

### Suburban Building Mounts to New High for Month of April

Suburban building in April mounted to a new high figure of surprising proportions, the total volume of permits issued by fifty-eight communities amounting to \$4,424,193—the first four million dollar figure since 1929. It exceeds March, which had \$3,066,255, by 21 per cent and April of last year, with \$3,109,348, by 42 per cent. The improvement in suburban building which began in March of last year enabled 1936 to double the figures of 1935. Even this hardly warranted any expectation of months this spring averaging \$4,000,000 each.

The improvement in the building situation is well illustrated by the following comparison:

	1935	1936	1937
January	\$ 293,698	\$ 797,681	\$1,526,770
February	306,940	513,290	1,889,062
March	1,067,550	2,732,621	3,066,255
April	1,096,079	5,109,348	4,424,193
	\$2,764,267	\$7,152,940	\$11,506,280

The low year of the depression in the building industry, as in others was 1933, and the worst month of

survey recurred suburban building amounting to only \$198,324. Simple division shows that suburban building activities are now twenty-two times as great as they were then.

And, March 1933, bad as it was, was only a little worse than several other months of that year for the average of the year was only \$345,000 per month. The average thus far this year is \$2,867,000 per month or eight times as much. And this includes the seasonally poor months of January and February, while it seems evident that a number of months equally as good as or better than April are yet to come.

In both March and April new building in the Chicago suburban area exceeded that in the city itself, though this was not true of January and February. The figures for the year thus far may be compared as follows:

	City of Chicago	58 Suburban Communities
January	\$1,951,975	\$1,625,770
February	2,323,310	1,889,062
March	2,119,324	2,666,255
April	3,525,896	4,424,193
	\$9,920,504	\$11,506,280

The fine homes being constructed account for the larger volume of building outside the city limits and in tributary territory. For homes continued to be the most important building factor in the suburban region, making more than one-half of the total. The commissioners report 311 new homes with a value of \$9,415,708. This is by far the

greatest value in any month for more than a year. Last year the average per month was 116 and the value \$1,044,000. The fact should be noted however that the value per home has dropped greatly. It is now only \$7,767, while in January it was \$9,065, February \$12,564 and March \$8,988. Many more homes are being built but at a lower cost per unit.

Communities reporting large volumes of new construction are Highland Park, \$318,431; Wilmette \$228,300; Gary, \$212,904; Elgin, \$190,475; Berwyn, \$172,880; Oak Park, \$119,630; Winnetka, \$112,450; Hinsdale, \$112,005, and River Forest, \$100,575. It should be mentioned that the Berwyn figure is shown as \$310,130, while the total just noted is \$172,880. The difference represents March figures not available when that survey was issued.

### James Gathercoal Heads Architectural Division of Firm

As a result of the progress being made in its extensive construction program of custom-built homes, the R. B. Whitaker company, large and established North Shore real estate firm, yesterday announced both the enlargement of its architectural di-



JAMES J. GATHERCOAL

vision and the selection of James J. Gathercoal as its head.

In making this announcement, Ralph B. Kraetsch, vice president of the firm, stated that under Mr. Gathercoal's direction, ground has been broken for three new homes representing a total cost of \$97,400, and plans for additional houses are now nearing completion.

"These homes are all to be custom-built," said Mr. Kraetsch. "That is, each house is to be planned and erected to meet the individual requirements and wishes of each particular owner, and to conform with that particular site which he may either choose or already own."

"In selecting Mr. Gathercoal to direct our architectural work, we took into account his extensive early architectural training at both the University of Illinois and in Europe, and later under Chester Walcott."

"During recent years, he has designed and built many outstanding North Shore homes. When the lull came in residential building, Mr. Gathercoal turned to commercial architecture for Aldis and Company of Chicago. Lobbies in the Cable, Champlain, and 111 South Dearborn buildings, and modernization of offices in the Rookery and Monadnock buildings, are some of his better-known projects in this field."

Mr. Gathercoal will have his offices in the Whitaker building in Winnetka, which houses the Illinois division of the Whitaker firm, although he will also serve as consultant on architectural problems arising in the company's Wisconsin offices in Kenosha.

### Second Mid-West Institute of Human Relations June 20

With speakers representing numerous professions and businesses including lawyers, newspapermen, college professors, religious organizations, and men's and women's clubs, the second mid-west Institute of Human Relations will open Sunday, June 20, at Rockford, Illinois. Sponsored by the Chicago Round Table of the National Conference of Jews and Christians, the conference will begin with a mass meeting at 8 o'clock at which Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, director of the conference, and Dr. Ernest Fremont Tittle, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church, Evanston, are the speakers.

Other noted speakers who will participate in the four-day institute include: Mrs. Arthur Brin, president of the National Council of Jewish Women; Gordon Keith Chalmers, president of Rockford College; Dr. Carl Christenson, pastor of the Saron Lutheran church, Chicago; Ralph McCalister, director, Adult Education Council, and Mrs. S. T. Lawton, co-chairman of the

will discuss "Adult and Parent Education."

Speaking on "Youth Groups" will be Dr. Philip L. Seman, chairman of the Chicago Recreation Commission; and William J. Campbell, state director of the National Youth Administration; and the discussion of women's organizations will be carried on by Ida W. Sarvay, metropolitan secretary of the Y.W.C.A., Chicago; Mrs. Arthur R. Williams, president of the Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers; Mrs. Brin, and Mrs. Victor H. Munneke, of the Chicago Woman's club.

"Religion and Social Justice" will be the topic of the Right Reverend Msgr. John A. Ryan, director of the department of social action of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and Albert W. Palmer, president of the Chicago Theological seminary and of the Chicago Church Federation. Clifford P. Morehouse, editor of "The Living Church," Dean J. L. O'Sullivan, dean of the college of journalism of Marquette university; Dr. Harry A. Overstreet of the College of the City of New York; Clem Lane, Chicago newspaperman; Professor Harold A. Ehrensperger, director of the Department of Plays and Pageants of the Methodist Episcopal church; Professor Edward Berman of the University of Illinois; Professor Aloysius Hodap, of Loyola university; William Kix Miller, Chicago attorney; Dr. Pittman Potter, visiting professor at the University of Chicago; Richard E. Gutstadt, director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; and Dr. Albert Buckner Coe, pastor of the First Congregational church of Oak Park, all are included on the list of speakers.

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### TWENTY YEARS A VEGETARIAN, MAN SUDDENLY CRAVES MEAT



Man Who Hasn't Touched Meat in 20 Years Raves Over New Kind of Chopped Steak

Chicago, May 27.—John Aldinger, who wouldn't come within a mile of a plate of meat, has suddenly developed a passion for a new kind of chopped steak.

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fast, we hear, that the Birds Eye folks are going dizzy in keeping up with the orders.

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### Doctor Stricken While at Wheel

Dr. Harold F. DaCosta, 47, a Chicago physician, swerved his car to avoid a collision, Monday when stricken with a heart attack, and then expired. His wife Elizabeth, applied the brakes and stopped the car safely. A passing motorist drove Mrs. DaCosta to a nearby service station where an ambulance was summoned. The physician was taken to the Highland Park hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The DaCostas who reside at 666 Irving Park Blvd., were returning to their home from Kenosha. They were accompanied by their twin daughters Patricia and Geraldine, 11, the doctor's mother and his mother-in-law. He suffered the attack on Skokie road near Deerfield avenue.

### Close Skating at Great Lakes May 28

Skating in the Drill hall on the Naval Training station, Great Lakes, Illinois, will be discontinued for this season after the evening of Friday, May 28, 1937, and is expected to be resumed next Fall.

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