



Building and Improvement



BUILDING REPORT SHOWS DECLINE

Returns for First Half of the Year Indicate Less Construction in U. S.

Official reports of building permits issued in 481 cities for the first half of 1927 were \$2,034,969, 928 compared with \$2,245,930,974 in the same cities last year, a loss of \$210,960,946, or slightly more than nine per cent. The same cities in June issued \$351,719,639 of building permits compared with \$411,651,281 in June 1926, the loss being \$59,931,642, or nearly 15 per cent, according to the national monthly building survey of S. W. Straus & Co.

While it has been apparent that the official semi-annual reports would reflect a pronounced slowing down in building activities, the somewhat spectacular falling off in permits issued for June was a surprise even to those in close touch with the industry.

According to the figures submitted by the various municipal building departments of the United States to S. W. Straus & Co., there is less potential construction of various types of buildings in the country at present than there was in the mid-summer of 1924. At that time 50 less cities than making regular reports to S. W. Straus & Co., showed \$28,999,000 more of permits issued than was reported for the first six months of 1927.

Losses Prevail Only here and there do the official records show prospective construction of buildings on an equal basis with last year. Detroit issued almost everywhere. For the six months period compared with the first half of 1926, New York lost \$22,000,000; Detroit, \$17,500,000; Cleveland, \$15,000,000; Washington, \$13,500,000; St. Louis, \$9,000,000; Philadelphia, \$8,500,000; San Francisco, \$8,000,000; Los Angeles, \$7,000,000; and Baltimore, \$5,000,000. Chicago, notwithstanding a loss of more than \$3,000,000 in June, gained \$23,400,000 for the six months. The only other gains of importance were Milwaukee, \$5,000,000; Indianapolis, \$3,500,000; Portland, Ore., \$2,000,000; Louisville, \$1,700,000 and Columbus, \$1,500,000.

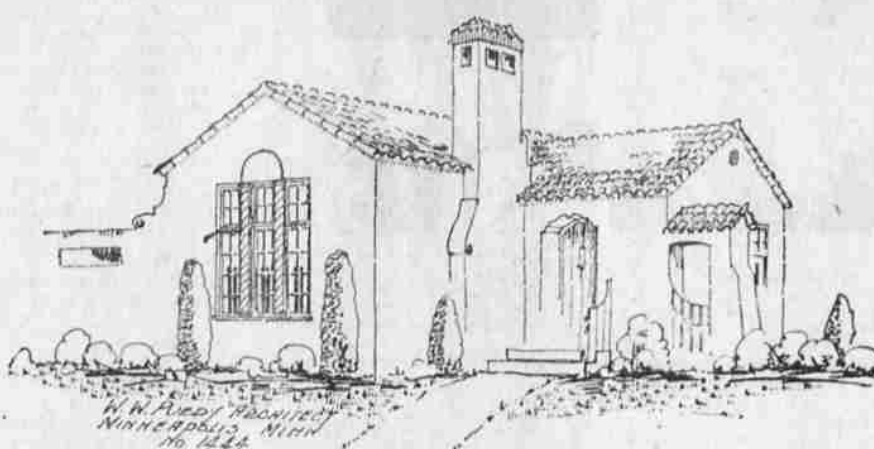
The persistent falling off in the issue of new building projects is to be accepted as a definite indication of the general downward tendency in the building industry, according to the Straus Survey, although the figures are not to be confused with those relating to the completion of work officially permitted in months gone by or for record building, public utility plants, outside of incorporated cities, or public buildings for which permits are not issued. The significance of building permit records in the leading cities of the country will be accepted for their barometric value to the conservative element in the industry with the hope of prolonging the present period of soundness and stability. Only harmful results can come from unfounded reports of inflation and boom-like conditions. It is not necessary, the Straus report concludes, for the industry to be in the midst of a constant "boom" in order to be sound and prosperous.

LAY CORNERSTONE

MOUNT ANGEL, Ore., July 15 (AP)—Catholics from all parts of the state participated yesterday in the laying of the cornerstone of the monastery for the new Mount Angel college, to cost \$250,000. This will be the first unit in the complete restoration of the school, which was destroyed by fire last September.

A woman asking for a divorce, charges her husband threw the supper at her. What we are wondering is whether or not she caught the can.

A SPANISH BUNGALOW



By W. W. Purdy

There are so many different types of small houses being built today that the "so-called new house builder" hardly knows what way to turn in the selection of a plan best suited to his requirements. The bungalow is favored by many, still others prefer the cottage or full two-story house. Spanish, Colonial, English, What?

Today's illustration shows a small Spanish bungalow, not so small either, without basement, and with a low pitched roof, the appearance is low and squat. Entrance is on the side, through a small hall, through an arched opening into a good sized living room, with a fireplace to be sure. The opposite side French doors lead onto a terrace.

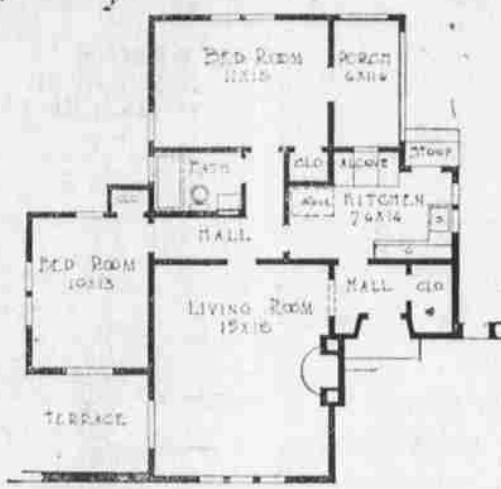
The entire floor plan is somewhat unusual. The kitchen in front, long and narrow, of the bath type. It is convenient to the breakfast alcove. It being intended to use the large living room as a dining room on state occasions.

The rear bedroom has a small sleeping porch adjoining. The bath is convenient to both bed rooms. The exterior is of brick construction, using a white cement plaster over metal lath, with bright red Spanish tile on the roof. The high living room, permits a group of three high windows in the front with venetian over, the ceiling is arched and the whole has a very pleasing effect.

Without basement, heating or plumbing it is estimated that the attractive design can be built for from \$7,000 to \$9,000. Specifications call for floors in the main rooms, cement, marked off as tile, on the porch and terrace, linoleum in the kitchen and tile in the bath. Woodwork of oak, stained, with ivory in the bed rooms. Rough original plaster with wrought iron lighting fixtures.

Now that Ambassador Herrick is home, he probably will have many inquiries about whether or not Lindbergh really did refuse champagne.

We are awaiting the new question that will undoubtedly be the next to see an insurance policy about the wife's temper.



Pendleton Girl Reported Missing

PORTLAND, Ore., July 15 (AP)—Charlotte Walker, 15-year-old Pendleton girl, who was to have come to Portland to visit her half sister, Mrs. R. Reynolds, 1742 Montana avenue, has been missing since July 13. Police have been notified. The girl, who was to have arrived in Portland that day by train, did not come and when that time all traces to locate her, either in Portland or Pendleton have proven futile.

RAIL HEADS ON TRIP PORTLAND, Ore., July 15 (AP)—W. P. Kenney, vice president of the Great Northern railway in charge of traffic left at 1 a. m. over the Southern Pacific for Klamath Falls. With L. C. Gilman, executive vice president of the Great Northern and T. R. Deegan, general superintendent, he planned to make the trip over the route of the proposed extension of the Oregon Trunk railroad between the Southern Pacific's Cascade line and Bend.

A husband kicked his wife 22 feet, or from the bedroom to the kitchen. They shouldn't have rented such a large apartment.

According to naturalists, many birds die each year of bacterial pneumonia because of too early migration.



I am completely smothered under this morning; just my eyeballs sticking out and my head is whirling. In the yard we have men and cars, hayracks and farmers, women and their little boys and babies and Greenbacks. We will continue the sale two more days. Pans, pitchforks, garden rakes, rubber hose, mowing machines, spreaders are all on sale. Bring your chicken feed and take the stuff out of my sight. Oh, yes, the Red Top Steel Fencing and poultry netting and barbed wire also goes at cost. And I tell the world it is going, too.

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Little Lester



The Pacific ocean was not wide enough to daunt Lieutenant Lester J. Matland, but when the man who flew to Honolulu was four years old, his own home from school like a scared rabbit. This picture, taken when the Matlands were living in Milwaukee, shows the young man in the Panlory period of his career. He leaped for school, but became frightened the first day.

Construction In La Grande Still In Summer Slump

Building activities in La Grande still continue at a low point, and contractors do not expect a recovery until after the month of August.

During the past week the following permits were issued at the city office:

July 12—Mrs. V. J. Synhorst, to build a garage on First between Jefferson and Adams, to cost \$100.

July 14—W. H. Conrad, to build a garage on Oak between Division and Benton, to cost \$20.

July 14—E. R. Palacio, to alter and repair a garage on Grand between First and Second, work to cost \$15.

July 16—R. C. Snider, to alter and repair a home on Lake street between First and Second, work to cost \$25.

Blueberry or huckleberry leaves are the source of the latest extract to be successfully used in the treatment of diabetes.

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REFUSES MEDAL

JERSEY CITY—The Rev. Michael A. Carr, Catholic chaplain of the 14th Division during the war, declines to accept a distinguished service medal from the state. His reasons: Hatred of war and belief that "we had no business in it anyway."

If the water is not cold an eye, or drinks about eighty quarts of water daily but if the water is below forty-five degrees he is believed to go on a thirst strike.

POOR HOUSEKEEPERS DEFENDED BY JUDGE

BALTIMORE, (AP)—Women who just can't master housework have a champion in Judge St. Armand Stump of the Maryland circuit court. Some of the most devoted wives are poor housekeepers, the judge said recently, when refusing to honor a husband's charge of neglect of house against his wife. The judge said that cases brought before him prove that many women "dear to their husbands" cannot manipulate a broom.

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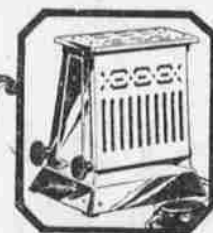
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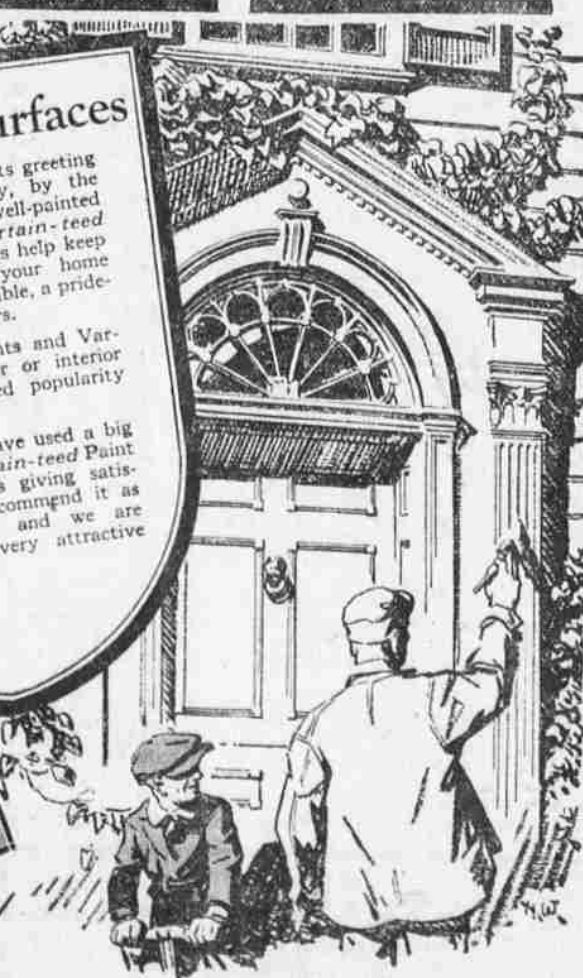
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