

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

84th ANNUAL CONVENTION, AIA

BOARD MEETS JULY 19

WILLIAM WARD WATKIN DIES

DONNELLY HEADS COASTAL BEND

JULY
1952



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 19—Board meeting, TSA, Austin.

September 15-18—54th Annual Convention of the American Hospital Association, Philadelphia, Pa.

October 29-31—13th Annual Convention of the Texas Society of Architects, El Paso.

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84th CONVENTION, AIA

Architects everywhere can take inspiration from the 84th annual convention of the AIA, which has demonstrated again the combination of enthusiasm for the present and future, and faith with the traditions of the past, which has long characterized the architectural profession.

A relatively large delegation from the TSA was privileged to see and hear at first hand the proceedings of the New York convention, held in a city which itself demonstrates every facet of architectural development for the past 300 years.

New York, offering such rich contrasts as St. Paul's Chapel, scene of the service conducted after Washington's inauguration in 1789, and ultra-modern Lever House, was an ideal setting for this second convention of the AIA's second century.

The convention followed its theme of emphasizing the importance of building design in forming environments for human activity. In doing so, it provided a procession of business and professional speakers seldom equalled. These men presented a valuable picture of conditions and developments affecting architecture and allied fields, both in the U. S. and abroad. The texts of their addresses will be studied and noted widely.

Some 60 manufacturers, selected from a far greater number of applicants, exhibited an array of building products which in itself was a major attraction.

Due to an admirable arrangement of the convention schedule, delegates were able to attend many business sessions and seminars during the earlier part of the day, and then range afield in search of the various exhibitions, buildings, and special events open for the occasion. New York and surrounding environs were typically generous in arranging an extraordinary number of these attractions.

The social calendar was crowded with a variety of affairs arranged to please every taste among the 2000 delegates.

TSA members who were able to attend the New York convention found an unusual opportunity to gain a valuable insight into how many national and international leaders in the profession are planning for the present and future. They were also offered the other benefits of a full and rewarding program.

The 1952 convention is a tribute to the many AIA officials and members who worked so long and effectively on it, and to the 12 founding fathers of the AIA whose 101-year-old organization now includes more than 9000 practicing U. S. architects.

New York Convention Termed Big Success

TSA Delegation On Hand For 84th Annual Meeting;
Speakers, Exhibits, Special Events Excellent;
New York Provides Splendid Convention Site

TSA delegates to the 84th annual convention of the AIA in New York June 24-27 are back home with recollections of one of the finest meetings in Institute history.

Following the theme of emphasizing the importance of building design in forming environments for human activity, the New York sessions presented an extraordinary number of excellent speakers, exhibits, and special events. The metropolitan area and its environs in the meantime contributed a tremendous variety of shows and exhibitions of interest to the architect, plus the rich contrasts of a city that has been making architectural history for almost three centuries.

Maurice J. Sullivan, FAIA, of Houston, was re-elected treasurer of the AIA.

Convention Highlights Listed

Convention highlights mentioned by returning delegates included the following: the opening address by President Glenn Stanton, the closing speech by Hugh Ferriss, head of the New York Chapter; the luncheon speech by Ernest T. Weir, chairman of the Republic Steel Corporation, on the importance of steel in today's building; a discussion of the need to adapt city building to the increasing demands of the automobile, by Pyke Johnson, president of the Automotive Safety Foundation; the annual banquet address by Deane W. Malott, president of Cornell University; and a discussion of European rebuilding by Jan van Ettinger of Holland.

At technical sessions, attention was focused upon discussions of solid and hollow precast concrete sections by Roger Corbetts, New York builder; a description of the "lift-slab" system by O'Neil Ford, TSA-AIA, of San Antonio; and on

a paper on "Conservation in School Buildings" by Henry L. Wright, Los Angeles architect.

Cost Seminar Popular

Other popular seminar subjects were on reducing the cost of construction and on latest government standards and practices.

An outstanding feature of the convention was the many conducted tours arranged by the host chapter. Among the most popular sites visited were the new United Nations Building, various large public housing projects, Lever House, The Cloisters, and the Morgan Library.

Business sessions were well attended throughout the convention, for which more than 1800 AIA members registered. Among the important topics brought up for discussion at the business meetings were: the annual board report, report of the Public Relations Committee, the Earned Income Tax Adjustment Act, a report on education and registration survey; various amendments proposed to the by-laws, and a new survey on architectural activity.

Many Collateral Exhibits

A total of 29 collateral exhibits, held in every New York borough, attracted large numbers of delegates. Among these were "Re-Union of Architecture and Engineering", "Planning The United Nations Headquarters", "Recent Public And University Libraries", "Great Architectural Drawings" (Metropolitan Museum), "Shaping New York's Future", "Architectural Photography", "The Furniture of George Nakashima", "Brooklyn In Progress", and historical exhibits by the boroughs of the Bronx, Queens, Richmond, and Westchester.

(Continued on Page 18)



At the New York convention, Ernest T. Weir, left, chairman of the board of National Steel, chats with Glenn Stanton, president of the AIA, at a luncheon session during which Mr. Weir delivered one of the principal convention addresses.

Houston Chapter Joins Allied Arts Association

The Houston Chapter, AIA, is one of four member organizations which have formed the Allied Arts Association of Houston. Other charter organizations are the Museum of Fine Arts, the Art League, and the Contemporary Arts Association, all of Houston.

Kenneth Franzheim, TSA-AIA, is chairman of the board. Hamilton Brown, TSA-AIA, is vice-president and treasurer.

Principal Objectives Listed

Allied Arts has these principal objectives: to bring together the artists of the community and citizens interested in the arts; to aid in expanding and broadening existing activities of member and associate organizations; to contribute, if pos-

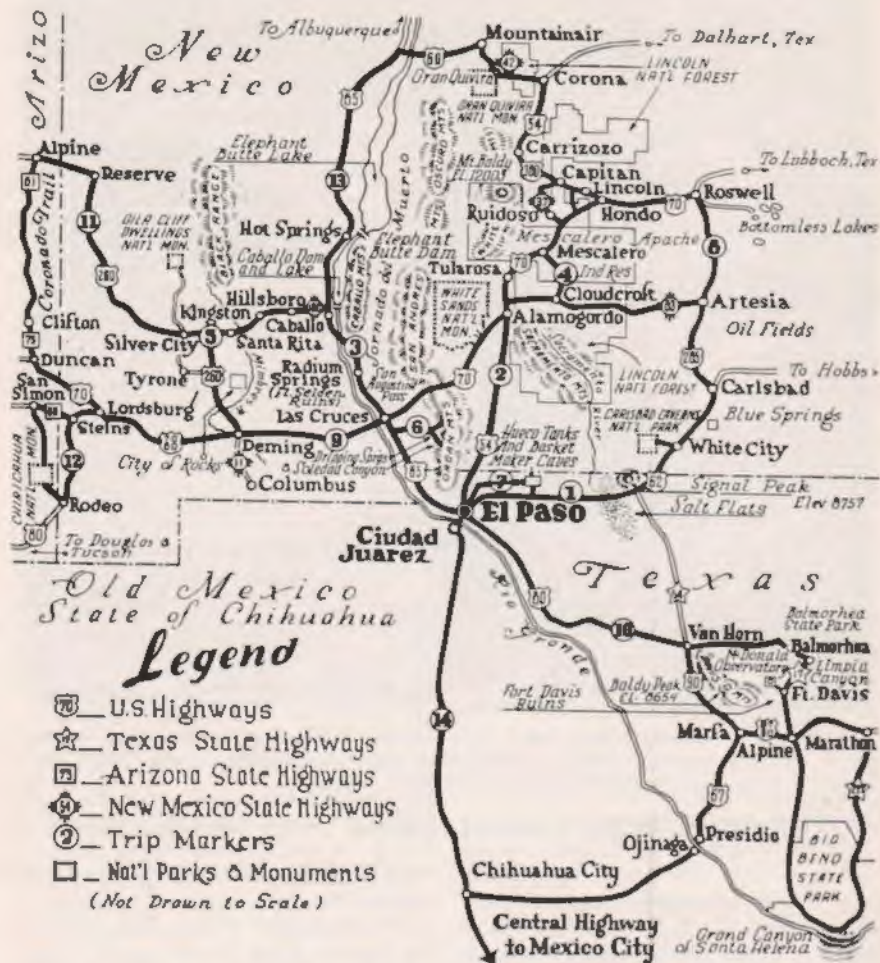
sible, to arts projects; and to serve the community.

Allied Arts has two associate members, the Houston Little Theatre and the Houston Chapter, American Institute of Decorators. Other organizations whose aims coincide with the Association's own objectives are eligible for consideration.

Fine Arts Ball

The Allied Arts Association is now publishing a brochure setting forth details concerning the organization. A principal activity will be the Fine Arts Ball in Houston, set for next November 26.

Allied Arts will sponsor an exhibition of Southwest art at the new Prudential Life building in Houston during July.



Combine El Paso Convention With Vacation

Many TSA members have inquired about vacation spots in the El Paso area, indicating plans to combine attendance at the October 29-31 convention with a two-weeks outing.

Cloudcroft, Carlsbad Nearby

The map above shows El Paso near Old Mexico, Carlsbad Cavern, Big Bend State Park, White Sands, Ruidoso, and many other vacation and scenic centers. The 9000-foot-high golf course at

Cloudcroft, N. M. is in nearby southern New Mexico. Carlsbad lies 154 miles east. The White Sands National Monument is about 100 miles due north. Ciudad Juarez, one of Old Mexico's most fascinating centers, is just across the border from El Paso.

In the August, September, and October issues various details of the attractions for vacationers in the El Paso area will be more fully explained.

Death Ends Long Career of William Ward Watkin

Death ended the long career of William Ward Watkin, FAIA, professor of architecture at Rice Institute and a practicing member of his profession for 44 years, at Houston June 24. He was 65 years of age.

Mr. Watkin, a native of Boston, Mass., came to Houston in 1910 as supervising architect for the original buildings at Rice Institute. With the famed Boston firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson at the time, he had graduated two years earlier with a BS in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania.

Built Architectural Department

When the Rice Institute opened for academic work in 1912, Mr. Watkin accepted a post with the department of architecture. He remained for 40 years, during which he built the Institute's architectural school to wide recognition and designed many of Houston's finest structures.

Mr. Watkin was the architect for the following Houston buildings: Museum of Fine Arts, Public Library, Trinity Episcopal Church, Palmer Memorial Chapel, Central Church of Christ, and many others. He was the consulting architect for Texas Technological College at Lubbock and for the new Methodist Hospital, Houston, and the Abercrombie Engineering Laboratory and Fondren Library at the Rice Institute.

Author Of Books In Field

The author of many articles in professional journals, Mr. Watkin wrote two books on church architecture: "The Church Of Tomorrow" and "Planning and Building The Modern Church."

Mr. Watkin was a member of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Houston. His many memberships included the Texas Philosophical Society and the Houston Philosophical Society.

Survivors include Mrs. William Ward

Watkin, the former Miss Josephine Cockrell of Houston; a son, Lt. Col. William Ward Watkin, Jr. of Fort Belvoir, Va.; and two daughters, Mrs. Carl Biehl of New Orleans and Mrs. Nolan Barrick of Austin.

Donnelly President As Coastal Bend Chapter Names New Officers

C. P. Donnelly of Corpus Christi has been named president of the Texas Coastal Bend Chapter. He will serve until January 1, 1953.

Other officials elected to serve with Donnelly are H. Dexter Hamon, vice-president; Walter E. Wilde, secretary-treasurer; and Nat W. Hardy, director. All are from Corpus Christi.

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What Others Are Doing

The magazine CHURCH MANAGE-
MENT for June, 1952 contains articles
on "Sound And Your Church", by M. A.
Smith, acoustical engineer for the U. S.
Gypsum Company; and "What The Arch-
itect Can Do For Religion", by George
Miles Gibson, AIA.

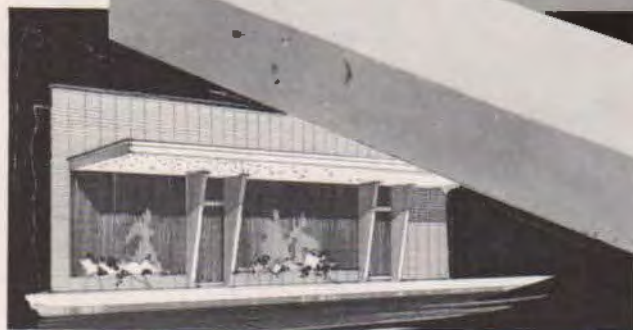
The National Society of Professional
Engineers has already distributed more
than 6,000 copies of the booklet "How
To Improve Engineering-Management
Communications". The booklet offers
practical recommendations on how to im-
prove cooperation between the engineer
and his employer. Compiled as a result
of surveying some 350 firms, it has been
reviewed by leading national newspapers
and newsmagazines.

The BAY STATE ARCHITECT of the
Massachusetts State Association of Archi-
tects has an editorial concerning archi-
tects "well past middle age", who are
looking for drafting jobs "in order to
keep alive". The example of these men
is used as a forceful illustration of the
need for some legislative means whereby
the professional man can retain enough
of his earnings for a nest-egg, as well
as an AIA-sponsored pension fund for
members.

All Pennsylvania architectural groups
have jointly staged a dinner to honor
members in active practice 50 years or
more, according to the CHARETTE.

The EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT of
New York reports that Caudill, Rowlett,
Scott & Associates of College Station,
Texas won one of the top honors for best-
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the American Association of School
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Full Agenda As Board Meets At Austin July 19

The Executive Board of the TSA has slated a quarterly meeting for Saturday, July 19, at the Driskill Hotel in Austin. Sessions will begin at 10 a.m. and are expected to continue through most of the afternoon.

Items on the agenda include: proceeding with the incorporation of the TSA and TA, as recommended; seminar; student competition; developing details of the El Paso convention; cooperation with the State Board of Education on Special School survey; and reports on standardized sign.

TSA President Herbert M. Tatum will preside.

TEXAS ARCHITECT Seeks Letters To Editor For New Column

As noted in the June issue, the TA is now ready to publish letters to the editor, on any subject of interest, not to exceed 100 words. Letters, or excerpts therefrom, will be considered for publication on a basis of interest to readers. All letters must be signed.

Letters should be sent to Editor, TEXAS ARCHITECT, 1200 Bissonnet, Houston 5, Texas.

News of the Chapters

Houston—The June dinner meeting of the Houston Chapter was held at the Briar Club. Delegates were elected to the national AIA convention. George Pierce showed color slides of the Alcoa Building in Pittsburgh, and Ralph Anderson and William Condon a selection of color slides made recently in Europe during their trip abroad. The annual summer party has been scheduled for August 15 at the Pine Forest Country Club. The Chapter has voted against the uniform sign proposed by TSA.

El Paso—Recent meetings have concentrated on setting up committees for the October 29-31 convention and advancing plans for this statewide meeting of the TSA.

Dallas—The June meeting was a joint session with the Texas Society of Professional Engineers. A panel discussion followed short speeches by engineers Frank W. Chappell and P. N. Vinther and architects Thomas Broad and Murrell Bennett. It was announced that a total of 44 members and 21 guests had attended the May meeting. The executive board has approved the following membership applications: corporate, Thomas A. Russ; junior associates, Richard A. Musgrave, Otto Anthony Marinick, Theodore Granville Jones, O. E. Long.



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Hospital Services Seminar Held At Austin Under Auspices of SHD

Topics of interest to the architect specializing in hospital construction were included on a hospital services seminar held at Austin June 26-27 under auspices of the State Department of Health.

On the program were Planning Main Kitchen, Kitchen Equipment Selection And Arrangement, Architectural Aspects of Main Kitchen, and similar discussions of central sterilizing and pharmacy facilities.

Further information on the seminar proceedings may be obtained from Dr. Dean F. Winn, Director, Hospital Survey and Construction Division, State Department of Health, Austin, Texas.

Ten Committee Heads Named At El Paso For Convention

The El Paso Chapter, host for the 13th annual TSA convention October 29-31, has named chairmen for 10 convention committees and issued a complete organization chart for the affair.

Registration will begin at 4 p.m. October 29 at the Cortez Hotel, and will continue until 1:30 p.m. October 31.

McGhee Heads Registration

Committee chairmen named include Percy McGhee, registration; E. W. Carroll, Louis Daeuble and Richard Licht, budget; Robert Nelson, reservations and arrangements; Louis Daeuble, entertainment; Wm. G. Wuehrmann, sergeants-at-arms; J. E. Monroe, Jr., publicity and programs; Mrs. J. E. Monroe, Jr., ladies events; Duffy Stanley, transportation.

Local chairmen have been named for the seminar and student competition, both of which are handled at the TSA level. These local heads are E. W. Carroll, seminar; and Richard Licht, student competition.

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NEW YORK CONVENTION—

(Continued from Page 4)

Delegates were offered an extremely varied program of entertainment, ranging from an extended boat trip around Manhattan to a private showing of "The King and I" which drew many of the TSA crowd.

Varied Entertainment

A cocktail party at The Cloisters, branch of the Metropolitan Museum in Fort Tryon Park, was also a very popular event, as were the various small dinners arranged by the New York Chapter at unique city restaurants.

The commercial exhibits put on by a selected group of 57 manufacturers, in cooperation with the Producers' Council, drew large numbers of delegates throughout the four-day meeting.

Stayton Nunn of Houston, TSA-AIA, was advanced to fellowship in the Institute at a ceremony held during the annual banquet.

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