

OHIO ARCHITECT

FEBRUARY 1942

THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Official Journal Architects Society of Ohio

VOLUME THREE

NUMBER TWO

WASHINGTON, D. C.



Residence of
Mr. and Mrs. Merle Riggs
Cincinnati, Ohio



Charles F. Cellarius
Architect
Cincinnati, Ohio

FIRST MENTION

1941 A.S.O. Competition
Class "A" Residential

SECOND MENTION

O. M. DeWitt Grow
Architect, Toledo
photograph inside

V
FOR
VICTORY
AND
VISION

OHIO ARCHITECT

Official Journal of the

ARCHITECTS' SOCIETY OF OHIO

Association Member of the American Institute of Architects

RALPH C. KEMPTON, Editor

Volume III

Number 2

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War Housing

The A.I.A. has been called upon to render signal service in the war housing program. The survey of the profession which the Institute compiled some months ago is again being put to active use. The profession has been assured that its participation in the war housing program will be immediate and vital.

Under date of January 30, the F.W.A. announced that " * * * architects for individual projects would be chosen from names suggested by the Institute. * * * In connection with the selection of architects, Mr. Baird Snyder, Acting Administrator, F.W.A., announced that it is the intention of the F.W.A., immediately upon receiving from the Co-ordinator of Defense Housing a certificate of need for a specific number of houses at a specified point to request from the American Institute of Architects a panel of local architects resident in or near the specified municipality who, in the opinion of the Institute, would have adequate facilities to design and supervise the construction of the project in question. The Institute has agreed to furnish the names without distinction as between members and non-members of the Institute. From the panel the F.W.A. would select an architect with the understanding that he would associate with an engineer in the undertaking."

The system for the compilation of panels of architects previously adopted, whereby this office sent requests to chapter presidents for each individual housing project, is now revised as follows: Under date of February 14th a request has been sent to each chapter president requesting him to compile in collaboration with his executive committee or committee of selection, and in collaboration with the officers

of the State association a panel of architects within the chapter area qualified to render service on defense housing projects. These panels will be submitted to this office on February 21st and immediately transmitted to the Federal Works Agency. The panels will indicate the qualifications of the architects in the following manner—by noting A, B or C against the names of the architects.

A—those now organized to render complete immediate architectural service on a war housing project.

B—those with present potential capacity to render complete architectural service by the addition of engineering and related elements.

C—those qualified to render planning, administrative and supervisory services, but not having organizations as indicated under A and B.

It is suggested that those architects whose organizations are not sufficiently comprehensive to warrant primary consideration by the Agency, and who are interested in this work, associate themselves with larger firms or form organizations among themselves, notifying the chapters of such organizations in order that the chapter presidents when consulted may be aware of their existence.

These lists when returned from the chapters are immediately transmitted, as received, to the F.W.A.

Under the original system panels of architects for thirty-five projects were returned to this office by chapter presidents, and delivered to the F.W.A.

EDMUND R. PURVES,
Washington Representative, A.I.A.

Re: S.B. 1617

In advancing the favorable consideration of S.B. 1617, the architects of Ohio are whole-heartedly for some real effort toward Post War Planning, and this bill seems in the minds of many architects to have lots of merit, especially as its application would become effective immediately upon passage and signing by the President.

This bill has been reported out by the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, and we have been advised by several legislators that they will support the measure if and when it comes up to them for consideration and action. In a communication, under date of March 5th, Mr. Purves advises that a companion bill (H.R. 5638) in the House was defeated and questions the timeliness of any aggressive action now on the part of the architects in agitating for legislation of this kind.

As early action is the very essence of good planning, many individuals feel that the question of Post War Planning should never be allowed to become entirely dormant or permitted to be indefinitely postponed or deferred.

There is, however, one fundamental idea prevalent in the minds of many of the architects in Ohio, and that is that they are entirely fed up on explanations of why something should not be done. What they want is to do away with so much negative thinking and to replace it with positive action.

The profession is being represented in Washington very aggressively, for the first time in years.

(Continued on page 9)

A. I. A. CONVENTION PLANS CHANGE

Ditchy Finds It Necessary to Retract Earlier Statement— Says Architects Can't Take It

From the Detroit Bureau of THE OHIO ARCHITECT
(Other Architectural Publications please copy)

Royal Oak, Mich., March 15.—(WB) Drastic changes in plans for The American Institute of Architects' Seventy-fourth Annual Convention, scheduled at Hotel Statler in Detroit, had been intimated here today at the press conference of Clair W. Ditchy, local chairman on arrangements for social and special events.

Pressed for more specific details, the former director of the Institute's Great Lakes District, recalled that at the last annual banquet, at which he presided, when it was announced that the next convention would be held in Detroit, he mentioned that many architects would undoubtedly want to take advantage of this opportunity to come to Detroit and drive away new cars.

Upon this suggestion, the press room, usually a beehive of activity, was particularly agog. To the direct question of a reporter from the OHIO ARCHITECT as to whether some might drive away in jeeps, army trucks or tanks, he said: "Yes, and some may want to fly away in bombers, but let me make this clear: Any further statements concerning curtailment of the Convention are pure sabotage, and do not originate in Detroit. We have many huge plants here, Detroit is an arsenal of democracy, but there are no rumor factories."

Having dealt with what he characterized as incendiary gossip, the chairman proceeded to outline the paths along which his committee is proceeding. He emphasized the fact that the Institute's own Convention Committee, headed by Mr. Lemuel C. Dillenback, was in charge of the program proper, and that his local committee had to do only with extra curricula activities.

He pointed out that no where else could one travel south from the United States into Canada, by ferry, by bridge, by tunnel, across a stream where more steamers pass than at any other port in the world.

"Our big offices reckon their employees by the thousands, their volume of business by billions, and their buildings by acres," he said, "and where else is there a state society with 70 percent of all architects registered as paying

members, where a unification plan is being worked out with 'every architect a member and every member an architect,' where Institute chapters have increased membership by 70 percent within the past year, without lowering qualifications."

He added that the State Board of Registration has now a full-time paid executive secretary to see that the law is enforced, and at present more than fifty cases of violation are in process.

He pointed out that the Institute has a way of holding conventions in most interesting places—in Washington, Old Point Comfort, Louisville, New Orleans, Yosemite, and now in Detroit—each wonderful in its own way. He mentioned Greenfield Village, the automobile plants, Cranbrook Academy of Art, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, only an hour away, with its College of Architecture and Design, and a Student Branch of the Detroit Chapter. When it was stated that Detroit has no subway, he replied that "We have a network of salt mines under our streets which once can drive through to his heart's content."

It was in 1894 that the last Institute Convention was held in Detroit, at the old Cadillac Hotel, on the site of the present Book-Cadillac. This is at one end of Washington Boulevard, while the Statler is at the other. The Boulevard has a parkway in the center and is lined with splendid retail shops and office buildings. An architectural exhibition is being planned for the hotel and in the windows along Washington Boulevard and Woodward Ave. It is expected that Mayor Edward J. Jeffries, Jr., will, by proclamation, decree this as architectural week, and through the press and radio the public will be made conscious of what architects are doing; and that by bus, by train, by boat and by plane, those entering our portals will be prepared for the occasion.

Detroit needs the Convention, and architects, more than ever before, need to meet and discuss seriously the many problems of post-war planning, the architect in a rebuilt world. Never before has there been such a challenge to the profession.



TALMADGE COATS HUGHES
Architect-Editor

(From *Biographical Encyclopedia of America*, 1940.)

Architect; born Nov. 17, 1887, Coates Bend, Ala., son of Thomas C. and Dorothy (Coates) Hughes. Genealogy: Ancestors from London, England; maternal grandfather, Gideon E. Coates; grandmother (Penn) settled in Pennsylvania. Educated Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, B.S. in Arch. 1910, M.S. in 1911; graduate student Columbia University 1911-12. Married Margaret Craig, Dec. 2, 1919, daughter Mary Craig Hughes. Early employment in Chicago and Detroit. Registered architect by examination, Mich., 1918; engaged in practice of architecture in Detroit since '21. Officer of Michigan Society of Architects since 1925; now executive secretary, founder, editor and publisher of *Weekly Bulletin*. Chairman Committee on Public Information, The American Institute of Architects; also executive secretary of the Detroit Chapter. Michigan District Officer, Historic American Buildings Survey, 1936. Member Engineering Society of Detroit; Michigan Engineering Society. Served in U.S. Army, 310th Engineers, World War, at Archangel, Russia. Hobbies, writing, publicizing architects and the architectural profession. Contributor of articles to professional magazines. Guest editor, Detroit Section, *American Architect and Architecture*, August, 1937. Residence, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan. Office: 120 Madison Ave., Detroit, Mich.

(Continued on page 4)

Residence of Mrs. M. De Witt Grow, Toledo O.

M. De Witt Grow, Architect

Second Mention, Class A Residential
1941 A.S.O. Competition



The home is interesting in several features. The building, 77 ft. wide, is ideally set in its wooded location on a lot 150 x 250 ft. A truly traditional design was carried out in an economical manner. The home has no basement, employing instead a centrally located utility room. One bedroom and bath are on the first floor, with two additional rooms and a second bath to be placed upstairs. The second floor was left "roughed in," and is now being

finished by Mr. Grow at his leisure. Plywood was used throughout the home for floors, walls and ceilings—being painted in some rooms, and papered in others. In the interest of economy, ceilings were kept to 7 ft. 3 in. first floor and 7 ft. second floor. A one-pipe, forced hot water system with oil-burning boiler completes the facilities of this attractive and well-designed home.

Cost \$7,000.

(Continued from page 3)

NOTE: There are the facts. However, much more can be said concerning "Tal" and his fine work in publicizing the architect and his profession. As practically all this is quite printable, you can expect more about him again. He is expecting to meet you all at the Convention in Detroit.

Progress

January 28th marks the 135th anniversary of municipal street lighting. On that day, in 1807, Pall Mall was lighted with gas—the first street to be so illuminated. At the time one objection was raised which, ridiculous as it seems now, was taken very seriously by many London citizens. It was thought that the pipes conveying gas to the lamps would be hot. People touched them cautiously, for fear that a careless contact would burn.

Significantly enough, the lamplighters to a man were opposed to the new mode of lighting!

Bombs Ruin \$480,000,000 Worth of British Property

All wars must end some time. At least that is the record of all previous conflicts. Such being the fact, there is always a reconstruction period, and the size of the job ahead may well be estimated from the following news item which is based on the first two years of the war ending last September:

German bombs have destroyed \$480,000,000 worth of British property in the first two years of war, according to an estimate by *The Economist*, British financial journal, distributed by the British Press Service.

The *Economist's* estimate was based in part on the war loss record of an insurance company which disclosed that its air raid damage amounted to 3½ percent of its real estate holdings in Greater London.

The Economist also took into account a Ministry of Health report placing the total value of British real estate, exclusive of site values, at \$24,000,000,000.

Assuming that if bomb damage in London amounted to 3½ percent of the city's total real value, the national average would be about 2 percent. *The Economist* arrived at the loss figure of \$480,000,000.

Property and equipment losses are covered by three separate insurance plans administered by the Board of Trade under the War Damage Act of 1941.

Manufacturers and other business men must insure all property worth more than \$4,000 and may insure property worth less.

Farmers must carry at least \$1,200 worth of insurance throughout the year and may carry up to \$2,300.

The third plan, designed to protect private citizens for loss of furniture, clothing and other personal property, is entirely voluntary and open to everyone. No one may carry more than \$40,000 worth of insurance, however, and maximum limits are placed on claims for specific articles.

The government also provides free compensation to householders for furniture, clothing and other personal effects lost through war damage, and will pay up to \$600 in the case of single persons, \$1,200 for married couples, and an extra \$100 for each child under 16.

All payments and compensation, however, will be deferred until the end of the war, with accrued interest of 1½ percent a year, except in special cases.

Samson was a piker. He killed only a thousand men with the jawbone of a n ass. Every hour in the day ten thousand sales are killed with the same weapon.

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Out of State Work

IMPORTANT! Quite a number of architects registered in Ohio have become interested in work outside of the State, and as the Ohio Registration Board is trying to co-operate with other Boards it is particularly important that no professional services of any kind be rendered outside the State until the State Board in the State where the contemplated work is located has been contacted, and then the procedure should follow the advice and instructions received.

The recognized practice of architecture includes "consultation" as one of the functions of the architect; so it should be obvious that a non-registered individual has no more right to carry on consultations which are a part of the services even though the preparations of plans may be carried out in his own home State. There might also be a reasonable limit to which a non-resident architect might go in soliciting business for which he is not yet legally entitled to render. But to hold oneself out as an architect and not being properly registered is distinctly an illegal act, and any board is entirely within its rights to prosecute for such an offense.

The State Boards are all trying to make reciprocity reasonable and practical, and every architectural practitioner deserving of that distinction should make every effort to recognize these boards and the laws they are duty bound to enforce. The National Council of Architectural Registration Board at Chariton, Iowa, is a national organization made up of State boards set up for the very purpose of expediting reciprocal registration.

The very first step to take when out of the State work is contemplated would be to write to William L. Perkins, Secretary of the National Council for full information covering reciprocity, stating the States in which registration is desired. A copy of this communication to the National Council should be forwarded to your own State board so that they may be familiar with your objective and be able to assist promptly when their help is necessary. This prompt recognition of the State laws will avoid a great many obstacles. It is very obvious that local practitioners may also be after the work in question, and it is hardly to be supposed that they will sit idly by and permit a non-resident individual to walk off with the bacon. It can and should be very frankly admitted that the architect in Ohio would no doubt look after their own interests in quite the same manner.

Reciprocal registration is not simply the exchange of a letter or two, but does involve considerable work on the part of the boards concerned, all of which is quite necessary if reciprocal registration is to be carried out in a satisfactory manner. This, of course, should make it very obvious to anyone desiring work outside the State they should lose no time in taking the steps heretofore outlined.

Important!

MEMORANDU

Re: S-1617

In the February issue of "Pencil Points" you will find a supplement printed in red, white and blue. It sets up something very important for the architects and all others in the construction industry to do NOW! Please refer to your legislative file containing

the names of all of our congressmen, and immediately write, wire or telephone as many Senators and Representatives as you can, forcibly urging them to aggressively assist in the early passage of Amended S-1617.

This bill is a most advanced step in planning for the future, a policy which this profession certainly endorses, and represents a line of procedure that certainly is to the best interest of the taxpayers.

There is nothing before the profession today that is so full of genuine possibilities for the profession of architecture, and the honest work that will result from the adoption of this Senate bill could have come at a time when the profession was more in need of something on their drawing boards.

Certainly now is the time to plan for tomorrow and the next tomorrows. If not, what are the boys in the innumerable fronts of the world fighting for? When the boys come home they must find that the home fires for which they have been fighting have been kept burning and that the American way of life is still here to receive them and not fast becoming ancient history!

Don't be a slacker! Bill-Put-It-Off is a slacker! *Do this NOW!*

R. C. KEMPTON, Sec'y.

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CLEVELAND

By Samuel K. Popkins **It's No Secret**

There is no secret in Cleveland's method of collection of dues. It has attained a fair degree of success through no magic. What success it has achieved is due to the efficient management of the treasurer's office. The treasurer has a sense of organization. He has selected, through the Membership Committee, a group of members who make personal contacts with those whose names are furnished, urging them to become active members. The path has been made easier for the committee, too, because it has been found that architects want to belong to an organization which has gone "all out" for the architect and because most architects know that the Society is theirs, not the privilege of the few.

A follow-up system has been devised by the treasurer by which he periodically checks the progress of each member to whom he has entrusted the business of contacting. Thus he has a good idea of how goes the crusade. There you have it—organization and a willingness to serve.

Nick Zajack, our treasurer, will deny that there is anything unusual about the method used in dues collection.

On the State of the Society

The following list comprises those who "took over" in the affairs of the Cleveland Section for the year 1942:

Leon Mondell Worley, President
Donald A. MacCornack, Vice-Pres.
Austin G. Damon, Secretary
Nicholas S. Zajack, Treasurer
all of Cleveland.

Executive Committee Members:

Junior W. Everhard, Cleveland (for one year)
Ferd. J. McFadden, Lorain (two years)
Samuel K. Popkins, Cleveland (two years).

In the Service

Some of our Cleveland Section's men are hard at it in their country's service. Ed. Flynn and Munro Copper are both in the Navy. As most of us know, Joe Weinberg is doing his bit as chief architect for the Fifth Corps Army Area. Geo. Walters and Ronny Spahn are both working day and night to hurry through

Chit-Chat and Stuff

a cantonment job for Uncle Sam.

A general inquiry into what's doing in various architectural offices in the Cleveland area shows a "chin's up 'tho' haven't much on the boards" attitude. Some have closed shop for the duration, some are still traveling on the momentum set up by the late push in building. Some have pitched into help large engineering firms in their programs of needed war-time building. A period of transition, perhaps. Where it will land the architect no one can say with any degree of certainty. But this we do know—those of us who have the architect's soul and mind will be in the fighting, and when this scrap is won the architect will again take his place, intact. At this time we're needed, whether in the ranks or at the top, should make no difference. There will always be a place for those who serve.

A proper sense of proportion and subjugation to the big thing at hand will gain more for the architect than the desire to remain an individualist at all costs.

Mr. Thomas Munro, Curator of Education of the Cleveland Museum of Art, states: "Like the church, the library, the concert hall, and the theatre, the museum is a place where people in these anxious days can forget their worries for a time, and have their spirits renewed by a brief reminder of eternal values."

A barber-shop on Euclid Avenue opposite Fenn College advertises "Free Shaves for Japs."

Toledo Architects

Told of Government Rules

A report on general conditions affecting architects and an outline in detail of the construction regulations and building construction program of the United States Government was made by Julian Oberworth of Louisville, Ky., Regional Director of the Great Lakes District of the American Institute of Architects, to members of the Toledo Chapter, American Institute of Architects, in their annual meeting recently in the Commodore Perry Hotel.

Harold H. Munger, of the firm of Britsch & Munger, was re-elected president of the chapter. Other officers, also re-elected, are: Willis A. Vogel, vice-president; Mark B. Stophlett, secretary; Horace W. Wachter, treasurer; T. Y. Hewlett and Steve Jokel, members of the board of governors. Alfred A. Hahn was elected as a new member of the board of governors.

An increase of 40 percent in membership of the chapter during 1941 was announced by Mr. Munger. He also announced that Mr. Hahn had been appointed by Gov. John Bricker to serve as a member of the State Board of Examiners of Ohio and that Otto Hohly had been appointed a member of the Metropolitan Housing Authority of Toledo.

Resolutions were passed memorializing Harry W. Wachter and David L. Stine, fellows of the American Institute of Architects, and William B. Hunt, associate member of the Institute.

Camp Sherman Builder

Succumbs at Toledo

Thomas Bentley, whose contracting firm built Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, and Camp Johnson, Jacksonville, Fla., during the first World War, died recently of a heart attack.

He was 68. Bentley retired last September as chief of the operations division, office of the Fifth Zone Constructing Quartermaster, Columbus.

Rial T. Parrish, a member of the Dayton Section, has opened an office in the Tower of the U. B. Building, Room 1703, Dayton, Ohio, for the practice of architecture.

Definite Role for Architects in Defense Housing Program

The following article from the Federal Housing Administration Clip Sheet was submitted by C. Melvin Frank, a registered architect of Columbus, who has been with the Federal Housing Administration for seven years. In submitting this article, Mr. Frank states that this particular field presents a great opportunity and that a vast majority of architects have not yet availed themselves of the work to be done.

Mr. Frank advises that the thoughts outlined in the article in the December issue of the "Ohio Architect" are still quite true. Mr. Frank also advises very emphatically that the Federal Housing Administration does not furnish plans and specifications to anyone. There are, however, some drawings or prints of houses on file with the Administration which may be viewed at the various offices, but said documents are not for sale.

The emphasis which the Federal Housing Administration program has placed upon improving housing standards and conditions has resulted in an increasing number of homes being designed and planned by competent architects, FHA officials say.

While the war has centered building activity on low-cost housing for war workers and their families, the FHA still insists that homes built under its insured mortgage plan, and under FHA inspection, be well-built, well planned homes with a high degree of convenience and livability.

Currently more than 75 percent of the homes with a high degree of convenience and livability.

Currently more than 75 percent of the homes offered as security for insured mortgages under the FHA system have been designed by registered architects or draftsmen. Prior to the FHA, officials say, less than 10 percent of the homes built were produced with architectural supervision. These were chiefly expensive homes.

The modern, small home, which has the largest representation in the FHA program, is the one type in which the greatest advances have been made and through constant encouragement by the FHA, architects have turned their attention to the design of the low-cost home with very gratifying results.

All homes offered as security for in-

sured mortgages, FHA officials point out, must embody the sound principles of good planning, and all applications for mortgage insurance must be accompanied by well-drawn plans and specifications. Many homes not designed by architects represent the stock plans of contractors and builders, but in each case they must incorporate the essential features which make them livable and efficient. In nearly every instance these stock plans which builders and contractors use were originally produced by capable, efficient architects.

While architectural service on homes to be financed under the FHA-insured mortgage plan is not compulsory, it is, however, desirable and usually results in a better designed, more convenient and livable home. This is particularly true in the case of small homes, where every foot of space should be put to the very best advantage. Today home construction is being confined almost exclusively to homes in this classification. Small homes, either for sale or rent are needed to provide proper housing accommodations for workers in defense industries.

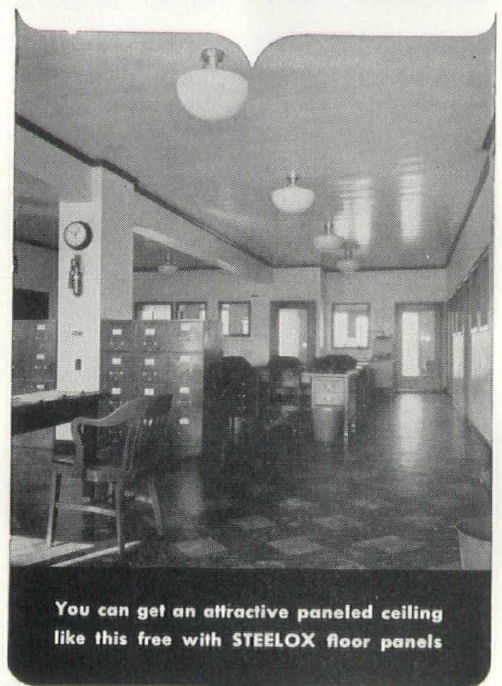
In this program there is a definite place for competent architects in order that these defense workers and their families be provided with the housing facilities they need so badly now; and also that the housing being built today will offer a high degree of livability as well as financial stability, not only for the present, but for the post-war years to come.

If a Congressman doesn't represent the people, he represents the bunch that scares him most.

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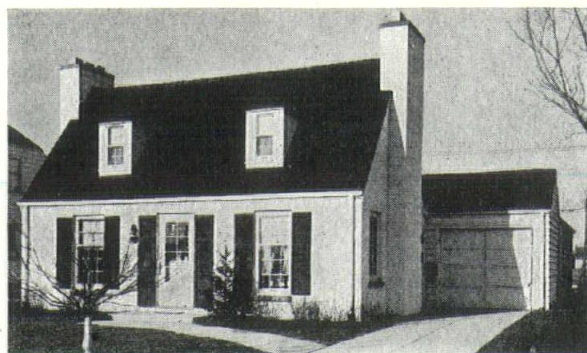
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Toledo News

While in Toledo recently on the business of the Board, the executive secretary had the occasion to communicate with William K. Fernald, president of the Toledo Section A.S.O. The phone call was made rather early in the morning to which said president answered in a very brusque manner. The occasion for the brusqueness, Bill explains, was due to a fire in his home which had aroused them at a very early hour and caused them considerable difficulty. Bill, as we all know, is a good publicity man, but we don't believe he intentionally took this method to make the front page of his home-town newspapers.

Noted Architect's Son Passes

Robert Hanford, Jr., 18-year-old son of Mr. R. G. Hanford, architect, of Columbus, died suddenly following an illness which started during the holidays. He graduated at the University School in 1941, where he was active in many student activities. He was a freshman at Cornell University, where he was preparing himself as an aero engineer.

Variations

There are only seven different sizes of tires on the 1941 passenger cars. In 1939 the new models required ten different sizes, and last year called for nine.

Premature Development Taxes City Finances

A survey of undeveloped subdivisions in New York State made in 1938 indicated that a major reason for municipal financial difficulties was the tremendous sums spent by these communities for roads and utilities in premature subdivisions yielding little or no tax returns.

Locate Kitchen Away From Sun

Since cooking adds to the warmth of the kitchen, it is advisable to locate the kitchen for maximum protection from the additional heat of the sun.

This can usually be accomplished by placing the kitchen to the north or northeast.

How many agree with this?—Editor.

Where we go from her depends a lot on how we drive to get there.

CEMCO ELEVATORS

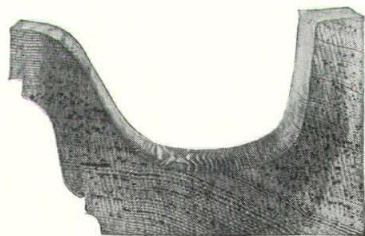
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Prize Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Merle N. Riggs Charles Frederick Cellarius, Architect

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The house of Mr. and Mrs. Merle N. Riggs is a good example of the beauty that comes with simplicity. The house is located on Burley Hills Drive, Indian Hill, with an extensive view to the rear so that the long informal porch is at the rear of the house. The living room

is wainscoted from the floor to ceiling with knotty white pine boards in natural waxed finish. Dining room and hall have palmed finished white plaster with soft green painted woodwork. The bedrooms are finished with wallpaper and gray woodwork.

Copy of Letter to Ohio Congressmen

Sir:

There is before Congress a bill known as Amended S-1617, the potentialities of which represents one of the most important matters requiring your attention and interest at this time. Certainly we are in a war, and this profes-

sion has every reason to know it is a tough one, but if there is to be no American way of life after the tumult is over, why the tumult and the proposed one hundred million dollar debt?

The boys over there, east, west, north and south will expect to find the home fires burning when they return. That is an obligation second only to winning the war. A well-planned building program for the post-war period should

be one of the major items to assist in establishing and maintaining a normal, healthy social order to receive and absorb the soldiers when the fighting is done.

This is not a partisan issue, but a fundamental American issue of equal interest and benefit to every loyal American citizen. Don't allow apathy, carelessness, lack of interest, or even overwork to prevent your alert, aggressive and favorable action in the behalf of this bill on every and at all occasions.

R. C. KEMPTON, Sec'y.

The Man Who Keeps On Going

By the Donley Observer

Beset by fates beyond his knowing,
I hail the man who keeps on going;
Who does the job at hand—
Who has no time for idle chatter
About each world portentous matter,
Spawned in a distant land.

He tends his task, no moments losing
In random, vague prophetic musing;
Today in his domain.
His good sense tells him that to borrow
The woe or joy of some tomorrow
Would bring him doubtful gain.

A man with outlook so enlightened
Is never likely to be frightened
By things beyond his ken.
And if he suffers, undeserving,
He meets misfortune without swerving.
Would there were more such men!

The greatest undeveloped territory
in the world is right under your hat.

RE: S.B. 1617

(Continued from page 2)

As we in Ohio believe that in Unity there is Strength, and that only by full co-operation can our objectives be accomplished, we should, in line with these beliefs, follow the advice of those in a position to know and combine our efforts toward the common cause.

From every side we hear that Congress is more architect-minded than ever before, for which our Washington representative must accept the major portion of the credit. Go to it, E.R.P., but be sure to let us do our share.

Read the Advertisements

in the Ohio Architect

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Architects, Look at War Housing

By E. MILTON MacMILLAN

MacMillan and Hinman, Architects

President, Cleveland Small Homes Architectural Association

The aftermath of Pearl Harbor and the Philippines has left many of us questioning just how well our armed forces are prepared for such emergencies. Only time and future events will determine these questions.

Architects and the building industry know that in one important phase of our war effort our Government was well prepared. Our national administration has been housing-minded with the necessary agencies and facilities at hand already functioning to handle this large scale-order for housing our armed forces.

Along with the tremendous problem of creating housing for its service men the Government is also faced with the necessity for housing even greater numbers of families which must be moved into areas occupied by the new war industries as well as creating the necessary building and facilities for these new industrial plants and also the enlargement of plants already in existence and now manufacturing war products. Millions of square feet of new factory space have been built up in a very short time and thousands of workers are being brought into operate the machines in these new factory buildings producing the vast quantities of war materials now so vitally needed. All of this is being accomplished quietly and efficiently in such a manner that we are not really conscious of the change that is taking place.

Almost immediately there has been created a shortage of housing in the industrial areas. In some locations housing for workers is limited and in others non-existent. Something must be done about this, and quickly. If a factory owner must transport his workers considerable distances to and from work, he is faced with the prospect of having them seek employment nearer to their homes or in factories which have homes more conveniently available. This will be especially true as the need for skilled workers increase which is rapidly becoming the case. During the last World War this same situation resulted on a smaller scale, and we do not wish the mistakes in housing at

that time repeated if it is at all possible to avoid it. Architects do not believe they will be.

Here in Cleveland we have in existence at least two agencies concerned with building of homes who are vitally interested in the future welfare of Greater Cleveland even though their first thought today is the winning of this war. These two particular agencies are the Federal Housing Administration and the Metropolitan Housing Authority. A large majority of all emergency and defense housing will pass through their hands and be supervised by them. The citizens and property owners of Greater Cleveland may rest assured that both of these agencies are just as interested in preserving and maintaining property values and the high standards of our residential neighborhoods as they are themselves.

An insight into this new picture may be gained with the completion of defense housing projects already being built in this area. As these projects take form, one is first impressed by the orderliness of the arrangement of all buildings. On second thought one is impressed by the airy spaces around each building, allowing ample sunshine and air. Spaces have also been set aside for play yards, recreation, drying yards and parking areas. Last, but not least, even architects are impressed by the pleasing appearance of the buildings themselves. Color arrangements of paint and material have been harmonized and varied to bring about a most interesting pattern. Considering the cost which has been reduced to a minimum and the speed due to necessity with which these groups are erected, the results are most satisfactory, and if all future housing for defense in this area meet these standards, we need not concern ourselves in any respect.

The one question architects and builders hear most often today is, can one build a home, and should they attempt to do so with priorities placed on so many items that are necessary in house construction.

The answer is that homes are needed and are still being built both for own-

ers and for the market, although the great majority are not within the six thousand dollar priority limit. The time required for construction of the individual home is somewhat longer, as contractors are hampered to some extent by slower delivery on some materials and a shortage of labor in a few trades. In this war, as has been the case in any of the past, the risk of building may be a trifle greater than in normal time, and it is possible that conditions may become so serious that our Government will find it necessary to stop all private construction for the duration. However, right now private home construction has the green light especially within the priority cost limit with Cleveland designated a defense area with additional housing needed. Financing is available at low interest rates and plenty of builders ready and willing to build the home. As for the future, no one is in a position to predict just what conditions may have to be faced, but all of us are confident of the final outcome.

Architects in the Cleveland area as well as throughout the country are readjusting themselves to the new pattern. Many already have joined the service of their country in every branch where their particular talents are required. Others are devoting their efforts to providing the necessary plant expansions for our war industry, while still others are busy planning civilian defense needs and protection facilities. The entire building industry has met the challenge laid down by the Axis nations and will do its job well in housing our armed forces, our industry with its workers, and providing protection for the civilian population.

Something to Worry About

We have often heard the expression "Hobson's Choice" used when there seems to have been but one choice. We would like to tell our readers where this expression originated and why, and would like to have all those who know about this expression advise their understanding of its origin and meaning.

Beauty Pays Nice Dividends

By C. JULIAN OBERWARTH

Regional Director, American Institute of Architects
Secretary-Treasurer, Kentucky State Board of Examiners
and Registration of Architects
Frankfort, Ky.

The job of making a building beautiful is only one of the many services an architect is called upon to render in connection with each new commission. Many people who are unfamiliar with his work believe that it is major concern and that to employ an architect simply means paying someone to make a pretty picture and putting it on blue paper with white lines—much to the universal chagrin of architects.

Nevertheless, this part of his work is becoming of ever increasing importance, since the American business world recognized its direct financial value. Not so many years ago such an idea was ridiculed by investors as mere fanatics' chatter, but there is no longer any doubt in the minds of trained executives and financiers that the appearance of buildings has a vital effect upon sales and is a highly important factor in meeting competition. Equipment, location and convenience being equal, the more beautiful the building the greater the income, the easier the renting, the less the depreciation, and the greater the cash value in case of disposal. Even though public spirit and personal pride are not (as they should be) sufficient to insure a handsome structure, these points can not be overlooked.

Since the public has so wisely seen fit to require that the practice of architecture, like the practice of medicine, be rigidly controlled, it is only fair that it be informed if, and how, architects are qualified to render this important non-technical part of their service.

It is comparatively simple to understand how a man may be trained to lay out safe structural members. You can put your hands on a piece of steel, apply weight to it, by tests, derive formulas which will always be the same no matter who is using them. It is entirely a matter of measurable strength of materials. But you can't pick beauty up in your hands or derive definite methods of procedure based upon concrete values. However, good design is not a thing which can not be explained and taught, nor a product of the long-haired, giddy looking person who talks

in melodramatic terms of "his art" and somehow or other manages to avoid being stepped on at a picnic.

The young man training to practice architecture is taught to distinguish between certain methods and principles which are known to cause a building to look pleasing or ugly. All the well-known buildings of the past are analyzed for him, and he is shown the general characteristics to be found in each type. He is given specific problems of similar nature to give him experience in working this information into actual designs. Later he is given original problems, often of a type with which he is unfamiliar, and required to apply the the principles of good design without anything else to go by.

One of the most essential things he is taught is to judge accurately and honestly his own work; that is, to understand when he has arrived at a design that is refined and graceful or when he has not reached that goal, and how and why he should proceed to do so. His instructors are men who have specialized in this particular branch of work and are fully qualified to point out his mistakes during the training period and each him the skillful use of the tool of design—building materials, color, proportion and lines.

To become a really good designer, the student must have an inherited portion of ability and good taste, but these are of value only when properly developed by extensive training and practice. Without such training and practice. Without such training and practice nothing more than mediocre success, at best, can be attained in any profession, if, indeed, it can be pursued at all. Every good ball player, musician or doctor knows and appreciates this fact.

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Letters to the Editor

Just a line to commend you on the magazine OHIO ARCHITECT of which you are the editor. I am naturally a consistent reader of our magazine digesting each word from cover to cover, and I felt that you might appreciate a word or two from me concerning the good I get from it. It is an attractive journal, consistently so. The cover is of natural interest to any architect in the State because it pictures current best work of the men, and this work is further described inside.

The editorials, news of society work and news of members is always something to look forward to with interest.

The cuts are good and the advertisers' news of products is carefully read, and wherever possible I attempt to use their products. I naturally feel that they are supporting and to a large extent making our publication possible. Hence, I try to reciprocate by specifying products advertised in our paper.

I personally know that the OHIO ARCHITECT is read by the two other architects in our office and by others employed here. This interest must be general throughout the State and wherever the magazine goes to those outside the Buckeye territory. Incidentally I appreciate the roster of Registered Architects in Ohio as presented annually in the December issue. This should be valuable to many others even outside the profession.

I hope these remarks are in order, because I really do appreciate the privilege of enjoying our own professional magazine for this State, the OHIO ARCHITECT.

Dear Mr. Kempton:

I am in receipt of a copy of the December issue of the OHIO ARCHITECT, and wish to take this opportunity to thank you for sending it. I have read it through very carefully, enjoying it thoroughly, and would like to congratulate you upon the splendid material and articles contained in this issue.

ELBERT I. HARRISON, Editor,
Quarterly New Bulletin,
Central Illinois Chapter, A.I.O.

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