



A Message From The President

Now that the National Convention of the A. I. A. recently held in New Orleans, is over, I find myself sitting back in my chair in wonderment, reflecting the memories of the many important phases of the Convention that caused this session to be so different. This is not a report on the Convention, but merely my comments.

The fellowship and keen amicus air of the Architects in general was quite evident. To rub elbows with your colleagues from all parts of the nation and certain foreign countries, and to discuss Architecture with them reveals to me that we are pretty much alike. Our problems do not differ too much, big or little. Our client, contractor, materialism relationship I find to be quite similar, and most interesting to discuss.

I would say that the Convention was most successful, as the records revealed that more than twice the anticipated registrations occurred. All of the scheduled meetings were well attended, percentage-wise, greater than any in my experience. The seminars and discussion panels were most interesting. This Convention was, to say the least, inspiring, and, it is unfortunate that most of us cannot attend such meetings. One never fails to be impressed and become more dedicated to the profession and the things for which it stands.

The lack of planned luncheons and dinners did allow some time to enjoy the tours as arranged. The French Quarters are something to behold, however, the highlight was the three hour River Boat trip on the Mississippi with the Dixieland Band, entertainers and all. We, of the New Mexico delegation, were so proud to be present when the awards were given out, and that our own Bradley P. Kidder was the recipient of the Kemper Award.

Certainly Brad is deserving of it, and he is likewise proud of the honor bestowed upon him. Further, the National Board quite obviously did not wish to release Mr. Kidder from further duties to the Institute, so they appointed him to membership on the Board of Trustees of the A. I. A. Foundation. He was subsequently elected to the Presidency of that group, and will assume his new duties sometime this fall at which time there will be a press release.

At a post convention meeting of the National Board, I learned that my name was placed in nomination for the Western Mountain Regional Chairman of the Chapter Affairs Committee. I was notified by Mr. Frederic Porter, A. I. A., our Regional Director and member of the National Board, that I was subsequently approved by the unanimous vote of that body. Certainly this is an honor bestowed upon me, and I accept it in all humility and will certainly strive to merit the confidence that the National Board has placed in me by performing the duties of that office satisfactorily.

I cannot close this discussion without commenting on, and lauding the high quality and abilities of our national officers, with particular emphasis on our National President, John Noble Richards, F.A.I.A. His leadership and ability to conduct a convention is most amazing. The suave mannerisms employed, and with finesse, are some of many of the reasons why he was returned unopposed to the Presidency of the Institute. By his side, when appropriate, you will always find the charming and most personable Norma Richards. Everybody loves her, I am sure.

Tommie Britton