



POTOMAC VALLEY

ARCHITECT

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS

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ARCHITECTS' CHRISTMAS

EARLY ON THE MORNING of December 25th, Ron Senseman can be counted on to appear before his charming family at breakfast wearing a tastefully chosen robe over gay pajamas and colorful slippers.

With this example set, the 58 corporate, associate and unassigned Chapter members will let down their professional hair and begin a Merry Day.

In each case the festivities could be interrupted. A frantic call from a residential client may reveal the amazing carelessness of some builder's sub-contractor. In violation of design and specifications the customer's fireplace chimney could have failed to accommodate Santa Claus while belching out smoke into the living room from a roaring fire of holiday wrappings.

This architectural writer has always lived and worked with writers and all other professional people. His Dad is a doctor whose practice dates back to the horse and buggy days. Even if requiring "Doc" to make a trip into the country in a one horse open sleigh, and although not planning for a Second Coming or a future President, some ladies have always managed to time the stork's visit for the Yuletide. We early learned the meaning of the Oath of Hippocrates and why professional calls had to be answered—if only bringing the material reward of some fresh eggs, butter and a haunch of farm butchered pork. If we still wondered, the Dad settled it all with a quietly asked and very simple question: "If you can't help people, what's the sense of living?"

White-wigged gentlemen long ago imposed similar professional conduct and responsiveness upon the attorney-at-law — whose client on Christmas eve can proceed from an office party right to a wall telephone in the Hoosegow.

In its nearly 100 years, the A.I.A. has developed the traditions, the code and the clearly defined responsibilities for its talented, skilled personnel. With natural prejudice, but in all sincerity, we see the Potomac Valley membership, already the winner of an A.I.A. Board citation, as a chapter, and individually, ready to make every contribution to the new century that beckons.

And if architectural trouble in any way involves one of our members on this coming, anticipated Tuesday, we know the alarmed will get quick, professional attention. With it the informant, and all friends of architects, will be wished a Very Merry Christmas and a best designed New Year.

**POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER OF MARYLAND
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POTOMAC VALLEY ARCHITECT

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CHARLES B. SOULÉ, Chm., Public Relations Committee
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MEETINGS

First Monday of Every Month
at 12 o'clock noon

NEXT MEETING

Monday, December 3
Stone House Inn, Silver Spring

LETTERS

American Institute of Architects

Congratulations on your new publication from the North Carolina Chapter.

We in North Carolina have been undertaking a similar project and can appreciate the work that goes into your own publication.

It is a most valuable contribution and a very definite tie between all the members of a Chapter. We wish you the best of continued success in your publication and your Chapter work.

Your appropriate response to an emergency with your County Board of Education is very evident of professional vitality a good example for us all.

F. Carter Williams, President
N. C. Chapter A. I. A.

Our congratulations for an attractive and interesting Potomac Valley Architect.

You have an opportunity to render a valuable service to your Chapter and to the public.

Best wishes for success.

Talmage C. Hughes
Michigan Society of Architects Madison, Detroit

Real Estate Board

It was a pleasure to receive the first issue of your AIA Chapter's new publication. Your editors have done a nice job, making it quite attractive. Since we are interested in building as well as land, we are glad to see this project launched, and wish you and your group every success in the future.

H. E. Thompson, Jr., President
Montgomery County Real Estate Board, Inc.

Liked Morris "Launching"

I have just seen Volume 1, No. 1 of the Potomac Valley Architect and hasten to request that I be placed on the mailing list.

Mr. Morris' "launching" was most amusing and, of course, put over that idea which is so necessary to the Architect. I shall be most happy to see the names in print of all my good friends in this area.

May I wish you a most successful administration and to your organization a long life of service to the profession.

Louis F. Brecht
American-Standard, Plumbing and Heating
Division

Press Association

I have just finished reading the second edition of Potomac Valley Architect. You are certainly to be congratulated on launching this publication.

Incidentally, we are always seeking 'FIRSTS' in the Sentinel, but were happy to see our paper at least make mention in your second edition of the Architect.

I shall look forward to reading each forthcoming issue and picking up any architectural news our alert staff may have missed.

Louis M. Leimbach, President
Montgomery County Sentinel

New Bidding Procedure

Recently, a selected list of bidders was invited to submit bids on the construction of a church done by my office. Instead of the usual procedure of the contractors' picking up the plans from time to time on or after a stipulated date, the contractors were invited to attend an open meeting, at which time the plans specifications were reviewed in general to give the contractors an over-all picture of the job and to stimulate interest in bidding the job. Particular emphasis was placed on how this job varied from the normal regarding procedure, material, and workmanship. Besides being a general information session and a session where the contractors would be able to ask questions and get answers, each requested in advance the number of plans and specifications required. In this way a bulk blueprint order could be accurately placed, taking advantage of reduced cost on quantity orders. Probably one of the other most important phases of this arrangement was that it reduced the amount of time spent by the office in dealing with the various contractors, issuing plans and specifications, receiving deposits, and issuing receipts.

As a result of this conference, several items were clarified and interpretations were made regarding general requirements. All of the contractors present viewed this round table conference as being a very informative session and felt that it was extremely worthwhile. We suggest that other architects give it a try!

Benjamin P. Elliott

CHAPTER NOTES

Free Wassail and Turkey—Dec. 10

Stan Arthur today makes his happiest announcement as Program Chairman.

The man from the University of Illinois, who plans unbeatable programs as Red Grange used to set up games for the joy of the Illinois rooters, has been in a huddle with Eddie Morris and the Tile Manufacturers Association of America.

Result: Every Chapter member and associate and his lady is invited to a banquet at the Willard Hotel December 10th. Eddie and the Association generously will be the hosts and pick up the entire chit including all the cocktails you can guzzle from 6 o'clock sharp to 6:30 p.m., Stan announces. If you are worried about keeping awake through the night without a few quick or long ones, do bring some change so you can put a foot on the bar rail at any time from 6:30 on, the program chairman advises.

Parking Lot Can Be a Pretty Neighbor

Does a public parking area have to look like a used car lot and be an eyesore whose construction is fought by an adjacent residential neighborhood? Last week a group of the Chapter's leading members in Bethesda, in cooperation with the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce, had proved beyond question, that an architecturally planned parking lot can be an attractive, welcomed neighbor while accomplishing its necessary-to-the-business-community purpose.

They had staged a highly significant and successful design competition for parking lots. Members Jack Sullivan, Len Slagle, Clark Harmon, Jack Samperton, Chuck Soule, Van Donnally and Stan Arthur were the Chapter's contestants taking time off from all work on their boards to enter and contribute practical but exceptionally attractive designs for the needed and commendable civic project. Scott R. Brewer, Jr., chairman of the Area Improvement Committee, directed the competition and headed an honorary jury for the awards. The jury, interestingly, came up with practically the same decisions as the expert judges who were chapter members outside of Bethesda

and not eligible for the competition. They were Ben Elliott, chairman, and Gene Delmar, Silver Spring, and Andy MacIntyre, Hyattsville. It was required, practically, that the submitted plans be based on the 200' x 210' parking lot on Edgemoor Lane at North Lane, Bethesda.

Soule & Donnally's design and detailed plan was unanimously voted by judges and jury to be the winner. Runner-up was the design by Stan Arthur. Chuck and Van's design showed the detail for two attractive entrances, provided for a seven foot wall on two sides, a louvred screen wall and, as an aid to further screening, for the preservation of trees present on the Edgemoor lot. Their win and the enterprising competition was featured November 24 by Editor Paul Herron of the real estate section of the Washington Post-Times Herald.

All entries now form a crowd-stopping exhibit on tour of Bethesda, its present stop being the lobby of the Bank of Bethesda. At the exhibit, viewers are furnished a form addressed to the Montgomery County Council and which the citizens may use to advise the council of being in favor, or not in favor, of the winning design being adopted as a basis for parking lot construction more clearly designed as to purpose and fully acceptable to its neighbors.

Chuck Soule, Secretary Andy MacIntyre and the Editors (with a few assorted, well placed spies) do their level best to keep track of you all but we do need returned, completely filled out by each member, the form recently sent to you. All thanks to those who have!

Rose On a Thorny Fee Question

Present at the meetings of the Chapter is one rose (as hubby Milt will be first to agree) among all the brambly members. She is the charming, talented Viola S. R. Prassas who doubles professionally, being a barrister-at-law while imaginatively working at her drawing boards. At the last executive meeting Viola ended any confusion about procedure when not making application nor paying for the District's new tax extraction wrinkle, the Trade, Business or Professional License. In clear, concise legal form she has given you the information. Also, in a A, B, C & D manner the pertinent language to be used in registering the protest letter the Executive Committee decided every member should write, and send in with the white information from LC 2. Viola has briefed the matter for you, men. You have the Committee's bulletin on the subject. Please get your protests in the mail.

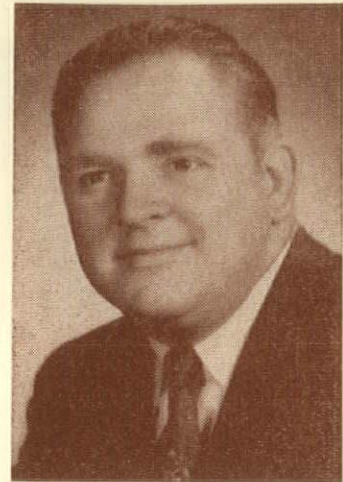
President Covers Regional Conference

Nothing goes on A.I.A.-wise, certainly not a forum or conference, without Potomac Valley being alertly present. President Ron Senseman sees to that. His reports show he missed nothing from the exhibits to discussions of hung roof structures, acoustic barriers, fine architecture being good business, to the speech (which we later hope to reprint in part) "The Challenge of Economics and Industry" by John Knox Shear, A.I.A., Editor, Architectural Record, at the Annual Conference, Middle Atlantic Region, hosted by the Pennsylvania Society of Architects at its own eleventh annual meeting held at Hershey November 15-17. One thing did puzzle Ron—the presence of so many ladies in the exhibition halls. For awhile our president thought they might be counterparts of our own Viola Prassas. Tossing a bit of architectural conversation to some of the gals, Ron soon found he was wasting precious minutes from the next seminar. They were just nice architects' wives along to look over the Hershey stores and help provide a convincing crowd for the exhibitors.

ACCEPT OUR GREETINGS FROM ANDY

This is the right season to try and deal with our jolly Secretary, Andrew Harry MacIntyre—and it must be done this December before his bathroom scales register the fact his former Santa-like figure (see old picture here) has melted away.

Andy has a second son (Mathew, 8 months) just a p p r o a c h i n g Santa Claus age and it may be he is trying to fit himself to his chimney. With daughter Suzie, 10, and son Chris, 8, both knowing very well their school-designing daddy is the source of their well-filled Christmas socks, Andy had been sitting right up to wife Mary's dining table with a "Ho, Ho, Ho" and a "Bring it all on" attitude. But there's been none of this gluttony for months and he looks more like the efficient secretary he has always been.



Andrew Harry MacIntyre

Fortunately there has been no loss of a good disposition and sense of good humor accompanying the shrinkage and Andy, with a pillow tucked in his belt, can still do a good job of playing Santa if he wants to. This architect, as you didn't know, as a young man was an actor which experience served him well. He met Mary, delightful mother of his three children, in the cast of an old melodrama. Never caring any more about applause than than now he found more interest in doing sets than taking bows and this interest, and his real talent for it, undoubtedly led him on to expressing himself with the pen and paint brush.

Water color drawing is a particular talent of this artist and some of his work rates the picture galleries, but he regards his portraits as a hobby. Members of the family are his favorite subjects. Two years ago he had a private, family show with 225 pictures hung—all of them being of members of the immediate family and relatives. The way Andy puts it, he's just keeping his hand in to stay in practice for better renderings—and, as architects know, an architectural rendering by the Kea associate is something to thrill a client and to demand the best wall space in the customer's office.

A native of the Quaker City, a Penn State alumnus, a lieutenant in the U. S. Coast Guard during World War II, our Secretary has packed a lot of good living into his 43 years. The tour of Navy duty got him interested in boats so he worked himself up from a canoe to a 38 ft. Wheller (all black hulls). In the Coast Guard he was doing architectural work and fell in with good architectural companions. This set the professional course of the future for Lt. MacIntyre and a lucky thing that was for a great many people, and people Andy likes—especially those he can help and do things for.

Put a red coat on Andy MacIntyre and some white whiskers and a beard on his face and what have we got! Someone you would like to see coming out of the fireplace or through your front door anytime—and even without the disguise.

Soon the Chapter will want to be saying "Merry Christmas" to all friends. Consider it then being said by a Secretary so well qualified sincerely to express the membership's best wishes.

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