



MARCH 1954



SKYLINES

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

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Skylines

Volume 4 Number 3 March 1954

chapter meeting

tuesday

march the sixteenth

will feature

Dr. N. E. Viles of the department of health education & welfare washington dc who will speak on SCHOOL BUILDING NEEDS COSTS AND ECONOMIES. city & state school officials will be guests of the chapter. World War II Memorial Building Linwood & Paseo business session at 5:30 cocktails at 6:15 dinner & program at 7:00

calendar AIA

Although a definite program or calendar has not been established for the 1954 medal awards of the K. C. Chapter A.I.A., members are urger to prepare submissions for a judgment during March. The committee will make their announcement by direct mail in the very near future.

The chapter meeting for March is announced on the preceding page.

A forum on interior decoration for "Those with some previous knowledge of the subject" continuing for six Tuesdays beginning March 23 will I conducted by Sallie Gardiner under the sponsorship of the KU Extension Center. Call KE 1538 for details or write the Center at 39th and Rainbook K. C. K.

The producers council clinic for architects to be held this month announced on page 20.

The Chapter meeting date for April is Tuesday the 20th. The presentation of awards for work completed in 1953 is scheduled for this meeting.

The topic for the April producers council clinic for architects is "me products," and will be held on the 4th Wednesday.

Saturday, May 8th is Missouri Architects Day. The annual meeting of t MSARA will be held at Jefferson City and will feature Architect Phi C. Johnson, Director, Department of Architecture and Design, Museu of Modern Art, New York. General Chairman for the event is K. Chapter Member Dave P. Clark of Columbia.

Watch for the producers council caravan which will stop at the Beller Hotel, Tuesday, May 18th. It's a fabulous traveling products exhibit w 44 participating companies.

"Forces That Shape Architecture" will be the theme of the 86th Anni Convention at Boston, June 15-19. Two thousand architects are expect to attend. Headquarters will be at the Statler Hotel.

Seven monhts off, but not too far ahead to plan for, is the 9th conference of the central states district A.I.A. to be held at Wichita. The dates of October 21, 22, 23.

Encircle the Fridays of March on your calendar . . . a reminder to wa the K. C. Chapter A.I.A. TV Program on WHB, channel nine. It's at 7 each Friday night and the current series ends March 26.

INTERIM REPORT OF JOINT A.G.C. AND A.I.A. COMMITTEE

During the past three months the joint A.G.C. and A.I.A. Committee had two meetings to discuss problems of mutual interest, and it is intended to have regular monthly meetings in the future. The discussions have dealt with matters of a general and impersonal nature, and it is the desire of all members that these discussions will lead to a better understanding between contractors and architects on problems of mutual interest. If you as an architect have a matter that you feel this committee should discuss, we would, of course, be glad to hear from you. If the item is of general interest and the committee feels the building industry as a whole would benefit by discussing it, we will be willing to tackle it. The Committee intends to report to you from time to time, and you will find below a joint intertationary in a subject or problems of the end of the subject of th

statement issued to contractors and architects alike. Others will follow. The statement merely states the problem, discusses it briefly and offers recommendations for a solution.

JOINT STATEMENT OF A.G.C. AND A.I.A. COMMITTEE CONCERNING CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY Suppose that a contractor in reading the special conditions of an architect's specification finds a paragraph such as this:

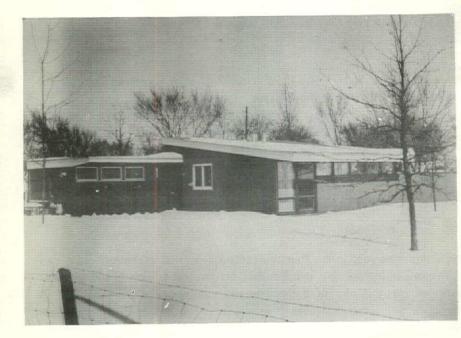
"SPECIAL NOTE: The Contractor shall after receiving the plans and specifications examine them carefully for errors, omissions and inconsistencies. If any such item is discovered, he shall immediately notify the architect. If after seven (7) days no such notification is received by the architect, the plans and specifications shall be assumed to be free of such errors, etc., and the contractor shall be responsible for any such errors discovered thereafter and will be required to correct such items on the job at his expense."

The Committee recognizes that the contractors must assume a great deal of responsibility on any project; but on the other hand, the architect being an integral part of the operation must also rightfully assume his air share of the responsibility. It would seem that if the above paragraph were a part of a contract, the general contractor would virtually become a plan checker and would be getting into the architectural business, which, of course, the architects or contractors would not appreciate. In addition this, it is very questionable that such responsibility could be forced on a contractor should a dispute arise and court action result.

The Committee concluded that it was certainly a moral obligation of the contractor to promptly report to the architect any errors that he discovers, either during the bidding or during the course of construction. On the other hand, the Committee felt that the correctness and accuracy of the plans and specifications belonged to the architect and recommended that the use of a paragraph in the specifications to shift this responsibility should be avoided.

> Edwin A. Elliot Frank R. Slezak Co-Chairmen

home of architect Wm. Conrad 6120 West Sixty-Ninth Overland Park, Kansas

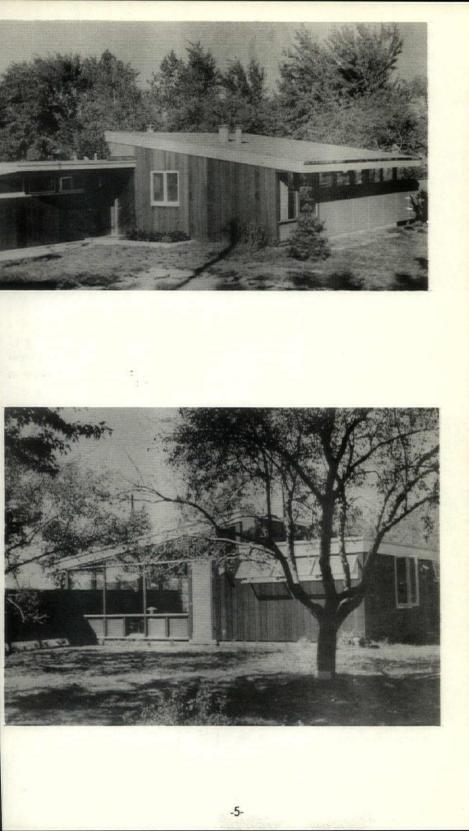


ABOVE: Winter view from street, looking NE.

FACING PAGE, TOP-Entrance is under flat roof overhang; double window is for kitchen; street (South) side of living room has exterior plywood which continues East as fence providing privacy for terrace.

BOTTOM—Bedroom wing has flat roof; clerestory provides North light for living room and kitchen.

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in the news

NEW BOOK

The editors of ARCHITECTURAL RECORD have put together another fine, big book, this time under the title "Commercial Buildings." A publication of F. W. Dodge Corp., it features 416 pages of office buildings, banks, transportation buildings, radio and TV buildings and theaters. Recorded herein are examples of genuinely new construction; these buildings have no style, but rather they express new concepts to answer new needs demanded by our highly developed commercial activities. The work of over 100 architects, many of them perennial producers of published work, has gone into this volume. Price is \$9.75. Dodge Books, 119 West 40th Street, New York 18, N. Y.

ROSTERS

The K. C. Chapter of Producers Council has produced a handsome roster which is being widely circulated and much appreciated by architects in this area. Which reminds us to remind A.I.A. men to report any change in their listing to Chapter Secretary Don Hollis as we are in the process of preparing a new chapter roster.

SCHOOL CONFERENCE AT KU

Preliminary reports on the conference held at KU on the topic of elementary schools and featuring John Lyon Reid of California and Douglas Haskell of New York, indicate satisfying success, and before they had adjourned plans were already being made for next year's program. Sponsors were the Kansas Chapter A.I.A. and our chapter, together with Kansas University.

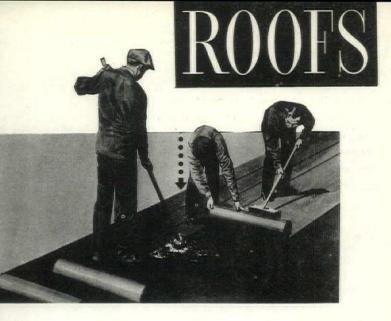
SKYLINES ADVERTISERS

Beginning with this issue, this publication will feature a write-up of one of its advertisers each month. John Rohde of B-D-R Engineering gets this series off to an excellent start with a description of his company's services and products on page 16 of this issue.

UNIT VENTILATOR SHOW

The Trane Company of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, announce the appearance in Kansas City of their Unit Ventilator Show featuring the new Kinetic Barrier System. It will be held Wednesday and Thursday, March 31 and April 1, at the Phillips Hotel, Parlor 3C, from 9 A. M. to 7 P. M. each day. All architects are invited.

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Producers Council

CLINIC FOR ARCHITECTS

wednesday

march the twenty-fourth

200 Southwest Boulevard

at 7:30 PM

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS Johns-Manville Sales Corp. Truscon Steel Co Ceco Steel Products Co Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp. Celotex Corp. Overly Manufacturing Co. Zonolite Co. Josam Manufacturing Co. J. A. Zurn Manufacturing Detroit Steel Products Philip Carey Mfg. Co. Editor's Note: The statement on the facing page is based on a letter sent by the Nebraska Architects Association AIA and the Nebraska Engineering Society to architects and engineers in that state on the subject of

THE PROMOTER

We wish to express our thanks to Wardner G. Scott of Lincoln, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Professional Practice of the NAA and the NES, for permission to use this material. Irregularities of practice in engineering and architecture have come to light in which promoters and unlicensed men have insinuated themselves into the relationships between architects, engineers, and their clients. This often comes about by a fast talker who gets some kind of a picture on paper and has control of the client before the irregularities of his practice is realized. Sometimes, at this stage he approaches an architect or an engineer to make a deal. By this time he has convinced the client that he has done all of the work and because of a slight point of law, it is necessary to get some architect or to stamp the drawings. He not only continues to take credit in the eyes of the public but probably by this time has appropriated for himself a good share of the fee which should go to some architect or engineer.

So, just in the interest of making it legal and to smooth things over after a poor selection or plan has been established, and after the client is convinced that the plan is what he desires, then the profession is approached in its legal aspect. This is happening so often that promoters are beginning to realize that architects and engineers are available at the end of these negotiations rather than at the beginning. Dangerous precedents are being established. It begins to appear that our professions may become opportunists rather than servants of the public to guard life, health, and safety in matter of construction, building, equipment, and engineering projects. We believe that the architect or engineer to perform his services in any satisfactory manner should be a part of the discussion and planning from the beginning of the project, and that he should make it increasingly difficult for the situation to occur where he is the third and the last party to become acquainted with the planning of the work and its functions.

The client should be informed of the irregularity of the procedure in which professional advice is called in at the last minute to save the situation.

Your professional organizations stand ready to help correct this state of affairs, but they need to know who and what is involved, the addresses and names of the persons as well as place, and the name of the project and any other pertinent details. In the pride of your profession, guard your professional integrity. Help make it impossible for the promoter to gain a percentage of your fee which should be devoted to the rendering of professional services to the client. Report evidence of promoters' activities directly to your professional organization.



The method of control joint construction illustrated on the opposite page is concerned with a specific condition where it is desired to preserve the lateral stability of the wall and, at the same time, to provide a continuous vertical separation through the wall thickness.

Simplicity is emphasized in the construction of this joint since it is composed of materials which are normally found on concrete masonry jobs.

The joint requires no special shapes to build it and consumes very little, if any, laying time in excess of that required to build the wall without control jointing.

The units illustrated that go to make up the joint section are those produced by all concrete masonry manufacturers and the material from which the joint key is made may be the same as that used in the horizontal and vertical joints of the wall.

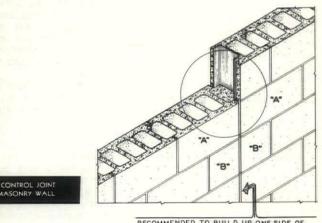
Experience indicates the necessity for placing control joints in exterior concrete masonry walls at approximately 25 foot intervals. Horizontal reinforcement placed in mortar joints between concrete masonry units provides a relatively inexpensive and very valuable means of strengthening concrete masonry walls and aids materially in a more equitable distribution of the results of stresses in the masonry. This type of reinforcement is obtainable in prefabricated form, dimensioned for use on walls of varying thickness and in lengths well suited to easy handling on the job.

The matter of placing horizontal reinforcement above and below openings in concrete masonry walls is very important.

The frequency with which it is placed in unbroken sections of the wall will, in general, be determined by the type of wall under construction, the loading conditions on the wall, and by any other requirements for strength or durability.

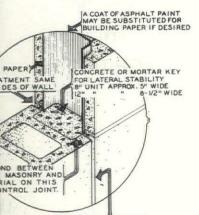


GOOD REASON, TOO!



RECOMMENDED TO BUILD UP ONE SIDE OF CONTROL. JOINT APPROXIMATELY SIX COURSES AT A TIME TO RECEIVE THE BUILDING PAPER. LAY UNIT AND FILL KEY ONE COURSE AT A TIME TO COMPLETE OTHER SIDE OF CONTROL JOINT.

TION OF CONTROL JOINT



RAKE OUT 3/4" MORTAR AT CONTROL JOINT AND LEAVE OPEN OR CAULK AFTER CONTRACTION HAS TAKEN PLACE. SELF-EXPANDING JOINT MATERIAL MAY BE USED WITHOUT MORTAR IN THE CONTROL JOINT THE CONTROL JOINT

MO-KAN MEMBERS

Asner Blocks & Building Materials, Inc. Builder's Block Company Carter-Waters Corporation Cinder Concrete Products, Inc. City Block & Products Company Concrete Building Units Company Eternacrete Products, Inc. Kansas City Concrete Pipe Company Slaton's Concrete Products

BLIGHT AILS THEM ALL

LOS ANGELES BUILDER CRUSADES AGAINST PROBLEM OF CITIES.

Officials and Businessmen Discuss With Him What Kansas City Is Doing and What Can Be Done.

IPICTURE ON PAGE 14.]

If Kansas City and other American cities have one common ailment it is the growing and insidious element of blighted areas—substandard housing and down-at-the-heel commercial properties.

A Los Angeles builder, Fritz B. Burns, is on what amounts almost to a 1-man crusade to attack these elements. Yesterday afternoon he met in a 3-hour session with fifty Kansas Citians to discuss combating of slums. The conference was at the Kansas City Club.

Into Plans of the City.

He heard what Kansas City has done in eliminating blight, what it plans to do—and he itemized what must be done to break the stranglehold of deteriorated properties.

The meeting was attended by officials from both city and civic organizations. Mayor William E. Kemp, L. P. Cookingham, city manager, and representatives of the city plan commission and department of health attended. So did representatives of the Real Estate board, the Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City, the Chamber of Commerce, Merchants association. Midwest Research Institute, Citizens Regional Planning council. Downtown committee, Redevelopment authority and Federal Housing administration.

"It's easier to sell a program of tearing down everything which appears worthless and building new facilities," Burns said.

"This is a good idea. The only hitch is that it would affect 25 per cent of the average city, and the cost would be astronomical.

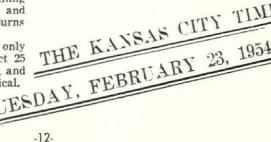
"What we need is something for this generation. We can't afford to bring up this generation in slums."

What Burns sees as the best approach is the utilization of all existing housing to the best possible extent.

"The kind of attack we need must be all-out. No city yet has put enough men on the job to make a sufficient impression on blight, or to get the continued support of its citizens. We must generate that support."

This in essence is Burns's aim. In a discussion of the situation here which followed his remarks, it was proposed by Carl B. Rechner, chairman of the housing committee of the Real Estate Board, that a committee of five to seven men be selected, either by the mayor or by a mutual agreement from civic and business organizations, to gain citizen approval of slum clearance.

WHERE ARE THE ARCHITECTS?





K.&E., DIETZGEN & POST SUPPLIES HAMILTON DRAFTING FURNITURE ALL THE BEST PHOTO PROCESSES SUPER MICROFILM 909 GRAND VICTOR 7881

AIA BOARD REPORTS ON NATIONAL BUILDING ACTIVITY

The outlook for building activity throughout the nation is generally hopeful according to reports made yesterday by the directors of The American Institute of Architects. The Board is holding its spring meeting at the Washington headquarters of the national architectural professional organization.

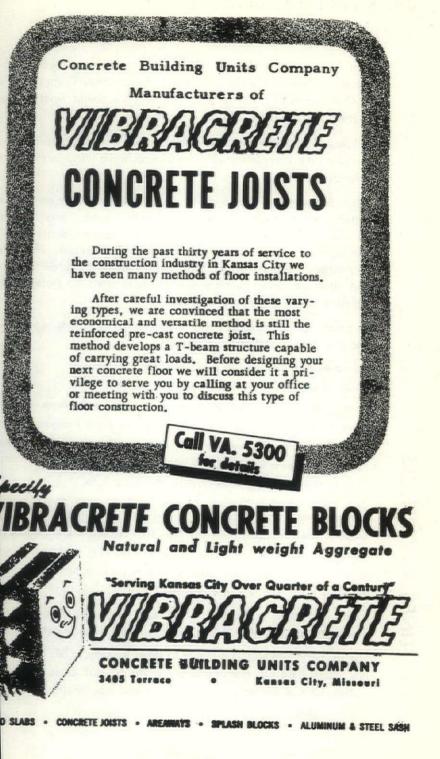
While overall volume is not expected to reach the high levels of previous record years, there is every indication of a continuing demand for new buildings—especially in the educational and institutional, commercial and industrial fields.

Three of the twelve regions—Great Lakes, North Central and Sierra Nevada—report an overall increase in current activity as compared with last October; three others—Northwest, Texas and New England—a decrease; five—New York, Gulf States, South Atlantic, Central States and Western Mountain—no change. While there are strong and weak spots in all areas, this is particularly marked in the Middle Atlantic States where certain sections have benefitted greatly by the industrial development of the Delaware River Valley, and others such as Washington, D. C., have suffered from the sharp decline in building.

The reports indicate that present conditions are better than had been anticipated last October. For instance, at that time it was noted that the backlog of new work in the North Central States was fast disappearing. The current survey reveals that a large volume of new work has developed there. The amount of new work coming in to architectural offices throughout the country, while spotty, is still very substantial.

Schools lead all other building types in every region, with commercia work strong in almost all parts of the country. Nine regional directors mentioned industrial building as important, while in five areas, residentia work is continuing at a high level. The need for churches, hospitals and other institutional buildings continues in most areas. The prospects for passage of the Administration's housing program, including urban re newal, have stimulated interest in large scale redevelopment programs.

In general, the financing of all types of building projects seem to b somewhat eased, as compared with six months ago, although difficult in securing funds is reported in New York, the Gulf States, Central States Texas and New Mexico. In the Middle Atlantic Region, lack of financin has affected the start of schools and other public construction. A similar situation exists in New England with respect to Veterans' housing an public building.



B-D-R ENGINEERING CORP.

After nearly 20 years of continued expansion, including for moves to larger quarters, the B-D-R Engineering Corporation 4243 Pennsylvania, Kansas City, Missouri has found what official of the company hope will be a permanent "home."

A blanket invitation for the firm's friends and customers to per a visit to the completely air conditioned and remodeled quarter is hereby issued.

B-D-R Engineering Corporation, which calls itself "material co sultants to architects, engineers and constructors," was found back in 1934 by R. M. Dungan, who became president; John Rohde, who became vice-president; and Frank Bryam. The nar was simply the first initials of the last names of the three founde and although Bryam's interests were purchased by Dungan an Rohde in 1938, the name was continued.

At present, total employment, including office, sales, warehou and erection departments, totals 30.

Unistrut Products Company, Chicago-metal framing systems.

Ramset Fasteners, Inc., Cleveland-powder actuated tools.

Symons Clamp and Manufacturing Company, Chicago-concrete forms.

Morse Brothers Machinery Company, Denver-automatic and electrically opera

and hydraulic sluice gates and flap gates; irrigation, flood control, sewage, dr. age and water works equipment.

American Three-Way Luxfer Prism Company, Chicago-skylights.

Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company, Corrulux Division, Houston, Texas—corruga translucent panels.

Seaporcel Metals, Inc., Long Island City, New York-porcelain enamel products.

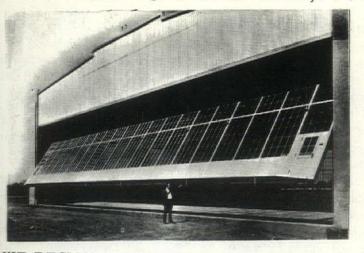
Byrne Doors, Inc., Detroit-industrial and hangar doors.

Syracuse Fire Door Corporation, Syracuse, New York-fire doors.

Ray Proof Corporation, New York-X-ray lead protective materials.

These names represent only the major items available at B-D The complete list of building materials fills a huge catalog.

The primary function of B-D-R is to serve as a materials distribu and consultant. It manufacturers nothing, but does represe dozens of top names in the materials and equipment field. NE DOORS, INC. specialize in large motorized rs for Aircraft Hangars and for Industry. . . .



WE DESIGN, FABRICATE AND INSTALL -SEE OUR CATALOG IN SWEET'S



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R ENGINEERING CORPORATION

4243 Pennsylvania

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

REPORT of Board of Directors Meeting Kansas City Chapter AIA held Feb. 3, 1954

Mr. Slezak reported on the progress being made in selling up an A.I.A. office with a full time secretary. His committee has been working with a similar committee from the Producer's Council and have arrived at a tentative proposed program, as follows: To find a girl and set up an office some place in the downtown area with necessary office equipment, telephone, etc. It was thought that 50 per cent of the girl's time would be used by the Kansas City Chapter of the A.I.A. and that the other 50 per cent of her time would be open for outside secretarial work. A tentative cost was set up at \$2,600.00 per year; ½ of which would be paid by the Producer's Council and ½ by the A.I.A.

It was moved by Mr. Roark and seconded by Mr. Murphy that the Board give a vote of confidence to Mr. Slezak and his committee and to instruct them to continue working on this project. Motion carried.

Mr. Slezak read the report of the auditing committee covering the treasurer's books for two years, beginning December 11, 1951 and ending December 8, 1953, which stated that they found the accounts in order. The auditing committee did make two recommendations. One, because of the increasingly heavy duties of the treasurer that a part-time bookkeeper or accountant be employed to handle the bookwork of the office. Two, that a bookkeeping system be set up covering the financial affairs of "Skylines" both as to receipts and expenditures.

It was moved by Mr. Slezak and seconded by Mr. Hollis that we set the 1954 dues at the maximum for all classifications of membership according to our by-laws and that the same committee appointed last meeting on a proposed due increase continue working and that by no later than June report to the Executive Committee with the program and the expenditure involved, to start in January, 1955. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Shaughnessy that the committee on A.I.A. and Producer's Council by empowered to spend necessary money to carry on their meetings with A.G.C. Motion carried Respectfully submitted,

Donald R. Hollis, Secretary

haydite bond beam blocks

are now available in 2 sizes and 3 shapes from

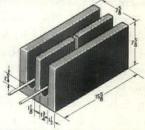
CARTER-WATERS

These stretcher and corner blocks provide an excellent method of reinforcing concrete masonry walls. Used for spandrel beams, lintels and similar applications they will add extra strength and stability to masonry walls.

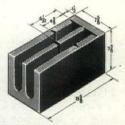
With these units, the inherent advantages of HAYDITE concrete have been added to the advantages of bond beam construction.

All sizes and types listed are available for immediate delivery.





STRETCHER BLOCKS are available in 8" and 12" sizes.



CORNER BLOCKS are available in 8" size only.



ARCHITECTS NOTE:

A man there was, though some did count him mad; the more he cast away the more he had."

To one Chapter member out of four, John Bunyan's "man" is utterly sane and, on any *long range* measure, governed by self-interest.

Who is this one member out of four? He is the responsible one. He is the one who sees the needs of our profession as his own, and the needs of the public he serves as his personal concern. He it is who gives of himself to his Chapter committee, his office, his community charity drive. His action is felt and his voice is heard by his professional fellows and his neighbors. The meaning of Bunyan is the trade secret of leaders. Its meaning can only be self-discovered. It is nonsense to those among us who ask: "What can the A.I.A. do for me?"

Such a question, of course, is unworthy and *reveals* more than it asks.

The Architect asks:

"What can I give of myself to my chosen profession and to the public I am pledged to serve?"

It is no accident that leaders in all walks of life seek responsibilities far beyond their private interest or personal gain. Like the Quakers, they act upon a "concern." They understand the dynamics of our American democratic society. They understand that progress comes not just through the brilliance of individual leadership but through solid day-by-day contributions of voluntary citizen teams. In The American Institute of Architects are many such teams. The more they "cast away," the more they have.

Though some may count them "mad," are there not more such "men?"

Philip Will, Jr.

GUEST COLUMNIST: The above comment from the Chicago Chapter Bulle applies so nicely to Kansas City conditions we are taking the liberty of using here without the permission of Chicago Chapter President Will.

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