Our new president and executive committee turn on the charm in their first picture appearance: L. to r. (seated) Treasurer Jack C. Cohen, Secretary Theodore Cromar, Jr., President Benjamin P. Elliott, and Vice President Milton P. Prassas. Standing: Directors Stanley H. Arthur, Charles B. Soule, and James T. Thomen.

The Potomac Valley Chapter has had a busy year as evidenced by the Executive Committee report submitted to the Chapter. Chuck Soule can now retire in the knowledge that the chapter has moved ahead and continued active during his administration.

At the start of his term President Soule recommended that matters of importance to the membership be brought up at regular membership meetings, discussed and acted on to stimulate individual interest.

The Executive Committee wholeheartedly concurred, and the results throughout the term definitely justified the adoption of this policy.

During this past term of the Executive Committee, the following was accomplished:

The Chapter sent two delegates to the 1959 convention of the Institute in Cleveland. In addition three other members of the Chapter attended the convention.

Relative to the issue of extending the East Front of the Capitol building, the Chapter preferred to assume a neutral position, and accordingly sent the delegates to the convention un instructed on this matter.

The Chapter approved a resolution to the convention pertaining to misuse of brochures. Material included in this resolution has been incorporated subsequently into a policy recently adopted by the Institute’s Board of Directors. The Executive Committee authorized the secretary to prepare and have executed and distributed to the membership the Chapter By-Laws.

The Chapter received a message of appreciation from the Montgomery County School Board for the work of the Joint Architects’ Advisory Committee which resulted in the preparation of “Reports 1-5”. These reports subsequently were awarded “Document of the Month” by the Institute.

The Office Practices Committee conducted seminars on (1) Hardware Consultant Services to Architects. (2) Professional Liability Insurance. (3) Construction Bond.

Through its president, the Executive Committee effectively resisted restrictive portions of the Montgomery County proposed Fire Code.

The president appointed a special legislative committee to take such steps as necessary to protect the best interests of the Chapter and the profession on legislation pending in the Maryland State Legislature affecting the practice of the profession. Those bills which would work adversely to the best interests of the profession were either defeated or never brought to vote in the Legislature.

With the approval of the Executive Committee, the president appeared before the County
Council to resist special restrictions in zoning relative to preventing construction of less restrictive type structures in certain zoning areas. The Chapter position was recognized and acknowledged recently by the Maryland-National Capital Planning Commission.

The services of an outstanding public relations counselor were retained by the Chapter. A member of the Chapter was appointed representative on the Board of the "Architect's Report", sponsored by the Baltimore Chapter, AIA.

The Executive Committee authorized the Secretary to design and prepare for presentation by the president certificates to the Chapter Associate Members, which took place on May 4, 1959.

The Chapter sent to the Regional Conference of the Middle Atlantic District, AIA, held at Greenbrier, four delegates. They were instrumental in achieving a successful conference. The Executive Committee encouraged the Education Committee to do everything possible to achieve a school of architecture at the University of Maryland. Reports indicate that considerable headway is being made in this direction.

The Chapter generally, and the Executive Committee specifically, corresponded to members of Congress, that they support the Keogh-Simpson Bill for tax relief of professional retirement funds.

Delegates were sent to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Convention held during the month of April, 1959. The Chapter nominated Ronald S. Senseman to the Office of Regional Director, Middle Atlantic District, AIA. The Executive Committee also endorsed the nomination of Roy Carroll as Institute Secretary.

The Chapter continued the effort of obtaining Fellowship status for E. B. Morris (in April 1959, Mr. Morris was elected to the College of Fellows, AIA). The Committee recommends to the Chapter and the incoming Executive Committee for the 1959-60 term, the following:

1. A study be made to ascertain the possibility of increasing Chapter membership fees.
2. Luncheon meetings be started on time and completed promptly.
3. Consideration be given to the changing of the place and time for the luncheon meetings.
4. Continue vigorously to follow up on the improvement of the Maryland Registration Act for Architects.
5. Continue the Chapter's interest in local and State affairs as well as civic matters pertaining to the profession.

Sullivan No. 5

Mrs. John Henry Sullivan presented Jack with a bouncing baby girl on May 28. The expanding Sullivan family now numbers three girls and two boys — enough to keep Jack cracking for the next several years.

Tent Type Structure Wins Award

An AIA jury announced last week that the $25,000 Reynolds Memorial Award for 1959 has been conferred on an Australian architectural firm for designing the Sidney Myer Music Bowl in Melbourne, Australia.

The special AIA jury "enthusiastically selected the Music Bowl as the most significant work of architecture selected, in the creation of which aluminum has been an important contributing factor."

The Bowl already carries the approval of musical conductor Alfred Wallenstein who conducted the symphony orchestra at the formal opening of the bowl and said; "The Music Bowl is acoustically perfect and it is beautiful.

The award-winning firm is Yuncken, Freeman Brothers, Griffiths and Simpson of Melbourne. Barry B. Patten was named as the firm member most responsible for the Music Bowl design.

Resembling a giant circus tent, open at one end, the Music Bowl has a soaring roof whose 40,000 square feet of aluminum surface give concert hall acoustics — from full orchestra down to pin-drop pianissimo.
PV Architects Assigned To Do Thirteen Of Thirty New Montgomery School Jobs

A list of new Montgomery School projects in the planning-under-study stage reveals that Potomac Valley Chapter members will do thirteen of the thirty projects listed in the 1959-1960 Montgomery County School appropriation. Potomac Valley Chapter members listed are:

- Stanley H. Arthur Kemp Mill Elementary Addition, Travilah Elementary (new)
- Elliott & MacIntyre Washington Grove Elementary Addition
- Johannes & Murray Sligo Junior High Addition
- Philip H. Mason Clarksburg Elementary Addition, Fairland Elementary Addition
- McLeod & Ferrara West Bethesda High School
- John S. Samperton Darnestown Elementary Addition
- John F. Stann Laytonsville Elementary Addition, Montgomery Jr. College Gymnasium
- John H. Sullivan, Jr. Brookmont Elementary Addition
- Macy & Juster Chevy Chase Elementary Additions
- Stanley H. Arthur Ashburnton Elementary Addition
- Johannes & Murray Chesapeake Elementary Addition
- Philip Mason Forest Grove Elementary Addition
- John F. Sullivan, Jr. Cherry Chase Elementary Addition
- Johannes & Murray Springbrook High School
- John F. Stann Science Building, Montgomery Jr. College
- McLeod & Ferrara North Bethesda Jr. High School
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Jack Cohen Wins Washington Board Of Trade Architecture Competition

An outstanding remodeling job of our Treasurer, Jack Cohen, was singled out for an award in the 20th Biennial Washington Board of Trade architectural competition. Jack took an older building at 224 E. Capitol St. in Washington of the first floor commercial and two other residential stories variety and remodeled it into an attractive three-story colonial law office. The competition, the twentieth of its kind sponsored by the Washington Board of Trade, has as its objectives the following: "Washington is a city of beautiful, natural conditions and of superior public buildings. It must be recognized, however, that private improvements are not entirely worthy of the city, and that some stimulus to create more interest in such buildings is desirable. The Washington Board of Trade desires the co-operation of owners, architects, builders, and real estate operators in improving the design and character of the buildings erected and as an incentive thereto proposes to award prizes for meritorious buildings . . ."


Chapter member Dona B. Johannes AIA serves on the Architecture and Architectural Awards Committee of the Washington Board of Trade.

School Fire Safety Conference Slated in September

Recent school fires have directed the nation's attention to the need for absolute safety in our educational institutions. The AIA has recognized the problem and after several conferences on the subject has scheduled a National School Fire Safety Conference for September of this year.

Suggested overall conference topics include: means of minimizing human error in fire emergencies, minimizing of fire hazards in school buildings, enforcement procedures of mandatory regulations, and the effective dissemination of the best information on these subjects to the nation's 48,000 school districts. Falling under these categories are such matters as planning and designs of buildings, materials and equipment, code requirements, fire detection and warning methods, fire control, and human behaviour.

The conference was announced at a recent AIA meeting presided over by AIA 2nd Vice-president Henry L. Wright who stated that the major emphasis would be on human safety. He pointed out that while there has been no loss of life from fires in school buildings completed since World War II, constant attention must be given to the best ways of incorporating new materials and construction methods into new schools so they may be as fire-safe as possible while still providing an environment conducive to learning.

Wright also stated that as a result of the Chicago fire in which many lives were lost, many local officials are now leaning over backwards and imposing unreasonable and frequently excessive requirements which radically affect the design and costs of school buildings.

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