

The CONSTRUCTOR

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COVER

Paul Revere's statue in historic Boston, depicted on this month's cover, is a reminder that the time is fast approaching when the 52nd annual convention of The Associated General Contractors of America will meet in that city, February 26-March 1. By late December about 700 reservations already had been received by the A.G.C. of Massachusetts from members of 65 chapters. An outline of events slated for the conclave will be found on page 34.

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THE CONSTRUCTOR, JANUARY 1951

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B&R-185

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COVER

Our cover shows wire being spun into massive suspension cables to support the \$40,000,000 Delaware Memorial bridge by U. S. Steel's American Bridge Company. This modern "crossing the Delaware" commemorates General George Washington's feat by rowboat 174 years ago. The bridge will be completed in 1951 and will carry 4,000,000 motor vehicles annually. The structure will supplant the ferry service now operated between Pennsville, New Jersey and New Castle, Delaware.

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COVER

Pictured on the cover is a stainless-steel-faced skyscraper, now under construction in Pittsburgh. Known as the 525 William Penn Place Building, it will house the Pittsburgh headquarters of the United States Steel Corporation, and, on the lower floors, the Mellon National Bank and Trust Company. It has 41 stories above ground and four below. The top two stories are two penthouses, one for the president of U. S. Steel, and the other for the president of Mellon National Bank and Trust Co. Completion is scheduled for November 1, but some floors will be occupied prior to that time, as soon as they are completed. It is of structural steel construction, faced with limestone and stainless steel panels. Turner Construction Company, New York City, A.G.C., is the general contractor.

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COVER

This month's cover picture signifies the part the general contracting industry is playing in the atomic energy program which is held to be the primary defense of the free world against the aggression of communist nations. So long as America and its allies maintain a substantial lead in atomic energy development, their enemies are more likely to defer provoking all-out war. Atomic energy depends on the construction industry as well as the science professions for its progressive, creative development. Shown on the cover is the beginning of a building which houses a chain-reacting atomic pile six stories high, 120 feet long, and 100 feet wide.

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COVER

The "highball express," nickname for the 4½-ton steel ball shown on the cover hurtling through the reservoir area being cleared for the Hungry Horse Dam in Montana, was a "screwball" idea of two contractors—Wixson & Crowe, Inc., and J. H. Trisdale, Inc., of Redding, California. In executing one contract, they experienced delays from the snagging on stumps and rough terrain of their cables which were dragged by two tractors through the scrub timber in clearing operations. Then they hit on the idea of a big steel ball, equipped with swivels and jewels on the axle, and attached to the cable to keep it high off the ground. The axle rides on Timken bearings, and lubrication is by the simple method of dumping heavy oil inside the ¾-inch boiler-plate sphere. The contractors, pooling their ideas on separate contracts covering an aggregate of 14,895 acres for \$4,931,210, have cleared up to 100 acres per eight-hour shift with five of the big balls in action. A follow-up ingenious idea for clearing debris is described on page 44.

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COVER

A natural force—fall of the tide—was harnessed by engineers in positioning a 250-foot span of superstructure steel for the 3,660-foot vehicular viaduct between Boston Harbor's Long Island and the Massachusetts mainland at Squantum. The two-lane bridge, to be completed this summer, will provide the first direct highway route to Boston's city hospital facilities on the Island, eliminating ferry service. At flood tide the span was floated into position and put into permanent place on the New England granite piers as the tide ebbed. Substructure was built by Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp., New York, and superstructure by Bethlehem Steel Co. (Bethlehem Steel Photo.)

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COVER

The construction industry's dual role in peace and war is exemplified by a stone mason working on Washington's historic National Cathedral, and members of the 439th Engineer Construction Battalion, A.G.C.-sponsored unit, attaching cables to a girder in a monumental engineering job on the famous Kila Chon bridge in Korea (Wide World photo). See page 45.

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COVER

Nerve center of Sky Harbor Municipal Airport, Phoenix, the tallest control tower in the United States, shown in this month's cover, supports a control deck almost 100 feet high affording unlimited visibility to all sections of the airport. A circular staircase rises through the steel tower shaft to upper decks completely walled by glare-proof, heat and pressure resistant glass. Construction is by the Mardian Construction Company, A.G.C., Phoenix. (See page 44.)

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COVER

Where ferries once hauled Atlantic Coast motorists, now stretches the \$44 million Delaware Memorial Bridge linking New Jersey to Delaware, just south of Wilmington. Opened for travel on August 15, the giant toll bridge, more than two miles long, is a major link in the Maine-to-Florida road system now being developed. Other major projects in the system include the New Jersey Turnpike, and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge which will shunt travel around Baltimore, Maryland.

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COVER

This first picture of Montana's newest lake shows the towering blocks of Hungry Horse Dam mirrored in the rising reservoir. One million acre-feet of water will be captured behind the huge multiple-purpose Bureau of Reclamation dam during the 1952 spring run-off, and by next June the Hungry Horse Reservoir will be up to the present level of the highest blocks in the dam. The new lake began backing up behind the dam late in September when the 36-foot diameter diversion tunnel was closed. Photo taken by Bureau of Reclamation.

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COVER

Taking advantage of a high tide at 2 a.m., Bethlehem Steel Company bridgemen hoisted a giant 173-ton haunch girder from a barge to the top of a 103-foot pier of the Passaic River Bridge, an important link of the New Jersey Turnpike at Newark. This month's spectacular cover photograph was taken at sunrise while the floodlights which illuminated the work were still on the derricks.

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COVER

On this month's cover is a recent photograph showing the installation of aluminum panels and reversible aluminum windows on the 7th through 12th floors of the office building of the Aluminum Company of America in downtown Pittsburgh. Cantilever beams projecting at lower left will serve as "hangers" for the structure's 4½-story entrance. The unique, 30-story building will be occupied by Alcoa personnel next May. (Alcoa Photo.) Story on page 31.

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