BUILDING CODE REFLEXES

By JOSEPH P. WOLFF, Commissioner
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND SAFETY ENGINEERING.

FROM THE BILDOR

Editor's Note: Detroit has been exceedingly fortunate in having a Building Department which is operated in the interests of health, safety and intelligently planned progress in the construction industry. New ideas and materials in Detroit are judged on their merit and value, and not on the ideas of any pressure group. As a result, the Detroit Department of Building and Safety Engineering has functioned not only as an agency safeguarding the health and safety of the general public, but also functions as a very alert and enterprising research organization, operating for the benefit of the whole building industry. The entire credit for the efficiency of this Department is due to the fact that Commissioner Wolff and his very able staff have a very fine conception of the meaning of the words "public service."

It is difficult to foretell how far-reaching the effect of our war effort will be upon the building industry of tomorrow. If the restrictions imposed thus far serve as a criterion for the future, then we may well anticipate a notable veering from our otherwise laissez-faire course in serving the building needs of our Country. However, with the willing, if not cheerful, acceptance of the "must" phase which determines our status in our "ALL OUT" war effort, there appears to be no cause for long range pessimism.

Somewhere in the offing is the silver lining of the "priorities" cloud that now grimly overshadows our struggling and floundering building industry. It is only a matter of time when this lining will reflect our building construction initiative, ingenuity and productive ability more brilliantly than ever. During this interval, however, a thorough examination of our building code provisions will contribute a great deal toward that end.

A strange parable may be cited here to illustrate our present plight. Many years ago, a colony of plain Russian folk, while carrying on their affairs as usual somewhere in the Urals discovered platinum in such abundant quantities that they used it as a substitute for tin. This went on, so the story goes, for quite some time with the customary trepidation gripping the culprits who were engaged in trafficking synthetic tin.

It is safe to assume that if there was a building official in that community which, of course, is exceedingly doubtful, many a violation notice would be issued forthwith, which would probably read as follows: "Remove illegal gutters, conductors and chimney flashing; same to be replaced with approved materials," . . . all of which seems ridiculously far fetched. Yet, our people are obliged to contend with regulations and various code provisions, enforced in many localities, which prohibit the use of certain proven materials that are on par or actually better than the customary ones.

See BUILDING CODE REFLEXES—Page 3

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superior in quality to those prescribed by local authorities. There are also examples where the use of serviceable materials are merely tolerated only under certain conditions. These usually involve additional costs because of some official constraint which requires the application of needlessly augmented precautions. The motivating factor, in such instances, is not one which is even remotely related to safety but one which is carefully veiled with a curmudgeon's desire to attain competitiveness elimination. The history of this malicious practice is, of course, deep-rooted, and persists in an unpenchant to connive for an unfair advantage over the other fellow antidates all building codes.

Let us bear in mind, however, that not all the apparent misdeeds of a building official are traceable to connivance. After all, the average building official is imbued with a sense of responsibility to his duties and to the people of his community. It is to his people to whom he owes his allegiance. If some influential element in a community deliberately chooses to favor one product over another and succeeds in sponsoring affirmative action by the local legislative body to adopt such a requirement, then the building official can either take it or leave it. Being a good public servant, he decides to accept the edict. He will enforce it, says he to himself, without compunction whatever, for he is morally and duty-bound to do his people a favor. He well remembers that old axiom "Vox Populi Vox Dei." However, his ace in the hole which offers him most consolation, is the attitude on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Rankinfiler. This happy-go-lucky couple represents the vast inarticulate majority of his fellow citizens and they are just too busy to bother with the intricacies of building code enforcement. Little do they know of the sophistry which is concealed in the phraseology of the building code provision or another. So, from then on, the building official refuses to listen to any arguments which may extol the virtues and comparable qualities of the other product because his reputation in his own bailiwick is at stake.

In general, most of our codes contain too many unwarranted restrictions which proved detrimental to our communities. A question arises at this juncture as to why more building officials do not strive to take up the cudgels of a just cause in the interest of a better building code. Certainly a medium which regulates the construction and maintenance of our homes, churches, schools, factories, theaters, office buildings and all other structures as well as serving as a guide to shape the physical character of our communities, is of sufficient importance to warrant one's concern. Our most careful thought and attention at all times. There seems to be only one answer to that query which, incidentally, happens to be firmly attached to our time-honored American custom. It used to be called "to the victor belong the spoils." Strange as it may seem, this phrase has not been in popular repete of late for some reason. Nevertheless, our democratic form of government, from the top down, is founded upon that principle, and consequently the theory that the will of the majority shall prevail and so it does, as far as all major premises are concerned; but where it concerns the relatively minor administrative functions, the docile building official is obliged to succumb at times, to the will of the champion of the masses who, because of some information, or lack of it, may be on the wrong side of an issue. Incidentally, that is as it should be provided that the building official is sufficiently well informed to formulate unbiased opinions as well as being possessed of courage to assert his convictions on all controversial matters related to his duties and responsibilities, and further—that he does not fail to take advantage of every opportunity to initiate and foster whatever amendments are deemed necessary to maintain the building code abreast of the times, and hence conducive to a fair and impartial enforcement of its provisions.

This brings us to our problems of today. Never in our history were we ever plagued with more restrictions and deluged with a greater variety of incongruous orders. On the other hand, we never were faced with anything ap-
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Because of their compliance with the requirements set forth, nearly all of these materials, or methods of construction, were accepted by the Department as suitable for use in the City of Detroit. The other Bureaus comprising this Division: namely, Safety Engineering, Smoke Abatement, Plumbing and Electrical, avail themselves of our facilities and technical advice.

“A complete photographic service is furnished the various bureaus for evidence in court procedure, in cases such as unsafe structures, public nuisances, records of explosions and fires, as well as furnishing pictorial records of important tests and conditions existing in the City which may be of great importance in safeguarding the life and property of the populace.

“Nor are we unmindful of the interests of the busy housewife, for each day exhaustive tests are made on the quality of the gas furnished to the consumer for heating and cooking purposes.

“As illustrative of the variety of chemical and other work performed, let us, for instance, consider the Purchasing Department. Practically all the supplies and equipment are bought on specification by competitive bidding; hence the necessity for a thorough checking of the materials upon delivery. Such items as gasoline, motor, fuel, and other oils, ferrous and nonferrous metals, soap and cleaners of all types, coal, dishes for institutional use, kitchen utensils, rope, cable, fence wire, pick handles, are but a few of the many articles submitted by that department.

“In conclusion, we wish to make it clear that although the variety of physical and chemical tests performed in this Laboratory is extensive, the purpose of this Laboratory is not to enter into competition with private laboratories, but to render the City Government, the best possible service at the lowest cost.”

Alvan Maculey, president of the Automotive Council says: “The motorized might which shattered the world’s peace has challenged the motor-making might of America. In gaoling American minds and hands into using mass productive techniques of peace for the purposes of war, the enemies of free men have released the power that can ride them down, drive them to the earth, destroy them.”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY—N. Chester Sorensen, Sept 2; Roger Bailey, Sept. 3; Thomas W. Mass, Sept. 4; Barton D. Wood, Sept. 5; Fred W. Howell, Sept. 6.

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SHELLIE CORDNER

Mrs. Shellie Dunn Cordner, wife of G. Frank Cordner, former Detroit architect, passed away on August 17, at her residence, 711 North Overlook Drive, in Alexandria, Va. after a prolonged illness which began in the Spring of 1940 with a major operation.

She was born and lived for many years in Detroit and was graduated from the Detroit Normal College from which she was appointed to a teaching position in the Detroit school system. In 1911 she accompanied her family to the Canal Zone where her husband had been appointed veterinarian in charge of the care of the draft animals owned by the Government. Here she remained until 1915 when, with her mother now a widow she returned to Detroit to live.

It was during her stay in Panama that she met Mr. Cordner who returned with her to Detroit, found architecture in a dull period and returned to Panama for another year. He returned to Detroit in 1916 and the couple were married and took up permanent residence there. For many years they resided on Spokane Avenue and she was a member of St. Theresa’s R. C. Church.

In December of 1935 Mr. Cordner was appointed to assist in the design of one of the Greenbelt villages then getting under way in the Resettlement Administration in Washington, but she did not follow until 1937, at which time they took up residence in nearby Alexandria, Va., where she lived until her death recently. Until illness she was an active member of the Belle Haven Woman’s Club, the Alexandria Women’s Club, and the Panama Canal Women’s Auxiliary of Washington. At her death, mass was said for her in St. Mary’s R. C. Church in Alexandria and interment was in St. Mary’s cemetery in that city. In addition to her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Jane C. Nichols, whose husband is in the U. S. Marine Corps, and who lives with her father in Alexandria, and by two brothers, Raymond H. and Ernest J. Dunn both of Detroit.

Her father, Martin J. Dunn, came from Oxford, N. Y. established himself in business as a veterinarian and married Delia Sweeney, who had been reared on a farm in what is now Dearborn, Mich. He later saw service with a regiment of U. S. cavalry as veterinarian, during the Philippine Insurrection where, for over a year, he was missing. Eventually word came that he was safe and he returned home. The British Army engaged his services, during the Boer War, to purchase and condition cattle and horses in this country and get them safely to South Africa. His Panama tour of duty followed upon cessation of the war. He died in Panama.

Mr. Cordner is now Regional Project Planner of the Federal Public Housing Authority, Region III, with offices in Washington, D. C., where he covers the states of Maryland, Delaware and Virginia; Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. He formerly came frequently to Detroit and to other parts of the Middle West.

REMOVAL NOTICE

Derrick and Gambler, Inc. announce the removal of their architectural offices from the Union Guardian Building to 515 Hammond Building. The telephone number remains the same Cadillac 3175.

This firm also announces that Mr. John Kasurin is no longer associated with them in architectural practice.

Mr. Harold D. Igelfritz announces the removal of his office from the Union Guardian Building to 515 Hammond Building.

J. S. Claus

John S. Claus, architect, died at his home, 2334 Elmhurst Ave., Detroit, on August 19.

Although long registered in Michigan, he had not practiced architecture for some years, having been engaged in the manufacture of sheet metal products.

He leaves a wife, Mrs. Kintzibb Claus; a daughter, Mrs. George Ingalls; two sons, John, Jr. and James.

WEEKLY BULLETIN
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For complete details see Sweet's Catalog Vol. 18, Page 13
Willow Run And Defense City

By ALEX. LINN TROUT

Mr. Trout, a Detroit Architect and Engineer, is Executive Secretary of The Citizens Housing and Planning Council of Detroit. His article is reprinted from the Council's NEWS LETTER.

Here is a story on war housing that goes beyond any surface controversy that may exist between the U.A.W.-C.I.O. and Henry Ford and others in Ypsilanti and Washtenaw County. It starts out simply, but goes deep into the roots of our American Way of Life, the success of our war effort and the future of our pattern of living. We hope it will clarify this housing situation where the elements of controversy are small compared with important factors on which we should all concur.

"Defense City" is more than an idle dream. Rather it is a hopeful sign, an indication of careful and serious thinking on the part of workers who originated the idea. The objections to the plan are by no means selfish or political, and might be overcome if certain factors in it could be subject to modification and improvement. A question that has raised so much controversy and interest is well worth studying.

Why the workers want a Defense City is a logical place to begin. It is not a question of political control. It harks back to experiences common to all. It is simply that most city dwellers and most workers want to have in their homes the advantages of both city and country life. We long for more spacious, healthful living and with it economic security. That is the very essence of democracy. Our present cities are not so good. The Bomber is the very essence of democracy. Our

City might be better. Ardent and often very well informed thinkers within the labor ranks are eager to try an experiment. They have read of Garden Cities, of Greenbelt and Radburn, and the Camden Plan, and compared with life in a great city, these new ideas are most attractive. Even with a war on our hands, it's a new world.

The big factors in the change are our modern health ideals, the motor car and the disappearance of the old fashioned cellar. Add these together and you have a picture of what is profoundly affecting our political, social and economic life.

In the old days, not so very long ago, the cellar was the symbol of social security. In most city houses, there was a cold cellar, often quite small, with the rest of the wooden structure supported on posts. Some of us, with slightly silverying hair, can remember the happy days when barrels of apples and potatoes arrived from Aunt Mary's farm. We children had the exciting task of carefully spreading the apples out on the cellar shelf and arguing as to which were best, Russets, Northern Spies or Spitzenbergs. Then our Scotch grandmother looked them over daily and handed out the spotted ones first. We sometimes slyly turned over the defective ones, hoping to get a perfect red apple for teacher or the girl next door. But there were always apples and we didn't buy them by the pound. Carrots and parsnips, dried beans and peas, cabbage and canned fruits lasted through the winter months. Can openers, vitamins, and (happy thought) calories were missing from our vocabulary.

The memory of summer vacation out at "Old Aunt Mary's" is still alluring and withal significant. The well, the pump, the cistern, the rain barrel, the apple trees, even the outdoor privy with pictures pasted over the knot holes and cracks to keep out winter drafts, had interest for youthful adventurers. No one thought of polluted water, lack of surface drainage and sewers. We had more mosquito bites than we have today. Typhoid, malaria and summer complaint were much more common. At that, life in the country was healthier than in the city. The mother of today is more concerned with health risks of a summer vacation. Questions of pure milk and tested water worry her more than they did the mothers of yesterday. City life has made great health gains at considerable cost but the new days everywhere are better than the old.

Now it is proposed to build a city near Willow Run on Aunt Mary's farm. With shortage of critical materials, the task is difficult. What is the wisest thing to do is a hard question to answer, even by the most impartial and best informed experts. The situation is quite new. Where we used to go downtown to work, now many of our new industries are in the suburbs and war industries like Willow Run are a long way out of town. Our cities are being turned inside out. No wonder the problem is confusing.

Before we tackle the war aspects of the situation, let us see what was happening in peace days. How were we building our cities? What were we spending our money for? What did things cost and were they worth it? Curiously enough, our experience at old Aunt Mary's keeps coming back into the picture.

See WILLOW RUN—Page 4
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WEEKLY BULLETIN
Murder Can't Be Ignored

"YOU CAN'T IGNORE MURDER" (Putnam), classified as a "polished and sophisticated novel with a crime motif," has just been published. It will present Walter Dorrwin Teague, well-known to many Detroiters as industrial design consultant for the Ford Motor Co., in a new guise, as collaborator with his wife in the field of mystery fiction, although as Ruth Mills, Mrs. Teague has had one mystery novel published.

Teague is the author of "Design This Day," written ten years ago, and a co-author of "The Complete Mechanical Engineer," a practical book published in 1934 by the American Institute of Architects.

Estimating School Starts Monday, September 14

Enrollment and first class session of the Builders' and Traders' Exchange Estimators' School will be Monday evening, September 14, starting at seven P.M.

The fall term will be two evenings a week for fifteen weeks, and Echlin M. Kaake, employed by Albert Kahn, Inc., will again be the instructor. This term is the fourteenth successive term of the school under the direction of Mr. Kaake who has instructed since the inception of the classes.

Practical instruction is offered in blueprint reading, quantity survey, determination of unit costs and overhead charges. Students work from plans and specifications prepared by registered architects and a complete estimate is prepared by the same methods that are used in contractors offices.

First semester students work on the plan for a six room house. Advance students have the choice of working on any type job they wish or on any particular architectural trades they wish. Instruction is not given in mechanical trades.

Students must be identified with a member firm of the Builders' and Traders' Exchange or with an architectural or engineering firm (such firms are not members).

The cost of the fifteen week course is $25.00 payable on registration evening. Any student who goes into the armed forces at the end of five weeks, he will have all his tuition refunded—at the end of ten weeks he would have received almost three months tuition refunded.

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There is undoubtedly someone in your organization who should take this course. Even experienced estimators profit by studying methods in such a class. We have had contractors in business for themselves for years take the course and get lots out of it.

We do not take in students who are not working in the industry. But there are salesmen and others in the industry who should take the beginners course. Everything including the art of estimating has a beginning. This school is a most practical place to obtain it.

Let men in your organization who could profit by this course know about it. It will be fine to encourage them to take it. Technical knowledge is daily being proved to be of great value in time of war exactly as it is in peace times.

—E. J. BRUNNER

H. J. Darling

Harry Jerome Darling, member of the Michigan Society of Architects, and a Detroit practitioner for many years, died on August 27.

Member of a distinguished family, he was born in Mason, Michigan, 64 years ago. At an early age his parents took him to live for a time in Washington, D.C., and Chicago, Ill., later returning to Michigan.

One of his ancestors, Captain Richard Gridley, of Boston, was one of the earliest brick manufacturers in this country. In a later generation his residence became the birthplace of Samuel Adams, "Father of the Revolution."

The great grandfather, Joseph Darling, in May, 1832, became the first of the family to settle in Michigan. The house in which he was born, in Middleboro, Massachusetts, built in 1768, is still owned and occupied by members of the family.

The Board of Commerce Building in Lansing was erected by Christopher C. Darling, as a wedding gift to his daughter, Christopher, the son of Joseph, was born in 1810, and was a pioneer hotel man in Lansing, after the State Capitol was moved there from Detroit. He also built the first saw mill and the first frame house in Jackson, Michigan, and the history of Jackson (1881) gives credit to him for having done more than any other man to promote the growth of Jackson.

Mr. Darling

Harry Jerome Darling came to Detroit from Ann Arbor in 1909, where, after a brief period of illness, in other offices, he established his own practice. This has been continuous, and at the time of his death he had offices in the National Bank Building.

Some of his buildings include the Buckingham Apartments at Third and West Grand Boulevard, commercial buildings at the N.E. corner of Woodward and Owen Avenues, Henney Motor Co. Bldg., at 478 W. Canfield, and the Springfield Metallic Casket Co's. Bldg. at 627 W. Alexandria Ave.

He leaves two daughters, Mrs. Jeanne Nelson and Mrs. Henry Bishop; a sister, Mrs. Robert Callahan, and a brother, Ralph D. Darling.

Architects Can Aid Scrap Drive

Your president, C. W. Palmer, urges architects to take stock of their sample rooms, for articles of metal that can help win the war.

For the idea he is indebted to Paul Sewell, who points out that many such samples have become obsolete and no longer serve a useful purpose.

It is suggested that such materials be taken to your home, where it is understood, provisions for collection by the Salvage Committee will be made.

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Detroit
Experts tell us that there are four things indispensable to the existence of any great city—adequate transportation, available food surplus from outlying areas, adequate water supply and sanitation, and employment opportunity. Quite naturally some of these items play a big part in the cost of city building. Precise figures are difficult to obtain, but the following items derived from the report of the Auditor-General of Detroit for 1940 should prove interesting.

Progress has been made at a price. Replacing the old pump and well with a modern water system has cost Detroit close to three hundred dollars a family. Schools, pavements and sewers each required a similar sum. All told, the City’s investments in public facilities have cost about $1,750 per family, and reproduction costs would be somewhat greater. Major classifications would be—for health $750; for education $530; for street improvements $350; for transportation $150; for public lighting, police and fire facilities $100; for parks and recreation $50. If to this we add private utilities, electricity, gas and telephone, we find that the cost of facilities in a city often approaches the total valuation of residential properties.

Against this investment, Detroit has a public debt of $900 per family. The interest and principal payment on this debt take nearly a quarter of our local taxes. This gives us a concrete idea of the immense cost of city dwelling. In return, we are healthier. The average life today is fifteen years longer than at the beginning of the century. We have a splendid educational system that has added greatly to our economic production. The city dweller lives longer than the man in the country. With all its limitations, the great city is a mighty achievement.

Still we are not satisfied. We city dwellers long for the pleasures of old Aunt Mary’s farm with its fresh fruit and vegetables, its spaciousness and its friendliness, its well filled cellars and its simple pleasures. Up to 1930, the great population shift was from the country to the city. Early in the depression, the trend was reversed and many families went back to the farm. Today the rapid growth is in suburban fringe areas, where a home with a piece of ground around it may stand for greater security and more spacious living.

Defense City of Willow Run is in no sense a fantasy. Its promoters want what the whole world is seeking—a place to live where the gains of both farm and city can be realized, health advantages, education, social security—democracy at best, sharing the productive gains of a scientific age and the health gains of modern living.

Dictators have understood these desires, which are the very essence of modern thinking. So have individuals, the have promised‘lebenraum’—living space, has been the lure. The Nazis have said that the “have” nations are keeping the “have nots” from this goal, and the Communists have said the capitalists are keeping the people from their heart’s desires. So there has been war and revolution, which lack of understanding and outworn economies have abetted. Our own failure to grasp and solve these social and economic problems has aided the selfish efforts of unscrupulous leaders to stir up hatred and destruction, when the goal would have been achieved easily by intelligent cooperation. Perhaps it is not too late for us in this area to work out these problems that spring from a wholly commendable desire for better living conditions, and demonstrate what gains can be made within a democracy. Some things have to be postponed till after victory, but certain decisions must be made now, and they should not be made without some thought of these basic problems.

The question resolves itself for the immediate present into what we want, what we can get and what we can pay for. In general, the larger the community the greater the investment in public facilities. Water and sewer mains, for example, have to be both larger and longer in the city than in the town. On the other hand, cities, particularly on the Great Lakes, have a big advantage in being nearer to an abundant water supply. We use so much more water in our daily household needs than our ancestors did, that local wells are apt to be over-taxed. This fact often leads to considerable added expense in inland towns, where water must be piped for a distance. Unfortunately few smaller cities have as complete information on their development costs as Detroit. But we can get a lot from the experience of existing communities in the area.

Conditions vary greatly in outlying districts. For the purely rural areas, the great cities have set a pace in educational and health standards that is difficult to follow. The average rural family has the tax paying ability generally in proportion to the density of population and the size of the community. The important factor is not that homes are larger or personal incomes greater, but in all cities and in many small ones, a big share of the taxes is paid by commercial and industrial properties, and this share varies greatly in any metropolitan area.

Towns without industry have hard going. In the recent depression this was particularly true. In thinly developed areas such as Lincoln Park and Melvindale, the attempt to provide adequate facilities proved far beyond the financial reach of the community. For Hazel Park, with low cost homes and no industry, the W.P.A. served as a pulmotor, but drainage and sewerage conditions are still bad, with no local funds in sight to provide them. On the other hand, Trenton with a larger power station of the Detroit Edison Company, and Dearborn with the parent plant of the Ford Motor Company, have low tax rates and are in excellent financial condition because these plants pay well over half the local taxes. Wayne with relatively few industries has a local tax rate double that of Trenton. If Willow Run continues to be federally owned and operated, Ypsilanti Township, in which the site of Defense City is located, as well as Ypsilanti will receive very little taxes from the plant and even now have few in sight to provide them. This tax problem cannot be overlooked in the study of Defense City. It applies to all our outlying sections, and is almost as important as rubber and other critical materials. A highly taxed community is apt to become a ghost town.

Political conditions in suburban areas. The promoters of Defense City have used excellent judgment in planning that the new community be incorporated. They want a green belt of protection for the city of Detroit. With the workers going back and forth to the plants know better than most of us the evils of shack developments that spring up in unincorporated township areas. The slum on Beverly Road, a half mile east of Wayne Road, in Romulus Township, is a terrible example. Wayne County needs home rule to govern such conditions.

The State legislation, in its closing rush hours, invalidated by amendment certain important county zoning legislation that would have greatly to prevent such unfortunate developments. Those who cannot go out to study the area will shortly see photographs of it in “Life”. It is too bad that we have to have such unfortunate national advertising to promote local action. Arlington County, lying around Washington, D. C., with its recent tremendous growth, has prevented such conditions by a unified modern county government. We can follow suit if we will. Home Rule is the first step.

Slum politics and slum housing must go out together. These shuck developments, with their inevitable health and welfare problems, are tragic protest against our present system.

Mistakes of yesterday may point the way to better things. Consider the case of Inkster, in many respects an admirable community. Its early development was similar to Brightmoor, except that its topography was less favorable. Like Brightmoor, Inkster was faced with handicaps of the place. With different planning and site selection, the same investment might have given far better results. A 50x150 foot lot for 150 dollars looks like quite a bargain to the inexperienced investor, who seldom realizes
that it may cost from four to five times that amount to get adequate facilities, and there may be years of waiting and hardships, with serious health risks in the meantime. Even where facilities such as water and sewers are available on a subdivision, water pressure may be low because of inadequate mains, and sewers may back up for lack of proper main sewers and outlets. While many lots were listed in a recent W.P.A. survey as having sewers, the satisfactory quality was not fully determined, and investigation would revise downward the large number of sites announced as suitable for immediate building. Many individuals living in suburban areas have had trying experiences with water and sewer facilities, and this was no doubt a factor in the urging of a complete defense city.

Wayne County has done something to relieve the general situation. The county as a whole has stepped in and provided some of the most essential sewers and water mains. Any years to have observed that the fine individual homes with discouraging neighbors could be assembled and worthwhile communities built up. The system of Inkster would make a delightful town—some of the worst could make a good bonfire. Can we get the good and avoid the bad?

Garden Homesteads have possibilities. This type of development might be included in a defense city, though probably it would work better in several smaller communities. It has been tried out in smaller towns in the South with considerable success. Sufficiently selected areas, it could reduce the problem of critical materials and welfare. Basically, it involves well selected land with good surface drainage and lots large enough to permit the use of septic tanks, and avoid the construction of the costly trunk line sewers. A water supply could be provided with small pipes. Fire hydrants and fire lines would be expensive, but the houses would be far enough apart to prevent a general conflagration from fire and bombing. There would be enough good land, say from 1/2 to 1 1/2 acres, to fill the cellar with vegetables for winter and summer use. Westacres in Oakland County, developed by Senator Couzens, is a good example, though reaching into a higher income level than might be generally available. Immediate developments might be made along existing highways, with a view to cutting down present development expenditures, and filling in and expanding later. The work could be done in small units with cooperation between government and private industry, but with definite planning for the whole region.

The Cleveland Regional Planning Association has investigated the possible use of the Garden Homestead idea in Cuyahoga County, which lies around that metropolis. Not only would the use of the land be to the advantage of the该县, but it would seriously increase the living standard of those who use them.

A number of such proposals have been made in recent years, many with the idea of avoiding the building of shantytowns by providing space for future growth. Some have been based on the idea of a future railroad line, but a number have been based on the idea of a future railroad line. A number of such proposals have been made in recent years, many with the idea of avoiding the building of shantytowns by providing space for future growth. Some have been based on the idea of a future railroad line, but a number have been based on the idea of a future railroad line.

The future utilization of trailer camps as parks or youth hostels should also be considered. Even priorities might be re-studied. War production for the area has been set at a goal of twenty million dollars a day. An underling at Washington might say, "I revised plans and cut out pipes and nails and copper enough to make three tanks." That same savings might cause discomfort, if not ill health, to a hundred tank makers and retard rather than help production. One or two days of war production materials used for housing and health improvement might infinitely benefit the larger production picture which may extend over several years at least.

Government housing at Wayne. This area was selected before the tentative Defense City site, because water and sewers were more available than at points west. It was strategically located with regard to future rail lines and rail transportation was an eventual possibility. The rural situation was not quite as critical as at present, and contributed no doubt to consideration of the site chosen for Defense City east of Ypsilanti. For the sites at Wayne, some of the projects are entirely debatable.

September 8, 1942
Fired at Random

Daily Column of Roger Allen, A.I.A.
in The Grand Rapids Press

Peroxide is now a critical war material. Its use is about to be placed under priorities; this means, of course, that blondes will have to be rationed. This is a serious step only for men. Of course the shortage of peroxide will have no effect on any blonde lady readers of MY column, as every single—or married—one of them is a natural blonde. But artificial blondes, such as do NOT read this column, are going to have a time. I can hear one of them now, saying timidly to her husband, "Gregory, I have something to tell you. You are gradually about to become the husband of a brownnette." Gregory lays down his pipe, takes her tenderly in his arms, and says—What do you suppose he says?

According to an NBC release, 9 out of 10 American homes have radios, which is more than twice the percentage of homes having bath tubs. This leaves the entire situation in a mess; why have a radio to tell you what kind of bath soap to use if you haven't any bath tub to use it in?

THE SARDONIC SPINSTER SAYS—it isn't unlucky to postpone a wedding, not if you keep on postponing it.

I'm certainly sorry to hear the government won't let me buy a new radio. The one I have now gives out with nothing but bad news.

One thing about the good old days: a bowlegged girl could keep it a secret.

Public Information

With the idea that one of the most valuable services our Committee can render is to give encouragement and suggestion to our local representatives in each chapter, here are a few suggestions that we might reiterate to them:

Keep in touch with the personnel of the local press.

Publicize all meetings of your chapter, and actions taken by the chapter.

To help this along get speakers for your meetings whose names carry well in news reports.

Send to the press the names of all local architects who are inducted into the service, and tell what they are doing.

The chairman and members should write letters and articles regularly to the press; here are a few suggested subjects:

Post-war planning.
Defense housing.
Revision of obsolete building codes.
Camouflage.
Listing of local building and construction projects that will be necessary after the war.
Mass production.
Standardization.

Publicizing Albert Kahn and his works will interpret to the public the architect, and what he is capable of.

—WM. ORR LUDLOW

Unification In Indiana

The Indiana chapter of The American Institute of Architects has announced the addition of 20 members in the past year, the largest increase it has ever made. This indicates a renewed obligation on the part of the profession toward a unified national organization," the president said, and "it also indicates an entrance into the professional organization of new and vigorous life that will undoubtedly bring about needed changes.

Several applications for membership are pending action by the Washington office.

George Caleb Wright is president of the chapter; Ralph O. Yeager, first vice president; John R. Kelley, secretary-treasurer, and O. A. Tislow, Edward D. Pierre and Carroll O. Beeson, directors.

Tools of Victory

Of special interest to war workers who need help in selecting technical books is a 140 page publication just issued by the Detroit Public Library. This booklets, called "Tools of Victory for the Battle of Production," lists and describes some of the most useful recent books and pamphlets on the following broad technical subjects: aeronautics, civilian defense, machine shop practice, works management, trades training, mechanical drawing and blueprint reading, metals and war substitutes, motor transport, ship building, and war material.

For the convenience of the user, each of these headings is in turn broken down into further subdivisions. For example, under machine shop practice are selected lists of printed material on benchwork, cutting of metals, die casting, die design, die making, etc.

Complete information as to publisher, price, and date of publication are included for each book. Most of the titles mentioned have come out within the last two years. Many of the items cost under a dollar and some are free.

"Tools of Victory for the Battle of Production," should in addition to helping individual workers in their choice of technical books, be of great aid to special libraries of industry and labor organizations. For such libraries special lists of publications especially useful in various engineering fields and for home study by war workers are included.

Copies of "Tools of Victory for the Battle of Production" may be obtained from the Public Library's Technology Department, Cass at Putnam, for fifty cents, the cost of printing.


Gabler, as a captain in the Marines, is expected to report on or about September 22.

He relates interesting experiences on the vessel to which he has been assigned, "which has been in an active combat zone, and I have Origin in."

Jim Spence, as lieutenant, U.S.N.R., will report at Newport, R. I., Naval Training School, for indoctrination on Sept. 8. His parting word, "keep up the good work 'til this bad business is over and we will get together and make architecture an even more worthwhile profession."

The same to you, Jim, and many of them.

Beesky left AK's office on Aug. 18 and reported for duty on the 20th as a seven Officer, First Class Officer, in the Construction Regiment of the Navy. He will be engaged in the building of naval bases— "Some day I expect to come back and take up where I left off in architecture. When I do I'll probably get up to see you about another job. You've got all my others for me, for which I can offer only a meagre thanks. I know you'll still be on the job.

Carl Rudine, Lt. (J. G.), is attached to the Base Section, Lookout Patrol Force, Treasure Island, San Francisco, Cal.

Three months ago Gabler, head of the Detroit Division of the Michigan Society of Architects, was asked to design a recruiting center that would "sell" the United States Marine Corps to young men. The center was built in one day in the Washington Boulevard parkway, front yard of Hotel Book Cadillac. He did such a good job that he sold himself. He applied for enlistment, and on September 1 he was commissioned a captain in the marines.

And was he surprised when he received two captain's commissions in the same mail, the other in the engineers, where he had previously applied. Too bad there aren't two of him.

Besides his architectural activities, Captain Gabler has been prominent in affairs of the University of Michigan from which he graduated in 1927, in the Intercollegiate Alumni Club, and in amateur athletics. He was member of the American Amateur Hockey Champions in 1931. He is married and lives at 17451 Alwey Lane, Detroit.

This Navy is grand. We have the finest group of men and officers anyone could hope to associate with—except, of course, the group of architects in M.S.A. and A.I.A."

We would be interested in hearing from or about others serving our country.
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DETROIT ARCHITECTS DESIGN PLANT FOR NEW RUBBER SUBSTITUTE

The Detroit architectural firm of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc., has designed a $4,000,000 plant for Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc., for commercial application of the new process of making butylene glycol from farm crops, it has been announced by Wallace S. MacKenzie, vice president of the firm.

The process is a short cut with a higher yield in obtaining butadiene than from the method of making it from alcohol, MacKenzie says, in explaining that the sauerkraut bug may have an important part in providing the United States with this new, faster and more productive source of synthetic rubber.

The firm of S., H. & G. has designed a pilot plant that Seagram's now has under construction at Louisville, and has completed preliminary plans for the major producing plant, which will have a capacity of 15,000 bushels of grain a day and at an output of 20,000 tons of butadiene a year.

Its location, when and if approval of critical materials by the War Production Board is granted, will be a military secret.

Story Told in Free Press

The bug's story was first told in The Detroit Free Press June 26 on a tip from Dr. William E. Hale, of the Dow Chemical Co., Midland, who related the story of the fermentation from corn and wheat or other starchy grains by which the aerobacter, known to Dr. Hale as the sauerkraut bug, produced butylene glycol at the United States Department of Agriculture's Northern Regional Research Laboratory at Peoria, Ill.

On Aug. 3, the USDA researchers invited representatives of industry to Peoria to explore the commercial application of butylene glycol for synthetic-rubber production.

Three steps were involved, producing butylene glycol from farm crops, turning the butylene glycol into butadiene and manufacturing the butadiene into synthetic rubber, a step already in hand.

The second step, heretofore unsolved, is the step with which the Hinchman & Grylls plans for Seagram are concerned.

Announcement Made

In calling the Aug. 3 meeting of industrialists, Dr. E. C. Lathrop, chief of the Agricultural Residues Division of the Peoria Laboratory, said that "chemists in the Peoria laboratory have succeeded in producing excellent yields of pure butadiene from corn-made butylene glycol in the laboratory, but they have not yet developed the process to a pilot-plant scale."

"The results of the intensified studies on a laboratory scale look so promising that the laboratory feels justified in imparting this information to industry."

More than 50 industrialists attending the Peoria meeting remained over for a second day, so promising did the discussions appear. It was the consensus of that meeting that further intensive studies on a pilot-plant basis at Peoria be made, and the Seagram firm, which had worked closely with the USDA research chemists, launched plans for their own pilot plant.

Help Develop Process

Smith, Hinchman & Grylls had worked in co-operation with Seagram in perfecting the continuous cooking process used in alcohol making, which was adapted to the new ethylene-glycol fermentation.
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Members Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., Please Note:

There will be no Chapter dinner meeting in September. The last issue of the Bulletin suggested that you keep open September 16 for a meeting tentatively scheduled for that date, at which it was intended to hear our Regional Director, C. Julian Oberworth, as guest. Mr. Oberworth is unable to come to Michigan in September, and so the first Chapter meeting of the coming season will be the annual meeting and election of officers on October 15.

At this meeting Dr. S. Gideon will be the feature, under the joint auspices of the Metropolitan Art Association and the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. It is expected that Dr. Gideon will be the guest of the Chapter at dinner in the Rackham Educational Memorial Building, following which members will adjourn to the small auditorium of the Detroit Institute of Arts for his lecture.

L. K. Wood

L. K. Wood, for more than 30 years connected with the builders’ hardware department of the T. B. Rayl Co., in Detroit, died suddenly September 7, of a heart attack. He was 67 years old.

Though widely, and most favorably known, among architects, all of the city knew him as a yachtsman whose local sailing fame gave him prominence along with the name of Gar Wood in motorboating, though the two were unrelated and seldom met.

“L. K.” was what his many friends called him and his initials, as well as his surname, were constantly called to the minds of those who looked at or talked about catboat trophies, for “L. K. Wood” is a name inscribed on all the cups and bowls for which the catboaters compete, from the Richardson Cup to the Oakman Bowl.

From 1923 to 1931 Wood, with William F. (Bill) Lovett as his crew, owned and raced the most famous catboat in Detroit waters, the Helen II. In this era “L. K.” and Lovett were practically unbeatable, except for upset victories.

“L. K.” sailed annually following the sale of the Helen II in 1931 but each succeeding season his participation in river catboat races had lessened, due, he always said, more to the demands of his work than his health. “L. K.” sailed his last race Memorial Day and won it. He felt ill that night and the next day, following an examination, he was told by his doctor that his heart action was bad and that he must rest from sailing for at least a year.

Only a week ago he told his old shipmate, Lovett, that he had followed the doctor’s orders implicitly this summer and that next season he intended to resume sailing in real earnest.

He is survived by his wife, Sadie, a sister, Lola Wood, of North Carolina, and a stepson, Francis Lennenbacker.

Varney Named Representative

The Evercrete Corporation of New York City has announced the appointment of Clyde Varney as its sales representative in Detroit and Michigan.

Clyde is a brother of Orla Varney, well-known Detroit architect.

The company manufactures a transparent liquid under the trade name of “Evercrete” which, it is claimed, penetrates through old or new surfaces of concrete, brick, stucco, cement, stone, plaster, asbestos and mortar to make it, waterproof, dustproof, crumbleproof, weathertight and crackproof.

Evercrete is said to penetrate deeply into the surface, changing the component parts into one solid mass, creating a density that is permanent, acting as an ideal binder for surfaces to be painted.

“Testimonials from users who have applied Evercrete to public garage, warehouse, bus terminal and factory floors, show that it has successfully stopped crumbling and dusting, and water-proofed troublesome basement walls,” Mr. Varney stated.

Prefabricated Housing

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The company manufactures a transparent liquid under the trade name of “Evercrete” which, it is claimed, penetrates through old or new surfaces of concrete, brick, stucco, cement, stone, plaster, asbestos and mortar to make it, waterproof, dustproof, crumbleproof, weathertight and crackproof.

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“Testimonials from users who have applied Evercrete to public garage, warehouse, bus terminal and factory floors, show that it has successfully stopped crumbling and dusting, and water-proofed troublesome basement walls,” Mr. Varney stated.

Golf at Lochmoor

Architects’, Builders’ & Traders’ Fifth Golf Outing, Tuesday, September 15. Lochmoor, as a beautiful course and a great club, lives up to the standard long ago set by Chairman, Bill Seeley. He and Ed Brunner join in saying, “make this one a MUST on your calendar.”

The industry dinner, which follows, is always worth walking miles for, and that’s just what a golfer does.

Proceed to Lochmoor, and bring as many guests as you like, for this biggest and best of the season so far, but remember, there’s another to come in October—day and place to be revealed later. That’s Bill Seeley all over, bigger and bigger, and better and better.

Bound Volumes, Weekly Bulletin

We are indebted to several readers of the Weekly Bulletin for assistance in attempting to complete our file of back numbers.

Arthur Hyde has supplied us with a practically complete file of issues, from the first mimeographed one, and the late H. J. Maxwell Grylls a great many more.

Through the State Registration Board, Walter Garstecki, a resident of Sault Ste. Marie, has been able to make up most of the years in complete form. Neil Gabler had several volumes bound, and it is the intention to complete the others, if possible.

The following numbers are missing:

Vol. 6, No. 25, 1932; Vol. 7, No. 1 and No. 45, 1933; Vol. 8, No. 3 and No. 48, 1934; practically all of 1935 and 1936.

Vol. 11 (1937), No. 1 to No. 11, inclusive; No. 14 to No. 30 Inc.; No. 32 to No. 36 Inc.; No. 38 and No. 52, 1938—Feb. 8, March 8, April 26, June 21 and Aug. 16, 1939—April 25, May 8, Nov. 7.

1940—March 6 and Aug. 6.

Anyone who is able to supply missing issues will confer a favor by communicating with the Bulletin.

We have a request from Mr. Leicester B. Holland, F. A. I. A., of the Library of Congress, to furnish certain issues to complete their files. We have been able to comply in some measure, and would like very much to make it 100%.

Prefabricated Housing

Business Week, Aug. 15, 1942, devoted eight pages to the subject of “Profabs”, factual information of value to building industry members. Reprints are available at 20c each.

Some forty organizations pass in review along with illustrations of their product.

At Norfolk Navy Yard about 5,000 preassembled and prefabricated homes are being built in five months to relieve a housing shortage. All industry watches such wartime tests as guides to the post-war possibilities of prefabricated home building.

Transplacement of 186 houses at Indianhead, Md., to Suitland, Md., will attract national attention, and will be a publicity break for the industry, as it will settle the question of movability for all time.

Architects and Engineers are saying that prefabrication must be a valid innovation or it would have been killed off long ago by unsympathetic government treatment. They add that it should go places under commercial promotion after federal controls are removed.

In the preparation of this report Business Week assembled a long list of companies associated in various ways with the manufacture of prefabs. Officers were interviewed, and suitable illustrations were obtained to present a cross-section but not a complete inventory of the field.

Outstanding result of experience from design standpoint indicate a marked preference for conventional peaked-roof styles over "modern" flat-roof designs favored by architectural progressives.

Site and factory fabrication are methods still in the making and demands of location, union philosophy, social and political attitudes will have much to do with the future of the industry.
Architects Re-Plan London

A master-plan for the post-war rebuilding of London on a completely new pattern has been prepared by that city's Modern Architectural Research Group, according to reports to the Urban Land Institute. The plan even in the blueprint stage will be profoundly interesting to American city-builders, because it is the first detailed proposal for ports to the Urban Land Institute. The plan even in the Modern Architectural Research Group, according to re­ was prepared by that city's inner suburban arrangement a series of parallel self-contained urban units extending in a north and south direction from the Thames, business section and industries grouped in a pleasant and convenient relationship. The plan calls for each city-within-a-city to be approximately half a mile wide and fifteen miles long.

Intervening spaces a half-mile wide are proposed. The parallel urban units and the wide intervening spaces would be traversed by traffic arteries, with industrial, commercial and civic activities grouped near the main arteries. Dwellings would be served by secondary arteries.

A basic purpose of the plan is to decrease the population density of the area within a fifteen-mile radius of the center of London. In this area 900,000 houses were built in the twenty years preceding the war.

This would be planned decentralization, not destructive decentralization. If the plan can be followed, London may take the lead in breaking up the amorphic quality which has come to be the curse of our great cities and may be able to reintroduce the human, qualities of neighborhood life while retaining the advantages possible only to a metropolis.

Government surveyors are examining air raid ruins in the center of London as a possible site for a great central airport. It would be expected to serve as a terminal for airlines to nearby European capitals and as feeders to larger outlying air terminals for the world-wide air transportation service that may be anticipated after the war. Engineers, it is said, report that a sufficient area is available if a safe approach for aircraft can be assured by proper building restrictions in the areas immediately surrounding the proposed central airport.

Post-War Rebuilding

A plan for rebuilding of blighted areas and slums on this continent was recently outlined by Guy Greer of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System before the Canadian Institute of Public Affairs. He envisioned a post-war economy as one in which the key to substantially full employment would be new investment in amounts sufficient to re-employ all savings accruing from the economic system.

Organized town rebuilding would be chief among worthwhile projects in which investment could be made. “Little short of desperate” is the plight into which large and small cities have drifted. Main obstacles to immediate start on the work of reconstruction was the over-valuation of disused or slum areas in the hearts of cities which rendered them almost out of reach of normal buying agencies.

Greer believes that nevertheless civic governments would have to buy up blighted land in question and lease it to development agencies. He suggested federal grants to finance land purchase.

It would be necessary to establish stronger civic governments with broader powers. “At present civic government is the weakest link in the democratic chain.”

It would be the duty of each urban community to find out by careful analysis its future approximate size and its economic and social relation to the district and country as a whole. Such details would be presented to Federal authorities upon application for financial aid. Cities would receive priority largely in the order in which they made application.

Repayment into the Federal Treasury would be made through turning over any profits made in subletting the land once it had been reconstructed and reorganized. After a period of about 50 years of such repayment, any outstanding debt remaining should be written off.

Greer said such a slum-rebuilding program would take a generation to complete, process of erecting new building could never be finished, but the “slate would be clean” so that cities need never find themselves in the same condition in which they find themselves today. Each town or city should be left free to plan and develop any type of community it wished, “provided it conformed to certain minimum standards” set by Federal authorities.

BULLETIN: It has been indeed kind of you to continue to send me copies of your Weekly Bulletin, thus establishing a constant reminder of the friendship and cordiality of our Michigan hosts at the Detroit Convention.

I was especially grateful to you when I received your issue of August 11th giving in full Mr. Maginnis’ Cranbrook Address. This was one of those exhibitions of philosophical fireworks which used to be the expected thing at our meetings years ago, though now they have become distressingly rare in these more prosaic days. You have done a worthy service in preserving this afterglow of pyrotechnic splendor.

ALBERT SIMONS
A.I.A. Director, South Atlantic District

Buy Bonds—and save $5.00 for defense of the M.S.A. Dues Due. If your membership card doesn't read "Paid to March 1st 1943" you are still out of step. Send $5.00 to treasurer, L. E. Caldwell, 13606 Stoepele Ave., Detroit.
“The process used for the production of the glycol compound is almost identical with that used for the production of alcohol,” MacKenzie said, “the essential difference being in the nature of the ferment, so that the glycol production may be considered as a side-stepping of the production of alcohol by diverting the operation just short of the alcohol-producing stage.

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WE MUST NOT FALTER

By C. WILLIAM PALMER

With many of us already in the Service and others occupied as civilian employees in connection with several branches of the service, we who still remain in apparently normal practice have a serious problem on our hands: to hold the profession together. We must not shirk this responsibility for we owe it to our brother architects who have willingly given up their practices for the Cause.

The lack of normal conditions may be a blessing in disguise to tie the profession more closely together if those at home will do their share in every activity that the profession requires, whether it be within the organization or promoting better conditions with the public when the post-war period arrives. If we are placed on any committee we will be doing our part if we make it a point to keep that committee active during the coming year.

If we adhere closely to our usual activities, have regular monthly meetings, and in general join the public wherein we can do our part in the general welfare, we are proving ourselves not only good citizens but earnest workers for the profession. In so doing, we are unconsciously climbing the ladder towards that great goal for which the Michigan Society of Architects has long struggled, the unification of the profession.

At the last convention in Detroit, in June, The American Institute of Architects unanimously voted in favor of this great movement. It was the Michigan architects who placed this activity before the State Associations meeting on the Monday previous to the convention. State societies were in full accord, and it was our good director, Mr. Matthew Del Gaudio, who so ably brought this matter before the assembly.

Are we going to stop in midstream and let the current take us where it will? Or are we going to continue on mapping our way towards the opposite bank, a unified front representing the entire profession?

There are many, many details to be taken into consideration before we have one set of by-laws, one system for operating each Division or Chapter, and lastly—and perhaps more important than the other two—an organization that fits and satisfies each practicing architect in the United States. Each individual state has its own local conditions to cope with, so each state must attempt to solve its own problems. We here in Michigan have traveled far in this direction and through our Unification Committee, composed of selected members of the Michigan Society and the two Chapters, have worked earnestly and constructively to solve our state problems. Shall we stop here, or shall we carry on in spite of disturbing national conditions, so that in the near future other states may use our methods and advice to assist them in solving their problems?

Michigan was one of the first, if not the first, state to show that unification was not impossible. Let us prove that we can complete our task and establish one body that represents all architects of the State, has one set of committees to carry on our various activities, with each committee, when it acts, being able to state truthfully that it represents 700 architects of the State, 700 voters who voice the opinion of the profession, and 700 loyal citizens of the State of Michigan.

One step that is easy to take—especially during these hectic days—is to establish joint monthly meetings. These meetings should be composed of members of local divisions and also Chapter members in that locality. If there is to be an open forum, let each man bring his professional difficulties for discussion; or if there is a good speaker, he may give the members something constructive to carry away with them.

By so doing, good fellowship will be developed and the attendance and interest can not help but be greater.

Your president has of his own volition asked the Detroit Chapter to consider joint meetings with the Detroit Division for the coming year and he hopes that other cities will follow suit. Do not be modest and wait for the other side to take the lead. Take the lead yourself.

Your board of directors is sadly broken up by this one and that one entering the service of Uncle Sam, but we WILL hold our meetings the same as usual, visiting the various divisions. At these board meetings, let each Division see that its director, or substitute appointed by the local board, attends regularly. Last year we had a great record at all board meetings, having an average attendance of fourteen members out of a possible seventeen. Are we going to let that record stand, or shall we break it this year?

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WEEKLY BULLETIN
U. of M. Course for Plumbers, Plumbing Inspectors, and Designing Architects and Engineers

Two days of special training for plumbers, plumbing inspectors and designing architects and engineers will be offered by the University of Michigan's public health school in the campus buildings, according to announcement by Dean Henry F. Vaughan.

A faculty of technical experts, especially selected from the standpoint of practical familiarity with the plumbing industry, has been engaged, Dean Vaughan said.

Principal speaker will be Dean F. M. Dawson of the University of Iowa's Engineering College and director of a laboratory established by the National Association of Master Plumbers to test specific reactions in plumbing equipment.

First Day

8:00 A.M. Registration
9:00 A.M. Orientation—Dr. Henry F. Vaughan, Dean of the School of Public Health, University of Michigan
9:20 A.M. Bacteria—H. A. Whittaker, Chief Engineer, Minnesota State Department of Health
10:00 A.M. Water-borne Disease and Defective Plumbing—Joel I. Connolly, Chicago City Health Department
11:05 A.M. Why Enforcement and Regulations? A Discussion of Police Power and the Basis of Plumbing codes—L. Glen Shields, City of Detroit Department of Building Inspection
2:00 M. Lunch
2:30 P.M. Behavior of Water in Pipes—Physical Aspects—Arranged by Dean F. M. Dawson, College of Engineering, University of Iowa
3:30 P.M. Dinner at Michigan Union

Second Day

8:30 A.M. Water Supplies and Sewage Disposal—Arranged by John M. Hepler, Director of Bureau of Engineering, Michigan State Department of Health
11:00 A.M. Behavior of Water in Pipes—Chemical Aspects—Dr. G. M. Ridenour, Associate Resident Lecturer, School of Public Health, University of Michigan
12:00 M. Lunch
1:30 P.M. Cross-Connections and Back-Siphonage—Arranged by Dean F. M. Dawson
4:30 P.M. Questions and Answers—Panel of Speakers—Dean F. M. Dawson, Presiding

Stran-Steel in the Army

STRAN-STEEL offices have been moved from 607 Shelby Street to 1130 Pensobect Building, it is announced by George W. Hasa, A.I.A., sales manager. The building at 607 Shelby has been taken over by the Government.

Stran-Steel has gone to war in a big way—for huts and other cantonment buildings, all over the world and George, the good soldier that he is, has followed it into many quarters. Prefabrication has played an important part in the wide usage of this product in the Nation's war effort. It will be remembered that the Army and Navy E was awarded Great Lakes Steel Corp., Stran-Steel's parent, as the first in Detroit to receive this honor. So great has become the Government's demand for Stran-Steel that it has been necessary to farm it out to others.

George Hasa, former president of the Michigan Society of Architects, has some good ideas for construction work to be done by the architectural groups here, and some mention of it is made in this issue.

At the last Annual Meeting of the Producers' Council, Inc., George was elected a director of the National organization.

Laurence Institute of Technology evening classes in Architecture and Structural Steel Design will be offered this semester, starting September 25.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1942

News from Utah

By Lloyd W. McElrath, A.I.A., Salt Lake City, Member A.I.A. Committee on Public Information

PUBLIC INFORMATION! How to inform the public of the practice of Architecture at this time in the face of all war and defense activities, is a problem beyond my powers of explanation. In our State we are now engaged in the greatest expansion program we have ever known, for example: the Governmental war expenditure program in the past eighteen months has been greater than the previous assessed valuation of the entire State and this development is all within a radius of seventy miles of Salt Lake City.

This work is almost entirely executed from plans prepared by bureaus and of the standard designs for Florida, Michigan and points north, south, east and west. One local firm, our treasurer Raymond J. Ashton, has been retained for two projects, a hospital unit of fifteen hundred beds and a navy training center. In the designing of these two units nearly all the practicing architects and all of the draftsmen have been absorbed as employees. Yet whenever we attempt to publicize this local work the press censures the news as "detrimental to the war effort," even though the private practice work is showing a vast superiority over the bureaus.

Today there are five architectural offices yet open where a year ago there were about twenty-five in the State. The few die-hards are operating under "business as usual," although we recognize our private practice is nil, due to priorities and all the other curtailments.

My only solution is that soon some will recognize that an Army war effort is dependent on the contract work, to the extent that statistics of England have shown that as soon as more than fifty percent of the population were directly engaged in war necessities production the supporting industries could not maintain the balance of supply. Locally we have exceeded our fifty percent and the reaction is being felt.

Our first effort to keep in the public's picture was to volunteer our services to the Civilian Defense Organization. We were fully organized and our services needed. The lethargy of the aged crept upon the civilian defense child as other children were formed in twins, triplets and litters, and again the architect is the groom who is also present, of necessity, but no one can tell what he wore.

We have had some discussion of holding an intermountain convention of Architects, including all the Chapters of the Western Mountain District and of the California groups, with the idea in mind of trying to solve our own local problems and to clean our own houses if necessary. I can see nothing but good coming from such a meeting as personally I fear that the practice of architecture as we have previously known it, is almost a thing of the past and now we have new systems and procedures being established which will force us to change our policies to some extent.

Believe it or not I am not ordinarily a pessimist but one half of my time is devoted in contacting bureaus to get their latest, but not last, instructions relative to our own Federal Works Agency job, and this one job becomes more involved as it progresses or declines, it is hard to tell which way we are going.

My regrets at not being able to attend the Convention. I am certain that, with your progressive Chapter and Michigan Society at the helm, clear sailing could only be the result, and all the reports I have heard is that I sure missed something. Ray and I call each other occasionally and recently we (The Utah Chapter) had a canyon party where Ray did the cooking and your Book-Cadillac is a piker to Ray's culinary accomplishments.

Please pass on to me any suggestions you have to offer in informing Mr. John Q. Public that the architect is as necessary to all building efforts as the soda to the scotch.

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The Place of The Light Construction Industry In The Post-War Economy

Mr. Arthur A. Hood, director of dealer relations for the Johns-Manville Corp., has prepared a brochure on New Career Opportunities in the Building Industry, for high school graduates planning to enter college.

The author makes the point that a great opportunity offers itself to the architects and others in our industry, as well as to the colleges and universities.

Mr. George J. Haas, A.I.A., sales manager of Stran-Steel Division, has furnished us with a copy of the booklet, together with some suggestions of his own as to how the architects, producers and schools can combine to put such a program into effect. First, write Mr. Hood at 22 E. 40th St., New York City, for a copy of the booklet. He will be glad to send a copy free.

In a foreword, Mr. Hood states:

Educators have frequently asked the question, "Why hasn't the building industry developed a training program adequate to its needs?" The answer is to be found in the structure of the industry itself. A look at the definition of the building industry on page six will illumine this point.

The building industry is made up of 100 or more branch industries—none of which has a dominating part of the whole. It is the most heterogeneous of all industries. The situation is further complicated by the fact that building projects are so bulky that they must be manufactured locally, usually before the site on which the building is to stand.

"In most other industries a few well trained minds can organize, integrate and coordinate the production forces at a point of centralized manufacture. The distributive organization too can customarily be managed from the same central point.

"While just a few men with such organizing ability are needed in the average industry, the building industry needs hundreds of them because of its almost total decentralization and diversification.

"The educational problem in the building industry is further complicated by the complexity of its products and services. A new home, for example, has 30,000 parts contributed to by a hundred industries and fitted together on the site by a score of different types of labor.

"The problem in building an adequate program of study to provide educationally for the varied career opportunities in the building industry is as involved as the field of agriculture or any one of the professions.

"Housing is concerned with environment and environment embraces every phase of living.

"Preparation for careers in the shelter industries therefore would call for studies in fields as wide apart as aesthetic design and sewage disposal, as concrete mixing and the psychology of human relations.

"The work creator just mentioned needs a detailed knowledge of the fifty subjects listed on the next page in order adequately to serve the public."

George Haas adds the following comments:

"This will amplify my own statement to you regarding the need for more embracable action in the Light Construction Field as compared with such specialized courses as civil engineering or metallurgy or forestry. A general and more inclusive course, though one less specialized than those offered in the professions, would, it seems to me, be of tremendous value to the graduate, who might fill any one of a hundred jobs from abstract and title writer through architect to contract writer, on to the many branches of steel manufacturers to wall board and wood preserving.

"Mr. Arthur A. Hood, director of dealer relations for Johns-Manville, deserves a great deal of credit for this booklet and the talk before the Producers' Council during its last convention here. I have had some correspondence with him, and his emphasis on the need of the schools contemplating such courses and have offered such help as STRAN-STEEL can give to them in furtherance of the idea by lectures or by other means. A copy of our first letter to these schools is attached. The response has been very good.

"There is, of course, in addition to promoting the courses with the schools, the additional job of promoting them with the new students.

"I'm sure you realize that a great change in everything is taking place. The building industry, perhaps as much as any other, is surely being affected by this evolution, and before the great post-war demand for housing, and al the other types of building is upon us, those in the industry should do something to get prepared for it.

"We in STRAN-STEEL, in the last four years, and particularly the last one or two, have developed many new ideas and new uses for light steel, the result of our work for Defense, which we never even dreamed about a comparatively short time ago.

"For instance, in addition to our regular STRAN-STEEL line, we have been conducting quite a research program on new shapes of cold formed strip steel, which have already demonstrated their ability to provide structural safety and speed of erection plus their value in helping to conserve one of the nation's important materials.

"No doubt most every other manufacturer in the building field feels the same way and would like to tell it to the world—most particularly to the younger generation, which will use the materials. The schools would seem to me to provide an outlet for such proclamation.

"Much, though perhaps in a vague sort of way, is being said about prefabrication, but even though vague, the thought seed is planted and again, might seem to fit in properly with the educational suggestions above.

"We shall continue to give our best to the War Effort of course, but we believe that we should begin to prepare for the peace, which would be so useless without that preparation.

Producers Under New Management

Producers' Council of Michigan held a luncheon meeting at The Rackham building on September 14, the first under the new administration. Bill Harms, of the Master Builders Company, the new president, conducted, and discussed centered principally around the program for the coming year. While activities will of necessity be curtailed, the Producers will carry on with some informational and table top meetings.

Frank Ehrich, Liaison Officer from the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., and the Michigan Society of Architects, invited the Producers to a joint meeting with the architects.

Harms announced committee appointments for the coming year, as follows, the first named being chairman, the second co-chairman, and the third chairman:

Program—Ray Deppman, R. B. Richardson, Joe Bessie
Public Relations—Frank P. O'Neil, Walter Torbett
Membership—Fred Aronson, Louis T. Ollesheimer
Attendance—Harvey Jewell, Maurice Goldberg
Building Industry Committee—W. T. Harms, Ray Deppman, Frank P. O'Neil

Publicity—Douglas Ainslie.

The new secretary, Dick Jones, of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., read the address of national president, Fred J. Plympton, delivered at the June convention, on the occasion of the Council's 21st Anniversary. It was a stirring piece, setting forth the records and accomplishments attained in that period.

George Haas, A.I.A., of Stran-Steel was asked to elaborate upon the movement of Mr. Arthur A. Hood, of the Johns-Manville Co., toward new career opportunities in the light construction industry. This he did in a most enthusiastic manner.

It was announced that good member, Walter Torbett, of Detroit Steel Products Co., had been elected Commander of Alger Post of The American Legion. When nominated, Walt, with characteristic shyness (about such matters), sent personal cards to all members, stating reasons why he would not make a good commander, why he couldn't serve, and urging them to vote for the other candidate. Result—an overwhelming vote for Torbett. Maybe that's a good way to elect him president of the Producers.

Announcement was made of two new members, Plastic Products Co., and the E. L. Bruce Co.
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ARE YOU UNIFICATION MINDED?

By C. WILLIAM PALMER, President, Michigan Society of Architects

Uncle is going to win the war! And how? By the combined resources of the Nation and action at the front—in other words, an “all-out” effort.

How are we going to establish architecture in its proper place with the public? By having a united front, one big organization working for the same purpose.

Did you send in your opinion on the subject of unification through the questionnaire sent you last spring? If you didn’t, you are in the same class as the man who doesn’t vote at the primaries.

There is still a chance for you to voice your opinion before actual unification gets under way and the Unification Committee will be glad to hear from you.

A tabulation of the questionnaire proves that 96 per cent of those who voted were for unification, and we have since learned that the objections of the seven (out of 185), who actually opposed it at that time, have been largely overcome.

Perhaps you are not entirely familiar with the subject and do not definitely know what unification means. It is generally covered by these five points: (1) One organization representing all practicing architects in the State of Michigan; (2) one yearly assessment of dues to pay (instead of three you are now paying, if you belong to both organizations, as you should); (3) one set of officers and committees, representing the entire profession in this area; (4) one united front to present the profession to the public; (5) one united family group working for a common cause, with one good meeting to take the place of two or three, poorly attended.

Let us analyze these five points:

(1) With two organizations in the State, one possibly acting under direction from Washington, conflicting ideas often occur, which confuse the minds of everyone both inside and outside the profession. It is a case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing. Try this system over your drawing board and see how good a job you can turn out!

(2) With one organization you may write out one check that takes care of your professional dues for the year. This check could easily include your dues to the national organization with the Society treasurer making the transmittal to Washington. If all architects of the State were members, the yearly dues could be much less than they are now and more could be accomplished with the money received by eliminating duplicate expenditures towards one particular effort.

(3) If we had one set of officers and committees, each man elected or appointed would take more seriously the work assigned to him. At present a good worker for the profession is placed on several committees by both organizations. He realizes that he has been given too much work to do and divides his time accordingly. With one set of committees there would be enough earnest workers so that the work could be properly distributed. For example, select one man from each Division or Chapter in the State, appoint him chairman of a certain committee for his locality, and let him select his own committee and watch him work. Doesn’t that seem reasonable?

(4) At present Mr. John Q. Public is confused regarding who is is who and what is what in connection with architectural organizations. The typical newspaper will invariably get the two State titles mixed unless the title is
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"THE PRIDE OF THE YANKEES"
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Central Michigan Division—Sporting and Recreation Club of the M. S. A.

Reporting by Jim Stewart

The old Lansing—Jackson Division has come a long way—"A lot of water has passed under the bridge" as our old friend "Pipeline Harris" so aptly puts it and said division is now rightly known as the Sporting & Recreation Club. Dedicated to the higher flights and more subtle manifestations of the Art of good fellowship, his group has set a mark all may well shoot at in the interests of "appreciate your pal the other Architect" (not forgetting to cut his throat in competition). In this spirit said organization accepted Ernie Hartwick's invitation to spend a week end at his hunting lodge in the north woods. Foote's hopes and wildest dreams were excelled by actual facts on seeing Ernie's "lodge"—Lodge hell—it was an estate. Private lake, well stocked with fish (believe it or not) and in as beautiful a setting as one could ask for.

Harris (previously referred to as 'Pipeline' and sometime referred to as the great "water gap", together with Sun Tan Black, spent the entire week end playing cribbage and getting sun burned. The rest including such tyro anglers as Gus Langius spent the daylight hours fishing, the nights in playing "two pair" and the rest of the time in between eating of Ernie's superb cooking and lapping up Vitamins in the form of so called "fruit juice" concocted by friend Ernie. In case of any doubting Thomas or to refrain from any wild fish stories let it suffice to say that these two were busy and sufficiently to have a fish dinner on Sunday. Kressback of Jackson and Consumers' Power was so busy helping Gus keep his hook off logs that he had no time to take us to nearby property of his company for inspection trip. He says they wouldn't let him drag such a gang in anyway. Don't know as we blame them.

Ralph Herrick having inadvertently let himself get sucked into one of Ken Black's wild games of "base-ball match the pot" saw the error of his ways and retired to dignified retreat on a davenport—"I shan't be able to draw down out the walls of anguish from such as Clarence Rosa, Jim Stewart and others who were subsequently inveigled into Ken's games of chance. The only real masters of the situation seem, after careful study of remaining resources, to be "Downspout" Harris (Alias Pipeline, Alias "Water Gap") and Consumer Carl. Not content with early success, Ken says finally "he 'owns his own petard" as it were, and was at last occupying the mourners bench with Ralph. We were all glad to have Ernie's boy Bruce with us. He's a budding Architect, bound out for the time being to Wells Ira Bennett but he demonstrated his ability to hold up his end with a bunch of Architects in their lighter moments. A good time was had by all amid perfect surroundings and with most congenial company. A vote of thanks is hereby given our excellent host cook and fellow wanderer in the sometime fertile fields of the Mother Art... We give you—Ernie F. Hartwick... Architect and Master Host.

P. S.—Jim says don't sleep with Gus, he has cold feet. Gus says don't sleep with Jim, he mumbles like a Grade 'A' student at Lapeer. Ken says don't sleep in the same room with either of them and they laugh and giggle at the damned stories (told by Ernie Black). If one can't sleep in the same camp with Harris and Rosa or you won't get any sleep. If one isn't prowling around the other one will be. Kressback don't say—he just starts sawing wood—Marvelous. Ernie and Bruce say—never again—not with that bunch of insomnia patients.

To meet the growing demand, the Detroit Institute of Technology will offer Russian this Fall in its regular curriculum for men and women. The course will be taught by E. Litvinoff a highly educated Russian who has had much experience in teaching this language. The method used will be a short cut to basic Russian which eliminates all non-essential details. Elementary Thursday, 8:15 to 10:00 P.M.; advanced Friday 8:15 to 10:00 P.M.

Happy Birthday—KENNETH C. BLACK, Oct. 2.

Attention Air Raid Defense

As this copy went to press, your President was asked to be a member of the Engineers Advisory Committee of the Michigan Council of Defense. In this connection, he requested to appoint chairmen for this work in the various Michigan cities. The outlying sections of the State will be handled later on instructions by the State committee.

Your President requests that the following men work in their cities, forming their own committees at their own discretion:

Saginaw .......................... Robert B. Frantz
Lansing ........................ Adrian N. Langius
Grand Rapids ........................ Roger Allen
Battle Creek ........................ A. B. Chanel
Kalamazoo ........................ Louis C. Kingscott
Flint ............................. Harry T. Smith
Pontiac ............................ Leo J. Heenan
Muskegon .......................... Arthur Hooker

If any of these appointments can not be accepted, kindly notify your President at once and suggest an alternate for your city.

The chairmen are expected to inform the superintendents of schools in their respective cities and advise them of their appointments. The work will consist of visiting each school in the city and advising the superintendents whether each school is suitable shelter during an air raid, and if not, to make any recommendations so the children will have an appointed place of safety should an air raid occur.

Here is an opportunity for the architects to do something really constructive in National Defense, and we feel sure they will rise to the occasion.

Please start work at once and report your findings, or ask questions through your local director, who will attend the meeting of the board of directors some time the early part of October.

Ralph Adams Cram

Ralph Adams Cram, Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, died in a Boston Hospital on September 22, after an illness of two weeks. He was in his seventy-ninth year.

Mr. Cram was born at Hampton Falls, N. H., December 16, 1863, an authority on Gothic architecture, he was noted for buildings he designed for Princeton University and the United States Military Academy at West Point. He became world famous for his churches throughout the Nation, including New York's great Cathedral of St. John the Divine. He participated in the evacuation of the ruins of England's famous St. Albans Abbey.

He received degrees from many institutions of higher learning: Litt. D. Princeton 1910, LL. D. Yale 1915, Notre Dame 1924, Williams 1928. He was made an honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa at Harvard in 1921. He was a fellow of the A.A.A., as well as of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Royal Geographical Society of London, and many other organizations here and abroad.

He began his architectural practice in 1889, was registered in Michigan in 1919, and an active member of the Michigan Society of Architects. He had maintained offices in Boston and New York, as Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson; Cram and Ferguson and as Ralph Adams Cram. His fine churches were legion and he was author of a score of books, mostly on church architecture.

Ralph Adams Cram was supervising architect for Princeton University, 1907 to 1920; consulting architect for Bryn Mawr, M. Holyoke and Wellsley colleges.

"Structural Steel Design"

A course in design of girders, trusses and typical steel structures for structural engineers and architects will be given by Mr. Harry Ellsberg, well known engineer of the firm of Albert Kahn Inc., on Monday evenings from 8 to 10, starting Sept. 28, at the Lawrence Institute of Technology.

MALCOLM R. STIRTON has gone to Traverse City for an indefinite period, in charge of branch office of Harley & Ellington, architects & engineers.
Unification (Cont’d from page 1)

actually written out. If the reporters knew of one organization only, they would soon become familiar with it. If John Q. Public sees several organizations mentioned, he thinks there may be dissension in the profession, and he realizes we are a well established body.

(5) Lastly, one family group working for the profession. We all recognize that all family members do not always get along amicably. One may suppose this is human nature, but let an outsider try to damage the family name and see what happens. They forget their differences and pull together. We also know that it is very unusual to like everyone in one’s profession. That is human nature too. But it is also human nature to like to feel that you are liked by one in one’s profession. That is human nature too. But it is also human nature to like to feel that you are liked by everyone. How are we going to be liked by everyone if they don’t know us?

With one organization having regular monthly meetings, we’ll be bound to become acquainted with one another, and a large percentage of acquaintanceships ripens into friendships. This is a practice followed in business. Why not do the same with men of your own calling?

Your organization voted unanimously several years ago to ask for a State law allowing only capable men to practice architecture, and the State of Michigan gave you that privilege. Through your influence, the Registration Board was established, and we have regular examinations drawn up by men of your own profession. Thus the men practicing in this state are selected through this medium, proposed by you.

After January, 1943, to practice architecture in this state, one must either pass an examination, or if from another state, must be admitted by reciprocity. You have chosen the type of person who may practice architecture; therefore, you should meet him on even grounds and work with him for the good of the profession.

If you do not agree with this article, write and tell Ken Black, chairman of the Unification Committee. If you do agree with these ideas, attend the next local meeting of your Division or Chapter, and tell the two organizations to follow up the ideas presented at the last convention. This is your profession and your organization, and the working committee wants your opinion.

Extension Course By Hammett

Prof. Ralph W. Hammett will offer a University of Michigan noncredit extension course on Pan-American Architecture, in Detroit this fall, it is announced.

Much of the material which will be used to illustrate the eight lectures of the course, Prof. Hammett brought back with him when he returned recently from Mexico, where he studied and traveled for some months.

Topics of the lectures are The Life and Architecture of Preconquest Mexico of the Plateau; The Mayans, their Art and Culture; Life and Architecture of New Spain in the Sixteenth Century; South America in Spanish Colonial Times; Mexico and Central America in the Seventeenth, Eighteenth, and Nineteenth Centuries; Art and Architecture of Mexico Today; Present-day Life and Architecture of the Central American Countries; and South American Architecture of Today.

The class will meet in the University’s section of the Horace H. Rackham Educational Memorial, 60 Farnsworth Ave., at seven-thirty, Monday evenings, beginning October 5. The enrollment fee is $3.


Dues are Due, Michigan Society of Architects. $5.00 to March 1, 1943. Please help to save billing, postage, etc. L. E. Caldwell, Treasurer, 13666 Stoevel Ave., Detroit, Mich.
Dr. Sherman E. Lee, Speaker

The Detroit Public Library, in cooperation with the Detroit Institute of Arts, will present a series of six illustrated lectures on The Art of Eastern Asia, beginning October 5. Dr. Sherman E. Lee, Curator of Far Eastern Art at the Institute of Arts, will be the speaker.

The meetings will be held on Mondays at 8:30 P.M., in the auditorium of the Main Library, Woodward and Kirby. The public is invited.

Listed are the talks scheduled:

October 5 The great river valley civilization: the Indus and the Yellow Rivers.
October 12 Buddhism and Buddhist art.
October 19 Hindu art: idol or image?
October 26 The union of poetry, music and art; later Indian painting.
November 2 The great tradition of Chinese painting.
November 9 Fine art and artist vs art and artisan as seen in the minor arts of China.

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