VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
Report for the Village
12/12/2017

SUBJECT:	SUBMITTED BY:
Historic Landmark - 1324 Maple Avenue	Stan Popovich, AICP Director of Community Development

SYNOPSIS

A Historic Landmark Designation Resolution has been prepared to designate the house at 1324 Maple Avenue a historic landmark.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The goals for 2017-2019 include *Steward of Financial and Environmental Sustainability*.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

UPDATE & RECOMMENDATION
This item was discussed at the December 5, 2017 Village Council meeting. Staff recommends approval on the December 12, 2017 active agenda.

BACKGROUND

The petitioners are seeking a Historic Landmark Designation for their property at 1324 Maple Avenue under criteria 12.302 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Based on the information submitted, the property qualifies to be landmarked as a) the property has significant value as part of the historic, heritage or cultural characteristics of the community, b) the property was owned and occupied by a person of historic significance to the community, and c) representation of a notable work of a master builder.

The two-story Georgian house with a basement was constructed in 1936 as part of a national architectural competition held by General Electric. The competition was in response to the 1933 Chicago World's Fair, in an effort to showcase new innovations in home construction. The house was built as part of the model home project with the ground breaking ceremony attended by the Mayor of Downers Grove and significantly contributing to the history of the community.

Dr. William P. Jesse (1881-1984) was an eminent scientist who lived in the house between 1950 to 1974. He was a research associate at the University of Chicago's Metallurgical Laboratory during the Manhattan Project. Dr. Jesse moved on to the Argonne National Laboratory where he began making accurate measurements of W, the energy required to produce an ion pair. A result of this research is known as the

"Jesse Effect and Related Phenomena". He was a pioneer in the field of physics with several major contributions in the area of research.

The house was constructed by J.T. Schless Construction Co., the same builder of the Tivoli Theatre. In addition to homes, the Schless Construction Company was responsible for building major commercial buildings and community service projects such as schools, churches and a shipyard in the Chicago area. The Company contributed buildings to "The Century of Progress Exposition" in Chicago in 1933 and again in 1939 for the New York World's Fair.

Analysis of Significance

The proposal complies with the following criteria for Landmark Designation: Section 12.302.A and 12.302.B.1; 12.302.B.2; and 12.302.B.4. The house was constructed in 1936 and is thus over 50 years of age as required by Section 12.302.A. The property also meets criteria 12.302.B.1; B.2 and B.4 as it is an excellent example of a house witness to a historic event, owned by a person of historic significance to the community and represents the notable work of a master builder.

Public Comment

Four members of the public spoke in support of the petition at the November 15, 2017 Architectural Design Review Board meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution
Aerial Map
Staff Report with attachments dated November 15, 2017
Minutes of the Architectural Design Review Board Hearing dated November 15, 2017
Additional documents on Dr. William Jesse

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE

COUNCIL ACTION SUMMARY

INITIATED: Petitioner (Name) **DATE:** December 12, 2017

RECOMMENDATION FROM: _____ **FILE REF:** _____
(Board or Department)

NATURE OF ACTION:

__ Ordinance

X Resolution

__ Motion

__ Other

STEPS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT ACTION:

Motion to Adopt "A RESOLUTION GRANTING HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION FOR 1324 MAPLE AVENUE", as presented.

G&B

SUMMARY OF ITEM:

Adoption of the attached resolution shall grant historic landmark designation for 1324 Maple Avenue.

RECORD OF ACTION TAKEN:

_____

_____

_____

1\wp\cas.17\1324-Maple-Hist-Landmark

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION GRANTING HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION FOR 1324 MAPLE AVENUE

WHEREAS, the Village of Downers Grove has adopted an Ordinance entitled the "Historic Preservation Ordinance"; and

WHEREAS, Section 12-301 of the Municipal Code sets forth landmark designation procedures for areas, properties, buildings, structures, objects and sites; and

WHEREAS, David and Joan Kresl ("Applicant") are the owners of a structure on the property legally described as follows:

PARCEL1:
LOT 2 IN JESSE'S RESUBDIVISION OF LOT 9 (EXCEPT THE EAST 40 FEET THEREOF) IN BLOCK 8 IN DUCAT ESTATES, BEING A SUBDIVISION SITUATED IN THE SOUTHEAST ¼ OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 38 NORTH, RANGE 11, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, AND A TRACT "B" IN ASSESSMENT PLAT OF PARTS OF LOTS 1,3, 4 AND 8 OF ASSESSMENT PLAT OF THE HOMESTEAD ESTATE OF ARTHUR C. DUCAT, IN SECTIONS 7 AND 18, TOWNSHIP 38 NORTH, RANGE 11, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF SAID JESSE'S RESUBDIVISION, RECORDED JANUARY 25, 1952 AS DOCUMENT 643590 AND CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION RECORDED JUNE 3, 1952 AS DOCUMENT 653219 SAID CERTIFICATE CORRECTED BY CERTIFICATE RECORDED JUNE 29, 1953 AS DOCUMENT 686875, IN DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PARCEL 2:
THAT PART OF TRACT "C" OF THE ASSESSMENT PLAT OF PART OF LOTS 1, 3, 4 AND 8 OF THE ASSESSMENT PLAT OF THE HOMESTEAD ESTATE OF ARTHUR C. DUCAT, SITUATED IN SECTIONS 7 AND 18, TOWNSHIP 38 NORTH, RANGE 11, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DOWNERS GROVE, DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, DESCRIBED AS THAT PORTION OF SAID TRACT "C" LYING EASTERLY OF A STRAIGHT LINE WHICH IS PARALLEL WITH AND 5 FEET (MEASURED AT RIGHT ANGLES) DISTANT FROM THE SOUTHERLY SECTOR OF THE EASTERLY LINE OF TRACT "C", AFORESAID, WHICH SOUTHERLY SECTOR BEARS THE PLAT DIMENSION OF 70 FEET, AND WHICH STRAIGHT LINE EXTENDS TO A POINT ON THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID TRACT "C" WHICH IS 14.5 FEET WEST OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID TRACT "C" REFERENCE BEING HAD TO THE RECORD OF SAID PLAT IN BOOK 22 OF PLATS, ON PAGE 3 RECORDED OCTOBER 5, 1935 AS DOCUMENT 362877, IN DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 1324 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515
(PINs 09-07-408-011 and 09-07-408-012)

WHEREAS, a 1936 two-story Georgian structure is on the property; and

WHEREAS, on November 15, 2017, the Architectural Design Review Board conducted a public hearing in connection with the aforesaid application, after notice of said hearing was duly given; and

WHEREAS, the Board rendered its decision on the aforesaid application, recommending that the property located at 1324 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois, be granted Historic Landmark Designation; and

WHEREAS, certain applicable requirements of Section 12-302, Landmark Designation Criteria, of the Historic Preservation Ordinance relating to the granting of Historic Landmark Designation have been met.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. That the recitals contained in the Preamble hereto are incorporated as part of this Resolution.

Section 2. That the structure located on the property located at 1324 Maple Avenue is hereby granted Historic Landmark Designation.

Section 3. That the Village Clerk is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this Resolution in the Office of the DuPage County Recorder of Deeds and is further directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Downers Grove Historical Society and the Applicant.

Section 4. That all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed.

Section 5. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage as provided by law.

_____
Mayor

Passed:
Published:

Attest:_____
Village Clerk

1\mw\res.17\1324-Maple-Hist-Landmark-17-ADR-0011

Balloons Give Finders Thrill

University, Not Mars, Sends Invasion

EATON RAPIDS, Nov. 2—Somewhat leery of visitations from the sky after a too-realistic radio dramatization of an attack upon the Earth by Martians recently, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Saturbey cast a suspicious eye on a number of strange balloons which came slowly to ground near the home of Mrs. George Saunders at Kinneyville Tuesday.

No little men emerged from the balloons, however, so they walked over to inspect them. Metal tubes were attached to each of the four balloons, one of which had burst. Mr. and Mrs. Saturbey feared that the tubes might contain explosives so they handled them gingerly.

A set of instructions was attached to each balloon, asking the finder to notify the Ryerson Laboratories at the University of Chicago, to deflate the balloon but not to open the metal tube. Concluding that the tubes couldn't contain explosives, they picked them up and notified the laboratories.

Dr. William P. Jesse and several associates in experimental work at the laboratories arrived here Wednesday night to pick up the metal tubes. He explained that they contained films with recording instruments to test the penetration of the cosmic ray.

Such experiments are being conducted frequently, he added. The balloons were released from Chicago at 10:15 a. m. Tuesday and floated to earth six miles southeast of Eaton Rapids about 6 p. m.

1324 Maple Avenue - Location Map

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
NOVEMBER 15, 2017 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
17-ADR-0011 1324 Maple Avenue	Designation of a Historic Landmark	Swati Pandey Planner

REQUEST
The petitioners are seeking a Historic Landmark Designation for their home at 1324 Maple Avenue based on the criteria that the property has significant value for the following reasons: 1) is part of the historic characteristics of the community; 2) was owned by a person of historic significance to the nation, 3) represents the notable work of a master builder.

NOTICE
The application has been filed in conformance with applicable procedural and public notice requirements.

GENERAL INFORMATION

OWNER/ APPLICANT: David and Joan Kresl
1324 Maple Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

PROPERTY INFORMATION

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Georgian
BUILDING DATE: 1936
HISTORICAL BUILDING USE: Single Family Residence
EXISTING BUILDING USE: Single Family Residence
PROPERTY SIZE: 20,109 square feet (0.46 acre)
PINS: 09-07-408-011 and 09-07-408-012

ANALYSIS

SUBMITTALS
This report is based on the following documents, which are on file with the Department of Community Development:

1. Application/Petition for Public Hearing
2. Project Narrative
3. Certificate of Acknowledgement Form
4. Historic Landmark Information Form
5. Photographs

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The petitioners are seeking a Historic Landmark Designation for their property at 1324 Maple Avenue under criteria 12.302 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Based on the information submitted, the property qualifies to be landmarked under the following multiple criteria:

- the property has significant value as part of the historic, heritage or cultural characteristics of the community.
- the property was owned and occupied by a person of historic significance to the community.
- representation of a notable work of a master builder

The two-story Georgian house with a basement was constructed in 1936 as part of a national architectural competition held by General Electric. The competition was in response to the 1933 Chicago World's Fair, in an effort to showcase new innovations in home construction. The house was built as part of the model home project undertaken by General Electric in partnership with the Federal Housing Authority. The selected "New American" homes featured modern design and open layout for contemporary living as well as advanced appliances for higher living standards. The house at 1324 Maple Avenue was one of the seven homes built and the only one in Downers Grove, significantly contributing to the history of the community. The ground breaking ceremony for the house was attended by the Mayor of Downers Grove.

The house was constructed by J.T. Schless Construction Co., the same builder of the Tivoli Theatre. The Tivoli Theatre first opened on Christmas Day in 1928 and was the second theatre in the country to open with sound movies, remaining a building of great significance to the community. In addition to homes, the Schless Construction Company was responsible for building major commercial buildings and community service projects such as schools, churches and shipyard in the Chicago area. The Company contributed buildings to "The Century of Progress Exposition" in Chicago in 1933 and again in 1939 for the New York World's Fair.

Over the past 81 years, seven families have lived in the home including a person of historic significance to the nation. The third owner of the house, Dr. William P. Jesse (1881-1984) was an eminent scientist who lived in the house between 1950 to 1974. He was a research associate at the University of Chicago's Metallurgical Laboratory during the Manhattan Project. Dr. Jesse moved on to the Argonne National Laboratory where he began making accurate measurements of W, the energy required to produce an ion pair. A result of this research is known as the "Jesse Effect and Related Phenomena". He was a pioneer in the field of physics with several major contributions in the area of research. He was honored with a symposium for his contribution sponsored by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission at Gatlinburg, Tennessee in 1973.

Based on the information provided by the petitioner, the front façade of the house has remain unchanged during the history of this house including the color. The primary materials for the house are brick and concrete block with a gabled slate tile roof and original copper gutters.

COMPLIANCE WITH HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

The petitioner has outlined the request in the attached narrative letter, excerpts from books, newspaper articles and photographs. The petitioner will further address the proposal and justification to support the requested landmark designation at the public hearing.

Landmark designations require evaluation based on Section 12.302 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance, *Landmark Designation Criteria*. Staff finds the request complies with Section 12.302A and Section 12.302.B, as described below.

Section 12.302.A.
The proposed landmark is either over fifty (50) years old, in whole or in part, or is under fifty (50) years of age and possesses exceptional importance such as might be recognized immediately for its reflection of an extraordinary political event or architectural innovation; and
The house was constructed in 1936 and is 81 years old. This standard is met.

Section 12.302.B
That one or more of the following conditions exist:

1. **The property has significant value as part of the historic, heritage or cultural characteristics of the community, county, State or Nation;**
   Staff finds that the property has significant value as part of the historic characteristics of the community. The house was one of seven model homes in the General Electric national architectural competition, and featured modern innovations including convenient layout and advanced appliances. It was featured in the 1935 edition of the Downers Grove 'Reporter'. This criteria has been met.

2. **The property was owned by a person or persons of historic significance to the community, county, State or Nation;**
   Staff finds the property was built and owned by a person of historic significance to the nation. Dr. William P. Jesse was an eminent scientist who lived in the house. He was a research associate at the University of Chicago's Metallurgical Laboratory during the Manhattan Project and contributed significantly through scientific research including the discovery of the "Jesse Effect and Related Phenomena" in 1952. This criteria has been met.

3. **The property represents the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural period, style, type, method of construction or use of indigenous materials;**
   This criteria does not apply.

4. **The property represents notable work of a master builder, designer, architect or artist whose individual work has influenced the development of the community, county, State or Nation;**
   Staff finds that this property represents notable work of J.T. Schless, a master builder. Mr. Schless was a prominent builder in Downers Grove who was responsible for a variety of residential and commercial buildings in the village and DuPage County. His notable work includes the Tivoli Theatre that still stands at 5021 Highland Avenue. Additionally, he was involved with the Chicago Exposition of 1933 and the New York World's fair in 1939. Mr. Schless contributed to the development of the community. This criteria is met.

5. **An area that has yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.**
   This criteria does not apply.

6. **A source of civic pride or identity for the community.**
   This criteria does not apply.

7. **The property is included in the National Register of Historic Places.**
   This criteria does not apply.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMENT

Staff has not received any inquiry from the public regarding the proposal at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff finds the petition complies with the criteria in Section 12.302 for Landmark Designation. Based on the findings above, staff recommends that the Architectural Design Review Board make a positive recommendation to the Village Council for landmark status of 1324 Maple Avenue.

Staff Report Approved By:

Stan Popovich, AICP
Director of Community Development

SP:sp
-att
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1324 Maple Avenue - Location Map

Historic Landmark
Project Summary/Narrative

Owners/Applicants: David and Joan Kresl

It is with a great deal of respect that we present our home, located at 1324 Maple Avenue, for consideration as a designated Downers Grove Historic Landmark.

In 1933-34, Chicago hosted 40 million visitors to it's second World's Fair. Following the turmoil associated with WWI and the stock market crash of 1929, the fair drove home the message that cooperation between science, business and government could pave the way to a better future. What better way to advance public awareness of new innovations than through the construction of model homes outfitted with year-around air-conditioning, centrally controlled heating, complete electric kitchens, home laundries, modern lighting and up-to-date wiring built in as part of the initial equipment.

Following the fair, the General Electric Company in co-operation with the Federal Housing Administration conducted a national architectural competition to advance home design and present scientific solutions to the problems associated with contemporary housing.

Seven homes were chosen, one to be located at Brookbank and Maple in Downers Grove. Designed by Robert H. Salisbury, Architect, Wheaton, and built by J.T. Schless Construction Co., Downers Grove and Chicago, the home was completed and ready for a 3 day public inspection on Sunday, October 27 of 1936. To underscore the significance of this home, please refer to the picture of the groundbreaking included in the July 13, 1988 edition of the Downers Grove Reporter. Present are Downers Grove Mayor Henry Diecke; Bob Salisbury, architect; Mr. Schless, builder; R. Cooper Jr.; and Mr. Fridstein of R.Cooper Jr. Electric.

Of special interest is the fact that Willis Johnson, owner of the Tivoli Theater, has confirmed the fact that J.T. Schless Construction Co., also built the Tivoli in 1928. It is no wonder that the home located at 1324 Maple Avenue remains a very sturdy structure to this day.

Over the past 81 years, 7 families have lived in the home. The first Warranty Deed, dated August 22, 1935, names the Grantor as Mary Ducat Sellers. She sold 4 lots of the Assessment Plat of the Homestead Estate of Arthur C. Ducat, to Sedwin and Mabel Rekstad. It is interesting to note that in the Downers Grove Telephone Directory of June, 1936, J.T. Schless is listed as the resident at 1324 Maple Avenue. In the July 1937 directory, his residency appears to have moved to 4101 Main Street. During this same period, Sedwin Rekstad's residence is listed as 4512 Sherwood Court and there is no evidence of the Rekstad's actually living in the home. On January 10, 1940, the Rekstad's sold the property to Irwin and Sonia Spiesman. Several years ago I located a Robert Schless living in St. Charles. He indicated that he lived in the home when he was 2 years old, shortly after his father's company completed construction. It is clear that the Rekstad's owned the property, but who actually lived in the home on a continuous basis from October 1936 to January 1940 remains a mystery.

Subsequent owners were Irwin and Sonia Spiesman (1940), William and Anna Jesse (1950), William and Eloise Grace (1952), Charles and Carolyn Thompson (1974), Stephen and Theo Grote (1975), and David and Joan Kresl (1976).

Of historical significance is the fact that the third owner was non other than Dr. William P. Jesse, a research associate at the University of Chicago's Metallurgical Laboratory during the Manhattan Project. In 1943 he served as a group leader in Control and Instrumentation. In 1944 he became Section Chief of P-I, Instrumentations, in the Physics Division. In 1945 he became Section Chief of P-II Treatments. Dr. Jesse also is recognized for his research that culminated in the discovery of the Jesse Effect and Related Phenomena in 1952. Prior to Dr. Jesse's death in 1975, he was honored with the "Symposium on Jesse Effect and Related Phenomena," Gatlinburg, Tennessee November 9-10, 1973. This symposium was sponsored by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

The home is made of brick, with a slate tile roof and the original copper gutters. The home has remained white in color over its 81 years, and its roadside appearance has not changed. Most people associate its architectural design as Georgian.

1324 Maple Avenue is an excellent example of a home design that has not only provided a pride of ownership to its owners but has added to the ambiance of this historic neighborhood. The inclusion of this property to the list of local Historic Landmarks will ensure that it is preserved not only for future owners, but for residents of Downers Grove and future visitors to the area.

Landmark Designation Criteria

Section 12.302.A
The proposed landmark is either over fifty (50) years old, in whole or in part or is under fifty (50) years of age and possesses exceptional importance such as might be recognized immediately for its reflection of an extraordinary political event or architectural innovation

The proposed landmark is approximately 81 years old and meets the criteria.

Section 12.302.B
1. The property has significant value as part of the historic, heritage or cultural characteristics of the community, county, State or Nation;

Built after the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago, 1324 Maple Avenue was part of a national architectural competition sponsored by General Electric Company with co-operation from the Federal Housing Authority. The competition was intended to advance home design and present scientific solutions to the problems associated with contemporary housing. 1324 Maple Avenue was one of seven homes chosen (and the only one located in Downers Grove) and therefore is of significant value to the characteristics of the community.

2. The property was owned by a person or persons of historic significance to the community, county, State or Nation;

The third owner of the home, Dr. William P. Jesse, was a research associate at the University of Chicago's Metallurgical Laboratory during the Manhattan Project. Jesse served in several leadership positions as part of this and is also recognized for his research that led to the discovery of the Jesse Effect and Related Phenomena in 1952. The Jesse Effect is "the increase in ionization observed when impurities are added to certain gases" (http://aip.scitation.org/doi/abs/10.1063/1.1678247).

3. The property represents the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural period, style, type, method of construction or use of indigenous materials;

This criteria does not apply.

4. The property represents notable work of a master builder, designer, architect or artist whose individual work has influenced the development of the community, county, State or Nation;

1324 Maple Avenue was built by J.T. Schless Construction Co. who was also the builder of the Tivoli Theater in Downers Grove. The Tivoli Theater was only the second theater in the United States to be designed and built for talking movies and remains today one of the most beloved buildings in the community. Schless's involvement in the construction of the Tivoli makes him a notable builder whose work has had a significant influence on the development of Downers Grove.

5. An area that has yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

This criteria does not apply.

6. A source of civic pride or identity for the community.

This criteria does not apply.

7. The property is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

This criteria does not apply.

Historic Landmark Information Form

Property Address 1324 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Date of Construction 1936

Architectural Style Georgian

Architect (if known) Robert H. Salisbury

Number of Stories 2 **Basement (Y/N)** Y

Foundation Materials (Concrete, Concrete Block, Wood, Stone, Brick, N/A)

Concrete block, Brick

Exterior Wall Materials (Concrete, Wood, Stone, Brick, Vinyl, Other, N/A)

Brick

Roof Type (Gabled, Cross-Gabled, Hipped, Hipped-Gable, Shed, Gambrel, Flat, Other, N/A)

Gabled

Roof Materials (Metal, Wood Shingle, Wood Shake, Composition, Slate, Tile, Other, N/A)

Slate Tiles

Window Type (Double-Hung, Awning, Casement, Hopper, Other, N/A)

Double-Hung

Window Materials (Wood, Aluminum, Vinyl, Other, N/A)

Wood

Door Type (Panel, Flush, Transom, N/A) and Materials (Wood, Metal, Glass, N/A)

Wood Panel

Other significant exterior architectural features (Accessory Structures, Arches, Porches, Towers, Brick Course, etc.)

Photo #1: Front Elevation - Oct 5, 2017

Photo #2 Front Elevation - Oct 5, 2017

Photo #3: Original hall fixture Oct 5, 2017

Photo #4: J.T. Schlesss Co plate on foundation
Oct 5, 2017

Photo #5: Original bookcase Oct 5, 2017

Photo #6: Walnut mantle Oct 5, 2017

Photo #7: Bay Window in dining room Oct 5, 2017

J.T. Schless – builder of 1324 Maple Avenue

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER U 1037 | 1. NAME (Print) J. T. Schless (First) (Middle) (Last) | ORDER NUMBER

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 4101 Main St. Downers Grove, DuPage, Ill. (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)

[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS Same (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)

4. TELEPHONE D.G. 1026 (Exchange) (Number)

5. AGE IN YEARS 52 DATE OF BIRTH Sept. 14, 1889 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)

6. PLACE OF BIRTH Philadelphia (Town or county) Pa. (State or country)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. J. T. Schless, 4101 Main St., Downers Grove, Ill.

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Own Business 176 W. Adams, Chicago

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 176 W. Adams St. Chicago, Cook, Ill. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE. J. T. Schless (Registrant's signature)

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42) (over) 16—21630-2

J.T. Schless – WWII draft registration card

JACOB T. SCHLESS

Special to The New York Times.

CHICAGO, Nov. 23—Jacob T. Schless of suburban Downers Grove, a building contractor, died yesterday in his home. His age was 66.

Mr. Schless built Merrie England, a British village, for the "A Century of Progress" here in 1934 and again for the New York World's Fair in 1939. From 1943 to 1945 he managed the Dachel Carter Shipbuilding Company, Benton Harbor, Mich., for the Navy.

The New York Times
Published: November 24, 1955
Copyright © The New York Times

J.T. Schless – Obituary

Schless Construction Company

from the web site Illinois Constructors Corp http://www.illinoisconstructors.com/about/
Building on the past to construct the future.

In the mid-1920s, a young resident engineer named Jacob T. (Jack) Schless left the prestigious Chicago architectural firm of Holabird & Root to strike out on his own.

For the next 30 years until his death at the age of 66, Jack Schless would build buildings, manage construction projects, fulfill building contracts, and lay the foundation for what is today the Illinois Constructors Corporation.

Forming J.T. Schless and Company, Jack Schless was responsible for major building projects in the burgeoning DuPage County of the late 1920s. As Chicagoans were lured to the wide open spaces of the far west suburbs that blossomed along the tracks of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, Schless's Downers Grove company seized the opportunity to build houses and schools and become involved in community service projects. From building a Girl Scout cabin in 1926, to constructing a model home as part of General Electric's national Better Housing campaign in 1935, J.T. Schless and Company left an indelible mark on the community.

In 1928, the company completed construction of Sacred Heart Academy in Lisle, a building whose roof is a beacon that is visible for miles today. Another huge commercial project was the Tivoli Hotel and Theatre complex, complete with bowling alley and billiards parlor, in downtown Downers Grove. When it was completed, 4,000 theatergoers lined up for the premier performance at 1:30 in the afternoon, December 25, 1928. Today, the 1,011-seat Tivoli Theatre is a cherished landmark. It has been renovated and restored to its former glory.

The 1930s brought both success and new challenges to the fledgling company. After constructing many buildings, including the Merrie England Village, for The Century of Progress Exposition, which opened in Chicago in 1933 and remained open throughout 1934, the company incorporated in 1936 under the name of The Schless Construction Company. In 1939, the company became involved in a related venture in New York City, constructing a Merrie England Village for the New York World's Fair.

In 1942, The Schless Construction Company played a pivotal role in the development of one of the nation's important inland shipyards at Seneca, Illinois, on the banks of the Illinois River in LaSalle County. It was in this shipyard that 157 rugged, versatile LSTs (tank landing ships) were produced in response to the demand for American naval vessels to replace those that were destroyed at Pearl Harbor. The Schless Construction Company prepared the site, cutting trenches through solid sandstone for the installation of utilities and services in a shipyard that would eventually accommodate 15 ships that were 114 ft. long and weighed 285 tons each.
From shipyard building to ship building, in 1943 the company took over the operation of the Dachel Carter Shipbuilding Company in Benton Harbor, Michigan, at the request of the U.S. Navy. This work continued until the end of World War II.

Following the war, The Schless Construction Company was involved in residential construction projects in Cook and DuPage counties. As soldiers returned home from overseas and the nation enjoyed a period of growth and prosperity, the focus was on building schools, churches, factories and apartment complexes.

In the 1950s and 1960s, construction projects involved commercial buildings, roads, bridges, and sewage treatment plants. Following the death of his father in 1955, Robert M. Schless assumed control of the company. The company's office was relocated to St. Charles in Kane County, Illinois, and R. Alan Gray came on board.

The Schless Construction Company was one of the primary contractors responsible for the construction of Fermilab (Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory), originally named the National Accelerator Laboratory when the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission commissioned it in 1967. The Schless Construction Company built many of the buildings and structures including the first on site structure – the linear accelerator and a portion of the main ring used to conduct basic research into particle physics.

The Schless Construction Company continued to grow and prosper, taking on heavy construction projects related to land and water. In 1975, the construction firm reorganized and incorporated as Illinois Constructors Corp.

During the past 30 years, Illinois Constructors Corp. has completed major construction projects in the Chicago area including a reconstruction of the Dan Ryan Expressway from Congress Parkway to Taylor Street, bridge work for the Illinois Department of Transportation, lock shutdowns and repairs on the Illinois and Mississippi rivers for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, railroad projects, Lake Michigan shoreline revetment reconstruction at Chicago's Montrose Harbor, and bascule bridge work on the Des Plaines River.

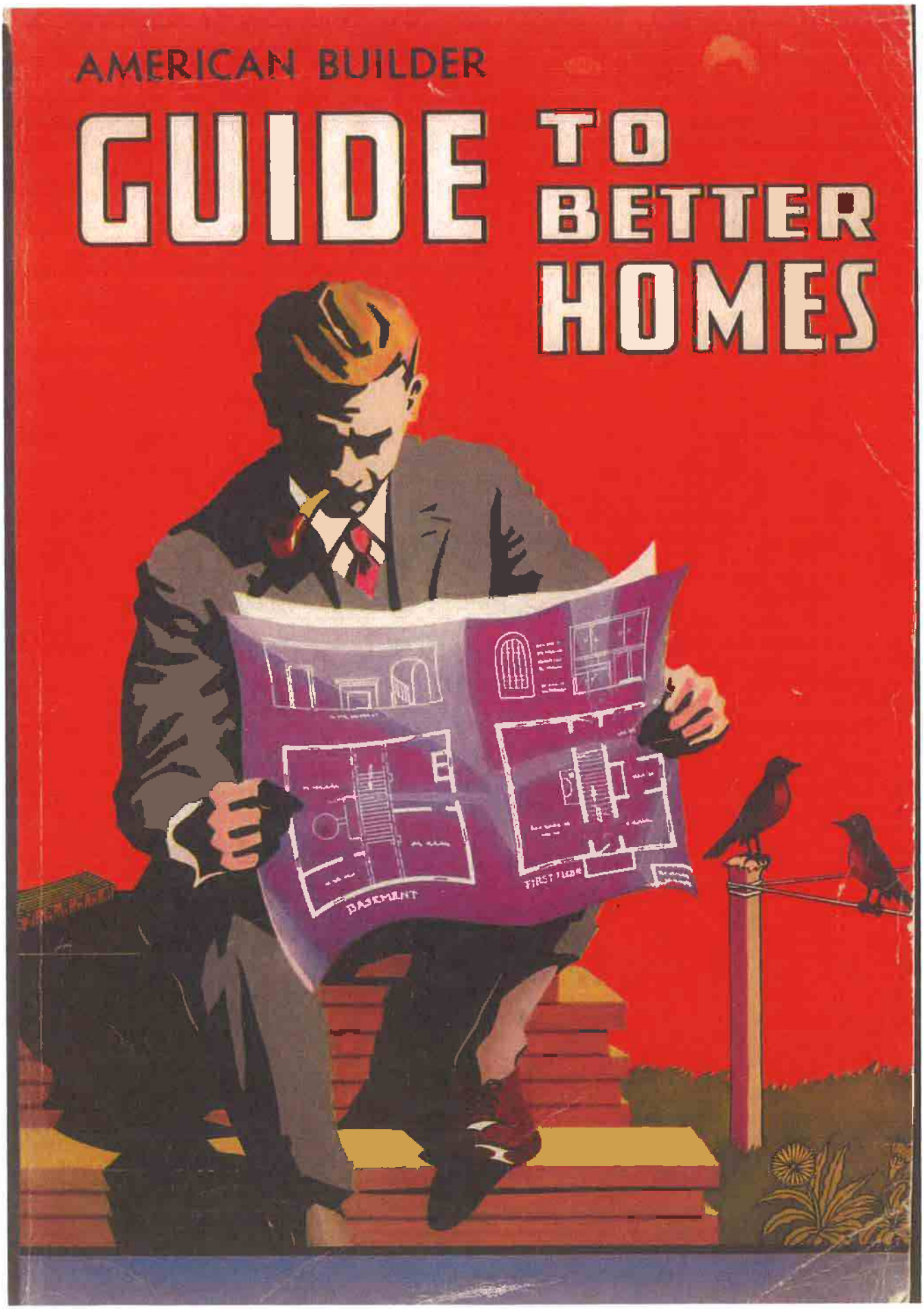
Illinois Constructors Corp. is well positioned to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. In 2003, John Mackanin was appointed President of the firm, and in early 2004, he oversaw the purchase of a majority of the company through an Employee Stock Ownership Program (ESOP). Mackanin plans to lead the company through steady, responsible, manageable growth and his goal of adding well-trained construction professionals to the management staff will contribute to Illinois Constructors Corp.'s continuing success and ongoing commitment to excellence.

Place: Chicago Area

Description: History of Schless Construction Company (now known as Illinois Constructors Corp), founded by Jacob T 'Jack' Schless

AMERICAN BUILDER

GUIDE TO BETTER HOMES



BUILT ON A SLOPING SITE

at Downers Grove, Ill., as Model Home

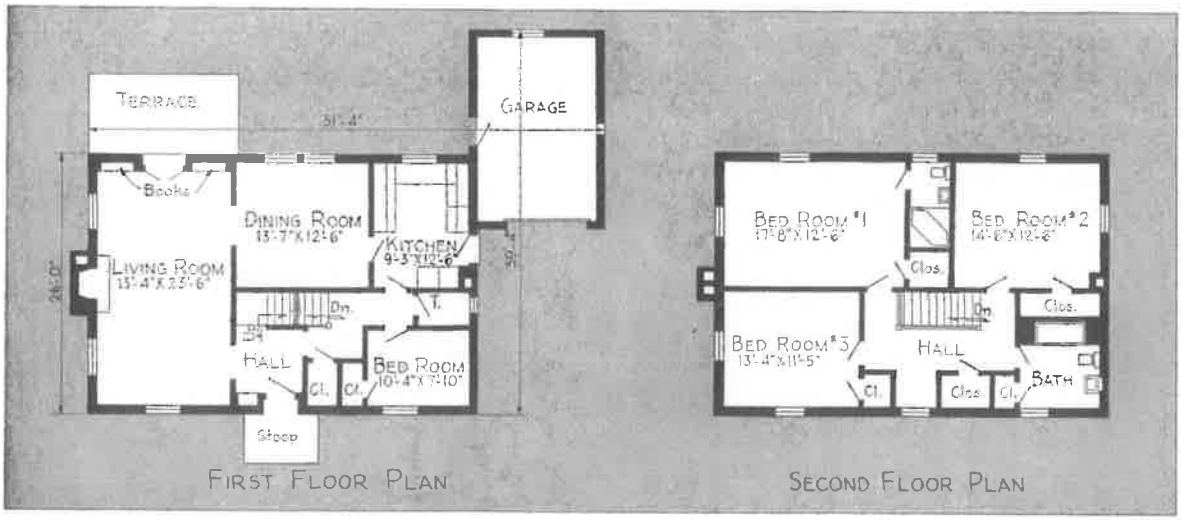
J. T. Schless Construction Co., Builders, Chicago

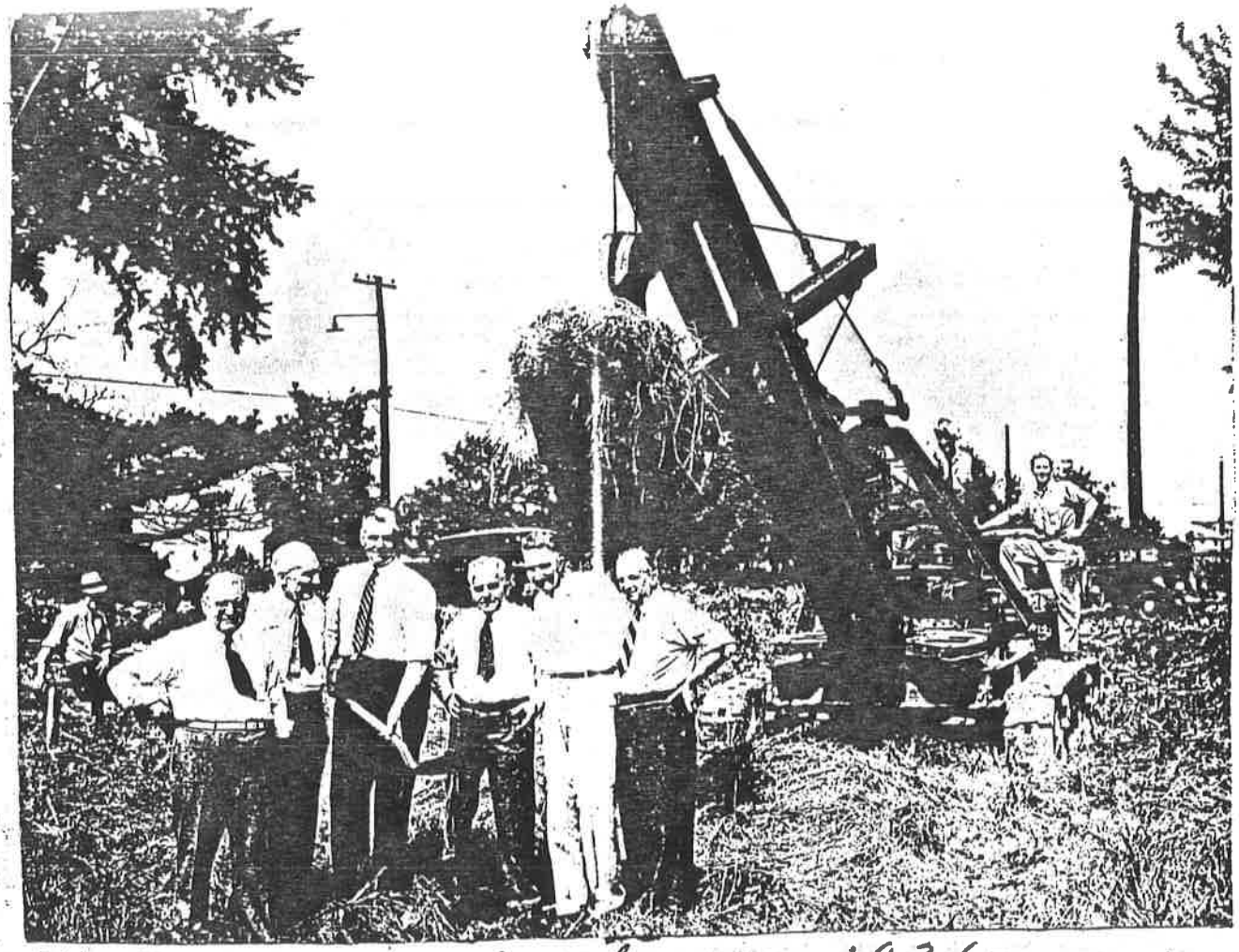
Robert H. Salisbury, Architect, Wheaton, Ill.

COST KEY (without garage or terrace) 1.735-129-1006-42-24-14.

LEFT, construction view of Downers Grove Model Home as seen from right side. Above, other end of house showing manner in which garage and terrace are placed to take advantage of sloping site with motor entrance from the rear. Plans to right indicate another position for a level plot.

THE FLOOR plan below gives an alternate arrangement of the terrace and garage where the location does not allow the garage to be placed at basement level with terrace above as seen on the opposite page —otherwise the room layout is the same. Living room has plenty of light and allows for good furniture grouping with attractive fireplace (illustrated above) as the center of interest. Built-in book shelves flank the doors leading to the terrace. A small maid's or guest room with convenient toilet occupies a first floor corner off the rear hall. On the second floor are three good sized bedrooms with easy access to baths and ample closet space. Considering the size of the house, the plan is compact and has a minimum of waste space. Equipment includes a G-E year 'round conditioning system and complete electric kitchen.





1324 Maple 1936
Bob Salisbury Breaking ground

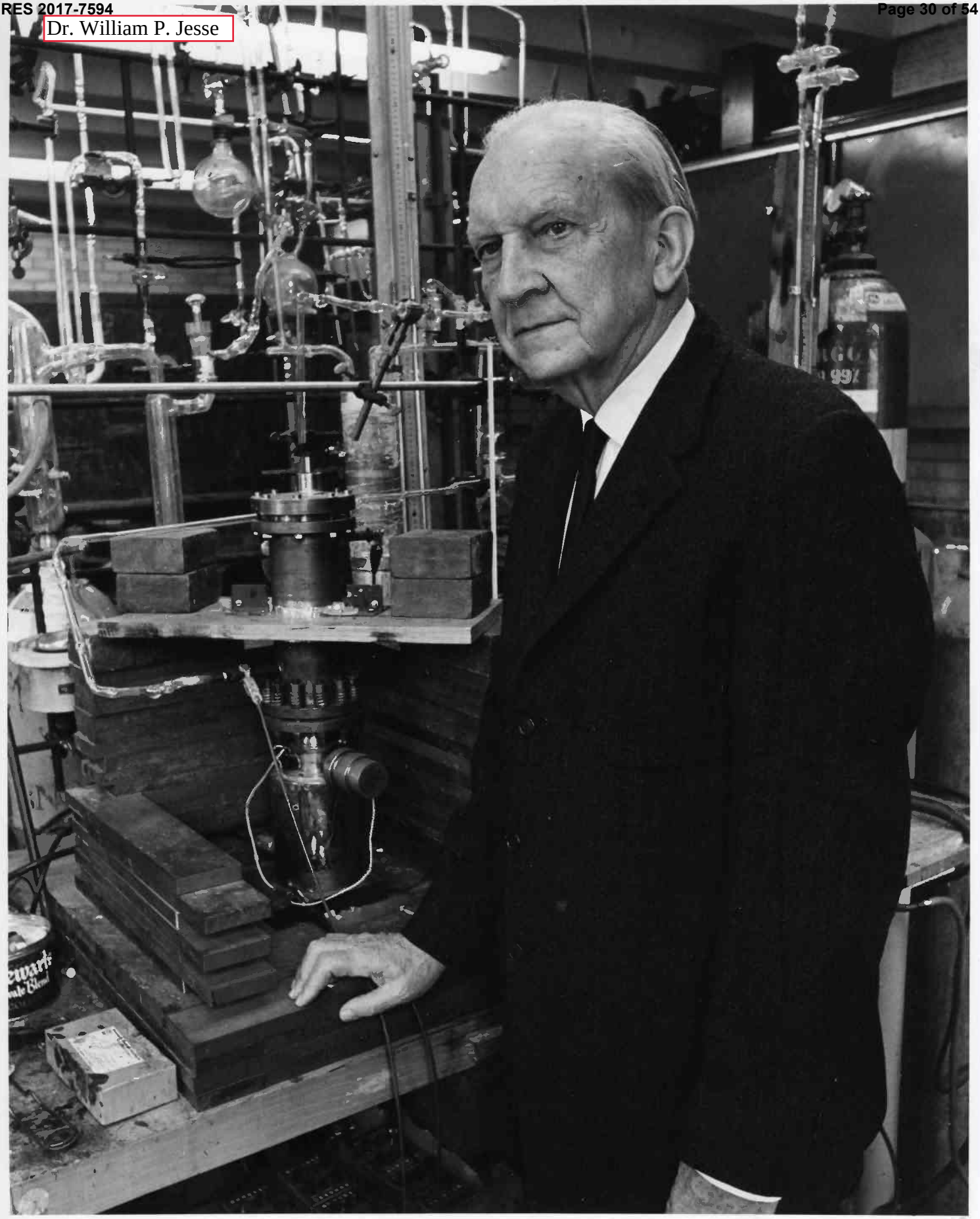
Same as above
Carroll Sudler F.H.A. Dist. Dir.
Mayor Dicke Downers Grove
R. Cooper Jr.
M. Friedman

(1)

Jack 2 Bobby 3 4 5


Dr. William P. Jesse

Dr. William P. Jesse



for the July 1974 Reduction Research Any comments? Jim

739-7711

Tributes to W. P. Jesse
I. Biographical Sketch

James C. Person Q406
Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439

William Polk Jesse was born on March 19, 1891 in New Orleans during the period when his father, R. H. Jesse, was leaving a position as Professor of Latin at Tulane University to become President of the University of Missouri. This addition to the Jesse household has been true to his family tradition of love of learning and dedicated service.

W. P. Jesse graduated from the University of Missouri in 1913 with the degree of Mechanical Engineer, but in 1915 he returned to Missouri and began work on an advanced degree in physics. This work was interrupted by World War I, and when he resumed graduate work in 1919 it was at the University of Chicago under Professor R. A. Millikan. In 1921 he became an instructor at Yale University where he received his Ph.D. in 1924.

After three years as an assistant professor at Lehigh University, Dr. Jesse spent two inspiring years (1927–1929) working in London with Sir William Bragg at the Davy-Faraday Laboratory of the Royal Institute. He then worked for the General Electric Company for five years, during which time he married. In 1934 he returned to the University of Chicago, where he joined the cosmic-ray group assembled by Professor A. H. Compton, and later he transferred to the Metallurgical Laboratory for the Manhattan Project work during World War II. These years are described by one of his colleagues, Dr. E. O. Wollan, in the following article.

After the war, Dr. Jesse joined Argonne National Laboratory and began making accurate measurements of W, the energy required to produce an ion pair. One major result was the Jesse effect; the period of this discovery is described below by Dr. R. E. Meyerott, who played an important role in suggesting a possible mechanism for this effect. Dr. Jesse also became closely associated with Dr. R. L. Platzman during this period, and the benefits of this interaction are described in the paper by Dr. M. Inokuti.

After his "retirement" from Argonne in 1956, Dr. Jesse continued his research nearby at Illinois Benedictine College. This period is described by Dr. J. J. Spokas, Director of the Physical Sciences Laboratory there.

We have now held a conference in honor of Dr. Jesse and his work. We enjoyed his presence and his comments throughout the day — especially his remarks at the banquet, where he gave some additional background on the discovery of the Jesse effect.

II. A Man and His Career

E. O. Wollan
Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

It is indeed a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to pay my respects to my former colleague and close friend, William P. Jesse.

His early research was in the field of x-ray scattering which was done at the General Electric Laboratory and at the University of Chicago.

Later in the 1930's he became involved in a program of high-altitude cosmic studies under the sponsorship of A. H. Compton. This was a team effort involving Marcel Schein and myself. I am sure Jesse will agree that these were exciting years. They were years of peace which unfortunately were to be ended in that decade. But in that decade we had many great developments and discoveries: the neutron, the Dirac hole theory, the Yukawa meson theory of nuclear forces, the positron and the μ meson observed in cosmic rays, and many others not least of which was of the nature and origin of cosmic rays and the related beginnings of the studies of very high energy nuclear physics.

The discovery of a radiation from outer space had occurred much earlier. V. F. Hess convincingly showed the existence of such radiations in his balloon flights in 1912. We might think of these as the forerunners of manned research in space although these flights went to altitudes of only 5 km.

Research in cosmic rays continued to be pursued in many ways—measurements in deep mines, on mountain peaks, at many sites around the world.

These results gave us the first suggestion of a latitude effect on the intensity as observed by J. Clay, and the subject was vigorously pursued later by A. H. Compton and his collaborators in a world-wide survey.

Let me now outline briefly some of the details of the cosmic ray experiments which were carried out by Jesse and his colleagues in the period 1938-1941.

Earlier experiments by Millikan and collaborators and by others gave a measure of the total ionization of cosmic rays as a function of altitude. These experiments showed a strong increase of intensity up to about 15 km after which the intensity decreased sharply.

The later program of the Chicago group was then addressed to the question of the nature of the penetrating component in the atmosphere and of the primary radiation. To accomplish this, coincidence counter techniques and several centimeters of lead shielding were required. The apparatus became heavy ($\sim$ 35 lb) and twenty or more weather-type balloons were needed to carry the equipment to high altitudes. The record of the coincidences and the barometric pressure were made on a small clock-driven film strip. The flights were sent up in the morning; they remained at high altitude (up to 20 km) for four to five hours and finally returned to earth at nightfall. Some of the drama of these experiments was in the retrieval of the equipment. The percent retrieval was very high in spite of the large area over which the equipment was observed to descend to the ground by local people who reported their location. From Chicago this included Canada, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and unfortunately one in Lake Michigan. Flights were carried out also in Waco, Texas and in Brazil.

The results of these experiments can be briefly stated at follows: (a) the penetrating (meson) component increases up to altitudes near the maximum reached and then falls off. When its short lifetime is considered, the meson component must be secondary radiation produced in the atmosphere, (b) with evidence that the incoming particles must be primarily positively charged (T. H. Johnson) it was concluded that they consist mostly of protons. Later work has shown that not only protons but many other nuclear particles are present in the primary cosmic radiation.

Thus, Jesse played an important part in some experiments in the "stratosphere" before the Space Age.

But "at this point in time" (1941) we were about to be drawn into a terrible war and Jesse was brought into the Manhattan Project at Chicago, where research was to do what needed to be done. The hands of Jesse and others became dirty with graphite and uranium oxide in the task of helping in a small way to accomplish what Fermi and many others had set themselves to do. But you all know that story and the many changes that the world has seen since then.

But the search for truths still goes on and Jesse is an outstanding example of a man whose interests in that search has never ceased. His pioneering work in ionization phenomena in gases which is the primary subject of this conference is an important part of his long and fruitful career. His dedication to scientific research is an inspiration to all of us.

III. An Anecdote

Roland E. Meyerott
27100 Elena Road, Los Altos Hills, California 94022

When I first joined Argonne National Laboratory in 1949, I was given a tour of the laboratory. There I was shown the "latest" in physics research equipment, linear accelerators, reactors, etc. In the middle of all this modern nuclear-physics research I met Dr. William Jesse. He was perched on a laboratory stool in front of some rather "old-fashioned" equipment repeating an "old-fashioned" experiment. He was in a very troubled mood and complained bitterly that he was unable to obtain the "old-fashioned" answer. The experiment was the measurement of the energy to produce an ion pair in gasses. Dr. Jesse was working with helium gas and had taken care to remove all impurities. As a consequence, his result was 30% higher than the then accepted value. The result seemed hard to accept, since the effect of impurities in helium on the value of the energy to produce an ion pair had previously been investigated, and, in the impurity range from 1% to 10%, the effect was slight.

I provided a sympathetic ear to Dr. Jesse's complaints, since I had just finished some other work indicating extreme sensitivity to parts per million impurity in helium. In Jesse's experiment, parts per million impurity allowed for conversion of helium metastable atoms to impurity ionization. All previous experiments started with impurity levels so high that complete conversion had already taken place. Dr. Jesse extended his experiment to other gasses, and

was able to demonstrate the importance of conversion of the metastable energy to impurity ionization. By selecting a gas combination with impurity ionization potential above or below the metastable level of the principal constituent of the mixture, Dr. Jesse was able to conclusively demonstrate the role of metastable levels.

These experiments stimulated much of the theoretical work of Dr. Robert Platzman, a frequent visitor to Argonne at that time. The constant collaboration between Dr. Jesse and Dr. Platzman led to a greatly improved understanding of this rather complicated physical process.

IV. The Days at Illinois Benedictine College

John J. Spokas
Physical Sciences Laboratory
Illinois Benedictine College, Lisle, Illinois 60523

Dr. Jesse formally began his association with St. Procopius College, now known as Illinois Benedictine College, on April 1, 1956, upon his retirement from Argonne National Laboratory. He continued in full-time research in the Physical Sciences Laboratory until August 31, 1972. He and Francis R. Shonka, the director and founder, constituted the scientific staff of the laboratory and received support from the Atomic Energy Commission throughout this period. At Illinois Benedictine College Dr. Jesse's work dealt generally with ionization phenomena in gases and represented a continuation of his research efforts at Argonne National Laboratory.

The first work at Illinois Benedictine was concerned with the accurate determination of W for beta particles for air and other gases. Up to this time reliable values did not exist. Measurements were made using the beta particles from sulphur-35 and gave excellent support to several other independent determinations completed about the same time.

Attention was next focused on the precision determination of W for alpha particles for air and N_2. Polonium alphas were used in a new method designed to eliminate recombination effects. The new values agreed beautifully with others obtained a little later by a group at the National Bureau of Standards who used an entirely different method. Thus, for the first time, truly dependable

values of W for alphas were available for air and N_2.

The variation of W with alpha energy in polyatomic gases was the object of some study. This investigation showed that, while W is the same for alphas and betas for all energies considered in H_2 and the noble gases, W for alphas shows a puzzling increase with decreasing energy in polyatomic gases.

A new isotope effect which had been proposed by R. L. Platzman led to an extended series of experiments in various hydrocarbon gases in which deuterium has been partially or completely substituted for the hydrogen. The experiments showed unquestionably that greater ionization results when deuterium is substituted for hydrogen.

Dr. Jesse devoted the last several years of his full-time work to researches dealing with the challenging problem of ionization in gases at elevated temperatures. To this end, a special ionization chamber had to be devised. The success of this effort is manifested in the W values that were determined for mercury vapor, water vapor, and in the very interesting results obtained in mixtures of mercury vapor in argon. As expected, enhanced ionization results when mercury is added to argon. However, the dependence of the excess ionization on the pressures of the host and the impurity gases is distinctly different from what had been found earlier in the case of many different contaminants in helium.

My introduction to Dr. Jesse occurred in the fall of 1961 when I joined the Physics Faculty at Illinois Benedictine College. Following the death of Francis Shonka in October, 1970, I was re-assigned to the Physical Sciences Laboratory to continue the research program. I have since had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Jesse and to learn somewhat the manner of person and scientist he is. My one real regret is that I had failed

to get acquainted with Dr. Jesse during the nine previous years while we worked in the same building.

The success we may have had in assuming the research program in the area of special plastics and techniques applied to various problems in radiation dosimetry is in a large measure a credit to the wise counsel and the inspiration Dr. Jesse gave us.

As a scientist, Dr. Jesse has shown a unique combination of insight and dedication. He remains with a problem until it has been complete. He never leaves a job half finished. His insight is manifested by the many important problems he chose to pursue, problems which were within the available resources and yet were rich in scientific value.

The characteristic of Dr. Jesse's scientific approach which perhaps stands out most in our mind is the degree to which he would remain with a particular problem. He was so disciplined as to not allow himself to be distracted by other seemingly more exciting research, at least not until the job at hand had been satisfactorily completed. This is a characteristic that many of us would do well to emulate. I know that by his excellent example, Dr. Jesse has made me personally more conscious of the importance of concentrating on just a few problems at a time in order to ultimately attain a deeper understanding and thus to advance man's knowledge.

One quickly discovers that Dr. Jesse is a thoroughly balanced individual which unquestionably has contributed to his scientific achievements. He has many interests outside science, of which perhaps the strongest are painting

and gardening. One soon learns that he is well read, being acquainted not only with the great classics of literature and poetry, but also nursery rhymes. In this regard, one cannot forget the flawless recitation he recently gave during lunchtime of "A Frog Who Would a'Wooing Go."

What we admire most in Dr. Jesse is that he is first a complete gentleman, always concerned with the feelings of others, and ready to offer what assistance he might. In a social setting, he relates anecdotes and stories from his personal experiences with a certain zest that makes it both interesting and enjoyable to listen, and everyone does. This, combined with his keen wit and sense of humor, gives him a unique charm and makes it ever so delightful to be in his company.

United States of America

WAR DEPARTMENT

ARMY SERVICE FORCES ~ CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Manhattan District

This is to certify that

WILLIAM P. JESSE
University of Chicago

has participated in work essential to the production of the Atomic Bomb, thereby contributing to the successful conclusion of World War II. This certificate is awarded in appreciation of effective service.

6 August 1945

Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War

Washington, D. C.

CITATION

WILLIAM POLK JESSE, graduate of the College of Engineering of the University of Missouri and an outstanding leader in science. After teaching two years in the Department of Physics at the University of Missouri, you continued study and research in physics at six great scientific laboratories and reported the results of your research in more than 50 articles in scientific publications. Your pioneering work in ionization of gases and in cosmic rays led eventually to your assignment as Chief of the Instrument Section of the Metallurgical Laboratory in the Manhattan Project. You served with the Atomic Energy Commission and have been called upon for expert scientific advice on numerous occasions.

We take great pride in honoring you today as a University of Missouri engineering graduate who vigorously pursued a lifetime program of scientific work which resulted in many significant contributions to the advancement of science and its applications.

Reporter/Progress Newspapers WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 1988 • 1

Reporter Wednesday

Lifestyles

Century of Progress HOUSE

It's still the American dream

"This architectural competition will enable the public to get a new vision of what an inexpensive home can be like in the new era of our national development."
— Gerard Swope, president, General Electric

By Esther Mears

It was 1933, and something akin to a small miracle was shaping up in the city of broad shoulders - Chicago. The Chicago exposition's board of control called it, "A Century of Progress Exposition."

They would spend almost $5 million, literally thumbing their noses at the country's worst depression.

The exposition site was built on reclaimed ground in downtown Chicago along the lake, covering 427 acres. In the genre of world's fairs, it would be unlike anything anyone had ever seen before. The architecture and lighting were radical in design, upholding the Expo theme - a glimpse of the future and of the marvels of science yet undreamed.

All in all, it took over 100,000 Chicago workers to create and operate this incredible economic venture in a deeply depressed environment.

Close to 49 million people came to visit the fabulous Hall of Science. It contained exhibits of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geology and medical science. From the 4 corners of America they came; factory workers who wanted to see what industry was up to; boys from the wheat fields out Kansas way who couldn't wait to get a close look at sexy Sally Rand of the fluttering fans; school kids from science classes in the cities and small towns; housewives who wanted to see what science had to offer them in labor saving devices. Altogether, they paid over $37 million just to get in.

All across a depression-stricken land, people heard about what they might hope for in the imminent future - "Better living through science." There would be year-round air-conditioning, centrally controlled heating, electric home laundries, the all electric kitchen with an electric "ice box" and a machine that would really do the dishes.

There were so many new things to spark the imagination - a better world to live in tomorrow with more time for relaxation and enjoyment of life.

The big corporations were in on it, too - sparked by the remarkable popularity of the Expo.

General Electric in cooperation with the Federal Housing Administration sponsored a nationwide architectural competition to design homes using new scientific principles to solve the problems of contemporary housing.

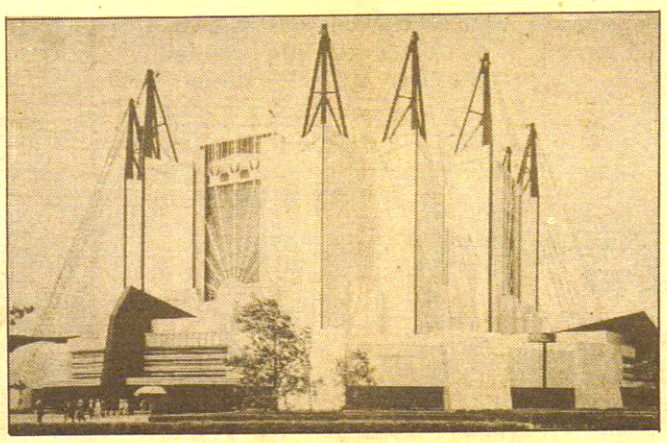
MEMORIES — "That's it," said David Kresl, when he first saw the historic old house at 1324 Maple, recounts Joan Kresl, pictured in front of the home that was their dream home and still is today.

According to Gerard Swope, president of General Electric, the national competition among architects for design of small homes would provide the ultimate in convenience and livability.

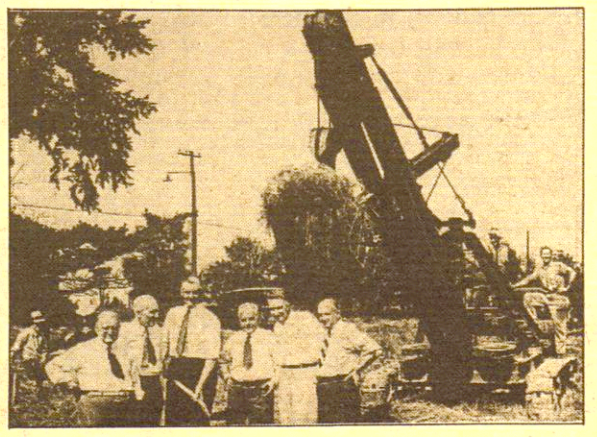
"This competition will enable the public to get a new vision of what an inexpensive home can be like in the new era of our national development .... science has made great strides in home electrification, even through the depression years. There is no longer need for a homemaker to tire herself out with household labor. Most of it can be done more simply and efficiently and less expensively by electrical servants. Washing, ironing, sweeping, cooking and washing of

(Continued on next page)

SPIFFY UNIFORMED CASHIERS — Mary Partridge Albright of Downers Grove, first row, far left, poses with the Century of Progress cashiers and staff for Dist. 6 in 1934.



FAR-OUT ARCHITECTURE — The Travel and Transport Building was just one of the stunning, radically designed buildings built expressly for the Century of Progress Exposition.



NEW HOME — Breaking ground in 1936 are Downers Grove Mayor Henry Diecke; Bob Salisbury, architect; Mr. Schless, builder; R. Cooper Jr.; and Mr. Fridstein of R. Cooper Jr. Electric.

Century of Progress hopes reflected in dream house

(Continued from previous page)

dishes can be done electrically at little cost. Great improvements have taken place in home lighting. The toilsome, troublesome heating problem can be solved and 'air conditioning' has arrived to make the home healthier, cleaner and more comfortable in the years ahead," said Swope.

General Electric would put its money where its mouth was. A memorandum from the "General Electric Review" (vol. 38, 1935) pointed to imminent labor saving and more comfortable homes for the working classes at affordable prices - the new American dream homes.

According to the Review: "A housing program of unprecedented sweep and ambition designed to produce one new home for each 100,000 of population throughout the country by Sept. 1, 1935 has been launched by the General Electric Co. The general plan is to offer selected builders new ideas, prize-winning drawings, substantial discounts and terms on electrical equipment and national advertising and support, all in consideration of the construction by the builders of demonstration-style houses. The company is already assured of the cooperation of the FHA and of numerous builders, publishers, and banks, which are anxious to help. The houses are to be opened this fall (1935) to the public during the months of September and October."

The location of the Chicago area "new American homes" were: Brookbank and Maple (1324 Maple ave.in Downers Grove); 3 homes on President and Ohio sts., Wheaton; 447 Greenfield in Oak Park (the national prize-winning home); 6100 N. Knox ave., Chicago (Sauganash District); and 9206 Irving ave., Beverly Hills.

Why these particular locations were selected by General Electric and the FHA is unclear.

A 1935 edition of the Downers Grove REPORTER carried a 3 column x 14 inch advertisement inserted by the Western United Gas and Electric Co. headlined: "Visit the 'New America' homes! - Brookbank and Maple." Pictured are 2 rooms featuring a laundry and kitchen, both rooms looking surprisingly modern for over 50 years ago. Caption for the kitchen picture reads: "The kitchens are designed to save steps and labor." Caption for the laundry room, "The laundries are thoroughly modern in every appointment."

The kitchen featured a refrigerator with cylinder atop and standing on legs. The room set the stage for future kitchen design with sink and built-in cabinets under an arched window treatment with built-ins (both upper and lower) above and below the sink and flanking right and left walls of the kitchen. The range stood on legs, and a desk and chair appear beside the refrigerator.

"The room set the stage for future kitchen design with sink and built-in cabinets under an arched window treatment with built-ins (both upper and lower) above and below the sink ..."

Copy for the ad read: "You will marvel when you see these prize-winning homes. Nothing has been omitted to make them an example of the highest living standards. They prove that better living has been made a science. Because they were designed from the inside out, they provide an entirely new measure of living comfort. Gas heat is used in the 'New American' homes. Full use is made of electricity's aid. Air-conditioning guards comfort and health the year 'round. Illumination is of the latest type. Every convenience appointment makes living a greater pleasure and lesser labor. Visit these 'New American' homes while they are open for inspection ... It will be an amazing experience."

It is unclear from old records exactly how many of the envisioned "New American" homes were actually built. The winds of war were blowing across Europe and war jitters in America presumably halted construction of these homes.

The current owners of the vintage home at 1324 Maple ave. in Downers Grove are David and Joan Kresl and their 4 children who purchased the home in 1976, moving here from Woodridge.

One of the early owners was the Jesse family. Dr. Jesse was a physicist who reportedly worked on the atomic bomb, according to Joan Kresl, who says she was once told by neighbors that Dr. Jesse had said his personal papers mysteriously disappeared from the house during his absence.

He was visibly upset and felt that a government agency was involved, according to the story that has since become legend. Dr. Jesse's hobby was growing old-fashioned roses and some of these bushes are still in existence on the property.

The home is still on the tax records as the "Jesse subdivision," according to Joan. The property, adjacent to Avery Coonley School, was sparsely populated when the home was built in 1936.

Curiously, the historic old house, once the dream home of thousands of people who trooped through it at the invitation of General Electric still maintains some of its dream-like qualities.

Visiting the home it is easy to recall the past. Standing in the compact end of the kitchen, one can almost hear the echoes of all the "ohs" and "ahs" of the delighted women who stood in fascinated contemplation of a future free of endless back-breaking household tasks.

The beautiful oak floors are still intact as are original ceiling moldings. The walnut fireplace looks very contemporary since the mantel is considered quite stylish today.

As might be expected, some modifications have taken place. The original screened-in porch has been converted to a glazed year-round porch. A modern deck has been added at the back of the house.

The now 3,300 square foot, 8 room house stands on ¾ acre of wooded land and is very comfortable living indeed (just as the forecasters of 55 years ago said it would be) with its large living room, formal dining room and delightfully cool basement rec room which is utilized every day of the year.

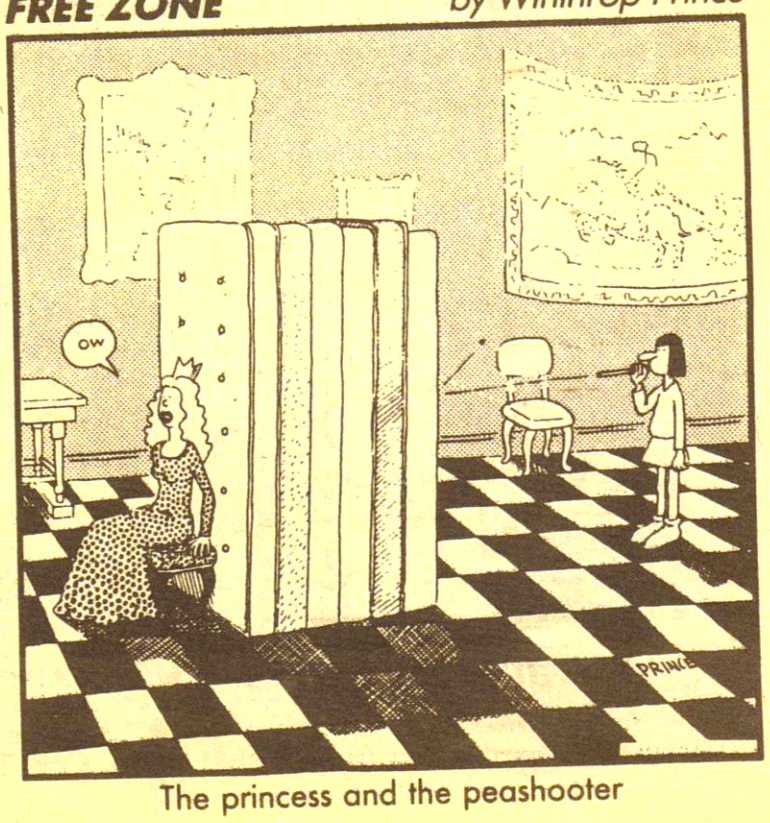
It's all there - just as predicted - except for one thing: the visionaries of 1935 forgot to mention the TV set in the corner of the rec room.

Dick Lund of Wheaton provided the research and material concerning the "New American" homes. He has been actively interested in these homes and has been in correspondence with the Schless Construction Co. of St. Charles who was the builder of the homes in Wheaton and Downers Grove with Robert H. Salisbury acting as the architect at that time. The General Electric dealer was R. Cooper Jr. of Chicago who was and still is a General Electric dealer.

ANNUAL PERM SALE
$35.00 Reg. $45.00
Includes Cut & Style
expires 7/30/88
Woodgrove Festival Mall
75th & Lemont Rd., Woodridge
910-1090
Shears unlimited
Tues.-Fri. 9a.m.-8p.m.
Sat. 8a.m.-4p.m.
Closed Sun. & Mon.

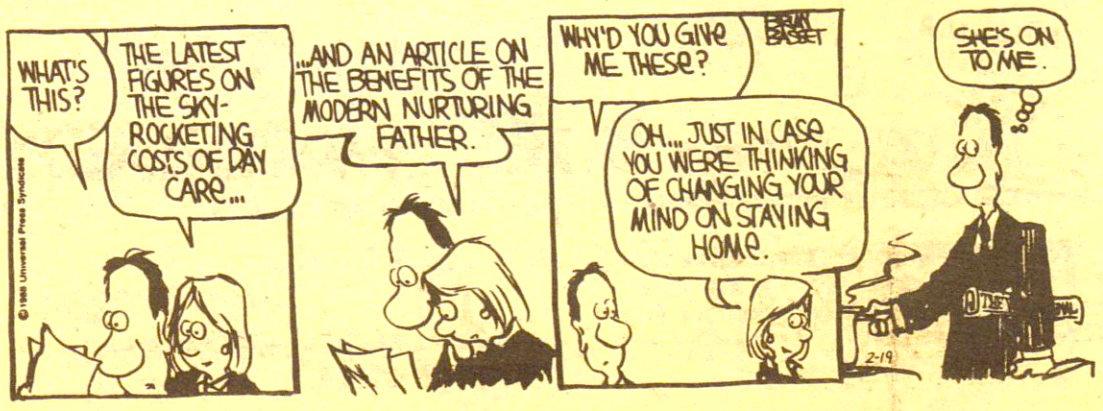
BRIDAL FASHION Show
New Bridal Gowns,
Brides Maid Dresses
& Special Occasion
Dresses.
Wednesday Evening, July 27th, 7 PM
No charge for reservations,
call 810-1066
Seating limited to Bride & guest.
FREE $2500
Bridal Package-
to be given at show.
Winners need not be present-stop in and register.
to be held at:
Gabriellas BRIDALS
345 W. Ogden Ave.,
WestGrove Place
Westmont

FREE ZONE by Winthrop Prince



The princess and the peashooter

Adam by Brian Basset



DRAFT

FILE 17-ADR-0011: A petition seeking a Historic Landmark Designation for the property commonly known as 1324 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove, IL (PINs 09-07-408-011, -012). The property is located on the north side of Maple Avenue, approximately 350 feet east of Lindenwald Lane. David and Joan Kresl, Petitioner and Owner.

Ms. Swati Pandey, Planner for the Village, presented the petitioners' application for landmark designation for the property at 1324 Maple Avenue. The home is located on the north side of Maple Avenue in the general vicinity of the Avery Coonley School. The home is 81 years old and Georgian style. Ms. Pandey showed undated photographs provided by the petitioner depicting a façade that today is the same as when originally constructed. Petitioners David and Joan Kresl are requesting landmark status based on three criteria: 1) the property has significant value as part of the historic, heritage or cultural characteristics of the community; 2) the property was owned and occupied by a person of historic significance to the community and nation; and, 3) the property is a representation of a notable work of a master builder.

During the Chicago World's Fair of 1933, General Electric partnered with the Federal Housing Authority and organized a competition to showcase innovations in home construction. Seven homes were chosen for construction, and one of those seven was in Downers Grove. The then Mayor of Downers Grove, the architect and the builder attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the house. The fact that this home was one of the seven homes chosen to be built makes it significant to qualify under the criteria mentioned earlier.

The second criterion is that the property was owned by a person of historical significance to the community and to the nation. Dr. William Jesse was an eminent scientist who lived in the house between 1950-1974, and was a research associate at the University of Chicago during the Manhattan project. He moved on to Argonne National Laboratory where he made accurate measurements of W, the energy required to produce an ion pair. This research is known as the "Jesse Effect and Related Phenomena." Dr. Jesse was honored with many certificates, citations and symposiums for his contributions in the field of science. Based on that information, the second criterion has been met.

The third criterion under which the request for landmarking was made is that the property is a representation of a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect. This home was built by Jacob T. Schless, owner of J.T. Schless Construction Company, whose company was responsible for building major commercial buildings, community service projects including schools and churches, and shipyards in the Chicago area. They contributed buildings

to “The Century of Progress Exposition” in Chicago in 1933 and again in 1939 for the New York World’s Fair. They are also the same builder of the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove, which opened in 1928.

Ms. Pandey stated that Staff finds the petition complies with the criteria in Section 12.302 for Landmark Designation and recommends that a positive recommendation to the Village Council be made for landmark status of 1324 Maple Avenue. She added that Dr. Jesse moved into the home in 1950, and the house was built in 1936.

Mr. Larson asked about the slope of the house, noting that it appears to be a two-story or three-story house from the rear.

David Kresl of 1324 Maple Avenue said it is an honor for them to be able to present their home for consideration as an historic landmark. He thanked everyone who helped them prepare for this petition. He said they have lived there 41 years and it has been home to five families. Architecturally it is a Georgian style home. The home was built following World War I, the race riots of 1919, the gangster era of the 1920s and the Stock Market crash of 1929. In 1933-34 Chicago held the World’s Fair where General Electric Company and the Federal Housing Administration held a competition to showcase innovations in home construction. Seven homes were built, including this home. The first Warranty Deed was dated August 22, 1935 to Mary Sellers who sold four lots to Mr. Rikstad, a Swedish immigrant. He was a mason and contracted J.T. Schless to build the home. On October 27, 1936 a three-day open house was held to invite people to view the accouterments including air conditioning, forced air heat, an electric laundry and kitchen area, all of which were unique to 1936. In researching the property, Mr. Kresl said he spoke with one of the Schless family children, who continued the construction business after his father’s passing in 1966, and built Fermi labs. Mr. J.T. Schless built the Tivoli Theater in Downers Grove, the second theater in the country built for talking moving pictures.

Mr. Kresl provided additional biographical information on Dr. Jesse who also lived in the home. Dr. Jesse worked in scientific research and in the 1930s he began studies of high-energy nuclear physics, which was the forerunner to man’s space exploration. He also worked on the Manhattan Project, and his efforts were important to the development of the atomic bomb leading to the end of World War II. In 1961 Dr. Jesse and scientists collaborated to develop a space chamber to orbit the earth and collect data on radiation in space. He was called a world leader in his field of measuring the fundamental concepts of radiation. A symposium was held in his honor in Gatlinburg, TN. Mr. Kresl said that both Mr. Schless and Dr. Jesse made major contributions to their respective fields and both lived at 1324 Maple Avenue.

DRAFT

Mr. Kresl described the construction of the home, which is built on a slope and has a walk-in basement on the lowest level. It totals around 3,000 square feet.

Ms. Chuck Holtzen provided more information on Dr. Jesse including his academic pursuits, military background, and advanced academic work in physics. Early in his career he worked for Westinghouse and General Electric on the East Coast before moving to the Midwest. She showed photographs of Dr. Jesse when he worked on the Manhattan Project Metallurgical Lab. It was during this time that Dr. Jesse served on the Atomic Energy Commission, leading to the eventual development of the atomic bomb.

Mr. Gordon Goodman of 5834 Middaugh said he appreciated the petition for landmarking for this particular home. Besides the architectural features, Mr. Goodman said by researching the home we learned a great deal about the people who have contributed to Downers Grove and the area, as well as the science of the area. This is an important aspect of the involvement of Argonne employees who lived in Downers Grove and became part of many aspects of Village life including education, local government, etc. He thinks we ought to be very sensitive to finding ways to use the designation of architectural landmarking to learn more and record more of the history of Downers Grove.

Secondly, Mr. Goodman said as information is developed, he is concerned that it does not disappear. He hopes the Village and perhaps the Park District will build a repository of the interesting facts that are brought forward during the landmarking process. The process is developing a good history of the period. He doesn't know what procedures will be used to archive the data, but he thinks the information should be captured and made available as part of the Village's history.

Thirdly, Mr. Goodman noted that it was brought out that a master builder was associated with this building. One of the characteristics of Downers Grove during the period of the 1960s and earlier was the number of families whose lives in the Village were part of construction and the development of major subdivisions in the community. That information should also be captured to recognize the architectural development of the community. There has to be a way to recognize and memorialize their contributions to the growth of this community. He said the Board is getting wonderful documentation on the history of Downers Grove and he does not want to see it lost.

Ms. Leitschuh said that the complete application as well as paper files provided to the Village as part of the landmarking process are all kept, scanned and placed in a digital file. It is then sent to Village Council as part of their final review. On line there are archived links available on the Historical Preservation page on homes that have been landmarked.

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Ms. Chalberg asked whether an outside organization such as the Historical Society could link the Village's digitized package to its mapping system. Ms. Leitschuh said they would have to have a Webmaster make sure the links are maintained over time. She said it is possible to do that. Ms. Chalberg said that right now that can be done for historic, landmarked and centennial homes at the Historical Society. It would be great to be able to link over to the Village's documentation as well.

Ms. Amy Gassen of 5320 Benton said that the landmark map is a work in progress right now. They will eventually be able to pull up an image with a brief summary and description of the home, and the actual documents will be available as well.

Ms. Chalberg suggested that at a future ADRB meeting they could have a demonstration on how to link the information together.

Ms. Gassen thanked the Kresl family for bringing the application forward. She also thanked Ms. Holtzen for her research on this house. This house has so much unique information attached to it. It is also one of the youngest homes they have landmarked, yet is filled with so much history.

Mr. Rich Kulovany of 6825 Camden also thanked the Kresls for coming forth with this landmark. It is also like a crossword puzzle with so many different pieces fitting together from building the Tivoli and Fermi Labs, to someone who is part of the Manhattan Project, or working on the space environment, etc. That happened in Downers Grove's back yard. He doesn't think they should ignore the possibilities of many more gems hidden in the Village.

Mr. Gordon Goodman of 5834 Middaugh asked how this home will be designated after landmarking. Ch. Davenport said he thought the owners said it would be designated as the Century of Progress Home.

Ms. Holtzen said she spoke with someone who thought there was sufficient information as a result of the research done to support a National Register name plaque for Dr. Jesse. She will continue to pursue that avenue, and since there is an amendment process available, there might also be enough information to add Mr. J.T. Schless as well.

Upon completion of comments from the public, Ch. Davenport closed the public portion of the hearing.

Mr. Riemer said this was an interesting application to read. This application used different criteria than they have seen in the past. He agrees that all three criteria have been met. He did a quick online search about the Jesse effect and people are still writing journal articles about it. It is a current

phenomenon. He agrees with Mr. Goodman's emphasis on capturing all the information that has been presented to make sure it is available moving forward. He has heard more information this evening than was in the application itself. He would like that all to be integrated into one record. Paper records are very important, as electronic formats tend to have a short cycle of obsolescence.

Ms. Leitschuh said that copies of the minutes are also kept once they are approved and finalized. Those are also placed in all the petition files.

Ms. Chalberg thanked everyone involved with identifying and helping the homeowners in the research that was done for this process. The depth of research that's been accomplished makes this even more exciting.

Ms. Chalberg moved that the property at 1324 Maple Avenue be recommended for approval for landmark status. Mr. Lerner seconded the Motion.
All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Leitschuh said she was not sure when this would go before the Village Council given the upcoming holidays. It could be in December or January the latest.

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Dr. William Polk Jesse

William Polk Jesse was born March 14, 1891 in New Orleans, Louisiana, the son of Addie (Polk) and Richard Henry Jesse. By the time he was 9 years old his family had relocated to Columbia, Missouri. His father was President of the University of Missouri from 1891 to 1908. William graduated from MU in 1913 with a Degree in Mechanical Engineering. In 1915 he began work on an advanced degree at MU, but his studies were interrupted by World War I. According to WWI records William was a 1st Lieutenant in the US Army.

In 1919 he resumed his work on his advanced degree at the University of Chicago under Professor Robert A. Millikan. Millikan received a Noble Prize in Physics in 1923. In 1921 William became an instructor at Yale University where he received his Ph. D. in Physics in 1924.

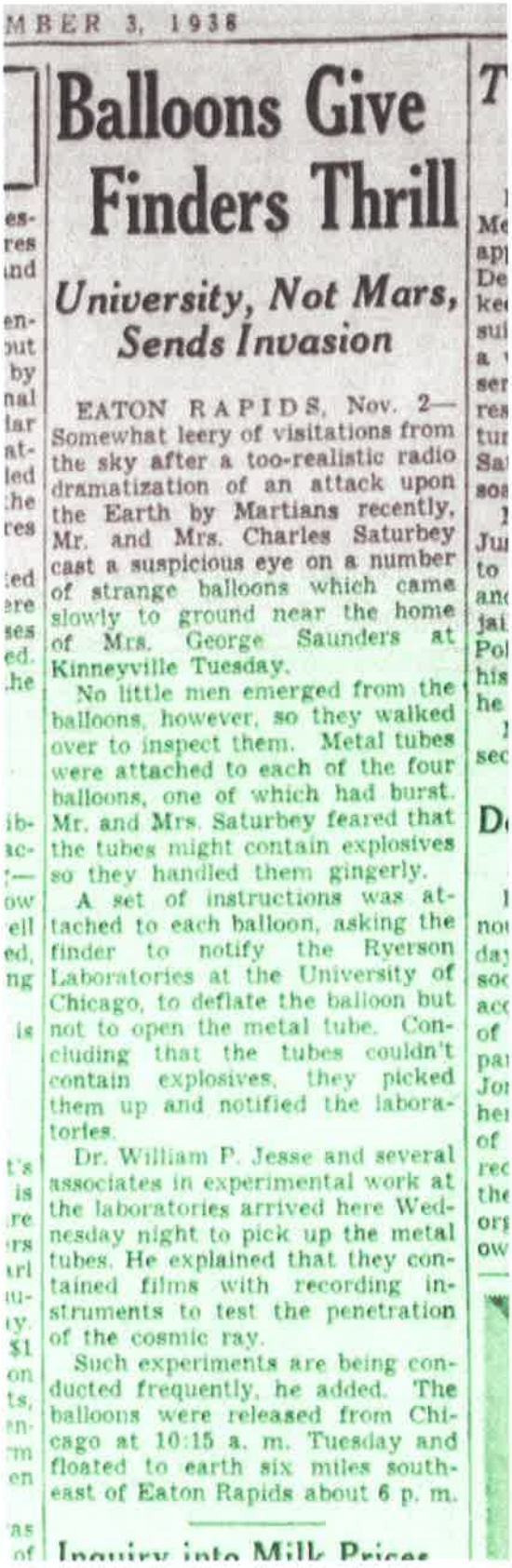
Dr. Jesse was an assistant professor at Lehigh University in Bethlehem Pennsylvania for 3 years from 1924 to 1927. He then traveled to London, England to work with Sir William Bragg, who received a Nobel Prize in Physics in 1915. From 1927 to 1929 he worked on research in the Davy-Faraday Laboratory of the Royal Institute with Bragg.

After London, Dr. Jesse went to work for General Electric for 5 years. It was during this time he married Miss Anna Lloyd on May 31, 1930. They lived in Schenectady, New York during this time. He also spent time working for Westinghouse during his early career.

In 1934 Jesse returned to the University of Chicago to work in the Cosmic-Ray Group with Professor Arthur Compton, who received a Nobel Prize in Physics in 1927. Compton eventually became Chairman of the Committee whose work contributed to the development of the Manhattan Project. He was asked to direct the Metallurgical Laboratory at the University of Chicago which is where Dr. Jesse would also work.

Jesse's work in the Cosmic Ray Group, as colleague Dr. Ernest Wollan stated in 1974, "...played an important part in some experiments in the "stratosphere" before the Space Age." Jesse worked with his colleagues from 1938 to 1941, explained by Wollan as addressing "the question of the nature of the penetrating component in the atmosphere and of the primary radiation". During this time is when the equipment was carried away by weather-type balloons. Sometimes these balloon events made the news. One article that appeared in the Detroit Free Press November 3, 1938 helps us to understand the uniqueness of this research during this time period. On October 30, 1938 "War of the Worlds" was performed on the radio. Just 4 days later one of the balloons was found near Kenneyville, Michigan giving the homeowners a bit of a scare.

Read Article



MBER 3, 1938

Balloons Give Finders Thrill

University, Not Mars, Sends Invasion

EATON RAPIDS, Nov. 2—Somewhat leery of visitations from the sky after a too-realistic radio dramatization of an attack upon the Earth by Martians recently, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Saturbey cast a suspicious eye on a number of strange balloons which came slowly to ground near the home of Mrs. George Saunders at Kinneyville Tuesday.

No little men emerged from the balloons, however, so they walked over to inspect them. Metal tubes were attached to each of the four balloons, one of which had burst. Mr. and Mrs. Saturbey feared that the tubes might contain explosives so they handled them gingerly.

A set of instructions was attached to each balloon, asking the finder to notify the Ryerson Laboratories at the University of Chicago, to deflate the balloon but not to open the metal tube. Concluding that the tubes couldn't contain explosives, they picked them up and notified the laboratories.

Dr. William P. Jesse and several associates in experimental work at the laboratories arrived here Wednesday night to pick up the metal tubes. He explained that they contained films with recording instruments to test the penetration of the cosmic ray.

Such experiments are being conducted frequently, he added. The balloons were released from Chicago at 10:15 a. m. Tuesday and floated to earth six miles southeast of Eaton Rapids about 6 p. m.

Inquiry into Milk Prices

Show pic of the Pile

In 1941 Dr. Jesse transferred to the Metallurgical Laboratory to join the group assembled to work on the Manhattan Project. In 1943 Jesse served as a group leader in Control and Instrumentation, in 1944 he became Section Chief of P-I, Instrumentations in the Physics Division, and in 1945 he became Section Chief of P-II, Treatments. So in terms you and I can understand he was head of the section responsible for the radiation instrumentation. The Met Lab was one of the most important branches of the Manhattan Project. And was called the Metallurgical Lab or Met Lab as a cover for the work they were doing.

Show pic of the Zeuss

During Jesse's time on the Manhattan Project, along with Francis Shonka, they developed The Zeus Detector. It was used for alpha, beta and gamma survey work for health physics applications.

Dr. Jesse served on the Atomic Energy Commission. According to the website u-s-history.com, the AEC was authorized by the Atomic Energy Act of 1946. It assumed the operations of the Manhattan Project on January 1, 1947, which began in 1942 to produce the first atomic bomb.

After the War Dr. Jesse worked at Argonne National Laboratory. In 1952 he discovered the Jesse Effect. Described as "A minute amount of contaminants which greatly enhances the total ionization of helium gas by alpha particles." There are still papers written today discussing this phenomena.

In 1956 Dr. Jesse became a full-time research Physicist in the Physical Sciences Laboratory at St. Precopius College, now known as Illinois Benedictine University. During this time he received support from the Atomic Energy Commission. His work at the University gave him the opportunity to continue his research efforts he had begun at Argonne National Laboratory.

Show pic of Dr. Jesse in lab at Benedictine

Jesse retired from Illinois Benedictine in August 1972. After retirement he became a consultant to the Illinois Benedictine Laboratory Director, Dr. John Spokas. In November 1973 a Symposium on the Jesse Effect and Related Phenomena was held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The symposium was sponsored by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Argonne National Laboratory, and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The symposium was held

to honor Dr. Jesse and hear 14 papers that were presented related to this phenomena.

William Jesse liked to do everyday things like you and me. His colleagues noted during the Symposium to honor him that "he had many interests outside of science with the strongest interests being painting and gardening". David Kresl noted when they moved into 1324 Maple there was evidence of the rose gardens that were most likely remnants of Jesse's love of gardening. Dr. William Polk Jesse passed away February 17, 1974. He and his wife Anna, had no children.