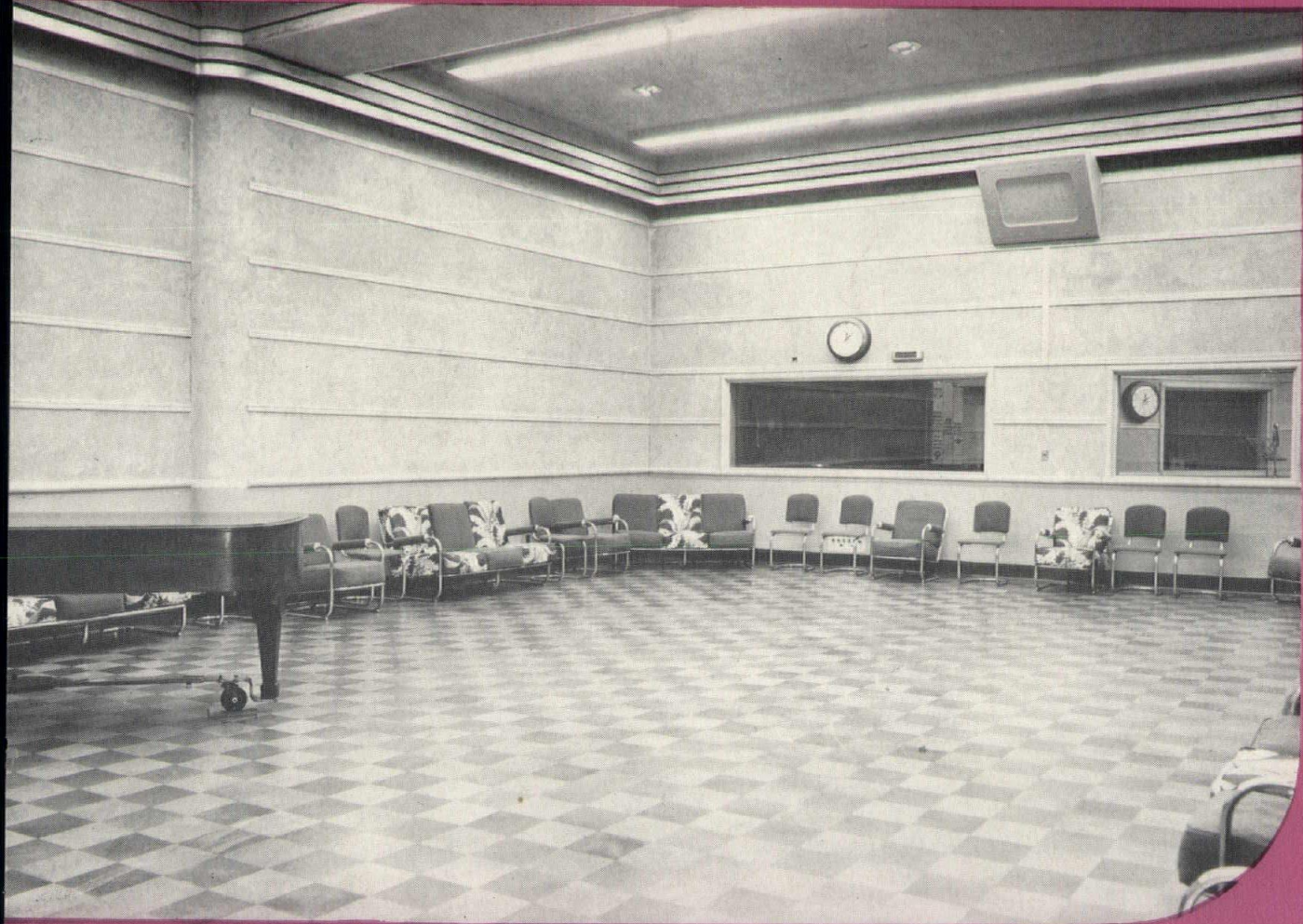


MAY • 1950

Vol. VIII

No. 5

OHIO ARCHITECT



MAIN STUDIO "A" OF RADIO STATION WADC, AKRON, OHIO. This studio and its control room are adaptable in size and lighting for television use. (See pages six and seven.)

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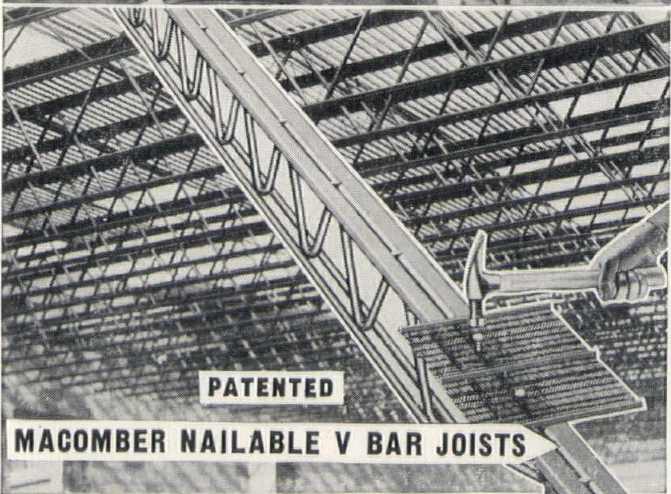
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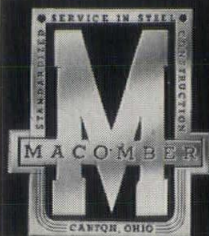
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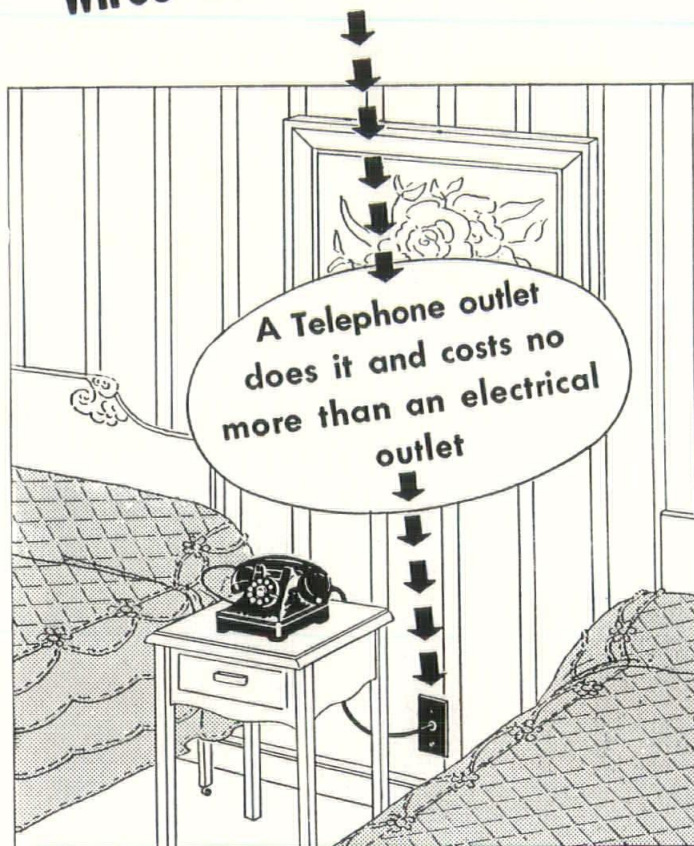
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CONCRETE TILT-UP Construction Saves Time, Money and Material



TILT-UP, the fast, modern and economical method of concrete construction was used in building the Luthe Hardware Company warehouse in Des Moines, Iowa—a structure with more than two acres of floor space.

Tilt-up construction is adaptable to individually designed or standard buildings and is practical for one-story or multi-story structures. It is quick and easy and reduces form building and form handling to a minimum.

Wall panels are cast flat in simple edge forms—usually right on the concrete floor—and then tilted up into position with power cranes or hoists. Panels can be sized to meet a wide variety of requirements. Cast-in-place piers and beams tie the panels together into one integrated unit.

Structures built by the tilt-up method have all the desirable properties of any concrete building.

They are firesafe, decay-proof, trim and neat in appearance. Their first cost is moderate, they last a lifetime and cost little to maintain. They are truly **low-annual-cost** construction.

Learn more about this time-saving, economical method. Write today for free technical bulletins, containing design and construction details. Distributed only in the United States and Canada.

The new Luthe Hardware Company concrete warehouse in Des Moines is a 240 x 420 ft. structure with a two-story, 45 x 75 ft. office wing. Tilt-up construction was used throughout, except for the office wing projection, which is cast stone.

Tilt-up panels are 11 ft. high, 13 ft. 8 in. long and 6 in. thick. Only seven sets of edge forms were used to build 73 wall panels.

Engineering and construction work by The Weitz Company, Inc.; Brooks-Borg, architects of Des Moines, consultants on architectural design.

Upper photo shows 5½-ton wall section being tilted into position. Lower photo is a view of the completed building.

PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION

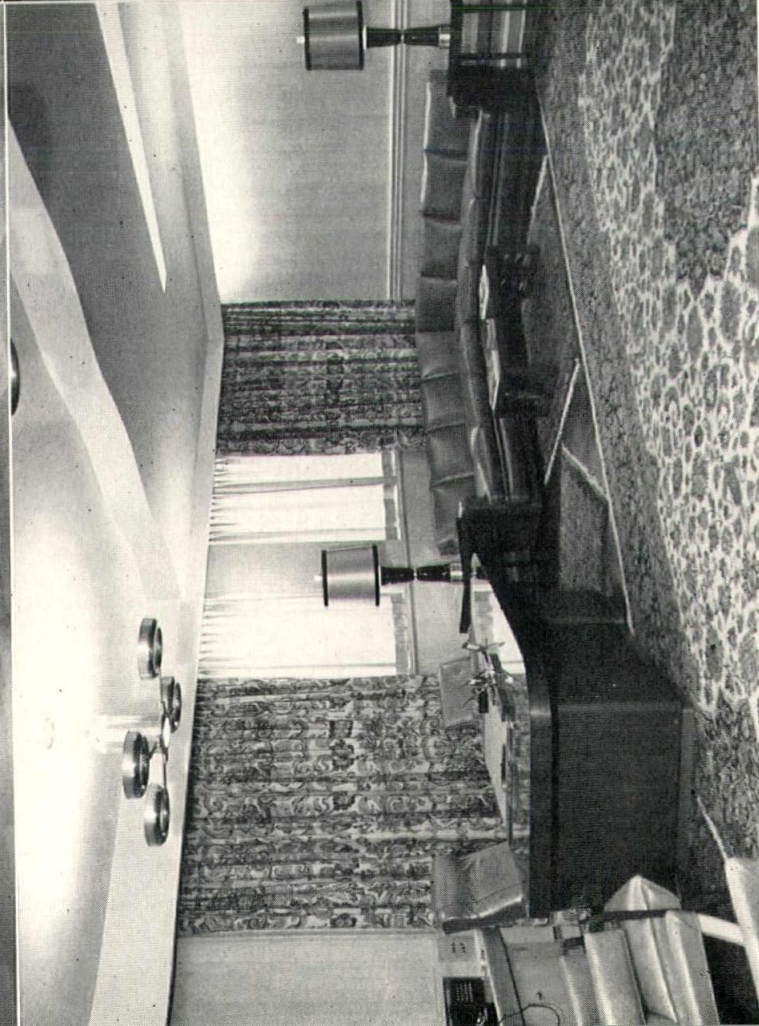
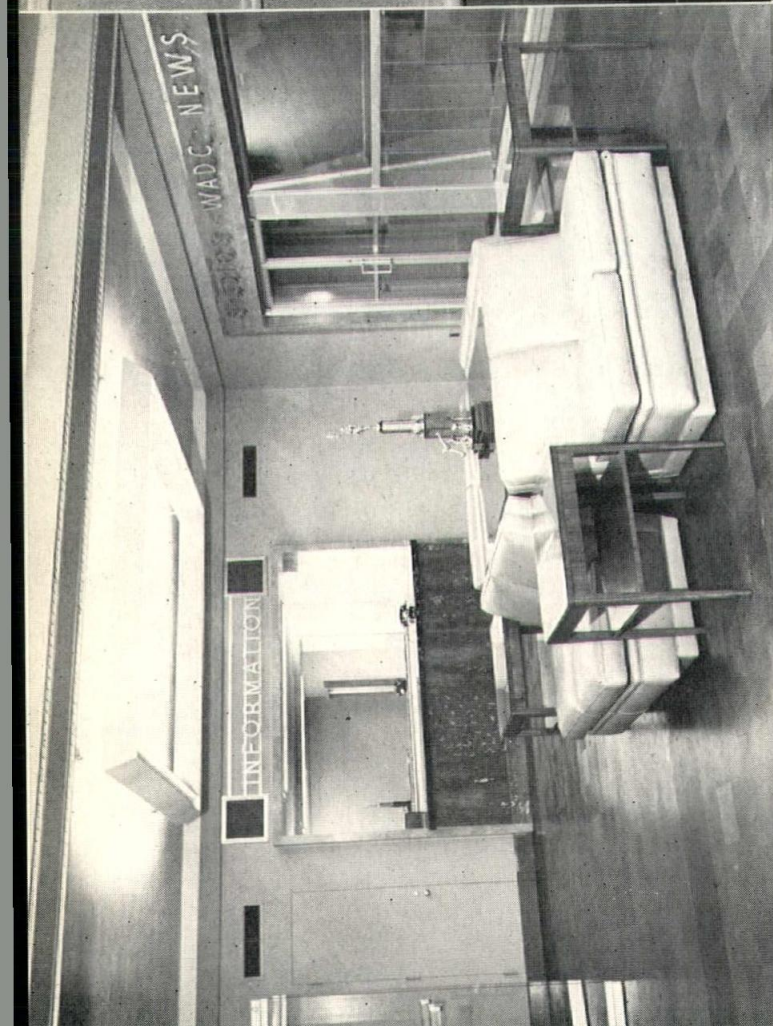
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SOUND FILM ON TILT-UP CONSTRUCTION

Our new 16 mm. sound film on tilt-up construction is available for showing at group meetings of architects, engineers or contractors. Requests should be made at least three weeks before date of meeting.



WADC STUDIOS & OFFICES — AKRON, OHIO. Upper left — Guest Control: East end of reception room. Street entrance from left, Information center and to the right or north is the principal entrance to all

modate several functions. Shows the executive work area with client conference lounge right. Lower right — Shows client conference area left and staff conference table right with curved glass trophy case, display always visible from foyer, which also serves as a vision panel from president's office overlooking

WADC Studios and Offices, Akron

WILLIAM BOYD HUFF, Architect, Akron, Ohio

SEE ILLUSTRATIONS ON FRONT COVER AND PAGE SIX

The WADC Studios in Akron were designed and supervised by W. B. Huff, Akron Architect, to specific requirements of the owner, Allen T. Simmons and within the limitations of a long term lease.

Mr. Simmons is interested in many ventures, principally radio, theatre and the raising of thoroughbred horses. These affected the planning of facilities materially.

The WADC Building is a two story steel and concrete structure surfaced in terracotta glass and aluminum, treated horizontally. It was designed by W. B. Huff, for other interests, primarily as a tax payer. The street level is occupied by retail stores.

The site comprises some 15,000 sq. ft. of area per floor having exposure and access to the north, east, and west. Frontage of the west is 120' on Main St. opposite the First National Tower Building and 115' on Mill Street to the north grading up sharply to the service lane on the east, and 140' along the south party wall.

Access to the studios is had by an easy stair placed on the center of the north frontage which brings all visitors into a 22' x 40' reception lounge at the core of the building.

The Studio requirements were standard for participating CBS chain broadcasts. However, being an individually owned and operated enterprise, additional facilities were provided for local conditions and future expansion, along with provisions for other varied interests.

Owing to the variety of operations and persons involved, including public tours, a circuitous plan was dictated to provide the minimum of interferences and at the same time make the entire operation visible to clients and visitors.

All visitors enter the Reception area from the north stair, the receptionist is to the left of the entrance. The entrance to all Studios is directly ahead, the featured news machine room vision panel to the right affords visitor interest.

At the west end at the Reception Room is a lounge area and entrance to the Executive Suite. To the southwest is the entrance to the Sales & Promotion Department.

The Executive foyer cares for all the traffic between the various principle officials.

The operations section is subdivided by steel and glass bank screen, the interiors of all studios and recording and control rooms are visible through vision panels along the south corridor.

Laboratories and engineering facilities are beyond direct public access to the east.

The studios walls and ceilings are finished in natural vermiculite plaster with horizontal blond oak moulding

covering anchor strips for any future sound treatment problems.

All floors are cork tile, the entire area is accoustically treated and the air conditioning system is sound proof.

All work areas are painted a pale blue gray.

Mr. Simmon's Office is approximately 28' x 28', a diamond shape, with two opposite unequal angles, forced by the corner angle of the principal streets and the desire to hold adjacent walls at right angles to each street front.

A round corner of the building houses an exterior display panel. The executive back desk and communications controls and records are located here, together with the executive desk, so placed to give a commanding view to the southeast, of all operations. The curved glass window at the opposite end serves as a vision panel into the principle operations as well as a trophy case exhibiting the awards to the various organization activities.

The trophy case is visible from the foyer at all times. Motor controlled draperies can be drawn across the office side when privacy is desired, in fact all walls can be completely covered with draperies, automatically controlled.

The finish is rift sawn white oak with flexwood to match on all walls.

Directly in front of the trophy case is the staff conference table flood lighted from a special fixture in the cove above.

To the left is the client lounge with subdued cove lighting.

Special spun aluminum lighting fixtures were designed to house circline fluorescent tubes and a concealed flood light for work surfaces at the executive desk and the portable secretaries table. Ballasts are concealed in the main mass.

Fixtures throughout were executed by F. W. Watkins Associates of Cleveland.

Furniture was selected from the Stow-Davis line. It is dark walnut and upholstered pieces are leather in pine green lemon yellow and persimon. The draperies are hand blocked linen. Fine orientals cover the floors.

The Secretaries office is treated similarly with blond walnut furniture.

All operations furniture is steel.

The reception lobby is trimmed in marble and aluminum.

The Transcription Library is one of the largest in the country.

The main Studio "A" and its control room is adaptable in size and lighting, for television.

There are four studios, two being Speakers Studios.



Eastern Ohio Chapter Meetings Feature "The Feminine Touch"

"Architects wives are prettier than architects." Roger Allen can be credited for that statement but the Eastern Ohio Chapter can take credit for full recognition of the fact as they always take their wives along to "pretty up" their meetings. Another "different" feature of Eastern Ohio Chapter meetings is that the meetings are held in different towns each time they are held, which has a very fine effect on the spirit and good fellowships of the meetings.

Considering the number of nights away from home that an average architect must take and considering the nice gesture it is to have the ladies along, we have often wondered why all chapters do not follow a similar procedure. Ordinarily a couple of the wives in the city which is host to the meeting arrange a small program just for the ladies.

During the course of the chapter meeting the ladies have their own program or canasta or bridge as the case may be. All apparently like the arrangement.

George Voinovich was heard to remark about the "esprit d'corp" of the Eastern Ohio group. Perhaps we're biased but we'd suggest that not a little of this is due to the presence of the ladies. Speaking of George, the Eastern Ohio bunch had the chance to meet and talk with him again at the last regular meeting. The

ASO Board met in Youngstown during the day at the Youngstown Club and were guests at the regular dinner meeting. Those members of the board present included Mr. Voinovich, C. C. Britsch, George B. Mayer, Emory J. Ohler, Walter Damon, Russ Roller, Boyd Huff, and Charles C. Coleman. Charles L. Burns of the "Ohio Architect" staff also was present for picture taking.

Then Ralph Kempton and Ed Conrad of the Board of Examiners also joined in the festivities. Perhaps the biggest smile of the evening was drawn out by Mr. Kempton when he suggested that there were too many

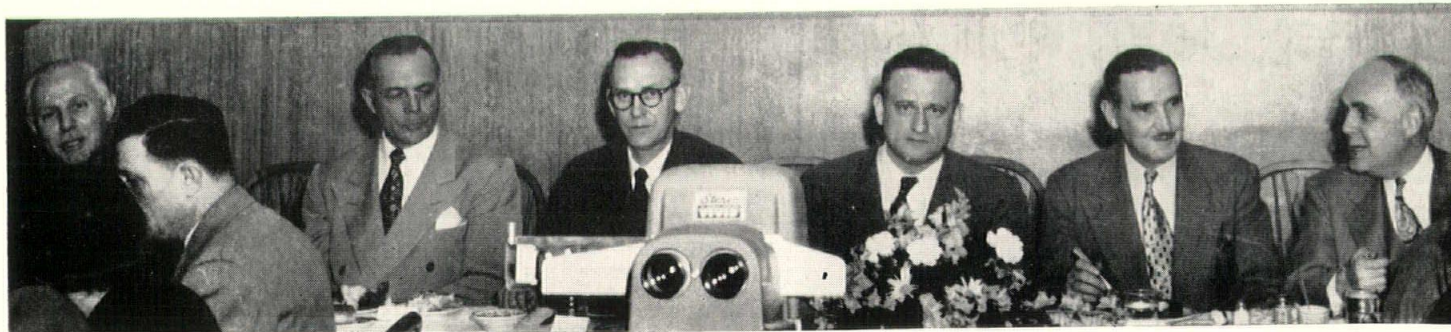
(Continued on page 16)



Seated, left to right: Mrs. Morbits, Mrs. Foulks, Mrs. Damon, Mrs. Sagadencky, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Wehrell, Mrs. Dykes. Standing, left to right: Mrs. Kissinger, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Miller, Miss Aldrich, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Beatty, Mrs. Zuber, Mrs. Stevens.



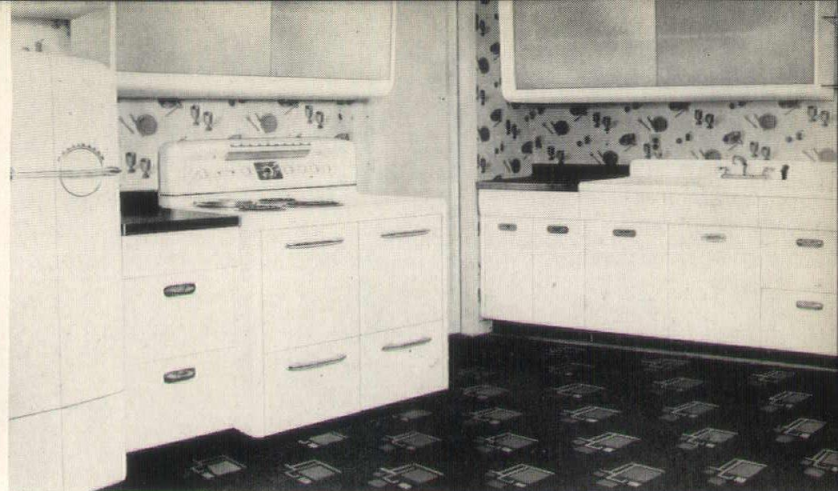
EASTERN OHIO CHAPTER OFFICERS, left to right: Chas. Steiner, Director; Russell Roller, President; Vance Florence, Past-Pres.; E. W. Dykes, Secretary; John Samuels, Director; Richard Lawrence, Treasurer; George Faulks, V-Pres.



SPEAKER'S TABLE, left to right: Mr. Harold W. Goetz, Mr. Edward Conrad, Mr. Russell Roller, Mrs. George S. Voinovich, Mr. Ralph Kempton, Mr. George B. Mayer.



Designed for Beauty and Efficiency



Every Bit of Space is Utilized

Oh! What a Beautiful, Convenient Kitchen

Among the 187,000 persons who inspected Cleveland Chapter of A.I.A.'s "House That Jack Built" at this Spring's Home and Garden Show in Cleveland, one of the features that attracted wide and favorable attention and comment was the cupboard and cabinet installations in the kitchen.

When Architects Robert A. Little and Alfred W. Harris of the Cleveland Chapter Committee designed this kitchen, they specified Morton Kitchen Cabinets for the floor and cupboard areas and their choice met with the hearty approval of the thousands of housewives and their husbands who were very vocal in their praise of the beauty and utility of the installation. These cabinets were supplied by Nash Kelvinator Sales Corp. of 1435 E. 17th St., Cleveland, Distributors and Headquarters for Kitchen Equipment.

Morton Cabinet Sinks come in a variety of styles and sizes to fit all kitchen requirements and are built for long, hard service. They have a variety of tops available. Among the features of the Morton sinks are a Bread and Cake drawer with a hinged lid, a five-compartment cutlery drawer, a removable crumb-

cup strainer and the faucet assembly has a rinsing spray. The maple cutting board slides out to provide a place to fasten food grinders and

other utensils which require support and the doors are equipped with handy units for storage of cleaning materials, etc., and also a garbage container and inside towel rack.

These Morton units are styled and built to harmonize with the other kitchen units such as refrigerator,

range, deep freezers, etc., and in combination with these units make possible a kitchen of unusual beauty and the last word in comfort and convenience.

The Morton line also includes an Electro-Drain garbage disposal unit which solves the problem of left over foods. Everything, even bones are shredded quickly and rinsed down the drain.

Among the many features of the Morton Pantryette equipment are the following:

1. Sliding Doors in the Pantryette of Translucent Sparkling Glass, easily cleaned and eliminating

the possibility of open door head-bumping, a bane of the housewife. These doors won't peel, chip nor become strained and are easily removable.

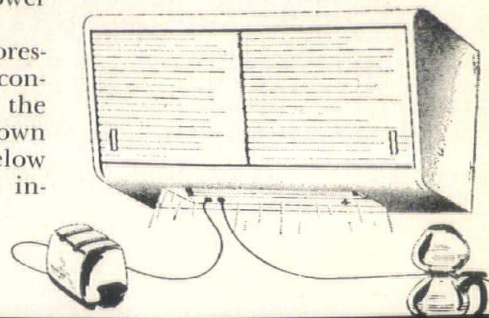
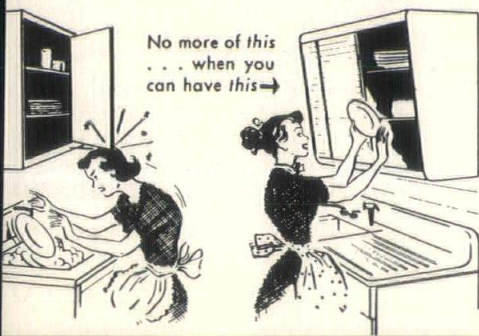
2. Pantryettes have a modern sloping front styling that gives a streamlined effect, and the larger units have twelve hooks under the lower shelves for coffee cups.

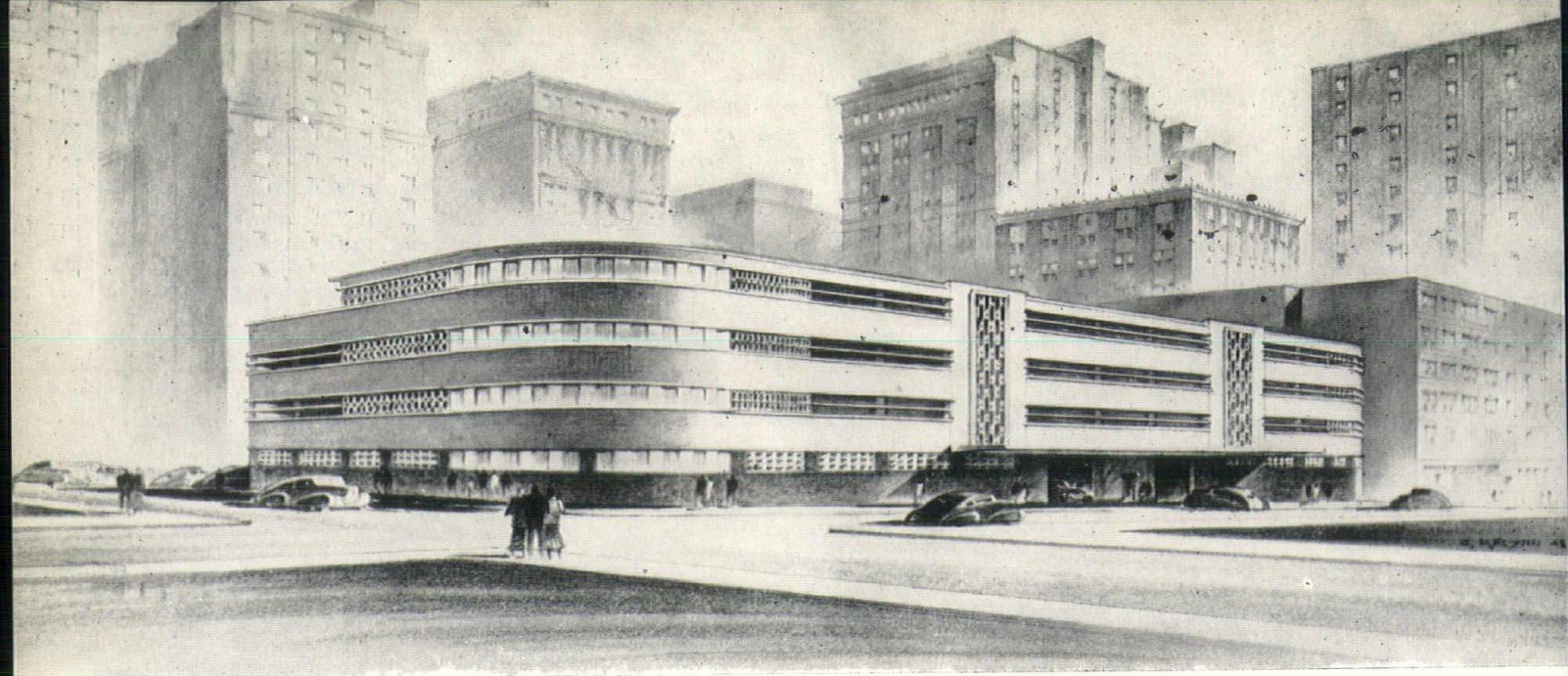
3. Light from the fluorescent Totalite fixture (concealed in the bottom of the Pantryette) is thrown down onto the working area below and up into the cabinet interior through perfora-

(Continued on page 23)



Kitchen Appliances and Morton Equipment Blend Beautifully





Preliminary sketch of one of the open-wall garages Pittsburgh will build. Ground-floor frontage will be used for shops.

Pittsburgh Starts Program to Lick Parking Shortage

Nearly every American city has its downtown parking problem. Usually the size of the problem increases with the size of the town, so that in our very large cities it reaches seemingly hopeless dimensions.

But in Pittsburgh, they are taking a hint from the story of the chef who, when asked "How would you cook an elephant?", replied, "I would first cut him into little pieces."

That's how Pittsburgh is tackling the need for thousands of parking spaces in its downtown area, better known as the Golden Triangle.

City planning and traffic experts have been dissecting the problem for more than five years. Now they have a long-range plan in operation.

Construction of the first four in a series of public parking garages will begin this Spring. Others will follow later. Bit by bit, Pittsburgh expects to cook the whole elephant with a minimum of fuss.

Here's the Pittsburgh recipe:

It began with a study of downtown parking habits and demands.

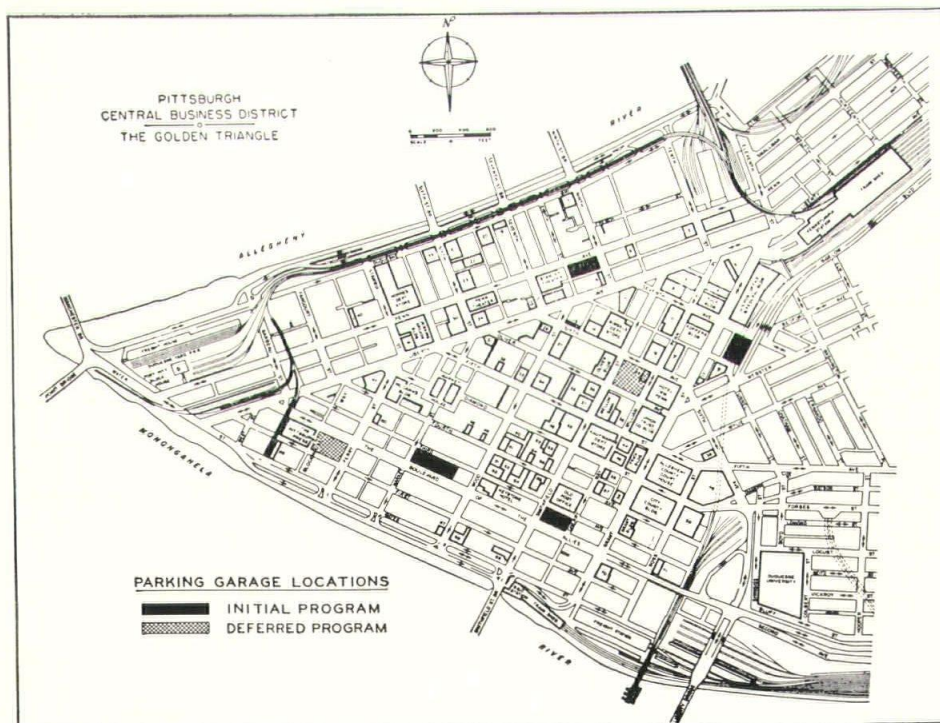
The need for both short-time and all-day parking spaces, in each part of the downtown area, was measured. (This method now is used by most state highway departments in working with cities on parking problems.)

Then, in 1947, the state legislature approved creation of a Public Parking Authority for Pittsburgh. It's a five-man board named by the mayor, and has power to issue revenue bonds, condemn land for parking use, build and operate parking facilities, and collect parking fees to retire the bonds.

The Authority hired an engineering firm to take the city parking study and work out a program of action. The job was done—and today architects are finishing their construction drawings for the parking garages.

Pittsburgh doesn't expect to lick the whole parking problem at one time. The first aim is to take care of the short-time parker, who comes downtown on a business or shopping trip. The all-day parker meantime continues to patronize the commercial lots, which charge high rates for short-time parking but relatively low rates for all-day parking.

The rate schedule recommended to the Authority by the engineering firm is 15 cents for the first half-hour, 30 cents for one hour, 40 cents for two hours, 50 cents for three hours—and then a stiff 30 cents per hour for parking over three hours.



These rates are subject to possible revision when final cost studies are made. But the basic idea will hold—that the rates will encourage short-time parking. Reduced rates will apply for evening and Sunday parking.

The four garages to be built this year will cost about \$4.5 million in all, and will handle 1,947 cars. They'll be the open-wall type, from three to five stories tall.

Cars will be parked by attendants, for self-parking garages require more space per car than can be justified on high-priced downtown land. Attendants will use "man lifts" and sliding poles to get to and from upper floors.

Not overlooking any revenue bets, the garages will have shops and restaurants for lease along the ground-floor frontage. And the city will give the Authority, if needed, its parking meter revenue, which runs about \$100,000 a year.

Two more garages will be built for short-time parking after the first four are completed. One will be an underground garage, to hold 1,090 cars, which will be under a new park downtown.

Authority officials point out that normally they would oppose underground garages, since the cost per car space is several times as high as for open-deck structures.

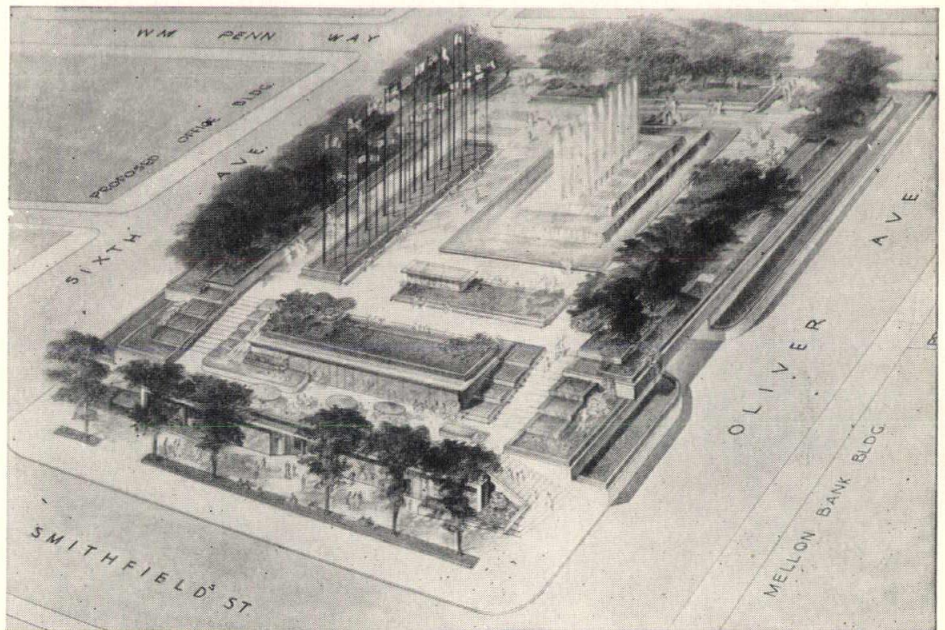
However, a \$4 million gift was given the city for use in creating a downtown park, with no objection to use of the land underneath for parking. So for another \$4 million the Authority will add the underground parking facility, in a location where parking needs are acute and where no other suitable space can be found for parking garages.

All the parking garages will be built on land now vacant or occupied by obsolete buildings. Later, with revenues from the six central-area garages, the Authority plans to build a series of all-day parking garages in a ring around the downtown fringe.

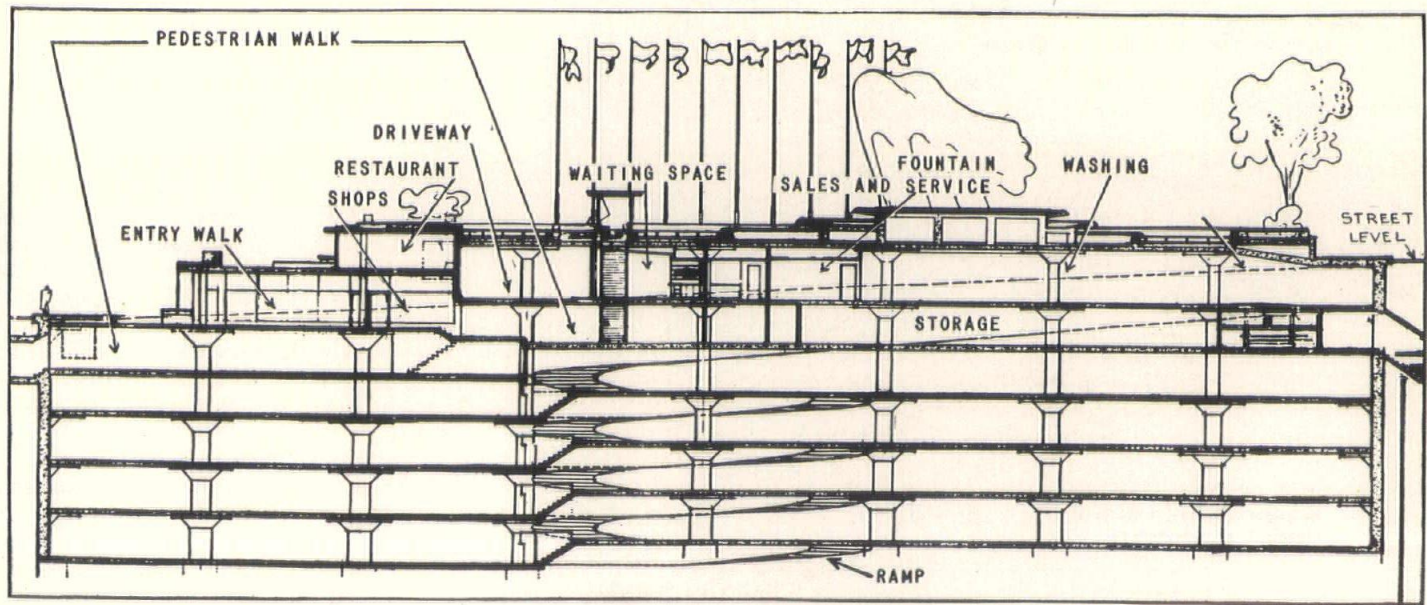
The Pittsburgh program is the first developed by a large American city for complete solution of the downtown parking problem.

It follows a course recommended by leading traffic experts—that large cities first build a series of open-wall parking garages, scattered through the downtown area, for short-time parking; and that all-day parking facilities be developed as a secondary program, and located along the fringes of the central business district.

The development of outlying parking areas, with shuttle bus service to the downtown business and shopping districts (as is done in Cleveland with its Lake Front Municipal Free Parking Lot and bus service at 6c fare) is not the best solution as many drivers object to driving long distances out of their route to reach them and much time is consumed in going back and forth. For those whose route carries them to such areas the objection is not so great but even here experience has shown drivers go past these outlying lots (even with gratis parking) and pay 50c or more to park in a lot closer to their destinations. Most cities have blighted areas in the downtown sections that can be improved by following the example of Pittsburgh.



New city park will have underground garage for 1,090 cars.



Side view of underground garage. Floors will be staggered and have the equivalent of a five-story garage in storage capacity.

New Shaker Moreland Building Solves Parking Problems

Architects Weinberg and Teare Overcome Roof Parking Handicap

By WILL McADAM

The use of roof decks and overhead areas to provide parking space in congested districts is far from new. It has been done in a number of communities. It offers such a practical solution to the growing problem of parking that more and more building owners are con-

perfectly natural that one of the earliest considerations was the use of the roof for additional parking.

The building, some 250 ft. by 125 ft. houses about ten high-class retail establishments. As it is a one-story structure, the use of the roof provides substantial aid in the solution of their common parking problem. A poured concrete ramp at the back of the building provided the required approach from the ground level to the parking level.

In planning this detail of the structure, the architects, Joseph L. Weinberg and Wallace G. Teare, of Cleveland, met the load carrying problem by specifying a 5-inch Haydite monolithic slab, supported by heavy bar joists. A copper expansion joint was provided midway the length of the building across the 125 foot dimension. This joint is of the inverted "V" type and is anchored into the slab on each side, with plastic cement filled flush with the slab.

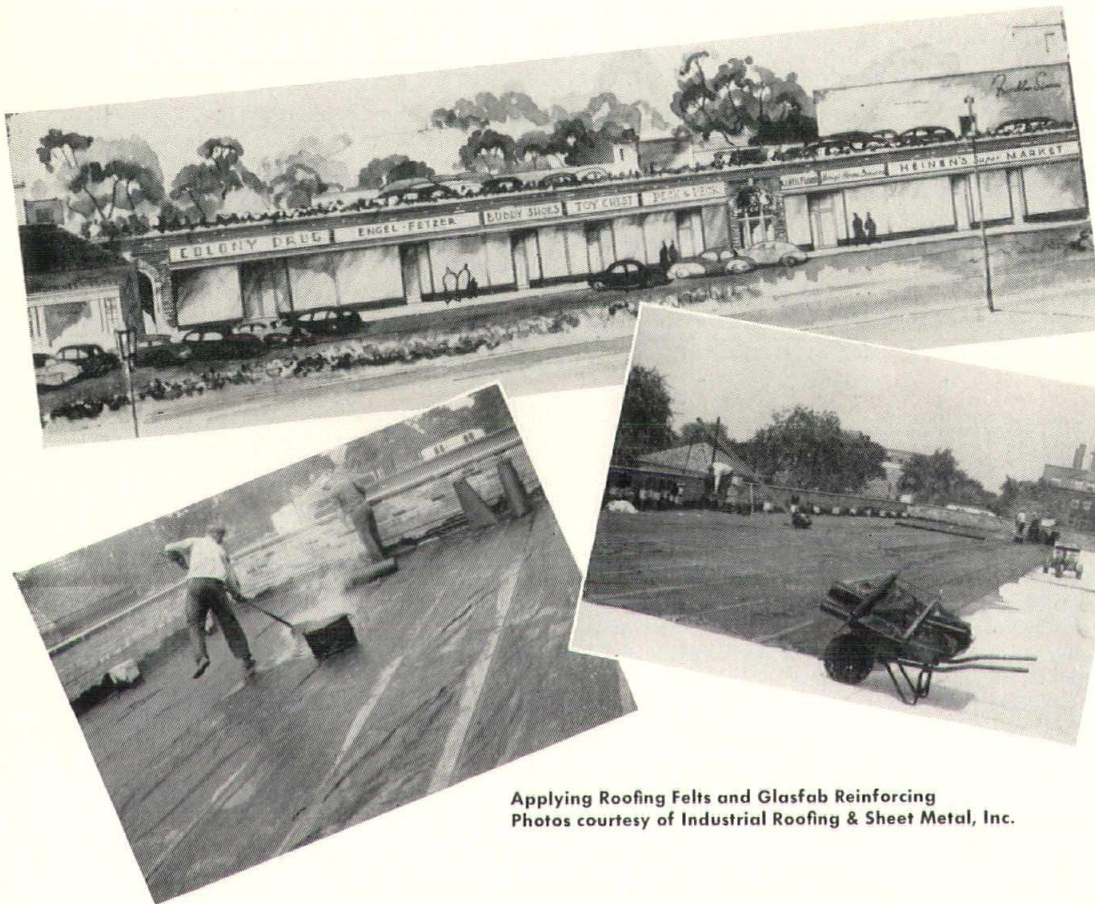
Previous roof parking installations about Cleveland had been largely confined to garages, shops, warehouses and other buildings

where water seepage could not cause much damage. In fact, on one structure, a parking garage, no serious attempt had been made to provide waterproofing and leakage occurred almost from the first. But, due to the nature of the buildings use, the leakage was not considered too important.

The character of the occupants of the Shaker Moreland building was quite different. These stores contained valuable merchandise which required unquestionable protection.

Waterproofing of the roof, applied by Industrial Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc. of Cleveland, was attained by the following method: First, a layer of 15 lb. tarred felt was mopped in hot coal-tar directly to the deck. This was followed by a layer of Glasfab, an inorganic glass reinforcing fabric, also mopped in hot tar pitch.

(Continued on page 23)



Applying Roofing Felts and Glasfab Reinforcing
Photos courtesy of Industrial Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.

sidering its use and more and more architects are being called on to cope with its details.

Several problems, however, always accompany any attempt to utilize this space for parking. One is the provision of adequate load carrying strength without excessive weight. Another, occurring more frequently, is safeguarding against water leakage.

The Shaker Moreland building at Shaker Square, Cleveland, is an excellent example of the skillful solution of both these problems. This was a complete rebuilding job after destruction of the original building by fire some time ago.

Shaker Square is the shopping center for a densely populated apartment and residential district. Hence the problem of convenient parking has become increasingly acute. A 125-car parking lot in the rear of the building only partially solved the problem so it was



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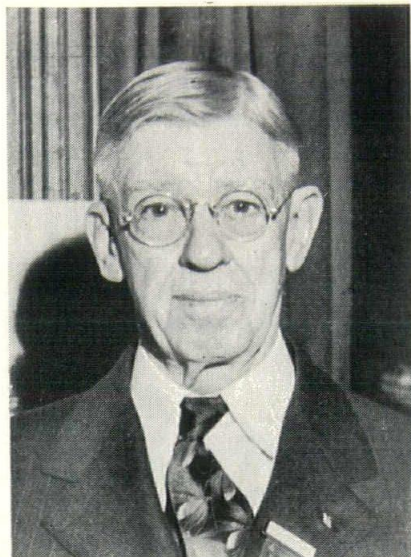
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Leroy W. Henry Elected Member Emeritus

Sixty years in Architecture—there is a record few of us will equal. Now nearing seventy-nine years of age, Mr. Leroy W. Henry of Akron can look back over many years spent over the board and a glance at the record shows that he has been very productive.

It is an extra treat for members of the Eastern Ohio Chapter when Mr. and Mrs. Henry make it to a meeting. Each is a big favorite with everyone. Mr. Henry is a



LEROY W. HENRY

very distinguished looking man with his snow white hair and pleasant manner. He always is just as happy to see us as we are him. Lately he has had a little difficulty with his eyes but at the last report he was working on another church.

During his high school days he spent his extra time in the office of Jacob Snyder where his father, Charles Henry, was chief draftsman. Following the death of Mr. Snyder, Mr. Henry worked as chief draftsman for his father who took

over Mr. Snyder's practice. In 1896 it became the office of Charles Henry and Son, Architects. This arrange-

ment, as Mr. Henry puts it, "lasted twelve pleasant years."

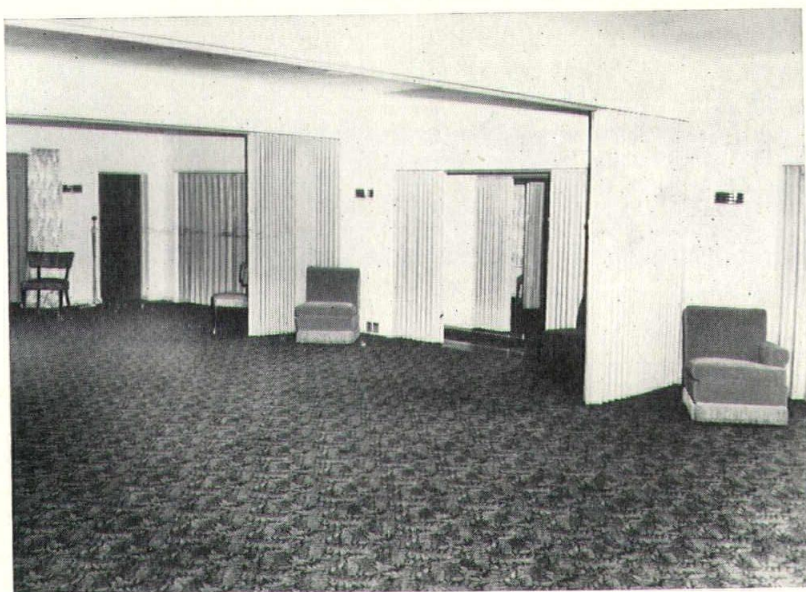
In 1908 his father passed away and Mr. Henry formed a partnership with M. E. Murphy, a combination which was to continue for 29 years. During that time plans for scores of churches, schools and commercial work were put out by the partnership. Their work included the First Congregational Church in Ravenna and the



GRACE REFORMED CHURCH, AKRON, OHIO
Henry and Murphy, Architects

Grace Reformed Church in Akron. Henry and Murphy and Harpster and Bliss were architects for the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Akron while the First Congregational Church in Akron was done while Henry was still with his father.

Mr. Henry served the Eastern Ohio Chapter as its president in 1946. The Board of Directors of the Institute has elected Mr. Henry a Member Emeritus. This action followed recommendation of the Eastern Ohio Chapter.



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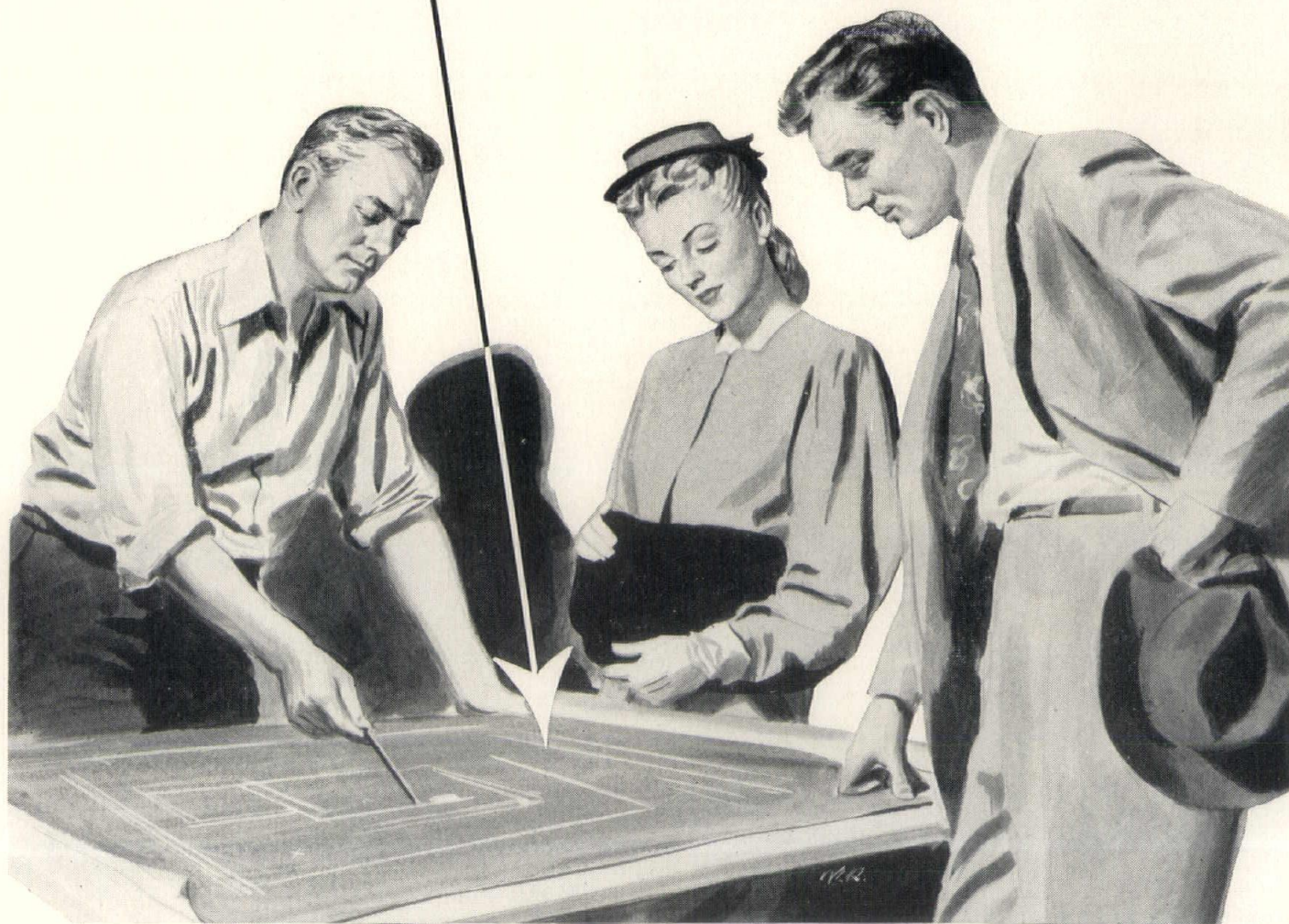
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TOLEDO CHAPTER SPONSORS ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION

Toledo High School students and Toledo architects have been busy this spring in a joint architectural venture. John H. Evans and his Toledo A.I.A. Educational Committee in March launched a competition among the architectural drawing students of the Toledo schools. The subject is a Parking Lot Office for a down-town location in a mid-western city. About 25 students are submitting entries. Architects John Evans, Louis Bruyere, Lee Smith, Orville Bauer, Bob Norman and Thad Hurd have been meeting with the students each Wednesday night to criticize their work done during regular school hours. The response has been enthusiastic and some very creditable designs have developed.

The May meeting of the Toledo Chapter is a dinner affair at which all students who submit entries are guests. The drawings, judged by architects Karl Hoke, John Richards, Charles Barber and Carl Britsch, are being displayed and awards announced. The Chapter believes its project has been well worth while. The students have learned how the practicing architect tackles a problem, the architects have come to know this group of potential future architects, and all have gained by the development of a friendly relation between the architectural profession and the schools.

* * *

EPITAPH FOR A GOSSIP

Now here she lies with ear to ground,
Imprisoned for an endless term.
But sad, oh, sad, for all she hears
Is just the gnawing of a worm

DYER CELEBRATES 80th BIRTHDAY

J. Milton Dyer, F.A.I.A. and member emeritus of the Cleveland Chapter was honored on April 22nd by his fellow Architects at the Tavern Chop House in Cleveland. His 80th birthday was celebrated in a manner most appropriate to the occasion. As a tribute to the event he was presented a handsome volume on medieval lettering by J. H. Jansen, local dealer in architectural books.

The architecture of J. Milton Dyer stands among the landmarks of Cleveland. It reflects a progressive evolution consistent and sometimes even a little ahead of its times. Among noted examples are the Cleveland City Hall, Sterling and Welch Bldg., C.A.C. Bldg., Standard Sanitary Bldg., our new Coast Guard Station, and the new Pirschner's Alpine Tavern.

EASTERN OHIO CHAPTER MEETING

(Continued from page 8)

"young squirts" under thirty-five who had hung up their shingles. In Time magazine jargon: the "young squirts" laughed along with the crowd, made no plans to take down their shingles.

For our program of the evening William Foulks, brother to George Foulks who is vice president of this chapter, showed 3 dimensional color slides of views in the far West and around Chicago. He is Vice President in charge of engineering of the Curtis Lighting Co. Although he is an engineer and was taking pictures like that for the first time, he showed a remarkable sense for composition and drama in his very beautiful pictures. The fifty-six people present had to wear polaroid glasses.

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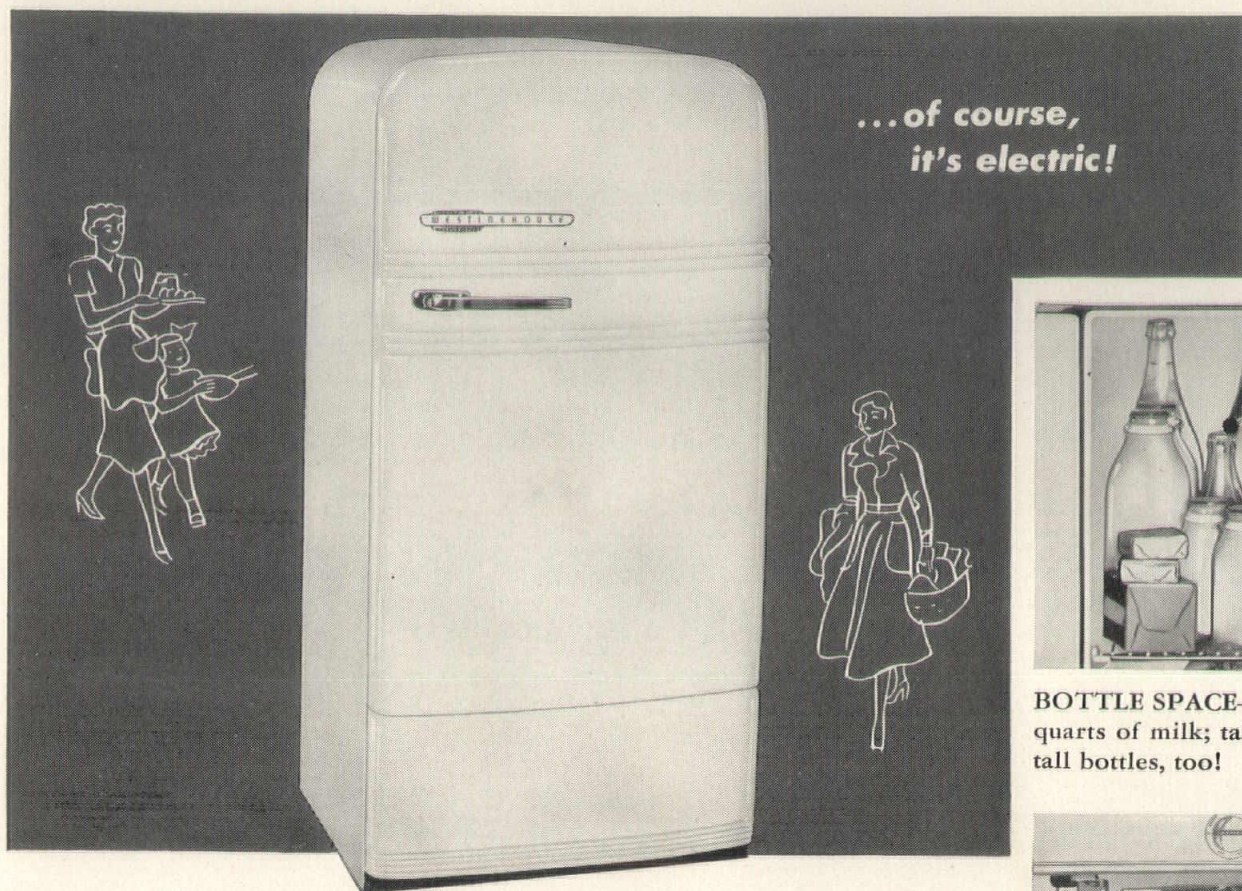
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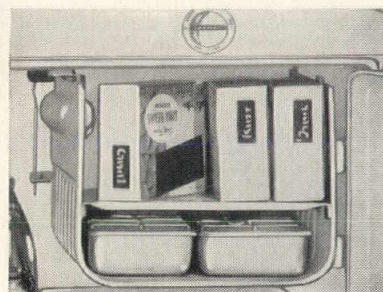
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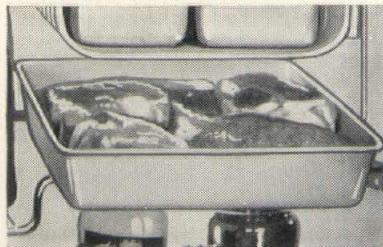
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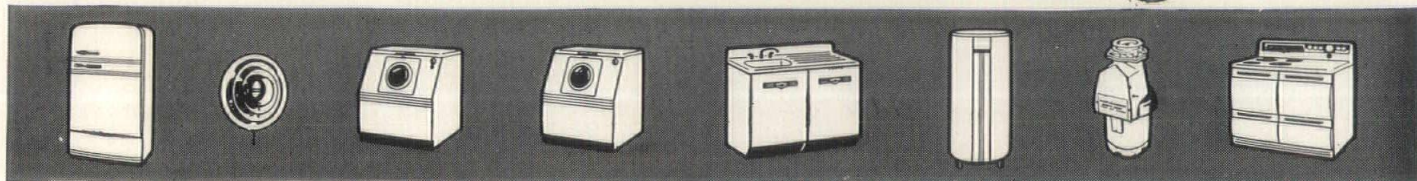
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ARCHITECTURAL SYMPOSIUM AT KENT STATE

On Wednesday, May 3rd, an Architectural Symposium was held at the Kent State University under the direction of Joseph F. Morbito, a recently elected member of the Eastern Ohio Chapter.

The program in architecture, within the department of industrial arts, has grown to the point where more effort is being directed to integrate the work in this field with the other arts and sciences of the university's curricula, and where greater service to the profession in this region is desirable. The symposium was arranged to satisfy these needs, offering an opportunity for exchange of opinion and for the stimulation of the participants who represented a variety of allied fields as well as those in architecture—students and practicing architects.

Dr. Serge Chermayeff, president of the Institute of Design, Illinois Institute of Technology, lectured at a very stimulating session during the morning. The influence of the industrial process on the form and function of human shelter, the present-day lack of design standards relative to the form of the objects we produce, the wide division between "art" and "function" in the visual field about us, and efforts to solve these divisions of our nature today, were major elements considered in this session.

Mr. William B. Huff, practicing architect of Akron was chairman of the afternoon session. He introduced Mr. John Shear, Head of the Department of Architecture, Carnegie Institute of Technology who reviewed the current form of architectural training at his institu-

tion. He stressed the method of training the student where eight-week projects are conducted by combining the several instructors in the various allied fields into a team, each coordinating his efforts and as lecturer and design critic, offering the student a parallel investigation into the problem.

Mr. J. Byers Hays, Cleveland architect, reviewed the role of the architect in the last half-century in our nation. He accented the need today of the fuller acceptance by practicing architects of the community responsibility, particularly in the area of city planning. He was followed by Mr. R. F. Graef, Chief Engineer of the H. K. Ferguson Company of Cleveland, who reviewed the responsibilities carried by the architect in a major industrial design and building firm. The differences in procedure and design between the private architectural office and a firm such as the H. K. Ferguson Company were detailed. In particular, the demand for speed in design and construction, was underlined.

An evening session was addressed by Mr. Robert A. Little, architect of Cleveland, who expressed the need for close collaboration between client and architect, reminding his listeners of the deep spirit of devotion that is engendered between the architect and a thoughtfully developed project.

A review of current work in architecture at Kent State University was displayed along with two collaborative design problems.

* * *

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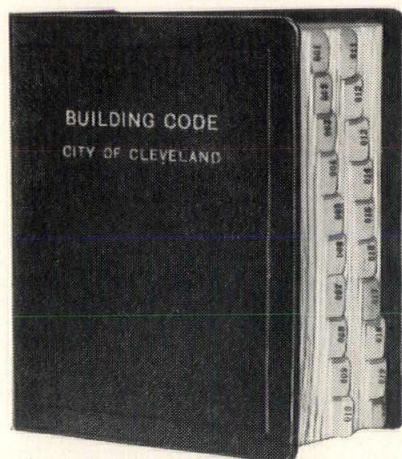
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Gold Medalist '50 Visits Cleveland

By JEAN GILTNER FENTON

Sir Patrick Abercrombie, Britain's illustrious Architect and Town Planner visited the Cleveland Chapter for four days on his lecture tour of leading cities before going to Washington to be crowned with The American Institute of Architects' highest honor, The Gold Medal.

From London to Bagdad, Abercrombie designs—both for whole cities and groups of related buildings—are realities that grew out of his brilliant chain of writings for England's "Town Plan Review," of which he became an editor at the turn of the century. Any "Who's Who" paragraph on Abercrombie inevitably stretches out into pages—to include his plans for the capitals of Ireland and Scotland as well as England; his studies for Paris, Brussels, Vienna and Berlin which are all now standard reference works; and his designs for the capital of Ethiopia and the new campus at the University of Colombo. As far back as 1913, the International Competition



SIR PATRICK ABERCROMBIE

for a new Dublin town plan found Sir Abercrombie and his colleagues top winners.

A disciple of Sociologist-Planner Patrick Geddes and Brother of Poet Lescelles Abercrombie, Sir Patrick was already an established authority on planning when he accepted the Chair of Town Planning at the University of London in 1935.

His itinerary while in Cleveland was rigorous—arriving on Monday, April 24, he met with the City Planning Group, the Metropolitan Housing Authority, and The Landscape Association and the A.I.A. He toured the city and suburbs to see the various housing projects and spent a day visiting the School of Architecture at W.R.U. as Dean Francis R. Bacon's guest. His stay in Cleveland

was planned for four days because "The Cleveland Plan" is well known abroad. From a passing remark made at a dinner meeting, it is evident that the plan is far from its goal. But as every city plan meets with reality the ultimate can only be reached by slow evolution and team work.

Sir Patrick was hardbiting as a speaker. His topic the night of the 26th was "Town Planning—A Tender Plant, at any rate, in England."

One of his chief concerns is that the Architect, really the most important cog in the wheel, is so slow to realize his great importance in the role of city and regional planning. "The architect tends to become so concerned about his own building that he lets it become the dominant factor regardless of whether or not the building is a 'part of the whole'".

"The greatest danger we face today is the short-term plan, the immediate housing program, whose sponsors can brook no delay to see whether the houses are placed in the right position. Architects must bring the long-distance view to bear on the subject of planning."

"The public is interested in what they see—not our two dimensional plans. But vision—the ability to foresee the future—is the special contribution architects make to planning."

"City Planning is not an exotic shrub—it is a tender plant that must be coddled and nourished; it can be scorched by too much sun, swamped by too much rain, choked by luxurious growths, and cut down by unscrupulous marauders; it is also in danger of collapsing due to its too rapid or over-bearing growth."

In the 18th century, a town grew in the manner of "laissezfaire;" there being no "Plan" things took a natural, leisurely course. In the 19th century with its utilitarian, extent) assumed that if each individual was good the whole world would be all right. But we have discovered that we cannot do exactly as we like if we live together; we must live for the good of the whole; it is human to desire the individual will—this makes city planning unpopular.



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"In America where freedom of enterprise is dominant, it is more difficult to control the individual, the speculative builders, the industrial giants, than in England where there is a control of a 'munificent government' ". This is a tongue-in-cheek remark as in England as elsewhere while there is not much individual action to bother the city planner, there is the problem of groups of great authorities which Sir Patrick likened to the castles of the great robber barons of the past:

The Board of Trades which deals with the location of industry is one thorn in the side of "The London Plan." As an example, the Board decided that the best location for a new electrical power plant was across from St. Paul's. Although many protests arose and it was proved that this great cathedral which has withstood the ravages of time and wars would be irretrievably damaged, the location remained the same. Only with the expenditure of four million pounds (if my ears didn't deceive me as to this unbelievable figure) were they able to control the damage factors in order to protect the Cathedral—never with the thought of changing the location.

The Board of Fuel and Power, interested in mining operations, wants the coal regardless of the land damage. Surface mining damage might far outweigh the small gain in fuel; but "we want our coal."

The Board of Transport thinks of the world in motion. They plan only for great roads leading in and out of London—ignoring the fact that the city can hold only so many people. Such great access only throttles the progress of the city.

The Ministry of Health and Housing says "we want good houses, we don't care where they go." The local authority buys cheap land, no matter where it is—whether or not it fits in with the Plan.

The Ministry of Agriculture wants England to be self-supporting in food. It can't possibly be so as there are 40 million people and only 37 million acres. But still

this ministry wants more and more land designated for agriculture.

The Military Forces are another of these groups. "Land for training troops in Canada is frowned upon by the Canadians; we need land in England."

The City Planner in any country has all these authorities with which to contend, no matter what their title. He is a coordinator, he understands all the group needs and expresses them—but for the advantage of all, each individual desire cannot be met. Team work is essential.

Sir Patrick included in his list of antagonists the architect. The architect must begin to realize that "he must bring the long-distance view to bear on the subject of planning." He should by his training and philosophy be the greatest man on this team of planners.

YOUNG GI WINS ARCHITECTURAL PRIZE CONTEST

Score another victory for ambition, enterprise, and technical skill of American youth.

A 25-year-old student architect has been adjudged winner of the \$5,000 Architectural Prize Competition conducted by the Timber Engineering Co., an affiliate of the National Lumber Manufacturer's Association, it was announced by Harry G. Uhl, president.

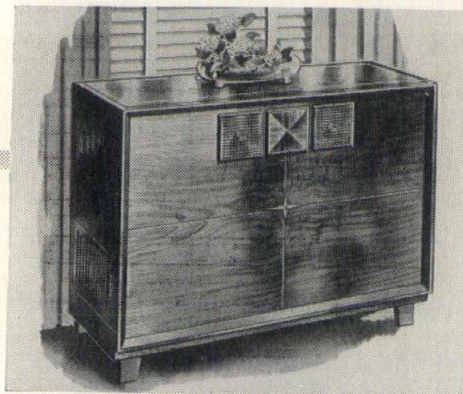
M. E. Freitag, class of '50 at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, a married war veteran, won the grand cash award of \$1500 over nation-wide and Canadian competition with his design and plot layout for a world garden-type apartment building. Freitag was a staff sergeant in the Army Air Force for three years. He has one child. His home town is Fairmont, Minn.

Two hundred and seventy-six eligible designs from over 2600 enrolled contestants were submitted, representing 34 states and Canada. The contest was approved by the committee on architectural competitions of the American Institute of Architects.

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BUILDERS MAKING WIDER USE OF ARCHITECTS' HELP IN HOME DESIGN

Merchant builders, producers of over a million new homes and apartments last year, are bridging the "no-man's" land between the architect and builder, the National Association of Home Builders reports.

The result should bring the best contemporary design to mass-produced, low-cost homes. Previously, extensive use of architects to design individual homes in large subdivisions has been discouraged by architectural fee scales.

Thomas P. Coogan, of Miami, NAHB president, has called on leaders of both professions to work together towards a new fee scale bringing architects' services within the financial reach of builders and developers.

In a statement published in the April "Architectural Forum," Coogan said: "The field of small homes needs the best architectural services it can secure. It is not available now."

"Builders have been criticized for lack of good design in their houses," Coogan added. "We realize that improvement must be made. However, the standard architectural fee, from which many architects refuse to budge, has been too high for the majority of builders."

"However," Coogan pointed out, "the builder must meet the architect half way. He must remember that he is buying skill and knowledge, intangibles that cannot be classified like lumber and cement. He must expect to pay the architect a reasonable fee so that sufficient time and study may be devoted to builders' problems."

Answering Coogan's invitation, Ralph Walker, president, American Institute of Architects, agreed to appoint a committee to meet with representatives of the NAHB to arrive at methods of work and a satisfactory fee scale.

"It is by no means the intention of leaders in archi-

ture to stand by and watch 75 to 80 per cent of the home building in America go without architectural attention by mere default," Walker said in a statement to "Architectural Forum."

TOLEDO CHAPTER ANNOUNCES 1950 CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Carl C. Britsch, general chairman of the Toledo Chapter Committee on the A.S.O. Annual Convention to be held in Toledo, October 12, 13 and 14, 1950 announces the following Convention Committees:

Convention Hotel and Facilities—M. S. O'Shea, Chas. L. Barber and John J. Hayes.

Registration and Hotel Reservations—Fred M. Morris, Harry L. Smith and John H. Evans.

Exhibits—Materials and Manufacturers—Willis A. Vogel, Charles H. Stark and W. E. Tolford.

Program Committee—John N. Richards, Harold H. Munger and M. Dewitt Grow.

Annual Competition Committee—Karl B. Hoke, T. Y. Hewlett and Thaddeus B. Hurd.

Publicity Committee—John P. Macelwane, Herman Feldstein and Karl H. Becker.

Annual Banquet and Cocktail Parties—Orville Bauer, John E. Kelly, John N. Richards and Horace Coy.

Ways and Means—Horace W. Wachter, Newton F. Marvin, Willis A. Vogel and Frank P. Lange.

Ladies Program and Entertainment—Mrs. J. N. Richards, Mrs. C. C. Britsch, Mrs. M. Dewitt Grow, Mrs. J. P. Macelwane, Mrs. T. Y. Hewlett and Mrs. M. B. O'Shea.

The display space in the Building Material Exhibit to be held in connection with the convention has been practically all contracted for.

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OH! WHAT A KITCHEN

(Continued from page 9)

tions in the steel shelves.

4. Built in electrical outlets are provided to attach toaster and other small appliances. Separate switch is provided so appliances may operate even when lights are off.

5. Pantryette units are easy to install, hanging like pictures from hanger strips screwed to the wall at any desired height and anchored with anchor screws furnished. The back is recessed for the hanger strips so the pantryette fits flush against the wall.



6. Single shelf units fit above refrigerators and add to the storage space and over the range, Pantryettes provide storage for utensils and cooking materials.

Among the floor units, the Rotashelf, a Corner Case Cabinet with rotating shelves is handy and useful. It has storage space for 90 or more cans, dozens of bottles or other needed articles and a "touch and a twist" causes all three shelves to rotate together bringing items from innermost corner to within easy reach.



Morton all-steel Base Cabinets are styled to harmonize with the Morton Cabinet Sinks and the Pantryette and the Contour fronts allow for close standing with ample knee and toe room. They are available also in a variety of tops.

Architects who want to cater to the housewife's requirements would do well to acquaint themselves with the Morton line of Kitchen equipment. If the opinions of the thousands who saw the installation at the show are any criterion, they will have the women in their corner when they specify Morton. The Cleveland Chapter Committee for "The House That Jack Built" were Joseph Ceruti, Chairman, Robert A. Little, Al Harris, Ernest Payer, Wilbur Riddle and Douglas P. Maier.

NEW SHAKER MORELAND BUILDING

(Continued from page 12)

Another layer of felt and an additional layer of Glasfab were added, repeating the first combination. Thus, the waterproofing consisted of three layers of felt alternated with two layers of Glasfab fabric, all mopped solidly to the slab and between plies. Over the expansion joint a half width (18 inch) sheet of felt was laid directly on the slab. This was stuck along one edge only to hold it in place until the membrane was applied.

The Glasfab membrane was turned up the walls and other vertical surfaces approximately 6 inches. Sixteen ounce soft copper crimped base flashing was installed along all the walls. The roof leg of the flashing was set in plastic cement. No nailing nor mechanical fastening was used. This allowed for movement laterally in the base flashing without disturbing the membrane.

Paving mix or black top was applied directly on the membrane. The roof deck was dead level to provide for a future second floor, so that it was necessary to create drainage grades by varying the thickness of the black top. This ranged from 1½ inch minimum at the drainage points to 2½ to 3 inches at the high points, a pitch which did not seriously affect car maneuvering or parking.

Since black top is affected by such solvents as gasoline, oils, grease dripping, etc. a protective coating was required on the black top surface. Otherwise the black

(Continued on page 26)



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How Can Architects Become More Active in City Planning?

By DONALD A. KIMBALL

President, Saginaw Valley Chapter, Mich., A.I.A.

What can Architects do to promote city planning and become more active in their own communities in that field?

First, let us briefly discuss the meaning of city planning to see where we may more easily fit into the overall picture.

City planning is an application of that sort of thinking that will produce sound and orderly overall community development. It has three principal aspects: social, economic and physical, and they are inseparable. Any well-conceived physical improvement is certain to affect the economy and the social well-being of the community.

The building, for example, of parks, streets and schools in proper places is of definite economic value. It will reduce the need of correctional institutions and expansion of law-enforcement agencies. There will be fewer accidents. Duplication of various services will be eliminated.

Well-administered land-use plans, segregating incompatible uses, will mean millions of dollars saved in property values over a period of years. The prevention of blight and squalor will mean the reduction of many of our social ills.

A well-planned street system that takes people safely and conveniently from home to work, to church, to school and to recreational places, and return, will eliminate congestion and loss of valuable time. Local streets that are arranged in a pattern that will discourage through traffic, will cut down accidents of both vehicles and pedestrians.

A proper land-use pattern will provide sewer and water extensions based on carefully calculated needs for future spreading out of the community.

So much for the problem in brief. Now, how can we as architects fit into this pattern to the best of our special abilities? On the physical side, we design and plan buildings such as residences, schools, commercial and business places. In our direct business efforts, we haven't so much to do with the parks and streets except in a general way. Our buildings, however, can be so designed as to provide proper access, circulation and use, as well as improved external appearance and design. We all try to follow these basic planning rules in all our work, so as far as the physical appearance of buildings in the community is concerned, we do exert a great influence, and whenever we can improve a layout or design of a building, we are promoting community planning.

As architects, we also deal with zoning boards, planning commissions and other local enforcement agencies. In so doing we have the opportunity to see what is being planned and recognize trends, and to visualize the future development and proper use of land which other groups, not so favored, cannot realize.

We can set up groups for the purpose of studying different areas and recommending various solutions to local problems, as has been done here successfully in Detroit. The result of that work will take considerable time to be put in practice, but it will be of great value and use to the community. So, first of all, we can use our best judgment to promote the ideals of city planning in the design and plans of our own buildings and in studies of local problems.

Secondly, as a member of the local city planning commission or zoning board, we can guide the working out of the principles of good planning. We can steer the application of the laws and codes in the proper direction to promote the welfare of the community. In our community, we have had architects on these boards for many years. This certainly is a direct way of helping get the right type of thinking in our city planning.

It was under such guidance that our community set up its building code, has administered the city plan and enforced the zoning ordinances. This is necessarily a slow process and is not a static but rather a living and growing development. The work of the planning commission has been used to help locate sites for new schools in order that they may be placed in locations to care for present population and also to take care of the spreading out of the community. We have been very successful in locating schools to accommodate this growth.

As a member of the zoning board, I have watched the development of new areas, the gradual encroachment of local business and commercial sections in our city. We have been successful in keeping the development in a gradual state of change in order not to have non-compatible uses scattered about. We have established principles for the enlargement of local business areas, for the grouping of several family dwellings, the areas for doctors, clinics, etc.

It has been possible to protect neighbors from front and side yard encroachments, to keep houses properly lined up with sufficient rear and front areas. An architect definitely helps with some of the problems that come up, such as approving layouts for conversion of property into other uses. Some of the wrapping-paper layouts that we are asked to approve are very poor, and in many cases we have advised the owners to have architects lay out the property, and when the layouts are again submitted, there is a great difference and improvement. By withholding approval, we have the opportunity of getting proper plans and layout. So, as a member of local boards, the architect can be a great help to the community. It all adds up to city planning.

A third way in which we can be of assistance in city planning to the community, is to join local organizations. As an example, we have in Saginaw the First Ward Community Center. Our Board has directed the social, recreational and health development of young negroes in the First Ward. We have provided a large building, with lounges, play rooms, library, gymnasium and boxing facilities, clinic for babies and young children and a competent director and staff, together with large playground area equipped with a ball diamond, swings, slides, etc. I have taken a lot of satisfaction in watching and helping with this development.

The large number of children that are benefited, in turn, saves the community money in law-enforcement and damage to other people's property. These children are taught fair play, citizenship and good health rules. Certainly, this type of assistance to the community is help that an architect can readily give. There are many other agencies with similar problems and I know of architects on their boards.

When serving on such a board, your assistance will probably be used as a member of the building and grounds committee, which is compatible with our work.

In closing this brief discussion, we can conclude that in a physical way we help the community is practicing architects, and on city commissions, we are in a special position to see that proper planning is carried out, and lastly, as a member of social agencies, we can give the community architectural assistance that will be greatly appreciated. So, by helping out in these ways, the architect is making the community a better place to live in for himself and all others.

IT MUST BE GOOD—BUT WHY RUB IT IN?

As we go to press we receive the following wire from a chap who signs himself "Russ Roller, Ex-officio Associate Editor of "The Ohio Architect," and Current President of the Eastern Ohio Chapter of the Architects Society of Ohio of the American Institute of Architects."

"Having gorged on meaty tidbits of the profession and more delectable tidbits at the expense and hospitality of the Washington Metropolitan Chapter and then to top it off with what was probably the finest lobster south of points north of Labrador and old fashioned strawberry shortcake and other things I find myself in a very expansive mood. Depressed for those who 'could not afford', I am moved to use the time worn cliché 'we are having a swell time and wish you were here.' A swell crowd and wonderful hosts."

We are forced to comment that, what with present telegraph rates, taxes on telegrams, etc., Russ must have been in an "expensive" rather than "expansive" mood or else there was something liquid in the menu, he failed to mention.

MEMO FROM THE OCTAGON

PHA Contract Meeting—May 9 was set as the date for a joint session of the Committees on Fees and Contract Documents at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington. Members of both committees were urged by their respective chairmen, Clarence Litchfield and William Stanley Parker, to attend as the meeting was an important one to determine solutions for points of disagreement between the A.I.A. and PHA relative to contract forms.

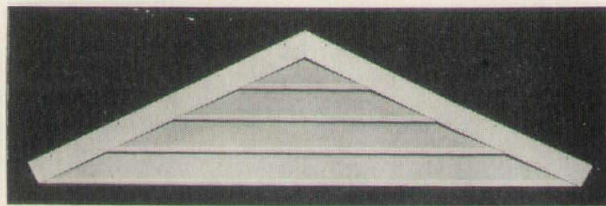
The Senate Foreign Relations Committee on April 4 voted for the \$45 million Point IV Program next year but put sharp limits on the plans for developing the world's under-developed areas. One provision is that the project shall end in five years. Another is to eliminate a provision for encouraging private investment abroad. Of interest to architects is the fact that the program is now confined solely to furnishing technical skills and assistance to under-developed countries.

Federal Aid Hospital Program—Of concern to many architects have been the recommendations adopted recently by the House Appropriations Committee to return to the former level of \$75 million in Federal grants under the Hospital Survey and Construction Act. Originally this money paid for one-third of the construction cost of non-Federal hospitals and health centers under this Act. An amendment in 1949, however, raising the annual authorization to \$150 million had changed the ratio permitting a sliding scale for Federal grants ranging from one-third to a national average of 47% depending upon state choice.

The House group said it found no justification for doubling Federal aid at this time because they feel plenty of hospitals could be built with Federal contributions

(Continued on page 26)

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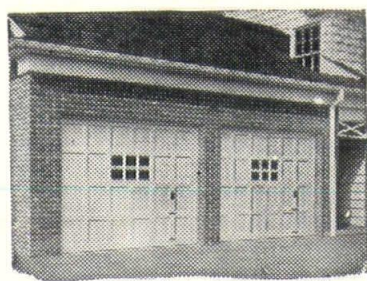
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NEW SHAKER MORELAND BUILDING

(Continued from page 23)

top would be apt to deteriorate rapidly. This protection consisted of two coats of Jennite coal tar emulsion squeegeed. The result is a smooth, durable surface that can be expected to stand up indefinitely under traffic and parking conditions.

Completed and occupied last September, the building has since been under constant observation. A rather wet winter has proved the soundness of the waterproofing job. Only a single leak has occurred. This is at the point where the concrete ramp joins the building wall. Here the membrane was carried down over the outside wall about 12 inches, and it is evident that the leak was caused by a slight opening of the joint between the ramp and the brick wall. As this leak is on the outside of the building it has not occasioned any serious concern. Otherwise there is no evidence of any deterioration and no leakage has appeared at any other point in the entire roof area.

Observation of the structure since its completion has led to the general agreement that a method has been evolved which successfully makes a parking deck watertight, and thus contributes substantially to one solution at least, of the growing parking problem.

MEMO FROM THE OCTAGON

(Continued from page 25)

limited to the original \$75 million each year. If Congress adopts this cut-back in aid to the states, many hospitals sponsors and planners will find it difficult to go ahead because of the necessity for supplying additional matching funds. We shall keep you informed as to any possible A.I.A. action on this.

Medalists' Exhibition—Plans are being completed to exhibit in the new A.I.A. gallery a combined exhibit of the representative work of the 1950 Fine Arts Medalist, Edward Steichen, New York, and the 1950 Craftsmanship Medalist, Joseph Gardiner Reynolds, Boston. Mr. Steichen's work will be represented by approximately 25 of his most outstanding prints, covering a period of 45 years and including two from the motion picture "Fighting Lady." Mr. Reynolds' work will be represented by three stained glass designs. It is planned to have this exhibit in place by May 7.

Nominations for Officers and Directors—As of March 31 the closing date for filing nominations for officers and directors by petition, the following nominations have been officially completed for submission to the 1950 convention by the Secretary: President and Director, Ralph Walker, New York City; First Vice-President and Director, Glenn Stanton, Portland, Oregon; Second Vice-President and Director, Kenneth E. Wischmeyer, St. Louis, and Walter W. Hook, Charlotte, N. C.; Secretary and Director, Clair W. Ditchy, Detroit; Treasurer and Director, Charles F. Cellarius, Cincinnati, and Maurice J. Sullivan, Houston; Regional Directors: Middle Atlantic District, Alfred V. du Pont, Wilmington, Delaware, and C. E. Silling, Charleston, W. Va.; Great Lakes District, John Noble Richards, Toledo; Gulf States District, Howard Eichenbaum, Little Rock, Ark., and N. W. Overstreet, Jackson, Miss. (A vacancy will occur in this District if a new directorship is created for Texas; Western Mountain District, Irving G. Smith, Portland, Oregon. (Should a new directorship be created for the Northwest District by convention action (see below) Mr. Smith, having his residence in the proposed new district would be ineligible for nomination for the Western Mountain directorship, thus leaving a nomination to be made at the convention for the Western Moun-

tain District.) Mr. Hook officially withdrew his nomination.

Effects of Redistricting—Attention of chapter officers is directed to the implications of the present redistricting proposals to be acted upon by the convention. These involve the creation of two new districts, the incidental changing of three existing districts and the addition of two new directorships. Two new districts would be the Northwest District formed of the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana, now in the Western Mountain District. Other changes proposed are the shift of Arizona from the Sierra-Nevada District to the Western Mountain District, the transfer of Virginia to the Middle Atlantic District and Alabama to the Gulf States District. Virginia and Alabama are now in the South Atlantic District.

With the by-laws requiring every regional director to reside in the district for which he is elected, certain unintended conflicts have arisen and special provision in the form of a transitional amendment to the by-laws has been proposed to protect the balance of terms of office of present members of the Board who otherwise would be effected by the redistricting. Present Gulf States Director Tom Broad, with a year to serve, is a resident of Texas. Under this amendment, assuming its adoption, Director Broad would be assigned by the Board to Texas for the one year balance of his term. In 1951 Texas would nominate a new regional director for a full three-year term.

Adoption of the new amendments would leave open nominations this year for directors from the Gulf States District and the new Northwest District (in addition to the normal vacancies in directorships for the Western Mountain, Great Lakes, and Middle Atlantic Districts). Assuming the adoption of the plan for creating two addi-



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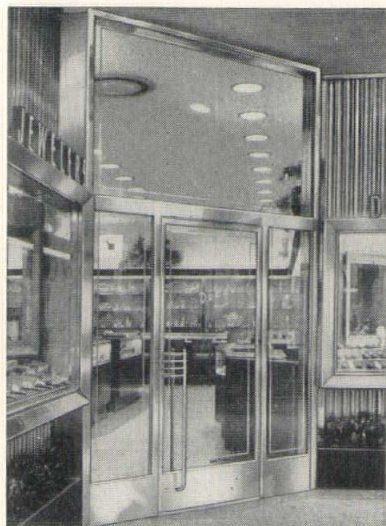
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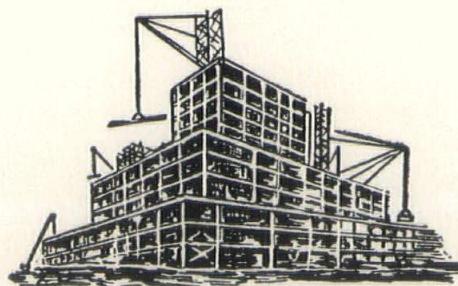
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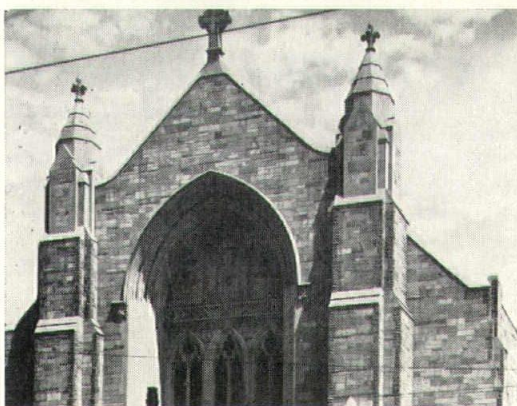


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tional districts and directorships, present nominations now received (see above) for the vacancy occurring in the Gulf States District and the new Northwest District would be put before the convention. One of these nominees would serve a two-year term and one a three-year term. Western Mountain Director George Cannon Young is chairman of the A.I.A. Committee on Redistricting of the Institute.

"The Octagon"—Editor Henry Saylor's new 16-page booklet "The Octagon," describing the background and present restoration of the Octagon House is now at the printers. Through the efforts of the Department of Public and Professional Relations, Bess Furman, feature writer for the New York Times, has reviewed the booklet and has run a story on the Octagon House, complete with pictures, in the New York Times of April 13, 1950.

Professional Liability Insurance—Executive Director Purves advises that architects' liability insurance policies now being held by members will continue in effect until the date of their expiration. Those now holding policies will receive further information from the General Accident Assurance Corporation giving details of a new policy which will be available to all architects. A statement concerning the new GAAC policy, with which the A.I.A. will have no formal connection, will be published in the May issue of the A.I.A. Journal.

Modular Coordination—Reports received recently from Technical Secretary Coe indicate that the balance of the \$15,000 required to establish a section on modular coordination in the Department of Education and Research has been assured. The Institute has agreed to contribute \$1,000 toward this fund and to provide space for the work of ASA Committee A-62, rent-free, if the remaining \$14,000 is raised from industry.

Architecture and Nuclear Science—Strong possibility that the Institute's Committee on Planning for the Atomic Age will be able to make substantial contributions in the field of research opened up by the implications of nuclear science was revealed by E&R Director Taylor as a result of the meeting of this Committee which was held April 10 and 11. At a luncheon session presided over by Committee Chairman Thomas K. Fitz Patrick and attended by Acting Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission Sumner T. Pike increased cooperation between the AEC and the Institute was promised in development of design data and criteria for technical building of all kinds, especially in medical and industrial laboratories, high schools, and university science buildings. If present plans develop, there is an interesting possibility of establishing ten research fellowships for architects in the fields of nuclear science as it may affect these building types. These fellowships would be financed through joint AEC and A.I.A. grants. More on this later.

* * *

Stopping by the drugstore one morning to have a prescription filled, I found a little stenographer I know leisurely enjoying a Coke. "You're going to be late for work," I warned. "Uh-huh," she admitted unconcernedly. At my look of surprise, she explained: "If a girl gets to work on time every morning, first thing you know they'll expect it!"

* * *

A long-winded lecturer had been holding forth for over an hour, except for brief pauses from time to time to gulp a hasty drink of water. Finally, during one such "intermission," an old man in the audience leaned toward his neighbor and announced in a loud whisper: "First time I ever saw a windmill run by water!"

TOWARD A SOCIAL ARCHITECTURE

(Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Architecture)

Address given by OSCAR STONOROV, A.I.A.
to Detroit Chapter of The A.I.A.

If we are intellectually honest, we go to each other's cities to tell each other about our problems, how we are puzzled with some and how we have mastered others. The best I shall offer tonight might be confusion with direction. This is going to be an architect's speech and freehand, an intellectual doodle, not a working drawing produced with triangle, teesquare at $\frac{1}{4}$ inch scale. I shall talk about ideas, about abstract problems that move an architect who sways between art and politics, about "The Creator of Ideals," "The Messenger of Discontent" as the philosopher Edgar Singer, called the artist in his essay "Esthetics and the Rational Ideal." I shall not deal with virtues of planning legislation and administrative machinery that can lead to social architecture, legislation which is inadequate always for the purposes of our plans. I shall, however, talk about the architect's position between art and practical politics, as creator of the one and slave of the other. Only he, the architect-planner, can present the image of the end toward which the working instruments of planning are directed, to quote George Howe, only he can provide the statesman with graphic projection of the still impossible. He is constantly in search for a modern politician who is in need of a master plan.

I called these notes, "Toward a Social Architecture" with Sam Zisman's suggestion for a subtitle, "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Architecture," because we deal with people, build for people, plan for people, yet our modus operandi seems generally so disassociated from the consumers of our passion.

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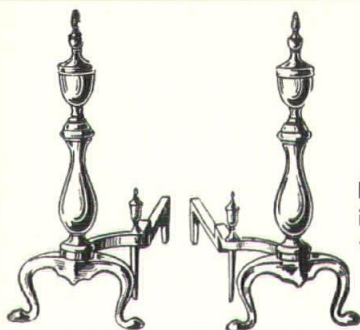
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better of which will *not* ultimately emerge by the use of superior death-dealing weapons but by the looks, the feel, the content and the accomplishments of what our leaders' minds will devise for the limitless social expansion of American productivity to provide the amenities of daily living for the majority of our people. Communism is a challenge to be met. It compels Democracy to heighten its performance to survive. There seems to me a virtue to exaggerate from the speakers' platform; to provoke intellectually so as to bring ideas into focus.

Three concepts for the field of planning and architecture appear basic:

1. There are more people all the time and they live longer—(life expectancy is 68.8 years at present and increasing).
2. Man is biologically and physiologically immutable *while*
3. He changes his technological environment constantly.

From the first industrial revolution caused by steam and steel in the last century, we are passing into a second industrial revolution caused by atomic research and chemistry. An economic revolution is certainly to follow. Whether it is for good or evil, is not now for discussion. There are however certain corollary realizations in regard to ephemeral happenings in this respect. The historic role of warfare has been influential to important changes in our technology. The desire for decentralization or organic decentralization, as Saarinen the elder has called it—of our cities predates the atomic bomb. It seems only incidental that we are told that industrial dispersal, with its concomitant urban dispersal, is the most effective defense against bacteriological and atomic weapons. I do not believe that atomic warfare should be a factor in planning our cities. If we allow an atomic war to happen, we deserve the destruction that it will bring. The Philadelphia Planning Commission unanimously decided in 1946 that the existence of the atomic bomb should be of no consideration in the re-planning of Philadelphia. If war with atomic weapons should be resorted to, to defend our civilization, no defense of a physical nature will protect the worldwide spiritual depravity that will be both the origin and the result of such a war.

It was difficult to prepare this speech because I am not too familiar with the idiosyncrasies of your city. Had I been addressing my friends in Philadelphia at the moment, I would have risen without consulting a manuscript and said—

Ladies and Gentlemen: This is a very decisive moment in our lives. We are challenging ourselves as citizens of our communities to make true the big plans of rebuilding our communities. We have the means. Do we have the ideas? Do we possess the faculties and the talent to use the money to buy brick, cement, steel and glass and produce more than shelter, more than so many units of housing? Do we have concepts for the building of communities that are qualitatively the equal to our almost illimited quantitative possibilities? Must we continue bureaucratic, sexless architecture of dwelling

units in monotonous multiples of federal housing islands throughout the cities of our land? This challenge now has been brought down through federal legislation to the local level in every instance. The realization of urban redevelopment and housing depends on local initiative, local plans, local determination to get things moving and started. And for the architect to challenge is twofold: He must be professionally capable of solving a sensitive problem of community design and he must be ready to become—because he is the only one that can and this is his extraordinary and natural contribution—he must be the three dimensional interpreter of so much that is statistical in community design. Because a community of people exists not in figures but it lives in space and time. It is more than the sum of its parts of dwelling units, laundries, community rooms and shopping centers. It should be designated for young people and old people, for middle and low income groups and it should be flexible enough for the neighboring process to grow. Those of our cities will be most successful and will get the greatest municipal benefit of the public housing program, who will understand how to integrate it, both as a backbone and yardstick in the development first of vacant land, because of the housing shortage, and later in redevelopment of the older parts of our cities.

The democratic character of the planning for both redevelopment and new housing is almost as important as the physical standards themselves. The job of creating communities and modern neighborhoods is important, yes. But the job is not just to eliminate slums, straighten out traffic, or create pretty-neighborhoods with schools and shopping centers. We have to go deeper and through citizen participation make understood that the planning program is the assumption of broad responsibilities by the community and the planners for a continued understanding of a problem that is not temporary and for the anticipation of the changing social climate of our cities which will re-form these creatures of our design as years pass. Physical planning alone cannot satisfy a situation where the city as a whole has become physiologically and biologically inhuman, thus uninhabitable, and where the people leave, just simply leave . . . to settle in suburbs.

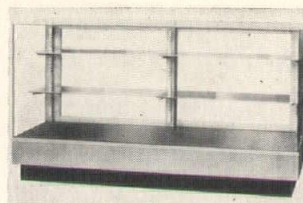
If we cannot build the type of community which carries within itself the self-seeding qualities in the order of neighboring, participation, responsibility and rooting, we better forget so-called higher standards of living and social progress. These are qualities, I believe, that are produced partially by *sensory* satisfaction. Architectural beauty is the result of understanding design for living.

An American residential architecture is being born in the comprehension of the essential needs of modern Americans. The small neighborhood say of 12 families, the harmony of the smallest unit of community design, grouped around a cul-de-sac, is more important in the excellency of its individual solution than the concert of a great project of repetitive faulty components. The one, the small cul-de-sac, is human social architecture, recog-

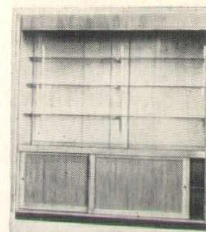
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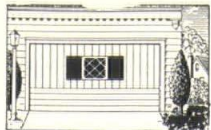
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nizing the dignity of the individual for his felicity among his neighbors. The other, the great mass project, is what I might call airplane architecture—if not composed of excellent imaginative detail in floor plan, it only leads to old Beaux Arts falsehoods of the party plan; the repetition of ornamental configurations on paper: false axis's, the regimentation of academic symmetry, forced on the dynamic process of living; an architecture of bureaucratic obedience; not too different from the autocratic planning of dictatorial Socialism or Fascism. The design of most of our urban housing is not the expression of the happy family life in a setting of rooted security, it is not what we unconsciously desire; the social architecture of a free democracy. Bill Wurster's demand for one big piece of glass and balconies in apartments as part of the so-called minimum standards, is an indication of where we might begin.

We cannot restore the patterns of past centuries in taste or moralities. Not eclectic architects, but our society to whose mood and necessity the architect is instrument, will, as Dean Hudnut put it, create our architecture and especially the architecture of our cities.

The beginning of the second half of the 20th century is full of promise. For the first time in history we can, with the material things we possess, completely change the contours of our cities. Within our lifetime another 20 million Americans will leave the farmlands and increase the population of our metropolitan areas. Within the next 20 years, the Housing and Redevelopment Act of 1949 will change our cities profoundly. We will be able to see the results in examples throughout our towns short distances apart. We can let this happen without a major plan, without a direction; we can let dog eat dog; but we cannot produce more cars; more television sets, more airplanes, without organizing by common consent the joint enjoyment of the products of our civilization. Man has a profound desire to be master of his environment. Since technology is giving us the means, we can create more and more, our environment in our own image.

With greater mobility has paradoxically come the desire for deeper roots; for deeper and permanent roots in permanent communities of neighbors—not only—to use words we must forget from now on—assemblies of "safe and sanitary dwellings in well planned housing projects." Thirty years ago a man who changed his job from one location to a distance of 20 miles, was forced to move his family. Easy public transportation or his automobile traveling on express high or parkways enable the same man to change his job almost at will in a radius of 30 to 40 miles. The more fluid time and space becomes, the greater becomes our desire for emotional and physical roots: our desire to reestablish the family in a neighborhood with neighbors—the family, that recently re-discovered base of a happy society. The more improvised our technological existence becomes—new jobs, inventions, etc.—the greater becomes our desire for esthetic satisfaction, for the permanency of construction, and thus awakens our generation's greatest preoccupation: A re-evaluation of our urban civilization.

So many of us have tried in meetings and conferences lately, to redefine and emphasize the need for neighborhood and community planning; we are trying to make an exact science of the process and the practice. So often do we planners draw lines around imaginary neighborhoods of cities, because we like formulae and doctrines and neat packages of ideas.

In looking at a farmer in New England trying to repair a stone fence to keep his cattle in, a stone fence destroyed every so often by nature, Robert Frost remarked—

"Some thing there is
That doesn't like a wall . . ."

In like manner we have to provide flexible plans so that the city is flexible for the flow of function and of people, for this changing life. Nevertheless we recognize that the desire for permanency and rooting is a new component of the design for living that will only ill-fit the narrow bounds of a *one-generation* community, a design that does not recognize young people, aging people, old people, small families, big families and all the possible permutations of the elements of living . . . in other words, if we would carry the formula of the neighborhood design to its logical conclusion, we would end up over an entire urban area with little units of neat middleclass suburbs. It does not work.

We architects must free ourselves from the concept of neat physical entities and their multiplication into patterns, and try for the creation of dynamic situations of growth and development, both social and physical.

To illustrate this point by describing what we call the Philadelphia approach, I want to quote from Robert Mitchell as he outlined our attitude to a meeting of planners:

* * *

In Philadelphia, during the last year, there has been a series of meetings of people in town who are concerned with local area planning. We know from previous studies that there is no such thing as a definable neighborhood in that city, and you can probably say that is true of any large city. You can find plenty of centers for one or another function but I defy you to find the boundaries because these things change. Planners have to have some kind of boundaries when drawing plans for projects, areas, etc. However, one of our mistakes is to assume that these boundaries have a social significance. In Philadelphia we got together people representative of the Health and Welfare Council, which is the health and welfare planning agency, the Housing Authority, the Citizens Council on City Planning, the Board of Education, and others, all technicians concerned with the problem of local area planning. All agreed that the planning for those three million people or so had to proceed not only from a central office but that it had to have some decentralization of focus. We also agreed that no planning that we were doing would have a great deal of validity if the physical and social planning were separated. So we were able to agree that we wanted to work as much as possible with people in the local areas. We know that in most instances we are starting with people who are there, the institutions, organizations, and ways of living, the values of those people, and also the physical pattern of buildings.

Is the planner in his wisdom going to say: "All this is beside the point!" Can this be swept away and can we create instead what we think these people need? Or perhaps dissipate the whole social structure in the area and substitute something else? Our approach is that in most situations of that kind we will start from the people and the physical structures we have and proceed from there; and, if that is the case, we want to take into our confidence the people who are there. We know

in one area there are mixed groups, Polish, Russian-Jewish, Italian, and Negro, with some kind of nucleus but no definable boundaries. There are institutions and churches and the people tell us they have close ties with their clubs and churches. One of our problems has been to search for two things: what really constitutes leadership among these people? And who really constitutes the sources of reliable information about the needs and difficulties and desires of people who are there?

We know the school districts overlap, that the school population changes from year to year in an area, and that the schools cannot have a permanently defined boundary line because they have to send children back and forth into other schools to use the facilities.

That is the approach we are using. Instead of plan-

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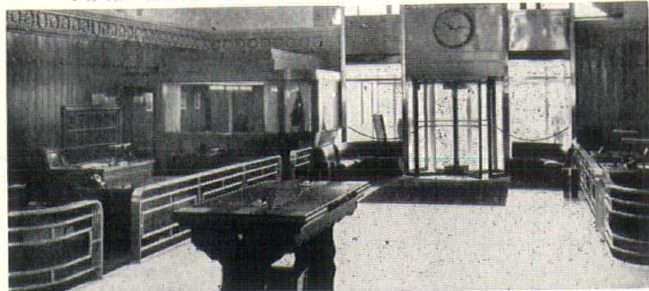
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ning by formula we have to break down the housing needs of people who are living in a residential area and recognize the variations in them and among various groups. We have to understand the needs of the various groups that are influenced by this environment: physical functions, service functions, social functions, and so forth. We have to try to understand the social and physical patterns of the city we are dealing with and the processes and forces of change in that pattern, and make use of that in trying to work toward what I tried to call a dynamic balance, a dynamic situation in which there is growth, in which change is a natural process as it is in all life. Cells die off and houses are taken away, people leave and new ones take their places. This growth should be in a direction in which people themselves and those who are working with them can progress always toward the adaptation of this environment to their own needs. We have to search for what some of us are calling an optimum of balance in the satisfaction of many peoples' needs and interests in the neighborhood by the elements and patterns that are there, and then try to enlist the interest and participation of the people themselves in this process.

* * *

Yet while we are patiently pursuing a democratic process of planning and planning education toward an awareness of the availability of planning, we recognize that new forms of three dimensional expressions are needed for the synthesis of the good life.

Existing architectural solutions those small portions, the cells for the molecules of our plans, new concepts of space for physical living where the application of a colonial skin or any other skin acts more like a straight-jacket on the extremely flexible technology of contemporary building. It is unthinkable that the dull and dulling architecture of all the public housing projects of New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, etc. is all that architects can produce nowadays. By Jove: whenever there is halfways decent architectural expression of the meaning of community life, the people become different, their responsibility is greater, the vitality of the activities—creatures of good architecture, yes—proves and justifies the social experiment—if you want to call it an experiment. When 390,000 people take time off to bother with city planning, that is news. On the other hand, the story of the planning exhibition in Philadelphia shows that planning and the concerns of planning—to use a Quaker word—can excite people without making "modern architecture" a planning issue at all. Modern design, however, which infused the entire background of the exhibition, was probably the subtle element which gave so many people so much satisfaction.

In centuries past there was a unity of expression in all the arts. That is what we commonly call style. As technology was primitive the practice of the style was spatially restricted, yet it pervaded and made the imprint of its attitude on every object.

The Greeks were strictly functional; the Romans eclectic and commercially vulgar; Gothic people were terribly conscious about the nature of material; the Renaissance person exuberant in the discovery of the modern world and completely sovereign in the application of all techniques at his command.

A new architecture is emerging in America; an architecture that Wolfgang Born has called geo-architecture—an architecture "that recognizes the surface of the earth itself as a gigantic canvas on which architects and engineers can paint with stone, wood, steel and water."

An architecture that begins to understand and express the dynamics of repose and mobility, the relations between the highway, the factory, the home, the park, the

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powerdam, an organic architecture that is not imitative of primitive techniques, of supports and openings—but an architecture that is daringly natural in that it either combats nature or strictly follows it without resistance. We span rivers with one swoop, we dam unbelievably powerful waters, we erect sheets of glass 600 feet high and maintain artificial temperatures within enclosures that are within ¼" of lightning or subzero temperatures, or we sit under shelter that seems to be structurally unsupported close to the earth, including or excluding at our will, trees, waterfalls, and all natural life. We can be as lyrical, romantic and personal one minute, as we can be logical, technical and impersonal in the next. That is our architecture, that is our emerging style. An attitude that Frank Lloyd Wright has grasped in its totality when creating the idea of Broadacre City, a concept of architecturization of the vast continent, a concept of organic action from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, through the dales and over mountains, tying the regional to the local, tying our mobility to our roots: Utopia.

Here is where the architect enters the planning process. Where his 4-dimensional genius must give meaning to the two dimensions of statistical analysis: You either live in one or two story structures or in towers; three stories or six stories make no sense. In our housing-planning we are beginning to discover this new formula. It is not the sociological planner who brings about this solution but a daring architect, who combines his intuition for living with a plastical expression for an economical solution and produces a design that fits the aspirations for human respectability. This is the meaning of the 2-story, 6-room houses and 22-story, 600-feet long buildings, 700 feet apart on 8% coverage at a density of 25 families per acre, one of the most exciting projects to become reality in Chicago.

The conquest of vast spaces has been the key to the development of American civilization. It is the boundless courage that has created our skyscrapers, 6 million cars, 100,000 airplanes or a million homes in one year. The space of the vast continent pervades every American school child's sense of scale. The space feeling for the continent is in George Washington's political testament, it is in Walt Whitman's language, it is in Frank Lloyd Wright's horizontals.

It seems to me that productive richness of our life as a nation must find its expression finally in our days in the orderliness and sanity of our communities. With the Housing Act of 1949 we are inaugurating this year a period that could be the renaissance of American cities. It is an issue of the most consequential nature in our life as a democracy. However, in the face of a world crisis, we do not see the forest for the trees. We were to celebrate this year the sesquicentennial anniversary of the founding of Washington with the follies of a New York World's Fair in miniature; the Freedom Fair in buildings of the shape of the three letters, U.S.A. This is all the imagination and maturity we can conjure to tell the world that we are after. Commercial midways, television sets, magics of industry: panis et circenses: it could not be any more Roman. The quintessence in emptiness of purpose.

It seems to me this is the moment where we should disclose to ourselves and to the world the goals and aspiration of our free society. This is the time to call for the most imaginative and perhaps utopian statement in terms of what we can do, what we shall do to demonstrate the vitality of our democratic system. Respectfully I call on the President of the United States to stop this farce completely and not just postpone it until 1951, as it seems that the Commission is unable to get con-

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struction under way for opening in July, and in its stead erect a 3-dimensional statement on the American way of life: build a community that will demonstrate to everybody what we are working for, what the promise holds: spell out the American physical standard of living that we can obtain in the second half of this century, as he spelled it out to Congress in his "State of the Nation" address.

What could attract more visitors to Washington: an exhibition on American planning and the American way of life. The scope of our physical plans and our social goals is more powerful than the hydrogen bomb.

It is ripe time that our profession descended from its ivory tower. We must take off our coats, roll up our sleeves. While the problem of our cities as a whole appears unsolvable, we must begin to tackle the smaller problems, because they are all part of the big one. We architect-planners are expected to lead. The planning commissions need our persepectives. We must convince the man in the street, that the *architect* is more than the fancy of a rich client. As Ralph Walker states it: "As a boy we must make a contribution toward our community life." The question whether service of this kind is free, seems to him of less importance that the great respect and benefit which the profession gains in doing this work. I know this is not true of the architects of Detroit. But whatever you do it is not enough. I could suggest that you have an exhibition on city planning to tell people what it is: that it is an analysis of the life of a city and its people. The lesson of cooperative effort on the part of all, because all should know that they have a great investment in their town. That we can realize good urban life in our generation. It was astounding to all of us that of the 400,000 visitors to the Philadelphia exhibition 48.2% showed that they would be willing to pay a little more in taxes each year to help bring about the improvements

and that 89.6% were willing to contribute time and effort to bring about specific improvements in their own neighborhoods.

All evening I have been talking about planning and associated it with architecture. The two seem to me more and more inseparable. Planners would disagree perhaps, the 2-dimensional planners I am sure will: yet the city beautiful is as untrue as the city statistical is ugly: to paraphrase a brilliant phrase of Henry Churchill. And Walter Gropius put it equally well when he said that "understanding the social necessities of civilized life is evidently the most desirable condition for good design."

A social architecture is built on the foundation of social standards. In this individual buildings are but details of the greater concept of our specific American civilization. Buildings cannot any longer remain unrelated to their specific place in the social organization. At present they are but improvisations like the hundred sketches a painter makes before starting the organization of an important mural.

In certain areas we must continue to improvise. Our building technology allows, however, for great flexibility within the cube of buildings which should be arranged functionally within a site plan. The idea of the individual site plan is the most dynamic element in city planning. We are graduating to a conception where we can place the machine for living inside, without losing face professionally for not functionally expressing every screw on the outside. Beauty is allowable.

The greater beauty though is the social concept of equality. Housing for the poor need not be less beautiful than housing for the rich. Public housing projects for subsidized people must be put where living is best. It would be economic suicide for the community to isolate its best construction. To put the stigma of regimentation on government housing

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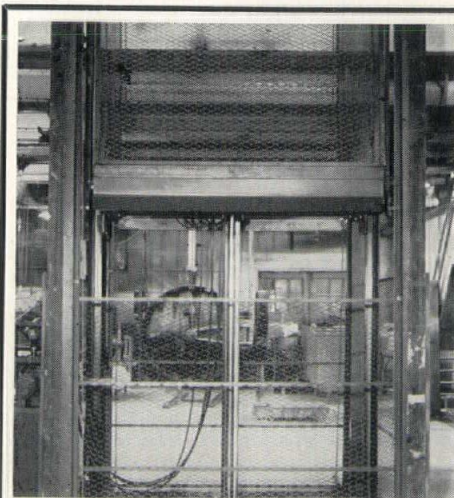
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would be equal to the stigma of the slums. Why change at all? If public housing bonds and F.H.A. mortgages are compatible in the vaults of the insurance companies; why should the creators of these securities be questionable as to association?

Nothing can be a final answer in the evolution of man. Previously I stated that all I was attempting to do was give my own confusion some direction. The planning process in a democratic society is a continuous courageous experimentation. But the concept of social architecture can be a guide for continuous clarification of the values which we have come to call "the good life."

• • •

I hope the day will never come when the American people will be the champion of the status quo. Once that happens, we shall have forfeited, and richly forfeited, the support of the unsatisfied, of those who are the victims of inevitable imperfections, of those who, young in years or spirit, believe that they can make a better world and of those who dream dreams and want to make their dreams come true.



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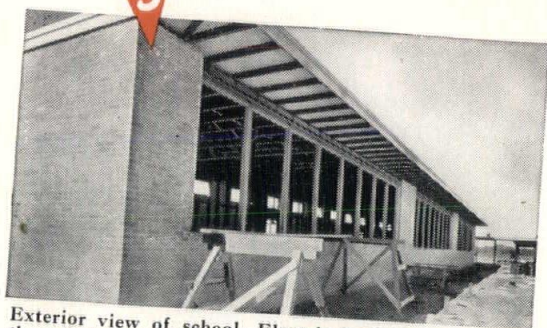
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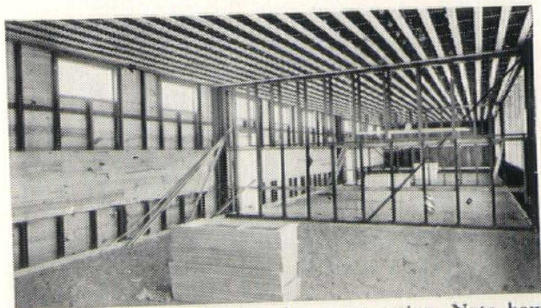
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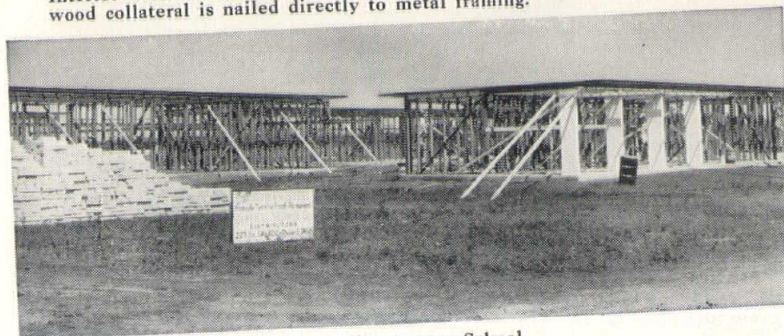
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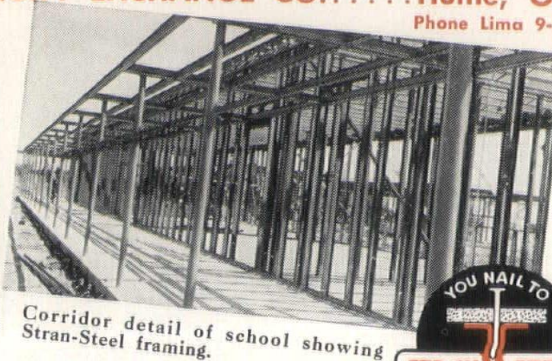
Exterior view of school. Electrical wiring is installed through factory-punched holes in frame members.



Interior view of school under construction. Note how wood collateral is nailed directly to metal framing.



Stran-Steel framing for Robstown Elementary School.



Corridor detail of school showing Stran-Steel framing.



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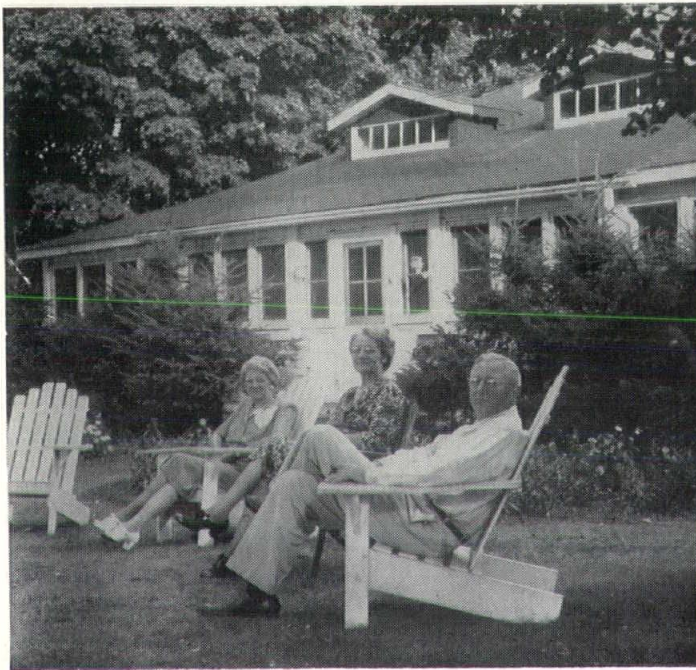
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