

HOLING THROUGH

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

An Organization of Tunnel and Heavy Construction Men

JANUARY, 1949

Award Dinner February 9 at Waldorf

Capt. Thos. A. Scott and Luther S. Oakes Will Receive Moles Citations for Outstanding Construction Achievement

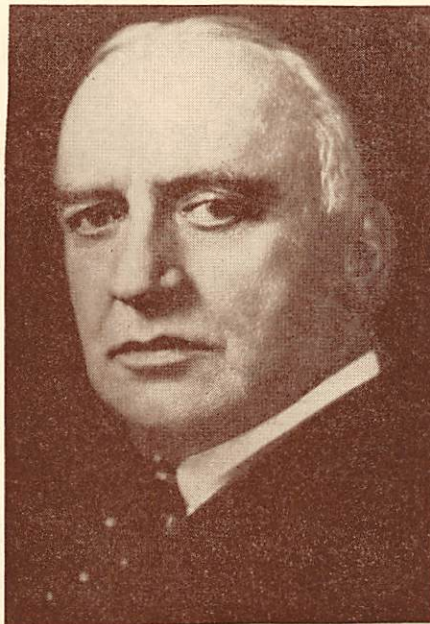
THE 1949 MOLES AWARDS "for outstanding contributions to construction progress" will go to Capt. Thomas A. Scott, Chairman of the Board, Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp., New York (Member Award) and Luther S. Oakes, President, Winston Bros. Company, Minneapolis (Non-Member Award). The citation will be presented at a formal dinner party to be held Wednesday evening, Feb. 9, in the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, New York City. Suitably inscribed bronze plaques will be presented to the recipients by J. Rich Steers, Moles President.

Both award winners are nationally-known construction men. Capt. Scott organized the T. A. Scott Co. of New London, Conn., in 1903, merging his company in 1922 with the Merritt & Chapman Derrick & Wrecking Co. to form the present firm. Luther Oakes joined Winston Bros. Co. in 1907, and has been president of the firm for 28 years. Further details of their careers are presented elsewhere in this issue.

The recipients were selected by The Moles Award Committee, headed up by Richard V. Hyland, chairman, and including all trustees, officers and members of standing committees.

THOMAS A. SCOTT

OUT OF THE MERGER of two smaller companies, both specializing in waterfront work, has come one of the leading construction firms in the country, the Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp., of New York City. Guiding spirit of this great company from its inception is Capt. Thomas A. Scott, its first president and present chairman of the board. Tom Scott's imagination, energy, determination and business acumen have expanded the original waterfront construction, salvage, and lighterage business into a big general contracting firm now tackling heavy construction of all kinds in this country and abroad.



CAPT. THOMAS A. SCOTT
Chairman, Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp.

Capt. Scott was born at New London, Conn., Oct. 10, 1877, son of an intrepid salvage expert and marine constructor. Upon graduating from Mystic Valley Institute in Connecticut, he went to work for his father, Thomas A. Scott, Sr., serving as blacksmith helper, sailor, Captain (from which he gets his present title), salvage officer and manager. On his first construction job, the New London Lodge Lighthouse, he lost a finger, an eternal reminder of the hazards of construction work. In 1903 he organized the T. A. Scott Company, becoming its first president. During the succeeding 14 years he directed activities of this company, specializing in salvage, stevedoring and marine construction from New York to Maine.

Early in 1917 Scott was commissioned Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy, and during the first World War, he di-



LUTHER S. OAKES
President, Winston Bros. Company

rected all salvage activities, both naval and commercial, in American waters, and to a great extent in European waters. He returned from active duty in 1918 as a Commander. For the next two years he was Commissioner, U.S. Shipping Board.

He consummated the merger of T. A. Scott Company with the old Merritt & Chapman Derrick & Wrecking Company in 1922 as the present Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp. Merritt & Chapman by that time was becoming well recognized as marine pipeline contractors, a line that fitted in well with the Scott Co. activities. The new firm continued the salvage and marine construction business, and branched out into bridge and foundation work. In 1926 it increased its activities into heavy general contracting.

Industrial building, now an important activity of the firm, was started in 1934 with the Union Bag & Paper Co. mill at

Savannah. Since then the company has built scores of paper mills, chemical plants and other industrial works throughout the country.

During the recent War Merritt-Chapman & Scott built Drydock No. 5 at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, the Naval Air Station at Quonset Point, R. I., Advance Base Depot at Davisville, R. I., tank farms in Iceland, air bases in Newfoundland and docks in Ireland, as well as numerous industrial plants and other domestic work. Today, with more than \$70,000,000 in contracts under way, including two big veterans hospitals, the company is more active than ever. The list of projects completed and of those under way is most formidable and would read like a "what's-what-in-construction."

Capt. Scott has been active in the development of his company to its present status. He is a great construction man because he believes in construction, because he has the vision and courage to expand both scope and size of operations, and because he has the ability to direct an organization capable of doing the work it does.

Busy as he is, he finds time to devote to outside activities. He is a director of several corporations, and has been president of the New York City Post, Am. Soc. Military Engineers, the Propeller Club of the United States, and the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers. But above all, Thomas A. Scott is a construction leader and a forceful character in the construction industry.

LUTHER S. OAKES

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS as president of one of the country's largest and most successful contracting firms is an honor that comes to few men. Yet Luther Steven Oakes has not only been head of Winston Bros. Company of Minneapolis since April 6, 1921, but he is still going strong on the job and promises to continue for many years to come. Throughout his 42 years as a contractor—all with Winston—he has held to three aims: advancing employee relations; giving the customer a square and honest deal; and raising contracting to a respected and dignified business. Born in Jericho, Vt., in the shadow of Mt. Mansfield on April 15, 1877, Oakes is called the "Yankee from Vermont" in a biography by Wm. J. Rohan, Winston Co. vice-president. Four years later the family moved to Windsor, Vt., which became his boyhood home. Here amid the granite hills was laid the foundation of his sterling character, his thrift and integrity. His formal education included four years at Dartmouth College and one year at Thayer (Dartmouth) School of Civil Engineering, from which he was graduated in 1900.

For seven years after graduation he was engineer for various railroads in the West, then joined Winston Bros. Co. May 1, 1907, on the Milwaukee Road west

coast line job in the Rocky Mountains. In May, 1912, he tackled the Winston contract on the Calumet-Sag channel in Chicago, and there learned the bitter lesson that even the most prudent management cannot overcome a too-low bid and the selection of wrong equipment.

In 1913 Oakes became a director of the company at 36, and in 1921 was named president to fill the big shoes of W. O. Winston, who was then known as "the grand old man of construction." Through booms and depressions, through peace and war, Oakes has guided the firm with a capable and understanding hand.

During his quarter-century of leadership, Winston Bros. spread out from coast to coast, and into Canada, Mexico and South America. Many of their jobs made construction history. In 1941

Winston entered into a joint venture with C. F. Haglin & Sons, Missouri Valley Bridge & Iron Co. and Sollitt Const. Co. to take on defense and, later, war contracts.

Oakes always has been interested in employee relations. One of his ideas was a group pension plan for key employees. Later he installed group hospitalization and life insurance programs. Promising young employees are given a chance to purchase shares of the company's stock.

The construction industry is proud of Luther S. Oakes, the company he heads and the ideals for which he stands. If all contractors were like him, the surety companies would go out of business, for the saying, "His word is as good as his bond," truly applies to this Yankee from Vermont.

Clam Bake Big Success

IN A BIG DAY of utter relaxation, fun and frolic, 750 Moles romped over the spacious grounds of New York Athletic Club's Travers Island establishment at the Annual Clam Bake on Aug. 18. From the first draught of beer from conveniently located kegs to dousing of lights in the big tent after a spectacular floor show, the day was a big success, enjoyed by members and guests alike.

Sports and contests dominated the daylight program. Biggest event was the annual Department of Public Works—Moles softball game. The Moles domination of the diamond the previous year was short-lived as DPW sluggers came out on top of a murderous 15-13 score. Commissioner Frederick Zurmuhlen, as DPW manager, sparked his team to victory behind the winning pitching of Bill Smith. Jim Tripp, Jr., was mighty at bat and on the mound for The Moles, but the team failed in the clinches.

Horseshoe pitching, golf pitching, spike driving, dart throwing and golf all

attracted numerous entrants, but the sports payoff came with the egg tossing contest. Many a face and shirt were doused with scrambled raw eggs before this contest ended with Michael Lisante and Arthur Maksyn, DPW guests, as winners on a last-minute playoff.

N.Y.A.C. did a fine job of feeding the mob, both at the buffet luncheon and the big dinner. Maine's supply of lobsters was badly depleted by the dinner. The day ended with a splendid floor show in the big tent staged by popular program chairman, Frank Loughman.

Contest winners were:

Baseball—Department of Public Works, 15-13

Golf—Chan Turner

Egg Tossing—Michael Lisante and Arthur Maksyn

Golf Pitching—Charlie Spencer

Horseshoes—H. J. Unangst

Spike Driving—B. Ellis

Award Dinner Details

FOR THE FIRST TIME The Moles Annual Award Dinner will be held at Hotel Waldorf-Astoria in New York instead of at the Roosevelt as formerly customary. Lack of suitable accommodations at the Roosevelt for the ever-increasing crowd attending the dinners is responsible for the change. An attendance up to 900 can be handled at the Waldorf.

Tickets are \$15 each. Applications for tickets, accompanied by remittances, must be sent to The Moles, 11 W. 42nd St., New York 18, N. Y., by Jan. 3, 1949, to receive proper attention.

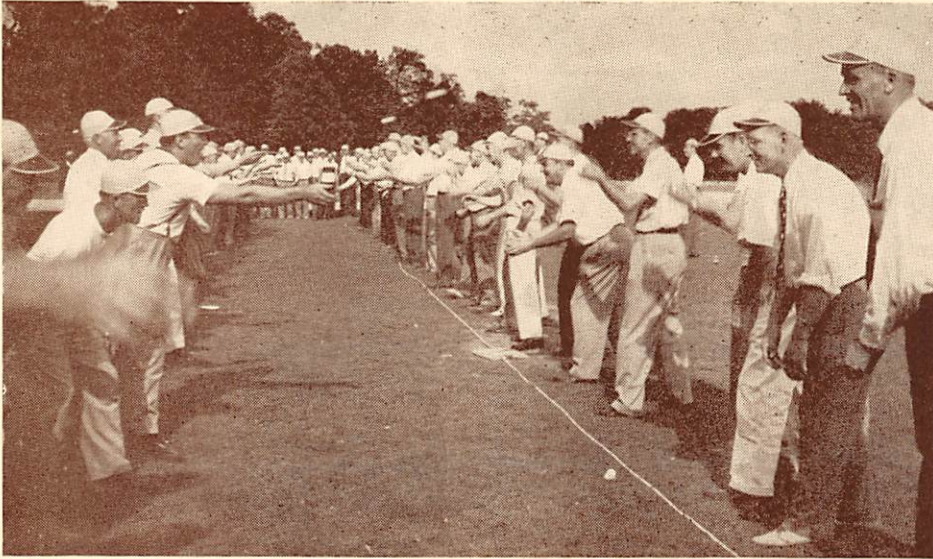
Reception will be at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30. Dinner dress is stipulated.

No More Frolics

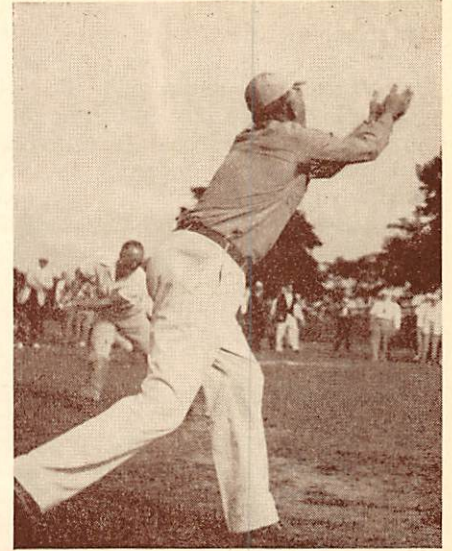
OUT OF CONSIDERATION for the members' pocketbooks, the Executive Committee decided to reduce the number of Moles affairs from four to three per year by eliminating the usual Fall Frolic. The Frolic was started as a substitute for the Clam Bake that had to be abandoned during the War because of transportation difficulties.

Regular functions of the Society will be the annual Award Dinner in February, the Annual Meeting for members only in May, and the Clam Bake in August. The Committee promises to keep price of tickets for these affairs "to a minimum consistent with maintaining the high standards which we have established."

Glimpses of the Clam Bake



THE EGG TOSSING started like this, with contestants paired in teams 10 ft. apart.



COME TO PAPA, but come oh so gently, is this fellow's prayer as he exhibits late-season form in catching an egg.



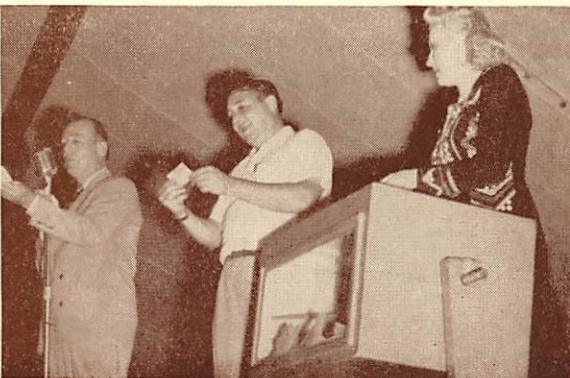
JIM TRIPP, JR., Moles pitcher, socks out a home run, but it was wasted in the deluge of base hits poured on by DPW sluggers. DPW catcher LARRY O'CONNOR is reaching for the ball that never crossed the plate. Lou Ferry is the ump.



BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE — egg-tossing winners MIKE LISANTE and ART MAKSYN of DPW.



A RINGER is tossed by HAL HUNT, Western Foundation Co., in horse-shoe pitching contest.



← LUCKY DOOR PRIZE winning names are called out by FRANK LOUGHMAN, generalissimo of the day's events, who is assisted by visiting fireman BILL HANLY, former Moles secretary.



DEMONSTRATION OF HOW to keep bidding figures (or any other figures) in line is given at floor show by a couple of clever performers.

Oscar W. Swenson Dies

Oscar W. Swenson, recipient of the 1946 non-member Moles Award died Dec. 17 at the age of 84. He was chairman of Foley Bros., Inc., Pleasantville, N. Y.

Born in Chicago City, Minn., in 1864, Swenson was a pioneer railroad builder of the Northwest, responsible for construction of some 2,600 miles of line. He joined Foley Bros. in 1888 as head of their logging and milling operations. During his illustrious contracting career, he was engaged on many large projects throughout the United States.

Bill Hanly Moves to St. Louis

WM. HANLY, long-time popular Secretary of The Moles, resigned that position upon moving to St. Louis to head the sales department of Associated Sales & Supply Co., a Monsanto Chemical Co. subsidiary dealing in wood preservatives. Bill couldn't pass up the Clam Bake, however, and came back to New York for that event.

Pending selection of another Secretary, the Executive Committee named former president Alfred N. Warwick Acting Secretary, and hired Irene Lizotte as assistant to staff The Moles office at 11 W. 42nd St. Miss Lizotte replaced Charlotte Andrews at the headquarters office.

Previous Award Winners

THE ROSTER of recipients of The Moles Annual Awards for Outstanding Construction Achievement is building up to an impressive list. They are, with the members listed first:

1941—JOHN S. MACDONALD
ROBERT MOSES

1942—EDMUND A. PRENTIS
M. J. MADIGAN

1943—FRANK W. BARNES
ADMIRAL BEN MOREELL

1944—ARTHUR A. JOHNSON
GEN. BREHON B. SOMERVELL

1945—WILLIAM V. McMENIMEN
FRANK T. CROWE

1946—MILES I. KILLMER
OSCAR W. SWENSON

1947—THOMAS CRIMMINS
HARRY W. MORRISON

1948—WM. A. DURKIN
GEN. RAYMOND A. WHEELER

Bertus P. Larkin Dies

MOLES MEMBER Bertus Patrick Larkin, 67, died Aug. 28, 1948, at St. Luke's Hospital, New York, after an illness of several months. He was Vice-President, Director and Eastern Manager of S. J. Groves & Sons Co., Minneapolis, Minn. He resided at Englewood, N. J.

Larkin was one of the leaders in the construction industry in this area. He built many highways, dams and flood

control projects in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and the Middle West. Some of his larger projects included the Coolidge Field Army Base at Antigua, B.W.I.; enlargement of Newark Airport for the army; and the Caracas Aqueduct in Venezuela.

He was born Feb. 11, 1881, at Hazel Green, Wis. His wife, two sons, a brother and sister survive him.

New Members

THE MOLES elected 23 new members during 1948, bringing the total to 374. These are classified: 323 active in Metropolitan area; 37 non-resident; 3 Founder (J. H. Fitzgerald, A. V. Sielke and A. M. Stagg); 3 inactive; 1 in armed forces; and 7 Honorary. The new members and their company affiliations are:

HOWARD A. COLLINS
Howard Collins Const. Co., Inc.
147 W. 42 St., New York City

LOUIS R. PERINI
B. Perini & Sons
Framingham, Mass.

PAUL J. JONES
Moretrench Corp.
90 West St., New York City

MAURICE N. QUADE
Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Hogan & Macdonald
142 Maiden Lane, New York City

LAWRENCE S. WATERBURY
Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Hogan & Macdonald
142 Maiden Lane, New York City

WILLIAM A. CLARKE
George H. Flinn Corp.
551 5th Ave., New York City

VAL W. ARNETH
H. E. Fletcher Co.
West Chelmsford, Mass.

CHARLES W. BLACK
The Arundel Corp.
Pier 2, Pratt St., Baltimore, Md.

GEORGE E. HAYES
Underpinning & Foundation Co., Inc.
155 E. 44th St., New York City

FRANK P. KING
Spearin, Preston & Burrows, Inc.
50 Church St., New York City

ROBERT H. DODDS
Engineering News-Record
330 W. 42nd St., New York City

CHRISTIAN B. HENRICKSEN
W. J. Barney Corp.
101 Park Ave., New York City

EDWARD A. TULLY
Tully & DiNapoli, Inc.
30-11 12th St., Long Island City

VINCENT P. DINAPOLI
Tully & DiNapoli, Inc.
30-11 12th St., Long Island City

CLARENCE McDONOUGH
The Foundation Company
57 William St., New York City

ED H. HONNEN
Ed H. Honnen Const. Co.
Colorado Springs, Colo.

VICTOR DE SOMELSON
Howard Collins Const. Co., Inc.
147 W. 42nd St., New York City

MERTON T. STAPLES
C. M. Guest & Sons
Anderson, S. C.

PHILIP S. MILLER
Samuel R. Rosoff, Ltd.
3001 Druid Pk. Dr., Baltimore, Md.

M. C. MCGOUGH
Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp.
17 Battery Pl., New York City

GEORGE J. MEISE
Federal Works Agency
101 Park Ave., New York City

ENOCH R. NEEDLES
Howard, Needles, Tammen & Bergendoff
55 Liberty St., New York City

GEO. P. WALKER
Johns-Manville Corp.
22 E. 40th St., New York City

Traveling Moles

ANY GROUP of active construction men is bound to include several globe trotters, and The Moles is no exception. Champion for the year is Robert Bayard, of Johnson, Drake & Piper, Inc., who recently returned from a trip around the world. His itinerary included Ireland, Paris, Geneva, Rome and Athens, where he spent eight days inspecting his company's Greek project. He then went on to Istanbul, Ankara, back to Athens, then to Cairo, Shahrhan (Arabia), Karachi, Bombay, Calcutta, Bangkok, Hong Kong and Manila. In this last port he spent several days inspecting their Philippine work, and then went to the Aleutians via Shanghai and Tokyo to look at their job up there. From Alaska he continued on to Seattle, San Francisco and back to New York, all in less than two months.

William McMenimen and Walter Gahagan both made recent business trips to South America.

Underprivileged Boys and Girls Now Ready for Placement

DID YOU NOTICE those six fine boys helping Frank Loughman running off the events at the Clam Bake? They were obtained from the New York Police Athletic League. Lieut. Michael J. McDermott, Director, Personnel Unit, announces the P.A.L. now has available for placement underprivileged boys and girls from 17 to 21 years old. For information call the Police Athletic League, WOrth 4-7600, or write them at 400 Broome St., New York 13, N. Y.