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Concord, N. H.

COVER PICTURE

Cover photo shows the steel framework with re-enforcing rods, preparatory to receiving wood forms and concrete, for the new Eliot Bridge spanning the Charles river between Cambridge and Boston.

The bridge is for the Metropolitan District Commission, Parks Division. Benjamin W. Fink, Director of Park Engineering; Burns and Kennison Inc., Construction Engineers; Maurice E. Witmer, Architect; Moore-Langstroth Inc., Contractors.

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THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Civil Defense - How Shall We Go About It?

Today we are alerting ourselves against any possible assault from those vain powers, within and without our county, who would endeavor to betray us in an effort to change—by means of revolutions, our whole political, economical and spiritual way of life.

It is, therefore, our duty to answer the call of duty in Civil Defense. Our skills and experience must be ready in case of need. While our State of New Hampshire Defense Corps is preparing its program, we of the New Hampshire Chapter should be ready to submit a complete roster of Architects within the State.

Many duties will require assignment of work which you can particularly qualify and best serve: Administration, direction of active work having to do with air raid shelters, control centers, rapid post-raid building surveys and initiation of emergency repairs to damaged buildings. The procuring of materials, construction equipment, heavy-duty equipment and operating personnel; building demolition and debris clearance; design and construction of post-raid emergency shelters.

Submit your name, both business and home addresses and phone numbers, and an indication of the services you feel best qualified to perform, to: William L. White, Secretary, New Hampshire Chapter, A. I. A., Exeter, New Hampshire.

We will, in this manner, be able to quickly forward to the State Civil Defense Corps, this information so that they can issue duty assignments if the need arises.

Civil Defense means also self help. Our participation, our skills and energies are a vital part of the total civic responsibility.

ARCHITEXTOPICS

By Eugene F. Magenau, A. I. A.

Among the many important problems facing New Hampshire's legislature are three bills of special interest to architects. One of these, Senate Bill No. 9, relating to competitive bidding, had a public hearing on Feb. 1 before the Committee on Judiciary and Public Works.

Introduced by Senator Stanley Brown who was one of the State's legal counsel for the Story-Cote case, the bill has two principal features:

1. Firm contracts let under public competitive bidding for all state projects other than roads and bridges, whose construction exceeds $1,000.

2. Design and supervision of all such projects by independent registered architects or engineers.

Purpose of the bill as this observer sees it, is to require such controls and methods as will absolutely prevent future construction frauds while at the same time ensuring maximum results at minimum cost. The bill recognizes the over-all economy of retaining private practitioners in the design professions and limits the functions of the Public Works Department so that the latter could not take over the functions of design, drafting and supervision.

If the New Hampshire Chapter of A. I. A. had tried to initiate and promote legislation furthering the interests of its profession, we could hardly do better than support this bill of Senator Brown's. Since we did not originate it, we cannot be accused of selfish motives if we support it. More of us should certainly participate in future hearings as there are still details to be ironed out of considerable importance to architectural and engineering practice.

The Associated General Contractors turned out in force to oppose the bill which was surprising because their objections were not to the main ideas of competitive bidding of independent architects or engineers, merely to details, mostly those relating to filing of sub-bids. With suitable amendments, their opposition might well be changed to support. That would leave only the engineers of certain departments such as Game and Forestry, Recreation, Water Resources as opposers, because they would like to continue their practices of doing some work on force account, and of preparing their own designs and drawings.

Public Works Commissioner Merrill stated neither for nor against the bill, stating he favored its general objectives and
there was no intention or desire on the part of his department to become a bureau supervising either private architects, engineers or contractors—and this, with minor exception, has been borne out in practice since Reorganization last July 1. However, in reviewing and completing some of the projects which he "inherited" he found as much negligence or incompetence on the part of private architects and engineers as he did of contractors or state officials. This illustrates the unsatisfactory work by any one architect is not only on himself but on the whole profession.

The other two bills of special interest to architects are House Bills 269 and 285. The former relates to the registration of architects and was initiated by a Chapter committee co-chairmaned by Stephen Tracy and Norlan Randlett. This bill would do two things:

1. Defines both "architect" and "registered architect" as a person who is registered on the board of registration and is therefore qualified to practice architecture;

2. Make it mandatory for anyone to be registered in order to practice or offer to practice.

The importance of these changes in the existing registration law "to safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare" is well known to all of us, and to all good citizens. Should there be any position to this bill, it is to be hoped that the legislators will recognize the attempt of qualified persons to "cash in" on the reputation and abilities of those who are qualified.

House Bill 285, sponsored by the N. H. Society of Engineers, does about the same things relative to the registration of professional engineers, but goes further in amending the regulations relating to the practice of engineering.

Because this column has been plugging New Hampshire architects for local jobs, an almost full page ad in the Manchester Union caught my eye. Three insurance firms who recently occupy a new office building in certain N. H. city headed the advertisement with this plea: "Support and patronize these New Hampshire firms." Who was their architect—you guessed it—a firm from another state.

I present this same subject, an interesting point is made in a recent letter by Mr. Ralph Frohisher of Sico, Inc., in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. We quote in full hoping that you architects will get the point.

In the last several issues of N. H. Architect I have noted with interest your comments on the fact that many N. H. jobs go to out of state architects. I am heartily in accord with the sentiments you express—that N. H. architects should have first crack at N. H. projects. I am in favor of any legitimate process that keeps the cash circulating within the home state.

"That is why I am also in favor of N. H. architects using N. H. made products, all things being equal. Seems to me that this should be a two way street.

"We have been making SICO Structural Insulation products in Portsmouth for about a year and half. These products could hardly be more "home town." The fibre we use comes from Lebanon, N. H., all wood comes from Rye, N. H., labor from Portsmouth, and cement as near as we can get it, in Maine.

"We believe that in the short time we have been in business every architect in the state has been contacted at least once, some of them many times. Strange as it may seem, I can recall offhand only one N. H. architect who has specified any of our products. Out of state architects have specified them in places as far away as western Pennsylvania. By far the greater part of our shipments have been out of state, not that we want it that way, of course. The products must have merit as several Boston architects have specified them repeatedly.

"Don't tell me you never heard of them, or I'll think that money we spent for an ad in your mag was wasted. You read all the ads in your own mag, don't you?

"You really need not take me too seriously in these remarks but I do agree with your sentiments as expressed in your column and I do think that there is more opportunity for us all to pull together a little better for our home state."

February Chapter Meeting Held in Manchester

The Calumet Club in Manchester was host to the New Hampshire Chapter, A. I. A., for its regular quarterly meeting on Thursday, February 16. Program feature was the sound picture, "Eternally Yours," the story of wrought iron, shown through the courtesy of Mr. R. W. Law, New England Division Manager of A. M. Byers Company. Mr. Arthur P. Grimm, Field Engineer, answered questions and showed slides of radiant heating and snow melting installations.

As this is being written in advance of the meeting in order to meet publication deadline, we have gone as far as we should in writing future events in the past tense. So for further details see next month's N. H. ARCHITECT—order your copy now!
COMPARATIVE UNIT COSTS
FOR SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS

The following construction cost figures are furnished by M. E. Witmer through the court of Leslie H. Allen, Quantity Surveyor, Newton Highlands 61, Mass. Mr. Allen would be willing to compile similar data for New Hampshire schools or other types of structures, if individual architects will send him the figures for their own projects.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN MASSACHUSETTS, 1950

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HOSPITALS, MASS. and N. H., 1949-1950

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<td>Woburn</td>
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<td>No. Conway, N H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brockton</td>
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<td>Hyannis</td>
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<tr>
<td>AVERAGE</td>
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<td>$2,137</td>
<td>55.8</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>6.9</td>
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Additions to the Old Colony Furniture Company, Nashua.
Additions to the Rollins Engine Company, Nashua.
Additions to the Truck Terminal for the Blue Line, Nashua.
Additions to the Truck Terminal for the Blue Line, South Boston, Mass.
Building for the Therrien Farm Implement Company, Nashua.
Building for the W. D. Bell Farm Implement Co., Ponemah.
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and Nashua. 
From March 1 thru October.

RULES
Material is to be prepared in 20" x 30" 
mounts. 
Material should be of completed, not proposed 
work. 
Renderings are acceptable, but photographs 
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Nashua, N. H.

ON OR BEFORE MARCH 5, 1951

The Public received the 1950 Traveling Ex­hibit enthusiastically and the inauguration of this long-range program produced many 
gratifying comments. 1951 has loomed with 
Wars and rumors of Wars but we, as Archi­ 
tects, are today united in a common cause 
and that is to inspire the confidence of the 
layman in our ability. We know what we 
can do, let's show the Public via 1951 Travel­ 
ing Exhibit.

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E. M. Miles 
Todd Wallace 
Malcolm D. Hildreth, Chairman