

# POTOMAC VALLEY

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE

# TIPS ON YOUR PUBLIC RELATIONS

YOUR PUBLIC RELATIONS ARE YOU.

You are the man that looks back at you from the shaving mirror every morning — knowing your real abilities and your honest attitudes about all you do.

What your professional capabilities are, and what kind of a man you are before your fellows — particularly before clients and any close friends —they will soon come to know very well. They pass along the good word about your skills and your social assets. Or they tell another sort of story.

At your public relations worst you can be the fellow whom other men, when at lunch, would prefer to sit down at another table. When fishing, they would hope to have you on another party or boat. Most architects, like doctors and lawyers have attractions as able gentlemen. Unless you have missed your respected calling, you become qualified in the profession, you like people and know how to conduct yourself at all times and hours.

If you are young in the profession, and properly ambitious, you can make the mistake of thinking good public relations can be accomplished through publicity and promotion. Certainly the public can be impressed by seeing in the press examples reflecting the high quality of your work.

Here a caution for you is that, because a newspaper accepts from you and uses a few of your renderings of schools and churches, this does not mean you have become accomplished in publicity. Publicity and public relations work that gets results is done by trained, experienced people, who at their best, have professional skill in their field matching your own in yours. You may find it

disappointing, even dangerous, to your interests and those of your clients, to attempt to handle the news and picture releases for your more important projects.

Your public will like to read of your being active in your Institute — the American Institute of Architects. Within reason, and to the extent it does not take you too much away from your creative profession, your public will appreciate your taking an active part in the affairs of your community—in the leading civic and social organizations. It will be nice if the community's leaders are saying you are a man who responsibly "gets things done!"

Your public will give the man looking back at you from the shaving mirror time to wake up and to know what day it is. Clients will allow you a day now and then to get up on the wrong side of the bed.

You need, though, quite consistently to be the architect and man you can get along with yourself and with little kidding of yourself involved. If you can make this grade honestly, then your share of the public will go along with you in the friendly-to-you manner you hope for.

And when you see yourself as others see you, and the inventory stands up, then you have attraction and so good public relations. It follows that a chapter composed of men of similar character will enjoy the highest esteem. g. g.

# POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER OF MARYLAND AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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Benjamin P. Elliott, Chm. Public Relations Committee 8485 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, Md.—JU 9-2546

#### MEETINGS

First Monday of Every Month at 12 o'clock noon NEXT MEETING Monday, November 4 Stone House Inn, Silver Spring

#### NEW LOCAL PUBLICATIONS

We congratulate the Metropolitan Washington Chapter for its Newsletter now launched for regular monthly issue.

Catholic University's Department of Architecture through its fine newsletter is trying to locate all of its architectural graduates now scattered through 39 states and 5 foreign countries. Write the Secretary of the Department to be placed on the mailing list to receive this Newsletter. The Department now has contacted all but 48 graduates, these being in classes from 1916 through 1955.

### IN THE NEWS

Pictures of buildings designed by these members have recently appeared in the Washington dailies and County press:

JACK STANN'S three-story building to be erected at 7730 Wisconsin Ave., including a "motor hotel" and designed to provide a fourth floor at a later date. Jack's new split-level \$150,000 library for Montgomery Junior College.

MILT PRASSAS' \$3 million office building proposed at 23rd and E Streets, N.W.

RON SENSEMANS' Wheaton Presbyterian Church designed to permit its being built in segments. One wing is completed for use by the congregation while an educational wing is under construction. The main sanctuary is scheduled for the future.

LEN SLAGLE'S two new buildings for St. Peter's Parish in Olney. The church has been dedicated. A convent is still to be constructed.

PHIL MASON'S homes in the 150-unit development at Holiday Park on Viers Mill Road at Connecticut Avenue, Silver Spring.

JACK COHEN'S homes in Westchester subdivision at West University Boulevard and Reedie Drive. Silver Spring. Also Jack's synagogue for the Beth-El congregation at 8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda.

PAUL H. KEA, DAVID SHAW & ASSOCIATES' Health-Welfare building in Prince Georges County.

JACK SAMPERTON'S Capitol Baptist Church at 3932 Alabama Avenue, S.E.

BEN ELLIOT'S Christ Episcopal Church in Kensington. A project also to involve an educational center later.

CHUCK SOULE' and VAN DONNALLY'S Suitland Christian Church, a three-unit plan.

JIM THOMEN'S homes in the Oxford Homes Development in the 6700 block of Wilson Lane, Bethesda.

JOHN d'EPAGNIER'S homes for Eig & McKeever in the Richland Terrace Rock Creek Forest area in Silver Spring.

RINAUDOT AND COUPARD'S modern engineering building for Dermot A. Nee on Rollins Avenue, Rockville, which is being occupied by Washington Technological Associates, Inc., to advance research and development in the field of guided missles.

# COUNCIL PRODUCES QUIZ EXPERTS

The Chapter has some hot prospects for contestants on the \$64,000 Challenge TV program. This was revealed on October 21 when most of our members enjoyed being guests at the first fall luncheon meeting of the D. C. Producers' Council.

As the entertainment feature, the Council, with the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company as host, staged a telephone quiz modeled after the popular TV program replete with booths attended by Miss Washington of 1957 and another beauty, judges, policemen guarding questions and John Watson (Armstrong Cork) doing a bang-up job in the role of Ralph Storey.

Contestant Ron Senseman knew right off what form of comfort has been eliminated from the home, that Death Valley has had the highest (134) temperature and that crystal is a metal used in electric circuits. Ben Elliott knew that Louisiana is the wettest state (rainfall) and that magnesium was the metal John was after in his questioning. Dana Johannes was quick in naming the pumpkin as the vegetable attaining the largest size and the whale as the largest North American mammal. Ron, Ben and Dana all received nice winners' prizes.

A Pittsburg Plate Glass representative did the commercial and a good job of selling Twindows. Shelton (Rip) Reynolds was in charge of arrangements. He deserved a big hand and got it.



This Suitland Junior High School designed by David Shaw won first prize in the public buildings category of the last Biennial Architectural Exhibit jointly sponsored by the Prince Georges Chamber of Commerce, the Silver Spring Board of Trade and the Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland, A.I.A. The design then had the high honor of being selected for exhibition at the 20th International Conference on Public Education held this year in Geneva, Switzerland.

# In Architecture, Photography, Sailing & Gardening Dave Shaw is a High Man

There was probably a time when our treasurer, David Shaw, was not sure whether he wanted to be an engineer, a specialized photographer, a ship's master or an architect.



David Shaw

Later he could have toyed with the idea of being a gardening consultant. His success here is suggested by his 1957 tomato plants which he nudged along to a twelve foot height, then had to pick his fat, red fruit from a stepladder.

Our treasurer is a native of Maryland, born in College Park and in all his years he has thought Prince Georges

County to be tops and the place to hang out his architectural shingle. He spent two years at the University of Maryland enrolled as a student in mechanical engineering. During that time the vistas of the architectural world loomed before him. He decided to enroll in Massachusetts Institute of Technology in this famed school's architectural department. Aside from an active interest in photography, which he also cultivated at the time, it became increasingly clear that architecture was to be his career.

But World War H-interrupted Dave's studies in Cambridge. He joined the U. S. Merchant Marine.

This was fitting, as he had been devoted to boats and sailing since he was twelve years old. On active duty in the European theater he rose to the rank of Master and had command of several different ships. As one who always enjoys a brisk sea wind, he found even the chill, dangerous waters of the North Sea much to his liking.

Following the war, Dave returned to M.I.T. to resume his studies. He was graduated with a degree in architecture. At the same time he pursued his hobby of photography in the field of high speed photography. He had work exhibited at the Andover Gallery, Mass., Boston Institute of Contemporary Arts, in a traveling exhibit sponsored by the Container Corporation of America and in an exhibition of American high speed photography prepared by the Smithsonian Institution and which was shown internationally.

Dave spent a year on the staff at M.I.T. He then returned to Prince Georges County and joined the firm of Paul H. Kea & Associates. And then he had the great and good fortune to marry a lady accomplished in his same talents. She was Gretchen Van Tassel of Scarsdale, N. Y. She had majored in architecture at Bennington College. She had also become a successful photographer and was being commissioned to do special magazine features.

Soon the talented and industrious architect was made an associate in Paul H. Kea's distinguished office. Recently he was made a partner in the firm changing its name to Paul H. Kea, David Shaw & Associates.

The prize-winning Suitland Junior High School, shown above, was one of Dave's major projects. Currently off his boards are the designs for the Buck Lodge Junior High School and the Laurel Junior High School.

Salty Dave's main hobby is sailing and cruising on his auxiliary sloop "Truant" where he and his family enjoy exploring the almost endless shoreline of Chesapeake Bay. He has navigated small craft up the Atlantic Coast as far as Marblehead and Maine. He continues to show a lively interest in photography. While Gretchen is particularly adept in this field, too, she is now principally and happily occupied with their three children, Alison, 4; Stephen, 3 and Michael, 1.

#### NEW MEMBERS

The Chapter's Executive Committee is pleased to announce the election to membership of Fon J. Montgomery and Douglas Dolan. These Silver Spring architects will be welcomed at the November meeting.

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