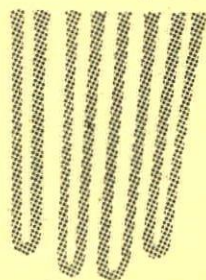
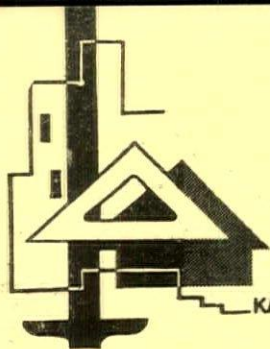


# Skylines



*Kansas City, Missouri 11 - 53*





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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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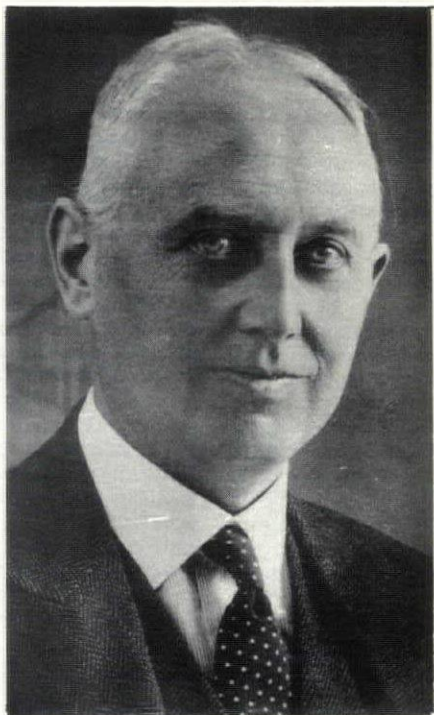
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# Skylines

Volume 3 Number 11, November 1953



**WILLEM M. DUDOK**

**ARCHITECT**

Guest Speaker

Chapter Meeting

Tuesday November 17

(Details in regular  
meeting notice.)

Our Chapter will enjoy a rare privilege when the internationally-known W. M. Dudok speaks here this month.

Before beginning his ten-week lecture tour of the U. S., Dudok wrote:

"I intend to speak about my own practice and experience as an architect and a town planner, with ample illustrations of buildings and designs, showing how I found my own way throughout the years. I will be happy if these efforts will raise, if not some sympathy, at least enough interest in my personality as a designer to follow me in the explanation of my conception of modernism. I hope to conclude by an exposition of my theories about architecture: my ideas about construction, functionalism and certain other values which, to my opinion, are even more essential. "I am afraid that this will be enough for one lecture, so that I cannot deal with another most important aspect of architecture: the relation between the building and its surroundings. That is, generally speaking, the field of town planning. So I am preparing a second lecture, in which I defend among other things the idea that town planning needs three dimensions. However, you will understand that the first lecture is essential by way of introduction."

George Beal, Head of the Department of Architecture at Kansas University, has invited our Chapter to attend Dudok's lecture at Lawrence on Monday November 16.

The KU lecture will be at 3:00 P.M., and all attending are invited to a dinner at 6:00 P.M. on the campus. Dinner tickets are \$1.50. Phone reservations by Friday, November 13, to JA 4439.



NOVEMBER - W. M. Dudok at KU  
Monday the 16th  
at 3:00 P. M.  
"TO LIVE AND TO BUILD"

W. M. Dudok here  
Tuesday the 17th  
at the Chapter meeting  
"THOUGHTS ON TOWN PLANNING"

Wednesday the 25th  
Producers Council Clinic  
Topic: Doors and Hardware

**ATA**

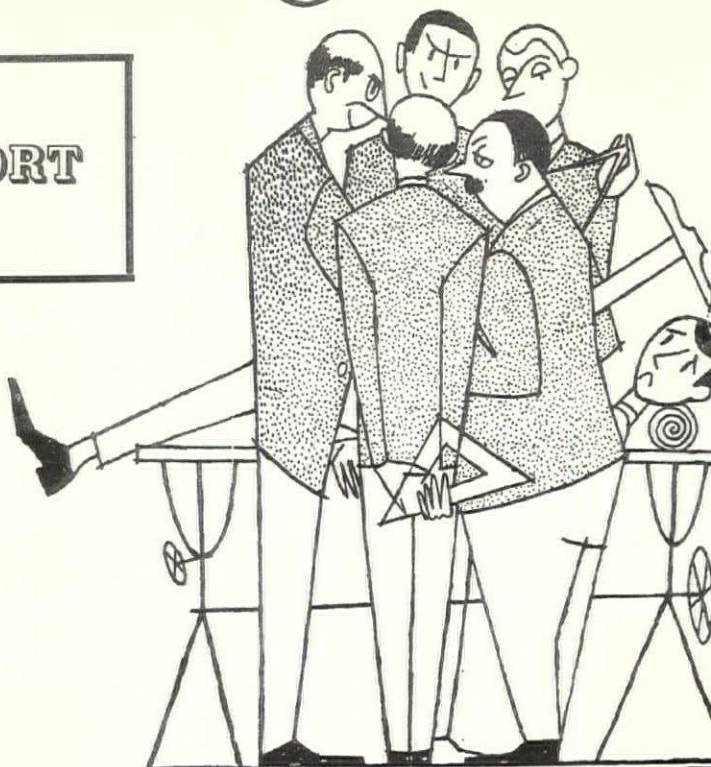
# calendar

DECEMBER - Monday the 7th  
Buckminster Fuller  
Lecture at KU  
followed by dinner on campus.  
Those who missed the lecture of the  
fascinating Mr. Fuller here October 24,  
have an opportunity to hear him at  
Kansas University December 7.  
The talk will be given from 2:00 to  
4:00 P. M. at Strong Auditorium and  
will be followed by dinner in the evening.  
Those planning to stay for the dinner  
should phone reservations to JA 4439 by  
Friday, December 4.  
Mark this on your calendar now!

Monday the 21st  
Producers' Council Christmas Party  
WIVES INVITED.

Tuesday the 22nd  
Chapter Meeting  
COMMITTEE REPORTS  
AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

## REPORT



## HOME BUILDING

This Fall in conjunction with the University of Kansas Extension Service, the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Home Builders association and the Art Institute our Chapter has sponsored for the fourth time a lecture series on home building.

Participation by the home builders was inaugurated this year, after our Chapter had carried the load in the past. It was obvious that they should become an integral part of this program. Initial action was taken thru a joint committee under the co-chairmanship of Clarence Kivett, AIA, and Larry Winn, Jr., of the home builders.

This year's course was given immediately following National Home Week. This was thought to be the best time for the course in order that those participating could plan to build or buy a home in the Spring.

The enrollment of 169 far exceeded previous courses offered, and plans already are under way to expand and improve the series for next year. Headlining this operation was John C. Monroe, Jr., of our Chapter who coordinated the entire program and moderated each meeting. Ten speakers participated in the six sessions, including three architects, four members of the home builders, a landscape architect, and two mechanical equipment experts.

Joint action by the local chapters of AIA and NAHB hereby corresponds with national efforts to develop closer co-operation between the members of these groups.

Vitally important in "Operation Homebuilding" were Mr. E. S. Avison of the KU Extension and Dr. J. B. Smith of the Art Institute where the courses were held.





Organizers of "OPERATION HOMEBUILDING" discuss the program. L to R: Edward S. Avison, Larry Winn, Jr., John C. Monroe, Jr., Gene Kroh and Dr. J. B. Smith

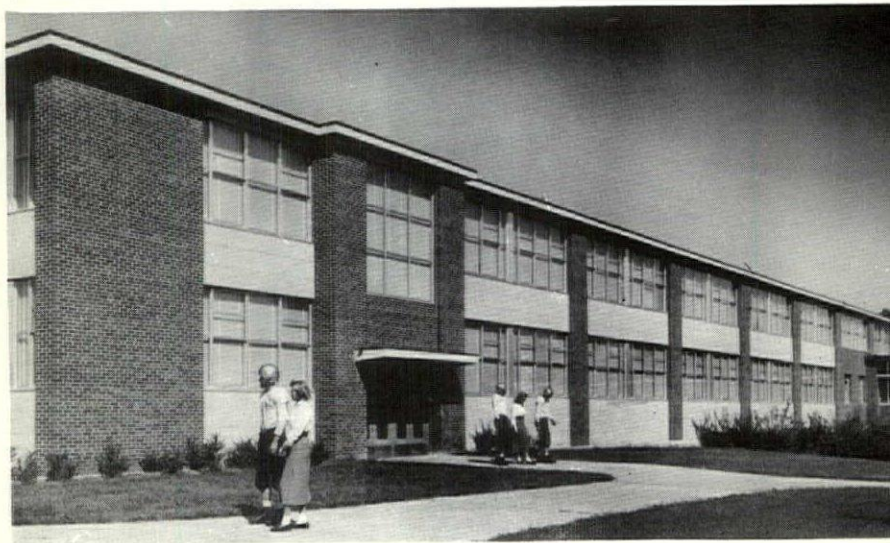


Table top displays at the construction-materials meeting were staged by Kansas City Chapter of Producers' Council. Here Sterling Ronai gives them the pitch on the paint situation. Members of the "Operation" class in groups of 15 made seven-minute stops at ten such booths. Ed Hopkins of Minneapolis Honeywell was chairman of the table top display program.



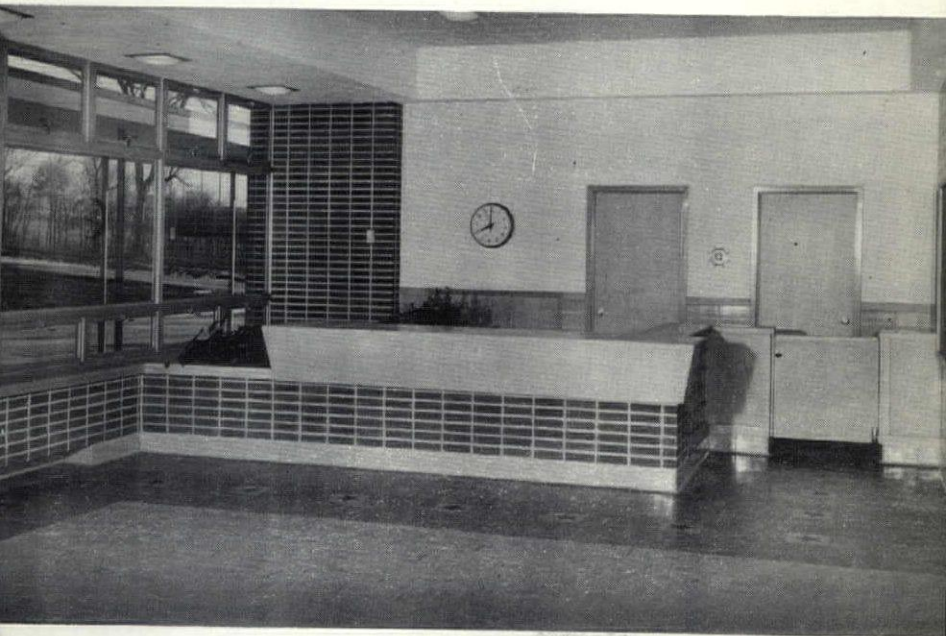
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# EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL STATES DISTRICT

## *Report*

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
OCTOBER 15, 16 AND 17, 1953 AT HOTEL SAVERY IN DES MOINES  
SPONSORED BY THE IOWA CHAPTER IN ITS FIFTIETH YEAR

Success was achieved by the Iowa Chapter at the 8th Central States Conference by the attainment of two chief essentials -- a good program and good attendance.

Comments on the ambitious program and other aspects are contained in accompanying reports.

Registration totaled 422, including 104 corporate members and 91 ladies.

The Central States Regional Council was established and by-laws adopted. Two men from the executive board of each chapter and the district director comprise the council.

Although its function is to serve in an advisory capacity only, the council immediately proved its importance in selecting a nominee to succeed Leonard Bailey as District Director next year. Ray Voskamp of Kansas City, Burdette Higgins of Des Moines and Frank Mc Nett of Grand Island were nominated from the floor. In executive session, the council interviewed the candidates individually, and resolved that Mc Nett should be nominated. He was unanimously approved by the conference and will be presented to the Boston convention next year as our region's nominee for director.

The prestige of the regional meeting continues to grow.

Next year the Kansas Chapter will be host at WICHITA with Tom Peddie as conference chairman.





Top level AIA-ERS pose during cocktail hour: District Director Leonard Bailey, Ken Wischmeyer of St. Louis, President Clair Ditchy and Vice-President Howard Eichenbaum.

This is the only time the Kansas City group was all in one place. Top Row: John Murphy, Alden Krider, John Monroe, Frank Grimaldi, Luther Willis. Front: Joe Shaughnessy, Bob Baker, Bob Earnheart, Peter Keleti, Ralph Myers, Lloyd Roark, Frank Slezak, Harold Casey, Bill Simon, Don Hollis.





# EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL STATES DISTRICT

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## *Comment*

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BY FRANK R. SLEZAK

I thought the Des Moines Conference was a decided success. It perhaps was not quite as glamorous as ours; but considering the Iowa Chapter's membership, it was a good job. And if for nothing else, the Des Moines Conference will be remembered because at long last the Regional Council came into being there.

The seminars were above average. I enjoyed them all and thought some of them were very outstanding. The theme of the seminars was timely and held most of the delegates' interest. In my opinion Philip Johnson, Anson Campbell and Nick Boratynski, in that order, were the best speakers. Johnson's talk was short, meaty, down to earth and made you want for more after he was finished. On the other side of the fence, I thought that the poorest speakers were Ditchy and Bannister, in that order. Ditchy's canned talk was monotonous and unenlightening. Bannister pulled the cardinal error of reciting an endless stream of figures (70 minutes) to prove that the profession was in a mess. We all knew this before and didn't have to be hit over the head with it.

The program for the wives was a good one and I believe all those that participated in this phase of the conference thought it was just about the right quantity and type of activities to attempt.

The architectural exhibits were well handled and interesting to view. There is one thing that I did object to in the conference and that was "Operation Hotfoot" and the excessive advance billing given the main attraction. It seemed that even during the seminar sessions this subject had to be touched on every time. I believe that this hurt the general tone and class of the conference and undoubtedly cost them some attendance. I sincerely hope that future conferences do not consider it necessary to have a similar attraction. The regional conferences have advanced to the point where they are overshadowing the national conventions and I believe this is a good thing. We meet people that seem more like ourselves. We talk on subjects that are closer to us, and without a doubt, the seminars are better. The Octagon can have their national convention, but I'll take our regional conference. See you in Wichita.

BY PETER KELETI

The highlights of the convention for me were Joe Bohlen's and Philip Johnson's talk. Generally speaking there was a tension between the "do everything to please the client" attitude and Philip Johnson's message "remember architecture and if needs be forget the client." This tension was resolved in my mind by a visit to Saarinen's Drake University Dormitories. One can both solve the problems of the client and create great architecture at the same time. This was to me the silent yet evident message of the convention.

BY JOHN T. MURPHY

A good conference. Well balanced as to Regional business, informational seminars and social activities.  
A definite reflection of the growth and vitality of the institute, especially at the Chapter and Regional levels.  
An indication that the time has already come when the District conventions are more important to the individual members than is the National. Problems are discussed more openly. Programs are as good, if not better, than the National. The more relaxed atmosphere leads to an honest exchange of ideas and creates a greater attitude of respect for the integrity of Professional associates. A sense of something important missing without the active participation of the Producers Council, and their fine exhibits, such as they had at our Kansas City Meeting.  
A feeling of pride in the Kansas City Chapter for their fine leadership in the cause of promoting and having nominated a strong man as our next Regional Director.  
The friendly atmosphere of the Des Moines Art Center which makes a person feel truly welcome to come and enjoy their excellent collection.  
The rather exciting experience of seeing more of the work of Eero Saarinen in the Drake University dormitories.  
The most amusing broadcast of informal interviews with the wives of several of our Members.  
The Iowa Chapter should be congratulated for their fine work in behalf of the Central States District.

BY BOB BAKER

The members of the Iowa chapter deserve a fine round of applause for the time and effort that was obviously devoted to assure a successful convention. The subject of each seminar was well integrated with the general theme and each speaker gave his best. However, it seemed to me that each speaker and each panel discussion either strayed from the given subject or fell short of the point to be made. Each seemed eager to return to the more common subjects of architecture as if the general theme was unfamiliar territory which none cared to explore.  
I was left with this questioning thought. In our search for a new architecture with which we can express modern materials, modern methods, and modern civilization, we have slighted the basic fundamental, our client, the modern human being. If all those in attendance carried away a similar thought, then the convention was an overwhelming success.



# Argue Credit For Gains by Architecture

By George Shane.

Whether architecture, despite its new functional appearances, has made any real progress since the horse and buggy days of 1900, was a question dealt with Friday in a panel discussion of laymen and architects.

There has been progress, the group agreed, but the question remained on whether architects, clients or inventors of new materials and gadgets deserve the credit.

## Raises Question.

Three architects, a minister, a businessman, and a school board member discussed the progress question at the afternoon session of the eighth annual conference of the central states district of the American Institute of Architects at Hotel Savery.

A question of whether the modern church building "is God's church" was advanced as the meeting opened by the Rev. Phineas M. Casady, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal church in Des Moines.

## "God's Church."

"This is sometimes called an age of individuality," he said. "And when I am shown a modern church with all the comforts of home and all the angles of geometry, I can agree that church architecture is expressing this characteristic of individuality. It may be obvious and well advertised that this is, say, a Frank Lloyd Wright church, but the question in my mind is whether it is God's church.

"Whatever his genius, Frank Lloyd Wright is a poor substitute. A church building must repeat to all who approach it the words of Jacob 'surely this is the house of God.'"

Arthur Sanford, builder and operator of commercial buildings and apartment houses in Sioux City and Des Moines, said "great progress has been made" but questioned whether the architects or scientists and technicians who have invented the machines and materials they use deserve credit. He cited, as an example, the scientific equipment and its arrangement in diagnostic clinics at Rochester, Minn.

"Can you credit architects for that?" he asked.

Des Moines Register  
Sat., Oct. 17, 1953

## Undue Pressure.

The artist has something in the functioning of an architect," the Rev. Mr. Casady said, "and if engineers arranged the clinics the results would frighten small children, and the patients, too."

Undue pressure often is brought on architects by school boards, in school planning, said L. L. Daubert, member of the school board, and an engineering firm official.

"I think it must be recognized that many of the questionable items placed in a school building are not necessarily because of a desire on the part of the architect to incorporate these features in his design," Daubert said.

"It is done," he continued, "because of the insistence of the school board and administration. The architect at times is forced to close his eyes to the suggestions and proceed as cautiously as possible."

"A number of school boards fail to give an architect a free hand in the designing of schools and selection of the materials used in the design."

## Outdated Curbs.

Frank Latenser, Omaha, Neb., architect specializing in school buildings, said out-dated restrictions on school building have been abolished and today architects may plan on the basis of "performance rather than specifications."

Progress is being made, he said, but added that "it takes a little time to perfect freedom after the chains are dropped."

Raymond L. Vaskamp, Kansas City, Mo., told of advances in commercial buildings. He said requirements of modern merchandising had encouraged progressive developments and said buildings no longer are "put up as a monument to the president of the company."

Kenneth Wischmeyer, St. Louis, Mo., third architect on the panel and experienced in church design, told of the "amazing" progress church bodies are making in selecting contemporary design for churches and religious buildings. He cited as an example large church building projects in Texas which are assigned to the Saarinen firm of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., designer of the Des Moines Art Center.



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# EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL STATES DISTRICT

## *Photos*



Kansas Citizens at Des Moines: Mrs. Shaughnessy, Mrs. Willis, John Monroe, Mrs. Baker, Bob Baker and Luther Willis.



Picnic at the Art Center. Foreground: John Brooks, Turpin Bannister and Philip Johnson.





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# in the news

BOB SAVAGE OF DES MOINES furnished the bulk of the pictures we are using in this issue in reporting the 8th Central States Conference. Jim Kelly of the Midwest Contractor took the shot at the top of page 9. Ben Applegate of St. Louis, using Joe Shaughnessy's Speed Graphic, took the picture of the KC group shown on page 9.

JOHN MONROE ANNOUNCES the opening of his office at 429 Scarritt Building, telephone HA 7607. What with giving many hours to the production of "Operation Homebuilding" during the past six weeks, and the establishment of his own practice, John has been very, very busy of late.

KC PRODUCERS COUNCIL CHAPTER President Sterling Ronai reports national interest in the local Clinic Program. At a meeting of council chapter presidents held recently in Pittsburgh, he gave a report on the progress of the clinics here in Kansas City.

Incidentally, the idea of the clinics is catching on, and the development of the programs promises increased attendance. Last month the paint theme was projected into an actual remodeling of a workshop room at Research Hospital with meetings held within this room.

While we're on the subject of the Producers, be sure and check that CHRISTMAS PARTY date. It promises to be a bigger and better repeat of the terrific affairs held in the past. This year it will be held at Town Hall at 4011 Troost where there'll be better accommodations for the usual overflowing attendance. That's Monday night, December 21. Everybody invited. Bring your wife.

# ART USES IN BUILDING

SCULPTOR PRESENTS CASE FOR ADORNMENT.

At Meeting of Architects Alfonso Iannelli Calls for Unity of Forms in Modern Structures.

Architecture and sculpture must grow together gradually if unity in artistic performance is to be achieved in modern building, Alfonso Iannelli, sculptor from Park Ridge, Ill., said last night at a meeting of the Kansas City chapter of the American Institute of Architects. About sixty-five persons attended the meeting at the World War II Memorial building.

Using slides, Iannelli traced building from Gothic to modern times.

## Work Toward One Goal.

"The painter, the sculptor and the architect," Iannelli said, "can all work together with results which would be satisfactory to all.

"In traditional architecture such as Gothic and Greek all the work was programmed, a sort of formula was derived where one art enriched the other. In the past fifty years something has happened to clarify the field for us."

The building engineer has forced his concept of a clean, bare, functional structure on the architect, Iannelli said.

"Now we are beginning to wonder if that is enough," he continued. "The extreme forms of modern art are not the answer. One should not have to make too much of an effort to understand. When I don't understand, I believe that it is just too bad for the artist.

## For Use of Symbols.

"But there are many ways in which building can be improved —by the use of meaningful symbols, sculptured forms, decorations and inventive forms for the buildings themselves.

"Enrichment, graciousness and psychological significance will enter into building again. But there won't be a return to traditional forms."

Iannelli collaborated with Frank Lloyd Wright on the Midway Gardens project. More recently he worked on the St. Xavier church here with Barry Byrne, Chicago architect. At present he is collaborating with Naess & Murphy, Chicago architects, on the Prudential building there.

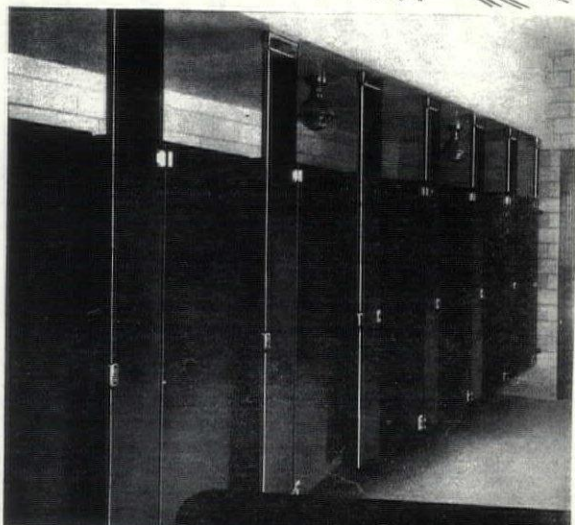
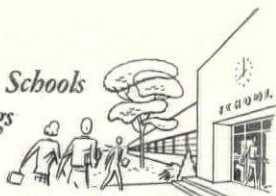
Among the guests were Thomas Hart Benton and members of the Kansas City Art Institute, the University of Kansas City art department and the University of Kansas architecture department.

THE KANSAS CITY TIMES,

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1953.



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