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COVER PICTURE

Construction of Third Floor, Central Wing, of Laconia Hospital.
Lyford and Magenau, Concord, Architects; W. M. Bisson and Son, Laconia, Contractors.
Photo by Achber Photo Service.

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THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

In a free country such as ours, most individuals have an urge for self-improvement. In a negative way the mere passage of time and the accomplishment of the daily round of work improves the worker, because he is that much better able to perform his task the next day. No further efforts are required if the urge is satisfied with the gradual increase in skill that comes by repetition or practice. Much of the world's work must be done by persons in this category.

But people who deal with other people rather than with things—which is one way of defining "professionals"—cannot satisfy that urge for self-improvement in such desultory fashion. Things can be expected to behave in a fairly regular and predictable way, whereas people usually behave otherwise. Therefore we cannot depend too much on repetition to improve our ability in dealing with people. Some more positive method is necessary, because for the architect at least, "dealing with people" means

(a) Getting the client
(b) Keeping the client

What methods of self-improvement are available to the architect or the prospective architect in this province of New Hampshire?

One of the most obvious ways is to take a course of study, and if one is situated geographically or economically so that regular college or university courses are not possible, there are extension or adult education courses and, of course, the correspondence courses. But I would speak more particularly of other methods which are less expensive and more readily available to all of us.

First, WORK HARDER. Self-improvement will result from this method due to the beneficial effect of repetition and the fact that genius is the capacity for taking infinite pains.

Second, STUDY THE PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE. If one could absorb and digest the wealth of material published every month, to say nothing of all that comes from the more articulate architects, artists, engineers and scholars in the form of books,—one's improvement would be phenomenal!

Third, JOIN THE A. I. A. This step is essential to get the most out of Method No. 2. If this national organization, the only one for architects, were able and wanted to restrict all of its benefits to members only, there would be a lot fewer non-members. What benefits? To list a few: legislation at national and state levels; technical research; publicity and public relations; standard forms; joint work with other professional societies and government agencies; regional seminars; free literature from manufacturers and trade associations; reduced rates on publications; fellowship with other architects at chapter meetings and conventions. Opportunities for self-improvement from this source are legion!

Finally, BROADEN YOUR SCOPE. Do something else besides your daily stint at the office. Take part in community affairs. Do some committee work. If one wonders how to get started, just attend an open meeting, get up and express a few opinions and you will find yourself appointed to a committee in nothing flat. This method of self-improvement is unique, in that a certain restraint is desirable in order not to get overloaded, and also in that it is directly helpful to others besides one's self.

Eugene H. Magenau

ANDERSON NICHOLS EMPLOYEES
ENJOY CLAMBAKE

Eighty-eight wives and members of Anderson-Nichols & Co. participated in a clambake at Sunapee State Park on Saturday, September 8. The ride up the famous chair-lift was rewarded by a superb view from the top of Sunapee in clear and sunny weather. Feature event was the soft-ball game between representatives of the Concord and Boston offices, won by the Concord contingent by the telling score of 11-6. Immediately challenged to a second game by the Boston crowd, this game promised to go to an even higher score (some say because Stewart Lyford was umpiring), but fortunately was cut short by the advent of clams, lobsters, hot dogs, potato sticks, coffee and watermelon. The Boston boys will seek revenge in a golf tournament to be held on their home grounds on Sept. 22.

John Minnich, Alex Majeski and Jim Brodie were in charge of arrangements. Their success indicates that the clambake will become an annual affair.
Influence

Mr. Boswith's article "I Knew H. H. Richardson" in this month's A.I.A. Journal is a refreshing reminiscence of his personal association. As evidenced by the article, the renowned Mr. R. was a well-rounded man, a man's man (Gertrude Stein influence) who knew and used the relief of wit, who possessed a strong sense of dramatics and was competitive in spirit and in fact.

These stories of fabulous characters who lived and produced with such grand scale, never cease to fascinate the little David in me. I'm sure that the subtle salesmanship such as their private select musicales in the exhibit room, the monk's hood attire, brass bowl cymbal, and their not so subtle work areas devoted entirely to competitions, make out present day unvarnished approach to bread and butter appear infantile.

Opinion

From out of the soil of our rugged rocky hills, Mr. F. L. Wright is molding a new way of life for his Manchester clients. The results of his concentration undeniably bear his stamp. The general public is exhibiting tremendous interest in this unusual approach to housing. We naturally do not know the reaction as to "likes" or "dislikes," however the fact that a generally uninformed public, whose knowledge of Mr. W's work is limited, are stirred out of their comfortable chairs to view the work proves that the name Wright alone does not make the building. There is no question as to who is the dominant factor, the architect or the client. For those of us who daily wrestle with this problem, at least here we have evidence of one answer and it presents that dare which makes the difference between mediocrity and the forerunner.

In both Mr. Wright and Mr. Richardson I feel a breaking of the ring of limitations and though their expressions of a philosophy may be different than yours and mine, thank heavens for a few men who live with a powerful conviction joined with character to follow through come hell or high water.

Meetings

Dig back in your files for the June 18, 1951 "Memo from the Octagon" and read the article about President Ralph Pollack of the Northern California Chapter and his committee plan and organization. His "spread-the-work" scheme is reported to be working very well. It appears to me that if the total membership of our Chapter is to glean anything from its function, then each individual should participate. This piggy-back riding becomes tiresome both to the rider and the jack-ass. Perhaps with committee meetings held regularly once or more a month, along with luncheon meetings, members could keep in touch with Chapter doings rather than wait for regular meetings.

Substance

Have you noticed that there are a few men, who regardless of physical size, employment or race, seem to be characters of substance.

I have met them in ditches with shovels and picks, met them in Shanghai of different coloring, yes, I have met some in drafting rooms, and their common virtue seems to be an all-encompassing tolerance and understanding of mankind.

A shame indeed we can't express more of this feeling in architecture—- but then, are we of substance?

Pictures

Dear fellow architects, requests by the editors of this magazine for pictures have resulted in a few contributions—however, as you may be aware, this is a monthly publication requiring pictorial material.

Now herein lies the threat: you either send photos of your work under construction or buildings completed or you suffer the consequences of elongated diatribes in articles of the President Speaks and Architextopics.

Being adolescent in mind, I, for one, would prefer to be amused with pictures than be bored with reading these persistent harangues.
Laconia Hospital Million Dollar Expansion

BY DAVID C. GOVE, Clerk-of-the-works

The million dollar program of expansion and improvement of buildings and facilities at the Laconia Hospital, begun soon after the termination of World War II, is rapidly nearing completion. The current phase of the project was planned and designed by Lyford & Magenau, Architects and Engineers of Concord. General contractors were W. M. Bisson & Son of Laconia, who submitted the lowest of nine contract bids on the $275,000 project now being completed. Two-thirds of all the sub-contracts, also awarded on basis of competitive bids, went to firms from Laconia and other New Hampshire communities.

The major sub-contractors included the following Laconia firms:
- Plumbing—Northern Heating & Plumbing Co., Inc.
- Heating—Francoeur-Gill Co., Inc.
- Electrical work—Chas. A. Gove, Inc.
- Masonry and Plastering—Arthur Godbout.
- Acoustical Ceilings—Howland Insulation Company.
- Formica Counters—Nu-Floor Covering Company.

Finish Hardware — Laconia Hardware Company.
- Window Shades and Traverse Rods—Lloyd L. Baker.
- Painting—Bill Dawson of Franklin and Laconia.

Other New Hampshire sub-contractors included A. W. Therrien Co. (Roofing); the Economy System (metal lathing), and M. J. Murphy & Sons (ductwork) of Manchester, and the Concord Lumber Company (millwork) and Adams Glass Company (glazing) of Concord.

The project called for extensive alterations in the ground, first and second stories, as well as major construction in all three wings of the previously unfinished third story. On the ground floor, all X-ray rooms were re-built, with complete X-ray shielding of sheet lead built into all walls and ceilings of these rooms, to meet State and Federal standards set up to protect technicians, patients and visitors from accidental X-ray exposure.

On the first floor, a mechanical ventilating system was provided for central wing corridor, and new utility room, diet kitchen and nurses’ station, in addition to janitor’s...
Program Rapidly Nearing Completion

closets, linen rooms and modern linen chute.
Second floor alterations involved complete rebuilding of operating rooms and construction of a central sterilizing room with the latest and safest types of equipment. Operating rooms now have static-proof floors, extending through the corridors of the operating suite; air conditioning is being installed to control humidity and temperature and thus eliminate dry air which is most hazardous where volatile anesthetics are being used, as well as providing maximum comfort for operating personnel during very hot or very cold weather. Built-in equipment includes new vacuum system, explosion-proof switches and electric outlets, clocks and interval timers.

By far the greatest volume of work involved was on the third story of the central, east and west wings of the hospital, where rough masonry walls and roof had been installed under a previous phase of the program, but no floors, partitions or other interior work whatever had been accomplished. The architectural and engineering problems were unique in that Lyford & Magenau were requested to provide complete maternity, obstetrical, nursery and pediatric units, with rigid requirements for spaces and room sizes, and fit the whole layout into the existing wall system with windows and roof already installed.

By means of detailed studies, very close coordination with the building committee, and compliance with State and Federal standards, the architects designed a complete and compact third floor layout which was readily accepted by all concerned, before the plans and specifications were sent out for bids.

In the central wing, the architects drew up two systems on which they asked all bidders to quote:—the first system contemplated "mill" construction with heavy wood timbering on masonry walls, with wood stud partitions metal-lathed and plastered, for the third story rooms; this system, though not strictly fireproof, would have been at least equal to the construction of stories below, in the central wing, and the actual fire hazard would have been minimized by a complete automatic sprinkler system. The second system, which was immediately adopted when it was found that the contractors were will-

(Continued on page 10)
(Continued from page 7)

ing to install it for very little additional cost, called for an ingenious installation of steel joists, reinforced concrete floor slab, and fireproof masonry partitions. Full credit for the execution of this work should go to the general contractors and their experienced superintendent, "Simmie" Clement, who accomplished the removal of the old existing tar and gravel roofing, roof boarding and wood rafters, and the installation of the new steel bar joists and concrete slab, without in any way disturbing the ceilings of the rooms immediately beneath this area.

This wing was occupied August 6th, several weeks ahead of the over-all completion date on the project, and is designed and used as a pediatrics department. Nearly all rooms have large view windows of plate glass to give the doctors and nurses best possible opportunity for observing the children without actually having to enter the rooms. Pleasant pastel colors were selected for the walls and ceilings of these rooms, rather than the less cheerful "hospital white" too often seen in patients' rooms.

The third floor of west wing is of completely fireproof construction, similar to floors below, and is designed as the maternity nursing unit for the hospital, complete with nurses' station, diet kitchen, utility room, linen closets and janitor's closet. Here, too, the rooms are painted in pleasant colors, rather than austere white.

The third floor of the east wing, above the operating suite below, is designed as the obstetrical suite, complete with two air-conditioned delivery rooms, two labor rooms, sterilizing room and the necessary nurses' station, cleanup room and waiting and locker rooms for nurses and doctors respectively. This suite also has static-proof floors and explosion-proof electrical outlets throughout, wherever any danger from the use of volatile anaesthetics can be anticipated.

Many over-all improvements and utilities are also being installed to serve the three main wings of the hospital which are now or later to be occupied by patients. These include two of the very latest type fully automatic elevators of 3500 pounds capacity; a complete automatic sprinkler system meeting requirements exceeding those of the Board of Fire Underwriters, supplemented by built-in fire extinguisher cabinets and hose cabinets at strategic locations in all corridors; and a gas-operated electric power system that immediately provides light and power for operating rooms, delivery rooms, nurseries, corridors and exits whenever Public Service Company power is shut off or disrupted. This emergency electric system has already been tested by an actual power failure during a thunder storm, and proved entirely reliable and satisfactory.

The General Contractors are no strangers to the Laconia Hospital, inasmuch as it was W. M. Bisson who built the previous nurses' home in 1914, the east wing in 1934, and the kitchen addition in 1941. Field Engineer for the contractors was Reginald A. Bisson, who, during World War II, was in charge of building a 1,000-bed hospital in the Middle East, and supervised the construction of numerous smaller hospitals in China as District Engineer for the armed forces.
Pediatric area in use.

The Clerk-of-the-works representing the owners and the architect on the job was David C. Gove of Laconia, a member of the New Hampshire Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and formerly associated with Lyford & Magenau, the architect for this project.

Administrator George W. Mayo represented the owners and the Building Committee in selecting the equipment for the hospital, as directed by the Committee. Upon completion of the construction (now awaiting installation of the second new elevator) the Laconia Hospital will provide 119 beds, actually expandable to 141. Completion of the project was made possible by a federal grant of about $300,000, under provisions intended both to relieve "hardships" occurring in hospital construction programs and to raise the standards of hospital construction and facilities nationally.

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This house received national acclaim some time ago in a national publication. It is republished here for its fresh and interesting solution of the problems found in remodelling an old house. Photos by Lionel Freedman, Pictorial Services, show various rooms of the remodeled home.
Better Communities Mean Better Business

By Frederick P. Clark

Formerly Director, N. H. State Planning and Development Commission, at present Planning Director, Regional Plan Association, Inc., Consultant on Planning and Development to communities in New York and New England, Vice-president, American Institute of Planners.

Community planning is an old New England custom.

But though many of the oldest communities were planned by the hardy settlers who established them, during the 1800's immediate financial gain for speculative developers was allowed to become the controlling factor in how most communities grew.

As a result we now have the accumulation of poorly laid-out, crowded residential areas, traffic-congested business sections, badly-located schools, run-down housing blighted by intrusion of business and industrial development, traffic-ridden residential areas unsafe for children and other conditions that have made many parts of our communities unattractive for living or working, and that have increased taxes in order to overcome such bad conditions.

Today we are in a period of reaction against these conditions. In all parts of the nation citizens, professional groups and officials are working to overcome the mistakes of the past and to carefully plan the future development of their communities.

Community planning in New Hampshire has not yet been put into effect as extensively as in some other parts of the country, but it has been making good progress. The work of the Concord City Planning Board has achieved a nation-wide reputation, as has the planning of the new Village of Hill. Other places where community planning is under way, in some cases by local groups of laymen, include Laconia, Dover, Keene, Portsmouth, Hollis, Hampstead, Fitzwilliam, Lebanon, Peterboro and Wolfeboro.

Every community is faced with these principal tasks—solving the many problems arising from haphazard growth of past years, and insuring that new development does not incorporate those same or similar mistakes. The life and prosperity of a community depends greatly on how well these tasks are done.

New Hampshire is trying to encourage industrial development. One of the important factors in securing industry is to have communities that are well-planned and well- governed and that have progressive leadership—communities that are effectively meeting the pressing municipal problems of today and that have plans for avoiding them in the future. A city or town that is smug and well satisfied with itself is not likely to be attractive to new industry.

Promotional campaigns to tell the world why the community is a good place in which to locate are all right as far as they go. But what most communities need is to overcome some of their shortcomings, to increase their good points and thus improve their competitive position so that they have more to offer prospective industry, as well as residents. That's the job of community planning.

Architects, as well as others, have much to gain from good community planning. As individuals and as a professional group they should take an active part in encouraging and supporting it.
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"The Farmer's Business"
The annual summer outing of the New Hampshire Chapter, American Institute of Architects, was held at the Hotel Wentworth-by-the-Sea on August 16. About forty members, wives and guests were present.

A round of golf started off the activities for those who came early. Others, who arrived in time for a swim in the pool were discouraged by the cool unseasonable weather and gathered instead in the Tally-Ho Room for a social get-together before the banquet.

After the remains of the roast beef and apple pie-a-la-mode were cleared away and the cigars and pipes were well lit, the business meeting got off to a spirited discussion relative to increasing the annual dues. Valuable help on the subject came from two of our visitors, President A. Burton Stanhope of the Delaware Chapter, A. I. A., and Elwood Williams, new transfer member from the New York Chapter. Al Granger came out with a strong appeal for new members, particularly from the draftsmen employed by various firms, and with the idea that chapter funds should be set aside for scholarships to encourage better training of the young men.

It was finally voted to raise the dues for corporate members only, in order to bolster the treasury without discouraging new applications for Associate, Junior and Student memberships.

Announcement was made that a Scholarship Fund had already been initiated by former President Maurice Witmer; and that the firm of Lyford & Magenau, which had recently concluded 16 years of practice upon consolidating with Anderson-Nichols & Co., was contributing $100.00 to the fund.

A special treat for those who attended the meeting was provided in the form of colored slides and running commentary by Douglas Armsden, Portsmouth photographer, who had recently toured England and the continent on a special photographic mission. His views captured the charm of the old architecture and quiet landscapes to a remarkable degree, and his informal talk made the presentation thoroughly entertaining and informative.

A new student member, Elmer Carvalho, now of Concord (by way of Hawaii and Purdue University) was welcomed by the Chapter. Other guests were John Ashton and Clarence Pratt of Salem and Lawrence; Marshall Moyer of Concord, and Robert Geiger of the office of Frank Lloyd Wright, who is currently supervising a residence being built in Manchester.
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From Report of the Board of Directors to the 83rd Convention.

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Each of the above firms has one or more members in the New Hampshire Chapter American Institute of Architects