

Personality Profile

ROLAND O. FERLAND



A man who keeps his finger on the pulse of both real estate and building activities is Roland O. Ferland.

Despite the fact that he holds memberships in 18 business and fraternal organizations and is heading the Home Builders Association of R. I. for a second term, you'll usually find him at his desk in the offices of Alpheg Ferland & Sons Inc., 180 Armistice Blvd., this city at 8:30 a.m. And, if there just happens not to be a meeting that day, you'll also find that he's just about "glued" to the desk throughout the day and many times late in night.

Taking things seriously is the way Mr. Ferland operates.

His professional affiliations include Home Builders Association of R. I., NAHB of which he is national representative from Rhode Island, incorporator of Pawtucket Institution for Savings, Pawtucket Board of Realtors, Elder Investment Club, R. I. Industrial Building Authority, Pawtucket Industrial Development Commission of which he has served as chairman, Pawtucket-Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce and Woonsocket Chamber of Commerce.

He also holds memberships in the Te Koon Club of Pawtucket, Aurora Club of Providence, Pawtucket Country Club, Le Foyer of Pawtucket, Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree; American Legion Old Elder Mill Assn., Annetta, Red May Lodge, Jelly Miller Club and is a life member of the Spide Club of the NAHB.

Why all the activity, one might ask.

Mr. Ferland sums it up quickly. "You've got to know what's going on when you're in both the real estate and building business and taking part in the activities of organizations connected with your work is a good way to do it."

He's executive vice-president of the Pawtucket firm that was founded by his father back in the '30s and has been a family affair ever since.

Mr. Ferland said that for 1965 he sees "some building going up 4 to 5 per cent; an over-all boost in real estate sales of about 6 per cent and no increase in apartment building from last year."

Those figures, he said, are for Rhode Island, where he also sees "a big boost in industrial construction and some also in commercial building during the year."

His leisure time is spent with his wife, Arlene, and their two boys, Roland James and Roger Joseph, at their summer place on the Cape and in the winter at ski resorts in New Hampshire.

A graduate of St. Raphael Academy, Pawtucket, he attended both Providence College and the University of Rhode Island and served with the Eighth Army, 24th Corps. He was a sergeant and served in Korea and the Philippines.

Despite all the activity, he's still a businessman who, when not called upon to help out with some activity connected with either real estate or building you can find him at his office and-- something pretty hard to do with many executives-- get to talk to him.