

AIA Montana

First Quarter, 2004



American
Institute of
Architects

Newsletter of the Montana Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture

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AIA Montana — A Chapter
of The American Institute of
Architects — Founded on
June 4, 1921.

President's Message

Don Olsen, AIA, President

It's here

This is my first newsletter as Chapter President of AIA Montana. I have anticipated this for some time but can not help being amazed at how quickly the years have passed. It seems like just months ago that Ron Anderson approached me about serving on the board. Actually it's been over 5 years! At any rate it is with genuine honor that I assume this role and I look forward to all the challenges that lie ahead.

Why would one do this?

Why would anyone, in a time consuming profession like architecture, dedicate over half a decade to perpetuating the AIA? For many, the American Institute of Architects is little more than an annual expense that allows access to construction-related contracts and forms. The reality is that it is AIA that allows architects to function as an organized profession. It gives us legitimacy, internal strength and a body politic. AIA allows virtual artists, renaissance thinkers, technicians and specification writers to gather under a unifying banner of professional respect.

I am a long way from being an AIA junky but I fear to think what the profession of architecture would be without it. This should be obvious to you just in the organization and relative ease that it affords the construction process but it becomes especially apparent when one travels to Washington DC. It is there that one becomes fully aware of the scope and depth of the resources AIA makes available to our profession if one just makes the effort to use them. Of equal importance is the fact that in the tangled hotbed of politics with a capital

'P', the AIA is a well respected entity supporting not just our profession but concepts like historic preservation, resource conservation, energy efficient design, professional tax equity, design excellence, quality based thinking, and on and on.

AIA has room for improvement and has made some mistakes. Thus, it has even more in common with most of us. Like our careers and our kids the AIA is only as good as what we are willing to put in. That is why I am doing this and I hope you will consider it at some point in your career as well.

**Washington DC —
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The coming year

Grassroots – Lee Peters and I recently returned from this annual AIA conference in our nation's capital. Intended to introduce component executives from AIA chapters all across America to the resources of AIA it is also an opportunity to meet with our elected officials in their Washington environs and discuss issues affecting our profession. Grassroots will be

the subject of other newsletter articles as we attempt to share the experience and knowledge with you.

Meeting in the Mountains – For over twenty years the Billings Architectural Association has been presenting an excellent design based conference in Red Lodge. This year, on April 2 and 3, the theme is "Humanity in Architecture" and BAA will bring 3 nationally recognized experts on the subject to the mountains of Montana. AIA Montana has for several years scheduled one of our meetings to coincide with this most enjoyable event so we will see you there and please feel free to join us.

Continuing Education Opportunities

Listed below in date order are seminars being offered where you as AIA members can earn LU's:

Meeting in the Mountains:

April 2-3, 2004
Rock Creek Resort
Red Lodge, MT
Cost: \$60 (For non-BAA)
\$40 (For BAA Members)
Contact: Suzanne Belser
406-655-0862
of LUs: UNK

Your On-Line Source of FREE Continuing Education:

www.ronblank.com
1-800-248-6364
All courses are HSW approved for AIA LU, CEU or PDH Credits.
Cost: None
of LUs: 1.0 per Course
Over 60 Courses Available

1st Annual Teton Green Building Conference:

June 2-4, 2004
Jackson Lake Lodge
Jackson, Wyoming
Sustainable Business Solutions
For more information or to register:
www.tetongreenbuilding.com
or call 1-970-328-6449
of LUs: TBA

Precast Concrete Institute:

PCI is a registered AIA/CES provider. Through box-lunch afternoon programs administered by PCI representatives, architects can learn about precast concrete hollowcore floors and walls, architectural precast concrete, precast parking structures, and glass fiber reinforced concrete. To earn learning units at your office, contact:
www.pci.org

AIA 2004 National Convention and Design Exposition:

June 10-12, 2004
McCormick Place in Chicago
Registration Deadline for Housing: May 14, 2004
Housing: 888-538-7794
Online Convention Reservation:
www.aia.org
of LUs: 150 programs to choose from.

President's Message — Continued from pg 1

AIA National Conference – In early June the national conference will be held in Chicago. I will be there representing our contingent. From an architectural standpoint I personally feel Chicago is among our nations most relevant and contributory cities. Expect a report in the newsletter to share my observations and experiences.

AIA Northwest and Pacific Region Conference – From August 18 through August 21. The Big Sky Resort will be the site of this gathering of architects from Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Hong Kong and of course Montana. This year AIA Montana has the sizable responsibility of organizing and hosting this conference which we have been discussing and planning for almost two years. Please note that our annual AIA Montana fall conference will be included as a portion of this Regional conference so we hope you will plan to spend at least a few days in Big Sky in mid August. We are very proud of the program we have planned. You will be hearing much more about the conference in the near future but please visit the website at aia2004nwpregconf.org for a preview.

AIA Montana Fall Conference – See item above.

Design Awards – This year, as usual, the design awards will be held in conjunction with the fall conference. Not so usual is the fact that this year this will all be in conjunction with the Regional Conference. Long story short if you have ever even remotely considered submitting an entry for consideration this would be a good

or even a great year to do so. The eyes of the Northwest and Pacific will be upon us. Let's show them we are proud of what we do.

Miscellaneous – This year we will also be taking on two other important issues.

First we want to strengthen our communication and relation with the State Board of Architects. Historically we have little or no ongoing dialogue with them and feel it is time for that to change. More to follow.

Secondly we are concerned with developments in the State Building Department in Helena. Over the last several years the requirement for an architect's seal on architectural projects has become less predictably enforced. In some areas of the state large architectural projects are being allowed with no licensed professional involved. We feel it is time to clarify the legal definition of our profession and ultimately improve the logic and consistency for when a license is required.

Conclusion

We have an exciting and particularly challenging year ahead of us. The Regional Conference is a daunting undertaking but at this point we can promise you an event equal to or exceeding anything AIA Montana has done before. The venue is beautiful, our schedule of speakers and events is quite impressive and we have a few surprises you will not want to miss. Please make every effort to join us in August. You will not be disappointed. See you in Big Sky!!!

Visit www.aia-mt.org TODAY!

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AIA MONTANA

For Your Order:
Phone: 406-259-7300
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Serving Montana's Design & Building Industry Since 1904

Sitting at the Screen

Bill Grant, AIA, President Elect

It is quite embarrassing for me to report to you that I have not become proficient in pitching a Tipi. I have lived on a reservation for 25 years, I have admired the many pow-wow grounds with painted lodges, large and small and I have been instructed so that I understand the cultural aspects of Tipi Ownership. The Blackfeet locals are excellent in their sharing of the knowledge, through oral history, of the Tipi. Stories of songs associated with each tipi pole, the orientation of the entrance, the method of cutting and preparing the poles and stakes, and the reasons why the respect for a Tipi needs to adhere to a sensitive cultural understanding of Native Americans is crucial.

For the AIA Northwest Regional conference, I have brought together some Blackfeet families to come and instruct the Architects in the ways of Tipi. Darrel Norman will lead this group. His background as an artist and cultural leader will assist in our collective understanding and will enhance our experience. We will have one lodge pitched for our general discussion, and in turn, will have two additional lodges for architects to set up – hands on, working to pitch a Tipi as an essential Architectural Education. By the way, do we all understand why the Tipi rings found on the prairie seem to belie the actual diameter of the Tipi?

This past week, with Building Officials and Architects and Contractors, I attended courses in instruction for the new International Building Codes. Although it is a very dry topic, it is necessary for all of us to grasp and embrace as we head into the future. I was very interested in who was attending these courses. The first day, an *Overview of the IBC*, seemed to be attended mostly by building officials and architects. This overview attracted those that consider the IBC to be an essential part of their business knowledge. I noted that Contractors did not attend in overwhelming numbers. The second day, a *Review of the Conventional Wood Framing Provisions of the IRC* seemed to attract quite a few contractors and Engineers. This all seems to make sense except that contractors are increasingly executing public building projects without the assistance of a licensed architect. So why weren't these design builders in attendance to learn the complexities of occupancy and exiting?

I am listening to architects from across Montana as they discuss their concerns to me. The primary concern is a turf battle. This battle does not extend so much to licensed engineers that involve themselves in architecture, but with Contractors that ignore architecture and the value that can be attained by an Architect's involvement in building and planning projects. We need to get a grip.

The area that requires our attention is a new definition in the Montana Codes Annotated for the term "Public Building". With a new Building code, and a strong desire to protect the right to work, architects need to use collective wisdom and political clout to achieve

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our root goals that are: design, protection of the public with regard to building detail, advise in Contracting issues, and above else, Architectural licensing of all public buildings. Clark Llewellyn has expressed his commitment to this battle, as do I.

What are your thoughts in the definition of a public building? The MCA Definition is without a sharp and clear focus that all can understand, and it does not go far enough. E-mail, or fax, or in some form of conveyance, get your thoughts to the AIA Board. We will use your thoughts in our efforts.

Did you ever ponder why the Building Codes Department in the State of Montana enforces the requirement for Electrical and Mechanical permits? There is a law requirement for the Building Codes Bureau to effect this enforcement. The Building Codes Bureau is required, by 50-60-510 MCA, and 50-60-604 MCA, to check for proof of licensure for plumbing and electrical contractors. Is there a reason why a similar requirement cannot be written in the MCA for the Building Codes Bureau to check for proof of Architectural licensure?

If the law defines a public building and if the law requires a proof of architect or engineer license to obtain a permit for a public building, then our profession will begin to distinguish itself and add value to the business of Architects and Engineers. But, perhaps first, we need to have a greater understanding of the primordial American building type – the Tipi. See you in Big Sky!

Continuing Education Opportunities—Continued

Pacific NW & Pacific AIA Regional Conference:

"Architects as Explorers"
August 18-21, 2004
Hosted by AIA Montana
Big Sky, MT
www.aia2004nwpregconf.org
Cost: \$350.00 (AIA Early Bird)
of LUs: TBA
Wanted: AIA Montana Member Volunteers!

2004 AIA Montana Fall Conference:

August 20-21, 2004
All Day Friday—1/2 of Saturday
Big Sky, MT
Cost: \$150.00 (AIA Early Bird)
of LUs: 6

On-the-Job Self-Study Courses:

Offered by AEUniversity
San Francisco Institute of Architects
www.AEUNIVERSITY.net
LU's: 3, 8, 12, or 18
All HSW.

Historic Landscapes: Planning, Management, and Cultural Landscape Reports:

September 27-28, 2004
National Preservation Institute
Louisville, KY
Cost: \$375.00
of LUs: 12
www.npi.org

AIA National Convention ~ Las Vegas: The Power of Architecture

May 19-21, 2005
Mandalay Bay Convention Ctr
Las Vegas, NV
Presentation in Chicago with
More Information to Come!
www.aialasvegas.org

eClassroom@aia.org:

When: Anytime!
Where: From your computer.
Cost: \$49.95 per LUs
Units posted automatically to your transcript in OK.
From AIA National

AIA Montana keeps track of new courses as it becomes available. If you would like to help finding courses, please contact Connie at the AIA Montana Office.

From the AIA Montana

On February 26, 2004, the AIA Montana Office received a copy of letter sent to Jim Brown, Administrator of the Business Standards Division by Anthony Perpignano, acting President of the Architectural Society of Helena (ASH), requesting an opportunity for some input into the qualifications and requirements of the now open position of Bureau Chief for the Building Standards Bureau *before* the position is advertised.

Mr. Brown invited ASH to meet with him on March 4 at his office to discuss any concerns. Jay Whitney, Sue Bjerke, AIA and E. Rick Schlenker, AIA attended the meeting. Rick reported the following:

Mr. Brown is understanding of our concerns that this position is very important to the proper management of building codes for the State of Montana and our desire that the applicant be certified as a building official with the minimum specified by the code. This is a position that Mr. Brown would like to see a registered architect or engineer in, but the pay and the position probably will not attract that type of candidate. This candidate must conduct business as prescribed by the State and Legislature first and not just by that found in the Building Codes. This candidate will oversee about 1,200 building permits and over 12,000 electrical and plumbing permits. Mr. Brown would like a professional to fill position that would be able to accomplish all that the position will need to oversee. Rick felt Mr. Brown was very cordial.

This is an issue that AIA Montana will continue to monitor.

Connie

It's Two, Two, Two Conferences in One

AIA Northwest & Pacific Regional Conference and AIA Montana Fall Conference to be held jointly at Big Sky Resort in mid August. Theme is "Architects as Explorers".

If you don't know it yet you soon will. This year AIA Montana is once again hosting the AIA Northwest and Pacific Regional Conference. The conference moves to a different host site within the region each year and it is again our turn. The last time it was in Montana was in the early 1990's. You will be hearing a great deal about this conference in the near future and can go to the website at aia2004nwpregconf.org for more info.

The purpose of this particular article is not to provide information on the specifics of the conference but rather to make you fully aware that **the annual AIA Montana Fall Conference will be included as a portion of the regional conference.** We have set it up so you can attend 1-½ days, 2 days or the whole 4 days. **Please keep in mind that you will be able to attend the entire regional conference but we did not want you to feel like you had to pay for the whole 4 days or nothing.**

- Wednesday ~ August 18 NWP Regional Conference begins with golf tournament, fly fishing classes, rafting classes, pub crawl and more.
- Thursday ~ August 19 NWP Regional Conference continues. This day will be highlighted with a bus trip to Virginia City. Numerous learning units will be available with speakers on historic preservation, town planning, timber resources, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, geology and others. The day will end back at Big Sky with a presentation by Montana American Indians giving their perspective on the settlement of the west, native music, tepee raising and a buffalo barbeque.

- Friday ~ August 20 NWP Regional Conference continues and **AIA Montana Fall Conference begins.** This will be a full day of speakers, learning unit seminars and vendor displays. The evening will see the AIA Montana Design Awards and presentation by AIA National President Eugene Hopkins followed by a performance of the Vigilante's Clark and Lewis Players.

- Saturday ~ August 21 NWP Regional Conference and AIA Montana Fall Conference continue. Several more nationally recognized speakers are on tap as are membership meetings, etc. **At noon on Saturday the base AIA Montana Fall Conference ends. You will (for an additional fee) be allowed to continue through Saturday afternoon and evening GALA.** Larry Scarpa of Pugh + Scarpa and Robert Ivy will be the afternoon speakers. The evening will see the Northwest and Pacific Regional Design Awards as part of an arts gala including dance, music, electronic image projection and more. We are pleased to announce that Montana based, Grammy nominated pianist Phillip Aaberg will be the focal point of this evening of Montana based artistic expression.

- Sunday ~ August 22 NWP Regional Conference closes with a non denominational breakfast service.

As you can see it should be a great 4 days in the mountains of Montana. **We once again emphasize that you are very much welcome to sign up for the entire 4 days.** However if that does not fit into your plans please join us at least all day Friday and Saturday morning. I would personally encourage you to also join us Saturday afternoon and evening as it will be a series of events well worth your time.

The eyes of the region are upon us. We look forward to seeing you in August in Big Sky.

— Don Olsen, AIA, President & Co-Chair of the 2004 Northwest & Pacific Regional Conference



Visit: www.aia2004nwpregconf.org

**AIA Montana is Proud to Announce that the
Following Vendors will be at
2004 NW & P AIA Regional Conference**

Listed below are the Vendors that will be exhibiting on Friday ~ August 20 at this year's Northwest and Pacific AIA Regional Conference. While many of these vendors reside here in Montana, you will also have an opportunity to meet regional and national companies. Very few vendor/exhibitor spots remain—if you work with a company that would add to the value of this show, please have them contact the AIA Montana office soon! For more information and links to many of these companies websites, visit: www.aia2004nwpregconf.org

Thistlewood Timberframe Homes Clancy, Montana	Lighting Design Lab Seattle, Washington	Crazy Mountain Cabinetry, LLC Livingston, Montana
Intermountain Wood Products Salt Lake City, Utah	Northwest Cement Products Gig Harbor, Washington	Vemco, Inc. Missoula, Montana
Pine Door Company, Inc. Darby, Montana	Burnish Frames & Moulding Missoula, Montana	Pella Windows & Doors Billings, Montana
Big Sky Insulations Belgrade, Montana	Sherman-Williams Company Mead, Washington	McDowell Agency, Inc. Billings, Montana
Minot Builders Supply Billings, Montana	Hilti, Inc. Bozeman, Montana	JCCS Missoula, Montana
The Lanquist Company Pray, Montana	Montana Rockworks Kalispell, Montana	Chicago Faucet/Geberit Missoula, Montana
Pierce Flooring & Design Billings, Montana	Montana Custom Furniture Co. Bozeman, Montana	Robinson Brick Company Denver, Colorado
Lumber Yard Supply Great Falls, Montana	Mountain CAD Missoula, Montana	Montana Sash & Door Bozeman, Montana
Certainteed Corporation Great Falls, Montana	British Columbia Timberframe Heron, Montana	Big Timberworks, Inc. Gallatin Gateway, MT
Anderson Windows Corp. Great Falls, Montana	Boise Cascade Billings, Montana	Lake Glass/Pozzi Windows of MT Bozeman, Montana
Trus Joist, Inc. (TJI) Bozeman, Montana	Bridger Forest Products, Inc. Belgrade, Montana	Weather-Tite Log Home Products Mead, Washington
Dundas Office Interiors, Inc. Helena, Montana	Innovative Products Belgrade, Montana	NCARB Washington, D.C.
Total Energy Systems Bozeman, Montana	Invisible Structure Golden, Colorado	Maax Bathroom Products Missoula, Montana
Johnson Brothers Idaho Falls, Idaho	DP Coatings, Inc. Bozeman, Montana	Natural Cork Augusta, Georgia
Henderson Corporation Boise, Idaho	Tri Jack, Inc. Billings, Montana	NW Concrete Masonry Assoc. Lynnwood, Washington
Mountain Tile and Stone Missoula, Montana	Essex Industries, Inc. Great Falls, Montana	Visual Motion Twin Falls, Idaho
Eleek, Inc. Portland, Oregon	Industrial Coatings Great Falls, Montana	Ingersoll—Rand Company Salt Lake City, Utah
Bear Creek Timberswrights Victor, Montana	TMI Storage Systems Dickenson, North Dakota	Revere Copper Products, Inc. Rome, New York
Trestlewood Prove, Utah	MacAuthur Company Billings, Montana	BPS Supply/Diamond W Tops Frenchtown, Montana
Decunso Design Associates Missoula, Montana	Firestone Building Products Salt Lake City, Utah	Compass Concepts, Inc. South San Francisco, California
Big Sky Acoustics Helena, Montana	Malisani, Inc. Great Falls, Montana	Eagle Bilt Systems Eagle, Idaho
DeSCo Architectural, Inc. DeSmet, South Dakota	Northwest Energy Butte, Montana	
Thermal Supply/Water Furnace Sand Point, Idaho	Cornerstone Masonry Distributing Pray, Montana	Vendor's as of this publication's printing.

Vernon Leslie Drake, AIA

Vernon Leslie Drake, 81, passed from this life at his home Friday, Jan. 16, 2004.

A native son of Billings, he was born May 13, 1922, to George W. and Verna (Williams) Drake, the middle of the five boys who survived out of the six sons and two daughters born during the Great Depression. He graduated from Billings Senior High in 1940. He attended Northwestern Nazarene College in Nampa, Idaho until he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in March of 1942. He married Bettie Ross on December 24, 1942.

Vernon received his wings and commission in June of 1944 and was assigned as a pilot instructor at Frederick, Oklahoma before active combat duty as a B-24 Liberator pilot in India and China. His missions included Azon Bombing and flying fuel over the famous "Hump" between Burma, India and China.

After WWII, Vernon was hired as a draftsman in the office of Chandler C. Cohagen, FAIA who encouraged him to enroll in the School of Architecture at Montana State College (now Montana State University). Vernon graduated at the top of his class in 1948.

Vernon set up the office of Vernon L. Drake, Architect after previously working with Fred Ripley Associates. In 1956, Vernon and his college friend, F. Wayne Gustafson, formed the architectural partnership of Drake and Gustafson. The Drake, Gustafson & Associates Architects firm went on to become one of the leading firms in the Montana and Wyoming area with many schools, churches, banks and commercial buildings to their credit. Their efforts left a significant mark on the look and feel of Billings and other communities across Montana and the adjoining states. The Drake Gustafson partnership came to an end in 1988 after 32 years when Vernon was forced to retire due to health problems.

Continued to inset on pg 7 —

ARCHITECTS AND AMERICA

It is no longer acceptable to continue to build ever outwards into the suburbs.

It is no longer acceptable to abandon both the rich cultural history and the future viability of our nation's urban areas.

It is unacceptable as a community to forsake the environmental, social, and economic health of downtown and historic areas.

Making all of our communities sustainable *must* be the new standard of the century. At the American Institute of Architects, we understand that the American people want us to help build healthier communities for generations to come. That is what sustainability means to residents, and so that is our call to arms to make sustainability a reality. The American Institute of Architects is uniquely positioned to help lead the way. We've listened to what is on the hearts and minds of Americans. We have talked with them about what direction *they* want to see *their* communities take, and what kind of a role they would like to see us as architects play. We are speaking the language of the American people and they are looking to us to find solutions:

- ⇒ **A local architect can and should be a trusted team member within the community at large.** We work with local residents to design buildings, public spaces, and transportation alternatives to make our urban areas more sustainable. Urban areas are complex, with long and storied histories. We don't pretend to have all the answers, and we don't assume we can do all the work on our own. But we do offer a long history of experience and expertise which, combined with local knowledge and heartfelt needs of residents, can offer solutions to our cities' most pressing sustainability problems.
- ⇒ **Architects design communities on a human scale.** Americans like to walk. Americans like to bike. More emphatically than anything else, Americans are fed up with traffic. But the way communities are designed, they are left with no acceptable alternative. The communities of the 21st century can and should have alternatives to driving—if they are designed by architects.
- ⇒ **Preserving open space within every neighborhood makes for healthier communities.** Revitalizing brownfields or encouraging the protection of open space is something local residents trust local architects to handle with care. This is an issue of *quality of life*, and architects are best able to see the big picture. We know how to build more pleasant surroundings and incorporate more public places that will encourage residents to interact. That leads to healthy communities, healthier residents, and a better quality of life for everyone.
- ⇒ **Architects are conservationists and preservationists by our very nature.** We want to keep things as much the way they are—including historic buildings and environmental landscapes—while still planning for the future. By revitalizing our urban areas, we will give residents less reason to move out to the suburbs, which will ease the traffic congestion and air pollution. Architects can help address the root problem of poor air quality by encouraging alternative forms of transportation.
- ⇒ **Architects are connected and accountable to our communities.** Architecture is a client-driven and community-drive industry. But what makes us different and better suited to address the long-term needs of sustainability is that our most important client IS the *community*. We not only welcome Community input—we need it. And our success is dependent on the satisfaction of the people we serve.

This information was received at 2004 Grassroots as part of advocacy day—the day that AIA members go to Capitol Hill to meet with their Congressional Representatives.

Montana Chapter 2004 AIA Design Awards

Terral Sukut, AIA, Senior Director of AIA MT, Chairman of the 2004 Design Awards Program, and Chairman of the 2004 Northwest and Pacific Region AIA Design Awards Program

As another Montana Winter slowly edges away, we find ourselves in the beginning stages of planning for the Montana Chapter AIA Design Awards Program. The official call for entries and form will be ready for distribution, and out to our members, via mail, shortly after the first of May.

The 2004 MCAIA Awards Program offers the Practitioners of Montana an opportunity to showcase their design submittals. All Montana Chapter design submittals will be showcased at the 2004 Northwest & Pacific Region

Conference in Big Sky, Montana, and the award winning designs will then be eligible to compete in the 2005 Regional Awards Program. We are very pleased that the Montana Chapter is the host for this year's Regional Conference, and would encourage each of you to submit a project. The entry form will also be available on the AIA Montana website: www.aia-mt.org.

The format will again be digital and the particulars will be outlined in the "Call for Entries." During the 2003 judging and presentation, we recognized the ability of the digital format to be utilized for both the jury portion of the competition and the presentation at the Awards Banquet.

Washington D.C. & "Grassroots"

Leland B. Peters AIA, Secretary/Treasurer

Hey Montana A.I.A.'ers:

I just want you to know that I had an awesome trip to 'Grassroots'. Not only did I appreciate so much Washington D.C.; being able to see the monuments and museums that I've known about and appreciated in books and magazines, but also I enjoyed the people and the hustle and bustle. It was truly a beautiful city and a beautiful urban experience. Also, 'Grassroots' was a truly wonderful opportunity to meet others, share ideas and learn about the awesome resource the A.I.A. national membership can be to all of us.

First of all, I arrived one day early so that I could do some site seeing before the 'Grassroots' meetings began. I arrived Monday night just before sundown. I was awestruck that out the door of the hotel stood the Washington Monument and just to the right was an awesome view of the White House. I walked a couple of blocks and looked left and there was Capitol Hill and our magnificent Capitol building. To the right of that stood Douglas Cardinal's American Indian Museum that we had studied at the Fall Conference in Whitefish last year. Yes, there was the Air and Space Museum and of course, the Smithsonian complex. I turned around and there was the Lincoln Memorial at the other end of the mall. For me it was all overload! I hardly slept that night in anticipation of my 'site seeing' day on Tuesday.

Tuesday morning found me on the mall again at sunrise. This, of course, was a full three hours before anything was open or cabs and buses started running. It was a shock to this Montana 'early riser' that nothing gets going until 10:00 a.m. and sometimes after. I didn't care though, so I pressed on at the expense of my already aching feet. I had an incredible day of touring my favorite structures. My

favorites were (in order of importance to me) was the new Holocaust Museum, the Vietnam Memorial, and I.M. Pai's east addition to the National Art Museum. This museum is a wonderful statement and there I drooled over my favorite modern artists works here -to-fore only seen in books.

Secondly, the meetings at 'Grassroots' were great. I was amazed at the keynote speakers. One was the director of the Environmental Protection Agency and two were doctors. I was amazed that their speeches had more to do with an evangelical preaching of old fashioned values of right and wrong and had a lot to do with returning to the old biblical principles on which this country was founded. Amazing!!

The best part, for me, was learning about the vastness of the wealth of knowledge, which was represented by the thousands of attendees. Most every project that we launch at our own component level has been done somewhere before and, somewhere in the vastness of our A.I.A. membership is someone who is an expert on the very subject we feel we are 'inventing the wheel'.

I have learned by attending the reception at National AIA Headquarters that there is an amazing resource center in those people. Next time I am stumped by the enormity of a task, I'm simply going to call National and fish around until I find someone who can point me to an A.I.A. member somewhere in this great country who can help me. I would encourage you also to do the same.

Many thanks to all of you who made my trip possible.

P.S.: Just wanted to pass it on that our President, Don Olsen did a fantastic job presenting our Regional Conference at Big Sky, to the Regional representatives at Grassroots.

Montana Chapter 2004 AIA Design Awards —Continued from pg 6

The winning submittal will be presented at a special, Friday night awards ceremony during the 2004 Northwest & Pacific Region Conference.

As we will have many guests here from throughout the Region, we would like to have a good representation of the latest Architecture of Montana at the conference. We need all of you to consider which of your projects you will be submitting for this program. Take time to get your projects picked for submittal today!

Those of you who have won MCAIA Awards within the past five years are eligible to submit your projects to be juried for the Northwest & Pacific Region Design Awards Program which will also be presented at the Regional Conference in Big Sky. The Region has record of all who are eligible and will be issuing a separate call for these entries in May. Last year's jury reviewed and ranked over 60 projects, which included several from Montana. Please consider submitting your award winning projects for this program.

Look forward to seeing you at Big Sky.

Vernon Leslie Drake

— Continued from Inset pg 6

Highlights of Vernon's life were trips to the Holy Land and twice to the Philippines where his son Dennis founded schools for deaf children. Vernon made a return trip to China in 1983 with a group of consultants where he lectured on architecture in Beijing and Tanjin. His interests included assembling the family genealogy, airplane piloting, horses, western history, watercolor painting, International Christian Leadership and tutoring in the schools. He was associated with several community organizations and initiated the efforts that saved the Parnly Billings Library building and was very active in the preservation of the Moss Mansion and other historic structures. In 2003, he was responsible for saving and restoration of the "Twin Monuments" in the South Hills.

Being a committed Christian, he was very active in his church and to the collective spiritual community. He was a loving care giver to Bettie for over six years of her illness until her passing December 1, 2002.

Vernon was preceded in death by his wife Bettie, his parents, brothers Norman and Glen and daughter Dorothy Ann "Dottie." Surviving are his children, Lana (Gary) Rogers of Juliette, GA, Lawrence (Teresa) of Loveland, CO, Dennis (Marilou) of Tagbilaran, Bohol, Phillipines, Christine (Cary) Stice of Elkhart, IN, and foster daughter Jacqueline Doles of Las Vegas, NV, as well as grandchildren Alan Rogers and Lindsay Rogers Archer, Rachel (Marty) Bertolette, Elicia (Jacob) Fellure and Noelle Drake, Aaron and Andrew Drake, Tristan and Ariel Stice, Jacci's daughters Terra Koenig and Chellie Kunkle and great-grandchildren Braxton and Landyn Bertolette and Malachi Fellure as well as brothers Raymond (Harriet) and David (Joyce) Drake, sister-in-law Jo Mae (Glen) Drake and numerous nieces and nephews.

Vernon made application for membership in AIA on May 26, 1951. He remained an active member of AIA and advanced to Member Emeritus on June 1, 1988.

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This Issue Contains:

President's Message:

Don Olsen kicks off his term.

Continuing Education Unit Opportunities:

Many different sources are listed.

Sitting at the Screen:

Bill Grant shares a variety of thoughts.

From AIA Montana:

The position of Bureau Chief of the Building Standards Bureau is open.

It's Two, Two, Two Conferences in One:

The 2004 NW & P AIA Regional Conference will come in several sizes—find the one that fits you!

Meet the Vendors that will be coming to the 2004 Regional Conference:

Thinking of moving a project into a new area of products? The vendor you need may be listed.

Vernon Leslie Drake, AIA:

AIA Montana loses a long time member.

Architects and America:

See the message that AIA members carried to Capital Hill at Grassroots.

Montana Chapter 2004 AIA Design Awards:

MT Design Awards will be in August—call for entries will be made May 1, 2004.

Washington, D.C. & Grassroots:

Lee Peters shares 2004 Grassroots.

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AIA National 2004 Awards Program Call for Entries

"The American Architecture Awards" Deadline for submissions is April 16, 2004. For more information, telephone 815-777-4444 or fax 815-777-2471. AIA National Awards are open to all architects and architectural firms.

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Mark your Calendar for the 2004 NW & Pacific AIA Conference:

August 18-22, 2004 in Big Sky

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