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CHAPTER OFFICERS

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March, 1956



CENTRAL CHAPTER NEWS

The Chapter's March meeting featured officers and members of the board of directors of the Arizona. Building Contractors' Association. "Jobs in Remote Areas" and "Jurisdictional Disputes in the Building Trades" were subjects that provoked keen discussion among the members. So much interest was developed that the session had to be summarily adjourned

The April 8 meeting (6:30 p.m. at the ABC Club) will feature a talk on the subject: "CSI as Part of Your Team," by Norman E. Blarr, president of the Central Arizona Chapter, Construction Specifications

Robert Sexton has been approved for corporate membership; and Ramon Martinez and Thomas Blackwood for associate membership.

May Meeting and Honor Awards

Cornelius M. Deasy, AIA, past president of Southern California Chapter, will address the joint meeting and honor awards dinner of the Central Arizona Chapter and architectural students at Arizona State on Thursday, May 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Memorial Union Building on the campus at Tempe. Deasy's penetrating observations are well remembered by

those who have heard him speak at the last Mountain States Regional Conference, or elsewhere.

At this May meeting (which is being held at a different date, hour and location than normal for chapter meetings), awards and scholarships will be presented to architectural students at Arizona State. The meeting will also feature announcement of winning entries in the new Chapter Honor Awards Program, patterned after those carried on annually at regional and national levels.

The Awards program, which is open to all architects registered and residing in Arizona, will culminate with a judgment on May 1st. Work will be entered in the separate categories of Completed Work and Proposed Work. Deadline for entries is May 1st. Jury is to be announced at an early date. Winning entries will be exhibited at various places in the Valley.

Because the time for preparation of entries is relatively short, the program is being based on minimum requirements for entries in order to permit maximum use of photos and other material ordinarily available. The program is under the direction of the Awards and Scholarship Committee consisting of Henry Arnold, AIA, Blaine Drake, AIA, and Murry Harris. A written program setting forth all requirements is being mailed to all corporate and associate members.

IS CALLED

Lewis S. Neeb, member of the Board of Technical Registration and long-time teacher in the Valley, died in Phoenix February 15. He was 68.

The lives of thousands of students and professional

men have been helpfully influenced since Mr. Neeb came to Arizona in 1919 as an industrial arts teacher and athletic coach. He was with Phoenix College from 1926 to 1930, at which time he joined the Industrial Arts Department at Arizona State College at Tempe. He headed the department for many years

A Mechanical Engineer with License No. 652, Mr. Neeb served many terms on the Board of Technical Registration since 1934. During World War II he was chief engineer at Mare Island Navy Yard.

Active in civic and professional organizations, he is survived by his wrife, Rayma Neeb, who is executive secretary of the Board of Technical Registration, by a son, Lewis Jr., of Tempe; a daughter, Mrs. J. W. Craver, Honolulu; a brother and one grandchild.



ccurate soils tests are important for residences as well as for large structures. For subdivisions the F.H.A. requires a test holeovery 20 acres or fraction thereof with analyses of samples recovered.

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aboratory recommendations are that the soil mechanic should investigate the site to the proper extent to provide good design information. Usually \$10 to \$20 an acre will allow adequate laboratory tests to determine the various soil conditions encountered.

Next month: More about residential soils testing

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Laing-Garrett, in cooperation with the manufacturers of Modernfold Doors, is pleased to announce that it will establish a \$500 scholarship in the Division of Architecture at Arizona State,

in the name of the architect or architectural firm winning its design competition.

Winner will also receive an individual award of \$50. Competition will be based on the most ingenious usage of a folding door in a type of construction to be designated by James W. Elmore, AIA, head of the division of Architecture, Arizona State College at Tempe.

Closing dates for entries will be April 24, 1958. Awards will be announced and presented at the May 8 Awards Dinner of the Central Arizona Chapter, American Institute of Architects.

Further details of the competition, including design problem, are being mailed to architects.



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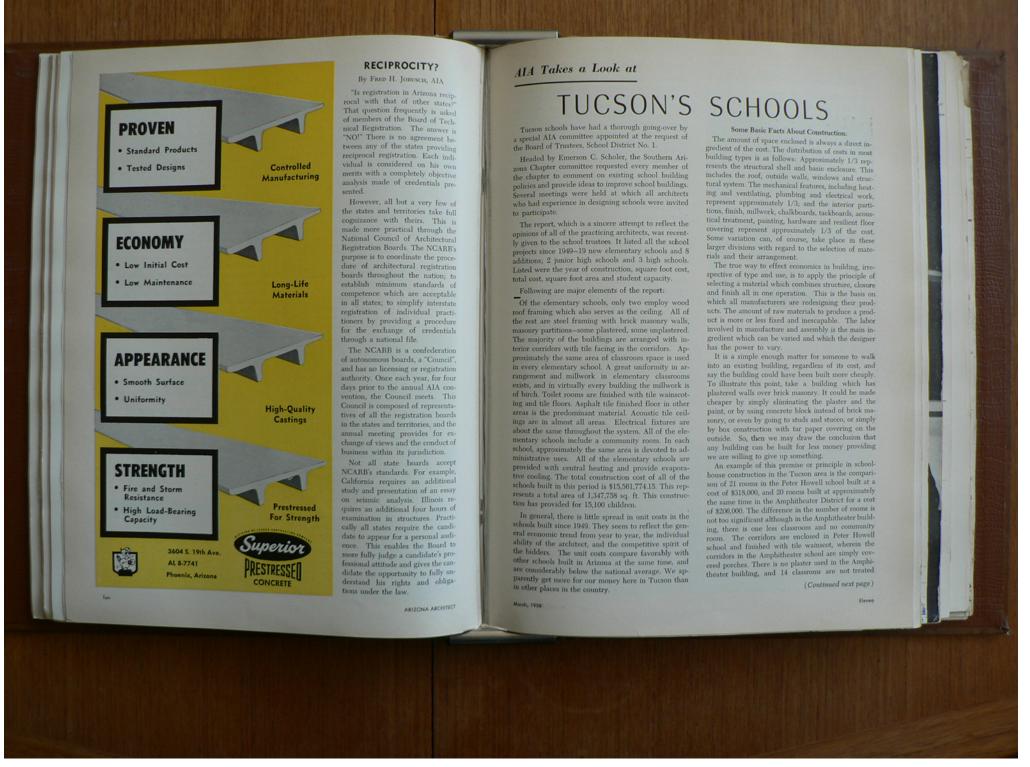
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TUCSON'S SCHOOLS (continued)

acoustically. Peter Howell school is equipped with a central hot water radiant heating system, wherein the Amphitheater school is heated by individual unit heat ers in each classroom. The Howell school has a central evaporative cooling system, and there is no cooling in the Amphitheater school. The millwork in Peter Howell school is of hard wood construction, wherein the millwork in the Amphitheater school is of soft wood construction. The Howell school is built of materials with an eye towards minimum maintenance over the years, whereas the Amphitheater building is obviously a minimum construction attempt and is quite costly in year-to-year maintenance. The noise factor of the individual unit heaters is apparent.

The important thing, aside from what has been given up in the Amphitheater school, is that the difference in unit cost between the two schools compared is 75 cents a square foot. In subsequent years, it is interesting to note that as financial ability improved in the Amphitheater schools, many of the features omitted in the example school above were incorporated in more recent construction, and the unit costs equal and sometimes exceed those of the Tucson Public Schools

Obviously unless statutory limitations prevent otherwise, it is a more sound and economical investment to build schools in the spirit and of materials as has been the practice in the Tucson district than to attempt what might be called "minimum construction."

The Re-Use of Plans.

There is no objection to the idea of building more than one school from a single set of plans providing the schools be built at approximately the same time or within the same year of the development of the plans. Naturally, site restrictions would have to be adjusted, and there should be a definite similarity in traffic flow around the site to properly fit the same plan from one site to another. These things being met, a good solution on one site would certainly fill the bill on another. However, to re-use plans for schools in later years is as to say, "We liked our 1946 Chevrolet so well, let us just keep buying that model whenever we need another car." This obviously is not practical if we want to take advantage of improvements and developments as they take place in either materials or educational processes. Manufacturers are constantly revising products for economic and functional consideration, and the consumer is entitled to these improvements. This is the spirit of progress. Progress is the spirit of education.

Conclusions and Recommendations.

From the investigation carried on to assemble this report, we can freely conclude that Tucson is getting

ARIZONA ARCHITECT

PHOENIX AREA HIGH SCHOOLS INSPECTED

In response to a written invitation to Valley architects, engineers, legislators, newspaper editors, taxpayer associations, school administrators and trustees. about 30 people met at Phoenix's Central High School Saturday morning, March 8, for an on-the-ground, face-to-face study of recent high school construction. Other schools visited were Washington High, recent unit in the Glendale Union High system, and the new Carl Hayden High in the Phoenix Union H. S.

Ralph Haver, chairman of the special arrangements committee had announced that "the purpose of the

TUCSON'S SCHOOLS (continued)

its money's worth in its schools. From the unit costs, which are a matter of record, we are getting more for our dollars than most places in the country. Our schools are not built extravagantly but are built in a way to stand the use and abuse of the juvenile traffic with a minimum of upkeep and maintenance. That schools can be built for less money is quite apparent. To build schools for less money, we must either make the building smaller, leave out something in the way of equipment or select lesser materials.

We would recommend that the planning philosophy be carried on in the future much the same as it has been in the past; that each architect constantly be urged to exercise his inventive genius to produce a more and more economical arrangement of both plan and structure, and that he adhere to the rules of selecting structure, enclosure and finish in as few materials as possible; that materials which come in contact with student traffic be as durable, maintenancefree, and ever-lasting as practicable, and that materials which are not in contact with student traffic be as economical as is possible and consistent with sound and safe engineering practices.

first-hand study will be to help architects get a better understanding of the public temper and ideas on school construction - and costs - and at the same time to help representatives of the public better understand certain factors of economy and good design that may not be readily apparent to non-professional observers."

At Central High, architects and school officials showed a new plant in which part of the buildings were designed for a student population of 1500, with other facilities ready for an expected 2500. The latter include library and administration buildings, kitchen, boiler plant, air conditioning tunnels, etc. Architect was John Sing Tang.

At Washington High, in a rapidly growing district with limited tax assessment sources, the group saw a school constructed three years ago and additions built last year. Designed for a student population of 800, Washington High is having to care for 1250 this year. The plant, including construction, buildings, site, grading, irrigation, paving, and most built-ins except bleachers, cost \$9.38 per square foot. Architects were Edward L. Varney Associates.

Carl Hayden High, designed for 1500 and now serving over 1700 students, is a "Class A" fully heated and refrigerated plant built at a cost of \$10.70 per square foot. Architects were Lescher and Mahoney.

The tour was under the general guidance of Fred Weaver, assisted by representatives of the architectural firms designing the plants. Officials of several school districts, both elementary and high school, were among those on the tour.

Below. Part of the group of school officials, newspaper representatives, architects and engineers on Phoenix Area school inspection.



March, 1958

Notable Quotes ...

About Schools

Leon Chatelain, Ir., President of the American Institute of Architects, before the 39th annual contention of the Associated General Contractors of America. February 11, in Dallas, Texas:

The substantial expense of school buildings is the interest paid on financing and the annual cost of main-tenance and repair. For this reason, we have this seeming paradox — only the wealthy community can afford a cheap school.

Besides long-range planning and design tailored to specific community needs, permanence of building is essential to economy. Consider the cost of replacing temporary buildings, not just the construction, but the financing. The difference between a 2% and 3% interest rate can be 20% of the cost of the entire building. Today's school should be built of first-class materials and it should be built to last for 40 years.

Mr. Smith's share of his community's school-building costs will cost about the same amount that he would spend in one evening by hirring a baby-sitter and taking his wife to dinner and a movie.

As architects and contractors, it is our joint respon-

sibility to build schools which, unlike the prison-like, pompous buildings of yesterday, serve to encourage learning. If such buildings can be combined with imaginative teaching that stimulates student curiosity in the physical sciences — and the arts — it is entirely possible that our young people may come to consider the acquisition of knowledge as something which is not only socially desirable, but pleasurable. If this is done, we as a nation will have nothing to fear from anybody — not even ourselves.

Dr. John R. Miles, Committee on Education of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, before a gathering of businessmen and educators in Phoenix, March 3rd.

Where the educational level is high, incomes are higher, productivity is higher, retail sales are higher, and political activity in terms of making representative government work is much higher.

Debts for school construction in Arizona don't begin to compare with debts in other parts of the country. You are not paying excessive prices for school rooms. If a community wants better standards it will get

better standards. We had better start wanting them.

If local action doesn't find taxes for schools, Uncle Sam isn't going to let education go down the drain. We're going to have good schools in this country even if we have to force them on people. It isn't necessary, but we have to find a way to hold the ideological line in the conflict we're in.

TECHNOLOGY and SCHOOL DESIGN.

By John W. McLeod, AIA

Vice-chairman AIA Committee on School Buildings

(Part of a talk before New Jersey School Board Association issued in reprint form by the Architectural Foundation, American Institute of Architects).

A second factor which may influence school planning is technological advance in design and materials. The building industry is now ready to supply us with an array of new materials—materials which need not require us to discard completely the tried and true products but should permit us new Hexibility to adjust our buildings to changing demands.

Specifics include:

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- Packaged heating and air conditioning
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A great many laymen have supposed that the architectural profession is opposed to prefabrication. I can assure you that this is not so-the AIA for years has been chief proponent of modular coordination, which is, of course, forerunner of all forms of prefabrication. What the architectural profession is opposed to, however, is over-the-counter sale of packaged prefabricated classroom space. I have worked with school boards, faculty committees and citizens' advisory groups, discussing, analyzing and evaluating needs and wishes of a great many communities in relation to their school building programs. With this as a background, I cannot convince myself that we are ready to set these things aside and accept one or another manufacturer's idea of what a school room should be. I realize that a great many school board members, superintendents, and yes, even architects, become "battle-weary" from constantly fighting rising costs. rising enrollments, etc., but surely, achievements we have made in this country, through education at local level, are not to be exchanged lightly for some mailorder panacea for all of our school-building ills.

(Continued next page)

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TECHNOLOGY and SCHOOLS (continuedo

What I would propose to industry is this-concentrate on producing more and more complete assemblies of component parts of structures and accessories. so that advantages of mass-production, in terms of reduced costs and accelerated delivery schedules would be of material benefit to all, and not alone to some particular manufacturer. Advantages are obvious -wide range of selection among products, retention of traditional practices of competitive pricing and public bidding, and most important of all, freedom to plan a school building, using these standard components, but in such a way that it will function for betterment of educational processes, rather than to strangle them.

Finally I would say-encourage your superintendent and his staff to explore new and better ways of teaching and then further, encourage your architect to use some of the new and exciting materials which are becoming available, so that benefits of our American productive know-how will be returned to us in reduced costs and better school buildings. Mistakes may be made but these mistakes should not be used as excuses to divest ourselves of our responsibility to provide our children with the best possible education and in best possible buildings we are able to provide.







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IN THE BOOK WORLD

"Good Housekeeping Book of Home Decoration" by Mary L. Brandt. McGraw-Hill, \$7.95. Reviewed by

For anyone redecorating his home, or starting "from scratch" with a new home this book offers a wealth of ideas. Room by room the author progresses throughout the house from the kitchen and family rooms to powder rooms and patios, discussing each individually. Depending upon the use of the room and the atmosphere you want to create, there are hundreds of practical suggestions on furniture and furniture arrangements, accessories, walls, floors, lighting, window treatments, and color schemes.

Completely geared to today's living, this handbook shows simple methods for making home a place in which to enjoy living and entertaining

There is also a section on "How To Buy." This includes furniture, drapery fabrics and curtains, floor coverings and wallpaper.

The book is well illustrated and the text kept at a minimum for interesting and easy reading.

"Architectural Photography of Houses" by Robert Cleveland. F. W. Dodge. \$7.50. Reviewed by Murry

As though it has not been previously and fully proven before, "Architectural Photography of Houses", again confirms the fact that the human eye is an astounding instrument that perceives instantly what the camera laboriously achieves through considerable contriving. The photographic achievement, at that, is tinged with what is invariably an artificial deception masquerading under the excuse of "composition".

Such contriving may be understandable for the purpose of art gallery photography, but it is questionable when illustrating the realities of architecture. This becomes immediately apparent in the clear, concise directions Mr. Cleveland gives for moving furniture from its normal position, placing lights where none exist, and other similar tricks keyed to produce a photograph that idealizes the room being photographed. Exteriors cannot be so mistreated because they cannot be easily rearranged and are more technically demanding. Perhaps that is why there are only 33 exterior photographs in contrast to 297 interiors that are illustrated. Incidentally, all the photographs are inblack and white, and are accompanied by a technicalanalysis and description of the colors and finishes of the subject matter. This technique results in a discussion and illustration of a kind of architectural pho-

This book could well be a "must" in a good library for if no other lesson is learned, and there are many clearly stated and diagrammed, you will be impressed by the explanations and the fact that good architectural photography is not necessarily the result of elaborate and expensive equipment or psychic insight, but of thought, analysis and planning. The techniques, ideas, advice and comment with which Mr. Cleveland so clearly and abundantly fills his pages, make this book worth having.

COMING BOOKS

Among new books of interest to architects are the following soon to be published. They may be ordered in advance and will be delivered upon publication. Add 24% sales tax to price indicated. Order from

> Architects Book and Magazine Service, P. O. Box 904, Phoenix, phone AL 2-4318.

At Home with Tomorrow, by Carl Koch, designer of the Techbuilt House, with Andrew Lewis. June, \$6.95.

One of America's top architects, Carl Koch seeks many more comfortable, functional and beautiful houses at lowest cost. Tracing his career and thinking through early developments - the Lustron House, the Acorn, his partially prefabricated Techbuilt House, Conantum Community, steel houses - Mr. Koch leads to his conclusion that the future's best housing will make full use of mass production techniques without sacrificing beauty of design, and will stress the planned community. Photographs and drawings.

The House of Your Dreams, by W. A. Kirkpatrick, Professor of Architecture at University of Southern California. April, \$4.95.

A book for would-be homeowners, it provides information on specific financial considerations in home buying; what to look for in community services, deeds, title surveying, and mortgages of different kinds; and includes reproductions of legal forms. Discusses space saving, storage, convenience of working areas, orientation of house, insulation, types of heating, air conditioning, sound control.

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tography-and reveals it to be a surprising art. From the architect's point of view, it is disappointing that the angle of vision and depth of focus of the contents are limited to houses and primarily to their interior

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