

To AIANJ members:

Exactly 150 years ago today a group of *men*, which in just two short months of their original meeting in Richard Upjohn's New York City office had grown from 13 to 39 established an organization for architects and architecture to "promote the scientific and practical perfection of its members," and to "elevate the standing of the profession." The celebratory luncheon at the legendary Delmonico's in lower Manhattan was held this day after their corporate papers had been filed.

As architects we see the BIG picture. We create entire environments, interiors and exteriors that satisfy functional needs and are exciting. We are the **only** professional who has the education, training, and experience to guide the public through the entire design and construction process.

This year and in fact this very day is an exciting time for all of us as we continue to celebrate our sesquicentennial anniversary. For those of you who participated and continue to participate in presenting our 6th grade program, where you introduced the world of architecture to some very young interested students, I am convinced that you inspired them to encounter some of what we try to do everyday in our offices.....make our communities more livable. My heartfelt thanks to all of you for your efforts here. From the reports so far we have presented to well over 5,000 children and I think have made an absolute impact on their lives and hopefully the lives of all as we move forward from here. We have truly helped the public understand architecture through this educational process and I am grateful for your service in this regard.

For those of you who could not make a presentation, you still can be involved by donating to our 150th campaign and hope that you will write your check today and send it in. Remember, that AIANJ will

match dollar for dollar what you donate up to \$50,000.

Happy 150th to you all!

Jerry

Jerome Leslie Eben, AIA

AIANJ President