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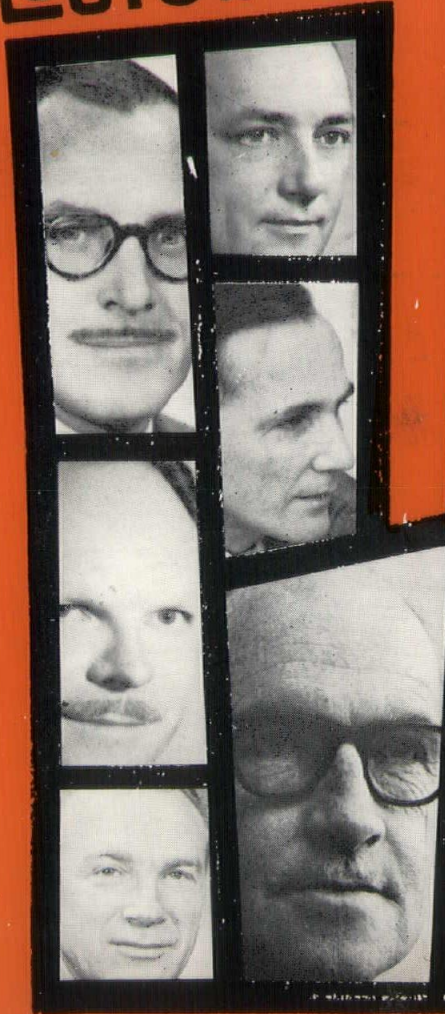
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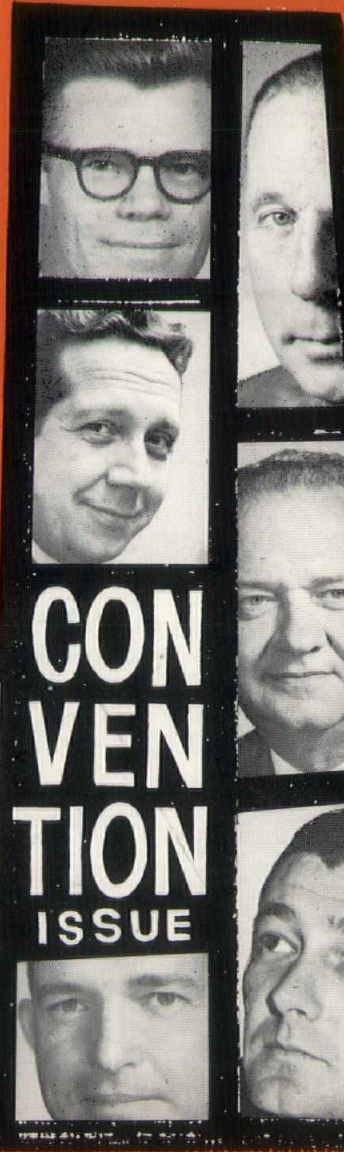
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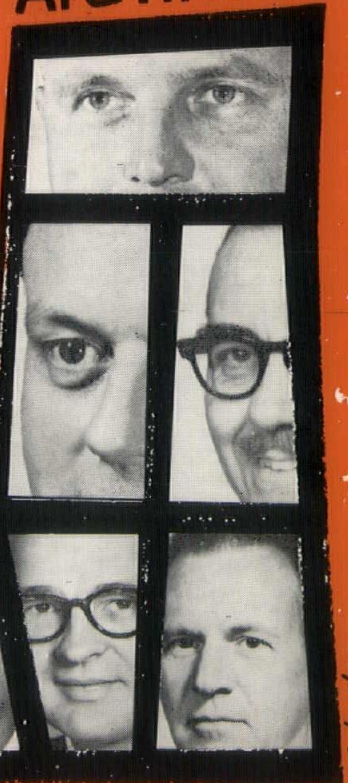
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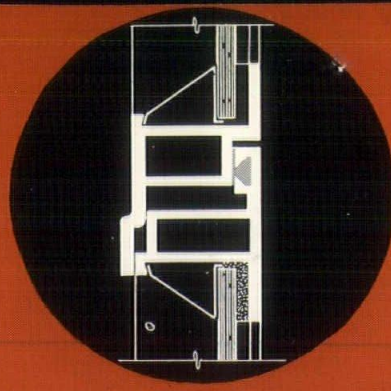


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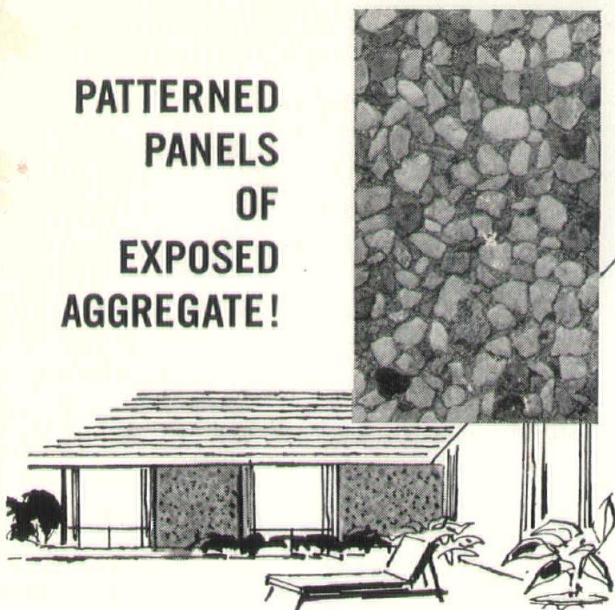
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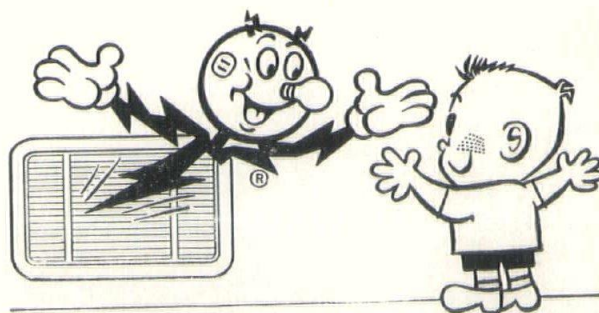
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THE LOUISIANA ARCHITECT, Official Journal of the Louisiana Architects Association of the American Institute of Architects, is owned by the Louisiana Architects Association, not for profit, and is published monthly, Suite 200, Capitol House Hotel, Baton Rouge, La., telephone DI 8-4331. Editorial contributions are welcomed but publication cannot be guaranteed. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Louisiana Architects Association. Editorial material may be freely reprinted by other official AIA publications, provided full credit is given to the author and to the LOUISIANA ARCHITECT for prior use.

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. . . Accepted as controlled circulation publication at Baton Rouge, La. Printed by Franklin Press, Inc.

Myron Tassin — Editor

Louisiana Architects Association — Publisher

John H. Schaeffer — Consulting Art Director

Cover Design
JOHN H. SCHAEFFER

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VOLUME I
NUMBER I 1961



Presidential Privilege

By W. J. EVANS
LAA President

IN THE BEGINNING . . .

It was just a year ago that the LAA trimmed its sails and set a new course for the future. Architects being what they are—some thinking, some doing, some saying—our hope for success was to be realized by working together. We recognized that we could, and should, assume a full share of the responsibility for shaping the future of our communities, of the great state we live in, and of our own profession.

The first year has been one of laying cornerstones. Emphasis has been on building the internal effectiveness of our Association. Under the authority of a new charter and by-laws, a full-time headquarters has been organized. Mike Tassin, our executive director, has made two trips to the national AIA headquarters in Washington, D. C. during the year. The active co-operation of the national staff has been very helpful.

The program of LAA spreads in many directions. Some 125 of our members have been active in a variety of committee work. Here are some of the results:

A Workshop on Office Practice was conducted early in the year, when architects from all over the state assembled in Baton Rouge for a two-day educational program. The objective was to make better architects of ourselves.

The "Blueprint," our informal internal bulletin on the affairs of the

profession, has been published at least once each month.

Competent and continuous legal counsel has been retained. A significant accomplishment was the Supreme Court reversal of the lower court ruling in the Day case, setting precedent in the limits of liability related to architectural practice.

An LAA group insurance plan covering hospitalization and major medical expense was instituted, with many of our members and their employees already actively participating in the plan.

A placement service was originated by our state headquarters. Over 30 employees have been placed in new jobs through this service. The most significant use of the service has been by member firms seeking new employees.

A formal statement of professional services offered by our members, and a recommended schedule of minimum fees have been prepared for adoption and distribution to the general public.

A cooperative liaison has been established with local and state governments, with the State Board of Registration for Architects, with the Associated General Contractors, and with the engineering profession.

In the field of governmental affairs, a program of legislation is being prepared, which will extend and clarify the architect's legal responsibilities in the protection of

the health, safety, and welfare of the general public.

An independent research study has been instituted through the Public Affairs Research Council, in an effort to determine the moral, ethical, technical, and economic considerations which should properly guide a public agency in the selection of architects.

An adequate presentation of the role of the architect has been the subject of much concern. Several of our local chapters have an effective program of public relations. A film-strip, suitable for use in any part of the state, will soon be completed by LAA.

The climax of the year's internal activities will come on November 15-18, when our association will be host to the Eleventh Annual Conference of the Gulf States Region, AIA. Delegates from five states and exhibitors from across the U. S. will assemble in Baton Rouge for a full discussion of the architect's role in the economic development of the Gulf South Region.

With the publication of this first issue of LOUISIANA ARCHITECT, our outreach becomes external as well as internal. Through this means we offer the leaders in our state an opportunity to share the spirit of service and ambition which is architecture. If this moment of reading motivates you to build a little better for the future, then our purpose has been served.

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FIVE-STATE AIA CONFERENCE SET

Architects from the five states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, and Tennessee meet in Baton Rouge on November 15-18 to look at the performance of their profession in regional growth and to map out their role for the future in development of the Gulf South States.

Basic factors affecting development of the five states will be examined by panelists well qualified in their respective fields of politics, economics, technical factors, sociological influences, etc. The participants will attempt to chart the means by which architects can influence development with an appreciation for function, durability and beauty.

Panelists and speakers will include Phil Will, Jr. and Henry Wright, president and first vice-president of the American Institute of Architects, respectively; Clinton Brush III, Gulf States Regional Director; Dexter Keezer, chief economist for McGraw-Hill Publishing Company; Dudley Hunt, senior editor of Architectural Record; Buford Pickens, director of Building at Washington University in St. Louis and former dean of the Tulane School of Architecture; Edward Steimel, executive director of Louisiana's Public Affairs Research Council; James Shilstone, partner in Shilstone Testing Laboratories.

Thomas Biggs, member of the National AIA Education Committee; O. J. Baker, head of the LSU Dept. of Architecture; John Williams, head of the Dept. of Architecture at the University of Arkansas; Gordon C. Wittenberg, national chairman of the AIA Public Relations Committee; George F. Pierce, chairman of the National AIA's Chapter Affairs Committee; Wolf Von Eckardt, and Maurice Perreault, both of the National AIA Staff, and Max Fetty, partner in Fetty/Hundemer & Associates, Baton Rouge public relations firm.

Some 60 exhibit spaces have been rented by manufacturers wherein they will exhibit building products to attending architects.

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THE LOUISIANA ARCHITECT

Stock Plans Don't Work — California Study Shows

Part I. Historically, stock plans are not new, for schools and other types of building. They have proved practical only for the simplest buildings, usually small and of an emergency nature. Variations in sites, climates, local problems, conditions, and desires; code requirements, and other factors, which will be described later, render them unfeasible and uneconomical in most instances.

Stock plans for *schools* have been tried and abandoned in 15 states. Twenty-one states reported they have never provided stock plans and are not considering them. Eight states said they do have stock plans available; three for one-room schools only; two up to two classrooms; two up to four classrooms; one for buildings to house up to 300 students. *None of the 45 reporting states recommend stock plans to other states.*

Samples from the reports:

Connecticut 35 years ago prepared stock plans for one and two room schools. Only two school buildings ever were erected according to these plans.

Georgia entered into a stock plans program 10 years ago, but now discourages them because "they are not up to desired standards for modern school buildings . . . hopelessly obsolete" and because "stock plans, when released to local school officials are not properly constructed," and usually, "'jackleg' alterations . . . very effectively butcher any good points in these plans."

Michigan: "The Legislature in Michigan frowns on stock plans . . . control of the schools, both programs and buildings, should rest with local boards of education insofar as possible. There would be no saving to school districts if stock plans were substituted for individually designed projects. No city in Michigan uses the same stock plans to solve its school building problems."

Missouri provided stock plans and discontinued the practice partly be-

(Editor's Note: Periodically, the subject of stock plans, particularly for schools, attracts considerable attention and discussion. A statement by the California Council of Architects, supported by a representative study, points up inadequacies of stock plans. For several issues, LOUISIANA ARCHITECT will offer digests of the California Statement.

cause "plans were not complete enough to get good comparative bidding" and because "it is our opinion that buildings should be designed to satisfy the needs of the community."

Wisconsin developed over 350 plans of one, two, and three-room buildings in the State Department of Public Instruction, during the decade 1930-40, 95% of them one-room buildings. *This service has been discontinued.* The Department significantly explains: "we recognized long before we discontinued the service that it is almost impossible to plan a good structure without some definite knowledge as to the site and some understanding of the people and their community. We found that the average rural school board member had difficulty in interpreting the plans, in making unassisted decisions as to materials, equipment, etc., in evaluating the contractor's work, and in the general supervision of the construction. Furthermore, it became apparent to us that once the contractors discovered the fact that we did not supervise the actual construction, they built pretty much as they pleased, even to the point that some of the buildings were unrecognizable when checked against the original plan. In this way and in others, the district frequently lost all, and in some cases more than the supposed saving in architectural fees."

Virginia recently has been disillusioned about stock plans. Here is a quote from Richmond, Virginia, Janu-

ary 6, 1953, which was printed in the Washington, D. C., *Star* under the heading: "COSTLY 'BONER' SEEN IN VIRGINIA AS SCHOOL PLANS GATHER DUST":

The Associated Press story reads, "when Virginia was in the midst of a tremendous school building program, the Legislature passed a bill which many lawmakers believed would reduce some of the construction costs."

"By the bill, a committee was named to work with the State Education Department in devising blueprints for school buildings. The blueprints would be kept on file in the education department, available for any locality which wished them in building a new school."

"Two sets of plans, costing some \$40,000 were drawn up and placed in the files."

"The plans are still there. As yet there have been no takers."

California State authorities have found stock plans undesirable and usually uneconomical. State Architect Anson Boyd has said "a stock plan is a stock plan only once." Costly changes to distort the plan to fit the local site and local problems have been found to nullify any savings, and the result is an unsatisfactory building.

California Legislature

When the California Legislature studied the possibility of stock plans, the Senate Interim Committee on Financing and Construction Problems of

Schools made this comment on the stock plan issue:

"The lack of stock plans and rigid standardizations which are used by some of the other states is believed to be a stimulation to progress that comes from the work and design contributions of many private architects. There is also the stimulation which arises from a state reviewing agency's evaluation of the architect's plans as contrasted with the review of plans by the agency that makes them."

The Assembly Interim Committee on Education also studied the stock plan proposal before the Legislature. The chairman of that group observed:

"Because of the huge school building problem in California the Legislature has studied various possible economics in construction. The idea of stock plans has been extensively explored and the preponderance of available facts and opinions has prompted us to reject stock plan proposals as neither sound nor economical."

Mechanical Impossibility Of Stock Planning

In spite of the fact that stock plans have been widely studied and rejected, or tried and abandoned, the layman may still ask: why don't they work?

Schools look much alike, true. Classrooms generally hold the same number of students, for the age group, and are approximately the same size. Windows and doors are usually of standard sizes. Plumbing fixtures are pretty standard, so are cabinets. There are only four basic materials to hold up the roof—wood, steel, concrete, and masonry. Why pay architects and engineers to design each school separately?

The answer lies in the many hidden differences in school plants. It lies underground and inside walls, floors, and ceilings. It lies in the fact that in elementary schools only 50 to 55% of the area is in classrooms only; in the secondary school even less space is devoted to classrooms only, and the requirements of these schools vary so greatly that no common ratio may be given.

Soil conditions, site contours and exposures, traffic patterns, and utility connections require different founda-

tions, different site planning development. These may not be apparent on the surface.

Physical site conditions vary at every school site. Every building plan must take into consideration existing soil conditions for foundation bearing values, drainage of ground around buildings and over playground area, and orientation of building for proper daylight conditions to eliminate glare. (Seeing, alone, uses 25% of a child's energy.)

Separate foundation plans have to be prepared, with special footings and foundation walls to fit soil bearing values of the particular site and the contours, both existing and final grades.

Separate electrical engineering plans are required to provide for the electrical load, metering and distribution of electrical circuits within a building.

Separate heating plans must be furnished for each school to provide for the climatic conditions of the area. The orientation of the building on the site also affects the design of the heating system. (Temperatures vary throughout Louisiana from very hot to mild and extreme cold.)

Separate plumbing plans are required for each site condition. The relation between the floor level of a building and that of the ordinary sewer connection varies with each site, to provide required slope from plumbing fixtures to sewer connections. In many areas, sanitary sewer systems are not available. In these situations, septic tanks with cesspools or drainage lines, must be designed. The locations of water and gas services vary for each site, thus requiring individual drawings.

Separate drainage plans are necessary for each school plant because of

the physical conditions of the site. Access roads, traffic controls, walks and paved areas are therefore affected, and require separate drawings.

Schools are not always built at once as complete plants. The central unit is built, then additions are made as the need develops and the budget allows. In such cases, the first unit must be equipped with the central core of power and other basic plant requirements to serve the complete school when it is finally constructed. This is another instance where stock plans do not work.

Building codes differ in various cities and counties. Some types of electrical installations, for example, are allowed in some communities and not allowed in neighboring cities. No stock plan would fit them all. If it were designed to meet the most rigid requirements, it would be unacceptable to communities with other standards.

Schools are not by any means all the same size, nor do all school districts have the same needs and desires, or the same budgets. In some areas, the school is a community center as well as a school. It is a place for civic meetings, for lectures, recitals, and plays; where the 4-H Club and the Farm Bureau and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and other civic organizations meet and have their programs. These community needs pose different problems.

There are many other reasons, known to those who work with school design and building problems, why even a thousand stock plans would not fit schools of all sizes and programs, all sites, all local building codes. *Any attempt to prepare them would be a huge loss to the taxpayers. Virginia wasted \$40,000 on two sets of "stock plans" alone.*



DISCUSS SCHEDULE—Carl Olschner and August Perez III discuss the LAA Standards of Practice at the last LAA Board Meeting in Shreveport. The schedule will be discussed at the LAA Annual Meeting November 15.

NEWS, NOTES, QUOTES

Big Shoes to Fill—

A toast to retiring Regional Director *Bert Brush* In his three years at the helm, his region has continued to advance effectively the interests of the profession. Fortunately his influence will still be felt by the Gulf States in his capacity as "Mother to the New Director". . . . a title Bert amiably tagged on his predecessor, *Gentleman John Pritchard* of the Tunica Hills.

Progress on Association Film

Frank Lotz Miller, New Orleans architectural photographer, will assist LAA in production of a filmstrip depicting the work of the architect, what he can do for the client, how to select him, etc. *Miller* will make available from his collection, all slides which "fit" the script. The balance will be photographed by *Miller* and furnished to LAA at cost. *Bill Brockway's* Film Committee has completed the script and hopes to have copies to all seven chapters early in 1962.

Public Relations Effort by Crescent City Chapter

The New Orleans Chapter has embarked on a vigorous public relations program, including retainage of professional public relations counsel and the beginning of a chapter publication. At the last chapter meeting, President *Murvan Maxwell* applauded the chapter PR Committee, under the leadership of *Lem McCoy*, for long hours of hard work dedicated to enhancing the image of the profession in the New Orleans area.

Continue Membership on LAA Board of Governors

The following have a one year term yet to serve on the Association's Board of Governors: *Ralph Kiper*, Shreveport; *Clifton C. Lasseigne*, Baton Rouge; *F. V. von Osthoff*, *August Perez III*, and *Carl Olschner*, New Orleans. Retiring President *W. J. Evans* will continue on the body as immediate past president. The four

officers and seven new chapter presidents will complete the 1962 board membership.

AGC Says December 8 Bad Day for Bids

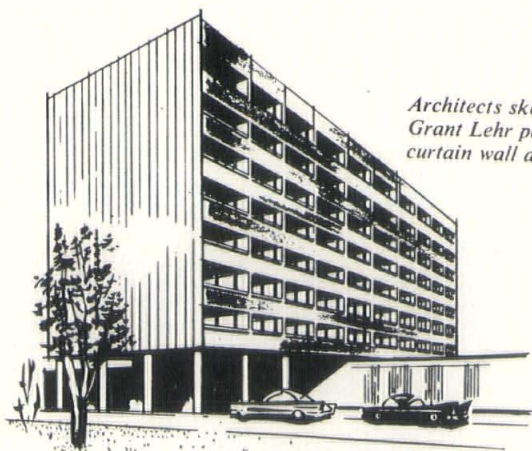
The AGC is sponsoring the First Annual Construction Management Conference at LSU on December 8 and 9. Since December 8 is on Friday, the AGC respectfully requests that architects refrain from asking for bids on that date.

Your cooperation in this matter will permit AGC members to attend the conference in greater numbers.

Next Month . . .

LOUISIANA ARCHITECT will feature an article professing that "Arbitration Is the Best Way to Settle Differences." Too many current victories in court eventually lead to immeasurable loss in public esteem after publicity has taken its toll.

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Manufacturers Across U.S.

Exhibit Products at Meet

From the southeast, northeast, midwest, southwest and far west, manufacturers are sending their products to be exhibited during the 11th Conference of the Gulf States Region of the American Institute of Architects to be held in Baton Rouge, November 15-18.

In addition to extensive representation from all parts of Louisiana, the Conference is attracting exhibitors from many parts of the country including Miami, Florida; Atlanta and Brunswick, Georgia; Brooklyn, New York; Lansdale and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Washington, D.C.; Elgin, Illinois; Zanesville and Toledo, Ohio; Zeeland and Reed City, Michigan; Belton, Dallas, San Antonio and East Bernard, Texas . . . even from Fullerton, California, over 2,000 miles away.

Over 60 booth spaces will have been rented by the convention organization when the Conference convenes. Any type of building product and service imaginable will be displayed for the educational benefit of the architects from the five-state region.

At press time, the following firms had contracted for exhibit space at the three-day meeting:

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16. Shower Door Company
17. Griggs Equipment, Inc.
18. School Products Company
19. Ipik Door Company, Inc.
20. McCarty-Branton
21. Herman Miller, Inc.
22. National Lumber Manufacturers Assn.
23. Miami Window Corp.
24. Miami Window Corp.
25. Monceret & Brister Appliances
26. Lundin-Hendry, Inc.
27. Associated Waterproofing Co.
28. American Olean Tile Co.
29. Architectural Products Mfg. Co.
30. Southeast Distributors, Inc.
31. Dow Chemical Company
32. A. B. Broussard, Sr.
33. S. A. Caldwell Sound Systems
34. Ronald A. Coco, Inc.
35. Ronald A. Coco, Inc.
36. National Furniture Mfg. Co.
37. John Hancock Insurance Company
38. Clearview Corporation
39. L. C. Lohman & Associates
40. Rust-Oleum Corporation
41. Libbey-Owens Ford Glass Co.
42. Kentile, Inc.
43. Cocreham Materials Corp.
44. No Sale—Fire Exit
45. Ventalite of Louisiana, Inc.
46. Arcadia Metal Products
47. Cooper & Weir, Inc.
48. Mosaic Tile Company
49. Ideal Building Materials, Inc.
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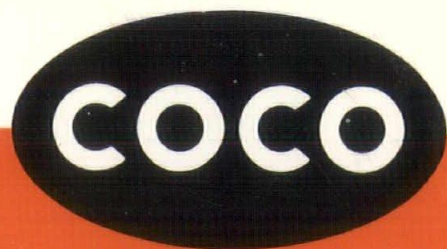
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