

SKY LINES

KANSAS CITY

CHAPTER OF THE

AMERICAN INSTITUTE

OF ARCHITECTS

JANUARY 1958

AIA

**KANSAS CITY
CHAPTER**

PRESIDENT

John T. Murphy
15 West Tenth Street
Kansas City 5, Missouri

VICE-PRESIDENT

Henry D. Krug, Jr.
310 Ward Parkway
Kansas City 12, Missouri

SECRETARY

William M. Conrad
4149 Pennsylvania
Kansas City 11, Missouri

TREASURER

Conrad J. Curtis
912 East 63rd Street
Kansas City 10, Missouri

DIRECTOR ('56-'58)

William H. Simon
25 East 12th Street
Kansas City 6, Missouri

DIRECTOR ('57-'59)

Angus McCallum
1016 Baltimore Avenue
Kansas City 5, Missouri

DIRECTOR ('58-'60)

John M. Hewitt
607 Westport Road
Kansas City 11, Missouri

SKY LINES

VOL. 8

NO. 1

January, 1958

CONTENTS	Page
Year One Hundred And One.....	7
Committee Reports For 1957.....	9
Cartoon	17
"Automation Architecture" by George Peter Keleti.....	18
"Top Banana" For 1957—Betty Brooker.....	21
A Kansas Farm House for Mr. and Mrs. John T. Rohde.....	22
Chapter News	26
Modern Masonry Seminar.....	27

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

EDITOR.....J. DAVID MILLER
7830 FLOYD OVERLAND PARK, KANS.
LITHO.....VOLKMER LITHO CO.

Our "Specialty of The House"

TRACING REPRODUCTION

**WESTERN
BLUE PRINT CO**

909 GRAND • KANSAS CITY, MO.
SOUTH SIDE PLANT 4241 PENN.

**TECHNICAL
PHOTOGRAPHY**
VICTOR 2-7881

Authorized



Distributor

Read carefully the information you have received concerning the Comprehensive Major Hospital Plan being offered members and their families of the Kansas City Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. This plan has been approved by the Chapter Executive Committee.

Send your enrollment direct to:

Altman·Singleton & Co.

ALL FORMS OF INSURANCE AND SURETY

15 West Tenth Street
Kansas City 5, Missouri

Telephone Vltor 2-6292

Now! ALL NEW ZURN ENGINEERED PRODUCTS HELP IMPROVE YOUR BUILDING SPECIFICATIONS!

NEWEST DEVELOPMENT IN
WATER HAMMER ARRESTMENT
THE ZURN

SHOKTROL

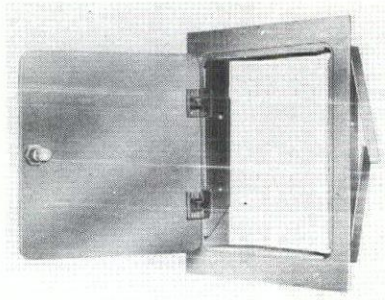


For elimination of destructive shock pressure and disturbing noises in plumbing systems with quick-closing valves—

- ... All stainless steel construction.
- ... Small, compact and lightweight.
- ... Pre-charged with air pressure.

ULTRA-MODERN APPROACH TO
CONTROL CONCEALMENT
THE ZURN

ACCESS DOOR



For full, unhindered entrance to control equipment concealed in walls and ceilings—

- ... Fits any type of wall.
- ... High-quality lustrous finish.
- ... Protective cylinder lock.
- ... Snug door on concealed hinges.

U.S. PATENTS AND PATENTS PENDING



ZURN MIDWEST SERVICES, INC.

Represented by

JAMES V. IRVIN CO.

557 Westport Road Kansas City 11, Missouri

Phone: Jefferson 1-5452

A COMPLETE LINE OF PLUMBING DRAINAGE PRODUCTS

- ZURN SYSTEMS for supporting wall type plumbing fixtures
 - NON-FREEZING HYDRANTS
 - SUPREMO CLEANOUTS
 - SWIMMING POOL FITTINGS
 - ROOF DRAINS
 - FLOOR DRAINS
 - INTERCEPTORS

EXPANDED SHALE
concrete

— No. 32 —

CHARTER



MEMBER

1. LIGHTWEIGHT
2. Strength
3. Insulation
4. Fire Insurance
5. Sound Reduction
6. Durable
7. Versatile
8. Economical
9. Shock Resistant
10. Minimum Shrinkage
11. Nailable
12. Textured

*"... so much for
so little!"*

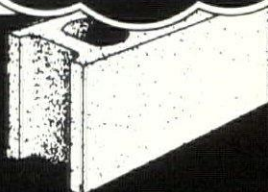
BUILDEX, INC.
Phone 240
OTTAWA, KANSAS

facts

**"K T A uses lightweight blocks
and structural concrete of
Buildex aggregate"**

Access bridge (X 290) at Victory Junction was redesigned for wider traffic lanes after construction was commenced. Although subconstructional steel had been ordered, the requirements were not changed because of the dead load savings by using Buildex structural concrete instead of regular concrete. Buildex masonry units were also used in many of the accommodation structures along the route.

Buildex expanded shale aggregate used in concrete and concrete products reduces the weight of the concrete thirty to forty percent with little sacrifice in strength. The LIGHTWEIGHT advantage of Buildex products is a money saver.



BDR

ENGINEERING
CORPORATION

**AETNA
ART METAL
BILCO
BYRNE
KINNEAR
MILLS
ST. LOUIS
SYRACUSE**

YEAR ONE HUNDRED AND ONE

This is year one hundred and one—the first new year in the second century of the Institute.

In Kansas City, it will be an important year because of the Regional Convention in October and because of the challenge posed in keeping alive the tremendous importance of the KC/80 Project, last year's monumental accomplishment.

The first two pages here picture the Executive Board—the men who will guide the Chapter this new year.

JOHN T. MURPHY

President



HENRY D. KRUG, JR.

Vice-President



WILLIAM M. CONRAD

Secretary





CONRAD J. CURTIS

Treasurer

Bill Simon, whose picture is missing at the left is serving his third year as Director.

President John T. Murphy has proven his devotion to Chapter duty many times in the past, as indeed have all the 1958 Officers.



ANGUS McCALLUM

Director 1957 - 1959

The support of all members is needed to reinforce the program for the coming year. Already the new Committees have been appointed—in particular the crucial convention committees—and they will be announced in the February SKYLINES.

The swift action of John M. Hewitt, General Convention Chairman and newly elected Director, to get the Convention organized is highly encouraging and its overwhelming success seems inevitable even at this early date.

The pages to follow summarize the 1957 Committee actions and point the way to 1958 activity.

Let's make this first year of Century Two one that the entire Midwest area will remember!



JOHN M. HEWITT

Director 1958 - 1960



COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR 1957

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Last year's Annual Report of this Committee ended with the announcement that the slide show "Architecture on Parade" was in production for presentation to the Chamber of Commerce meeting on January 30, 1957. This program was highly successful, playing to an overflow crowd, and "Architecture on Parade" has been a very live vehicle ever since. It has been enthusiastically received by more than 25 local civic, social and religious organizations; was shown at the National Seminar on Architecture and Education at Aspen, Colorado; at the National AIA Convention; to the Octagon Staff at a special showing, and was so well thought of by the PR Staff and Counsel that a full reproduction was purchased from the Chapter for use by national headquarters.

The nature of "Architecture on Parade" is such that it can be periodically edited and made current. We strongly recommend that the 1958 Committee do this as we feel

that it has been one of our most successful PR activities in recent years.

"Architecture U. S. A." has continued its popularity with more than 25 showings to interested public groups in Kansas City, Coffeyville, Hutchinson, Manhattan, Moberly and other places. Reports are that it is always well received and we suggest that in the future greater effort should be made in getting "U. S. A." before the public.

As in years past one of the major projects of this Committee has been in cooperation with the Honor Awards Committee to follow up the highly successful Awards program with public showing of all the Award submissions. The display this year was held for a period of eight weeks in the main lobby of the Kansas City Public Library and interest was such that the Library will welcome the show in succeeding years. The display was also exhibited at the Annual State "Architects' Day" at Jefferson City. Plans

for a Fall showing in Kansas City did not materialize. The Committee feels that this project should be continued and expanded as we are confident that it has not achieved its full potential in Public Relations.

This Committee also cooperated with the Centennial Committee in bringing the story of one hundred years of the Institute to the people of Kansas City and reports are that the joint effort was well done.

We would like to point out several occasions during the past year when actions by the Chapter resulted in very favorable Public Relations acceptance. First was the excellent job done by the Program Committee and the Executive Board in staging the top flight "Installation Banquet." Another was the most forceful statement by President Slezak to the Press regarding the building trades strike.

Perhaps the largest Public Relations activity ever embarked upon by this Chapter was spearheaded this year by the Community Development Committee with their KC/80 Project. The PR Committee is pleased that we were able to contribute something to this effort. We would like to recommend that the 1958 PR Committee stress KC/80 as one of their most important activities in a continuing and expanding program for good civic Public Relations.

We wish to thank the Executive Board, the Honor Awards, Program and Community Development Committees, and also many individual members of the Chapter for their whole-hearted assistance in our various activities of the past year.

John T. Murphy, Chairman
William M. Conrad
J. David Miller

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The KC 80 Project embraced all the activities of the Community Development Committee for the Centennial Year of 1957. This tremendous Chapter effort has been so well documented, especially in the October issue of SKYLINES that it would be repetitious if detailed in this report. Suffice it to say that the accomplishment has sparked the Chapter like no other activity in recent years.

The Committee was organized pursuant to the action of the June Chapter meeting. Every member contacted to serve as a member accepted. The Chairman was so amazed by the ready acceptance of these appointments that he felt assured of the success of the project from the start.

The first meeting of this Committee was held in the City Hall on the evening of July 2, 1957, with representatives of the City Plan Commission. This meeting, with all Committee members present, resulted in the decision to offer the services of the Chapter to the City for a study of the Civic Center and the Downtown Area. Many offices volunteered equipment and manpower and the project was completed in a very professional manner.

The Committee would stress that credit is due and has been properly given to all those who so tirelessly labored to make this project a success, but in the larger and real sense the credit is, and must be, due the Kansas City Chapter as a whole—yes, even to the member who may wonder what his membership does for him.

The Committee would also stress

that even greater Chapter participation in community affairs in the years ahead will bring forth greater results, even to the actual realization of KC/80! Of Kansas City it has been said, "There is no limit." Let's see the Kansas City Chapter help prove it!

Dwight Brown, Chairman

HONOR AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND ALLIED ARTS

Several organizational meetings of the committee were held in preparation for the Honor Awards Banquet of 1957, during which valuable counsel was received from Frank Slezak, Bill Simon and John Murphy.

A jury was selected consisting of the following Architects: Mr. Joseph R. Passonneau of St. Louis, Mr. Gordon G. Wittenberg of Little Rock, and Mr. Robert Berne of Denver. These gentlemen met on March 30 and 31 to judge 28 entries for Honor Awards. The winning entries were featured in the April SKYLINES.

For the first time this year, a special jury was appointed to select winners for Craftsmanship Awards. The jury, consisting of Mark Sharp, Chairman, Clarence Kivett and James Marshall, considered 10 entries and granted awards to: Mr. Winston Apple, Mr. John F. Livers and Mr. Vincent Alberici. These Craftsmanship Awards were featured in the May issue of SKYLINES.

The Honor Awards Banquet was held on Tuesday, April 16th with John Monroe as master of ceremonies. Mr. George Fred Keck, nationally known architect of Chi-

cago was the main speaker. All awards were presented at the Banquet.

It is believed by the committee that this is a very merited program and should be a continuing activity and that the Craftsmanship Awards are an extremely worthwhile addition to the Awards Program.

John M. Hewitt, Chairman
Herb Pennington
Evans Folger
Peter Keleti

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

The Committee studied the best manner of making disposition of the awards set up by the Chapter annually to students at Kansas and Kansas State. It was recommended that the awards be made on the basis of scholarship and need rather than on a competitive problem, and the recommended program was adopted. The Chairman participated in the selection of the winners, and arranged necessary details.

The Chairman was privileged to make announcements on several awards of scholarships and prizes at the annual banquet of the Department of Architecture, Kansas University.

This Committee inaugurated, as a Chapter activity, a course of instruction for persons proposing to take the Missouri Registration Examination for Architects. Six evening meetings were held in August and September. Committee member Max Sandford provided space and equipment in his office and he, or someone from his organization, was on hand for each meeting. Committee member Jim North-

ern lined up the volunteer instructors, all of whom had taken the examination in recent years. Topics selected for discussion and the instructors were as follows:

- History and Theory
Kenneth Coombs
- Building Equipment
Dwight and Jack Horner
- Building Construction
Bill Linscott and Ralph Kiene
- Design & Site Planning
Jim Mantel and Don Osborn
- Professional Administration
Gene Lefebvre
- Structure
Jim Harrison and Don Osborn

An average of about sixteen people attended the meetings, including one from St. Joseph and one from Lawrence. Samplings of opinions among these people indicated that the course was very helpful and was appreciated. It is the feeling of the committee that this refresher course should definitely be continued, with the idea that those who feel they benefitted by our last effort be asked to volunteer as instructors. Also, since there is a great similarity in State Examinations, those who plan to take the Kansas Examination should be invited to attend.

The Committee was asked to study an invitation to join the Professional Engineers Vocational Guidance Council in their activity. After careful study, we recommended that the Chapter carry on our own guidance work, since it appeared we would be submerged in the eighteen participating engineering groups. Vocational guidance is an important function, and the maximum use of the film YOUR CAREER IN ARCHITECTURE, which is now available, should be contemplated in the future.

This Committee is currently cooperating with the Structural Clay Products Institute on the establishment and promotion of a Seminar to be sponsored jointly by the Kansas AIA Chapter, the Kansas University Extension Division, various Engineering societies and our Chapter.

Arrangements have been made to serve as hosts and guides on forthcoming field trips by members of the Student Chapter of the AIA, K. U.

Tom Geraughty, Chairman
Max Sandford
Jim Northern
Dave Mackie

ASSOCIATES AND JUNIOR ASSOCIATES

The Associates and Junior Associates Committee met on several occasions during the year of 1957. Most of these occasions were to plan or do work as a service group for other committees.

The committee first functioned by performing the following tasks at the Honor Awards Banquet:

Arranged with the University Club for setting up of the banquet room.

Picked up the exhibits from the office of Hewitt and Royer.

Set up the exhibits and arranged for lighting of same.

Had female associates arrange for place cards at the head table and guest tables.

Provided two associates to sell tickets at the banquet.

Dismantled the exhibit the following day and delivered it to the Public Library where it was again erected.

Roger Blessing
Les Roenigk
Jerome Jackson

The Committee next entertained with a buffet and dance at the Silver Spur Country Club. Members of the Chapter and members of the Producer's Council received invitations.

The Committee also furnished entertainment at the Centennial Celebration with the aid of Glen Jones and Jim Irvin of the Producer's Council. John Jameson also aided us in this event and on many other occasions.

We would like to make the following recommendations for the 1958 Committee.

It was difficult to get assistance from other associate members, to perform many tasks. In some cases, their employers are unable to release them for the time required. It is felt that the Committee should be increased by one member and that contact should possibly be made with their employer prior to selection with regard to the member's availability time-wise.

The Chapter should establish early in the year whether they wish to have the Summer Party. This would allow the committee more time for detailed planning.

Meetings should be held to study the problems of the membership on this level. Possibly some way should be devised to encourage advancement to corporate membership.

Robert Cowling, Chairman
Gordon Jarchow

AIA - AGC

One meeting each month was held with the Associated General Contractors group and one meeting was held with the Kansas City Chapter of NECA.

A summary of the item under discussion is as follows:

Separate bids and contracts on mechanical and electrical work.

These conclusions were reached:

1. General Contractor responsible for all work, including mechanical and electrical, is preferable.
2. If separate bids are taken on the mechanical and electrical work that General Contractor assume the mechanical and electrical bidder selected by the Owner as a sub-contractor. (The AGC members objected to this procedure).
3. If separate bids on mechanical and electrical bids are taken and separate contracts let, that the Architect be reimbursed accordingly.

"Or Equal" clause. The recommendation taken by previous committees and adopted by the Chapter was discussed, and continuation of its use was recommended.

Completion of Construction. Due to the fact that all parties concerned—Architects, Contractors, and Owners—are constantly called upon to expedite materials and services, in order to complete a building project on

schedule, it is recommended that the specifications require the preparation of a Progress Chart, by the Contractor. It was agreed that this will materially assist in the coordination of the work and completion on scheduled time.

Reducing the number of alternates. A sincere effort should be made to limit the number of alternates in the bidding procedure, particularly those calling for changes in area requirements. Alternates requiring prices on alternate types of materials are not considered objectionable provided sufficient details are given where variations from the bidding drawings are necessitated by the use of the alternate material.

Fire and extended coverage insurance. The provisions set forth in the "General Conditions of the Contract" as issued by the AIA was recommended.

Withheld percentages. Withholding of percentages of payments on contracts is used for the purpose of checking on workmanship and materials, and if the Architect feels that it is justified he may lessen the percentage withheld initially or spell out in the specifications the conditions under which the retained percentage could be reduced after 50% of the work was completed satisfactorily.

Extras and Work omitted; Overhead and Profit percentages for each. This matter was discussed at the last meeting, and held over for further consideration, since no mutually agreeable conclusion was reached at that meeting.

The Committee feels that progress was made on a number of the matters discussed. However, the matter of taking separate bids on mechanical and electrical work and letting the General take over as prime Contractor was unresolved. Your Committee took the position that it was an acceptable means of arriving at a contract. The AGC members expressed opposition to this practice.

Mark S. Sharp, Chairman
Edgar Voskamp
Gene Lefebvre
William H. Simon

PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The first effort to back a preservation project in 1957, favorably acted upon by the Chapter Board, was the Fry P. McGee House. It is now lost. However, a report on its type and data was sent to National AIA Preservation Committee with promise of more complete data. The Native Sons have full data and pictures.

The Native Sons are continuing their interests in the Fort Osage development with George Fuller Green, Architect and James Anderson, Historian. Mr. Green, non-member of the AIA has been invited to share in the work of the National Preservation activity—invitation through Mr. Reed and Mr. Lorch. Most worthy action.

Heron Cemetery preservation comes up once in a while and is still hanging in the balance as to whether it will be sold as private property or not. In my mind it still is worthy of preservation.

Look cabins have come up and

though some are being saved, most will become as rare as copies of Spauldings original history of our city. The one featured in the Kansas City Museum is a worthy preservation item.

The Jackson County Log Court House was visited this year to renew remembrances of it—with its chain for the slaves—and the very fact that Independence has taken good care of it merits a word of thanks. It was built in 1827 and was moved sometime after 1916 to its present location.

The Flintlock Baptist (Primitive) Church seems to have been lost for I have heard nothing more of it the latter part of the year. probably floundering on the item of maintenance after preservation.

I had a chance to visit the Frank Lloyd Wright Robey House in Chicago and took time to write in favor of its preservation. I was delighted to hear the news in December that this house will be saved. It certainly is one worthy of preservation as an outstanding record of this period's Architecture and its generation.

The Kansas City Star has continued in its interest in the older structures of our environment and we thank them for printing such outstanding examples as:

Remains of old Distillery, Weston.

R. B. Jones House, 107 years old. Remains of the original Maccochaque School, Rosedale.

The Old Tavern in Westport from the days of the Sante Fe Trail (this remains to be fixed up in some measure and should be on our preservation list).

Ravenswood, historic home of the Leonard family and a 30-room mansion from the 1825 period in Boonville.

I believe that the Architect's efforts saved the St. Mary's Episcopal Church in the midst of the demolition around it. St. Patrick's, at Eighth and Locust, should be looked into toward preservation, exterior and interior.

The old Quindaro ruins could make an interesting nucleus for a Kansas City, Kansas park.

The Penn School, in our Old Westport still remains not lost, but is on the verge of passing into oblivion, subject to preservation interest. Mrs. Douglas Irwin, Sr. has been a most aggressive pusher for this structure's preservation. As you know, I reported it worthy from historical viewpoints but not necessarily architectural. It is still not gone, as of the last Board of Education meeting.

Ernest O. Brostrom, Chairman

BY-LAWS

The By-Laws Committee met to change the By-Law covering Termination of Membership of Associate Members, altering said paragraph to read the same as the paragraph covering Termination of Membership of Junior Associate Members.

This change gives the Chapter the same reasons for termination of membership for both classes of membership. Involved was Article 3, Section 3a, Termination of Associateship.

The recommendation was sent to the Chapter on August 20, 1957

and official action was taken.

Herbert C. Anset, Chairman
Edward W. Lawhan
Earl W. Wilson

HOME BUILDING INDUSTRY

Your Chairman has endeavored to secure letters from the Federal Housing Administration and from the Veterans Administration indicating that architectural exhibits are recognized by these insuring offices for their true worth.

As can be determined from the letter quoted below which was signed by Mr. Studer, the Director of the local FHA office, the intent was not brought out in full. A part of this letter is quoted as follows:

"As I am sure you are well aware, the character of our processing reflects the quality of exhibits submitted in connection with an application. When our Form 2005, Description of Materials, is incomplete or incorrectly filled out, we, of course, can only assume that the minimum will apply. This is also true with respect to plans that are lacking in sufficient details.

"May I assure you that in our processing, full credit is given for all items specified and clearly defined, and a proper allowance is made for architectural services where the exhibits reflect care and accuracy in their preparation."

Mr. Studer has verbally quoted to your Chairman that if a builder would submit a statement from his Architect as to his charges for

services, the amount would be recognized in the replacement cost of the project should the amount be anywhere within reason, or normal.

A similar letter has been promised from the Veterans Administration. It is the intent of this Committee to present these letters to the local representative for the National Association of Home Builders for circulation as they see fit. Mr. Mullin, representative of National Association of Home Builders has been wanting to set up a meeting with your Chairman to talk over some of the differences of viewpoint between Builders and Architects, but has postponed this meeting awaiting the letter mentioned above.

Concerning recommendations for the 1958 Committee, if the tempo of the Home Building program is not increased, your Chairman is at a loss as to what can be done to promote the intent of this Committee. It seems to the Committee that the more difficult the sales become, the more reliance Builders should have upon the Architect. But the reverse at times seems to be true as the Builder normally wants to build the same house which a few years ago had a good sales record and he wishes to cut the cost of all material, labor and service going into these houses as low as possible.

It appears to this Committee that any accomplishment which might be gained for the Architect will not be evident in the very near future.

Louis H. Geis, Chairman
Edwin Kratz
Evans Folger
Bill Cory



"Music was always his first love"

For your enjoyment—courtesy Pomona Tile Manufacturing Co.

ERRATUM

The very interesting Springfield, Missouri high school featured in the November issue of SKYLINES was titled "Hillcrest High School" by error. It is actually the "Parkview High School."

The Editor of SKYLINES wishes to express sincere apologies for any embarrassment which may have been caused to Architect, Richard P. Stahl and the School Board.

AUTOMATION ARCHITECTURE

GEORGE PETER KELETI

George Peter Keleti received a B.S. in Architecture at the Royal Technological Institute of Budapest, Hungary. After coming to the United States he received his Master's Degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1948. He taught at Kansas University from 1949 to 1951. During 1954, he was an Associate Professor at Washington University and worked in the office of Harris Armstrong. In 1955, he came to Kansas City and entered into a partnership with Robert S. Everitt in the firm of Everitt and Keleti.

Ten years after we were first told that a mechanism can be constructed to "think," we know that automation is here to stay. Day by day new phases of human productivity are taken over by automatical equipment. The new "Y-block" Ford engine is not only machined but also is checked automatically; in England they make radio sets without a man ever touching the product until delivery. In this country most scientific research projects use the electronic brain—if necessary, rented by the hour—to complete work too difficult for the human brain to compute by the time it would be needed. How long will it be before blue prints and designs themselves are produced by electronic brains?

Quality in Architecture depends on how many good ideas we are willing to give up to look for better ones. Whether we will find these better ideas will depend on the time we have for doing so, and our speed and efficiency in scanning the possibilities for better solutions. If the ability to judge quality is taken as a given thing for an individual at any one given time, the only way to improve the quality of our work as Architects is to speed up our thinking—using electronic brains if that will help. Obviously, the available electronic computers are not designed to produce blue prints or architectural designs. But, did we ever think seriously of adapting them to our needs?

It is conceivable that with an electronic-scanning method similar to the one used in producing the image on a television screen, an electronic brain could directly produce a photo-plate from which we could pull the blue print duplicate copies necessary to construct a building. As we have such an obvious solution to the final step of our electronic production line, let us check on the procedure from the very beginning and see whether we will run into any serious snag which cannot be ironed out. To set up a procedure for an electronic brain to produce a design, we have to consider every step toward a solution as a fully conscious operation. An electronic computer does not have a subconscious self which can make or even influence decisions. An electronic brain does not act unconsciously, for it acts strictly according to the plan we command it to act upon—the plan we tape into it.

If we are to develop a design that will approximate the generalized idea of a building, like a department store in the shape of a Georgian mansion or a skyscraper in the form of a Cathedral, the electronic computer will be a ready servant as long as every decision which has to be made is clearly stated. It has to be a "yes" or "no" or qualitative answer. The electronic computer is only capable of solving problems and is not able to compromise. If the generalized idea of the building is not feasible structurally and the details are too heavy for the preconceived artistic concept, the computer will stop still and give the flat answer of "impossible." If we were to press the computer like we would a detailing draftsman to make the impossible work, we would most likely produce an instant breakdown of the equipment. Unfortunately, equipment is harder and more expensive to replace than draftsmen—so, if we are to switch to electronic equipment in our production we will have to cease to compromise, and resign ourselves to the fact that we will have to solve every problem without compromise of principle.

To economize on electronic computer time (which might easily run over \$300.00 an hour), we will have to set up our problems in a way that will give the absolute minimum of equipment-time waste. We will have to give up our amateurish binges of subconscious splurges to find great ideas. It might take five hours at \$300.00 an hour to find out that Frank Lloyd Wright's latest skyscraper is sheer nonsense (except for its publicity value). We will have to set up the problem without any preconception of esthetics (eclecticism, old or modern . . .). Space requirements will have to be determined as *minimum*, *optimum* or *justifiable maximum*. The relationship of spaces will have to be determined as *necessary*, *advisable*, *desirable*, and also straight through to *objectionable*. We will have to prepare this information systematically as any omission might get the equipment sidetracked in its "thinking,"

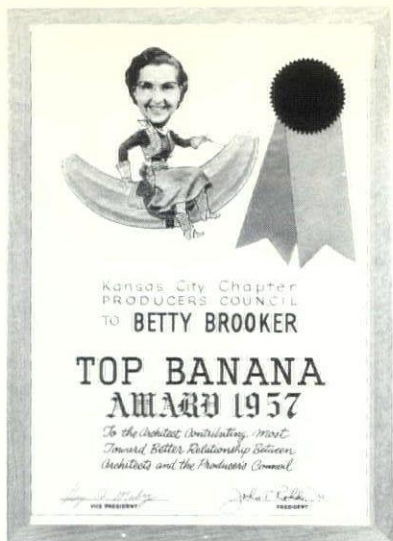
producing designs most admirable, but unacceptable due to some ridiculous shortcoming.

While we are doomed to feed "complete" information into the equipment, we have the advantage that the equipment will have practically an unlimited memory which would not forget anything. Data on structural systems will be stored in the computer enabling it not only to solve the framing of buildings, but also to do so in several ways simultaneously in an unbelievably short time. Prints of the most economical type of construction could be pulled immediately, erasing the less favorable solutions from its memory stacks. The comparative study of construction types could be set up to introduce more complications in the selection of a solution such as allowing extra costs for improved fire ratings and even for esthetics. Unfortunately, the esthetical selective process would be the most expensive as the machine would have to develop several complete plans for comparison. The detail work which could be omitted from these plans in the actual printing process would still have to be solved and would therefore take time.

It was stated years ago that one could design computers capable of learning. It is possible that we can even design a computer which has imagination. It seems, though, that the time when we will be able to tape the requirements given by the client into a machine from a key-board console, and pull the finished blue prints for the contractors within twenty-four hours, is far away indeed! In the meantime, we can think about about how we would feed the problems we have into machines we do not yet have. Perhaps if we worded our problems as clearly to ourselves as we would word them to our machine, we could ourselves become more efficient, more capable of finding new answers, better answers and produce a more economical and more inspiring Architecture!

CALENDAR

Installation Banquet with Joseph Watterson, Editor of the AIA JOURNAL as principal speaker	January 21
Modern Masonry Seminar (Five evening weekly meetings)	January 29 February 5, 12, 19, 26
February Producers' Council Luncheon	February 4
February Chapter Meeting	February 18
Curtain Wall Institute (sponsored by Producers' Council)	April 23
Central States Regional Convention	Oct. 30 - Nov. 1



"TOP BANANA" OF 1957



BETTY BROOKER

This year's Producers' Council "Top Banana" Award was presented to Miss Betty Brooker at the PC Christmas Party, December 18th. The award is presented to the "Architect contributing most to better relations between Architects and the Producers' Council."

Betty was born in Oakland, California, attended Wyandotte High School, and secured her B.S. Degree in Architecture at the University of Kansas in 1949. Since that time she has been working in the office of Voskamp and Slezak.

In addition to being Editor of SKY-LINES from October, 1955 to February, 1957 she has been active in theater work with the University of Kansas City Community Theater and the Accent Theater Group.

An Architect in every sense, devoted to the tasks of the Profession, she has our heartiest congratulations for this richly deserved honor.



A KANSAS FARM HOUSE

for Mr. and Mrs. John T. Rohde

1313 Edwardsville Drive

Edwardsville, Kansas

KEENE & SIMPSON & MURPHY

A R C H I T E C T S

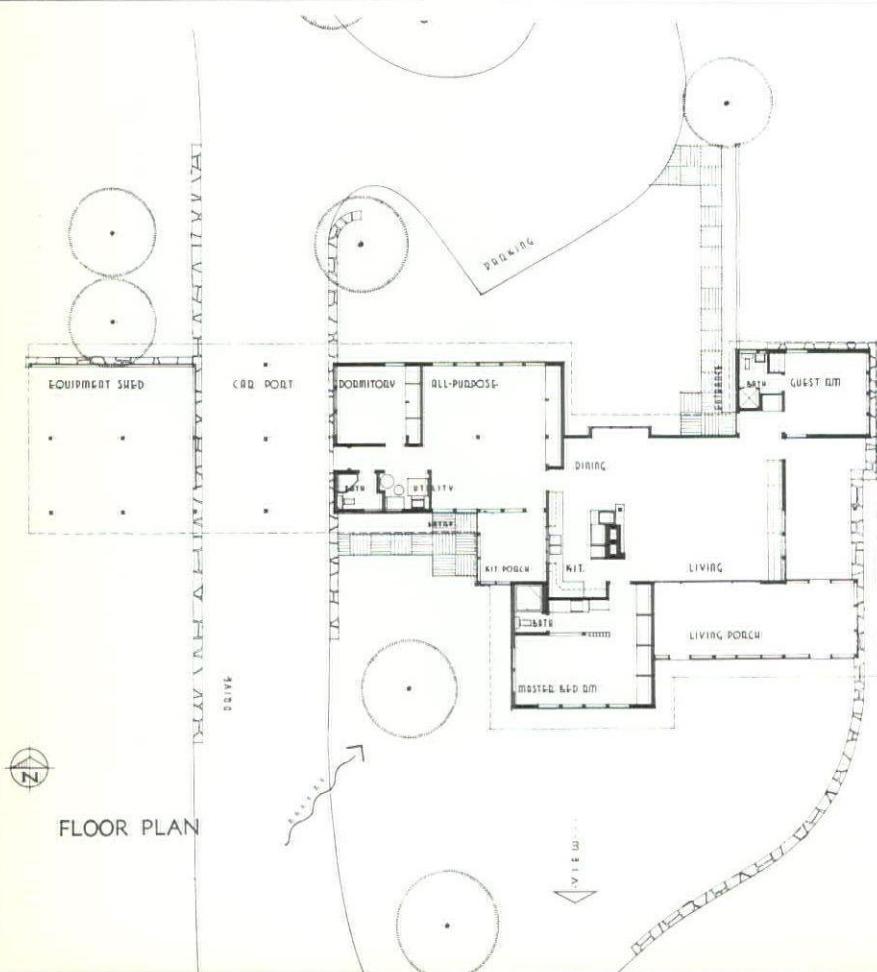


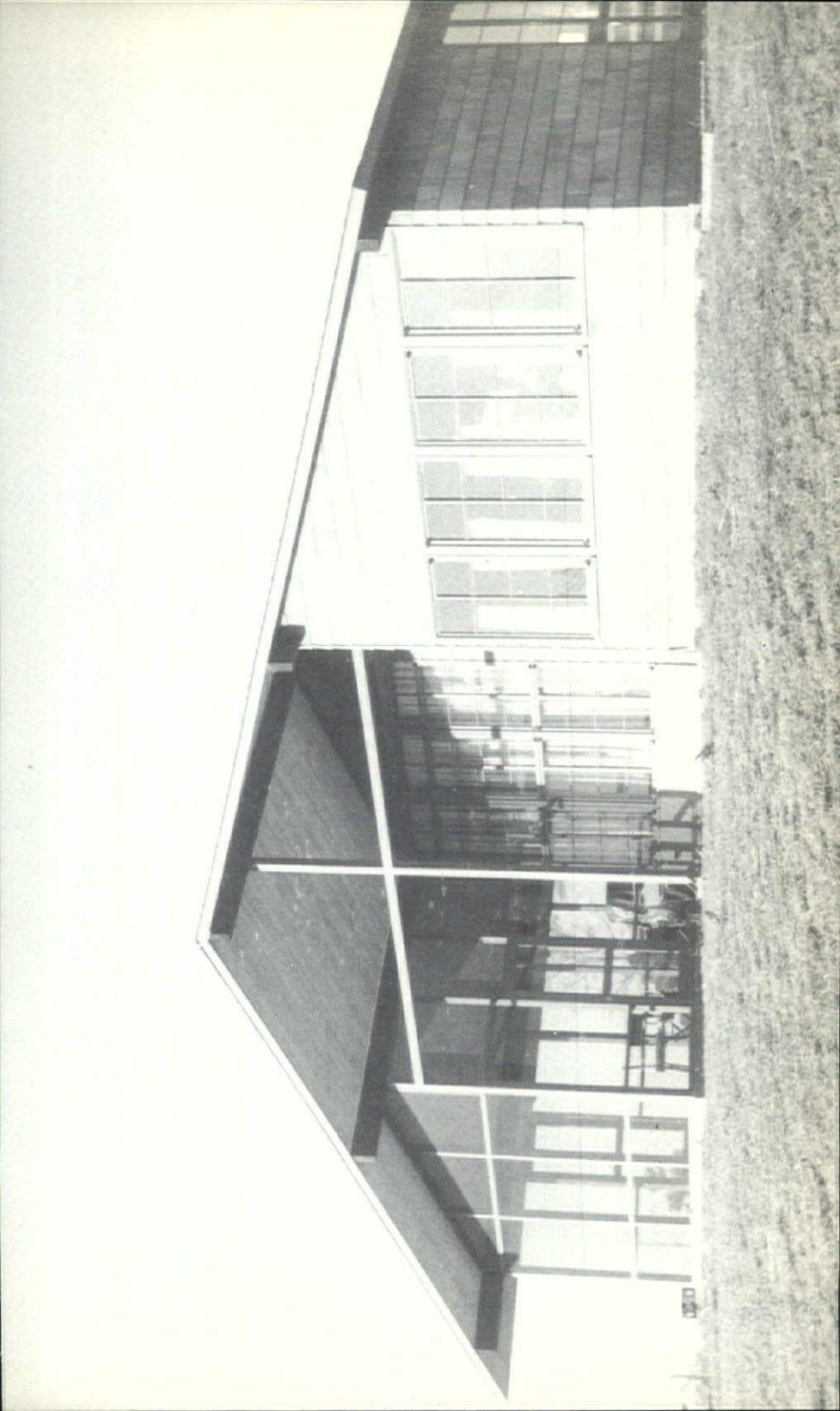
This is a Kansas farm house for a couple of young grandparents. Theirs is an active, outdoor life; but the demands of a Kansas summer require an oasis from the searing heat, while the northwest winter winds have also to be reckoned with.

Located on a high, rolling site; overlooking the Kaw River valley to the south and the skyline of Kansas City 15 miles to the east; it is planned and oriented to take advantage of fine panoramic views and the prevailing south-southwest summer breezes. Deep overhangs give protection from the burning Kansas sun, and open porches are located on the west for morning activities, and on the southeast for afternoon and evening use.

The open arrangement of living, dining, food preparation and porch areas ideally suits the living habits of the clients, while the comparative isolation of sleeping quarters, master bedroom, guest room and teen-age boys dormitory satisfies the requirements for occasional quiet and privacy.

Simple in its construction and the use of materials, this house is a clear and honest expression of the desires of the Owners and the physical demands of the region.





CHAPTER NEWS

● We're all creatures of habit—but some habits are most pleasant—like the **Annual Producers' Council Christmas Party**. It never fails to be the real highlight of the year—one time when you can see just about everyone you know in one place. Held in the Town House Grand and Junior Ballroom nightclub style, around an active dance floor,—the celebration started and ended strong with plenty of holiday spirit. Thank you, Producers' Council, for hosting such a festive evening.

Another Producers' Council outstanding event which started off this new year was the Luncheon Meeting, January 7th, at which **Dave Runnells** presented the KC/80 Plan to the largest crowd of the season. The Luncheon Meetings will continue this year on the first Tuesday of each month. And plans are now being laid for an all-day Curtain Wall Institute to be presented by the P.C. on April 23rd. Reports from other cities who have seen this, indicate that we are fortunate that the Kansas City P.C. Chapter could arrange to have it presented here.

● The Chapter was very pleased to have one of our Springfield members, **Ernest P. Ward** at the December meeting. We wish more of our out-of-town members could arrange their business trips to coincide with meeting nights so that we might have an opportunity to visit with them.

● Several weeks ago all members received a notice through the mail of the new "Catastrophe" type

group insurance being offered to the Chapter by Altman-Singleton & Company through the American Casualty Insurance Company. The plan has the approval of the Executive Committee and can serve as "excess" coverage over present hospitalization insurance or as a "stop loss" policy by itself, all at very nominal cost. Examine the descriptive literature you have received carefully. Coverage to all ages, regardless of past medical history, is assured provided 50% of our entire membership make application during the Enrollment period.

● At the December Annual Chapter Meeting when a count was being made of the Corporate members present to assure the legality of the election voting, those sitting near the head table heard **Frank Grimaldi's** classic remark, "Oh, we have plenty of quorum."

● Thanks to Kansas Chapter's **Charles L. Marshall** for his kind remarks about SKYLINES in the January issue of the KANSAS CONSTRUCTION MAGAZINE. For the benefit of those who have not heard, the Kansas Chapter plans to publish its KANSAS ARCHITECT in new form starting this month and appearing bi-monthly during 1958. The cover design was selected from a student competition held at K. U. and K-State. Always one of the most looked-forward-to Chapter publications, we wish them continued success with their new format.

● The annual tour of Kansas City Architects' offices by students of Kansas University took place January 10th. Sponsored by the Chap-

ter Education Committee, at least 10 students took part in the tour this year. It is always a pleasure to have them as our guests and we hope that they returned to K. U. with at least a few new insights into the workings of an architectural office.

● Footnoting **Frank Slezak's** Annual Report on the 1957 Presidency at the December Chapter Meeting were three pertinent suggestions for future Chapter action:

1. The Honor Awards Committee should be appointed to run from June to June in order to give them more time to prepare for the Banquet in April.

2. The office of Second Vice-President should be added to the Executive Committee to allow more participation in this Committee's activities.

3. Definite action should be taken to encourage not only a growth in Chapter membership, but also an up-grading of membership classification.

● We regret to see notice of the death of **Mrs. Helen Siemens**, wife of the late Kansas City Architect, George M. Siemens. He had been a staunch AIA members during his 40 year practice here. Since his death in 1951, Mrs. Siemens had been living in Los Angeles.

M O D E R N M A S O N R Y S E M I N A R

Beginning Wednesday, January 29th, a five-week evening Seminar will be presented at the Union Hall, 746 Osage, Kansas City, Kansas. Simultaneously, Seminars will be conducted in Wichita (beginning January 28th) and Topeka (beginning January 30th).

The program, presented by the STRUCTURAL CLAY PRODUCTS INSTITUTE, is being co-sponsored by Kansas and Kansas City AIA Chapters, Kansas Chapter AGC, Kansas Engineering Society, University of Wichita, University of Kansas, and Kansas State College.

The purpose of the Seminar is to emphasize that watertight clay masonry walls can be attained through the application of proper design, specifications and workmanship. The importance of these applications, a review of pertinent construction aspects and new building concepts of the industry form the basis of a complete and worthwhile program appealing to Architects, Draftsmen, Engineers, Contractors and the Bricklayers. The first two such Seminars held at the University of Minnesota and the University of Houston were enthusiastically received.

The Seminars are being organized by Donald Ness, Regional Director of the Structural Clay Products Institute with the cooperation of the University of Wichita, Kansas State College, and the University of Kansas. Jack Morley is the Moderator and the Coordinator of the Kansas City Seminar.

The registration fee of \$5.00 per name is nominal, expected and certainly permits an opportunity to send entire drafting rooms.

the ceiling's not the limit!

we handle also

removable partitions

folding doors

chalk and tack board

resilient floor covering

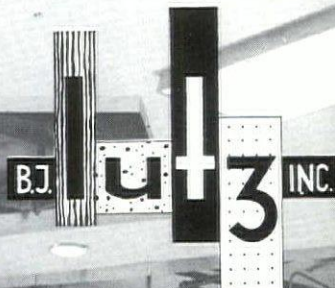
industrial floor covering

but

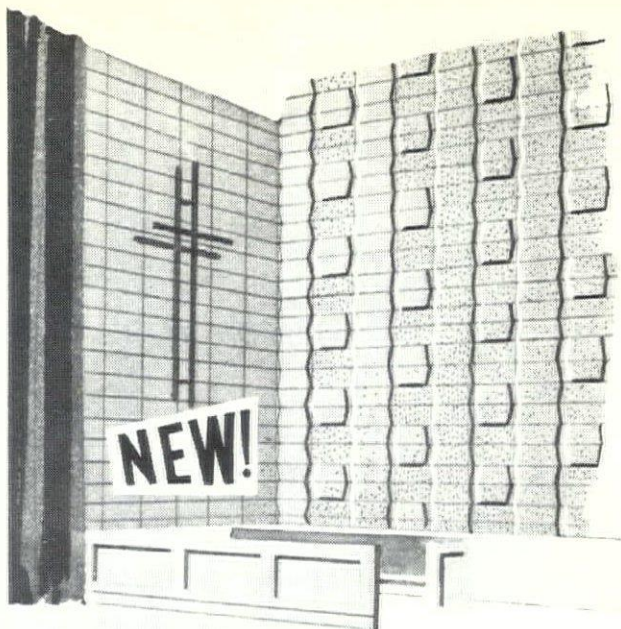
we are

best known for

ceilings of quiet distinction by



KANSAS CITY, MO. • 1735 Charlotte — Phone HA 1-2288
DES MOINES, IOWA • 1167 25th Street — Phone CH 4-0820
OMAHA, NEBRASKA • 3712 N. 50th Street — Phone PL 5626



Available in Beautifully Textured HAYDITE

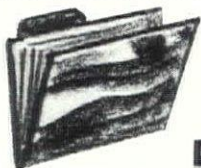
shadowal BLOCK

TRADEMARK

...the block with 1000 faces

A revolutionary new building material called Shadowal block now makes possible over one thousand beautifully sculptured concrete masonry patterns. Wherever used, each Shadowal block pattern offers the distinction and high fashion desired by modern builders plus low cost.

You are invited to see the amazing features of Shadowal block now.



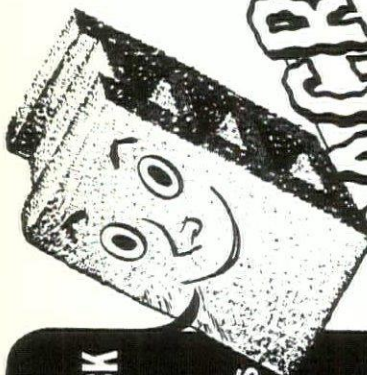
Ask us for your complete
Shadowal masonry portfolio

CONSTRUCTION THE MATERIALS
CARTER-WATERS
KANSAS CITY CORP. B. MISSOURI
2440 Pennway Phone GRand 1-2570

**YES, CONCRETE BLOCK
FOUNDATIONS**

did stand up better during
the recent DRY, HOT YEARS
because of

**LESS WEIGHT and
LESS CONDENSATION**



**CONCRETE
PRODUCTS**

VIBRACRETE

**CHANNEL SLABS
BEAMS**

*New Economy in Construction!
Eliminate Posts!*

**Roof and Floor Spans
up to 50' and over**

*Call us for information. Our Sales Representatives and
Engineers are anxious to give you detailed information.*

**MORE THAN 30 YEARS
EXPERIENCE**

CONCRETE BUILDING UNITS CO.
3405 Terrace St. • Kansas City, Mo.
Phone VA15300

CONCRETE BUILDING PRODUCTS CO.
R.R. 1 Harrisonville, Mo.
Phone 118

...for modern design concept-

BROWNE CURTAIN WALL

A COMPLETE SERVICE

- DESIGN
- CUSTOM FABRICATION
- ERECTION
- COMPLETE WARRANTY
- CUSTOM WINDOWS
- PANELS
- FINS
- LOUVERS
- SOLAR SHADES
- CANOPIES

and Related Architectural
Accessories
of

ALUMINUM

BRONZE

STAINLESS STEEL

MURCHISON TOWER BUILDING
DENVER, COLORADO
Architect: Raymond Harry Ervin
Gen. Contractor: Mead & Mount
Construction Co.



THE BROWNE WINDOW MANUFACTURING CO.

INCORPORATED
BOX 6823 • DALLAS, TEXAS

"FINESSE IN FENESTRATION"

CLAUDE COOKE COMPANY, INC.

5920 Nall Avenue (P. O. Box No. 2)

MISSION, KANSAS

KANSAS CITY NATURAL SLATE CO.

3109 SOUTHWEST BLVD.

PHONE WE 1-6984

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

FLOOR COVERINGS

**Asphalt Tile
Rubber Tile
Vinyl Tile
Cork Tile
Linoleum
Wood Block Flooring
Hubbellite
Dex-O-Tex**

WALL COVERINGS

**Kalistron
Flexwood
Metal Wall Tile
Plastic Wall Tile**

ACOUSTICAL CEILINGS

**Owens-Corning-Fiberglas
Armstrong Cork Co.
Keasbey & Mattison**

CHALKBOARDS

**U. S. Plywood's "ARMORPLY"
Weber Costello**

TACKBOARDS

**Armstrong
Nairn
U. S. Plywood**

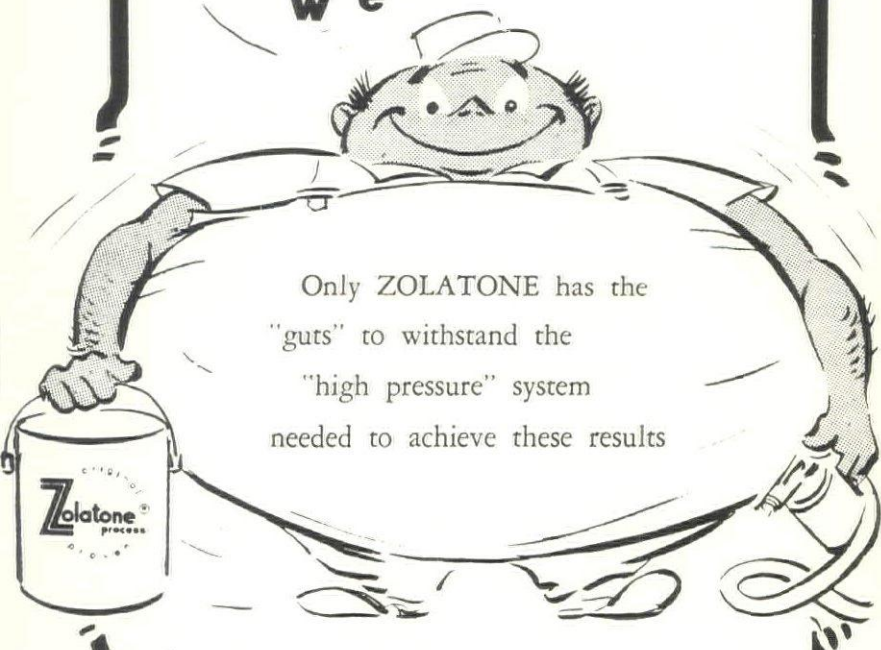


GREATER

S-P-R-E-A-D-I-N-G rate

per gallon means

l o w e r applied cost



Only ZOLATONE has the
"guts" to withstand the
"high pressure" system
needed to achieve these results

- ★ FULL SURFACE COVERAGE
- ★ NO SPATTER EFFECT
- ★ TRUE COLOR PATTERNS
- ★ UP TO 175 OR 200 SQ. FT. PER GALLON

avoid the unknown-use ZOLATONE

ZOLATONE is manufactured only by
PARAMOUNT PAINT & LACQUER CO.



DEVOE OF KANSAS CITY, Inc.

STERLING RONAI
General Manager

200 S. W. Blvd.
Phone VI 2-5672

