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OUR COVER

Shows Progress Construction of the roof of High School Building, Van Buren, Maine

The school is a ten classroom building constructed for an original contract price of $115,000. The design and construction represents what can be done when local materials, labor and technique are taken into careful consideration to meet a very limited school building budget. The building complete in all respects was constructed in strict accordance with the building code and requirements of the Department of Education, State of Maine.


Contractor, Consolidated Constructors, Inc., Portland, Maine.

Exterior view is shown on page 14.

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To those who read the NEW HAMPSHIRE ARCHITECT it must become more and more revealing as to the versatility of our Architects here in the Granite State. The variety and interesting character of work being designed is proving more than words the long established truth, as stated by Paul Philippe Cret in the late twenties. Talking to the students at the opening of a term he said, "There are no specialists in architecture, and if you happen to hear so and so called a "church architect" or a "bank architect" you will find that the man who does a fine office building can also do distinguished work when designing a residence or a railroad station. The qualities and training needed in handling the various kinds of architectural problems are the same in every case—an ability to analyze the needs and the functioning of a certain type of building, a knowledge of the methods of construction in use, and above all, the training in design which gives a beautiful form to what might be otherwise merely a structure serving its purpose more or less efficiently."

There is probably nothing which arouses my personal interest so keenly as the opportunity to observe the projects designed by my colleagues in our profession. How strange it is we see photographs and occasionally sketches in the daily press throughout our state with complete description of the projects, who was the successful bidder or who helped to construct the building—but—seldom, if ever, does the press reveal the Architect or Architectural firm who designed the structure.

The press maintains that to mention the names of Architects is advertising and, therefore, should be paid for—the Architects maintain that the mention of the name of the Architect is live news. It is the thing that the building public, the contractors and everyone ought to know and should know, so that they may form touch with the proposed building organization as their interest may appear; whether they be realtors for renting, contractors, material men, furnishers of devices, appliances, the name of the Architect is very live news to them.

Apparently our New Hampshire newspapers in the editorial end and construction and real estate end are not up to date. The national magazines such as the SATURDAY EVENING POST in publishing building work or pictures always name the Architect. The Boston, New York, and Philadelphia papers with each illustration or article print the Architect's name as the main news, so also do all the other large eastern and western papers, but New Hampshire is a dead spot for this facet of news.

The building industry is the second largest industry in the country, exceeded only by agriculture. The volume of business done by the building industry is over nineteen billion dollars in one year. The Architects have a great influence with this expenditure. The building industry is also relatively large in the State of New Hampshire and the Architects have corresponding local influence.

We realize the Architects have always had a natural aversion toward self-advertising—blowing their own horns, as with others who render personal services, so have generally refrained from public advertising. I am personally confident that we do have local business support in our respective areas—however, sending of the main body of big architectural work out of our area occurs either by failure of the bankers to locally finance it or by choice of a leading group of big men who always must go to Boston or New York for anything. In light of these pertinent facts it would seem advisable for our Chapter to foster certain types of professional advertising through our leading state papers provided the newspapers would meet the Architects halfway with reciprocity in mentioning their names in connection with building projects. We are all interested in group improvements—the American Institute of Architects is constantly endeavoring to win favorable reaction from the newspapers in this matter. We in New Hampshire should be assisting in the same effort and can only find out how to proceed by communication and criticism. We will, however, be judged by all our work—let us make every project as good as possible and then be unashamed to reveal it by press, radio, or whatever means.

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Concord, N. H.
The oldest wooden schoolhouse in the U. S., portrayed below, was erected in St. Augustine, Florida in 1778 and is now a museum and open to the public.

The school was the forerunner of innumerable one-room schools built throughout the nation in the succeeding years and New Hampshire had its just share.

In the early days before either modern roads or our present means of transportation were dreamed of, each Town was allowed to set up as many School Districts as deemed necessary for accessibility and each district assessed its own little one-room schoolhouse. All this State had 2299 such schools in operation.

After the Civil War, as roads were improved, the number began to be reduced and in 1885 the School District Act was passed and, in general each Town had but one district although there are Towns which still have more than one district.

These early one-room schools, although an improvement over the one illustrated, were built by the town carpenter whose knowledge of the scientific designing of a school was as that of everyone else. They were lighted by far-spaced windows usually on three sides,inevitably without artificial light, water or sanitary facilities, and were heated by a cast iron wood burning stove near the front of the room.

One such building in this State has been in continuous use for more than one hundred years, and a light test recently made revealed that the amount of natural light on the desks at remote from a window was one foot candle compared with with the modern requirement of at least thirty foot-candles of light.

The first school for the teaching of Architecture in the U. S. was opened in Vermont about, or shortly before 1800, by Ascher Benjamin, Architect and Carpenter, and his book printed in 1801, a copy of which the writer owns, portrays the design of a Town Hall and a church, but there is nothing on the designing of a school building.

It was not until many years later that any thought was given to the scientific designing of schools from the point of view of natural and artificial lighting, central heating and sanitation. It is only very recently that these requirements have been perfected to the point to result in the modern "functional type" buildings.

Regardless of the advances that have been made in the consolidation of School Districts and the in-town consolidation of the one-room schools into multi-room ones, there are still over 75,000 such one-room schools in the Nation and over 103,000 independent School Districts of which 15,000 have no schools of their own, and five States have Districts in which there are a greater number of School-board members than there are teachers.

Our standard of education varies to such a degree that it would appear that we have no typical "American standard" of education. Some pupils are receiving a high standard, others only fair, and far too many are receiving a totally inadequate education as shown in the varying costs per pupil from $66.00 in Mississippi to $250 in the State of New York and the average for the Nation of slightly over $178.

The State of Texas has recently conducted an exhaustive survey of the old type building relative to the effects on the child of improper natural and artificial lighting and sanitary facilities, lack of the lunch program, improper posture of desks and chairs, all with alarming results which were reflected in the high percentage of failures to pass the physical requirements for entry into the armed services. This research was carried on in groups of twenty-five schools at one time and the results showed that 53% of the pupils had visual difficulties, 71% nutritional disorders, 30% posture difficulties, 75% possible signs of chronic infection, 20% signs of fatigue and 92% dental troubles.

It is probable that the same general situations would be found if like surveys were con-
ducts in various sections of the Nation. It is gratifying that this dental problem is now being attacked by the Dental Association. Let it be hoped that they succeed in educating the public to the extent that the sale of candy may be banned in the schools.

The problem of providing adequate school buildings has been one of major importance for many years and has become especially acute since the War owing to the fact that few schools were erected between the two World Wars, none during the last War and those that were erected were allowed to deteriorate.

Today, our communities are faced with the fact, as a result of a survey, that the schools are crowded 31% beyond their rated capacity. That with the great increase in the birth rate since the War together with the replacement of obsolete buildings, there will be required the building of 400,000 new class rooms addition to the million now in use. If this program spread over the next ten years, it will mean that we will be spending four times as much money for schools as has ever been spent before over a like period of time, and as a Nation we spend 1.5% of our income on schools, 6% on liquor and tobacco, beside the unknown millions on organized gambling rackets.

One great difficulty that many of our School Districts are experiencing in the financing of new buildings is due to the fact that the districts are too small. Many have a relatively stable population with no manufacturing enterprises, while others are faced with an influx of population from neighboring cities, and are faced with the problem of the National average of the increased birth rate. Also the cost of construction has materially increased due to both the increased costs of labor and materials and the fact that the school curricula and methods of teaching have so changed as to require greater facilities. One example of these changes is shown by the fact that a few years ago sixteen square feet of room per pupil was deemed sufficient while to-day the demand is for thirty square feet per pupil in order that the class room may be used for multiple purposes.

The apparent solution for this situation is the consolidated school with several towns participating whether the school be elementary

(Continued on page 9)
Pan-America Congress of Architects Held in Cuba

Sixteen prominent architects have been named by the State Department as members of the official United States delegation to the Pan-American Congress of Architects, to be held April 10-16 in Havana, Cuba. The delegation is headed by Ralph Walker, F. A. I. A., architect of New York, President of the American Institute of Architects.

The Congress is expected to attract hundreds of architects from all over the western hemisphere. According to Mr. Walker the purpose of these congresses is to enable the architects of the American countries to render greater services to the public, to the profession, and to the governments of their respective countries. Special consideration is given to the problems of education, ethics, and practices relating to architecture, as well as to the vital relationship of the architect to the structure of contemporary civilization. Among the subjects to be considered by the Congress are: Architectural training, urban planning, the evolution of contemporary architecture, private investment in building and problems arising from fiscal legislation, construction techniques, and professional practice of the architect in relation to existing laws. Papers on these subjects have been submitted by various U. S. architects.

Two expositions will take place at this year's congress, one on architecture and urbanism and the other on materials related to construction. Most of the American republics have sent large exhibits for both of these expositions. Admission to the expositions will be free of charge, thousands of visitors are expected to attend.

The United States exhibit consists of over 100 panels and four models of selected examples of recent architecture in this country and is believed to be the most complete collection of contemporary architectural design ever made for the United States. Plans are being made to show the U. S. exhibit in conjunction with the annual convention of the American Institute of Architects, which will be held in Washington, D. C., May 10-13. After that time State Department plans to show this exhibit at the various European and South American embassies.

An elaborate program of meetings, receptions, and tours has been planned for the delegates and guests while in Cuba. These include visits to a typical carnival, a tobacco plantation, sugar mill, and various universities. Highlights of the social program will be receptions at the Presidential Palace and the various embassies.

A new elementary school at Center Sandwich, which is expected to be completed within two months, is being erected by the Leon Keyser Co., contractors, of Manchester. The school will have four classrooms and an activity room; overall dimensions for the structure will be 60 by 125 feet. Although the present enrollment in the three schools now operated in the town is only 78, the new school is being built to accommodate 140 students, due to an expected increase in enrollment.

The Manchester Paint and Wallpaper company, Manchester, announced recently that moving operations have been completed to their new modern store at 1253 Elm street. The company was forced to move from its old site at 1123 Elm street to its present location in the Laflamme building, due to a need of expanding facilities. The company now occupies one of the most modern stores in the state, and the increased floor space makes it one of the largest in its line.

Manchester Paint and Wallpaper has been serving its patrons since Nov. 1, 1939, when it was organized through the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Hunt. The store is now managed by Grant W. Deming, who joined the organization shortly before Mr. Hunt's death in 1946.
Architect’s Traveling Exhibit Moves on to Keene

Following the successful showing of the Architects’ Traveling Exhibit at the Concord Public Library during the month of March, the next stop will be in Keene. Previously scheduled for Nashua, no suitable place could be found there for the exhibit, so architects Tracy and Hildreth enlisted the help of architect John Holbrook of Keene to supervise the exhibit in that city.

A better showing could be made with a larger number of exhibits. Architects who have not already contributed may do so by contacting the architect in charge. After Keene, the exhibit will go to Dover or Durham where Eric Huddleston and George Thomas will be in charge.

26 Percent Building Drop Reported for early 1950

The first two months total volume of contracts awarded for building and engineering works in New Hampshire this year fell off 26 per cent compared with the corresponding period last year, it was reported by James A. Harding, district manager of F. W. Dodge Corporation. The two-months comparison reveals this year’s figures at $1,454,000 and the last year’s total at $1,968,000.

Residential awards increased 139 per cent this year with non-residential operations off 60 per cent and heavy engineering 26 per cent behind last year’s amount.

February contract awards total of $185,000 was 86 per cent less than the preceding month and 76 per cent less than February 1949.

All classifications of building and construction showed declines compared with the preceding month. Heavy engineering awards showed an 85 per cent drop, while residential operations were 91 per cent behind and non-residential 79 per cent off the January 1950 awards.
OUR SCHOOL BUILDINGS

(Continued from page 6)

Secondary, but there appears to be two objections to this type of school both of which are psychological, one the transportation problem and the other the inherent interests of the people of one town against pooling their interests with their neighbor in the solution of a common problem for the advancement of their children. Many of the States are making rapid advances with the consolidated school and children are being transported as far as twenty and more miles with an aggregate mileage, during the school year, in the millions without accident.

The solution for the other objection is for people to educate themselves to the fact that "time is marching on," that we do not live in the past, that we do not spend money for erection or maintenance of schools in the special sense of "spending money" for the reason that there has never been a so-called "gilt-edged" security ever offered to the public that will begin to return the dividends that money invested for the education of the child will render and who, later in life, are to be responsible for the future welfare of the Nation that democracy may continue to live. The advantages of the consolidated school far outweigh any disadvantages. They become far greater "Community Centers" than can be possible in the smaller in-town buildings, especially an auditorium and gymnasium, or a combination, is incorporated in the building program. Such a building will result in an ever increasing interest due to the interchanging of ideas among the adult population and a closer relationship between the parent and child. The initial outlay for each town is less than would be the case if individual buildings were erected, and better satisfied teachers will be available as the larger building has greater attraction, and the most important factor is, that complete educational facilities can be offered to the pupil than would be possible in the smaller building, dollar for dollar value.

It is gratifying that the idea of the consolidated school is taking root here in New Hampshire, and it is hoped that the interest may daily increase until the consolidated school becomes a reality.
Keen Competition in new State Building Contest

Applications from architects entering the contest to design the new state office building to be located on Stickney Avenue, Concord, have been pouring into the office of State Highway Department Architect, John Engel. Professional advisor on the contest, Prof. Lawrence B. Anderson of M. I. T., announced that architects from all parts of the state, along with 13 from Massachusetts, two each from Connecticut, Maine and New York and one each from Illinois and Minnesota, are participating.

The following architects have applied for participation in the Competition for the New Hampshire State Office Building:

T. Cranston Albro III, Sheldon Building, Greenfield, Mass.; John D. Betley, 944 Elm Street, Manchester; James H. Boulger, Jr., 22 Cleveland Road, Salem, Mass.; W. Chester Browne, 184 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.; Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch and Abbott, 1 Court Street, Boston, Mass.; Richard D. Butterfield, 998 Earmington Avenue, West Hartford, Conn.; Leo F. Caproni, 1221 Chapel Street, New Haven, Conn.; John T. Doran, 248 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.; Arland A. Dirlam, 673 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.; Mitchell P. Dirsa and Joseph F. Lampron, 922 Elm Street, Manchester; Thomas F. Ellerbe, E. 505 First National Bank Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.; Henry W. Erickson and Douglas G. Prescott, 12 Pleasant Street, Laconia; Howard A. Goodspeed, Henry Chase Newell, and David R. Campbell, 20 Pleasant Street, Concord; Alfred T. Granger, Frank J. Barrett and W. Brooke Fleck, Musgrove Building, Hanover; Alonzo J. Harriman, 292 Court Street, Auburn, Maine; William J. Edwards and J. Edward Holmes, 126 State Street, Boston, Mass.; Archer E. Hudson and Gordon R. Ingram, 15 So. Main Street, Hanover; Edgar Hayes Hunter, Jr., and Margaret King Hunter, Musgrove Bldg., Hanover; George T. Kelly, 88 Alban Street, Dorchester, Mass.; Aaron N. Kiff, 101 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.; Dan Kiley, Franconia; Richard Koehler and Nicholas Isaak, 922 Elm Street, Manchester; George Stephen Lewis, Room 927, 18 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass.; Stewart A. Lyford and Eugene F. Magenau, 3 North State Street, Concord; Francis H. Marston and Stanley Orcutt, Box 68, Hanover; James J. O'Shaughnessy, 27 State Street, Boston, Mass.; Arnold Perreton, Horace G. Bradt, and Edward B. Miles, N. H. Savings Bank Bldg., Concord; A. S. Huntress Jr., Clarence H. Pratt, 477 Essex Street, Lawrence, Mass.; Leo P. Provost and Chester F. Wright, 61 Amherst Street, Manchester; George Savage, Northeast Harbor, Maine; Howard A. Tonsa and Roland Simonds, Merrill Building, Exeter; Walter Thomas Williams, 71 West 23rd Street, New York 10, N. Y.; Harold B. Willis, 20 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass.; Thomas Wise, Jr., New London; Maurice E. Witmer, 3 Riverside Drive, Portsmouth; Norman P. Randall, 1614 Main Street, Laconia.

Legal Ruling Makes A. I. A. Contract Questionable

Circuit Judge Shirley Stewart of Sandusky, Michigan made a ruling there on January 7 that may end a long-standing practice of architects to draw up contracts between clients and builders.

Lawyers there remarked that if the ruling is confirmed by the State Supreme Court it may invalidate a standard contract form issued by the American Institute of Architects and used by architects all over the State.

Judge Stewart said his ruling was based on a general principle followed by the State Supreme Court that a layman is not allowed to practice law. He made the ruling in granting a motion by Attorney Leonard J. Paterson to have a suit by Gordon A. Sheill, Royal Oak, Michigan architect, be dismissed insofar as it is based on a contract with Paterson's client, Reginald Howard, Lexington. Judge Stewart ruled the contract illegal because it called for Sheill to act as attorney in drawing up contracts between Howard and the builders.

An interpretation of this question may be available by the time of the annual meeting of the N. H. Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, which will be held at the Laconia Tavern on May 18.
Building Products to be displayed at A.I.A. Meeting

All architects, structural and sanitary engineers are invited to attend the next A. I. A. chapter meeting, which is to be held at the Conoia Tavern, Thursday, May 18, 1960. The N. H. Chapter will sponsor a presentation of building Products and Technical Information by the New England Producers' Council.

This organization, by means of product displays and round table discussions, has done a splendid job with similar meetings in Massachusetts and Rhode Island during the past year. We are fortunate indeed to have this opportunity in New Hampshire, not only to meet the materials men with whom we are doing business, but to witness the latest in improved materials.

Arrangements have been worked out byarris Barbour, President of the N. E. Producers' Council, and Thacher Jenny, the Council's program chairman, together with Presidentimer. Up to the first part of April, 26 firms have expressed a desire to participate in the exhibits and conference discussions. It is important to note that these are not high pressure selling campaigns. Their sole purpose is to acquaint one with the use of various products, without any discrimination or favor shown any single product.

Attendance will be limited to 110, the limit the Tavern's dining room facilities. A cocktail hour will be provided at 5:30 P. M., during which we will have time for acquaintance and surely viewing of exhibits before the supper at 6:30. The round table conferences will follow supper, when we will be able to enter in discussions and hear about the products on display. Mark the date on your calendar—Thursday, May 18, at the Laconia Tavern.

"Tell your story," said the judge to the hillbilly.
"Well, your honor, I was in a phone booth a-talkin' to my girl, when this guy wants to use the phone. He opens the door, grabs me by the neck and throws me out."
"And that made you mad?" asked the judge.
"No, yore honor, I didn't get real mad 'til he grabbed my girl and tossed her out; too."

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Remodelling of Jewelry Store Presents Problems

Jewelry according to Webster's refers to jewels collectively. A jewel may be a costly ornament, any object regarded with special affection, a precious stone, a gem or a bearing for a pivot in a watch, made of precious stone. To design a jewelry store for the present day trade is much the same as designing a drug store with its multitude of articles—clocks, face powders, cigars, mouse traps, newspapers, toothpicks and—oh yes, drugs. A jewelry store now has handbags luggage, playing cards, clocks, watches and watch repairing, silverware, gift shop, and, oh yes, jewelry.

A jewelry store recently completed offered the problem of proper display and sales areas for these various articles. To add to the confusion of articles for sale, the new store was to be remodeled from the original store, at the same time keeping the proprietor in business with a minimum of interference during his rush season.

The sales areas were fairly well established by the Owner when he determined that the repair department should be in the rear of the store and diagonally opposite the entrance. Oversize cast iron columns supporting five floors and a roof were required to remain in place. Complete replacing of steam and water pipes in the ceiling area was almost mandatory, as the electric entrance service, already outgrown, was replaced with an entirely new and larger service.

The final result offered to the Owner and customers a store designed to fulfill the requirements dictated by the different articles offered for sale. Show windows set at a height to adequately display the smaller items so frequently associated with a jewelry store and ample wall cabinets in the store were a major consideration. Show cases, tables, and counters set apart with liberal walking aisles gave an air of spaciousness and were the final steps in the display.

An enclosed mezzanine for private offices and a repair shop is located at the rear of the store. One way glass is used in the walls of the office so that the store may be under constant surveillance.

The front is of terrazzo, sash and awning members of brass. The main sign has porcelain enamel letters enclosing double neon tubes faced with white plexiglass. Two minor sign panels are of edge-lighted plexiglass set in sta...
Steel base. The show windows in general are not enclosed at the back so that at all times the public has a full view of the store. The interior walls, except for a small portion at the rear of the store, are of plywood, comb in oak with walnut dado. The backs of the display cases are of comb grain oak. The show counters, counters and display tables have bases in walnut.

Lighting played an important part in the interior design. A maximum of flexibility was desired. Three tube fluorescent fixtures with ring controls so that one line, two lines or three lines of tubes may be lighted at one time. Incandescent spot or flood fixtures were introduced in the lines of fluorescent fixtures to provide accent lighting for special displays. Cove lighting of pink and white cold cathode was used for decorative effect. Counters, display cases and tables are lighted from the ceiling by counter type and recessed incandescent lighting. All cases have a combination of cold cathode, present and incandescent lighting, this combination having been determined upon after observing test wall cases set up at the International Silver Co. in Meriden, Connecticut.

The store is heated by a warm air conditioning unit with provisions for cooling in summer. Arrangements have been made for the future installation of an electrostatic air-cleaner.

Maine, N. H., Vermont Committees Re-Study Blue-Book

A move to re-study fees contained in "the New England Blue Book" instigated by the Vermont Chapter, A. I. A., has been favorably considered by the New Hampshire and Maine Chapters. William W. Freeman, Chairman of the Vermont Committee, said they feel that the fees now listed for New England are generally too high for this rural area, and that Maine, N. H. and Vermont fees should be similar to present a uniform front.

As a result, a committee was appointed by President Witmer consisting of Eugene Magenau, Chairman, Stephen P. Tracy and Archer E. Hudson. On the Vermont committee with Mr. Freeman are Ernest Erickson of Rutland and Philip Linde of Arlington, Vt.; and from Maine, Philip S. Wadsworth of Portland and John Calvin Stevens, 2nd.

The meeting was held on Saturday, April 15, at the Winnesquam House, Lochmere. Questionnaires requesting comments and suggested changes for the Blue Book were mailed to all architects in New Hampshire to assist the committee in making a fair representation for the state.
Exterior view of Van Buren High School in Maine. Constructed at a cost of $115,000.

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