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ACCETANCE UNDER SECTION 34.84
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ROLLAND P. CRAVENS RESIGNS AS CODE CONSULTANT AND DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

PLEADING the press of work in his city department, Rolland P. Cravens has resigned the position of director of research and code consultant for the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference, which he assumed in 1945. During the time that Mr. Cravens has been connected with this work, Research Committee and the Uniform Building Code have been revised and reorganized 275, of which 125 are currently in force, and under his advice and guidance the policies of the Research Committee have been brought to a new high level of efficiency.

Mr. Cravens will continue as Technical Editor of BUILDING STANDARDS MONTHLY and as coordinator for the University of Southern California course in Methods of Training Technical Personnel.

Mr. Cravens, chief of the Mechanical Bureau of the Department of Building and Safety of the City of Los Angeles, served as one of the technical editors of "Modern Building Inspection," and was author of the chapter on structural requirements of building codes. He has charge of the enforcement of plumbing, electrical, heating and refrigeration codes for the city.

During the four years following his graduation from the University of Kansas with a degree in civil engineering, he served an effective apprenticeship as civil engineer on a number of public works projects. In 1926, he became associated with the City of Los Angeles as a civil engineer in its Bureau of Engineering, where he served with distinction until 1933, when he was employed as a structural engineer with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

In 1937 he returned to the City of Los Angeles as a structural engineer in its Department of Building and Safety. In 1942 he became secretary to the Board of Commissioners of the Department, in which capacity he functioned until 1947 when he was assigned to his present position.

Mr. Cravens is a member of the Structural Engineer's Association of Southern California and the American Concrete Institute.

Mr. Wayne stated that there were three important steps in the operation of a good plan-checking department:
1. Uniformity in plan checking is a must.
2. Field trips are essential for the plan checker.
3. Specialization in plan checking must be developed if possible.

The third member of the panel was E. M. O'Connor, superintendent of building, Long Beach. Mr. O'Connor discussed the function of plan checking to actual construction practices in the field, especially with regard to earthquake provisions and the repair of damage after an earthquake. Long Beach uses a public nuisance clause of their ordinance—any building damaged by earthquake is a public nuisance until it is either repaired or demolished. Mr. O'Connor cited several unusual cases of damage to buildings because of insufficient engineering and plan checking in the early years of the city. Long Beach is at present enforcing a parapet rehabilitation ordinance. Subsidence is a particular problem; Terminal Island has settled 16 feet. However, differential settlement is an even bigger problem.

Moderator Cravens submitted a question to Mr. Spencer regarding the necessity of plans for small buildings. Mr. Spencer gives the applicant a check sheet list, and plans must be submitted that will cover the items in the list.

Managing-Secretary Colling questioned whether buildings must be constructed according to approved plans or may be changed to meet minimum requirements. This question inquired of number of comments. The consensus was to the effect that the building official must approve any change.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 after a few pertinent remarks by President Morris on the overall picture of plan checking.

As Building Standards Monthly goes to press, news is received that Elliott O. Stephenson, assistant superintendent of Building, has been appointed to succeed Walter Zuehl as Pasadena's superintendent of building.

YOSEMITE (?) chapter

A meeting organization held on March 24 at Modesto, California, the structure for a new P.C.I.O.C. chapter organization was set up and temporary officers elected. T. J. Hermerda, chief building inspector, City of Modesto, and Robert S. Martin, head of the building department of Stanislaus County, headquartered at Modesto, were named by the movement to organize the new chapter, and Mr. Hermerda was elected temporary chairman and Mr. Martin temporary secretary.

The name tentatively suggested is the Yosemite Chapter. This will be either confirmed or revised at the next meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Merced on April 28, with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and a meeting at 7:30.

President Gilbert E. Morris, of the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference, superintendent of building, City of Los Angeles, and Hal Colling, managing-secretary of the conference, attended and assisted in the organization plans. The meeting was attended by the following: Kermit Dirks, building inspector, Merced, California; Robert Ewing, building inspector, Modesto, California; Robert R. Bird, chief building inspector, Turlock, California; L. R. Zuck, building inspector, Porterville, California; Vaughn K. Taylor, building inspector, Selma, California; Harry B. Hines, building inspector, Oakdale, California; Harold Kamey, deputy building inspector, Stanislaus County, California; R. C. Rhein, plumbing inspector, Modesto, California; Elvin Rass, deputy building inspector, Stanislaus County; Al Chibane, deputy building inspector, Chowchilla, California; Robert S. Martin, building inspector, Stanislaus County; and T. J. Hermerda, chief building inspector, Modesto, California; D. A. Demanty, building inspector, Lindsay, California; Gilbert E. Morris, P.C.I.O.C. President, and Hal Colling, managing-secretary.

Mr. Hermerda opened the meeting, and requested Mr. Colling to outline the aims and objectives of the Chapter organization. President Morris explained the advantages of the Chapters—planned programs, handling matters of common interest, and with definite objectives. Mr. Martin, of Stanislaus County, expressed the opinion that the Chapter will be able to aid in the education of city councils regarding adoption of building codes and uniformity of the editions under which the cities are operating.

A further report of the Conference's newest chapter will be published as soon as available.

Ralph Spencer, chief building inspector of San Bernardino, the panel member, mentioned that check sheets for dwellings are a guide to the proper sequence of checking. He emphasized that the plan checker must have a good knowledge of the Code. On commercial buildings, a plan check list must be made for each individual building.

Hanley Wayne, secretary to the Board of Building and Safety Commissioners, City of Los Angeles, gave a brief review of plan checking procedure in Los Angeles. He mentioned that the design chapters of the Los Angeles City Code and the Uniform Building Code are practically identical. The building department has full control of hazardous material, and the building official is negligent if he does not move in any hazardous situation.
questions were presented about Code changes and the manner in which they are introduced and adopted. The procedure was explained by Mr. McCormick.

Problems concerning the control of the design of raised hearths and their inspection were discussed, and this was followed by a general discussion of inspections of dwellings. Suspended ceilings of new products, such as fiberglass and aluminum, were also discussed.

The meeting was then turned over to M. G. McLeod, building inspector of Bremerton, who conducted a review of Chapters II and III of the Uniform Building Code. These chapters are devoted to the enforcement of the Code and the permits and inspections required.

Chapter V, general building requirements based on occupancy, would be the subject of review and discussion at the next meeting. President Will designated B. B. Bombardier, building inspector of Stockton, to preside at this discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m. A special meeting will be held on July 28, 1954, at the Top of the Ocean Restaurant, in Tacoma, beginning at 7:00 p.m. with a Smorgasbord.

SACRAMENTO VALLEY CHAPTER

CHARLES W. GAGE, Secretary
Building Official, Chico, California

The regular meeting of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the Pacific Coast Building Officials Conference was held at 1:00 p.m., May 15, 1954, at the Lotus Inn, Marysville, California.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman William J. Hess, with 20 members and guests present, and in the absence of Secretary Charles Gage, Ralph Palm was appointed as acting secretary for the meeting.

The meeting was turned over to Mr. Palm, of Marysville, who was program chairman. Mr. Palm introduced Dan Alexander of the Pacific Gas & Electric office in Marysville, who presented a film on the Super Inch Gas Line.

Chapter President Hess then opened the meeting for discussion of code problems. Preston Kohler, building inspector of Grass Valley, asked the group for advice on inside bathrooms caused by an addition which would block off an existing bathroom window. Otto Steinbrenner, building inspector of Sacramento, stated he would approve the situation if the bathroom was equipped with an exhaust fan operated by light switch in said room.

Mr. Kohler then stated he noticed that the Uniform Building Code did not require yards for dwellings and asked if it would be permissible for buildings to be constructed on a lot without side yards. Mr. Palm stated that the State Housing Act required windows to be served by open courts or yards, and referred Mr. Kohler to the Uniform Building Code for fire-resistant requirements for walls within certain distances of the property line. Otto Steinbrenner and O. E. Buckius entered into the discussion to give Mr. Kohler their advice on this matter, since Grass Valley did not have a zoning ordinance which would establish definite side yards.

Bert Reynolds, manager of the Gas Appliance Society of California, spoke briefly on non-venting of gas ranges and stated that San Francisco and Oakland were now processing ordinances to allow non-venting of gas ranges. He said he hoped to call on the inspectors personally and discuss this matter with them.

O. E. Buckius, superintendent of inspectors in Stockton, asked the group if any of them had been confronted with a question about the Code's rule regarding fire-retardant or fire-resistant materials. In asking this question Mr. Buckius also gave his interpretation of the Code roof regulation and said that plastic domes should not be approved on a roof required to be of a certain fire-resistant rating. Otto Steinbrenner said he did not think plastic would support construction, and also did not think there was any "one-hour" plastic on the market.

The responsibility of an inspector in cases where work approved by him had been defective and resulted in damage to a building was discussed. Mr. Hess, of Sacramento County, stated that his ordinances were so written as to relieve the inspector of the responsibility of any defective work. Mr. Buckius stated he felt the inspector would be held liable in such cases. In fact, he had heard of inspectors being convicted and jailed where work passed by them had been defective and had caused damage or injury to persons.

Dick Rayberg, building inspector of Red Bluff, inquired about foundation and wall requirements for car-ports. It was pointed out that no car-port should be permitted closer than three feet from a property line if it did not have a one-hour fire wall, and if later it was converted as a dwell-

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