

## The Building America Series (1935-48)

[Note: "The Society for Curriculum Study launched BUILDING AMERICA in 1935 as a non-profit making venture in education. In 1943 the Society for Curriculum Study and the Department of Supervisors and Directions of Instruction of the National Education Association were merged to form the Department of Supervision and Curriculum Development (NEA)." (p. viii in Volume 1, see below)]

"BUILDING AMERICA is a series of pictorial study units on modern problems, sponsored by the Society for Curriculum Study, and for five years assisted by the Lincoln School of Teachers College, Columbia University, NY. It is designed for the use of schools, colleges, youth organizations, and the general public. It meets a long-felt need for visual as well as factual studies of basic contemporary problems." (p. 28)

"The Editorial Board of BUILDING AMERICA believes that... if our own democracy is to work even more successfully, and if we are to achieve that cooperation with "men of good will everywhere," our people must know the facts. They must know the range of expert opinion. They must be skilled in weighing the facts and in evaluating conflicting opinions. They must be practiced in working together cooperatively to solve their common problems of life. They must be willing to act intelligently on the important issues of our times." (p. viii)

"The facts used in BUILDING AMERICA are gathered from the newest and best available sources. Students are given pertinent information about the problems considered, but are left free to draw their own solutions. This technique has many distinctive values. It vitalizes the problem through the consideration of conflicting opinions. It challenges the student to determine the relative merits of current opinions. It help him to understand how various groups of different interests and backgrounds are affected by proposals. It practices the student in making up his own mind regarding modern social controversies. In short, this technique helps students to develop habits and skills that they need as citizens of our democracy." (p. ix)

"Each study unit is voluminously illustrated, about half the page surface usually being devoted to graphic material. These illustrations have been carefully selected for authenticity and variety; to attract the attention of students; and to convey information directly, simply, and concretely to them; to stir thinking. Photographs visualize what they may never be able to study at first-hand. With dramatic humor, cartoons summarize statistical data in a way which makes it easy to under important points."

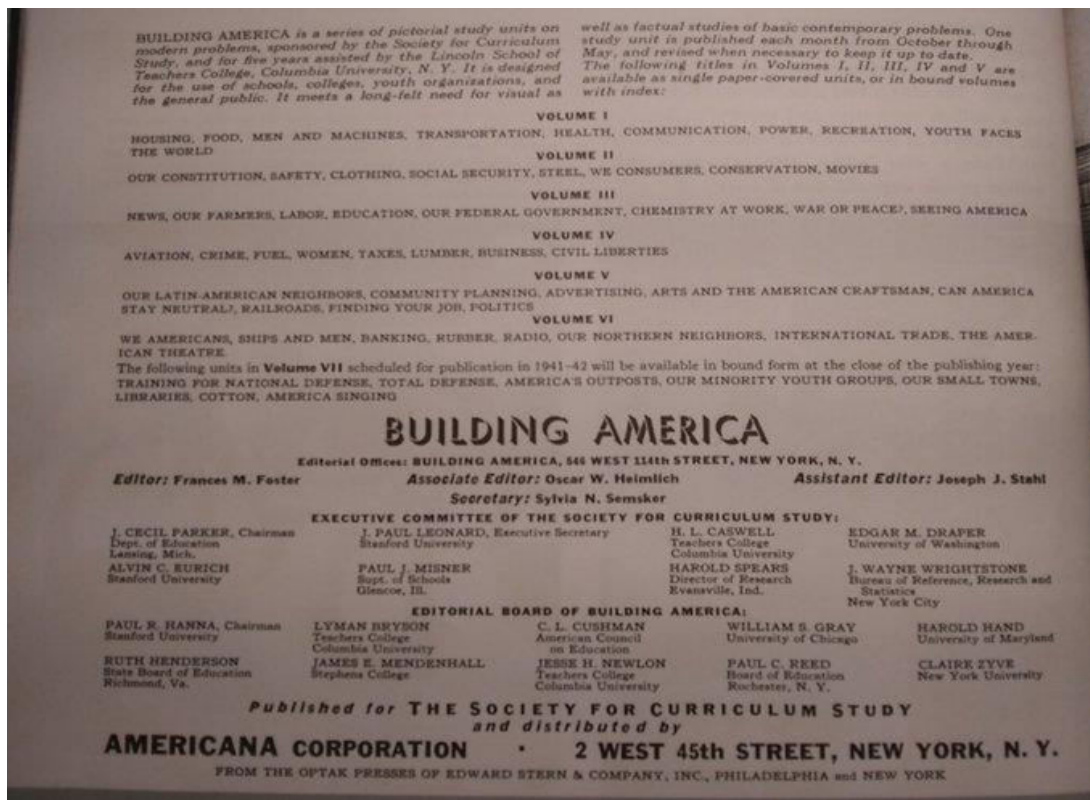
[Source: "Building America: Illustrated Studies on Modern Problems" Volume 1 by Department of Supervision and Curriculum Development, National Education Association Americana Corporation 1942]

(more)

An illustrated series like the Building America series, which included many challenge topics, and case study solutions, would be a most valuable whole community educational supplement--especially at this critical time.

[Unfortunately, there is no online example of any of the volumes of this very remarkable Building America educational series.]

Included below is the masthead from Volume 1 (which I have).



[Information and photo of masthead provided by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Resource Coordinator of The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative at [www.cpcsi.org](http://www.cpcsi.org) ]

[Additional Note: I currently have a request in

Newman, Jr., Robert E. (1960). "History of a Civic Education Project Implementing the Social Problem Technique of Instruction" Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Stanford University, Stanford, California. (in Box 47, Folder 5 of Paul Hanna papers) to the Hoover Institution Library and Archives at Stanford University, for a copy of the above dissertation, which is a history of the Building America series.]