During the 1940s, while the world was preoccupied with war, one might think that progress in the wall and ceiling industry came to a stand-still. But this was not the case.

Record-breaking construction projects were completed during this decade. For example, in 1940, T.A. O'Rourke & Company received world-wide attention for its contribution to the Metropolitan Insurance Company’s Parkchester project, the world’s largest lathing and plastering project. The job included 700,000 yards of 3/8 in. rib, 36,000 tons of neat gypsum plaster, 15,500 tons of hydrated lime and 130,000 cubic yards of plastering sand.

The CPIA continued to serve the industry during these troubled times. In 1941, a national industry promotion committee was formed with the Metal Lath Association, the Gypsum Association, the Portland Cement Association, the OP&CMIA, the Lathers Union, the Finishing Lime Association of Ohio and the CPIA.

In 1942, radiant heat became big news, and, starting with plaster-embedded pipe and coil systems, later developed into the embedded resistance electric cable.

By 1943, prefabricated houses were going up, reflecting the management efficiency learned during wartime production.

In 1945, CPIA President Oscar Reum died at the age of 78. John H. Hampshire of Baltimore was named president, serving through 1946.

In 1946, “The Plastering Craft” Editor Edward McDonnell died, following a brief illness. Faced with the loss of its editor and the troublesome times of the war, CPIA suspended publication.

Edmond F. Venzie of The Venzie Corporation in Philadelphia, served as CPIA President from 1946 through 1953.

By the middle of the decade, CPIA’s membership was shrinking dramatically, and the organization’s activities were severely limited. Following a “telephone booth” meeting at the Hotel Carter in Cleveland, the organization was revived and the next convention was held in Chicago.

In September 1947 “The Plastering Craft” was officially merged with the independent publication, Plastering Industries, owned and published by Charles F. Clay, Seattle, WA. And, PI became the official organ for the CPIA.

The first curtain wall construction of lath and plaster appeared on the “Molette” housing project in Moline, IL in April, 1948. The Mercantile Bank Building in Dallas, Texas under direction of A.A. Greer Inc., set a new pace.
for fireproofing with lath and plaster and lightweight aggregates.

Mechanized plastering boosted lightweight aggregated construction and all lath and plaster assemblies. In July, 1949, stapling machines came to the front when used for attaching cornerite and strip reinforcing.

**MEANWHILE, THE REST OF THE WORLD...**

1940 - Roosevelt reelected and
First peacetime draft approved
Trotsky assassinated in Mexico

1941 - Japan attacks Pearl Harbor

1942 - Marines land on Guadalcanal
McArthur vows: “I shall return.”

1943 - Income tax withholding introduced

1944 - FDR re-elected
GI Bill of Rights signed, granting veterans benefits

1945 - Marines land on Iwo Jima
Yalta conference held
Roosevelt dies and Truman takes office
Germany and Japan surrender

1946 - Nuremberg war trial verdicts
Civilian industry is resumed

1947 - Jackie Robinson joins the Brooklyn Dodgers, first black major league baseball player
Taft-Hartley Labor Act curbs strikes

1948 - Truman elected, starts Berlin air lift
Nation of Israel proclaimed
India’s Mahatma Gandhi assassinated

1949 - US, Canada and 10 western european nations form NATO
Tokyo Rose sentenced to 10 years
US troops withdraw from Korea

**NEXT MONTH:**
**THE FABULOUS FIFTIES**