

HOLING THROUGH

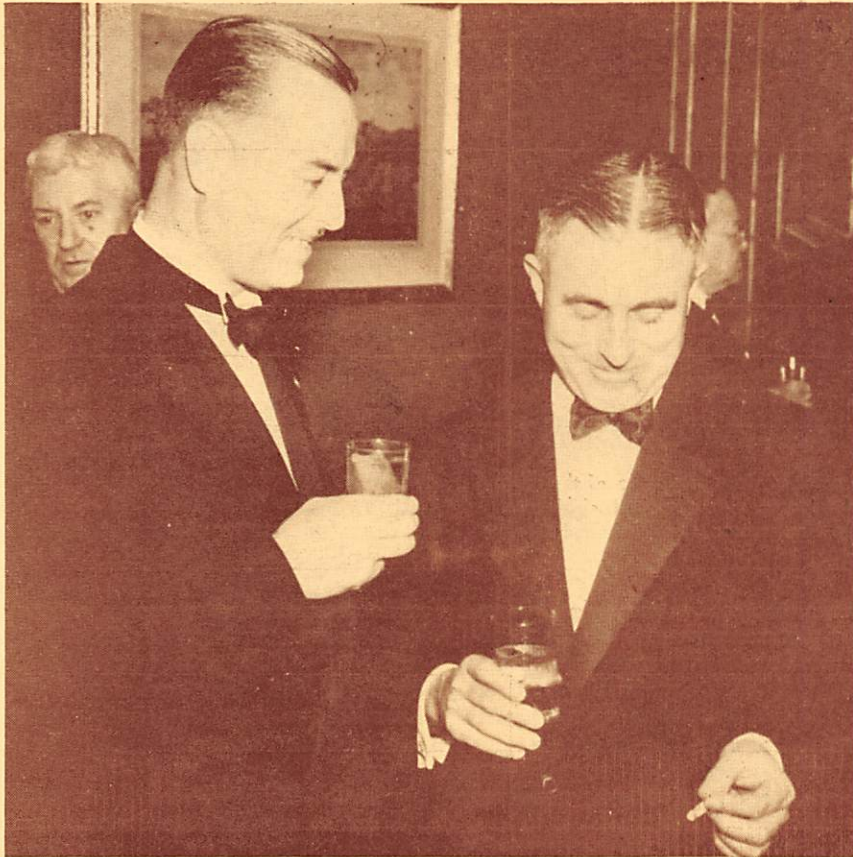
NEWS BULLETIN OF **THE MOLES** • 11 W. 42ND STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

An Organization of Tunnel and Heavy Construction Men

NOVEMBER, 1950

East Meets West Again in Annual Awards — Ray Spooner...Les Corey

Non-Member award goes to Les Corey, president of Utah Construction Co.; former Mole president, Ray Spooner, has served construction industry well



LESTER S. COREY
Non-Member Award winner, 1951

FOR THE FIFTH TIME since The Moles began presenting annual awards, in 1941, the Award Dinner will be an All-American transcontinental affair. Les Corey, president of Utah Construction Co., San Francisco, will receive the Non-Member Award, sharing the spotlight with former Mole president Ray Spooner, Member Award winner.

Corey has been preceded by other western Non-Member Award winners Frank T. Crowe (1945), Harry Morrison (1947), Luther Oakes (1949), and Herbert Hoover (1950).

Date of the Award Dinner is Jan. 31 and it will be at the Waldorf-Astoria Grand Ballroom. Ticket applications will be mailed shortly, to be received at Moles Headquarters until Dec. 31, according to

AMONG OUR SOUVENIRS, or History Repeats Itself — This picture was taken at the 1941 Award Dinner, the grand-daddy of them all. The 1951 Member Award Winner, Ray Spooner, (left) made the presentation speech to Member Award winner, Jack Macdonald (right). This year Jack is chairman of the Award Committee.

Jack Macdonald, chairman of the Award Committee.

Corey with many companies

Widely connected with important western construction projects during the last 50 years, Les Corey also holds offices and directorships in a number of western enterprises.

Frank Barnes supplies the following information: Les Corey joined the Utah Construction Co. in 1901 as timekeeper and spent his entire career with that one organization. He was made vice-president and general manager in 1931 and became president in 1940. During the

last 20 years he has distinguished himself in the construction industry in the West and has been associated with most of the outstanding western heavy construction projects during that time.

These jobs include Boulder Dam, Deadwood Dam (Idaho), Guernsey Dam (Wyoming), Bonneville Dam (Columbia Const. Co.), Grand Coulee Dam (Consolidated Builders) and the east foundations of the San Francisco Bay Bridge.

In addition to the above dam work, Corey has been associated in the management of many outstanding railroad jobs handled by Utah.

Born in Uintah, Utah, in 1880, Corey now lives in San Francisco.

Spooner serves N.Y. construction

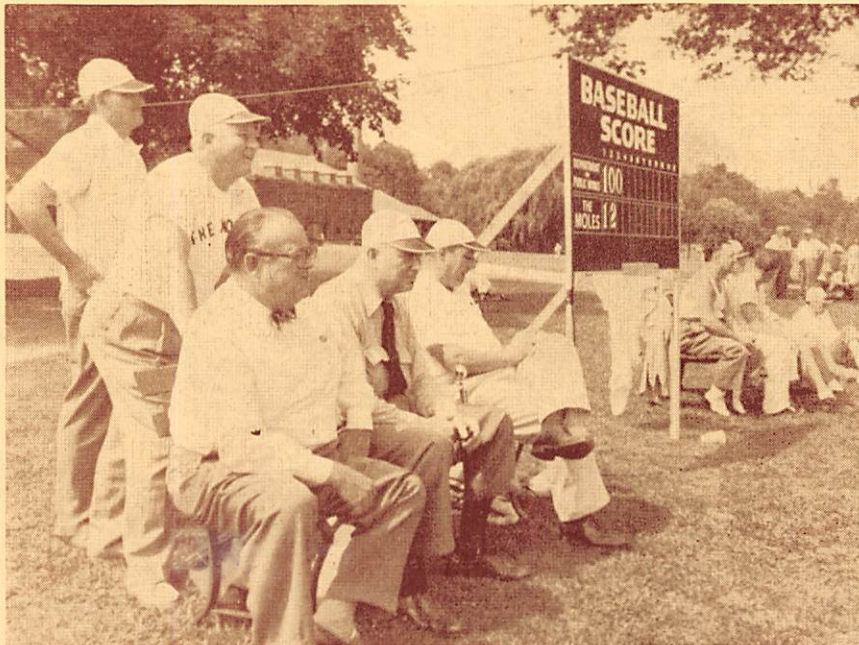
Service to New York construction, both down in the dirt and up in the policy-making councils, has been the career so far of Ray Spooner, Member Award winner. Ray is proud of the fact that he's been sand-hog, diver and wharf-rat, but a look at the record will show many politer accomplishments that his modesty forbids bragging about.

Born in Jersey City in 1893, in 1934 the 41-year-old executive of Allen N.

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Thousand Happy Moles at Clambake

Sunny skies darkened only by softball loss; like Dodgers, Moles say, "Wait 'til next year."



THE BIG EVENT looked good or bad, depending on your point of view, in the top of the third. (Fortunately the score wasn't 100-12.) Watchers are John Hanly, Jim Norton, Dick Johnson (program chairman), President Jim Salmon and Bill Hanly. Final score: 11-8 for Public Works.

AS WE RACE winter to get our jobs done in time to line up new ones, or to go to Florida, or for any other reason, we can look at a few samples of last Summer's Clambake fun, pictured on these pages.

Old-timers agreed that the weather at Travers Island was just about the best yet. The attendance, too, was the best yet — 1,005. (The headline says "Thousand Happy Moles"; like the stripper, that's a round figure; the other five were happy, too.)

We had hoped to be able to forget the

ball score, though. Public Works won, and the pictures prove it. However, nobody was mad with nobody in the other contests. Nail-drivers hit-or-missed spikes; old-time horseshoe experts bowed to city slickers who'd never seen a silo; dart-tossers decided they were in a game of chance; and egg-tossers wondered whether they should of stood.

The beer department was everywhere and the chow department featured hot food for all — quite an accomplishment when a thousand men are involved, as any old battalion mess officer will vouch.



TAKING IT EASY this year was Frank Loughman, who had been program chairman for some time. Frank had no complaints, having passed the job to other, equally capable hands.

They tried a new deal on door prizes—few big ones instead of lots of little ones. It kept the drawing from being long drawn out and enabled the show to take off promptly. (Probably the reason that joker in the front row kept yelling something about taking them off.)

Yes, it's a mighty popular party. We understand that a few people who didn't have tickets came anyway, ducking out to New Rochelle for dinner and coming back for the show and bar. Sort of crowded up the tent, and otherwise squeezed the Travers Island facilities.

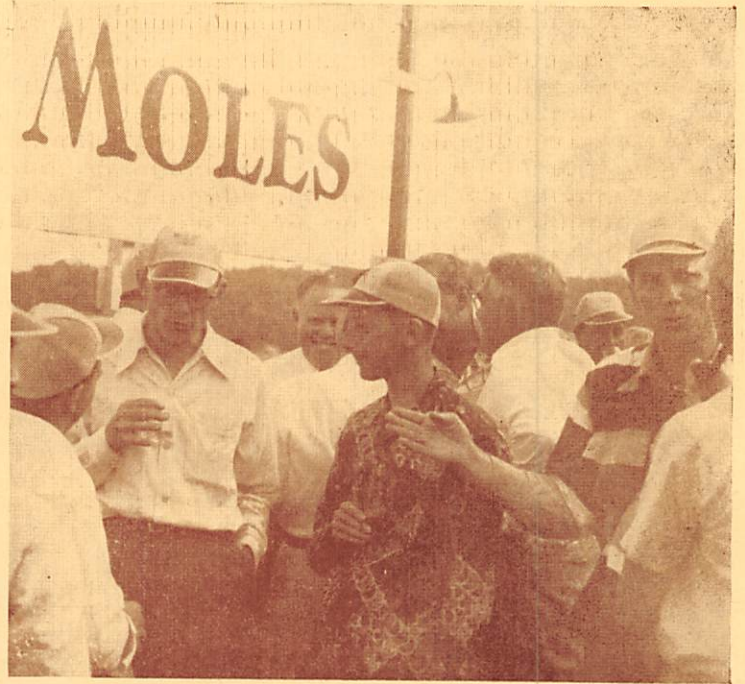
Our hat is off, by the way, to Mr. Parker of the New York Athletic Club. His management for the club was superb, as usual. Parker, by the way, now is manager of the clubhouse in New York. Congratulations.

Well, that's the 1950 Clambake. It was great. Now we can "wait 'till next year."

Clambake Fun...



GRIMACE goes with catching the egg. The hands well in front cut down the chance of stain. Second man, Bob Crimmins, was on team that won the event.



OUTSIDE BAR, plus superb weather, helped keep the Clambake an outdoor affair. Left to right: Bob Lewis, Henry Perez, Bob Dodds.



PRIZES FOR SKILL, as well as prizes for being lucky (door) were presented at the beginning of the show under the big top. President Jim Salmon at microphone; Program Chairman Dick Johnson just behind.



BACK AGAIN—And Pop wowed 'em again, managing to repeat some of the better laughs from 1949. "It's all high class stuff."



LAMINATED TIMBER was a new twist in the nail-driving contest. Here Jim Connolly, Walter Conlon and Frank Carey try their skill while perennial contest supervisors Dick Stokes and Les Hensley look on.



WATCH YOUR MUSIC! The trumpeter was hot, and he got hotter. How did the photographer manage this one during the strip act?

Strike Makes Tex and Jinx

Unusual recognition for a construction man was accorded Sept. 12 when Mole Clifford Strike was featured in "New York Close-Up," the popular column that Tex McCrary and his photogenic wife, Jinx Falkenburg run in the Herald Tribune.

The column brought out that Strike's nickname at the University of Illinois was "Lucky," then told a series of setbacks and snapbacks that alternately have refuted and supported the nickname.

Room Parties? Not Here

Room parties before the Award Dinner, a sort of thorn in the flesh for The Moles over the years, just about disappeared from the scene last year, thanks to quite general agreement that they cut down on one of the party's most priceless assets: good fellowship at the amply-provided before-dinner highball tables. Once again the Award Committee sincerely urges the omission of room parties. It's most fun when we're all together.

Mole job... Which One Isn't?

It's pretty hard to find a heavy construction job around New York that doesn't have plenty of assistance from Moles. And if you go over into Jersey the story's almost the same. Take the New Jersey Turnpike, for instance. More than half of the contracts are held by outfits that boast Moles in their midst. The list includes Geo. Brewster, Bethlehem Steel Co., Del Balso, P. T. Cox, S. J. Groves, Cayuga, Poirier and Mc-Lane, Underpinning and Foundation, and others.

Plug for Holing Through

HOLING THROUGH got a nice boost from Alf Hjort, who's with Raymond Concrete Pile Co. in Portland, Ore. Alf resigned from The Moles because he is too far away to enjoy the rights and privileges. However, he said he kept up his membership for a long time after leaving New York, just because he wanted to continue receiving this Upright Journal. Here's a complimentary copy, Alf. And thanks.

Ted's Knitting Slowly; Jim Armstrong In Hospital

Word on Ted Avery is far from discouraging, but he won't be with us at the Members Only Dinner. His femur (upper leg-bone, that is) is knitting slowly but surely. The necessary crutches, however, make ambling about the bar and dining rooms problematical. Discretion being

the better part of valor, he sends his spirit and keeps himself at home.

Another Mole, Jim Armstrong, has had a siege at St. Vincent's hospital. Ray Spooner who worked under Jim many years ago, visited Jim a few weeks ago, cheering him with old snapshots reminiscent of their association. Jim had the bends (an honorable disease among Moles) a few years ago, and his trouble seems to stem from there.

Charles J. Corr Dies; Had Outfit in Phila.

One of our older members, Charles J. Corr, died Oct. 22 in Philadelphia. He was 82, and head of the construction firm that bears his name.

We cast about for a member who could give personal information on Mr. Corr, and discovered that Jack Macdonald was it. Jack says he ought to know Charley, who introduced Jack to his wife. Corr's firm performed important



CHARLES J. CORR

civil construction in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Previous to his construction service he was in the coal industry, representing some of the large mining companies. Jack says Charley was a very lovable character, and one of our best drinkers.

Troy Carmichael, New Montana Engineer

From New Jersey to the wide open spaces of Montana—that's the deal for Troy Carmichael, who formerly was engineering director of the New Jersey Bituminous Concrete Association. Now he's State Highway Engineer, a position he assumed June 1.

A native son of Montana, Troy has spent most of his professional life in the Pacific Northwest, having assumed the New Jersey position in 1948.

(Maybe it's the effect of Troy's good

work in New Jersey—we note that bituminous concrete looked pretty good in pavement bidding on the state's turnpike.)

THE MOLES WELCOME . . .

THE FOLLOWING were elected to membership in The Moles Sept. 26:

FREDERICK B. SPENCER, Asst. to President, Spencer, White and Prentis, 11 E. 40th St., New York.

EDWARD C. DAVIS JR., Treasurer, Fraser-Davis Construction Co., St. Louis, Mo.

JAMES DANA PARSONS, Associate Partner, Moran, Proctor, Freeman and Mueser, 420 Lexington Ave., New York.

MAX HARRISON, Harrison Construction Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.

E. A. Herrick, Former Mole

Ernest A. Herrick, one of the "first 100," died Aug. 26 at the age of 91. Retired, he had been president of Oakdale Construction Corp. and vice-president of the Cornell Construction Co., both of New York. He supervised work on the subways, the Catskill Aqueduct and the approaches to the George Washington and Perth Amboy bridges. Also was with Degnon Contracting Co. as general superintendent on the Belmont tunnel. Alex Stagg says he was a fine gentleman. Herrick had been inactive in The Moles since 1943.

Award Winners . . .

(Continued from page 2)

Spooner and Sons Inc. became one of the youngest men ever to be president of the New York General Contractors Association. He was third president of The Moles, in 1940. Other presidencies include those of the Metropolitan Golf Roamers (1939), Columbia Class of 1915, Lambda Assn. of Psi Upsilon.

Ray started out with the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1913, working on big projects in the Philadelphia area. On Dec. 1, 1914, he joined with his brother and father in Allen N. Spooner and Sons. At that time, the firm owned one piece of floating equipment. (The list has grown considerably, to say the least.)

The firm's work has included projects throughout the vast reaches of New York harbor waters, ranging from simple bulkheads to a tunnel under the Passaic River. Piers, however, have been the mainstay of Spooner business. Three of these, Nos. 88, 90 and 92, North River, are among the largest in the harbor. Their construction involved some difficult unforeseen rock conditions, in the face of which the firm did not falter.