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Skill, Integrity and
Responsibility

Lone ★ Star CONSTRUCTOR



Skill, Integrity and
Responsibility

Vol. 1

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NOTICE

The Lone Star Constructor is a monthly magazine issued as the official organ of the Texas Branch, Associated General Contractors of America.

It is mailed free to all building, highway, railroad and public work General Contractors, all Architects and all Engineers in the State of Texas.

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FRANK N. WATSON
Editor
204 Liggett Building
Dallas, Texas

WITH THIS ISSUE the Lone Star Constructor makes its bow to the construction industry of Texas. As the official organ of the Texas Branch, Associated General Contractors of America, it will serve, primarily, to further the principles of co-operative effort on the part of Constructors, and to bring about better contracting conditions.

Texas Constructors have long labored under the yoke of disorganization. Combating the encroachments of other groups within the industry with the obsolete weapon of individual resistance has proven futile. Armed with the modern weapons of organization, co-operation and ethical self-regulation success is absolutely certain.

Constructors are prone to forget that they are the fiscal agents of construction—the only group within the industry that has direct contact with every other element of a construction operation. The very nature of the service he renders demands that the Constructor assume his full responsibility as the co-ordinating and directing force in construction progress.

In the field of professional and trade associations A. G. C., both nationally and locally, is comparatively recent. But based on fundamental principles that are economically sound in conception and operation it has already wielded a tremendous influence for good.

To the furtherance of these principles, as

expressed in the organization and activity of the A. G. C., the Lone Star Constructor has been dedicated.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION are, of necessity, two separate and distinct phases of a construction project," recites the Code of Ethics and Practice adopted by a Texas Branch, "and the best results can be obtained only when a capable designer and a skilled, reliable and responsible general contractor are employed on the work."

While that declaration of principle is directly aimed at the Architect or Engineer who attempts to combine construction with design and the Constructor who attempts to design or draw plans and write specifications, it applies with equal force to designers or constructors who evade the duty and responsibility which the true sphere of each imposes.

Without mincing words, the article in this issue by Ward P. Christie, A. G. C. Engineer, discusses the many evils that result from evasion of the designer's duty to furnish complete plans and specifications as well as the inequity of shifted responsibility.

Evasion of responsibility is a form of mental dishonesty that too frequently occurs—another instance of much needed house cleaning.

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Managing Editor Lone Star Constructor

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 204 Liggett Building, Dallas

Activities of the Texas Branch during the past sixty days have been largely devoted to internal development. The plan of organizing the engineering construction firms of Texas into a state-wide Chapter, Highway Division of the Texas Branch, as approved by the Austin meeting, is being pushed as rapidly as possible.

More than a dozen of the leading road, paving and engineering constructors of the state have signified their willingness to come into such an organization. Complete outline of the organization plan together with tentative constitution and by-laws are being mailed to all prospective members of this Chapter with the request that they sign applications for membership conditioned on the perfecting of the organization with not less than twenty members.

It is planned to hold a ratification meeting at San Antonio November 12th and 13th, in connection with the regular Texas Branch scheduled for those dates, for the purpose of electing permanent officers, adopting the final draft of constitution and by-laws and working out the details of operation.

The Austin meeting designated Frank N. Watson as temporary executive-secretary for the purpose of getting the Highway Chapter organized. Engineering construction firms interested in this movement should communicate with Mr. Watson.

Plans are also under way for the organization of a local Chapter at Austin with an initial membership of eight to ten constructors. Under the recent ruling of the Texas Branch which reduced the required membership of new Chapters from ten to five it is expected that several more new Chapters will be inaugurated in the next few months.

THOS. M. MURRAY,
 Secretary, Texas Branch

DALLAS CHAPTER

L. W. HICKEY.....President
 OWEN HUGHES.....Vice-President
 W. H. MacLAY.....Vice-President
 ARCH MUNN.....Secretary-Treasurer
 FRANK N. WATSON.....Secretary-Manager

Educational work on the subjects of quantity surveying and cost accounting have taken up most of the regular meeting time of Dallas Chapter the past two months. W. E. Henger, George Watson and Arch Munn have handled these topics and succeeded in investing them with real practical interest.

The luncheon meetings held for all general contractors each Wednesday noon are steadily growing in attendance and interest. Outside speakers are invited to address these meetings on topics of interest to constructors, so that in addition to the good fellowship, we are building up the feeling that constructors, as the central unit of the construction

industry, are an important cog in the commercial life of the city.

Dallas Chapter has received a large supply of the new Joint Conference Standard Building and Engineering contract forms and has placed copies in the hands of each Architect and Engineer in Dallas. Hereafter our members will submit all proposals conditioned on the execution of these standard contract forms.

The A. G. C. sign is being prominently displayed on most of the construction work in Dallas and we are rapidly succeeding in impressing the public that the seal of Skill, Integrity and Responsibility stands for something tangible.

FRANK N. WATSON,
 Secretary-Manager.

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Weekly luncheon meetings have been resumed by the Fort Worth Chapter, being held each Wednesday noon at the Maryland Coffee Shop, 812 Houston Street. No program is being attempted at these luncheons but the good fellowship engendered by such social get-togethers is bringing the Chapter membership much closer in spirit and harmony. Out-of-town members are cordially invited to attend these luncheons when business brings them to Fort Worth on Wednesdays.

Regular Chapter meetings are held every other Wednesday night, usually at the office of the president, Thos. S. Byrne. Meetings so far have been largely devoted to round-table discussions of local conditions and on subjects as developed at the recent Texas Branch meetings.

After January first when the new budget goes into effect we expect to enlarge our activities to include a campaign designed to put association ideals on the map in Fort Worth.

J. D. JOHNSON,
 Secretary.

HOUSTON CHAPTER

THOS. M. MURRAY.....President
 C. A. THANHEISER.....Vice-President
 E. G. MacLAY.....Secretary-Treasurer
 JAMES M. L. WEST.....Director
 DON HALL.....Director

The members of the Houston Chapter are holding regular meetings once a month and are doing considerable work on different subjects between times. We find that these regular meetings are of great benefit to the contractors. For one thing, it helps to get them better acquainted with each other, and to exchange ideas on matters that are of common interest to all. The membership committee is actively at work in raising our membership at least twenty members. This will give us a nice sized chapter and sufficient members to carry out our programs successfully.

We are at the present time combating day labor practices in the city government, and are endeavoring to show the city administration that it is more economical to do work on a contract basis than by the faulty day labor system. Houston has

just passed through a general strike over the metal trim controversy, and successful co-operation of the contractors and the united stand which they made helped largely to break the strike. This is another instance where organization and unity in effort has won out.

We have started to form a campaign to put the A. G. C. more before the public and let everyone know what A. G. C. stands for.

THOMAS M. MURRAY,
President.

SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER

A. J. MCKENZIE.....President
J. T. HAILE, JR.....Secretary-Treasurer
S. E. CORNELIUS.....Executive Secretary

San Antonio Chapter is devoting her main energy just now to making plans and preparations for the Texas Branch meeting to be held in this city November 12th and 13th.

While the full details have not as yet been worked out a general outline of the program shows separate meetings of the building and highway divisions on the first day. The highway meeting will be devoted to perfecting their statewide Chapter.

Joint meeting of the two divisions on the second day will take up questions of mutual interest—mainly the question of day labor.

Entertainment features will be adequate—and then some. So come prepared to work hard and play the same way.

SIDNEY E. CORNELIUS,
Executive Secretary.

WACO CHAPTER

J. S. HARRISON.....President
R. J. POTTS.....Secretary-Treasurer

Apologies are due Waco Chapter for not advising them of the publication date of this first issue so that an article covering their activities could be prepared. In the rush of getting this issue to press the matter was overlooked.—Editor.

SAN ANTONIO GETS FALL MEETING

(Continued from page 7)

the entire Branch membership on matters of general interest. Day labor will be the major topic for discussion.

The San Antonio Chapter has not developed the plans made for entertaining visiting constructors, but they have let enough leak out to insure that this convention may see the first one hundred per cent attendance in the history of Texas Branch.

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