLINE, K. C. Chapter A. I. A.
Frank Grimaldi, Chairman.

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- By-Laws: Herbert C. Anset, Chairman, Tel: VI. 5518
Edward N. Tanner M. Dwight Brown
William R. Bovard
- Program: David B. Runnells, Chairman, Tel: LO. 1411
John T. Murphy Ralph Myers
Frank R. Slezak Leslie William Cory
- Fees: Robert S. Everitt, Chairman, Tel: VI. 6931
Clarence Kivett Frank Slezak
I. Lloyd Roark
- Producers Council: Frank R. Slezak, Chairman, Tel: GR. 0321
William B. Fullerton Luther O. Willis
- Skylines: Frank Grimaldi, Chairman, Tel: JE. 2248
John R. Adams Richard Johnson
James R. Baker Gene E. Lefebvre
Daniel Boone Arthur E. Pearson,
Leslie William Cory Herman Sharhag
Evans Folger
- Corporate Members Collaborating:
John T. Murphy I. Lloyd Roark
Frank R. Slezak

