

HOLING THROUGH

NEWS BULLETIN OF **THE MOLES** • 11 W. 42ND STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

An Organization of Tunnel and Heavy Construction Men

DECEMBER, 1946

Thomas Crimmins and Harry W. Morrison Will Receive Moles' Construction Awards

THOMAS CRIMMINS, third-generation member of the New York contracting firm bearing his name, established almost a century ago, and Harry W. Morrison, president of Morrison-Knudsen Co., Inc., of Boise, Idaho, a participant in the building of Boulder Dam and other outstanding engineering structures, have been nominated by The Moles, New York society of tunnel and heavy construction men, to receive that organization's annual awards to a member and to a non-member "for outstanding construction achievement." Announcement of the two award winners for 1947 has been made by Carlton S. Proctor, consulting engi-

*The Moles Annual Award
Dinner will be held
at the Roosevelt Hotel,
New York City, Feb. 5, 1947*

neer and chairman of the society's Award Committee, and Alfred N. Warwick, Moles' president. Presentation of citations and bronze plaques will be made at The Moles' annual dinner in New York City Feb. 5, 1947.

Thomas Crimmins

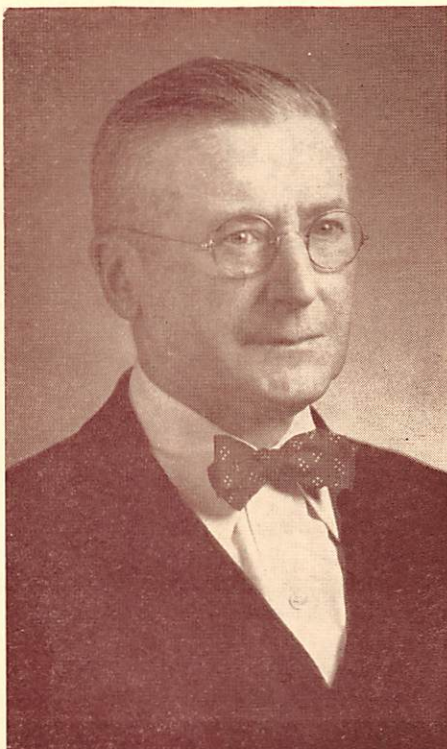
Graduate of Harvard University (1900), World War I veteran (102nd Engineers), and now president of the Thomas Crimmins Contracting Co. established by his grandfather in 1848, Col. Crimmins, a Mole member and native New Yorker, has played a major role in the underground construction development of New York City, specializing in foundations, tunnels, excavation, public utility substructures and waterfront work. The Crimmins organization built New York's first cable-car lines and has provided foundations for many of the city's notable buildings, including the Equitable, Graybar, Paramount, Bowery Savings Bank, R. H. Macy & Co., Lord & Taylor, Pershing Square, Ritz Carlton Hotel and Rockefeller Institute. Foundations for the piers of the Henry Hudson bridge and for the Hellgate power station of the Consolidated Edison Co. were Crimmins' jobs, as were portions of the Catskill Aqueduct and the Long Island plaza of the Queens-Midtown Tunnel. Col. Crimmins is past-president of the General Contractors Association of New York, and a director of the Regional Plan Association of New York.

Young Tom, after receiving his civil engineering degree at Harvard, joined the Crimmins organization as assistant

to his Uncle Thomas in 1900 and four years later, at the age of 24, became its president. In 1916 he enlisted as a private in the New York National Guard, and after service on the Mexican border he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the 22nd Engineers which, after the outbreak of World War I in 1917, became the 102nd Engineers. Crimmins went to France with that outfit, became its commander, with rank of colonel, and received a citation for meritorious service.

Since 1848 the Crimmins company has specialized in underground construction, mainly in the metropolitan district of

(Continued on page 2)



THOMAS CRIMMINS, president, Thomas Crimmins Contracting Co., New York, is winner of member construction Award.



HARRY W. MORRISON, president, Morrison-Knudsen Co., Inc., Boise, Idaho, is winner of non-member construction Award.

Moles Awards

(Continued from page 1)

New York. Only once has it ventured beyond the limits of this area, to take a licking on a New York barge canal contract. During the early days of street railway construction in New York City, Crimmins recalls how he covered miles of cable car trackage on horseback. Before the days of the motor truck horses were the important item of the contractor's haulage facilities and the Crimmins organization at the turn of the century maintained large stables to house its animals.

Seldom have activities of the Crimmins company been carried on above street level. Manhattan Island has been repeatedly punched and probed by the mole-like operations of this firm until it holds no subsurface secrets. As a result of these delvings and burrowings Thomas Crimmins has become a qualified expert on underground New York.

In addition to his contracting work the Colonel is interested in a realty operating company, and is a director of several hospitals and corporations. He was one of the founders of the Harvard Engineering Society and in 1900 helped organize the Contractors' Protective Association to safeguard owners and the public against unscrupulous contractors. In construction circles Thomas Crimmins is respected as the dean of New York contractors.

Harry W. Morrison

From water boy to head of the nation's biggest construction firms has been the

(Continued in third column)

Previous Winners of Moles Awards

1941

Robert Moses
New York Park Commissioner

John S. Macdonald
Walsh Construction Co.

1942

M. J. Madigan
Madigan-Hyland, Consulting Engineers

Edmund A. Prentis
Spencer, White & Prentis, Inc.

1943

Rear Admiral Ben Moreell
Chief, Bureau of Yards and Docks,
Navy Dept.

Frank W. Barnes
Construction Manager,
Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp.

1944

Lieut. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell
Chief, Army Service Forces

Arthur A. Johnson
President, Arthur A. Johnson Corp.

1945

Francis T. Crowe
General Supt., Pacific Constructors, Inc.

William V. McMenimen
Vice-Pres., Raymond Concrete Pile Co.

1946

Oscar W. Swenson
President, Foley Bros., Inc.

Miles I. Killmer
Vice-Pres., Mason & Hanger Co.

H. W. Morrison

(Continued from first column)

career of Harry W. Morrison, president and general manager of Morrison-Knudsen Co., Inc., Boise, Idaho. Born on an Illinois farm in 1885, he went to work for Bates & Rogers Construction Corp., Chicago, in 1902, after finishing a business college course, later becoming a time-keeper. From 1906 to 1912 he was with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, and during that period obtained a civil engineering degree from a correspondence school.

In 1912 Morrison joined Morris Knudsen as partner in a contracting venture that was destined to become one of the most successful in American construction history. When Boulder Dam was up for bidding he was instrumental in combining a group of contractors to take the job under the name of Six Companies, Inc. That move set the pattern for successive combinations that have built the great projects of the West and successfully carried out the incredible construction jobs at home and overseas required by World War II.

Overseas Construction

Today Morrison-Knudsen is working in China, in the Pacific, in Alaska, in Mexico, Canada, Afghanistan and Brazil. The firm, with headquarters in Boise, Idaho, and branch offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle and New York, holds scores of contracts throughout the United States for dams, railroads, irrigation projects, power plants, logging, strip mining and buildings. It is also engaged in cement, steel and equipment manufacturing. Currently under construction by Morrison-Knudsen are Cascade dam and Anderson Ranch dam in Idaho, Kortes dam in Wyoming, John Martin dam in Colorado, Davis dam in Arizona, Ross dam in Washington and Dale Hollow dam in Tennessee.

All of these far-flung activities are directed by Harry Morrison, designated as "one of the greatest builders the world has ever seen," by an admiring high-ranking Navy officer who worked with him on war projects in the Pacific.

Morrison selects good, capable men to manage his operations, and their loyalty to the Boss, as they reverently call him, is traditional. Yet he takes a personal interest in every job. His concern for the welfare of all employees, from laborer to project manager, is inspirational in a reputedly hard-hearted industry. Home-office work irks him, so he slips away whenever possible to get right out on the job, for construction operations are a passion with him, attention to details and to safety is an obsession.



AT MOLES FROLIC in Hotel Roosevelt Nov. 6 lucky numbers are drawn from revolving barrel by bevy of Moles lovelies and passed along to Frank M. Loughman, Program Committee Chairman, who announces the winners.

Camera Shots from Moles' Clambake, Aug. 21, 1946



SPIKE-DRIVING CONTEST, won by Maurice Hallen, produces long list of entries from Mole members and guests.



ERECTION CONTEST by teams of four presents problem of properly bolting steel members in minimum time.



PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN Frank M. Loughman (left) names winner of radio-phonograph grand prize, E. I. Stouffer.



HORSESHOE PITCHING CONTEST sees Hal Hunt in action striving to throw a ringer.

BARE FACTS (left) are presented to Moles during show following shore dinner.

FREE BEER ALL DAY (below) proved a popular feature of outing at Karatsonyi's Long Island resort.

MOLES "INFORMATION PLEASE" HEADQUARTERS (below) at Clambake are manned—and womaned—by Treasurer Ralph Atwater, Miss A. Shiflett and Miss Irene M. Lizotte.



PRENTIS ON THE TEE

By Charles B. Spencer

(A tribute to the winner of the golf approach contest at The Moles' Clambake)

There were expert golfers by the score
To burn up eighteen holes,
But how they'd fare at just one shot
Was the problem at the Moles.

Six hundred men of brain and brawn
Are trembling in their boots.
The crowd stands still with bated breath
As mighty Gillen shoots.

He swings — alas! Six hundred groan
As Gillen dubs the shot.
Macdonald tries and lifts his head
And Spencer's not so hot.

Six hundred heads are bowed in shame
As others try and fail;
The efforts of six hundred men
Are all of no avail.



MOLES' BYRON NELSON, in person of Ted Prentis, is here shown chipping up dead to the pin to win golf approach contest, as the fluency of his stroke production is watched by admiring group at Clambake outing.

But look! Emerging from the crowd
A man well known to all —
No muscles bulging 'neath his shirt,
Thin hair, and not too tall.

No Mole that day could dare to hope
As Prentis seized his club.
Could honor lost when experts failed
Be salvaged by a dub?

His backswing is a thing of grace,
Downswing a perfect arc;
Like ray of hope the white sphere glows
Straight speeding towards its mark.

Six hundred throats let out a roar
That rends Long Island skies.
The little flag smiles on the ball
That close beside it lies.

The shot that started World War II
Is bedded in our souls
No deeper than the shot that day
That beat six hundred Moles.

"Pat" McGerr, of "Holing Through" Staff, Writes Mystery Novel

JUST PUBLISHED by Doubleday & Co. as the December selection of its Crime Club series is the mystery novel *Pick Your Victim* by Pat (Patricia) McGerr, editorial assistant to Bob Tomlin, Moles Publicity Committee Chairman, on the staff of *Holing Through*. The story has an original slant in that the murderer is named in the first chapter but the identity of his victim is concealed until the reader reaches the end of the book. The characters are members of the Washington staff of a national association. Miss McGerr, writing in a witty and satirical vein, has a field day in disclosing the internal workings of a trade association honey-combed with office politics, jealousies and intrigues, culminating in murder. *Pick Your Victim* is recommended as required reading for all Mole members.

Moles Elect 18 New Members

Since the August issue of *Holing Through* the following candidates have been elected members of The Moles:

RALPH H. MANN
American Wood Preservers' Ass'n.
60 East 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y.

GEORGE W. GLICK
Moran, Proctor, Freeman & Mueser
420 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

HOWARD B. GATES
Tully & DiNapoli, Inc.
30-11 12th St., Long Island City, N. Y.

RALPH L. JOHNSON
H. O. Penn Machinery Co., Inc.
140th St. & East River,
New York 54, N. Y.

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

HARRY D. DEUTSCHBEIN
H. J. Deutschbein Co., Inc.
30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N. Y.

LOUIS F. BOOTH
George A. Fuller Co.
597 Madison Ave., New York 22, N. Y.

JOSEPH B. DIAMOND
120 Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.

FRANK W. BABOR
Thomas Crimmins Contr. Co.
624 Madison Ave., New York 22, N. Y.

ARTHUR E. POOLE
The Hallen Co., Inc.
45-24 37th St., Long Island City 1, N. Y.

ANDREW FISCHER, JR.
Cauldwell-Wingate Co.
101 Park Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

ELWYN E. SEELYE
Elwyn E. Seelye & Co.
101 Park Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

GERARD A. NEUMANN
Spearin, Preston & Burrows, Inc.
50 Church St., New York 7, N. Y.

HOWARD G. DIXON
Johnson, Drake & Piper, Inc.
36 Trinity Place, New York 6, N. Y.

EUGENE J. NELLEY
65-84 Booth St., Forest Hills, L. I., N. Y.

EARLE R. EVANS
McKiernan-Terry Corp.
15 Park Row, New York, N. Y.

ALBERT E. DOWNS
Lehigh Portland Cement Co.
51 E. 42nd St., New York 18, N. Y.

CARLETON GLENN BROWNING
Lehigh Portland Cement Co.
51 E. 42nd St., New York 18, N. Y.

Morell Heads Turner Co.

RECENTLY RETIRED from active service in the Navy Department, Admiral Ben Morell, honorary member of The Moles, former Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, has become president of the Turner Construction Co., New York. Admiral Morell was the 1943 winner of The Moles non-member Award.

Mole Member John A. Reilly To Head General Contractors

FOR THE SECOND SUCCESSIVE YEAR the General Contractors Association of New York has chosen a Mole member as its president. The new incumbent, succeeding our own Charles B. Spencer Jan. 1, 1947, is John A. Reilly, vice-president in charge of New York and New England areas for the Arundel Corp., New York.