

## CONSTRUCTION NEAR '30 PEAK

Defense Building Is Spur To Activity; 54% of Total Private

NEW YORK June 20 (U. P.)—Construction contracts awarded in the 37 Eastern states during May rose to a new high since June, 1930, at \$548,700,000, topping the previous month by 35 per cent and the corresponding 1940 month by 65 per cent, the F. W. Dodge Corp. reports.

The Dodge report indicated that public and private ownership construction shared almost equally in the May boom.

Public ownership projects in May accounted for \$254,836,000, or 46 per cent of the total. Private construction, however, continued in the dominant position with a dollar volume of \$293,864,000, largely because of many industrial plant projects to be erected for defense production.

The building authority also noted that one and two family house building held an important place in the May construction figures, accounting for 28 per cent of the total. This volume, it was stated, made provision for more than 30,000 new dwelling units.

"Since the Federal Housing Administration's weekly reported volumes of mortgages selected for appraisal and mortgages accepted for insurance rate well above last year throughout the month of May, continued small-house activity at high levels is indicated," the Dodge Corp. said.

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## Geo. Washington Would Be at Home in This Model House; Mt. Vernon-Electro to Be Opened Sunday for 30 Days

George and Martha Washington would feel right at home at the Mt. Vernon-Electro Home.

The all-electric home, just completed by the Indianapolis Home Builders Association in Meridian-Kessler-Terrace, combines the appearance of stately Mt. Vernon with the conveniences of 1940.

The first spadeful of dirt on the home site at Kessler Blvd. and Gladwin Ave. was turned on George Washington's birthday this year. The tall columns of the porch are reminiscent of the Mt. Vernon entrance and the wallpaper in the front hall and stair-way are exact reproductions of the Mt. Vernon wall covering.

There's an interesting story behind that wallpaper. It seems that in 1775 Washington was adding to his home. But the work was not completed when Paul Revere aroused the folks of Lexington, and Washington was called to lead the Continental Army.

So Martha Washington was left the task of completing the addition to the house. She selected the wallpaper, which is white with very scenic figures.

Then in 1805 Bushrod Washington covered the walls with a coat of plaster and it was nearly a century before the wallpaper underneath was revealed by the peeling of the outer coating.

Ross Neives, the contractor, characterizes the architecture as "modernized Mt. Vernon." The house was designed by Orval Williamson.

It has a long living room running the width of the house decorated in grey and white. On one side is a white Colonial fireplace. On the other is a set of windows with a 10-foot expanse and a southern exposure. A closed-in porch runs the width of the living room at the rear.

The dining room wall paper design is called "Gobelin." It is light blue with white and grey figures. The

design is believed to have been made by LeBrun, chief court painter for Louis XV. This art was imported to the colonies in the 17th Century. It was copied from an old Colonial house in Charleston, W. Va. The library is downstairs in the back and its woodwork light walnut in color, the only woodwork in the house which is not white. The floor is parquet, and the wall paper is warm grey with white and brown designs. This design is called French Damask and was found in an old Colonial house near Philadelphia.

The all-electric kitchen is done in light lime and white with patterned linoleum bordered with yellow and midnight blue stripes. The breakfast nook paper is white, and silver striped with a brilliant rose vine.

Upstairs are three bedrooms and two baths. The master bedroom is decorated in apricot with rose figures, another design with a history. It was found in a collection of old documents and is considered a true example of the early Victorian period.

The other front bedroom is in



The Mt. Vernon-Electro home... Colonial style with ultramodern conveniences.

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**REMODEL YOUR HOME**, suggests hundreds of ideas for improving your home. Whether your basic structure is your home now or an abandoned house or garage can be done.

**GARDENING GUIDE**: What to do in your garden each month and how to do it.

**YOUR GARDEN OF PERENNIALS**, gives information on the preparation of the soil, including fertilizing and drainage.

**LANDSCAPING**—We will gladly assist you with your LANDSCAPING problems. Right now is a fine time to plant EVERGREENS—SHRUBS.

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THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

## BUILDING, LOAN SAVINGS UP 4%

April's Gain Over Year Ago Is 15 Per Cent, Says League Head.

Times Special

CHICAGO, June 20.—April was the third month of 1941 to witness the receipt of more than \$100,000,000 by the savings, building and loan associations and co-operative banks throughout the country. The inflow amounted to \$102,402,000, the United States Savings and Loan League reported this week, making April the most active month since January.

Paul Endicott of Pomona, Cal., League president, said that it was an increase of approximately half a million dollars or 4.3 per cent over the March volume of new funds for any January-April period since 1940.

The total of funds entrusted to the savings, building and loan associations the first four months passed the half billion dollar mark, the largest volume of new funds for any January-April period since before the depression.

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