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United Nations Permanent Headquarters

Our Cover Picture

Simultaneous Interpretation

The President Reports

Among the Constituents

November--December 1947

Volume VII Number VI
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SIDNEY L. STRAUSS

He went from table to table, greeting friends, joking, praising, and exchanging greetings. He was here, there, everywhere. As Master of Ceremonies—he sparkled. He exuded good humor, enthusiasm, cheerfulness and friendliness. He injected those present with his charming personality. He introduced the guests and the speakers with witty remarks, pleasant references and appropriate anecdotes.

He was at his best, and all present enjoyed the function because of his presence.

Sid Strauss conducted the convention as he wanted to—giving everything he had to insure pleasure and welcome to all who attended. The banquet of the New York State Association of Architects on October 23, 1947, was the last time he was to smile on us. It was the last time he was to smile on us. It was the last time any of us could greet him. For on the next morning the startling news came from Mrs. Strauss that “Sid did not wake up” and in a few moments, the physician announced that Sid had gone to his fathers.

Sid Strauss died as he desired—in the midst of his activities, doing things for others, anxious to help.

Since 1935 when he first joined the New York Society of Architects, he showed himself a young man of aggressiveness, with consideration for others, extreme courtesy, and thorough dependability. Any task assigned to him was done, and done well. There was no uncertainty or uneasiness when he was asked to do anything. The assignment would be carried out.

Sid Strauss made it his business to learn of his friends' troubles. Time after time, when things appeared dark and depressing, Sid would call on his friend-in-need, and by his smile and good nature, would cause gloom and troubles to disappear. Sid always was ready to assist and no one that needed his help, ever asked in vain. At great cost to himself, he was always ready to do something for his friends, and they were legion.

He loved people, and would praise them. If he could not say good of a person, he would say nothing. A wonderful trait!

He was president of the New York Society of Architects during the depressing war years. By his example, his energy, and his aggressiveness, he made it a stronger organization than ever.

He was a pillar of strength to the Queens Chapter.

He was a shining example of industry and good fellowship in the New York Chapter.

He was a splendid example of accomplishment in the New York Society of Architects.

All who knew him are better men and women for having known him.

Yes, we are saddened by his departure from our midst but we are grateful that we had the opportunity to know him. His loyalty, his feeling of brotherly love, his good fellowship, his charity to others, made him a wonderful person.

His friendship was considered among one's cherished possessions.

Sid Strauss did much for us. May we follow his example by doing something for others.

May he rest in peace.

Matthew W. Del Gaudio
Churches, too, are flexicore users!

Following a serious fire, St. Mary of Sorrows Church in Buffalo is being rebuilt. Because of their many outstanding characteristics, including firesafety, Flexicore floor and roof slabs were selected to replace the old floor in the rebuilt structure. The architect Karl G. & Wm. H. Schmill and the contractor Carpenter & Skaer.

If you have a job that requires long spans... up to 22 ft... fire resistance... sound absorption... freedom from shrinkage... speed of erection... permanence... reduced labor cost... shallow floor and roof depth... low cost hot air radiant heating... and other desirable features... then specify FLEXICORE precast concrete floor and roof slabs.

In addition to its use in floors, the rounded edges and table top smooth underside of FLEXICORE precast concrete floor and roof slab makes an attractive ceiling for any type of building construction.

Our engineers will be glad to cooperate with you in applying the economies of concrete masonry in your planning.

Do More With flexicore!

ANCHOR CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC.

Wabash Avenue at 2450 William Street
BUFFALO 6, NEW YORK
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Wabash Avenue at 2450 William Street
BUFFALO 6, NEW YORK
THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS
condensed from a talk by
MAX ABRAMOWITZ
at the 1947 Convention in New York City

Since this is an assembly of architects, I shall attempt to describe the planning of the “World Capital” as though it were a problem presented to you individually or in groups and you had this job to execute.

Our problem is to create a home for a new organization; which, although it had its roots in Geneva years ago, and had its beginning in San Francisco, and is at present operating under difficult conditions partly at Lake Success, and partly at Flushing Meadows with some of its organizations overflowing into office space in Manhattan, it has not yet operated as a complete unit on any one site long enough to have developed a closely integrated space program from which planners could work.

What I am saying is that a Program had to be created.

Upon the appointment of Wallace K. Harrison as Director of Planning by the Secretary-General, Trygve Lie, and the concurrence of the Headquarters Advisory Committee a Headquarters Planning Office was created. Subsequently the appointment of an international Board of Design was confirmed for the preliminary presentation: Under this group of men from many countries, a working staff of architects, designers, and draftsmen was built up to prepare the report to the United Nations.

This group worked in close liaison and cooperation with officials of the City of New York. The Headquarters Advisory Committee which has to approve the plans for presentation to the United Nations, represents 16 countries. Needless to say a staff of interpreters was needed— as discussions in more than one language were commonplace.

The site extends along the East River in Manhattan from 42nd to 48th Street for 1500' and from the East River to First Avenue, an average distance of 500'. The Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive runs along its easterly border on the river edge. This site can have a north and south access from the city along the Franklin Roosevelt Drive, and from First Avenue, and access from the Grand Central Terminal District from the cross town streets.

The land slopes down to the East River from First Avenue and also slightly from 42nd Street to 48th Street, The United Nations has rights to the pier-head line which extends approximately 820' east of the water line. In addition, the New York State Legislature has enacted legislation giving the City authority to regulate and limit signs, billboards, and advertising devices and potentially unsightly displays.

The City is giving us the fullest assistance and cooperation and is paying, from its own resources, for a tunnel under First Avenue beginning at 48th Street and ending at 41st Street, to divert all commercial and through traffic along the west side of the site; widening 47th Street from Second to First Avenue to a 160' promenade approach from the West; improving the 42nd Street approach to the site; and relocating its entrances and exits from the Franklin Roosevelt East River Drive to enable us to have a better and more attractive river approach and environment on the east side.

Since the acquisition of the site by the United Na-tions, New York City authorities have made zoning studies to help control the surrounding areas and assist in creating an atmosphere befitting a “World Capital.” The solution to the zoning on the neighboring streets is under study at present.

This brief description of the site and its re-planning potentialities will become more clear to you with the review of the projected plans.

The Program

We are now ready to analyze the program, its space requirements, its circulation patterns, and the use requirements of the men and women, from every country of the world, for whom this is primarily a workshop.

(Housing of personnel will not be provided on this site.)

This program has gone through various progressive stages. We set up a research group which studied and set up our space requirements. It was reviewed constantly, and adjusted constantly, with due allowance for reasonable expansion. The Headquarters Planning Office developed its plans from this program and presented them to the Headquarters Advisory Committee.

An analysis of costs and the present world economic problems, caused the Committee to request a revised and reduced program, designed to permit an expansion to include any element eliminated from the first report, if the future need developed. This is the program presented today. Its estimated cost is $65 million dollars.

It contains:

1. A General Assembly Hall—in session at present about two months a year—for 350 delegates and 350 alternates for 70 countries (The United Nations Assembly now has 57 nations—70 is a reasonable expansion factor):

   This Hall is to be available at other times for other agencies.


3. Economic and Social Council—in regular session three times a year—seats 22 delegates and their advisers at table with accredited participants and advisers at another table.

4. Trusteeship Council—in regular session twice a year—seats 26 delegates and their advisers, accredited participants and their advisers.

5. Four Conference Rooms—For use primarily when the General Assembly is in session—seating 70 delegates and their advisers, who prefer to sit at a table where all member nations can face each other.

6. 18 Committee Rooms—having an intermittent use—of varying sizes to serve the numerous sub-committees of the General Assembly and Secretariat and with adequate Press and Public Space.

7. Adequate Lounge and Lobby Area to serve these halls and rooms and the Service Rooms and Spaces to permit efficient operation.

We will, for simplicity, refer to these as the Conference Area with two main subdivisions: one the General Assembly Group, and the other the Council Room Group. It is expected that other groups, such as those (Continued on page 14)
Le Moyne College, now being erected on the gentle knolls overlooking the eastern section of the City of Syracuse, is so named to perpetuate the memory of Pere Simon Le Moyne, Jesuit Priest, Educator and Missionary to the Onondaga Indians. It was Father Le Moyne who discovered the Salt Springs which were the first source of wealth for early Syracuse. Appropriately enough, the street marking the southern boundary of the campus is called Salt Springs Road.

The site has about 117 acres of gently rolling land with a magnificent view from its upper levels. The area is ample for a college of very substantial size and has a generous allowance for playing fields, lawns, campus and parking. The main campus and its flanking buildings are located along a ridge which runs through the center of the property. The principal buildings and those to be first constructed were located so that they would be easily accessible to the nearest public highway. A secondary axis was fixed on lower and somewhat more level ground and around this the dormitory group was planned. The auditorium site was established near the highway for easy access of the public, and the gymnasium and athletic fields were allocated to the lowest and most level ground.

To establish this basic plan an appraisal of future growth had to be essayed and some intelligent guessing was in order. The present is amply provided for, and the future is not ignored or left to chance. The number, size and time of erection of future buildings could not be predicted, but even so, roads could be laid out with full regard for present necessities and future conveniences. Grading, levelling, road-building and landscaping are in conformity with current needs but with due regard for those of the future.

The Recitation Hall or Administration is, of course, the first to be erected. At the same the Science Hall is under construction and this will be followed by the Faculty-Student Residence. All three are needed immediately, and yet they must provide from the beginning such facilities as Cafeteria, Auditorium, Library Chapel and other facilities which will ultimately be housed in separate buildings. When these are provided the present space devoted to their needs will furnish the larger number of classrooms which will then be needed. Even though they will first serve other, temporary uses the elements of good classroom design have been kept in mind, even to the spacing of the present columns and beams.

Much thought has been given by the architects to securing an agreeable, academic atmosphere to the campus without resorting to superficial decorative detail. The design does not draw upon any historic style; in fact, this was carefully avoided to give the designers of future buildings a desirable elasticity. The roofs were kept flat, with as few parapets as possible (to permit snow to blow off) and thus help to give the buildings a characteristic horizontal appearance, broken only by the dominating central bell tower. The brickwork is of a warm brown-red color suitable for masonry in a northern climate.

In the year just past the Church in America celebrated the Tercentenary of a small group of courageous pioneer educators. These men came from their native France to the country of the untamed Iroquois with the torch of civilization and culture in one hand and in the other the cross of salvation and peace. Three of them, St. Isaac Jogues, Rene Goupil and John Lalande, have been declared Martyrs, having paid with their lives for the teaching of their ideal. Their stories are well known. The story of one of their number, however, is not as well known as his accomplishments deserve. He is Father Simon Le Moyne, priest of the Society of Jesus, whose name is inseparable from the early history of Syracuse. The annals of the city itself pay fitting tribute to Pere Le Moyne, and his brothers of the present day hold his memory in such high esteem that they chose to name the new Jesuit College in his honor. This new College is now rising on the gentle knolls overlooking the eastern section of the City of Syracuse and several towns to the east and north and south of the city. This is the country of the Onondagas, for whom Pere Le Moyne was the agent of peace; in this territory he helped to lay the foundations of Christianity. Not far from this spot he discovered the Salt Springs, which were to provide the first source of wealth for early Syracuse. Appropriately, the street marking the southern boundary of the campus bearing his name is called Salt Springs Road. "I shall return," this missionary and educator promised his Indians, and to-day after three hundred years this promise is being fulfilled in the fine group of buildings now being erected to honor and perpetuate his name.

The site chosen for Le Moyne College on the outskirts of Syracuse has about 117 acres of gently rolling land with a magnificent view from its upper level. The area is ample for a college of very substantial size, and has a generous allowance for playing fields, lawns, campus and parking. Through the center of the property runs a ridge with the ground sloping away from it to the public thoroughfares to the north and south. It was decided to place the main campus and its flanking buildings along this ridge, with the chapel at the head of the main axis and on the highest elevation of the property. The principal buildings and those to be first constructed were then located so that they would be easily accessible to the nearest public highway, thereby saving road construction and maintenance. A secondary axis was then fixed on lower and somewhat more level ground, around which the dormitory group was planned. The auditorium site was established near the highway, for easy access of the public, and the gymnasium and athletic fields were allocated to the lowest and most level ground for obvious reasons. To establish this basic plan an appraisal of future growth had to be essayed, and to do this some intelligent guessing was in order. The present is amply provided for, and the future is not ignored or left to chance. The number, the size, and time of erection of future buildings no one could predict with certainty. But even so, the roads needed from the beginning could be laid with full regard for present necessities and future conveniences. A modicum of grading being unavoidable, it was decided to do it at the best time, before the buildings were begun. Grading, levelling road-building and even landscaping are in conformity with current needs, but not to the exclusion of those of the future.

(Continued on page 16)
Language variance has been one of the greatest barriers to international understanding. The traditional "floor" or "successive" translation has never proved altogether satisfactory. Even in a bi-lingual discussion it doubled the length of time required for a conversation, and with the advent of multilingual assemblies it became obsolete.

Simultaneous interpretation is translation by interpreters while the original speech is in progress. It began as a "whispering translation," an interpreter sitting next to each representative and whispering the translation to him. This method was employed for 20 years with varying success, but it was necessarily limited to meetings where only a few representatives required the translation service.

The system whereby simultaneous interpretation became practical was first envisioned by the late Edward A. Filene. The story of its development follows. Its first real test came at the Nuremberg Trials in Germany and the experience gained there made possible the efficient system now operating at the United Nations headquarters at Lake Success.

In this "system" the interpreters sit in sound-proof booths, where they can watch the speakers through glass panels. Each has a portable microphone strapped to his chest so that he need not interfere with the other men in his booth. Since every interpreter sometimes finds it impossible to keep pace with the speaker a system of colored lights is used to flash a discreet warning to the speaker who will slow down or stop to clarify his point according to the color shown. The five official languages of the United Nations require twenty-man interpreter teams since the great strain on the interpreters necessitates rotation of the team every one-and-one-half hours.

The Story of the I.B.M. Wireless Translator
When Edward A. Filene, merchant and philanthropist, conceived the idea of a system of simultaneous interpretation he first consulted Col. Leon Dostert, now Chief of Simultaneous Interpretation for the United Nations. Col. Dostert told him that simultaneous interpretation would be possible provided the necessary telephone apparatus could be developed. Thereupon Mr. Filene called in a communications engineer, Mr. Finley, to work out the technical details. A patent application was filed in May, 1930, and two years later Dr. Filene's patent was issued.

Since it was Mr. Filene's wish to contribute his invention to the world to promote international understanding and good will, he sought the cooperation of a man with similar humanitarian interests who also had the manufacturing facilities for producing the necessary equipment and the organization to make it available. Mr. Thomas J. Watson, President of International Business Machines immediately saw its value and made arrangements to develop and supply the needed equipment.

The first apparatus consisted of standard telephone equipment hurriedly assembled for use in the Pan American Conference held at the Pennsylvania Hotel in New York City. This initial trial, while not an unqualified success, did demonstrate beyond question the value of the system. The original apparatus was improved. Standardized cables were made, terminating in selector switch boxes for each headset. Improved microphones, amplifiers and language-switching circuits were provided. For seventeen years this wired equipment was used two or three times a year for various international conferences and, to some extent, at the League of Nations in Switzerland. Throughout this entire period it was loaned, installed and serviced by I.B.M. entirely free of charge.

Mr. J. Kavanagh, one of I.B.M.'s engineers, flew to Europe with the equipment for use at the famous Nuremberg War Crimes Trials. He met with outright opposition from consecutive interpreters and skepticism from the Army personnel who were charged with responsibility for installing and servicing the equipment. The Army had to provide simultaneous interpreters and they needed a man qualified to procure, train and supervise them. They found Colonel Dostert in France with his bags packed and ready to take off on the next plane for home. That trip was delayed. Col. Dostert took over, and to him goes full credit for the fact that the installation at Nuremberg was crowned with such outstanding success.

Before the installation could be made, Mr. Kavanagh set up his apparatus in the war-torn rubble outside the building which was undergoing repairs. He gave a demonstration to Justice Robert N. Jackson. You know the result. After the trials, Justice Jackson wrote a letter of thanks to Mr. Watson and stated that the simultaneous interpretation equipment made it possible to complete in nine months trials which otherwise would have taken three years if, indeed, they could ever have been completed at all.

The Wireless System

While the wired system of simultaneous interpretation is ideal for permanent installations as in the Committee Rooms at Lake Success, it is not so practical for short conferences or large plenary sessions.

Prior to World War II, Mr. Watson proposed a solution. His pre-war memorandum on the subject so briefly and accurately described the wireless system that it could be taken for a description of the system as it exists today.

Little experimental work on the wireless system was done before and none during the war, but after V-J day the project was revived and assigned to Mr. C. G. Fitch for execution. As finally worked out, it comprises seven low-powered transmitters, each operating on a separate long-wave frequency and all feeding into a common antenna. This antenna consists of a single wire loop encircling the auditorium. It produces a strong, concentrated induction field within the room and very little external radiation.

Each receiver has its antenna embedded in the neck strap. It has an off-on switch, volume control, and a language selection dial which permits the user to choose among 7 pre-tuned channels, one for each of the seven languages which may be employed. Power is provided by a standard 1.5-volt flashlight battery and a miniature 30-volt B battery similar to those used in hearing aids. The former lasts for about a week, the latter for a month.

A typical installation includes sound-proof booths so located that the interpreters have a clear view of the speakers. In addition to translating, the interpreters must switch their circuits whenever there is a change of language.

(Continued on page 16)
Closing another year in the life of our organization, it is proper that we examine ourselves as to our accomplishments.

When the New York State Association of Architects was organized, it was intended that it would bring together the architects of the state for their mutual advantages, and to unify them in carrying out a single legislative program beneficial to the various chapters and societies in the state. As we all know, prior to that time, each chapter and society, having any legislative concern, was required to send its own representative before the State Legislature and in many cases, because of the lack of unity, much was lost. However, since our organization, we have accomplished a great deal. Particularly noticeable is the very fine spirit of co-operation that prevails between architects throughout the state, and also between the various chapters and societies. This, to me, is most important because from this spirit rises the influence of our organization.

Our legislative work has been carried out for a united profession and we have been uniformly successful.

Architects are taking a prominent part in stabilizing building conditions, to the end that both capital and labor may develop a building program along equitable lines. We now have committees co-operating with state and municipal authorities on all matters, especially in respect to safety, building and labor laws, and public construction. The chairmen of these committees have cultivated a splendid spirit of unselfish co-operation with the various officials concerned. The general standing, importance, and influence of the architect in the state has improved, which is manifested by the fact that the State of New York and many of the communities are now engaging the services of private architects for their building programs. Many of our communities are consulting with our architects on matters of public improvement, city planning, and general municipal developments to the credit of the architect, but to the particular benefit of the community.

The organization was well founded and well developed. The influence which it enjoys is due to the standard set by my predecessors. James F. Bly worked hard and long in unifying the profession and in establishing our organization. The late J. Riley Gordon brought us closer together, encouraging a spirit of co-operation.

Past-president James Kidney labored long and faithfully in developing a structure with a firm foundation. Charles Ellis continued the development of the structure within which we could accomplish the ideals which we set out to do.

My work for the past three years has been to strengthen our structure so that it would stand the stress of future activities; but much remains to be done.

We should have a greater part in the selection of members of the State Board for the Registration of Architects. We should have a greater part in the education of the young architect and, therefore, have greater influence in the schools. They should welcome our assistance in developing a more realistic program for our students so as to fit them for the practice of architecture. We should take a greater part in government relations to the end that public work would be properly located, properly designed, and properly executed. We should undertake a more strenuous program in relation to the hospitals to be erected for Veterans Administration, and also those under the auspices of the United States Public Health Service. In short, we should be extremely active in our efforts affecting our government, our state, and our communities. To the degree that we give our services, to that same degree will the general public recognize our profession as one dedicated to public service.

We succeeded in cultivating a splendid relationship with the American Institute of Architects. The New York State Association of Architects has had very much to do with the formulating of a national policy of the Institute. Being an incorporated organization, our relations with the Institute have been as an affiliate with the understanding on the part of the Institute that the New York State Association of Architects is the recognized Institute organization in New York State.

Our policy in respect to our constituent organizations has been to encourage complete autonomy on the part of each chapter and society in its local affairs with no interference from the state organization; but the New York State Association of Architects has been, and always should be, ready to assist our constituents if and when such assistance is required. Our constituents, on the other hand, have religiously turned over to the state organization, all matters pertaining to the architect at the state level.

Our membership has been reflected in the membership of our constituent organizations. It is of concern to us that a greater effort has not been made, heretofore, to bring into our constituent organizations, all the architects in their respective localities. Much greater cooperation would result if such a program were carried to conclusion.

Finances: Because of our desire to burden the architect to as small a degree as possible, our dues have been kept extremely low, but in spite of that, our finances have grown—slowly perhaps, but surely. Because of our modest finances, most of the work, through which the organization has grown, has been carried out by individuals, especially our past presidents, at great cost of time and financial sacrifices to them, for our benefit. The time has arrived, and the finances are now at the level when we can afford to employ a full time secretary and engage an office where our records may be available to all.

Publication: Our publication, the F.S.A., has grown and prospered due to the efforts of Charles Ellis and David Crane and their committees, but the work has been very difficult because they have received very little assistance and co-operation from the membership in general. I know that time after time, they have requested assistance in the shape of articles. In spite of the small response, their work has been successful as may be noted from reading the report of the Treasurer which has been submitted to you before this. We are now a well-known, influential organization, holding the respect of our communities. With a little effort on the part of each member, greater participation in our ac-

(Continued on page 10)
AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS

It is hard to measure the success or accomplishment of the Convention, and fortunately we haven't been asked to. The banquet was certainly one of the most successful yet, the food delicious, and Roger Allen devastating. The attendance at business sessions and discussion groups was not as great as we expected to see, with the mammoth memberships of the metropolitan chapters within a five cent ride of the Convention.

Max Abramovitz's talk on the United Nations at the Wednesday luncheon was most interesting; Arthur Holden's talk on "Who Decides What's To Be Built" at the Thursday luncheon was so packed with pregnant thought that it should have been delivered one sentence at a time with an intermission in between to allow us to digest it all. The prize for beautiful speaking should be given to Colonel Dostert who talked Friday morning on Simultaneous Interpretation. It was a pleasure to listen to such dictation and phrasing. "On dune and headlands sink the fire, The Captains and the Kings depart, The glory that was Ninevah and Tyre Is one with yesterday."

These words of Kipling's recessional came to mind when the Convention adjourned Friday afternoon in respect to Sid Strauss' sudden death that morning. He was so much the mainspring of the Convention that everyone felt completely unwound and unable to continue. They had been badly jarred by the collapse of Jim Gambaro, who we hear is recovering satisfactorily at the hospital.

There is nothing like the occasion of a convention to give one a chance to meet the members of the different constituent organizations. When the mountains won't send the information to Mohammed, Mohammed has to go and meet the mountains.

ALBANY CHAPTER

This Chapter sent several delegates to the event, and Giles van de Bogart has been 3rd Vice President of the Association for the past year. Both he and Ralph Winslow were active in the proceedings and discussions at the business meetings. We missed seeing Mr. Lux but understand he was here, and also missed Sarkis Arkel and his sketches of convention personalities. Mr. Winslow made a strong plea against the Accrediting Board's decision to make the college course in Architecture a five year course.

BRONX CHAPTER

We never have any trouble getting information from Sam Hertz, the President of this unit, and an indefatigable worker for the Convention. His work on Publicity was much acclaimed, and a distinct contribution from the Bronx toward the success of the convention. This is one of the younger Chapters of the State Association, being now in its third year. They meet at Vassar Castle Hall on E. 149th St., and have directors meeting on the 2nd Monday and regular meetings on the 4th Monday of each month. Their election of officers occurs in May or June of each year. They have an active entertainment program the latest event of which was an outing at Smith's farm, an affair to which they invited the ladies and held in cooperation with the engineers. They have an active program in correcting inequities in the zoning laws, building codes and multiple dwelling laws.

BUFFALO

Buffalo was well represented at the convention. We noticed at least a dozen of the members, and of course heard from Mort Wolfe. Jim Kidney graced the speakers' table on numerous occasions, while affable Louis Greenstein was everywhere. Among others noted were Charles Thiele, Mrs. Thiele, associate member, John R. Edgar, George Dick Smith, Mrs. Smith, and a number of exhibitors from the Buffalo area.

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER.

Storrs Barrows was resplendent in evening dress, before the banquet, bringing a tray of cocktails over to a table in the cocktail lounge, at which Mrs. Barrows, Charles and Mrs. Carpenter and others were seated. He could hardly progress with people mistaking him for one of the waiters and pulling his coat tails beseeching him to give them some service.

Members here from Central New York Chapter. This is another unit with interlocking memberships, and difficult to give credit. Members of both the Rochester and Syracuse Societies are also members of the Central New York Chapter. We noticed Mr. and Mrs. Bagg, O'Connor Granger, Charlie Conrad, George Cummings, Mr. Scopes of Saranac Lake, or is it Saratoga Springs? Mr. Ellis of Syracuse, Storrs Barrows, Cy Tucker, Nick Massucci, Leo Waasdorp, John Wenrich, Carl Maynard, Macksey of Ithaca. Ken Sargent, we understand, was in the city, but so busy escorting a dozen or so students on an instruction tour of the City that he couldn't attend much of the Convention.

(Continued on page 12)
Important for modern comfort. Baths, showers, shave are just three of the 110 household uses for hot water made easier and more pleasant by the always-on-tap hot water from an automatic Gas water-heater.

Where automatic gas water-heating is a modern "must!"

Essential in the modern laundry. Automatic washing machine manufacturers themselves recommend Gas heated water for best results. Because—an automatic Gas water-heater provides the most practical way of getting quick-recovery hot water in sufficient quantity—economically!

Vital to a modern dishwasher. To be efficient, the new dishwashers must have plenty of high temperature water. An automatic Gas water-heater is the only economical system that gives this kind of constant hot water supply.
Why an automatic gas water-heater is wanted "most"

Most reliable... Gas for water-heating enjoys a record for continuity of service unrivaled by any other fuel. It is dependable. Needs no fuel storage. Is less liable to interruptions. Delivers adequate supplies of hot water at any desired temperature with a minimum of repair and adjustment.

Most economical... An automatic gas water-heater uses the exact quantity of fuel needed — no more! Waste of both water and fuel is reduced. Costs less to purchase, for faster recovery means smaller storage capacity is required for any given amount of hot water. And it operates with uniform economy all year 'round.

Most convenient... An automatic gas water-heater requires no running downstairs to light up, no watching, no waiting. It is controlled by an automatic thermostat which maintains really hot water in a heavily insulated tank and turns Gas off when need has been satisfied.

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AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION

to watch for in specifying automatic gas water-heaters

1. Size... Be sure heater is large enough for client's needs! Check size of family, number of bathrooms, amount of home laundry, immediate prospect for other automatic equipment requiring hot water.

2. Dependability... Recommend fast recovery storage heater for best all-round service. It is the most modern method of assuring continuous hot water 24 hours a day... and a must here automatic dishwasher or cycle washing machine is installed.

3. Placing... Specify position of heater so that there is a minimum loss of heat from heater to point of use. And place close to flue.

4. Seal of Approval... Insist on only those automatic Gas water-heaters which have been tested and approved for safety, durability and efficiency in the Laboratories of the American Gas Association.

Remember!

Automatic Gas water-heaters benefit you as much as they do your clients. They take up little building space... need only the simplest connections... yet add greatly to the popular appeal of today's homes. Most important of all, they build customer satisfaction! For like all modern Gas appliances — such as automatic Gas ranges built to "CP" standards, automatic Gas refrigerators, automatic Gas space heaters and year 'round Gas air-conditioning — these ultra-efficient Gas water-heaters enhance the value of any home... add stature to your reputation as designer and builder of livable living units! For technical details, see your local Gas Company.

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LONG ISLAND SOCIETY CHAPTER

We had a talk with Walter Spelman of this hyphenated Chapter, and found out that they still keep the organization of the old Long Island Society of Architects and elect separate officers for this phantom organization for charter purposes. They have monthly meetings at the Lincoln Inn at Rockville Center on the 1st Thursday of each month, and elect officers in December when they take office in January. Their situation is complicated by the fact that while many architects live in their bailiwick, they work in Manhattan and keep their membership in the New York Society or Chapter. They are getting out a year book for 1948, with advertising to support the cost of publication.

QUEENS CHAPTER

This Chapter can well be proud of the part it played in making the Convention a success. Sid Strauss, in fact, was the Chairman of the entire Convention, and his sudden death on Friday, was like the passing of a great general after a successful assault on an enemy fortress. Queens will suffer greatly the loss of one of its Honorarv President, Mr. James Whitford, Sr., who died on September 10, 1947, at the age of 76. Mr. Whitford was the dean of Staten Island Architects and in his 50-odd years of practice did much to raise the professional standards and give the architect a definite place in the building industry.

The Society took an active part in drawing up resolutions and making recommendations relating to the many things necessary to ease the work of planning and building. The New York City Building Code has been very carefully analyzed in order to eliminate and correct those portions which tend to create building hardships in a suburban community such as ours. Zoning has also been the subject of much activity and attempt is under way to liberalize the zoning restrictions in the business areas.

In education the society has offered its services to assist in apprentice training programs for the building trade unions.

During the course of the year the Society established its headquarters at 42 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, N. Y. Upon the opening of its new headquarters the Society received a certificate signed by representatives of the Paralyzed Veterans Association, The American Red Cross, and the A.I.A. as commendation for its work in conjunction with the New York Chapter for assistance in building the paraplegic unit at The Halloran VA Hospital.

EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT
"What is new in structural steel design and how does it affect my architectural layout?" This question is being asked of me by architects many more times nowadays than it was a few years ago, and rightly so. The form of the question is not always as I have stated it, but the gist of it is the same. It is difficult enough to build anything these days, if you can, in any way, expedite one or two phases of your construction, you have really accomplished something. Almost every job we do today seems to go thru the design processes three times,—first, as we would like to build it,—second, as available funds will permit you to build it,—and third, as we can get the available materials, labor, and beam sizes.

The standard A.I.S.C. "Specification for Design, Fabrication and Erection of Structural Steel for Buildings,"—the A.I.S.C. Code to you,—was extensively revised in 1946, and these revisions will eventually influence our design practice, but until local building codes catch up, this advanced thinking will not make itself felt. The new code tends to promote welding by recognizing three types of construction.—Type 1, Rigid Frame or restrained; Type 2, Conventional, and Type 3, Semi-Rigid or partially restrained. To date probably 99 per cent of our work is Type 2, one percent Type 1, and none in Type 3. Recognition of the last type by building departments will permit savings to be applied to our conventional methods of construction without going to the complete rigidity and special design required by a rigid frame design.

Rigid Frames are definitely coming into more common use, particularly for one story long span buildings, or one story and basement such as churches. The saving effected does not come into the steel cost. Usually the steel itself is slightly higher than the cost of the plate girder or trussed construction. The saving is in the height of walls and other items which are influenced by the difference between the clear height and the required outside height of the building.

Because of forming costs,—costs influenced by the high cost of lumber, and the scarcity and labor cost of carpenters, there is a much greater use of precast roofs than formerly, of precast concrete or gypsum plank, long span channel type concrete, and tee rail gypsum systems both precast and poured in place. All of these are light weight systems and in order to take advantage of economy, we are moving out column spacings to longer spans. This lighter dead load of roof construction is permitting another economy on some jobs also. On long spans, even to 70 or 80 feet, we can use rolled steel girders instead of plate girders or trusses, thus not only saving steel, but side wall masonry as well.

After all is said and done, this does not add up to much difference from what you have been in the habit of doing. Perhaps the saving is intangible,—a saving in time of construction rather than in money, but with a good contractor even a saving of time is translated into a saving in money, and in any case your owner should benefit.

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Wm. F. Blanchard, President

We are prepared to serve you in the above area
of the Specialized Agencies, will avail themselves of the various halls when they are not in use.

Serving this large area is the Secretariat. This is the permanent staff of the United Nations which serves all agencies here and elsewhere. This staff now numbers about 2900 and at present we have planned an area for an expansion to 4400. This is housed, in our design, in a 41-story skyscraper 71'6" wide and 287'6" long.

Additional elements subordinate to the two major aforementioned are:

A Library to serve the Secretariat as a working service unit, Exhibition Spaces for use by Public Relation Agencies, and various Staff facilities, and Restaurant area for the Delegates, Secretariat, and Public.

Parking space will be built underground to take care of the Secretariat staff, the Delegates, the Press, and the Public. Present plans are for an ultimate capacity of 1900 cars.

In addition to the program for immediate construction, we have included in our site plan studies consideration of two other major elements:

A Space for all the Delegations of the United Nations; and Space for those Specialized Agencies which work closely with the United Nations and Secretariat.

Their requirements are not precisely determined. No definitive plans have been prepared for them as yet. Pending the development of their program, it is intended to provide interim facilities for the delegations in the areas reserved for expansion in the Secretariat.

Before these space requirements can be knit into a plan, they must be analyzed further for their use aspects and any needs peculiar to their specialized characteristics. There are, as may be expected, a few requirements which are not ordinarily part and parcel of an everyday problem.

One of these is the necessity of maintaining a physical separation between the delegates, the press, and the public, and at the same time permit their union should it be desirable.

In the past it has been found a source of embarrassment, annoyance, and an incumbrance to permit easy availability to the delegates. Entrances have been developed and circulation patterns have now been planned to enable the public to enter their areas and proceed to any and all halls without crossing the circulation of the Delegates. Furthermore, the Press will have their circulation pattern, which will direct them immediately to their seating area and work spaces. The Delegates will enter their floor and have a free flow to and from their various lounges, committee rooms, and assemblies without fear of being buttonholed or surprised by autograph seekers or lobbyists. The Secretariat circulation may at times cross the Delegates Area but since they are accredited personnel no conflict exists.

But, when it is desirable to have Delegates meet the Press—or Public—it is planned to have areas designed and planned to permit this.

In the average planning problem there are but two circulations to solve, one the public or user access, and the other, the service access—You can readily visualize the difficulties we face with four circulations: that of Delegates, the Public, the Press, the Secretariat; and five if you add the housekeeping and service personnel.

Security also enters into the planning problem. We must plan our interior and exterior spaces to provide security for the delegates when pressure groups may become obstreperous and violent. Yet this must be done in a subtle, unobtrusive manner to avoid public
awareness and nevertheless permit security personnel to do their job.

We hope—as far as it is possible—to plan to permit flexibility in our spaces, for in a young organization changes in procedures as the organization grows will demand changes in plan. During the short period of our studies, many program changes have occurred and many more will. Flexibility is a necessity.

Technical Requirements

Now—for a brief word about technical requirements, to wit: light, air, acoustics, communications, etc. We plan to give maximum light to all office space, but to light artificially our large Assembly, Council Rooms and Conference Rooms because of the demand for controlled light conditions imposed upon us by the modern techniques for photography and television.

We plan to air condition all spaces occupied principally by personnel.

All rooms involving debate will be studied with consideration to acoustics and corrective materials applied, if and when necessary.

The entire complex of space will be cross-knit by a system of communication to save time, space, and counteract misunderstanding—due to language differences.

The schedule to date is to complete the Secretariat and Conference area in the fall of 1949 and the General Assembly group in 1950.

Thank you—Gentlemen.

AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS

(Continued from page 12)

The 24th Annual Dinner had a fine turn-out of officials, building construction men, architects, engineers and realtors. Among those present at the annual dinner were Borough President Cornelius A. Hall, Robert F. Wagner, Jr., Comm. of Department of Housing and Buildings, Joseph Herman, Borough Supt., and officers from every metropolitan architectural and engineering society.

On September 10, 1947, the Society gave Professor David Varon a farewell dinner on the occasion of his leaving Staten Island for Endicott, New York. He had formerly been a Professor of Architecture at Syracuse University and the University of Illinois.

In honoring Mr. Varon, Maurice G. Uslan, vice-president of the society and chairman of the farewell dinner, recalled hearing the retired professor lecture when Uslan was a student at Public School 17 in New Brighton.

Uslan also recalled the foundation of the architects' group in 1923 and the work of Varon in advising and encouraging the newly-formed society. Varon's nobility of spirit and willingness to help others as well as his ability to inspire and educate were praised by A. H. Simon, a lifelong friend of the former educator.

In his address of thanks, Varon recalled many of his experiences in youth and as a professor and, using his own paintings, demonstrated among other things the similarity in both outward and inward appearance of a cathedral and a forest. Cathedrals, he explained, draw much of their beauty from this similarity.

ALBANY DESIGNATED FOR 1948

The Albany Chapter of the A.I.A., under the able leadership of its President, Henry Blatner, will sponsor the 1948 convention of the New York State Association of Architects.

Ambitious and revolutionary plans for the annual gathering are already in the formative stage as a result of a luncheon meeting of the Advisory Convention Committee and representative members of the Albany Chapter held in Albany, N. Y., December 2, 1947.

There will be more details as the arrangement and program are developed.

WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

We tried to have a talk with Ed Fleagle but couldn't seem to corner him, so can't report on all this Chapter did to help the Convention.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICES

This number reaches you late. The editorial material pertaining to the Convention was, by necessity, late in reaching the Publisher. Every effort is being made to get the E.S.A. out on time. Deadlines must be met or this is not possible.

The correct address of the Mutual International Corp. Local Representatives of the American Acoustics, inc., is 11 West 42 St., New York City.

IRVING SEELIG, President of the Brooklyn Society, was in charge of the Manufacturers' Exhibit at the Convention. He did an exceptionally fine job and the success was largely due to his efforts. Inadvertently Mr. Seelig's name was omitted from the list of Convention committee members published in the Sept.-Oct. issue.

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PRESIDENT REPORTS (Continued from page 8)

activities by the chapters and societies, we should reach the goal of becoming the most powerful and influential organization of professional men in the state.

A word for our committees: our Convention Committee, which, of necessity, began its work rather late, rendered a marvelous performance. The chairman, Sidney Strauss deserved the thanks of the organization.

You have heard the reports of the various committees and you know that the chairmen and some of the members of these committees have been working very hard. I am sure that the thanks of the organization are due to Max Cantor and his Legislative Committee; to Ken Stowell and his Safety Committee; to Adolph Goldberg and his Fees and Contracts Committee; to Charles Ellis and his Committee on Ethics; to George Cavalieri on his Public Works and War Memorial Committee and to William Kaehler on his Architect and Public Relations Committee. All of these committees have done splendid work to their credit and to the credit of the organization.

My one recommendation to all of the members of this organization is that each member take a more active part in the affairs of his particular society or chapter, and also in the affairs of the New York State Association of Architects, to the end that even a greater and more influential organization will be ours at the end of the year. The obligation and the opportunity is ours.

M. W. Del Gaudio

OUR COVER PICTURE (Continued from page 6)

The Recitation Hall or Administration Building is obviously the first to be erected. At the same time the Science Hall is under construction, and this will be followed by the Faculty-Student Residence. All three are immediately needed, and yet they must provide from the beginning such facilities as Cafeteria, Auditorium, Library, Chapel, and others which will ultimately be housed in individual buildings. As these separate buildings are provided, the present space devoted to those uses will furnish the larger number of classrooms that will be needed. Nor will those rooms be ill suited to their ultimate and permanent uses. Neither their present nor future fitness has been left to chance.

While serving other temporary uses for the first few years, the elements of a good classroom have been kept in mind and guided even the spacing of present columns and beams.

In these days of high construction costs an especial duty falls upon the architect to design efficient, structurally sound buildings at a minimum cost. However, he is not likely to be thanked by the owners if in achieving this aim he gives them stark institutional-looking buildings devoid of warmth and charm. Much thought was given by the architects to securing an agreeable academic atmosphere to the campus, without resorting to superficial decorative detail. The design does not draw upon any historic style; in fact, this was avoided to give the designers of future buildings a desirable elasticity.

The roofs were kept flat, with as few parapets as possible (to permit snow to blow off), and thus help to give the buildings a characteristic horizontal appearance, broken only by the dominating central bell tower.

SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION (Continued from page 7)

Microphones are strewn along the conference table, one for each delegation. The microphone wires lead to a control panel where the control operator switches them on and off as needed. He must be constantly on the alert to switch in the proper microphone quickly and to switch off idle mikes so that careless "off-the-record" remarks are not accidentally broadcast.

The Wireless Translator will supplement rather than replace the wired type of installation. It does, however, have one advantage in that listeners may move about the room while still tuned in to the proceedings.

Some people who should know better believe that the Wireless Translator actually makes the translation by some miracle or electronics, but the fact remains that the human element, in the persons of the interpreters and the technicians is still the supreme factor. The equipment simply multiplies their effectiveness.

Who can say that simultaneous interpretation, by overcoming the "confusion of tongues" may not be the factor that will tip the scales to the forces of good and so bring about the golden age of harmony and peace among the great nations of the world.
Notes from a Technical Committee Meeting of the New York Chapter, A.I.A. Max Abramowitz, Chairman

FIRE HAZARDS

Said Dr. Paluel J. Flagg, at the first of the N.Y. Chapter Technical Committee meetings on the subject of Fire Hazards, "It is a scientifically sound assumption that those who jumped out of the Winecott Hotel were in an advanced state of stupor from the lethal gases generated by flames."

He then went on to explain the chemistry of asphyxiation and arrived at the conclusion that many lives could be saved if people in fire-swept buildings could avoid inhaling noxious gases. This he would accomplish by devising simple and inexpensive equipment to supply oxygen and would have this equipment hung in every hotel bathroom.

Mr. A.C. Hutson, Assistant Chief Engineer, National Board of Fire Underwriters spoke on "Effects of Fire Hazards On Life in Buildings." He did not condone carelessness as an immediate cause of fires, but placed prime responsibility on ignorance of the need or unwillingness to spend money for sound fire preventive measures. He agreed with Dr. Flagg, that asphyxiation is the greatest problem in preventing loss of life in fires and urged construction which would stop the vertical spread of fire and fumes, not only in tall buildings, but also in two and three story structures. Two-thirds of the number of children who died in fires, died of asphyxiation in the upper stories of their homes.

Mr. Hutson urged his listeners (and you, dear reader) to request from the National Board of Fire Underwriters, 85 John St., New York 7, N.Y. a list of fire protection pamphlets and bulletins from which you can select titles of greatest interest to you. The publications are free.

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President Vice-President

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

At the second Technical Committee meeting on the subject of Fire Protection, A. C. Hutson of the Board of Fire Underwriters urged the generous use of fire protection equipment which is available in wide variety today. Architects, he said, should investigate the dependability of various types of equipment they specify. Fire protection equipment should be built and maintained to last the life of the building and its maintenance in good working order is an important responsibility of every building operator.

Mr. H.A. Lindsay of the American District Telegraph Company regretted the public's ignorance of the many services of his organization. ADT manufactures electrical protection devices which supervise sprinkler systems and notify the Central Office immediately upon the receipt of trouble signals. Fire warning apparatus includes enclosed air expansion devices, electronic smoke detectors and the Teletherm system which is actuated by concentrating radiant heat on a thermopile. One detector having 72 exposed thermo-couple junctions is capable of detecting a very small heat rise anywhere within a radius of 100 feet.

Mr. Lindsay invited architects to call upon ADT representatives and production engineers for aid in solving any fire protection problem.

Mr. P.J. Larron of the Grinnel Company said that their laboratories are constantly experimenting with all types of fire protection devices and offered the services of their engineers in the solution of any architect's fire protection problems.

Mr. E. Durang of the Otis Elevator Company told of the many full-scale experiments which finally led to the Exhaust-Water Spray Protector System for protecting elevator shafts and stairways.
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BUILDING NEWS

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He then went on to explain the chemistry of asphyxiation and arrived at the conclusion that many lives could be saved if people in fire-swept buildings could void inhaling noxious gases. This he would accomplish by devising simple and inexpensive equipment to supply oxygen and would have this equipment hung in very hotel bathrooms.

Mr. A. C. Hutson, Assistant Chief Engineer, National Board of Fire Underwriters spoke on "Effects of Fire Hazards On Life in Buildings." He did not condone carelessness as an immediate cause of fires, but placed prime responsibility on ignorance of the need or unwillingness to spend money for sound fire preventive measures. He agreed with Dr. Flagg, that asphyxiation is the greatest problem in preventing loss of life in fires and urge construction that would stop the vertical spread of fire and fumes, not only in tall buildings, but also in two and three story structures. Two-thirds of the number of children who died in fires, died of asphyxiation in the upper stories of their homes.

Mr. Hutson urged his listeners (and you, dear reader) to request from the National Board of Fire Underwriters, 85 John St., New York 7, N. Y. a list of fire protection pamphlets and bulletins from which you can select titles of greatest interest to you. The publications are free.
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An amazing amount of interest was displayed by the general public in a recent exhibit of Anchor Concrete Products, Inc., at the Buffalo Better Homes Exposition in Buffalo, N. Y. Consisting of a typical section of a concrete masonry home, the exhibit attracted thousands and more than 1,500 persons requested that detailed information and literature be mailed to them covering the advantages of using concrete masonry units and Flexicore floor and roof slabs in home construction. The public is interested in the utilization of materials that will help offset the ever increasing building costs and subsequent maintenance costs.

Architects, too, are showing a marked tendency toward utilization of light-weight concrete masonry units. They are materials that accomplish a multiple job and substantially aid the architect and contractor in meeting the demands of clients. Light-weight concrete masonry units serve as a structural back-up, provide finished interior walls and furnish excellent sound absorption. Any member of the National Concrete Masonry Association listed below will be glad to furnish architects, engineers and contractors with detailed information about the outstanding characteristics of light-weight concrete masonry units such as structural, insulating and acoustical properties, economy and attractive appearance.

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Kimbrough Towers, a 96-family architectural concrete apartment building in Memphis, Tenn., was completed in 1939. It was designed for John F. Kimbrough, Jr., realtor, by H. M. Burnham, architect, and H. B. Hulsey, associate architect; Gardner & Howe, structural engineers; S. & W. Construction Co., contractors (all of Memphis).

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