The Missouri Registered Architect

Official Journal of the Missouri Association of Registered Architects

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Volume 3, Number 4
MISSOURI ASSOCIATION of
REGISTERED ARCHITECTS

YEAR BEGINNING MAY 7, 1955

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The St. Louis Chapter, A.I.A., Cordially Invites
You to Attend

The 10th Annual
Central States Regional Conference

HOTEL JEFFERSON
ST. LOUIS, OCTOBER 13, 14, 15

SUBJECT
The subject of the conference is DESIGN COLLABORATION, and should interest both large and small offices.

SPEAKERS
The speakers will be Henry Churchill, Philadelphia; Fred N. Severud, New York City, structure; John Harvie, St. Louis, steel; Thor Germundsson, Chicago, concrete; Frank Hanrahan, Washington, wood; Charles S. Haines, New York City; Walter Moses, New Orleans, heating & air conditioning; Robert S. Newman, Cambridge, acoustics.

OTHER ACTIVITIES
In addition to the seminars there will be a luncheon at the Art Museum, a talk by Lawrence G. Linnard, Landscape Architect, tours of outstanding buildings, and a night on the historic St. Louis Riverfront featuring dinner at the old Merchant's Exchange (scene of the early Veiled Prophet Balls), a visit to our old Court House (the Dred Scott Case), and a special show on the Goldenrod Showboat.

GUESTS
Institute guests will be George Bain Cummins, President; Leon Chate lain, Treasurer; and Ned Purves, Executive Director.

DISPLAYS
The display will include The Producers' Council Caravan. This Caravan features new products and is considered better than the products display at the National Convention. This is a 'must see.' See the work of our famous Washington University School of Architecture students, and, we hope, a display of work by all the offices in the region.

WOMEN
The women are welcome to attend any of the seminars and in addition are invited to tour world famous Shaw's Garden, and attend a talk on "Color, the Key to your Personality," relating the selection of a favorite painting to the habits of dress and decoration. The Jefferson Hotel is also in the heart of the downtown shopping district.

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"Best for Wear and Weather"
Public education in the United States has long been recognized as a responsibility of the several states. The states, in most instances, have delegated broad powers to the local units of government and the principle of local control with state support and guidance has thus become firmly established.

It is significant that the constitution of Missouri, Article IX, Section 1, states in part, "... the general assembly shall establish and maintain free public schools for the gratuitous instruction of all persons in this state within ages not in excess of twenty-one years as prescribed by law." The question immediately arises as to how well this constitutional provision is being implemented. Under present conditions, are the local school districts, with state support and guidance, able to provide a satisfactory educational program for all children regardless of where they are located?

During the past several years professional educators, interested citizens and members of the General Assembly have cooperated in several surveys of the Missouri schools. It is significant that the conclusions reached have been uniform in one respect — there is a definite need for a change in the present method of financing the schools.

Without going into detail, it will suffice to point out the more obvious defects in the present method of allocating state aid. The 1931 school law provided a formula designed to give the financially weak districts a greater amount of state support than the wealthier districts and this enabled them to provide an acceptable educational opportunity for their children. Since that time however, vast changes have occurred in the states' economy, its tax system, the amount of money available from state sources, and in the public schools themselves. The 1931 school law was designed to distribute from state sources four or five million dollars annually with the major emphasis
on aid to those districts which could not provide an adequate school program. At the present time, state aid for schools has increased so that more than fifty million dollars annually is available from state funds. Nearly all of this increase in allocated to local districts on the "flat grant" basis without regard to local ability and as a result there is wide discrepancy in the educational opportunities available to children in various parts of the state.

The present pattern of state support to the public schools in Missouri is characterized by the following weaknesses:
1. It is complicated and difficult to understand.
2. Small high schools and small elementary schools are given a favorable weighting in the computation of classroom units which are used to measure the need for state support.
3. High school classroom units are favorably weighted over elementary classroom units.
4. The flat grant is used as a basis for the distribution of more than sixty-seven per cent of the state school aid.
5. State aid granted per pupil ranges from a low of $47.00 to a high of more than $500.00 with little regard for the wealth of the local district.
6. It is impossible to predict from year to year how much money a district will receive from state sources.

It seems apparent from this analysis that the 1931 school law while adequate twenty-four years ago, now has serious defects which must be remedied if Missouri is to keep pace with other comparable states in the field of public education.

It has long been accepted in Missouri that state support of the public schools is necessary. The constitutional provision that not less than twenty-five per cent of the states' general revenue shall be allocated to the public schools attests this fact. However, the way in which state funds are granted to the local districts determines whether or not the money is used to purchase the maximum amount of education for the children.

In recent years two ideas have emerged from numerous surveys of state school systems throughout the country. The first is the "partnership plan" which represents a sharing of school costs between the state and the local school districts. The second is the minimum or "foundation program" which seeks to establish through the use of state and local funds a minimum program of education in all districts, but above which any district may go by additional local effort.

With these ideas in mind Senate bill 3 was drafted, and will be submitted to a vote of the people on October 4. The formula proposed by this bill represents some fourteen months work by a joint legislative committee of thirty-two members. It combines the better features of modern school finance
plans and provides for a minimum or "foundation" program jointly financed with the state and the local district as partners.

This proposal has for its objective the elimination of the major weaknesses in the present formula for the distribution of state aid. The shift from the teaching unit to the individual pupil as a measure of need will result in a shift in emphasis from the small school to an equal emphasis on each pupil in all schools.

Nearly 92% of all children in the state will attend schools which will receive a greater amount of state aid if the program is fully financed. The use of the individual child as a measure of need will permit the preparation of a budget request by the state department of education which can be readily understood by the appropriations committees of the general assembly. The simplicity of the tentative proposal will enable local district administrators to determine the amount of money which will be available to the district from state sources as soon as the appropriations are made by the general assembly, thus making local budgeting more accurate. The equalization factor in the tentative proposal is designed to assure each district a uniform amount per pupil in average daily attendance. The local district will contribute an amount derived from a local tax of $1.00 the receipts from the tax on state assessed public utilities, and other local funds. The state will then allocate the amount necessary to make a total of $110.00 for each resident pupil in average daily attendance. Districts which can supply $110.00 per pupil through their own efforts will not receive an equalization quota. The "flat grant" provision insures at least $75.00 in state aid per pupil in average daily attendance for every operating school district and this amount added to the equalization quota of $110.00 makes a total of $185.00 per pupil as a minimum amount which each district will have available from state and local sources. Thus a foundation program of $185.00 will be guaranteed to every pupil in the state. The "teacher incentive" provision is a flat grant per teacher based on preparation and its purpose is to encourage the employment of teachers with better preparation, and to encourage the teachers to secure additional training.

A reliable estimate of the need for additional state funds to finance fully the foundation program as provided by senate bill 3, places the figure at roughly twenty-two million dollars annually. If the plan is adopted and fully financed it will raise the standards of Missouri's public schools and will establish a minimum level of education for every child in the state. It also carries out the idea of joint financial support between the state and local governments with each bearing roughly one half of the total current school costs.

If senate bill 3 is approved by the voters on October 4, a better and more modern method of financing the public schools will become effective immediately. The results will be of immeasurable benefit to our schools if the ad-
Additional funds needed are made available. A portion of the additional revenue has been provided by the allocation of 37\(\frac{1}{2}\)% of the states' general revenue to the schools, rather than 33 1/3% which has been traditional for the past several years. The remainder must come from additional taxes. If the citizens of Missouri wish to improve educational standards, it will be necessary to make additional money available. The guaranteed annual wage recently established in the automotive industry would be meaningless without the additional funds necessary to finance the plan. The foundation program for the schools will be seriously impaired unless both the state and local districts contribute in full their portions of the cost.

Senate bill 351 which is also to be voted upon by the people on October 4, seeks to provide the additional revenue by a tax on cigarettes of two cents per package, all of which will be "ear marked" for the public schools.

It is not within the scope of this discussion to build a case either for or against this particular tax. It would be difficult in any event to say which tax would be best without some idea of the impact of all taxes now levied including those levied by the federal government. No such data are readily available at this time, but one thing seems very clear. Additional revenues are needed at the state level for the public schools and these revenues can only be provided by additional taxes. To take the position that the foundation program of school support should be enacted into law without adequate financial support is untenable. The final decision as to the future of the Missouri public schools rests with the voters and will be made on October 4, when the vote on senate bills 3 and 351 is counted.
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FOR REFERENCE SEE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK
PHONE MO. 4-8000
Notice TO ALL REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND TO ALL REGISTERED ARCHITECTS

This Board has been informed that in a number of instances a registered architect or registered professional engineer has been guilty of violating the registration law on his own account and as accessory before the fact to its violation by unregistered persons by putting his personal seal on plans, specifications and other documents "not prepared by him or under his direct personal supervision".

In some cases the violation was committed as "an accommodation to a friend", but in most cases for a fee sometimes as low as $5.00.

The law provides that the personal seal of a registered architect or registered professional engineer shall be the equivalent of his signature wherever used and that the owner of such seal shall be responsible for the whole engineering or architectural project, when he places his seal on any plans, specifications or documents. The law also provides that the unlawful use of his personal seal by a registered architect or by a registered professional engineer shall be cause for revocation of his registration.

In counties and cities where public officers require the personal seal of a registered architect or registered professional engineer before approving plans or issuing building permits, there can be no violation of the registration law by any unregistered person unless some registered architect or professional engineer becomes an accessory before the fact by placing his personal seal on such plans or documents, thus enabling such unregistered person to secure the official approval of some city or county officer whose approval is necessary.

The Board will revoke the registration of any registered architect or professional engineer found guilty of aiding and abetting any unregistered person in violating the registration law.

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<td>Bahr, Richard Castle</td>
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News About Architects

Many Architects take an active part in the affairs of their community. The Architects of Kansas City area are an excellent example. ROBERT WEATHERFORD serves as Mayor of Independence and ROBERT EVERITT as a Councilman. In Kansas City, LUTHER WILLIS serves on the Zoning Board and CLARENCE KIVETT on the Planning Commission. JOHN MONROE is on the Board of Park Commissioners. He is a member of the Executive Committee of Starlight Theater, and also, a member of the Mayor’s Recreation Advisory Committee. These duties require approximately one day a week to fulfill obligations. In addition, he is Treasurer of the Kansas City Chapter, takes part in activities of the American Legion and Church. In general, his hobby is actively entering into community life.

Can you find the initials of the engraver on the “heads” side of a penny?

Those of you that think a railroad architect confines himself to shops and roundhouses should see O. HORACE TUCKER’S excellent ticket office and executive suites in St. Louis.

LUTHER WILLIS, bothered by parking, wanted to move his office closer to home... he ended up in the same apartment.

PETER KELETI has joined BOB EVERITT in practice in Kansas City.

JOE MURPHY took a short vacation. Ask him about it.

HARRIS ARMSTRONG is back from Europe, crew cut and all. He attended meetings and visited many interesting places. Harris is an excellent photographer. Look at his slides if you have the opportunity.

DAVE CLARK joined the Missouri Archaeological Society. His first trip into the Boone County countryside resulted in being chased by a pig... tearing his trousers, putting a neat V in his behind... and finding no arrowheads.

Ten Commandments For Architects

1. Don’t try to please everybody. Try first of all to please yourself.

2. Don’t save time on the study of a project. Construction will move faster.

3. Don’t think you know it all. A building needs many craftsmen; make use of them.

4. Don’t promise your client the moon at a bargain.

5. Don’t regard any commission as unworthy of your best endeavor. You will be judged by all your work.

6. Don’t believe architecture was invented ten years ago.

7. Don’t repeat your story. Try to tell a better one... if you can.

8. Don’t think a design is good or new when it is merely different.

9. Don’t hope to find a formula for beauty.

10. Don’t worry about what others are doing. “The only competition worthy of a wise man is with himself!”

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