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WEEKLY BULLETIN

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HOUSE PARTY

In this issue of the Bulletin there appears a detailed program of the Low-Cost Housing and Slum Clearance Conference which will be going on in Detroit at about the time you receive it, that is, September 3, 4 and 5.

Two architects, one English, the other American, and both outstanding, head the list of important visitors from whose experience and wisdom we may freely draw by attendance at the sessions which are open to all interested, at no cost.

Detroit architects as a whole have evinced but little active interest in the subject of the conference although this does not apply so much to the younger men. All are familiar with it in a casual manner by way of reading. We have been accustomed in the past to looking for our architectural commissions from the upper crusts of the business and social worlds and have unconsciously allied ourselves almost solely with those interests, thinking their thoughts, dressing like them, acting like them and eating and drinking very much the same stuff as they do, and simultaneously overlooking about two-thirds of the population.

Architects' Luncheon

32nd Floor, Union Guardian Building
Private Dining Room
Southwest Vista
Tuesday, September 4th, 12:30 p. m.

More recently, voices, spokesmen, for that two-thirds have arisen, some right out of capitalistic cradles and now we are in the midst of a wave of eye and ear opening propaganda that is national in scope. "When "TIME's" Park Avenue cousin "FORTUNE" uses half a dozen issues to tell its well-to-do readers about the need for housing for the lower groups and then publishes a book; when engineers design production or fabrication houses by the hundreds; when material producers research and research; with City and Regional Planners come to Glory under the New Deal and are working full blast; with a completely new vocation of Housing Official arisen; and goodness only knows what else come to compete with us, it behooves architects to be vigilant if they are to remain where they think they are.

We hear constantly that changes are taking place but are hardly aware of what they are as applied to our own work. It is always difficult to know when major changes are in progress. Further, the great majority oppose change because they are quite satisfied with things as they are. There will be some for instance who clearly recall that the

only artificial light they knew of as boys was the candle. When coal oil or kerosene came into existence it was of course, scoffed at. So was gas. So was that fellow Edison's crazy little glow worm in a glass bottle, emanating 16 candle power, just imagine, the equivalent of 16 candles!

I am sure that this low-cost housing movement is here to stay. Public Works Administrator Ickes just the other day in an address stated that he hoped that the Federal assistance to it would somehow be made a permanent affair. As I see it, one of the changes that is taking place in our architectural work is that there will be fewer and fewer large scale monumental buildings, both public and private. The Treasury Department of the Government has already said so for public buildings. Lack of commissions has already shown it to be the case in private work. Decentralization of cities will further reduce the need for excessively large buildings as there will be less congestion as the years go on.

More and more of our work will be coming from these masses, this two thirds of the population that we have hitherto ignored. Examples already exist of large operations for labor organizations and another, a housing group is now under way in Philadelphia. It is desirable that we know therefore, how these people live, how they think, and all we can about them. In other words it is desirable that we cultivate something of a social turn of mind, even though it hurts. It may turn to good account later on.

Architects can well give thought to how the cost of construction can be reduced. That is the urgent need of the present. Planning of buildings has been given intensive study and the expert planner will no longer tolerate waste spaces or those which are not doing duty most of the time in this class of housing. High efficiency has been reached. But costs are prohibitive or else we are of a mind to give the occupant too much in the way of social amenities or household equipment, with which latter statement I will conclude and leave the readers to fight out the argument that it will cause.

Come to the party if you enjoy verbal pyrotechnics.
G. Frank Corder

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Edited By E. J. BRUNNER

At Brooklands

Brooklands, the projected scene of our next golf outing is Jess Stoddard's home course. Don't know exactly why he has a home course, because he is certainly a "group minded" golf player and has a



J. O. STODDARD
Vice-President-Treasurer
Detroit Testing Laboratory

lot of gangs like ours on his list to "never miss." Jess is like that. When we bowl, he bowls; when we hold a meeting, he is present; when we go on a picnic, he is always there. Last year for instance, he was in Chicago the two days preceding our picnic, and looking in his date book (Jess would have such a book), he discovered that he would have to make time so he cut his visit short and arrived from the train to the dock.—And of course, he has never missed a smoker.

You have to hand it to that kind of member, and Jess has had it handed to him twice. He was president of the Exchange in 1918 and again in 1927. During 1918 there was probably lots of heck popping, and in 1927 there was plenty too, so far as the Builders' and Traders' was concerned. But to stick to golf, Jess is our most famous ex-president in that respect.

During the past five years since we have kept the new idea in score records and handicaps worked out by Bill Seeley, Jess has an attendance record of 80 per cent, and more than that he has won the big cup three times.

At the Michigan Society of Architects Tournament in May, 1926 Jess won the big cup for the first time it was put into play. With the big cup went a small replica standing about six inches high, which since that time adorns Jess' desk at the Detroit Testing Laboratory. Jess is very proud of that cup and of course was tickled pink when he won the big cup the second time in our October, 1930 tournament and became exuberant as well he

might when he won it again in May, 1933. Three times winner, meant winner become keeper, but in a neat speech he dedicated the cup to the Joint Tournament of the Architects and Builders' and Traders' Exchange, and so it immediately repassed into circulation.

John Gillespie, president of the Peerless Portland Cement Company, through his company presented the cup to the Michigan Society of Architects in '26. At our last outing, August 14, this year, Larry Hume of Peerless won the cup, so at Brooklands we have the interesting coincidence of the cup being brought in by the representative of the original donating company, and being brought to the home course of the only man who has been able to win it three times.

And so, into the fertile mind of Bill Seeley, our director, permanent golf chairman, weather man without a rainy outing, and general all-around good fellow, who contrary to our last treatise on the Scotch game, has not missed one of our tournaments in the past five years, came the idea of our saluting Jess at our September 11 outing. So O. K. Jess, we are going to do it.

Every member of the architectural profession, and every builder and trader who can play at golf should get out to this September outing, because there is going to be plenty of good golf and afterwards plenty of fun.

Plenty of men said the last outing was the best one we ever have had. Well, the next one is going to be one which it will not pay to miss even if you have to borrow the price from the Federal Housing Corporation.

And in all seriousness, we owe it to Jess to turn out about two hundred strong. Jess would do his one hundred per cent for any other man in the Exchange—so, gentlemen, you see how it is.

Charles Kotting, veteran Detroit architect and former president of the Michigan chapter of the American Institute of Architects, died at his residence, 3000 East Grand Boulevard Thursday.

Mr. Kotting was born in Amsterdam, Holland, 71 years ago and came to Detroit at the age of 23 years. Originally employed by the architectural firm of Mason & Wright, he later became a partner in the firm of Chittenden & Kotting. Poor health caused his retirement five years ago. He was a member of the Detroit Boat Club and several architectural societies.

He leaves his widow, Emma R., and two sons, H. Lester and Richard, and two daughters, Mrs. Ellis Andrews and Mrs. Walter B. Maurice.

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