

Vol. II

THE NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS115 EAST 40tb STREET• NOVEMBER, 1939• WARD W. FENNER, EDITOR

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER MEETINGS FOR THE SEASON

NOV.—Tues., Nov. 14, 6 p. m. DEC.—Tues., Dec. 12, 12:30 p. m. JAN.—Tues., Jan. 16, 12:30 p. m. FEB.—Tues., Feb. 27, 7 p. m. MARCH—Tues., March 26, 6 p. m. APRIL—Tues., April 23, 6 p. m. MAY—Tues., May 14, 12:30 p. m. JUNE—Wed., June 5, 12:30 p. m.

The November meeting will be given over to a general discussion of the Institute and its present policies, with particular reference to some of the questions brought out at the recent Convention. Come, listen — and speak. If you have any subject of importance to the profession on your mind please write the Committee so it can be put on the agenda. Do it now.

Since it was in the month of February, 1857, that a group of architects first met in the office of Richard Upjohn in the Trinity Building, New York City, to discuss the formation of a society which in time became the American Institute of Architects, it has been the custom of this Chapter to hold its Annual Dinner in February. Our February meeting therefore will be a Banquet to which members may bring ladies and guests, and for which this Committee is now cudgeling its brains in order to offer you and them some novel but appropriate entertainment.

As noted above, meetings have been fairly evenly divided between lunches and dinners. The lunches will be short and businesslike, and will hold strictly to a prepared agenda. Dinners have been scheduled early—6 p. m.—to allow for more protracted discussions, entertainment of guests, some social relaxation, and home early enough to please the wife.

With regard to our lunches, may I request our more firmly established members to grant the young Associates in their offices a little more than the customary hour for lunch on Chapter lunch days? The Associates should be urged to attend.

You will note that to avoid conflict

NEXT MEETING

Time: 6:00 p. m., Tuesday, Nov. 14 Place: Architectural League

Subject: Review of happenings at the convention, and general discussion of Chapter program for the winter. What are we doing that we should not do, and what should we do that we do not? A session for letting down our hair, self-criticism, praise and blame. If YOU were the dictator, what would you do to make the Chapter fulfill its proper function? Are we doing a good job or are we loafing and neglecting important matters that are our business as leaders of the profession?

Come and speak your mind in friendly discussion. There is certainly plenty to say, but it should be said in open meeting so that the Chapter can derive some benefit from your ideas. Speak now or forever after hold your peace. If possible, send in written suggestions in advance.

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with other regularly scheduled events all our meetings will now be on Tuesday, with the exception of the Annual Election, which under our By-Laws must be held on the first Wednesday in June.

These dates should be noted on your calendar now. The OCULUS will follow up with a monthly reminder.

Subjects and speakers for meetings are now being considered, and your committee will most heartily welcome suggestions. Certain members have complained that our Chapter gettogethers are not more lively. This is a matter that is up to the members themselves. If you have a complaint to make, now is the time to bring it out into the open. It is only through exchange of opinions and crystallization of ideas that we can hope to advance and make ourselves more valuable to each other and to the profession. The monthly get-together is our opportunity to do this. Let us have your suggestions as well as your criticisms, and most important of allyour presence!

JULIAN CLARENCE LEVI,

PRESENTATION

On Monday, December 4th, at the Hotel Commodore the Medal of Honor for City Planning will be presented to our distinguished honorary associate member, George McAneny. This medal is this year to be presented for the first time. It is given in recognition of distinguished services to the cause of City Planning, and is presented by a group of four societies: The New York and Brooklyn Chapters of the Institute, the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the Metropolitan Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

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Mr. McAneny's long public service and great contributions to the architecture of our city, including his chairmanship of the Regional Plan and the 1939 World's Fair are too well known among architects to need any comment here. His admirers in the Chapter can best show their appreciation of his unselfish devotion to the principles the Institute fosters by attending the dinner to the last man.

Tickets at five dollars per plate can be obtained from the treasurer of the Committee, Harold M. Lewis, 400 Madison Ave.

OCTOBER MEETING

The Chapter started off the year with its first meeting on the evening of October 24th. The attendance figures, while not exactly staggering, were encouraging, for sixty-five members came.

Five new members and nine new associates were introduced.

The President reported on the final disposition of the suit brought by Eleanore Curran against City officials and Bill Gehron. This suit, had it been successful, would have prevented the City in the future from employing any architects in private practice except on a consulting basis. The plaintiff's motion was denied and the judge rendered an opinion in the case that was most satisfactory.

The President announced the award of the Medal of Honor for City Planning to the Honorable George Mc-Aneny, and further announced that the presentation would be made at a dinner to be held early in December.

William F. R. Ballard, Chairman of the Committee on Large Scale Housing, announced the attitude of his committee in the matter of Commissioner Rheinstein's resignation from the Housing Authority, and presented a resolution which was adopted:

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects feels deep concern over the resignation of Chairman Rheinstein of the New York City Housing Authority. The Chapter has the utmost admiration for the outstanding achievements of Mr. Rheinstein during his term of office. His efforts have been entirely executive and non-political. He at all times unselfishly and unstintedly has bent every effort to further the public housing program in the City. His record in forwarding projects and in formulating policies which have lowered costs has been outstanding.

Mr. Foley, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, reported on the activities of his committee with respect to local law 175, which is designed to keep all public architectural work within civil service manned bureaus. Letters have been sent to each member of the City Council, and members of his committee have personally called on a large number of the Council members. As a result, the bill has gone back into committee. Mr. Foley urged that members of the Chapter do not assume that the job is done, but continue to inform their representatives of their views in the matter.

Having disposed of the business of the evening, the Chapter settled down to hear a most interesting discourse by Julian Garnsey, mural painter, and color consultant for the World's Fair.

Mr. Garnsey warned the members at the outset that he was going to take them back to school again, and most of us needed it. The unusual feature of the discourse, upon which many commented, was that in a talk about

D. E. WAID, F.A.I.A.

After a long illness from which it was thought he had practically recovered, D. Everett Waid died suddenly on Tuesday, October 31st.

Mr. Waid, long a leader of the profession, was in 1923 and 1924 president of the New York Chapter, and in 1924, '25 and '26 president of the Institute. He was a member of many societies, among them being the Architectural League of New York, the Municipal Arts Society, the Art Commission Associates and the Royal Institute of British Architects of which he was an Honorary Corresponding Member. Among his other honors was the award to him in 1929 of the Chapter Medal of Honor.

As many Chapter members will recall, Mr. Waid's professional career was a long and busy one. For thirty-five years he was architect for all the buildings of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, including their New York headquarters, and the Canadian Head Office Building in Ottawa. At the time of his death he was engaged in designing the third section of the new home office building in the block bounded by Madison and Fourth Avenues and Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Streets. The first section of the building was completed in 1932, and the second section construction is now well under way.

A large part of Mr. Waid's time was taken up in the checking of plans and specifications and supervision of construction of buildings designed by other architects, but in which the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company had an interest.

Among the buildings designed by Mr. Waid were many college, hospital and church buildings. color in architecture, there was not one photograph of a building shown. Mr. Garnsey displayed charts and diagrams showing relations of colors to one another, and the spectrum, and had the boys sitting on the fronts of their chairs. If he had brought along any pictures, the meeting would still be in session.

Probably the greatest chance of recent years to design in color has been the World's Fair, and Mr. Garnsey, being eminently qualified to do so, gave a thorough exposition of what had been done and why. From the looks of astonishment on some faces it was evident that much that was done in the use of color had achieved its effect without the means by which it had been achieved being evident. We are not going to try to tell you what Mr. Garnsey had to say; first because we are not qualified to do it with justice to him, and secondly because to have missed it will be a lesson to you that you just can't afford to miss Chapter meetings.

CANDIDATE

The following name has been presented for membership:

Addison Erdman Sponsors { Robert Kohn Charles Butler

Pursuant to Section 6, Paragraph 3, of the Chapter by-laws, members are requested to submit within ten days for the information and guidance of the Committee on Admissions, privileged communications relative to the eligibility of the above-mentioned candidate.

PUBLIC HOUSING ERROR

Some members of the Chapter have recently received a letter from the National Public Housing Conference, suggesting that they have their names and telephone numbers listed in a souvenir program at a nominal cost. President Frost, having investigated the matter, reports that the Conference sent letters of solicitation to architects by mistake and that we were never supposed to have been on their list.