



HOLING THROUGH

March, 1945

Moles' Awards for Construction Achievement

Received by W. V. McMenimen and Frank T. Crowe

Presentations Made by Admiral Ben Moreell
and Carl L. Swenson before Dinner Group of 700--
President Arthur A. Johnson Opens
Ceremony Directed by E. A. Prentis,
Chairman of Award Committee

Seven hundred strong, members of The Moles and their guests, assembled at dinner in the grand ballroom of the Roosevelt Hotel, New York City, Feb. 7, witnessed the presentation of the organization's Annual Awards for Construction Achievement to William V. McMenimen (Mole member), vice-president and general manager, Raymond Concrete Pile Co., and constructor of Navy bases in the Pacific, and Frank T. Crowe (non-member) general superintendent, Pacific Constructors, Inc., builder of Boulder, Shasta and other large dams. Constituting a WHO'S

WHO of the construction industry, the list of Moles' members and honor guests included high-ranking Navy and Army officers, eminent engineers both in public service and in private practice and contractors who have achieved fame in the fields of tunneling and heavy construction of all types.

After introductory remarks by Arthur A. Johnson, president of The Moles, who sketched the history of the organization since it came into being in 1936, Edmund A. Prentis, chairman of the Award

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MEMBERS' DINNER, TIED TO RED CROSS DRIVE, WILL REPLACE "FROLIC"

At its meeting March 7 the Executive Committee, on recommendation of Ham Penn, chairman, Program Committee, voted to substitute for the Moles' annual spring FROLIC a dinner for members only. The event will feature speakers from the Army and the Navy and the showing of a motion picture dealing with operations of the armed forces. Tickets for this function, scheduled for the evening of May 9 at the Roosevelt Hotel, New York, will each carry an added charge of \$1 which will be donated to the Red Cross. The Executive Committee also voted \$300 as a contribution by The Moles to the Red Cross drive.

HONOR GUEST TABLE AT AWARD DINNER



Published occasionally by

The MOLES

11 West 42nd St., New York, N.Y.

An organization of construction men experienced in the building of tunnels, subways, sewers, foundations, marine and other heavy structures.

AWARD DINNER (Cont. from pg. 1)

Committee, took over the duties of presiding officer and called upon Charles B. Spencer, vice-president, to introduce the distinguished guests, seated at a V-shaped table on the dais.



THE WINNERS! William V. McMenimen (left) and Frank T. Crowe exchange congratulations on receipt of Moles' Achievement Awards.

Grand Slam for Crowe

Carl L. Swenson, vice-pres. of Foley Bros. Inc., made the presentation of the non-member Award to Frank Crowe, who, he said "has achieved the 'grand slam' in dam building--nineteen in all, the last three of these being Boulder, the world's highest, towering nearly 700 ft. above the roaring Colorado River; Parker, with its foundation reaching down 250 ft. through the loose, treacherous bed of the same river; and Shasta, the largest single concrete job, 6,500,000 cu. yd., ever let under one contract". Mr. Swenson paid tribute to Crowe's "resourcefulness, ingenuity, invention and intestinal fortitude".

In accepting the non-member Award, Frank Crowe modestly characterized himself as "an old construction stiff from the river bottoms of the West who has been made exceedingly happy by the receipt of this honor from The

Moles". Crowe referred to another and less formal award, in the form of an inscribed wearing plate from a slip scraper, which he had received back in 1910 from his fellow workers on a Western construction job where he solved a problem that inconvenienced a field force of 1,000 men by a simple and ingenious application of a hitherto unrecorded principle of Chick Sale engineering.

Admiral Moreell Lauds McMenimen

In presenting the member Award to Bill McMenimen, Vice Admiral Ben Moreell, chief of the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks, said: "I consider myself an agent of the Government designated for this occasion to honor an outstanding builder and, by this means, to pay tribute to the construction industry itself for the things that you have made possible in this war. While the career of Bill McMenimen is studded

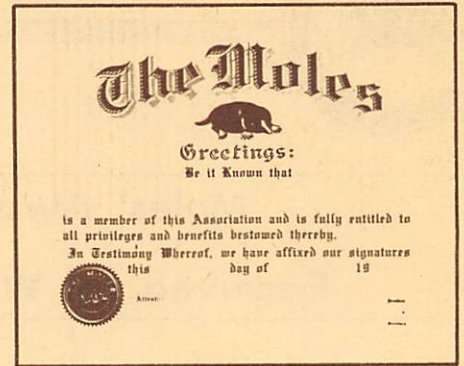


AWARD PRESENTATIONS were made by Carl L. Swenson (left) and Admiral Ben Moreell.

with notable accomplishments, the highlight was his work as chairman of the executive committee of the contractors who built our great Naval Bases in the Pacific Ocean areas. This work constitutes a build-operation unique

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RESTYLED CERTIFICATES TO GO TO ALL MEMBERS



NEW CERTIFICATES of MEMBERSHIP, restyled, modernized and improved in appearance through the efforts of Secretary Bill Hanly, will soon be sent, without charge, to all MOLE members.

Dimensions are the same as formerly so that the new certificates will fit the frames carrying the old ones. The certificates, illustrated herewith, appear in a new and attractive type dress and are embellished with a gold seal carrying The Mole emblem. They will carry the signatures of the president and the secretary of The Moles who held office at the time each certificate was issued.

PRENTIS' REPORT ON AWARD DINNER SUGGESTS IMPROVED DETAILS

With the object of making the next Moles' AWARD DINNER even better than the one held Feb. 7, when Frank Crowe and Bill McMenimen were honored, Chairman Edmund A. Prentis, of the Award Committee, after canvassing officers, trustees and committee members for constructive comment, submitted to the Executive Committee the following recommendations:

1. Limit attendance to 700 members and guests.
2. Display Mole emblem, with other decorations, above rostrum at head table.
3. Close bar before Award ceremonies begin.
4. Omit individual introductions of all guests at table on dais. On printed dinner

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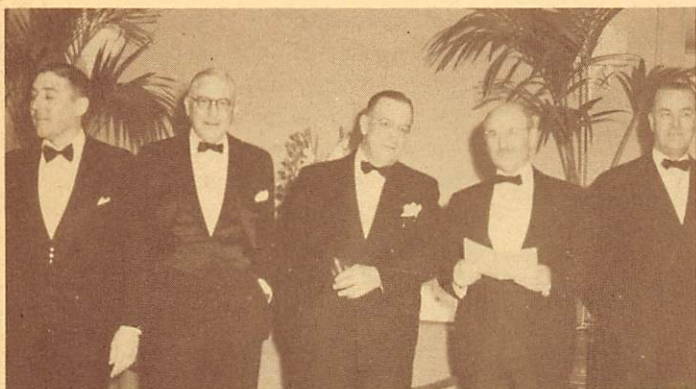
CAMERA'S-EYE VIEW OF MOLES' AWARD DINNER, FEB. 7



STAR PERFORMERS at dinner are Vice-President Charles B. Spencer (left), who introduced distinguished guests; Award Committee Chairman Edmund A. Prentis, who presided; and Admiral Ben Moreell, who presented Member Award to W. V. McMenimen.



ALL SEVEN PRESIDENTS of The Moles, since its organization in 1936, line up at Award Dinner. They are (left to right): President Arthur A. Johnson, Arthur A. Johnson Corp., and Past-Presidents John S. Macdonald, Walsh-Kaiser Co.; Alexander Lyle, The Carleton Co., Inc.; Alex M. Stagg, A.M. Stagg Lumber & Coal Co., Inc.; Ray N. Spooner, Allen N. Spooner & Son, Inc.; Albert V. Sielke, consulting engineer; and Harry A. Leeuw, of Spooner organization.



SPEAKER'S TABLE LINEUP includes (left to right): Secretary William W. Hanly, Jr., Koppers Co.; A.M. Hirsch, president, Lock Joint Pipe Co.; Frank W. Barnes, Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp.; Ole Singstad, chief engineer, New York City Tunnel Authority; and Ray N. Spooner, Allen N. Spooner & Son, Inc.



EAST MEETS WEST at Award Dinner, as J.C. Maguire, Pacific Constructors, Inc., Los Angeles (left), chats with Carl Swenson, Foley Bros., Inc.; Frank W. Barnes, Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp.; Lou R. Crandall, George A. Fuller Co.; Carlton Proctor, Moran, Proctor, Freeman & Mueser; and J. Wright Taussig, Raymond Concrete Pile Co.



ON DECK for Award Dinner are (left to right): Admiral Frederic Harris (retired), former chief, Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks; Vice Admiral Ben Moreell, present Bureau chief, and members of his staff, Rear Admiral J.J. Manning, Captain W.H. Smith, Captain Kirby Smith, and Lieut. Cmdr. R.M. Hudson.



RENEWING FRIENDSHIPS before dinner are (in usual order): Mole Vice-President Alfred N. Warwick, Eugene F. Warwick, Inc.; Commissioner Irving V.A. Huie, New York City Department of Public Works; and Col. Albert H. Burton, division engineer, North Atlantic Division, Corps of Engineers.

AWARD DINNER (Cont. from pg. 2)

in the history of the world in point of money value, diversity of types, dispersion of locations, difficulties of construction, hazards of personnel and, above all, importance to the national security". The operations described by Admiral Moreell covered an ocean area of 10 million square miles and involved an expenditure for construction of \$330,555,014 over a period of 3½ years.

Mr. McMenimen's speech of acceptance of the member Award constituted a timely, carefully considered and realistic appraisal of the post-war prospects for construction, both in this country and in foreign countries. "I have arrived at the conclusion", said Mr. McMenimen, "that the soundest investment we can make to-day is the building up of a proper personnel that will be ready and able to carry on after the period of conversion from war to peace". (Further excerpts from Mr. McMenimen's address appear in another column.)

Invasion Ports Described

After The Moles' Awards had been presented and accepted, Chairman Prentis introduced Rear Admiral John J. Manning, U. S. Navy, who gave a graphic description of how two artificial ports were constructed on the Normandy coast of France in connection with the Allied invasion of Europe beginning on D-Day, June 6, 1944. The project involved the sinking of huge, prefabricated concrete caissons (towed across the English Channel) to form breakwaters, and the connection of off-shore pier-heads with the beach by long floating bridges, consisting of roadways supported by pontoons.

The meeting concluded with a brief and graceful tribute to Frank Crowe by the president of his alma mater, Dr. Arthur A. Hauck, of the University of Maine, who referred to the Award winner's outstanding success in the handling of men and his ability to

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ALF HJORT DIES



The sudden death of Alf Hjort on Dec. 12 cost The Moles one of its most valued members and the construction industry an outstanding representative. As chief engineer of the George H. Flinn Corp., New York contractors, for the last 15 years, he worked on subway construction in Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx, the Montague and Clark Street tunnels, the Holland Tunnel, the Bayonne naval drydock and the Brooklyn-Battery tunnel.

Born in Oslo, Norway, in 1877, Alf was graduated in 1901 from the State Polytechnic Institute of Berlin. After a short time as designer for the General Electric Co. in Berlin, he came to America and was from 1904-1909 electrical engineer on the Pennsylvania Railroad tunnels under the Hudson and the Long Island Railroad tunnel under the East River for S. Pearson & Son.

He was a Mole trustee, member of the American Society of Electrical Engineers, Municipal Engineers and American Society of Military Engineers. Surviving are his wife and son, Alf Hjort, Jr.

BOB MAYO IS NOW MAJOR WITH MARINES IN PACIFIC

Robert S. Mayo, Mole member, was recently promoted from captain to major in the Marine Corps. He is executive officer of a Combat Engineer Battalion of the Fleet Marine Force on a South Pacific Island.

POST-WAR PROSPECTS OF CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY DISCUSSED BY McMENIMEN

A warning against over-optimism on the part of contractors with regard to the period immediately following the end of the war was sounded by William V. McMenimen in his speech accepting the Construction Award of The Moles at the Feb. 7 Award Dinner.

"We must recognize," he explained, "that after the European war is ended there must be a period of adjustment when everyone is considering how conversion can be quickly effected. Various planning boards throughout the nation have been studying new projects and some of these are undoubtedly ready to start, but even well-planned projects may not commence for some time after the close of the Japanese war. Even if they do, there will not be enough work to keep us all busy. This period of uncertainty may cover 18 months or more."

Mr. McMenimen expressed serious doubt that American contractors will have a large share in the rebuilding of Europe, since England, France and Italy will be confronted with the same problem as the United States - to provide work to war workers and returning servicemen.

Turning to the situation in South America, he said: "Most of the South American countries are developing a strong nationalistic spirit and are beginning to insist that local contractors carry on the work. The volume of business in South America will not be sufficient to employ the excess capacity of American contractors during the period from now to the end of the war and during the re-conversion period."

"I am firmly convinced," he continued, "that after the war there will be considerable work for American contractors in the Philippines and in the Dutch East Indies and perhaps later in China. But it can hardly be hoped that work in the Far East can be started promptly or even during the period of reconversion."

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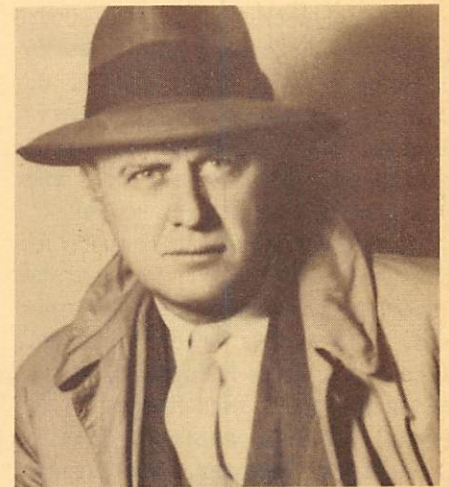
SPENCER HEADS CONTRACTOR GROUP; AED ELECTS PENN



EXECUTIVE TALENTS of two Moles have been drafted by two allied organizations, the General Contractors' Association of New York and the Associated Equipment Distributors. The contractors recently elevated Charles B. Spencer (left) to the presidency, while Hamilton O. Penn (right) was named AED president at the 1945 convention in Chicago. Mr. Spencer is now serving The Moles as second vice-president and Mr. Penn is a trustee and chairman of the Program Committee.

PRESS GIVES SPACE
TO MOLES AWARDS

Reporting for The Moles' Publicity Committee, Chairman Bob Tomlin, told the Executive Committee, at its March 7 meeting, that stories on The Moles' Awards for construction achievement, presented Feb. 7 to F. T. Crowe and W. V. McMenimen and based on the Committee's news releases, were carried by 15 newspapers and engineering magazines. Five magazines published another release announcing the election of the slate of new Moles' officers, headed by President Arthur A. Johnson. An album of press clippings showed 55 mentions of "The Moles".

G. W. ROGERS COMPANY
IS 75 YEARS OLD

The George W. Rogers Construction Co. this year celebrates its 75th anniversary. Mole Member George W. Rogers, grandson of the founder, is the fourth president of this organization, which was established in 1869. The company has specialized in construction of pile foundations, piers, docks, bulkheads, and other shipping facilities in and about New York Harbor and within the area bounded by Boston, Albany and Philadelphia. Among the outstanding war projects completed in record time was a 700-ft.-long fitting out pier for the Bethlehem Steel Co. shipyard, which was finished in 43 days and made the subject of a Navy citation.

MCMENIMEN SPEECH (cont. from pg. 4)

Mr. McMenimen recommended utilization of this period in building up an effective construction personnel. "I believe we should study our enlarged organizations and retain the best men we have," he declared, "and in addition we should be on the constant lookout for men who are dropped out of other organizations and who can fill the place where a weakness exists in ours. We should watch with particular interest the men returning from the Army and Navy, and especially from the Seabees."

AWARD DINNER (Cont. from pg. 4)

inspire the confidence and affection of everybody with whom he worked.

Honor Guests

Among the non-member guests of honor at The Moles Award Dinner were: Frank T. Crowe, Pacific Constructors Inc.; Vice Admiral Ben Moreell, Capt. Kirby

PRENTIS REPORT (cont. from pg. 2)

menu and program identify honor guests by title and business or professional connection.

5. Limit speeches introducing Award winners to 5 min. and acceptance speeches to 10 min. Stage microphone rehearsals for all speakers before dinner.
6. Delegate to one member at each table responsibility for maintaining quiet during Award ceremonies.
7. Request individual Moles not to give private receptions to candidates.
8. Refuse refunds on tickets ordered in advance and returned by members, unless such tickets can be resold.

Smith and Rear Admiral John J. Manning, U. S. Navy; Col. Albert H. Burton, and Col. Edgar W. Garbisch, Corps of Engineers, U. S.

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AWARD DINNER (cont. from pg. 5)

Army, respectively division and district engineers, New York; J. Andre Fouilhoux, president, N. Y. Building Congress; Admiral Fred-eric Harris (retired) consulting engineer; J. C. Maguire, of Los Angeles, Calif., secretary, Pacific Constructors, Inc.; Charles Sells, N. Y. state superintendent of public works.

Also present were: Ole Singstad, chief engineer, N. Y. Tunnel Authority; Jesse B. Snow, chief engineer, Board of Transportation; M. M. Upson and J. Wright Taussig, president, and vice president, respectively, Raymond Concrete Pile Co., Charles E. Adams, chief engineer, Long Island Railroad; Lou R. Crandall, president, Geo. A. Fuller Co.; Arthur A. Hauck, president, University of Maine; A. M. Hirsch, president, Lock Joint Pipe Co.; Irving V. A. Huie, Public Works Commissioner, N. Y. City; R. C. Wilson, vice-president, Turner Construction Co.; Thomas J. Walsh, president, Walsh-Kaiser Co.; and William Ellis, Hercules Powder Co.

Mole officers and members at the head table were: Ralph Atwater, Frank Barnes, George Freeman, Bill Hanly, Arthur Johnson, Alec Lyle, Jack Macdonald, M. J. Madigan, Bill McMenimen, Ted Prentis, Carlton Proctor, Charley Spencer, Ray Spooner, Alex Staggs, Carl Swenson, and Al Warwick.

WANTED: NEWS ABOUT MOLE MEMBERS IN ARMED SERVICES

The Editor of "Holing Through" will welcome brief letters from Mole members in the armed services telling about construction and other work they are doing. Relatives and friends here at home receiving letters from Moles in war theaters should send copies or interesting excerpts to:

Robert K. Tomlin
Construction Methods
330 W. 42nd St., N.Y.

HENSLEY DESCRIBES REUNIONS IN ITALY

Meetings in Italy with former associates in the construction industry in New York are reported by Mole Lester J. Hensley, who was recently raised to the rank of colonel. He writes:

"I recently ran across Chaplain Thomas A. Bartley, who was formerly sandhogging with Pat McGovern under Jack Macdonald. Bartley quit and is now a "Padre" and is doing a good job. In our outfit, PFC Joe Massella used to be a dock builder for Spencer, White & Prentis on the Broad St. job for P.J. Moranti back in 1929. Lieut. Joe Ambruso, who was with the Colonial Sand & Gravel Co., is also with us."

FOR MOLES WITH SONS OR DAUGHTERS IN ARMED SERVICES

For publication in "Holing Through" the Executive Committee, at the suggestion of Ted Prentis, requests all Mole members to send immediately to the Chairman of the Publicity Committee, (R. K. Tomlin, 330 West 42nd St., New York, 18, N.Y.) the names of sons or daughters now serving in the armed forces. If you are a father with a son or daughter in the Army, Navy, Air Forces, or Merchant Marine, send a letter now, giving name, rank, branch of service and general location (in U. S., European war theater, South Pacific, etc.) of members of your family with the Army or Navy.

It is planned to publish in "Holing Through" a list of Moles' sons and daughters now in the service of their country. Help us make this list complete.

JACK MAXWELL IN PHILIPPINES

Captain John C. Maxwell, formerly with the George A. Fuller Co., is now in the Philippines with the 106th Engineers. In a letter to The Moles, he says: "We have worked night and day since landing here. The Filipinos are tickled to have the Americans back."

ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE MOLES SINCE THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF HOLING THROUGH

A.K. BURNHAM
Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co.
17 Battery Place
New York 4, N.Y.

TROY CARMICHAEL
Standard Bitulithic Co.
50 Church St.
New York 7, N.Y.

WILLIAM A. DURKIN
Walsh Construction Co.
1 E. 43rd St.
New York 17, N.Y.

HARRY ENGLANDER
Fraser-Brace Eng. Co., Inc.
10 E. 40th St.
New York 16, N.Y.

FRED R. FEHLHABER
Fehlhaber Pile Co., Inc.
205 E. 42nd St.
New York 17, N.Y.

JOHN P. HOGAN
Parsons, Brinckerhoff,
Hogan & Macdonald
142 Maiden Lane
New York 7, N.Y.

CARL C. KOHLHEYER
Gibbs & Hill, Inc.
Pennsylvania Station
New York 1, N.Y.

HAROLD W. LEHMKUHL
J. Rich Steers, Inc.
17 Battery Place
New York 4, N.Y.

JOHN MALCOLM
Henry Steers, Inc. &
J. Rich Steers, Inc.
17 Battery Place
New York 4, N.Y.

WILLIAM DUNCAN MALCOLM
J. Rich Steers, Inc.
17 Battery Place
New York 4, N.Y.

FREDERICK WILLIAM RIEGGER
Kennedy Riegger Drill. Co., Inc.
5418 Post Road
The Bronx 63, N.Y.

ERNEST W. SEEMANN
Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp.
17 Battery Place
New York 4, N.Y.

LEWIS L. SMITH
Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp.
17 Battery Place
New York 4, N.Y.

JAMES GREGORY TRIPP
Tripp Construction Corp.
36 W. 44th St.
New York 17, N.Y.

LEONARD VAN HOUTEN
J. Rich Steers, Inc.
17 Battery Place
New York 4, N.Y.

THOMAS J. WALSH
Walsh Construction Co.
1 E. 43rd St.
New York 17, N.Y.