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# SKYLINES

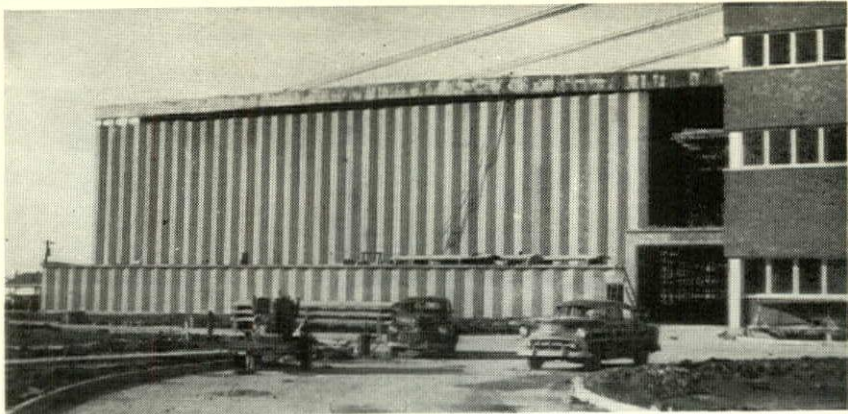
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SKYLINES is the monthly publication of the Kansas City Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and mailed without charge.

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# CENTENNIAL CONVENTION

This Convention was without a question the most outstanding one of the century and will be remembered for the lifetime of those 26 members and wives from the Kansas City Chapter who attended. It is impossible to condense the wealth of information and experience into the few pages of Skylines, so the following seven pages are devoted to the highlights.

## by Frank Grimaldi

MONDAY, check-in and register day, everybody seemed to be sitting around looking for people from the home town, exchanging information on accommodations and reciting names of those observed at the scene. A group of K. C. couples visited an eating establishment called Arnand's, recommended by the host chapter, enjoyed a meal and ended up trying the special pastry of the house. All Wilmington eating places feature pastries, even the drug store snack. Arnand's specialty is mostly peanut butter, but it's good anyway. Following the grand opening session, Kansas City people adjourned to the suite of Luther and Kathleen Willis where many, many stories were related, especially concerning conventions of years gone by.



Frank Grimaldi, National President, American Society of Architects, with John Richardson, National President, American Society of Architects, and National President, American Society of Architects.



Mr. and Mrs. Mark Sharp



TUESDAY, the procession of big name speakers with the big word speeches began. Dr. Bronk, Paul Hoffman, Dr. McIntosh, Dr. Tillich, Dr. Kimble, President Chatelain, etc. That night the President's Reception at the National Gallery, ballyhooed to be the only dry party of the week, turned out to be a real soaker, though not a martini was consumed. It poured down rain and many a formal was ruined. This night, beginning at 10:00 p.m., blended into. . .

Mrs. Grimaldi, Mrs. Frank Slezak, and Mrs. Shaughnessy.



WEDNESDAY in the Continental Room of the Sheraton-Park, where Mr. Haskell of the Architectural Forum entertained a selected few of his architect-friends. Besides the Harris Armstrongs and the George Vernon Russels, approximately 2,182 architects and their wives dropped by for: the full line of cocktails and/or complete breakfasts. There was a business session this afternoon which bordered on the ridiculous but did accomplish the monumental task of re-electing the five national officers, all of whom encountered about as much opposition as our Mr. Roark in his race for the Regional Directorship. By 3:30 p.m. the host chapter and the Virginia Chapter had shanghaied some 2,000 delegates and wives onto a vessel called the Mount Vernon, where they were kept captive for an adventurous, delightful cruise down the Potomac River to the estate of the original George Washington. After a tour of the mansion, the cruise continued downstream several miles before swinging around for the return trip.

George Beal, Betty Brooker, Henry Krug, and Joe Shaughnessy.



THURSDAY morning there was another business session. That afternoon and evening there were events which in themselves were worthy of the trip to this Convention. A seminar on the "Future of the City" featured sharp comment by Senator Joseph Clark, U. S. Chamber of Commerce President Philip Talbott, and City Planner Carl Feiss. Following this, Dr. Howard Mitchell, Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra, gave a lecture on "Music and Architecture in the Environment of Man" during which he illustrated his remarks with musical selections performed by the entire symphony. Tschaikowsky's "March Slav" was likened to a classical column capital or cornice; Le Corbusier was compared with Arnold Schoenberg; the music of Gabrieli and Aaron Copland was played to illustrate architectural references. More than 2,000 attended the Annual Banquet and heard Louis Skidmore and Ralph Walker each accept a Gold Medal. On this occasion, Henry Luce told the architects that democracy is not incompatible with beauty although architecturally there is "dreariness and ugliness" throughout the United States.

Frank Grimaldi, Lloyd Roark,  
Joe Shaughnessy, Jr., and  
Joe Shaughnessy, Sr.



FRIDAY was fold-up day. There was a morning session on Economics presided over by Millionaire Architect Charlie Luckman at which Walter Reuther supplied the spark. Awards were given at a colorful luncheon, outdoors on the Shoreham Terrace. In the afternoon scraps of film which are supposed to add up to a thing called "Architecture — 1977" by Time, Inc., were shown. Then Pietro Belluschi gave one of his speeches which seemed to last too long, just as this commentary is beginning to. One word — GREAT — describes this Convention.

Frank Grimaldi, and Mr. and  
Mrs. Donald R. Hollis.





# NEW CENTRAL STATES DIRECTOR

## I. Lloyd Roark

I. Lloyd Roark was officially elected regional director of the Central States District at the Centennial Convention. Having served as Kansas City Chapter Secretary (1949-51); as President (1951-53); and on the Board of Directors (1953-56) we are fully conscious of his capabilities and intense interest in all the affairs of the Institute. His positions on other planning and national committees are too numerous to list.

Lloyd's community interests are as wide spread as are his abilities. He is active in the Rotary Club and for many years has pioneered in the growth of 3" and 2" Junior Baseball activities of Northeast Johnson County. He is also a former board member of the Rockhill Tennis Club; past director of the Kansas City Junior Chamber of Commerce and a past member of the Mission Township Zoning and Planning Commission.

Lloyd and his lovely wife, Aldene have two boys and a girl; Loren 17, Ronnie 15, and Sandra Lyn, 13. They are members of the All Saints Episcopal Church.

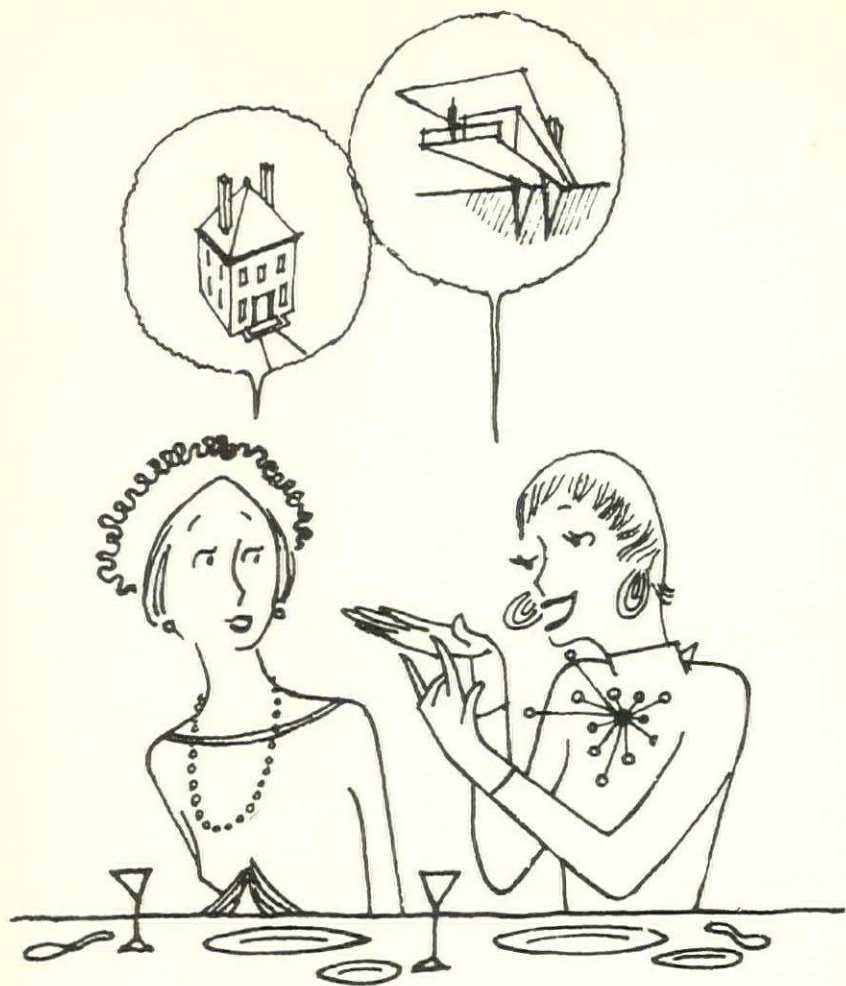
Born in Muskogee, Oklahoma, he spent his childhood in Kansas City, Kansas, and received his architectural education at the University of Kansas. During World War II he was an Industrial Engineer at North American Aviation in Kansas City.

Since 1945 he has been a partner in the firm of Mackie and Roark, whose principal works include Trinity Lutheran Church, Mission, Kansas; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kansas City, Kansas; Homestead Country Club, Prairie Village, Kansas; numerous private residences and commercial buildings.

The Kansas City Chapter is extremely proud of Lloyd and wishes him success in this difficult task.







The clever drawing above, which formed the front cover of the program for the "International Luncheon" for the ladies exemplifies the extreme attention to detail which prevailed throughout the Centennial Convention. Centerpieces on the tables contained actual century plants! This highlight luncheon had as honored guests, Mrs. Nixon, Mrs. Dulles, and many other wives of top government officials. The program — instead of the usual fashion show — featured showings of international costumes modeled by ladies of the Embassies of Washington.



# DANISH S MÖRGASBORD

by John Morley

## PART ONE

We have been waiting to hear of (Jack's) experiences in Denmark ever since his return. A year is a long time and so is the account. Part II will appear in the next issue.

Just about two years ago the postman rang twice and presented a notice informing me that I had received an appointment as visiting lecturer at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen. This came about from an application sent to the International Exchange of Persons which is part of the State Department functioning under the Fulbright program. The basic idea here is that the various countries participating in this arrangement receive visiting faculty, technicians and the like, support them during their stay, and are then credited for this amount against lend-lease. This is one of the very few instances in which Uncle Sugar gets something back, and what is more this program costs the great American taxpayer not one cent — aside from the original wallop, that is!

Since the invitation included the entire fam-



ily, there was great rejoicing and violent plan-making. Aside from the chore of assembling lecture materials, studying Danish, getting shots, pass-ports, clothes, storing furniture, renting the house, arranging ship reservations, purchasing plane and train tickets (to mention a few items), we had just begun a fair sized addition to our house and that had to be finished. Also there were several things cooking in the office at this time and if my partner Tom Geraughty had not been so cooperative and willing to accept the additional work, it would not have been possible to go at all. It might also be in order to mention that several of the Chapter members, Ralph Myers and Cecil Cooper, in particular, wrote excellent letters for me and I feel that these were very instrumental in obtaining my acceptance.

Suddenly it was the end of August and we found ourselves on the m/s Kungsholm having just made a final payment on the fourteenth floor of the Commodore Hotel. I won't dwell on the wonderful eight days spent on that floating smörgasbord aside from saying that the trip was tremendously enjoyable even with three small, very active boys. There were parts of that ship that even the sailors hadn't known about! This was also our first introduction to Snapps (or Aqua-vit, if you prefer) without which it is virtually impossible to eat the raw fish and vice versa.

What a thrill it was at last to see a genuine piece of Europe — until this moment we had never really believed that it actually existed as you see in pictures — and Gothenburg is a fine port to begin with. Our only slight difficulty was in missing the special boat-train to Copenhagen, primarily due to the fact that we just couldn't tear ourselves away from the breakfast

table in time. Anyway this gave us a half day to explore the city which is a most interesting place from an architect's point of view and is one of the best situated cities in Europe. We also immediately learned that most Swedes do not speak English and that the left-handed automobile traffic can be exceedingly hazardous even though the weapon is somewhat smaller and less bechromed than our own.

Late that day we arrived in "wonderful, wonderful Copenhagen" as the song says, entering the city through the old central station which is built of brick and enormous arch-type trusses of wood — we also had the impression that the powerful odor of fish helped keep the roof from falling in.

The hotels were full, and since we would have to find permanent quarters, it was suggested by the director of the U. S. Educational Foundation that we live for a time in a "pension" which is simply another word for boarding house and which accommodation is widely used in all of the cities of Europe. This was a very fortunate move because the place to which we were sent was also used by the American Embassy and we immediately met two wonderful families, one the Consulate Undersecretary and the other an Army Colonel with NATO. Since they also had been looking for housing, by this time they had a pretty good idea of where to look, how much to pay, what area to shoot for and the like. While there was a rather severe housing shortage in Copenhagen, we none the less were able to find a fine small house (or "villa" as the Danes call detached residences) after only one week of hunting. The time was not wasted either because our searching gave us a chance to learn the city's excellent transportation system. The trains are clean,



well maintained and operate on a most dependable schedule. After exploring almost all of the residential areas of Copenhagen, which is a city of about one million, we finally found our house — and just one half block from where we had been living! The place was superbly located as far as we were concerned. It was just five minutes from the Bellevue beach and The King's Deerpark was our back yard. There were really deer in it, too — some three thousand. In fact there was quite an abundance of wild life there—especially on weekends! The

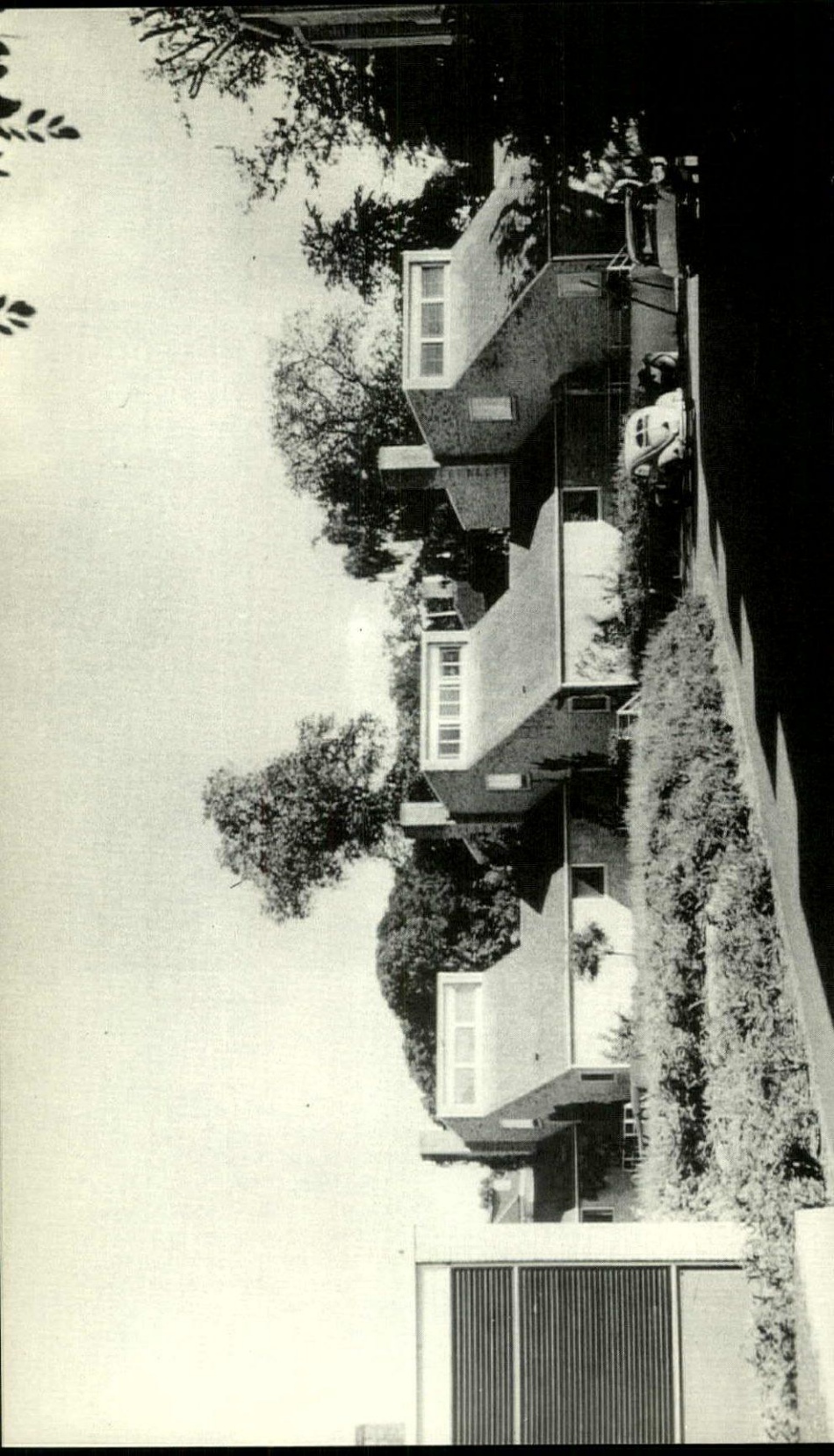
beach, of course, held a terrific attraction for our little boys and for the old man too, once he observed the Scandanavian viewpoint on economy, health and modesty! There were rows upon rows of small conical tents supposedly for changing clothes. It costs about seven cents to rent one of these tents and the local citizens consider this to be sheer extortion so naturally (no pun) they just peel on the spot. They are very skilled in this art and there is actually less exposure than in the end product (also no pun) which is usually a



"Link" houses of Arne Jacobsen

Bikini. There is also a prevailing theory that sitting around in a wet bathing suit is extremely unhealthy. Everyone therefore carries two bathing suits and the ecdysis process is continuous. It might be mentioned at this point that almost all of the buildings in this section along the Strand have been designed by Arne Jacobsen. His theater, fine row houses, small apartment build-

ings and detached houses have been widely published and make this locale particularly interesting to visiting architects. I have only recently learned that most of these buildings are now over twenty years old and was very much surprised since the spirit and character are as contemporary as anything done in our own area even today. There is, on the other hand, prac-





tically no new building in the central part of Copenhagen and this homogenous quality gives the city a character that is most rare. For example, the Royal Academy (where the architectural school to which I was assigned is located) is now over three hundred years old as is the wonderful plaza called King's New Square. The adjoining buildings and anchorage go back to the time of the Hanseatic League. One of the University dormitories in the same area bears the date 1623. Realize that this area was flourishing just about the time that Jamestown was founded! Most of this central section of the city is still intact and it is very easy to trace the growth from Medieval times, through the Renaissance, Dutch Baroque, the Classic era and through World War II — pill boxes and bunkers still appear in the public parks. The parks, incidentally, are a most important part of public life in Copenhagen and they are really "lived in." Probably due to the fact that most of the urbanites live in apartments, every opportunity to get out of doors is exploited to the full. And amazingly, even with all of the use that these places get, there is never any trash about. The populus just do not throw empty cigarette packages, beer bottles, kleenex and old newspapers about. And yet the Danes are not stuffy about their neatness as the Dutch appear to be. It is a pleasure to live where there is such consideration for one another and we can learn a lot from their way of life. One thing that the parks do not contain, however, is drinking fountains; Scandinavians do not drink water! When a Copenhagen is thirsty he will drink either Tuborg or Carlsberg, depending upon what type of beer he prefers. Another thing that at first appeared strange to us was the fact that every male

carries a brief case. At first we thought that the nation had an excessive number of attorneys, but we later found out that the brief case is in effect a rather large handbag and like Jackie Gleason's Mother Fletcher skit, contains an amazing number of incredible objects ranging from a full set of carpenters' tools to a folding tent, always lunch and from one to four bottles of beer! Our first and most impressive demonstration was to have a plumber arrive at our house very nattily attired in a bowler and blue business suit, complete, of course, with the brief case. At first we thought that he was the man from the city tourist bureau until he opened the old portfolio, donned his coveralls, took out six assorted sizes of pipe wrenches, a blow torch and began to dismantle our P-trap. (Incidentally, one insures against plumbing and wiring difficulties in Denmark.) All in all, we felt that these people live rather well; there are no slums and no really poor in the same sense that we have destitutes in the USA. The stores are well stocked and my original impression that Copenhagen was an enormous delicatessen was not too far off. It was a surprise, also, to see the great number of sidewalk cafes which are in wide use seven or eight months out of the year. It is



Summer Royal Palace

a marvelous experience to sit under the awning sipping the fine lager and to watch some of the 330,000 bicycles go by. (Almost everyone becomes extremely adept at bike riding and to see a couple peddling at full speed down the street "necking"—(if that term isn't completely archaic)—is a tribute to the Viking eustachian tube.)

And sitting at the sidewalk cafe tables, it's quite shaking to see one of the Danish women at the next table light up a cigar. She, like most of the others, usually cuts her

own hair. This in itself isn't so bad, but they must do the trimming with either an ax or an electric fan, because the results are at best "casual." These remarks may sound overly critical and may in fact be somewhat misleading; actually the Danish girls are unusually handsome, are gay and well-poised and there is no question that cycling is excellent for the figure.

Next month I really must get back to the architectural aspects of the town!



Central "Old Town" Copenhagen



## CALENDAR

**June Chapter Meeting** — an illustrated talk by Anton Tdesko, of Robert Schaeffer & Company, and one of the world's leading experts on pre-stressing and thin shell.

June 19

## BOOK REVIEWS

### TOWARD NEW TOWNS FOR AMERICA

by Clarence S. Stein

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Aristotle once said, "a city should be built to give its inhabitants security and happiness." Mr. Stein has fortunately recorded the history of a small segment of American community planning which is based realistically upon casual and comfortable living in the age of the automobile. This needed book analyzes the brilliant planning which took place under his leadership after World War I and beyond the Depression. Here are methods of creating a home and community life that is more reposeful, pleasant, and safe (especially for children). With the population increase of automobiles advancing faster than the human birth rate, no book can be more pertinent to the present task of departing from outmoded ideas. The need is to strike off boldly along the lines indicated by the planning work profusely illustrated in this book.

### WORK PLACE FOR LEARNING

by Lawrence B. Perkins

Reinhold

\$4.00

This book is not a textbook on the theory of school design—rather it is a gloriously illustrated travelog with commentary as the author takes the reader room by room through several of his outstanding schools. In the words of the author, "it is the duty of the Architect to study the needs and functions of each school . . . (and then) create the atmosphere, the environment that contribute most to the full growth of each child's mental and spiritual potentials." It is to the arrangement of materials and space to form "settings for a purpose" that the pages of this book are devoted. The scarce comments make the pictures express themselves. The quality of the photographs (many in color) and the reproduction are fantastically real and (unlike many architectural shots) include the subject (the child) enjoying and learning in the surroundings of these "work places."

## CHAPTER AWARDS TO STUDENTS

This year the Kansas City Chapter initiated a five-year program of scholarship awards to two outstanding students of Architecture, one from K-State of Manhattan and the other from the University of Kansas. This year's awards of \$50 were presented to the two students pictured below. We congratulate them for their achievements and wish them continued success in the professional life that lies ahead.



Richard S. Worrel, a junior at the University of Kansas comes from Salina, Kansas. His major field is architectural engineering in which he has maintained a 2.40 grade average. He is a resident of Joliffe Hall where he has served as president, vice-president and social chairman. Last month he was initiated into Tau Sigma Delta, a national honor society in Architecture.



Carl D. Gaede, of K-State College has just completed his second year in Architecture. He comes from Newton, Kansas, having graduated from the high school there in 1954. Carl spent two years at Bethany Nazarene College in Bethany, Oklahoma. His K-State scholastic standing is a phenomenal 2.94 out of a possible 3.

## CHAPTER NEWS

Congratulations to **Bill Conrad** for his Rehmann scholarship, awarded on the basis of Architectural Education and Design, and presented by the National A. I. A. The award takes him to a Seminar in Aspen, Colorado.

"Architecture on Parade", the slide show with recorded commentary prepared by the Public Relations

Committee is ready for showing to organizations. All you have to do is pick up your phone and give **John Murphy** a call and you will have the complete show and equipment ready for an audience.

The Junior Associates haven't had revenue from the bar this last year, but couldn't they throw a summer party anyway?



There were an awful lot of pennies donated by school kids to raise money for the Volker fountain. What a crime to let this last and most important sculpture of the great Carl Milles remain crated any longer!

**Angus McCallum** was the featured speaker at the K-State Annual Awards Dinner, May 7th.

Congratulations to **Maurice D. McMullen** of Kansas City who received a \$150 special award presented at the K-State Annual Awards Dinner by the Kansas Concrete Masonry Association for use this summer in traveling to Florida to study contemporary architecture. He was also one of the three runners-up for the Charles W. Shaver Scholarship Award.

**Paul Weigel**, former head of the Kansas State College Department of Architecture will be on leave this coming year to serve as architectural adviser to the Turkish government in the over-all planning of a new land grant college-type university to be located near Erzurum, Turkey. He will advise with Turkish architects in the planning of the building, and with the Turkish Ministry of Education on matters pertaining to curriculum, equipment, and establishing criteria for the selection of teaching personnel.

We are sure that **Frank McNett** realizes how grateful the Kansas City Chapter is for his dynamic leadership as Regional Director during the past three years, but we thought we'd like to say "thanks" at least once more.

Congratulations to the following architects in the Central States Region who were among the 48 members elevated to Fellows at the Centennial Convention:

**Leon B. Senter**, Tulsa  
**Glen H. Thomas**, Wichita  
**Joseph D. Murphy**, St. Louis  
**Albert S. Ross**, Oklahoma

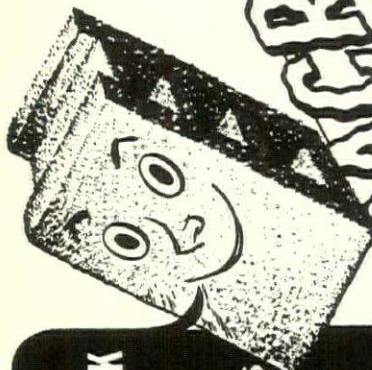
The stray Conventioneers and others who missed the May Chapter meeting are lucky. Though this seems brash it is not meant that way. **Mr. David Beatty** presented such a successful and enticing program on Hi-Fi equipment that your editor (among others) will never be happy until one of those \$1,800 Stereophonic systems is installed in the wall of the living room. To get bruised with a train, to get blown by overhead jets and to hear Doris Day's heavenly gasp for air between words—all more real than reality—was a disheartening experience—especially when they crated up the equipment after the "lecture." It was humorous to watch Beatty keep his eye on the instrument which recorded the decibel level to make sure that all the customers downstairs in the Golden Ox wouldn't go running out into the street. The unusual "sound illustrated" program included the chronological development of sound produced by all types of systems from the Edison cylinder to the latest double tape, three-dimension setup. Our thanks to David Beatty for the time and effort he took to set up all of the equipment and give that very informative demonstration. If you missed the meeting, be sure and see his booth at the Hi-Fidelity Festival at Kansas City University this Fall.

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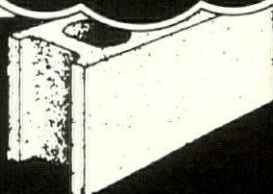
**"Tougher'n the hobs . . ."**

An interesting indication of durability or resistance to failure by extreme exposures to such conditions as repeated freezing and thawing as well as wetting and drying resulted from tests conducted by the Road Materials Laboratory of the Highway Commission of Kansas. In these tests 275 complete cycles of each type of exposure was run. Compression strength tests at the conclusion indicated a consistent gain in strength.

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