

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, 1950

Mobilization Chief is Dinner Speaker

Charles E. Wilson, General Electric president, will address The Moles at Award Dinner, Waldorf Astoria, Jan. 31

Charles E. Wilson, General Electric's president, who has been appointed to head up America's new industrial mobilization program, will be the principal speaker at The Moles Award Dinner Jan. 31 at the Waldorf.

Awards will be made to Ray N. Spooner (Member Award)

and Lester S. Corey, (Non-Member Award.) Spooner is with the New York waterfront construction firm of Allen N. Spooner and Son, Inc.; Corey is president of Utah Construction Co., San Francisco, builders on many large western projects.

Construction men will be

doubly attentive to what Mr. Wilson has to say at the Award Dinner, first because as war production chief he will be calling the signals on a lot of plays that will affect the construction industry; and second, because the industry is realizing more and more that electric power has a definite place in the construction picture—Wilson's company and a few of its competitors have been plugging this message for a long time.

(And we're pretty good customers of Mr. Wilson's. For instance, Jack Macdonald, Award Committee chairman, says his company, Walsh Construction Co., has a half-million dollars worth of G.E. equipment on the East Delaware Tunnel job.)

As to controls affecting the construction industry, The Moles can expect Wilson to speak with authority. He won't be floundering around in a strange job — during World War II he was executive vice-chairman of the War Production Board.

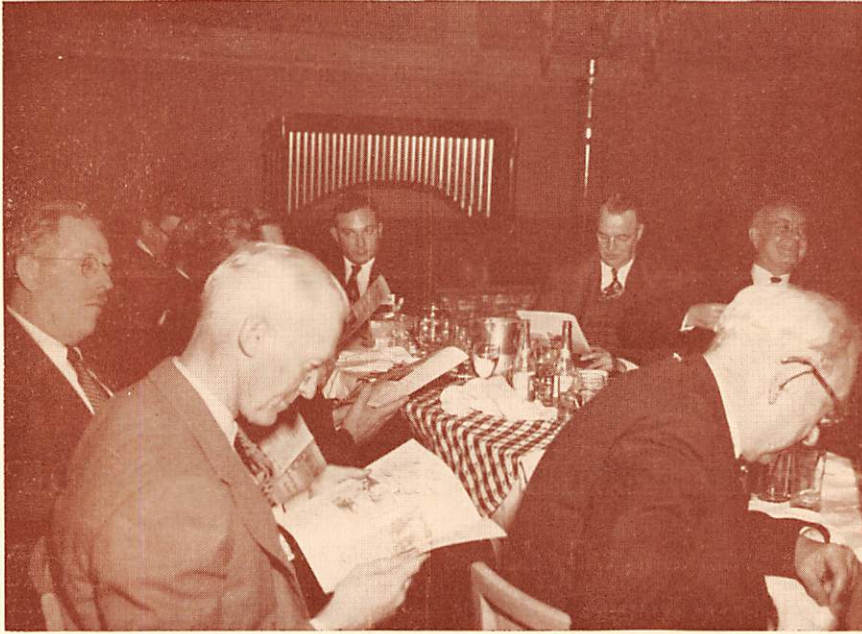
Handling the great and complex machinery of industrial mobilization is a task for which Wilson is well prepared by a lifetime (almost literally) of service in General Electric's similarly great and complex organization. A native of Manhattan, at 12 years of age he started as an office boy with the old Sprague Electric Co. (which became a component of General Electric when it was organized). That was in 1899. Since then he has served in practically every function of the business.



CHARLES E. WILSON

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Members Dinner Was Biggest Yet



NOBODY WAS PLAYING THE MARIMBA — So Holing Through got the nod. Rich Steers looks at Clambake pictures. How many past-presidents do you recognize?

240 Attend Affair; Awards Announced

A GOOD DEAL more than half of our total membership of 400 (including 75 out-of-towners) joined for a full evening of fun and companionship November 8 at the Members Only Dinner.

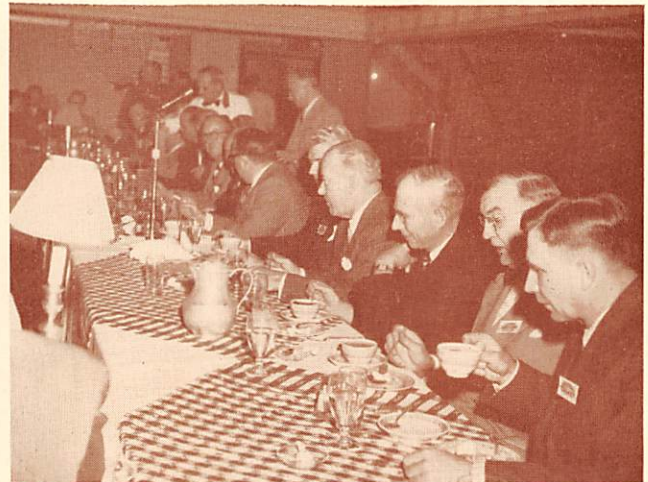
Features of the evening included announcement of Ray Spooner and Les Corey as the 1951 Moles Award winners. Ray is the member-awardee and Les is the non-member awardee.

Total attendance was 240 — plenty of customers for the three free-drink bars that were in business before dinner (more bars than ever before, too.)

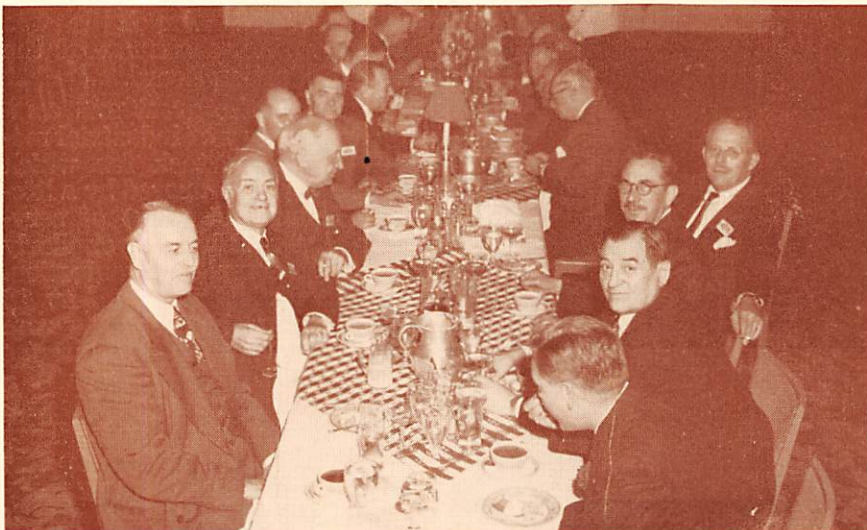
A few of the 240 are shown on these pages. A few of the items that were shown to the 240 also are presented. Dick Johnson's program committee did its usual good job.



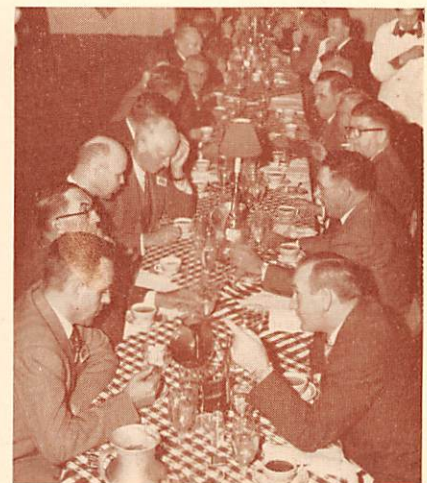
THE BIG ANNOUNCEMENT — Jack Macdonald approaches the microphone to announce the Award Committee's decision.



CONVERSATION — We guess Louis Pentzien, second from right, is relaxing after his tough wrestle with that Hudson River pipeline.



LONG TABLES with red-checked table-cloths groaned with vittles for the happy 240. Among the ardent Moles is General "Spec" Wheeler (horn-rimmed spectacles.)



A POINT IS MADE, and Gene Rau (left) studies it; or was he stirring the sugar?



THE FEMININE ANGLE — Irene Lizotte has help this time. That's Marguerite McLean, also of Moles headquarters.



A GRAND OLD-TIMER — Joe Howard, the veteran entertainer, beams benignly on The Moles as the spot picks up his shirt-front.



HOW TO IMPRESS A LADY — Looks like this guy even has the broomstick. Yes, sir, Henry Ford can use him on the production line.



MUSICAL JOKERS — We don't know who confused whom in this musical act, but the result was palatable, to say the least.

WILSON . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Wilson was elected president of G.E., to succeed Gerard Swope, on Jan. 1, 1940. He left in 1942 to work with the War Production Board, returning to the G.E. presidency in 1944. As wartime boss of the huge U.S. production effort in World War II, Wilson achieved some spectacular successes.

To Introduce Awardees:

Short speeches introducing Moles Award winners will be given at the Award Dinner Jan. 31, by Moles George Ferris and Ted Prentis. George, an old friend of Les Corey's, will make the Non-Member Award presentation. Ted will do the honors for Ray Spooner.

FRAGMENTS . . .

Ray Spooner, our up-coming Member Awardee, again has accepted the chairmanship of the Red Cross Drive for heavy construction — Moles membership now stands at 400, with dues-collection almost 100%—Charles E. Wilson, Award Dinner speaker, is a Scarsdale neighbor of Jack Macdonald's—Ted Avery warmed his friends' hearts by appearing at the General Contractors Association Dinner — Our president, Jim Salmon, is vice-chairman for the General Contractors Division on behalf of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis; Moles can subscribe for this worthy cause by sending contributions through Jim, care of The Moles headquarters, 11 W 42nd St. — National Production Authority business draws Carl Proctor to Washington quite a bit these days—Ralph DeSimone addressed the ASCE Metropolitan Junior Branch last month — Charles Gleim has been ill at his home in Wilton, N. H. — **Congratulations to Joe Meehan on his presidency of the General Contractors Association** — R. E. Dougherty has been appointed consultant to help the Long Island Railroad in its mounting difficulties — **NO ROOM-PARTIES NOTE:** One of last year's few holdouts in The Moles' anti-room-parties (before the Award Dinner) campaign swears on a stack of Bibles he'll resist the temptation this year — besides, why should we miss the chance to stand up at the bar with all our friends. (The Waldorf says the Award Dinner is the only big affair at which it furnishes a stand-up bar.)

“ . . . needs no introduction ”

In the naive belief that the New York construction fraternity could do with a few details on the personality of our awardee from afar, “Holing Through” recently wrote to Utah Construction Co.'s A. H. (Gus) Ayers, asking a few “Inquiring Reporter” questions about Les Corey.

Gus came back with a fine letter, adding that we could find out more from several New York Moles — and he named them. They're a cross-section of Moles membership, so this may be repetition of the well-known. But here goes.

“Les Corey's personality,” Gus wrote, “as it has had a major influence on his success, has been the essential stability of his character, and the soundness of his business decisions.

“In these days of vast business expansions and huge capital investments his economy-minded and sound money policies are often-times commented

upon, more however with admiration for the overall results which he has secured in his own company than with any hint of a failure to share in or contribute to any worthwhile project.

“This is probably best illustrated by his outlook on a game of golf. He maintains steadily and persistently, but without undue noise, that he should be allowed a handicap of at least twenty. If this is granted him, he is willing to lay reasonable bets and will probably shoot a low eighty.

“If he cannot secure the desired handicapping, he will drop back to the high nineties until the twenty or twenty-five handicap is forthcoming; then proceed to whittle down his opponent's folding money to what he considers a respectable balance, and conserve the results as a retirement fund for himself when he can no longer play golf.”

A great game, contracting.

Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

