Skylines



JANUARY 1954



SKYLINES

Published monthly by the Kansas City Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

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Skylines

Volume 4 Number 1 January 1954

CHAPTER MEETING

TUESDAY JANUARY 19

Joint meeting with the Illuminating Engineering Society with Mr H. A. Williams of Rohm & Haas Company as guest speaker. His talk 'Acrylic Plastics for Illumination' will trace the development of plastics in illumination to the era of luminous ceilings.

Consult regular meeting notice for further details. Make reservations early. Plan to be prompt for the year's first business meeting.



january calendar AIA

MONDAY THE 11th...Mo-Kan Concrete Products Association meeting...Chapter members invited to dinner and talk by C. A. 'Tom' Sirrine, Detroit Architect and masonry expert.

TUESDAY THE 19th...Chapter meeting...See preceding page.

WEDNESDAY THE 27th...Producers Council Clinic...
Subject: INSULATION...Participating Members:
Zonolite Company
Armstrong Cork Company
Celotex Corporation
Johns-Manville Sales Corp.
Owens-Corning Fiberglas Company
Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company
Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company
Chamberlin Company of America
Reynolds Metals Company
Philip Carey Mfg. Company

Time: 7:30 P. M.

Place: Devoe Paint Company, 200 Southwest Boulevard.

EVERY MONDAY AT 10:20 P.M....Watch WHB-TV, Channel 9, for architects discussing 'Space for Living.'



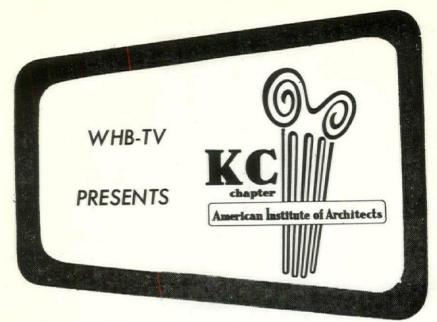
McNETT

Named at the Des Moines Conference last October to be District Director of the Central States Region AIA is Frank N. McNett of Grand Island, Nebraska.

He has practiced in Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming and Iowa during the past 20 years.

A top man in Nebraska architectural organizations, many Kansas City Architects remember McNett's active part in the highly successful 1950 AIA Conference at Omaha. At the national level he has served on the vital 'Chapter affairs' and Public Relations Committees.

The election for directorship for a three-year term will be held at the Boston Convention this year.



architects discussing

SPACE FOR LIVING

CHANNEL NINE MONDAY EVENINGS AT 10:20

In mid-December WHB-TV offered ten minutes of free time to our chapter for a public service program. Under the guidance of Public Relations Chairman Clarence Kivett, immediate acceptance of this excellent opportunity and procedure in programming was worked out during Christmas week.

Consideration was given to a film program but WHB preferred the personal appearance of architects in a discussion-type program under the 'People's Platform' format and sub-titled 'Space for Living.' Walter Burks is the program moderator. On the first program January 28, Lloyd Roark and William Simon told of the local and national AIA organization and outlined the 13-week series.

ON THE FACING PAGE IS A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF PERSONNEL AND SUBJECT MATTER.

Our Chapter is honored and delighted to acept the generous offer of WHB-TV to participate in a public service program. Chapter members are urged to contribute in whatever way they can by offering constructive comment to the men who are giving their time to this fascinating P-R project.

- 1. Dec. 28 Roark & Simon - Introduction 2 Jan 4 Myers - The Physiology of Shelter - the influence of the home on the emotional well-being of the family. 3. Jan. 11 Myers - Neighborhood and Urban design - the relation of the whole to the dwelling unit. 4. Jan. 18 Mackie - Regional qualities in Residential Design - where some of the basic forms come from and their use or misuse Mackie - The Family Unit - its changing nature, mobility, 5. Jan. 25 social structure. Feb. 1 Roark - Space for Living - as the relation of a person with his needs, etc. Voskamp - Heating - thermal environment - unending 7. Feb. 8 struggle to master climate - 'Home is where the heat is'. Feb. 15 8. Voskamp - Atmosphere - (sanitation) smoke, smells, dust, smog. Problems of outdoor atmosphere and contamination from indoor living. 9. Feb. 22 Neville - Light - daylight - how much or how little - reflection, value, contrasts, etc. Neville - Sound - control, effects. Importance of zoning 10. Mar. 1 in dwellings, radio, phonographs, outside noises, etc.
- Mar. 15 Brown Safety-hazards, preventitive measures, planning, electrical.

Brown -Color - function, taste. Psychology, value, theory

11.

Mar. 8

only.

Mar. 22 Murphy - Enclosure - filter betwen exterior and interior environments rather than a simple barrier.

CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS show Bill Simon moving from Treasurer to President: Lloyd Roark becoming a 3-year Director; Frank Slezak being re-elected Vice-President. New men on the Executive Committee are Secretary Don Hollis and Treasurer Bob Everitt.

Committee assignments are being worked up by President Simon and the Board. Members are encouraged to speak up inregard to positions desired in the vital committee structure. Offer your services now.

> KANSAS UNIVERSITY EXTENSION asks us to remind all architects of the Conference on Buildings Types to be held March 2 and 3.

> Schools is the topic this year. A panel top-flight speakers will present the program. Every firm with any school work should be represented. A maximum attendance for this first Conference will assure good talent for future programs.

INFORMATIVE is probably the best word to describe Fred Fitzsimmons's appearance on our December program. After carefully describing the complicated rush-rush system of publishing newspapers nowadays, the Star's Real Estate |Editor took on all questions from the floor. It proved to be a most interesting meeting and a logical method of analyzing the Public Relations potential of the newspaper story.

> FIGURING YOUR INCOME TAX is a KU Extension course being offered in a six-meeting lecture course beginning Jan uary 19 and continuing on succeeding Tuesdays. Enrollmen fee is \$10.00 and the meeting place is the KU Medical Cen ter 39th & Rainbow, Kansas City, Kansas. Paul Jenree, At torney at Law, is the instructor. The course is not for lawyer or tax accountants, but rather for wage-earners, profession al & small-business people.

For information, Call KE 1538.

in the news

REYNOLDS ALUMINUM, sponsor of the Mr. Peepers TV program gave architects a nice plug on their December 27 program on NBC. 'Consult an Architect,' was the advice of announcer Rex Marshall. Architects, he said, are the people to see if you're planning a house or a building of any kind.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY staged by the Producers' Council was tremendous, as usual. Once again the affair occured on the date of the season's first big snow storm. Traffic was jammed all over town and surrounding counties, and also at the bar at the party. The spacious Town Hall proved an ideal locale, and the added feature of music and dancing was very popular.

HAROLD D. HAUF, new Director of the Department of Public and Professional Relations at the Octagon, is well remembered from his visit to our Chapter a few years ago when he was editor of Architectural Record. He possesses an excellent background and training for the important post he is assuming with the AIA. In addition to his writing and editing experience, he has maintained private practice, done eaching and research. He has been closely associated with fale University over a period of years.

1953 committee REPORTS offering review and recommendations

PUBLIC RELATIONS

CLARENCE KIVETT, CHAIRMAN

About four general meetings were held by the committee.

- Distributed to local radio stations and TV studios, as well as the newspapers the 'Facts Package', the brochure prepared and furnished by the Ketchum Organization.
- Much discussion and work has been done upon a proposed TV program
 for the Kansas City Chapter. One general presentation was made of the
 program before a Chapter meeting, and although it is a most complex
 undertaking it is hoped that success in this field may be achieved in the
 near future.
- The Committee worked very closely with the 'Home Builders' Association and other participants on the publicity in connection with the joint program of 'Operation Home Building'.
- 4. The Committee is trying to get started on a number of projects including re-activation of the speakers bureau, a weekly column in The Star devoted to building design and construction and other similar matters.
- The Committee wishes to thank the general membership for their invaluable aid on many facets of the program; it is one that to be well done takes a large amount of time and patience.

PROGRAM

LOUIS H. GEIS, CHAIRMAN

The 1953 Program Committee began its functions after the January meeting of this year. This program for the January meeting was arranged by the previous committee and consisted of a humorous talk by Homer Clemens entitled 'Schools of America in the Making'. Also, two members of the firm of Altman and Singleton explained to the Chapter the details of their group insurance plan, as designed for Architects and other professional persons.

Our own Mr. Tanner gave us a most interesting review of his trip to Europe at the February meeting.

Due to a misunderstanding our March program had to be revised at the last moment, and the services of Dr. Scott E. Bedford were secured. Dr. Bedford is a traveller who makes his livelihood as a speaker to clubs and other organizations. He provided us with a program which, altho interesting was not quite what we had anticipated. At this meeting we had as our guests the local Landscape Architects and several persons from the City Planning Commission, as it was assumed that the discourse on the beautification of cities which we had planned would be interesting to these people as well as to ourselves.

The April meeting was reserved for the Medal Awards, and is covered by a report from that committee.

In May, Kenneth Welch, a Fellow in the A.I.A., and a noted authority on the design of shopping centers, presented the Chapter with a very interesting illustrated lecture which reflected some of his problems and experiences in the field of urban development relative to shopping areas.

The June program which took place at the same time as our National Convention in Seattle featured Mr. H. L. Logan, Vice-President in charge of research at the Holophane Company Inc. His discourse was on the architectural considerations as related to lighting problems.

There was no meeting or program during the month of July.

The Associates and Junior Associates arranged a whale of a party in August, at the Saddle and Sirloin Club, which some of us will probably remember more than others.

The September programing was accomplished within the Chapter, without outside assistance. A panel consisting of four members of the Chapter discussed public relations at the Chapter level. This was a most interesting meeting.

Alphonso lanelli, Sculptor, from Park Ridge, Illinois, provided the chapter with a very interesting illustrated discourse which included several of his outstanding works and provided a lively discussion afterwards to make our October program an outstanding event.

The last meeting of the year, prior to the election of officers, provided the Program Committee the opportunity to climax its years' work with a colossal conglomeration of organized confusion—they did not fail. Mr. Dudock was well received by the Chapter and its guests, which included local Landscape Architects and personnel from the City Planning Commission. Altho certain elements of planning for Mr. Dudock's arrival and accommodation went somewhat astray, we feel that this program provided us with a very stimulating review of this outstanding personality.

The Chairman wishes to thank the members of the Committee for their splendid cooperation throughout the year, and would certainly be ungrateful if he did not express a special note of thanks and appreciation to Frank Grimaldi for his excellent handling of announcements in the Skylines.

The Committee wishes to suggest that its successors project their program well into the following year--6months if possible. This will provide the new committee with ample time to arrange for speakers and programs in advance. It is suggested that the committee, altho serving from January to December, would find itself with six months of programming already assigned, and its twelve month planning would make it possible for the succeeding committee to have the same advantage.

The 1953 committee is handing over its duties to its successor with a definite program for the first four months of 1954, and is able to turn over to them a file containing considerable potential program sources for the coming year.

MEDAL AWARDS

FRANK R. SLEZAK, CHAIRMAN

The Medal Awards Program was changed somewhat this past year. The Committee feels that the changes were for the best, but of course, it is up to the Chapter to decide this issue. You will remember that the practice of submitting buildings by categories was eliminated, to prevent competition between two buildings in the same category and to avoid the situation of having one or no buildings in a category. Also, you will remember that the Committee eliminated the honorable mention award, because it had created some unfortunate conditions in the past and much unfavorable comment. On this same point, it was felt that the elimination of the honorable mention would encourage the award of more medals than in the past, which would be desirable.

The Committee was fortunate in securing the services of three outstanding architects from outside our Chapter to serve as a jury for the awards. There were approximately 30 buildings submitted, and after the jury had spent a full day considering them all they selected seven projects to receive the medal award. You will recall which buildings they were and the chapter meeting where the medal presentations were made. However, the Committee was very disappointed in the press coverage given the award winners.

The Committee feels that the program should be strengthened in any way possible next year. We note that the St. Louis Chapter had a medal awards program this year for the first time; and from all reports, it was quite successful. They had a very outstanding jury of nationally prominent men and had a more formal awards dinner than we have had. The resulting publicity was in turn greater than ours. We have also, taken note of a somewhat similar program by the Texas Society of Architects; and of course, like everything else in Texas, it is very large and very grand.

We feel that next year's committee should consider the possibility of having actual medals struck for the awards to the winners. This could take some other form, such as a plaque or trophy. Our own chapter, at one time, actually had gold medals, but they have long since ceased to exist. Here, again, we believe that this would add more glamour to the program.

FEES

RAYMOND L. VOSKAMP, CHAIRMAN

The principal meeting of this committee concerned regional matters as referred to us by Mr. Leon B. Senter, Chairman, Committee on Architectural Practice, Central States Region.

The committee, in full attendance, reviewed the documents, Forms Numbers 177 and 177A, as requested. The matter did not require Chapter action, therefore, the suggested rewording of these two documents was mailed to Mr Senter as of October 13, 1953.

In view of the fact that the By-laws will be revised to include the matters of Contract Documents, Fees, Ethics and Procedures and Standardized Accounting and Office Practice under the head of one committee, this committee recommends that the Comparative Recommended Minimum Fees of A.I.A. Chapters, released by the Octagon, be generally reviewed and that this Chapter modify its Minimum Fee Schedule to more nearly approach that of other chapters in other states in our immediate district.

ASSOCIATES AND JUNIOR ASSOCIATES

JAMES E. MANTEL, CHAIRMAN

Meetings were held during the first few months of 1953 about once a quarter with call meetings as required by the approach of special activities.

The primary duty of the Committee followed the path of previous years, the duty of ticket selling at A.I.A. dinner meetings. One duty of the Committee was that of furnishing members with I.D. buttons. These were usually on hand but neglected by most members. A case made by Bill Cory was furnished the Chapter for storage and handling of the I.D. buttons during this year.

Several ideas were suggested for usage this year but not followed up due to lack of funds and conflict with other events. These included a one day golf tournament and picnic and a small homes competition in conjunction with local builders. These are both worthy and should be given further consideration.

The big social event of the year was the 'Une Soiree a la Francaise', the A.I.A. party held at the Saddle and Sirloin Club on August 25th. The publicity was carried by the 'Skylines', by personal contact, and by mail. A total of 124 A.I.A. members and guests attended the dinner and dance. The small band and the publicity made this function one of the best in recent years. Mr. Gentry receives our thanks for his cooperation in scheduling the party at the Saddle and Sirloin Club. The only unpleasant part occurred when we were short a few reservations at the final count. A few people reserved places which the Committee in turn reserved and were billed for when the people didn't show up at the party.

The Committee selected during the year, individuals from the Associate and Junior Associate ranks to be considered for the trips to the National and Regional Conventions. These lists were submitted to the A.I.A. Executive Committee for final selection.

Following are recommendations for the 1954 A.I.A. Associate and Junior Associate Committee:

- Ticket selling duties should be rotated each month to various committee members.
- 2. The party held in the fall should be planned about six months in advance as it was this year. A band will help put the function over and should be again subsidized by the Chapter. Most important of all the recommendations concerning the party would be to find a method to be used in collecting for reservations made and not kept.

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3. A program of short lectures on office practice and legal aspects of Architecture should be presented to the Program Committee of the Chapter. This was presented this year but died a slow, painful death. It should be pursued next year for the benefit of the younger members who are ignorant on many of these matters. The short lecture would be part of the regular monthly program.

 A program of classes to refresh those men taking the State Examination could be arranged several months before the Octo-

ber Examination.

 Since a few members of any Committee always do the work, we recommend a smaller Associate and Junior Associate Committee next year. This would increase efficiency.

The functions of this Committee have been in the interest of the A.I.A. and in the interest of the Associate and Junior Associate members. We hope everyone has been satisfied with the Committee's performance and activities.

PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND RELATION WITH CONSTRUCTION

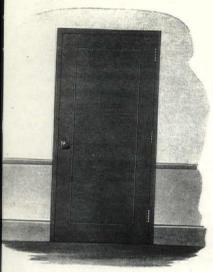
LESLIE B.SIMPSON, CHAIRMAN

The Committee on 'Practice of Architecture and Relation with Construction', has had two contacts with the A.G.C. during the year, both being instigated by the Contractors; however, only one joint-meeting was held.

- During the strike of the Building Crafts this summer, we offered our services for what they might be worth. We were never called to assist.
- 2. In October, the Secretary of the A.G.C. wrote a letter to our President, criticizing Architect's specifications.

A joint-meeting of the A.G.C. and A.I.A. Committees, to discuss this subject was held on November 6, at the University Club. The complaint of the Contractors was that some Architects' specifications contain clauses that make the Contractors responsible for mistakes of Architects in plans & specifications.

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ype M has one full-length flush panel.

DESCRIPTION

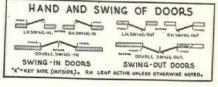
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The Chairman of each committee was to make a memorandum report of the Meeting and try to consolidate a joint-report to our organizations. Your Chairman made such a report to Mr. Edwin Elliott, Chairman of the A.G.C. Committee on November 10, and as of this date we have not heard from him.

The Contractors did suggest that members of the A.I.A. write to the Chairman of this Committee with reference to any complaints they might have to the Contractors, and their methods, and that such a report be made to the joint-committee.

PRODUCERS COUNCIL

JOHN T. MURPHY, CHAIRMAN

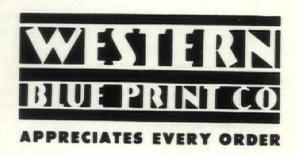
This Committee, as such, has had very little cause for meeting and functioning officially during the past year. This was not caused by any lack of acitivity common to both the Architects and the Producers Council, but rather because there were several joint ventures with other committees carried on during the year which kept our groups well occupied and in close contact rather constantly.

We entered into the preliminary planning for the monthly 'Material Clinic' program which the Producers Council instituted back in March of this year. We regret to report that the architects participation at these clinics is not all that it should be and would like to urge that more of our membership take advantage of these excellent informational sessions during the seven remaining months of the program. The clinics for architects are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

Another valuable contribution by the Producers to a better understanding by the public of the values of professional services for their construction needs was made as part of our just completed lecture series 'Operation Home Building.' Ten members of the Producers Council set up table-top displays at the lecture dealing with construction materials. Members of the 'Operation' class were then divided into groups of fifteen and made seven minute stops at each of the ten booths where architects and Producers Council members then gave to the class detailed information on the particular products. These displays and the presentation of the products were very well received.

This committee feels rather strongly that a continued, close cooperation of this chapter with the local chapter of the Producers Council is most important and of mutual benefit to both organizations in the promotion of better buildings and the best use of materials.

We should like to urge the succeeding committees to greater activity than our own.



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SKYLINES

FRANK GRIMALDI, CHAIRMAN

The process of publishing Skylines, boiled down to the recording of Chapter Committee activity, this year continued in an era of high interest because some of our most important Chapter Committees kept up the very active pace established during the past three or four years.

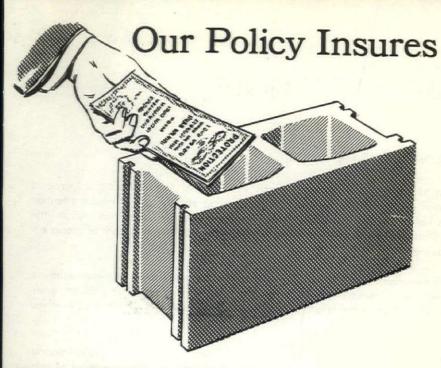
The reports of our individual Chapter Committees show the basis on which Skylines did or did not hold reader interest during the year. We can only reflect the efforts of the Committees and in some measure stimulate their work by publicizing their actions.

With these thoughts in mind we can attribute our readibility this year to the work of these key committees: Public Relations, Medal Awards, Associates and Junior Associates, and Program. Interwoven with these, of course, if the overall activity of the Executive Committee.

In addition to our own Chapter activity, we devoted much space this year to the National Convention at Seattle and the regional conference at Des Moines, attempting to bridge the gap between the far flung aims and actions of the Institute and the individual members here at home.

Public Relations has been our best copy this year. Our Chapter Committee made news all year long -- chiefly thru the sponsorship of two lecture programs on housebuilding. From the national program we borrowed the Factspackage which was published in installments primarily for the benefit of our non-architect readers.

In recent issues we have attempted to loosen up the straight-forward newsstory format by publishing outstanding photographs illustrating the work of Chapter members. We hope to see this feature developed further next year.



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ARCHITECTS NOTE:

(COMMENT BY THE EDITOR)

In accepting the Producers' Council 'Top Banana' Award, I felt great joy and later experienced a feeling of regret. The regretful part is that more attention is not given to the importance of the local Producers' activities and so little effort is expended by architects to realize the potential benefit of closer cooperation.

The award naming me as 'the architect contributing most to better relations between Architects and the Producers' Council' was based on publicity given in SKYLINES to the efforts of the Producers in behalf of the architects—chiefly the Clinic Program.

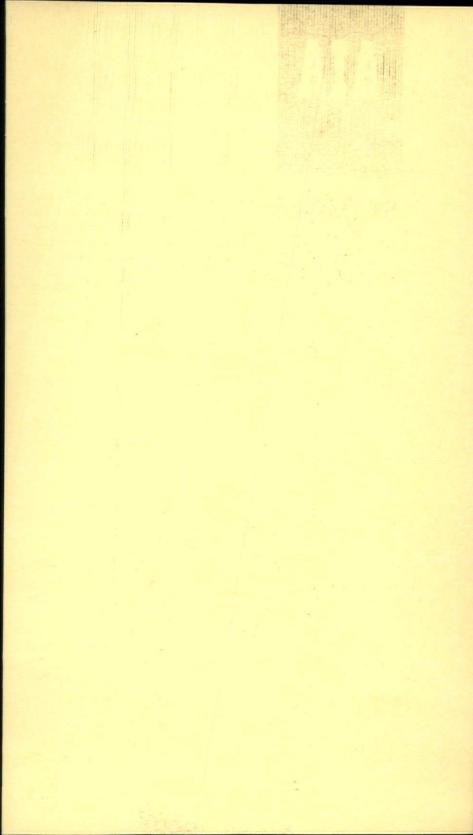
For the Clinic idea the KC Chapter of PC was given the Silver Bowl nationwide award for producing the best ideas in planning and executing an education program for the betterment of construction. Yet, attendance of architects at these clinics has been small.

Since 1922 PC has been a legitimate part of the AIA structure. We have not realized the full advantages to be gained thru intimate exchange of ideas with our allied partners in construction.

Tremendous problems in research and standardization remain to be solved. The increasing complexity of the construction industry challenges the imagination. No one group in the big business of building can survive alone. Teamwork is the only answer.

Thru clinics, meetings, discussions, exchange of ideas, project cooperation, careful experimentation, honest statements of experience and so on—the many organized parts of the industry will benefit.

At the immediate local level we must come closer to other organized groups—the Producers Council, the AGC, NAHB, ASHVE, NSPE, ASCE, IES, Lumber Dealers and other building materials organizations. This is no small problem



AIA . AIA AIA . AIA . AIA . AIA . AIA