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On the south shore of Grand Traverse Bay at the turn of the century was the "Slab Town" area of the Bohemian lumberjacks. One of the centers of activity was Topinka's Saloon—the building pictured on the left.

The architects' move from crowded downtown quarters became necessary when their lease expired. The long search for a new location ended when they found this old building in a neglected area previously used for neighborhood shopping. Here was an opportunity to revitalize a part of the city which had long been neglected.

Establishment of a Retirement Trust for ownership of the building made every employee a part owner; consequently, in the Summer of 1970 every member of the firm enthusiastically helped with reconstruction.

Today the building stands remodeled as the architectural-engineering office of Graheck, Bell, Kline and Brown.
The main stairway enclosure is an addition to the building and takes full advantage of the original high ceilings. Throughout this air conditioned building, the bone white walls and dark brown stained wood trim provide a quiet background for spectacular views of Grand Traverse Bay from every window.

Each room has a different color accent limited to furniture upholstery with the exception being the addition of a large tapestry in the Lobby repeating reds and purples. Strategically placed foliage plants, art objects, and built-in casework (coordinated with new furniture) emphasize the restraint characteristic of the building’s exterior.

Three steps above the brown brick paved entrance is the carpeted first floor. At this Lobby level are Reception-Secretarial areas, offices for two principals, and the Main Conference Room.

An open stairway to the upper floor ends in a balcony conference area.

Design for the remodeling was a joint project of all four partners. The character of the old building with its basic form and one distinguishing detail of arched window heads, set the design theme of simplicity for the exterior and interior detail. Each existing window opened is glazed with a single sheet of dark bronze glass in a projecting bronzed aluminum frame. The result is an understatement of exceptional elegance.
Beyond the conference landing is the carpeted drafting room and two more offices with glass partitions.

A high lighting level eliminates table lamps, and readily available reference book shelves along the aisle result in a spacious and organized work space.

A circular stair at the rear of the building winds through three floors to the basement Lounge, Model Shop, and storage area.

Two office levels function as an ideal separation between production and client contact. A private telephone and paging intercom system is the link which assures efficient operation. Concealed speakers carry music to all spaces except the Main Conference Room.

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Toll-Free Calls Set Up By OSHA

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration is setting up a new toll-free telephone service to answer questions about on-the-job safety conditions from employers and employees in five states.

Edward E. Estkowski, Regional Administrator for OSHA Region 5, centered in Chicago, announced that starting July 3, toll-free calls may be made from anywhere in the 5 states to a special number in non-working hours (4:30 p.m. to 8 a.m. weekdays and around-the-clock on weekends).

The special number for this Region is 800-621-0523. The five states from which these toll-free calls may be made are Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Callers may request information on all aspects of OSHA program activities.

SHG in New Joint Company

A new Canadian-controlled planning, design and engineering firm has been formed by SHG Associates, Inc. and Searle, Wilbee, Rowland of Toronto, successor to the noted firm of John B. Parkin Associates. The new organization will be called SWR/SH&G Ltd., engineers and planners, and a majority stock interest will be held by the Toronto company.

SWR/SH&G Ltd. was formed through the sale of shares of stock in SHG Canada Ltd., which has been the Canadian operating arm of the American architectural, engineering and planning firm since 1956. The new organization will be backed by parent company staffs of 450 in the United States and over 200 in Canada.

Two Canadian citizens, James E. Searle and Hedley E. H. Roy, will be Chairman of the Board and President of SWR/SH&G Ltd., and two Americans, Robert F. Hastings and Philip J. Meathe, will be Vice Chairman and Vice President, respectively. Merrill M. Bush, an American, will also be a Vice President.

The two parent firms are engaged in the planning and design of building projects throughout the United States and Canada, in Europe and in Asia, with a construction value in excess of a half billion dollars. Both will continue their independent practices, and the joint firm will have a separate office in Toronto.

GLF&E Announce Appointment

Appointment of Edwin S. Shymanski, P.E. of Detroit, as structural engineer for GLF&E has been
announced by J. Gardner Martin, Executive Director of the organization.

Shymanski will be available to consult with engineers, architects, and contractors on the design and construction of projects employing structural steel.

Shymanski is a registered professional engineer formerly employed by National Steel Corporation and as a consultant on several engineering assignments for Science and Engineering, Inc. He is a graduate of Lawrence Institute of Technology and has engaged in additional studies at Wayne State University and the University of Louisville.

Shymanski is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, American Welding Society, Society of Automotive Engineers, American Society of Metals, Engineering Society of Detroit, and the Professional Society of Nuclear Engineers.

Architectural Firm Mergers

Walter M. Laitala, Robert L. Freeman, Robert W. Smith, and Lewis L. Fowler announce the merging of their firms for the continued practice of architecture as of June 1, 1972. They will be known as Laitala, Freeman, Smith, Fowler Architects, Inc., 3850 Capitol City Boulevard, Lansing, Michigan 48906. Telephone (517) 372-3700.

Obituary

C. Allen Harlan, 65, Honorary Member Michigan Society of Architects, died June 23, 1972 of a heart attack. Harlan founded the Harlan Electric Company of Southfield and its ten associated firms and formed them into one of the largest electrical contracting firms in the nation.

He was a trustee, board member or contributor to 12 universities and colleges throughout the United States. He was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree by the University of Detroit in 1957.

Harlan was well known for his donations and sponsored many deserving youth through colleges. He was well known in the Architectural profession for his interest and philanthropic contributions.

What to do About Bugholes

What to do about Bugholes (small voids) in formed concrete surfaces. Thomas J. Reading, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha will present an illustrated talk to the Concrete Improvement Board of Detroit. October 12, 1972, Engineering Society of Detroit. Cocktail hour at 6:00 P.M., dinner at 6:45 P.M. and program at 7:45 P.M. Telephone dinner reservations to John Tucker, SL 7-8800. Dinner is 6:00, guests are welcome for the program beginning at 7:45. No charge.

Classified

Supervising Architect

June, 1972

For information, send resume to Warren Consolidated Schools, Kingsley Sears, Personnel Director, 29900 Lorraine, Warren, Michigan 48092.

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Calendar

September 30
Allied Arts Festival
Detroit Chapter-AIA
Alger House, Grosse Pointe War Memorial
32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe, Mi.
8:00 P.M.-12:00 Midnight
Art-Champagne-Hors d’oeuvres-
Dancing for $7.50 per person

October 18
Detroit Chapter Annual Meeting
and Election, Raleigh House, Southfield, Mi.

November 10-11
WAP-Workshop: Architectural Preservation
University of Michigan

March 28, 29, 30, 1973
MSA Annual Convention
Lansing, Michigan

May 8-11
AIA National Convention
San Francisco, Ca.

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