BULKY DOCUMENT

(FILED ON PAPER – ENTIRE DOCUMENT EXCEEDS 100 PAGES)

Proceeding No.	91204122

Filing Date	03/30/2015

Part	1 of	7

91204122

TTAB

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

In re Application Serial No. 85/213,453
Filed: January 8, 2011
For Mark: NYC BEER LAGER and Design
Published in the Official Gazette: December 6, 2011

ESRT EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, L.L.C., Opposer,	Opposition No. 91204122
v.	
MICHAEL LIANG, Applicant.	

OPPOSER'S FOURTH NOTICE OF RELIANCE UPON PRINTED PUBLICATIONS PURSUANT TO TRADEMARK RULE 2.122(e)

Pursuant to Trademark Rule 2.122(e), Opposer ESRT Empire State Building, L.L.C. ("Opposer") hereby gives notice of its reliance upon:

(i) the printed publications attached hereto as Exhibit A and listed below, which consist of articles dated prior to January 8, 2011 concerning Opposer's Marks and/or the Empire State Building. These articles attached as Exhibit A are offered to show that the Empire State Building, its image, and Opposer's Marks have strength, fame and recognition through extensive public exposure and that Opposer's Marks and the Empire State Building were distinctive and famous prior to January 8, 2011, the filing date of the Application.

"**Express Mail**" Mailing Label Number EF 106087515US
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "**Express Mail** Post office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Trademarks, P.O. Box 1451, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1451 on
3/30/15 Lindsay M. Redman
(Date of Deposit) (Print name)
(Signature)

3-30-2015
U.S. Patent & TMOfc/TM Mail Rcpt Dt. #22

	Name of Publication in Which Article Appears	Date of Article	Page Article Begins On (if known)
1.	The New York Times	April 1, 1931	
2.	The New York Times	April 3, 1931	
3.	The New York Times	April 5, 1931	
4.	The New York Times	April 7, 1931	
5.	The New York Times	April 9, 1931	
6.	The New York Times	April 13, 1931	
7.	The New York Times	April 14, 1931	
8.	The New York Times	April 15, 1931	
9.	The New York Times	April 16, 1931	
10.	The New York Times	April 17, 1931	
11.	The New York Times	April 22, 1931	
12.	The New York Times	April 24, 1931	
13.	The New York Times	April 26, 1931	
14.	The New York Times	April 26, 1931	
15.	The New York Times	April 28, 1931	Pg. 1-2
16.	The New York Times	April 29, 1931	
17.	The New York Times	August 23, 1931	
18.	The New York Times	August 30, 1931	
19.	The New York Times	December 27, 1931	
20.	The New York Times	February 1, 1931	
21.	The New York Times	February 8, 1931	
22.	The New York Times	February 12, 1931	

	Name of Publication in Which Article Appears	Date of Article	Page Article Begins On (if known)
23.	The New York Times	February 22, 1931	
24.	The New York Times	January 4, 1931	
25.	The New York Times	January 11, 1931	
26.	The New York Times	January 14, 1931	
27.	The New York Times	January 23, 1931	
28.	The New York Times	January 26, 1931	
29.	The New York Times	July 1, 1931	
30.	The New York Times	July 13, 1931	
31.	The New York Times	July 25, 1931	
32.	The New York Times	June 6, 1931	
33.	The New York Times	March 1, 1931	
34.	The New York Times	March 3, 1931	
35.	The New York Times	March 10, 1931	
36.	The New York Times	March 13, 1931	
37.	The New York Times	March 14, 1931	
38.	The New York Times	March 22, 1931	
39.	The New York Times	March 24, 1931	
40.	The New York Times	March 27, 1931	
41.	The New York Times	March 29, 1931	
42.	The New York Times	May 1, 1931	
43.	The New York Times	May 2, 1931	
44.	The New York Times	May 2, 1931	
45.	The New York Times	May 2, 1931	Pg. 1, 7

	Name of Publication in Which Article Appears	Date of Article	Page Article Begins On (if known)
46.	The New York Times	May 3, 1931	
47.	The New York Times	May 4, 1931	
48.	The New York Times	May 23, 1931	
49.	The New York Times	May 26, 1931	
50.	The New York Times	May 27, 1931	
51.	The New York Times	November 8, 1931	
52.	The New York Times	November 13, 1931	
53.	The New York Times	November 29, 1931	
54.	The New York Times	October 1, 1931	
55.	The New York Times	September 2, 1931	
56.	The New York Times	September 16, 1931	
57.	The New York Times	September 20, 1931	
58.	The New York Times	September 23, 1931	
59.	The New York Times	April 29, 1932	
60.	The New York Times	December 18, 1932	
61.	The New York Times	February 10, 1932	
62.	The New York Times	February 24, 1932	
63.	The New York Times	January 4, 1932	
64.	The New York Times	January 15, 1932	
65.	The New York Times	January 17, 1932	
66.	The New York Times	January 27, 1932	
67.	The New York Times	March 27, 1932	
68.	The New York Times	May 2, 1932	

	Name of Publication in Which Article Appears	Date of Article	Page Article Begins On (if known)
69.	The New York Times	May 22, 1932	
70.	The New York Times	September 25, 1932	
71.	The New York Times	January 17, 1933	
72.	The New York Times	January 22, 1933	
73.	The New York Times	July 9, 1933	
74.	The New York Times	May 5, 1933	
75.	The New York Times	November 23, 1933	
76.	The New York Times	December 2, 1934	
77.	The New York Times	February 17, 1934	
78.	The New York Times	June 4, 1934	
79.	The New York Times	June 13, 1934	
80.	The New York Times	June 19, 1935	
81.	The New York Times	June 22, 1935	
82.	The New York Times	April 8, 1936	
83.	The New York Times	April 9, 1936	
84.	The New York Times	December 11, 1936	
85.	The New York Times	January 30, 1936	
86.	The New York Times	July 24, 1936	
87.	The New York Times	June 2, 1936	
88.	The New York Times	June 29, 1936	
89.	The New York Times	May 26, 1936	
90.	The New York Times	December 15, 1937	
91.	The New York Times	January 17, 1937	

	Name of Publication in Which Article Appears	Date of Article	Page Article Begins On (if known)
92.	The New York Times	July 11, 1937	
93.	The New York Times	March 30, 1937	
94.	The New York Times	October 27, 1937	
95.	The New York Times	April 28, 1939	Pg. 1, 3
96.	The New York Times	August 16, 1939	
97.	The New York Times	March 10, 1939	
98.	The New York Times	March 13, 1939	
99.	The New York Times	March 28, 1939	
100.	The New York Times	May 26, 1939	
101.	The New York Times	October 20, 1939	
102.	The New York Times	April 5, 1940	
103.	The New York Times	October 17, 1940	
104.	The New York Times	April 2, 1941	
105.	The New York Times	May 10, 1941	
106.	The New York Times	April 22, 1942	
107.	The New York Times	May 3, 1942	
108.	The New York Times	August 22, 1944	
109.	The New York Times	February 12, 1944	
110.	The New York Times	June 6, 1944	
111.	The New York Times	June 15, 1944	
112.	The New York Times	June 17, 1944	
113.	The New York Times	May 13, 1944	
114.	The New York Times	November 11, 1944	

	Name of Publication in Which Article Appears	Date of Article	Page Article Begins On (if known)
115.	The New York Times	August 1, 1945	
116.	The New York Times	August 2, 1945	
117.	The New York Times	August 16, 1945	
118.	The New York Times	July 29, 1945	Pg. 1, 25
119.	The New York Times	July 29, 1945	
120.	The New York Times	July 29, 1945	Pg. 1, 32
121.	The New York Times	July 29, 1945	Pg. 1, 28
122.	The New York Times	July 30, 1945	Pg. 1, 7
123.	The New York Times	July 30, 1945	Pg. 1,7
124.	The New York Times	July 31, 1945	
125.	The New York Times	March 27, 1945	
126.	The New York Times	May 17, 1945	
127.	The New York Times	May 18, 1945	
128.	The New York Times	September 15, 1945	
129.	The New York Times	September 25, 1945	
130.	The New York Times	September 27, 1945	
131.	The New York Times	August 23, 1946	
132.	The New York Times	February 1, 1946	Pg. 1, 13
133.	The New York Times	July 8, 1946	
134.	The New York Times	July 25, 1946	Pg. 1, 16
135.	The New York Times	October 10, 1946	
136.	The New York Times	September 11, 1946	
137.	The New York Times	January 11, 1947	

	Name of Publication in Which Article Appears	Date of Article	Page Article Begins On (if known)
138.	The New York Times	January 19, 1947	
139.	The New York Times	January 27, 1947	
140.	The New York Times	October 7, 1954	Pg. 1, 24
141.	The New York Times	October 12, 1954	
142.	The New York Times	October 15, 1954	
143.	The New York Times	October 29, 1954	
144.	The New York Times	December 14, 1955	
145.	The New York Times	July 5, 1955	
146.	The New York Times	April 11, 1956	
147.	The New York Times	December 30, 1956	
148.	The New York Times	March 4, 1956	
149.	The New York Times	May 4, 1956	
150.	The New York Times	September 17, 1956	
151.	The New York Times	August 11, 1957	
152.	The New York Times	October 18, 1957	
153.	The New York Times	September 25, 1957	
154.	The New York Times	April 9, 1958	
155.	The New York Times	April 23, 1958	
156.	The New York Times	February 5, 1958	
157.	The New York Times	March 30, 1958	
158.	The New York Times	October 12, 1958	
159.	The New York Times	October 18, 1958	
160.	The New York Times	September 14, 1958	

	Name of Publication in Which Article Appears	Date of Article	Page Article Begins On (if known)
161.	The New York Times	July 7, 1960	
162.	The New York Times	August 10, 1961	
163.	The New York Times	August 23, 1961	
164.	The New York Times	August 24, 1961	
165.	The New York Times	July 13, 1961	
166.	The New York Times	July 16, 1961	
167.	The New York Times	March 2, 1961	
168.	The New York Times	October 21, 1961	
169.	The New York Times	October 24, 1961	
170.	The New York Times	September 17, 1961	
171.	The New York Times	August 3, 1962	
172.	The New York Times	August 17, 1962	
173.	The New York Times	August 22, 1962	
174.	The New York Times	December 6, 1962	
175.	The New York Times	June 16, 1962	
176.	The New York Times	June 26, 1962	
177.	The New York Times	May 8, 1962	
178.	The New York Times	December 24, 1963	
179.	The New York Times	January 10, 1963	
180.	The New York Times	January 11, 1963	
181.	The New York Times	July 23, 1963	
182.	The New York Times	June 2, 1963	
183.	The New York Times	June 15, 1963	

	Name of Publication in Which Article Appears	Date of Article	Page Article Begins On (if known)
184.	The New York Times	May 30, 1963	
185.	The New York Times	October 9, 1963	
186.	The New York Times	September 11, 1963	
187.	The New York Times	December 16, 1964	
188.	The New York Times	December 21, 1964	
189.	The New York Times	February 26, 1964	
190.	The New York Times	February 23, 1964	
191.	The New York Times	January 19, 1964	
192.	The New York Times	January 21, 1964	
193.	The New York Times	July 3, 1964	
194.	The New York Times	September 3, 1964	
195.	The New York Times	April 22, 1965	
196.	The New York Times	December 16, 1965	
197.	The New York Times	January 11, 1965	
198.	The New York Times	July 31, 1965	
199.	The New York Times	March 15, 1965	
200.	The New York Times	November 11, 1965	
201.	The New York Times	November 12, 1965	
202.	The New York Times	September 6, 1965	
203.	The New York Times	April 7, 1966	
204.	The New York Times	April 29, 1966	
205.	The New York Times	August 9, 1966	
206.	The New York Times	March 8, 1966	

	Name of Publication in Which Article Appears	Date of Article	Page Article Begins On (if known)
207.	The New York Times	May 2, 1966	
208.	The New York Times	September 3, 1966	
209.	The New York Times	August 8, 1967	
210.	The New York Times	November 9, 1967	
211.	The New York Times	April 10, 1968	
212.	The New York Times	June 20, 1968	
213.	The New York Times	October 4, 1968	
214.	The New York Times	October 31, 1968	
215.	The New York Times	April 12, 1969	
216.	The New York Times	July 7, 1969	
217.	The New York Times	May 5, 1969	
218.	The New York Times	November 2, 1969	
219.	The New York Times	September 4, 1969	
220.	The New York Times	September 21, 1969	
221.	The New York Times	April 16, 1970	
222.	The New York Times	July 28, 1970	
223.	The New York Times	February 8, 1971	
224.	The New York Times	December 3, 1972	
225.	The New York Times	December 17, 1972	
226.	The New York Times	October 11, 1972	
227.	The New York Times	November 28, 1793	
228.	The New York Times	April 7, 1974	
229.	The New York Times	July 4, 1974	

	Name of Publication in Which Article Appears	Date of Article	Page Article Begins On (if known)
230.	The New York Times	August 20, 1976	
231.	The New York Times	July 3, 1976	
232.	The New York Times	May 5, 1976	
233.	The New York Times	December 8, 1977	
234.	The New York Times	December 24, 1977	
235.	The New York Times	July 17, 1977	
236.	The New York Times	November 22, 1977	
237.	The New York Times	July 31, 1978	
238.	The New York Times	April 5, 1979	
239.	The New York Times	April 16, 1979	
240.	The New York Times	December 3, 1979	
241.	The New York Times	March 11, 1979	
242.	The New York Times	September 24, 1979	
243.	The New York Times	August 8, 1980	
244.	The New York Times	February 15, 1980	
245.	The New York Times	May 1, 1980	
246.	The New York Times	October 26, 1980	
247.	The New York Times	October 30, 1980	
248.	The New York Times	April 26, 1981	
249.	The New York Times	April 23, 1981	
250.	The New York Times	April 28, 1981	
251.	The New York Times	April 29, 1981	
252.	The New York Times	February 13, 1981	

	Name of Publication in Which Article Appears	Date of Article	Page Article Begins On (if known)
253.	The New York Times	January 14, 1981	
254.	The New York Times	June 19, 1981	
255.	The New York Times	May 2, 1981	
256.	The Miami Herald	February 18, 1983	P. 1
257.	The Miami Herald	April 15, 1983	P. 4
258.	The Miami Herald	September 11, 1983	P. 1
259.	The Miami Herald	April 27, 1986	Travel p. 1
260.	The Toronto Globe and Mail	August 8. 1986	P. D4
261.	The Miami Herald	November 8, 1986	P. A-1
262.	The Toronto Globe and Mail	August 13, 1988	
263.	The Miami Herald	August 13, 1988	P. A-7
264.	The Toronto Globe and Mail	September 30, 1988	
265.	The New York Times	May 31, 1989	
266.	The Miami Herald	July 18, 1990	P. B-4
267.	The Toronto Globe and Mail	May 5, 1990	
268.	The Miami Herald	April 7, 1991	P. F-6
269.	The New York Times	February 15, 1991	
270.	The Miami Herald	May 21, 1991	P. A-1
271.	The Asian Wall Street Journal	November 1, 1991	P. 2
272.	The Wall Street Journal	November 7, 1991	P. A-1
273.	The Wall Street Journal	October 31, 1991	P. B-1
274.	The Wall Street Journal Europe	October 31, 1991	P. 15
275.	The Wall Street Journal	January 28, 1992	

	Name of Publication in Which Article Appears	Date of Article	Page Article Begins On (if known)
276.	The Toronto Globe and Mail	July 4, 1992	
277.	The Times Union	December 6, 2000	
278.	The Miami Herald	2/14/90	Section: Living Today; D; Pg. 3
279.	The Miami Herald	2/3/91	Section: Travel; K; Pg. 2
280.	The Miami Herald	5/21/91	Section: Front; A; Pg. 21
281.	The Asian Wall Street Journal	11/1/91	Section: American News; Pg. 2
282.	Winnipeg Free Press	12/13/95	Section: Entertainment; Pg. c7
283.	The Star-Ledger (Newark, New Jersey)	9/20/01	Section: News; Pg. 13
284.	Chicago Tribume	3/20/02	Section: Tempo; Zone: C; Pg. 1
285.	The Star-Ledger (Newark, New Jersey)	10/13/02	Section: Accent; Pg. 1
286.	Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	4/22/07	Section: National; Pg. 8
287.	Daily News (New York)	2/11/07	Section: Sunday Now; Pg. 26
288.	The Weekly Gleaner (Jamaica, NY)	6/21/07	Section: News; Pg. 6; Vol. 1686; ISSN: 1018-2330
289.	The New York Sun	5/3/07	Section: Arts and Letters; Pg. 18
290.	Evansville Courier and Press (Indiana)	11/15/07	Section: Metro; Pg. B1
291.	Asian Image	10/11/07	Section: News

	Name of Publication in Which Article Appears	Date of Article	Page Article Begins On (if known)
292.	Newsday (New York)	9/2/07	Section: News; Pg. A14
293.	Daily News (New York)	8/5/08	Section: Now; Pg. 34
294.	The Bradenton Herald (Florida)	8/14/08	
295.	The Sanford Herald (North Carolina)	8/15/08	Section: The Sanford Herald; Pg. B05
296.	The Weekly Gleaner (Jamaica, NY)	8/21/08 thru 8/27/08	Section: Extra; Pg. E1; Vol. 1747; ISSN: 1018-2330
297.	The Salt Lake Tribune	11/5/08	Section: Breaking; News
298.	The Bridgeton News	11/5/08	
299.	The Record (Bergen County, NJ)	11/8/08	Section: News; Pg. A04
300.	Newsday (Melville, NY)	4/7/09	Section: State and Regional News
301.	Orlando Sentinel	4/7/09	Section: A; Florida; Pg. A12; Nation & World Report
302.	The Toronto Star	4/7/09	Section: Business; Pg. B02
303.	The New York Times	4/7/09	Section: A; Column 0; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 25
304.	The Capital (Annapolis, MD)	2/8/09	Section: Lifestyle; Pg. E1
305.	The Maryland Gazette	2/14/09	Section: Front; Pg. A1
306.	The New York Post	2/26/09	Section: All Editions; Pg. 52
307.	The Toronto Star	3/27/09	Section: GTA; Pg.

	Name of Publication in Which Article Appears	Date of Article	Page Article Begins On (if known)
			GT08
308.	University Wire	5/19/09	
309.	Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)	10/1/09	
310.	The Seattle Times	10/1/09	Section: ROP Zone; News; Pg. A3
311.	Lowell Sun (Massachusetts)	9/30/09	Section: Breaking
312.	Investor's Business Daily	9/30/09	Section: Issues & Insights; Pg. A10
313.	The Record (Bergen County, NJ)	1/4/10	Section: Better Living; Pg. F03

(ii) the printed publications attached hereto as Exhibit B and listed below, which consist of excerpts from books about and/or showing images of the Empire State Building. Copies of pages from these books shown in Exhibit B are offered to show that the Empire State Building, its image, and Opposer's Marks have strength, fame and recognition through extensive public exposure and that Opposer's Marks and the Empire State Building are distinctive and famous.

	PRINTED PUBLICATION	EDITION OF PUBLICATION	YEAR OF PUBLICATION	EXCERPT PAGES
1.	Building American Then and Now; The Empire State Building		2009	Cover page, Copyright page
2.	Building the Empire State Building; An Interactive Engineering Adventure		2015	Cover page, Copyright page

	PRINTED PUBLICATION	EDITION OF PUBLICATION	YEAR OF PUBLICATION	EXCERPT PAGES
3.	Building the Empire State		1998	Cover page, Copyright page, Contents page
4.	Building the Empire State			Cover page
5.	Empire State Building		2003	Cover page, Copyright page
6.	Empire State Building; Modern Wonders of the World	First Edition	2007	Cover page, Page 12
7.	All Aboard America; Empire State Building		2008	Cover page, Page 2
8.	Empire; A Tale of Obsession Betrayal, and the Battle for an American Icon		2001	Cover page, Copyright page
9.	I Almost Fell Off the Top of the Empire State Building (a true story of trauma and survivial)		2014	Cover page, Copyright page
10.	Icons of American Architecture (From the Alamo to the World Trade Center Volume 1 and 2)	Vol. 1 and 2	2009	Cover page, Copyright page
11.	Nearest Thing to Heaven (the Empire State Building and American Dreams)		2006	Cover page, Copyright page
12.	Sky Boys; How They Built the Empire State Building		2012	Cover page

	PRINTED PUBLICATION	EDITION OF PUBLICATION	YEAR OF PUBLICATION	EXCERPT PAGES
13.	The Empire State Building		2010	Cover page, Copyright page
14.	The Empire State Building; The History of New York City's Most Iconic Landmark			Cover page, Copyright page
15.	The Empire State Building; The Making of a Landmark		1995	Cover page, Copyright page, Contents page
16.	The Museum of the City of New York; The Empire State Building		2003	Cover page, Copyright page
17.	The Empire State Building		2005	Cover page, Page 2
18.	The Creation of the Empire State Building; Thirteen Months to Go		2003	Cover page, Copyright page
19.	Frodor's Travel: New York City 2015		2015	Cover page, Copyright Page, and Pages 131-132
20.	The Best Things to Do in New York: 1001 Ideas	Second Edition	2009	Cover page, Copyright Page, and Pages 19, 81, 317 and 360

	PRINTED PUBLICATION	EDITION OF PUBLICATION	YEAR OF PUBLICATION	EXCERPT PAGES
21.	Frommer's Easy Guide to New York City 2015		2015	Cover page, Copyright Page and Pages 9 and 118-119

Dated: New York, New York
March 30, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

COWAN, LIEBOWITZ & LATMAN, P.C.
Attorneys for Opposer

By:_____

William M. Borchard
Mary L. Kevlin
Eric J. Shimanoff
Lindsay M. Rodman
1133 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
(212) 790-9200

EXHIBIT A

(To Opposer's Fourth Notice of Reliance)

EMPIRE STATE SYSTEM OF FIRE PIPES TESTED

Glove in One of Them Causes Delay, but Pressure in Big Building Meets Requirements.

A workman's leather glove in a standpipe on the forty-second floor of the new Empire State Building caused a slight delay and some consternation yesterday among inspectors of the Fire Prevention Bureau, who were testing the fire-fighting system of the building. The obstruction, however, was quickly removed and a stream of water spurted from the nozzle with a pressure of between fifty and eighty pounds a square inch, as required by the Fire Department.

Fire Commissioner John J. Dorman started the inspection by having a motor in the sub-basement turned on, pumping water into a tank on the twenty-first floor at the rate of 750 gallons a minute. The system is designed to provide a pressure of more than fifty pounds a square inch all the way up to the mooring mast through five pumps and reservoirs about every twenty floors.

Tests were made on standpipes and hose connections up to the forty-second floor under the supervision of Chief Inspector Michael J. Reidy. Thomas Murphy, who had charge of four inspectors making the tests, said there were more than 7,000 feet of eight-inch pipe in the fire system and about six miles of hose. Tests in the upper half of the building are to be made today.

The discovery of the glove in the standpipe, causing a gauge to register an abnormally high pressure, was regarded as an amusing incident. A representative of the company that installed the apparatus insisted that there had been no obstruction in the plumbing and blamed the mishap on the hose until the glove was found.

The New York Times
Published: April 1, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

FIGHTS 34TH ST. TAXES.

Russek's Store Holds Empire State Building Will Cheapen District.

An assertion that the erection of the Empire State Building will cheapen the neighborhood of Thirty-fourth Street and Fifth Avenue as a shopping district was made in a petition by Russeks Fifth Avenue, Inc., to the Supreme Court for a reduction of the assessment for 1931 on the Russeks store property at Thirty-fifth Street and Fifth Avenue from $3,250,000 to $2,375,000 on the ground that there had been an overvaluation of $875,000. Justice McCook signed an order directing the Board of Taxes and Assessments to file the proceedings in the case on May 4.

The petition, signed by Frank Russek, vice president, said that "the district in which the parcel is situated has deteriorated from being the location of high-class stores to one in which to a great extent cheap merchandise is sold, and because of such change in the district the volume of business has decreased to a marked extent, and by virtue thereof the present occupant is losing money, due to the excess valuation placed on the land and building by reason of the previous character of the neighborhood."

Mr. Russek pointed out that Bonwit Teller & Co. and the Kurzman store, "following the trend, have moved to the vicinity of Fifth Avenue and Fifty-seventh Street."

The New York Times
Published: April 3, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

TRADE AREA GROWS IN MID-MANHATTAN

Empire State Building Will Be New Business Hub, Says Peter Grimm.

UTILITY LINKED WITH ART

Faster Elevator Speed Fosters the Erection of Taller Edifices in Many Parts of the World.

The erection of the Empire State Building at Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street is a significant forward step in the development of a large business centre at that point in mid-town Manhattan, and will serve to show the value of decentralizing business groupings, says Peter Grimm, president of the Real Estate Board of New York, in a discussion of the possible effects of New York's tallest skyscraper on trade and realty activity.

"The new building, combining utility and art, is a monument to the steady growth of New York," Mr. Grimm states. "Besides fostering the expansion of the Fifth Avenue district of which it will be the hub it will serve other useful purposes. The tendency to group too many great structures at such strategic points as Broad and Wall Streets and Forty-second Street and Madison Avenue has had an adverse effect on transportation, and the Empire State will serve to draw some of this traffic to a new zone.

"Surpassing in height all church edifices and steeples, State capitols and the Washington Monument, modern office buildings dominate the skyline of America and are beginning to dominate the foreign building height. There are now approximately 400 buildings in the United States more than twenty stories high, one-half of which are in New York City. Empire State is eighty-five stories.

"The metropolis of America has set the world an example in skyscrapers for practical uses. Toronto has a twenty-nine-story hotel, which is the tallest structure in the British Empire. Melbourne, in Australia, came near surpassing Toronto with a forty-story building but abandoned the plan, its tallest building being only thirteen stories.

"It was not long ago that an American automobile company built the tallest building in Madrid, it being another instance of utilitarianism blended with good design; but, since then the telephone company in Madrid has created a 'new highest' there by erecting a picturesque fifteen-story building with a Spanish tower. Thus one utility concern surpassed the other in large construction for practical purposes. Athens has a sixteen-story building. And Shanghai, China, has a twenty-one-story structure, showing it has caught the spirt of the Occident.

"Modern engineering has made a building such as Empire State possible as a great office utility by creating an elevator system for quick transportation to and from all parts of it. The installation of the first elevator in New York was in 1850 when tall buildings were unknown. In speed and safety the latest type of elevator surpasses the type of 1850 to the same extent as the steel frame office building surpasses the one of the pre-steel era. The elevator speed limit now is 700 feet per minute. Owing to greatly improved safety devices the law will be changed to allow a speed of about 1,200 feet a minute, and in several of the newest buildings the lifts are built to run almost that fast.

"Empire State, it would seem, will be the world's structural prodigy for a long time to come because the practicability of a higher building has not been demonstrated. Its tall mast stands as the sign of a great future office building centre."

The New York Times
Published: April 5, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

KILLED IN 57-STORY FALL.

Carpenter's Death at Empire State Building Believed to Be Suicide.

A carpenter's helper who formerly had worked on the Empire State Building returned to the structure yesterday morning, presumably in search of employment, and jumped or fell to his death from a window on the seventy-eighth floor, his body falling fifty-seven stories to the roof of the twenty-first floor extending from the main tower.

The body was taken to the West Thirtieth Street station, and was not identified until later in the day at the city morgue as F. Egland, 30 years old, of 761 Forty-fourth Street, Brooklyn, by Henry Genell, a carpenter who had worked previously with Egland.

Genell recalled that Egland had arrived at the building before 8 o'clock, and had said he was looking for work. Egland appeared despondent, according to Genell.

Egland had a wife and one child. The police were inclined to regard the case as a suicide.

The New York Times
Published: April 7, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

INVESTMENT TRUST.

Tri-Continental Corporation.

Net asset value of the Tri-Continental Corporation's common stock on March 31 was $11.89 a share, compared with $10.04 a share on Dec. 31. Net assets as applicable to preferred stock were equivalent to $160.03 a share, against $150.72 a share on the earlier date. Net income for the quarter was $608,853 after expenses and taxes.

Net assets, taking securities at their market value, were $64,012,538 on March 31, against $64,286,428 on Dec. 31. The market value on March 31 was $8,408,292 less than cost, compared with $14,753,118 less than cost on Dec. 31.

The portfolio shows many changes. Stocks purchased or acquired through mergers were 4,000 American Power and Light, 15,000 Commonwealth and Southern, 6,000 Electric Power and Light, 2,500 Italo-Argentine Electric, 1,000 Public Service of New Jersey, 10,000 United Corporation, 3,400 Chesapeake & Ohio, 1,000 Delaware & Hudson, 5,000 Pennsylvania, 2,600 American Tobacco B, 16,000 Curtis Publishing, 4,000 General Motors, 4,700 W. T. Grant, 5,500 International Nickel and 10,000 Servel. Stocks sold included 5,000 United States Steel, 4,000 Union Carbide, 6,420 J. C. Penney, 2,000 Macy, 2,000 McCall, 1,000 Eastman Kodak, 5,700 American Tobacco, 4,000 American Can, 4,000 New York Central, 1,500 Rock Island, 1,500 Consolidated Gas of New York, 2,500 Standard Oil of New Jersey, 2,000 Ohio Oil and 5,000 Niles-Bement-Pond.

$40,000,000 of Trust's Shares Sold.

Sales of trust shares of Super-Corporations of America passed the $40,000,000 mark on April 7, it was announced yesterday by S. W. Straus & Co., sponsors. This represents a distribution of 4,556,000 shares since the organization of the trust in May, 1930.

Bank in Empire State Building.

The County Trust Company will be the first bank to open offices in the Empire State Building. Stuart B. Plante, vice president, will be in charge of the branch, which will open on April 27. He will be assisted by Ralph W. Long, another vice president. Former Governor Alfred E. Smith, chairman of the trust company, is head of the corporation which owns the Empire State Building.

The New York Times
Published: April 9, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Floor Leased.

The American Steel and Wire Company, a subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation, has leased the entire fourteenth floor of the new Empire State Building, Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, for a long term of years, and will move its New York offices to this new location about May 1.

The New York Times
Published: April 13, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

FALSE ALARM CLOGS 5TH AV.

Third in Three Weeks Rung From Empire State Building.

For the third time in three weeks a false fire alarm was rung in yesterday from the fortieth floor in the uncompleted Empire State Building at Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street. It was at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and the busy intersection was blocked by four engine companies, two truck companies, a water tower and fire patrol.

The practical joker may be any one of 1,000 men employed at points in the building from which they might reach a fire alarm box unobserved, it was said. All the workers denied they were guilty when the police investigated.

The New York Times
Published: April 14, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Trout Season in Jersey.

In New Jersey there are almost as many anglers as trout. As April 15 is the first day of the open season the banks of every stream will be crowded with sportsmen, scarcely finding room to cast their flies. At dawn the speed laws will have been broken to reach the choicest spots. Rations for the day are carried. The rustics have great faith in the worm at this time of the year when the water is cold.

The best trout may be found in the south branch of the Raritan and in the Musconetcong. Should any fisherman be disappointed in the catch, he will find solace in the Spring beauty of a country that charms beholders. The wise would find more elbow-room in streams less celebrated—and there are plenty of them in New Jersey.

There has been just enough rain of late to give the trout ample room to manoeuvre. Fishing conditions are well-nigh perfect. Some stretches of river are posted. But the opportunities in New Jersey are numerous enough to suit the most critical. All the farmers ask is that gates be shut and bars put back, that the stream be followed, and that cars be parked out of the way of teams and wagons.

Wind and Skyscrapers.

An engineer in the Empire State Building is waiting for a high wind. When it comes he will post himself at the sixth floor and sight through an optical instrument (a vertical collimator, to be exact) on an illuminated target at the eighty-sixth floor. Photographs will do the rest. If the world's tallest artificial structure sways by as much as one-quarter of an inch, he will know it.

Other instruments attached to columns and beams at the twenty-fourth story will measure bending and overturning stresses. Pressure-recording devices in conjunction with tubes sunk in the walls of the thirty-sixth, fifty-fifth and seventy-fifth stories will indicate the direction and velocity of the wind as well as the pull of the partial vacuum created on the leeward side.

All this is an evidence not of idle curiosity but of a real engineering need. The Empire State Building is designed to withstand an overturning force of four and a quarter million pounds, something that a disastrous earthquake could not exert. Why? Because the building code demands it. Is the building code right? Nobody knows. The wind pressures to which tall buildings are subjected are only surmised. Hence the code errs on the side of extreme and expensive safety.

Possibly skyscrapers need not be so stiff in order to resist the highest known winds. Exact measurement alone can decide. The Empire State Building is almost made to order for the proper study. It is symmetrical in design and unusually tall. Hence the interest of the American Institute of Steel Construction in the forces that are set up when it rocks ever so little. And hence the curious artificial senses which have been installed to note what the wind does.

A Triumph of Printing.

For years Americans have been going abroad to learn about color processes and typography. They have been despairingly saying that the Europeans order these things far better, that the most expensive and complicated foreign machinery has, when transplanted, failed to produce the results obtainable on home soil. Part of this was "defeatist" psychology; part of it was true, but the April issue of Vanity Fair should dissipate this publication inferiority.

The April issue of Vanity Fair is a distinguished product, both in printing and in color effects. The two-tone portrait reproduction and the four-color printing process have been perfected to a point not passed in Europe or elsewhere. Apart from the format, and from the editorial layout (which has been revised and definitely bettered), Vanity Fair is a delight to the eye of the expert and of the reader. The illustrations in color of circus performers on pages 78 and 79 set a highwatermark in difficult reproduction of art. And now that the magazine has abandoned its temporary ban against capital letters in headings, the clean-cut, readable print has just the strength and delicacy for which the publisher, through experimentation, has been striving.

In the last thirty years the improvement in American newspapers and periodicals, typographically and in color and illustration, has been very great. Contrasted with this advance some other national manufactures seem to have stood still.

Legacies With Strings.

Schools, museums and other public institutions are often embarrassed by bequests with stipulations which make their acceptance difficult or impossible. Individuals, except in novels or detective stories, are generally less hedged about with such restrictions. But in England recently a number of wills on probate have laid down specific conditions for the beneficiaries.

The tendency is to use the legacy as a curb on the wildness of the younger generation, cutting the heirs off without a shilling unless they promise not to use motorcycles, airplanes or intoxicants.

One testator left $1,000 to his granddaughter on condition that she would not bob her hair, use lipstick, paint her face or go to cinemas or to dances. Also, she must adjure short skirts or "any styles not perfectly modest and in harmony with biblical teaching." The young woman of 22 may decide that the terms are too harsh and the reward insufficient. However, with fashions swinging every day nearer to the Victorian, she may soon find that grandfather's ideas weren't old-fashioned after all—that he unconsciously laid down the rules for the very pattern of a model 1931 miss.

One mother, with true English sporting blood, left directions in her will for her son and daughter to "put 10 shillings apiece into the Calcutta Sweep every year," with the pious hope that "they may be more lucky than their mother has ever been." This is the sort of post-mortem guidance which most young Britishers will willingly accept.

The New York Times
Published April 15, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

U. S. Steel Has Acre of Offices In Empire State Building

Several subsidiary companies of the United States Steel Corporation have arranged for a long-term lease for office space, comparable to about an acre in area and comprising the entire fourteenth floor of the Empire State Building, Thirty-fourth Street and Fifth Avenue. These offices will be two floors above the du Pont offices, which occupy the ninth, tenth and eleventh floors.

The deal was consummated by Empire State representatives, being the second largest leasing transaction of the year in the same building. It consists of the transfer of the sales offices of the following companies to Empire State:

American Steel and Wire Company, now at 30 Church Street; the Lorain Steel Company, now at 71 Broadway; the Oil Well Supply Company, manufacturers and distributers of oilfield equipment, moving from the Lincoln Building, 122 East Forty-second Street, and the Wilson-Snyder Manufacturing Company, now at 114 Liberty Street, manufacturers of pumping machinery.

The New York Times
Published: April 16, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

Telescope Man Spurns Stars As Tallest Tower Wins Public

A sidewalk astronomer of West Forty-second Street has discovered a new celestial body in the Southern sky. He trains his amateur telescope upon it daily while scores of pedestrians pay him five cents a glimpse to satisfy their curiosity. The new object in the sky often shows signs of human life but no evidence of vegetation. It is the cap of the mooring mast of the new Empire State Building, 1,250 feet above the sidewalk and a quarter of a mile from the portable observatory.

"I do four or five times as much business in the daytime as I do at night," said Joseph White, owner of the telescope. "People are much more curious about the mooring mast and the meteorological instruments atop the Empire State Building than they are about the moon and all the stars and planets."

The New York Times
Published: April 17, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

EMPIRE STATE WINS ARCHITECTS' AWARD

W. F. Lamb, Designer of Building, Receives Gold Medal of League for 'Masterful' Work.

EQUAL HONOR FOR SAARINEN

Finnish Artist's Achievements in Michigan Recognized—Sculpture Prize to Lee Lawrie.

The Empire State Building has won for its designer a gold medal of honor from the Architectural League. The annual awards of the league were announced at the Architectural and Allied Arts Exposition at the Grand Central Palace yesterday.

Two gold medals for distinguished accomplishment in architecture were awarded this year instead of the usual one. To William F. Lamb of the firm of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon a medal was given "for the masterful treatment of an office building as exemplified by the Empire State Building."

To Eliel Saarinen, Finnish architect, went another gold medal, "for the distinguished quality of his work in the Cranbrook Foundation" at Cranbrook, Mich. Only once before—in 1925—has the league awarded two gold medals simultaneously.

This year's silver medal in architecture went to the firm of Peabody, Wilson & Brown for a group of residences illustrated at the Architectural and Allied Arts Exposition. They are the Southampton (L. I.) residences of Lucien Tyng, W. J. Funk and of W. F. Ladd; the Morristown (N. J.) residence of John W. Castles, the Mount Vernon (N. J.) residence of Howard Bayne, the Dayton (Ohio) residence of Nelson Talbott and E. T. Gardner, and the Smithtown (L. I.) residence of Tracy Higgins.

Awards in Other Fields.

The medal of honor in sculpture was won by Lee Lawrie of New York with "the outstanding decorative quality and inventiveness of design shown in his work in the Architectural and Allied Arts Exposition," and in consideration of the distinguished character of his past achievements. In the exposition Mr. Lawrie is showing a large sculpture, the "Nebraska Sower," a finial for the State Capitol of Nebraska.

The medal of honor in painting was awarded to John W. Norton for his paintings now installed in the Tavern Club in Chicago.

The medal of honor in native industrial art was awarded to Eugene Schoen for a metal and glass building entrance on view at the exposition. In its citation, the jury commended especially "the direct, skillful and wise use of stock forms and patterns in the solution of a typical problem, showing the adaptability of such forms and patterns and their availability in current practice, while achieving a satisfying design under sharp limitations of structure and utility."

The Avery prize for small sculpture to a living artist under 30 years of age was won by Nino Geraci for his statue, "Perseus."

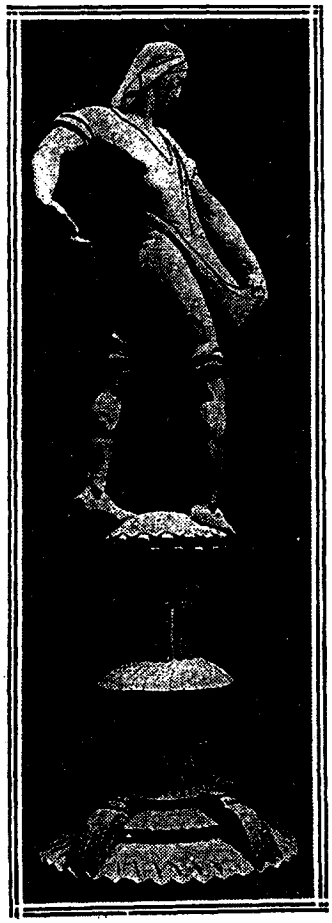
The Birch Burdette Long memorial prize for distinguished rendering was awarded to Schell Lewis "for the excellent quality of his pencil renderings," shown at the exposition.

No gold medal in landscape architecture was awarded this year. Scrolls of honor will be given for the Mexican and Swedish exhibits at the exposition. All the medals will be presented on Friday night at the dinner of the Architectural League at the Hotel Roosevelt.

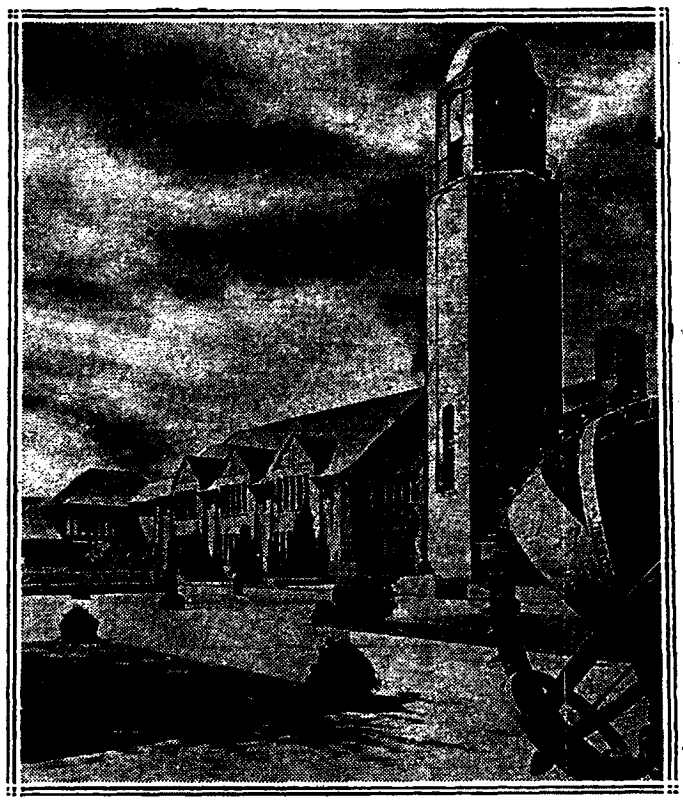
The jury on medals of honor in architecture, decorative painting, sculpture and landscape architecture consisted of Raymond M. Hood, ex officio chairman; Herbert Adams, Louis Ayres, Harold Hill Blossom, A. F. Brinckerhoff, Arthur Covey, Ruth Dean, William Adams Delano, Ulric R. Ellerhusen, Ernest Peixotto, Barry Faulkner, Ely J. Kahn and John W. Root. The jury of award in design and craftsmanship in native industrial art consisted of Raymond M. Hood, ex officio chairman; Richard F. Bach, Ward Cheney, Wilson Hungate, C. Paul Jennewein, Stepan De Rosenko and J. Scott Williams.

ACHIEVEMENTS THAT WON ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE AWARDS.

Residence of J. W. Castles at Morristown, N. J., One of the Seven Houses for Which the Architects, Peabody, Wilson & Brown, Received a Silver Medal.



"Nebraska Sower" by Lee Lawrie, Winner of the Gold Medal for Sculpture.



Crainbrook (Mich.) Foundation Building, for which Eliel Saarinen won the League's gold medal. A similar award went to W. F. Lamb for the Empire State Building here.

In a radio address yesterday afternoon over Station WJZ, Professor Ivar Tengbom, Sweden's official delegate to the exposition, discussed the architecture of his native land.

"In recent years," he said, "new currents have appeared. They are the result of the social upheavals that have occurred all over the world since the war. Social and mass problems have become a primary interest, and the cult of mechanical technique, of new methods of building construction, of organization, has found fertile soil—a tendency toward the industrial, and thus to a certain extent thrusting into the background the draftsman's art.

"In our country we maintain that functional architecture begins in city planning. We have set as our aim the giving of sunshine and fresh air to everybody. This is impossible to attain in the older sections of the cities. It is really difficult to say how you should change the plan of New York to acquire these advantages. The problem is, however, of vital importance and must be faced. In Swedish cities we are now engaged in what we call 'a sanitary remaking' of the city plans even in regard to traffic."

At 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon the group of young men whose work was not accepted for showing at the Grand Central Palace exposition and who have taken the name "Rejected Architects," opened their show at 903 Seventh Avenue. The single room in which the models and plans are being shown was soon crowded and persons collected on the sidewalk.

Among the exhibits is a model of a house designed as suitable for the needs of Colonel Lindbergh. It has its own landing field, and the hangar, like the garage, is built into the house.

The New York Times
Published: April 22, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

M'CREERY'S TO HONOR SMITH AT A LUNCHEON

Empire State Building to Be Hailed as Contribution to 'Centre of Pre-eminent Retail Area.'

Next Wednesday, two days before the formal opening of the Empire State Building, former Governor Alfred E. Smith, head of the company which has erected it, will be the guest of honor at a luncheon given by James McCreery & Co. The luncheon will mark the latest development in the establishment of the neighborhood about Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street as "the pivotal centre of America's pre-eminent retail area."

Planned as a combined "neighborly welcome and family celebration," the luncheon will be held on the eleventh floor of McCreery's, where the guests will have an impressive view of the soaring walls of the new structure. Neil Petree, president of McCreery's, will preside, and the first speaker will be Samuel W. Reyburn, president of the Associated Dry Goods Corporation.

The former Governor's response, in which he is expected to stress the importance of the opening of the new office building to the surrounding business houses, will be broadcast over several radio stations, beginning at 1:30 P. M. It will be followed by a fashion parade, in which models will display the clothes of each decade since the '80s.

Leading bankers, publishers, merchants and persons prominent in the business, professional and political life of the city are expected to attend the affair.

The New York Times
Published: April 24, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

HUGE EMPIRE STATE OPENS THIS WEEK

Former Governor Smith Says Time Is Justifying Location and Size of Building.

CONFIDENT IT WILL PAY

Laughs at Mooring Mast Jokes In Adding That Edifice Can Stand All Kinds of Hot Air.

Next Friday will mark the official opening of the Empire State Building, with its eighty-five stories rising 1,248 feet above Fifth Avenue, between Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth Streets.

"It is a trite statement to make at the present time," said former Governor Alfred E. Smith yesterday, "that the Empire State Building was not erected for the sake of mere bigness, even though its dimensions equal the total of a dozen ordinarily large sized office structures, but because the logic of events pointed to the region from Fortieth Street to Madison Square and from Broadway to Park Avenue as the compelling new office building zone. A large percentage of the space in many new office buildings within this area is rented.

"It is incontrovertible that Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street typifies the point of great concentration in the trend southward of office population.

Laughs at Mooring Mast Jokes.

"We have enjoyed the quips and jokes about the Empire State mooring masts, on the same principle as the individual in high public office enjoys the slings and arrows embodied in cartoons of him. It is all in a lifetime. Empire State was built to stand all kinds of wind pressure as well as hot air. We of the management feel flattered to know that Empire State has attracted the attention of the universe.

"We are selling space in Empire State, however, not on what the press has said about it in its humorous but kindly way, but because the building stands as the great apex of office occupancy; as a structure so high that its sheer personality brings an influx of office population to a district that was changing to an office status, although in a slower degree than if Empire State had not been built.

"Back in the era before that of the Waldorf-Astoria, William Waldorf Astor and his cousin John Jacob Astor resided in old and stately mansions on the Fifth Avenue frontage of the site. The neighborhood was beginning to change to hotels and business.

"The Astors were visualizing the Waldorf-Astoria, but they were cautious. Finally the late Abner Bartlett, their counsel for many years, a man of keen judgment and force of character, who had never misadvised the Astors, was consulted.

"After long deliberation, Bartlett said to the Astors one morning: 'I think we will build that hotel.' And William Waldorf Astor said: 'It will never pay.' Bartlett, whose mind was made up, retorted, 'Oh, yes, it will pay. I have thought the thing all out and I am now in a position to say that it will pay.'

Says Empire State Will Pay.

"The Waldorf-Astoria was built and it paid handsomely because the trend of fine hotels was in that direction and because the Waldorf-Astoria was the outstanding building of its kind.

"Since then, there has been a northward movement of hotels and of large retail trade establishments and a swing southward of the office building trend.

"Thirty-fourth Street is the midway thoroughfare of the region between Madison Square and Forty-second Street. As the Waldorf-Astoria emphasized a great trade and hotel centre, so, now, under the changed condition does Empire State emphasize the growing prestige of the region along office lines."

The New York Times
Published: April 26, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

WHAT IS GOING ON THIS WEEK

Today.

Annual communion breakfast of the New York Fire Department Holy Name Society, Hotel Astor, 10 A. M. Speakers, Mayor James J. Walker, the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, the Rev. Patrick P. O'Connor, Commissioner John J. Dorman, John A. Matthews, John J. McCarthy.

Metropolitan Museum of Art, Eighty-second Street and Fifth Avenue. "The Wonder Child of Germany: Felix Mendelssohn," Anna Curtis Chandler, 1:45 and 2:45 P. M.; Gallery Talk by Elise P. Carey, 3 P. M.

Reception and entertainment of the Bronx Hospital, 168th and Fulton Streets, 2:30 P. M. Speakers: Judge Harry E. Stackell and Dr. Julius J. Price.

Annual exercises of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and their auxiliary at Grant's Tomb, Riverside Drive and 122d Street, 3 P. M.

Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, Academy of Music, 3 P. M. "The Progressive Position of the Senate," Senator Robert M. La Follette Jr.

Musicale and tea dansant as farewell to the good-will flyer, Captain Lisandro Caray, by the Society for the Promotion of Aviation in Honduras, Hotel Plaza, Fifth Avenue and Fifty-ninth Street, 3:30 P. M. Address by Dr. Carlos A. Ferdomo.

Book of the Hour Club, Hotel Hamilton, 143 West Seventy-third Street, 3:30 P. M. "'This New York of Mine.' 'Stalin', 'The Openers of the Gate.'" Esther Norton.

Meeting of the Group, 150 West Eighty-fifth Street, 4:30 P. M.: "Primitive Morality and Religion," Professor George B. Vetter; "In Defense of the Senate," Robert M. La Follette Jr.

Testimonial dinner in honor of Nathan D. Perlman by the Independent Order B'rith Abraham, Hotel Astor, Broadway and Forty-fourth Street, 7 P. M.

Community Forum, 2 East Seventy-sixth Street, 8 P. M. "Stalin, the Iron Man of Russia," Isaac Don Levine.

Ingersoll Forum, 135 West Seventieth Street, 8 P. M. Debate: "Is Christianity or Atheism the More Likely to Aid in Reducing Vice, Crime and Poverty?" Dr. Reitman vs. George Bedborough.

People's Institute, Cooper Union, Astor Place and Eighth Street, 8 P. M. "The Rediscovery of Shanghai," Dr. Houston Peterson.

Reception, junior review and dance of the New York State Convention, Supreme Forest Woodmen Circle, Hotel New Yorker, Eighth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, 8 P. M.

Annual New York Benefit for the National Vaudeville Artists' Fund, Metropolitan Opera House, Broadway and Thirty-ninth Street, evening.

Tomorrow.

American Museum of Natural History, Seventy-seventh Street and Central Park West, 10:30 A. M. and 2 P. M. "When the Wind Blows," Dorothy Bennett.

Meeting of the Women's National Republican Club, 8 East Thirty-seventh Street, 11 A. M. Speakers: Maude K. Wetmore, Mrs. Coffin Van Rensselaer, Mrs. H. A. Logan and Mrs. William Vanamee.

Meeting of the Fellowship of Christian Business Men of Greater New York, Hotel Woodstock, 127 West Forty-third Street, noon. Address by Captain Reginald Wallis.

Women's conference of the Society for Ethical Culture, annual luncheon, Hotel Astor, Broadway and Forty-fourth Street, 12:30 P. M. "The Jazz Age," Dr. Louis K. Anspacher.

Meeting of the Washington Heights Civic Club, William McKinley Temple, 454 West 155th Street, 2 P. M. Address by George W. Ochs Oakes.

Meeting of the Foster-Mothers' Association of America, Hotel Astor, Broadway and Forty-fourth Street, 2 P. M. Address by Mrs. Elise West Quaite.

Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, Academy of Music, Brooklyn. "Roosevelt," historical motion pictures, 3:30 P. M. and 8:15 P. M.; "Romance and Wit of Chinese and Japanese Poetry," Upton Close, 8:15 P. M.

Columbia University Institute of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University. "The Mississippi Problem," General Life Brown, Schermerhorn Hall, 4 P. M.; "Nationalism," Salo Baron, Fayerweather Hall, 8:30 P. M.

Association for Personality Training and New York University, Main Building, Washington Square. "Mental Hygiene: The Community Looks to the Mental Health of Its Members," George Stevenson, 4:15 P. M.; "The Use of Leisure in Adult Education—A Factor in Business and Social Life," Arthur E. Bestor, 8 P. M.

Annual meeting of the Travelers' Aid Society at the residence of Mrs. E. Marshall Field, 4 East Seventieth Street, 4:30 P. M. Speakers: William Hodson and Karl A. Bickel.

New School for Social Research, 66 West Twelfth Street. "Dalcroze Eurythmics," Paul Boepple; "The Political Scene," Harry Elmer Barnes, 5:20 P. M.; "Sex Readjustment Today," Harry Elmer Barnes; "Psychotherapy and Mental Hygiene," Bernard Gluck; "War Debts, Foreign Investments," Parker T. Moon; "Recent Trends in Penal Administration," Warden Lewis E. Lawes, 8:20 P. M.

Annual dinner of the School of Business Alumni Association, Columbia University Club, 4 West Forty-third Street, 7 P. M. "Business Education and the University," Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler.

Annual banquet of the Federal Bar Association of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut in honor of George Z. Medalie, Hotel Commodore, Lexington Avenue and Forty-second Street, 7 P. M. Speakers: John C. Knox, Judge Martin T. Manton, Judge William Clark, Judge Robert P. Patterson, Judge David H. Kinchelose, Judge John Boyd Avis, Charles H. Tuttle, Nathan Burkan, General Hanson E. Ely.

Dinner in honor of Colonel Frederick W. Baldwin by the officers of the 93d Brigade, Manhattan Club, Madison Avenue and Twenty-sixth Street, 7:30 P. M.

New York Academy of Sciences, Section of Anthropology in conjunction with the American Ethnological Society, meeting at the American Museum of Natural History, Seventy-seventh Street and Central Park West, 8:15 P. M. "Trails and Monasteries of Northern Tibet," Gene Lamb.

Meeting of the Medical Society of the County of New York, Academy of Medicine, Fifth Avenue and 103d Street, 8:15 P. M. Speakers: Drs. John W. Withers, Dr. A. J. Rongy, Samuel W. Lambert, Linsly R. Williams, Willard C. Rappleye, Orrin S. Wightman, George Baehr, Luther F. Warren, E. C. Podvin, Denis E. McMahon, E. George Payne, John A. Hartwell.

Roerich Museum, 310 Riverside Drive, 8:30 P. M. "Romanticism—The Return to Nature," Eliot Clark; meeting of the Academy of Creative Arts, address by Howard Giles.

People's Institute, Muhlenberg Branch Library, 209 West Twenty-third Street, 8:30 P. M. "Mann—'The Magic Mountain'," Dr. Houston Peterson.

Meeting of the Grub Street Club, 63 East Eleventh Street, 8:30 P. M. "Humors and Quirks of the Law," Harry Hibschman.

Dinner in honor of Dr. Alvin S. Johnson and C. H. van der Leeuw, New School for Social Research, 66 West 12th Street, evening.

Dinner of the Hotel Accountants Association of New York, Hotel Roosevelt, Madison Avenue and Forty-fifth Street, evening. Speakers: Francis German, Prentiss B. Reid and John M. Riehle.

Tuesday.

Luncheon of the City Club of New York, 55 West Forty-fourth Street, 12:30 P. M. "What Is Happening in Russia," Maurice Hindus.

Luncheon of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation in honor of the Swedish delegates to the International Chamber of Commerce Congress, 67 Broad Street, 12:30 P. M.

Luncheon of the English-Speaking Union of the United States, Hotel Astor, Broadway and Forty-fourth Street, 12:45 P. M. Professor Winifred Cullis, guest of honor. Dr. John H. Finley, presiding.

Women's Club of Columbia University, McMillin Academic Theatre, 4 P. M. "Le Musée de la Coopération Franco-Americaine," Mlle. Elisabeth Clevenot.

"Estates Generally," Ruth Lewinson, Association of the Bar of the City of New York, 4 P. M.

Meeting of the Women's Committee for Repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, Hotel Ritz-Carlton, Madison Avenue and Forty-sixth Street, 3 P. M. Speakers: Congressman John J. Boylan, Assemblyman Louis A. Cuvillier, Hugh Satterlee, Archdeacon Joseph H. Dodson.

Art Centre, 65 East Fifty-sixth Street, 4:30 P. M. "The Craft of Etching," Albert Sterner.

Tea of the Pen and Brush Club, 16 East Tenth Street, 4:30 P. M. "Making Box Characters," Mrs. Louise B. Chisholm.

Dinner of the Women's City Club of New York, 22 Park Avenue, 6:45 P. M. "Common Sense and the Business Depression," Mrs. Jacob Riis, Cornelia Bruere Rose, Major L. Urwick.

New School for Social Research, 66 West Twelfth Street. "How Traits Combine in Character," Joseph Jastrow, 5:20 P. M.; "The Psychology of Prejudice," Joseph Jastrow; "Building a Modern Creed," Harry A. Overstreet; "Case Studies in Psychoanalysis," Fritz Wittels; "The Civil Service," Harold Laski, 8:20 P. M.

Society for Popularization of Modern Science, Muhlenberg Library, 209 West Twenty-third Street, 8:30 P. M. "Astronomy and Astrology," P. Shogren.

Rand School of Social Sciences, 7 East Fifteenth Street, 7 P. M. "Social Applications to Psychology," Joseph M. Osman; "Appreciation of Literature," David P. Berenberg, 8:30 P. M.

People's Institute, Cooper Union, Eighth Street and Astor Place, 8 P. M. "Atoms and Stars," William B. Curry.

Concert and dance of the Lehigh Club of New York, 29 West Thirty-ninth Street, 8:15 P. M.

Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, Academy of Music, Brooklyn, 8:15 P. M. "Fundamental Problems of Life and Mind," Professor E. G. Spaulding.

Linnaean Society of New York meeting at the American Museum of Natural History, Seventy-seventh Street and Central Park West, 8:15 P. M. "Mysteries of Bird Flight," Dr. Lucien H. Warner.

Meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine, Fifth Avenue and 103d Street, 8:30 P. M. Speakers: Drs. Oskar Glassman, G. H. Ryder, Frederick C. Holden and R. J. Lowrie.

New York Open Forum, Library, Amsterdam Avenue and Sixty-ninth Streets, 8:30 P. M. "The Infinite Personality of Man to the Universe," C. H. Pike.

Roerich Museum, 310 Riverside Drive, 8:30 P. M. "Circling the Americas by Air," David E. Grant.

Dinner of the American Arbitration Association in honor of six years' services to the theatre, Hotel Astor, Broadway and Forty-fourth Street, 10 P. M. Guests of honor: David Belasco and Frank Gillmore.

Dinner in celebration of 100th anniversary of the granting of charter of New York University, Hotel Astor, Broadway and Forty-fourth Street, evening. Speakers: Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, James Rowland Angell, Ogden L. Mills, Joseph M. Proskauer, Dr. Frank P. Graves, Dr. George David Stewart, Chancellor Elmer Ellsworth Brown.

Dinner of the University of Cincinnati in honor of President Herman Schneider and Professor George Sperti, the City Club, 55 West Forty-fourth Street, evening.

Annual dinner of the New York State Circulation Managers Association, Hotel New Yorker, Eighth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, evening. Address by O. C. Harn.

Meeting of the Hamilton Community Council, 503 West 145th Street, evening. "Modern Turkey," Harry T. Baker.

Wednesday.

Luncheon and conference in honor of Sweden's official delegates to the sixth congress of the International Chamber of Commerce, Hotel Roosevelt, Madison Avenue and Forty-fifth Street. Morning, luncheon and afternoon sessions beginning at 10 A. M.

American Museum of Natural History, Seventy-seventh Street and Central Park West, 10:30 A. M. and 2 P. M. "Australia—Scenes and Industries," motion picture; "Synchronized Films," L. Wales Holden, 4 P. M.; Amateur Astronomers Association, 8 P. M.

Luncheon and meeting of the Business Men's Division of the Greater New York Federation of Churches, the Bankers' Club, 120 Broadway, 12:30 P. M. Speakers: Dr. S. Parkes Cadman and Dr. A. Edwin Keigwin.

Luncheon and fashion show of the Rose N. Lesser Auxiliary of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, at the Central Park Casino, 1 P. M.

The Fellowship of Faiths, Union Auditorium, 228 West Forty-eighth Street, 8 P. M., Mosiem Festival. Speakers: Surf M. R. Bengalee, Syud Hossain, Dr. Charles Fleischer and Rev. Eliot White.

Annual meeting of the New York and New Jersey section, woman's department, National Civic Federation, at the home of Mrs. Albert H. Harris, 1 Sutton Place, 3 P. M. "Labor's Contribution to National and International Affairs," Matthew Woll.

New School for Social Research, 66 West Twelfth Street. "Possible Improvements While Capitalism," Edna Lonigan; "Behavior Problems in Children—Symptomatology," Dr. David M. Levy, 5:20 P. M.; "Case Studies in Mental Hygiene," Dr. David M. Levy; "Ethics and Psychoanalysis," Dr. Fritz Wittels; "The Philosophy of Dialectical Materialism," Sidney Hook; "Oratorio and Opera, 1920-1600," "Creative Work of Students," Ralph M. Parson, 8:20 P. M.

Dinner of the Conference on Immigration Policy, Hotel St. Moritz, 56 West Fifty-ninth Street, 6:30 P. M. Speakers: Dr. Jane P. Clark, Dr. Henry Pratt Fairchild, Dr. Horace M. Kallen, Max J. Kohler, Cecilia Razovsky and Harold Fields.

City Club of New York, 55 West Forty-fourth Street, 7 P. M. "Developments in Suburban Transportation," Glenn S. Reeves.

Annual meeting of the Foreign Policy Association at the A. W. A. Clubhouse, 361 West Fifty-seventh Street, 7 P. M. Speakers: James G. McDonald, William T. Stone, Raymond Leslie Buell, T. A. Bisson, Vera Michelles Dean.

Reception of the American Irish Historical Society in honor of Professor John L. Gerig, 132 East Sixteenth Street, 8 P. M.

Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, Academy of Music, 8:15 P. M. "Nurnberg, die Stadt des Hans Sachs und der Meistersinger," Professor Edwin Roedder; recital of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, 8:15 P. M.

"Outward Bound" by the Metropolitan Conference of Unitarian and Other Liberal Churches for the benefit of the Bronx Free Fellowship, the Town Hall, 123 West Forty-third Street, 8:15 P. M.

Explorers Club, 544 Cathedral Parkway, 8:30 P. M. "A Critique of Recent Antarctic Exploration," Vilhjalmur Stefansson.

People's Institute, Muhlenberg Branch Library, 209 West Twenty-third Street, 8:30 P. M. "Benign Bacteria—The Bacterial Friends of Man," Dr. Nicholas Kopeloff.

Rand School of Social Science, 7 East Fifteenth Street. "Contemporary European Literature," Germany Compared with England; Thomas Mann, Peter M. Jack, 8:30 P. M.

Dinner of the Bronx Soroptimist Club in honor of the delegates to the Soroptimist Regional Conference, Hotel Concourse Plaza, Grand Concourse and 161st Street, evening.

Thursday.

Luncheon of the Soroptimist Club of Manhattan, the Town Hall Club, 123 West Forty-third Street, 12:30 P. M. Address by Douglas Malcolm.

Regional conference meeting of the North Atlantic Region of Soroptimist Clubs, Hotel Astor, Broadway and Forty-fourth Street, 12:30 P. M.

Port of New York Authority ground-breaking ceremonies for the first inland terminal, Sixteenth Street and Eighth Avenue, 2:30 P. M. Speakers: Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt and Morgan F. Larson, and former Governors Alfred E. Smith and A. Harry Moore.

Metropolitan Museum of Art, Eighty-second Street and Fifth Avenue, 2:30 P. M. "Two Museum Subjects: A Visit to the Armor Galleries; Digging into the Past," motion pictures.

Meeting of the National Committee for Support of the Griffin Bill to Amend Naturalization Law, at the home of Mrs. Grover Clark, 19 Claremont Avenue, 3:15 P. M. "The Griffin Bill and American Institutions," Congressman Anthony J. Griffin.

Annual meeting of the National Committee on Prisons and Prison Labor, Hotel St. Regis, Fifth Avenue and Fifty-fifth Street, 3:30 P. M. "New Prison Policy," Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt.

American Museum of Natural History, Seventy-seventh Street and Central Park West: "Wild Flowers of Spring," Dr. Clyde Fisher, 3:40 P. M.

Meeting of the Pen and Brush Club, 16 East Tenth Street. Address by Ida M. Tarbell, 4:30 P. M.; poetry evening, program by Rosalie Mercier Montgomery and Anne Lloyd, 8 P. M.

Bureau of Personnel Administration, 29 West Thirty-ninth Street, 6 P. M. "Resume: The New Age of American Business Management," Dr. Harry A. Overstreet.

Association for Personality Training dinner conference, Hotel Woodstock, 127 West Forty-third Street, 7 P. M. "Adjusting Personality to the 'Good Life,'" Ordway Tead; "The Human Element in Management, Sentiment or Good Business?" E. W. Garton; "Personality Education in College, its Opportunities and Obligations," Norris A. Brisco.

Columbia University Institute of Arts and Sciences, McMillin Academic Theatre, Columbia University, 8:15 P. M. Reading of Original poems, Huston Paterson, presiding.

New School for Social Research, 66 West Twelfth Street. "Human Nature and Education," Dr. Horace M. Kallen; "Craftsmanship and Art," Thomas Benton, 8:20 P. M.

Lecture, "Public Defenders for the Poor in Criminal Cases," Mayor C. S. Goldman, Goelet Lodge, F. and A. M., Masonic Temple, 71 West Twenty-third Street, 8:30 P. M.

Review of the Seventy-first Infantry, N. Y. N. G., by Ambassador Tytus Filipowicz, Park Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, 8:30 P. M.

Mount Sinai Hospital of New York, 1 East Ninety-ninth Street, 8:30 P. M. The William Henry Welch Lecture by Harvey Cushing.

Roerich Museum, 310 Riverside Drive, 8:30 P. M. Evening of Poetry by Mary Siegrist.

Contemporary Arts, 12 East Tenth Street, 8:45 P. M. Interpretation of Chard Powers Smith's play "Hamilton" by Neville Brush.

Dinner and reception of Council Officers' Association of Knights Templar of New York City at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, Fifth Avenue and Ninth Street, evening. Address by Justice Benn Kenyon.

Annual dinner of the New York Young Democratic Club, Hotel Astor, Broadway and Forty-fourth Street, evening. Speakers: Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt and Senator Robert F. Wagner.

Sixth annual reception, entertainment and dance of Community Councils of the City of New York, Hotel Pennsylvania, Seventh Avenue and Thirty-second Street, evening.

Friday.

Eighty-fifth convention of the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs, Hotel Astor, Broadway and Forty-fourth Street, 10 A. M.

American Museum of Natural History, Seventy-seventh Street and Central Park West, "Spring Bird Visitors," Farida Wiley, 10:30 A. M. and 2 P. M.; meeting of the American Interplanetary Society, 8:30 P. M.

Ceremony to mark the opening of the Empire State Building, Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, 11 A. M.; luncheon on eighty-sixth floor at noon, Alfred E. Smith to preside. Inspection from 2 to 6 P. M. Radio broadcast "R. K. O. Theatre of the Air," 10:30 P. M.

Luncheon of the Mount Vernon Chapter of Hadassah, Hotel Ritz-Carlton, Madison Avenue and Forty-sixth Street, 1 P. M.

National Health Day observance and patriotic services of the Minute Men of America, Central Park Mall, bandstand, 2 P. M.

Horace Mann School auditorium, 120th Street and Broadway, 5:10 P. M. "Trends in Statistical Instruction and Research," Dr. Egon S. Pearson.

The New School for Social Research, 66 West Twelfth Street. "Radio and Television as Conditions of Fine Art," Dr. Horace M. Kallen, 5:20 P. M.; "Dominant Ideals of Western Civilization," "The Novel of Marcel Proust," Gorham B. Munson; "Public Opinion and International Affairs," Roswell Barnes, 8:20 P. M.

Jubilee dinner in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Smith College Alumnae Association, Hotel Roosevelt, 6:15 P. M. William Allan Neilson and Mrs. Neilson, guests of honor.

New York Microscopical Society meeting at the American Museum of Natural History, Seventy-seventh Street and Central Park West, 8 P. M. "The Application of the Mercury Arc to Microscopy," A. P. H. Trivelli.

Fortnightly Forum, George Washington Hotel, Twenty-third Street and Lexington Avenue, 8:30 P. M. "The Woman of 1931," Rupert Hughes.

Columbia University Institute of Arts and Sciences, McMillin Academic Theatre, 8:30 P. M. "Winter's Tale," Columbia Laboratory Players.

Twelfth annual entertainment of the New York Chapter, 165th Infantry, Hotel Pennsylvania, Seventh Avenue and Thirty-second Street, evening.

Saturday.

School Art League lecture, Brooklyn Museum, Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, 10 A. M. "The Secrets of Three Buried Cities," Juanita Fagg.

School Art League lecture, the American Museum of Natural History, Seventy-seventh Street and Central Park West, 11 A. M. "Gems and Minerals in Relation to Modern Applied Art," Herbert P. Whitlock.

School Art League lecture at the Art Directors Club Advertising Show, Art Centre, 65 East Fifty-sixth Street, 11 A. M. Address by Anna B. Carolan.

American Museum of Natural History, Seventy-seventh Street and Central Park West. "Gems and Minerals in Relation to Modern Applied Art," Herbert P. Whitlock, 11 A. M.; "In the American Alps," Motion picture, 3 P. M.; "Storms and Sunspots," Dr. E. E. Free, 8 P. M.; "The Quartz Gems," Herbert P. Whitlock, 8:15 P. M.

Parade and review of the New York Police, reviewing stand at Fifth Avenue and Sixty-second Street, 1:30 P. M.

Metropolitan Museum of Art, Eighty-second Street and Fifth Avenue. "A Famous Wager Between Two Painters of England," Anna Curtis Chandler, 1:45 P. M.; "What Workers Have Wrought Through the Ages," Katharine B. Sallson; Gallery Talk by Elise P. Carey, 2 P. M.; Gallery Talk by Katherine B. Neilson, 3 P. M.

Columbia University Institute of Arts and Sciences, McMillan Academic Theatre, Columbia University. "Winter's Tale," Columbia Laboratory Players, 2:30 P. M. and 8:30 P. M.

New York Botanical Garden, Lecture Hall of the Museum Building, Bronx Park, 3:30 P. M. "Floral and Scenic Features of Cuba," Dr. Marshall A. Howe.

Seventh annual banquet of the New York Society of the Panama Canal, Hotel Astor, Broadway and Forty-fourth Street, 7:30 P. M. Address by Brigadier General Chester Harding.

Debate and entertainment of the Cooper Union Debating Class, Eighth Street and Fourth Avenue, 8:15 P. M. "Resolved, That a New Political Party Is Desirable," George H. Barman and Morris L. Marix, affirmative, vs. William Blohm and Robert T. Smalls, negative.

Annual dinner and dance of the Postal Supervisors, Hotel Astor, Broadway and Forty-fourth Street, evening.

Dinner in honor of Colonel Frederick W. Baldwin by the officers of the Fourteenth Regiment, Hotel Bossert, Brooklyn, evening.

The New York Times
Published: April 26, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

ROOSEVELT VETOES EXTRADITION BILL

Decisions on Water Power and New Judges Measures Will Be Announced Later.

GOVERNOR DUE HERE TODAY

He Will Attend N. Y. U. Dinner Tonight and Dedicate Empire State Building Thursday.

From a Staff Correspondent of The New York Times.

HYDE PARK, N. Y., April 27.—Governor Roosevelt completed today consideration of the final batch of thirty-day bills and prepared to go to New York tomorrow. The Governor will reach the city late in the day and will face a busy program until Friday at 6:35 P. M., when he is scheduled to depart for Warm Springs, Ga., for his annual vacation.

In winding up his action on the thirty-day bills, the Governor disposed of about thirty bills. He conferred with his counsel, Samuel I. Rosenman, who left tonight for the capital to make public the action on the bills there.

The only major measures on which he has not acted are the bills setting up the Water Power Authority to pave the way for State development of the hydroelectric resources of the St. Lawrence and the creating of various new judges for New York City and Long Island.

The water power bill, it is understood, has already received the Roosevelt approval and it is believed probable also that before he leaves for Warm Springs the Governor will select the trustees of the Power Authority.

Considerable controversy has been aroused on the bills to create new judges, particularly on the measure which would give the Second Judicial District twelve additional Supreme Court justices. Other bills would increase the number of City Court judges in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and Richmond and also augment some other branches of the judiciary. While it was indicated that action had already been taken on these measures, the Governor would give no inkling of how the measures had fared, although it was believed

Continued on Page Two.

The New York Times
Published: April 28, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

ROOSEVELT VETOES EXTRADITION BILL

Continued from Page One.

that some of the bills would be signed and others vetoed.

The Governor will head for the city tomorrow afternoon and will journey to Shrub Oak, on the Westchester-Putnam line to break ground for the new Eastern Parkway, which is designed to provide a new gateway to the Adirondacks.

He will motor to the city after the ceremony and in the evening will be a speaker at a dinner to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of New York University.

On Thursday Mr. Roosevelt will participate in the ceremony to mark the beginning of the new Thirty-eighth Street tunnel; on Friday he will dedicate the Empire State Building and will be a guest at luncheon with former Governor Alfred E. Smith and others interested in the structure. He expects to remain in Warm Springs until the end of May, when he will go to French Lick, Ind., for the Governors' conference during the first week in June.

The Governor's only activity today beyond his labors on the final group of bills was to give a formal start of a transcontinental tour of three automobiles sponsored by The Elks Magazine. The Governor turned over a letter to Governor Hartley of Washington, which the motorcade will deliver when it reaches the Coast.

Finds Extradition Bill Faulty.

Special to The New York Times.

ALBANY, April 27.—Governor Roosevelt today vetoed the State Crime Commission bill designed to place this State in line with other States on the matter of extradition. The measure was introduced at the request of the American Law Institute, which for a number of years has been at work bringing about uniformity in extradition procedure.

In a brief message the Governor stated that he was strongly in favor of the principle of the bill and hoped that some action would be taken by the Legislature next year to bring about the enactment of a law on the subject. He explained that his veto was due to the fact that it did not conform with certain important details of criminal practice in this State, more particularly in connection with the furnishing of bail, the forfeiture of bail and the waiver of extradition.

He said that the District Attorney's office in New York City had pointed out some difficulties of the bill.

"I regret that this uniform extradition statute must go over for another year, but in view of the fact that the statutes effective in the State of New York are now fully adapted to efficient and speedy administration of rendition proceedings, I do not wish to approve the measure with these defects," the Governor said.

Assemblyman Burton D. Esmond, vice chairman of the commission, said he thought the veto had been inspired by "captious criticism."

"The bill was drafted to conform with the extradition code of the American Law Institute," Mr. Esmond said. "The provisions of the bill were discussed with Governor Roosevelt and I certainly was under the impression that the measure had his full approval."

Governor Roosevelt vetoed a bill introduced by Senator Samuel H. Hofstadter providing for surrender to the Federal Government, for a nominal consideration, of some seventy acres of land under water at Governors Island. The land is wanted by the Federal authorities for the purpose of increasing the area of the Governors Island flying field. The Governor issued no explanatory statement in connection with this veto.

The New York Times
Published: April 28, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

LUNCHEON TO SMITH TODAY

McCreery's to Give "Welcome to Empire State" Function.

Contrasts between the Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street of today and of a half century and more ago will feature the luncheon to be given today by James McCreery & Co. as a "welcome to Empire State." Former Governor Alfred E. Smith, head of the company that erected the Empire State Building across the street from McCreery's, will be guest of honor and principal speaker.

Before going to the eleventh floor of McCreery's for the luncheon, Mr. Smith, the directors of Empire State, Inc., and other prominent guests will inspect a window display of historical material and relief maps depicting the progress of the neighborhood and gowns worn during most of the decades of the century. Two platoons of police have been detailed to keep order during this inspection.

Neil Petree, president of McCreery's, will preside at the luncheon. Samuel W. Reyburn, president of the Associated Dry Goods Corporation, will speak. The speeches will be broadcast from 1:15 to 2 P. M. over station WOR. A fashion show of old gowns will follow.

The New York Times
Published: April 29, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

ROOSEVELT IS HERE; TO CONFER ON CRAIN

Decision Before the Governor Leaves for Vacation Friday Is Possible, but Unlikely.

MAY MEET SEABURY TODAY

Will Lunch With Smith on Friday After Dedication of Empire State Building.

Governor Roosevelt arrived here last night for a busy three days, during which he will try to clear his desk before departing for Warm Springs, Ga., on Friday evening. The most important problem facing the Governor involves the charges against District Attorney Crain, and the Governor expects to confer with Samuel Seabury on the Crain inquiry within the next day or so.

Motoring to his town house at 49 East Sixty-fifth Street from his Hyde Park home, the Governor said that as yet no appointment had been made for a meeting with Mr. Seabury, who is acting as his commissioner to hear evidence on the charges filed against the District Attorney by the City Club. At the same time he indicated the probability that he and Mr. Seabury would meet possibly today or tomorrow.

Crain Case May Go Over.

The original plan for disposition of the charges against Mr. Crain had called for presentation of the complete case to the Governor before he left for his vacation in the South. Due to various delays, however, it apparently will be impossible for Mr. Seabury to make a final report by Friday.

On the other hand, it was pointed out, it would not be necessary for Mr. Seabury to receive detailed evidence on every one of the specifications, particularly if he felt that the mass of testimony already taken was sufficient to enable the Governor to make a decision. The Governor has been keeping in close touch with the progress of the hearings and is fully up to date on the evidence. It is believed that he and Mr. Seabury will go over the case as it has developed to date.

With another hearing set for tomorrow, on the eve of Mr. Roosevelt's departure for the South, it appeared unlikely, however, that any decision would be made until after the Governor's return in about a month, although it would not be impossible for Mr. Seabury to cut the hearings short tomorrow and make an immediate report to the Governor. The Governor had no comment to make on the situation.

Governor Roosevelt has arranged several "personal appointments" for today but has not disclosed the identity of any of his anticipated visitors. He will go to the theatre in the evening and tomorrow will speak at the breaking of ground for the Thirty-eighth Street tunnel. On Friday he will dedicate the Empire State Building and have lunch with former Governor Alfred E. Smith and others interested in the structure. He will start south at 6:35 P. M. on Friday. He will be accompanied to Georgia by Miss Margaret Le Hand, his private secretary, Sergeant Earl Miller of the State police and Detective August Gennerich of the New York department. He will meet Mrs. Roosevelt in Washington Friday night on the way south where he expects to remain three weeks or a month.

Weighs Power Appointees.

Having cleaned up all his work on the thirty-day bills passed in the closing period of the Legislature, the Governor is confronted with several additional problems requiring early decision. One of these is the selection of the five trustees of the water power authority which was set up in the bill he has signed for State development of the hydroelectric resources of the St. Lawrence River. The Governor had hoped to be ready to announce the personnel of the board of trustees coincident with his announcement that he had signed the bill. Various difficulties prevented this, but it was regarded as possible that he might announce his selections before his departure.

On his trip to the city the Governor stopped at Shrub Oak, near the Putnam-Westchester county line, to break ground for the Eastern State Parkway which is to lead from the Bronx River Parkway Extension through Dutchess, Columbia and Rensselaer Counties. Accompanied by Jay Downer, chief engineer of the Westchester County Park Commission, he journeyed to the city over the completed part of the Bronx River Parkway Extension. In the evening he spoke at the dinner at the Hotel Astor celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of New York University.

The New York Times
Published: April 29, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

BUSY BRANCH SITE FOR BOWERY SAVINGS

Selection of New Bank Offices Influenced by Empire State Building.

One of the contributory reasons for establishing a branch of the Bowery Savings Bank in the building on the northwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, where the lease of the banking floor and basement was recently announced, was, according to Henry Bruere, president of the Bowery Savings Bank, the presence of the Empire State Building on the opposite Thirty-fourth Street and Fifth Avenue corner. The new branch will be opened about Oct. 15.

Mr. Bruere added that other strategic reasons for establishing this branch of the Bowery Savings Bank are the growing prestige of the Thirty-fourth Street neighborhood; the retail stores in the district which attract many pedestrian shoppers from various transit points who will pass the new branch and the easy accessibility of the location for workers in office buildings and wholesale and retail establishments in the Empire State zone.

"There is also," he said, "the probability of a structural renaissance in and adjacent to East Thirty-fourth Street which gives indications of becoming a popular apartment house centre, making it possible for the residents to walk to work in and adjacent to the Thirty-fourth Street and Fifth Avenue neighborhood and early building prospects for several multi-family houses are contemplated."

The New York Times
Published: August 23, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

RASKOB TO OCCUPY ELABORATE OFFICES

With P. S. du Pont, He Will Have Large Suite in the Empire State Building.

Featured by rare imported paneling, the decorative scheme of private offices of John J. Raskob and Pierre S. du Pont in the Empire State Building will be carried out on an elaborate scale. The offices occupy more than half of the eightieth floor and are to be ready for occupancy not later than Oct. 1.

The paneling, elaborately and carved in Georgian Period style, will cost more than $120,000, exclusive of other furnishings, the interior architects estimate. Mr. Raskob's private office and personal staff quarters occupy seven of the units, Mr. du Pont's large corner office, conference room and secretarial offices occupying the remaining three units.

Some of the new features will be connecting public and private conference rooms, private rest and recreation rooms, elaborate open fireplaces and mantels following the Georgian design and complete soundproofing and fireproofing. Furniture, drapes and rugs used throughout were designed and made at the express order of Messrs. Raskob and du Pont and no two pieces are similar.

Francis B. Wadelton, head of the interior architectural firm of T. D. Wadelton's Son, is executing the work.

"These offices are being decorated in an elaborate Georgian Period style of imported French and domestic American oak paneling," Mr. Wadelton said. "English oak, India teakwood and American walnut are used for the flooring and trim. My company has handled all of Mr. Raskob's work for more than twenty-five years and about fifteen years for Mr. du Pont, so we were enabled to include practically every whim and idea in their furniture and decorations. We were especially fortunate in equipping these offices in Empire State because this building is the only office building equipped for the installation of practical open fireplaces.

"Both Mr. Raskob and Mr. du Pont are keenly interested in their new offices, both personally supervising many details and progress of construction so that the offices might be ready sooner than Oct. 1."

The New York Times
Published: August 30, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

BUILDERS STRESS REMODELING NEED

Value of Modernization in Drawing Tenants to Be Featured in Exhibit.

WOULD AID THE INDUSTRY

Maintenance Exposition to Open on Jan. 14 in the Empire State Building.

The value of modernization and improvement of existing buildings and equipment under present rental conditions to attract new tenants will be stressed at the exposition of building maintenance merchandise to be held in the Empire State Building on Jan. 14, 15 and 16.

Interest in the show has been manifested by many building owners and managers, according to the Real Estate Magazine, official organ of the Real Estate Board, which has initiated a movement to foster remodeling activity to offset the decline in new construction and "as a means of solving rather than of complicating the most serious problems which confront the real estate market."

"Among the interests owning and controlling improved real estate," says Harry D. Phillips, director of publications of the Real Estate Board, who has supervision of the exhibit, "a feeling of helplessness has been gradually yielding to the realization that there need not be undue pessimism because of the surplus of space on hand. On the contrary this very surplus has been the incentive to quiet intensive effort—the determination to meet competition in the most effective way. Cessation of new construction has precluded a great deal of potential competition and the remaining competition, the wise ones argue, can be met only by bringing existing properties up to a high plane of management efficiency. That means more remodeling, more renovating and installation of modern building equipment.

"Provident owners and building managers are beginning to look about for the merchandise and the machinery to bring their apartments and business buildings up to the best condition. The wise manufacturer and dealer in building merchandise is fully aware of this undercurrent of activity. The Real Estate Board, through its magazine, has undertaken to provide a meeting ground for the two interests, reserving for the purpose the nineteenth floor of the Empire State Building.

"The exhibits will be diversified and their informative character will be amplified by expert discussions and forums on subjects relating to building management and maintenance. The applications for space have been numerous. A large attendance is expected through the generous cooperation of the members of the board. The distribution of tickets will reach approximately 120,000 and an attendance on each of the three nights is expected to be 10,000. Most of the large building and management concerns affiliated with the board have arranged to send practically their entire staffs to the exhibition as a matter of information and education."

The New York Times
Published: December 27, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

New Safety Bulletin Shows Empire State Building Work

The committee on accident prevention of the Building Trades Employers' Association of the city of New York has completed its tenth bulletin, entitled "Safety Stories," and is distributing copies to its members and affiliated building organizations throughout the United States.

The bulletin was prepared, said William G. Wheeler, secretary of the association, from a subcommittee's report of inspections of the Empire State Building, made with the consent and cooperation of the general contractors, Starrett Brothers & Eken, Inc.

Twenty-five photographs taken on the job are included in the bulletin from the demolition of the old Waldorf-Astoria, the safety methods employed to protect workmen and pedestrians during the wrecking, to the topping out of the tower.

The New York Times
Published: February 1, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

SMITH TO MAKE AWARDS.

Empire State Building Workers to Be Honored Next Wednesday.

Former Governor Alfred E. Smith head of Empire State, Inc., will be the chief speaker at the final craftsmanship award on the Empire State Building next Wednesday, when certificates and gold buttons will be presented to sixteen mechanics.

Other speakers will be William F. Lamb of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, the architects; R. H. Hunter of Starrett Brothers & Eken, the builders, and John J. Collins, representing labor. Theodore Irving Coe, chairman of the Building Congress Committee of Award, will preside.

The following mechanics will get certificates:

Clifford Smith, electrician.
Thomas McWeeney, elevator constructor.
William Deneen, helper.
Frank W. Pierson Jr., metal lather.
Louis Shane Jr., marble setter.
Owen Scanlon, helper.
George R. Adams, painter and decorator.
Frank J. Klein, plasterer.
John E. O'Connor, plumber.
John Connolly, roofer.
Louis Hummel, steamfitter.
William L. Moran, helper.
Ferruccio Mariutto, terrazzo worker.
Pietro Vescovi, helper.
R. Maddalena, tile setter.
Joseph Leffert, helper.

The ceremony is sponsored by the New York Building Congress.

The New York Times
Published: February 8, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

SMITH AS A LABORER HELPS HONOR WORKERS

Adopts Role to Speak in Place of Union Leader at Building Exercises.

Alfred E. Smith, four times Governor of the State of New York, former Democratic candidate for President of the United States, and now a builder of skyscrapers, assumed a new rôle yesterday. For a few minutes he became just Al Smith, laborer. As labor's representative at the craftsmanship exercises in his Empire State Building he did his work well enough to draw a hearty round of applause from several hundred workers engaged in the erection of the eighty-five-story structure.

Mr. Smith, as head of Empire State, Inc., was presiding over the ceremony when the new job was offered to him. He called for a speech from John J. Collins, secretary-treasurer of the Subway and Tunnel Workers' Union, but Mr. Collins had not arrived.

"Well," said Mr. Smith, "as a bona fide member of the Bricklayers' Union, the Teamsters' Union, and the Shovel Hoisters' Union, or whatever the name is, I'll speak for labor.

"We are glad we have displayed our energy and ingenuity and are proud of our work here. These certificates should mean more to us than just a frame and a paper. Builders and architects should give some consideration to those who are out of work who have received this recognition, and give them jobs whether they need more men or not."

Five minutes later Mr. Collins showed up, slightly out of breath. Informed of the substitute speech, he said: "It's just as well I didn't get here on time. I couldn't have done better myself."

Sixteen mechanics received New York Building Congress certificates and gold buttons.

The New York Times
Published: February 12, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

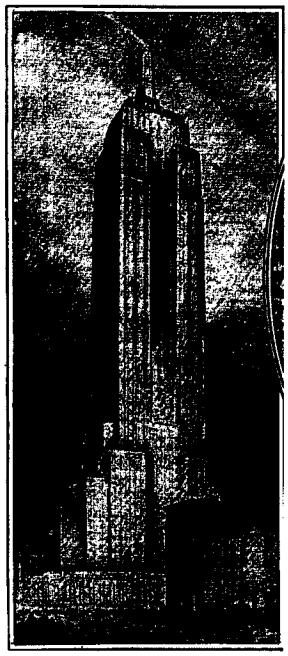
BUILDERS TO STUDY SAFETY

Call Conference With Workers on Accident Prevention.

Several hundred operating executives, builders and workmen are expected to attend the conference on safety practices to be held next Wednesday evening in the Building Trades Club under the auspices of the committee on accident prevention of the Building Trades Employers' Association. Henry W. Lohmann, chairman of the committee, will preside at the meeting, which will be a part of the second annual Greater New York Safety Conference.

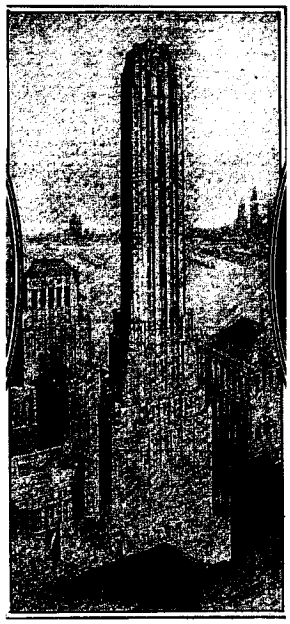
The speakers will be Charles Denning of the New York State Department of Labor; J. W. Bowser, superintendent of construction on the Empire State Building, and John Russell Jr. of the United Engineers and Constructors. An open forum will follow the speeches.

The New York Times
Published: February 22, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

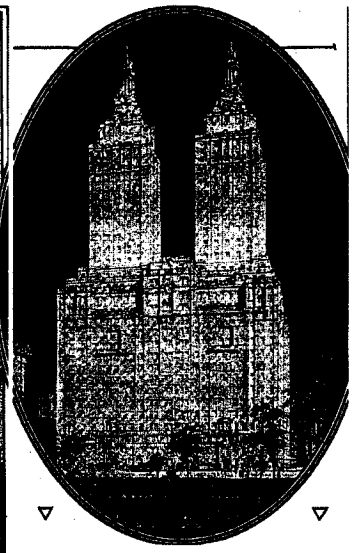


New York's Newest Tower. The Empire State Building, Thirty-fourth Street and Fifth Avenue. 1,248 Feet High.

Etching by Anton Schutz Showing, at Right, New Fifty-Story Irving Trust Company Building at 1 Wall Street, Into Which the Bank Expects to Move About March 1. At the Left, Behind Trinity Church, Are the Towers of the Bankers Trust Company and the Bank of Manhattan Trust Company.



The New Fifty-nine-Story City Bank Farmers Trust Company Building at 22 William Street.



San Remo Apartment House, Central Park West, Seventy-fourth to Seventy-fifth Street.

The New Fifty-eight-Story Building at Fifth Avenue and Forty-second Street.

The New York Times
Published: January 4, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Nears Completion; Ex-Governor Smith Reports Rentals Active

By ALFRED E. SMITH,
President Empire State, Inc.

With the beginning of each new year every industry and every profession prepares to face new problems. Real estate has never proved to be an exception to this hard and fast rule.

There is no reason to believe it an exception today. Real estate is one of the principal resources of the world and it follows closely in the footsteps of industry in its ups and downs through good times and bad.

If we take an inventory of the accomplishments of the year 1930 few things stand out more clearly than the new eighty-five-story office building, Empire State. Not only does it stand out as the greatest structural accomplishment, but viewed from any angle in any part of the great metropolis it stands out overpoweringly dominating to a marked extent the largest city in the world.

When the public was first told of our plan to erect a structure 1,250 feet high, comparable to 102 stories in height, high enough to moor a huge dirigible in the centre of the uptown office district, the man on the street, the business man and the engineer wondered at the architectural and structural possibility of such a great pile of stone and steel.

As this mighty structure reared skyward wonderment changed to astonishment as the eye discerned actual accomplishment.

Soon after the steel skeleton of Empire State reached its apex an architectural beauty of line was definitely assuming form and wonder and astonishment at the size and height changed to pride.

As an architectural and engineering feat its construction proved to be less difficult than it seemed. A number of sketches and plans were submitted by the architects, Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, which were studied and criticized.

Ordinarily any structure is planned and built from the ground upward, piling floor upon floor, breaking the continuity where legally required, until the desired height is reached. A tower floor was selected as the type of office unit that would meet the requirements of the greatest number of office tenants.

Explains Planning Method.

This was a unit, because of its abundance of light and air, that would likely be the most popular.

This was discussed with the architects. It was found that this type of office unit could be placed on the eighty-fifth floor, the projected height, and with a few changes could be carried down to the sixth floor, and floors lower than the sixth were to be built out to the full lot line.

This was the plan and the appearance of the building finally decided upon. Empire State, therefore, was literally planned from the eighty-fifth floor down.

Construction followed in record time. Many new devices and appliances were conceived and employed for the first time to speed up construction without sacrificing quality.

Time was an essential element because the building must be ready when the next renting season arrived.

Early Occupancy Announced.

That all those concerned in the building of Empire State have succeeded admirably in meeting its completion schedule is indicated by the fact that the building will be ready for occupancy long before May 1.

As the public wondered and marveled at the possibility of building a structure as high as that planned for Empire State, so it now wonders at the possibility of filling it with tenants.

Every large venture causes speculation as to its ultimate outcome or success. This is particularly true of New York City.

While it is a fact that the office renting market has been somewhat inactive generally, it is also a fact that a sizable volume of office space was rented in Empire State from plans long before a finished office unit could be shown.

Men long experienced in office building development predict that Empire State will, for some time to come, enjoy the prestige of being the tallest building in the world. Greater heights make economical floor space and rentals difficult.

The New York Times
Published: January 11, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

SMITH ELECTED BY CLUB.

Made President of the Empire State Luncheon Group.

Former Governor Alfred E. Smith was elected president of the newly organized Empire State Luncheon Club, which will occupy the entire twenty-first floor of the Empire State Building, at a meeting of the board of governors yesterday in the Vanderbilt Hotel. It is hoped to open the club rooms early in May.

Robert C. Brown, vice president of Empire State, Inc., of which Mr. Smith is president, was elected treasurer of the club, and Captain William J. Pedrick of the Fifth Avenue Association, was elected secretary. Colonel Michael Friedsam of B. Altman & Co. and John J. Raskob were elected vice presidents.

Captain Pedrick said the membership included some of the most prominent business executives in the city. The governors of the club are:

Robert C. Brown
Pierre S. DuPont
Ellis P. Earle
L. W. Flaunlacker
Col. Michael Friedsam
Bernard F. Gimbel
Louis G. Kaufman
Leon Klein
Emil W. Kohn
P. LeBoutillier
H. Morton Morrilman
Leroy T. Pease
Capt. W. J. Pedrick
John J. Raskob
John J. Sammis
Franklin Simon
Alfred E. Smith
Paul Starrett
Jesse Isidor Straus
S. Sargeant Volck
H. R. Mallinson

The New York Times
Published: January 14, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

SKYSCRAPER TREND CALLED HIGHER YET

Engineers Hear of 1,200-Foot Structures Considered—Wind-Bracing Discussed.

PROBLEMS BEING SOLVED

Some Buildings Have Four-Second "Swing"—Sway Is Less Under Late Construction Plans.

he bracing of skyscrapers such as the Empire State, Chrysler, Manhattan Bank and other tall buildings against the effect of high winds was discussed yesterday on the second day of the seventy-eighth annual meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers in the Engineering Societies Building, 29 West Thirty-ninth Street.

The topic was outlined in a report and two addresses, followed by talks by six leading engineers. H. G. Balcom, consulting engineers, of this city, spoke on "the structural features of the Empire State Building," and H. V. Spurr, chief engineer for the Purdy & Henderson Co., New York, on the "structural problems in the design of the Bank of Manhattan Company Building." C. R. Young, Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto, Canada, presented the report of the sub-committee on wind-bracing of tall buildings.

The stiffness of buildings rather than their strength, is the important factor in planning wind-bracing, Professor Young said. The wind velocity, he added, has passed ninety miles on hour on at least twenty-seven recorded occasions in this country, the highest having been 186 miles an hour at Mount Washington, N. H., in 1876. Wind velocity, Dr. Young said, increases with height.

Older Buildings Sway Most.

In the discussion that followed, D. C. Coyle, consulting engineer, of this city, said that the "slowest" building here takes four seconds to complete its "give" under pressure. Older buildings, built primarily with the idea of strength, which results in producing stiffness, have a higher frequency of sway than newer buildings built along different lines. Opinions differ on the amount of sway desirable, the discussion brought out.

Mr. Spurr pointed out that buildings of 1,200 feet tall are being considered and that within the next few decades there probably will be many structures exceeding present skyscrapers in height.

Professor W. H. Wilson of the University of Illinois pointed out that there was little exact knowledge on the details of connecting girders used for wind bracing with the supporting columns of buildings. E. B. Goodrich, engineer, of this city, said his investigations showed that suction on the leeward side of a building in a high wind is almost identical with the increased pressure on the windward side. He added that wind-bracing involves from 1 to 3 per cent of the total construction cost of a building.

Calculating Pull of a Dirigible.

Mr. Balcom revealed that a horizontal force of fifty tons, applied to the top of the mooring mast on the Empire State Building, was used in the calculations for the pull from a dirigible. He added:

"Though the wind pressure on the mooring mast and the pull of a dirigible produced quite a little effect on the wind-bracing near the top, the effect was only about 7 per cent of the total wind pressure in the north and south direction. The total was 4,340,000 pounds, of which 318,000 were represented by the wind pressure on the mooring mast and the pull from a dirigible."

Various other subjects were also discussed. Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews spoke on his recent expedition to Central Asia.

In connection with the meeting there is on display at the civil engineers' exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry, 220 East Forty-second Street, a new instrument for long-range detection and instant recording of swaying buildings, racing driving rods and all other moving objects, and transmitting its written record to the desk side of the engineer. It is said to open up new possibilities for measuring stresses and strains in inaccessible structural members. The instrument is a development of the research laboratory of the Westinghouse Electrical and Manufacturing Company. It is known to civil engineers as a magnetic extensometer.

The New York Times
Published: January 23, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

SEWERS REGULATE BUILDING HEIGHTS

Their Capacity Determines in Part How High a Skyscraper May Go.

SOME ARE NOW OVERTAXED

Engineer Warns Builders to Study System in Vicinity Before Starting Construction Project.

That the city's sewer system offers a problem in skyscraper construction that is not generally reckoned with was shown in recent testimony at hearings on revision of the building code. The popular belief that bracing against wind sway and lack of elevator shaft space are the only major difficulties confronted in skyscraper planning must now be extended to include a wider capacity in sewage disposal. Surprising revelations in this connection were made at the building code hearings, according to Allen E. Beals of the Dow Service Daily Building Reports, who is a member of the Advisory Committee on Building Code Revision.

Robert A. MacGregor, Assistant Engineer of the Division of Maintenance of Sewers of the Borough of Manhattan, said there are streets in Manhattan on which no more skyscrapers can be built without exceeding the capacity of existing sewers to serve them.

"It is a fact," Mr. MacGregor said, "that the most active repressant in the otherwise almost limitless abilities of engineers and material men to erect superlative tower buildings in New York City is the non-elasticity of our existing sewers. Some simply cannot serve another skyscraper structure. Some parts of Bronx and Brooklyn, I imagine, are facing the same problem.

"This is not as surprising to us as it may be to you, because we happen to know that of the 550 miles of sewers lying in the streets of Manhattan, 260 miles of them were laid before 1870 while the United States was readjusting itself after the Civil War.

"These sewers, built mostly of brick, have often stirred present-day people to marvel at the imagination of the City Fathers and engineers of those days in foreseeing the need of sewers in Manhattan that would be able to accommodate the needs of buildings that would be five times higher than the five-story brownstones of that day. As a matter of fact, however, the size of these sewers was determined upon, according to our records, solely on the need of getting men inside to clean them. The records extant do not even indicate any conception on their part of buildings as high as the twenty-two-story St. Paul Building at Broadway and Ann Street, which at the close of the Spanish-American War in 1898, stood in the awe of New Yorkers much in the same degree that the Empire State Building stands today.

"It is true that there is now practically no margin of spare capacity in the sewers of certain sections of Manhattan. A rainy day, a high tide and peak usage of the drainage system, due to the fact the ground seepage of rain water in Manhattan is now practically nothing since streets, sidewalks, building area and back yards are all either paved or roofed, not to mention tremendous increase in sanitary requirement incidental to the increase in height and dimension of buildings, all combine to overtax the city's sewer system. It is easy to see under such circumstances where the limitation of skyscraper construction lies.

"Yet builders proceed with big building plans without consulting this department about the condition of the sewers in the streets on which they intend to build more and more frequently and thrust their owner-clients into most expensive and annoying situations, as in the case of a structure erected in the upper Fifth Avenue, where, after it was occupied, the discovery was made that the sewer in the street was wholly incapable of serving it. The entire plumbing layout of the building had to be changed so as to connect, as an emergency service, with a neighboring sewer that was not so heavily used.

"I informed the committee that such consultation should be made compulsory under the new code because the time is not far distant when the borough of Manhattan (and by the same token parts of the boroughs of Bronx and Brooklyn) will have to proceed with general enlargement of its sewer system.

"Since this work is paid for by assessing abutting property, owners should make themselves aware of existing sewer facilities before they weigh too closely the productive aspects of their projects against cost."

The New York Times
Published: January 26, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

KING SEES THE CITY FROM EMPIRE STATE

Ruler of Siam, Wearing Green Glasses After Recent Operation, Keenly Interested.

SMITH ESCORTS THE PARTY

Royal Visitor Says He Noticed Less Swaying on Skyscraper Than on Eiffel Tower.

Escorted by former Governor Smith, King Prajadhipok of Siam viewed New York and its surrounding territory yesterday noon from the observation platforms of the Empire State Building, the world's tallest skyscraper. The visit was without ceremony. Although the royal party remained in the building for nearly an hour, few of the hundreds in and near the structure knew of the King's presence.

Wearing a purplish brown business suit and green glasses, the King, who was not accompanied by his consort, Queen Rambaibarni, said little during his visit to the building. He and his party arrived at the edifice without attracting attention, and were met by Governor Smith, who escorted them by elevator to the observation platform above the eighty-fifth floor. The visibility was only fair.

Mr. Smith kept up a running fire of comment, describing the scenery. The group also posed for silent and talking pictures. The King was interested in all he saw, and asked many questions regarding the panorama.

The party posed for photographers and, while waiting for camera men to finish, the King, who was operated on for removal of a cataract from his left eye on May 10, said: "The strong light of the sun hurts my eyes."

Getting your picture taken," remarked Mr. Smith, "is the chief American outdoor sport."

The party then was conducted to the observation tower, above the 102d floor, the top floor of the building, where it remained for about ten minutes. It then departed from the building and went by automobiles to Ophir Hill, Purchase, N. Y., the estate of the late Mrs. Whitelaw Reid and the temporary home of the King.

On his return to Ophir Hall the King remarked that the sense of height was less acute in the Empire State elevator after passing the twentieth floor on the way up. He said also that he noticed less swaying on the top of the edifice than he had when he ascended the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

In the royal party, besides the King and Ogden Reid, editor of The Herald Tribune, were Prince Svasti, the King's father-in-law; Prince Amoradat Kridakara, Siamese Minister to the United States; Prince Chirasakti, cousin of the King; Master Bongs Amara Kridakara, son of the Minister; Mom Rajavongs Smaksman Kridakara, assistant private secretary to the King, and Wilbur Forrest, assistant to Mr. Reid. Robert C. Brown, vice president of Empire State, Inc., of which Mr. Smith is president, accompanied the party on its tour.

ROCKEFELLERS VISIT KING.

Party Has Tea, Remaining at Ophir Hall for Several Hours.

Special to The New York Times.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., June 30.—Queen Rambaibarni of Siam had intended to accompany her husband on his visit to the Empire State Building in New York City today, but remained at Ophir Hall because of a slight indisposition. She did not require medical care, but preferred not to ride to New York because of the heat.

By afternoon the Queen appeared to be recovered, and later she and the King received Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller Jr. and their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson A. Rockefeller. The Rockefellers remained for tea, staying for several hours.

A KING HAS A DISTINGUISHED GUIDE.

Times Wide World Photo.

King Prajadhipok of Siam visited the Empire State Building yesterday at the invitation of former Governor Alfred E. Smith, who escorted him to the tower and pointed out the city's skyline.

The New York Times
Published: July 1, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Called Tower of Babel; Dr. Machen Says Architecture Lacks Soul

If a person declares that the world is basically Christian today he is refusing to face the obvious fact that it is not, and, moreover, the dominating forces in world governments, literary life and even the churches are un-Christian, the Rev. Dr. J. Gresham Machen, professor at the Westminster Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, declared yesterday morning at the Broadway Presbyteran Church, Broadway and 114th Street.

Even present-day architecture lacks any semblance of feeling or soul, Dr. Machen said. The 102-story Empire State Building stands like a "tower of Babel" and the buildings one sees from its top "rise in magnificent ugliness," he declared in comparing present architecture with that of past centuries, when cathedrals "were constructed with feeling."

"When a generation turns away from Christ, slavery stalks as a result of it," he continued. "A mechanistic view of life takes away the glorification of living. But as in other centuries when the Church faced similar crises, there will be those who will not be discouraged by prevailing paganistic views and will stand up for Christ.

"I know that there are Christians seated in classrooms under professors who do not deem Chritsianity worth discussing, and among fellow-students who are not Christian. These students must sometimes feel that they are overwhelmingly opposed in their views and are unpopular. But that has always been the case with God's work."

The New York Times
Published: July 13, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

TELEVISION STATION FOR EMPIRE STATE

Radio Board Gives the N. B. C. a Permit for Transmitters on 84th Floor of Building.

ANTENNA ON MOORING MAST

Great Height Is Expected to Prevent Interference—High Frequencies to Be Used.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, July 24.—Two construction permits were granted today to the National Broadcasting Company for the erection of a television and sound station on the eighty-fourth floor of the Empire State Building in New York City.

The station will use very high frequencies. One of the transmitters will operate on 5,000 watts power and the other on 2,500 watts.

The 5,000-watt transmitter will be for television and for experimental work on ultra-high frequencies in order to determine their usefulness for television.

The application stated that it would take ninety days to complete the construction, that the apparatus would cost $75,000, with $10,000 extra for the studios. This transmitter will use the frequencies of 43,000 to 46,000 kilocycles, 48,500 to 50,300 kilocycles and 60,000 to 80,000 kilocycles.

The 2,500-watt transmitter "will be used for the experimental transmission of 'sound track' speech and music in connection with television research and the development of transmission in and around New York City." It will use frequencies of 41,000 to 51,400 kilocycles, 60,000 to 400,000 kilocycles, and above 401,000 kilocycles.

The television studios and laboratories will occupy the eastern half of the eighty-fourth floor of the building, about 1,000 feet above the street. It is believed that operation of apparatus at this elevation will be helpful in surmounting difficulties which have beset television transmission.

A television antenna will be placed at the top of the Empire State Building mooring mast, 1,250 feet above the street level.

The New York Times
Published: July 25, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

$1,000,000 a Year to See City From Tower Being Paid by Visitors to the Empire State

Receipts from the observatory and roof promenade atop the Empire State Building thus far have been at the rate of more than $1,000,000 a year.

Evidence that the sightseers' space, the highest observation point in the city, is turning out to be a profitable venture financially as well as an advertising medium for Empire State, Inc., of which Alfred E. Smith is president, was contained in figures compiled at the offices of the company showing 96,079 paid admissions for the thirty-four-day period ending at midnight Thursday.

Since the opening on May 2 the number of visitors paying $1 each to view the broad panorama of the metropolitan area from the skyscraper roof has averaged nearly 3,000 on weekdays and 5,000 on Sundays. On several occasions groups have been forced to stand in line at elevators. The highest single day's figure was 5,400.

The May total was approximately 85,000. Even now, when the novelty of the tower has abated somewhat, the company expects the attendance to be kept at a relatively high level as compared with the first month, since there were several spells of bad weather to keep down the number of visitors during May. Due to the crowds, the observatories at both the eighty-sixth and the 102d floor levels, the latter within the mooring mast, are being kept open from 8 A. M. to midnight.

Mr. Smith announced yesterday the opening of "the world's highest soda fountain and tea garden" on the balcony and in the glass-enclosed east observatory on the eighty-sixth floor, 1,048 feet above Fifth Avenue. The fountain was designed by Shreve, Lamb & Harmon in black marble and Alleghany metal to harmonize with the architecture of the building.

The New York Times
Published: June 6, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

BRONX SITE VALUED HIGHEST IN THE CITY

United Electric Light Plant Assessed at $49,860,000 for Taxes in 1931.

MANHATTAN DROPS BEHIND

New York Edison Property Put at $33,000,000, While Brooklyn Edison Tops It With $33,700,000 Figure.

The highest assessed valuation in the city for 1931 made for tax purposes has been placed upon the plant of the United Electric Light and Power Company at 133d Street and the Harlem River, in the Bronx, which will be taxed on a value of $49,860,000 this year.

Last year the company's property was valued at $45,000,000, which meant that it paid the city $3,230.78 every day of 1930. Manhattan has fallen far behind, according to this standard. The parcel carrying the highest assessment in Manhattan is that of the New York Edison Company plant at Fourteenth Street and the East River, which has an assessed valuation of $33,000,000, an increase of $8,000,000 over its assessed valuation last year. In Brooklyn the property carrying the largest single assessment is valued at more than the topmost in Manhattan. This is the Hudson Avenue plant of the Brooklyn Edison Company, which retains its 1930 valuation of $33,700,000.

The highest tax valuation in Queens was placed upon the Long Island City plant of the Astoria Light, Heat and Power Company, which will be taxed on a value of $27,300,000. In Richmond the Procter & Gamble plant is highest with a tax valuation of $1,432,000. While the large office buildings in Manhattan and Brooklyn pay heavy assessments, they are not rated as valuable as the industrial plants. The Chrysler Building has an assessed valuation of $12,000,000, the same as that of the Hotel New Yorker.

The Empire State Building, which is not yet ready for occupancy, has been valued at $13,000,000 for tax purposes this year. Operating at full capacity, this building would probably carry the highest valuation in the city, according to the tax department's experts. They made public the valuations placed upon some of the best known buildings in Manhattan, showing that the Equitable Building at 120 Broadway is valued at $31,750,000, and the Bank of Manhattan Building at 44 Wall Street pays on a basis of $25,500,000. Other valuations are the Stock Exchange, $23,500,000; Lincoln Building, Madison Avenue and Forty-second Street, $20,500,000; New York Life Insurance at Madison Avenue and Twenty-sixth Street, $20,000,000; Grand Central Terminal, $18,500,000; American Telephone Building at 140 West Street, $18,200,000; Savoy-Plaza, $17,800,000; Equitable Trust at Broad and Wall Streets, $17,250,000; Commodore Hotel, $17,000,000; Paramount Theatre, $15,100,000; Biltmore, $14,000,000; Plaza, $13,700,000, and No. 1 Wall Street, $11,000,000.

The New York Times
Published: March 1, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

NAVY AIRSHIP AKRON TO TAKE AIR IN JUNE

Commissioning and Flight Here Are Set Tentatively for the Late Summer.

HANGAR IS BEING BUILT IN

This Will House Five Planes—Painting of Outer Fabric, to Total Seven Acres, Is Begun.

From a Staff Correspondent of The New York Times.

AKRON, Ohio, March 2.—The giant navy airship Akron will be ready to take to the air in June. Then will begin the test and conditioning flights of this great fortress of the air, and if everything goes well it will be ready for the navy to take over late in the Summer or early in September.

Today riggers and painters hanging from the 200-foot-high roof of the dock or mounted like circus acrobats on the top rungs of eighty-five-foot ladders started the work of painting or doping the fabric which already covers the huge nose and extends down the sides of the hull. Already about an acre of closely woven extra-ply white cotton cloth has been lashed to the duralumin girders and spars, but this is just a beginning. It will take seven acres of cloth to cover the outside of the hull alone.

In one of the factory buildings of the Goodyear-Zeppelin Company a corps of girls is busy stitching by hand and machine on the cotton outer cover, which is tested for a pressure of sixty pounds to the square inch before it passes inspection.

In another room more girls are at work on the fine rubber gas cells. Here a base fabric is dressed with twenty-six coats of filmlike liquid gum before it is finally sewed and cemented into cellular shape. The twelve cells, the largest holding nearly 1,000,000 cubic feet of helium, will use up more than twenty-one acres of fabric, all stitched by hand.

All German airships and the Los Angeles used gas cells of gold beater's skin made from animal tissue, but since cells built in the last eighteen months for the Los Angeles are proving satisfactory the Akron will be the first of the big ships to use the rubberized fabric gas cells and gelatine latex throughout.

German Specialist Is in Charge.

Adjoining Akron's 1,000-acre airport, on which the airshop dock has been built, is the factory in which the airship frame has been constructed. Dr. Karl Arnstein, chief engineer of the Goodyear-Zeppelin Company, is in charge. He supervised the construction of sixty-eight airships in Germany before coming here to take charge of construction of the navy's new dirigibles.

"There is much that is new in both construction and design in this airship, aside from its size," Dr. Arnstein said today. "The Graf Zeppelin has a gas capacity of 3,700,000 cubic feet. The Akron is to have a gas capacity of 6,500,000 cubic feet, nearly twice the size of the Graf and almost three times the size of the Los Angeles. Just the difference in size alone has created new problems in design that have meant nearly five years of research. Then the Akron is to have a hangar for five planes, and this is a new problem.

"Furthermore," he added, "the engines of the Akron are enclosed within the hull with only the propellers and their mounts outside, more new problems for us to work out. Finally, instead of having one keel along the under side of the ship, the Akron will have three, two half way up the side, and one at the top."

Dr. Arnstein said that the work was all the more important because the engineers were building not only an engine of war but were designing for commercial use also.

"Everything we learn in building the Akron will be applied in the construction of our first airship for transoceanic commercial service," he said.

Commercial Work Is Chief Aim.

Paul W. Litchfield, president of the Goodyear companies, including the Goodyear-Zeppelin Company, was still more emphatic in his view of research going on here under his direction.

"We would never have entered into this extensive airship building program for military and naval use alone," he said. "It is in the commercial air transport field that our future as constructors of these great dirigibles lies."

Already the draftsmen and designers have laid out the first commercial airship, which will be as large or larger than the Akron, but actual construction will not be started until the first navy ship is in the air.

The first naval officer to be assigned to the airship, Lieutenant Charles E. Rauch, formerly on the Shenandoah and the Los Angeles, has been ordered here from Lakehurst, and others will follow soon.

Lieut. Commander Zeno Wicks, U. S. N., retired, who was executive officer at Lakehurst when the Graf arrived on her first trip to the United States, is superintendent of erection at the dock, and under his direction 400 skilled riggers and mechanics, many of them former navy men, are working seven days a week on the construction of the ship.

In the construction shops 400 more men are at work fabricating the duralumin girders, channels and spars and the high-tension steel wires which in spider-web formation lace the girders and frames into place. Even the rivets, of which there are 6,500,000, are designed and made in the duralumin plant.

Riveting machines are not used in the delicate work of fabricating an airship. Rivets are put in place one at a time and headed up and clinched by hand, and each rivet is inspected under a magnifying glass.

The Navy Department is building some of the equipment for the Akron elsewhere. Machine gun mounts, bomb racks and the rigging for releasing and hoisting aboard the airplanes are being built by the navy and will be installed after the airship is finished.

Weight Will Be 235,000 Pounds.

With this equipment the eight Maybach engines, navigating instruments, lockers and control machinery, the Akron will weigh 235,000 pounds. Its lift, however, will be 400,000 pounds, which will allow a load of about 175,000 pounds. After finishing its test flights here at Akron the new airship will be flown to Lakehurst and will probably be seen in the skies over New York City some time late in the Summer.

No one connected with the construction of the Akron will venture an opinion as to how the mooring mast atop the Empire State Building can be utilized. While not asserting that the mast is impractical, the engineers here do not yet see how it can be used except at great risk.

"One of those days when New York is covered with fog and there is a light, steady south wind would be the best for such an attempt, in my opinion," Commander Wicks said. "Under any conditions a patoka type landing would have to be made and the job of grappling for the tower landing line on top of one of those buildings would be a ticklish one. I can see no way of working out the problem of holding the tail."

Dr. Hugo Eckener, now on the Europe bound for New York, is expected in Akron on Firday. Tomorrow Brig. Gen. William Mitchell, formerly of the Army Air Corps, is to visit the dock. Clarence D. Chamberlin arrived by air from New York today to inspect the airship.

The New York Times
Published: March 3, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

CONSTRUCTION PLANS DROP.

But Cost of Manhattan Projects Is Close to Figure a Year Ago.

Plans were filed with the Manhattan Bureau of Buildings last month for six new structures to cost a total of $9,133,360, as compared with sixty-six buildings to cost $10,955,700 projected in February, 1930, according to a report yesterday by Charles Brady, superintendent of the bureau. The report for last month shows sixty fewer buildings, but only $1,821,340 less in money involved when compared with the figures of a year ago.

The six buildings for which plans were filed last month were three office buildings, two warehouses and one miscellaneous building.

During the month applications were filed for alterations in 189 old buildings at an estimated cost of $982,150, compared with 215, at a cost of $1,892,510, in the same month last year. This is a decrease of twenty-six in number of buildings and $910,360 in money involved.

Empire State Building Tenants.

The largest link in the chain of fifty units operated by Terminal Barber Shops, Inc., will occupy a store on the Thirty-third Street side of the main lobby of the Empire State Building, according to J. B. Schusser, president of the corporation. The shop will be equipped to serve 2,000 persons daily, in addition to a beauty parlor to serve forty women at one time. Other lessees in the building were announced by H. Hamilton Weber, rental manager, as follows: Jantzen Knitting Mills of 303 Fifth Avenue; Harnischfeger Sales Corporation, machinery, of 50 Church Street, and M. W. Carr & Co., Inc. of 200 Fifth Avenue.

Railroad Leases in 120 Broadway.

After twenty-nine years in Nassau Street the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company will move to the Equitable Building, 120 Broadway, where the company has leased more than a fourth of the thirty-seventh floor for executive, financial and transfer offices. The lease was negotiated by Carl A. Leasenfeld and Elliot H. Binzen. The Union Pacific Railroad Company recently rented more than 25,000 square feet of space in the same building.

Realty Brokers Rent in Maiden Lane

Voorhees & Verity, Inc., realty brokers, have leased for their own occupancy part of the sixth floor in 14 Maiden Lane and as agents have rented space in the same building to the following, all real estate or mortgage brokers: H. Schuyler Cammann, on sixth floor; Frederick A. Holly and John C. Mead, on seventh floor; J. N. Kalley & Son, Thomas P. Graham, Hermann De Selding and T. Foster Gaines, entire ninth floor.

The New York Times
Published: March 10, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

SEES A SKYSCRAPER LIMIT.

S. F. Vorhees Says Empire State Is Highest Feasible at Present.

Special to The New York Times.

PRINCETON, N. J., March 12.—The Empire State Building in New York, the tallest structure in the world, represents the maximum height skyscrapers may be expected to reach "with the present means of elevation," according to an interview with Stephen F. Voorhees, '00, of New York, supervising architect of Princeton University, which appeared in The Daily Princetonian this morning.

"By this I mean," said Mr. Voorhees, "that vertical transportation will not cover more than 1,,250 feet until further inventions come to light to facilitate it." The physical limit of skyscrapers has not been reached "by any means," he said, but loftier structures must wait on improved means of elevation.

A recent comparison has shown that more people use vertical than horizontal means of transportation each day, Mr. Voorhees declared. "This does not, of course, indicate that people go further one way or the other," he said, "but that more trips are made daily on the elevators than on the railways."

The New York Times
Published: March 13, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

Fifth Avenue Association Rents In New Empire State Building

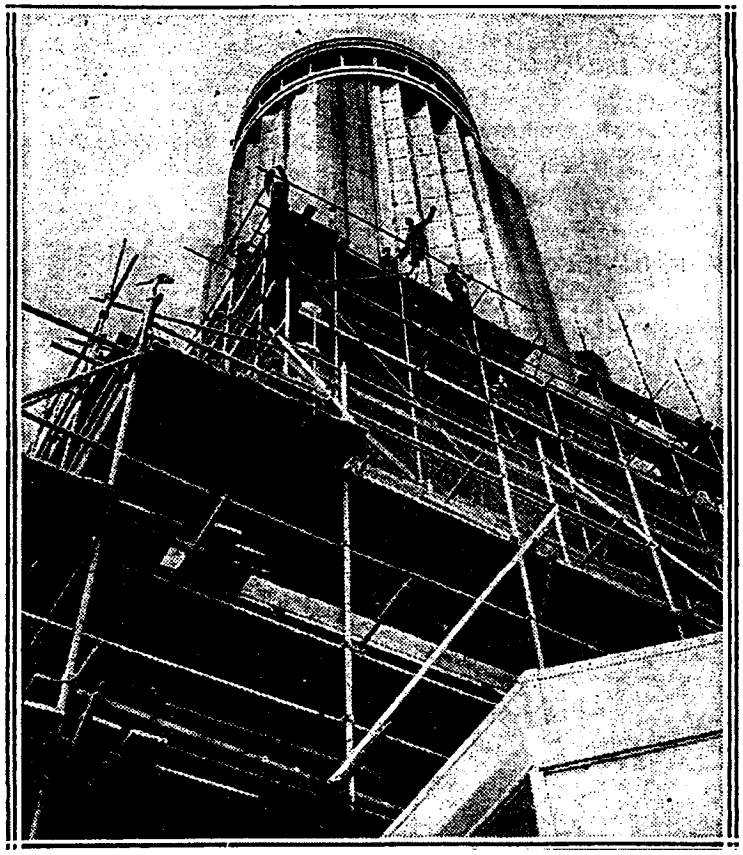
The Fifth Avenue Association has leased quarters in the new Empire State Building, to which the organization will move next month from its present offices in 358 Fifth Avenue, on the opposite side of Thirty-fourth Street, it was announced yesterday by H. Hamilton Weber, rental manager of the new skyscraper.

The association has been in its present quarters since 1921. Previously it was in 542 Fifth Avenue, at Forty-fifth Street.

Captain William J. Pedrick, executive vice president of the association, anticipates increased activity in Fifth Avenue below Thirty-fourth Street.

The New York Times
Published: March 14, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

EMPIRE STATE BUILDING TOWER COMPLETE.



Times Wide World Photo.

Scaffolding Was Taken Yesterday From the Mooring Mast for Dirigibles Atop the World's Tallest Skyscraper.

FINAL WORK IS DONE ON EMPIRE BUILDING

Scaffolding Taken Down From Mooring Mast Atop World's Tallest Skyscraper.

The last of the scaffolding was taken yesterday from the 200-foot dirigible mooring mast atop the Empire State Building. This marked the practical completion of the world's tallest skyscraper. The tip of the mast is 1,248 feet above Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, whereas the spire of the Chrysler Building, which formerly held the altitude record, is 1,046 above street level.

Former Governor Smith, president of Empire State, Inc., has announced that all will be in readiness for an attempt by a navy dirigible to tie up to the mast in May, and it has been reported that the navy would cooperate by sending the Los Angeles to make the experiment, although no definite announcement to that effect has been offered.

The huge structure has been renting for some time and its formal opening is set for May 1. It has on its eighty-five floors a total rentable space of 2,158,000 square feet. The building stands on a site of 83,860 square feet on the plot where formerly stood the old Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Erected at an approximate cost of $55,000,000, the building has taken only a little more than a year for construction. The steel work was begun on March 17, 1930, and was completed last September.

The New York Times
Published: March 22, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

Du Pont Rents Three Floors In Empire State Building

E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc., of Wilmington, Del., has leased the ninth, tenth and eleventh floors of the new Empire State Building at Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, it was announced yesterday by Alfred E. Smith, president of Empire State, Inc., of which Pierre S. du Pont, chairman and president of the leasing firm, is a director.

The lease involves a total gross rental of about $3,000,000.

The three floors are to be occupied by several du Pont subsidiaries now scattered in Manhattan, as follows: Roessler & Hasslacher Chemical Company, Grasselli Chemical Company, Viscoloid Works, National Ammonia Company, du Pont Explosives, du Pont Rayon Company and Krebs Pigment and Chemical Company.

The New York Times
Published: March 24, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

ECKENER INSPECTS EMPIRE STATE MAST

Holds That Dirigible Mooring Device Would Be Usable Only in Favorable Weather.

Dr. Hugo Eckener, commander of the Graf Zeppelin, inspected the mooring mast atop the new Empire State Building late yesterday afternoon, but declared that "much study" must be undertaken before it would be safe to attempt to moor an airship to it.

He was accompanied by John J. Raskob, Mrs. Winston Churchill and Randolph Churchill, wife and son of the British statesman; Jerome Hansacker, chief engineer of the Goodyear Zeppelin Company, and Wilhelm von Meister, representative of the Maybach Motor Company. The party was escorted about the platform, more than 1,000 feet above the street level, by Robert C. Brown, vice president of the building corporation, and William F. Lamb, architect.

Only under favorable weather conditions would it be possible to moor a ship to the tower, whose tip is 1,248 feet above the street, the airship designer declared. He added that before an attempt was made, it would be necessary to study the characteristics of air currents over an area studded with skyscrapers. Asked if he would undertake to moor an airship to the mast, he laughed and said :"I have always been very careful. There would have to be many, many experiments."

In a prepared statement he paid tribute to the builders and architects of the structure. He pointed out the problems that would arise in mooring through lack of a ground crew, but declared that a mooring mast atop a skyscraper presented a challenge to the future development of airships.

Objections raised by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 3, prevented a battery of sound-movie men from making a sound record of the visit. The cameramen, however, took silent films and "stills."

Dr. Eckener last night expressed a favorable opinion of the new airship which is being completed at Akron, Ohio, in an address which was broadcast over Station WOR from the Chanin Auditorium on the fiftieth floor of the Chanin Building, Forty-second Street and Lexington Avenue.

"I am convinced that the voyages of this new and great ship will give a new impulse to the development of airships and new success to the art," he said. " Also, we in Germany, have now started construction on a new ship for commercial use. This airship will be considerably larger and quite a bit faster than the Graf Zeppelin."

Others who spoke were Commander G. W. Simpson, Captain Harry Shoemaker and Colonel Herman A. Metz, who introduced Dr. Eckener. Dr. Eckener's daughter, Miss Lotte Eckener, was also present.

The New York Times
Published: March 27, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

MARKET DEVELOPS SEASONAL STRENGTH

Signs During Week of Improving Business in Metropolitan Area Hearten Brokers.

SUBURBAN SALES INCREASE

New Apartment Houses Report Unusual Demand for Leases, With Many Reservations From Plans.

Realty conditions in the metropolitan area showed unmistakable signs of improvement during the past week. While there were no exceptionally large sales, the volume of trading for this season was quite satisfactory to brokers.

Chief improvement was seen in the leasing and suburban market. Not only were business leases in Manhattan very encouraging, but reports from brokers having charge of the newer apartment houses on the east and west sides indicated a larger number of inquiries than had been looked for so early in the season, and several of the buildings which will not be ready for occupancy until Fall were reported to have leases signed for more than 50 per cent of their space.

Of marked importance as showing the increasing interest in suburban home ownership was the announcement by Harry Sirkin, a Long Island developer, that he had purchased a plot of 509 lots, held at $750,000, at Main Street, Flushing, at the junction of Nassau Boulevard, on which he is planning to erect homes which, when completed, will represent a total investment of about $5,000,000.

Activity in Westchester.

Many of the Westchester communities showed activity, one of the large transactions being the leasing by F. Wilder Bellamy, with a purchase option, of the eighty-acre estate of Duncan Read at Katonah, including a large residence, garage and other structures. Improvement was also noted in many New Jersey localities.

Among the outstanding business leases was the rental of three floors in the new Empire State Building by the Du Pont Company, the space being taken for a long term, aggregating about $3,000,000, and the lease by Benjamin Kovner, a coat and suit dealer, of the corner store in the new Salmon Building at 500 Fifth Avenue, southwest corner of Forty-second Street, at the high rental value of approximately $3,348 a front foot. The store has a frontage of 23 feet on the avenue by 16 feet on the street.

Another important uptown lease was the rental by The United Press of 4,000 square feet in the recently completed News Building at 220 East Forty-second Street, near Second Avenue, including the twelfth floor and portions of two other floors. The United Press has been since 1908 in the Pulitzer, or World, Building on Park Row. The shift to uptown was necessitated by the need for larger quarters and also by the removal of many newspaper plants from the old newspaper centre to midtown Manhattan localities.

In the downtown area the Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company leased for its sixteenth branch office half of the street floor and basement in the new office building at 90 Broad Street, the lease being for twenty-one years.

The leasing for twenty-one years, with renewal options, by the Trinity Corporation of the plot 99.11 feet, at 157-163 Chambers Street, between West Broadway and Greenwich Street, was of interest from the fact that the lessees, the Chamber Street Corporation, Ira Streusand, president, has contracted to erect a fifteen-story structure to be ready for occupancy by May, 1932, the cost being estimated at $675,000.

Manhattan Avenue Flat Sold.

The five-story flat at 442 Manhattan Avenue, on the east side between 118th and 119th Streets, on plot 33.4 by 100, has been purchased by Globe Equities, Inc., represented by Goodman & Mabel, attorneys. The property is subject to mortgages of $30,200.

A cooperative apartment sale in the recently completed building at 320 East Seventy-second Street, between First and Second Avenues, has been made by Albert B. Ashforth, Inc., to Franklin C. Ellis. The apartment contains seven rooms and three baths. Other purchasing owners there include Mrs. Richard S. Aldrich, Dr. Eleanor A. Campbell, George D. Arthur, Norman F. Lovett, Dr. Alfred F. Upshur, A. Murray, Gordon Murray and John W. Ross.

The new garage building at 547-555 West Thirty-fourth Street has been leased by the New England Transportation Company, a subsidiary of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, for storage and repair of its passenger motor car buses. The lease was made from the Lyosin Realty Corporation through Thoens & Flaunlacher, as brokers. The same firm also leased to Max Petroff for a restaurant the store at 996 Sixth Avenue, with an extension to 72 West Thirty-seventh Street, for Bertha M. Arras.

A large apartment house deal was closed in Brooklyn in the purchase by the All Borough Equities, Inc., of the new six-story building erected by the A. Heller Construction Corporation at 229-243 East Eighteenth Street, covering a plot 137 by 100 feet. The house contains 177 rooms and was sold subject to mortgages aggregating $306,925. Goodman & Mabel represented the buyers as attorneys.

In the Bronx the ten-family house at 848 Whitlock Avenue, 37.6 by 100, was sold by Mrs. Fannie Keller to an investor, subject to $37,000 mortgages. William Weissberg was the broker.

The New York Times
Published: March 29, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

HOOVER WILL OPEN EMPIRE STATE TODAY

President Will Press a Key in Washington Turning on Lights in Building's Lobby.

EX-GOV. SMITH TO PRESIDE

2,000 Persons Invited to the Various Ceremonies, Which Will Continue Until Midnight.

Ceremonies marking the official opening of the new 102-story Empire State Building at Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street are to begin at 11:30 A. M. today, when President Hoover presses a key at Washington, D. C., and illuminates the lobby. The program is to continue until midnight.

Two thousand guests have been invited to the various ceremonies, at which Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt and Mayor James J. Walker are listed among the speakers. Guests who attend the exercises during the forenoon are to be admitted to the building at 11:15 A. M. by Mary Adams Warner and Arthur Smith Jr., grandchildren of the former Governor, who will cut a silk barrier placed across the Fifth Avenue entrance.

Luncheon is to be served to 200 guests on the eighty-sixth floor of the new structure at noon, after which the guests are to inspect the building from the lobby to the 102d floor, just below the conical tip of the dirigible mooring mast. A radio program, sponsored by Empire State, Inc., and by the RKO Theatre of the air, broadcast at 10 P. M. from the observatory above the eighty-fifth floor of the building, is to be followed by a buffet supper, served at 11 P. M. for 300 persons.

The building will be thrown open to the public at 9 A. M. tomorrow.

Arrangements have been made to broadcast the luncheon also over the National Broadcasting and Columbia networks. Besides the speeches to be made by Governor Roosevelt and Mayor Walker there are to be addresses by Paul Starrett, representing the builders, and by Richmond Shreve, representing the architects. In addition, there is to be a short talk by a representative of the workmen who reared the present skyscraper on the site of the former Hotel Waldorf-Astoria.

The list of guests includes business men whose enterprises are situated in the vicinity of the new building and leaders of business, civic and political organizations.

The New York Times
Published: May 1, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

EMPIRE STATE TOWER, TALLEST IN WORLD, IS OPENED BY HOOVER

President Presses Button in Washington, Lighting Up 1,250-Foot Building.

HE CONGRATULATES SMITH

Governor and Mayor Also Praise Vision and Courage of Leader in Project.

THOUSANDS SEE CEREMONY

Grandchildren of Ex-Governor Cut Ribbons at Entrance—Public to Inspect Structure Today.

The new Empire State Building, the world's tallest structure, which has been erected at a cost of about $52,000,000 on the site of the old Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, was opened formally yesterday. The chief executives of the nation, State and city took part in the ceremonies and added their tributes to the greetings that came from all over the world.

President Hoover in Washington pressed a button at 11:30 A. M. that switched on the lights within the building that rears its head 1,250 feet above the sidewalks. He sent a message of congratulation that was read by former Governor Alfred E. Smith, president of Empire State, Inc., at a luncheon and ceremonial on the eighty-sixth floor.

The President paused at the threshold of a Cabinet meeting to play his part in the dedication of the world's loftiest building. Only a few minutes earlier Mary Adams Warner and Arthur Smith Jr., grandchildren of former Governor Smith had cut the ribbon that barred the doors of the Fifth Avenue entrance.

Thousands Witness Ceremony.

Several hundred invited guests, who had waited before the entrance at 350 Fifth Avenue, entered the east lobby while special details of patrolmen and mounted police held back thousands of spectators who tried to rush through the police lines.

The 200 invitations for the luncheon produced 350 guests, because prominent New Yorkers had asked and obtained permission to be accompanied by their wives or other members of their families. Immediately after President Hoover switched on the lights Mr. Smith invited the guests of Empire State, Inc., to go with him to the eighty-sixth floor.

There the guests viewed Manhattan Island and the metropolitan area from a new pinnacle. Few failed to exclaim at the smallness of man and his handiwork as seen from this great distance. They saw men and motor cars creeping like insects through the streets; they saw elevated trains that looked like toys.

"There's Central Park, no bigger than a football gridiron," exclaimed one spectator.

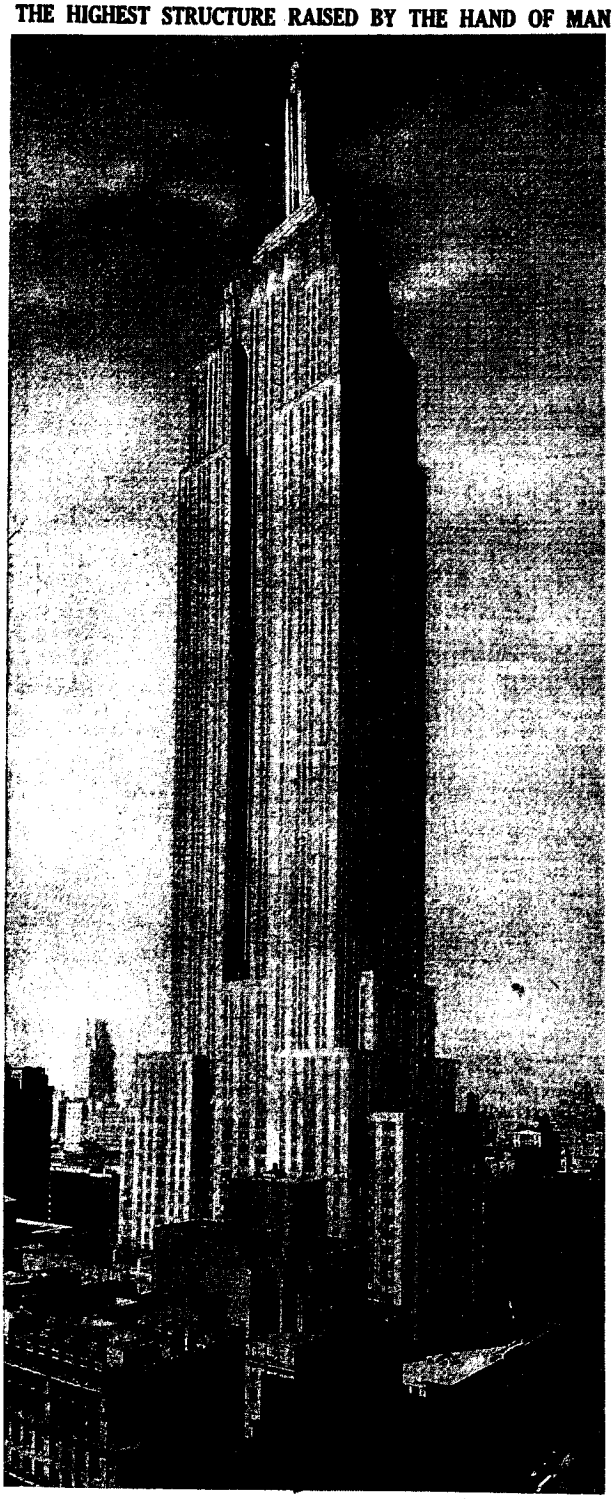
Crowding up to the parapets, the guests gazed long and intently through the blue haze of a cloudless day, as Governor Smith had invited them to look, across the boundaries of three States and over the Atlantic. He had told them that on a clear day they could take a look at Yonkers, Patchogue, L. I., Connecticut, Sandy Hook and Plainfield, N. J.

Following a buffet luncheon the spectators assembled in an enclosure on the east side of the eighty-sixth floor, where the meeting was held. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was played by the Hotel McAlpin Orches-

Continued on Page Seven.

The New York Times
Published: May 2, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

THE HIGHEST STRUCTURE RAISED BY THE HAND OF MAN



New York Times Studio Photo.

The Empire State Building, the 1,250-foot structure on the site of the old Waldorf-Astoria on Fifth Avenue at Thirty-fourth Street, which now dominates the New York skyline and which was formally opened yesterday.

THE FOUR MEN WHO CREATED THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

Kaiden-Keystone Studios.

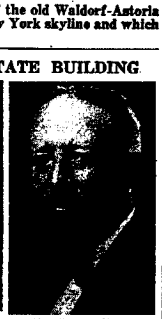
WILLIAM F. LAMB, the Architect.

Underwood & Underwood.

H. G. BALCOM, the Engineer.

Kaiden-Keystone Studios.

COL. W. A. STARRETT, the Builder.



New York Times Studios.

ALFRED E. SMITH, President of the Owning Company.

TALLEST BUILDING OPENED BY HOOVER

Continued from Page One.

tra. The addresses were broadcast by WEAF and WOR.

Governor Smith's address follows:

Smith Reads Hoover Telegram.

Governor, State and City Officials, Invited Guests Generally: The officers and the directors of Empire State, Inc., welcome you to the opening of the new Empire State Building. I desire to read to you a telegram from the White House, Washington:

"Hon. Alfred E. Smith, New York.

"I most cordially congratulate you and your associates upon the completion of the Empire State Building and the opening of its doors to the service of the public. This achievement justifies pride of accomplishment in every one who had any part in its conception and construction and it must long remain one of the outstanding glories of a great city.

"HERBERT HOOVER."

I have another telegram that I do not propose to read, but propose to say something about. It comes from aboard the Augusta, some place between here and Italy, and aboard that steamer is John J. Raskob, and this is a long telegram of congratulation to the workmen, to all the people that had anything to do with the construction of the Empire State Building, and it voices, I am sure, a very deep regret on his part that he cannot be with us today.

Probably no building in the history of the world has brought about such universal interest in its progress. This is practically a holiday in this section, this midtown section of New York City. Interest in this building is not confined to our State or our country; it is universal. We have read articles about it, we have had pictures of it sent to us from newspapers published practically throughout the civilized world. The Empire State Building stands today as the greatest monument to ingenuity, to skill, to brain power, to muscle power, the tallest thing in the world today produced by the hand of man.

Before I introduce the various speakers I want to take this occasion to thank our newspaper friends and thank them very heartily for the earnest cooperation that they have given to the decorators, contractors and everybody identified with Empire State over the one year that it took to erect it. I desire also to thank our moving-picture friends; the delightful pictures that have been taken of this building can be shown all over the world and help to stimulate the interest I just spoke about. The radio—that's right, too—radio has been carrying voices from the top of the Empire State since the first day that they were able to cart the machines up there. To the staff, the working staff of Empire State, the heads of the different departments, the thanks of the directors go in full measure, because they have certainly devoted themselves to the interest of this project. To the city officials who have taken an interest in the progress of the building; to the contractor, Starrett Brothers & Eken, it is a monument to them that will stand here forever. To the architects, Messrs. Shreve, Lamb & Harmon—it is a matter of regret that Mr. Lamb was compelled to sail for Europe yesterday, but I received a telegram from his this morning in which he said, "One day out and I can still see the building!"

Too much praise cannot be given to the faithful workmen that put this monument in the air. I came over here during the course of its construction, and it was the cleanest, finest piece of building construction that probably this country has ever known. We propose to put a tablet down in the main hall and inscribe upon it the names of the master craftsmen who received the awards for being the best in their particular line, so that their children and their children's children, when they come in the Empire State, can be able to point to the tablet with the pride that they will feel in the achievement of their forefathers. You remember the little picture that was in The evening Post depicting Tony and his mother on the roof of an east-side tenement, and the mother put her hand on Tony's head, pointed up to the Empire Building and said: "Tony, your old man is building that!" Well, Tony's old man had a large part in the building of it, and the mother had a justified pride, and we share it with her. I am for the mother, and I am for Tony and for Tony's old man.

The first ceremonial today was the cutting of the ribbon across the main entrance on Fifth Avenue. That little ceremony was performed by two of my grandchildren, and we had a reason for it. This building is being built for generations to come down through the ages, and the two small children with scarcely the proper understanding of just what was going on were there to symbolize for all time to come that this building is to be a monument for generations to come.

In presenting Governor Roosevelt, Mr. Smith said:

"This building is named after the Empire State of our Union. And on behalf of the officers and directors of the company I extend a very hearty welcome to the Governor of our State, and thank him very sincerely for taking out of his busy life sufficient time to come here and help us dedicate the building. The State of New York can use this building any time it wants to. The Governor can have a meeting up here, and if the session lasts into the warm weather he can bring the thirty-day bills up on the roof here and we will provide him with lemonade, and he can dispose of the State's business at the highest point on the continent.

"It gives me great pleasure to introduce our Frank, the Governor of New York."

Governor Stresses Service.

Governor Roosevelt spoke as follows:

Governor Smith and your associates: This building is not called the Empire State Building just because it has been properly erected for the benefit of all of the people of the State of New York, but I think that its name is most highly fitting because it typifies the service that its principal backer and principal builder has rendered to the State of New York during all these years.

I am still a little awestruck. I have not got my new sense of proportion back yet. In looking out from this building I have got an entirely new conception of things in the city of New York. As a simple countryman who has only been down here in New York for twenty-five years I still think in terms of fields and creeks. And when I looked out north and saw Central Park, it reminded me of the size of my cow pasture at Hyde Park. And when I looked over to the Hudson River and East River, they looked from here just about the size of Wappingers Creek, in Duchess County.

I think that there are two keynotes today. One is the keynote of vision. It took people like Governor Smith and his associates to vision this building. It is only people with their grasp of the needs of the future, with their grasp of possibilities of modern science, who could have ever conceived the building up of a building like this.

And the second great thing that this building stands for is faith, because again the Governor and his associates are men who have had the faith to carry their visions into effect. And that faith I am very confident is going to be fully justified in the days to come.

This building is needed in the city of New York. It is located at at strategic centre. It is needed not only by the city, it is needed by the whole nation.

So I am very happy as a citizen of New York to congratulate all of you, the owners, the managers, the architects, the engineers, the builders and the workmen who made it possible, on completing a task in record time, in doing it truly and well, and in once more setting a mark of vision and faith that will hold good for many, many years to come.

I am very happy to have been able to take part today, on the first of May, 1931. Nearly a year ago I said to Governor Smith, "When is the building to be opened?"

He said, "On May 1."

I said, "I suppose that means the following October."

He said, "No, you put it down on your calendar." I did. And once more he has kept his pledge to his associates and to the people. All I am going to ask him to do is to reserve for me an office in this building so that when I leave Albany I will have some place to go.

Mr. Smith, replying to the Governor, said: "About that office, we have a good deal to do today, and we are all busy, but the next day you are in town, I will have you down in the rental department."

Mayor Walker arrived as Governor Roosevelt was finishing his address. In presenting the Mayor, Mr Smith said:

"We had some queer experiences in the course of the erection and planning of this building, but I think the most cautious man in the world was the lawyer (I do not remember his name) that advised one of our tenants to have a clause put in the lease that in the event the city took over the building that we would repay them part of the money that they had paid for decorating the premises. 'Well,' I said, 'I don't know, they may try to take it away from us, but I think we can afford to put that in the lease anyway, because I do not think they will do it right away at least.'

"You have noticed that the Mayor has just come in to take part in the ceremony. He has a great pride in the building. It is a great monument in the city. It is intended to stimulate trade, commerce, and continue to make New York the imperial city of the world. I, therefore, with great pleasure and great satisfaction present to you our own Jimmy, the Mayor of New York."

Mayor Walker's Address.

Mayor Walker in his address said:

It is but a short time ago that I wondered, even with all the resourcefulness of Al Smith, how a building could get up quite this high and wide. But recent developments have convinced me that after all he had not only an interest in official New York, he had a little sympathy for it, and he thought perhaps there might be a place higher, further removed than any other in the world, where some public official might like to come and hide, so he built this.

I am come very seriously, though, to bring a very sincere word of congratulation and felicitation. Obviously, this means much to the city of New York, and the pride that naturally is yours and mine, either with or without responsibility for the development of the city of New York, is great. New York's skyline is perhaps the most discussed public institution throughout the world. Day after day, with visitors to the city, the wonder is what is holding us up, I mean the building.

Yet it remained only for a man with the courage, the vision, the knowledge of the city of New York, of its demands, of its necessities, and of its future. We find again transcending all others in accomplishment the most beloved son of this city, as the president of this, the greatest construction organization, or the greatest piece of sincture in the city of New York. There was a time not long since when some of us thought that Al was going as high as it was possible to go. Now we know that he has exceeded the speed level or the speed limit in building.

New York's skyline is of great interest throughout the world, yet few people know because they have not had sufficient interest to study the great difficulties and the great activities of the city of New York's subsurface. Even while we meet here today to celebrate this great accomplishment there is in some quarters of official New York some little unrest. It is the intention of the city to build a subway, and plans have been made for an extension that would go down Sixth Avenue. Yet we find the subsurface of the city of New York has been so crowded that there may be some doubt about the fulfillment, for right down Sixth Avenue there runs rock tunnel carrying the high water pressure for this city, and now the alarm, temporary I hope, is that a subway cannot be laid over that lest it injure the water tunnel. This will be overcome. The water tunnel will be protected; the subway will be built; but it is just a sample of the difficulties of keeping abreast of the growth of this city and meeting the demands of people to live in it and do business, without regard to the difficulty and difficulty of meeting these obligations.

You are quite right, in the opinion of mayor, Governor, that that which has settled in the midtown section will grow. The midtown section will become more important in the opinion of official New York, as witnessed by the purpose of building the new Thirty-eighth Street tube. The same vision and the same determination that business shall carry on in this section that is yours is ours, and as you anticipate, and as your associates anticipate the necessity for this, the biggest building in this locality, so do we conclude that service and comfort for business people must be augmented in this same neighborhood.

I wish for you and your associates that success which your industry, your intelligence, your endeavor deserves. I wish for the great success of the building, so that we shall receive that 300-odd thousand dollars of land tax alone that we will be pleased to get from you every year plus whatever tax is finally decided upon for the building, but I have this consolation in that, and this satisfaction, that no matter what we tax you, you know that it is worth it.

You know it is the most beautiful building in the city. You know it is the most beautiful city. You know it will be a city in itself when the day closes. There will be poured into the streets a greater population than there is in many of our up-State cities. Again you will find yourself presiding over another city smaller than you are in the habit of administering to, but they will have the satisfaction of knowing it will be with that characteristic efficiency and with that desire for their comfort that has followed your every public and private activity.

My best wishes to you, to the success of the building, with the assurance that so far as the city is concerned, it is only waiting for an opportunity to bring to this locality all the necessary conveniences that the business of the community will demand. It has had a great start with the name Empire State, and coupled with that, it seems most natural, is the name of Alfred E. Smith, which in itself is a guarantee of success and long life.

Introduces Architect.

As the first speaker, Mr. Smith presented the spokesman for the architects, saying:

"The architects—well, it is a good enough ad for them without even talking about it. All they have got to do when they see a prospective customer is to say, 'Take a little walk with me down to the corner of Thirty-fourth Street and Fifth Avenue and give it the once over.'

"It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you Mr. R. H. Shreve of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, a man that watched it grow from the big hole in the ground only a few ago to the magnificent structure that we are all in today. Mr. Shreve.

Mr. Shreve said the first credit for the building and its esthetic qualities should go to his colleagues, Mr. Lamb, who had faced the necessity of meeting "the impossible demand for speed in construction." He explained that the design was influenced by functionalism, and estimated that the weight of the building was about 600,000,000 pounds.

He computed, however, that the great bulk weighed no more than a forty-five-foot pile that might cover its site. He explained that 250 columns supported the burden of the building, and that the structure was vertical within a variation of five-eighths of an inch. The load was distributed so evenly that the weight on any given square inch was no greater than that normally borne by a French heel, he declared.

After telling that materials were brought from all over the world, Mr. Shreve described how a rush order from Cleveland was speeded up by transmitting details by telephoto.

"We have had an amazingly happy combination of owner, builder, architect, engineer and worker," he said.

Colonel Starrett Traces History.

Colonel Paul Starrett, president of Starrett Brothers & Eken, Inc., speaking for the builders, contrasted the colonial building with the tepees of the Indians and the cabins of the first settlers that once stood on the same spot. After speaking of the early growth of New York City, he continued:

"As the years multiplied, far-seeing builders turned their eyes northward to the end that this favored spot, Thirty-fourth Street and Fifth Avenue, became the centre of a city within a city. I was a young man when the stately Waldorf was in the building. When the Astoria became its hyphenated neighbor, I still held a few youthful illusions. I recall occasional visits made to the old Waldorf during the days when John W. Gates and his associates of that decade dropped in for the afternoon cocktail. I remember the arrival of Wu Ting-fang, with his colorful entourage, when the Chinese flag was flung from the second balcony. I recall the stately dining room and the early days when a nod from Oscar was equivalent to knighthood. I never pass this corner without thinking of the gigantic transactions which took place here, where waiters received magnificent tips on the stock market, handed out by the big speculators with lavish hand.

"Between then and now, in the tumult of life and in business and of progress, great changes have been wrought. The Indians have passed into oblivion; the cabin dwellers still survive through their fortunate heirs; the Waldorf has rejoined the dust and the Empire State Building, which represents all the time between that era and today, lifts its head 1,245 feet above the pavement, upon which a billion or more restless feet have trod since the white man came. Few can tell what the future will bring forth. It is not within my province to say what colonial changes will eventuate or how much higher into the reaches our successors will build. But I do know that among those responsible for this present triumph, this present city and this present Republic you will find always plenty of those plain citizens, the very vitals of a nation, who are willing at any time to convert dollars into structures and keep the procession of structures moving."

At the conclusion of Mayor Walker's address, which ended the speaking program, Mr. Smith invited the guests "to take a walk around the outside to look at Westchester, Pelham Bay, New Jersey and Sandy Hook."

In reply to President Hoover's message, Mr. Smith sent the following telegram:

Honorable Herbert Hoover,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

By direct wire from the highest telegraph station in the world, I for the Empire State on behalf of our directors as well as myself we sincerely thank you for kind telegram of congratulations upon the completion of the largest office building in the world.

ALFRED E. SMITH.

More than 2,000 persons inspected the Empire State Building from the ground floor to the higher of the two observation towers from 2 to 6 P. M.

A radio program was broadcast from Empire State Building at 10:30 P. M. by the "R. K. O. Theatre of the Air," with the cooperation of Empire State, Inc., over a National Broadcasting Company network including WEAF. Following the broadcast a buffet supper was served to about 200 invited guests.

Former Governor Smith and Floyd Gibbons shared the microphone in another broadcast from the eighty-second floor of the building last night. Mr. Gibbons used about 2,000 words and a few minutes to describe the view, and Mr. Smith spoke of "Old New York" when the tower of Trinity Church could be seen from Forty-second Street.

The building, including the twin observatories on the eighty-sixth and 102d floors, will be opened to the public this morning at 9 o'clock.

The New York Times
Published: May 2, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

RIVALRY FOR HEIGHT IS SEEN AS ENDED

Empire State's Record to Stand for Many Years, Builders and Realty Men Say.

PRACTICAL LIMIT REACHED

Its Top Rises 1,250 Feet, but Staff Carrying Instruments Extends Pinnacle to 1,265.5 Feet.

Completion of the Empire State Building marks the attainment of a new record in building height which is likely to stand for many years, in the opinion of leading builders and real estate men.

Opening of the eighty-five story structure, which rises 1,250 feet above Fifth Avenue, has brought to an end, for the time being at least, a friendly contest for skyscraper honors, which during the last two years has resulted in a frequent revision of height records.

For seventeen years the Woolworth Building, with its sixty stories towering 792 feet above lower Broadway, held the distinction of being the tallest Manhattan structure. It had taken the honor away from the Singer Building, which is 612 feet high, nearly two decades ago. But early last year, almost simultaneously, the giant steel skeletons of the Chrysler Building at Lexington Avenue and Forty-third Street, and of the Bank of the Manhattan Company at 40 Wall Street were lifted skyward to new levels in New York's construction history. From original plans it had appeared that the bank edifice would look down upon every other building, but a revision in the Chrysler design providing for a needle spire which reached up to 1,046 feet gave the palm for a while to the automobile manufacturer's project, which was opened eleven months ago.

The record was not destined to hold for long, however. Even then the framework of the Empire State Building was being pushed upward with a new height as its goal, 1,050 feet. The bare margin of four feet was stretched to 204 feet when ex-Governor Smith announced that a 200-foot dirigible-mooring mast would cap his structure.

Thus, within less than two years, the Woolworth Building record has been surpassed three times. The Bank of the Manhattan Company Building, with its height of 925 feet, dominates the downtown skyline, and the Empire State and Chrysler Buildings share the midtown honors.

While engineers say that a height of 1,200 feet is feasible from a structural standpoint, due to improved materials and the solid rock foundation of Manhattan, other considerations make it unlikely, they report, that such a height will be reached within the near future. Realty men agree that the office skyscrapers of today have approached the limit of economic practicability in height.

Changes in the original plans of many of the taller buildings were made during the course of construction. Figures obtained yesterday from the offices of the architects on some of Manhattan's recently completed structures as they stand today gave the following heights:

	Stories.	Feet.
Empire State	85	1,250
Chrysler	77	1,046
Bank of Manhattan	71	925
City Bank Farmers Trust	54	745
500 Fifth Avenue	58	697
Irving Trust	50	650

Colonel W. A. Starrett of Starrett Brothers & Eken, contractors for the Empire State Building, gave 1,250 feet as the "official" height of that building. A staff carrying wind-recording instruments which register in the lobby goes up fifteen and one-half feet higher, the tip being 1,265.5 feet above Fifth Avenue.

The New York Times
Published: May 2, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

TALLEST TOWER BUILT IN LESS THAN A YEAR

3,400 Workers on Empire State Building Coordinated Tasks to Finish Ahead of Schedule.

The Empire State Building was completed well ahead of schedule, within a year from the time of the setting of the first column, according to Colonel W. A. Starrett of Starrett Brothers & Eken, the contractors.

On Oct. 1, 1929, former Governor Smith and other officials of Empire State, Inc., participated in exercises marking the beginning of demolition work on the old Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, which formerly occupied the site, and workmen began tearing away Peacock Alley, promenade of many distinguished guests.

The first steel columns were set on April 7, 1930, and twenty-five weeks later, nearly two weeks ahead of schedule, the last of the 57,000 tons of steel had been topped out on the eighty-fifth floor. On Sept. 19, 1930, a score of workmen cheered and waved their hats from a slender perch over the eighty-fifth floor, 1,050 feet above Fifth Avenue, as a large American flag was raised to mark the finishing of the framework. The cornerstone of the structure had been laid ten days earlier.

Above the sixth floor stone setting and outside wall construction proceeded at the rate of a story a day, and at the height of activity in September, 1930, the walls on the upper floors were set at the rate of fourteen stories in ten days.

Due to the cost of project and the large sums of money involved even in a few weeks' delay, elaborate plans were made for coordinating the work so that the structure might be completed in less time than ordinarily is required for a building half as high. Stonework on the lower floors was in progress shortly after the first of the steel frame was set, and bricklayers kept only a short distance below the steel workers on the way up.

At the peak of operations there were 3,400 men at work on the building.

The New York Times
Published: May 2, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

THRONGS INSPECT TALLEST BUILDING

Rain and Clouds Fail to Keep Crowds From Tower of the Empire State.

TENANTS ARE MOVING IN

Several Large Concerns Are Already Occupying Offices—Book Depicts Record Construction.

Following the formal dedicatory exercises on Friday the Empire State Building was opened yesterday to the public, and several thousand persons inspected the $52,000,000 skyscraper.

A large group was on hand when the building opened at 9 o'clock and a steady stream of visitors flowed in and out of the entrance halls all day. Despite the rain and the poor visibility, the observatory above the eighty-fifth floor drew chief interest. The marble lobby also attracted much attention. More than fifty uniformed attendants, a score of plain-clothes men and special policemen were kept busy handling the crowd. Today the roof will be open from 10 A. M. to 11:30 P. M.

Rentals are being made at a gratifying rate and opening of the building has served to increase the number of inquiries for space, according to H. Hamilton Weber, rental manager. Several tenants already have moved in and others will take up large space next week. E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. are occupying three floors and full floors have been taken by Starrett Brothers & Eken, contractors, and by subsidiaries of the United States Steel Corporation. The Empire State Luncheon Club, of which Alfred E. Smith is president, will occupy the twenty-first floor.

Congratulatory messages continued to pour into Mr. Smith's offices yesterday.

Many construction records were broken in the erection of the building, Colonel W. A. Starrett revealed, in a foreword to a collection of drawings by Vernon Howe Bailey showing progress of construction, issued yesterday.

The amount of steel, 57,000 tons, exceeded that required for any other building of its type, Colonel Starrett said. In addition, 300 tons of non-corrosive crome-nickel steel and 450 tons of aluminum were required for the window trim and spandrels which give the building a striking effect.

The building, which contains 2,158,000 feet of rentable area and 37,000,000 cubic feet of space, weighs about 303,000 tons. About 200,000 cubic feet of Indiana limestone and 10,000,000 common brick were used. There are 6,400 windows and 17,000,000 feet of telephone and telegraph wire. For heating, about 100,000,000 pounds of street steam will be required each season, and 40,000,000 pounds yearly for ventilation.

The New York Times
Published: May 3, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

BIG SUNDAY CROWD SEES EMPIRE TOWER

Carnival Atmosphere Marks Scenes at the Site of the Old Waldorf.

5,108 VISIT NEW BUILDING

Steady Stream Inspects Marble Lobby and Views Wonders of the City From Atop Structure.

Large crowds yesterday visited the new Empire State Building, just completed at a cost of $52,000,000. They roamed through the corridors in a steady stream, inspecting the marble lobby, which attracted much attention. Afterward, for the most part, they went to the observation platform, high up, for the newest view of the city of New York. Up to midnight, when the time for sightseeing ended, there had been 5,108 of them.

nue was the scene of something like a carnival. On the sidewalks where the old Waldorf stood were peddlers of carnations, candy and souvenirs. All seemed to be doing a thriving business among those who had come to pay tribute to the new structure.

The doors of the building opened at 10 o'clock and before that hour there were a few persons already waiting. Once inside, they looked around at the corridors and then bought tickets for the observation flight. The peak of the rush seemed to be reached about the middle of the afternoon, when even part of the sidewalk outside was crowded with the curious.

It was a clear, shining day, one of the best for looking down upon the city. The comments of the sightseers were varied, but two things seemed to stand out. As one man said, Central Park looked like a small pasture dotted with tiny puddles of rainwater; then, too, as another remarked, the Chrysler Building, its spire gilded by the sun, appeared small and like a toy.

The inspection was not limited to the interior, for in the afternoon little crowds stood across Thirty-fourth Street, gazing upward. And at the corners—even to two blocks away—were others looking at the tower and the mooring mast. On the street immediately in front of the building a few extra patrolmen were seeing that the jam did not get too large, and a newsreel company appeared to take pictures of the building's first Sunday visitors.

Even on Forty-second Street and Bryant Park the movement was felt, for the astrologers there abandoned the sun, the moon and the stars to train their bronzed telescopes upon the observatory.

The New York Times
Published: May 4, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

EMPIRE STATE CLUB TO OPEN QUARTERS

Whole Floor of New Building to Be Dedicated on Monday With Smith Presiding.

In the atmosphere of a modern country club set down in the heart of Manhattan, the new Empire State Club on Monday will hold dedicatory exercises for its quarters in the Empire State Building, with many of New York's civic and business leaders in attendance. Nearly 600 persons are expected for the opening luncheon at which Alfred E. Smith, president of the club, will preside.

Opening of the club will mark the realization of a proposal presented to Mr. Smith nearly a year ago by a group of business men of the midtown section who expressed a desire for a luncheon and social organization to serve the district centring in Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street.

"No expense or effort has been spared to make it one of the outstanding groups of its kind in the country in the belief that it might become the accepted meeting place at midday for executives of mid-Manhattan," Mr. Smith said yesterday at an informal inspection of the quarters occupying the entire twenty-first floor, 27,000 square feet of space, in the building.

The inspection was attended by officers of the club and members of the firm of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, who supervised the construction and decoration. The quarters are equipped to serve 1,000 members, and nearly $400,000 was reported to have been spent on the furnishings and decoration.

Kieran J. Lowry, formerly manager of the Chevy Chase Club in Washington, will manage the club.

The New York Times
Published: May 23, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

EMPIRE STATE CLUB OPENS ITS QUARTERS

Civic and Business Leaders Attend First Luncheon of Group in New Building.

SMITH ENTERTAINS PARTY

Suburban Atmosphere Prevails in Midday Gathering Place—Rapid Growth Expected.

With many business and civic leaders attending, the new Empire State Club opened its quarters in the Empire State Building yesterday with its first luncheon for members and guests. More than 500 persons were present, and extra tables had to be set up for last-minute reservations.

The main dining room, men's grill, ladies' dining room and private rooms were utilized to care for the diners, including several private parties. Former Governor Alfred E. Smith, president of the club, entertained a group of friends and newspaper publishers. The opening was informal and there were no speeches.

After the luncheon Mr. Smith escorted a large party on a tour of inspection of the quarters, which occupy the entire twenty-first floor, nearly 27,000 square feet of space. Since the furnishing and decorating was completed only last week, the inspection gave many members their first opportunity to view the club home, on which $400,000 was said to have been spent. Theodore Meyer, formerly head waiter of the Waldorf-Astoria on the same site and now in charge of the club's dining rooms, greeted many old friends.

Officers and members of the board of the luncheon group, most of whom attended the opening, are, in addition to Mr. Smith: John J. Raskob and John S. Burke, vice presidents; Robert C. Brown, treasurer; W. J. Pedrick, secretary; Pierre S. du Pont, E. P. Earle, L. W. Flaunlacher, Bernard F. Gimbel, Louis G. Kaufman, Leon Klein, Emil W. Kohn, Philip Le Boutillier, H. Morton Merriman, LeRoy T. Pease, J. E. Pridday, Auguste Richard, John S. Sammis, Franklin Simon, Paul Starrett, Jesse Isidor Straus and S. Sargeant Volck.

"The response from business and professional men of mid-Manhattan to this club, which was intended to serve 1,000 members, has been so satisfactory that the board of governors already has asked Empire State to set aside additional space for expansion which may be necessary within a year," said Mr. Pedrick.

The club was decorated under the direction of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, architects for the building. In addition to the usual dining facilities, there are nine private dining rooms, a large lounge and foyer and two landscaped terraces, each of more than 3,600 square feet, which from the main dining room and the ladies' hall give the atmosphere of a suburban club.

Furnishings, lighting effects and other equipment were designed especially for the club. The lounge tables are of French walnut and lacewood with ebony inlays. The main dining room is in blue-green, silver and gold, with chairs of French walnut. The private rooms have armchairs of fruitwood.

The New York Times
Published: May 26, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Leases.

H. Hamilton Weber, rental manager of Empire State Building, has leased executive office space to the American Tissue Mills, Benjamin F. Perkins, president, of 20 West Twenty-second Street; offices to the Manny-Reilly Company, of 230 Fifth Avenue; offices to E. Meredith Terry, merchandise consultant, of 40 East Thirty-fourth Street; and to Stewart & Maguire.

The New York Times
Published: May 27, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Night.

H. Hamilton Weber, renting manager, and Chapin Brown, operating manager of the Empire State Building, will be the speakers at the dinner of the Management Division of the Real Estate Board of New York on Tuesday evening, Nov. 17, at the Hotel Commodore.

The New York Times
Published: November 8, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Changes.

Alterations to the Empire State Building at Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street will cost $75,000, according to plans filed yesterday by Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, architects.

The New York Times
Published: November 13, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

A SKYSCRAPER STATION

Images to Leap From Empire State Tower Soon After New Year Arrives—Extensive Tests Planned

By ORRIN E. DUNLAP JR.

HIGH above the sidewalks of New York electrical life is being instilled in a new television station. The site is the eighty-sixth floor of the Empire State Building. Up through the tower runs a cable to connect with a fourteen-foot metallic rod, the tip of which is 1,276 feet above the pedestrian level. From that lofty perch the images will be released on the wings of tiny radio waves, measured in feet and inches.

These waves are called quasi-optical because they act in much the same way as light rays. And usually they travel about as far as the human eye can see. Literally the images that leap from the skyscraper can be depended upon, provided sufficient power is used, to go as far as the horizon which the eye beholds. However, under favorable atmospheric conditions they may establish a greater range despite a dusty atmosphere and mist that lurks along the surface of the earth.

Clear Horizon Is Variable.

The technical horizon from the observation tower of the Empire State Building is sixty miles. However, there is usually a haze that hides everything beyond the thirty-mile limit. When places forty miles distant can be recognized it is an exceptionally clear day. A twenty-five mile range is considered to be a good average. It is reported that Patchogue has been seen to the eastward on a very clear day. Omitting to the north, the Orange Mountains on the west and the open sea to the south.

The engineers of the National Broadcasting Company consider this station to be a field laboratory. They have completed the installation and plan to conduct tests for several months before attempting to attract the public to look in on what they are sending through the air.

It is possible that all operations will be experimental until next September, when television entertainment for home reception may be tried. But before that can be done the engineers frankly confess they have much to learn about ultra-short waves. They may have to develop new tubes and associated apparatus to make these waves practical.

If they find the horizon is the limit that the quasi-optical waves will travel, then a sixty-mile radius with the Empire State tower as the centre will be the range of that station. However, the experts will be gratified if they can serve that area with one station, because within the circle lies the most thickly populated district in the country. Such a television station might claim a vast audience should homes be equipped with vision sets as they are broadcast receivers. New York's metropolitan area, according to the Census Bureau's latest figures, has a population of 10,901,424, living within 2,514 square miles.

Ten-Meter Waves Freakish.

Waves below ten meters in length do not perform well for long distance, because they are not reflected from the upper atmosphere or "radio roof," as the Heaviside surface is called. They are useful only where a direct visible path extends between the transmitter and receiver.

Manhattan Island is not the most ideal place in the world for radio reception. The steel mass absorbs energy from the waves. In ordinary broadcasting the absorption causes so-called "dead spots." However these "shadows" are not as troublesome today as they were a number of years ago when the majority of stations used no more than 500 or 1,000 watts. Today the 50,000-watt installations located in the suburbs spray the city with powerful waves that penetrate the "dead" areas.

The Task Is Difficult.

The television engineers are aware that they must pump high power into the tiny waves if they are to cut through buildings, otherwise the images will be mangled and face distorted. But it is no easy task to get these little waves to carry big power. That is one reason why new types of tubes are being developed.

It is estimated that if a one-meter wave confronted the Empire State Building it would be completely lost in trying to get through the steel lattice work. And if the wave length is shortened still further, say to about ten centimeters, the waves do not get far from the transmitter because the energy is absorbed by the humidity and by carbon dioxide in the air.

Therefore, the engineers are not sure that the Empire's pinnacle is a final solution to the problem. The tests may prove that a station in the suburbs is more practical. That they must discover by experiments. Based on theoretical calculations they are hopeful that the skyscraper station will be successful. Only one thing is certain: It will be a good teacher.

Furthermore, all the puzzles do not lurk in transmission. It is one thing to detect a musical wave, such as that of WOR, but far different to pluck a face from a quasi-optical channel. The vacuum tubes that serve so well in a broadcast receiver fail in an ultra-short wave set. So far research finds that the easiest way is to use a one-tube detector set, because radio-frequency amplification with tubes now available is not efficient below the ten-meter range. The frequency is not sufficiently constant to permit efficient use of the sensitive superheterodyne set. Some believe that the super-regenerative circuit may win new laurels in the quasi-optical field because when a tube detector is employed the volume can be increased by regeneration.

Despite the fact that these little waves, long considered useless, are limited in mileage they have outstanding advantages. One is that thousands of stations can be operated simultaneously without interference. They can be packed closely together. Obviously if the Empire State station can cover only fifty miles, then cities outside that circle can also use the same wave without overlapping.

The limitation of radiation is an asset. Boston, Philadelphia, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Chicago and hundreds of other cities could use the same channel without interference. That would mean, if a television network is to be formed the transmitters must be linked by wire if they are all to broadcast the same performance from a central site such as Radio City. That presents another problem for the radio and telephone engineers. It is easier to send music over the wires than it is a lively scene such as a prize fight or a dramatic action in which smiles and tears must be deftly handled else they are lost in transit.

Television offers many puzzles to the experts. Already it has led them into the realm of ultra-short waves, heralded as the promised land, but before the elusive images can thrive in the new utopia the engineers have much to learn—and they admit it.

"Umbrella" Stops "Ghosts."

Tests are being conducted by the Bureau of Standards to find a way to put an end to television "ghosts." The difficulty is that the image travels over a sky wave and over a ground wave, one of which arrives a fraction of a second after the other, causing a double image.

One recent experiment consists of placing a large metal sheet or "umbrella" over the transmitting station's aerial. This sheet absorbs all sky waves or refracts them back to earth before they emanate far from the transmitter, and causes the ground wave to be sent out alone. Although it is possible to eliminate the double image in this way, signals sent under these conditions may be heard only a short distance. It is the sky wave which travels further and remains strong longer.

This may be one way of preventing the ethereal "ghosts" from stalking through the air, but the engineers are at a loss to figure out how they can erect one of the metal "umbrellas" over the Empire State Building.

Boston Experimenters Busy.

Sound and sight signals are being radiated over Boston by experimental station WIXG, operating on the frequency band from 42,000 to 46,000 kilocycles. The results have so enthused the engineers that they have called the 6.87-meter wave "the radio man's paradise." The test so far indicates that the service area of this channel is about forty miles.

Hollis Baird, chief engineer of the Shortwave and Television Corporation, predicts regular television on this wave and he asserts that the next step will be image transmission from the highest points in Boston's business district. The Federal Building would be ideal for the purpose.

Stations WIXAV, WIXAU and WIXAL, at 70 Brookline Avenue, are on the air daily except Sunday from 2:30 to 4:30 P. M. and from 8 to 10 P. M.

"Where a single broadcasting station requires a niche in the ether only 10 kilocycles wide, a television station requires 100 kilocycles," said Mr. Baird. "In the broadcast spectrum from 550 to 1,500 kilocycles there is space for some ninety-six cleared channels for voice or music. Ten television stations would entirely fill this space in the ether and be uncomfortably close to each other. One can easily figure out that in the very small ultra-short-wave spectrum, from say 30,000 to 100,000 kilocycles (10 meters to 3.3), there would be room enough for 7,000 broadcasting transmitters or 700 television transmitters, all on cleared channels.

"No fading, no static!" he exclaims. "No wonder we are excited over the possibilities of these waves."

The New York Times
Published: November 29, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

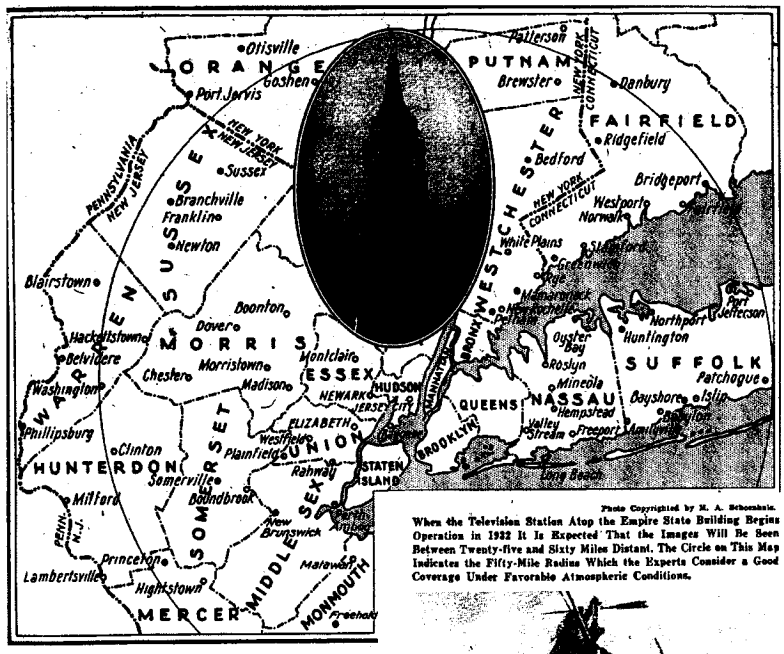


Photo Copyrighted by M. A. Schoenbain.

When the Television Station Atop the Empire State Building Begins Operation in 1932 It Is Expected That the Images Will Be Seen Between Twenty-five and Sixty Miles Distant. The Circle on This Map Indicates the Fifty-Mile Radius Which the Experts Consider a Good Coverage Under Favorable Atmospheric Conditions.

Engineers Installing the Aerial Rod on the Mooring Mast.

LISTENING-IN

ALL records for mail were broken at the National Broadcasting Company during the week ended Nov. 21, when 382,000 letters were received. That is more than received in 1927, the first year the company was organized. Nov. 19 established a new daily record with 113,000 letters, more than were opened and read at WEAF and WJZ in 1928. Of the 382,000 letters about 201,000 came to the New York office, 166,000 to Chicago and 15,000 to San Francisco.

It was thought that the letter-writing days of radio passed when the novelty of tuning in long distance ended. In the early days thousands wrote to report on the quality of reception and how far the waves had traveled. For example, WOC, Davenport, Iowa, enjoyed a large mail from the East when its waves first found their way across the Mississippi and into New York.

Gradually the mail of all stations diminished and the sponsors of programs began to wonder if radio was reaching the ears of the public as in the days of yore. So to convince them that the unseen audience had not turned off their sets the broadcasting organizations that had frowned upon sampling and free offers on the air lifted the barrier. Then the mail poured in as never before. Now many stations have resorted to contests to encourage listeners to write, and that is one of the chief reasons why the Autumn harvest in letters is plentiful. The broadcasters are said to be on a contest rampage.

"Because of the time limitations of radio it is impossible to tuna in on a network for an anticipated evening's entertainment without having the eardrums pounded to exasperation with contest chatter," observes Printers' Ink. "Eighteen sponsors on three networks are whooping the air with contests. It would be interesting to know just how many of the radio audience which stays through each hullabalioo are professional contestants. Maybe these professionals constitute a satisfactory market, but we doubt it.

"Meantime the great army of non-contestants is being imposed upon. Such good-will as comes from the comparatively few who win prizes could never counterbalance the ill-will of the unsuccessful amateurs. Let advertisers and advertising agencies bear this in mind: It is one thing deliberately to stimulate listener mail and another to win lasting customers on the merit of a product that is bought through suggestion and not by artificial stimulus.

"Because radio is new, present legislation permits practices which, through the mails, would be illegal. The broadcasting industry realizes that these unlegislated practices are unsound. It should be of significance to advertisers that the industry favors enactment of legislation to bring broadcast contests under the same legal restrictions that govern printed announcements of contests.

"For the good of the radio medium and for the benefit of advertising in general, it behooves advertisers to look into the future and see if what produces results today under pressure, may not be a boomerang tomorrow. We anticipate that, by the time needed legislation is enacted, radio contests will have reached the saturation point, if they have not reached that point already."

World-Wide Christmas Celebration.

Arrangements are being made for an international Yuletide celebration on the radio. The National Broadcasting Company will stay on the air all the night before Christmas, if necessary, to pick up and rebroadcast the holiday music from many different nations. It is a difficult schedule to plan, because of the differences in time; nevertheless, it is expected that music from Rome, Berlin, London, Paris, Honolulu, the Philippines, Japan and other countries will be heard throughout America on Christmas Eve and day.

If the plans develop as the program directors hope they will, this will be the most extensive broadcast ever attempted. And New Year's will be a red-letter day on the radio, as celebrations are picked up all over the globe, heralding the arrival of 1932 as bells and music vibrate in space.

More Honors for Ormandy.

Josef Pasternack is now conductor of the Melody Moments broadcast over WJZ on Wednesday nights at 8:30 o'clock. He succeeds Eugene Ormandy, who is now in the Northwest as conductor of the Minneapolis Symphony.

Ormandy, now in the early thirties, has been guest conductor of the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Symphony. In his musical career he has conducted Tchaikovsky's overture "1812" more than 1,000 times.

A total of 635,629 radio sets is reported for New Jersey, according to the Department of Commerce census figures, as of April 1, 1930. The number of families was 967,316, with the proportion per family 4.1. Therefore, 63.4 per cent of the families have radio reception.

Olsen Back on the Air.

George Olsen's orchestra has been booked under exclusive management of the Columbia Broadcasting System and will be heard over the WABC network every night except Sunday at 11:45 o'clock.

Since embarking on an orchestral career ten years ago, after having first studied law at the University of Michigan, Olsen has found his niche in revues, musical comedies, supper clubs, recordings, radio and even motion pictures. His musical "locomotive," which has introduced his radio programs for a number of years, is familiar to millions and again will identify his broadcasts.

Montana Joins the Network.

Montana is to have more radio programs. Station KGHL, owned by the Northwestern Auto Supply Company of Billings, and KGIR, owned by KGIR, Inc., at Butte, are the latest members of the National Broadcasting Company's network. It is reported that KFBB, Great Falls, is anxious to join a network.

Station WMCA is taking no chances that extraneous noises will filter into the studios so a contract has been signed for Hudson-Maxim window silencers and ventilators. Fresh air can get through, but the noise is stopped.

More than six thousand Virginians wrote to Erno Rapee to thank him for honoring their commonwealth in the "Parade of the States."

Goldbergs Celebrate Birthday.

It is the hope of the majority of radio entertainers that they will attract a sponsor. That means more money. Those who have been broadcasting week in week out on a sustaining program may derive a new hope when they stop to think that "The Rise of the Goldbergs," now on the air two years, was heard eighty-five times before a sponsor came along. Up to now 117 sponsored episodes have been microphoned.

"It must be a terrific task to write a daily script," said a Goldberg follower at the studio.

"No, it seems that the longer I write the easier it comes," said Gertrude Berg, author and principal character in the sketch. "The characters are very real to me. Sometimes they seem more actual than my own family. I am with the Goldbergs more, you know."

Eddie Cantor on the air Sunday nights will continue to broadcast through January. He was asked to sign a contract for all of 1932, but could not accept because of Hollywood engagements. He is paid $2,500 for participation in the WEAF 8 to 9 o'clock program on Sundays.

When the radio playlet needs the roar of a lion for realism a bass viol bow is drawn across a length of hemp covered with resin.

Another Full Hour Goes.

Soon there will be no full hours on the radio. A veteran program sponsored by soap and featuring Olive Palmer and Paul Oliver and the Revelers Quartet is scheduled to end its long run on the air within a few weeks. Shilkrets Orchestra, Douglas Stanbury, baritone, and Gladys Rice, soprano, now heard on Wednesday nights at 8:30 o'clock will move to 9:30 o'clock.

John Philip Sousa, now broadcasting every Tuesday night, received 1,372 letters and wires of congratulation on his recently celebrated seventy-seventh birthday.

Since Kate Smith sang on the radio to him recently, Herbert Fuchs, the 8-year-old Brooklyn boy who has spent almost three months in a respirator, has received over two thousand letters, telegrams and gifts from listeners.

The Metropolitan Opera broadcasts will be a sustaining program. That means they will not be linked with advertising sponsorship. Acts, selected for their adaptability to radio, will go on the air Saturday afternoons as soon as the equipment can be installed.

The New York Times
Published November 29, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

BLIMP FAILS TO MOOR HERE

Columbia Tries for an Hour to Make Fast to Empire State Building.

After manoeuvring for more than an hour in an attempt to effect a second mooring on successive days of the blimp Columbia to the top of the observation tower of the Empire State Building yesterday, Captain Frank Trotter, its pilot, abandoned the attempt and started out along the coast line to drop two bags of mail onto the deck of the steamer Veendam on her way to Bermuda.

Captain Trotter had intended to make a brief mooring to the top floor of the building, as he had done on the previous day, but he had to pick up the bags of mail with a long rope with help from below of Chief Rigger Andrew V. Kelley of the Goodyear Company.

The indicator on the tower registered a wind velocity of less than the five miles an hour which is required to bring the blimp to a standstill with its two 110-horsepower engines throttled to the proper speed.

Crowds in the streets followed the course of the silver craft after its departure from the Holmes airport in Queens at 10:45 o'clock.

Catching the Veendam, which had left the foot of West Fifty-fifth Street at 11 o'clock, as she neared Sandy Hook, Captain Trotter throttled his motors and, while the airship hovered above the ocean liner, cut the long rope as soon as the mail bags had made contact with the deck below. The Columbia continued on to its hangar, arriving at the airport at 1:45 o'clock.

The New York Times
Published: October 1, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

TRY EMPIRE STATE BEACONS

Engineers Find Lights on Mast Not Sufficiently Diffused.

Engineers experimenting with floodlights on the Empire State Building tower have found that the invisibility of the searchlight beams was due to the fact that the air at more than 1,200 feet above the street was so comparatively free from dust and soot that the light was not diffused and reflected sufficiently to be visible from below. The discovery was made by Bassett Jones, lighting engineer, as he stood on the highest point of land at Inwood on the upper end of Manhattan Island. Mr. Jones noticed the entire city covered with its usual pall of smoke and haze, with Empire State alone emerging above the haze.

At the offices of Empire State, Inc., it was said yesterday that the owners of the building had recently received inquiries from persons in all parts of the city and suburbs seeking to explain the disappearance of the glass-enclosed "pencils" of light extending 200 feet along each side of the building's mooring mast. These lights have been turned off from time to time, it was explained yesterday, so that lighting engineers might observe various new effects attempted by the use of large and powerful floodlights placed at the base of the mast to outline the entire structure against the darkness of the sky rather than to illuminate it from within. The engineers also plan to experiment with the use of various colored lights.

The unsuccessful floodlighting was tried with a ring of eight high-powered air beacons installed just under the topmost cone of the mooring mast. The beacons were of 50,000 candle power each.

The New York Times
Published: September 2, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

MOORS TO EMPIRE STATE.

Small Dirigible Makes Brief Contact While Traffic Is Jammed Below

The mooring mast atop the Empire State Building was used yesterday for the first time when a small private-owned dirigible was made fast there at 9:10 A. M. for three minutes despite a forty-mile wind. Traffic was tied up in the streets below for more than a half hour as the pilot, Lieutenant William McCraken jockeyed for position in the half gale about the towner 1,200 feet above the ground.

As the dirigible circled the mast two airplanes carrying newsreel cameramen manoeuvered overhead.

Three men of the baloon's ground crew were on the 105th floor balcony ready to catch the trailing rope of the machine while a steeplejack was poised at the top of the highest spire in the world armed with a sharp knife to cut the rope should it become fouled.

While no permanent contact was made with the building, McCracken and his associate, Major A. G. Wadsworth, said later that the mast could be used for landing mail and express.

The New York Times
Published: September 16, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

Wind Resistance of Empire State Building Studied With 60-Mile 'Gales' on 5-Foot Model

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—Studies of the resistance of modern skyscrapers to windstorms have been begun by the Bureau of Standards, using a model of the Empire State Building, New York City's tallest structure, in a ten-foot wind tunnel.

The model is five feet high, on which scale the height of a human being would be about a quarter of an inch. Wind pressures developed by gales up to sixty miles an hour are being measured in the "wind-load" investigation, which will require several months.

"Such measurements have been undertaken because of the unusual conditions this building offers to advance our knowledge of wind pressure," George K. Burgess, director of the bureau, said today.

"Through the cooperation of owners, architect, engineer, builder and the research committee of the American Institute of Steel Construction, observations are in progress on the wind velocity at the top of the Empire State Building and the wind pressure developed at the thirty-sixth, fifty-fifth and seventy-fifth floor levels. These observations in themselves will be of the greatest value.

"In the field of wind pressure the utility and validity of model tests have not as yet been equally recognized, largely because of the absence of satisfactory comparisons between model and full-scale structure. The Empire State Building offers such an opportunity and will thus serve to give information to enable the construction of other, still taller, structures with economy and safety."

The New York Times
Published: September 20, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

Anheuser-Busch Gets Space In the Empire State Building

Anheuser-Busch, Inc., has leased a large unit of office space in the Empire State Building for distribution in the East of yeast and bakers' malt from a new $2,000,000 plant in Old Bridge, N. J., H. Hamilton Weber, rental manager of the building, reported yesterday. The lessee will take possession on Oct. 10.

The Vino-Glo Company of New York also has rented space in the building through Bailey & Upson.

The New York Times
Published: September 23, 1931
Copyright © The New York Times

ARCHITECTS PICK 'FINEST' BUILDINGS

Lincoln Memorial Placed First, Empire State Building Second, Nebraska Capitol Third.

TWELVE HERE NAMED IN LIST

Federal Architect Declares That Structures Show Modern Style Which Has Come to Stay.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, April 28.—The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, the Empire State Building in New York and the Nebraska State Capitol at Lincoln were the three American architectural monuments selected by a list of fifty leading architects as among the structures "whose architectural design was felt to be most satisfactory and appealing" in a poll taken by The Federal Architect and made public today.

Of the buildings obtaining more than one vote, twelve were in New York, nine in Washington and four in Chicago. The architects who made the selections were located in all parts of the country and were felt to represent fairly well the sentiment of the best informed of their profession.

The vote for the various buildings was:

Building.	Vote.
Lincoln Memorial	17
Empire State Building	14
Nebraska State Capitol	13
Morgan Library, New York City	11
St. Thomas's Church, New York City	9
Daily News Building, Chicago	9
Scottish Rite Temple, Washington	9
Columbia University Library	7
Harkness Memorial, Yale University	7
Folger Memorial Library, Washington	5
Pennsylvania Railroad Station, New York	5
Palm Olive Building, Chicago	4
Pan-American Building, Washington	4
*City Hall, Stockholm, Sweden	4
Woolworth Building, New York	4
Shelton Hotel, New York City	4
New York City Hall	3
Freer Gallery, Washington	4
Boston Public Library	4
New York Telephone Building	3
Chicago Tribune Building	3
St. Vincent Ferrer's Church, N. Y. C.	3
Princeton Dining Hall	2
Adler Planetarium, Chicago	2
Hartford County Building	2
Cranbrook School, Mich.	2
Academy of Science, Washington	2
Army Supply Base, Brooklyn	2
United States Capitol	2
St. Bartholomew's Church, New York	2
Southern R. R. Building, Washington	2
Bowery Savings Bank, New York	2
Cornell Medical School	2
Treasury Building, Washington	2
Racine County Court House, Wis.	2

*The only foreign building mentioned.

The New York City architects who were among the fifty polled were: Delano & Aldrich, Frohman, Robb & Little, B. W. Morris, Kenneth M. Murchison, John Russell Pope and John Van Pelt.

In commenting on the selection of beautiful buildings The Federal Architect said:

"Of the first eight buildings on the list, five are in the historic style and three in the bracket usually spoken of as modern. This shows two things:

"First, it argues that the architectural profession has no intention at this time of repudiating and casting aside its masterpieces of an earlier date.

"Second, it shows that design in the modern manner, if intelligently worked out, has so strong a foothold that it may be considered as having come to stay.

"It is no small compliment that the Empire State Building, the Nebraska State Capitol and the Chicago Daily News Building are ranked with such serene and gracious architecture as the Lincoln Memorial and the Columbia Library."

The Lincoln Memorial was designed by Henry Bacon; the Empire State Building by Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, and the Nebraska Capitol by Bertram G. Goodhue.

The New York Times
Published: April 29, 1932
Copyright © The New York Times

MUSEUM TO EXHIBIT TOYS OF EARLY CITY

Variety of Playthings Dating as Far Back as 1769 Includes Some Used by Noted Men.

NEW GROUP ALSO IS READY

Miniature Tableau Depicting Rise of Empire State Building to Be Put on View Tuesday.

Toys that delighted New York children at Christmas time long ago will be placed on exhibition on Tuesday at the Museum of the City of New York for the temporary amusement of New Yorkers of today. Simultaneously a new miniature group by Dwight Franklin, depicting the construction of the Empire State Building, will be placed on permanent exhibition. There will be a private view for members of the Museum tomorrow.

Toys dating from as early as 1769 are included in the exhibition. All are of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, most of them antedating 1870. Many of the objects are of European manufacture, but all were used by New York children. Among the distinguished owners of these toys was Chancellor Livingston, who administered the Presidential oath to George Washington. Two carved wooden horses once owned by Livingston have been lent to the exhibition by Mrs. John H. Livingston. A wax figure group called "Abraham and Sarah Before Abimelech," made by Ann Anthony in 1769, was made to the museum by Miss Ruth A. Child.

This exhibition, which occupies one first-floor gallery and overflows into the hall, includes a wide range of antique playthings, such as numerous dolls dressed in Empire style, dolls dressed in hoop skirts; an eighteenth century Italian puppet dressed as Harlequin, lent by Miss Caroline Duer; a doll's four-post bed of the late eighteenth century lent by Mrs. Eliot Norton, paper dolls of the 1860s lent by Miss Caroline King Duer, and a German band of four-inch figures dating from 1830, lent by Mrs. H. Casimir de Rham.

There also are numerous small vehicles, such as calashes, sleighs and gigs, as well as marbles, tops and mechanical toys, many of them lent from the collections of Mrs. De Witt Clinton Cohen and Miss Elie Nadelman. The children's books include some first editions of those illustrated by Kate Greenaway, which were lent by Mrs. DeWitt Millhauser.

Samplers made by children, as well as portraits and miniatures of children, are hung on the walls and displayed in cases. Miniature houses, furnished completely enough to satisfy the most exacting doll, vie in perfection of detail with a doll's trousseau, which includes even calling cards.

George A. Plimpton is lending to the show a group of textbooks used in New York schools, some dating back to the Dutch occupation. These include copybooks, arithmetics, grammars, geographies and books for religious instruction. The show will last through Jan. 22.

Mr. Franklin's miniature group completes the museum's series of small tableaux illustrating the history of the city, beginning with Indian life on Manhattan Island before the arrival of white settlers. The new group depicts the eighty-third floor of the Empire State Building during construction.

"Fifty years from now," Hardinge Scholle, director of the museum, said at a pre-showing of the exhibit, "I believe this group will be regarded as expressing the most characteristic physical aspect of New York today."

To make this group authentic, Mr. Franklin spent days on the steel framework of the building during construction, taking more than 200 photographs and studying the methods, materials, tools and the workmen. Many of the figures which appear in his model are portraits of the actual workmen.

STUDENTS MEET DEC. 28.

Wide Program is Arranged for New Orleans Conference.

Problems of American college life and student government will be discussed at the eighth annual congress of the National Student Federation of the United States of America to be held for four days, beginning Dec. 28, at New Orleans, La., it was announced yesterday by the federation news service. About 300 delegates will attend as the guests of Tulane University and Sophie Newcomb College.

Chairman Charles Odon, student president of Tulane in 1931-32, will open the congress, introducing Dr. A. B. Dinwiddie, president of the university, and Dean Pierce Butler of Sophie Newcomb College. The city's welcome will be given by Mayor T. S. Walmsley.

After a review of the federation's past work by Edward R. Murrow, a former president, there will be an address on the international aspect of student life by Rabbi Louis Binstock. Professor Albert Coates of the University of North Carolina will speak on "The Institute of Government."

On Dec. 29 there will be a discussion of the honor system and student government, and on Dec. 30 college publications and athletics will be discussed.

The New York Times
Published: December 18, 1932
Copyright © The New York Times

CHURCHILL IS GUEST OF SMITH ON TOWER

Former Governor Shows City to British Statesman From the Empire State Building.

DOUBTS GOING 'ANY HIGHER'

New Yorker Repeats Laconic Joke on Altitude for Benefit of the Sound Films.

From the summit of the Empire State Building yesterday two men of politics exchanged views, or rather impressions of the views they saw below and before them from the world's tallest structure.

"I can't see the Statue of Liberty," said one, speaking with an Oxford accent.

"You can on a clear day," replied the other. His manner of speech was New Yorkish. "You can see way out to Sandy Hook."

"Ah, quite so, quite so," admitted the Britisher, "the Statue of Liberty does seem to be in a bit of a fog, what!"

The dialogue was between Winston Churchill and former Governor Alfred E. Smith. The British statesman, Mrs. Churchill and their daughter Diana were Mr. Smith's guests at luncheon. Also in the party were Major and Mrs. John A. Warner, the latter a daughter of Mr. Smith; Mrs. Henry Moscowitz, Mrs. Cyril M. E. Franklin and Robert C. Brown, vice president of the Empire State Building.

Wearing a slouch hat, collar turned up and puffing at a cigar, Mr. Churchill wandered about the observation tower on the 102d story and voiced his admiration of the panorama. His host, wearing a derby—not a brown one—pointed out the lesser towers of Manhattan, the docks, the bridges and the maze of factories across the East River.

The party later descended to the more spacious platform on the eighty-sixth story, where photographers were grouped, clamoring for still, motion and sound pictures. It was during this interlude that host and guest interchanged ideas.

"What you now see," said the former Governor, "is from the Empire State Building, the tallest building in existence."

"I have never been so high up before," said Mr. Churchill.

"And I don't suppose I shall ever get any higher myself," remarked Mr. Smith.

Another sound-picture apparatus had been installed meanwhile and the conversation was repeated for its benefit.

Police Plan for Dress Strike.

Police plans for the strike in the dress industry were discussed yesterday at a conference arranged by Mayor Walker for the spokesmen on both sides of the dispute and Police Commissioner Mulrooney. It was understood that the Mayor desired to obtain first hand knowledge of the situation.

The New York Times
Published: February 10, 1932
Copyright © The New York Times

EMPIRE TOWER WINS 1931 FIFTH AV. PRIZE

Association Gives Its Medal and Diploma for Building's Architectural Excellence.

SMITH PRAISES BACKERS

Calls Structure Their Expression of Confidence in the Continued Growth of the City.

The architectural committee of the Fifth Avenue Association announced yesterday that the Empire State Building had won its 1931 gold medal and diploma.

The award was made to the owners of the structure, Empire State, Inc., of which former Governor Alfred E. Smith is president. The presentation took place in the observatory on the eighty-sixth floor of the building in ceremonies which followed formal announcement of the decision at a luncheon yesterday afternoon in the Empire State Club.

Speakers at the luncheon included Mr. Smith, who voiced his confidence in the steady future development of New York realty and of the section of which the Empire State Building is the centre; Emil W. Kohn, chairman of the committee on award, and Captain William J. Pedrick, president of the association, who acclaimed the building as "the cornerstone of the greater Fifth Avenue of the future."

The committee making the award consisted of Joseph H. Freedlander, Charles S. Peabody and Chester Aldrich of the American Institute of Architects; Wilson Hatch Tucker, Eliot Cross and Mr. Kohn.

Attending the exercises were Pierre S. du Pont, John J. Raskob, Robert C. Brown and L. G. Kaufman, directors of Empire State, Inc.; J. H. Tarry, secretary of the building corporation; Andrew J. Eken and R. H. Hunter, representing the builders, Starrett Brothers & Eken, and Messrs. Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, the architects. A separate certificate of award was given to the architects.

In receiving the medal Mr. Smith paid tribute to the vision of the financial backers of the enterprise and their expression of confidence in the continued growth of the city. As evidence of their faith he pointed out that the rental schedule of the building had been maintained at the level fixed when the structure was opened.

"The 1931 award is made without formal comment by the committee," Captain Patrick said. "It is made for architectural excellence and no other factors swayed the decision. The presentation, by unanimous vote of the committee, speaks eloquently of the high regard with which not only laymen but architects and builders view this great structure.

"Since the opening last May it has commanded the attention and admiration of the entire world for the simplicity and dignity of its design, the dominating position it holds in our skyline, and the character of the tenants.

"Empire State will have a profound influence on the future development of the Thirty-fourth Street zone. It serves as an anchorage for the great retail district north of Thirty-fourth Street and undoubtedly will influence a similar development south as far as Twenty-third Street."

The New York Times
Published: February 24, 1932
Copyright © The New York Times

Latest Realty Dealings

PRICES UNCERTAIN IN BUILDING TRADES

Industry Starts From Scratch With No Cost Basis, the Dow Service Declares.

HOME DEMAND GIVES HOPE

But Stocks on Hand Are Inadequate to Meet the Need When It Comes, Says Allen Beals.

With no base price for men, material or money for building purposes, the new year in the construction industry in about eight-tenths of the country starts from scratch, according to Allen E. Beals. Writing in the current Dow Service Daily Building Reports, Mr. Beals lays emphasis on the fact that this is a buyers' market, with buyers scarce.

Mr. Beals, however, finds some encouragement from the facts established at President Hoover's housing conference, where it was learned that the country enters upon the new year short 1,250,000 homes—accounted for partly by normal increases of population, loss by fire, flood and wind and partly by 365,000 habitations each year required by people who marry in bad times as in good.

"The metropolitan district of New York, with its 1930 population of 10,901,424 (United States Bureau of the Census), showed an increase in residents during the ten years between 1920 and 1930 of 1,396,020, or 28.2 per cent, which represents a housing requirement of 27,920 homes each year, whereas there has not been that many buildings of all types actually erected during any one year of the depression in that area," writes Mr. Beals.

"Reason raises the question as to how this increase in population is now being housed and at the same time it justifies the assurance that the time must soon come when this constantly increasing congestion of population will be compelled to find an outlet either in homes of their own or in leased habitations.

"The building trades and allied industries of building material and supply manufacture are utterly unprepared at this moment with stocks on hand to meet the call for this accommodation when it comes. The inventories that have been carried from year to year at prices commensurate with the cost of their production, have been fed out to buyers in a price market, of late far too frequently below the cost of manufacture. Mills have been on a short-time or shut-down basis for a year or more, and during that time building material and supplies have found their way into the hands of speculators who could afford to await the price trap that now seems impossible to avoid.

"It is just as reckless to say today that basic building material prices are down to stay at their present low levels, as time has proved unwarranted the 1928 statement that this country could never have another panic because the Federal Reserve Bank act would prevent it.

"Demand makes prices rise. It is lack of demand or overproduction that makes them low. Building material prices are where they are today, within the shadow of their prewar levels, because speculators have been out of the market. What building there was in 1931 arose out of the sagacity of the private home builder, the institution that wanted to own its home or some monumental public or private project that was launched to help the unemployed.

"The Federal authorities are fully aware of the consequences of too long a recess from building activity.

"They have at hand the records revealing the cause and the effect of the eighteen months of building construction holiday necessitated by the late war. They are frankly concerned as to the effect of a gradually increasing suspension of building activity that has been continuous since May, 1929, when mortgage money at 6 per cent found itself in competition with call money at 16.

"There has been no such prolonged hesitation in launching new building projects in the memory of men who survived the panic of 1873, and in those days building construction west of the Mississippi consisted of little more than tents and extremely modest homes and stores.

"Realizing that fact, the Federal Government has, for the first time, officially raised shelter to a place beside food and clothing as a foremost necessity of its people. It has first essayed to thaw the frozen assets that have not only held construction money in restraint, but has brought about the identical condition at material manufacturing plants that the embargo on fuel supplies produced when the country was engaged in war, namely, the curtailment of production of building equipment and supplies too far below potential demand.

"It is precisely this potential demand for building material, equipment and supplies that has brought about the President's proposal for a system of low-cost, long-term home-building credits through the plan that Congress is expected to make into law so that the people can be helped to build homes of their own when rentable ones are no longer to be had, in much the same way that they used their Liberty bonds as nuclei for home construction when the World War closed."

DEALS IN NEW JERSEY.

One-Family Houses Are Rented in Newark and Grantwood.

The Blue and Gray Veterans Association has leased the one-family house at 87 Lincoln Park, Newark, from Mrs. Laura Ross Billings of New York. The building contains eleven large rooms and a small gymnasium. It will be altered for occupancy as a club house and social centre, according to Louis Schlesinger, Inc., broker in the deal.

A one-family house at 460 Lafayette Avenue, Grantwood, was leased by the Cliffside Park Title Guarantee and Trust Company to William G. Hunt. The house contains six rooms and occupies a plot 50 by 100 feet. Milton Goldsmith was the broker.

Building Exhibit Here Jan. 14.

Plans are nearing completion for the building maintenance and merchandise exposition which Real Estate Magazine, the official organ of the Real Estate Board of New York, is assembling on an entire floor in the Empire State Building. An announcement by the board yesterday said 120,000 tickets had been distributed for the exposition, which opens Jan. 14. The most interesting landmarks in this city will be exhibited in the form of models and huge perspective drawings. Models of the proposed East River Drive and the west side automobile highway also will be shown.

Sears, Roebuck Men Meet Here.

Two hundred sales and construction executives of the home construction division of Sears, Roebuck & Co. will discuss home construction at the division's first national convention here today. The discussions will be held at the Sears, Roebuck Building, Ninth Avenue and Thirty-first Street, and will conclude Thursday with general sessions at the Hotel New Yorker.

The New York Times
Published: January 4, 1932
Copyright © The New York Times

DEMAND CONTINUES FOR BUSINESS SPACE

Tenants Take Quarters in Old as Well as New Buildings in Manhattan.

MIDTOWN RENTING BRISK

Out-of-Town Firms Locate in the Empire State Building—Trading Picks Up on the West Side.

Brokers and managing agents of buildings in Manhattan continued yesterday to report renting for business purposes in large volume. Most of yesterday's activity of this type centred in the midtown area. Old as well as new buildings attracted tenants, according to announcements of new contracts yesterday made by brokers. A good volume of business was done on the west side.

H. Hamilton Weber, renting manager of the Empire State Building, at Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, leased sales and executive offices in the building to the S. E. Guinn Company of Johnson City, Tenn., metal novelty manufacturers. The lease calls for immediate occupancy.

Slaughter, Anderson & Co. of 120 Wall Street took office space in the Empire State for an uptown branch. The company is a member of the New York Stock Exchange. Space in the same structure was taken by Lester E. Beckman of Philadelphia, manufacturer of electric equipment, including lamps and shades. Mr. Beckman will use the quarters for executive and sales offices.

Other leases announced yesterday follow:

Burlington Mills, Inc., Ferdinand Straus, branch agent of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, the J. M. Blow Company, Inc., Allied Dress Association, Everite Advertising Agency, Kraus & Pascal, accountants and attorneys; Joseph Kitzinger, Harris-Goldenberg, Inc., and Frank F. Groff, director of the Calcomania Association, in the Nelson Tower Building at 450 Seventh Avenue; Michael E. Lipset & Co., brokers.

Schein & Hass, Inc., furriers, loft in 315 Seventh Avenue; Ackerman & Reicher, furriers, in 151 West Thirtieth Street; Holman & Holman, brokers.

Harry D. Froot, lamp shades, part of second floor in 1,220 Broadway; S. Stanley Sogg & Co., brokers.

S. Shulman & Bro., hats, part of store at 725-27 Broadway; Robert Bader, travel agency, and Irving Schwartz, in the Continental Building at 1,450 Broadway; William Vogel Distributing Corporation, in 1,600 Broadway; Reynier & Co., gloves, and the Allen-A Company, hosiery, entire third floor in 432 Fourth Avenue; Arthur S. Allen, commercial artist, in 280 Madison Avenue; Sovereign Products, Inc., and Joseph Dorff, Inc., in 285 Madison Avenue; the Thomas W. Hall Company, Inc., in 1,071 Sixth Avenue; the Cross & Brown Company, broker.

B. W. Eden & Co., department and variety store merchandise, in 40 East Twenty-first Street; Joseph P. Mountjoy, in 9-11 East Thirty-eighth Street; Milk Transportation Corporation, in 10 East Fortieth Street; R. T. Watson, in 18 East Forty-first Street; Savoy Manufacturing Company (Jack J. Deer), toys, house furnishings and novelties, store at 12 West Twenty-third Street running through to 1 West Twenty-second Street; Spitzer Neckwear Company, in 46-50 West Twenty-ninth Street; Samuel Dundish, restaurant and delicatessen, store at 9 West Thirty-first Street; the Interstate Button Company, in 29-33 West Thirty-sixth Street; Louis Mendel, Inc., in 12-14 West Thirty-seventh Street; the Cross & Brown Company, broker.

H. Ottenstein, manufacturer of ladies' coats, eighth floor in 222 West Thirty-seventh Street; W. L. G. Coat Manufacturers, ladies' coats, loft in 580 Eighth Avenue; Schuster, Fine & Mayless, Inc., brokers.

P. Lorillard & Co., in 148-56 West Twenty-third Street; M. & L. Hess, Inc., and Williams & Co., brokers.

Hubert Charles Winans, in 40 Wall Street; Berg & Loew, Inc., in 61 Beekman Street; Brown, Wheelock, Harris & Co., brokers.

L. P. Cartier, member of the New York Curb Exchange, in 75 West Street; Thomas Delamanara, in 27-29 Beaver Street; Albert M. Canter, in 45-47 West Fifty-seventh Street; William A. White & Sons, brokers.

Maurice Cohen, double store in 132 Liberty Street; Harold M. Sliverman, broker.

Coronet Clothes, Inc., sixth floor in 810 Broadway; L. Heurmann & Co., Inc., patent medicines, ninth floor in 34 East Twelfth Street; Bastine & Co., brokers.

Neivert Glove and Charles Miller & Co., in 404 Fourth Avenue, through Mercantile Trades Centre.

Abraham and Mortimer Krinzman and Samuel L. Jaffe, trading as K. & J. Markets, store in 126 Chestnut Street, Roselle, N. J., from Perfection Building and Loan Association of Newark; Krasner, Herman & Stavitsky, brokers.

P. Goodman of Irvington for meat market, store at southeast corner of Pinegrove Terrace and South Orange Avenue, Newark, from Carl W. Johnson of Morristown; Owen E. Fox, broker.

The New York Times
Published: January 15, 1932
Copyright © The New York Times

Tower on the Empire State Has Brought In $698,554

The observation tower of the Empire State Building has brought in $698,554 from sightseers and visitors since it was opened last May and there are no signs of any decrease in business in the near future, it was reported yesterday by the building's officials. The total number of visitors has averaged about 2,200 a day.

The first half of January showed a marked drop in visitors, but the decrease was attributed to bad weather. The original estimate of $1,000,000 for the first year will be easily realized and probably a greater sum than that will have been taken in by next May, it was said.

The New York Times
Published: January 17, 1932
Copyright © The New York Times

HONOR ARCHITECTS FOR EMPIRE STATE

Fellow-Members of Institute Award Medal for 1931 to Shreve, Lamb & Harmon.

CITE 'MONUMENTAL DESIGN'

Stephen F. Voorhees Presents Annual Distinction Given by New York Chapter Since 1904.

The architects of the Empire State Building, Richard H. Shreve, William F. Lamb and Arthur Loomis Harmon, last night received the medal of honor for 1931 from the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects at the chapter's annual dinner in the Architectural League Building, 115 East Fortieth Street.

The medal has been conferred annually since 1904 for "distinguished work and high professional standing." The presentation was made last night by Stephen F. Voorhees, president of the New York chapter, who presided. He read this citation:

"In the monumental design of a great office building they have made a genuine contribution to architecture. The noble simplicity of this outstanding structure makes it an inspiring landmark in our city. All members of the firm have given generously of their time to advance the practice of architecture through service in the chapter and other organizations of like purpose."

While the award of the medal is not based on the design and construction of one particular building, in this case the jury recognized the accomplishment of the three architects in the erection of the Empire State Building, Mr. Voorhees explained.

The three men who received the award are all members of the firm of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon of 11 East Forty-fourth Street. Mr. Harmon is a fellow of the American Institute of Architects and all three are members of the institute, the Architectural League and the Beaux Arts Institute.

In addition to Mr. Voorhees, who was chairman, the jury of award was made up of Archibald M. Brown, Richard H. Dana Jr., William O. Ludlow and Charles A. Platt.

ASKS AID FOR COLUMBIA.

Dr. Butler Opens Alumni Fund Campaign at Dinner.

An appeal for every graduate to give, regardless of the amount, was made by President Nicholas Murray Butler at the annual dinner last night at the Columbia University Club of the alumni fund. The dinner opened the fund's 1932 campaign. The money collected will be turned over to President Butler without any restrictive provisions. About 150 attended the dinner, which was presided over by Floyd Y. Keeler, chairman of the fund.

"You might as well know that Columbia's income will be nearly $1,000,000 less this year than last," Dr. Butler said. "So the situation must be met not by a few large gifts but by a multitude of small gifts. If every alumnus were to give $10 this year, in 1933 and in 1934, alma mater would be out of the woods."

The New York Times
Published: January 27, 1932
Copyright © The New York Times

MURALS IN THE MAIL

Empire State Project at the Beaux Arts—the New Names for List—Belmont's "Music"

To the Art Editor:

AS you seem to be an enthusiastic exponent of the present interest in mural painting, may I draw your attention to an exhibition of work by the Mural Atelier of the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, which has been running now for two years (the class, not the exhibition) and which is conducted on very novel lines.

The pupils are all painters, not designers, and some of their names are known in the painting exhibitions. Each month a New York architect gives a problem, from his own current or past work, and criticizes the students as though what they are doing were a real commission. A mural painter criticizes at the same time from his angle and helps with the execution of full-size fragments of the projects.

For example, Arthur Loomis Harmon gave the problem of a panel for the end of the lobby in the Empire State Building and D. Putnam Brinley was the painter critic. The students were able to go to the building and study the actual conditions. The points of view of the critics are very varied. Many of the critics are not Beaux Arts men. The list includes Ralph Walker, Ely Jacques Kahn, William Van Alen, O. H. Murray, Lawrence Bottomley, Leon Solon, John Mead Howells, Ernest Peixotto, Austin Purves Jr., Frank Schwartz and D. Putnam Brinley. Mr. Lescaze is to give the next problem.

The exhibition at the Beaux Arts Building, 304 East Forty-fourth Street, opens on April 3, remaining for a week, but is being hung a week ahead so that the critics can see it. I hope that you will not let the word "Beaux Arts" put you off, and that you will come and look and comment. I think you will find something new and fresh and interesting, and at the same time thoughtful and sound.

HILDRETH MEIERE,
Chairman of the Committee of the Mural Painters Society in Charge of the Class.

The New York Times
Published: March 27, 1932
Copyright © The New York Times

30,000 STRIKE TODAY IN BUILDING TRADES

Union Men Will Remain Out Until New Wage Agreement Is Signed, Leader Says.

AWAIT EMPLOYERS' ACTION

Negotiations Likely to Be Resumed Soon—Pressure to Be Brought on Elevator Group.

Because of the expiration of the agreement between the Building Trades Employers Association and unions representing thirty-two trade groups in the industry, involving about 30,000 of the 115,000 building trades employes now at work, the members of those unions will not work today, John Halkett, president of the Building Trades Council, said last night.

The 30,000 men will remain out pending the signing of a new agreement with the employers, Mr. Halkett said. How long this would be he said he did not know. He understood, however, that the employers' association would meet today at its headquarters, 2 Park Avenue, to discuss the situation and resumption of negotiations with the unions.

When and whether the negotiations would be resumed would depend on the position reached by the employers, Mr. Halkett added. He intimated that the employers were expected to take the initiative and that an overture of some kind was expected by the unions.

The negotiations were broken off Saturday as a result of a separate understanding between the Elevator Constructors Association and the employes of its members to pay $11.20 a day, or $1.20 above the scale announced by the Building Trades Employers Association. The latter organization previously had negotiated wage and working agreements for the entire industry. But when the unions learned of the increase to the elevator builders, they demanded a similar scale for the other crafts, instead of accepting reductions.

Christian O. Norman, chairman of the executive committee of the employers' association, could not be reached yesterday. He had announced previously, however, that another conference between representatives of his organization and of the unions was not improbable within a few days.

Meanwhile the employers' association will bring pressure to bear upon the Elevator Constructors Association, it was asserted, to modify its agreement with the employes of its members so as to permit a uniform wage scale for all trades. The agreement of the elevator constructors is a verbal one.

Before Mr. Halkett's announcement it was believed that resumption of negotiations this week would result in an adjustment that would obviate the possibility of a protracted strike.

LONG TIE-UP DISCOUNTED.

A. E. Beals Has No Fears of General Strike Protest.

Any prospect of a protracted tie-up of the construction industry in this city as the result of the disagreement between employers and building trades workers was discounted in a statement issued yesterday by Allen E. Beals of the Dow Service Daily Building Reports.

Although admitting that the disagreement between the Building Trades Council and the Building Trades Employers' Association over a variation of the new wage rates might be expected to result in occasional disturbances, he said he looked for no general strike protest from the workers.

Employers of building workers here faced the situation with confidence, according to Mr. Beals, who declared Saturday's disagreement had not caused them to take any less optimistic view of the situation. The proposed wage rates constitute part of a general readjustment program designed to start building construction activity here again, he added.

"The new scale," said Mr. Beals, "is plainly a bid to set up a better wage for the building craftsman than that which has been offered him by the independent employer who is not bound by the agreed rates of pay that the organized builder must adhere to if he is to be expected to maintain the agreements entered into by his association with the leaders of organized labor.

"Instead of there being danger of general labor trade strife arising at this time, the real day of reckoning may be expected to dawn should the new scale fail to stop the undersellin of building trade labor to unorganized employers who depend upon their ability to hire men at wages lower than the agreed-upon-scale in order to underbid the contractors forming the group that negotiated the scale with labor's representatives.

"It is generally recognized by employers and employes alike that those who are in the business of improving real estate or who buy old buildings, modernize and sell them, have been waiting for something to happen that will make it profitable for them to come back into the market to build."

Referring to the proposed 25 to 30 per cent wage reduction, Mr. Beals declared:

"Certainly, in a community that normally requires 50,000 tons of structural steel a month, and in March of this year ordered only 800 tons for building construction purposes, the implication is safe that building investors have been waiting for something, and if the 25 to 30 per cent wage reduction between now and December, 1932, is followed by a general revival of building construction activity under sounder and safer financing and credit conditions than New York City and vicinity has ever known, and a much larger proportion of the 115,000 organized workers find employment again, the new wage rate will prove to have been that for which investors have been waiting."

SKYSCRAPER A YEAR OLD.

2,000,000 Persons Have Seen Interior of Empire State Building.

More than 2,000,000 persons have seen the interior of the Empire State Building since the skyscraper was opened to the public just a year ago, according to an estimate made yesterday in connection with the building's first anniversary. President Hoover started the formal opening ceremonies on May 1, 1931, by pressing a button in Washington telegraphically illuminating the lobbies of the building.

Since then Empire State, Inc., has rented floor space equal to the entire rentable area of a sixty-five-story building on a plot 100 by 180 feet. A gross income of $675,000 has been realized from the observatory sightseers and the sale of souvenirs and refreshments to visitors.

The New York Times
Published: May 2, 1932
Copyright © The New York Times

TELEVISION IMAGES ARE LEAPING FROM A SKYSCRAPER PINNACLE

Engineers See Demonstration of New Receiver That Picks Up Empire State Building Broadcasts

THE television station atop the Empire State Building is in operation. Unseen images are leaping into space from the lofty pinnacle 1,276 feet above the sidewalks of New York.

A few days ago the Radio Corporation of America staged a private demonstration for the licensees so that they might view the progress and prepare for future marketing of television apparatus.

It was explained, however, that the parent organization does not plan at this time to introduce a television receiver for home use until some time in 1933. If it were not for the depression the set might appear this Autumn, but all concerned are reported to agree that the infant television industry must be launched when the business sun is smiling. They have decided to wait for that mystic tide ebbing and flowing in the affairs of men—"which taken at the flood leads on to fortune."

About one hundred executives and engineers, representing fifty radio set and tube manufacturers, attended the demonstration.

Picture Called "Fairly Clear."

The picture measured 4 by 5 inches. It was described by an engineer who saw it as "fairly clear." It was a 120-line picture. Living actors participated in the performance, and a film also was used to demonstrate the two ways of broadcasting television entertainment. Spectators were surprised at the clarity of the film transmission.

The audience was reported to be fairly well satisfied with the progress revealed, but the television images are said to suffer in comparison with home-talking pictures, which are often used to indicate the mark television experts must attain before they can consider their job well done.

The engineers believe that by the Autumn of 1933 the stage may be set for television on a nation-wide scale. In the meantime they plan to perfect electrical scanning devices and cathode ray tubes, and enlarge the pictures. They will build television transmitters in the thickly populated areas. Ultra-short waves will be used to carry images. In many cases they will leap from the tallest buildings in various cities where options have already been obtained on the lofty sites for television purposes.

Tiny Waves Carry Images.

There seems to be little doubt that television will travel on the wings of tiny waves; that is, below ten meters in length. These waves have a limited range. They are called quasi-optical because in general they act like light rays. For example, the broadcasts from the aerial on the Empire State Building's roof may cover a radius of sixty miles, which comprises the technical horizon at that elevation. It means that thousands of stations can be operated without waves overlapping. Boston, New York and Philadelphia could all use the same waves without interference.

Some have wondered if the images can be sent over wires should it be found desirable to link a myriad of television transmitters together in a network. It is much easier to transmit a melody by wire than it is a television face.

When it was suggested that wires might be utilized to carry spoken words to supplement telegraph clicks there was doubt that the wires could handle the frequencies and preserve the voice quality. But the telephone engineers succeeded. Today they are sending pictures by wire and it is known that they are making excellent strides in handling television images on wires. Gradually the obstacles confronting television are being overcome. The engineers assert that by the Winter of 1933 a new industry may come into being. Led by Vladimir Zworykin, in the laboratory at Camden, they are hopeful.

The New York Times
Published: May 22, 1932
Copyright © The New York Times

ROOSEVELT PORTRAIT SOLD

Few Bidders for Pastel With Empire State Building in Background.

A pastel portrait of Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt by Mihri de Rassim, Turkish noblewoman and artist, was auctioned yesterday morning by City Marshal Edward P. Upton, who had seized it to satisfy an uncontested judgment of $133.09 obtained against her by the engraving and printing firm of Watkinson & Bournique of 131 Liberty Street. The picture was seized by the City Marshal in the gallery of John Fenning at 11 West Forty-seventh Street, where it had been on exhibition.

Although the auction had been advertised in advance, the only persons present were two reporters and a camera man. One of them cheerfully offered $5, but the auctioneer explained that it would have to bring at least $60, which would include his fee and moving and storage expenses.

Finally it was bought in by Marcel Bournique of the creditors, for $40, subject to his payment of the balance of the sum due. Mr. Upton said that the artist valued the picture at $2,000.

The picture shows Governor Roosevelt standing in front of a background of New York City skyscrapers, with the Empire State Building on his right and the Chrysler on his left.

The New York Times
Published: September 25, 1932
Copyright © The New York Times

Guardian Life Insurance Co.

In Empire State Building

The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America was added to the list of insurance companies and agencies occupying space in the Empire State Building when it closed contracts yesterday for a large unit of space on the ninth floor for executive offices. The company is expected to take possession about Feb. 1.

The Guardian Life is the eighth large insurance concern to enter the Empire State Building, the others being the Berkshire Life, Connecticut Mutual Life, Mutual Life of New York, New York Life, New England Mutual Life, Northwestern Mutual Life of Milwaukee and Travelers Company of Hartford.

The New York Times
Published: January 17, 1933
Copyright © The New York Times

HOLLYWOOD'S MIGHTY APE

Copyright, 1933, by NANA, Inc. and The New York Times.

Hollywood.

A FANTASTIC film which has been one and one-half years in the making will soon be released. It is "King Kong," made by those two adventurer-producers, Ernest B. Schoedsack and Merian C. Cooper. The story comes from the fertile imagination of Edgar Wallace—the last tale he wrote before death halted the most prolific pen of the day.

From a purely technical standpoint "King Kong" is a difficult translation of an idea into motion-picture structure. The most startling point of interest about it is that the central character is a monstrous ape fifty feet tall. The film will show prehistoric monsters fighting one another and making weird sounds.

The ape will be seen hurling automobiles at New York's Stock Exchange Building, tearing up sections of the Sixth Avenue elevated and making his last stand atop the tower of the Empire State Building. There this giant anthropoid, with a fragile young woman in its paw, fights a squadron of army pursuit planes remorselessly pumping bullets into its body. A futile but magnificent gesture on the ape's part is when it plucks a plane out of the air and hurls it into the street far below.

To make such a scene as the one above described is rather difficult. Most of the work in this picture has been done behind locked doors. All the initial work of the technical staff was kept secret from the general staff on the lot because RKO wanted to be certain that the secrecy of its process was kept inviolate. To give some small idea of the precise craftsmanship required, only one-sixteenth of an inch of film could be photographed at a time and never more than a total of twenty feet on the best ten-hour day's work was made. One of the greatest problems involved was how to place the gigantic ape in association with humans and animate them all against the moving background of a great city.

Many of the scenes—notably the one in which the ape fights the air armada—were made up of seven distinct shots merged into a composite timed to a split second.

Norman Foster, having completed his rôle in Fox's "State Fair," will now become a film editor for a few days. The actor is editing the 10,000 feet of film he photographed while on a cruise with his wife, Claudette Colbert, a little more than a year ago. He now has the travelogue footage down to six reels. Another "State Fair" player, Janet Gaynor, is spending a short vacation in Honolulu. Miss Gaynor will return soon to begin work with Henry Garat in "Princess at Your Order." Sally Eilers went directly from the "State Fair" sets to Ensenada, Mexico, where she will rest for a few weeks. Will Rogers, through with his assignment in the same film, is planning another air trip.

Mae Clarke, who has just completed the feminine lead opposite Alan Dinehart in Columbia's "As the Devil Commands," was engaged by the same company last week for the lead in "Parole Girl," which is scheduled for immediate production. The story for the latter piece deals with the underworld experiences of a girl trying to go straight on parole from jail.

At Universal they are planning the first musical show in more than two years. This will be a new version of William Hurlbut's "Lilies of Broadway," which will be produced under the title "Women, Inc."

Nancy Carroll has been chosen for the featured feminine rôle in "Bedfellows," latest of the Charles R. Rogers productions for Paramount. Miss Carroll's leading man will be Ricardo Cortez, who recently was placed under long-term contract by Paramount. It is scheduled to start immediately upon completion of "Strictly Personal," which is now in production.

Evalyn Knapp and Regis Toomey will be the principal players in Columbia's "State Trooper," which is only a temporary title. This is described as a romantic melodrama of California's oil refineries. Barbara Weeks, Raymond Hatton and Matthew Betz are also announced for this film.

As long ago as last Spring, Wallace Beery was telling this department about a film of Soviet Russia which Metro planned to present him in. Now the picture is in process of actual production, with Mr. Beery and Clark Gable named for the principal rôles. Frank Capra will be the director. The story will delineate the rise to power of a Russian peasant, a part which Mr. Beery will play.

John Gilbert and Mae Clarke have been selected for the leading parts in "Rivets," a forthcoming Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production. It is from an unproduced play by John W. McDermott.

Players will be heard in six different languages in Metro's film adaptation of the play, "Clear All Wires," the locales of which shift all over the world.

The New York Times
Published: January 22, 1933
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Proves an Efficient Conductor—The Biggest Spectroscope

By WALDEMAR KAEMPFFERT.

THE Empire State Building in New York City is the tallest, most elaborate and most successful lightning rod ever erected by man. Time and time again it has been struck. In fact, hardly a thunderstorm sweeps over lower Manhattan Island that does not single it out to hurl a bolt at its towering mooring mast. No one in the building is aware that flashes which may have a potential of 10,000,000 volts at times are drawn to the mast, only to be dissipated by the intricate steel structure into the ground.

Once some electrical apparatus connected with a weather vane on top of the building was fused. But probably the safest of all places in New York City during a thunderstorm is an office in the tallest of steel structures.

Not long after the Empire State Building was opened "St. Elmo's fire" could be seen on the eighty-sixth floor and its hissing heard. All the outer metal work glowed beautifully with what the engineers call a brush discharge. Generally the "fire" is seen at sea or on high mountains. Any physicist can produce it artificially on a small scale in the laboratory. It is simply an electrical discharge, less violent than lightning—an evidence that electricity is being drawn off from a strongly electrified body to a conductor. Mountain climbers are puzzled when they see it during a snowstorm. Falling drops, hailstones, snowflakes, all highly electrified, explain the phenomenon. Stroke a cat in dry weather and you get a miniature sparking display of St. Elmo's fire.

Near-By Buildings Protected.

It has been known ever since Franklin's time that an electric spark—and lightning is nothing but a huge spark—picks out the tallest of two points presented to it. So it is with the Empire State Building. Its enormous steel frame protects not only itself but all the buildings near by. A piece of stone may be knocked off when a spark leaps between two isolated points. With the stepped-back construction this entails no great danger. The stone falls on a terrace. Even if it struck the street the odds are many thousands to one against its killing any one for the simple reason that everybody rushes for cover during a storm.

Experiments which were made by Faraday and later by Sir Oliver Lodge proved conclusively that the best of all safeguards is not a lightning rod (although that has its merits when it is properly installed) but a cage. And a cage is exactly what the steel frame and plumbing system of a skyscraper is. The energy must be divided and subdivided, something that a cage does very effectively. A battleship or a transatlantic liner—in fact, any steel ship—is also a fine place for safety during a thunderstorm, provided you keep away from the metal hull or any metal connected with it.

F. W. Peek's Researches.

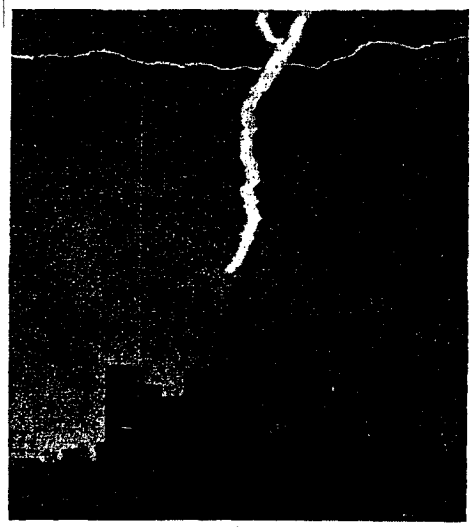
Probably the man who knows most about lightning and tall buildings is F. W. Peek. For years he has been experimenting with artificial bolts in the General Electric Company's laboratory at Pittsfield, Mass. His main object is to show what happens when lightning strikes a high-tension transmission line and thus to discover the best method of protection. He has succeeded in producing electric sparks thirty feet long with voltages that run up to 5,000,000. Merely because he is so interested in lightning, he has built small clusters of skyscrapers and hurled his artificial lightning at them. As a result Peek can tell what is likely to happen when Wall Street in Manhattan or the Loop in Chicago is darkened by a thunderstorm and lightning begins to play among the clouds.

"Given a cloud height of 1,000 feet, which is fairly low but is not the lowest measured, and a lightning rod which extends fifty feet above the earth," says Peek, "the protected zone will be a cone with a radius at the base of 200 feet. The higher the cloud, the larger is the area that such a rod will protect."

Height of Lightning Rods.

It is not safe to apply this rule too exactly. Peek has found that a lightning rod on a low building—a house, for example—may protect a cone with a radius four times the rod height and more, but that a very high lightning rod or the top of a skyscraper may protect a cone with a radius of but twice the rod height or less. For exceptional heights the ratio may be only one to one.

Peek made some experiments with models of a group in which the Woolworth Building was the centre. He found that if the building were only 175 feet north of its present location it would protect all structures between it and the Municipal Building. The Empire State Building probably protects all buildings within a radius equal to one and a half times its height.



Keystone.

New York's Highest Building as a Lightning Rod.

The New York Times
Published: July 9, 1933
Copyright © The New York Times

HEADS ARCHITECT LEAGUE

A. L. Harmon Was a Designer of Empire State Building.

Arthur Loomis Harmon, one of the architects of the Empire State Building, was inducted into office last night as president of the Architectural League of New York at a meeting at the league's headquarters, 115 East Fortieth Street.

Mr. Harmon succeeds Julian Clarence Levi, who has held the office for the last two years. Mr. Levi's services to the league and his assistance to unemployed architects were recognized by a rising vote of thanks.

Archibald M. Brown and Giles Whiting are secretary and treasuser, respectively, of the league for the next year.

Hobart Upjohn spoke at the meeting, which was preceded by a dinner.

The New York Times
Published: May 5, 1933
Copyright © The New York Times

HOISTS WELFARE BANNER.

Smith Leads in Ceremony Atop Empire State Building.

A white flag bearing the legend "Keep the Home Fires Burning" was raised to the mast of the Empire State Building at noon yesterday by former Governor Alfred E. Smith on behalf of the City Family Welfare Committee of New York. The flag-raising ceremony was a part of the committee's campaign to raise $4,000,000 for family relief in this city.

Mr. Smith said: "I raise this banner over the great City of New York, a city acutely aware of the need of keeping together that vital unit of society, the family, in the midst of prolonged adversity. The Citizens Family Welfare Committee may well take pride in the fact that this banner is one round which New Yorkers are rallying to support. The flying of this banner at the highest point in the city symbolizes the success that should come to the committee workers in setting out to get the campaign goal of $4,000,000."

Among those present at the ceremony were Mrs. George E. Brower, chairman of the Brooklyn Women's Committee; James G. Blaine, chairman of the Family Welfare Committee; Walter S. Gifford, Stuart M. Crocker, Morgan J. O'Brien, James Tynion and Laurence Marks.

The New York Times
Published: November 23, 1933
Copyright © The New York Times

NEW POSTOFFICE READY.

Smith to Open Station in Empire State Building Tomorrow.

The Empire State station of the New York Postoffice in the Empire State Building will open tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Former Governor Alfred E. Smith, president of Empire State, Inc., will preside. Acting Postmaster Albert Goldman and First Assistant Postmaster General W. W. Howes will speak.

The Postoffice Department is the second Federal agency to rent space in the Empire State Building, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation having occupied extensive headquarters on the fourth floor since its creation. The new station will provide full service with the exception of parcel post.

The New York Times
Published: December 2, 1934
Copyright © The New York Times

SILK CODE AUTHORITY WILL QUIT PATERSON

Group Under General Haskell to Have Offices in Empire State Building.

The Code Authority for the silk and rayon dyeing and printing industry is to move on March 1 to the Empire State Building from the Alexander Hamilton Hotel in Paterson, N. J., H. Hamilton Weber, rental manager of the Manhattan structure, reported yesterday. Major Gen. William N. Haskell, commanding the New York State National Guard, is executive director of the Authority, which is to transfer its accounting, statistical and clerical staffs to New York. The inspection division will remain in Paterson.

Other rentals reported yesterday included the following:

Hanscom Baking Corp., for first link in proposed retail chain, store in 201 W. 11th St., at Greenwich and 7th Avs.; J. D. Robilotto Co., broker. Isidore Ehrman acted as attorney for the tenant.

Ruby Dress Co., Victory Belt Co. and Kelmenson & Kanstaroon, dresses, in 347 W. 36th St.; Sperber, Rado & Fishman, furs, in 134 W. 29th St.; John Kivo, Inc., in 132 W. 27th St.; Cooperman & Horowitz, furs, in 210 W. 29th St.; Trachina & Rabinowitz and S. & W. Sewing Machine Co., in 147 W. 29th St.; Rosenberg-Murray Co., broker.

Henry A. Ewald & Co., renewal and additional space in 15 E. 40th St.; Gerhard Kuehne, Inc., broker.

The New York Times
Published: February 17, 1934
Copyright © The New York Times

'Highest Bar' Opens Today In Empire State Building

What is said to be the "world's highest bar" will open at 8 A. M. today on the eighty-sixth floor of the Empire State Building, it was said yesterday by former Governor Smith, president of the corporation. It will be 1,045 feet above the sidewalk and will replace part of the soda fountain there. The bar will remain open until 1 A. M.

In applying to the State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the license, a photograph of the exterior of the premises was necessary. Governor Smith said aerial photographers were employed to get the picture.

The New York Times
Published: June 4, 1934
Copyright © The New York Times

FLAG DAY TO BE MARKED.

Exercises Will Be Held Tomorrow on Empire State Tower.

Admiral David F. Sellers, commander-in-chief of the United States Fleet, will be the principal speaker at the Flag Day exercises to be held at noon tomorrow under the auspices of the Sons of the American Revolution on the Eighty-sixth Floor Observatory of the Empire State Building.

Other speakers will include Governor A. Harry Moore of New Jersey, Mrs. Percy R. Magna, president general of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and Frederick H. Cone, president of the New York Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Grover Whalen will preside.

The New York Times
Published: June 13, 1934
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Put in Model for Tests

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—A scale model of the Empire State Building and several surrounding blocks in midtown Manhattan has been constructed by the Bureau of Standards to test wind stress on high buildings, Science Service says.

The 1,248-foot structure, the world's tallest, has a height of 5 feet in the model, which is subjected to artificial breezes in a 10-foot wind tunnel. Bureau of Standards experts hope to get actual measurements of the stress put on the building in New York and compare these with data obtained by use of the model.

The New York Times
Published: June 19, 1935
Copyright © The New York Times

FALSE ALARM THRILLS 500.

Crowd Watches Army of Police Surround Empire State Building.

Deputy Chief Inspector Alexander Anderson and Inspector Louis Schilling, leading a small army of policemen, descended on the Empire State Building from all directions at 4:15 P. M. yesterday. With machine guns, rifles, revolvers and tear gas they advanced to battle against bank robbers, while more than 500 persons swarmed close to see them do it.

Their objective was the Irving Trust Company, one flight up. On arriving, however, the police discovered that a clerk, trying to open a desk, had accidentally set off the hold-up alarm. This flashed to a private police agency, whence it was transmitted to headquarters.

Half a dozen radio cars and an emergency truck loaded with the heavier armament dashed to the scene, besides all near-by traffic policemen and members of the midtown squad.

The New York Times
Published: June 22, 1935
Copyright © The New York Times

R. C. A. PLAN YIELDS KENNEDY $150,000

Former Head of SEC Drafts Reorganization That Is Adopted by 1,000-to-1 Vote.

QUARTER'S EARNINGS OFF

Television Field Tests From Empire State Building Set to Start June 29.

Joseph P. Kennedy, former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, received a fee of $150,000 for devising the plan of recapitalization of the Radio Corporation of America, he said at the special meeting of stockholders yesterday.

The plan was approved by 11,341,635 to 11,312 votes, or a majority of 1,000 to one, the majority vote representing 62.3 per cent of the Class A preferred stock, which has 10 votes a share; 62.1 per cent of the Class B preferred stock, and 55.6 per cent of the common stock, which both have one vote a share.

At a directors' session after the meeting of stockholders the plan was declared operative and the time for the deposit of Class B preferred shares in exchange for new $3.50 dividend first preferred shares was extended to May 1.

David Sarnoff, president, who presided, announced that prior to the meeting 57.7 per cent of the B preferred shares had been deposited under the Exchange plan, and that assurances of deposit, together with deposits in transit, brought the total scheduled deposits to more than 70 per cent of the amount outstanding.

$30,000 for Statisticians

Mr. Kennedy said that $30,000 of his fee was used as remuneration for the services of statisticians and accountants. His announcement, made a few minutes before adjournment, followed his earlier statement of a belief that ultimately the Radio Corporation's capitalization should consist solely of common stock, and that the pla was intended to bring about that result. He added that whether one wishes it or not, the stock market is a barometer of values, and pointed to current prices of the company's stocks as indicating the merits of the plan.

In addition, Mr. Kennedy said that the bank borrowings of $10,000,000 at 2½ per cent under the plan entailed no bonuses, that no underwriting was involved, and that no expenses other than routine had been incurred by the Radio Corporation.

The majority of stockholders present overwhelmingly favored the plan, in the opinion of impartial observers, and while nearly a dozen persons rose to comment for or against it, only two of more than 300 present voiced definite criticism.

P. A. Powers, said to be president of the Celebrity Pictures Company of 723 Seventh Avenue, in a long statement, read for him by J. Austin Smith, an accountant, said that if the book losses on sales of Electrical and Musical Industries and Radio-Keith-Orpheum investments by R.C.A. had been charged to earnings in 1935, instead of to a special reserve, there would have been a net loss instead of a net profit; and that considering that $15,000,000 from the sale of these investments was added to cash, current assets in reality declined $3,000,000 instead of advancing $12,000,000 as shown in the report. He described the plan as a "liquidation."

Former Victor Worker Protests

Albert Lindo of Panama, described by R. C. A. officials as a former employe of the Victor Talking Machine Company, which was acquired by the Radio Corporation early in 1929, said that he did not wish to waive his rights to $17,000,000 in back dividends on Class B stock by assenting to the plan.

Mr. Sarnoff, after the meeting, expressed the satisfaction of officials upon the approval of the plan, saying that "it reflects wholehearted endorsement of the corporation's new capital structure, under which we can move forward confidently in the further development of the radio art and industry."

At the annual meeting before the special session, Mr. Sarnoff said that 149,575 proxies were received this year, compared with 98,868 in 1935, a rise of 52 per cent, and that the company has 270,250 stockholders, or 900 under the number a year ago.

Mr. Sarnoff said that Radio Corporation was "clearly in the black" and that net income could be estimated at $1,250,000 for the first quarter of the year. He pointed to the seasonal character of the business in advising against judging earnings for the full year on the basis of a single quarter. For the first quarter of 1935, net income was $1,618,025, or 2 cents a share on the common stock after all preferred dividend requirements.

Big Changes in the Industry

He pointed to the numerous changes in his thirty years' connection with the radio business as the reason for the directors' policy of providing a rapid rate of depreciation for properties, and said that within five years the art might develop to the extent that transmitting apparatus would be entirely different from that now in use. He pointed to the replacement of long-wave transmission by short-wave transmission in the last few years to show how the company must be prepared to discard old methods and to adopt new ones.

Mr. Sarnoff said that at the television broadcasting station on the Empire State Building television field tests, which would require twelve to fifteen months, would be started on June 29.

Newton D. Baker, Cornelius N. Bliss, Bertram Cutler and General James G. Harbord were unanimously re-elected directors for three-year terms. Although Rockefeller Center has sold its entire holdings of 100,000 shares of Class A stock, Mr. Cutler, who owns 200 Class B preferred shares and who is considered to be a representative of the Rockefeller interests, remains on the board.

The New York Times
Published: April 8, 1936
Copyright © The New York Times

TELEVISION ENGINEER IS KILLED BY SHOCK

Young NBC Engineer Dies in Experimental Station High Up in Empire State Tower.

Harry E. Lawrence, 32-year-old electrical engineer employed by the National Broadcasting Company, was killed by an electric shock shortly after 4 P. M. yesterday while experimenting with a charged condenser in the broadcasting company's experimental television transmitting station on the eighty-fifth floor of the Empire State Building.

T. J. Buzalski, chief engineer, told the police that tests had been completed and the power was shut off at the time of the accident. He explained that Lawrence had come in contact with a point in the circuit soon after the power was shut off, and while it was still at high voltage owing to electrical energy stored in a condenser.

Lawrence was killed instantly, it is believed.

The young engineer was a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, where he played on the varsity football and basketball teams. Before coming to the radio company in 1931 he was a marine postal operator for the Radio Corporation of America. He lived at 409 Martin Avenue, Bellmore, L. I., and leaves a wife, Margaret, and son, Richard, 3 months old.

The New York Times
Published: April 9, 1936
Copyright © The New York Times

PARIS FAIR MODELS PUT ON VIEW HERE

French Consul General and Whalen Open Display at the Empire State Building.

BUILDING COPIES SHOWN

Eiffel Tower and Trocadero Palace Among Exhibits—Exposition Is Hailed.

Heralding the Paris International Exposition of 1937, a special window display of pictures and models was opened yesterday morning near the Fifth Avenue entrance to the Empire State Building by Count Charles de Ferry de Fontnouvelle, French Consul General in New York, and Grover A. Whalen, president of the World's Fair Corporation.

The exhibit, composed of models of the new Trocadero Palace in Paris, flanked by the Eiffel Tower and the Empire State Building, together with flags and pictures, was arranged by the Franco-American Fair Committee, of which Pierre C. Cartier is chairman.

Following the unveiling ceremonies, a luncheon was held at the Empire State Club, during which thirty members of the New York and French fair committees and guests pledged the support and cooperation of both countries in each endeavor.

Mr. Whalen, speaking for the New York fair, declared that although Americans cannot hope to match the conception of French crafts and arts, thousands would attend the Paris fair to obtain ideas for the New York event two years later. The Paris fair opens in May.

Representing the Franco-American Committee, Pierre Claudel said that "both the Paris and New York fairs will constitute an economic showdown to see what other nations can do to further international peace and goodwill."

Senator Joseph Clark Baldwin 3d, the toastmaster, introduced Paul Wiener, Charles Higgins and Clarence Levi, designers and architects of the American Building at the Paris Exposition. Frederick A. Sterling, United States Commissioner to the Paris fair, and other guests.

The New York Times
Published: December 11, 1936
Copyright © The New York Times

STRIKE IS CALLED AT EMPIRE STATE

Building Service Men Charge Smith Has Ignored Requests of Unionized Staff.

REALTY BOARD PREPARES

Employment Bureau Is Set Up for Walkout in the Garment Area Due on Monday.

Decision to call a strike of elevator operators and other service workers in the Empire State Building was announced yesterday by James J. Bambrick, president of the Building Service Employes Union. Mr. Bambrick would not reveal the date but it was learned that the strike would probably go into effect on Monday, when the walkout called by the union in more than 1,200 buildings in the garment and fur area is to begin. More than 20,000 workers will be involved.

There are 320 building-service employes in the Empire State Building and virtually all of them, according to Mr. Bambrick, are affiliated with the union. Former Governor Alfred E. Smith is president of the corporation that owns the building.

In a letter to Mr. Smith, made public last evening, Mr. Bambrick accused him of ignoring the union's demands and assailed his general attitude in the matter. The union demands recognition, restoration of a 25 per cent wage cut that had been applied to all service employes in the building receiving more than $25 a week, a 25 per cent increase for all workers receiving less than $25 a week, and a work week of forty hours.

Proposals Are Rejected.

The letter revealed that on Jan. 3 Mr. Bambrick had had a conference with Mr. Smith, who advised him to present the demands to Chapin Brown, operating manager of the building, with the understanding that they would be put before the board of directors. Mr. Bambrick added that he called on Mr. Brown on Jan. 8 and was informed that "the Empire State flatly rejected the proposals and would not negotiate with the men under any circumstances."

"Mr. Smith's speech before the American Liberty League in Washington last Saturday was a complete contradiction of his attitude toward his own men in the Empire State Building," Mr. Bambrick said.

Neither Mr. Smith nor Mr. Brown was reached for comment last evening.

That the battle in the garment and fur area scheduled for Monday will be a hard one was indicated last night in an announcement by the Realty Advisory Board on Labor Relations, through its secretary, William D. Rawlins, of the organization of an "employment bureau to supply the building service employes required to fill the places of strikers." Denying that the bureau was a strike-breaking agency, Mr. Rawlins said that "its function will be to supply men for permanent employment."

Mobilizing for Showdown.

The Realty Advisory Board is backing the Midtown Realty Association and the Penn Zone Association, which speak for buildings in the garment and fur area. It appeared that the realty interests of the city were mobilizing for a showdown with the union.

Declaring that the union had had a "startling" loss of membership, Mr. Rawlins said:

"The Realty Advisory Board does not anticipate any major disturbance throughout the city.

"The union drive has proved a failure both in its appeal to the building service employes and in the number of buildings affected, except possibly in the unionized garment and fur areas, where the closed shop forces an employe to be a member of the union."

Commissioner Valentine is making extensive preparations for the maintenance of order in the garment and fur area on Monday, when the strike begins.

The New York Times
Published: January 30, 1936
Copyright © The New York Times

EMPIRE STATE A SCREEN

Roosevelt Slogans Shown on Side of Al Smith's Building.

Two young men in white overalls used former Governor Al Smith's Empire State Building last night as a screen on which to project slogans extolling the Democratic candidate, President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

From a projection machine at Thirty-fifth Street and Broadway, Adrian Walser and Richard Cleaves, with power furnished by dynamos on a truck, threw their messages to the sixtieth floor of the west side of the Empire State Building. The circle of projection was estimated to cover about seventeen stories, and the letters could be read at a considerable distance.

Some of the slogans were: "Roosevelt Again in 1936"; "Look Ahead With Roosevelt"; "Keep Americans Working With Roosevelt"; "He Served the People—Reelect Roosevelt."

The New York Times
Published: July 24, 1936
Copyright © The New York Times

SMITH SEES A LAG IN HEAVY INDUSTRY

Taxation Disrupting Flow of Capital and Retarding Its Recovery, He Declares.

REAL ESTATE STILL DOWN

He Keeps Faith in Empire State Building, Though, Ex-Governor Says at Bank Opening.

Former Governor Alfred E. Smith expressed the opinion yesterday that business conditions in the consumer's goods field had decidedly improved, whereas the heavy industries, such as building, were lagging due to high taxation, which disrupts the flow of capital.

As chairman of the board of directors of the Lawyers Trust Company he attended the opening of new branch offices at 185 Montague Street, Brooklyn. Mr. Smith greeted his interviewers with the customary "Well, gentlemen?" and then relapsed in silence.

Asked whether he felt like commenting on the political situation, he replied emphatically, "No!" Later, the possibility of his making another radio address this season was broached, to which Mr. Smith once more gave a blunt negative, "I'm not."

A third subject was outlawed when he refused to discuss the banking business generally, on the ground that he was familiar with the affairs of only one institution, the Lawyers Trust Company. His answers were short and betrayed little emotion until the Empire State Building was mentioned.

"I don't see any change in the real estate outlook," said the former Governor. "It was the last industry to feel the depression and will be the last to recover. This has been the worst renting season in thirty years. It affected the Empire State Building, of course, but it did better than other buildings of that kind in the Grand Central zone.

"I have faith in the building because I have faith in the City of New York. Would I build it today? Certainly!"

Mr. Smith declared capital would not flow while taxes remained so high. He declined to have the statement taken as a criticism of the government. "That's out," he explained, "I'm not commenting on any political action whatsoever."

"Dry goods people, store keepers all along the line, are picking up their business,' 'continued Mr. Smith, "but you cannot expect heavy industry to move when so much of the profit is taken away from the invested capital."

Orrie R. Kelly, president of the company, assisted Mr. Smith in receiving clients and friends during the afternoon. A special reception was held late in the day for members of the judiciary.

Frank V. Kelley, county Democratic leader, was a visitor, accompanied by Sheriff Peter J. McGuinness.

The New York Times
Published: June 2, 1936
Copyright © The New York Times

TELEVISION 'SHOW' STARTS HERE TODAY

$1,000,000 Tests Expected to Go a Long Way in Deciding When Homes Will Get Sets.

BACKERS HOLD HIGH HOPES

But They Shun All Prophesy or 'Ballyhoo'—Transmitter Atop Empire State Building.

Without fanfare or ceremonies, television images will be broadcast across the New York area today in the official opening of the $1,000,000 field tests instituted by the Radio Corporation of America.

The pictures and associated sounds will radiate simultaneously on the same ultra-short wave from the aerial rods atop the Empire State Building, where a 10-kilowatt transmitter has been installed.

There is no "advance man" for this "show," which the research experts firmly believe will evolve eventually into a new industry. Inquiry whether a statement would be made regarding the test revealed that "there will be no statement, no ballyhoo. We will just begin the test and let the date slip by," a representative of the RCA said.

Rapid Development Forecast

Comment from engineers connected with the project indicated they expected television to develop so rapidly in the field test that prophecy would be dangerous at this time. They said they expected to learn much about the new science within the next year; and if all goes well they may then know when and how television will be introduced as home entertainment.

While the images hop into space on the six-meter wave, official observers equipped with receiving sets installed in about 100 homes and offices will watch the performance and report on the reception. At the same time mobile receivers will endeavor to pluck the motion pictures from space in various parts of the metropolitan area. Much will depend upon how images behave amid the skyscrapers when it comes to deciding whether or not television is to reach the mass production scale within a year or five years, according to the experts who for years have been developing the apparatus in the laboratories.

The transmitter high up in the skyscraper is one of the most modern and powerful of its type in the world. It is based to a great extent upon the inventions of Dr. Vladimir K. Zworykin, noted for his research achievements in electrical scanning.

The "Eye" of the Transmitter

Dr. Zworykin calls the "eye" of the transmitter an "iconoscope." This radio optic is a large cathode ray bulb which is installed in a standard-looking camera. What is "seen" by the light-sensitive retina is electrified and broadcast in much the same way that the microphone handles sound.

The "eye" of the 33-tube receiving instrument is called a "kinescope." It is a funnel-shaped cathode ray on the fluorescent flat end of which an electron beam, or "brush," paints the image. The top of this tube protrudes through the top of the receiving set and the picture is reflected in a mirror, or "screen," on the inside lid of the cabinet, which is opened and tilted when in operation, enabling the spectators to view the images.

There are no retail price tags on the television sets. They are estimated to cost $500 or more. Reduction of the cost and of the number of control knobs from the present fourteen are two of the main problems the engineers hope to solve as a result of this experiment in the field.

How far the images will travel is said to be problematical. Generally the ultra-short waves are quasi-optical; they travel in the line of sight and are believed to go off the earth on a tangent at the horizon. Under this theory the broadcasts from the Empire State Building might be expected to reach a radius of thirty miles, but the engineers believe that under the impetus of ten kilowatts the "show" may wander below the horizon.

Those promoting the experiments stress that television is not ready for the home. It is experimental, and until they learn more of the secrets of science that now baffle them, television will remain in that category. They insist that television does not loom as a threat to the present broadcasting systems, and that television will not make present broadcast receivers obsolete.

The New York Times
Published: June 29, 1936
Copyright © The New York Times

WORLD FAIR RENTS DESIGN WORKSHOP

Its Construction Board Gets Most of the 80th Floor in Empire State Building.

MORE AIDES APPOINTED

Chicago Exhibition's Auditors Are Engaged—H. W. Thorne Made Director of Finance.

The board of design of seven architects and engineers which is to plan and supervise construction of the 1939 World's Fair will have as a workshop the greater part of the eightieth floor of the Empire State Building. The only other occupants of that floor, the top of the main building, are John J. Raskob and Pierre S. du Pont, who have the southern exposure.

Stephen F. Voorhees, president of the American Institute of Architects and chairman of the board of design, showed the 9,700 square feet of space to members of the executive committee yesterday, explaining the advantages of the unobstructed north light that comes in through eighteen windows.

From the east windows the designers will have a view of the fair site in Flushing Meadows, four miles away. The space has never been occupied and the walls will remain without plaster, Mr. Voorhees said.

Light From West to Be Shut Off

A few partitions will be put in to shut off the sunlight from the west, but otherwise the space will be open to allow for the proper display of designs and models which architects will submit for the board's approval.

Members of the executive committee who visited the quarters included Mortimer N. Buckner, chairman of the committee; Grover A. Whalen, president of the fair corporation; George McAneny, chairman of the board, and Matthew Woll. W. Earle Andrews, general superintendent of the Park Department, who has been named general manager of the fair corporation, accompanied the group.

Meeting later in the corporation's offices on the twenty-fourth floor, the executive committee appointed as auditors for the corporation the firm of Arthur Andersen & Co., 67 Wall Street, and as assistant treasurer and director of finance, Harold W. Thorne.

Mr. Whalen, announcing the selections, said the Andersen firm had been auditors for the Chicago Fair, and added:

"From their experience we intend to avoid any costly mistakes that might have been made in getting the Century of Progress under way."

Thorne an Industrial Engineer

Mr. Thorne is an industrial engineer who has held executive positions in industrial corporations and has had banking experience. His appointment was recommended by Harvey D. Gibson, president of the Manufacturers Trust Company and chairman of the fair corporation's finance committee, and by Bayard F. Pope, chairman of the advisory committee of the Marine Midland Trust Company and treasurer of the fair corporation.

Mr. Thorne was a vice chairman and assistant treasurer of the Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee when Mr. Gibson was in charge. He was formerly with the New York Trust Company and in 1933 and 1934 was president of the Holland Furnace Company, Holland, Mich. Recently he has acted as consultant to large banks in reorganization and budget matters, Mr. Whalen said.

Mr. Voorhees said he could not tell as yet how large a staff the board of design would have. He said the board would first have to work out the general theme of the fair and develop a master plan by Sept. 1. Then the designs of various buildings will be assigned to architectural firms. Serious consideration will be given to competitions for the designs of some buildings, he added.

The New York Times
Published: May 26, 1936
Copyright © The New York Times

LONGCHAMPS RENT IN EMPIRE ST

Restaurant Chain Takes Street Corner, Vacant S Building Was Built

The ground floor and bas comprising the Thirty-fourth and Fifth Avenue corner c Empire State Building, have leased as a unit to Longc Restaurant, Alfred E. Smith, dent of Empire State, Inc nounced yesterday. The space has been vacant since the building was erected in 1931.

The lease is for twenty-one years and involves an aggregate of $2,000,000. The lessee will immediately start construction of a modern restaurant in the quarters to seat more than 1,000 customers. It is expected to be opened about May 1, 1938.

The store space involved has frontages of eight-four feet on both Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street. The basement, directly underneath, consists of 25,000 square feet.

In announcing the lease, Mr. Smith said that the corner has been kept intact, not only for commercial reasons but because of his firm's respect for it as one of the most historically and sentimentally valued spots in the city, due to its association with old New York and with the old Waldorf-Astoria Hotel which long occupied the site.

Henry Lustig, president of Restaurants Longchamps, Inc., declared that the decor of this restaurant, the twelfth in his organization's chain in New York City, will be basically similar to that of its other establishments.

The new unit will be air-conditioned and a mezzanine will be constructed in the basement space and connected with the main floor by means of a wide stairway. This will be relieved at intervals by platforms so as to afford easy and comfortable access from the street level to the main dining space below.

The deal was negotiated by Mr. Smith; R. C. Brown, vice president, and H. Hamilton Weber, rental manager, representing the lessor, and Anton Trunk, broker, who represented the lessee.

The New York Times
Published: December 15, 1937
Copyright © The New York Times

ATOP THE CITY'S GREAT PEAK

People Looking Out From the Empire State Building Behave in Very Different Ways

By JULIA CHANDLER

WHAT do visitors see from the pinnacle of the Empire State Building? What are their reactions to the city from the world's highest tower? Nearly 3,000,000 people have visited the observatories since they were opened to the public in May, 1931. Every country in the world has been represented, and for each visitor the answers to these questions have probably been different.

To a famous aviator the stationary height was terrifying, while his wife, who cannot bear to fly, would have liked to climb all the way to the television aerials at the very tip of the tower—a height of 1,265 feet. Although the walls surrounding the outer terraces at the eighty-sixth-floor level are more than three feet high, the man who had flown thousands of miles stayed inside the glass-enclosed section of the observatories.

When Kata Ragoso, King of Morovo in the Solomon Isles, arrived at the terrace one afternoon the observatory employes and visitors were amazed, for no one like this giant chieftain, with his great shock of kinky hair and bare legs, had ever been seen in the heights above Fifth Avenue.

Quite indifferent to the interest and curiosity of the people who followed him from terrace to terrace, Ragoso abandoned himself to the pure joy of his experience. He gasped at his first sight of Manhattan stretched out like a tapestry beneath him. When he saw the stream of incoming and outgoing ships in New York Harbor he wrinkled his nose and laughed like a delighted child.

* * *

A YOUNG Mexican girl, driven to New York from her home in Texas, was glib enough about New York sights until she got to the top of the building. As she stood on the 102d floor terrace looking over the city, she trembled with emotion and cried. Not a word escaped her until she returned to the New York home where she was visiting. Finally she said she would "rather live in Texas. Everything here is so big it frightens me."

Last Summer, when Ruth Bryan Owen was married to Captain Boerge Rohde, aide to King Christian of Denmark, she carefully planned for her husband's first impressions of America. She included Niagara Falls and the Empire State Tower in their wedding trip. From the tower Captain Rohde saw the "most fascinating views" he had been afforded from any vantage point in America.

Something new in gate crashing occurred last Summer when two boys from Brooklyn knocked on the door at the eighty-sixth floor. A good-natured Irish guard investigated the clamor and was astonished to see who was making it and to learn that the youngsters had evaded all first-floor guards, found the stairway and walked up 2,240 steps.

One was a Scottish lad who arrived in this country shortly after the building was finished and the tower opened to the public. Ever since that time his one ambition had been to see the world from its great height. On the day he achieved it he pooled his last six cents with the funds of another boy who had a nickel. Thus they got from Brooklyn to New York. Impressed by their ingenuity, the guard gave them a personally conducted tour and at the end of an hour fished out a dime to pay their fare back to Brooklyn.

* * *

THERE is a new story to tell with almost every visitor. Pierre Laval, for example, was most impressed by the numerous bodies of water surrounding Manhattan. But of all the reactions, there is none so significant as that of Helen Keller, supposedly handicapped not only by blindness but born deaf and dumb.

In a letter written to Dr. John Finley just after her visit to the tower, Miss Keller thus described what she "saw":

"Standing there, 'twixt earth and sky, I saw a romantic edifice wrought by human brains and hands that is to the burning eye of the sun a rival luminary. I saw it stand erect and serene in the midst of storm and tumult of elemental commotion. I heard the hammer of Thor ring when the shaft began to rise upward. I saw the unconquerable steel, the flash of testing flames, the sword-like rivets. I heard the steel drills in pandemonium. I saw countless skilled workers welding together that mighty symmetry. I looked upon the marvel of frail yet indomitable hands that lifted the tower to its dominating height."

The New York Times
Published: January 17, 1937
Copyright © The New York Times

CALEDONIA'S CREW RISES ABOVE HEAT

Captain and Aides Seek a Refuge in Tower of the Empire State Building

THEN GO TO SWIM POOL

Reason Is Britishers Brought Only Heavy Uniforms and Rather Warm Tweeds

The captain and crew of the Imperial Airways flying boat Caledonia, which completed a westward survey flight for North Atlantic passenger and mail service Friday, spent their first full day in New York City yesterday seeking refuge from the heat at the bottom of the Hotel Shelton swimming pool and on the top of the Empire State Building.

Friends and well-wishers sought them for other sightseeing expeditions throughout the day, but the fliers took one look at the sizzling streets and expressed the collective opinion that if there was any comfort it probably would be on the top of the world's highest building.

Captain Arthur Sydney Wilcockson and his five companions faced the day with some misgivings yesterday, inasmuch as they had not been warned of the lofty temperatures of which this city is capable and had brought with them only their heavy blue service uniforms and equally heavy British tweeds. They chose the tweeds.

In the morning Captain Wilcockson conferred with officials of the Imperial Airways, while the members of his crew enjoyed a late sleep. All were the luncheon guests of Arthur S. Walty of the Hotel Shelton management, after which they were taken to the Empire State Building. The flyers expressed themselves pleased with the view of the city. None had ever been so high in the air except in a plane.

Captain Wilcockson and his companions then returned to the Shelton, where they spent the rest of the afternoon in the swimming pool. It was announced that they would dine at some unannounced restaurant and would be the guests of their countrywoman, Beatrice Lillie, at a performance of "The Show Is On" at the Winter Garden Theatre.

Engine experts will make the routine tests on the Caledonia at Manhasset Bay landing place at Port Washington today and several members of the crew may go to the field to assist in the check of the motors. The Caledonia probably will take off tomorrow morning for Montreal on its way to Newfoundland, where it will poise for the eastward transatlantic hop scheduled for Thursday. The Pan American Clipper III, commanded by Captain Harold E. Gray, will hop from Ireland on the westward flight on the same day.

The New York Times
Published: July 11, 1937
Copyright © The New York Times

THE WORLD'S FAIR IN MINIATURE COMES TO FIFTH AVENUE

John Burke, president of B. Altman & Co., just after he had cut the ribbon to open the model exhibit in the Empire State Building yesterday. On the right is Grover Whalen, president of the Fair. Also in the picture are Bert Lahr and several showgirls from a current Broadway musical revue.

IN MINIATURE FORM

Complete Model of Grounds and Buildings Exhibited at Empire State Corner

QUICKLY DRAWS CROWDS

Lighting Stunts Add Realism to Preview of Wonders of 'World of Tomorrow'

The first public portrayal of the 1939 World's Fair, in dazzling colors and minute detail, took place yesterday afternoon on the ground floor of the Empire State Building. When the miniature exhibit opened some 1,000 men, women and children jammed the Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street sidewalks, waiting to view the aqualons, trylon and perisphere, thermoarc, amusement center and other modeled features of the "World of Tomorrow."

Because of the Easter holiday scores of children were in the crowd that blocked pedestrian traffic. At 12:15 Grover A. Whalen and his committee appeared to cut a red, blue and orange ribbon, thus opening the exhibit to the public.

After photographers had finished posing Mitzi Mayfair, three costumed showgirls, Charles Walters and Bert Lahr, Mr. Whalen turned to John Burke, president of B. Altman & Co., and said:

"Mr. Burke, will you cut the ribbon that will allow the people to go into the World of Tomorrow?"

Five thousand square feet of space are used for the exhibit, occupying half a block on Fifth Avenue and several hundred feet along Thirty-fourth Street. Fourteen windows are crammed with drawings and models, giving the public an idea of what to expect two years hence.

The completed model, depicting the architectural form of the fair, with its 300 buildings, long avenues and new transportation lines, attracted major interest. With the aid of mercury vapor lamps and filters, a varicolored effect was produced and the visitors watched in amazement as day became night and dazzling lights danced majestically, soon to become subdued and restful, only to break out again in sparkling patterns.

As portrayed in miniature, the 000,000 visitors expected on the transformed Flushing meadows. Rest spots, designated as "Aqualons," are intended to be the last word in comfort and beauty. A realistic model attracted scores of visitors, with bubbling water brimming into a green basin, sparkling with green, blue and orange lights.

Another note of realism startled the unwary as the attendants courteously requested: "Keep off the grass, please; keep off the grass." Green shrubs, hedges, turf and blossoming cherry trees line the would soon be worn thin.

The attendants, wearing uniforms combining the colors and features of the Royal Canadian Northwest Mounted Police, the Texas Rangers and the New York police, pointed out the leading attractions. Miss Anne Harris, a helpful guide in a neat uniform, also assisted the visitors.

The exhibit is to remain open indefinitely. This week the public may inspect it from 12:30 to 2:30 and 3:30 to 7:30 P. M. The hours will be changed next week.

The New York Times
Published: March 30, 1937
Copyright © The New York Times

11 BOY CHORISTERS ARRIVE FROM LONDON

Youthful Group, Here for Tour, Sing for 100 Atop Empire State Building

Eleven English boy choristers, ranging in age from 11 to 16, three of whom sang at the coronation of King George VI, arrived here yesterday morning on the Red Star liner Pennland.

The boys, all students at the London Choir School, are here under the guidance of Carlton Borrow, director of the school, and Derek Inman, arranger of the tour, which will last for six months across the continent.

One of the objects of the tour, Mr. Barrow said, is to give "practical expression to the feeling of amity and concord between the two great English-speaking nations of the world, allowing young England to know America and America to know young England."

The choristers will present in the churches of America the traditional choral evensong service, as sung each Sunday in the cathedrals and churches of England.

Attired in their school frocks of black-peaked hats with a red border around them and blue coats and gray trousers, they went later to the top of the Empire State Building and on seeing the view could utter only "How amazing!"

Sixteen-year-old Vernon Charlwood, the oldest of the troupe, led the choristers through the Elizabethan madrigal, "Come Again," and the hymn "Oh! Lovely Night," by Praetorius. The boys, singing a cappella, were enthusiastically applauded by an audience of more than 100 persons who gathered around them in the observatory tower.

The New York Times
Published: October 27, 1937
Copyright © The New York Times

NORWAY'S ROYALTY GETS OVATION HERE

Prince Olav, Welcomed by the Mayor, Hails Friendship of His Country and U. S.

Away from home for the first time on a trans-Atlantic visit, the 35-year-old Crown Prince Olav of Norway and Crown Princess Martha arrived in New York yesterday after a series of trials which had no visible effect on their enthusiasm.

On their arrival the harbor was draped in a fog that caused several mishaps, one major and a couple of minor ones, but through it all they smiled and rushed to fulfill a schedule that had been disrupted.

Because of the fog and because the Norwegian America liner Oslofjord on which they arrived rammed and sank a pilot boat about one mile outside Ambrose Channel at 6:24 A. M.—the Prince was in his bath at the time—they reached the Battery nearly two hours late, but Prince Olav got through a municipal greeting with all honors in time to be reasonably punctual at a luncheon at the Bankers Club shortly after 1 P. M.

The Oslofjord, creeping through the fog despite an engagement between Mayor La Guardia and the royal party at City Hall at 10 A. M., ran into the pilot boat Sandy Hook and sank it. Thereafter caution was redoubled.

Committee Goes Down Bay

Meanwhile a committee had gone down the bay in the municipal boat Riverside to welcome the visitors. It included Ole Singstad, Stanley H. Howe, the Mayor's executive secretary, as his official representative; George T. Summerlin, Chief of Protocol of the State Department; Lieut. Col. Harold M. Taynor of the United States Army, and Commander Greene W. Dugger of the United States Navy; the Norwegian Minister, Wilhelm Morgenstierne; Consul General Rolf A. Christensen and Major S. J. Arnesen.

Also down the bay was the United States Coast Guard cutter Hudson with a contingent of newspaper men and photographers, and the excursion steamer Belle Island, with more than 1,000 singing, shouting and tooting Norwegian-Americans who wanted to show their interest in the visit of the Crown Prince of a former homeland.

All three craft milled around in the fog and finally wound up at Quarantine. There, with the Belle Island hovering off in the fog, they awaited the arrival of the Oslofjord. It came eventually, a slow gray wraith that gradually took shape,

Continued on Page Three

The New York Times
Published: April 28, 1939
Copyright © The New York Times

THE FIRST OF EUROPEAN ROYALTY ARRIVES IN NEW YORK TO ATTEND THE WORLD'S FAIR

Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Martha of Norway on board the city's welcoming boat Riverside, which took them off the Norwegian America liner Oslofjord at Quarantine on their arrival here yesterday.

Times Wide World

Mayor La Guardia greeting the Crown Prince as he reached the Battery, whence he was escorted to City Hall for official ceremonies.

NORWAY'S ROYALTY GETS OVATION HERE

Continued From Page One

and then the Riverside pulled alongside.

A ladder was lowered after considerable difficulty and the committee of welcome, about ten in all, climbed aboard from the starboard side, with practically the entire passenger list lining the rail and watching. To starboard, off the Riverside, were the Coast Guard cutters Hudson, Navesink and Tuckahoe, and beyond them the Belle Island, all its passengers on the side toward the Oslofjord. On the excursion boat there were the sounds of many voices being led in song by one voice using an amplifier.

Preceded by a retinue of white-coated stewards, carrying sixteen pieces of hand luggage and a small trunk, the welcoming committee and finally their own party, came the royal visitors. They stopped on the ladder, waved and grinned and waved again while the camera men flashed bulb after bulb. Finally they stepped upon the deck of the Riverside, on which a red plush carpet had been spread for them.

Just before this procession began the Police Department band in the bow of the Riverside played first the "Ekko van Nordan" and then "The Star-Spangled Banner." In the intervals across from the Belle Island came the sounds of human voices, first in song and then in a repeated word until it became chantlike, "Olav—Olav—Olav," the "o" pronounced as in "who."

Their Royal Highnesses stepped upon the Riverside and one of the silk-hatted men in the party lost his topper. It fell on the red plush carpet, newly swept. Crown Princess Martha stooped to pick it up, but her husband beat her to it. The hat was restored.

Ushered Into a Cabin

They were ushered into a cabin on the top deck of the Riverside. It soon became thronged beyond capacity—originally it had been planned to have a press interview aboard the Oslofjord, but the press of lost time canceled that.

Someone asked the Prince why he had come to America and he said it was "a handshake from the Norwegian democracy to the American nation." The Riverside was now under way and the harbor was filled with craft. One of them blew its whistle and whatever other words went with his hearty smile were inaudible.

A reporter then asked if the Prince had been upset by the crash with the Sandy Hook. "I was in my bath," he said, "and I didn't see anything."

He waited until the whistles subsided, then remarked: "This is a very fine reception, and it's a very noisy one, isn't it?"

Just after he boarded the Riverside, some one in the Prince's behalf handed around to newspaper men a typewritten statement. It said:

"It is with great pleasure that we, the Crown Princess and myself, have been watching our landfall and have admired the beautiful skyline of Manhattan.

"There is a phrase which has often been misused and that is the following: 'Speaking in the name of the whole nation—' but I do not hesitate to use this phrase in the meaning that the Crown Princess and I represent the whole Norwegian people regardless of class, political party or age when we extend to the United States of America and its people our most hearty and cordial greetings, begging you to consider our visit a sincere act of good-will and as a handshake from Norwegian democracy to the American nation."

In the Prince's party were Major Nicolai R. Oestergaard and Mrs. Oestgaard, Captain Nils A. Ramm and Mrs. Ramm. Mrs. Oestgaard is lady in waiting to the Crown Princess.

The Crown Princess was dressed in a pale gray dress of heavy crêpe with a V-style neckline, a "Gainsborough" hat of the same material with flowing ostrich plumes, gray kid shoes to match, a sable dyed ermine coat which flowered on its right lapel in exotic pink and gray orchids. She wore three strings of matched pearls and pendant eardrops of turquoise ringed with diamonds.

Mayor La Guardia had waited for them at City Hall until, at about 11 A. M., when the landing was more than an hour late, he went to Pier A. As he and Mrs. La Guardia, with Controller Joseph McGoldrick waited there, the Riverside passed Governors Island and three guns at Fort Jay boomed out a salute of twenty-one guns while one of the city's fireboats put on a display of water spray. Manhattan's towers emerged bit by bit from the fog.

The royal party was landed at Pier A and the Mayor greeted them. Close by him were Mrs. Ogden Reid, Mrs. August Belmont and Mrs. Sidney Borg. Mr. Howe introduced the Crown Prince and Crown Princess as follows: "Mr. Mayor, their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Norway." The Mayor shook hands, saying "I welcome you to New York City."

He had business in Albany and left as rapidly as possible. Meanwhile, with police band, a mounted escort and a long procession of cars, the royal party went up Broadway to City Hall, where Vice Mayor Henry H. Curran greeted them officially. In response to Mr. Curran's greeting the Prince made a short speech in which he said:

"New York City, the scene of the first American Congress 150 years ago, remains a mighty monument of American efforts, an imperial city indeed, with a history so dramatic and so strongly marked by speed and efficiency that it reads like a fairy tale. But above all, New York City is the everlasting monument of the peaceful work of each individual and the cooperative effort of all its inhabitants—the solid base of all progress and the best starting point for the program you have chosen for the World's Fair—building the World of Tomorrow. I have no fear that these hopes shall not be fulfilled in spite of the troubled times of the world at large which have hampered the natural progress of every country.

Eager to See Country

"I said that millions upon millions of men and women had come to New York, eager to learn the conditions of the new world. So do we. We have arrived today on a good-will visit, eager to see your country and with the best intentions to strengthen the ancient bonds of friendship between our nations.

"We feel happy that we shall be able to visit the President of the United States and Mrs. Roosevelt at Hyde Park. And we feel glad that our visit in New York coincides with the opening of the World's Fair, and an historical event in which Norway, too, is taking part. Norway has felt that to be represented at the Fair is a national duty and a national honor, because you will hardly find a Norwegian who has no kinsfolk in the United States.

"Norway is proud of having contributed, through hundreds of thousands of her best sons and daughters—now good American citizens—to the building of this country and this city. Norway is glad of being able to enrich her own cultural life through American achievements. And lastly, but not lastly, Norway as a trade-loving and seafaring nation, with perhaps the greatest volume of international trade per individual in the world, is proud of striving for peaceful relations, and for good-will among nations and for international prosperity and freedom."

Times Wide World

Norwegians in native costume welcoming the royal couple

From City Hall they dashed to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel and then the Prince hurried back downtown for the luncheon at the Bankers Club. In the afternoon he and the Crown Princess were the guests of former Governor Alfred E. Smith in the Empire State Building. Looking over the parapet of the eighty-sixth floor, Princess Martha exclaimed, "Oh, how much like London." Most of the view was blanketed by fog.

Leaving the Empire State Building, the royal party drove past Rockefeller Center, across 57th St., north on the West Side Highway as far as Fort Tryon Park, in Upper Manhattan, obtaining a glimpse of the George Washington Bridge en route, and viewing the Cloisters. On the return trip they drove past the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, at 168th Street and Broadway, Morningside Park and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

They visited the Metropolitan Museum in the afternoon and at 5 P. M. received nearly 200 members of the Norwegian-American committee active in making arrangements for their American visit. In the evening the Prince entertained privately a small group of old friends, and Crown Princess Martha was the dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Boomer of the Waldorf.

Today the Crown Prince and the Crown Princess will sail up the Hudson River on the Presidential yacht Potomac for a visit to President and Mrs. Roosevelt at Hyde Park. They will return by motor car on Sunday morning by way of West Point.

At the Bankers Club the Prince expressed himself as "being pleased to meet and break bread with," a group of "Americans whose names are known round the world." The small group to whom he addressed himself included Owen D. Young, Junius Morgan, Winthrop Rockefeller, Frederick E. Williamson, Gordon S. Rentschler and Solomon R. Guggenheim.

At the luncheon H. A. Cappelen Smith of Guggenheim Brothers was the host, and there were no speeches except a few words in which Mr. Smith expressed the pleasure of the club at having Prince Olav for a guest so soon after his arrival, and his short response.

In Norway a major industry is the cutting and manufacture of Norwegian spruce. Although much of the spruce cut is manufactured in Norway—recent contracts have provided for the shipment of Norwegian newsprint to Midwest American newspapers—some of it is processed into cellulose bats in Germany. This cellulose finds its way into the world market.

In the event of any economic encirclement of Germany, Norwegian industry would be pressed to find the means to continue this industry at full speed in what the Prince, in his earlier statement, at City Hall, called a "trade-loving and seafaring nation, with perhaps the greatest volume of international trade per individual in the world."

The New York Times
Published: April 28, 1939
Copyright © The New York Times

'STATIC-LESS' RADIO TO BE TESTED HERE

Broadcasting to Be Started by NBC and Bell Laboratories on Short Wave Lengths

EVEN THUNDER CONQUERED

Frequency Modulation Station Planned Atop Empire State Building

Plans are being made for extensive testing here of "static-less" or "frequency-modulation" broadcasting by the National Broadcasting Company and the Bell Telephone Laboratories, as soon as the Federal Communication Commission gives the necessary construction permits, it became known yesterday.

Static-less broadcasting, compared with the usual kind of broadcasting known as "amplitude," has become synonymous in the last few years with the name of Major Edwin H. Armstrong, radio inventor and Professor of Electrical Engineering at Columbia University.

As demonstrated by Major Armstrong with his special radio transmitter, W2XMN, at Alpine, N. J., and special receivers designed for the system, atmospherics virtually have ceased to be a problem. The program is always clear.

On numerous occasions during thunder storms, he has shown that a program can remain clear despite the noises of nature. The Armstrong method is confined to operation on the short wave lengths because a wider track or roadway, available only on short waves, is required to gain the desired result of high quality and noiseless reception.

W2XMN works on about seven meters, or 42.8 megacycles.

If the FCC approves, a 1,000-watt frequency-modulation station will be installed on one of the top floors of the Empire State Building, and be operated through a series of tests to uncover other advantages the method may hold for broadcasting, according to O. B. Hanson, NBC vice president and chief engineer. The NBC channel will be 42.6 megacycles, adjacent that of W2XMN at Alpine. Application for the station was filed on July 19.

The Bell Laboratories station will be installed at Whippany, N. J., where a corps of engineers will study the "frequency-modulation" problem in all its angles, independently of the work of other experimenters, it was said.

Other applications now before the FCC, all on the Armstrong system, include a station for Stromberg-Carlson Telephone Manufacturing Company, at Rochester, N. Y.; the Traveler Company, Hartford; The Milwaukee Journal and The Worcester (Mass.) Telegram. Construction permits have been issued to various other experimenters both here and in the Middle West. Besides W2XMN at Alpine, three or more other stations are transmitting daily from various New England points.

The New York Times
Published: August 16, 1939
Copyright © The New York Times

SKYSCRAPER SPACE ATTRACTS TENANTS

Store and Office Locations Are Leased to Several in Empire State Building

SHOE FIRM RENTS SHOP

Quarters in 386 Fourth Ave. Engaged by the American Jewish Committee

Leases of business space reported yesterday included several contracts for quarters in the Empire State Building. H. Hamilton Weber, rental manager, announced that the Nettleton Shoe Company would open a store on the Thirty-third Street side of the building.

Offices in the skyscraper were taken by the following concerns: The Manufacturers Discount Corporation, Mercantile Petroleum Products, Inc., the Chemical Sales Corporation, the Men's Apparel Quality Guild, the Al-Lon Manufacturing Company, First National Homes, Inc., Blue Swan Mills, Inc., Sbicca Del'Mac, Inc., Kahn-Vreeland Hosiery, Inc., the Kover-Lips Corporation and M. Jackson of Hollywood Fashions.

Empire State Building tenants who took additional space include the Berkshire Knitting Mills, the Oakbrook Hosiery Company, Weisbaum Brothers & Brower, the Alligator Company, Wembly, Inc., and Kanebo, Inc.

The American Jewish Committee leased the fifteenth and part of the sixteenth floor in 386 Fourth Avenue, northwest corner of Twenty-seventh Street, for its executive, editorial, publishing and research offices. It also will use some of the space for a library, according to Spear & Co., brokers, who arranged the lease with the owner of the building, the 386 Fourth Avenue Corporation, Aaron Rabinowitz, president. Strook & Strook, attorneys, represented the American Jewish Committee.

Other leases follow:

Joseph L. Pani, space for restaurant in 26 E 63d St; Louis Lent & Son, brokers.

Robert L. Demarest, Inc, handkerchiefs; Hadley Hosiery, Couture Fabrics, Jennaro Coiffeurs, John Hof, real estate; the Sea Cliff Water Co, Dow-Jones & Co, Harry Schecter and Benjamin Maybloom, in 244 Madison Ave; J. Chr. G. Hupfel Co, broker.

Rosine Textile Printing Corp, in 136 W 22d St; Lou Halpern Co, ladies underwear, in 31 E 31st St, through Williams & Co; Bastine & Co, brokers.

Metro Metal Crafts, Inc, gold and silver metalware, additional space in 406 W 31st St; Morgan & Barry, Inc, brokers.

Clyde Whiteley, restaurant, double store at 12 W 60th St; Bracher & Hubert, brokers.

Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Co, double store at 26 W 125th St; Porter & Co, brokers.

Airtemp-New York Co, air-conditioning machines, in 646 1st Ave; Vought, Campbell, Ward & Co, brokers.

Michael Todd, theatrical producer, in RKO Building, Rockefeller Center.

Shaw & Davis, Inc, jewelers, in 342 Madison Ave; Adrea Baker, additional space in 240 Madison Ave; Joseph Diigor, in 1,650 Broadway; Herbert McLean Purdy Management Corp, broker.

Kennedy & Scheidel Corp, plumbers, in 209 E 45th St through E. S. Willard & Co; Anna Buckland and Mollie Brown, restaurant, in 863 2d Ave; Fish-Schurman Corp, Ostrex Co, Inc, and E. Frederics, Inc, additional space in 801 2d Ave; Hopeman Bros, Inc, additional space in 19 E 47th St; Continental Realty Investing Co, broker.

R. H. Johnson & Co, stock brokers; Semworth Service, securities, in 64 Wall St; William A. White & Sons, brokers.

Industrial Insurance Agents, in 5 Beekman St; James F. Durnell Co and Harold E. Wolff, brokers.

Thomas E. Murray Jr, receiver for the I. R. T., in 15 Park Row; Sugarman Headwear Co, in 478 Broadway; F. D. Croce & Co, entire building at 386 Washington St; Rundback-Chapman Co, in 1,949 Broadway; D. Maxon & Co, in 11 E 36th St; City Photo Engraving Corp, in 250 W 54th St; Mitsui Bank, Ltd, in 61 Broadway; Griggs, Baldwin & Griggs, in 225 Broadway; Parmelee System, Inc, in 1,775 Broadway; renewals by Charles F. Noyes Co, brokers.

Abraham Fisher shoes, building at 2,991 3d Ave; S. F. Julius, cigars and stationery, store at northwest corner of 163d St and Southern Blvd; J. Clarence Davies, Inc, broker.

The New York Times
Published: March 10, 1939
Copyright © The New York Times

SALVATION ARMY HAILED BY SMITH

Reception Atop Empire State Building Is Part of 'Friendly Day' Observances

WEATHER HALTS PARADE

But Other Ceremonies to Aid $500,000 Campaign Are Held as Scheduled

Despite the unfriendliness of the weather, the Salvation Army "Friendly Day" was observed throughout the city yesterday, as leaders in municipal and business life joined in assisting the Army's campaign for $500,000.

Headed by Walter Hoving, chairman of the Salvation Army's Citizens Committee, officials of the organization and others numbering nearly 200, were received in the afternoon, atop the Empire State Building by former Governor Alfred E. Smith. In a brief ceremony Mr. Hoving referred to the former Governor as "New York's friendliest citizen." Responding, Mr. Smith said that "typical New Yorker suits me fine, because if you are a typical New Yorker you are a tolerant person."

Stresses Need for Tolerance

"The world needs tolerant people today," Mr. Smith continued. "It needs people who know how to live and let live, people who know every man has an inallenable right to live, worship and earn his living in his own way."

"We don't like people who want to interfere with other peoples' religions. That's why we like the Salvation Army here in New York. It helps everybody when they need help; and it doesn't stop to ask if they are Catholics, Jews or Protestants when it steps in and gives them a bed and a meal."

After the ceremonies, five sightseeing buses took the party on a tour of the Bowery, Chinatown and the lower East Side waterfront. Visits also were made to the Salvation Army Home and Hospital at 318 East Fifteenth Street and the Army's settlement and nursery on Cherry Street. Returning, the group was greeted at Radio City by Borough President Stanley M. Isaacs of Manhattan.

Ceremony at Rockefeller Center

Originally the tour was to have ended with the Army's New York corps parading from Fourteenth Street to the Rockefeller Center Sunken Garden, where a community sing was to have been held. The inclement weather caused this to be canceled, however, and the ceremonies were conducted and broadcast in a National Broadcasting Company studio.

In praising the work of the Salvation Army in New York, Mr. Isaacs said it was easier to be friendless here than in most places.

"But," he added, "there is no place in the world where a man who is down has a better chance of being helped back on his feet than he has in New York."

Mr. Hoving, the Salvation Army staff band, Colonel John J. Allen, Jean Tennyson and Lanny Ross also took part in the ceremonies at the Center.

The Rev. Dr. Henry Darlington, at the morning services in the Church of the Heavenly Rest, Ninetieth Street and Fifth Avenue, was among those urging their congregations to observe "Friendly Day."

Newbold Morris, president of the City Council, reviewed in a radio address last night the various ceremonies held earlier and urged support for the Army's drive.

The New York Times
Published: March 13, 1939
Copyright © The New York Times

CITY AREAS SHARE IN BUSINESS LEASES

Provident Insurance Company Takes Large Space in Empire State Building

NINE GO INTO 70 PINE ST.

Suite Rented to Importer of Jewels in Maison Francaise, Rockefeller Center

Most sections of the city shared in the business leasing activity reported by brokers yesterday although the midtown and downtown vicinities accounted for the bulk of the business.

Among the organizations said to have taken space were an insurance company, an importer of precious stones, clothing firms, a commercial artist, a manufacturer of air-conditioning equipment and an assembler of photographic murals.

At the Empire State Building, 350 Fifth Avenue, large quarters were leased to the Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia for a district insurance office to be under the direction of Fred Brandwein. H. Hamilton Weber, rental manager of Empire State, Inc., negotiated the lease.

At La Maison Francaise in Rockefeller Center, a large suite of offices was leased to Rogert Wurmser, Inc., importer of precious stones, through A. Sheldon Jaffe, broker.

At 70 Pine Street, the following nine firms were reported to have leased space: Franklyn Rogers, McLaughlin & McLaughlin, Stuart Seymour, Orofino & Lamberton, Harry J. B. Hughes, Robert H. Spelman, Maurice Singer, Elias Schwartz and Laufler, and Murphy & Memson.

In the same building, additional quarters were leased to Nye A. Wimer, Emilio Nunez, Church & Dwight, Goldfields American Development Company, Ltd., Frank Miller and Albert Graef & Co., Inc. Details of other leases follow:

National Pulp and Paper Co, in 342 Madison Ave; U. S. Cloth Cutting Machine Co, Inc, in 231-49 W 29th St; Isidore Aaronson, in 3-5-7 W 22d St, renewals; Harbert McLean Purdy Management Corp, broker.

Leonard Fountain, Inc, store, in 1,179 Broadway; Charles F. Noyes Co, Inc, broker.

Paul C. Virdons, commercial artist, in 130 Lexington Ave; James Felt & Co, Inc, brokre.

W. B. Connor Engineering Corp, manufacturer of mechanical and air-conditioning equipment, through William A. White & Sons, store, in 318 E 23d St; Beaty Manufacturing Co, calendars and novelties, through Charles E. Duross & Sons, floor, in 11 W 20th St; Morris Kaminowitz, cotton and leather novelties, floor, in 39 E 12th St; Phillips Co, leather goods, floor, in 42 W 15th St; Bastine & Co, Inc, agents.

Frank A. Jacobsen, photographic murals, floor, in 351-5 52d St; Robert Alfred Nugent, floor covering, in 23-25 E 26th St; Barth Feinberg, Inc, floor, in 5-9 Union Square; Carstens, Linnekin & Wilson, Inc, broker.

Anne Thom, beauty parlor, renewals, floor, in 849 Lexington Ave; Jennie Marion, ladies' coats, floor, in 553 5th Ave, Brooklyn; Laco Woodworking, Inc, cabinetmaker, floor, in 300 Pacific St, Brooklyn; Henry B. Root, Inc, broker.

Weisman Frocks, Inc, dresses; Ronne Junior Frocks Co, dresses, in 101 W 37th St; Hagi Frocks, dresses, in 134 W 37th St; National Flower Co, flowers, in 25 W 38th St; Harry Reiman, coats and suits, in 230 W 38th St; Spear & Co, Inc, broker.

Louis J. Fried, securities; Lack, Stern & Rosoff, real estate; Leon L. Torgman, attorney, in 261 Broadway; Pine & Leiner, attorneys and accountants; H. Schemaria Berlin, real estate and insurance; Alvin Engell, process service agency, in Knickerbocker Building, Broadway and 42d St; Adams & Co, Inc, broker.

Gilda Corp of America, Inc, of Binghamton, in Empire State Building, 350 5th Ave; M. M. Shulman Co, broker.

Arteraft Carpet Service Corp, in 19-27 W 21st St; Max Brandes, furs, in 134-40 W 29th St; Joseph Manufacturing Co, boys' clothing, in 17-21 E 22d St; M. & L. Hess, Inc, broker.

The New York Times
Published: March 28, 1939
Copyright © The New York Times

TRACES THE SKYSCRAPER

City Museum, in Exhibit, Shows Growth of Tall Buildings

The Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Avenue between 103d and 104th Streets, will open to the public today a special exhibition illustrating "The Evolution of Skyscrapers in New York."

The progress of the skyscraper is shown by a collection of more than seventy prints, drawings, photographs and models, many lent by architects and owners of various buildings, and some from the museum's permanent collection.

The exhibition shows that the Tower Building, 50 Broadway, completed in 1889, was the first structure in the city to utilize the principle of the "steel-skeleton" type of construction.

The exhibition traces the development of the city's tall buildings from The World Building and the Flatiron Building to the Chrysler Building and the Empire State Building. The exhibition has been arranged for the duration of the World's Fair.

The New York Times
Published: May 26, 1939
Copyright © The New York Times

SMITH HAILS HORSEWOMEN

Welcomes Rodeo Girls on Tower of Empire State Building

Alfred E. Smith was host yesterday afternoon to seven Texas-sponsored rodeo girls and their chaperones on the observatory tower of the Empire State Building. The young Texans, who were chosen among débutantes throughout the State both for their looks and horsemanship, were accompanied by Colonel John R. Kirkpatrick, president of Madison Square Garden.

The former Governor, wearing a blue overcoat and a brown derby, first welcomed the party in a radio broadcast over station WHN. Next he exchanged his derby for a large cowboy sombrero worn by Peggy Minnick, 16 years old, from Crowell, Texas. Then on the terrace of the building he described one by one the important buildings in the metropolitan area.

The girls, Fay Cowdan, Anna Belle and Mary Edwards, Elisabeth Miller, Fern Sawyer, Faye Marburger and Miss Minnick, wore black and white, green and brown riding outfits decorated with leather frills.

The New York Times
Published: October 20, 1939
Copyright © The New York Times

A. & P. LEASES PLOT FOR NEW TAXPAYER

Buildings at 264-6 First Ave. Will Be Razed for Store to Be Ready July 1

CLOTHIERS RENT OFFICES

Hickey-Freeman Firm Plans Uptown Move Into Empire State Building

Plans for a one-story taxpayer to be erected on the site of the buildings at 264-6 First Avenue, near Fifteenth Street, were announced yesterday when the property was leased by the trustees of the Leake & Watts Orphan House to the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company.

The proposed building, from plans by Voorhees, Walker, Foley & Smith, architects, will be occupied solely by the A. & P. for a supermarket and will be ready about July 1. The Mark Groskin Company and H. Stanley Hillyer, Inc., were the brokers in the deal.

Another lease of business quarters involves the removal of the offices of the Hickey-Freeman Company, men's clothing manufacturers of Rochester, N. Y., from quarters farther south on Fifth Avenue to larger space on the twenty-fourth floor of the Empire State Building. H. Hamilton Weber, rental manager of the building, announced the lease.

Stores formed the bulk of other activity. The leases follow:

J. J. Augustin Publishing Corp, in 141 E 29th St through Morgan & Barry; Zecca-Bruni Mirror Mfg Co, in 306 E 59th St; Ray-Proof Corp, in 330 E 26th St; Marc Jean Reinou, antiques, in 159 E 54th St; Emil Recke, in 350 W 52d St; Henry B. Root, Inc, broker.

Steelitho Plate Corp, lithographic supplies, store in 144 W 18th St through Dwight, Voorhis & Hemsley; Panoramic Radio Corp, research on radio and airplane beacons, in 298 Broadway; M. Kirschner & Son, furriers, in 231 W 29th St; Walter Gluck, furs, in 40 W 36th St; Adams & Co, brokers.

Graves Jewelers, Inc, store in 1,193 6th Ave; Herbert McLean Purdy Management Corp, brokers.

United Retail and Wholesale Employes of America, in 100 W 42d St; George A. Bowman, broker.

I. Stern & Co, precious metals, in 233 Spring St; Spear & Co, brokers.

B & C Insulation Products, in 22 W 21st St; Maurice Kafka, textiles, in 22 W 21st St; Moskowitz Sons, Inc, curtains and draperies; Rosenberg & Kelman, sportswear, in 34 W 27th St; Byrne, Bowman & Forshay, brokers.

Leonard Bright, in 104 5th Ave; H Z Sportswear Corp, in 48 W 27th St; Edgar Brindisi, in 23 E 26th St; Carstens, Linnekin & Wilson, brokers.

The New York Times
Published: April 5, 1940
Copyright © The New York Times

IMPORTERS LEASE DOWNTOWN SPACE

Holland Colombo Trading Co. Rents Half a Floor at 33 Rector Street

SKYSCRAPER GETS TENANTS

Ten Sign for Quarters in the Empire State Building—Other Activity

The Holland Colombo Trading Company, dealer in rubber, tapioca, spices and other Far Eastern products, has leased half a floor in the building at 33 Rector Street for New York offices through William A. White & Co., brokers. The main offices of the concern are in London.

Ten new tenants have been added to the roster of the Empire State Building, according to H. Hamilton Weber, rental manager. Included are the All-States Steel Corporation, Metro Glass Containers, Inc., Lee I. Robinson Hosiery Mills, Inc., Jackson Hosiery Company, McCrary Hosiery Mills, Inc., L-F & D Equipment Company, General Public Loan Corporation, Steiner-Geiss, Inc., H. G. Vick and H. L. Weyde and Joseph F. Kelly. Leases for additional space in the structure have been signed with the Wytheville Knitting Mills, Inc., E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Shawinigan Products Corporation and Lustre Fibres, Ltd.

Other commercial leasing follows:

M. Lehrer, millinery, through Empire Real Estate Co, store in 580 5th Ave; Ruford D. Franklin, owner's representative.

Sam Poltarak, textile retailer, Minnie Carmichael, dressmaking and millinery, stores in s e c 6th Ave and 56th St; I. E. Winikoff, bakery, store in 551 9th Ave; Tankoos, Smith & Co, brokers.

Singer Sewing Machine Co, Inc, two stores in 1358 3d Ave; Brett, Wyckoff, Potter, Hamilton, Inc. brokers.

Allcraft Drapery Co, Inc, floor in 158-60 W 22d St; Joseph Wallman, floor coverings, store in 151 Amsterdam Ave; James Felt & Co, Inc, brokers.

George A. Stewart, in 114-120 Greenwich St; Solistan Rugs, Inc, in 833 Broadway; Carstens, Linnekin & Wilson, Inc, brokers.

Benjamin Kushnick, cigars and stationery, store in 215 Columbus Ave; Haggstrom-Callen-Davis Co, Inc, brokers.

Distributing and Trading Co, Inc, petroleum by-products, through The Cross & Brown Co, in 444 Madison Ave; Royce Printing Co, in 61-5 Cliff St; Payne & Walsh Corp, printing machinery, store and basement in 100 Beekman St; Wm A. White & Sons, brokers.

Brandell Kenmore, in 72-6 Cortlandt St; and renewals with Mantle Machinery and Patents Co, Inc, in 27-33 W 20th St; and Arthur M. Nagel, in 24-6 E 21st St; M & L Hess, Inc, brokers.

Alberto Ubbelohde, Inc, exporter of steel products, in 2 Rector St; Cushman & Wakefield, brokers.

The New York Times
Published: October 17, 1940
Copyright © The New York Times

SKYSCRAPER GETS 15 MORE TENANTS

Mills Are Among Concerns Taking Space in Empire State Building

SIX ENLARGE QUARTERS

Other Activity in Business Leasing Field Is Reported by Agents

The names of fifteen new tenants were added yesterday to the roster of the Empire State Building, H. Hamilton Weber, rental manager of Empire State, announced. Six concerns already occupying space in the skyscraper at Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street signed leases expanding their quarters.

The new tenants are Barbour Mills, Frank A. Tinklepaugh, Blue Line Hosiery Mills, Kramer Bros., Chalfont Hosiery Mills, Dutchess Underwear Corporation, Joseph F. Ryan, S. Buchsbaum & Co., Howard S. Hammond, Warren Featherbone Company, Lilac Candy Shoppe, J. J. Carlin, Lester R. Samuels, Ragan-Maurice Mills and the Liberty Hosiery Mills.

Additional space was taken by the following: Charles Chipman's Sons Company, Excelsior-Varsity Underwear Corporation, S. D. Arrowood & Co., Trubenizing Process Corporation, Men's Apparel Reporter and the Hickock Manufacturing Company.

A floor in the City Club Building at 55 West Forty-fourth Street was leased by Gilliam & McVay, brokers, to the Phi Sigma Delta Fraternity for clubrooms.

Other leases of business quarters follow:

Braagaard, Inc, women's hats, in 17 W 57th St; Payson McL. Merrill Co, broker.

Dr. Albert H. Aldridge, in 895 Park Ave through Douglas Elliman & Co; Culver, Holiyday & Co, brokers.

Sealright Co, in New York Central Building, 230 Park Ave.

Joseph Weider, Abraham M. Hirsch and Jacob M. Hirsch, in 1440 Broadway; Wholesale Hardware, Crockery & House Furnishing Specialties Union, in 1860 Broadway; Turbanwav Corp, in 270 Madison Ave; Emanuel Balagur, in 531 7th Ave; Detroit Vapor Stove Division, Borg Warner Corp, in 114 E 32d St; Marshal Coleman, Inc, in 6 E 39th St; Henry F. Branstater and Kenneth E. Hammond; Frank Marro & Co, in 7 E 44th St; Louis C. Holman, Isidor Weinstien, in 17 W 34th St; James R. Biggs, in 220 W 42d St; National Dental Supply Co, in 220 W. 42d St; Civil Service Reform Ass'n, in 67 W 44th St; Herman Liebowitz, in 156 Center St; Noel Art Studio, in 225 5th Ave; Hilborn-Hamburger, Inc, in 15 E 26th St; Joseph Tawil, in 17 W 34th St; Air & Refrigeration Corp, in 475 5th Ave through Pease & Elliman; Cross & Brown Co, broker.

Traffic Refreshment Co, ice cream, in 172 West End Ave; Haggstrom-Callen-Davis Co, broker.

Haskell Printing & Distributing Co; Angus Mackey, coffee broker; Sam Lerner and Fanny Cohen, vests, in 817 Broadway; Jacques Safier & Co, diamonds; Miss Keturah Blakely, photographic laboratory, in 2 W 46th St; Harry S. Bick, jewelry, in 542 5th Ave; Brown, Wheelock, Harris, Stevens, Inc, brokers.

The New York Times
Published: April 2, 1941
Copyright © The New York Times

Guard Kidnapped, Robbed of $6,084 Payroll As He Leaves Empire State Building Bank

At the height of the pedestrian rush outside the Empire State Building on Thirty-third Street yesterday morning at 9:45 o'clock, Stanley R. Korzynski, 27-year-old armed guard of the Burns Detective Agency, was kidnapped and robbed of a $6,084 payroll. The two thugs drove Korzynski across the Queensboro Bridge to Long Island City, where he was released.

A few minutes before the hold-up the guard had removed the payroll from the Manufacturers Trust Company Bank branch in the Empire State Building for the Mangel Stores, Inc., of 1115 Broadway. As he left the bank, about fifty feet west of Fifth Avenue, one thug approached him from the rear and pressed what appeared to be a gun against Korzynski's back.

An automobile drew up at the curb and Korzynski, still holding the bag, was told, "Don't pull the string or it will be too bad for you; get into that car." According to Captain Conrad Rothengast, who investigated, the string when pulled sets off a tear-gas bomb in the bag and also several loud reports equivalent to shots fired by a .45-caliber gun.

Korzynski told Captain Rothengast that the thugs took a loaded .38-caliber revolver from him during the ride. He said one of them sat next to him in the rear of the car while the other drove, and there was no conversation.

He said he was ordered out of the automobile at Hunter's Point Avenue and Thirty-first Place, Long Island City, and immediately telephoned the Burns agency at 270 Lexington Avenue. The Long Island City police referred the case back to the West Thirtieth Street station, where Captain Rothengast took charge of the investigation.

The New York Times
Published: May 10, 1941
Copyright © The New York Times

OPA LEASES SPACE IN EMPIRE STATE

Will Occupy 5 Floors to Take Care of Its Growing Needs in the War Program

TO MOVE OFFICES IN MAY

Accommodations for 650 Are Provided—Agency Likely to Expand Further

To take care of the steadily expanding requirements of the Office of Emergency Management under the war program, the Federal agency has leased large space in the Empire State Building for occupancy by the New York regional office of the Office of Price Administration, Sylvan Joseph, regional director of OPA, announced yesterday.

The lease, signed with Empire State, Inc., headed by former Governor Alfred E. Smith, calls for the eventual occupancy by the OPA of five floors, the forty-second to forty-sixth, inclusive, in the skyscraper to give the price-control group more than twice the space now occupied by the regional offices at 122 East Forty-second Street. This would amount to 80,000 square feet.

The transfer from the East Forty-second Street location will be made early in May and will involve not only 300 employes of the OPA regional office, but also 100 persons in the OPA national inventory units dealing with automobiles, motor trucks and typewriters. Mr. Joseph explained that the move was made necessary because it was found impossible to obtain the necessary additional space in 122 East Forty-second Street to keep the OPA division under one roof.

OEM officials in Washington said that the quarters in the Empire State Building would be sufficient to accommodate a working force of 650. The OPA national headquarters will remain in Washington.

Further expansion of these or other government agencies in the Empire State Building also may be possible under the lease, which carries options for several additional floors.

The New York Times
Published: April 22, 1942
Copyright © The New York Times

Regional OPA Units Move To Empire State Building

All of the regional staffs of the Office of Price Administration in New York are being moved this week-end to the Empire State Building, 350 Fifth Avenue, and the various divisions will be in operation there tomorrow. Until yesterday the offices were at 122 East Forty-second Street. At the Empire State Building the OPA offices will have a new telephone number—CHickering 4-8950.

The OPA staffs are now being expanded to handle the new overall freeze. Beginning tomorrow, major divisions at the Empire State will include the general regional staff, the legal and compliance staffs, the consumer division, the rent section, the retail trade and services division, and others. Five floors, from the forty-second to the forty-sixth, will be occupied.

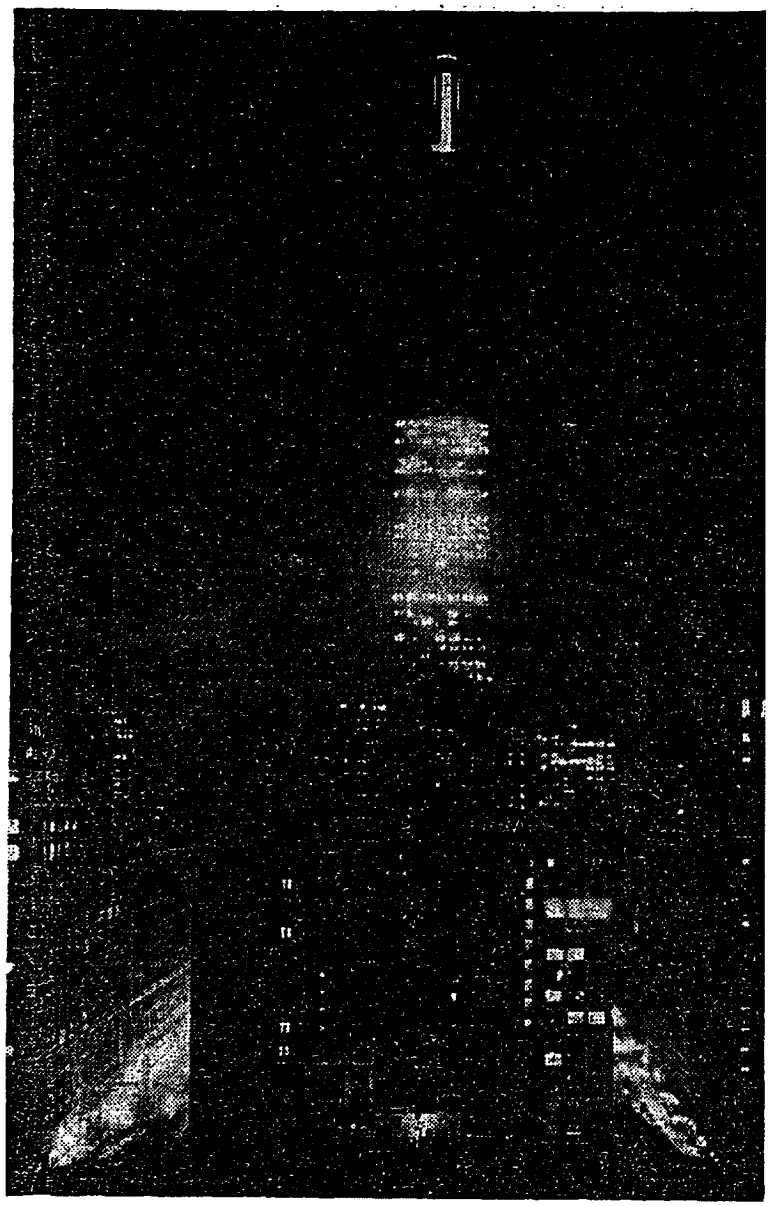
The New York Times
Published: May 3, 1942
Copyright © The New York Times

In Empire State Building

The Ziff-Davis Publishing Company has leased about 9,000 square feet of office space on the forty-sixth floor of the Empire State Building for its Eastern headquarters. The main office of the company, which publishes Flying, Radio News, Popular Photography and other magazines, is in Chicago. Cushman & Wakefield acted as brokers in the long lease.

The New York Times
Published: August 22, 1944
Copyright © The New York Times

LIGHTS GO ON BRIEFLY ON EMPIRE STATE



The tower on the world's tallest building shines for an hour to honor the ninety-seventh birthday anniversary of Thomas A. Edison.

Associates of the late Thomas A. Edison met yesterday to commemorate the ninety-seventh anniversary of the inventor's birth and adopted plans to promote a fitting celebration of the centennial of this event.

Membership in the Edison Pioneers, heretofore limited to associates of the inventor and their immediate descendants, was extended by resolution at the business meeting that followed the annual luncheon in the Hotel Astor.

Former Gov. Charles Edison of New Jersey was elected president of the Edison Pioneers for the coming year.

The proposal to extend the membership to include "all those who desire to promote the interests of the pioneers," based upon the program conducted since the death of the inventor, was presented by Eugene C. Reed, secretary of the organization.

Dr. Orestes H. Caldwell, editor of Electronic Industries, in an address dealing with Thomas A. Edison's contribution to industry based upon electronics as it exists today, said that the inventor's discovery sixty years ago of "the flow of electrons in a vacuum" was an underlying factor.

The inventor's widow and Mrs. John E. Sloane, her daughter, were among the guests on the dais.

In honor of the inventor the lights of the tower of the Empire State Building were turned on for one hour last night, for the first time since the dimout and subsequent brownout were imposed. From the eighty-sixth to the 102d floor the tower glowed from 7 to 8 P. M.

The New York Times
Published: February 12, 1944
Copyright © The New York Times

CHARWOMEN DELAY STRIKE

Empire State Building Cleaners Give Ultimatum to WLB

Resentful over the Regional War Labor Board's refusal to approve a $2 weekly increase agreed to by the employer, 150 charwomen employed in the Empire State Building held an impromptu meeting in the lobby of the skyscraper last night and refused to go to work until a union official persuaded them to delay strike action for six days while the union attempted to negotiate a settlement with the board.

The five-cent-an-hour increase would have brought the hourly rate of the cleaning women to 55 cents. When the women refused to begin the nightly cleaning of the building, Albert E. Perry, business manager and vice president of Local 32 J of the Building Service Employes International Union, took them to a room on the fifth floor where the board's rejection was discussed. After they had agreed to the six-day delay they returned to work.

The New York Times
Published: June 6, 1944
Copyright © The New York Times

ADVERTISING GROUP RENTS LARGE SPACE

New Company Takes Quarters in Empire State Building

The new advertising agency of Doherty, Clifford & Shenfield, Inc., has leased large space on the fifty-second floor of the Empire State Building through A. G. Walker & Associates, brokers. The executives of the company include Lawrence L. Shenfield, Francis J. Doherty, Donald K. Clifford and Arthur Cobb Jr., all formerly of Pedlar, Ryan & Lusk, Inc. The new firm is occupying temporary quarters in 250 Park Avenue while the Empire State Building space is being altered for its use.

Other commercial leases reported yesterday included:

Farr & Co, John P. White & Co, William C. Galligan & Son, Inc, and Borys Mirkin (additional space), in 120 Wall St; Jeferson, Fritz & Rehnstron, and Griscom & Co (additional space), in 29 Broadway; A. Hicks Lawrence, in 82 Beaver St; Wellington Hunter (additional space), in 42 Broadway—Charles F. Noyes Co, broker.

U. S. Specialties Co, in 138 Prince St; Herman B. Reiss, Inc, store and basement, in 1161 Broadway; Made Well Brassiere Corp, in 35 W 31st St; De Maily Co, in 256 Fifth Ave; Publishers Export Co, in 17 E 12th St; Sidney Sabin, in 126 Bleecker St—Williams & Co, brokers.

Reliance Devices, Inc, in 30 Irving Pl; John C. Mooney Co, Inc, in 202 E 44th St; Rudolph Spangenthal and Electro Metal Products Co, Inc, in 40 Renwick St—Berley & Co, brokers.

Minty Steinberg, in 14 E 56th St—Harold C. Samuels Co, broker.

The New York Times
Published: June 15, 1944
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Yields Big Paper Supply

Tenants of the Empire State Building have completed their special house-cleaning drive, which produced an extra sixty tons of wastepaper over what is normally salvaged from their offices, it was announced yesterday by former Gov. Alfred E. Smith, who is cooperating with the plan of the Real Estate Board of New York City to have every office building in the city clean out as much paper as possible from old files and records.

Every floor of the world's tallest office building contributed its share of paper to the scrap drive during the last four weeks. The exact total salvaged was 120,685 pounds, according to Mr. Smith, or enough to manufacture 1,326,000 cartons for packing fifteen fifty-calibre machine-gun cartridges in each.

Frank D. March, city salvage director of the War Production Board, urged the tenants of other office buildings to organize similar house-cleaning drives at once.

The New York Times
Published: June 17, 1944
Copyright © The New York Times

NEW OFFICE HERE FOR ATLAS POWDER

Firm to Shift Philadelphia Sales Unit to the Empire State Building

The Atlas Powder Company has leased space in the Empire State Building for the district sales offices of its explosives department which will be moved from Philadelphia on May 22. Its explosives sales offices, now at 60 East Forty-second Street, in Manhattan, are being moved to the new location, and a sales office will be maintained at the old address in Philadelphia. Other leases of business space follow:

Rem Mfg Co, in 153 W 23d St; Stanley Printing Co, in 150 Varick St; Madison Underwear Co, in 220 5th Ave; Breslee Mfg Co, in 132 W 125th St; Harold & Harold, in 9 E 16th St; Dura Products, in 62 W 45th St; Howard Mfg Co, in 906 Broadway; Roma Mfg Co, in 34 W 4th St; Beneeda Handbag Co, in 208 E 27th St; Glamour Glove Co, in 6 E 39th St; Elm Co, in 652 Broadway; Salem Mfg Co, in 10 W 18th St—Spear & Co, brokers.

Samuel Heller, market, renewal in 1217 1st Ave—the Haggstrom-Callen Co. broker.

Pacific & Atlantic Shippers Assn, freight forwarders, in 82 Beaver St; International Products Corp, also Franz R Lushas, in 29 Broadway; Jacob Gruber, attorney, in 42 Broadway—Charles F Noyes Co, broker.

Spencer Wine Co, floor in 141 Spencer St, Brooklyn, from the Rostkach Realty Corp—Kirschner & Nelson, brokers.

James J Hastings, accountant, in 605 Broad St, Newark; Allen Engineering Co of Newark, also Fox & Pastel, furriers, in the Calumet Building, 17 William St, Newark—Abeles-Stevens, brokers.

The New York Times
Published: May 13, 1944
Copyright © The New York Times

CITY RENT OFFICES MOVED BY WOOLLEY

Quarters Shifted to Empire State Building to Permit Closer Cooperation

3 NEW DEPUTIES NAMED

Vacancies in Branch Offices Filled—Platzker Gets Many Offers of Apartments

As a means of "tightening the administration of residential rent regulations in this district and providing better supervision over the seven branch rent offices," the New York area rent headquarters of the Office of Price Administration was moved yesterday from 535 Fifth Avenue to the Empire State Building, which also houses the OPA regional offices.

Daniel P. Woolley, regional OPA administrator, explained that the main office would handle appeals and questions arising from decisions made at the branch rent offices, and that its new location would permit closer cooperation with the regional OPA office and its enforcement division.

Mr. Woolley also announced the appointment of new deputy rent directors for three branch offices to fill vacancies.

Heading the lower Manhattan office at 35 Fifth Avenue will be John P. McAndress, formerly deputy director for the Pittsburgh area rent office. The new deputy director for the Bronx rent office at 1910 Arthur Avenue is Albert J. Haas, succeeding Adrian H. Phillips, who resigned to enter private business. Mr. Haas formerly was head of the Queens rent office and prior to that was deputy director in the Nassau-Suffolk branch.

Leroy W. Pierce was appointed head of the Richmond rent office at 56 Day Street, St. George, S. I., succeeding William A. Dohrman, who was appointed to the staff of Walter M. Hort, New York area rent director. Mr. Pierce formerly was with the Home Owners Loan Corporation.

In a further OPA change Mr. Woolley announced that the Queens rent office had been moved to larger quarters at 92-30 Union Hall Street, Jamaica.

While these changes were being made to strengthen housing control, Joseph Platzker, Deputy Commissioner of Housing and Buildings and head of the City Vacancy Listing Bureau, was receiving offers yesterday from many families willing to rent their apartments or rooms to service men and their families for the winter months.

Up to 4 P. M. more than 100 such offers had come in to the bureau at the Civilian Defense Volunteer Office Information Center in Pershing Square, following an appeal for listings at a meeting of representatives of the Officers Service Committee, the Navy League and the New York City Defense Recreation Committee, at which an immediate need for at least 500 family living units was reported. Most of the offers were accepted quickly by applicants on the long waiting list.

The New York Times
Published: November 11, 1944
Copyright © The New York Times

DISASTROUS FLIGHT AN EXPERIENCE TRIP

Pilot in Empire State Building Crash Was Increasing His Cross-Country Mileage

66 DAMAGE CLAIMS FILED

Observatories to Be Reopened Today on Special Schedule Approved by the City

The primary purpose of the flight that ended in disaster Saturday morning, when an Army B-25 bomber crashed into the Empire State Building, killing thirteen persons and injuring twenty-six, was to provide additional cross-country flying experience for the pilot, Lieut. Col. William F. Smith Jr., the Army disclosed yesterday.

Maj. Fred Driver of the public relations office of the Eastern Defense Command explained, in response to inquiries as to the reason for the flight, that the Air Forces urge pilots who, like Colonel Smith, have had combat experience in Europe and expect to be redeployed to the Pacific, to get in as much cross-country flying as they can in the interval while they are home. Such flying also serves to preserve the flying status and flight pay of officers, he said.

Colonel Smith flew his friend and West Point classmate, Lieut. Col. Carl C. Hinkle, who was an All-American center when he played football for Vanderbilt University, and Col. H. E. Rogner, commander of the Army air base at Sioux Falls, S. D., where Colonel Smith was stationed, from Sioux Falls to Newark last Friday.

En Route to Get Colonel

Colonel Smith and the crew member who was killed with him, T/Sgt. Christopher Domitrovich, then flew to Bedford, Mass., near Colonel Smith's home at Watertown, Mass. With a Navy enlisted man as passenger, they left Bedford at 8:35 A. M. Saturday to pick up Colonel Rogner at Newark, but crashed into the lofty skyscraper en route.

The Army investigating board that has been inquiring into the crash transferred its activities yesterday from the Empire State Building to the headquarters of the Eastern District, Air Technical Service Command, 67 Broad Street, where the investigation will be continued, it was announced by Brig. Gen. C. P. Kane, in charge of the investigation.

Sixty-six claims were filed yesterday with the office set up for that purpose by the AAF in the Empire State Building. Three of them were death claims by families of victims. The AAF announced that its representatives were visiting the families of victims to aid them in making claims.

Navy Files Damage Claim

Among the property claims filed was one by the Navy for damage to a station wagon. McCreery's department store filed a claim for seven broken windows. Henry Hering, the sculptor whose studio penthouse atop the building at 10 West Thirty-third Street was wrecked by debris from the plane, filed a claim without giving any estimate of the damage.

The last of the thirteen victims to be identified was Mrs. Lucille Bath, 19 years old, of 38-11 Sixty-fifth Street, Woodside, Queens. Her charred body was identified by means of dental work, and was claimed by her husband, Charles, who said she was to have been on vacation Saturday, but went to her work in the office of the War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference because the staff was short-handed.

More than 500 volunteers responded to the appeal for blood donors to help save the life of Joseph Fountain, 47-year-old employ of the N. C. W. C., who remained yesterday in a critical condition in Bellevue Hospital. Fifty persons gave a pint of blood each for processing into plasma at the hospital's blood bank yesterday.

Three More Victims Critical

Three more victims were listed as in critical condition yesterday, as two of them took a turn for the worse. These were Mary Scannell, 25, of 644 Tinton Avenue, the Bronx, and Samuel Watkinson of 61-49 Wetherole Street, Rego Park, Queens. Betty Lou Oliver, the elevator operator who fell almost 1,000 feet when the cables of the car she was in were snapped by the plane, was still listed as critical but was said by Bellevue attendants to be in a cheerful mood. Her husband, Oscar L. Oliver, torpedoman third class in the Navy, arrived last night and was taken to his wife's bedside.

The two observatories in the Empire State Building, on the eighty-ninth and 102d floors, will be reopened at 2 P. M. today, having been approved by the Department of Buildings, the management announced. They will remain on a special schedule temporarily until full service can be restored, from 9:30 to 11:30 A. M.; 2 to 4:30 P. M., and 6 to 9 P. M.

Mayor La Guardia, Fire Commissioner Patrick Walsh and General Kane are expected to attend a solemn requiem mass for the victims that will be celebrated by Archbishop Francis J. Spellman in St. Patrick's Cathedral at 10:30 A. M. today.

A police emergency squad of six men began digging with shovels last night through the piles of debris on the seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth floors of the building. Acting Capt. Thomas J. Rowan, in command of the squad, said that they were looking for jewelry or other valuables of the victims in the crash, and that they would work all night, if necessary, to complete the search.

The New York Times
Published August 1 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

PAPAL SYMPATHY EVOKED BY CRASH

Pontiff Sends a Message of Condolence to Families of Empire State Victims

DEATH TOLL RISES TO 14

J. C. Fountain, Catholic Welfare Aide, Dies of Burns—Mass Held for Dead in Disaster

From Pope Pius XII came words of sympathy accompanied by an Apostolic Blessing for the relatives of victims of Saturday's crash of an Army bomber into the Empire State Building as one more name was added to the toll of dead.

The fourteenth victim of the crash, also an employe of the War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, was Joseph C. Fountain, 47 years old, of 70 Metropolitan Oval, the Bronx, who died of burns in Bellevue Hospital after having survived the disaster for ninety-six hours.

He succumbed at 9:45 A. M., only three-quarters of an hour before Archbishop Francis J. Spellman, celebrating a solemn pontifical mass of requiem at St. Patrick's Cathedral, read the message expressing the Pope's profound sorrow.

Message Transmitted

The papal message, transmitted through Archbishop Amleto Cicognani, apostolic delegate in Washington, said Pope Pius sent his "heartfelt condolences to the families and to the director of the War Relief Services and imparts to them the paternal Apostolic Blessing in appreciation of distinguished charitable work of this organization and of the devoted service of the departed and surviving personnel, asking God to console and strengthen them all in this hour of extreme sorrow and trial."

After his reading of the papal message, Archbishop Spellman expressed his own "personal, poignant grief" over the loss of so many devoted workers of the War Relief Services by whom Mr. Fountain and all of the other civilian dead had been employed.

In attendance at the mass were more than 2,000 persons, including members of the families of the victims, who were seated in reserved pews, and dignitaries among whom were Mayor La Guardia, Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine, Fire Commissioner Patrick J. Walsh, Brig. Gen. C. P. Kane, commanding general of the Atlantic Overseas Command, and Lieut. Gen. Hugh A. Drum, retired, president of Empire State, Inc.

In his own tribute to the victims, Archbishop Spellman said:

"Completely they dedicated, consecrated and sacrificed their lives to humanity, and deeply and prayerfully with their own loved ones, I mourn them.

"They were laboring in one of the greatest works of mercy in our time, the relief and rehabilitation of war-scarred hearts in war-ravaged lands. The merciful heart of God must have a very special welcome for those who live in compassionate charity for their neighbor in need.

"Their energies, their enthusiasms, their achievements, their very lives will be reborn in their sacrifices, like the seed that falls to the ground and dies, to give birth to flowers and fruits, for sacrifice is a life-giving seed to divine fruitfulness, the highest fulfillment of human living. God alone knows how many souls have been brought nearer to Him through the sacrifice of these martyrs by the thought of the certainty of death and the uncertainty of life.

City's Mercy Symbolized

"And in this tragedy our city's mercy was symbolized in the merciful response of our hospital, fire and police departments. I am grateful to our priests whose anointed hands, trembling with compassion, yet firm in duty, blessed the dead and absolved the dying."

With Mr. Fountain as he died was his sister, Mary Fountain of Cambridge, N. Y. His wife, Mary, who kept a vigil at his bed for more than three days, had collapsed the night before and was admitted to the hospital as a patient. She was informed immediately of his death.

Three additional minor damage claims were reported by the Army as its investigating board, under the direction of General Kane, sought to finish its inquiry into the crash and make its report to Washington.

During a preview of the public reopening yesterday afternoon of the building's observation tower, newspaper men detected an odor of smoke lingering in the upper floors, while a fog persisted that almost duplicated the visibility conditions of Saturday morning. The tower, which was open to the public between 2 and 4 P. M., had an attendance of 264, which was said to be normal.

Air force officers in Washington said that negligence would not be an issue in settlement of claims. Claims under $1,000 can be handled by negotiation, and if the claim is above that amount, it was said, the Army can sponsor legislation authorizing Government payment.

The New York Times
Published: August 2, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

BOMBER CRASH RECORDED

Dictation Machine in Empire State Building Furnishes Data

The roar of the engines and the subsequent crash of the B-25 bomber into the Empire State Building on July 28, causing fourteen deaths, was recorded on a machine that had been in use for letter dictation, Col. W. H. Carey, secretary of the American Society of Civil Engineers, declared yesterday.

Colonel Carey said the record showed the B-25's engines were operating normally at the time of the accident.

The New York Times
Published: August 16, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

B-25 CRASHES IN FOG

Hole 18 by 20 Feet Torn Through North Wall by Terrific Impact

BLAZING 'GAS' SCATTERED

Flames Put Out in 40-Minute Fight—2 Women Survive Fall in Elevator

By FRANK ADAMS

A twin-engined B-25 Army bomber, lost in a blinding fog, crashed into the Empire State Building at a point 915 feet above the street level at 9:49 A. M. yesterday. Thirteen persons, including the three occupants of the plane and ten persons at work within the building, were killed in the catastrophe, and twenty-six were injured.

Although the crash and the fire that followed wrecked most of the seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth floors of the structure, causing damage estimated at $500,000, Lieut. Gen. Hugh A. Drum, president of the Empire State, Inc., Corporation, said last night that an inspection by the city's building department and by other engineers and architects showed that the structural soundness of the building had not been impaired.

Landing Advice Disregarded

The plane, en route from Bedford, Mass., to Newark on a cross-country mission, had flown over La Guardia Field a few minutes before the crash, and its pilot, Lieut. Col. William F. Smith Jr., deputy commander of the 457th Bomber Group and recently decorated for his service overseas, was advised by the control tower to land. Instead he asked for the weather at Newark Airport and headed in that direction.

Horror-stricken occupants of the building, alarmed by the roar of engines, ran to the windows just in time to see the plane loom out of the gray mists that swathed the upper floors of the world's tallest office building. The plane was banked at an angle of about fifteen degrees as Colonel Smith swung it in a curve out of the northeast.

It crashed with a terrifying impact midway along the north or Thirty-fourth Street wall of the building. Its wings were sheared off by the impact, but the motors and fuselage ripped a hole eighteen feet wide and twenty feet high in the outer wall of the seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth floors of the structure.

Brilliant orange flames shot as high as the observatory on the eighty-sixth floor of the building, 1,050 feet above Fifth Avenue, as the gasoline tanks of the plane exploded. For a moment watchers in the street below saw the tower clearly illumined by the glare. Then it disappeared again in gray murk and the smoke of the burning plane.

Motor Hits Another Building

One of the plane's two motors hurtled clear across the seventy-eighth floor, tore a hole in the south wall of the building, and plummeted to the roof of the twelve-story office building at 10 West Thirty-third Street, where it started a fire that demolished the penthouse of Henry Hering, noted sculptor, with resulting damage estimated at $75,000.

A propeller was imbedded in the wall of the Empire State Building; the other motor and part of the landing gear crashed into an elevator shaft, where they fell to the sub-cellar 1,000 feet below, and other sections of the fuselage were blown as high as the eighty-sixth floor observatory. The steel girder at the seventy-ninth floor level was bent inward eighteen inches by the shock.

Cascading torrents of flaming gasoline poured through the seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth floors, setting fire to everything that was combustible. The burning fuel ran down stair wells into hallways as far as the seventy-fifth floor, while choking fumes

Continued on Page 25, Column 1

The New York Times
Published July 29, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

ARMY BOMBER THE EMPIRE S

Continued From Pag

and smoke rose upward observatory.

Between fifteen and twe sons, most of them girl workers, were at their desk offices of the War Relief of the National Catholic Conference, occupying the west section of the seven floor, when the flaming floo in upon them.

Most of them ran in ter the doors. At least four of t was established last night, reached the haven of the fi stair well, but several wer taken by the flames as th and were burned to death. of them who had sought in a separate office at the side of the building were fo and killed there by the flan

Paul Dearing, 37-year-old teer publicity man for the a saw the flames approachi desk near the west wall building, and jumped from a by window. He struck a outside the seventy-second and was killed. He was ide by a police card showing h formerly a reporter for The falo Courier Express.

3 Occupants of Plane Per

The bodies of the three pants of the plane were i into the fiery inferno on the enty-ninth floor, where, like of the girl employes who trapped there, they were b beyond recognition. Two o three were members of the cr the plane, Colonel Smith S/Sgt. Christopher S. Don vich, 31, of Granite City, Ill.

A Navy aviation machi mate, second class, who a ently had obtained a ride i plane as a "hitch-hiker" wh left Bedford, was the third pant. The Navy said last that his identity apparently been established, but in accord with established procedure name would not be announced til his next of kin was notifie

Fortunately, the seventy-el floor of the building was unc pied, and was being used for storage of various building plies, which helped to keep death toll down. However, man, possibly a building empl was trapped and burned to de there. He remained unidenti last night.

2 Women Fall 75 Stories

When the wreckage of the pl smashed into the north bank elevators, it struck an I-girder tween shafts numbers six seven, weakening it and damag some of the elevator cables. car, which was empty, plunged mediately to the subcellar wit plane engine on top of it, but other car figured in the m amazing of the many miraculo escapes of the day.

A girl elevator operator opened the door of her car another bank of elevators towa the south side of the building as the explosion came. She w blown out of the car. Hysteri and burned by flaming gasoli she was found by two young w men employes of the Air Car Transport Corporation, with offices on the seventy-fifth floor.

These young women—Mrs. Ba bara Brown of 222 East Sixty-fir Street and Miss Penny Skepko 104-42 126th Street, Richmo Hill, Queens—guided her back their office, where first aid w administered. Then they took h to an elevator, that in shaft a They were going to get in wi her when Roy Penzell, president Air Cargo Transport Corporatio advised them not to do so.

They turned her over to the ca of the operator of car six and r turned to their own office. M Penzell, who remained in the ha said that just as the elevator door closed he heard the elevator cable snap with a crack like a rifle shot and the car fell toward the sub basement.

Firemen had to cut a hol through a wall in the sub-base ment to get into the car, fully ex pecting to find the occupants dead Instead, a 17-year-old Coast Guar hospital apprentice, selected to be the first one through the hole be cause of his small stature, found the two women alive, althougl badly injured. Automatic device evidently had slowed the falling car down enough to save thei lives.

"Thank heaven, the Navy's here," said the burned girl as the Coast Guardsman, Donald Malony, administered first aid and then helped the two women out.

Because of the fog and bad visibility, there were only three persons in the upper observatory, at the 102d floor level, 1,250 feet above the street. One of them was Lieut. Allen Aiman, an aviation veteran of the South Pacific, who had with him his wife, Betty home is in Columbus, Ohio.

"The visibility was zero," tenant Aiman said later. " flabbergasted. I couldn't b my own eyes when I saw the come out of the overcast. T struck the building with a that sent a tremor throug whole structure."

The Aimans and Pat Hipw guard on that level, whose h at 32-10 Thirty-third Street toria, found that the elevator been put out of commission b crash, but they made their w safety down the stairs.

About fifty persons wer the glass enclosed observato the eighty-sixth floor level. B W. Powell, the tower man said that immediately after crash flames shot up the ele shafts, followed by a terrific of dust and debris, while fragments of the plane lande the open balcony outside.

Even at this terrifying ture, however, the "canned" sic that is wired into the obse tory, continued to play and soothing sounds of a waltz he the spectators there to co themselves. There was no pa but within a few minutes the and choking fumes from the below made the observatory comfortable.

The glass doors leading to open balcony had been locked keep people from going out the fog and the slight rain t was falling. In the confusion, keys could not be located, and the three guards on the obser tory level broke the doors open let in the fresh air. After a minutes, they also went down stairs.

Many Offices Unoccupied

The staff of the National Bro casting Company's television l oratory on the eighty-fifth fl had not yet arrived to begin day's work, and the intervent floors between that point and seventy-ninth were unoccupi which undoubtedly helped to duce the number of dead and jured.

Another factor in reducing ca ualties was the fact that the d was Saturday, when many offic are closed and others have reduc staffs. The War Relief Service the NCWC, the largest suffer from the disaster, would otherwi have had at least thirty person in its offices instead of slight more than half that number.

Joseph W. Bernstein of the pu licity staff of the Empire Sta Building estimated that there wer between 1,000 and 1,500 person in it at the time of the acciden He said that if it had happene on a full business day there prob ably would have been 5,000 te ants, and 5,000 to 10,000 tra sients, in the building at that hou

Most of those injured were o the upper floors of the building but in a few cases persons walkin along the sidewalks below suffere minor injuries from falling debris It was considered astonishing, i view of the amount of broken glas and other debris that showered down, that these injuries were no more numerous and more serious

Hundreds, if not thousands, o persons along Fifth Avenue and the near-by side streets saw the crash, and police headquarters was deluged almost immediately with calls from persons who wished to give the alarm. The first message was received at 9:49 A. M., which was listed as the official time for the disaster, although the Army in a statement placed it at 9:55.

Shock Felt Blocks Distant

The shock was felt for blocks around the busy intersection of Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, and the explosion was heard more than a mile. Debris was thrown as far away as Madison Avenue, and one large chunk damaged the facade of a building at Fifth Avenue and Twenty-ninth Street.

By the time startled occupants of the lower floors of the building had made their way to the street, the first fire apparatus was arriving. Within eight minutes four alarms were sounded, bringing twenty-three fire companies and forty-one pieces of apparatus to the scene.

Thick smoke was pouring from the windows of the tower by that time, and a ruddy glow shone through the shattered openings, giving them a guide to the site of the fire. But the firemen had a difficult time getting up to fight it, because the building elevators could not operate above the sixtieth floor.

From that level the firemen toiled on foot to the seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth floors, where the fire was raging. Many of them carried hose and other types of portable apparatus. Much to their relief they found that the building's eight-inch stand pipes were undamaged by the blast and that there was ample water pressure to fight the flames.

Fire Commissioner Patrick Walsh, who arrived to take personal command of the fire-fighting, said that the blaze was the highest one in history, surpassing even the celebrated Sherry-Netherland Tower fire of 1927, but that it was a comparatively easy one to extinguish. The flames were put out within forty minutes, he said.

Mayor Hurries to Scene

Mayor La Guardia was just getting out of his radio-equipped limousine at City Hall when the fourth alarm sounded. He recognized the number of the box as that at Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street and said to his driver: "That could be very bad. I'd better go up on that." So he sped to the scene.

Like every other early arrival, the Mayor had to walk up from the sixtieth floor, on the way getting soaked from the water that was cascading down from the fire hoses. When he reached the seventy-ninth floor he found that "a fiery furnace" was still raging there, but he remained until after the flames had been put out.

Thousands of spectators flocked to the vicinity of the building, but a force of 200 uniformed police, fifty detectives and twenty motorcycle and mounted men, under the command of Assistant Chief Inspector John W. Conway, formed lines and kept the area about the building clear. Even after the fire was out the adjoining streets were kept closed because glass kept falling from the hundreds of shattered windows in the lofty building.

Mayor La Guardia conferred at the building with John McKenzie, Commissioner of Marine and Aviation, who gave the first details about the appearance of the plane over La Guardia Field and Colonel Smith's decision not to land there. During the conversation the Mayor gestured violently with his fist and said audibly "I told them not to fly over the city."

Commissioner McKenzie later made a formal report, which was released by the Mayor from City Hall. It said that the plane called the La Guardia Field control tower, saying that it was fifteen miles to the south, and requesting the Newark weather. As that would place it close to Newark the chief operator, Victor Barden, suggested that it call Newark.

Within two minutes, however, the plane appeared directly southeast of La Guardia Field and Mr. Barden, thinking that it was about to land, gave it the necessary information about the runway to use and the wind velocity and direction. However, the pilot said that he wanted to go to Newark.

Commissioner McKenzie said that the tower made contact with Airways Traffic Control, which reported there was a 600-foot ceiling at Newark and suggested that the plane be held at La Guardia. The tower then communicated with Army Advisory Flight Control for authorization to bring the plane into La Guardia.

Since this was an Army bomber, the tower requested instruction from the AAFC. Commissioner McKenzie explained. He said that the Army told the tower that the Newark weather report was erroneous; that actually there was a 1,000-foot ceiling and 2¼ miles visibility at Newark. The tower relayed this information to the pilot, and asked his decision. He replied he wanted to go to Newark.

"Our tower then cleared him to Newark and stated that they (the tower) were unable to see the top of the Empire State Building and he would clear with three miles forward visibility, and if unable to obtain three miles forward visibility he was to return to La Guardia. This is definitely contact clearance," Commissioner McKenzie's report said.

Brig. Gen. C. P. Kane, commanding general of the Atlantic Overseas Air Technical Service Command at Newark, arrived at the building in the early afternoon to take charge of the Army's investigation. General Kane refused to talk to reporters or even to te them his name, and a colonel wh accompanied him told the news paper men, "The Army wants n publicity on this."

Later in the day, however, th Army public relations office at 9 Church Street issued a statemen explaining that the plane whic crashed was a B-25 Mitchell bomb er en route from Bedford, Mass. to Newark. The Army said th plane was "on the final lap of a cross-country flight originating at its home station in Sioux Falls S. D."

The Army identified Colonel Smith as the deputy group commander of the 457th Bomber Group and said that he had recently returned from overseas and been assigned to the Second Air Force. He was 37 years old and lived at 54 Beachwood Avenue, Watertown, Mass., with his wife, who was listed as his next of kin.

Sergeant Domitrovich, 31, lived at 1821 Madison Avenue, Granite City, Ill. He was a member of the 211th Army Air Force Base Un at Sioux Falls. His next of ki was his mother, Mrs. Anna Do mitrovich of Granite City, Ill.

"A board of qualified AAF off cers from Newark Air Field ar investigating the accident to de termine its exact cause," the Arm statement continued. "The boar has been on the scene since earl yesterday morning. The board sai that preliminary investigation di not disclose that there was an indication of mechanical failure i the aircraft."

Meanwhile, a temporary morgue was set up in a section of the Catholic society's office and the charred bodies of the victims were assembled there. Dr. Thomas A. Gonzales, chief medical examiner, said that it was improbable that any of them could be definitely recognized and that identification might have to be made by such clues as dental work.

Last night only five of the victims had been identified. They were Colonel Smith, Sergeant Domitrovich, Mr. Dearing and two wome employes in the offices of th NCWC, Jean Sozzi, 40, of 821 Ave nue N, Brooklyn, and Margare Mullen, 33, of 736 Garden Stree Hoboken, N. J. It was believed tha four of the victims were men an eight women.

Col. H. E. Bogner, commanding officer of the Army Air Base a Sioux Falls, was at the Newark Airport waiting for the plane there, but when news of the acci dent arrived he left there and was not located later by newspaper men. He had spent last night at the Ambassador Hotel in this city, but checked out early yesterday morning and did not return there.

The plane, it was ascertained, arrived at the Bedford Army Air base, about twenty miles west of Boston, on Friday evening and left there at 8:55 A. M. yesterday. It was the belief there that a crew of four was on board the bomber, as well as at least one and possibly two Navy "hitch-hikers," but this was contradicted by the statement issued by the Army locally.

Flight Started at 8:55 A. M.

Colonel Smith was a native of Alabama, where his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Smith, still live at 2242 Arlington Avenue, Birmingham. He was a varsity lacrosse man and a member of the football squad at West Point, from which he was graduated in 1942. He had completed 100 missions over Germany, and was only recently decorated for his combat services.

The police listed twenty-six persons in all as sufficiently injured to require medical treatment. Of these, seven remained in Bellevue Hospital, three in St. Vincent's Hospital and one in the Marine Hospital on Staten Island last night, but the others were able to go home.

Archbishop Spellman issued a statement last night expressing his sorrow at the catastrophe. The Chancery Office of the Archdiocese announced later that prayers would be offered in all of the city's Catholic churches today in memory of the dead, for the consolation of their relatives and for the recovery of the injured.

Archbishop Spellman will celebrate mass at 9 A. M. in St. Patrick's Cathedral with the same intentions, and a special pontifical high mass of requiem will be sung by the Archbishop for the dead at 10:30 A. M. Wednesday.

The New York Times
Published: July 29, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

Graphic Crash Stories Are Relayed on Radio

New York radio stations carried graphic stories yesterday of the Army airplane crashing into the Empire State Building. WOR's air-conditioning expert, Edwin P. Kenny, was taking his morning weather readings at 9:47 A. M. atop the twenty-five story building at Fortieth Street and Broadway when he saw the accident. Rushing to the studios below he told the story and announcer Ed Pearson put it on the air at 9:49 A. M.

A young woman who was listening to WHN's Gloom Dodger news program at 9:50 A. M. reported hearing a sound like a thunder clap. Less than a minute later the WHN show was interrupted for the news flash. The sound of thunder, she then realized, had been the plane striking the building. Her home is five blocks from the Empire State.

Other stations also carried reports by eyewitnesses and others.

Bing, a servant and Mrs. Rasley were the only ones in the penthouse at the time of the accident.

Although the Army would not confirm what it was that crashed through six inches of reinforced concrete above Mr. Hering's apartment, making a hole four feet in diameter, Mr. Bing expressed the belief that the object was a gasoline tank because of the explosion and intense fire that followed.

One wheel, with tire, a ballast tank, parts of the motor and fuselage were identifiable among the wreckage that rested in the Hering penthouse and on the roof. Either the wreckage or the explosion damaged the coping, sending parts of the tile and brick into the courtyard.

Fire started in one of three passenger elevator shafts while the operator, Henry Luzon, was at the twelfth floor. The mechanism was not immediately impaired and Luzon dropped to the fifth floor and got out there.

The New York Times
Published: July 29, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

SURVIVOR LIKENS CRASH TO A QUAKE

Building Moved Twice, Then Settled, Says Occupant Who Felt Shocks in China

By ALEXANDER FEINBERG

The towering Empire State Building that is a city of 102 stories, reaching 1,250 feet high, "moved" twice yesterday when struck by the bomber and then it "settled." That was a dread moment for one who had felt that double movement and the settling many times before.

Recently returned from China after twenty-seven years, the man who told of his sensations when the B-25 struck said the impact was precisely that of an earthquake, to which he is no stranger. Preferring not to give his name, he said he was in an office on the sixty-eighth floor of the building when he felt the double "move-

Continued on Page 28, Column 1

The New York Times
Published: July 29, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

Damage Caused to the World's Tallest Building When Army Bomber Crashed Into It

Some of the wreckage on the seventy-eighth floor

The New York Times

Smoke billowing from the tower while fire was still raging

The New York Times

The top of the elevator shaft where cable was severed by the impact, causing two elevators to drop from above the seventy-fifth floor.

The New York Times

Looking into the hole of the Empire State Building between the seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth floors

The New York Times

Parts of the plane in penthouse studio of building on Thirty-third Street across from the Empire State, the windows of which can be seen at top of picture.

Associated Press

Two of the propeller blades of the plane, one embedded in the wall on the seventy-eighth floor

The New York Times

CRASH EARTHQUAKE TO ONE SURVIVOR

Continued From Page 1

ment" or shifting of the building and then its settling.

"It was the settling, not the shaking I was afraid of," he declared. "When I felt the building move once, and move again, and then settle, I said to myself 'this is it.' I knew from previous experience that a shaking meant only a slight tremor. It was the move, ment, and the settling, that I feared. This could be nothing else but an earthquake. My mind at the moment could not tell me that I was in New York and not China, that I was in the Empire State Building.

"The convulsion after the settling failed to materialize, and I was brought back to my senses. It was not until I had made my way down to the street that I found out what had happened."

What had happened was something that New Yorkers had long feared, particularly since the war: A low-flying airplane, fog-bound, had crashed into the city's tallest structure.

Impact 913 Feet From Ground

The terrific impact carried the giant ship, striking 913 feet from the ground, just below the seventy-ninth story, through the north wall of the building and completely to Thirty-third Street. It tore a hole eighteen feet wide where it first made its entry and continued a distance of some eighty feet across the waist of the giant structure. One motor went down a corridor of the seventy-ninth floor and out the south wall, plunging into Thirty-third Street.

On its devastating passage the bomber sheared an I beam in an elevator shaft in the Empire State and caused two elevators to make a sheer drop from the eightieth floor. All ten elevators in the observation section of the building were put out of commission. On the ground floor firemen poured streams from hoses on the flaming debris. Five elevators at the time of the crash were between the sixty-sixth and the 102d floors. They were, however, for the most part without passengers.

It took fully an hour for some girl operators to be rescued. Badly burned, they were carried out of the cars. One girl, her face blackened, was still able to walk with support. Still another was locked tight in her compartment. Firemen cut a hole in the elevator to rescue her.

With the seventy-ninth floor a shambles, rescue workers—and they included doctors, nurses, policemen, firemen and service men—went about their grim tasks in the indescribable confusion that prevailed on the ground-floor level and on intermediate floors in the building.

Office workers came streaming out of the elevators that were in operation but many, cut off, used the stairs to escape the smoke and flames on the upper stories. Seventy, eighty stories they made their weary descent, but happy to be out of it.

On the observation tower there were fifty or sixty men, women and children in charge of Frank Powell, manager of the tower. Some rushed for the elevators where they were on the eighty-sixth floor, but the great majority, led by Mr. Powell, made their way down to the eightieth floor and then got to the street by stair or elevator.

Special praise for their rescue efforts went to the firemen, who in many cases stuck to their posts until they were knocked out by smoke and had to be revived. Priests, both those who had been in the Catholic Charities offices on the seventy-ninth floor and others who came from near-by churches, were in and out of the elevators tending to the stricken on the upper floors.

Mayor La Guardia, who came from City Hall and remained for an hour and a half, described the seventy-ninth floor as an oven, even after the flames were brought under control. Fire Commissioner Patrick Walsh directed his men in putting out the flames, which was accomplished in forty minutes.

Lieut. Col. Villemyer, assistant chief of operations at La Guardia Field came down from the seventy-ninth floor with a pitiful piece of cloth. It read "Do not remove from plane No. 0588." He had just seen what was left of the propeller, a twisted and charred piece of metal wedged in a wall.

Tragic as was the plane crash, fervent thanks were offered that loss of life was not even greater. Miraculous was the word applied to the many narrow escapes, particularly in the case of pedestrians.

Hitting True on Cylinders

Observers outside said they heard the bomber hitting true on its cylinders and thought nothing was untoward until it struck. Then, consecutively, there were two rumbling blasts accompanied by sheets of flame like a meteor and thick smoke. The tower of the building was not visible in the fog, they said, either before or at the time of the crash. For most of the afternoon the upper stories were shrouded in mist and a good part of that time smoke continued to pour from the seventy and eighty-floor levels.

Merwin K. Hart of the National Economic Council was in his office on the seventy-fifth floor of the building. The office and those near by were all but empty. A girl was in an office two rooms away.

"The building very definitely rocked," Mr. Hart declared. "It was confusing for a minute. I thought it might fall apart. We have one window on the west side, and the windows there were all gone; I looked out to see, leaning out our window. We could see what was left of the plane; the forepart stuck there. The rest of it fell on the south side of the building. Another building to the south, across Thirty-third Street, was on fire. Something had come through and struck it."

He rushed out into the hall, and found it filled with smoke and the elevator shafts burning. He went to the fire shafts and they, too, were filled with smoke. He went back and got the girl in the other office, and they decided to remain where they were, which they did for an hour, when firemen escorted them out.

The New York Times
Published: July 29, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

WHERE BOMBER CRASHED INTO EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

Hole torn between seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth floors The New York Times (by Sisto)

Catholic War Relief Office Is Chief Victim of Tragedy

By LARRY RESNER

An agency that has been in the vanguard of supplying aid and comfort to thousands of homeless and destitute persons in the war zones became yesterday, through one of those curious quirks of fate, the victim of the worst local tragedy of the war. The point of greatest impact of the low-flying bomber that crashed into the Empire State Building was at the seventy-ninth floor, where the principal tenant was the War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Throughout the war years, this agency has sent many field representatives into the lands laid waste by war to work with other relief and welfare agencies in helping war victims.

And only yesterday, as the bomber struck and destroyed their office, the reduced Saturday staff of workers was busily engaged in arranging the final details of a trip to Europe on Tuesday of two of their principal functionaries.

Only five of an estimated working staff of fifteen to twenty persons in the office, including men and women, were known to have escaped the flames that swept the skyscraper floor as the gasoline of the crashing plane exploded.

W. Paul Dearing, correspondent here for The Buffalo Courier-Express and publicity director of the War Relief Services for the last year, either jumped or was blown from his seventy-ninth-floor office to his death on a ledge on the sev-

Continued on Page 32, Column 3

The New York Times
Published: July 29, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

WAR RELIEF OFFICE IS CHIEF CASUALTY

Continued From Page 1

enty-second floor that caught his body. He was the only recognizable victim of those on the agency's staff who were killed.

The others were burned beyond recognition, so badly, in fact, that Dr. Thomas A. Gonzales, chief medical examiner, said it would be impossible to distinguish the male from the female victims until chemical analyses were made of the bodies.

The bodies, constituting a gruesome facsimile of some of Europe's worst war scenes, were laid side by side on charred desks by firemen who found them in various parts of the office, where they had fled in a vain effort to escape the flame and smoke.

One of the bodies was found in Mr. Dearing's office, two others in a small glassed-in office on the south side of the building, where they had smashed the window panes in an effort to get some air.

On the north side of the office, nearest the point where the bomber had crashed, it was indicated that the persons in that section were either killed outright by the explosion or so stunned that they never had a chance to escape.

Also found on the seventy-ninth floor were the remains of the crew members of the ill-starred bomber, who either died in the impact or were consumed by the flames.

Director Misses Disaster

Except that he had been late getting to his office because of an appointment with his principal assistant, Mgr. Patrick A. O'Boyle, executive director of the War Relief Services, might have been one of those killed.

Mgr. O'Boyle, who arrived at the scene of the accident only a few moments after it took place, disclosed that he was walking along Thirty-fourth Street, at Seventh Avenue, with the Rev. Edward E. Swanstrom, assistant executive director, when he noticed the startled crowds looking toward the top of the Empire State Building.

Engaged in conversation, neither apparently had heard the crash, but when their gaze followed that of the crowds they instinctively felt that their offices were those on fire.

Dropping their plans to go over to the British Consulate to pick up a passport for Father Swanstrom, they rushed to the building, and after making special arrangements with a building superintendent, they were taken up to the sixty-seventh floor, which was the highest point at which an elevator would operate after the crash.

Crawling through the flame and smoke, stumbling over fire hoses already brought into play by emergency fire crews, they administered the last rites of the church to each of the victims within reach.

In this task they were assisted by two other priests who were eye-witnesses of the crash and immediately enlisted their services.

These priests, both assistant pastors at the Holy Innocents Church at 124 West Thirty-seventh Street were the Rev. Charles McGirr and the Rev. Francis Campbell.

All of them stayed on the seventy-ninth floor, rendering what assistance they could, until the flames had been put out and further danger averted.

One man who escaped possible death by only ten minutes was John B. McCloskey, field superintendent of the agency, who had left the office to join Mgr. O'Boyle and Father Sandstrom at Thirty-third Street and Park Avenue.

The explosion brought Mr. McCloskey back before he reached his destination. He was to have accompanied Father Sandstrom on the mission to Europe on Tuesday.

The members of his office staff who Mgr. O'Boyle said were known to be safe included Catherine O'Connor, 210 East Seventy-third Street; Therese Ann Scarpelli, 345 West 263d Street, the Bronx; Charlotte Deegan, 278 East Thirty-fourth Street, Brooklyn; Anna M. Reagan, 315 East Seventy-seventh Street, and Mary Fortier, 216-30 115th Road, St. Albans, Queens.

After issuing this list, Mgr. O'Boyle said the only way the others could be identified would be through a process of elimination.

The only other large office on the seventy-ninth floor was that of Amertrade, which seemed to have survived both the crash and fire relatively intact. This office is on the south side of the building, directly opposite the section the plane hit.

The initial count of bodies found on the seventy-ninth floor totaled eleven. A twelfth was found on the floor below.

Fire Marshal Thomas P. Brophy, after a preliminary investigation, said that the plane struck generally from a northwesterly direction, explaining, "Apparently the maximum force was just under the seventy-ninth floor, so great that it buckled up the seventy-ninth floor."

The impact bent the huge supporting beam on the seventy-ninth up about eighteen inches, and according to Marshal Brophy, "at least two members of the plane crew were catapulted into the seventy-ninth floor."

Sees 3 Enveloped in Smoke

A medically discharged war veteran, Harold J. Smith, 26, of 1749 East Ninth Street, Brooklyn, disclosed that he was on the sixty-second floor in the offices of the Surplus Properties Custodian when the plane struck, and looking out, he could see three women, leaning from windows, enveloped in smoke.

Counting the number of floors there were above him, Mr. Smith rushed out into the hallways and led a group of firemen from Engine Company 54 up to the point where he had seen the women. They managed to get them safely out of the Catholic agency's offices and into a temporary first-aid station set up in the Amertrade office.

The plane struck the building at the hallway entrance to the elevator and then crashed directly into the elevator shaft, severing the cables. The exploding flames spread to the right through the offices occupied by the War Relief Services and to the floors above and below.

PILOT AND CREW MEMBER KILLED IN CRASH

Lieut. Col. William F. Smith Jr.

Sgt. Christopher S. Domitrovich

Associated Press Wirephoto

The New York Times
Published: July 29, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

CLEARING UP WRECKAGE IN THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

Parts of the Mitchell bomber being collected on the seventy-eighth floor

The New York Times

Aviation Machinist's Mate Albert G. Perna, one of the three occupants of the plane killed.

EMPIRE STATE CRASH STIRS BRITISH PUBLIC

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, July 29—Saturday's crash of an Army bomber into the Empire State Building has gripped the imagination of the British public as few disasters could. The Empire State Building, the White House, the Statue of Liberty and the Washington Monument are landmarks the average Briton associates with the United States and any occurrence affecting these structures arouses unusual interest here.

For this reason London's Sunday papers gave prominent page one display to full accounts of the Fifth Avenue disaster. Pictures of the Empire State Building in flames were displayed along with views of the structure as it looked before the accident.

During the European phase of the war, when there were threats of the bombing of New York, Londoners immediately thought of the Empire State Building as being menaced. Newspaper articles and discussions revolved about the havoc a rocket or a fly-bomb would cause if it struck New York's highest structure.

Indicative of the average Londoner's views on the crash was the description carried by London's Monday morning papers, which referred to the accident as something that "resembled with more realism than anything New York has experienced what damage a fly-bomb or a rocket would have caused in the city had the Germans ever used them against the United States."

The accounts were far more detailed than those the papers here carried about London's Smithfield Market disaster when a rocket took the lives of 100 persons and caused casualties exceeding 1,000.

Monday morning papers carry accounts that reassure London's millions that the "world's tallest building suffered no serious or permanent damage in Saturday's spectacular accident."

The New York Times
Published: July 30, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

MAYOR LAYS CRASH TO BOMBER PILOT; 8 DEAD IDENTIFIED

Empire State Building Will Be Reopened Today Except for the Observatory

WORKMEN START REPAIRS

10 Injured Still in Hospitals —Army Expresses Regrets —Sightseers Throng Area

As the management of the Empire State Building rushed repairs yesterday so that the world's tallest office building might reopen for business this morning, Mayor La Guardia unhesitatingly attributed the disaster that took thirteen lives Saturday to Lieut. Col. William F. Smith Jr., dead pilot of the B-25 bomber that struck the fog-swathed building.

"If the pilot had been up where he belonged, there would have been no trouble," the Mayor told reporters.

It was definitely established yesterday that the dead consisted of the three occupants of the plane and of ten employes—two men and eight young women—of the War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, whose offices on the seventy-ninth floor of the skyscraper were turned into a raging inferno by blazing gasoline from the bomber.

Only 8 Victims Identified

Only eight of the thirteen had been definitely identified last night, however, because of the charred condition of the bodies. Those identified yesterday were Patricia O'Connor, 21 years old, who was recognized by a wrist watch on her left hand, and Mary Lou Taylor, 19, both employes of the NCWC, and Albert G. Perna, 20, an aviation machinist's mate in the Navy who had been riding in the plane as a passenger.

Young Perna, who was stationed at the Squantum Naval Air Station at Bedford, Mass., was on his way to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Perna of 5611 Seventeenth Avenue, Brooklyn, who were notified two weeks ago that his brother, Anthony, had been killed in action off Okinawa while serving as a member of the crew of the destroyer Luce.

Relatives of the five unidentified victims were sadly advised by Detective James M. Mullins of the Missing Persons Bureau to return today to the city morgue at Bellevue Hospital with dental charts, which were believed to be the only means by which the remaining bodies could be definitely identified.

Two in Critical Condition

Two of the ten injured persons who remained in hospitals yesterday were still in a critical condition. They were Betty Lou Oliver, 20, of 601 West 113th Street, and Joseph Fountain, 47, of 70 Metropolitan Oval, the Bronx, both suffering from multiple burns of the face, arms and body.

Miss Oliver, an elevator operator employed by the Empire State Building, was the heroine of the most fantastic escape of the entire catastrophe. Blown from her own car and badly burned by the blast, she was placed in another car that fell from the seventy-fifth floor to the sub-basement when its weakened cables snapped. Automatic safety devices slowed it up sufficiently, however, to save her life.

Brig. Gen. C. P. Kane, commanding officer of the Newark Army air base, where the plane was bound, and Brig. Gen. M. F. Schneider, air inspector of the Army Air Forces, called yesterday on Mayor La Guardia at his home in the Gracie Mansion to express the Army's regrets and to promise a full and complete investigation.

Bring Letter From Eaker

They brought a letter from Lieut. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, deputy commander of the AAF, who, in the absence from the country of General of the Army H. H. Arnold, commander of the AAF, wrote that "it is our keenest desire that everything humanly possible be done for those who have suffered in this unfortunate and regrettable accident and we shall leave nothing undone which lies within our power to that end."

Although no definite statement was forthcoming from the Army yesterday on financial responsibility for the disaster, Army public relations officers said that usually in such cases the Army has accepted full responsibility. The property damage to the Em-

Continued on Page 7, Column 2

The New York Times
Published: July 30, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

MAYOR ATTRIBUTES CRASH TO THE PILOT

Continued From Page 1

pire State Building alone has been estimated by its management at $500,000, and to the penthouse of Henry Hering at 10 West Thirty-third Street, which was demolished by part of the wreckage, at $75,000.

Mayor La Guardia read General Eaker's letter and added an expression of his own regret in his weekly broadcast yesterday over the municipal radio station, WNYC. He offered his sympathy to the families of the victims and remarked that the crash was "one of those accidents which are the more regrettable because they are avoidable."

Mayor Cites Low Altitude

Amplifying this to reporters, the Mayor attributed the crash to the low altitude at which Colonel Smith was flying when en route from Bedford, Mass., to Newark. Air Force regulations provide that Army fliers must observe the Civil Air Regulations, which prescribe that fliers over a congested community must maintain sufficient altitude to glide to safety in case of trouble. This has been interpreted as 2,000 feet for midtown Manhattan, but Colonel Smith struck the Empire State Building at a point only 913 feet above street level.

The Mayor estimated that the bomber was traveling at a speed of between three and a half and four miles a minute when it crashed into the lofty skyscraper, the top of which was invisible from the street in the low-hanging fog and overcast. He expressed doubt that Colonel Smith saw the building in time even to attempt to bank out of the way.

Mayor La Guardia commented that it was "fortunate, in a way" that the plane crashed head on into the seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth floors of the building, where most of the wreckage remained. He explained that if it had struck the structure a glancing blow the blazing wreckage might have fallen into the busy intersection of Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street and "hundreds of persons down below might have been killed."

Poses With Coast Guard

The Mayor said that the Army and Navy had complimented the police and fire departments for the excellence of their work during the disaster. He posed for photographs with Donald Malony, a 17-year-old Coast Guard hospital apprentice, who crawled through a hole in the sub-cellar of the building and gave first aid to Miss Oliver in the wrecked elevator.

An investigating board from the Newark Army Air Base continued its investigation of the accident, under General Kane's direction, but gave no hint of its findings. It was indicated that its inquiry probably would last several days longer and that its final report would be made to the headquarters of the AAF in Washington.

The members of the board are Lieut. Col. F. C. Crowley, Lieut. Col. Harry A. Lotman and Maj. R. J. Cleary Jr., all flying officers, and all members of the permanent aircraft accident investigation board of the Newark base. The Army said they began their investigation at 11:30 A. M. Saturday, worked until 2 A. M., yesterday, and then resumed work at 8:30 A. M. yesterday.

Offer Sympathy to Injured

Colonel Lotman, who is the medical member of the board, and three other medical officers of the AAF, Maj. Francis C. Miller, Capt. Leon J. Anson and Capt. Andrew Silverman, visited the injured yesterday in hospitals and at their homes to offer the Army's sympathy.

Maj. Aubrey C. Haleell, an AAF chaplain stationed at Newark, also visited the homes of the civilians who were killed to express the Army's regrets to their families.

A few additional details of the record of Colonel Smith were released by the Army. He returned to the United States only last month after serving eighteen months overseas, where he flew thirty-four missions as first pilot of a Flying Fortress, and won the Croix de Guerre, the Air Medal with three clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross with one cluster, and five campaign stars. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Margaret Malloy Smith, and an 18-month-old son, William F. Smith 3d, of Watertown, Mass.

Body to Be Sent to Alabama

Arrangements are being made, the Army said, to send his body to his family home at Birmingham, Ala., for burial, but arrangements have not been completed for disposing of the body of T/Sgt. Christopher S. Domitrovich of Granite City, Ill., the crew man killed with him. He held the Air Medal, a Presidential unit citation, and two bronze stars for services overseas.

Thousands of sightseers thronged the streets in the vicinity of the Empire State Building yesterday to see what little they could see. The police closed off Thirty-fourth Street from Herald Square to Madison Avenue most of the day, as broken glass was still falling into it from the shattered windows of the skyscraper; but pedestrian and vehicular traffic was permitted along Fifth Avenue.

Tarpaulins covered the two big holes in the brick wall of the building at the seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth floors, and a temporary wooden scaffolding had been erected just below the aperture. The side of the building from the point of the crash to the level of the eighty-sixth floor observatory had been blackened where burning gasoline was sprayed when the plane exploded.

Find Pilot's Charred Jacket

Within the two wrecked floors, workmen had made vast headway in removing the shattered plane and clearing up huge piles of rubble. In the cloakroom of the War Relief Service of the NCWC, half a dozen coats of girl employes still hung, pathetically unclaimed. In the wreckage, workmen found Colonel Smith's charred jacket.

The Rev. Edward E. Swanstrom, assistant executive director of the War Relief Services, said that a careful check by his organization had definitely indicated that seventeen employes were at work when the fiery flood of high octane gasoline spilled in, and that ten of them, including two men and eight women, were dead or missing. He said there were no visitors in the office at the time.

Father Swanstrom said that he and Msgr. Patrick A. O'Boyle, executive director of the organization, would be at work in the scorched and gutted office this morning, endeavoring to retrieve as many as possible of the office records. He said that the task would force him to postpone a trip to Europe that he had planned to start tomorrow.

Death Believed Instantaneous

Fire Marshal Thomas Brophy visited the NCWC offices again yesterday and expressed the opinion that death was instantaneous for the victims, when they were sprayed with the burning high octane aviation gasoline from the exploding plane.

Mr. Brophy said that the first fire alarm for the disaster was turned in at 9:52 A. M. by Fire Lieut. William Murphy of Engine 1, who heard the crash, saw the smoke, and then pulled the box at Fifth Avenue and Thirtieth Street. He said that alarms were sounded from fifteen other boxes within the next few minutes, and that more than 100 persons telephoned the alarm to police and fire headquarters.

One of the most unusual alarms was sounded by William Sharp, a laborer at work on the seventy-third floor when the plane hit. According to a friend, Fred Bruelson, an electrician, Sharp was thrown against a wall of the building by the shock of the impact. He swung a shovel that he was holding against a fire-alarm box on the wall near by and broke the glass and gave the alarm.

Lieut. Gen. Hugh A. Drum, president of Empire State, Inc., issued a statement yesterday in which he promised that the building would reopen for business this morning, except for the observatory, which will remain closed indefinitely. General Drum said that all serious damage was confined to the seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth floors.

General Drum said that all elevators to the sixty-seventh floor were in full operation, and that service from the sixty-seventh to the eightieth floor would be furnished by five elevators in that bank. He said that "no acceptable approximation of damage is possible at this time," although on Saturday night Chapin L. Brown, vice president, estimated it at $500,000.

The New York Times
Published: July 30, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

EMPIRE STATE HELD 'SAFE' AFTER CRASH

Building, Except Observatory, Reopens as Army Sets Up Damage Claims Office

INVESTIGATION NEAR END

Four More Bodies Identified—Appeal for Blood Donors to Aid One of Injured

Pronounced "safe" by architects and engineers after a thorough inspection, the 102-story Empire State Building reopened for business yesterday, less than forty-eight hours after an Army medium bomber crashed into the seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth floors of the structure, killing thirteen persons and injuring twenty-six others.

The observatory, however, remained closed, although building officials said they hoped to reopen it in the near future. Elevators operated only to the seventy-sixth floor.

As conditions in the building returned to normal the Army Air Forces opened a temporary office on the ground floor to expedite the filing of claims arising from the disaster on Saturday.

Col. Ralph G. Boyd, chief of the claims division of the AAF, who was at the office yesterday, said that no claims resulting from deaths or personal injuries had been filed as yet, but that some of the tenants of the building and of the twelve-story building at 10 West Thirty-third Street, which was damaged by wreckage from the bomber, had put in property damage claims.

Colonel Boyd explained that the War Department has statutory authority to pay claims up to $1,000, including claims for medical, hospital and burial expenses, but that claims for larger amounts, and death claims, must be passed upon by Congress. He said that it was "a very common procedure" for Congress to approve payment of death claims, however, and that the most frequent amount was $5,000, although it varied with the age and circumstances of the victim.

Open Damage Claims Filed

Frank & Dubois, insurance brokers for the Empire State Building, filed open claims yesterday for damages to the structure and for employer's and public liability, with twenty-four insurance companies, the War Damage Corporation and the United States Government. The amount asked was left open, to await later appraisal.

In insurance circles it was believed that in view of past rulings it was unlikely that the courts would hold the War Damage Corporation liable, but it was regarded as certain that the insurance companies involved would seek to recover from the Government any sums they might have to pay.

Brig. Gen. C. P. Kane, in charge of the investigation into the accident, said yesterday that it would be completed "soon." The members of the investigating board visited La Guardia Field yesterday, where they questioned Victor Barden, chief operator of the control tower, who was in communication with the plane just before the crash. It was indicated, however, that the report of the board, fixing responsibility for the crash, would have to go to AAF headquarters in Washington before it was made public.

Body of Sailor Recovered

The body of Albert G. Perna, aviation machinist's mate, second class, who was killed while riding as a passenger in the bomber from Bedford, Mass., en route to Newark, was recovered yesterday from the bottom of an elevator shaft in the sub-cellar of the Empire State Building, where it had been carried along with one of the plane's motors and other sections of wreckage.

The bodies of four more of the dead were identified yesterday at the Bellevue Hospital morgue, leaving only one victim unidentified. That was believed to be the body of Mrs. Charles Bath, 19 years old, of 38-11 Sixty-fifth Street, Woodside, Queens, who was the reception clerk in the office of the War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. She has been missing since the disaster.

Those identified yesterday were all employes in the NCWC office. They were John Aloysius Judge, 40, of 524 Beach 131st Street, Rockaway Beach, L. I., who was employed as a supervisor to visit prisoner of war camps, and three clerical employes, Miss Anna Gerlach, 44, of 1344 Clay Avenue, the Bronx; Mrs. Charles Milhean, 22, of 2242 Tiebout Avenue, the Bronx, and Miss Mary Kedzierska, 34, of 251 East Tenth Street.

Appeal for Blood Donors

An appeal was made yesterday for blood donors to save the life of another member of the NCWC staff, Joseph Fountain, 47, of 70 Metropolitan Oval, the Bronx, who was in Bellevue Hospital in a critical condition, suffering from multiple burns. NCWC officials said that no specific type of blood had been requested, and that donors should go to the emergency ward at Bellevue.

A widely circulated report that the NCWC office had been looted of $8,000 during the turmoil after the crash was denied yesterday by the Rev. Edward E. Swanstrom, assistant executive director. He explained that traveler's checks for several thousand dollars had been found by the police in the wreckage and turned over to the police property clerk for safekeeping, where he located them yesterday.

A section of metal believed to have been part of the tip of one of the plane's propellers, weighing about five pounds, was found yesterday on the roof of the Franklin Simon department store at Fifth Avenue and Thirty-eighth Street, four blocks from the scene.

The New York Times
Published July 31, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

ROBERT C. BROWN

Vice President of Empire State Building Dies at 75

Robert Calvin Brown of 150 East Seventy-third Street, vice president, treasurer, and a director of Empire State, Inc., who had been associated with the Empire State Building since its inception, died yesterday of complications induced by a throat infection contracted a week ago. Born in Alexandra, Pa., March 8, 1870, he was a civil engineering graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, which conferred on him a Doctor of Science degree in 1933.

Mr. Brown was vice president and a director of the Thirty-fourth Street-Midtown Association, and treasurer of the Empire State Club.

He leaves a widow, Ada Smith Brown; a daughter, Elizabeth, who is the wife of Maj. J. Nelson Ramsey of the Quartermasters Corps; a son, Capt. Walter N. Brown of the Army Reserve, seven grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

The New York Times
Published: March 27, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

Cleaning Women at Empire State Building Go on Strike in Protest Against WLB Ruling

The 130 cleaning women employed by the Empire State Building—the building's entire cleaning force—went on strike late yesterday afternoon and thereby declared war on the War Labor Board. They have no quarrel with the Empire State management, which has expressed willingness to grant their demands.

Clarence Anderson, in charge of the cleaners for the management, said the building would remain uncleaned, as there were no other facilities available. If the strike continues for more than two weeks this would affect the WLB itself, as its regional office, now at 220 East Forty-second Street, has announced plans to move into the Empire State Building on June 1.

The women, many of them mothers of service men, are members of Local 32-J of the Building Service Employes Union, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor. They struck against the regional office of the WLB because of its refusal to approve an increase of 5 cents an hour and a food allowance after two hours' overtime work. The Empire State management had supported these demands before the board after reaching an agreement with the union. The women now receive 55 cents an hour. Many of the women are more than 60 years old.

The strike action was taken at a meeting in a rest room on the fifth floor of the Empire State, when it was decided to begin picketing against the WLB at 11 A. M. today under instructions given the strikers by Albert E. Perry, vice president and business manager of Local 32-J, and Hyman Schwartz, a union delegate.

"You are getting a measly 55 cents, and you are asking for a measly 5 cents an hour more," Mr. Perry told the women: "But remember it is not the building you are striking against, but the War Labor Board. This is a peculiar situation, in which management is willing to give you everything, but the board refuses to permit it."

The board's refusal to approve the increase was based on the contention that it was contrary to the provisions of the wage stabilization act.

According to Mr. Perry, the board was willing to approve a three-cent-an-hour increase, but he advised the women not to accept it. A chorus of "noes' 'indicated that the women would hold out for the 5 cents.

C. L. Brown, operating manager of the building, told reporters that the management was supporting the women's appeal to the board for a reconsideration of its decision.

A spokesman for the board said yesterday that the board's appeals committe had planned to consider the strikers' appeal tomorrow, but indicated that in view of the strike the case would "be put on the bottom of the pile" of appeals. This would mean a delay of at least several days in consideration of the case.

The New York Times
Published: May 17, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

EMPIRE STATE STRIKE OFF

Cleaning Women Heed WLB Threat to Stand on Wage Ruling

The strike of 130 cleaning women employed in the Empire State Building, which began at 5:30 P. M. on Wednesday in protest against the refusal of the regional War Labor Board to approve a wage rise of 5 cents an hour, was called off last night. it was announced by Albert Perry, vice president and business manager of Local 32-J of the Building Service Employes Union. Mr. Perry said the women will return to work this afternoon.

The calling off of the strike followed a warning by a spokesman for the War Labor Board that there would be no action on the women's appeal for reconsideration of their case unless the strikers returned to work.

The management of the Empire State and the union have agreed on a new contract embodying the demand for an increase of 5 cents an hour, which would bring wages up to 60 cents an hour.

The New York Times
Published: May 18, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

RELIEF UNIT BACK IN EMPIRE STATE

Catholic Service, Chief Victim of Bomber Crash, Takes Up Winter Program

The War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference—principal victim of the Empire State Building bomber crash on July 28—formally moved back into a brand-new office in the world's tallest structure yesterday.

The occasion was marked by an announcement from Msgr. Patrick A. O'Boyle, executive director, that the organization was set to embark on the most active winter of round-the-world relief in its history.

Back at their desks, or expected soon, are all members of the agency's original staff, except the eleven who were killed on that foggy Saturday morning when an Army bomber smashed into the seventy-ninth floor, devastating the relief agency's offices.

In the organization's new headquarters on the seventy-second floor of the building, Msgr. O'Boyle, pointing out that there had been no interruption in aid to war victims, refugees and prisoners, expressed the opinion that much good for the needy millions of war-devastated countries will come from the "necessary world-wide publicity" of the tragedy.

Sees Tendency to Forget

"There has been a tendency in this country to forget the plight of suffering people of Europe and other places," he said. "The disaster has served to bring to mind the continuing need."

Expressing his gratitude to Gen. Hugh A. Drum, president of the Empire State Building, for having made the new offices available in such a short time, Msgr. O'Boyle cited the fact that every member of the staff able to report for work was on duty.

"Their attitude is that of soldiers, more eager than ever to do their utmost in this welfare work," he asserted.

Of the six young women who suffered from burns and shock in the crash, four were working at their desks yesterday while two are scheduled to return next week. Those back at work were Miss Teresa Fortier, 20 years old, of 216-20 115th Road, St. Albans, Queens; Miss Ellen Lowe, 27 Spooner Street, Floral Park, Queens; Miss Charlotte Deegan, 278 East Thirty-fourth Street, Brooklyn, and Miss Teresa Scarpelli, 385 West 263d Street, Riverdale, the Bronx.

Unaffected by Ordeal

Appearing none the worse for their ordeal, the girls were unanimous in expressing their satisfaction at being able to resume their duties. They scoffed at any intimation of having the slightest qualms about working again so high up in the skyscraper. Only Miss Fortier shyly admitted:

"I sort of duck whenever I hear the sound of an airplane motor."

Discussing the future relief program, Monsignor O'Boyle disclosed that in addition to extending the work that has already brought aid to 7,000,000 war victims in forty-two countries, a nation-wide campaign has been launched enlisting 5,000,000 members of the National Council of Catholic Women in a drive to make and supply clothes for the children of Europe, the Philippines and China.

The New York Times
Published: September 15, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

FEW REACH WORK IN EMPIRE STATE

Strikers and Management Join for Publicity Stunts, but the Office Help Goes Home

The strike of maintenance workers was dramatized most vividly yesterday in the 102-story Empire State Building. Activity virtually ceased from the sixth floor up and most of the 15,000 men and women who work for the 500 concerns in the skyscraper received an unexpected holiday.

Although the building was the most affected in the city, a minimum of confusion was apparent. There were no disturbances and harmony seemed to exist between the building management and the strikers. They even teamed forces late in the day to exploit some publicity stunts, the principal one involving two service men who climbed the 102 stories to the observation tower.

Lieut. Gen. Hugh A. Drum, president of Empire State, Inc., issued a statement expressing his regret at the inconvenience being suffered by tenants of the building. He said no dispute existed directly between the management of the Empire State and its employes.

As workers started to trickle in early in the morning the operators manning the building's seventy-three elevators warned the arrivals that they would be stranded on the upper stories within a short while. As a result, few ascended. At 8:30 A. M. sharp the operators left their elevators and marched out of the building. Two hundred and fifty service employes in all departed.

About 2,000 persons were in the lobby at that time, the number gradually rising as the 9 A. M. peak arrival hour drew near. Workers in offices on the lower floors pushed through the throng and began the unaccustomed climb to their offices, trampling under foot such stern signs as: "Do not walk up under any conditions." Most of the climbers were wise enough to carry with them large bags containing lunches and even supper snacks.

Stenographer Objects

However, the attitude of the majority was represented by a young stenographer who indignantly told her boss:

"I'm not going to walk up. It's not good for my constitution."

In most cases those who decided to use the stairways had their offices on the first six floors. A few hardy souls walked up to the twentieth and even the thirtieth floors, only to find the hall doors locked and their climb all for nothing.

The Ziff-Davis Publishing Company, on the forty-sixth floor, was able to open its doors as usual, but the only ones to stagger through them were office workers Charles Tighe and Miss Edna Fife. One man struggled up to the seventy-seventh floor, but he was too winded even to answer the telephone when he got there.

These demonstrations of devotion to duty, however, were very few in the face of the steep climb. For the most part the building above the sixth floor was an empty shell. This affected numerous concerns wrestling with the reconversion problem, war industries and various Government agencies, including the War Production Board, the Office of Price Administration, the Office of Defense Transportation and an office of the Treasury Department.

The rent offices and other divisions of the regional Office of Price Administration, on the upper floors of the structure, set up shop on the third and fourth floors of the building after 238 OPA employes received a day off.

Business in Lobby

Meanwhile the lobby of the skyscraper began to resemble a market on bargain day. With executives of various concerns as the nucleus, office groups clustered together and transacted pressing business on the spot. Long lines formed at telephone booths and in front of the hastily improvised postoffice, where thousands of pieces of mail awaited distribution. Some secretaries grabbed the day's mail, rushed it to their bosses and took dictation. Activity tapered off, however, and by noon much of the early morning turmoil had disappeared.

Throughout the hubbub the only ones who appeared to be unaffected by the developments of the day were two engineers of the National Broadcasting Company. Ensconced in their eighty-fifth-floor television office with a three-day supply of food, they sent down word that they were ready to sit it out.

Curious to see the "cloud hermits," reporters prevailed on building officials and union officers to operate one of the emergency elevators. In the NBC office the reporters found the engineers, Joseph J. Lombardi of 324 North Grand Street, Baldwin, L. I., and Thomas J. Buzalski of 9 Broad Street, Cranford, N. J., entertaining guests.

Three Climb to Top

The "guests"—Lieut. Theodore Malinowski, 23 years old, of 383 Forty-third Street, Brooklyn, and his friend, Ensign J. H. Halva, 21, of 336 Forty-third Street, Brooklyn, were resting after having climbed 1,860 steps to the top of the building.

Both disclaimed having done anything unusual, explaining that they merely wished to see the observatory. The trip up took them fifty-five minutes; the trip down, twenty-two.

They duplicated a feat accomplished only once before in the building's history. However, before the day was out, it was repeated, this time by a merchant seaman, Dewey Chambers, 46 years old, of Hillsboro, Tex.

Unlike the two officers, who attributed their success to "good physical condition," Merchant Seaman Chambers credited his accomplishment to the War Production Board. A WPB envelope that he found while making the climb came in useful when, perspiring freely, he needed something with which to fan himself.

"By gosh," he exclaimed "if it wasn't for the old War Production Board, I'd never have made it."

The New York Times
Published: September 25, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

LITTER ANKLE-DEEP AT EMPIRE STATE

The lobbies of the Empire State Building, normally kept spick and span as befits the entrances to one of the most famous tourist attractions in the world, were littered ankle-deep with rubbish yesterday after going without cleaning for seventy-two hours because of the maintenance workers' strike.

Scraps of paper lay in heaps in the corridors or were swirled around corners by stray breezes, giving the ground floor of the world's tallest building an appearance of abandonment. Visitors to the skyscraper were stopped short at the entrances by the unexpected sight of disorder and by the musty odor from piles of dust and squashed cigarette butts.

The unkempt condition of the building was not confined to the ground floor. Stairways leading to the first, second, third and fourth floors were covered with trash, including bits of paper bags and lunches marking the trails of hungry climbers. In the first sub-basement, pieces of garbage were strewn near the kitchen of one restaurant, although it was reported that refuse from eating places in the building had been removed by the Sanitation Department.

In the upper floors office workers who had walked up swept their floors clean, but there was no way to get rid of the rubbish. Restrooms in the basement clearly showed the need of a thorough and immediate cleaning and the same condition was reported in lavatories on other floors.

Officials of the building said that the porters, who are assigned to cleaning the lobbies, were out on strike and that the charwomen would not cross the picket lines guarding every entrance. They refused to comment as to whether they planned to appeal to the Board of Health or the Sanitation Department.

Shortly after the building opened in the morning, thousands of persons began filling the lobbies. They milled around aimlessly until 10 A. M., and then left for home, the movies or shopping.

Up on the eighty-fifth floor two National Broadcasting Company television engineers, who had been roughing it in their offices since Monday, were relieved at 2 P. M. by a couple of colleagues. The men who became the new "hermits" of the building were Paul Anderson, 35, of 2274 Lyde Place, Scotch Plains, N. J., and William Kelly, 38, of 41-44 Glenwood Road, Little Neck, L. I. They made the trip by special elevator to relieve Thomas J. Buzalski and Andrew Hammerschmidt.

The New York Times
Published: September 27, 1945
Copyright © The New York Times

WOMAN DIES IN LEAP FROM EMPIRE STATE

Depressed because of illness in her family, Mrs. Rosalind E. Breslauer, 39 years old, a clerk in the War Assets Administration on the sixty-second floor of the Empire State Building, plunged 480 feet to her death at 8:05 A. M. yesterday. Her body landed on a terrace at the west side of the twenty-first floor.

When Mrs. Breslauer walked into the WAA office she balked attempts at friendly conversation, told a fellow worker, Miss Angela Troiano of 50-47 Thirty-fourth Street, Long Island City, Queens, that she had several notes to write and "please don't bother me," Miss Troiano told the police.

Miss Troiano said she later saw Mrs. Breslauer disappearing through an open window. "I think she said good-bye," she added.

The notes Mrs. Breslauer had written included one to her husband, Louis Breslauer, with whom she lived in a furnished room at 314 Stratford Road, Brooklyn. It said, "I am sorry for what I have done" and told of her love for him. There were two other notes. The police said Mr. Breslauer had been ill and was not working.

The New York Times
Published: August 23, 1946
Copyright © The New York Times

Assessed Valuation in City Is Increased by $63,869,470

Tentative Figure of $15,975,847,166 Is Set for 1946-47—Empire State Building Tops Tax Roll at $31,000,000

The tentative assessed valuation of taxable real estate and special franchises in New York City for the fiscal year 1946-47 was placed at $15,975,847,166 in a report submitted to Mayor O'Dwyer yesterday by Harry B. Chambers, president of the Tax Commission. This is an increase of $72,869,470 over the final valuations for 1945-46, which were $15,902,977,696.

However, Mr. Chambers explained that the tentative 1946-47 total would be reduced by an estimated $9,000,000 by anticipated tax exemptions, making the estimated net increase over the present fiscal year $63,869,470. The comparable estimated net increase last year was $80,465,875. The increase in the final valuation for 1945-46 over 1944-45 was $56,085,682.

The tentative tax rolls as of Jan. 25 will be opened to the public today, Mr. Chambers announced, and will remain open until March 15. Property owners who wish to file applications for correction may do so during this period. The Tax Commission will hold hearings on such applications as speedily as possible, to permit making public the final assessed valuations on May 25.

The final assessment figures, the estimated general fund for the next year and the final 1946-47 budget, when it is ready, will be submitted to Controller Lazarus Joseph for computation of the city's basic tax rate for next year. This figure must then be submitted to the City Council for approval. The present basic rate is $2.67 on each $100 of assessed value.

The figures made public yesterday by Mr. Chambers gave the value of ordinary real estate in the city as $13,888,907,555; the value of the real estate of utility corporations as $1,369,773,940 and used a figure of $717,165,671 for the value of special franchises. It was pointed out, however, that the tentative figures for special franchises, which are assessed by the

Continued on Page 13, Column 6

The New York Times
Published: February 1, 1946
Copyright © The New York Times

VALUATIONS IN CITY LIFTED $63,869,470

Continued From Page 1

State Tax Commission, would not be available for another month and that the figure used was based on the final figure for 1945-46.

Despite the net increase in the tentative tax roll, taxpayers received relief to the amount of $81,460,510, the report said. This included reductions totaling $59,081,330 on 17,095 parcels of ordinary real estate; reductions of $5,621,480 on 176 utility properties; 1,283 demolitions of ordinary real estate totaling $7,397,500, and 165 demolitions of utility properties, totaling $9,360,200.

These reductions were more than offset, however, by increases on other properties. These included increases totaling $94,637,535 on 32,570 parcels of ordinary real estate and increases of $6,866,740 on 277 utility properties. The city also benefited by $10,313,130 from the restoration of rehabilitation exemptions. The Rehabilitation Exemption Law, enacted in 1937, expired in 1941 and the city has been reaping the benefits of these improvements since 1942. The 1946-47 tax roll will be the last to benefit from this source.

An interesting commentary on the virtual cessation of new construction during the war was shown by the fact that the increases resulting from alterations of ordinary real estate, amounting to $15,873,500, were considerably greater than the increases resulting from the erection of new buildings in the ordinary real estate category, amounting to $10,056,560, and the new buildings and taxable equipment in utilities, $1,320,450.

The net increases in the valuation of ordinary real estate and real estate of utility corporations by boroughs was as follows:

Manhattan	$25,121,800
The Bronx	8,329,385
Brooklyn	14,766,010
Queens	20,386,015
Richmond	1,722,650
Utilities	2,543,610
Total	$72,869,470

The assessment changes for ordinary real estate and for the real estate of utility corporations, by boroughs, are shown in the following tables:

ORDINARY REAL ESTATE

Boro	Final Assessed Valuation 1945-46.	Tentative Assessed Valuation 1946-47.	Increase.
Manha'n	$6,400,037,940	$6,425,159,740	$25,121,800
Bronx...	1,651,503,751	1,659,833,136	8,329,385
Brooklyn	3,292,967,292	3,307,733,302	14,766,010
Queens..	2,169,855,887	2,190,241,902	20,386,015
Richm'd.	274,216,825	275,939,475	1,722,650
Total..	$13,818,581,695	$13,888,907,555	$70,325,860

REAL ESTATE OF CORPORATIONS
(Utility Properties)

Boro.	Final Assessed Valuation 1945-46.	Tentative Assessed Valuation 1946-47.	Increase or Decrease.
Manha'n	$706,970,410	$701,912,050	— *$5,058,360
Bronx ..	211,265,100	215,877,800	+ *4,612,700
Brooklyn	244,312,080	247,322,550	+ *3,010,470
Queens..	185,122,690	185,122,090	— *600
Richm'd.	19,560,050	19,539,450	— 20,600
Total..	$1,367,230,330	$1,369,773,940	+ $2,543,610

*This includes assessed value of property transferred from Real Estate of Corporations (Utility Property) to Ordinary Real Estate amounting to $4,847,600; the amount transferred from Ordinary Real Estate to Real Estate of Corporations (Utility Properties) is $682,000.

The Empire State Building, which last year was tied with the RCA Building for the honor of being the most valuable single property on the tax rolls, emerged in yesterday's figures as the victor. It was assessed at $31,000,000, an increase of $1,000,000 over last year's figure, while the RCA Building was listed unchanged at $30,000,000. The Equitable Building, which for many years was the most valuable in the city, was listed at $28,000,000.

Radio City remained the most valuable aggregation of properties in the city. It was valued at $94,575,000, an increase of $1,000,000 over last year, which was arrived at through increases of $200,000 each on the British and French Buildings; $100,000 on the Music Hall, and $500,000 on the International Building. Its closest rival was the Parkchester Housing Development in the Bronx, listed at $51,757,000, unchanged from last year.

Among hotels the Waldorf-Astoria, with an unchanged assessment of $22,500,000, led the list, followed by the Commodore, with an assessment of $13,800,000. There were no changes in the assessments of any of the large department stores, with R. H. Macy's heading this grouping, at $24,000,000, followed by B. Altman & Co., $11,250,000.

Madison Square Garden was listed at $3,500,000 and the Polo Grounds at $1,025,000, while the Yankee Stadium was assessed at $2,300,000.

The New York Times
Published: February 1, 1946
Copyright © The New York Times

MAN LEAPS TWICE TO END LIFE HERE

He Jumps From 86th Floor of Empire State Building to 85th, Then Makes Death Plunge

IDENTIFIED FROM PAPERS

Victim Had Placed His Coat on Ledge Before Vaulting Rail for First Drop

Crowds intent on viewing the New York scene from the eighty-sixth floor observatory of the Empire State Building paid slight attention yesterday as a quietly dressed man vaulted the five-foot stone guard rail and landed one floor below.

Then as they shifted their gaze to follow his movements they saw him drag himself to the ledge, thirty inches high, surrounding the parapet there and topple over it to his death. His body landed 500 feet below on a set-back on the thirtieth floor.

Before leaping the man had placed his coat on the stone ledge, witnesses recalled, and papers in it established his identity as Charles Vogel, 67 years old, an employe of Mills Hotels for more than thirty-five years.

As nearly as could be learned, Mr. Vogel had edged his way through the crowd lining the north side of the observatory about 4:20 P. M. and jumped. He apparently broke his legs in the fourteen-foot drop to the eighty-fifth floor but hobbled to the low ledge and scrambled over, witnesses said. Although most of the onlookers were too startled to do anything, one, an amateur photographer, took a "shot" of the death plunge.

Retired Once, But Returned

At the Mills Hotel, 161 West Thirty-sixth Street, William Diemer, night superintendent, said that Mr. Vogel had worked there as a night elevator operator since 1942. He had retired on a pension in 1937 after more than thirty years' service at the hotel's Rivington Street branch but returned to duty because of the manpower shortage during the war, Mr. Diemer added.

The superintendent also revealed that Mr. Vogel apparently intended to end his life because during the last few weeks he had given fellow workers treasured possessions, including a pair of binoculars that were a memento of a trip to Germany forty years ago.

Mr. Vogel had been ill of a heart condition and had recently been under hospital care, the police said. They found no notes in his room. Hotel records showed that his nearest relative was a sister, Mrs. Emma Vadrewtt of 121 Faneuil Avenue, Boston. Fellow workers said that Mr. Vogel had amassed considerable savings but a preliminary search of his effects did not confirm it.

The New York Times
Published: July 8, 1946
Copyright © The New York Times

Plane Barely Misses Empire State; Crash in Haze Averted by 200 Feet

A twin-engine airplane flying over New York City yesterday morning through a thick haze and at a dangerously low level narrowly missed crashing into the Empire State Building. It was just one year ago, lacking four days, that an Army Air Forces B-25 bomber smashed into the building and killed fourteen persons.

Last night, several hours after the incident, the plane had not been positively identified, although it was reported to be a Coast Guard machine.

Scores of office workers above the fifty-ninth floor and a score of sightseers on the observation terrace of the building were badly frightened by the incident. All agreed that the plane bored through the haze and appeared to be headed for the building at about the level of the eightieth floor.

George McDonald, a guide in the tower, said he saw the plane at about 11 A. M. Mr. McDonald said it was headed for the building, but that it banked at the last minute and passed about 200 feet east of the building at about the level of the tower.

Francis Powell, manager of the Empire State Observatory, told much the same story, adding that the plane came from the northeast. Mr. Powell said the pilot banked the plane steeply and leveled off going down Fifth Avenue. All of the witnesses reported that the

Continued on Page 16, Column 3

The New York Times
Published: July 25, 1946
Copyright © The New York Times

PLANE NEARLY HITS THE EMPIRE STATE

Continued From Page 1

plane had twin tails, twin engines and that the only marking visible was a large letter A.

O. W. Young, district administrator for the Civil Aeronautics Administration, said the plane was a Coast Guard Lockheed and that it landed at Floyd Bennett Field about fifty minutes after it had been reported near the Empire State Building. He said the CAA planned to take no action against the airmen, pointing out it was CAA policy to permit military authorities to take disciplinary measures deemed necessary in such cases.

A statement issued later by Rear Admiral Ed H. Smith, commander of the Third Coast Guard District, said a Coast Guard Lockheed plane based at Elizabeth, N. C., had landed at Floyd Bennett Field at 11:52 A. M., also about fifty minutes after the reported incident.

Not a Third District Plane

The statement said the plane was piloted by Lieut. Comdr. Charles Tighe with Lieut. J. F. Bills as co-pilot, and that it had come to New York from Washington. The statement ended, however, by saying that Third District headquarters "were unable to state whether or not this plane was involved in the incident since it is not a Third District aircraft."

When Comdr. A. J. Hesford, commander of Floyd Bennett Field, was reached by telephone, he said he had nothing to say but would permit questioning of the pilot of the plane, Commander Tighe, who would call back in "a few minutes." Several minutes later, however, Lieut. Walter Bolton, duty officer at Floyd Bennett, called to say the pilot would not be available but that a statement would be issued by Third District headquarters later.

Both the crash of the Army B-25 into the Empire State Building a year ago, and the piling up of an Army C-45 transport into the fifty-eighth floor of the Bank of the Manhattan Company Building last May 20, occurred under similar weather conditions, with haze limiting visibility over Manhattan.

Snyder Plane Not Near Tower

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, July 24—As a result of reports from New York, Charles P. Shaeffer, publications director for the Treasury Department, said tonight that Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder had flown to New York in a Coast Guard plane clearly marked with the armed forces insignia of a bar and star but that the plane did not come anywhere near hitting the Empire State Building.

Mr. Shaeffer quoted the pilot as saying that at no time was he nearer than a mile to the skyscraper. The plane, a Lockheed Lodestar, took Mr. Snyder to New York to speak at an off-the-record meeting of a radio news broadcasters' organization.

The New York Times
Published: July 25, 1946
Copyright © The New York Times

3 Floors of Empire State To House Foreign Groups

Acting on the request of United Nations officials, the American delegation has arranged to clear three floors of the Empire State building for offices of the delegations of about seventeen foreign nations, it was announced yesterday.

The sixty-first, sixty-second and sixty-third floors of the skyscraper totaling about 63,000 square feet, will be vacated immediately by the War Assets Administration. The Washington end of the arrangements was handled by the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, in accordance with President Truman's directive to Government agencies to lend all possible help to the United Nations.

Spokesmen for the American delegation said the Empire State building space was mentioned by the United Nations because of its large size and central location. Among the delegations that already have put in bids for office space there are those of the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, Mexico, Canada, China, India, Greece, and the Philippines.

The New York Times
Published: October 10, 1946
Copyright © The New York Times

RICHMOND SHREVE, ARCHITECT, 69, DIES

Senior Member of Firm That Planned Empire State Building —Led in Slum Clearance

ADVISED COLLEGE BOARDS

Organizational Figure in Field Worked on Housing Projects, Business, School Structures

RICHMOND H. SHREVE

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, N. Y., Sept. 10—Richmond Harold Shreve, distinguished New York architect, died here early today in his home, 50 Euclid Avenue, after an illness of eighteen months. He was 69 years old.

Long a well-known figure in the architectural field, Mr. Shreve was senior member of the firm of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, 11 East Forty-fourth Street, New York, whose works include the Empire State Building as well as military and naval installations and public and private housing projects.

Mr. Shreve had a genius for the solution of operational and administrative problems of building. Interested in housing and slum clearance, he was named director of the Slum Clearance Committee of New York after its formation in 1933 and organized the assembly of data upon which the districts for slum clearance were determined.

He was chief architect of the group which prepared plans for the Williamsburg Housing Project, the first of the large slum-clearance developments to be built by the New York Housing Authority, and later was chief architect of the Vladeck Houses on New York's lower East Side and the Parkchester development of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in the Bronx.

His Part with Empire State

The Empire State Building, perhaps the best known executed work of Mr. Shreve and his associates, was completed in one year as a result of Mr. Shreve's organizational abilities and in spite of the many problems involved in the design and execution of the world's tallest building. The firm reaped rich rewards from this project, receiving Gold Medals from the Architectural League of New York, the Fifth Avenue Association and the Paris Exposition of 1937.

Among the other designs of Mr. Shreve's various partnerships are the Bankers Trust Company buildings, the home office building of the Acacia Mutual Life Insurance Company of Washington, D. C., the New York office of the Insurance Company of North America, 500 Fifth Avenue; the General Motors Building, the Standard Oil, Macmillan and Fisk buildings; the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company office building, Winston-Salem, N. C.; dormitory, auditorium, library and faculty housing buildings at the Connecticut College for Women, the new Hunter College structure on Park Avenue, buildings at Cornell University and Army and Navy bases and airfields in this country, Newfoundland, northern Canada and Greenland.

Among the buildings now under construction are the large addition to THE NEW YORK TIMES on Forty-fourth Street; the new store for Best & Co., the addition to the Abraham & Straus store in downtown Brooklyn and research laboratories for the Johns-Manville Corporation.

Born at Cornwallis, N. S., son of Very Rev. Richmond Shreve, former Dean of the Cathedral of Quebec, and Mary C. P. Hocken Shreve, Mr. Shreve studied at the College of Architecture of Cornell University, from which he was graduated in 1902. For the next four years he was a member of the faculty of the college, and supervised the construction of Goldwin Smith Hall, designed by Carrere & Hastings, New York architects, whose office he joined at the conclusion of this work.

Joined Firm in 1910

He became a partner in the firm of Carrere & Hastings, Shreve & Lamb, architects, in 1920. The partnership was terminated in 1924 when, with William Lamb, he formed the firm of Shreve & Lamb. In 1929 they were joined by Arthur Loomis Harmon and, under the name of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, much of the important work of the firm was done.

Mr. Shreve's interests extended also to the field of education. He established the Shreve, Lamb and Harmon fellowship at Cornell University, providing for a year's employment in his office to the outstanding student in the graduating class of the College of Architecture.

A Fellow of the American Institute of Architects Mr. Shreve served for several years as a director of the Institute and was its president in 1941-43. He was also appointed executive officer of the Fifteenth International Congress of Architects in 1939 and was a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Mr. Shreve was president of the New York Building Congress from 1927 to 1929 and a Governor of the Real Estate Board of New York for three terms. He served as a member of the Board of Design of the New York World's Fair, on the Advisory Board of Architects for Goucher College and with his firm was college architect for Oberlin College. He was also a member of the Advisory Council of the Cornell University College of Architecture.

He was a member of the Cornell Club, of which he was president from 1924 to 1927; the Union League Club, the Ardsley Country Club, the Cosmos Club of Washington, D. C., and the Union Club of Cleveland.

Mr. Shreve leaves a widow, the former Ruth Bentley, whom he married in 1906; three sons, Richmond Bentley, Robert Wilton and Thomas Charles, and two sisters, Mrs. Ralph Linvel Hayes and Miss Florence Shreve of Germantown, Pa.

The New York Times
Published: September 11, 1946
Copyright © The New York Times

5 U. N. OFFICES GOING INTO EMPIRE STATE

Move From Rockefeller Center Monday—City Building Snag to East River Capital

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., Jan. 10—Five administrative divisions of the United Nations will move Monday from Rockefeller Center to the Empire State Building to consolidate their downtown offices, officials announced today.

Offices that will be moved include the Manhattan headquarters of Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the United Nations, and the travel and transport service, whose shuttle cars between here and the city will now have their New York terminal at the Empire State. Other offices to be shifted are those of the protocol and liaison section, the department of public information and the film section.

The travel and transport service and the film section have been occupying space in the RKO Building. This space will be retained for use by the newly created board of design consultants, which is to assist in the planning of the East River skyscraper capital under the direction of Wallace K. Harrison.

In addition to the many delegation offices now established in the Empire State Building, the United Nations will have eight divisions in the Thirty-fourth Street headquarters, including an office of the World Health Organization.

The United States delegation offices are somewhat scattered, but officials are hoping that the various divisions in this Government's group of representatives will be soon centralized in the Empire State.

It was disclosed that there was some concern here about an eight-story cement building being erected for the New York City Housing Authority on the north side of Forty-second Street between First Avenue and the East River.

Before the United Nations announced its intention of erecting a world capital in a six-block area that includes part of the block where the new housing building is rising, the city had contracted to put up the structure. City officials, it was said, informed the United Nations that it was too late to change construction plans, but added that they would "finish" it attractively on all sides, especially the rear of the building, which would look out on the skyscraper capital.

Some persons here, however, are afraid that as the building grows higher it will be an eyesore. Robert Moses, construction coordinator and Mayor O'Dwyer's principal agent in dealings with the United Nations, declared that the questions had been discussed at length and there was no need to "worry." However, a spokesman for a major delegation declared that his colleagues would "be very happy" if city officials decided not to finish the structure.

The New York Times
Published: January 11, 1947
Copyright © The New York Times

SAUDI ARABIA VISITORS SEE THE BIG CITY

Crown Prince Saud (second from left) and members of his party atop the Empire State Building yesterday. The New York Times

ARAB CROWN PRINCE HERE ON 4-DAY VISIT

Emir Saud, Eldest of King's 40 Sons, Sees City From Empire State Tower

The Emir Saud, eldest of the forty sons of King Ibn Saud and heir apparent to the throne of Saudi Arabia, arrived yesterday in New York from Washington by train for a four-day visit.

The Arabian Crown Prince, accompanied by eight robed aides armed with pistols, daggers and swords, is visiting the United States as the guest of President Truman.

Escorted by members of the State Department, numerous detectives and two executives of the Arabian American Oil Company, the Emir Saud arrived at Pennsylvania Station with his entourage and large quantities of luggage in three private cars at 1:56 P. M. He and his party departed immediately in a motorcade for the Empire State Building.

The Emir had expressed the wish to visit that skyscraper as the first step on his tour of Manhattan. He visited both the eighty-sixth and 102d floor observatories and appeared to enjoy an eagle's eye view of New York.

More than 700 other visitors to the observatories watched as news photographers snapped the distinguished visitor gazing through a telescope. The Emir was greeted and escorted by J. Holloway Tarry, vice president of the Empire State, Inc.

Thereafter the Emir made a rapid motor tour of the city before going to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, where he will remain through Tuesday. It is believed that tomorrow he will meet with officials of the Arabian American Oil Company, Standard of New Jersey and Socony Vacuum of New Jersey to discuss participation by the latter two companies in the exploitation of the huge oil resources of his country.

The Emir arrived in Washington from abroad last Monday on a chartered aircraft. He was received by President Truman the next day. Next Wednesday he will leave here for a tour of the United States. He will visit Kansas City, Houston, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Denver, Chicago and Detroit before returning to New York en route home the middle of February.

The Emir is the second Arabian prince to visit New York recently. His next younger brother—he has also some forty sisters—Emir Ibn Saud, Arabian Foreign Minister, headed his country's delegation to the recent United Nations General Assembly.

The New York Times
Published: January 19, 1947
Copyright © The New York Times

HURTLING SUICIDE INJURES WOMAN

Pedestrian Critically Hurt as Man's Body Caroms Off Ledge of Empire State Building

David H. Gordon Jr., 28-year-old Army veteran and a former student at Harvard University, plunged to his death from the eighty-sixth floor observation tower of the Empire State Building yesterday morning, and his body struck a woman pedestrian, who was critically injured. The police listed his death as a suicide.

The woman, Mrs. Mervin Sylvester Coover, 51 years old, of Ames, Iowa, was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital, suffering from possible fractures of the neck, left arm and left leg. Mrs. Coover, a visitor in the city, was walking east on Thirty-fourth Street with her sister, Mrs. Hazel De Lapp of Norwalk, Conn., when the body hurtled from the observation tower, struck a projection on the building, and caromed off in front of 14 West Thirty-fourth Street.

Mrs. Coover's husband is head of the Electrical Engineering Department of Iowa State College, a member of Phi Kappa Phi and many other outstanding fraternities and engineering societies and clubs. Mr. Coover came here to attend an electrical meeting.

"I'll Stay a Little While"

According to the police, Gordon entered the building at about 10:30 A. M., paying $1.20 for his visit to the tower. He changed for another elevator on the eightieth floor. He and the elevator operator, James Lefler, exchanged comments on the weather, with the operator remarking that it was "a little hazy." Gordon replied: "I'll only stay a little while then," as he left the elevator at the observation tower.

On the tower, he was joined by Navy Chief Petty Officer James Lampert, who said that Gordon removed his hat, coat and gloves and put one foot on the parapet. "I'm going to jump," Gordon remarked. Lampert attempted to ease him away from the parapet, saying: "You don't want to do that, it's not the thing to do."

Just as Lampert turned and shouted for help to two guards, George McDonald and Patrick Dunn, Gordon cleared the parapet. The police said the guards missed by about six inches in their effort to grab Gordon before he leaped.

29 Cents and a Letter

Gordon's coat pocket contained twenty-nine cents and a letter from his mother, Mrs. Rose Gordon of Miami. The letter, the police said, urged her son to take care of himself and mentioned enclosing money for his living expenses.

Gordon's parents, the police said, vacationed at Miami and had a home at Atlanta. His father, it was learned, was a traveling salesman for the George W. Luft Company.

At the Men's Residence Club, 317 West Fifty-sixth Street, officials told police that Gordon had left word that his mother should be notified in the event of accident. He had lived at the club since Dec. 28, 1946, occupying a single room.

His uncle, Max Furman, an assistant New York State Attorney General, identified the body at the West Thirtieth Street station. Mr. Furman, who lives with his wife at 940 Grand Concourse, the Bronx, was quoted as saying that his nephew had been "depressed."

The suicide leap was the second in recent months in which a pedestrian was hit. A woman plunged from another building, killing a letter carrier who was passing.

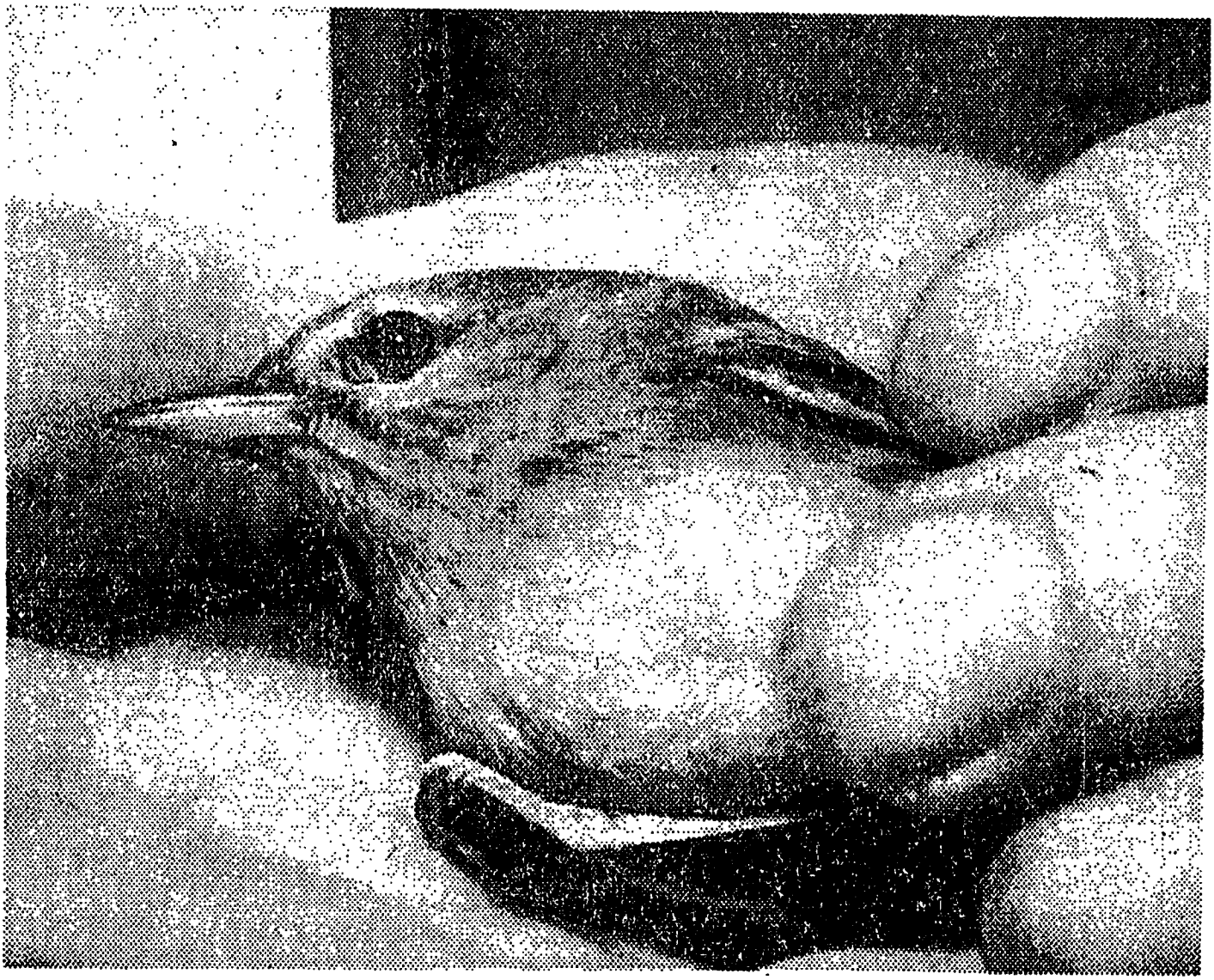
Ten other persons have plunged to their deaths from upper floors of the Empire State since it was opened on May 1, 1931. Of these, three leaped from the eighty-sixth floor, clearing parapets and setbacks, and landing in the street. One other person fell to his death a month before the building was opened.

DIES IN PLUNGE

David H. Gordon Jr.
Associated Press Wirephoto

The New York Times
Published: January 27, 1947
Copyright © The New York Times

123 Birds and 4 Bats Crash Into Empire State Building



The New York Times (by Patrick Burns)

One of the tiny warblers that was injured when it was blown against Empire State Building

Carried astray on their annual southern migration by a wild northwest wind, 123 birds and four bats crashed into the Empire State Building in the early hours of yesterday morning. Porters found them on the five set-backs of the structure from the eighty-sixth (observatory) floor down to the sixth. All but five of the birds and one of the bats were killed by the impact. Members of the Audubon Society classified the birds into twenty-eight species, an unusually wide distribution. But the four red bats puzzled them most. Kenneth D. Morrison, editor of The Audubon Magazine, theorized that the entire flock had been flying low to escape turbulent winds, and had been blown against the building. Bats, he explained, are supposed to have some radar system of their own, emitting sounds that bounce off objects ahead and come back to them as a warn-

Continued on Page 54, Column 1

The New York Times
Published: October 7, 1954
Copyright © The New York Times

BIRDS, BATS CRASH INTO EMPIRE STATE

Continued From Page 1

ing. The bats were presumed to be en route to some cave where they could start their hibernation. The birds, most of them small songbirds, ordinarily winter in South and Central America.

Clouds were lowering throughout the night, according to weather reports, as cold currents moved over a warm city. By 4 A. M. the ceiling was down to 1,400 feet at La Guardia Airport. The Empire State Building is 1,472 feet to the tip of its television towers. At 6 A. M. the ceiling was 1,100 feet.

The Audubon Society spokesmen believe the migrants came to grief when, flying low to escape turbulent areas, they ran into the cloud masses and pressures sometimes created around tall buildings.

Four of the birds and the one bat that survived were released in Central Park by the society after a rest at its offices at 1130 Fifth Avenue. The fifth bird flew into the offices of the Animal Welfare Institute, in the building. Mrs. Christine Stevens, a worker there, fed it and released it.

The dead birds were classified as twenty-five Maryland yellowthroats, sixteen palm warblers, eleven parula warblers, eight magnolia warblers, six black-throated green warblers, four Tennessee warblers, three Nashville warblers, two black and white warblers, and one each of the chestnut-sided, myrtle, mourning and black-throated blue warblers; fourteen oven birds, four swamp sparrows, four scarlet tanagers, three white-throated sparrows, two field sparrows, two ruby-crowned kinglets, one golden-crowned kinglet, a northern water thrush, a house wren, a Philadelphia vireo, a yellow-breasted chat, a red-breasted nuthatch, a white-breasted nuthatch, a redstart, a cat bird and a whippoorwill.

The New York Times
Published: October 7, 1954
Copyright © The New York Times

STORE PLANS TO MOVE

Ludwig-Baumann-Spear's Will Close Eighth Ave. Building

Ludwig Baumann-Spear's, retailers of home furnishings, will close its building at Eighth Avenue and Thirty-fifth Street and move its main store operations to 22 West Thirty-fourth Street shortly after the beginning of the year. Executive and administrative offices in the Eighth Avenue building will be transferred to a location not yet determined.

A. J. Kaminsky, president, said that no plans had been made to dispose of the closed building. The new store will have 90,000 square feet of space on six floors and a basement. The present store has about 120,000 square feet on eight floors.

In commenting on the move Mr. Kaminsky said: "The company feels that the Thirty-fourth Street store, right next to the Empire State Building and directly opposite Ohrbach's and Oppenheim Collins, is in the heart of New York's newest, fastest growing shopping center, and offers brilliant prospects for expanding volume. It is the logical site for the hub around which the company's future activities should revolve."

The New York Times
Published: October 12, 1954
Copyright © The New York Times

DEAL IS CLOSED ON EMPIRE STATE

Col. Henry Crown Increases His Ownership to 100% in Famed Office Structure

By gradually increasing his holdings during the past three years, Col. Henry Crown, Chicago industrialist, yesterday became the sole owner of the Empire State Building at 350 Fifth Avenue.

When the world's tallest office structure was sold by the estate of John Raskob in 1951, Colonel Crown acquired an interest of 24 per cent. Prior to yesterday's transaction, when he obtained 100 per cent ownership, Colonel Crown had increased his holdings to 64 per cent.

Among the principal stockholders who sold their shares yesterday were Roger L. Stevens of Ann Arbor, Mich., a real estate man who owned 11 per cent; Alfred Glancy Jr., of Detroit, Mich., 11 per cent; Charles F. Noyes, New York real estate man, 2 per cent, and the John Raskob and Alfred E. Smith estates, a total of 10 per cent.

Immediately after the sales transaction was completed yesterday, there was a meeting of the directors of the corporation. Colonel Crown was elected president. Arnold M. Grant, New York attorney who represented the new owner throughout the negotiations, was elected secretary and a director of the corporation.

The meeting was held on the eightieth floor of the 102-story structure. Colonel Crown's total cost for the property was reported as $49,500,000. The Raskob estate was said to have received $51,000,000 for its share in 1951. Yesterday's sellers, however, realized a gain due to operating profit and depreciation over the last three years, a spokesman explained.

The New York Times
Published: October 15, 1954
Copyright © The New York Times

BIG CROWDS CHEER THE QUEEN MOTHER

She Is Nearly Mobbed When She Emerges From the Empire State Building

HAILED IN OTHER AREAS

Uptown and Down She Gets Warm Greetings—Views City From Skyscraper

By EDITH EVANS ASBURY

For the first time since her arrival in New York, Queen Mother Elizabeth of Britain was seen yesterday by large crowds —and they nearly mobbed her as she left the Empire State Building.

How the crowds knew she was in the building was something of a mystery. Her decision to make the visit was not made until noon. But there was no doubt about the crowd's enthusiasm for her. The onlookers cheered, applauded, honked automobile horns, and almost swept over the police barricade to get within touching distance of her.

More than a thousand persons had gathered around the Thirty-fourth Street entrance to the building when the Queen Mother arrived at 3:40 P. M. When she emerged shortly before 5 o'clock, the throng had swelled to 5,000, and traffic was immobilized in the block between Fifth Avenue and the Avenue of the Americas.

Gets Rousing Welcome

Earlier, a crowd of 1,500 in the Wall Street area had cheered and applauded the Queen Mother as she entered 120 Broadway to lunch at the Bankers Club. And up on Park Avenue and Fifty-seventh Street, another 1,000 persons gave her a rousing welcome when she arrived for a visit to the American Bible Society at 5 P. M.

One reason for the huge crowd on Thirty-fourth Street between Fifth Avenue and the Avenue of the Americas and in the lobby of the Empire State Building was the Queen Mother's delay in leaving the skyscraper.

After viewing the city from the 102d floor, she descended to the eightieth floor to have tea with William Keary, president of the Empire State Building, and Richard C. Patterson Jr., Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Public Events and a director of the building.

So far during her stay the Queen Mother's social visits have been brief. She became so intrigued with the view from the Empire State Building, and apparently was so relaxed in such a small and informal group — fewer than a dozen persons—that she lingered on and on.

Sitting at a table near a window in the lounge the Queen Mother had three cups of tea and chatted with Mr. Keary and Mr. Patterson.

"She talked about the view, about her grandchildren, about traveling, about the various things a Queen has to do—she was completely relaxed and charming," Mr. Keary reported afterward.

"I asked her if she would like some souvenirs for her grandchildren, and I am going to send her some models of the building," he said.

Her Friendliness Noted

Again the Queen Mother ran into a catering assistant who had served her family years ago in England. This one, unlike the one at the Metropolitan Museum tea on Wednesday, identified himself, and the Queen chatted with him.

"There was absolutely no protocol," Mr. Keary said later. "She seemed genuinely thrilled with the view, asked questions about the building, and couldn't have been more charming. As a goodwill ambassador she would be hard to excel. She is really a very friendly person."

Mr. Keary explained to the Queen Mother that the most beautiful view was the sight of the city at night, when the lights were twinkling.

"A few had come on when she left," Mr. Keary explained, "and she said she was very sorry she could not stay longer to see them all."

Meanwhile, traffic in the streets below was jammed, and in the lobby, employes playing hooky from their office became more and more apprehensive about what their bosses would say, but still they remained, hoping for a look at the Queen Mother.

"I'll probably get fired," groaned Maureen Sullivan, a secretary who lives in the Bronx. "I was supposed to be out only ten minutes when I saw her go in. But I've waited this long so I'm going to wait till she comes down—even if I don't make it back to the office before closing time."

The New York Times (by Patrick A. Burns)

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW: Queen Mother Elizabeth looking at television tower atop the Empire State Building during her visit to the observation roof yesterday. She is flanked by William Kearey, left, president of the Empire State Building Corporation, and Richard C. Patterson Jr., Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Public Events.

The New York Times
Published October 29, 1964
Copyright © The New York Times

About New York

Three Storied Rooms From Europe Tucked Away High in Empire State Building

By MEYER BERGER

PROBABLY one of the last places you'd expect to find a 345-year-old Jacobean room would be high in the Empire State Building, built less than thirty years ago. Yet that's where one is, linked by ancient doors with a Gascon chamber originally put together in a chateau near Dax in southwest France and a Georgian room made for the Guildhall in London in 1730.

The rooms were brought across the sea about ten years ago to be used as thirty-seventh floor dining space for Schenley Distillers Company executives and their guests. Even the handpegged chairs, tables and sideboards that stood in the chambers long ago are used every day at company luncheons.

The Jacobean room came from Rugeley Manor in central Stafford in Britain. It has green mullioned windows threaded with lead and stained glass images of poor Louis II of Hungary and his Queen, Maria of Austria. The legend around the king's image calls him Ludovico. It is dated 1522.

There are learned fellows in Schenley but none seemed to have heard that Ludovico was an extraordinary monarch, bearded and mustached when he was only 13, white-haired five years later; drowned, or lanced by Turkish invaders at the Battle of Mohacs in 1526, when he was only 20.

George Witten, the 73-year-old maitre-de who gets up the executives' luncheons, says the Schenley people paid handsomely for special linoleum to simulate the original red-tiled floor of the Gascon chamber—even had it artfully aged and blackened for realistic effect. One day, though, a zealous new porter steel-wooled all that off.

Each of the three transplanted rooms came with its original fireplace. The one in the Georgian chamber—that room is the longest—is hand-carved, as is all the paneling in the whole suite. The fireplaces don't work, except with electric trickery. They won't burn real wood without smoking up the place.

George, the maitre-de, is no ordinary fellow, and it is rather curious that his job in the ancient dining suites is only thirty-seven floors up from the job he held fifty-two years ago. He was a bus boy then—later a waiter—in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, when it stood on the site from which the Empire State soars.

George served the late Diamond Jim Brady, among others. He snorts at legends of Diamond Jim's generosity; says he was a niggardly tipper and a rather surly type, especially to waiters. George worked at Lüchow's, too, and gets misty-eyed about the place, its former owners, and the wild game he used to carry in for distinguished gentlemen in times now long gone by.

Still later, he opened his own place in Thirty-third Street opposite the Waldorf site. It was still going when the Empire State went up and he frequently had at his tables the late Gov. Al Smith, John Raskob and some of the du Ponts, among others. He sold out in 1945, heartbroken over loss of a son in the war, but the Schenley people called him out of retirement and he's glad of it.

George still owns a $125 custom-made evening suit bought for him on impulse by old-time gamblers on whom he waited one night in 1915 in the old Metropole Hotel. Johnny Walters, Spitty Shea and some of the other card-and-dice boys who had heard he was going to a Turnverein spree, chipped in and ordered the outfit.

When George tells about this, he's apt to stare, dreamy-eyed, westward through the Jacobean room windows at the hazy New Jersey shore, and tell you: "I cannot wear the suit now, not for many, many years, but Mamma don't want to cut it up or throw it out. She cannot forget that night when I first wore it, and danced with her."

The New York Times
Published: December 14, 1955
Copyright © The New York Times

NU HAS A BUSY DAY WITH CITY'S SIGHTS

Burmese on Tourist's Round Finds 'Childhood Dreams' in Empire State Building

Prime Minister Nu of Burma, a smiling statesman with a tourist's gleam in his eye, looked over a large slice of New York life yesterday.

He cruised about Manhattan in a Coast Guard cutter, rubbed elbows with other Independence Day visitors high up in the Empire State Building and accepted a gift baseball from Manager Casey Stengel in a Yankee Stadium dugout.

The Bronx Zoo, Fordham University's campus and the aircraft carrier Antietam, anchored in the Hudson River, also came under the alert scrutiny of Mr. Nu.

Midway in the day he expressed wonder at "these many things I saw for the first time in my life."

The Burmese Prime Minister, who began a tour of the United States after an official visit to Washington, seemed to be particularly impressed by the Empire State Building.

"It is a building of my childhood dreams," he told reporters. "Imagine how happy I am to be here. The height of this great building is really bewildering to me."

Mr. Nu's long day of sightseeing began at 9:40 A. M. when the cutter Manitou shoved off from Pier 9, East River at Old Slip, with the Prime Minister, his wife, Daw Mya Yi, and an entourage of fifteen Burmese and American officials.

O'Brien Serves as Guide

The vessel cruised northward as far as Fiftieth Street and then turned back to swing around the tip of Manhattan. Mr. Nu sat in the stern under a canvas awning with James J. O'Brien, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Public Events, at his side to identify points of interest.

As the Manitou approached the Statue of Liberty, a city fireboat drew alongside, saluting the Prime Minister with jets of water hurled high into the air.

During the Hudson River cruise, which took the party as far as the George Washington Bridge, Mr. Nu and his wife munched ham sandwiches and drank orange juice and coffee provided by the Manitou's galley. They had another glass of juice at an informal reception given in an eightieth floor apartment of the Empire State Building by Frank Powell, manager of the observation tower. Mr. Powell presented the Prime Minister with an eight-inch metal model of the building mounted on an onyx base.

In a brief afternoon visit to the Bronx Zoo, Mr. Nu temporarily outshone a barking sea lion and a lazy leopard as the star attraction for holiday visitors. The costumes of the Burmese sight-seers — saronglike skirts, colorful jackets and odd-shaped yellow head coverings called gaung maung—caused a crowd of several hundred persons to gape as Mr. Nu strolled in the zoo.

Stengel Is Tutor in Batting

He arrived at Yankee Stadium just before the second game of a New York-Boston double-header.

Escorted to the Yankee dugout, Mr. Nu shook hands with Mr. Stengel, received a souvenir baseball and took a quick course in batting technique from the voluble Yankee skipper. John Farr Simmons, State Department Chief of Protocol, who was Princeton varsity pitcher in 1913, sat beside the Prime Minister during the game and explained the activities on the diamond.

"He caught on very rapidly," Mr. Simmons said later.

The Prime Minister left the game early to keep a dinner appointment. He and Mrs. Nu were guests of honor at a private dinner given at the Pierre Hotel by the Ford Foundation, with Mr. and Mrs. H. Rowan Gaither Jr. as host and hostess.

Today Mr. Nu will be welcomed formally to the city by Acting Mayor Abe Stark at ceremonies outside City Hall. He will be entertained also at a late afternoon reception to be given by the Council on Foreign Relations.

The New York Times

YANKS' GUEST: Prime Minister Nu of Burma, holding baseball, studies bat with Manager Casey Stengel at Stadium. Others are Mrs. Nu and John Simmons of State Department.

The New York Times
Published: July 5, 1955
Copyright © The New York Times

SEARCHLIGHTS TESTED

4 Beacons Pierce Sky From Empire State Building

The beacons of four mighty searchlights swirled through the skies here early today as the Empire State Building tested the new lights designed as rays of welcome for air travelers.

Starting at 12:30 A. M., the lights, with a combined total of 2,000,000 candlepower, revolved in their sockets just above the observation platform, 1,092 feet over the corner of Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street. On good nights, after they go into sundown - to - sunrise operation next month, aircraft 300 miles away and ground observers from a distance of eighty miles should see them.

The New York Times
Published: April 11, 1956
Copyright © The New York Times

FALSE BOMB CALLS STILL PLAGUE CITY

Note Prompts Fruitless Hunt in Empire State Building

By ALEXANDER FEINBERG

The urge of eccentrics to report that a bomb had been planted and would go off continued yesterday to harass a weary Police Department.

At least twenty-four such calls were received during the day.

At the peak of the hoax hysteria on Friday more than fifty false bomb alarms were received.

A particularly large headache was posed for the police yesterday when a crackpot left a note in Grand Central Terminal reporting the placing of a bomb in the Empire State Building. The note was found in a telephone booth at the terminal at 11:40 A. M. It said the bomb would explode at 11:02, but it did not specify morning or night.

A tedious search of hallways on the 102 floors of the world's loftiest office building turned up nothing. The search was abandoned at 1:45 P. M.

Even more troublesome were those persons who made and left harmless devices in imitation of the home-made explosives of the so-called Mad Bomber. Their removal and examination consumed additional police time.

The Police Department disclosed that in five cases in which real bombs had been placed in movie theatres since 1943, the Mad Bomber had left behind the

Continued on Page 23, Column 3

The New York Times
Published: December 30, 1956
Copyright © The New York Times

FALSE BOMB CALLS STILL PLAGUE CITY

Continued From Page 1

knives used to cut the upholstery of theatre seats for hiding the bombs.

This disclosure was in line with the newly adopted police policy of soliciting the aid of the public in trying to track down the deranged person who has planted thirty-two devices in the city in the last sixteen years.

The cutting instruments in all cases were ordinary pocket knives, not easily traceable. It was believed the bomber left them rather than run the risk of having the knives found on his person at the scene of his depredations. The knives were found either in the cushion of the seat where the bomb had been planted or underneath the seat.

One such knife was found imbedded in the upholstery of Seat S-108 in the orchestra of the Paramount Theatre at 2:35 A. M. Friday. The blade was two inches long and the imitation pearl handle 2¾ inches. It was originally manufactured by the Remington Arms Company, which later sold the manufacturing rights to the Pal Razor Company. It was widely distributed in the metropolitan area to retail outlets, but has not been made since 1950.

Other Theatres Harried

Similar pocket knives were found in the Capital Theatre Nov. 19, 1953; in the Radio City Music Hall on Nov. 7, 1954; the Roxy on Aug. 11, 1955, and the Paramount Theatre on Oct. 9, 1955.

The Roxy bomb did not explode. No one was hurt when the Capital and Paramount Theatre bombs exploded. The Music Hall explosion injured two men and two women.

The bomb found in the Paramount early Friday was exploded and sliced open later in the day at Fort Tilden, Queens. Another bomb left in the Public Library at Fifth Avenue and Forty-second Street on Christmas Eve was exploded at the same time by Army ordnance and police bomb squad personnel.

No knife was found after a bomb exploded at the Brooklyn Paramount Theatre last Dec. 2, injuring five women and two men.

Photographs of the knives were made available and retailers were urged to recall any suspicious person who might have made purchases. It was assumed that any fingerprint markings had not produced a clue to the bomber's identity.

An elderly man picked up by the police during a close watch of Grand Central Terminal died of a heart attack while being questioned in the East Thirty-fifth Street station on Friday. He was identified as George Cernac, 63 years old, of Bethlehem, Pa., a New Haven Railroad track maintenance worker. The police said they had eliminated him as a suspect.

F. B. I. Maintains 'Liaison'

Several Federal Bureau of Investigation men were recognized by a reporter at a bomb scare in the Port Authority Bus Terminal, Eighth Avenue and Forty-first Street. This gave rise to reports that the F. B. I. had stepped into the inquiry.

A spokesman for the agency said it was maintaining "general liaison" but could not enter the case officially unless it came under Federal jurisdiction.

Deputy Police Commissioner Walter Arm commented:

"We solicit the aid and cooperation of all law-enforcement agencies as well as the public and the press in this investigation. This is not a matter of seeking glory but of stopping the actions of a man who is a menace to the city."

Searches of buildings occasioned by false bomb reports during the day included movie theatres in Manhattan, the Bronx and Brooklyn, the Borough President's office in Brooklyn, the Port Authority Bus Terminal, Gimbels department store, a Brooklyn supermarket, a Manhattan high school, a Broadway restaurant and a dentist's office in Brooklyn, where a four-family house was evacuated.

The New York Times
Published: December 30, 1956
Copyright © The New York Times

CONSERVATION: TEN-YEAR PLAN

National Park Service Discloses Its Program for Federal Action

By JOHN B. OAKES

WITH the blessing of President Eisenhower and Secretary McKay, the National Park Service has now made public its monumental ten-year development plan, called "Mission 66."

This project, taking its name from the final year of the program—which will also be the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the service—represents a comprehensive attempt to anticipate and analyze the needs of the national park system and to provide an orderly and balanced schedule for meeting them.

Mission 66 was conceived by Director Conrad L. Wirth of the National Park Service as a long-range planning effort, on the fundamental principle that to fulfill their mission the parks must be used as well as preserved and protected.

The real problem arises when rapidly increasing use interferes with preservation and protection.

Then one of two things has to happen if, in the words of the basic 1916 law, the parks are to be maintained "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Either use of the parks must be restricted or the facilities must be increased to permit greater use accompanied by more intense protection and preservation.

Fifty Million Visitors

Last year for the first time the number of visitors to the national parks exceeded 50,000,000. While is is true that some 12,000,000 of them were accounted for by the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and the Blue Ridge and Natchez Trace National Parkways—none a national park in the true sense of the word—the 50,000,000 total is still an astonishing figure when one reflects that it amounts to almost one-third of the population of the United States. Ten years ago, the parks attracted only 22,000,000 visitors and ten years before that, less than 12,000,000. It is anticipated that the figure in 1966 will be 80,000,000, which is one of the basic estimates on which Mission 66 is built.

For years the national park system has been limping along on utterly inadequate appropriations, a deficiency greatly intensified during the recent war period. For the coming fiscal year, first of the Mission 66 program, the Administration has requested an appropriation of more than $66,000,000, almost 50 per cent greater than that for the current year. The Mission 66 schedule for the full decade would involve an expenditure of close to $800,000,000, reaching a high of $83,500,000 in the final year.

What are the actual accomplishments that Mission 66 would bring about if it is fully accepted by Congress?

More Facilities

It would double the overnight accommodations for visitors to the parks, although most of these additional facilities would be provided outside park boundaries and would be paid for by private concessionaires. The number of campsites within the national park system would be more than doubled. Greatly enlarged water, power and sewage facilities would be constructed to meet the needs of the vastly increased number of visitors. One of the major items is a program for rebuilding and repairing some 2,000 miles of roads and constructing 300 miles of new roads within the parks, as well as expanding the system of trails that permit visits to the less-frequented park areas.

Another of the largest items in the ten-year budget provides for virtual completion of several major parkways within the national park system—a burden that many people believe should not have been allowed to encumber the National Park Service. In this connection, it is noteworthy that Mission 66 recommends a change in status of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal from a proposed national parkway to a national historical park, which much better suits this beautiful and historic area along the Potomac.

Information Program

Mission 66 would greatly expand the facilities for interpreting the parks to visitors, one of the most important functions of the service. This would involve increasing the number of museums, exhibits, signs, informal or formal lecture sites, and so forth. The program would improve the operational and protective facilities of the parks such as fire towers, ranger stations and the like, and would include adequate sums for proper maintenance and protection of park property. Staff would be correspondingly enlarged to meet the new demands.

The intolerably bad housing provided for park employes has for years been a major black spot in the national park system. In a resolution last September, the Advisory Board on National Parks described some of these accommodations not only as "substandard" but as "barbarous" and "slumlike," and urgently appealed to Congress to provide funds to correct this situation. Mission 66 would do so.

A serious problem plaguing the national parks is the private ownership of land within park boundaries. Mission 66 would provide $1,000,000 a year in Federal funds—surely none too much—for the progressive elimination of these "inholdings" which in many cases threaten the very integrity of the park system. It is encouraging that the program would give special attention to the preservation of wilderness areas inside the parks, a feature that will have to be guarded more and more closely as the population and visitor pressures mount. The program would also further the development of a nation-wide recreation plant involving close liaison with and encouragement of state and local park development projects.

Dangers Ahead

That, in brief, is what Mission 66 would do. As can be seen, it involves a very great expansion of physical plant and facilities. The parks can undoubtedly take such enlargement up to a certain degree without impairing their unique qualities; and one must have confidence in the judgment of the very fine men who run the National Park Service that the expansion proposed in this direction is not greater than the parks can stand. But at the same time it is always well to bear in mind that there is a danger of use leading to overuse, and that at some point in the growth of population and of leisure time, the parks will reach the limit of visitor-pressure that they can safely endure. Already the magnitude of such developments as the new Colter Bay trailer campsite in Grand Teton National Park gives rise to some uneasiness.

Director Wirth believes that "the primary justification for a national park system lies in its capacity to provide enjoyment." But, as he of course realizes, enjoyment can be self-defeating. Mr. Wirth also rightly emphasizes the principles of preservation and protection. It is his difficult job to strike the delicate balance between two concepts that can be complementary up to a point, but past that point can become seriously contradictory.

EMPIRE STATE

The installation of four gigantic searchlights atop the Empire State Building, creating "the brightest continuous source of man-made light in the world," is bad news for birds and bird-lovers. The great beacons, more than 1,000 feet above street level, will produce light totaling 2 billion candlepower, visible from aircraft 300 miles away. One of the lights will shoot vertically aloft, the other three will slowly revolve all night long, at an angle 5 degrees above horizontal. They will go into operation March 31.

Unless preventive measures are taken, these beacons could result in the death semi-annually of literally thousands of migrating birds. Something of this sort has been occurring at airports in various parts of the country, where ceilometer beams—vertical lights used to measure the height of cloud ceilings—have attracted birds in large numbers, blinding them and causing them to dash themselves in panic against buildings or the ground. John K. Terres, describing the ceilometer problem in an article in the January-February issue of Audubon Magazine notes that after much research the use of filters producing only ultra-violet light seems to be the solution. This light is invisible to birds (as well as humans) but still permits satisfactory operation of the ceilometers.

Since the purpose of the Empire State Building lights is obviously to be seen, the filters have to be ruled out. But it is not beyond the bounds of reasonableness to ask that the lights—particularly the steady vertical light, which will be the most dangerous to birds—be extinguished during the few weeks of the spring and autumn migrations. That would be a small price to pay to avoid the almost certain destruction of literally thousands of migrating birds every year.

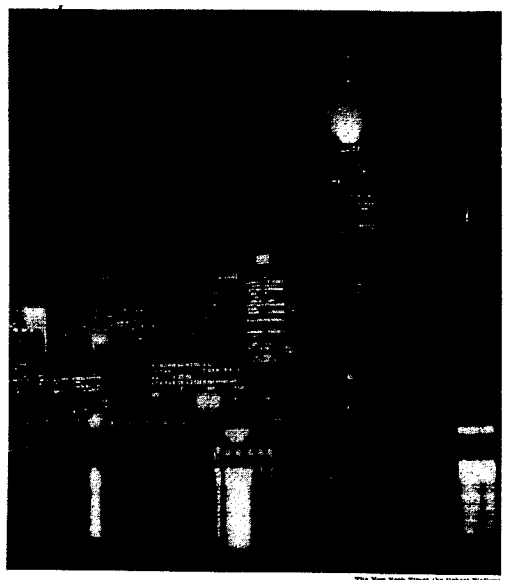
POLLUTION

Hearings will be held next week on S.890, a bill to extend Federal pollution-control activities which will otherwise terminate this year. The pending bill, which has been seriously weakened by amendments, offers a bare minimum base for continuing the already completely inadequate Federal efforts in the vital field. President Eisenhower recently expressed warm approval of the tri-state program under which New York, New Jersey and Connecticut have been combating pollution. It would help if he would give a hearty push to a really effective Federal pollution-control program as well.

NOTES

The Army is apparently still attempting to gain exclusive control over some 10,000 acres of the Wichita National Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma, a move that the Secretary of the Interior has been steadily and correctly resisting. * * * The Twenty-first North American Wildlife Conference will open tomorrow in New Orleans. * * * A bill to create a national park in the Virgin Islands has been reported by a House committee. The park, mostly on the island of St. John, is a proposed gift to the nation by Laurance S. Rockefeller. It would be an immensely worth-while addition to the national park system.

The New York Times
Published: March 4, 1956
Copyright © The New York Times



The New York Times (by Robert Wallig)

LIGHTING THE WAY: The Empire State Building as seen last evening from Weekawken, N. J., after four revolving beacons were lighted on the structure's ninetieth floor.

Empire State Building Becomes Lighthouse as 4 Beacons Go On

By MILTON BRACKER

Four revolving beacons with the illumination of 2,000,000,000 candles transformed the Empire State Building last night into a lighthouse of the sky. Placed 1,092 feet above ground, at the level of the ninetieth floor, the mighty shafts of light pierced the gathering darkness of the hazy evening when turned on at 8 P. M. As the dusk yielded, the full power of the beams became apparent over the twinkling city.

The four beacons are mounted one on each side of the building's tower. They revolve in unison counter-clockwise, with the beams swinging from south to east to north to west.

The beams are set about five degrees above the horizontal plane. As each light reaches the point where its beam would be blocked by the tower, it tilts back on its axis and aims straight up. When it clears the tower it returns to its normal position. Thus one light is pointed upward at all times, while the others sweep the horizon in unison.

Lieut. Gov. George B. De Luca pushed the button that lit the beacons, using a new device described as an electro-luminescent cell. In effect, it caused a ring of green light to move slowly through a glass tube. A model of the building, with miniature bulbs in place of the beacons, stood at the end of the tube. When the ring reached there, the little bulbs and the outdoor giants four stories above the ceremonies burst into light.

One-Minute Cycle

The beacons moved at about one revolution a minute until 1 A. M. Then the north, east and west lights went out. The south beacon stood still and directed its light straight toward the Narrows and the Lower Bay. It went off automatically as the sun rose this morning. This cycle will be followed nightly.

Under ideal conditions, the lights will be visible as far away as 300 miles from a plane and eighty miles from the ground. Weather and atmospheric conditions are the determining factors. Under average conditions, visibility from the ground is expected to be about forty miles, or deep into the suburbs.

Most of the speakers at the dedication compared the beacons to the Statue of Liberty, but usually with affectionate respect to the Lady of Bedloe's Island.

Lester Crown, a director of the Empire State Building Corporation, put it this way:

"We are indeed proud to become an assistant to the good lady at the Statue of Liberty and we are hoping and praying that we will glow together with the spirit of freedom for many generations to come."

Mayor Wagner, who had previously proclaimed yesterday Empire State Building Day, recalled a boyhood game in which the players sought to place the highest mark on a wall.

"Today," he continued, "we have placed our beacon of welcome to the wayfarer higher than ever before in history. Let us hope it will also become in the minds of the rest of the world a symbol of the warmth and friendship which we extend to all who seek our shores in peace and of the heights to which we will rise to offer succor and asylum to oppressed and underprivileged peoples."

The Mayor pulled a cord to unveil a bronze plaque on the west rim of the observation tower. The plaque bore a 168-word prose poem by MacKinley Kantor. It was in the form of a colloquy between the writer and the lights. It concluded:

"What offer you to God, O Lights?"

"America's Devotion."

Staats Cotsworth and Muriel Kirkland read the poem before the unveiling. Fred M. Glass, senior vice president of the Empire State Building Corporation, presided and Will Rogers Jr. was master of ceremonies.

The New York Times
Published: May 4, 1956
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Beacon Shut Off to Save Birds

Migrating birds will get an assist from officials of the Empire State Building.

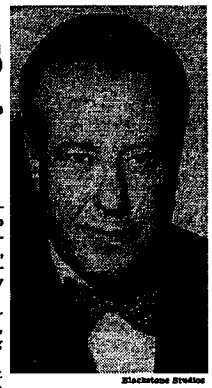
They announced yesterday that the structure's stationary all-night beacon would be turned off "immediately" until Nov. 1 so the current masses of migrants will not become dazzled and fly into the building in confusion.

They said the "freedom lights," which revolve at the base of the tower, would continue in operation until midnight as customary, because they are not considered a menace to birds. The all-night beacon is the light on the south side of the structure. It normally throws a horizontal beam downtown from midnight to sunrise.

Last Oct. 6, 156 migrating birds and two bats crashed into the building and were killed. A year before 123 birds and four bats struck the building.

The New York Times
Published: September 17, 1956
Copyright © The New York Times

G. A. HAMMER SR. OF NOYES CO. DIES



Blackstone Studios

George A. Hammer Sr.

Vice President of Real Estate Concern Negotiated Sale of Empire State Building

Special to The New York Times.

PELHAM, N. Y., Aug. 10—George A. Hammer Sr., who conceived the sale of the Empire State Building in 1951, died today of a cerebral hemorrhage in his home, 433 Monterey Avenue. His age was 54.

Mr. Hammer was vice president of Charles F. Noyes Co., Inc., real estate, and a leading Roman Catholic layman.

In one of New York's most spectacular real estate deals, the Glastee Corporation purchased the controlling interest in Empire State, Inc., owner of the 102-story skyscraper, from the estate and family of John J. Raskob, financier and former treasurer of the Democratic National Committee. The price was reported to be $50,000,000. Mr. Hammer's commission was put at $500,000.

At the 1951 convention of the New York State Association of Real Estate Boards, Mr. Hammer told how his work as an appraiser had provided him with "all the information necessary for a sale before an offering was made."

He added that he was the only one outside of the former owners who knew these facts. He also knew that Mr. Raskob controlled about 95 per cent of the Empire State Building stock and that he had advised his executors to dispose of the structure as soon as an offer of $50,000,000 had been made.

On the Inside

"All I had to do," Mr. Hammer said, "was to find a buyer willing to pay $50,000,000 and accomplish that before the cat was out of the bag.

"I knew through my appraisal work of a Midwestern syndicate interested in acquiring New York real estate," Mr. Hammer said. "I contacted the head of this syndicate. He flew to New York and in a matter of weeks we had obtained an exclusive option and within two months had executed a contract."

Mr. Hammer was a benefactor of Fordham University, a member of the Cardinal's Committee of the Laity, a Knight of Malta and a Knight of the Holy Sepulcher.

As an adviser to the Mayor's Committee on Slum Clearance, he helped to plan healthy housing projects. Among them were West Park, Douglass Houses and the Lincoln Square redevelopment project.

Mr. Hammer long had been a leading real estate appraiser here. He had appeared for owners in suits that reduced by millions of dollars the assessed valuations of their properties.

Among these properties were the Equitable Building, the Hampshire House, Manufacturers Trust Company buildings at 49 Broad Street and 45 Beaver Street, the Lexington Hotel, the Cunard Building, the Sheffield Farms property at 524 West Fifty-seventh Street, the Universal Pictures Building and the former home office of the Mutual Life Insurance Company at 34 Nassau Street.

Honored by Fordham

Mr. Hammer, who was born in New York, graduated from Fordham in 1926 and received an honorary LL.D. degree there in 1956.

He began in the Bronx real estate concern of his father, the late Earnest Hammer. Later he had his own firm, George A. Hammer, Inc. In 1942 he became a real estate broker and appraiser for the Noyes company. He was named a vice president two years later. He had invested in real estate in Montauk, L. I.

Mr. Hammer was a member of the Columbia Society of Real Estate Appraisers, the American Appraisal Society and the New York State Society of Real Estate Appraisers.

He also belonged to the St. Catherine's Holy Name Society here, the Pelham Country Club, the New York Athletic Club and the Downtown Athletic Club. He had been active in campaigns of the Sister Kenny Foundation and the George Junior Republic.

Surviving are his widow, the former Miss Catherine Guggolz; four sons, George A., Jr., W. Patrick E. Henry and J. Michael; a daughter, Mrs. Catherine Jane Dwyer, and five brothers, Msgr. Henry F. X. Hammer of St. Catherine's Church here, former Supreme Court Justice Ernest E. L. Hammer, Edward, William and Joseph Hammer.

The New York Times
Published: August 11, 1957
Copyright © The New York Times

About New York

Ex-Bobby From London to Operate Elevator Queen Will Use in Empire State Building

By MEYER BERGER

A LITTLE over thirty years ago, Edward Aloysius Quinn, a Waterford lad, was a London bobby. His beat in Division A of the London Metropolitan Police included assignments in Buckingham and St. James' Palaces, 10 Downing Street and Marlboro House. He went on the force at the end of World War I after service with the Royal Garrison Artillery; served from 1921 through 1926. Then he came to the United States.

For the last ten years, Ed Quinn, a red-faced, handsome, gray-haired man better than six feet tall, has served as a tower guard and elevator operator in the Empire State Building. When the skyscraper owners were certain that Queen Elizabeth II was to be their guest next Monday and combed through their dossiers for the best man for the lift that would take Her Majesty from the ground floor to the eightieth, the former bobby was an easy choice.

Security executives questioned Ed Quinn about his days on the London force. He's shy, but it developed that on his official rounds he had met King George V, Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth's father, George VI, before he came to the throne. The meetings were mostly in the royal gardens back of Buckingham Palace.

•

One sizzling summer afternoon, Queen Mary walked in her private garden at Buckingham. She noticed that Constable Quinn, though stiffly correct in his tightly buttoned uniform, was suffering in the heat. She said to him, "I am sending out a chair. You must sit down and rest." No constable on duty has the right to sit down and rest, but Constable Quinn knew you may not argue with a queen.

A palace servant brought out a chair and set it in a garden path. Constable Quinn sat in it in the blistering sun, but only briefly. "It was embarrassing," he explains. "You do not question a queen's orders. At the same time, Inspector Thompson, my superior, was a stern Scot. I didn't want him to find me in that chair." For the rest of his tour Constable Quinn marched around the chair.

With that background, the Empire State chieftains knew they had the proper man to pilot the elevator that will take Queen Elizabeth to the eightieth floor. Ed Quinn was pleased. He said, "I appreciate the honor." His car, the nearest in the first bank from the observatory entrance in Thirty-fourth Street, has been highly polished for Monday. The advertising sign in it will be taken out and it will be floored with bright red carpet for Her Majesty.

Royal scarlet carpet—135 yards of it borrowed from the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel—will be laid down Monday for the path the Queen will take after she steps from her car in Thirty-fourth Street. It will lead under a special white canopy from the curb, through the door, to Ed Quinn's elevator. More of it will be spread between his car and the one that will take her to the eighty-sixth floor terrace, where she will pose for photographers.

The New York Times

Edward Aloysius Quinn at the door of an elevator in the Empire State Building.

The car that lifts her to the 102d floor will be red-carpeted, too; so will the long corridor on the eightieth floor, which she will follow to the executive lounge that was once Pierre du Pont's private office. The deep red damask chair in which her mother sat three years ago to watch fall sunset gild the city has been recovered. It will face west from the lounge, with a spectacular view of the city, the Hudson and the New Jersey meadows.

Col. Henry Crown of Chicago, who owns the skyscraper, and Mrs. Crown will be the official hosts. They will ride in the Queen's elevator with Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, and with a New York police inspector, a Scotland Yard man and a gentleman from the State Department. They will escort her to the executive lounge, with other members of the royal party trailing.

•

High tea will be served while the Queen regards the sunset. In the lounge she will receive a gold-plated model of the Empire State Building, done by Tiffany. The model's TV antenna is of solid gold and the top beacon will be a ruby. The Duke of Edinburgh is to get a specially made cigarette case and there will be gifts for Prince Charles and for Princess Anne—a charm bracelet for the girl, a key ring for the boy, both with images of the skyscraper. The gifts for Prince Charles will include an Empire State T-shirt.

Sixty-three security men and women have been assigned to the building for the day, from the sub-basement to the tower. Policewomen will sit in on the telephone switchboard. Detectives will guard the elevator machinery, even down to the pits; will have positions at, and above, street level, in Thirty-fourth Street, around the observatory entrance.

Someone asked Ed Quinn what other important people he had had in his car in the last ten years. He could remember Nehru and a half-dozen other famous people from abroad. Then his Waterford grin broke wide. He said, "There was one other I recall. Mr. Frank Costello."

The New York Times
Published: October 18, 1957
Copyright © The New York Times

50 Migratory Birds Hit Empire State Building

About fifty birds were killed or injured early yesterday when they crashed into the Empire State Building during the night while on their seasonal migrations.

The birds, which were of several varieties, fell to the sidewalk and on setbacks on the upper levels of the building.

Nearly every autumn migrating birds crash into the 1,472-foot building. Explanations include poor night vision, attraction to light and wind gusts.

In an attempt to protect the birds, the all-night beacon on the building will be turned off until Nov. 1.

The New York Times
Published: September 25, 1957
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building To Cut Light for Birds

The millions of birds now starting their annual northward migration again will get cooperation from the Empire State Building.

This was announced yesterday by the Empire State Building and the National Audubon Society. The building will turn off its stationary welcoming beacon from next Monday to June 1 to prevent migratory birds from becoming confused and crashing against buildings.

The building's revolving "Freedom Lights," will operate as usual. Ornithologists do not consider these to be as dangerous to migrating birds as stationary beacons.

The New York Times
Published: April 9, 1958
Copyright © The New York Times

RUSSIANS ARRIVE TO STUDY HOUSING

Experts See Apartments—To Inspect Resorts and Empire State Building

By HARRISON E. SALISBURY

A Soviet housing delegation started a whirlwind tour of America yesterday. The Empire State Building and the Atlantic Ocean were at the top of its list of sightseeing musts.

"Not to visit the Empire State Building in New York," said Ivan Lebed, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee on Construction, "would be like going to Paris without seeing the Eiffel Tower. It is something we must experience."

He said that in the Soviet Union there was still considerable prejudice against such tall buildings although Moscow now has some skyscrapers between twenty-four and thirty-seven stories high.

"We think that, generally speaking, it is better for human beings to be closer to the land than so high up in the air," said Mr. Lebed, head of the five-member delegation.

Unable to See Ocean

The other item given top priority by the delegation is the Atlantic Ocean.

"Imagine," one member said, "we flew across the whole ocean. We were over it for hours. But we have yet to catch a glimpse of it."

The delegation is the third group of housing specialists to visit America in two years—a token of the great interest and importance that housing has been given in the Soviet Union by Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev.

The specialists will spend eight days in the New York area. They hope to go to Florida or California to inspect resorts. They are especially interested in swimming pools, stadiums, tennis courts, playgrounds and other facilities for leisure.

They also want to learn more about air-conditioned construction for use in subtropical areas of the Soviet Union like Central Asia.

Inspected Gadgets

"We are very much interested," Mr. Lebed said, "in your porcelein bathroom units, plumbing fixtures and septic tanks."

The group spent considerable time inspecting gadgets, household utilities, fixtures and installations at the Coliseum housing show.

It also visited several apartment houses on East End Avenue and Gracie Square as the guest of N. K. Winston, a New York builder and special adviser to the United States Department of Commerce.

Mme. Klavdia N. Boutuzova, a Moscow architect who played a major role in the planning of the Moscow-Volga canal, was fascinated by the two bathrooms in the apartment of Arthur Jaquett, superintendent at 55 East End Avenue.

"That is a real luxury," she said. "Who takes care of the apartment?"

"My wife," Mr. Jaquett replied.

Members of the delegation in addition to Mr. Lebed and Mme. Boutuzova, are Vassily A. Polikanov of Vladivostok, Vassily Kolinichenko of Kharkov and Alexei I. Mogilny of Moscow.

The New York Times
Published: April 23, 1958
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Gets New President

Robert Crown

The Empire State Building Corporation, owner of the Empire State Building, announced yesterday the election of Robert Crown as president. He succeeds his father Henry Crown, who has become chairman of the board. Fred M. Glass, senior vice president, was chosen vice chairman of the board.

The New York Times
Published: February 5, 1958
Copyright © The New York Times

ment of 208 West Eighty-eighth Street.

A spokesman for the thirteen men and two women said they would continue without food "until the hearts of the American people sympathize with us."

Flag Hung on Empire State

Sympathizers with the Cuban rebels fasted in West Eighty-eighth Street and hung their flag atop the Empire State Building yesterday.

The flag was noticed at 1:45 P. M. by a guard. It was padlocked to the fence on the eighty-sixth floor from where sightseers view the city.

"We didn't know what it was, but we detached it before any of the crowd knew it was there," an Empire State building official said. "It was still folded, hadn't flown yet."

Fifteen members of the Orthodox Committee, which opposes the Batista regime, continued a hunger strike they beban Friday night in the base-

The New York Times
Published: March 30, 1958
Copyright © The New York Times

EMPIRE STATE HONORED

Building Hailed as a 'Wonder' of U.S. by Engineer Group

The American Society of Civil Engineers yesterday presented a bronze plaque to Robert Crown, president of the Empire State Building. The plaque hailed the building as "A Modern Civil Engineering Wonder of the United States."

It was presented by Louis R. Howson, president of the society, who is here to attend the organization's annual convention. He said a special committee had selected the 1,472-foot skyscraper as one of seven outstanding engineering structures.

He said that although the skyscraper appeared to be "an architectural rather than an engineering triumph, it has been made possible entirely by engineering advances."

The New York Times
Published: October 12, 1958
Copyright © The New York Times

Arthur Loomis Harmon as he appeared some years ago.

ARTHUR HARMON, ARCHITECT, DEAD

Consultant on Big Housing Projects Helped to Design Empire State Building

Arthur Loomis Harmon, a distinguished architect in this city for more than a quarter of a century, died yesterday in the Osborn Nursing Home at White Plains after a long illness. He was 80 years old.

Often identified with the Empire State Building, Mr. Harmon was sometimes embarrassed by the honor, for there were other claims to recognition he felt were more thoroughly his own. He joined the firm of Shreve & Lamb when it was actively at work on plans for the great building and shared in a medal awarded to the architects of the project. But he never regarded it as his monument.

Mr. Harmon was in charge of construction work on the Metropolitan Museum of Art for McKim, Mead & White, architects, in 1911. For his design of the Shelton Hotel on Lexington Avenue he received medals from the Architectural League of New York and the American Institute of Architects.

Battle monuments at Tours, Cantigny and Somme-Py in France were his work, together with the Young Men's Christian Association headquarters in Jerusalem, the Juilliard School of Music on Claremont Avenue and a number of buildings for the Kent School in Connecticut and for Connecticut College.

Headed New York Chapter

Mr. Harmon was responsible for the design of the Seamen's Y. M. C. A. in this city, Olin Hall of Chemical Engineering at Cornell University and The New York Times addition on West Forty-fourth Street. He was also a consultant for the Parkchester, Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village housing projectx.

Active for many years in architectural education and professional societies, Mr. Harmon was president of the New York Chapter, American Institute of Architects, from 1937 through 1939. He was president of the Architectural League of New York in 1933-35, and a Fellow of the American Institute and an Academician of the National Academy of Design.

"What this city needs, in particular, is more open areas, more sky and less architecture, transient as well as permanent," Mr. Harmon wrote eleven years ago. In 1955 he dwelt on the unadorned aspect of modern design thus:

"The contemporary manner has some way to go. When ornament again comes into use it will be a sign perhaps that 'contemporary' does not signify contempt for, after which we may make some progress."

An Associate of Firm

Mr. Harmon was born in Chicago. He studied at the Art Institute in Chicago and graduated in 1901 from the Columbia University School of Architecture.

The next year Mr. Harmon entered the office of McKim, Mead & White as a designer, remaining there until 1911. He was an associate of the firm of Wallis & Goodwillie for the next two years, and practiced under his own name from 1913 to 1929.

He then joined Shreve & Lamb, the name of the firm being changed to Shreve, Lamb & Harmon. In 1943 the word "Associates" was added.

Mr. Harmon lived in semi-retirement in recent years, spending most of his time at his home, 253 Grasslands Road, White Plains, and in Nantucket, Mass. Earlier this year, however, he served on the national jury for the Reynolds Metal Company annual award for outstanding examples of aluminum structures. He had had long years of experience in serving on juries of this nature.

Mr. Harmon was a member of the American Institute of Architects, the Architectural League of New York and the Century Association.

Surviving are his widow, the former Anne Hallock; a son, Hallock of New York; a brother, Hubert of Canton, Ill., and two grandsons. An elder son, Lieut. Col. David Harmon, was killed in Germany during the final days of World War II.

The New York Times
Published: October 18, 1958
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building To Douse Bird Beacon

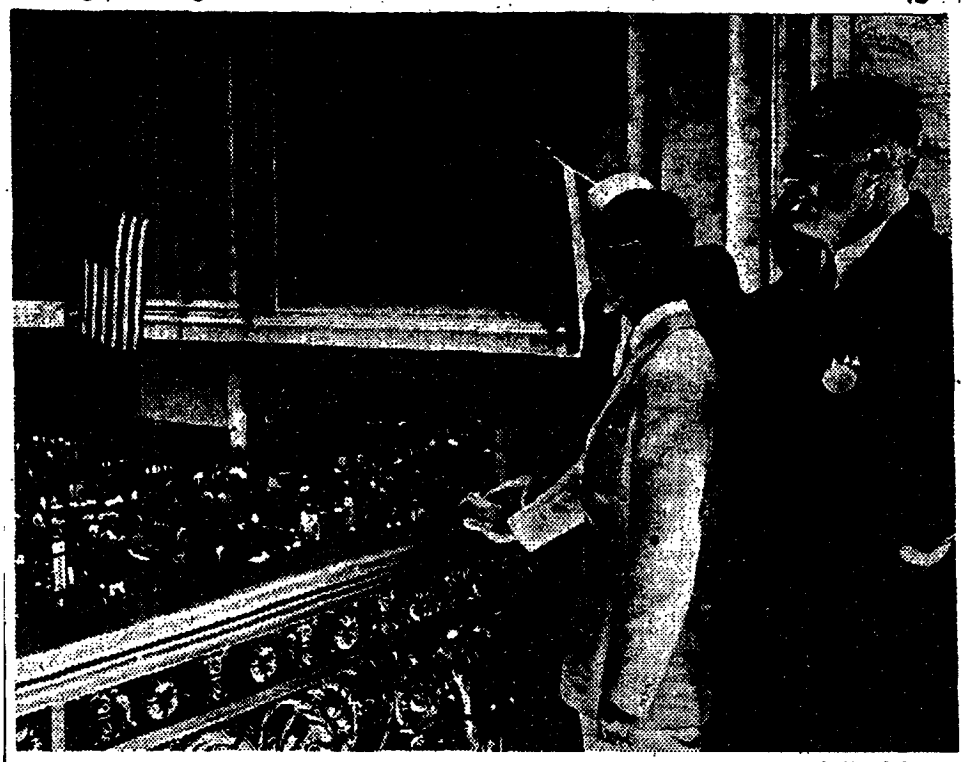
The Empire State Building will extinguish its stationary "welcoming" beacon for a seven-week period beginning at midnight tomorrow to avoid disorienting migrating birds.

The management will continue its present practice of turning on its revolving "freedom lights," which do not bother the migrants. Through the year these lights, visible ninety-five miles away under optimum conditions, are turned off at midnight.

At other times of the year, one of these lights is used for the "welcome light" after midnight. The beam is fixed to shine down over the lower harbor. It remains on until dawn in non-migratory periods.

The New York Times
Published: September 14, 1958
Copyright © The New York Times

Royalty Turns Tourist for Day



The New York Times

King Phumiphol Aduldet of Thailand viewing floor of New York Stock Exchange yesterday during his tour of Manhattan. At right is Keith Funston, president of the exchange.

Thai King Sees Stock Market and Rides Subway Briefly

By FARNSWORTH FOWLE

The King and Queen of Thailand saw the sights in Manhattan yesterday—and themselves became a sight-seeing attraction to many hundreds along the way.

King Phumiphol Aduldet and Queen Sirikit are on a state visit to the United States and accordingly were received with special courtesies at every point. But the places they selected to visit were those that would be on the itinerary of most young couples who know a lot about New York but have never been here before.

The couple visited the Empire State Building and the United Nations, where Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold did the honors, including a reception at which the 32-year-old monarch sipped champagne. The Queen took orange juice.

The King got off to an earlier start with a visit to the New York Stock Exchange at Broad and Wall Streets. He then attended a stag lunch with leading business executives that was given by Horry F. Prioleau, president of the Standard-Vacuum Oil Company, at the Pinnacle Club, 150 East Forty-second Street.

According to Charles L. Patterson, chairman of the Transit Authority, the King was the first reigning monarch to ride in the city's subway system. On the basis of the brief run in the reserved last car of an IND train from Fulton Street to Thirty-fourth Street, he may have received the impression that there are plenty of seats and at least a dozen photographers to a car.

At the luncheon views were exchanged on the southeast Asian kingdom's prospects for economic, educational and general progress.

In an address last night, the King said the informal discussion, "especially about business, about trade, about education," had been "very edifying, very useful."

In the afternoon, while the Queen was at a fashion show at Bergdorf Goodman, the King was shown through Rockefeller Center. He had asked particularly to inspect the refrigeration plant and the Radio City Music Hall to observe the stage effects.

The latter visit was timed to coincide with the stage show, currently a "Salute to Hawaii" welcoming the fiftieth state.

Each time he appeared without the Queen the friendly crowds clustered around the policemen and cameras at the entrances expressed disappointment, particularly the women. It was clear that the slim, stylish mother of four had caught their fancy.

He and Queen Visit U. N. and Empire State Building

At her morning appearances she was dressed in a black sheath with a black-and-white coat lined in China yellow that showed brightly at the sleeves and a black straw cloche. In the afternoon her costume was an off-white blouse, pink skirt, and pink-and-green belt and a white straw hat.

She wore four strands of pearls. Her dresses for the visit are entirely of Thai silk, designed for her in Paris by Balmain.

Their final afternoon engagement was a reception at Asia House, 112 East Sixty-fourth Street.

Last night they attended a dinner in their honor given by the Far East-America Council of Commerce and Industry, Inc., at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, where they are staying. William F. Bramstedt, chairman of the council and of the California Texas Oil Company, Ltd., was chairman. Four hundred persons attended.

They are scheduled to fly at 10 A. M. today from La Guardia Airport to Boston. Other cities they will visit include Knoxville, Colorado Springs, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The New York Times
Published: July 7, 1960
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Names Vice-President

Blackstone Studios

Francis B. Firenze

The Empire State Building Company, owner of the Empire State Building at Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, has appointed Francis B. Firenze a vice president. He joined the company as an auditor in 1957 and became the controller in June, 1958.

The New York Times
Published: August 10, 1961
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Sold; Price Is 65 Million

By THOMAS W. ENNIS

The Empire State Building is being sold to an investment group headed by Lawrence A. Wien for $65,000,000. The price, which does not include the valuable Fifth Avenue land under the structure, is believed to be the highest ever paid for a single building.

This is the second time that the Empire State Building will have changed hands since its opening in May, 1931. The present sellers, headed by Henry Crown, Chicago financier, bought the world's tallest structure in 1951 from its original owners for $51,000,000, which then was said to be the highest price ever paid for a single building.

When the Crown interests bought the building ten years ago the Fifth Avenue block-front, between Thirty-third and

Continued on Page 22, Column 3

The New York Times
Published: August 23, 1961
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Bought By Syndicate for $65,000,000

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

Thirty-fourth Streets, on which the 102-story skyscraper stands was sold separately to the Prudential Insurance Company of America for $17,000,000. Prudential receives $1,020,000 yearly in rent for the land.

A contract to purchase the building was signed yesterday by Mr. Wien, a New York lawyer and organizer of realty investment syndicates. Mr. Wien is organizing a syndicate for the Empire State in which there will be a public offering of shares.

Mr. Wien's syndicate purchases include the Plaza, Shelton, Lexington and Town House hotels. He is in his middle fifties and lives in Weston, Conn.

Sale Final Dec. 27

The sale will become final next Dec. 27. The sellers will receive $65,000,000 free and clear of mortgages. Harry B. Helmsley, the real estate broker who represented the Wien interests, said that negotiations had been under way for three years.

The Empire State, which has 2,000,000 square feet of rentable space, is said to be one of the most profitable single building operations in the world, despite its shaky future when it opened thirty years ago during the Depression.

Built for $40,948,000

Some of the world's foremost business concerns, industries and banking institutions have offices in the building. Its 900 tenants pay rents totaling $10,000,000 annually.

In addition, the building's observation tower, a major tourist attraction, brings an additional revenue of $2,000,000 a year, and a 222-foot television antenna tower atop the 1,250-foot skyscraper is rented to television and FM radio stations for a total of $600,000 yearly.

The Empire State Building was constructed at a cost of $40,948,000 by a group headed by the late Gov. Alfred E. Smith of New York and the late John J. Raskob, financier and a prominent Democrat. The building is assessed for tax purposes at $46,000,000.

After Mr. Smith's death in 1944 control of the building passed to the Raskob interests. After Mr. Raskob died in 1950, a syndicate of investors composed of wealthy business men in various parts of the country began negotiations to buy the property.

B-25 Crash Recalled

After the sale was completed in 1951, the building was operated by the Empire State Building Corporation, headed by Mr. Crown. The Crown family gained full control of the building in 1954. In recent years the operating company has been headed by Robert Crown, son of Mr. Crown, who became chairman of the board.

The New York Times Studio
Lawrence A. Wien

In its thirty years the internationally known building has been visited by kings, queens, presidents, diplomats and military leaders, as well as by plain tourists.

The building was also involved in a disaster that attracted world-wide attention. On July 28, 1945, shortly after 9 A. M., a B-25 Army bomber crashed into the seventy-ninth floor of the skyscraper, ripping an 18-by-20-foot hole in the Thirty-fourth Street side of the building.

Thirteen persons were killed, including those on the plane. Among the twenty-five injured was a woman elevator operator who fell seventy-five stories when the elevator's cables snapped.

The New York Times
Published: August 23, 1961
Copyright © The New York Times

New Buyer to Sell Empire State To Prudential in Leaseback Deal

By THOMAS W. ENNIS

The Prudential Insurance Company of America will become the owner of the Empire State Building. The company has owned the land under the building for the last ten years.

Empire State Associates, an investment group headed by Lawrence A. Wien, signed a contract on Tuesday to buy the building from Henry Crown for $65,000,000, which is believed to be the highest price ever paid for a building.

Prudential, it was disclosed yesterday, will buy the building after the Wien syndicate takes title to it next Dec. 27. The insurance company will then lease the building to the Wien interests for 114 years.

Prudential could not buy the Empire State Building directly from the Crown interests because the $65,000,000 price was more than Prudential, or any other insurance company, could invest in any one property by law. The limit is $50,000,000.

Under the sale and leaseback arrangement, Prudential will be able to acquire the building for $29,000,000. The company had paid $17,000,000 for the land in 1951. Samuel Kronsky, broker, is arranging the sale of the building to Prudential.

The lease to the Wien interests will be made in return for the low price. The Wien group will receive the Empire State's annual income of about $11,000,000.

The syndicate will pay Prudential a yearly rental of $3,220,000 for the first thirty-year term of the 114-year lease. The lease contains four successive twenty-one-year renewal terms, under which the rent will finally decline to $1,610,000 annually.

Prudential is selling the land to the Wien interests for $17,000,000. The building and the land will then be resold to Prudential as one parcel.

Prudential is actually advancing $46,000,000, which includes the value of the land, toward the $65,000,000 the Wien group has contracted to pay the Crown interests for the Empire State.

The balance of the purchase price will be raised through a mortgage of about $16,000,000 on the leasehold from Prudential and through a public offering of shares. A prospectus of the public offering was scheduled to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington late yesterday.

The entire deal is costing the Wien interests $85,000,000. This includes the $65,000,000 the group is paying Mr. Crown, the $17,000,000 for the purchase of the Fifth Avenue blockfront from Prudential and $3,000,000 in fees and commissions to lawyers and brokers.

The Empire State Building was sold to an investment group headed by Mr. Crown for $51,000,000 in 1951. The insurance company has received an annual rental of $1,020,000 from the operators of the 102-story skyscraper.

The New York Times
Published: August 24, 1961
Copyright © The New York Times

FINANCING SLATED FOR EMPIRE STATE

Securities Will Be Offered to Help Pay for Big Building

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24 (AP) —The transaction through which the Empire State Building will become the property of the Prudential Insurance Company of America involves offering for sale up to $39,000,000 of securities.

This was disclosed today in a registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The present owners, headed by Henry Crown, a Chicago financier, announced Tuesday that they would sell the New York building for $65,000,000.

The first purchaser will be Empire State Building Associates, a real estate syndicate headed by Lawrence A. Wien, a New York lawyer. Then the structure will be transferred to Prudential. The plan is subject to S. E. C. clearance since it involves public financing.

Prudential has explained it could not buy the building directly for $65,000,000 because the legal limit it can invest in any one property is $50,000,000.

Total to Be 68 Million

Various expenses, including legal and brokerage fees, will raise the acquisition cost to $68,000,000. Empire State Building Associates proposes to obtain this sum as follows:

¶$29,000,000 by conveying the building to Prudential (Prudential already owns the land on which the building stands and leases it out). On acquiring the building Prudential will lease both it and the land to the syndicate.

¶$13,000,000 from a mortgage and $26,000,000 through a public sale of securities, called participations, in units of $10,000. However, the mortgage may be smaller than $13,000,000, or there may be no mortgage, in which case $39,000,000 of participations will be sold.

The lease granted by Prudential to the syndicate will run for 114 years, and the syndicate will pay an annual rent.

Empire State Building Associates will not operate the property. It will sublease to the Empire State Building Company, a joint venture composed of Mr. Wien; Harry B. Helmsley, a real estate broker, and two corporations owned by others.

The syndicate proposes to obtain the mortgage from Real Estate Investing Associates, Inc., 56 per cent of whose stock is owned by Mr. Wien and Mr. Helmsley.

The New York Times
Published: August 25, 1961
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Names New Chairman

Blackstone Studios

Herbert R. Degnan

Robert Crown, president of the Empire State Building Corporation, has announced the appointment of Herbert R. Degnan of Manhasset, L. I., as senior vice president and chairman of the board. Mr. Degnan has been treasurer for four years. H. Hamliton Weber, executive vice president, will continue in charge of renting in the skyscraper at Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street.

The New York Times
Published: July 13, 1961
Copyright © The New York Times

CITY SIGNS COMPACT FOR U. H. F. STATION

A contract under which the Federal Government will build and the city will operate an ultra high frequency television station was signed at City Hall yesterday by Mayor Wagner and Robert E. Lee, a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

The Federal Government will build the station at an estimated cost of $2,000,000. The city will finance the operation and programing, but will receive partial reimbursement from the Federal government. The city already has appropriated $348,440 as its share of the operating cost for the first year. Test operation is scheduled to begin in a few weeks with full operation scheduled by Nov. 1.

The station, to be devoted mainly to educational and cultural programs, will be operated from the tower of the Empire State Building, using Channel 31. Operation will be under the direction of the Municipal Broadcasting System, operator of the city's radio station WNYC.

The New York Times
Published: July 15, 1961
Copyright © The New York Times

CITY TO GET U.H.F. UNIT

R.C.A. to Install Transmitter in Empire State Building

WASHINGTON, March 1 (AP)—The Federal Communications Commission said today that it had contracted for the installation of an ultra-high-frequency television transmitter on the eightieth floor of the Empire State Building in New York in connection with its projected test of U. H. F. TV service in the metropolitan area.

The $377,584 contract went to the Radio Corporation of America on the basis of competitive bids. The contract calls for installation by Aug. 1.

Last year Congress appropriated $2,000,000 for the F. C. C. to experiment with a U. H. F. operation in New York, now served exclusively by very high frequency stations.

The New York Times
Published: March 2, 1961
Copyright © The New York Times

KEKKONEN SEES CITY FROM EMPIRE STATE

President Urho Kekkonen of Finland spent yesterday in a round of official and unofficial activities.

Like many visitors to New York, he visited the Empire State Building, though the view was somewhat obscured by fog. Herbert R. Degnan, senior vice president of the Empire State Building, gave President Kekkonen a small silver replica of the building.

Later, the President talked with David Rassanen, a draftsman of the building, who was born in the same province of Finland as Mr. Kekkonen.

President Kekkonen entertained fifty-one members of the United Nations at a luncheon in the St. Regis Hotel.

Governor Rockefeller and Senator Jacob K. Javits paid a courtesy call on Mr. Kekkonen in the afternoon.

Later the Finnish-American Chamber of Commerce gave a reception for the President at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

President and Mrs. Kekkonen will spend today with their son Taneli, who is a member of the Finnish delegation to the United Nations. The Presidential party will leave tomorrow morning for Detroit.

The New York Times
Published: October 21, 1961
Copyright © The New York Times

U.H.F. TV CHANNEL GOES ON AIR HERE

8th Outlet in City Cannot Be Seen Without a Converter

By JACK GOULD

A new television station—the city's eighth—went on the air for the first time yesterday before an audience of hardly anyone. It was WUHF, operating on Channel 31, a channel that cannot be seen on most existing sets without the purchase of a converter.

Newton N. Minow, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, left no doubt of the importance he attached to this announced station première. In a coincidental speech last night in Washington he called for a lobbying campaign to compel television set makers to equip new models to receive ultra-high-frequency channels.

U. H. F. television runs from Channels 14 through 83. Channels 2 through 13 are known as very-high-frequency television.

Mr. Minow declared that the all-channel receiver, built at the factory, was essential to the establishment of a nation-wide educational television system. Last year the F. C. C. asked Congress for such legislation but there was no affirmative reaction. Converters to adapt present sets to U. H. F. cost between $15 and $30.

The transmission of the first images from station WUHF further testified to the F. C. C.'s determination to rekindle interest in U. H. F. television. The commission is investing $2,000,000 in the outlet to conduct tests on the practicability of U. H. F. video in a city of high buildings. At 3:30 P. M.,

Continued on Page 74, Column 1

The New York Times
Published: October 24, 1961
Copyright © The New York Times

U.H.F. TV CHANNEL GOES ON AIR HERE

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

from an eightieth-floor window of the Empire State Building, the birth of WUHF was quietly announced in a succession of still pictures, one of which showed a perky puppy barking the inevitable pun on the station's call letters.

WUHF is to be opened formally on Nov. 5 in ceremonies to be attended by F. C. C. commissioners and city officials.

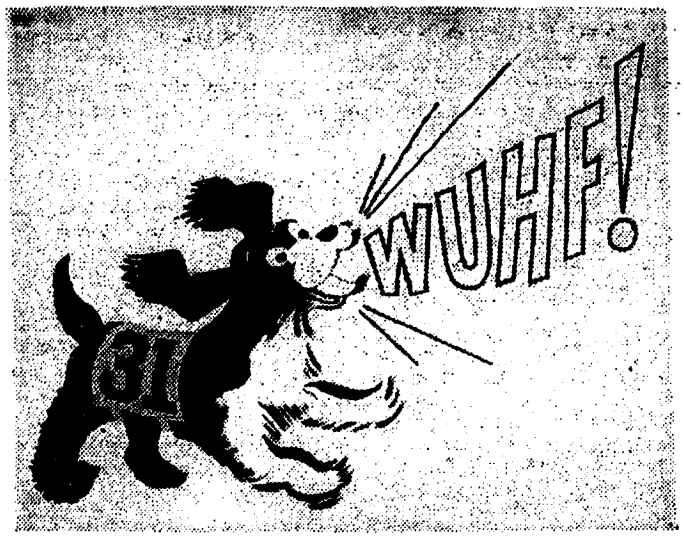
The advent of WUHF will serve to mark the debut of New York as a regular television program producer. Under the guidance of Seymour N. Siegel, director of the Municipal Broadcasting System, the city will contribute a number of hours every week of noncommercial and educational programing.

Hearings Coverage Listed

It was learned that among the first celebrities to appear on WUHF will be executives of national commercial TV networks. In January the F. C. C. is scheduled to hold hearings in New York at which the networks will testify on their operations. WUHF plans to cover these sessions in their entirety, a move that is expected to stimulate the sale of converters along Madison Avenue.

WUHF also contemplates regular in-service courses for teachers, special programs for members of the Police and Fire Departments and a variety of other cultural presentations. The city has appropriated $348,000 for programing costs.

The transmission of still pictures was performed yesterday with limited power from a small antenna pointed northward from the Empire State Building. In a few days an omni-directional antenna atop the Empire State tower will be put in use, which will further improve the station's effectiveness.



ANNOUNCING A NEW ARRIVAL: One of the still pictures transmitted yesterday by television station WUHF. The city's new ultra-high-frequency station, operating on Channel 31, went on the air for the first time.

Pictures of excellent quality were received yesterday at one location in suburban Connecticut, some twenty-nine airline miles from the Empire State Building.

Mr. Minow, who spoke before the convention of the National Association of Educational Broadcasters in Washington, said that the V. H. F. television band was saturated and that U. H. F. television was waiting to be used.

"Why should any television set manufactured in this country leave the factory incapable of receiving seven-eights of the channels available for television in broadcasting?" he asked.

Referring to the bill on all-channel receivers that has gone before Congress, Mr. Minow said: "I now want a little lobbying."

Set manufacturers, for competitive cost reasons, have been reluctant to build all-channel receivers when in many sections of the country there are no U. H. F. stations.

On U. H. F. television, according to Mr. Minow, the broadcaster, whether educational or commercial, too often has to play to an "empty house."

Mr. Minow also chided the educational broadcasters for the quality of some educational programing. He said it could stand some improvement in "showmanship."

"Great teachers use showmanship every day and they never bore," he added.

Referring to his speech in May, when he called much of commercial TV a "wasteland," Mr. Minow remarked:

"Commercial television has no monopoly on wastelands. There is room for improvement in educational as well as commercial broadcasting."

He announced that the commission had decided to establish a new office to be called the Division of Research and Education to concentrate on the problems of educational TV.

More Action Tomorrow

Further action on educational television for New York may be forthcoming tomorrow from the F. C. C. There are strong rumors that it will act on the sale of Station WNTA - TV (Channel 13) to a group of public-spirited citizens.

If the sale is approved, Gov. Robert B. Meyner is expected to take recourse to the courts to keep Channel 13 as a New Jersey entity; the educational group wants to have the station's main studio in New York. The inauguration of WUHF, which will begin with two hours a week of special programing and then perhaps rise as high as fifty hours a week, may be cited by the Governor as an argument against the award of a second noncommercial outlet to New York City.

Arrangements between the F. C. C. and the city call for WUHF to become a municipal television station after technical tests have been completed.

The New York Times
Published: October 24, 1961
Copyright © The New York Times

WUHF PREPARES FOR ITS DEBUT

By JOHN P. SHANLEY

A TELEVISION venture in which the Federal Government and the City of New York have joined forces is expected to get under way here about Nov. 1.

At that time it is expected that the ultra-high-frequency station, WUHF, will begin operating on a full schedule, weekdays and Sundays.

The experimental outlet has been made possible by a Federal appropriation of $2,000,000 and by $348,000 in city funds. The Federal Government will pay for the physical facilities of the station and the transmission costs. The city will bear the cost of programing and station personnel.

During the experimental period, which is expected to continue until the end of next year, the Federal Communications Commission, which determines engineering standards for TV stations, will seek a technical evaluation of UHF transmission and means by which it can be improved.

Ultra-high-frequency stations, designated as channels 14 through 83 have generally been far less successful commercially than VHF (very high frequency) stations, which include channels 2 through 13 and are available on most television receivers.

Device

Most TV sets now in use require an adapter in order to receive UHF stations. The cost of purchasing and installing the device—and possibly a new aerial—has been estimated at between $20 and $50.

The commission, however, is anxious to foster an increase in UHF channels as a means of relieving the overcrowding of VHF transmission facilities. There are more than 500 VHF stations in operation in the country. There are fewer than 100 UHF outlets.

Robert E. Lee, the F. C. C. commissioner who has led the campaign to determine the potential of UHF television, regards the New York experiment as a means of developing the system to the point where it will be commercially useful, or as a way of ruling it out completely.

Particular attention will be paid to the quality of UHF reception in an area where tall buildings and irregular terrain may be expected to present technical problems.

The city has had a construction permit for the station since 1953. Until the Government funds became available, however, the costs of initiating and conducting programs were regarded as prohibitive.

Supervisor

Seymour N. Siegel, the city's director of radio communications, also bears the major share of responsibility for arranging for the new television station.

Although he has had a limited time in which to make plans—the project was not officially begun until July 20—he is hopeful that WUHF will become a successful experiment in "visual communications."

"Our primary purpose will be to serve the city departments," he said the other day. "But we'd also like to take people where they can't go themselves and give them a sense of nowness."

He mentioned meetings of the United Nations and the Board of Estimate as possibilities in public affairs coverage by the station.

Educational programs, including languages and stenography, nutritional telecasts from the Board of Health and musical offerings by groups such as the Little Orchestra Society also are anticipated by Mr. Siegel.

For the benefit of city departments there may be telecasts such as police line-ups in a scrambled transmission, so that they will be available only in police station houses.

The station also may present televised exchanges of information between the city's hospitals and refresher training courses for firemen and other city employes.

For the public there also may be programs offering information on driving safety, helping the police, advising parents and recriting police.

About half of the programs will consist of simultaneous transmission of telecasts being shown by the city's regular commericial stations. This will be done for purposes of comparing reception.

Studios for the station will be located in the Municipal Building. Its antenna, now under construction at a cost of $250,000 will be located atop the Empire State Building. A temporary "window antenna" will be used on a lower level of the same building during test periods.

Seymour N. Siegel.

The number of TV sets capable of receiving UHF signals is believed to be insignificant. As part of the experiment, however, the Government's Census Bureau will install 100 UHF receivers on a temporary and rotating schedule in selected homes in this area. During the period of experimentation, an attempt will be made to cover 5,000 homes within a radius of twenty-five miles of the Empire State Building.

WUHF is designated as UHF Channel 31. On conventional television sets, however, the programs would be received on Channel 6 after an adapter has been installed.

The New York Times
Published: September 17, 1961
Copyright © The New York Times

Tower at Empire State Getting First Cleaning

Seven workmen on scaffolds began yesterday to give the tower of the Empire State Building its first polishing and painting since it was completed in 1932.

The tower is between the observation deck on the eighty-sixth floor and the top of the building, 102 stories above Fifth Avenue.

A spokesman for the building said the job would take at least two weeks. The men, employed by the Rogell and Best Construction Company, will work only between 5:30 and 9:30 A. M. to avoid splattering anyone on the observation deck or down below.

The New York Times
Published: August 3, 1962
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Profit Shows Increase From Year Ago

Empire State Building Associates (E.S.B.A.), which last December purchased the 114-year master lease of the Empire State Building here, reported yesterday that the net income for the building came to $3,059,145 in the first five months of this year. In the 1961 period net income from operatons was $2,646,956.

Gross income from rents, observatory, sale of electricity and antenna license fees totaled $6,135,698, against $5,725,061 a year ago.

The report was disclosed in a supplement to Empire State Building Associates prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission last fall. E. S. B. A. is the syndicate organized by Lawrence A. Wien, that acquired control of the skyscraper in December

The building's rent roll on July 1, 1962, was $11,551,000, compared with $11,070,00, a year earlier.

The original prospectus indicated that occupancy of 95 per cent of turntable space would be required to cover the ground lease rent and distributions to participants. Assuming continuation of the average rate a square foot for office space on July 15, 1962, "and the continuation of expenses and other income at the same rate as during 1961, an occupancy rate of about 88.4 per cent is now required for this purpose," the supplement stated. As of July 15, this year, occupancy was 98.2 per cent.

The New York Times
Published: August 17, 1962
Copyright © The New York Times

6 LEASES SIGNED AT EMPIRE STATE

4 Concerns Opening Offices Here First Time

Six new leases in the Empire State Building have been announced by Helmsley - Spear, Inc., the managing agents. Four of the tenants are companies opening offices in New York for the first time.

J. P. Stuart, Inc., formerly part of Pharmacraft, the drug supplier, is one of the new concerns. Others are All World Tours, Inc., travel agency; the Grow Corporation, manufacturer of electronics and chemicals, and the Sanyo Electric Company, sales coordinator in this country for a Japanese manufacturer of electrical products and appliances.

The two other leases were made with Clarkson & Foreman, Inc., representatives of manufacturers of precision gauging equipment and specialty cutting tools, and the Pama Manufacturing Company, which makes finished and unfinished Tricot knitting material.

*

Other Business Leases

J. C. Lithographic Corp, in 653 11th Ave; Max Bassell, woolens, in 235 Park Ave So; A. Dubois & Son, Inc, in 36 E 22d St—Boyd E. Wilson & Co, brokers.

Paragon Mutual Syndicates, Inc, in 1441 Broadway—Desmond J. Leary of the Cross & Brown Co, broker.

Four Star Distribution, Inc, a Hollywood distributing concern, sublease in 600 5th Ave at 48th St, from M. J. P. Enterprises, Inc; Bellissima, Inc, beauty salon, in 1 E 53d St; Dr. J. A. Kahn, in 685 5th Ave, at 54th St; Carl Ally, Inc, in 375 Park Ave, at 52d St—Gushman & Wakefield, Inc, brokers.

The New York Times
Published: August 22, 1962
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building To Floodlight Its Top

Plans for floodlighting the Empire State Building at a cost of $200,000 were announced yesterday. The 102-story skyscraper, the tallest in the world, will be illuminated from the 40th floor to the 1,472-foot tip of its television antenna. This is expected to make the exterior of the building visible from about 25 miles on the ground and up to 50 miles from the air.

The work will be started after a test of the system next week and is expected to be completed next spring. Banks of 1,000-watt mercury lamps will be placed on the setbacks of the building, starting at the 25th floor. The lamps, which have a life of 12,000 hours, will be turned on and off automatically by an astronomical clock.

Tests will be made on the east face of the skyscraper on Monday between 7 P.M and midnight.

The New York Times
Published: December 6, 1962
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Cleaning Halted in Inquiry on Scaffolds

By RALPH KATZ

The work of cleaning the exterior of the 102-story Empire State Building, begun on May 7, was halted Thursday when the Department of Buildings prohibited the use of an electrically operated scaffold.

The department has suspended the use of such devices in the city since May 29, when four window cleaners were killed when their mechanical scaffold fell from the nineteenth floor of the Equitable Building to the sidewalk on Fifty-first Street and the Avenue of the Americas.

The cleaning job at the Empire State, the tallest building in the world, was expected to take six months. Thirty workers were assigned to clean, coat and paint the exterior by the contractors, the Rogell & Best Contracting Company.

Harold Birns, Commissioner of Buildings, said yesterday that the use of the scaffold was banned when inspectors for the department found it in operation. The order was imposed to give the city time to inspect and test the devices and, if necessary, enact legislation to increase safety.

The cleaning job had begun at the eighty-sixth floor, 1050 feet up the side of the 1,472-foot building at the Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street. The north and west sides of the building were scheduled for completion first. The south face was to be next, and the job completed with the east side.

Commissioner Birns had ordered all thirteen mechanically driven scaffolds to stop operating. A week later Governor Rockefeller directed the State Board of Standards and Appeals to suspend the use of all power-driven window-cleaning scaffolds.

Mr. Birns said that the continued use of the scaffold at the Empire State Building was on an interpretation by the contractor of the state order, which specified their use for cleaning windows. The contractor pointed out that his employes were not engaged in window-cleaning.

However, Mr. Birns said that the device was stopped on the basis of the city order, which put no restrictions on the purpose for its use. He said he did not know for how long a period after his order was issued that the scaffold continued to operate, but he said it was halted immediately upon the inspectors' findings.

Deputy Commissioner of Buildings William C. Kane, who is conducting the investigation into the scaffolds, said he expected to submit his report next week. He said the report would contain criteria for safe operations of the devices, but he was unprepared yesterday to say whether any would be permitted to resume operations immediately.

Work on the seventy-seven-story Chrysler Building is not affected by the order because different equipment is used.

The New York Times
Published: June 16, 1962
Copyright © The New York Times

TWO SAFE IN FALL AT EMPIRE STATE

Painter Slides Down Cable From 18th to 11th Floor After Scaffold Slips

Holding on desperately to a cable, a 60-year-old painter slid eighty feet down the side of the Empire State Building yesterday when a scaffold gave way.

The man, Walter Palmer of 85-30 Sixtieth Drive, Elmhurst, Queens, went from the eighteenth floor to the eleventh floor, where he was rescued.

Another painter on the scaffold, Michael Merren, 56, of 683 East 140th Street, the Bronx, managed to cling to the platform and wiggle into a window on the seventeenth floor of the 102-story building.

Hundreds Watching

The accident occurred when Mr. Palmer released the wrong cable. He was attaching an additional cable for lowering the scaffold when he disconnected the suspension wire by mistake.

After Mr. Merren had crawled into the seventeenth-floor window, he rushed to the eleventh floor where his partner was dangling and shouting, "Get me in."

By now hundreds of persons had collected below on Thirty-third Street at Fifth Avenue. Police and fire emergency equipment clogged the area.

Mr. Merren was frantic when he got to the eleventh floor and found that a locked door prevented him from entering the office outside of which Mr. Palmer was dangling. A maintenance man finally opened the vacant office and the 160-pound painter was pulled to safety.

He suffered burns on the hands and arms from sliding down the rubber-covered steel power cable, and was visibly shaken. But he refused to go to a hospital. Instead, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Merren directed the operation to secure the scaffold back into place.

Mr. Merren suffered only a bruised knee in the accident.

'A Dumb Mistake'

"I released the wrong cable," Mr. Palmer said. "It was simply a dumb mistake. I took the wrong clip off a cable—it had nothing to do with the automatic scaffolding machine."

The use of automatic, elevator type of scaffolds was suspended after four window cleaners were killed May 28 when their automatic scaffold fell at the Equitable Building, the Avenue of the Americas and Fifty-first Street.

However, the suspension was lifted by the Buildings Department for Rogell & Best Contracting Company, Inc. The concern is handling the cleaning of the Empire State and the painting of its window frames.

When the suspension was lifted, however, it was specified that all workmen wear safety belts attached to separate lines from the top of the building.

Both men had loosened their safety belts shortly before the accident yesterday. William C. Kane, deputy commissioner in the Buildings Department, said Mr. Palmer had explained it was because he was going to lunch soon.

Mr. Palmer was able to control his safety line at the eleventh floor by "snubbing" or tightening the stop knot.

Mr. Kane said the accident was "entirely" the fault of the painter. However, he suspended the permission to use the electric scaffolds, pending an investigation.

The New York Times
Published: June 26, 1962
Copyright © The New York Times

The New York Times (by Allyn Baum)

HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSION: Roy Green, on seventy-second floor of Empire State Building, talks with James Wunder, below, about refurbishing. View is to the north.

SCRUBBING STARTS ON EMPIRE STATE

30 Men to Work 6 Months to Clean 102-Story Building

By GAY TALESE

A dozen men with scrub brushes hung from the eighty-sixth floor of the Empire State Building yesterday and, with the nonchalance of charwomen, began to give the world's tallest building its first washing since it went up in 1931.

A brisk breeze made their scaffolds sway, and dozens of shoppers on Fifth Avenue and thirty-fourth Street spent some anxious moments staring up at them. But all the workmen, who are expected to finish the 102-story cleaning job within six months, have worked in high altitudes before—and one is a former Marine paratrooper.

The owners of the Empire State are paying $200,000 to the Rogell & Best Contracting Company, Inc., for the job. Three thousand gallons of coating will be rubbed into the 500,000 square feet of limestone that make up the exterior of the structure from the street to the eighty-sixth floor.

The men also will climb out from the 102d floor and swab down along the tower, which is mostly aluminum, steel and glass blocks. They will be working out of small baskets suspended from the 102d floor by steel cables. They will not clean above the 102d floor to the 222-foot television antenna.

Altogether, thirty men — the others will join today — will work to restore to the Empire State the gray limestone color it had before New York's dirt charred it brown. The building's managing agents, Helmsley-Spear, Inc., have taken out a $3,000,000 insurance policy to cover any accidents or property damage during the cleaning.

The New York Times
Published: May 8, 1962
Copyright © The New York Times

BIG STORE TAKEN IN EMPIRE STATE

Red Cross Shoe Gets Space on 34th Street Side

A large store on the 34th Street side of the Empire State Building has been leased to Red Cross Shoe, a division of the United States Shoe Corporation. Robert L. Luery, vice president of Helmsley-Spear, Inc., agent for the building, said the lease brought to more than 100 the number of shoe manufacturers occupying space in the skyscraper. The concerns with headquarters offices there include the Brown Shoe Company, Endicott Johnson; Genesco, Inc., and the International Shoe Company.

Floors Taken on 59th St.

C. C. S. Studios, Inc., photographers, and Jules Edlin, upholstery and draperies, have leased floors at 330 East 59th Street from Jack Brause. Leonard Levin of Helmsley-Spear, Inc., negotiated the C. C. S. Studios lease. Leo Dropkin represented Mr. Edlin. The rentals in the two leases aggregate more than $160,000.

I. B. M. Leases Space

The International Business Machines Corporation has leased a floor at 330 Madison Avenue, a 41-story office building being constructed on the blockfront between 42d and 43d Streets. The space, which was leased through John J. Reynolds, Inc., agent for the building, will be used by I. B. M. for its midtown sales office.

Food Chain Gets Store

D. C. A. Food Industries, Inc., which owns and operates the Mayflower chain of coffee houses, has leased the store at the northwest corner of Broadway and 49th Street in the Brill Building. The Brill Realty Company was the broker.

Downtown Offices Taken

The North Star Reinsurance Corporation has leased space at 123 William Street through Robert F. R. Ballard of the Charles F. Noyes Company, broker. The same broker has leased offices at 56 Pine Street to Leighton K. Montgomery & Co., insurance brokers and adjusters.

The New York Times
Published: December 24, 1963
Copyright © The New York Times

EMPIRE STATE HIT BY STUBBORN FIRE

Offices on 4 Floors Ruined and Some TV Curtailed

Special to The New York Times.

NEW YORK.

A fire in a utility duct raced through four upper floors of the Empire State Building early yesterday, burning out offices there and causing smoke damage on five other floors.

The 102-story skyscraper houses the transmitters of television and radio stations, and some were knocked out for several hours.

Firemen, who had been summoned at 4:30 A.M., brought the smoldering blazes under control by 9 A.M. Two alarms were sounded.

Hundreds of the 60,000 persons who normally work in the building's 900 offices watched on Fifth Avenue at 34th Street as black smoke poured from the upper floors.

Most were allowed to enter the building shortly after 9 A.M. But firemen barred workers from the 64th, 65th, 66th, and 67th floors, where the offices were burned out as the fire spread from duct openings.

Fire Doors a Help

On other floors duct openings were covered by insulated fire doors, which contained the blaze.

The smoke-damaged floors were the 24th, 25th 33d, 45th and 85th.

The fire apparently started around midnight, when an engineer first detected a faint odor of smoke. By 4:30 A.M. the fumes had become so strong that firemen were summoned.

Investigators for the Fire Marshal's office were unable late yesterday to establish the cause of the fire. From the evidence, they said, they could only make an "educated guess" that a cigarette dropped by a workman had ignited a felt-like covering around a cold water pipe in the five-by-five-foot utility duct.

WNBC-TV was 40 minutes late getting on the air, and WCBS-TV had to use an emergency transmitter. WNEW-TV and WNEW-FM were off the air for several hours.

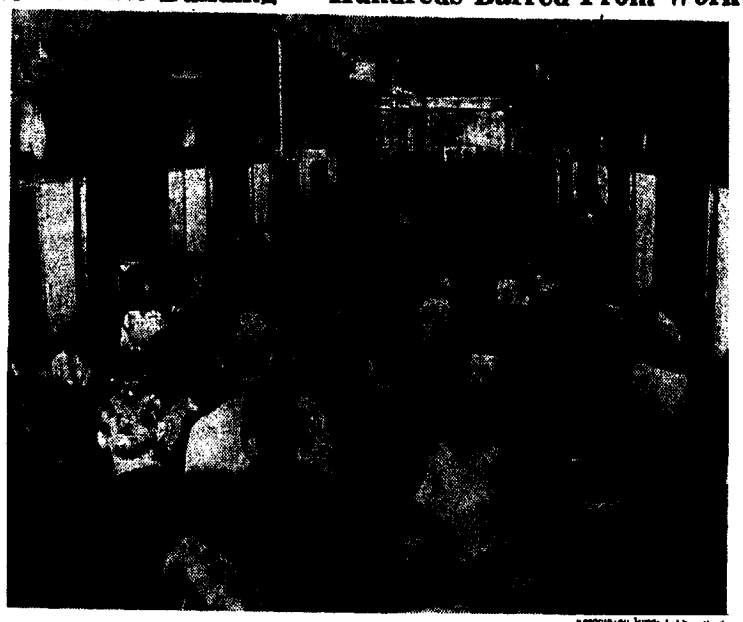
Relay Telecast Proceeds

The fire threatened for a time to interfere with a transmission in which Relay, the newest United States communications satellite, beamed its first full-scale program simultaneously to Europe and the United States. The program had been taped Tuesday evening at the National Gallery of Art in Washington when President Kennedy opened a display of the painting "Mona Lisa."

The taped signals were sent from Andover, Me., to Relay on its 207th orbit and rebroadcast to the United States, Britain, France, and Italy. Reception was good in the United States and France but not so good elsewhere.

Fire Damages Upper Floors of Empire State Building — Hundreds Barred From Work

Firemen shoot water into duct in burned-out law office on the 65th floor of the 102-story building in New York.



Associated Press Wirephoto

Some of the building's 60,000 workers jam lobby trying to get to offices by elevator. Most eventually get to work, but firemen barred workers from 64th through 67th floors.

The New York Times
Published: January 10, 1963
Copyright © The New York Times

Fire at Empire State Flares Again Briefly

Special to The New York Times.

NEW YORK.

A fire in the Empire State Building, which smoldered for 22 hours Wednesday, broke out again early yesterday morning. Firemen were summoned at 7:40 A.M. and worked for two hours removing ignited insulation.

Wednesday's fire was in insulation around a cold water pipe in a five-foot utility duct. It burned out offices on four floors. Embers not found by the firemen apparently spread the blaze around a branch pipe leading into a water tank room on the 31st floor of the 102-story building.

Firemen ripped out part of the tank room wall to reach the smoldering insulation. An attendant had summoned them when he felt the heat of the wall. Work continued uninterrupted even in nearby offices. A fire patrol was kept on duty in the building all day.

The New York Times
Published: January 11, 1963
Copyright © The New York Times

MAN DIVES TO DEATH FROM EMPIRE STATE

A man plunged 1,000 feet to his death from the Empire State Building yesterday after kicking free of a guard who tried to stop him.

The man, identified as George Alex Frost, 35 years old, a former radio operator on merchant ships, jumped from the 86th-floor observation tower at 11:05 A. M. He missed six setbacks of the building and landed in 34th Street, barely missing pedestrians.

He had climbed over an eight-foot barrier of curved iron bars and wire fencing installed in 1947 to thwart suicides. As about 50 sightseers watched in horror, a guard, Frank DiGesu, 50, of 1908 Prospect Avenue, the Bronx, grabbed the man's legs through the bars. But the man kicked free.

It was the first outside suicide from the skyscraper in ten years. In 1953 a man fell to his death from a 70th-story window. In 1957 a woman jumped down an inside stairwell.

The victim was identified from seaman's papers in his pocket.

The New York Times
Published: July 23, 1963
Copyright © The New York Times

Slight Fire at Empire State

A small fire broke out yesterday in a pile of building material on the roof of the 19th floor setback of the Empire State Building. Firemen put out the fire just before 2 o'clock and damage was described as slight. There were no injuries.

The New York Times
Published: June 2, 1963
Copyright © The New York Times

8 PANELS PORTRAY WORLD'S WONDERS

Empire State Building Adds Itself in Lobby Tribute

A wonder of the modern world will pay tribute to the Seven Wonders of the ancient one on Tuesday when eight illuminated panels are dedicated at the Empire State Building.

Paul Screvane, President of the City Council, and Lawrence A. Wien, head of the group that controls the building, will throw the switch.

The panels have been in place for a few days and have been attracting the attention of passers-by. Some have run their fingers over the smooth surface and commented on the subjects.

The Seven Wonders, depicted in a popular style, are the pyramids of Egypt, the Pharos of Alexandria, the walls and hanging gardens of Babylon, the temple of Artemis (Diana) at Ephesus, the statue of the Olympian Zeus (Jupiter) by Phidias, the mausoleum erected by Queen Artemisia at Halicarnassus and the Colossus of Rhodes.

The eighth panel, at the west end of the aisle, depicts the Empire State Building. The accompanying note reads:

"You are now in the tallest and most famed building of all time. This triumph of architectural and engineering genius, the Empire State Building—the Eighth Wonder of the World—soars 1,472 feet into the sky—as high as all the original Seven Wonders stacked together."

The notice adds that 16,000 persons work in the building and 35,000 visit it daily "totaling more visitors in a single year than the combined totals of all who visited the original Seven Wonders of the world throughout recorded history."

The panels are flush in the marble near the elevator banks on the north aisle of the building, at Fifth Avenue and 34th Street. Each penetrates the wall about four inches to accommodate the raised inside surfaces of colored plastic and the lighting system that gives each scene its illusion of depth.

The New York Times
Published: June 15, 1963
Copyright © The New York Times

2 LEASES CLOSED AT EMPIRE STATE

Chemstrand Adds to Space —Polythane Gets Offices

The Chemstrand Company, a division of the Monsanto Chemical Company, has increased its space in the Empire State Building by leasing an additional half floor. The company, which is expanding its New York headquarters and marketing offices, now occupies the entire 16th and 17th floors of the skyscraper as a result of the new lease. Chemstrand is a leading maker of chemical textile fibers.

The additional space was taken through Helmsley-Spear, Inc., agent for the building, who also announced that the Polythane Corporation, an associate company of Monsanto, had taken space on the 15th floor. Polythane makes elastic yarns used in socks and girdles.

*

Brokers Get Pan Am Space

Hayden Stone & Co., stock brokers, have leased 4,200 square feet in the Pan Am Building, 200 Park Avenue, for their third New York office. The lease was negotiated by Harry Macklowe of Brevoort Associates, Inc., broker. Cushman & Wakefield, Inc., is the renting agent for the building. James D. Landauer Associates represented the owners.

*

Deal at 55 W. 47th St.

Steiner, Rouse & Co., stock brokers, have leased space for a new office in the building under construction at 55 West 47th Street. The office will occupy the entire mezzanine floor and will be occupied this summer. Peter J. Berman of Charles H. Greenthal & Co. was the broker.

*

Other Business Leases

Mercantile Uniform Co, floor at 18 W 18th St for five years at $100,000 aggregate—Robert Joseph & Co, brokers.

East Arts, Inc, store at 246 E 46th St; Liberty Travel Service, in 152 W 42d St; M. Rudin & Sons, sportswear, floor in 15 W 4th St; West Virginia Pulp & Paper Co, in 230 Park Ave—Helmsley-Spear, Inc, brokers.

The New York Times
Published: May 30, 1963
Copyright © The New York Times

Setback Roofs Re-Covered At Empire State Building

The roofs of the setbacks of the Empire State Building from the sixth to the 102d floors have been re-covered with 65,000 square feet of new material and about a half-mile of flashing has been installed, Thomas J. O'Keefe, director of administration and services for the skyscraper, announced yesterday. It was the first major roof work on the building since it was opened in 1931.

The reroofing was done by the Fiedler Roofing Company under the supervision of Helmsley-Spear, Inc., agents for the building. It was part of a $2,000,000 modernization program that includes conversion of the 58 elevators to automatic operation, over-all cleaning of the exterior and the installation of new lighting in the lobbies.

The original roofs of the setbacks were made of red quarry tile. The new covering is white chip slag applied over four-ply insulating board.

The New York Times
Published: October 9, 1963
Copyright © The New York Times

'OWNERS' TO INSPECT THE EMPIRE STATE

Participants in Empire State Building Associates, the investment group that owns the world's tallest building, will attend an open-house inspection of the structure's current modernization program this evening.

Lawrence A. Wien, head of the syndicate that purchased the building in 1961, expects nearly 5,000 persons to visit the building, including shareholders and members of their families.

The New York Times
Published: September 11, 1963
Copyright © The New York Times

The New York Times

ARCHIVES 1964

TENANT EXPANDS AT EMPIRE STATE

DEC. 16, 1964

The International Latex Corporation has signed a long-term lease renewal and taken additional space in the Empire State Building at a rent that will aggregate more than $1.5 million for more than 35,000 square feet.

The company, a subsidiary of the Stanley Warner Corporation, renewed its lease for the 64th floor and rented half of the 63d floor, with options to lease the rest of the 63d floor for future expansion.

The offices are the international sales headquarters for Playtex products — undergarments and household gloves.

Helmsley-Spear, Inc., is the managing agent for the Empire State Building.

Lease on Wall Street

The East Asiatic Company, one of the world's largest trading and shipping concerns, has leased the entire top floor, the 27th, in the building being erected by Samuel Rudin at 110 Wall Street, on the corner of Front Street. The Danish company will move from 103 Front Street, where it has had offices since 1948. The lease for 6,600 square feet was arranged through Cushman & Wakefield, Inc., renting agent for the structure, which will be completed in April.

African Nation Leases

The Republic of Malawi, formerly Nyasaland, has leased 2,500 square feet on the 22d floor of the United States Plywood Building, 777 Third Avenue, at 48th Street, for its Permanent Mission to the United Nations. The mission is now in 757 Third Avenue. Sidney Garfield and Alan S. Fischer of Pease &

Elliman, Inc., negotiated the lease.

In another lease in the same building, the Federal Republic of Cameroon has taken 1,500

Nestle Co. Takes Space

The Nestle Company, Inc., has taken the entire 11th and 12th floors, a total of 16,000 square feet, in the newly completed office building at 820 Second Avenue, at 44th Street. The coffee and chocolate products concern will consolidate its downtown and midtown offices, previously at 120 Wall Street and 711 Third Avenue, respectively, in a single location. Michael Godt and George L. Studley of Julien J. Studley, Inc., were the brokers.

This article can be viewed in its original form. Please send questions and feedback to archive_feedback@nytimes.com

---

© 2015 The New York Times Company

The New York Times

ARCHIVES 1964

17 TENANTS SIGNED AT EMPIRE STATE

DEC. 21, 1964

Sixteen manufacturing concerns and a trade association have taken space in a section of the Empire State Building that is being set aside for a Notion Mart.

The building's management hopes to bring together in the section a large group of notions manufacturers and distributors. The industry does $1.4 billion worth of business annually.

Establishment of the Notion Mart was announced yesterday by Edward Levy, executive secretary of the National Notion Association; Jerome M. Cohen, vice president of Williams & Co., consultants to the notions industry and brokers in the signing of a number of leases for space in the Empire State Building; and Helmsley-Spear, Inc., renting and managing agent for the building.

The initial space to be occupied, a total of nearly 50,000 square feet, will comprise most of the 12th, 13th and 14th floors. Eventually, the notions industry is expected to take a total of about 200,000 square feet.

There are about 2,800 manufacturers in the industry, producing such items as sewing aids, accessories for care of the hair, closet goods, bathing and travel accessories and several other types of merchandise sold in department, variety and specialty stores. The National. Notion Association was formed in 1923.

About 80 per cent of the manufacturers have headquarters or showrooms, or both, in New York. It is expected that showings during periodic market weeks will be held in the Empire State Building.

Concerns that have leased space in the building, in addition to the

National Notion Association, are the R. G. Barry Corporation, Bogene, Inc.; John Dritz & Sons, the Exylin Company, the Handi-Form Plastics Corporation, the I. B. Kleinert Rubber Company, the Lee Rowan Company, the Lucky Sales Company, the Nash Manufacturing Company, the Penn Products Company, the Protex Products Company, the Ratex Corporation, the Setwell Company, Spiegel Industries, Sulray and the Triangle Manufacturing Company.

This article can be viewed in its original form. Please send questions and feedback to archive_feedback@nytimes.com

---

© 2015 The New York Times Company

The New York Times

ARCHIVES 1964

REALTY MEN OPPOSE TRADE CENTER PLANS

FEB. 26, 1964

The Committee for a Reasonable World Trade Center has been organized by a group of real estate men who oppose the Trade Center project as it is planned by the Port of New York Authority.

The members of the committee are associated with the ownership or management of some of the city's biggest skyscrapers. They are Sidney J. Bernstein, Seymour Durst, Zachary Fisher, Harry B. Helmsley, George Kaufman, Aaron Rabinowitz, Walter J. Salmon Jr., E. J. Smith, Stanley Stahl, Robert V. Tishman, Wylie F. L. Tuttle Jr., Harold Uris and William Zimmerman.

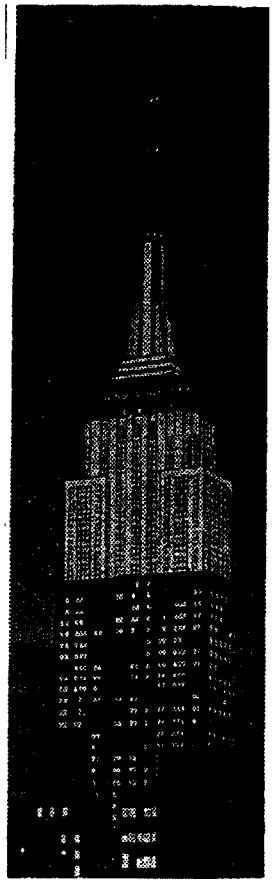
Lawrence A. Wien, head of the syndicate that owns the Empire State Building, is chairman of the group, and Robert Kopple, lawyer of 450 Seventh Avenue, is its executive director.

In a statement yesterday, the committee members said their objective was a Trade Center that would fill a "demonstrated" need for the 10 million square feet of office space it would provide.

The members said that a semi-governmental agency, such as the Port Authority, should not be permitted to compete with the private real estate industry.

This article can be viewed in its original form. Please send questions and feedback to archive_feedback@nytimes.com

© 2015 The New York Times Company



NEW SKYLINE SYMBOL: Artist's rendering of the proposed lighting system for Empire State Building.

THE EMPIRE STATE TO GLOW AT NIGHT

Lights Will Flood Upper 30 Floors After April 1

By JOSEPH LELYVELD

By way of reasserting the Empire State Building's preeminence on the New York skyline, its top 30 floors will be bathed in light every evening after April 1.

The idea is to make the upper portion of the world's tallest building as sharply visible by night as by day. The effect will be to transform the city's nighttime face by crowning it with a solid block of white light.

If enough office lights are turned off below the 72d floor, the block of light will seem to have no visible support—"like a chandelier suspended from the sky," one of the building's admirers remarked.

The bright glow will dramatize a preeminence that may soon disappear. The Empire State—102 stories high—will slip to number three among skyscrapers if the projected World Trade Center, with its twin 110-floor towers, is built.

Beams to Go Out

When the new lights are turned on, the four revolving beams on top of the building will be turned off.

The floodlights will be mounted on the setbacks in the building on the 72d, 81st and 90th floors. In addition the lighting in the shaft on top of the building will be replaced. In all, it will take 360 kilowatts to make the building gleam.

The lights have been designed so that they will not annoy migrating birds, late office workers and the images transmitted by the television tower on top of the building. The 86th and 87th floors—the observation deck and the Telstar tracking station—will be left in darkness, looking like a black ribbon tied around a block of ice.

$250,000 Installation

The installation of the lights is costing the owners of the building—an investment group headed by Lawrence A. Wien—about $250,000. But the lights will prove relatively cheap to maintain.

Commercial light bills are calculated in two ways: one, by the amount of current used and, two, by the time of day when it's used. Since the floodlights will be on when most office lights are off, they will cost about one penny a kilowatt hour. With 360 kilowatts, the bill will come to $3.60 an hour; with the lights on seven hours a night, it will be barely $25 a day.

The lights were designed by Sylvania Electrical Products, Inc. Originally they were used to illuminate missile blast-off pads. The Lorson Electric Company is doing the installation.

The New York Times
Published: February 23, 1964
Copyright © The New York Times

The New York Times

ARCHIVES 1964

THE EMPIRE STATE HOLDS TITLE NOW

JAN. 19, 1964

Until the World Trade Center is completed, another building in the city will continue to hold the title of tallest in the world and one in Washington the title of largest in floor area.

At present, the tallest in the world, is the Empire State Building. The building itself is 1,250 feet and 102 stories high. A television mast atop the tower gives the structure, at Fifth Avenue and 34th Street, a total height of 1,472 feet.

The Pentagon, on the Virginia side of the Potomac in the District of Columbia, has nearly 6.5 million square feet of floor space, more than any other building in the world. It is the headquarters of the Department of Defense.

The largest privately owned commercial building in floor space is the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. It has more than four million square feet. It serves as a wholesale display and selling center and is owned by Joseph P. Kennedy, the father of the late President Kennedy.

The Merchandise Mart covers two full blocks with 18 stories in the main structure and a tower that rises to 25 stories.

Next in size among privately owned office buildings is the Pan Am Building above Grand Central Terminal. It is 59 stories high and has 2.4 million square feet of floor area.

The Chrysler Building (77 stories), 40 Wall Street (71 stories), the R.C.A. Building (70 stories), 60 Wall Tower (67 stories), the Chase Manhattan Building and the Woolworth Building (each 60 stories), all are taller than the

Pan Am Building. But because of their comparatively slender design they have less space to rent.

Table of Heights

Here is a list of the city's tallest buildings:

Boston has its Prudential Tower, 52 stories high and the tallest commercial building in the country outside New York City. In Chicago the tallest building is the Marina City Apartments, 60 stories high.

Other tall ones are the Carew Tower in Cincinnati, 48 stories; the Terminal Tower in Cleveland, 52 stories, and Dallas's 53story Republic Banl Tower, scheduled for completion this year. Buildings of 20, 30 and 40-odd stories are not uncommon in many cities in the country.

Some of the tallest structures in foreign cities are the hotels built by Conrad Hilton. In London, for example, the 30 stories of the Hilton Hotel towers over most of the landscape. The Shell Oil Building on the south bank of the Thames also rises 30 stories.

But the Eiffel Tower in Paris, 1,056 feet high with its television antenna, is still the tallest structure in Europe.

The world's tallest structure is a 2,069-foot television tower in Fargo, N. D. Another tower, in Shreveport, La., is 1,898 feet high. There are two towers that are 1,749 feet tall. One is in Columbus, Ga., and the other is in Knoxville, Tenn.

This article can be viewed in its original form. Please send questions and feedback to archive_feedback@nytimes.com

---

© 2015 The New York Times Company

The New York Times

ARCHIVES 1964

Top of the Empire State To Get New Floodlights

JAN. 21, 1964

The upper floors and the tower of the Empire State Building will be floodlighted this spring for the first time with a type of lamp used to illuminate missile launching pads.

The building's owners said yesterday that installation of the lighting would be started at once, so the new illummination would be ready for the opening of the World's Fair.

Iodine-quartz lamps, each with an intensity of 1,000 watts, will be turned on from dusk until midnight. The lighting cycle will be controlled by an astronomical clock.

The system was devised by Sylvania Electric Products, Inc. The Lorson Electric Company is installinng the lamps.

The lighting will not fere with the night view fromm the top of the building, Lawrence A. Wien, head of the investment group that owns the building, said.

This article can be viewed in its original form. Please send questions and feedback to archive_feedback@nytimes.com

© 2015 The New York Times Company

The New York Times

ARCHIVES 1964

IT'S HOTTER INSIDE AT EMPIRE STATE

BY EMMA HARRISON JULY 3, 1964

Many tenants of the air- conditioned Empire State Building found a way to beat the heat yesterday—they went outside.

For while the city has been setting its own sizzling heat record in the last few days, the temperature in many offices of the skyscraper has been hotter, the tenants report. The reason: an air-conditioner breakdown on 39 of the building's 102 floors.

Temperatures and tempers have been rising in direct proportion, from the 42d floor through the 80th, since the mechanism went out of commission last Friday.

Even though windows may be opened, many of the tenants explained, they had a hard time getting much relief. They point out that many of the offices are inside rooms without windows, since they were planned for air conditioning.

Rents to Be Withheld

Yesterday the revolt boiled up into a meeting in a hot cubicle of an office on the 58th floor. About 50 of the estimated total of 500 affected tenants crowded into the meeting and agreed to sign a petition to withold July rents until business losses, which they attributed to "negligence in the operation, maintenance and control of this building," could be determined.

A spokesman for the building's management, HelmsleySpear, Inc., occupying offices on the cool fifth floor, said that burned-out coils and a damaged rotor would be replaced as soon as the new parts were received from a factory in Mansfield, Ohio. They were scheduled to be flown here.

Workmen will work around the clock through the holiday weekend to restore service as fast as possible—"sometime next week"—the spokesman reported.

50 Crowd Into Office

Aaron J. Broder of the law firm of Levine & Broder, whose 58th-floor office was about at the equator of the Empire State heat belt, was host at the warm reception held at 2 P.M. A visitor clutching a cheap thermometer found that the discomfort went from 88 to 90 in the room as about 50 warm bodies and a number of television lights entered.

It was 89 degrees in Central Park at that time. Mr. Broder said it had been as hot as 102 inside the office at one time. The official high for the day outside was 91.

Before the meeting Mr. Bred-er had reported that "distinguished attorneys in his firm were walking the sweltering halls in their undershirts. They were modestly attired, mostly in short-sleeved shirts, for the conference with the tenants.

Mr. Broder, who just happens to be a negligence lawyer, declared: "We do consider there has been something in the way of negligence here—a recklessness and a wholesale disregard for human life."

This article can be viewed in its original form. Please send questions and feedback to archive_feedback@nytimes.com

---

© 2015 The New York Times Company

The New York Times

ARCHIVES 1964

Worker on Tower Atop Empire State Falls to His Death

SEPT. 3, 1964

An electrician working on a television antenna on top of the Empire State Building slipped from his safety belt and fell 160 feet to his death yesterday. He landed on an ice shield above the observation floor.

The police reported that the victim, Harlan Jordan, 34 years old, of 12 North Street, Grassy Point, N. Y., was one of a crew of seven men working on the television mast atop the building.

They were putting up a new antenna for television station WPIX. The building itself is 1,250 feet and 102 stories high. The television mast atop the tower makes the structure 1,472 feet high. Work on the antenna has been going on since July.

The police said that none of Mr. Jordan's co-workers had seen him fall. The accident occurred about 7:15 A.M., when he apparently slipped through his safety belt.

Mr. Jordan, who was married, was employed by the B. Eichwald & Co., electrical contractors of 237 East 39th Street. He had been with the company since July, 1963.

WPIX is using another antenna while work continues on its regular antenna. There are several antennae on the tower.

This article can be viewed in its original form. Please send questions and feedback to archive_feedback@nytimes.com

© 2015 The New York Times Company

Con Ed 'Rangers,' Atop Empire State, Watch for Smoke

The Empire State Building, which serves as an office structure, a television antenna tower and a place to study the habits of migratory birds, has a new use. It will be a smoke-watching station for the Consolidated Edison Company.

Since Monday the company has had three experienced observers on the 80th floor. They cover the hours from 6 A.M. to 10 P.M. seven days a week.

As part of a campaign to reduce air pollution they keep their binoculars trained on seven Con Edison electric-generating stations, looking for the first suggestion of smoke. If they sight any they telephone the superintendent of that plant.

Today the observers will have company in checking on the Ravenswood plant in Queens. The City Council's Special Committee to Investigate Air Pollution, a ground operation, will visit the Ravenswood plant at 10 A.M. This site visit will be the third in a series by the committee.

Councilman Robert A. Low, Manhattan Democrat-Liberal, said: "We have some very penetrating questions to ask Con Edison about air pollution. We hope they are ready with some satisfactory answers."

Arthur J. Benline, Commissioner of Air Pollution Control, commended the utility for having set up the Empire State observation post. He said he would expect "fast corrective action whenever a Con Ed stack starts to smoke."

Such observations, he said, "are important for effective air-pollution control."

The New York Times
Published: April 22, 1965
Copyright © The New York Times

Agents for Empire State Promote 2

Rappoport

John F. Garrety

The New York Times Studio

Robert L. Tinker

Two executive promotions in the management team of the Empire State Building have been announced by Helmsley-Spear, Inc., the building's managing agents.

John F. Garrety, the building's director of engineering, television and radio, will assume the additional post of vice president in the Helmsley-Spear organization. Robert L. Tinker, assistant rental manager for the building, has been named rental manager and vice president of Helmsley-Spear.

Mr. Garrety, a mechanical engineer, joined the Empire State Building staff after his graduation from the Stevens Institute of Technology in 1939. He served first as purchasing agent and service assistant for the building and later became a vice president of the Empire State Building Corporation.

Mr. Tinker replaces the former rental manager, H. Hamilton Weber, who will continue as rental consultant and a vice president of Helmsley-Spear, which took over as managing agent in 1961.

The New York Times
Published: December 16, 1965
Copyright © The New York Times

6 LEASES SIGNED BY EMPIRE STATE

5 More Shoe Concerns Get Space in Skyscraper

The Empire State Building has added five more companies to its roster of about 100 tenants that manufacture footwear and have sales offices in the skyscraper.

The five new companies, which have leased a total of 10,000 square feet of floor space, are the Kinco division of the Kinney Shoe Corporation, the Dr. Posner Shoe Company, the Intercontinent Shoe Corporation, Clarks of England and the Lucky Sales Company, Inc. The leases were arranged by Helmsley-Spear, Inc., the Empire State's managing agents.

Another Empire State lease was negotiated by Brown, Harris, Stevens, brokers, with Helmsley-Spear, for the BVD Company, Inc., manufacturer of men's and boys' apparel. BVD has leased 5,500 square feet for the Fordham Bardell Shirt Corporation, a new BVD affiliate.

*

Madison Ave. Spaces Let

Two lingerie concerns have leased a total of 29,000 square feet of space in Madison Avenue building through Williams & Co., brokers. Fischer & Co., Inc., will move from 105 Madison Avenue to 136 Madison Avenue, at 31st Street, where it will occupy 16,500 square feet of floor area. Contessa Lingerie, Inc., in a move from 38 East 32d Street, has leased 12,500 square feet of space in 105 Madison Avenue, at 29th Street.

*

Showrooms Taken on 32d St.

Youngman Handbags, Inc., through Adams & Co., brokers, has rented 7,500 square feet of showroom and manufacturing space in 22 West 32d Street.

*

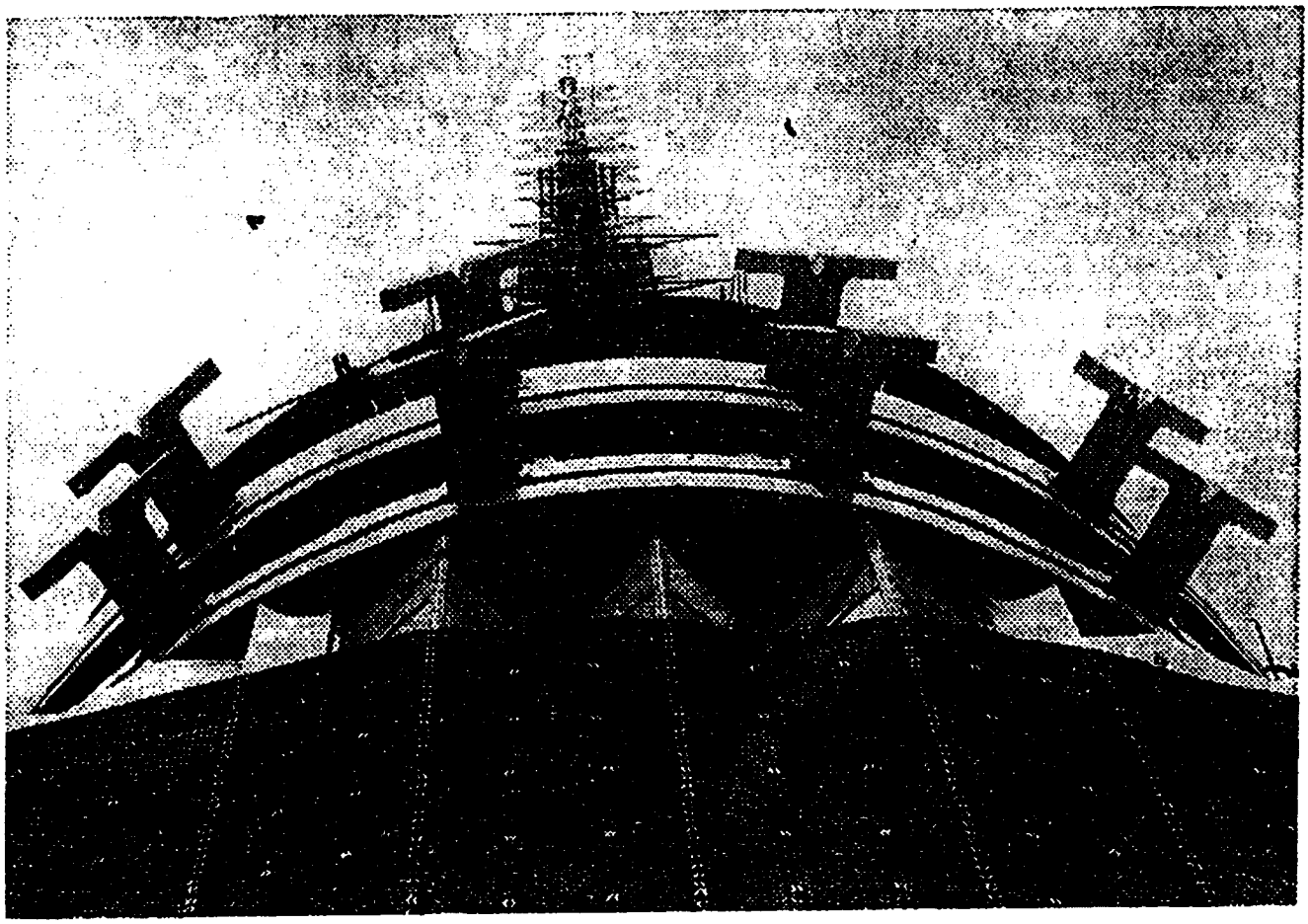
Downtown Offices for Lawyers

Two law firms and a group of lawyers have leased space in the Home Life Insurance Building at 253 Broadway, at Murray Street, in the financial district. The leases were arranged by the Davis Corporation of New York, renting consultants to the building's owners.

The partnership of David I. Ashe and George Rifkin has leased 2,500 square feet; the firm of Silberman & Silberman has leased 1,500 square feet, and a group of lawyers, I. Jules Rosen, Harvey L. Strelzin, Milton Sanders and Meyer Licht, has leased 5,000 square feet.

The New York Times
Published: January 11, 1965
Copyright © The New York Times

First FM Master Antenna Built Atop Empire State



The New York Times

A view, from the 85th floor, of the new antenna installation on Empire State Building

The nation's first frequency modulation master antenna has been constructed atop the Empire State Building at an estimated cost of $30,000.

When fully installed and wired, the antenna will be able to transmit the signals of 17 local FM station simultaneously. Thus far, licenses to use the antenna have been obtained from the Federal Communications Commission by WQXR-FM, WHOM-FM, WLIB-FM and WNCN-FM.

Elliott M. Sanger, executive vice president and general manager of WQXR, said yesterday that the stations would probably be ready to transmit from the new location by mid-October.

The antenna was designed and built for the Empire State Building by the Alford Manufacturing Company of Boston. It is composed of two circular rows of dipolar antennas, 16 to a row, which permit multiplex, or simultaneous, broadcasting by several stations.

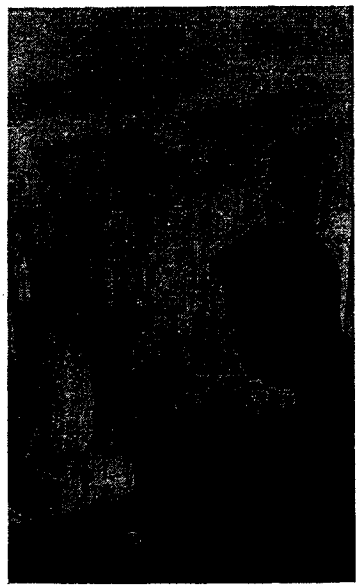
Erected above the 102d floor of the building at the 1,250-foot-level just above the observation tower, it is the highest FM master antenna in the world. The height will eliminate interference from surrounding skyscrapers, a major problem for local FM broadcasters.

Transmitting equipment will be installed on the 81st floor and will feed the antenna through coaxial cables. The cost of installation for each station is approximately $100,000, not including rental of the antenna's use from the Empire State.

Mr. Sanger said the antenna was "at the best possible site" for FM broadcasting and would allow participating stations to reach a far greater number of people.

The New York Times
Published: July 31, 1965
Copyright © The New York Times

Scientist Maps Manhattan Gravity



The New York Times

Dr. John T. F. Kuo of Columbia adjusts gravimeter before placing it on the 102d floor of the Empire State Building.

Aspiring Galileo Studies Gravity At the Empire State Building

The Empire State Building is playing Tower of Pisa to a Columbia geophysicist's Galileo.

Dr. John T. F. Kuo, an associate professor at the Henry Krumb School of Mines at Columbia University, is studying the earth's gravity from each of the building's 102 floors.

The story—doubted by historians—that Galileo dropped metal balls of unequal weight from Pisa's Leaning Tower to demonstrate gravity's equal pull, does not, however, include some hindrances that face Dr. Kuo. Elevators, winds, tourists and traffic cause vibrations that disturb his sensitive apparatus.

To avoid the hindrances, Dr. Kuo, whose name rhymes with "no," has been working from 7 P.M. to 3 A.M., when the building is most still. Yesterday he left his Blauvelt, N.Y., home at 6:30 A.M. to take readings in the 102d floor observation tower before tourists were admitted at 9:30.

Alone in the tower ("It's wonderful, so quiet—and in the middle of Manhattan"), he set up his gravimeter, a small rectangular box that is sensitive to weight differences of one one-billionth of a pound.

Weight Loss Measured

His uncorrected readings showed yesterday that a person who weighed 160 pounds on entering the ground floor would weigh 159.9814 pounds at the top floor. The weight-loss occurs, Dr. Kuo explained, because the pull of gravity decreases as one moves up.

However, the readings were uncorrected, Dr. Kuo emphasized. They did not take into account the gravitational pull of the building, surrounding buildings, ocean tides, the sun and moon and the topography. These corrections will be made by computer before the readings have scientific validity, he said.

"For instance, the Palisades must be taken into account on the ground floor, but not on the top floor," where their gravitational pull would be slight, he said.

Dr. Kuo said that he would like to take readings from other skyscrapers for a three-dimensional grid map of gravitational variations in the Manhattan area. Such a map would be the first of its kind, he indicated.

May Aid Space Age

Extrapolations from his figures might help in the "design of instruments measuring the gravitational acceleration on space vehicles as they hurtle through the universe," he said.

Dr. Kuo, who is 42 years old, was born in Hangchow, China. He and his wife, Marilyn, have two daughters—Ping Andrea, 7, and Sonya Sue, 3. He holds degrees from the University of Redlands, California Institute of Technology and Stanford University. He has been at Columbia since 1960.

Dr. Kuo, a low-voiced man with soft brown eyes and great courtesy, expressed his appreciation yesterday for being allowed to use the building.

Earlier, John F. McGinley, night supervisor of the building, had told an elevator operator: "Hit the 102d easy—the professor's up there."

The New York Times
Published: March 15, 1965
Copyright © The New York Times

Floodlights Turned Off Atop the Empire State

Shortly after 8 o'clock last night, the Empire State Building, the world's tallest, extinguished the floodlights that had been glowing on its uppermost 30 stories.

In response to a telephoned inquiry, an employe in the building, which rises 1,472 feet on Fifth Avenue between 33d and 34th Streets, said that the lights had been turned off because "we kept getting complaints from one or two people."

One complaint was from a woman resident of Stuyvesant Town, who was indignant that the floodlights were on after the city's residents had been asked to curtail their use of electricity in the wake of Tuesday's power failure.

At Flushing Meadow, however, the World's Fair Unisphere was lit up last night. The fair, which closed Oct. 17, is now being dismantled. Spokesmen could not be reached for comment on the use of electric power for display at the closed fair.

The New York Times
Published: November 11, 1965
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Is Illuminated Again

The floodlights that illuminate the 30 top floors of the Empire State Building went back on at 5:53 last night following Mayor Wagner's announcement yesterday morning that the power curtailment was over.

The floodlights were turned off Wednesday at 8 P.M.

The lights continued to burn around the Unisphere at the closed World's Fair. They never went off. A spokesman explained yesterday that turning off these lights would have forced the turning off of other lights on the same circuit, which would have been a danger to safety.

The New York Times
Published: November 12, 1965
Copyright © The New York Times

Policemen Save a Man On Empire State Ledge

Two policemen dragged a man to safety from the 81st-floor ledge of the Empire State Building shortly after 2 P.M. yesterday. Hundreds of spectators watched from 34th Street.

The man — identified as Francis McCarthy, 33 years old, of 48-36 91st Place, Elmhurst, Queens — had broken a window and jumped through to reach the ledge. In doing so he suffered cuts on both arms.

Called to the scene, Sgt. Norbert Campbell and Patrolman William G. Hall Jr. stepped out on the six-foot ledge, which has a parapet a few feet high. The sergeant talked to the man until the patrolman could tackle him from behind.

The New York Times
Published: September 6, 1965
Copyright © The New York Times

NEWS OF REALTY: HOTEL HERE SOLD

Manger Vanderbilt Bought by Group for $3,625,000

By WILLIAM ROBBINS

The Manger Vanderbilt Hotel at Park Avenue and 34th Street, which has been closed since the first of the year, has been sold for $3,625,000 to a group of investors headed by John Marousee.

The buyers plan to convert the 20-story building to an apartment house by stripping the structure to its steel frame and rebuilding it.

The hotel, built in 1912 and operated by the Manger chain since 1941, was sold by the Manger interests, represented by Noah T. Rosoff. Daniel A. Brener was consultant to the sellers. Franklin Bass represented the group headed by Mr. Marqusee, who has taken part in many development projects in the New York metropolitan area.

The Manger Vanderbilt, long a headquarters for out-of-town buyers in the women's apparel and textile trades, occupies the west blockfront of Park Avenue running back from 34th to 33d Street.

*

Renewal At Empire State

The Chemstrand Company, a division of the Monsanto Company, has signed a new lease for a total of 90,000 square feet of office space in the Empire State Building. The transaction represents a renewal of a lease on 72,000 square feet, the 16th and 17th floors, and new space, totaling 18,000 square feet, on the 15th floor. Chemstrand has had its headquarters in the Empire State Building since 1956. Helmsley-Spear Inc., is the managing agent.

*

Building Topped Out

The 47-story office building being erected in the block bounded by Park and Lexington Avenue and 46th and 47th Street was topped out yesterday with the hoisting of an American flag and an evergreen branch to the uppermost steel girder.

The Uris Buildings Corporation is erecting the building from plans by Shreve, Lamb & Harmon for completion next January. The American Tobacco Company will be the principal tenant. Cushman & Wakefield, Inc., is the renting and managing agent.

The New York Times
Published: April 7, 1966
Copyright © The New York Times

NEWS OF REALTY: LOW-LEVEL SPACE

Empire State Makes Area Available Below Ground

By GLENN FOWLER

A 15-year lease for 20,000 square feet below the ground level in the Empire State Building has been signed by the Electronic Computer Programming Institute, Inc.

The institute, a school for training in computer programming and tabulating, will use the space for classrooms in which students will take courses ranging from eight to 25 weeks. An IBM-360 computer, one of the newest models of electronic brain, will be installed on a special "floating floor."

The air-conditioned space is part of a 60,000-square-foot area that the Empire State Building calls a "lower lobby." The area previously had been used for building service facilities. Conversion of the space is part of a modernization program in which additional rentable space is being provided in the building, the world's tallest.

The lower lobby will be served by four newly installed automatic passenger elevators. The 40,000 square feet of the lower lobby still available is expected to be rented to office and store tenants.

Helmsley-Spear, Inc., managing agent for the Empire State, was the broker in the lease with the institute.

*

Lease At 30 Wall St.

Brokaw, Schaenen, Clancy & Co., an investment management concern, has leased the entire eighth floor and part of the seventh in the Seamen's Bank for Savings Building at 30 Wall Street, between Nassau and Broad.

The tenant will more than triple its office space when it moves from its present quarters at 20 Exchange Place. The company manages individual investment accounts and pension and profit-sharing funds for corporations.

The long-term lease at 30 Wall Street covers more than 10,000 square feet of space. It was negotiated by Bertram F. French, senior vice president of Cushman & Wakefield, Inc. Charles F. Noyes Co. is the renting agent for the building.

*

Industrial Space Taken

The Monte-Vardi Sportswear Company, maker of children's swimwear and sweaters, has leased 12,500 square feet of space on the 15th floor of the Starrett Lehigh Building on the West Side.

Monte-Vardi, which will move from Flushing, Queens, is the 14th apparel or textile concern to move into the Starrett Lehgh Building in the last five years. Monte-Vardi will continue to maintain showroom space in 112 West 34th Street, using the Starrett Lehigh space for manufacturing and distribution.

Starrett Lehigh, a 19-story structure occupying the full block bounded by 11th and 12th Avenues and 26th and 27th Streets, has floors as large as 130,000 square feet, and is one of the city's largest industrial buildings.

*

Brooklyn Site Sold

An investment group headed by Herbert R. Mandel and Robert Okun has taken title to a three-acre site in Brooklyn bounded by 89th and 91st Streets and Colonial and Shore Roads.

The privately owned Shore Road Hospital, presently occupying the property, is to be demolished to make way for a 27-story tower apartment house, according to the buyers. A series of attached, two-story apartments will adjoin the tower structure.

Designed by Samuel Paul and Seymour Jarmul, architects, the building will front on Shore Road facing the Narrows.

David L. Raider of the law firm of Raider & Meislich, represented the Mandel-Okun interests and Warshaw, Franks & Lebow represented the seller.

*

Shopping Center Loan

The Benjamin Schore Company, a mortgage financing concern with headquarters in Manhattan and Los Angeles, has arranged a permanent first mortgage loan of $13.5-million on the 70-acre Balboa Shopping Center in San Diego, Calif. The John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company of Boston will provide the loan.

The New York Times
Published: April 29, 1966
Copyright © The New York Times

WNYC-FM Will Transmit From Empire State Sept. 2

The number of persons listening by radio to the frequency modulation (F.M.) broadcasts of WNYC, the city's radio station, is expected to be considerably increased when transmission starts from the top of the Empire State Building on Sept. 2.

Seymour N. Siegel, the city's director of radio communications, announced the date yesterday. At present, transmission is from the top of the 590-foot-high Municipal Building. In its new location the transmitter will be 1,250 feet above ground level.

WNYC-FM began transmitting from its present location in 1943. Mr. Siegel estimated that today the city's station, whose programing consists largely of classical and semi-classical music, has about 400,000 listeners, or from 13 to 15 per cent of the total 3-million F.M. audience within its range.

The New York Times
Published: August 9, 1966
Copyright © The New York Times

SAMUEL KRONSKY, REALTY MAN, DIES

Broker, 79, Initiated Deal on Empire State Building

Samuel Kronsky

Samuel Kronsky, a leading real estate broker, died yesterday in Good Samaritan Hospital in Palm Beach, Fla. He was 79 years old and lived at 1 Wellington Avenue, New Rochelle, N. Y., and in Palm Beach.

Mr. Kronsky, who had a reputation as a resourceful and hard-working man, concentrated on the planning and financing of large realty transactions. He took part in deals involving many important buildings, among them the Empire State Building, Lincoln Building and Pershing Square Building.

He was credited with initiating in 1959 the sale and leaseback of the Empire State Building for an investment group headed by Lawrence A. Wien. Mr. Wien's group contracted to buy the building from Henry Crown for $65-million. The Prudential Insurance Company of America then bought the building from the Wien interests and leased it back to them in 1961.

Mr. Kronsky was a broker, with Harry B. Helmsley, in the sale of the 53-story Lincoln Building at 60 East 42d Street by the Prudential Insurance Company to an investing group headed by Mr. Wien in 1954. Four years later Mr. Kronsky arranged a $17-million mortgage loan on the building from the insurance company.

He Started Young

Mr. Kronsky was born in New Jersey, the eldest son of a large family, and began working in his early teens for the late Elisha Sniffen, a mortgage broker.

After a short apprenticeship, he opened his first real estate office in 1906 and specialized in mortgage financing. In 1920 he formed a syndicate to buy the Marbridge Building at Broadway and 34th Street.

In the early nineteen-thirties he handled the reorganization and refinancing of properties owned by Trinity Church to the value of $20-million.

Other deals of his involved Hampshire House, Garment Center Capitol Buildings, 285 Madison Avenue, 1 Park Avenue, 240 Central Park South and 1407 Broadway.

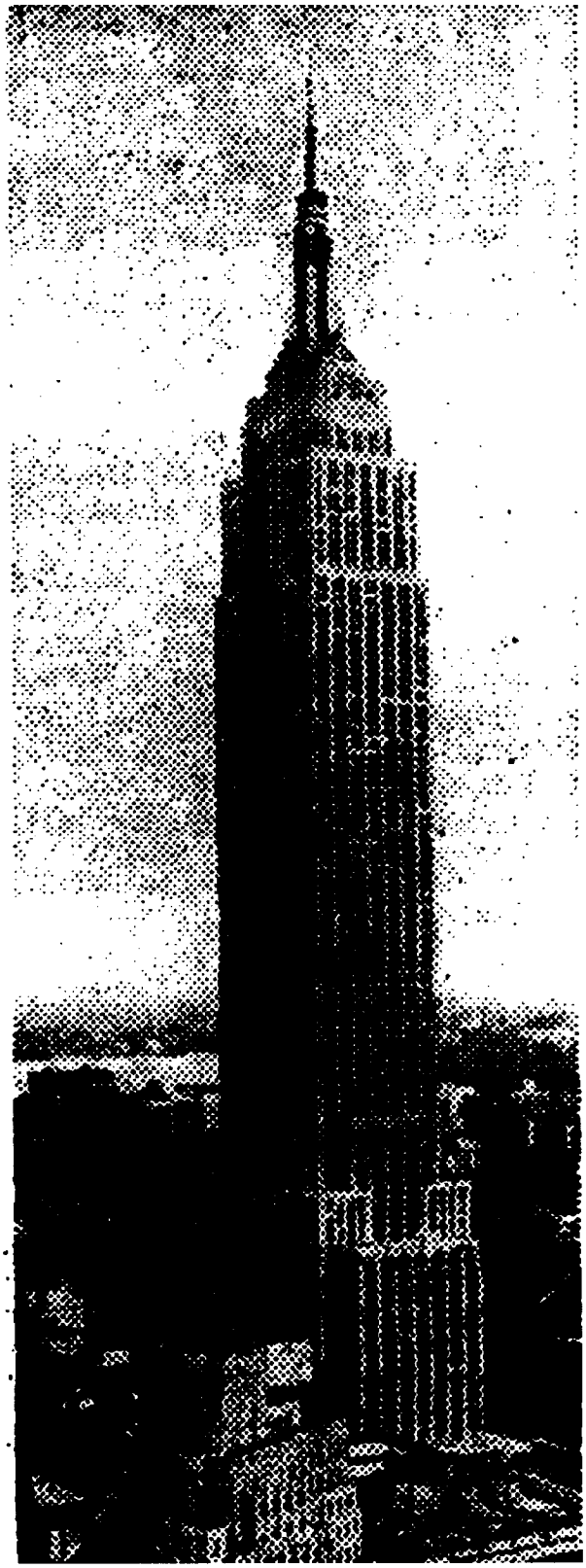
Mr. Kronsky was a former vice president and honorary director of the Sixth Avenue Association (now the Avenue of the Americas Association) and a director of the 34th Street-Midtown Association.

Surviving are his widow, the former Florence Dix; three daughters, Mrs. Jean Detre, Mrs. Ann Spruyt and Miss Betty Jane Kronsky, and four sisters, Mrs. Daisy Rubens, Mrs. Gertrude L. Kelemen, Mrs. Ethel Garfield and Mrs. Mildred Englander.

A funeral service will be held tomorrow at 1 P. M. at Frank E. Campbell's, Madison Avenue and 81st Street.

The New York Times
Published: March 8, 1966
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Has Birthday



Associated Press

Thirty-five years old

The 102-story Empire State Building, the world's tallest, marked its 35th birthday yesterday with the prospect of playing second fiddle in the future.

The Port of New York Authority seeks a permit from the city to put up a World Trade Center at Hudson Terminal, with twin 110-story towers rising 1,350 feet or 100 feet higher than the Empire State.

On May 1, 1931, President Herbert Hoover formally opened the Empire State by pressing a button in Washington to turn on lights in the building on Fifth Avenue between 33d and 34th Streets.

In the Great Depression, the then Gov. Alfred E. Smith and John J. Raskob had the building erected in little more than a year at $3-million under their original $50-million estimate. The building was sold in 1951 to a syndicate for $51.5-million and in 1961 to another group, headed by Lawrence A. Wien, for $65-million.

The structure contains enough steel to build a railroad from here to Baltimore, and has seven miles of elevator shafts, 60 miles of water pipes and 6,600 windows.

The New York Times
Published: May 2, 1966
Copyright © The New York Times

New WNYC Antenna Is Dedicated by Mayor

Mayor Lindsay's Cabinet met 86 floors above the mist-covered city yesterday morning, then watched while the Mayor pressed a switch that transferred radio station WNYC-FM's transmission to an antenna atop the Empire State Building.

At the closed-door cabinet meeting, held in the indoor portion of the building's 86th floor observation deck, Seymour N. Siegel, director of the Municipal Broadcasting System which operates the station, gave a briefing to more than 75 administration officials.

He explained later that the station's FM signal, which had been broadcast from an antenna on the Municipal Building, had met interference from new construction in that downtown area. With the change, WNYC became the eighth station to transmit from the master FM antenna on top of the Empire State. Mr. Siegel said the project cost $80,000.

Mr. Lindsay made the connection by pressing a fat black key borrowed from Gen. David Sarnoff, chairman of the Radio Corporation of America.

The New York Times
Published: September 3, 1966
Copyright © The New York Times

SPACE IS UNCOVERED IN TALLEST BUILDING

While most people are fascinated by the soaring heights of the Empire State Building, officials of the world's tallest skyscraper have been preoccupied with its long-neglected, dingy depths.

Work is nearing completion on a program designed to transform much of the structure's two underground levels from a shabby complex of storerooms and building-maintenance facilities to a brightly lighted public arcade and space for a score of new stores and offices.

The conversion, scheduled for completion by the end of this month, was undertaken to meet a large demand for space in the building that could not be met above ground.

"On several occasions in the last three years, we had been approached by potential large-space users who found that the building could not accommodate their demands because of the extent of current occupancy," Robert Luery, the Empire State's general manager, said.

Mr. Luery is a vice president of Helmsley-Spear, Inc., managing agents for the building's current owner, a syndicate headed by Lawrence A. Wien.

The New York Times
Published: August 8, 1967
Copyright © The New York Times

View From Empire State Ruled 'Entertainment'

Special to The New York Times

ALBANY, Nov. 8—A State Appellate Court ruled today that the view from the observation tower of the Empire State Building was entertaining and that tickets were thus subject to the 2 per cent state sales tax.

Owners of the building had paid, under protest, $128,995 in admission taxes last year. They contended the view was educational.

The Appellate Division of the Third Department unanimously upheld an earlier ruling by the State Tax Division, which noted that the tower's spectacle had been advertised as "the world's most spectacular view."

New York City does not apply its local sales tax to the tower's admissions.

The New York Times
Published: November 9, 1967
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Will Go Unlighted to Aid Birds

The Empire State Building's tower floodlights will not be turned on on cloudy or foggy nights from next Monday through May 31, to keep migrating birds from flying into the building.

The lights, which illuminate the upper 30 floors, will be left off because birds returning north might otherwise fly into the building. This is the 13th year that the world's tallest building has cooperated with the Audubon Society's request to switch off the lights.

In the past, migrating birds have been confused by light diffused through clouds or fog and have lost their direction. In the fall, the lights will again be turned off from Sept. 15 through Nov. 1 for the birds' migration south.

The New York Times
Published: April 10, 1968
Copyright © The New York Times

NEWS OF REALTY: $2-MILLION LEASE

Insurance Company Rents in Empire State Building

The Utica Mutual Insurance Company and the Graphic Arts Insurance Company, which entered into a common management agreement last year, have leased 20,000 square feet of office space in the Empire State Building.

The space, approximately one-half of the building's fifth floor, will serve beginning Monday as the home office of Graphic Arts Mutual and the New York City office of Utica Mutual. Graphic Arts is moving from 111 Fourth Avenue and Utica Mutual from 200 East 42d Street.

The move to the Empire State Building is being made under a long-term lease with an aggregate rent of nearly $2-million. The lease was negotiated by John Aitken, vice president of the Charles F. Noyes Company, and Robert L. Tinker, vice president of Helmsley-Spear, Inc., which manages the Empire State Building.

In addition to providing more space and more modern facilities, the move by the companies will permit consolidation of many functions. The companies continued to maintain separate offices here after their common management agreement of last year because of lease commitments that are now expiring.

*

Twin Towers on Coast

Twin 20-story office buildings with a total of 820,000 square feet of rentable floor space will be built in Los Angeles by the Tishman Realty & Construction Company, Inc., which has built 10 such office towers there already.

In the latest project—which will cost a total of more than $35-million—the first of the twin structures will start rising soon at 3550 Wilshire Boulevard on the south blockfront between Ardmore Avenue and Kingsley Drive.

The site is one block west of Tishman Plaza, a four-building office complex across the street from Tishman's Sheraton-Wilshire Motor Inn.

The first building, to be designed by Charles Luckman Associates, is scheduled to be completed next summer. The second building will be started thereafter.

On completion of both buildings, the Tishman concern's total office space in the California city will amount to three million square feet.

As general contractor, the Tishman concern also is building a 31-story office structure in Los Angeles for a subsidiary of Alcoa Properties, Inc.

This $13.8-million building is rising on a 2.5-acre tract of what once was a 20th Century Fox motion picture lot. The address is 1900 Avenue of the Stars between Beverly Hills and Westwood.

The site is being developed as an office, apartment, commercial and hotel center called Century City. The new building will contain 490,000 square feet of rentable floor area. Parking for 900 cars below the building is being planned by the design firm of Albert C. Martin and Associates of Los Angeles.

*

Lawyer Buys Land

A 200-acre tract of New Jersey farmland that will be converted into an industrial complex has been sold by Alexander Molnar and Leo Mindel to Robert A. Elkins, a Jersey City lawyer. The land includes 2,000 feet of frontage on the New Jersey Turnpike and 3,000 feet on Davidson's Mill Road.

The transaction was negotiated by John P. Delgado and Ralph Henig of the Louis Schlesinger Company for a price said to be above $800,000.

*

Lease to Fabric Concern

Melbee Fabrics, textile converters, has leased a ground-floor showroom containing 9,000 square feet in the building at 284 Fifth Avenue, at the northwest corner of 29th Street.

The 15-year lease, involving aggregate rents of more than $600,000, was negotiated by Henry Kessler of the Wolf & Macklowe Company. The fabric company is moving from offices at 295 Fifth Avenue.

The New York Times
Published: June 20, 1968
Copyright © The New York Times

Manager of Empire State Building

Robert L. Luery

The New York Times Studio

Robert L. Tinker

The appointment of Robert L. Tinker as general manager of the Empire State Building has been announced by Helmsley-Spear, Inc., the building's renting and managing agents. Mr. Tinker is vice president of Helmsley-Spear, and had been the Empire State's rental manager. He has been associated with the skyscraper's management for 20 years.

He succeeds Robert L. Luery, who has been appointed president of the WM Capital and Management Corporation, which manages properties owned by Lawrence M. Wien, a lawyer and real estate investing partner of Harry B. Helmsley, head of Helmsley-Spear. Mr. Wien heads the syndicate of investors that owns the Empire State Building.

The New York Times
Published: October 4, 1968
Copyright © The New York Times

NEWS OF REALTY: CLOTHIER EXPANDS

Clark & Young Signs New Empire State Lease

In a leasing transaction involving aggregate rent of $1-million, Clark & Young, Inc., a manufacturer and importer of men's and boys' sportswear and underwear, has leased 9,000 square feet of office space on the fifth floor of the Empire State Building.

The long-term lease marks the sixth expansion for the manufacturing concern, which has been an Empire State tenant since 1953. The latest expansion doubles the tenant company's space.

Robert L. Tinker, a vice president of Helmsley-Spear, Inc., managing agent for the building, negotiated the lease.

In another leasing development at the Empire State Building, the Winston A. Burnett Construction Company of New York, Inc., has leased 3,700 square feet of additional space, bringing its total to 6,200 square feet on the 78th floor.

The Burnett concern, one of the 100 largest construction companies in the United States, will pay aggregate rent of $250,000 over the long-term lease, which was negotiated by Mr. Tinker.

Founded by Winston A. Burnett as a small, Negro-owned contracting firm engaged in urban renewal and rehabilitation work, the tenant company has in recent months become a subsidiary of the Burnett Boise Corporation, and is engaged in 32 projects in slum areas in major cities involving more than $100-million of construction work.

Burnett Boise is owned 51 per cent by Mr. Burnett, 44 per cent by the Boise Cascade Corporation, and 5 per cent by an investment banker, Edward A. Pollitz Jr.

Mr. Tinker has also leased additional space to another Empire State tenant, Kurt Salmon Associates, Inc., a consulting engineering concern. The concern is taking 2,400 square feet additional on the 18th floor, for a total of 7,400 square feet. Aggregate rent will be $200,000 over the long-term lease.

*

Lease in North Bergen

The two-story building at 1109 Grand Avenue in North Bergen, N. J., which contains 104,000 square feet, has been leased by the Orbit Processing Company for the lamination of textiles.

The building, on a four-acre site, was leased for an aggregate rent of more than $1-million from the David Kahn Company, whose subsidiary, the Wearever Pen and Pencil Company, had used the building for manufacturing.

The lease was negotiated by the Geo. J. Wolf Realty Company, brokers.

*

6 Shopping Centers Acquired

The United National Investors Corporation has taken title to six shopping centers, acquired from Titan Group, Inc., for more than $13-million.

The six centers, bought for $4.5-million cash over mortgages, contain a total of more than 1.5 million square feet of rentable space. Three centers are in the Minneapolis suburban area, one is in Rockford, Ill., one is in Peoria, and the other is in Norfolk, Va.

United National is the new name of the Investors Funding Corporation, which recently merged with the First National Real Estate Trust.

The New York Times
Published: October 31, 1968
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State to Douse Lights to Protect Birds

Floodlights that nightly illuminate the upper 30 floors of the Empire State Building will be turned off from dusk to midnight beginning next Tuesday on cloudy or foggy nights to protect migrating birds.

Spokesmen for the Empire State Building, which annually turns off the lights to protect migrants, said the birds after dark become confused for unknown reasons during their flights on non-clear nights and crash into the structure.

The darkening of the upper floors began in 1955 at the request of the National Audubon Society.

The New York Times
Published: April 12, 1969
Copyright © The New York Times

ROBERT CROWN, 48, REALTY MAN, DEAD

President of Empire State Building in the 1950's

INWOOD, Ind., July 6 (UPI) —Robert Crown, former president of the Empire State Building Corporation of New York, died today, apparently of a heart attack, near here. He was 48 years old and lived in Wilmette, Ill.

The State Police said that Mr. Crown had been stricken while driving along Indiana 30 with his wife, Joanne; son, David, and daughter, Judy. They received minor injuries when their automobile went out of control and overturned in a ditch.

Mr. Crown is also survived by his father, Henry Crown; his stepmother. Mrs. Gladys Kay Crown, and two brothers, Lester and John.

The New York Times
Published: July 7, 1969
Copyright © The New York Times

Great Trans-Atlantic Air Race of 1969 Includes Jets, a Stutz Bearcat and Traffic Jams

By ROBERT LINDSEY

One man roared away from the Empire State Building in a 1919 Stutz Bearcat and vowed to reach London "in a week or so" using two balloons and six airplanes.

Another ran from the building and leaped toward a waiting motorcycle like a movie cowboy mounting his horse—and missed.

R.V. Wilson, a British shopkeeper who stands 5 feet tall, raced through downtown London to Heathrow Airport on 10 motorcycles, changing—in the fashion of a Pony Express rider—whenever he reached a red light.

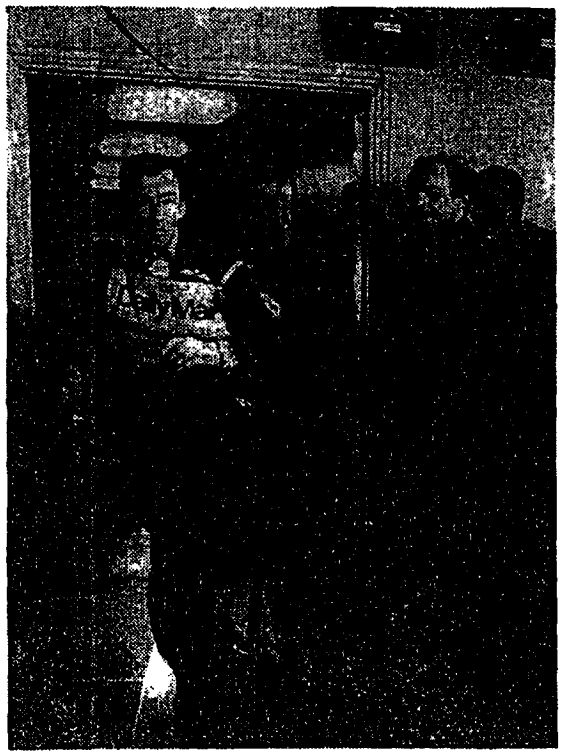
This was a sample of the action yesterday as the Great Trans-Atlantic Air Race of 1969 got under way.

By land, sea and air, by rickshaw, racing car and supersonic jet, the first of almost 400 competitors in the eight-day contest raced between London and New York.

The race, under the auspices of The Daily Mail of London, commemorates the 50th anniversary of the first nonstop flight across the Atlantic.

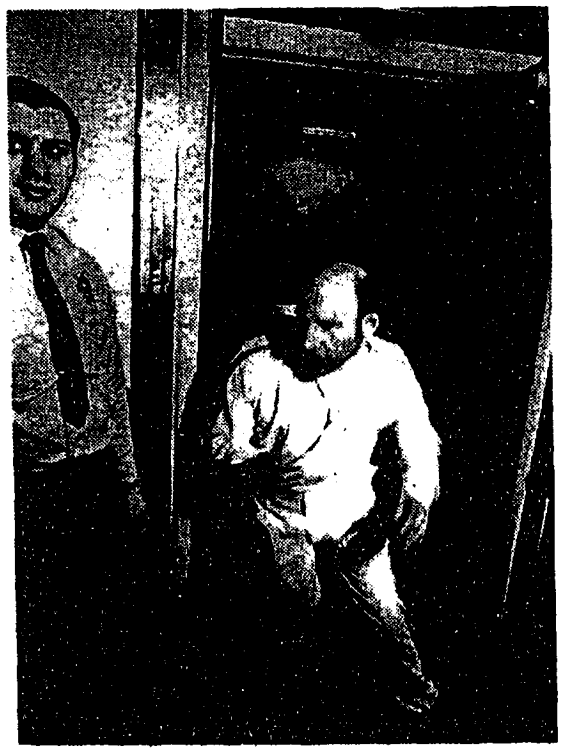
The contestants are racing

Continued on Page 52, Column 1



United Press International

R.A.F. Flying Officer William Fuller in the Empire State Building. He made best time from London to New York.



The New York Times (by Patrick A. Burns)

Stirling Moss breaks out of an elevator in the skyscraper with the second best time for the eastbound leg of race.

The New York Times
Published: May 5, 1969
Copyright © The New York Times

Atlantic Air Racers Find Ground Traffic Awful

Associated Press

BY WHEELCHAIR: Capt. Alan Clark, former Guards officer and polio victim, is rushed to British Overseas Airways Corporation VC-10 by paratroopers at the London Airport.

The New York Times (by Barton Silverman)

BY JET: Tony Drewery and Peter Brooker run down ramp after their arrival at Kennedy Airport en route to city.

The New York Times

AND BY STUTZ BEARCAT, BIPLANE, BALLOON, COMMERCIAL FLIGHT, ROLLS-ROYCE: Cooper Walker waits for an assistant to start his automobile here for first leg of his trip.

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

against the clock, and many will be beginning the race during the week. There are 21 prize categories in the race, including awards for entrants who use regular commercial jets, chartered planes, supersonic and subsonic military planes or commercial jets.

There are different prizes for the fastest trips in each direction, and prizes for the "most meritorious" nonwinning entries.

About $150,000 in prize money will be awarded to contestants in various classes who make the fastest times between the center of New York and London—specifically the observation deck on the 86th floor of the Empire State Building and the 33d floor of the General Post Office Tower in downtown London.

In Fogg's Footsteps

"The flying's a breeze—it's getting along on the ground that's the real problem," said one of the entrants, Stirling Moss, the one-time British racing hero who used a chartered jet, a motorcycle, a speedboat and a helicopter in traveling between London and New York in 7 hours 31 minutes and 45 seconds.

"The damp elevator slowed me up 29 seconds in London," he lamented.

"This is more fun than 'Around the World in 80 Days,' said Ruth Knight, a middle-aged New York woman who was racing via commercial jet and chauffeured limousine as she ran for the elevator atop the Empire State Building yesterday.

Proving that modern man can match the ingenuity of Phileas Fogg, the fictional hero of Jules Verne's 80-day venture, the contestants have fielded a strange armada of flying machines and speedy vehicles for moving on the ground.

Associated Press

CARRYING ON: Anne Alcock, niece of John Alcock, who made the first nonstop trans-Atlantic flight, leaving Post Office Tower.

In the air, they are using regular commercial jets, chartered airliners, a glider, supersonic military fighters, private planes, a flying boat, a World War II Spitfire and a British vertical take-off and landing (V.T.O.L.) plane.

On the ground, to penetrate the congestion that chokes the city and environs of London and New York, they are using motorcycles, racing cars, speedboats, a mule, an ostrich, and in two cases, wheelchairs. Many of the entrants are also using helicopters to bridge the city sprawl.

The fastest time for the day was recorded by a Royal Navy team flying a supersonic American-built Phantom jet fighter.

Utilizing three mid-air refuelings over the Atlantic, the two-man team flew from New York to London in 5 hours 3 minutes 24 seconds.

Getting to and from the airport at either end took an added 26 minutes by helicopter and motorcycle.

The flight time, the Royal Navy said, was a new world record for a New York-London flight. The record had been held by a United States C-135 jet freighter at 5 hours 29 minutes.

There are 21 prize categories in the race—for entrants who use regular commercial jets, chartered planes, supersonic, and nonsupersonic military planes or private planes.

There are different prizes for the best speeds in each direction, and prizes for the "most meritorious" nonwinning entries.

In announcing the race, The Daily Mail said it wanted to test not only how fast humans could travel at this date in the jet age, but to illustrate how badly ground travel facilities have lagged in jet-age speed.

The race began 8 A.M. in London—five hours before the first racers left New York because of the time-zone difference. The first contestant to leave the London Post Office tower was Ann Alcock, 18-year-old niece of John William Alcock.

It was Mr. Alcock who, with Arthur Whitten-Brown, made the first nonstop flight across the Atlantic. In a flimsy biplane, the pair flew from Newfoundland to Ireland June 14-15, 1919, winning a prize of £10,000 from the Daily Mail.

Stutz to Rolls-Royce

One of the entrants, Cooper Walker—the man who left in the red Stutz Bearcat roadster – said he had no hope of winning a "best time" prize, but was aiming for the "most meritorious" entry award by retracing the steps of Alcock and Whitten-Brown.

Mr. Walker, a Baltimore travel agent decked out for the trip in an Edwardian suit, said he would reach London after stopping at the sites in Newfoundland and Ireland that the two British fliers used in their flights.

Besides the Stutz, his vehicles will include a horse and coach, half a dozen planes and two balloons. He will end with a lap in London in a 1919 Rolls-Royce.

Among the racers who left New York yesterday was a 32-year old Ben Garcia of East Brunswick, N.J., who said he planned to make the trip in a tiny single-engine Piper Colt.

"I have seven pounds of peanut butter, a bottle of cognac donated by the B.B.C. (the British Broadcasting Corporation) and 500 biscuits for emergencies, but I'm afraid I won't have enough gas," he said.

Briton Is Fastest

"I'm 99 miles short on my leg between Iceland and Ireland. Either I have to get a tailwind or I'll glide," explained Mr. Garcia, who was wearing a "Red Baron" flight helmet of World War I vintage and thick goggles.

The Royal Air Force had planned to fly the V.T.O.L. Harrier jet—which can land and take off vertically likea helicopter, but cruise at near-supersonic speed—yesterday, but the flight was postponed until today because of bad weather.

In the westbound category of the race, the fastest time recorded yesterday was by a 32-year-old Royal Air Force Flight Officer, W. O. Fuller.

Using motorcycles and helicopters at each end of the flight, and riding aboard a British Victor reconnaissance jet over the Atlantic, Mr. Fuller clocked in at 6 hours 28 minutes 9 seconds.

Because of prevailing winds over the Atlantic that help westbound planes but usually slow down planes headed toward Europe, most of the eastbound flights in the race are expected to be about an hour longer than comparable trips in the other direction.

To avert the possibility of fraud, Daily Mail officials said they had devised an elaborate identification and timing system for the contestants.

Each entrant is given a "time card" that bears his signature and photograph. When he is ready to leave one of the cities, he places the card in a clock mechanism that stamps the time on the card.

At the other end of the race, the time is stamped on the card again. Officials then check his signature and compute how long his trip took.

United Press International

BACK HOME AGAIN: A Royal Navy supersonic Phantom jet piloted by a two-man team landing at Wisley, England, yesterday after a record-breaking flight from New York in the Great Trans-Atlantic Air Race. The flight time was 5 hours 3 minutes 24 seconds.

The New York Times
Published: May 5, 1969
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Lights To Be On Again Till Spring

Floodlights used normally to illuminate the Empire State Building—turned off since Sept. 15 to aid migrating birds—were turned on again yesterday.

The lights on the world's tallest building had been turned off from dusk to midnight so migrating birds—confused by the lights—would not fly into the building on their journey south.

The lights will be turned off again in the spring when the birds begin their migration northward.

The New York Times
Published: November 2, 1969
Copyright © The New York Times

Charles F. Noyes, 91, Is Dead; Founded Real Estate Concern

Built a Fortune on His Belief in Skyscrapers, Including Empire State Building

Charles F. Noyes

Charles Floyd Noyes, founder and honorary chairman of the board of the realty concern that bears his name, died Monday in a nursing home in Greenwich, Conn., after a long illness. He was 91 years old.

His name is familiar to many New Yorkers from small signs near the elevators of many office buildings: "This building under the management of Charles F. Noyes & Co., Inc."

Mr. Noyes held great faith in the soundness of New York City real estate as an investment, and often declared that there was no other investment that could compare with it.

Since 1905 he had based his future on the future of the skyscraper office building. "To think that the office building movement will cease," he wrote then, "is as absurd as to think that the commercial growth of New York will cease." He spent more than 50 years proving his prediction correct.

Known to many on Wall Street as "the greatest of real estate brokers," at one time or another he bought or sold almost every commercial property in lower Manhattan.

Mr. Noyes began his business career as a newspaper boy in Norwich, Conn., where he had been born July 19, 1878. He delivered The Norwich Daily Bulletin, of which his father was publisher, and took pains to make sure all his obligations were fulfilled.

At the age of 10, he made sure every house on his route received its paper on the morning following the blizzard of 1888. This feat qualified him in later years to be president of an organization known as "The Blizzard Men of '88," a group dedicated to keeping alive the idea that the storm of March, 1888, was the greatest snowstorm in history.

Real Estate Dealer at 20

When he was 12, Mr. Noyes purchased for $150 a newspaper concession on steamers sailing between New London, Conn., and Block Island, a popular summer resort. He did so well that he took a year out from his schooling at the Norwich Academy to devote full time to the venture.

In 1898 he established himself as a real estate broker in New York City, and by the middle 1920's Charles F. Noyes, Inc., was closing about 7,000 sales or leases a year, involving a gross of almost $300-million.

During the boom days of 1926, the United Cigar Store Company, Inc., bought a half interest in the Noyes Company for $1.2-million and insured Mr. Noyes's life for twice the amount — at the time, one of the largest personal policies ever issued. When United Cigar ran into financial difficulties, Mr. Noyes personally bought back the half interest.

Mr. Noyes often seemed to have an ability to see into the future. He sold his stock investments in May, 1929, against the advice of his broker, and put the money into commercial real estate.

A Precaution Proved Wise

Another instance of his remarkable talent occurred after an Army Air Force B-25 bomber crashed into the side of the Empire State Building in 1945, killing 13 persons. As manager of the 70-story building at 40 Wall Street, he persuaded the board of directors to take out insurance against aircraft damage, but only after lengthy arguments over the odds of another plane's striking a building.

In May, 1946, an Army Transport Command twin-engine plane became lost in fog and struck the 58th floor of 40 Wall Street. The damages were covered by the insurance. No plane has struck a skyscraper since.

Mr. Noyes's faith in the skyscraper was vindicated by what was perhaps his most important deal: the sale of the Empire State Building in 1951 for $51.5-million. The sale brought his office about $1-million in brokerage and management fees. The most important aspect of the transaction, however, was not the price or the fee — both the largest in real-estate history at that time — but the fact that the Empire State Building had been known as a white elephant until Mr. Noyes assumed control.

He Worked Long Hours

Although many times a millionaire, he continued to work as hard as he had as a youth until illness forced his retirement four years ago. He often spent 18 hours a day in his office and he worked seven days a week. When he left his desk for luncheon, which was not often, he would go to a small lunch stand near his office at 40 Wall Street.

In 1938 Mr. Noyes turned control of his company over to his associates and became chairman of the board, although he remained very active in the organization. He was named honorary chairman in 1964, after the concern was sold by its employes, to whom he had turned over all his stock in 1959, to Harry R. Helmsley of Helmsley-Spear, a completely separate real estate concern. He maintained an office until late in 1965, when he entered a hospital for the first time in his life. He was 88 at the time.

His main outside interest was the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, which he established in 1947 in memory of his second wife. During its first 18 years, the foundation made grants in excess of $1.5-million in educational aid. The grants were divided, by Mr. Noyes's direction, equally between white and non-white students. Since 1965 the grants have gone to educational institutions, rather than to individual students equally proportioned between predominantly white and predominantly Negro schools.

Honored for Aid to Students

Among the many honors and degrees he was given, Mr. Noyes cherished most the J. P. Morgan Medal of the New England Society. The award was presented in 1962 for his establishment of student loan funds at several New England colleges and universities.

He belonged to 34 professional and civic organizations and had been a director of the American Red Cross, president and trustee of the Heckscher Trust, trustee and member of the executive committee of the Title Guarantee and Trust Company, member of the advisory board of directors of the Chemical Bank New York Trust Company and, for 65 years, a director of The Norwich Daily Bulletin.

His first wife, the former Eleanor S. Halstead, died in 1921 and his second wife, who was active in civic affairs and in social welfare, in 1936.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Lorna Findlay; his brother, Harrison Noyes; his stepdaughter, Mrs. John R. Muma, daughter of his second wife; 7 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held tomorrow at the Brick Presbyterian Church, Park Avenue and 91st Street, at 12:30 P.M.

The New York Times
Published: September 4, 1969
Copyright © The New York Times

How Fay Met Kong, Or the Scream That Shook the World

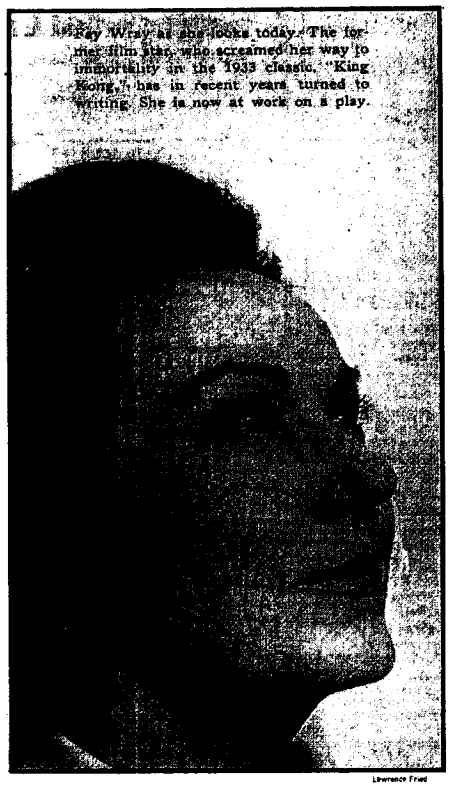
By FAY WRAY

"YOU will have the tallest, darkest leading man in Hollywood." Those were the first words I heard about "King Kong." Although I knew the producer, Merian C. Cooper, was something of a practical joker, my thoughts rushed hopefully to the image of Clark Gable. Cooper, pacing up and down in his office, outlined the story to me . . . about an expedition going to some remote island where a discovery of gigantic proportions would be made. My heart raced along, waiting for the revelation. I enjoyed his mysterious tone, the gleeful look in his eyes that seemed to say, "Just wait until you hear who will be playing opposite you!"

Cooper paused, picked up some poster-size sketches, then showed me my tall, dark leading man. My heart stopped, then sank. An absolutely enormous gorilla was staring at me. "We're going to make him look about 50 feet high. All in animation." There were sketches of the big ape, who would be captured and brought back to civilization, alongside prehistoric animals, even alongside high buildings. Was that the Empire State Building? Cooper was delighted at my amazement, especially, I think, at the look of shock and apprehension on my face.

"Of course you'd have to be a blonde. We've got to have that contrast. We thought about Jean Harlow, then we decided you could wear a blonde wig." The "we" meant himself and his partner, Ernest B. Schoedsack, who would be co-directing, and David O. Selznick, then executive head of R.K.O. Those were the salient points in that interview. I left the studio, my head spinning. How could I say yes to being in a film with an ape, however unreal he might be? But how could I say no? I had already worked with the team of Cooper and Schoedsack in "Four Feathers" and had great regard for them. Actually, my admiration had begun earlier when I had seen their first film, "Grass," a stunning documentary about migratory herders in Persia. Their second film, "Chang," about a Siamese family and a horrendous elephant stampede, had been made entirely in the jungle country of Siam. These were adventurers—Cooper, the voluble visionary, Schoedsack, the self-styled "strong, silent one."

Now, for the first time, they would be adventuring within the confines of a Hollywood production lot. It was compelling to think that this newest project would have all the flavor and excitement of their personal experience. But Cooper's having called the Kong story a kind of "Beauty and the Beast" concept in no way made the thought of the ape more appealing! Although the entire country was in an economic depression and I was eager to make a movie, I wondered how I could bring myself to face such an animal. Gradually, my enthusiasm for the strangely wonderful humor, imagination and talent of the Cooper-Schoedsack team overcame the original shock. I said yes, and got fitted for the wig and the dress that soon would be torn apart. Then I saw the figure of Kong. He was in a *miniature* jungle habitat, and was less than two feet tall! It was only the great furry paw, in which I would spend much of the next 10 months, that was absolutely *enormous!*



Fay Wray as she looks today. The former film star, who screamed her way to immortality in the 1933 classic, "King Kong," has in recent years turned to writing. She is now at work on a play.

Lawrence Fried

On an average of 20 times a year, I am asked, "How was it done? Was it a real gorilla? . . . a man in a suit?" When I explain that the tall, dark leading man was, in fact, about 18 inches high, a model made of something rubberish, animated by stop-motion within a proportionately miniature background, the reaction is usually "Incredible!" And it was, considering that the hand and arm in which my close-up scenes were made was about eight feet in length. Inside the furry arm, there was a steel bar and the whole contraption (with me in the hand) could be raised or lowered like a crane. The fingers would be pressed around my waist while I was in a standing position. I would then be raised about ten feet into the air to be in line with an elevated camera. As I kicked and squirmed and struggled in the ape's hand, his fingers would gradually loosen and begin to open. My fear was real as I grabbed onto his wrist, his thumb, wherever I could, to keep from slipping out of that paw! When I could sense that the moment of minimum safety had arrived, I would call imploringly to the director and ask to be lowered to the floor of the stage. Happily, this was never denied for a second too long! I would have a few moments rest, be re-secured in the paw and the ordeal would begin all over again . . . a kind of pleasurable torment!

I never learned, or tried to learn, how that great arm was combined with the little Kong so that he seemed actually to be carrying me. It was too much fun to go to the projection room and experience the suspense of guessing whether the three-inch figure in the hand of the animated Kong was a doll (sometimes used for long shots) or whether it was me. Watching intently, I would be sure it was the doll. Then it would move! It had life, it would kick, it would scream—it was me! To see that was a delightful puzzler and is to this day. I rather like the idea, I think, because as someone said to me only recently, "We were more naive then and it was better for us."

Fay Wray in "King Kong" prepares to let loose one of her famous "A-a-a-a-ahs!" at the approach of her infatuated lover. The film is being revived starting Thursday at the New Yorker. "When I'm in New York I look at the Empire State Building and feel as though it belongs to me"

Understanding the technique of the ensemble scenes was simpler. Pre-filmed animation of Kong and/or the prehistoric animals was projected from the rear onto a full-size screen or "Transparency." Working in front of the large screen, we became mini-people by comparison. The foreground scenery at such times was fragmentary—a log, a rock, a portion of a jungle cliff, the limb of a tree. All the rest we had to imagine.

The animation expert, Willis O'Brien, had made the prehistoric animals years before for "The Lost World," a film based on a story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. O'Brien brought them out of the studio storage rooms to meet his newest creation, Kong, and to do battle with the gorilla. One of these sequences, with me clutching a tree in front of the Transparency screen, was photographed for a consecutive 22 hours. There was no Screen Actors Guild then to limit our time in the studio. I was weary, sleepy, hurting and aching! Fortunately, such intensive filming was intermittent. While the animation was being prepared, there was time off, even time enough to do other films. Two of the movies I made during the 10 months that "Kong" was underway were "Doctor X" and "The Most Dangerous Game" (the latter also for my friend, Cooper). These were "horror" films, an indication of how "Kong" was already beginning to affect my career; I was fast becoming Hollywood's most victimized heroine!

All of the Transparency and animation sequences were directed by Cooper. He worked the little Kong so much that O'Brien had to make six models of him. About two years ago, when Cooper and I did a television interview, I was given one of the models to hold in my lap. Then, for the first time ever, I touched the complete Kong. It was a lovely feeling to have the "upper hand," without the slightest need to scream.

Ernest Schoedsack directed the scenes with the people. When he called a first take of the movie test scene on the boat "Okay," I was delighted. I didn't want to be hollering over and over again. Sometimes people wonder if I did my own screaming. Yes. "But how could you?" I made myself believe that the nearest possible hope of rescue was at least a mile away and my only chance of survival was to be heard loud and clear!

*

After all the filming was finished, we went into a sound room where I recorded an outpouring of various screams. These were cut into the picture additionally as it was edited. When the premiere night arrived at Grauman's Chinese Theater on Hollywood Boulevard, I thought the picture was overscreamed. I remember wanting, more than once, to put my hands over my ears! But then I had no idea I was seeing what would be considered one of the great successes of motion pictures, and was surprised to read the superlatives in the reviews that followed.

For a year after the release of the film, I continued to feel in the grip of the Beast. My first important role had been in "The Wedding March," with Erich von Stroheim as writer, director and actor. The film was rich with realism, perception and sensitivity. Naturally, I had hoped for a continuation of the particular values I found in such filmmaking. Instead, because of the enthusiastic reception given "Kong," more horror films were offered me. By the time I had finished "The Mystery of the Wax Museum" and "The Vampire Bat," I was desperately in need of escape and welcomed an invitation to go to England to make pictures there. It seemed an irony to be met, upon my arrival, by a representative of the BBC who asked that I come to their studios and broadcast a sample of my scream. I didn't feel like doing that. Later, when I was walking in Hyde Park and overheard a Cockney woman threatening her tiny child with "If y' don't behive I'll 'ave Fye Wrye get King Kong arter yer!", I did feel like screaming—at that mother!

When my own children were small, I didn't want them to see "Kong," believing that it might disturb their sleep. When it began to appear on television, they had arrived at an age of tolerance, I thought, and it turned out I was right. Their concern was not for me but for Kong who, my 7-year-old Vicki said, had no intention of hurting me but just liked me and never should have been shot at by those airplanes. That confirmed a belief I developed during the filming and which has been reinforced as the years pass by, that "Kong" should be classed as an adventure fantasy, not as a horror film. If Kong were purely a horrifying and horrible fellow, the sympathy he evokes when, finally, he is struck down wouldn't exist. There is no doubt about such sympathy. Even I, seeing the film a year or so ago, felt a great lump in my throat in behalf of Kong. I've seen the film four times: at the premiere, twice at home screenings and once on television. This in no way matches the records of the *aficionados*. Letters have come to me claiming 40 to 50 viewings. Recently, Rod Steiger told me he had seen it 22 times! I have read that in a theater in South Africa it is played perpetually, alternating every other evening with "The Mark of Zorro," and that these two films are shown as a double feature on weekends.

Although I made perhaps a hundred pictures, "King Kong" is certainly the one most remembered. During a decade when I chose to stay at home with my family, it was "King Kong" who kept those cards and letters coming in. At the present time, when I have decided to let the acting go and write a play, it is Kong who seems to function as my Public Relations Man. I no longer make any effort to escape. When I'm in New York, I look at the Empire State Building and feel as though it belongs to me . . . or is it vice-versa? I can laugh at all the jokes and gags that have Kong as a reference point, enjoy Bob Newhart's monologue about the dilemma of the Empire State's night watchman as he watches Kong proceeding up the side of the building. I am intrigued to read, on occasion, that there are those who find sociological, even religious symbolism in the film, and some who consider Kong as being representative of Man. I am amused to hear that others look upon the film as strictly camp. I like very much reading an appreciation by Paul Johnson in The New Statesman recognizing Kong as ". . . more than a monster. He is a genuine character, a creature of intelligible rage, nobility of a kind and, above all, pathos. A prehistoric Lear, in a sense. . ." I am not dismayed when I observe an attractive young man wearing a lapel button with the words: King Kong Died For Our Sins. I feel tempted to read the current bestseller, "Portnoy's Complaint," when a column by Russell Baker in The New York Times imagines that Portnoy has a mother who imagines that it might have been she who played opposite the great gorilla.

King Kong seems always to be in the stream of contemporary goings-on, and big and powerful enough to keep himself alive and living well in an assortment of considerations and imaginings. If there is a public that is pleased to carry him about in this way, I am, at last, pleased enough that he carried me.

The New York Times
Published: September 21, 1969
Copyright © The New York Times

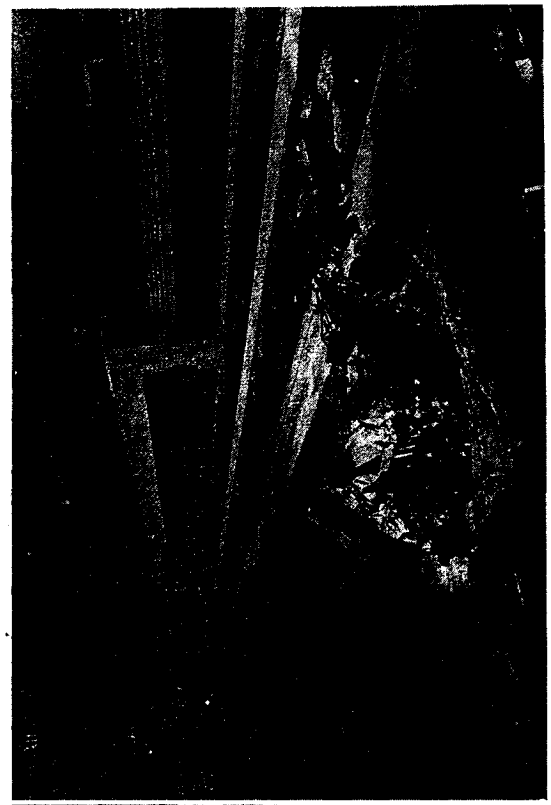
Lights Out to Spare Birds

The floodlights illuminating the upper 30 floors of the Empire State Building will be turned off from dusk until midnight from now to May 31 so that migrating birds returning north this spring will not become confused and fly into the structure. In the fall, the lights again will be turned off from Sept. 15 to Nov. 1 for the southbound migration. The procedure was begun in 1955 at the urging of the National Audubon Society.

The New York Times

Published: April 16, 1970

Copyright © The New York Times



The New York Times (by Ernest Sisto)

Where plane hit the Empire State Building at 79th floor 25 years ago, as seen from higher in the building. The sign, "War Bonds," is on the top of a building across 34th Street.

Survivors Recall Day 25 Years Ago When Bomber Struck Empire State

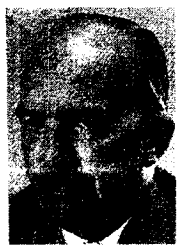
By LINDA CHARLTON

"It was something you never forget." It was a hazy morning, that Saturday 25 years ago today, and a B-25 bomber, lost in the mist, crashed into the Empire State Building 913 feet above the street, at the 79th floor.

"You never forget," repeated Edmund E. Cummings, 59 years old, yesterday. Mr. Cummings was then a field representative for the War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, whose offices took up most of the 79th floor.

"Do I remember?". Miss Catherine O'Connor, who was then secretary to the relief agency's executive director, Msgr. Patrick A. O'Boyle—now Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle of Washington, D. C.—repeated the question in a tone of voice that answered the query.

Mr. Cummings and Miss O'Connor, both of whom still work for the agency, known since 1955 as the Catholic Relief Services, and its parent organization, the United States Catholic Conference, were willing to reflect back a quarter of a century to that morning of shock and pain and terror.



Edmund E. Cummings remembering the fateful day. He was called from his office, which was destroyed, moments before plane hit.

Betty Lou Oliver, then 20 years old, was not: Mrs. Oliver, now a housewife in Fort Smith, Ark., which was her hometown and that of her husband, Oscar, said she was "just plain not interested" in talking about it, because publicity "just embarrasses me to death."

Mrs. Oliver, who operated an elevator, became the closest thing to a popular heroine that the tragedy produced. Blown from her car and badly burned by the blast and flames from the plane's impact, she was placed in another car that plunged from the 75th floor to a subbasement when its cables snapped.

Although automatic safety devices slowed the car's fall her spine was fractured and she was not, at first, expected to live. After 18 weeks of treatment, she was able to leave Bellevue Hospital to rejoin her husband, then a Navy torpedoman. The Olivers now have three grown children, and Mr. Oliver works as the manager of a store's automotive department.

But even Mrs. Oliver admitted, "I was thinking about it the other day," and the tour guides at the building still sometimes mention it to visitors.

The plane struck at 9:49 A.M. as it was traveling at about 200 miles an hour, from Bedford, Mass., to the Army Air Force and Newark Airport. The war in Europe had been over since May 7, and the bomber's pilot, 27-year-old Lieut. Col. William F. Smith Jr., a decorated veteran of 34 bombing missions in Europe, was piling up cross-country experience as he awaited redeployment to the Pacific. The war against Japan would not be over until August 14.

Colonel Smith had been advised to land at La Guardia Airport—named after Fiorello H. La Guardia, who was then Mayor—but instead, he asked for the weather at Newark. An investigation by the War Department—now

Continued on Page 63, Column 1

The New York Times
Published July 28, 1970
Copyright © The New York Times

Survivors Recall Empire State Crash

Continued From Page 33

the Defense Department — found that the pilot "erred in judgment when he elected to fly over Manhattan in weather conditions which prevailed at the time . . . ," and that he should not have been cleared to proceed to Newark.

Engines Fall

Civil air regulations at the time required all aircraft to maintain an altitude of 2,000 feet over Manhattan, but Colonel Smith's plane struck the building's north side only 913 feet above 34th Street, gouging an 18-by-20-foot hole in the building.

As the gasoline tanks exploded, brilliant orange flames roared as high as the 86th-floor observatory; the wings were sheared off, one engine and part of the landing gear hurtled down an elevator shaft into a subbasement, and the other engine tore a downward path across the 78th floor, through the south wall, and down to the roof of a building on 33d Street.

At the moment that the plane struck, Miss O'Connor, who had been reading the morning mail, was walking across her office. She heard "a terrific explosion . . . and the building rocking so," and then came the "burst of flames which consumed the office instantaneously" as the flaming gasoline cascaded into the building.

'No Way Out'

"We had no idea what had happened," she said, but she and a few others — only a skeleton staff was at work that Saturday morning—ran into a room on the 33d Street side. There they waited, "completely surrounded by flames and in pitch-black smoke."

"Believe it or not, we prayed," she recalled. "We knew this was the end, we knew there was no way out . . . You had strange thoughts, thoughts of many things, and prayed. . ." Finally, after a length of time that she is only certain was at least an hour, Miss O'Connor and her companions were rescued by firemen.

Miss O'Connor, whose feet were burned by the heat of the floors, was taken to a hospital for treatment of the burns, for shock, and for the smoke poisoning that she says has never entirely left her. In October, she went back to work; the Catholic agency had reopened its office on the 65th floor of the building, where it is now. Miss O'Connor retired last May 1 as the service's administrative officer and lives in Manhattan.

Three Planned to Meet

There were 14 persons killed in the crash, including Colonel Smith, his crew member and a Navy machinist's mate who had hitched a ride home to Brooklyn to see his parents. The others, and most of the 26 injured, were on the relief agency's staff.

Mr. Cummings, now associate director of the conference's migration and refugee services, had gone into the office early that morning to meet another staff member, Jack McCloskey, and Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom, who was then the relief agency's executive director and is now, as Bishop Swanstrom, the executive director of Catholic Relief Services.

The three men had planned to meet at the office, then go to the British passport office to pick up visas for a planned trip to England. But about 9:30, the time of their appointment, Monsignor Swanstrom called to tell Mr. Cummings and Mr. McCloskey to meet him instead in a nearby barbershop.

Returned Upstairs

"We went downstairs and were just about to enter the barbershop when we heard the boom," Mr. Cummings recalled. Then they saw the smoke and flames "and began to worry about our own people."

The three men walked back to the building. The Bishop was taken upstairs to administer the last rites and, about 11:30, Mr. Cummings was asked to go up to identify the dead.

"The plane went in where McCloskey and I were sitting," he said. "The only thing left of my desk were the metal fittings; the wooden desk was burned right down to the floor. . ." And the tile of the floor, he recalled, was also burned, exposing the concrete, and the bodies were burned beyond recognition, Mr. Cummings said.

Later, after a stiff drink, Mr. Cummings went home, but not to forget. "In conversation, people mention the airplane that went into the Empire State," he said. He replies that he knows all about it, "intimately," and adds, "But for the grace of God I wouldn't be here. I always say that the Bishop saved my life by calling me downstairs."

The New York Times
Published: July 28, 1970
Copyright © The New York Times

Police Climb the Empire State in Blackout

By PAUL L. MONTGOMERY

When Sgt. Joseph Raguso and Patrolman Harry Goulding burst panting from the stairs into the darkened 86th-floor observatory of the Empire State Building last night, a ragged cheer arose from the 40 tourists huddled in the gloom.

Outside, the rain lashed at the plate glass and fitful bursts of lightning cast the group into sudden shadow. From a boy's portable radio came the sounds, from a New Jersey station, of the hymn "Amazing Grace."

The two policemen, who had walked up the 86 flights accompanied by a reporter, paused for breath, their knees shaking. Then Sergeant Raguso, a calm, cheerful man, addressed the worried crowd.

"All right, we had a little power failure," the sergeant said. "Best thing for us to do is sit tight and wait for it to come back on. If anybody needs any medical help, let us know." The tension in the room seemed to dissipate at once. Many in the crowd tried on a smile.

Girl Leads Singing

Sergeant Raguso drew his partner aside and told him they would have to walk up 16 more flights to the observation deck on the 102d floor, where 25 more people were trapped.

"They're going to send us to the psycho ward," said Patrolman Goulding, and they both laughed.

At the 102d floor, the policemen got another big welcome. Patty Cingale, a 6-year-old from Fair Lawn, N. J., who had led her family in singing "Popeye the Sailor Man" and "Jesus Loves Me" to pass the two hours in the dark, said to her mother: "Now I'm not scared any more."

The lights in the building went out at 7:12 P.M. The policemen, attached to the 14th Precinct, arrived at the building about 7:40. They had been there an hour and a half before, investigating a bomb scare on the 86th floor.

The building was one of many in midtown Manhattan darkened by the power failure. It was especially important because of the television and radio transmitters housed there, and because it is one of the few tall buildings where crowds of people — tourists — go at night.

18 Steps to a Flight

Sergeant Raguso determined that there were about 65 people on the observation floors, that there were perhaps 30 people working elsewhere in the building and that, most important, no one was trapped in the four elevators in operation.

"How do we get up?" the sergeant asked James Cavanaugh, the supervisor of security for the building.

"Walk," Mr. Cavanaugh replied, and showed the way to the stairs.

The first 30 flights—there are 18 steps in a flight—there was little talking. "What a turkey this Con Ed is, huh," Sergeant Raguso said at one point. Patrolman Goulding, who is 38 years old and lives in Wantagh, L.I., mentioned that his wife was three days overdue with their first child and that he was worried.

The New York Times/Barton Silverman

Emergency candlelight at a bar in Empire State Building

At the 39th floor, the group ran into Benito de Santis, who works for International Systems Associates. He had been doing a computer project since 8:30 that morning, and the blackout had ruind his day's work, since he would have to start over again when the power was restored.

"How am I going to make up 24 hours' work," Mr. de Santis kept saying.

The patrolmen talked for a while, got a drink of water, then started up again. "I'm glad to talk to you," Mr. de Santis said. "I was talking to myself."

At the 53d floor, Patrolman Goulding's radio informed the men that their meal hour had been canceled. They laughed.

By the 70th floor, they were kidding each other about their ages — Sergeant Raguso, who lives in North Babylon, L. I., is 29 — between pants for breath.

At the 83d floor, Saul Slonim, an engineer with WNET, looked over the banister in amazement. "You guys are out of your minds," he said. "I wouldn't believe it."

Mr. Slonim said he had noticed a big surge of power on his meters at 7:12, and then the failure. "Not only that, my lamb chops were cooking in the oven," he said.

The policemen's time for the 36-flight climb was 48 minutes. Salvatore Cantelmi, the night manager of the observatory, said that an Olympic relay team a few years ago had succeeded in doing it in 29 minutes.

On the 86th floor, the policemen's immediate concern was Pansy Strother, who is 2 months 2 weeks old and was sleeping in her mother's arms. Sergeant Raguso determined that Mrs. Mae Strother, her mother, had enough to feed the baby.

"Yes, indeed, it was a pleasure to see those policemen," said Mrs. Strother, who lives in Jamaica, Queens. "I was really afraid for the baby."

On the 102d floor, the two policemen led the 25 people there to the 86th floor, where there are rest rooms and water. "These people got their money's worth tonight," said Ed Kane, a 23-year-old elevator operator, as he helped lead them down the tower by flashlight.

At the 86th floor, the people were cheerful until the lights flashed back on at 9:42. A young couple necked in a corner; a flirtatious woman on the shady side of 60 who said her name was Bridey and that she came from Roscommon in Ireland said, "If people wouldn't make toast, there'd be no power trouble."

Tina Wolfer, a 22-year-old University of Wisconsin graduate student, went around getting signatures on a postcard as a souvenir.

When the lights were on and the people began filing to the elevators, Miss Wolfer told Sergeant Raguso, "You deserve a medal for this." He smiled.

The sergeant said he had never worried about the crowd. "It's the human race," he said. "When the chips are down, they come through."

The New York Times
Published: February 8, 1971
Copyright © The New York Times

What's Higher Than Highest? Wait and See

By ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE

THE race is on again. Here we go for the world's tallest building. For love, and height, man leaves his senses. His love affair with the big building is one of the most enduring of all romances. The clouds must be scaled, like Mount Everest; the crown of highest must be worn, if briefly, before another takes the prize.

For a long time, for most of history, in fact, the superbuilding was only a dream. The skyscraper, the reality, is very young. It took 50 years, from the 1880's to the 1930's, to reach 100 stories. The miracle is a product of modern times and technology, of the metal frame and elevator, in the 19th century. It is a dream that rests solidly on science.

The peculiar drive for the title of tallest is a curious mix of emotion, structural engineering and economics. But it is a drive that will push the most pragmatic developer as close to irrational behavior as the cost-controlled real estate heart or computerized corporate soul can ever go. Call it status or immortality. Call it ego gratification. It seems to be programed into the psyche of man.

In the 1970's, the trend has exploded. The new contenders have eclipsed the records of the last race, in the 1930's, when the Manhattan skyline took, and held, the prize. The Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building, the clustered Wall Street towers, became New York's style and pride. Passions rode high. Construction men sneaked out to raise unannounced antennae to jockey the title from one building to another. Only the Depression, and the declining ratio of rising structure to rentable space, and therefore to any profitable equation, stopped the race.

It began again in the 1960's with Chicago's 100-story-high John Hancock building, a city within a city that houses 12,000 people in offices and apartments, with parking, shops and services. Today, the 110-story towers of the World Trade Center announce New York's new scale. Triumph is always temporary; a taller 110-story structure—1,450 feet to the Trade Center's 1,350 feet—is in construction for the new Sears Tower in Chicago. The Sears Tower has the advantage of a romantic silhouette, which the public has grown to expect and admire in its legendary skyscrapers; the flat-topped Trade Center universally displeases.

Drawing by Lorenz; © 1972 The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.
"However, if the Empire State persists in this foolhardy challenge, we are prepared to move at once to Phase Two"

The dethroned Empire State Building has announced a desperate ploy to extend itself by adding 11 stories, a feat of extreme structural and logistical bravado and negligible credibility. Why? Because, like Mount Everest, the challenge is there? The reasons are both elemental and complex. As a start, according to Lynn S. Beedle, head of the Joint Committee on Planning and Design of Tall Buildings and director of the Fritz Engineering Laboratory at Lehigh University, the act of building is synonymous with civilization, and big buildings are equated with growth and the much debated condition called progress.

Mr. Beedle cites their obvious role as a mark of prestige; the big building is an irresistible overreacher. Then there are the developments in materials and techniques that permit more economical construction, the factors of increased population density, the desire for centralization of business activity that taller building complexes make possible, the decreasing availability of prime land, and the depletion of resources, requiring more people to be housed in multi-story structures.

The Joint Committee on Planning and Design of Tall Buildings has been formed by the American Society of Civil Engineers and the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering to deal with the high-rise syndrome. It has more than 800 members from over 45 countries, with 27 technical committees and 14 advisory committees. Its studies range from basic structure to environmental impact. (That downdraft around skyscrapers that lifts skirts is called the Monroe factor.)

*

Its recent State of the Art report called Current Questions, Problems and Research Needs lists—just lists—almost 300 questions and problems raised by the tall building. They range from philosophical and environmental considerations of suitability, function, esthetics and community viability to subjects to strike terror into the layman's heart — gravity and wind loads, fire, blast and earthquake resistance, stability, stiffness and crack control, creep, shrinkage and the effects of temperature and elements.

In addition to dealing with an incredibly complex and changing technology, the Joint Committee states that its primary concern is with the "quality of life in the cities," and how concentrations of tall buildings shape and define it.

The pressures of land cost and land use in cities inevitably push buildings up. Still, they persist in appearing even in small centers that hardly seem to need them.

The definitive reason for the renewed race for height is structural—if it can be done, it will be done—like climbing that mountain. The last decade has been a time of spectacular breakthrough in such esoteric matters as windbracing and loadbearing systems of dramatic strength, efficiency and economy. High-speed elevators ascending in tiers that decrease toward the top—one changes elevators to reach the higher floors—help adjust the economic ratio of space to service.

Structurally, the simple, rigid column and beam metal frame that started it all is efficient only up to 20 stories. When trusses are added, sway is decreased and the building goes higher. For a building above 40 stories, steel must become heavier and correspondingly more expensive to resist wind loads.

For still greater stiffness and stability, with more economy of means, the "framed tube" has been developed, with exterior columns closely spaced. For more rigidity as the building goes higher, as in the John Hancock tower, diagonals are added for further bracing. "Tube-in-tube" strengthens both outer framing and inner shear walls.

The latest concept is the "bundled tube," used in the Sears Tower, which clusters framed structure tubes for maximum efficiency. The engineer for the Sears Tower, Fazlur Kahn, is as prominently credited as the architect, Bruce Graham. They are both in the Chicago office of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, which has pioneered much current tall building construction. For those interested in technology, the October issues of the Architectural Record and Progressive Architecture provide fascinating summaries.

Structure is aided by the systems approach and computerization, for analysis and programing. "Interdisciplinary" work is in operating practice for the skyscraper, while other professions just talk about it. Prefabrication is a giant contributor.

*

This is the progress side of the picture. For those interested in the problems, there are plenty. There are questions as to whether people really like living in high-rise buildings. Suburbia and the single house still win with the public, hands down. People are not really interested in such matters as the formation of sheet ice on exposed high-rise steel and the danger as it drops to the ground when the building warms, or how much movement or sway there can be without unsettling physical or psychological effects—these are concerns of the master builders. People just seem to prefer to hug the ground.

There are major environmental problems—the use of energy, the relationship of support structures and planning, how to cope with great concentrations of people as building density increases. And there are all the accompanying questions of transportation, land use, services and amenities and their costs.

Nothing affects the urban environment more than the kind of planning and design that goes into its tall buildings. As long as there is anything called civilization, man will heed that inner urge to build them.

The New York Times
Published: December 3, 1972
Copyright © The New York Times

Like dreams, the finest entertainment known and rag-cheap

The Shadow of an Airplane Climbs the Empire State Building

A World of Theory of Film.
By Parker Tyler.
248 pp. New York: Doubleday & Co. $7.95.

American Film Criticism

From the Beginning to Citizen Kane.
Edited by Stanley Kauffmann with Bruce Henstell.
443 pp. New York: Liveright. Cloth, $12. Paper, $3.95.

Authors on Film

Edited by Harry Geduld.
303 pp. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. $5.95.

By DAVID BROMWICH

The list of Parker Tyler's publications is impressively long, his early writings are now enjoying a small revival, there is every sign that a selfless toil in the vineyards of popular culture is at last yielding some profit in recognition. Yet in what way should productions like Mr. Tyler's be recognized? According to what law, through what rule of inflexible mercy to the man who is at all events dedicated, should any intelligent public extenuate or indeed accommodate nonsense of the kind purveyed in "The Shadow of an Airplane Climbs the Empire State Building," which has not even the incidental merit of being entertainingly wrong?

There will be those who defend Mr. Tyler on principle. After all, the study of popular culture has to begin somewhere—therefore the critics who have at least made an effort must be encouraged. Marshall McLuhan is another poor worthy who draws comfort from this line of reasoning, and it is reassuring to see Mr. Tyler admiringly taking hints from his fellow explorer. But perhaps, really, our mercy had better not be strained; readers will decide for themselves whether or not, sometimes, nothing ought to be better than anything.

Mr. Tyler has not yet discovered his theory of film. Or maybe he has: one cannot honestly tell, since he refuses to state his case intelligibly. He comes tolerably close to a summary, however, when he says that our "world-wide confusion is a sort of public health situation, a question of moral ecology, and the principal 'medicine' for the paranoia it breeds universally in groups and individuals is not just communicated, disseminated, by the popular media: this 'medicine' *is* the popular media—TV and the movies above all!"

Confusion is apparently the subject of Mr. Tyler's discourse as well as its manifest form. He appears to be interested chiefly in movies which transform this confusion, setting them against those, like Andy Warhol's, which merely record and mimic it. Very well: art must be harmoniously confused whereas Warhol even in theory cannot be. Mr. Tyler illustrates his point on the positive side with lengthy synopses of "Blow-Up" and "Persona." These

David Bromwich is a contributor to Dissent, Commentary and other magazines.

The New York Times
Published: December 17, 1972
Copyright © The New York Times

Pictures courtesy Lester Glassner from "The Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers Book."

works he considers sufficiently complex and plainly successful enough to support his observation, for in both the artist is in some degree implicated in what he has wrought so that the work itself—to Mr. Tyler's way of thinking—looks like an allegory of the artistic process.

This begins to sound like a very old-fashioned apology for modernism, and so indeed it is, only the critic never performs his function, never quite says why or why not these particular movies affect us powerfully. All the same, it is the best part of his book because it is the clearest. Elsewhere Mr. Tyler worries a little about Ezra Pound and Sergei Eisenstein and what they have to do with history. He speaks with much assurance but without any authority, and when he comes to the "splendid imagery" of Pound's Usury Canto, a sad little piece with the line "Usura slayeth the child in the womb"—well, one simply sighs.

After Agee we have had Robert Warshow and Pauline Kael. "Before Agee," Stanley Kauffmann notes in his brisk introduction to "American Film Criticism," "a presumable desert." There are surprises in this book, mostly nice ones, and Mr. Kauffmann has performed a lasting service in restoring to available print the film criticism of William Troy. The editor strikes a personal note, speaking of his debt to Troy, and he is right. One may feel that way too about a good deal of Troy's literary criticism. Yet—strangely, considering the overappreciation which film's appreciators are able to command—it is his movie columns in The Nation that have been neglected. Publicly, that is. A bold discursive intelligence like Troy's will always pick up a good many secret admirers.

Perhaps the one thing permanently valuable about Troy's writing (judging it together with the rest of this book) is the *(Continued on Page 22)*

The New York Times
Published: December 17, 1972
Copyright © The New York Times

Film

Continued from Page 3

way it puts Agee under a different light. About Agee's criticism we want to use words like "gentle," "evocative," "generous"; reading Troy we think rather of "discriminating" or "generalizing." Agee had a lovely sensibility but not, surely, a first-rate literary mind. Troy shows the controlling touch which this last can bring to criticism; yes, even to film criticism, for movies are above all else a narrative form. Read Troy on Fritz Lang's "M"; think of Agee on "The Best Years of Our Lives"—and you have the contrast squarely set. It is not, however, a matter of preferring one mode of analysis to another. It is a matter of remembering that they deserve equally to exist; yes, even in magazines.

The better part of the anthology is correctly thought of as pre-Agee, criticism written by lesser figures who looked forward to his manner yet lacked his winning mannerisms. A queer carnival-barker's tone pervades some of the early pieces; say rather a revival-tent enthusiasm, prompting the nasty thought that these earnest men took their movies more seriously than the movies took themselves. Midway through we are curious to see Robert Sherwood writing for Life, but once we have got his flattening description of "Caligari" ("the quality of a weird, horrible nightmare") we are ready to quit. On the other hand Edmund Wilson on "The Gold Rush" is well worth having, and among the nice surprises later on one ought to count Paul Goodman on "The Great Dictator," Kenneth Fearing on "Fury" ("fine antilynch stuff"), and B. H. Haggin on "Fantasia." Predictably, it is Gilbert Seldes writing about Welles who says the thing necessary for a clean finish: "He has made the movies young again, by filling them with life."

"Authors on Film" is disappointing for a variety of reasons, and not the least of these is what one might call the Anthologist's Lie: that the wealth of talent which has been assembled gives almost no impression of the real thinness of the material. Perhaps better selections were not accessible to Harry Geduld, perhaps there was trouble over permissions.

In any case, Mr. Geduld reprints a number of pieces which are not about movies but about the industry in Hollywood as it stood 20 years ago or more—many of these are in the muckraking vein, by Upton Sinclair, James T. Farrell and so forth. No doubt such things will have their interest for certain readers; quite properly, too; but they are not at all what one had hoped to get. The book steps up its pace briefly for an interval of three movie reviews by Graham Greene, but altogether one feels the editor might have devoted more space to authors who wrote, conscientiously, about specific movies.

Still, a few of the parts are enough to make up for the whole, including two or three comments so odd that nobody could have imagined them but for Mr. Geduld's pains. It is great fun to have H. G. Wells and Carl Sandburg reacting to the early German films, being appalled and delighted by very nearly the same episodes. Wells thinks "Metropolis" a horror, inaccurate for one thing in its futurism, but also silly, as he keeps repeating: terribly, terribly silly. "Caligari" Sandburg praises as a wild and wonderful film authentically "crazy."

Brecht, though he worked with Fritz Lang, had nothing useful to say about movies—at least if the selections here can be believed—and this seems more than a bit strange in light of his own dramatic practice, which tends toward the fluidity of movies. Yet a complex and rather willed insensitivity seems to be the rule not the exception. An impressionist can never get along with expressionist art: Virginia Woolf is unmoved by "Caligari," though she writes well about the representation of metaphysical terror in movies— naturally, as an effect yet to be achieved. Happily for us, and for the movies, some authors have been steadily not unmoved. A high, pleasant ramble on Godard's "Pierrot le Fou" by Louis Aragon is the kind of help that keeps a director alive and well. ■

The New York Times
Published: December 17, 1972
Copyright © The New York Times

11 Floors May Be Added to the Empire State

Building Would Be the Tallest Again—Plans Tentative

By DEIRDRE CARMODY

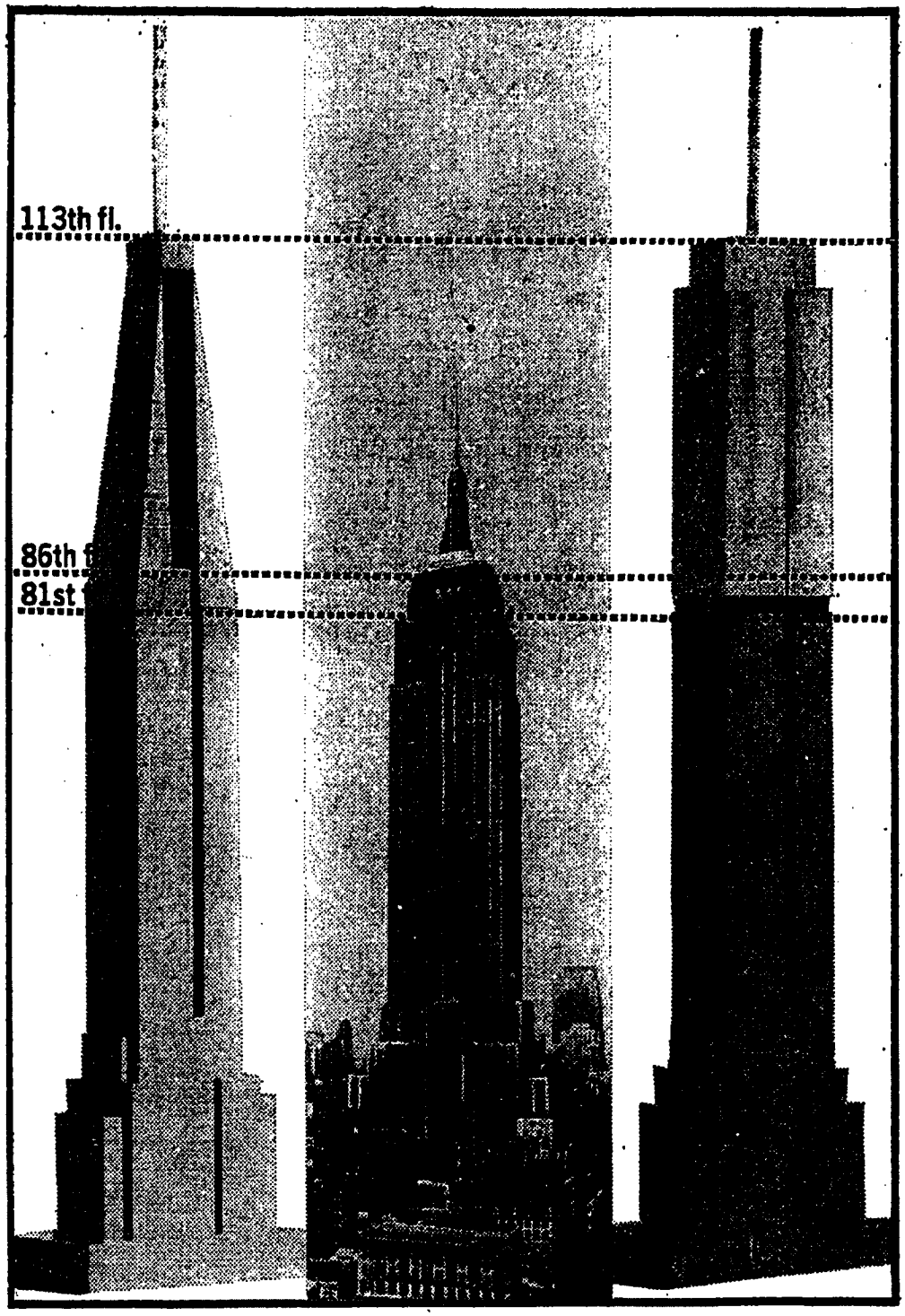
The owners of the 102-story Empire State Building, the Colossus of the skies for almost 40 years and about to be relegated to the indignity of third place among the world's highest buildings, are exploring the possibilities of adding 11 stories and making the building once again the world's tallest.

According to tentative sketches drawn up by Shreve Lamb & Harmon, the original architects for the building, the 16-story tower on top of the building would be torn down, and the six stories beneath that would be remodeled and encompassed within a new 33-story structure, probably with an exterior of glass and a restaurant at the top.

This would bring the Empire State Building to 113 stories and a height of 1,494 feet—144 feet higher than the two 110-story towers of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan and 44 feet higher than the 110-story Sears Tower in Chicago, which is scheduled for completion at the end of next year.

"It is physically and financially feasible to do this, but we don't yet have any definite decision and we have not yet made up our minds," said Peter L. Malkin, one of the partners of the Empire State Building Association, which owns the master lease on the property. "There are a number

Continued on Page 34, Column 4



Flanking a photograph of the Empire State Building are pictures of models of tentative proposals by Shreve Lamb & Harmon, its original architects, for heightening it.

The New York Times
Published: October 11, 1972
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State May Get 11 More Stories

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

of possibilities, but they are on the back burner for now."

The architects and designers have worked only on weekends to minimize the risk of having word of the project slip out. Although the possibility of adding on to the building was first raised about a year and a half ago, the discussions are in the most preliminary stages and a great many questions are still unanswered.

First there is the question of cost, and no one will speculate about it publicly. Most of the new structure—probably 300,000 to 400,000 square feet—would be used for office space. It would be modern, free-flowing space, more in tune with today's office needs than the long halls and small offices that were in vogue when the Empire State Building was built in 1931.

The building, bought in 1961 by an investment syndicate for $85-million, is operated under a sublease by Empire State Building Company under the direction of Lawrence A. Wien and Harry B. Helmsley, president of Helmsley-Spear. Asked about the proposed addition, Mr. Helmsley refused to discuss details or even to acknowledge the existence of such plans.

Approvals Are Necessary

Another question at this time is whether the approvals necessary for this kind of renovation could be obtained. These would range from building permits to zoning variances and the general blessings of the City Planning Commission.

Then there are expensive computer and wind tunnel tests to determine the amount of wind load and stress the renovated building could take. However, the preliminary plans have been informally checked out by the engineering firm of Wilcox & Erickson.

"No one can say that this absolutely, positively can be done, but we've assured ourselves that it can be done," said Robert W. Jones, vice president of Shreve Lamb & Harmon.

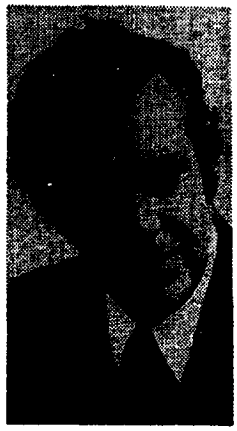
The idea of adding to the building came from Mr. Jones. Two years ago his firm, Petroff & Jones, merged with Shreve Lamb & Harmon, and Mr. Jones became interested while looking through the Empire State Building files.

"The thing that jogged my mind at the time was the fact that the World Trade Center was being built," Mr. Jones said as he looked out of his office window at a spectacular view of the Empire State Building.

"I thought, here's a building that's been the tallest building for 40 years and now it's no longer the tallest. Almost with tongue in cheek, I thought that maybe we could add a few floors. I called one engineering firm and they said no, then I called another and they said yes, it's possible.

"So I wrote to Helmsley & Wien and said, Ha, Ha, isn't this a funny idea?"

Another problem is how to increase the elevator capacity of the building to accommodate



The New York Times

Robert W. Jones conceived idea of heightening Empire State Building.

what will be 33 additional floors of office space. Offices now go to the 86th floor, with primarily machinery and observation decks above that.

Mr. Jones said he would consider the possibility of running an express and a local elevator in each of the existing shafts. This would mean, for example, that one shaft would have an express to the 60th floor and another elevator would make local stops above that. On the 80th floor, there would be a transfer point to elevators inside the new structure.

A Strain on Plumbing

Plumbing may also pose a problem. The building was completed during the Depression, and for a number of years only the bottom floors were rented. Then, suddenly, the building filled up. This meant that at around 5 P.M., when people prepared to leave their offices, there was an intensive demand on the plumbing. For a while, until the kinks were worked out, the pressure caused geysers of water to burst from the sinks, to the consternation of people simply trying to wash their hands.

One of the primary questions is what would happen to the television transmission antennas on top of the building. In the early days of planning for the World Trade Center, the television industry contended that the height of those buildings would interfere with reception. An agreement was reached to relocate the antennas to the World Trade Center.

Under that agreement, the center said it would assume the television stations' leases with the Empire State Building and continue to pay them after the stations moved, until the leases expired in 1984.

However, the Trade Center now contends that there is no significant interference with reception and that there is no need to transfer the antennas. The matter, reinforced with masses of engineering data, is now before the Federal Communications Commission. At this point it is simply open to speculation what would happen if the Empire State Building decided to build higher or how much the temporary relocation of the antennas would cost.

Another question is how to demolish 16 floors more than 1,000 feet above ground.

"If you can get it up there, you can get it down," Mr. Jones said with a smile.

Completion Is Denied

Although in the last few years there has been a flurry of excitement about the race to be the tallest building—reminiscent of the competition in 1930 between the Chrysler Building and the Empire State Building as each kept adding on floors to its designs to keep ahead of the other—spokesmen for the Empire State Building, the Sears Tower and the World Trade Center say that being No. 1 is really not that important.

"We didn't set up to build the world's tallest building, we've said that many times," commented Warren Goodman, a spokesman for the Port Authority, which is building the World Trade Center. That building became the title-holder in December, 1970, when the North Tower reached its full height.

"We didn't start out to be the world's tallest building," said Ernest L. Arms, director of public relations for the Sears Tower.

Mr. Malkin of the Empire State also denies that the reason for considering the addition to the building at 34th Street and Fifth Avenue is to make it once more the tallest building.

'An Ongoing Effort'

"It is not to be taller," Mr. Malkin said. "It is part of an ongoing effort of constantly seeing that it continues to be a great and fully modern building. When our architects advised us that it was structurally possible to build onto the building, we began to think of the different possibilities and how they could be developed.

"The important thing, however, is how to do it without destroying the appearance of the building, so as not to detract in any way from its elegance."

The building, which cost $24,718,000 to build, continues to attract 35,000 people a day. It is 97 per cent rented, according to spokesmen, and has not suffered from falling out of first place.

One thing that bothered Mr. Jones at first was whether it was right to tamper with the world-famous silhouette of the building. But the more he thought about it, he says, the more he became convinced that a modern addition to the top of the building was the right thing.

"I think it would be pretentious as hell to do it in the style of the building," he said. "If you're going to do something like this, you'd better not get cutesey about it.

"It's like Chartres," he added. "They built one tower in early Gothic and later they built another one in flamboyant Gothic."

The New York Times
Published: October 11, 1972
Copyright © The New York Times

World Trade Center Removing One-Eighth of Those Light Bulbs

By LAURIE JOHNSTON

"There are times when I wisl we had black drapes—on al 87,200 windows," Richard Eh mann, operations manager o the World Trade Center, saic wryly yesterday.

He was acknowledging tha the 110-story towers, ever more than most Manhattar buildings, have been a highly visible—and therefore favorite —target of criticism since the onset of the energy crisis.

As other major office buildings also took steps to conserve power, electricians at the World Trade Center were removing nearly one-eighth of its 274,000 fluorescent lighting tubes. A spokesman said that other cutbacks were being made in heat levels as well as illumination to reduce the average daily electrical load of 840,000 kilowatt hous.

A saving of 22,500 kilowatt hours a day would result from removal of the 32,500 fluroescent tubes from offices occupied by New York State and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Consolidated Edison will begin today training 900 "energy watchers" who are employes of building-management companies. The three-week program is co-sponsored by a new organization of real estate concerns called the Committee for an Adequate Supply of Energy.

Lobby and corridor lighting has been cut by 50 percent in many major buildings, including the Empire State and Pan Am Buildings and the 20 structures of Rockefeller Center where concourse lighting will be reduced by 25 per cent.

Cuts in elevator service during nonpeak hours will amount to two cars in every eight-car bank at Rockefeller Center. Elevator cutbacks at the Empire State Building are not expected to inconvenience visitors to the observatory, a spokesman said.

At the World Trade Center a saving of 22,500 kilowatt hours a day would result from removal of 32,500 fluorescent tubes from offices occupied by New York State and the Port Authority.

Darkened Areas

Individual offices have their own light switches only when specially ordered and paid for by the tenant, with the rest controlled by master switches.

But Mr. Ehmann said that cleaning workers were being trained to use master switches to turn off office lights after 5 P.M. in three quadrants of each floor—if no tenants were still working there—and keep lights on only in the quadrant being cleaned at a given time. Lighting in core-sections of the buildings has already been reduced, he said.

A workman removing a bulb from a fixture at the World Trade Center.

"We're trying to improve the situation between 6 P.M. and 11 P.M., when most of the people I get complaints from see us pretty well lighted up," Mr. Ehmann said. "We think we're doing pretty well after midnight—but who looks at us then?"

Thermostats in the trade center are computer-controlled, a spokesman said. He said that heat, provided by Consolidated Edison steam, was expected to be reduced to about 68 degrees instead of 70 or 72 but noted that parts of the building were also still being air-conditioned depending on their exposure to the sun.

Campaigns for voluntary cutbacks by tenants were planned at the Empire State Building and at Rockefeller Center, where a spokesman said that "50 per cent of the energy-use can be controlled by tenants" through thermostats or light switches.

Con Edison announced that visits to its 6,000 largest customers—who consume half its power output — were begun Nov. 16 by service representatives armed with check lists on energy-saving measures.

The New York Times
Published: November 28, 1973
Copyright © The New York Times

Follow-Up on The News

These are progress reports based on Times inquiries into some unfinished news events.

"Mad Bomber"

The "Mad Bomber," George Metesky, who set off explosions in 37 public places in the nineteen-forties and fifties in a vendetta against Consolidated Edison, was released last December after 17 years of incarceration as an insane criminal. He went home to Waterbury, Conn.

"I rest and I read the papers and I listen to radio and I watch TV," Mr. Metesky said from his home last week. "Mostly news and 'The F.B.I.'" He is also sitting for long interviews for a book about him by John Kobler, author of "The Life and World of Al Capone."

Mr. Metesky, who is 70 years old, said he had no income and was being supported by his surviving sister, Mae. How does he feel about Con Edison? "I think it's best not to talk about that just now," he said.

Space Studies

The six pairs of astronauts who visited the moon from 1969 through 1972 lugged back 850 pounds of rocks to be used in cosmological research.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration reported last week that it still had 95 per cent of them, mostly in storage at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. About 170 groups of investigators have almost all the rest, NASA said, except for a few that have been presented to foreign or American dignitaries or put on public display.

In the recent Skylab mission, meanwhile, a thousand gypsy-moth eggs were placed in orbit in the hope that zero gravity would lengthen the time it took to hatch and thereby facilitate sterilization-control studies. Over the last three years, gypsy moths have defoliated two million acres of forest yearly.

According to the Agricultural Research Service, the results of the experiment are disappointing. The eggs did not hatch early.

Biaggi Inquiry

In the midst of last spring's mayoral primary, the Bronx District Attorney reopened an investigation into the 1964 killing by Mario Biaggi of an apparent holdup man in a parked car. Mr. Biaggi, who was then a police lieutenant, was awarded the Police Department's medal of honor, but rumors persisted that there was something more to the incident.

Since the primary, in which Mr. Biaggi finished third, nothing has been heard of the investigation. Repeated phone calls to Mario Merola, the Bronx District Attorney, went unreturned last week, until finally Mr. Merola said he had "no comment on an ongoing investigation." Is the investigation still ongoing, then? "No comment."

Sources indicated that the case had been quietly shelved.

Empire State

When the Empire State Building (1,250 feet) was relinquishing its title as tallest building in the world to the World Trade Center (1,350 feet) and then to the Sears Tower in Chicago (1,454 feet), there was talk of knocking off the top of the Empire State and adding 11 floors to a new pinnacle of 1,494 feet.

In case you haven't looked or counted recently, the building is still 102 stories tall and is still topped by its familiar TV antenna.

But plans to alter it have not been abandoned, according to Robert L. Tinker, the building's vice president and general manager. Feasibility studies are awaiting an F.C.C. ruling on whether the TV antenna should be moved to the World Trade Center.

"If the antennas move, then our studies could be continued," Mr. Tinker said.

Soviet Dissident

Andrei Sinyavsky and Yuli Daniel made worldwide headlines eight years ago when they were on trial in Russia for publishing "anti-Soviet" literature abroad. Mr. Sinyavsky was sentenced to six years at hard labor. Last summer, two years after his release and unable to find work, he left Russia for France.

Mr. Sinyavsky is now an assistant professor at the University of Paris. Because of his desire to return to the Soviet Union someday, he refuses to give interviews, but friends say he was on the verge of speaking out last February after the arrest of Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn. He telephoned Mr. Solzhenitsyn's wife, but her husband was expelled so quickly that Mr. Sinyavsky did not have a chance to release his statement.

Mr. Sinyavsky, who is 48 years old, recently told a friend: "In my country, nothing is legal, or illegal. It is normal, or it is arbitrary. My departure is arbitrary."

LEE DEMBART

The New York Times
Published: April 7, 1974
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Is Floodlighted Again

For the first time since the onset of the energy crisis late last year, the top 30 floors of the Empire State Building were floodlighted last night.

A spokesman said the floodlighting, to continue nightly bewteen 9 and 11 P.M. except on foggy or cloudy nights during bird migration seasons, was part of a program leading to the nation's bicentennial observance in 1976.

The spokesman said that the building had received assurance from Con Edison that the use of electricity for the nightly illumination would in no way interfere with its ability to serve the public. He said that he did not know offhand the amount of electricity the illumination would consume.

The New York Times
Published: July 4, 1974
Copyright © The New York Times

The 'King' of 'Kongs' Reels Again

By TOM BUCKLEY

A "farewell" appearance of the original, uncut "King Kong" will begin tomorrow at the D.W. Griffith Theater on East 59th Street. To hark back to the days of the film's release in 1933, the admission price from noon until 5 P.M. will be 10 cents, the standard price of the "kiddie matinee" at that time.

After that, though, the cost of a ticket will soar to $3.50, which is, by the way, 10 times the price of a ticket for the early show when the movie was playing its premiere engagement simultaneously at the old Roxy Theater and the Radio City Music Hall.

"King Kong" will be shown at the theater only as long as it does business, and it will be withdrawn in any case no later than Sept. 30 to clear the way for the premiere of the remake, which is scheduled to open on Dec. 17 at 1,500 theaters in the United States and Canada and 1,000 more around the world.

"That's the biggest initial print order in movie history," said a spokesman for Dino DeLaurentiis, who produced the new version in association with Paramount.

R.K.O. General, which owns the original and will share in the profits of the remake, believes that once the hoopla is passed, its "King Kong" will experience a resurgence.

"The original has taken on mythic proportions," said the company's Al Korn. "I've seen the remake. Technically it's greatly superior, but just isn't —it can't be—the original."

What most people didn't realize, Mr. Korn went on, was that "King Kong," while a financial success, was by no means a box office bonanza in its first release cycle.

"It cost $672,000," he said, leafing through the records. "It grossed $745,000 in the United States and Canada and $1,111,000 elsewhere in the world. After exhibition costs, it returned a profit to the studio of $690,000."

The film was re-released in 1938, grossing another $300,000, he said, and again in 1942, when its gross of $320,000 reflected wartime prosperity and the craving for amusement.

The story of "King Kong" as a cultural force dates from 1955, Mr. Korn said, when it began to be shown on television. Since then it has been seen by countless millions of persons, particularly the young. More than 100 stations in this country televise it an average of three times a year, including WOR-TV in New York.

Since 1966 the theatrical exhibition of "King Kong" has been handled by Janus Films, which specializes in classic movies.

"We picked up the rights for two movies from R.K.O., 'Citizen Kane' and 'King Kong,'" said Sol Turell, the head of Janus. "At that time they were being rented for $10 a week and nobody was buying. The first thing we did was to get new prints made —the originals were totally beat up—and then we found five segments totaling six minutes that had been cut by the studio and restored it to the film."

One of these shows the monster ape tearing the clothes off the hapless heroine, Fay Wray, in what was perhaps deemed to be too lascivious a manner. In another, Kong is seen biting the head off a native of Skull Island, where he is discovered and captured.

"The man who brought the clips to us wouldn't tell us how he acquired them," Mr. Turell went on. "He didn't want to sell them. All he finally asked in return was a complete print of the movie."

The film, which is not only regarded as a triumph of technical innovation but is also recognized in some quarters as a profound artistic and cultural statement, came to be regarded as a mixed blessing by Miss Wray and others who made it.

For several years afterward, Miss Wray, who lives in Los Angeles, told an interviewer, she couldn't get a role in which she was not being victimized by a monster of one sort or another.

Of more than 100 films she made, she said, "King Kong," which she doesn't regard as anything like her best, was the only one she was remembered for.

The film also has given worldwide publicity to the Empire State Building, which was the world's tallest when it was opened in 1931, and where the final climactic scenes take place. Even today King Kong posters and T-shirts are sold in the building's souvenir shop. Its owners launched bitter protests when it was decided to use the World Trade Center for the remake.

Unlike the electronically operated 50-foot monster of the remake, by the way, the original King Kong was closer to the size of a rhesus monkey, standing only 20 inches high.

The New York Times
Published: August 20, 1976
Copyright © The New York Times

Gunmen in Midtown Flee With $600,000 in Jewels

Empire State Building Suite of Diamond Company Invaded by 5 Robbers Who Bind 8 With Rope and Handcuffs

By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

Five well-dressed gunmen invaded the sales suite of a diamond company in the Empire State Building yesterday and, after binding the owner and seven employees with ropes and handcuffs, walked out with more than $600,000 in diamonds, other jewels and cash.

No one was injured in the swift and smoothly executed holdup at the Empire Diamond Corporation's carpeted 10-room suite on the skyscraper's 66th floor, but one of three women employees fainted and other staff members were left shaken by the ordeal.

The robbers, looking like businessmen with briefcases, departed quietly, taking a one-minute ride in a wood-paneled, self-service elevator to the lobby and disappearing in the mid-afternoon crowds at Fifth Avenue and 34th Street.

'Very Professional Job'

Shortly afterward, an employee returning from an errand found the office's reception area vacant and furniture in disorder, and summoned help from nearby offices. The staff was found lying on the floor of the interior office of the company's president, Irven J. Brod, who was one of the victims who had been bound hand and foot.

"It was a very professional job," said Deputy Chief Martin E. J. Duffy, the commander of police in the Manhattan South Area, who was directing an investigation by more than a score of detectives at the scene.

Chief Duffy said that an inventory of the loot was still under way late in the day and that the $600,000 figure was an estimate that could rise. He said the stolen items were mostly cut diamonds and other jewelry, taken in trays from an open safe in an office adjacent to Mr. Brod's.

In addition, an undetermined amount of cash was taken from some of the employees and from the company's cash box, but the robbers were said to have left envelopes of uncut stones in the safe and at least one box of jewelry on an employee's desk.

All of the stolen gems were catalogued by the company, which has a nationwide mail-order business and a local retail and wholesale trade, according to the police. In addition to employee offices, the company's suite includes various sales and display rooms.

Just inside the suite's entry way, customers may view glass reproductions of dozens of famous gemstones, including the Hope Diamond, the Jubilee and the Regent. On the front door, a sign notifies those entering that Empire Diamond is a "member of the Jewelers' Security Alliance—for protection against burglary, sneak theft, holdup."

It was shortly before 2:15 P.M., the police said, when the five robbers—all men, 25 to 30 years old, clad in suits or sports jackets with neckties—entered the unlocked glass door of Suite 6610 on the west end of a long hall lined with elevator banks.

They drew guns and herded Mr. Brod and seven employees—four men and three women—into the company president's office at the rear of the suite. No customers were present.

In Mr. Brod's office, all eight were made to lie face down on the floor and were trussed hand and foot with handcuffs or ropes brought by the gunmen.

While some of the robbers guarded the prone staff, the rest rifled desks in other offices

Gustav H. Danitz freed the victims of the holdup.

and took trays of diamonds and other jewelry from the open safe, working quickly and quietly. The police said the robbers made few remarks in the 10 to 15 minutes they were in the suite.

Shortly after the gunmen's departure, David Cohen, an employe who had been out of the office, returned and found the suite seemingly vacant. Before exploring further, he sought help down the hall at the offices of the Impex Corporation, an exporter.

Gustav H. Danitz, the Impex president, and Eric Dodge, an employee, then entered the diamond concern and found the staff in Mr. Brod's office. "They were all tied up, lying on their stomachs and sides," Mr. Dodge said. "One of the women had fainted so I went to get some smelling salts."

Mr. Danitz, who had asked his secretary to summon the police, helped free the victims from the ropes, but the removal of the handcuffs had to await a police emergency squad.

Later, as detectives swarmed over the premises to interview the victims and search for clues, Mr. Dodge recalled:

"It was just like 'Police Story,' on television. They were all tied up, lying on their faces, and everybody seemed pretty well shaken up."

"It was a frightening experience," one of the women employees said.

The New York Times/Robert R. Klein

Employees of the Empire Diamond Corporation wait to tell their story to police

The New York Times
Published: July 3, 1976
Copyright © The New York Times

50 Millionth Guest Feted At Empire State Building

By PETER KIHSS

Ingo Eilers paid $1.70 for a ticket for his wife, Helfa, and $1.70 for himself to visit the 86th-floor observatory of the Empire State Building yesterday morning — and then came the avalanche.

Mrs. Eilers, 46 yers old, of Bremen, West Germany, was suddenly informed she was the observatory's 50 mil onth visitor. And then she got an official key to the city, a sterling silver lifetime pass for the observatory, a Paul Revere sterling silver bowl, a silver shell pen set, a silver desk model of the 102-story building, a Steuben glass "Big Apple" sculpture representing the city and an array of many other gifts.

"I just bought two tickets." Mr. Eilers said, marveling. "My wife was ooking for pamphlets along the wall. Two men spoke to her. I asked if they were selling something."

Beset by dignitaries of all kinds, Mrs. Eilers said it was all wonderful. It was her first visit to the United States, the third for her husband. Their children, Cornelia, 24, and Olaf, 20, are now grown, so Mr. Eilers, who owns a laundry-machine factory, started taking his wife on overseas selling trips

"I'm so glad it was you instead of King Kong," Mary Beame told Mrs. Eilers when presented a leather-encased gilded key to the city on behalf of her husband, the Mayor. In the 1933 movie, the great ape climbed the outside of the building with a girl in one paw until he was machine-gunned by airplanes at the summit.

For the day, the Empire State Building was renamed for Mrs. Eilers. And Lawrence A. Wien, co-owner of the structure with Harry B. Helmsley, announced the numerous gifts, including a week's stay for two at the St. Moritz Hotel, sightseeing tours

"You didn't give her a kiss," Lewis Rudin, chairman of the Association for a Better New York, chided. Mr. Rudin remedied that omission, and also kissad Mrs. Baeme.

"We will speak with our friends what nice people you are in the States," Mr. Eilers promised. The couple hoped to come back this summer to take up the gift opportunities. Their current visit has a fixed timetable for three days here, a Drive to Erie, Pa., and then Syracuse before starting for home May 20.

The New York Times
Published: May 5, 1976
Copyright © The New York Times

Design Notebook

Paul Goldberger

Colored lights turn the Empire State Building into a toy.

THE EMPIRE STATE Building's classic profile has been inspiring a lot of close looks lately and that is because it doesn't look quite the way it used to. Since midautumn, the tower's top 30 floors have been bathed at night by colored floodlights, and the change has been dramatic enough to make the building an altogether different presence on the city's nighttime skyline.

It sounds, on paper at least, like the sort of lovable civic gesture that no one could argue with. The city's most famous skyscraper became blue and white to honor the Yankees' victory in the World Series, red and yellow to observe the presence of fall, and, just this week, red and green to denote Christmas. The idea is that the building becomes a great sign, for all the city to observe.

The problem is that the Empire State Building is already a great sign; it is already an icon, not only for New York, but for the world, and playing games with colored lights adds nothing to its meaning.

What it does, in fact, is detract from the skyscraper's meaning, for it turns the Empire State into a toy. While the Empire State is hardly a sacred object, it is one of the city's most distinguished skyscrapers. Its sleek silhouette with graceful setbacks and an Art Deco top, built to the designs of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon in 1931, has become symbolic of New York City and all of the romantic skyscraper designs of the 1930's. It represents the best of a style that was edged out of fashion by the austere boxes of the International Style, but which is increasingly regarded as something worth respecting.

Bathing this building in colored lights is no different from painting it red or yellow or green or purple. It is a total violation of the design, which was for a building of limestone, granite, aluminum and nickel—all colors with a certain dignity and sobriety to them. The shape is light and pleasing, but the overall mood sought by the architects was one of solidity and firmness. Red lights just don't achieve that.

•

This is not to deny the good impulses behind the notion, conceived by Douglas Leigh, the Times Square billboard impresario, of lighting the building in changing colors. The city needs more exhortations to civic pride, and one can sympathize with the desire of Mr. Leigh and the Empire State's management to use the building to those ends. But pretending that the Empire State is a 1,250-foot coloring book hurts a landmark more than it does anything else. In the long run, that doesn't help civic pride at all.

This seems especially true given how splendid the Empire State has looked since 1964, when the system of floodlighting the entire exterior, from the 72d floor up, was inaugurated. The white light that covered the building each night from 1964 on accentuated the architecture instead of fighting it as the colored lights do. By highlighting the building's best aspects, the white light enhanced the role of the Empire State as a symbol of New York, thereby achieving the goals of civic pride that the new lighting system is trying to achieve.

The business of the colored lights began last year, as a temporary notion to commemorate the Bicentennial, the old lights were fitted over with red, white and blue gels. It looked a bit odd, but the building's management (and, the management says, many members of the public) liked it. And so, when the time came this year to install an entirely new floodlighting system, it was designed with a built-in color-changing capability. So now we are going to have a constantly changing array of colors unless the building management comes to its senses and realizes that it had a great thing going with plain white floodlights.

•

The building-watch lately has observed a pair of other surprise changes in midtown office buildings, one of which is near the Empire State. It is at 2 Park Avenue, the fine Art Deco building by Ely Jacques Kahn at the corner of 32d Street, where—wonder of wonders—an attempt is being made to reverse the tide of "modernization" and restore the original style of the lobby.

The lobby of 2 Park Avenue is potentially one of the city's best. When the building was finished in the late 1920's, Architectural Record magazine called the lobby "probably the most impressive in the country." It has a vaulted ceiling and arches of gilded bronze, rich Art Deco mouldings and miscellaneous details, including a splendid mosaic tile clock.

Over the years, 2 Park gradually became more like the anonymous office Buildings of the 1950's that followed it. The ceiling was painted white, the elevator cabs replaced with cheap new versions, and so forth. Sheldon Breitbart the real estate investor who heads the syndicate that now owns the building, was behind a number of the original changes to modernize. Now, he says, "I realize that you shouldn't make things into things they aren't; I realized we were miseing something, and that we should try to come back to the true period of the building."

Mr. Brietbart engaged the architect Kwan Lau and Beverly Birks and Galerie Gerard, Art Deco specialists, as consultants. The result, if imperfect in a few aspects, is nevertheless as encouraging a sign of landlord interest in fine architecture as has been seen in New York in years.

A pair of remarkable Art Deco chandeliers, found in storage at Simpson's department store in Toronto, where they had once graced a restaurant, were brought to the lobby of 2 Park, and they look as if they had been sitting there all along. A gold lamé tapestry attributed to Erté and a lively gold-framed mural of blimps, airplanes and skyscrapers, originally painted by Winold Reiss, for the Longchamps Restaurant at Madison Avenue at 59th Street, have been added to the lobby.

The existing walls have been cleaned, new indirect lighting has been installed and mouldings and ornaments have been cleaned. It is all bright, shiny and full of enthusiasm for Art Deco. The only thing that mars the refurbished lobby is the curious decision of the architect to paint the ceilings a bright sky blue. It is a loud color, adding a touch of vulgarity where there had been none.

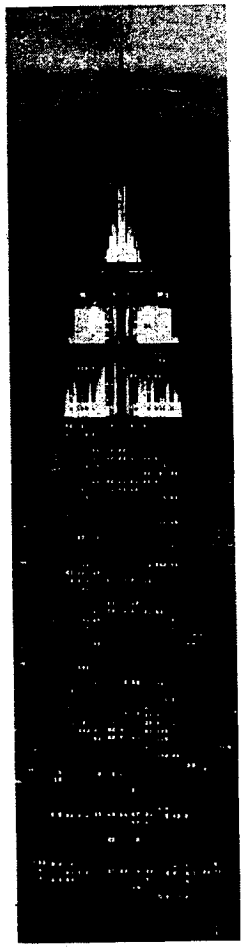
Scholars might point out that Art Deco was a bit vulgar anyway, and that 2 Park Avenue has a facade of brightly colored tiles: True, of course. But there is no precedent for that loud lobby color, and it is saddening, because it cheapens the visual pleasure of what is otherwise an earnest and successful effort.

•

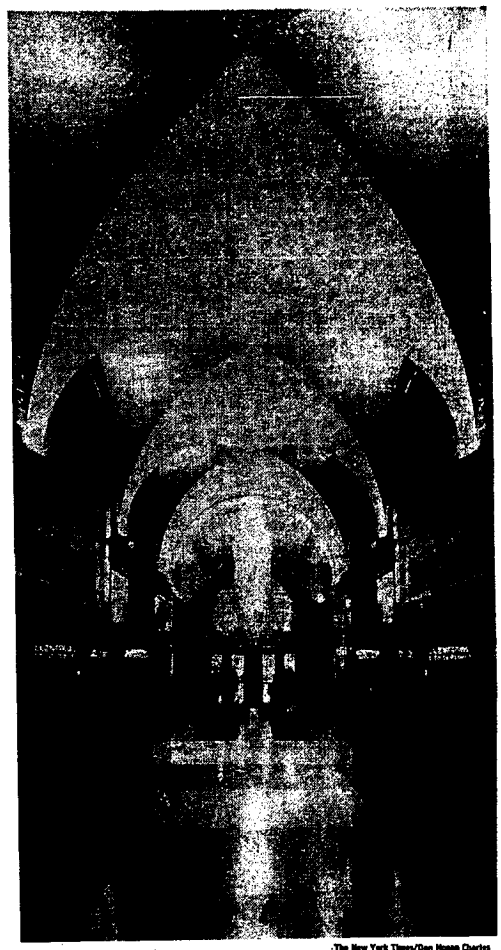
The other midtown change that a building-watch turned up this week is not so pleasing.

The richly ornamented top of 230 Park Avenue, the New York General Building, has mysteriously turned a pinkish beige. The top used to be green, painted to imitate oxidized copper. Such a paint job is a New York tradition—the city's copper roofs turn green of their own accord, and it has become customary to use a coat of paint to assure that the same tone is maintained.

The New York General roof, which is pyramidal and culminates in an ornate cupola, has lately had leakage problems, and it became necessary to apply a waterproofing compound. Unfortunately, someone also had the idea that once the compound was applied, a new color was also called for. The new color adds nothing to the attractiveness of the building and reduces by one the number of copper-colored green roofs in town, something New Yorkers once pointed to with pride as a favorite aspect of their city's look.



Night lighting of Empire State Building.



The New York Times/Don Hunan Charles

Vaulted lobby of 2 Park Avenue, now cleaned and refurbished with attention to Art Deco details.

The New York Times
Published: December 8, 1977
Copyright © The New York Times

EMPIRE STATE LEAP ENDS ON 85TH FLOOR

Man Falls One Story to a Ledge, Then Drags Himself Back Into Building Through Window

By MORRIS KAPLAN

It was a long way down when Thomas Helms, a 26-year-old artist, leaped from the 86th floor of the Empire State Building.

But not nearly as long as it might have been.

Half an hour after Mr. Helms jumped and about 20 feet below, William Steckman, a television engineer working in the National Broadcasting Company's 85th-floor transmitter room, realized he was not alone. He felt a tap on his shoulder.

"How did you get here?" he asked the visitor when his composure returned.

And the young man in ripped and bloodied dungarees, boots and work jacket mumbled:

"Through the window."

It was Mr. Helms.

He had landed on a three-foot-wide ledge after his leap shortly after 7 o'clock Thursday evening, lain unconscious for half an hour and then had dragged himself through an open window of the transmitter room.

Mr. Steckman was joined by a fellow engineer, Joseph Nicosia, and they notified the building's security office, which summoned the police.

"He was lucky, he must have jumped close to the building," said William R. Suchanek, who directs security on the observation deck. "That setback is no more than three feet wide."

In New York for a Week

"He must have second thoughts after that fall," Mr. Nicosia said. "We tried to tall: to him, but he wouldn't say anything. He just put his head down. He was confused.

The police took Mr. Helms to Bellevue Hospital, where he was treated for shock and lacerations of the face and hands, and placed under sedation. A psychiatrist spoke to him, "but he was not interested in talking," according to a hospital spokesman.

The police reported that Mr. Holms, who is from Mountain View, Hawaii, had been in New York for about a week with little money and had been sleeping in subways.

He bought a $1.70 ticket to the observation deck, and, in his leap, managed to avoid a guard to scale the 8-foot spiked steel fence erected in 1947 to forestall suicide attempts.

Twenty-two persons haive committed suicide by jumping from the building, including one who landed on the 85th-floor ledge, got up and jumped again. The most recent suicide from the deck occurred last April.

"We have eight guards, five during the day at various intervals, but you can rarely tell who's going to jump," Mr. Suchanek said.

The New York Times
Published: December 24, 1977
Copyright © The New York Times

Laser Atop Empire State Building Completes Measurement of Northeast Railroad Track

By LENA WILLIAMS

A fiery red ball, about as big as an orange, appeared yesterday through the morning haze and remained suspended in space for nearly five minutes atop a bridge abutment on the northwest corner of the intersection of J. F. Kennedy Boulevard and Route 495 in Union City, N.J.

The apparition was not a U.F.O. but a laser beam activated from the Empire State Building by Federal Railroad Administration officials marking the completion of the first phase of a project to upgrade rail passenger service from Washington to Boston.

The laser was used to measure the precise distance between the rail yards in Union City, which represent the northern terminus of the New York-Washington leg, and those in Queens, representing the southern terminal of the Boston-New York leg.

It was the final portion of 1,200 survey and mapping points along the 456-mile rail line that had to be measured before rail improvements, such as track rehabilitation, bridge and tunnel work, curve modifications and the laying of new continuous welded rail, could begin.

"This particular portion runs beneath the Hudson River, Penn Station in Manhattan and the East River, making it virtually impossible to measure manually," said John M. Sullivan, the Federal Railroad Administrator, shortly after he announced that the distance between the two points was 16,413.17 feet.

"The survey will insure more scientific and accurate maintenance of the railroad in the future," Mr. Sullivan added, explaining to a group of newsmen that the Empire State Building was considered by engineers as one of the most accurately fixed points in the world from which to survey.

The $2 million survey, begun on March 25, is part of a $1.75 billion Federal improvement program for the Northeast Corridor under the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976.

Faster Trains Scheduled

The act requires that a dependable trip time schedule of 3 hours 40 minutes between Boston and New York and 2 hours 40 minutes between New York and Washington be achieved by February 1981.

But the technological advances will not necessarily mean higher prices for passengers who use Amtrak's services, according to Federal officials.

"The Government is picking up the per capita cost," said David Umansky, public affairs director for the Railroad Administration. "We hope to increase passengers on the rail line from the present 9.6 million per year to 26.5 million."

That would be accomplished, Mr. Umansky said, through additional trains traveling at 120 miles an hour. The project is being managed in cooperation with Amtrak, which operates the rail passenger service.

The New York Times
Published: July 17, 1977
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Changes Lights

The banks of lights on the 72d, 82d and top floors of the Empire State Building have been changed from white to amber, to marke the arrival of the Thanksgiving season. But a spokesman for the building management said last night that, in about 10 days, they would be changed back to white. Shortly thereafter the colors will be changed to green and white to symbolyze the Christmas observance.

The New York Times
Published: November 22, 1977
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Building Studies a Con Ed Alternative

By ANTHONY J. PARISI

The management of the Empire State Building is studying whether to drop out of the Consolidated Edison Company system.

Last week, officials of Helmsley-Spear, which manages the skyscraper, acknowledged having commissioned a comprehensive energy study that would consider, among other things, if the building would be better off making its own steam and electricity. The acknowledgment came after an article appeared in Energy User News, a trade paper.

Both Helmsley-Spear and the engineering consulting firm of Flack & Kurtz, which is conducting the study for the Helmsley-Spear, declined to discuss the project in detail, asserting that the final report was due within two weeks and the outcome was still uncertain.

A 'Symbolic Significance'

But in a recent interview, Bertram Schwartz, Con Edison's senior vice president in charge of planning, did not hesitate to express his concern.

"The Empire State Building has symbolic significance," he said. "We are looking at this one extra carefully."

Just a month ago, the Tishman Speyer Silverstein Partnership, which is renovating a 32-story office building at 11 West 42d Street, announced that it was planning to install diesel generators to generate power for the building. Since then, Mr. Schwartz said, Con Edison has been keeping a close watch on any proposals calling for such on-site power systems.

"Our concern is that they may not be the the only ones — and most likely won't be," he said.

Although it is one of Con Edison's biggest customers, the 102-story Empire State Building nonetheless accounts for only a fraction of 1 percent of the utility's total sales of electricity and steam. Still, Mr. Schwartz asserted that if any large commercial customers desert the system, the utility would have to raise prices to spread its fixed costs — which amount to about two-thirds of the the company's total expenses — among its remaining customers.

The higher prices might then prompt other users to go their own way, Mr. Schwartz said. That would lead to still higher prices, he warned, then another round of dropouts. The spiral would end when smaller, mostly residential, users who could never install their own generators were paying exorbitant kilowatt-hour charges — even by New York City standards.

"And if there were a proliferation of this kind of thing," the Con Ed executive added, "it would also result in a significant degradation of the quality of life in New York City."

He noted that diesel fuel produced five times as much soot as the fuel oil that Con Edison uses and that it created 20 times as much nitrogen oxides, the pollutant that creates smog. "You also have to deliver it by the truckload," he said. "The building at 11 West 42d would require 20 to 25 truckloads a month." The trucks would spew out pollution of their own, he said, and would back up traffic as well.

"I think Con Ed and the environmentalists are going to end up, for once, on the same side on this issue," Mr. Schwartz predicted.

"And what's going to happen to taxes? " he asked. "Our customers are forced to pay a lot in taxes in their Con Ed bills. Are other taxes going to be raised to make up for that?"

In sum, Mr. Schwartz said, there are hidden costs to on-site power systems that the city should take into account. "People should not be able to study them without considering these things," he asserted. 'What they ought to be doing are complete environmental-impact studies" to see how the systems affect the total picture.

Although the engineers working on the Empire State Building study would not discuss these issues, proponents of on-site power systems have for years addressed them, at least in general. Their chief argument has been that such systems use fuel more efficiently. That, they say, offsets many of their disadvantages.

On-site power systems can be more efficient because they make use of some of the waste heat that central power stations usually dump into the atmosphere. The system planned for the 50-year-old office building on West 42d Street, for example, is supposed to use about 30 percent of the fuel's energy to make electricity and recover around 45 percent of the remainder to supply hot water and steam for heating and air conditioning.

The New York Times
Published: July 31, 1978
Copyright © The New York Times

Design: 5 Ideas to Redo Empire State's Deck

By PAUL GOLDBERGER

IRONICALLY, for all its fame and glory, the Empire State Building's observatory is not a terribly pleasant place to visit. For one thing, it denies the visitor a view of one of the greater skyscraper tops in the world — that of the Empire State itself. For another, it is a tacky, crowded observation deck, with more space given to souvenir sales than to creature comforts.

It is perhaps with this last problem in mind that the New York area's six schools of architecture, Cooper Union, Pratt Institute, City College, Columbia University, New York Institute of Technology and the New Jersey School of Architecture, banded together to offer their students a joint assignment — the redesign of the Empire State's upper floors to make them more appropriate to the extraordinary view they present and to the noble architecture of which they are a part.

The project marked the first time that the area's schools have ever joined forces on a design problem, and the Empire State, as potent a symbol of the region as there is, made a logical subject. Some of the student designs have been assembled in a modest but provacative exhibit, which opened last week at the headquarters of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, 20 West 40th Street, where it will remain on view until April 13.

•

There are only a few projects shown, and they come from only five of the schools; Columbia chose not to participate. Curiously, for all the difference in approach for which the New York architectural schools are known, there is considerable similarity to the projects on view. Almost all of the students wisely decided to leave the Empire State's famed profile alone and concentrate instead on opening up the space inside, many of them bringing to public use the slender, glass-enclosed tower space that connects the 86th-floor observatory with the one on the 102d floor.

The small exhibit has as its centerpiece a six-foot-high cardboard model of the Empire State by Michael Hallasy of Cooper Union, and there are also some rather poor reproductions of drawings for the building by Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, the original architects

•

Two student projects stand out. The first, by Daniel Margulies of City College, takes as its theme the notion that being at the top of the Empire State Building is a fantasylike experience, divorced from reality. Mr. Margulies has redesigned the top to express this notion by creating a circular observation deck at the 102d floor that would appear to float unsupported. It is to be reached by a round elevator, and visitors would descend from this "contemplative" place via a spiral staircase to the 86th floor, which would be a more rational, ordered space more closely related to the mood of the real city at street level.

Intriguing also are schemes by Michael Hallasy and Richard Hoyen, both of Cooper Union, which call for the replacement of the frosted glass now in the slim tower section between the 86th and 102d floors with clear glass and the insertion of stairs within the tower. That tower section is now filled mostly with mechanical equipment and is not likely, unfortunately, to be made available for public use — but these student architects correctly realize that the chance to descend down a glass-enclosed stair 100 stories above the street could be an architectural experience of profound drama.

•

There is also a handsome, if overly theorized, plan by Peter Eric Arnell and Keat Tan of the New York Institute of Technology that redesigns the 86th-floor observatory with a classically inspired colonnade to create an ordered sense of procession from the elevators to the view, something that, in the present confusion of the observatory design, does not exist at all.

Blocked due to copyright.
See full page image or
microfilm.

The New York Times

The observation deck on the Empire State Building at 34th Street

The New York Times
Published: April 5, 1979
Copyright © The New York Times

New Lights-Out Policies Save the Lives of Migrating Birds

Blocked due to copyright.
See full page image or
microfilm.

The New York Times / April 16, 1979

By BAYARD WEBSTER

The annual spring bird migration, just now getting under way with millions of birds heading north for their summer breeding grounds, has often ended in death for small birds, which tend to crash into lighted structures on cloudy nights.

But the National Audubon Society, which has been trying to persuade proprietors of tall structures to douse their lights on foggy nights, believes that its migratory-bird safety efforts are beginning to have some effect.

Their most notable success is in mid-Manhattan, where this year, as for the past several years, the Empire State Building's floodlights are extinguished on overcast, rainy nights from April 15 to June 1 and from Sept. 15 to Nov. 1, the migration periods when the most birds fly over Manhattan.

Ornithologists have found that on clear nights most birds are not attracted to brightly lighted buildings. Nor are they drawn to red aircraft-warning lights on buildings.

Confused by the Lights

In past years along the Middle Atlantic Coast, lighthouses, illuminated radio and television towers and other tall lighted structures have presented hazards to birds at night. Ornithologists have determined that most birds die in foggy or overcast conditions when they head toward the nearest bright light. The birds then become disoriented or confused and fly into the light source and dash themselves to death, or continuously flutter around the lights until they die of exhaustion.

One indication of an increased awareness of birds' migratory problems was a survey by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, made last July for the first time, that listed every recorded case and locale of bird deaths from hitting structures in the United States. It showed that 536 buildings, searchlight beams, lighthouses, power lines and communications towers were involved in an estimated 80 million or more bird deaths per year, most of them at night.

The most recent recorded major incident occurred at the 1,472-foot-tall Empire State Building in the fall of 1970, when at least 400 birds died on an overcast, squally night.

The National Audubon Society reports that in the last few years most lighthouses have installed slower revolving beams that do not attract many birds; owners of television towers and office buildings have made efforts to mute their lighting on overcast nights, and communities have followed Audubon Society advice on locating new towers away from flyway areas and dimming lights on tall structures.

Richard L. Plunkett, staff ecologist of the National Audubon Society, said scientists did not know why some smaller bird species were attracted to bright lights at night and lost their orientation faculties, while other bird species were not often lured out of their flight paths by bright lights. It is known that a few types of birds can navigate by starlight or detect polarized light from heavenly objects on overcast days or nights, but the question of how birds guide themselves in their long journeys is still a complex and puzzling problem to scientists.

Ornithological researchers, using radar sweeps of the night sky, have been able to determine that most migrating birds reach altitudes between 2,000 and 3,500 feet at the start of their flight. But when they encounter low overcasts or foggy or rainy weather, they lower their flight paths, making them more likely to come into range of brightly lighted tall buildings.

An unusual aspect of bird deaths at the Empire State Building, Mr. Plunkett noted, was that in addition to the birds that were dashed against the building by the prevailing wind, many birds died on the leeward side of the structure. Audubon Society experts theorize that when the wind reaches the far side of the building, it creates erratic wind sheers and a partial vacuum that draws in birds that would normally be carried past the building.

The New York Times
Published: April 16, 1979
Copyright © The New York Times

Woman Survives Fall At the Empire State

A 29-year-old woman apparently jumped from the 86th-floor observation deck of the Empire State Building last night, but survived when she landed on a three-foot ledge about 20 feet below, the police said. She was admitted to Bellevue Hospital with a fractured pelvis.

Authorities at the 102-story building on West 34th Street theorized that strong wind gusts — and no small amount of luck — saved the life of Elvita Adams, of 975 Walton Avenue in the Bronx.

George Reice, night supervisor at the observatory, said that a guard heard calls for help at about 8:15 last night and found Miss Adams lying on the 85th-floor ledge of the building.

A spokesman for the building said that ordinarily four guards patrol the 86th-floor observation deck, which is surrounded by an eight-foot, iron-spiked fence. But, the police said, no one saw Miss Adams jump. The police said they were considering the incident an attempted suicide.

The New York Times
Published: December 3, 1979
Copyright © The New York Times

Green Empire State Building

The Empire State Building is being illuminated with green floodlights, in celebration of both St. Patrick's Day and the 49th anniversary of the Manhattan landmark's construction. Excavation for the site was completed on March 6, 1930, and ironworkers were ready to start construction of the skyscraper's skeleton two days later. But Alfred E. Smith, the former Governor and first president of Empire State Inc., looked to his Irish heritage and ordered that work on the building start on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

The New York Times
Published: March 11, 1979
Copyright © The New York Times

Colors of Pope to Light Empire State Building

When Pope John Paul II visits New York on Oct. 2, the papal colors of white and gold will light up the upper floors and tower of the Empire State Building.

The white and gold will begin on Friday. After John Paul leaves, the lights will be changed to red, white and green in a Columbus Day salute to the city's Italian-Americans.

The New York Times
Published: September 24, 1979
Copyright © The New York Times

Madison Square Garden Area, Nerve Center of the City

By JENNIFER DUNNING

A NERVE center for the entire city, the neighborhood around Madison Square Garden is a hub of urban activity virtually unmatched in the United States. Early mornings and late afternoons, its streets are a churning river of commuters. Midday, the streets are taken over by travelers to more distant destinations, by shoppers zeroing in on the huge department stores that are the area's magnet and by the men and women who make the deals, clean the pelts, stitch the piecework and deliver the goods to the factories, workrooms

Metropolitan Baedeker

and showrooms that make up the adjacent fur and garment districts. There is a brief respite in early evening, and then a tide of sports or rock-music fans pours into the Garden. Then they, too, disappear, and for a few hours the streets are nearly silent before it all begins again.

Almost everything in the neighborhood is there because the transportation network puts it in touch with vast numbers of people. The source lies deep below the Garden floor, the terminus of the Long Island Rail Road, where every workday morning trains disgorge more than 50,000 people. Many thousands more arrive by Conrail, which also has a terminal below the Garden, by the intercity Port Authority Trans-Hudson System and by the city's major bus and subway lines. This convergence of people is what the Garden area is all about.

Madison Square Garden

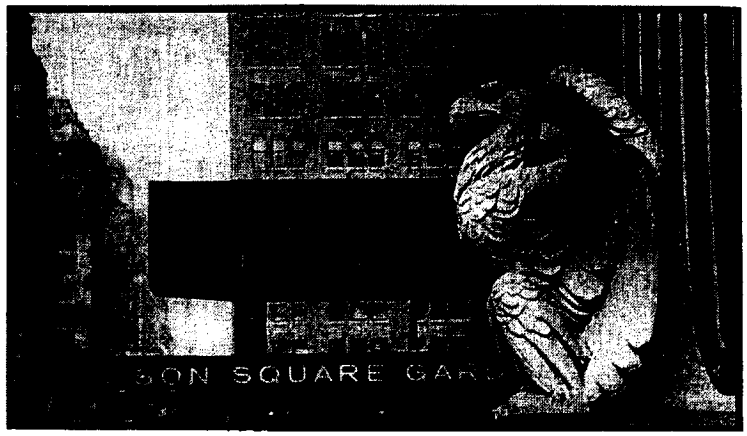
The Garden and its adjoining office tower are the focus of much of the activity. Designed by Charles Luckman Associates and built in 1968, the complex is a small city with 29 floors of offices; the huge entertainment hall that gives the complex its name; a second, smaller hall, the Felt Forum; a movie house, an art gallery, restaurants and even a bowling center. From the outside, it is a typical New York skyscraper, driving straight into the sky with no concessions to the restless eye. The larger, 20,000-seat hall is a good example of modern technological achievement, housed in a precast concrete-clad cylinder, roofed with a cable structure 425 feet in diameter.

But New York is a city whose population is divided between those who believe in destroying everything in the path of architectural and engineering progress and those who hold on hungrily to the landmarks of the city's past. Mention the "new" Garden to traditionalists, and there are likely to be nostalgic sighs because its antecedents are much cherished.

The name comes from a pretty park at Fifth Avenue and 23d Street, the site of the first two arenas. The first Madison Square Garden, built in 1879, housed the spectacular Barnum's Monster Classical and Geological Hippodrome. The second was designed by Stanford White, the New York architect, who was shot to death in its roof garden by a jealous husband. White's Garden was so ornate that one journalist wrote at its opening in 1890, "We do not understand how we lived so long even half-content without it." Along with boxing, bicycle races, opera, theater and physical-culture shows, the arena was the site of the Democratic National Convention of 1924, the longest ever held, which took two weeks to pass over Alfred E. Smith and William McAdoo, the chief contenders, and nominate John W. Davis for President. In 1925, the Garden moved to Eighth Avenue, between 49th and 50th Streets. It was at the third Garden that Franklin D. Roosevelt and Al Smith hugged in a very public act of reconciliation at the climax of Roosevelt's successful first campaign in 1932. And, 30 years later, it was where Marilyn Monroe serenaded John F. Kennedy on his 45th birthday.

Landmarks and Vistas

The great landmark of the area has vanished. Designed, as were many of the city's most impressive buildings, by the distinguished late-19th-century firm of McKim, Mead & White, Pennsylvania Station was built in 1910. With its two-block-long facade of Doric columns, the station made a decisive statement about the importance of railroads to the nation. The above-ground structure was destroyed in 1963 — with much shedding of civic tears — to make way for the present Garden. But there are echoes of its monumental presence in its old neighbors.



The New York Times / Neal Boenzi

Madison Square Garden, with its guardian eagles from the old Pennsylvania Station, is the convention site.

One of them is the General Post Office on Eighth Avenue, between 31st and 33d Streets, also designed by McKim, Mead & White and completed in 1913. A row of columns rises at the top of a sweeping staircase, and set in over the column capitals is one of the world's longest building inscriptions, a motto that has provoked many a sarcastic comeback: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

The McKim, Mead & White complex surrounding the Garden also includes the Statler-Hilton Hotel (formerly the Pennsylvania Hotel), which was completed in 1918. With an imposing portico of six Ionic columns reaching three stories high, it is another reminder of the grandeur of the station. The hotel, a favorite of the big bands of the 1930's, was celebrated in the Glenn Miller tune "PE 6-5000," a title referring to the hotel's telephone number.

Another architectural find in the area is St. John the Baptist Church at 211 West 30th Street. Designed by Napoleon LeBrun and completed in 1872, this Roman Catholic brownstone church has neat exterpal proportions and a chunky single spire. But the graceful white interior shimmers with light pouring down from the high clerestory windows onto its simple, delicate ornamentation of marble and blue-and-gold trim. A block east, at 134 West 30th Street, stands the 23d Precinct police station, built in 1905, which looks like a small, squat castle with its crenellated towers and archways.

What was once the New Yorker Hotel (and before that the Manhattan Opera House), at 311 West 34th Street, is now the New York headquarters for the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church. And the facades of the Hotel Martinique (northeast corner of Broadway and 32d Street), the Hotel Clinton (15 West 31st Street) and the Wolcott Hotel (4-10 West 31st Street) show the romantic extravagance once lavished on city hostelries. The inscriptions "wit" and "humor" and the "L" patterns on the iron balconies of the Clinton remain from its days as the office of an early humor magazine called Life.

A good way to absorb the neighborhood is to look upward while inching along the streets. Factory buildings blossom into unexpected artists' dwellings or even loft theaters in their upper floors, and what seem to be skyscraper office buildings often explode in a burst of penthouse terrace greenery at the top. New York's rooftops, with their grinning gargoyles, cherubs, tile rainbows and gawky wooden water towers are the city at its most surprising and endearing.

The otherwise nondescript building at 18 West 37th Street is typical. Perched above the floors occupied by a functionally fronted sunglass store and shirt company is a fanciful little three-story brick apartment house, delicately ornamented with wreathes and a stubby spire, and completed by a barely visible terrace garden.

History

When you walk west of the Garden, it is easy to understand why the neighborhood was once called Hell's Kitchen. About 125 years ago, farms and country estates covered what are now mostly grimy streets. With the industrial development that preceded the Civil War, the old Hudson River Railroad was extended north along what has become 11th Avenue, establishing a station at 30th Street. The railroad brought commerce, and soon tenements, factories, stables, distilleries and slaughterhouses sprang up. The crime rate soared.

While the rich ventured up Broadway to the carriage shops of what was called Long Acre in the West 40's, after a similar area in London, farther west "gay New York girls" used the lurching Ninth Avenue elevated trains for pistol practice, and such gangs as the Gophers and the Parlor Mob roamed the streets, terrorizing neighbors, travelers and the local police. Legend has it, however, that the area took its name more prosaically from a popular German saloon on 39th Street between 11th and 12th Avenues called Hell's Kitchen.

The neighborhood grew tamer as the northward march of the city began pushing out the poor. The old Metropolitan Opera House opened in 1893 on Broadway and 39th Street, while brave producers began to move north to the muddy reaches of Broadway and the 40's. In 1904, some tenements were torn down to make way for the Pennsylvania Railroad tunnel under the Hudson River. Garment factories moved in, and by World War I the area had taken on its present character.

History left a curious relic at Herald Square, the triangle of land just north of 34th Street where Broadway and the Avenue of the Americas intersect. The bustling square was the center of New York's Tenderloin District late in the 19th century. Dance palaces, restaurants and bordellos lined the avenue and its side streets, in the shadow of the elevated's tracks. In the 1890's, reform set in, and the Tenderloin grew more respectable. The dance halls were replaced by theaters and newspapers, all, too, long gone.

Macy's, across Broadway, stands on the site of Koster and Bial's New Music Hall, and Gimbels, a block south, has replaced the Manhattan Theater. All that remains of The New York Herald, which gave the square its name and then left the area in 1921, is the big clock in the center of the square. The clock stood atop the Herald building. Every hour, its two bronze workmen, called Stuff and Guff, swing hammers at a bell, as the goddess Minerva watches impassively from above.

The Garment Center

New York has long been a city of clearly defined business districts. Just south of Madison Square Garden along Seventh Avenue lies the fur district, a relatively tranquil area of discreet shop signs and windows full of sleek pelts. The Garment Center, one of the city's major industries, sprawls from 30th to 39th Streets, between Fifth and Eighth Avenues, a hectic area where deals involving batches of clothes in the thousands are discussed by businessmen walking casually up the avenue at lunchtime, dodging careering handcarts as they go.

The district's spine is Seventh Avenue, where many of America's leading designers work in Nos. 498, 530 and 550.

Shopping

Many of the goods produced in the Garment Center end up in the small shops and big department stores along 34th Street and just south between Seventh and Fifth Avenues, among them Macy's, Gimbels, Ohrbach's and B. Altman. At the northeast corner of Macy's, which describes itself as the world's largest store, stands a monument to capitalist eccentricity. What appears to be an ordinary hot-dog stand with a Macy's sign above is a five-story, 19th-century house bought at an astronomical sum at the turn of the century by the merchant Robert S. Smith, Macy's chief rival at its previous 14th Street location. Long after Smith's store closed, Macy's has continued renting that sign space from his heirs at what is said to be a large sum.

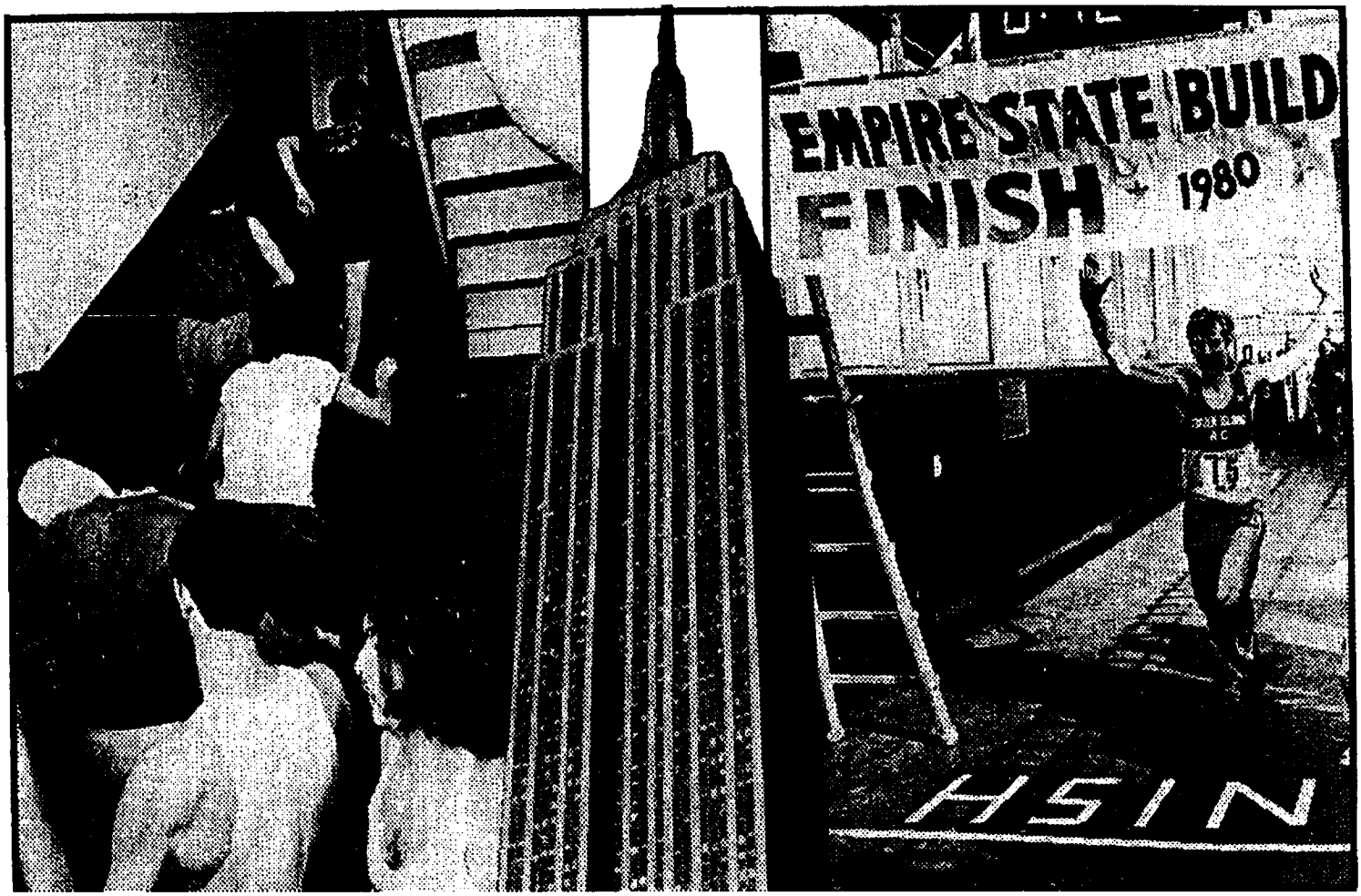
B. Altman & Company, on the northeast corner of Fifth Avenue and 34th Street, is a full-block monument of a far more sober sort to commerce. Altman's moved to that spot in 1906, the first major store to leave the Ladies' Mile — that celebrated shopping district of the late 19th century, which ran along Broadway from 14th to 23d Streets — and to move north and east of Herald Square to an area distinguished for its opulent residences and hotels. Altman's limestone facade and quiet awnings may seem a little severe, but its handsome main-floor interior, with parquet floors and crystal chandeliers, reflects what old New York regarded as elegance in shopping.

The Empire State Building

Across Fifth Avenue, on the southeast corner of 34th Street, stood the Waldorf Hotel, erected in the 1890's by William Waldorf Astor in vengeance against his aunt, Mrs. William B. Astor, who lived next door and who had resisted attempts to cede her leadership of society to his wife. Her house dwarfed and shadowed by the big hotel, his aunt moved uptown a year later.

One of the city's most popular attractions and a familiar symbol of New York, the Empire State Building, stands on that site today. Designed in shining Art Deco style by Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, it was the world's tallest building on its completion in 1931. The skyscraper rises 1,250 feet from ground to spire, a would-be mooring mast for zeppelins (and later perch for King Kong). There is a breathtaking view from the observation decks on the 86th and 102d floors. Deck admission is $2.25 and, for those younger than 12, $1.15. The decks are open 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 P.M. daily. Call 736-3100 for further information.

The New York Times
Published: August 8, 1980
Copyright © The New York Times



The New York Times/D. Gorton

The Path to Victory Was All Uphill in Empire State Building Race

At 10:30 A.M. yesterday, 34 runners headed for the stairs in the third annual Empire State Building Run Up. Twelve minutes and 20.1 seconds later, James Ochse of Staten Island, a graduate student, emerged the winner on the observation deck of the building, 86 floors above the lobby starting line. Commented Paul Fetscher, a race veteran who finished third, "I've been told this is the best way to make it to the top in the real estate business."

The New York Times
Published: February 15, 1980
Copyright © The New York Times

Manhattan Adding 63 ZIP Codes

Manhattan will be richer today by 63 ZIP codes, most of them the exclusive domain of business buildings in the mid-Manhattan and downtown areas.

The advent of the new codes, which double the number in Manhattan, was greeted with a mixture of optimism that mail service would be quickened, annoyance that businesses were given only a week's notice of the change and skepticism that the new codes would make any difference.

The buildings affected previously shared a ZIP code with other buildings in the area. Since mail is machine-sorted by ZIP code and then hand-sorted by building, the buildings with their own codes will now skip the hand-sorting process. These buildings receive at least 5,000 pieces of mail each day.

"The ZIP code change is not mandatory," said Mildred Lee, speaking for the New York City district of the United States Postal Service. "There's no point at which we wouldn't deliver mail to the old ZIP codes, but we've asked that when businesses reorder stationery that they use the new numbers."

Empire State Gets Own Code

Of the 63 new numbers, 39 refer to particular buildings, such as the Empire State Building, at 350 Fifth Avenue, and the Interchurch Center, at 475 Riverside Drive. The buildings were selected on the basis of daily volume, Mrs. Lee said.

The 24 other new ZIP codes have been assigned to post office boxes and business-reply mail. Post office boxes at Grand Central Station addresses will use a 10163 code, and boxes in the Times Square area will use 10108.

"I get a lot of wrong mail, so maybe this will help," said Alexander Palmaieri, the supervisor of the General Services Administration mail room at 26 Federal Plaza. "But when the mail service wants to get rid of mail, they just throw it in any pile, so I'll have to wait and see."

At the Empire State Building, where 15 mail carriers handle 35,000 pieces of mail each day, some of the businesses did not know yesterday about the ZIP code change. Mrs. Lee said that all affected businesses had been mailed a notification of the change on April 22, but that the individual mail rooms in these buildings might have failed to deliver the notices to each office.

"I guess we can just rewrite the ZIP code on existing envelopes," said Lynn Berman, who works for a company in the Empire State Building. "We get a lot of delays and a lot of mix-ups in our mail, so this change is appreciated."

The New York Times
Published: May 1, 1980
Copyright © The New York Times

The Empire State at 50

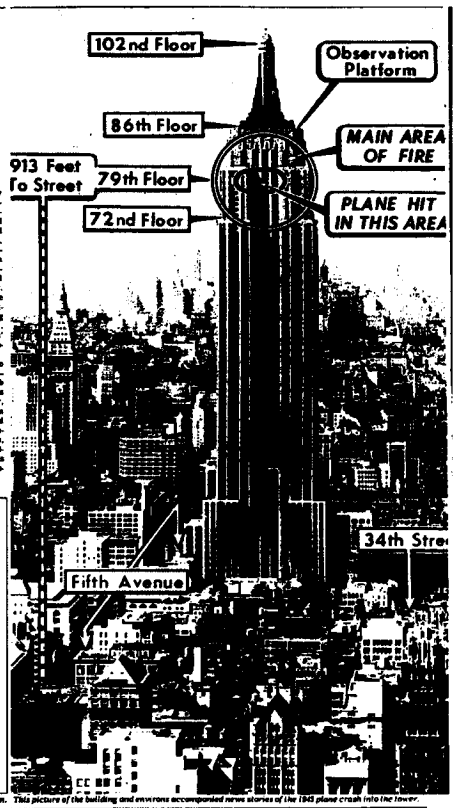
Blocked due to
See full page
microfi

Birds used to be confused by its lights on foggy nights and crash into it (the tower's floodlights are now off during the migratory season's foggy evenings); the desperate and the crazed leaped from it; a B-25 rammed into its 79th floor one overcast day in 1945, and Hollywood stamped the tower irrevocably into the minds of the world by wrapping a prehistoric ape around it. The famous, the not-so-famous and the merely ordinary have visited it — and visitors are still pouring in at a rate of 1.5 million a year.

That supreme symbol of the New York skyline — the Empire State Building — will be 50 years old this spring, and commemorating this event is a forthcoming book "The Empire State Building Book," text by Jonathan Goldman, design by Michael Valenti (St. Martin's Press). Illustrations and photographs as well as artists' impressions of the skyscraper and assorted memorabilia are reproduced in the book, some of which appear on these pages.

Until the World Trade Center and the Sears Tower in Chicago came along, the Empire State Building — at a height of 1,250 feet — was the tallest building in the world. The architects Shreve, Lamb & Harmon had begun with something bulkier and not as tall, but as plan after plan was rejected, the design got slimmer and higher. and, finally, after 15 attempts, the architects came up with the form that got built. It is an extraordinary shape — straightforward enough to be a commercial office tower, varied enough to be a symbol of a special place in the heart of an extraordinary city. The top, in particular, is a remarkable balance between liveliness and dignity, and since it began to be floodlighted a few years ago, its role as an icon of New York, of tall buildings everywhere, has only increased: it still commands the skyline with awesome grace. ■

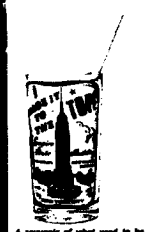
Blocked due to copyright.
See full page image or
microfilm.



Miss Teen Queen and chaperon on the 86th-floor observation platform. This picture of the building and environs accompanied news stories of the 1945 plane crash into the tower.

Former Governor Al Smith, president of Empire State Inc., which owned the building, broadcasting from the 86th floor on opening day, May 1, 1931.

Fidel Castro visited the Empire State Building on April 23, 1959.



A souvenir of what used to be the tallest building in the world.

A Navy dirigible attempting to moor atop the skyscraper, 1929.

The New York Times
Published: October 26, 1980
Copyright © The New York Times

Empire State Buildings for King Kongs with Scissors and Paste

By GLENN COLLINS

WITH cool confidence, Alan Rose lifted up the East Facade of the Empire State Building. The Zum-Zum restaurant to the right of the entrance, and the Wallach's clothing store to the left, dangled precariously in midair. Carefully, Mr. Rose bent back the tab marked "G5." His giant's hands held the delicate Art Deco facade strongly, then lowered the construction into place.

"Sometimes you feel a bit like King Kong as you handle parts of the building," said Mr. Rose, peering at what he had wrought like the great Kong eyeing Fay Wray through a skyscraper window. Mr. Rose's creation, standing to the left of the drafting table in his East 56th Street studio, was a four-and-one-half-foot-tall paper copy of the Empire State Building.

Nearby, clustered like gossips in a landmark neighborhood, were a three-foot-tall paper Chrysler Building and a 10½-foot-long paper Brooklyn Bridge. "I've always wanted to sell the Brooklyn Bridge to thousands," Mr. Rose said.

In fact, he is attempting to do so. Mr. Rose has conceived, designed and perpetrated three new books: "Build Your Own Empire State Building," "Build Your Own Brooklyn Bridge" and "Build Your Own Chrysler Building." Each of them is a hymn to New York City architecture and Elmer's Glue that enables more-or-less coordinated people to construct faithful scale reproductions of the city's enduring monuments.

Printed in four colors on stiff card stock, and embellished with a wealth of accurate architectural detail, the books' pages can be cut apart, creased and pasted into the landmarks they celebrate. The volumes ($6.95 apiece, published by Perigee Books) were designed with the eye and hand of the average 14-year-old in mind. But Mr. Rose believes they will appeal to model builders, to lovers of New York City, to parents looking for something to do with their children and to architecture buffs. "Architects can build them inside-out and draw in their own details on the outside — to try to outdo the original architects, you see," said Mr. Rose.

"I've always regarded these buildings with reverence, and that's how I constructed them," he said. However, Mr. Rose says he had difficulty splitting the difference between reproducing fine detail and permitting ease of construction. "At one point, it seemed completely sensible that each tiny window of the buildings would have tiny desks and a tiny water cooler inside. But I had to draw the line somewhere."

• • •

The genesis of Mr. Rose's monumental mission was a conversation one night in September, 1979. He and a writer friend, Denis Boyles, were lounging around Mr. Rose's apartment on Lexington Avenue near 30th Street.

"Denis was the catalyst," said Mr. Rose. "He was telling me how he had once spent more than a month constructing a model of an entire Swiss village in his bedroom — little two-inch buildings made from European model kits." Mr. Rose found himself looking past Mr. Boyles and out the north window of his living room. There, blocks away, he could see the Empire State Building. Soon, Mr. Rose got to talking about making a paper model of the Eighth Wonder of the World.

"A week later, I finished the prototype," he said. "When it was finished, and I saw it on the floor, it was a view of the building I had never seen before. I felt like an airplane."

Mr. Rose worked from floor plans and photographs in designing the Empire State Building, and at one point, he found it necessary to trek to Fifth Avenue and pace off the real dimension of the building's base. "When I got over there, it turned out, it happened to be St. Patrick's Day. The barriers were up, the parade was on, and there were enough people wandering around with six-packs so that no one even noticed me."

Mr. Rose worked from architects' plans to do his own renderings of the Brooklyn Bridge. (Con-men please note: the Brooklyn Bridge book comes complete with a miniature "This Bridge For Sale" sign). But he had more difficulty with the Chrysler Building, where, he said, "the original plans no longer exist." Mr. Rose made do with photographs and frequent sorties to the building. At one point, Mr. Boyles, and another friend, Alan Wellikoff, held Mr. Rose by the legs while he leaned out from the top of the last setback to investigate the color and dimensions of the building's roofs.

The 33-year-old Mr. Rose, who is tall, thin and red-haired, has done technical illustrations for the Scientific American and has designed maps, instrumentation and record-album covers. However, his current project is hardly his first brush with the unusual.

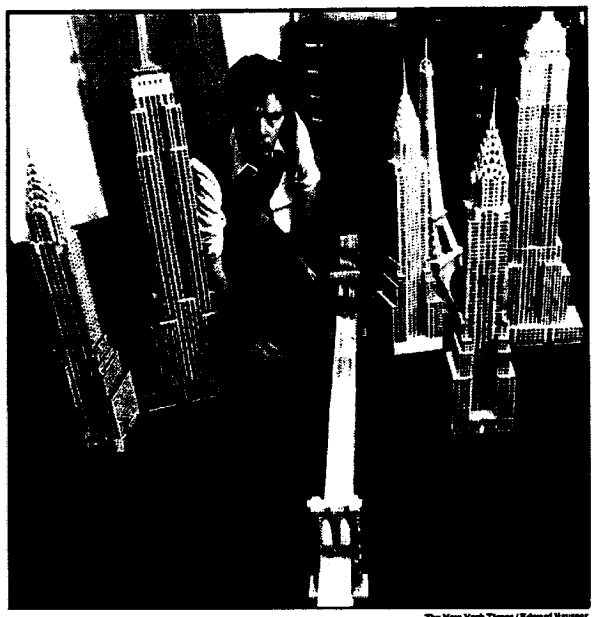
• • •

He also did a send-up of teen-age students' drawings for the National Lampoon's 1974 high-school yearbook parody. "They kept sending the illustrations back because they weren't inept enough," Mr. Rose reminisces.

Mr. Rose grew up in Baltimore and attended the Maryland Institute of Art, and said that he was infected early with the modeler's obsession. "Once I made a helicopter out of toothpicks," he says of his youthful modeling exploits, "and my unfulfilled ambition was to make an Eiffel Tower lamp out of popsicle sticks."

Mr. Rose may come close to doing that. His next project is a build-your-own book on the Eiffel Tower — to be followed by eight more efforts, including renderings of the Capitol Building and Chicago's Sears Tower, the tallest building in the world.

Does Mr. Rose believe that any particular satisfaction will be engendered by his labors? "I think you feel a tremendous sense of intimacy with a building if you actually construct it, instead of just looking at it," he said. "And when you're done, the great thing is that you have something really *large*."



The New York Times / Edward Hausner

Alan Rose with his paper models of three famous New York landmarks

The New York Times
Published: October 30, 1980
Copyright © The New York Times

King Kong's final retreat turns 50

The Globe and Mail (Canada)

April 28, 1981 Tuesday

Copyright 1981 The Globe and Mail, a division of CTVglobemedia Publishing Inc. All Rights Reserved

Length: 887 words

Byline: DEIRDRE CARMODY; NYT

Dateline: New York NY

Body

BY DEIRDRE CARMODY
New York Times Service
NEW YORK - It is still, after 50 years, one of the most dazzling views in the world.

To look down from the 86th-floor terrace of the ***Empire State Building*** is to see the mighty city as if in a dream - the streets shorn of all shabbiness, the noises muted, the rivers glistening and the beginnings of an ocean far off in the distance. Never mind that the World Trade Centre is taller. It just enhances the view.
'You mean I'm on top of the world?' a small person, gripping the fence tightly, asked recently.
'That's what they say,' his father replied.

This proud and lovely building, with its famous silver spire silhouetted against the sky, will begin the celebration of its 50th anniversary at the end of the week.

At dusk on Thursday, red and turquoise laser lights, which under optimum conditions should be visible for 10 miles, will be beamed from the building. The lights will also be projected onto the building, creating the effect of sparkling points of light dancing across the top like so many birthday candles.

New light displays will go on every hour until after midnight Friday, May 1, the anniversary of the building's opening. If visibility does not permit the lights to be seen for at least two miles, the production will take place Friday or Saturday evening. Unlike ordinary lights, laser beams can best be seen on murky nights when there is a concentration of airborne dust, water droplets and particulate pollution.

On Friday morning, Mayor Edward I. Koch will open a time capsule that was placed in the building's cornerstone by former Gov. Alfred E. Smith on Sept. 9, 1930, who was to manage the building.

When the building opened, it was only 25 per cent rented, earning it the sobriquet of the Emty State Building. It did not really begin to fill up until after the Depression. By 1961, when it was purchased for $65-million by its current owners, a group of investors headed by Lawrence A. Wien, the occupancy rate was 97 per cent.

Today it is more than 99 per cent occupied, according to Robert L.

Tinker and Donald Kaplan, vice presidents for Helmsley-Spear, which manages the bulding, with only six leases outstanding, four of which are expected to be renewed right away.

Space now rents for up to $35 a square foot, somewhat less than in the newer buildings uptown, where rates have reportedly reached a high of $75 a square foot, but generally hover around $50 a square foot.

Curiously, the building, at 34th Street and Fifth Avenue, has never been considered a prestige business address. This is mostly because the 34th Street area has not attracted major business as has the area in the 50s between Third Avenue and the Avenue of the Americas.

For tourists, however, it is still the biggest attraction in the city. More than 1.75 million a year flock to the 86th-floor observatory to buy souvenirs such as postcards, drinking glasses, key chains, pencils and miniature Empire State Buildings (nine different sizes).

They speak a babble of languages and they all say the same thing: 'Awwwww right,' says the man in the leather jacket, as he bounds out the door onto the terrace.
'My God,' says his friend in the light blue down jacket. 'My God.'
'Sabrina, hold on]' shrieks a woman to a little girl in pink who is delightedly poking her head through the fence.

Some take another elevator up to the 102nd floor, where the viewing at 1,250 feet is even more spectacular, although enclosed. The television antenna extends the height of the building 222 more feet, the equivalent of an additional 22 stories.

In the early 1970s, after the World Trade Centre had topped off at 1,350 feet andthe Sears Tower in Chicago was soaring to a height of 1,450 feet, Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, the original architects of the ***Empire State Building***, began developing designs to elevate the building to 113 stories and a height of 1,494 feet, to restore its position as the world's tallest building. The plans left unanswered a number of questions, including how to accommodate additional elevators. The proposal has since been quietly dropped.

The building has been in about 150 films. Cary Grant waited in vain at the top for Deborah Kerr as did Charles Boyer for Irene Dunne. Victor Mature got stuck in the elevator. William Holden and Maggie McNamara flirted. Tarzan flew by ('Stone jungle,' he grunted. 'My jungle darling,' said Jane).

And - is there anyone who doesn't know it? - King Kong, a 50-foot-tall ape whose heart was breaking with love, scaled the building and stood at the top, fending off for a while a squadron of Army fighter planes trying to shoot him down.

There have been many tragic times - 14 people lost their lives during the building's construction and there have been a number of suicide leaps, but perhaps the best known of thse times in the building's history

occurred on July 28, 1945, when a B-25 bomber, lost in the fog, crashed into the 79th floor, setting the building afire. Thirteen people died and 26 were seriously injured.

Among the injured were two women who survived a 75-story plunge in an elevator whose cables had snapped. Firemen had to cut a hole through a wall in the sub-basement to get into the car.

Despite $500,000 in damage from the crash, the building's structural soundness was not impaired.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ANNIVERSARIES (90%); RENTAL PROPERTY (85%); COMMERCIAL RENTAL PROPERTY (75%); AIR POLLUTION (64%); PARTICULATE MATTER (64%); empire state building

Geographic: NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); NEW YORK, USA (93%); UNITED STATES (93%)

Load-Date: January 12, 2007

IT TOOK A LITTLE WHILE, BUT KONG DID MAKE IT

The Miami Herald

April 15, 1983 Friday, FRST EDITION

Copyright 1983 The Miami Herald All Rights Reserved

The Miami Herald

Found on Miami.com

Section: FRONT; B; Pg. 4

Length: 379 words

Byline: UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Body

Proving that you can't keep a good ape down, King Kong was back on top of the ***Empire State Building*** Thursday.

The 10-story, 2,500-pound Kong balloon was inflated Wednesday night almost a quarter-mile high after more than a week of problems in getting the giant synthetic ape back on his perch.

The inflation of the balloon marked the 50th anniversary of the original movie, at the end of which Kong climbed the 102-story skyscraper, then the world's tallest, with Fay Wray in his hand.

In 1976, Kong, this time in a movie by Dino DeLaurentis, climbed to the top of the World Trade Center with Jessica Lange in his gigantic hand. That's before she won an Academy Award for Tootsie.

Robert Vicino, creator of the latest version of Kong, said that he and crews would put the "finishing touches" on the balloon beast -- "turn his arm around a little, things like that," he said. He said Kong would probably stay up about a week before coming down off the skyscraper.

Vicino said he may even inflate Kong right on the street after his weeklong reign atop the ***Empire State Building***.

"I feel relieved, overwhelmed, extremely excited, and mostly thankful that God was listening to me," Vicino said. "They say the third time's a charm."

Arthur Novell, a publicist for the project, said he had been getting calls from all over the city and New Jersey.

"He's 84 feet high. How can you miss him?" he said.

The effort, which began 10 days ago, touched off a champagne celebration on the "Kongcourse," the landmark building's concourse renamed by Kong spokesman Dan Wolfson.

Kong was just a silouette against the illuminated tower of the ***Empire State Building*** for most viewers Wednesday night.

After resisting efforts to be stuffed into an elevator for the ride to the 86th floor observation deck 10 days ago, Kong made two failed attempts to get a grip on the 102-story skyscraper he easily scampered up in 1933.

Kong was forced off his perch last week by slivers of glass that slit his shoulder and chest -- something it took a squadron of biplanes to do 50 years ago.

On Saturday, Kong almost made it, but his skin was broken when too much air was pumped into his chest. That 7-foot-long wound took two days of surgery to repair.

"You've just got to see this thing close up," he said. "It's incredible."

Ignacio Duran

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: CELEBRITIES (71%); ANNIVERSARIES (71%); THIS DAY IN HISTORY (71%); ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS AWARDS (54%); SURGERY & TRANSPLANTATION (50%)

Company: NOVELL INC (54%)

Industry: NAICS541512 COMPUTER SYSTEMS DESIGN SERVICES (54%); NAICS511210 SOFTWARE PUBLISHERS (54%); SIC7379 COMPUTER RELATED SERVICES, NEC (54%); SIC7373 COMPUTER INTEGRATED SYSTEMS DESIGN (54%); SIC7372 PREPACKAGED SOFTWARE (54%)

Person: JESSICA LANGE (79%)

Geographic: NEW JERSEY, USA (53%); UNITED STATES (53%)

Load-Date: October 23, 2009

FOREST RANGER TAKES HONORS IN 86-STORY RACE AT SKYSCRAPER

The Miami Herald

February 18, 1983 Friday, FRST EDITION

Copyright 1983 The Miami Herald All Rights Reserved

The Miami Herald

Found on Miami.com

Section: FRONT; A; Pg. 1

Length: 673 words

Byline: SARA RIMER Herald Staff Writer

Body

Thirty-three runners dashed up 1,575 steps of the ***Empire State Building*** Thursday, most of them for more or less the same reason as the 27-year-old music teacher from Scotland who said before the start: "It seems like a nutty thing to do, but I fancy doing it."

The winner was a 31-year-old forest ranger from New Mexico named Al Waquie, who covered the distance in 11 minutes, 37 seconds. His fellow runners complained that breathing became more and more difficult the closer they got to the top. But Waquie, who bills himself as the fastest mountain runner in the world, declared: "I feel great. I love altitudes."

In last place but nevertheless pleased to have competed and finished was 62-year-old Don McNelly, a paper company executive from Rochester, N.Y., who claimed to have been in his former, non-running life an overweight golfer who always rode in a cart.

The fastest woman was the 27-year-old assistant manager of a Long Island running shoe store, Burke Koncelik, who admitted that she had at the last minute questioned the wisdom of running up 86 flights of s tairs. "I stood outside and looked up this morning and thought, 'Why I am doing this?' " But she did it and did it quickly in 13 minutes, 40 seconds.

The ***Empire State Building*** Run-Up, as it is known, is in its sixth year and is sponsored by the New York Road Runners Club, an organization best known for founding the New York Marathon. The club screened applicants for Thursday's event based on running ability and experience.

The contestants were a diverse group which included a disc jockey from Paris, a fireman from Long Island, a former U.S. Olympic cyclist from California, an ironworker from Brentwood, N.J., and a 35-year-old insurance examiner who stays in shape by running up the steps of the World Trade Center -- where he has his office -- three or four times a week.

The insurance examiner, Steve Maluk, said he had been unable to convince his 76-year-old colleague, who accompanies him up to the top of the World Trade Center twice yearly, to join him in the ***Empire State Building*** Run-Up. "He's shy," Maluk said.

It was not a good day to go to the top of the ***Empire State Building***. The weather was overcast and damp, and visibility was zero. About all you could see from the observation deck on the 86th floor were the big Macy's sign and the bright yellow taxicabs crawling along Fifth Avenue below. (The building has a total of 102 floors, but the finish line was placed at the 86th because that's where the observation deck is.)

A couple from England, who had taken the elevator up to admire what turned out to be a non-existent view, seemed startled when they noticed the skinny men and women wearing shorts and T-shirts in the middle of winter and the pack of television cameramen and reporters jockeying for position. The woman, Marion Ray, asked a sensible question: "What are they doing?"

After the race, the runners replenished themselves with cookies, grapefruit and orange juice and coffee and received their awards -- silver plates engraved with an outline of the ***Empire State Building*** and, for the first place man and woman, gold-plated replicas of the Manhattan landmark that was built in 1931.