



HOLING THROUGH

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

An Organization of Tunnel and Heavy Construction Men

APRIL, 1951

Annual Business Meeting May 2

Program chairman Dick Johnson promises best show ever; Well-known package, including free drinks, will cost \$6

The Grand Ballroom of the Roosevelt Hotel again will be the scene of The Moles Annual Business Meeting, on May 2. Business there will be, by all means, but it will be incidental to fun and frolic for every Mole in town.

Before dinner, the bar cash registers will be turned to the wall, because the bill is paid. It's part of the \$6.00 dinner price. As you stroll into the ballroom's foyer at 6:30 p.m. you'll feel the familiar atmosphere of friendship and conviviality. You'll greet a pal or two and make for the bar. While waiting for your first of the day, you'll pick up an anchovy canape or one of those hot sausage doo-dads.

After a couple more, plus a little roving around to find out where the boys have been since last time, at 7:30 you'll move on into the ballroom, where the Roosevelt's good waiters will slide a succession of ample dishes under your fork.

Finally, there'll be the show. Program chairman Dick Johnson really is in the swing of his job, and we're confident he will come up with the best show yet.

But before the show there will be business — reports of committee chairmen and the canvass of ballots for election of 1951-52 officers. The nominating committee has reported the following as official nominees:

For President (one year): Richard V. Hyland, of Madigan-Hyland.

For First Vice-President (one year): David Bonner, of Frederrick Snare Corp.

For Second Vice-President (one year): Richard E. Dough-

erty, of the New York Central System.

For Sergeant-at-Arms (one year): Charles E. Simmons, of the Bethlehem Steel Co.

For Secretary (one year): George P. Walker, of Johns-Manville Corp.

For Treasurer (one year): Howard P. Maxton, of Raymond Concrete Pile Co.

For Trustees (three years): Fred J. Driscoll, of George F. Driscoll Co.; George F. Ferris, of Raymond Concrete Pile Co.; James E. Gibbons, of American Surety Co. of New York; James M. Slattery of Slattery Contracting Co.

Proctor is Nominee For ASCE President

Carlton S. Proctor, 1949-50 president of The Moles, was announced as the official nominee for president of the American Society of Civil Engineers at the society's winter meeting in Houston two months ago.

His election will mean that he will assume office at the ASCE annual meeting in New York next October. He thus will be the society's president during its 100th anniversary year — 1952. At present he is a vice-president of the society.

Proctor will become the second Mole to be president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Richard E. Dougherty having held the post in 1948.

Remembering the strength and effectiveness of Carl's leadership of The Moles last year, we have little doubt that he will be one of the finest presidents the civils ever have had.

Moles Get Gavel From White House

The Moles can be very proud indeed of a gift that came in recently. It is a gavel made from a timber removed from the White House during current renovation operations.

We can be still prouder of the thought and sentiment behind the gift. The following letter, from Richard E. Dougherty to our president, Jim Salmon, tells the story:

230 Park Ave.
New York

March 6, 1951

My Dear Jim:

In view of the fact that certain Moles have had a bit to do with the renovation of the White House, it occurs to me that the Board of Directors of The Moles would be interested in having a gavel fabricated from timbers carrying the floor of the "Lincoln Room" at the White House, in which the Emancipation Proclamation was signed.

The work has been under jurisdiction of the Commission on Renovation of the Executive Mansion, consisting of two Senators, two Representatives and two representatives of the President.

In 1948 President Truman called on the President of the American Institute of Architects, then Mr. Douglas Wm. Orr of New Haven, and myself as then President of the American Society of Civil Engineers, to come to Washington to confer on the subject of the safety of the White House.

In 1949 the Commission was created by legislation and Mr. Orr and I were invited by the President to become his representatives on the Commission. Subsequently, it was my

(Continued on Page 4)

Award Dinner Attended by 1200

Moles and guests see Corey and Spooner receive awards; Jim Farley becomes Mole at Waldorf-Astoria January 31

Freezing rain fell raw and forbidding outdoors on the night of Jan. 31, but inside the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel 1200 Moles and their guests warmly cheered their recognition of America's two outstanding servants of the construction industry.

For it was service to the industry that had earned the evening's stars The Moles Awards. These stars were Ray Spooner, of New York, and Les Corey, of San Francisco.

And another construction man — one whose laurels in public life perhaps have obscured the mud on his boots — became an honorary member. He was Jim Farley, former postmaster general, who for many years has been associated with the General Builders Supply Corp. of New York.

Officiating in the awards was John S. Macdonald, chairman of the Award Committee. Jack thanked the Award Committee (The Moles officers, trustees and all standing committee members) for their service in making the selections, then spoke briefly, paying his compliments to the fine group of construction men present. He said that they must continue to produce as much as possible in order to preserve the value of the American dollar.

In his speech, Jim Salmon, Moles president, said:

"Our Award Dinners have now become one of the outstanding events in the history of the construction industry. First starting with only local prominence, as you all know, they have now become equally famous and known throughout our country.

"I do not know how many of you remember in our press releases in November, when the notice of our non-member recipient award was printed, the captioned words of "East meets West in Annual Awards". Those words struck me at the time with one thought — that if Mr. Joe Stalin had some of the foresight and good fellowship which is put forth by this society, the United Nations' job of regulating this troubled world would be a lot easier."



FERRIS CONGRATULATES COREY

The Non-Member Award recipient, Lester S. Corey, was introduced by George F. Ferris, who said:

"While having cocktails tonight I listened to a great deal of talk about last year's dinner — about the wonderful speeches made by Carlton Proctor, Dick Dougherty, Bill Durkin, General Eisenhower and Herbert Hoover.

"Gentlemen, that's a tough crowd to follow.

"Therefore, I concluded that if I want to have my speech remembered favorably there were two things I could do. One — tell a funny story and, two — make it short. So here goes.

"Nothing reminds me of this story — I just think it's funny.

(Holing Through feels real bad about deleting the story.)

"Gentlemen, this is the 11th annual Moles Award Dinner. During that time The Moles Award has become recognized as the highest and greatest honor that can be given an individual by the construction world. This Moles Award means that in the opinion of people in your own profession you are judged the best."

Ferris then outlined Corey's full and active career, and continued:

"You can see that Les Corey has led a busy and successful life and has become a real leader in our great industry. Construction men know him as an old pro — one who has been through the mill and can speak from personal knowledge with anyone at any level on any problem relating to construction.

"I personally feel greatly honored and privileged to present you, Les Corey, with this plaque

as evidence of our great esteem for you personally and all you have done."

"I will now read the citation:"

"The Moles' Award for Outstanding Achievement in Construction, Presented this thirty-first day of January, nineteen hundred and fifty-one, to LESTER S. COREY, Pioneer, Citizen, Contractor, in recognition of his High Excellence as a Leader and his Conspicuous Skill, Notable in the Fields of Dams, Irrigation and Railroad Construction".

Les Corey replied:

"I wish to thank The Moles for the distinguished honor being conferred on me tonight. The Moles Award is regarded by men who have followed engineering or construction as a wonderful tribute.

"I am not going to make a speech for that can better be done by others who really know how to do it, but I do want to talk to you for a few brief minutes about the interesting life of engineers and contractors.

"I think it has been a fortunate choice for those of us who have selected such a career.

"There is something fascinating to my mind in construction work. First the planning and designing, then comes the construction.

"Usually there is a bond to arrange and some financing, followed by organization and equipment.

"When a big project is started it makes me think of a military operation. All the maneuvers of mobilization get going at high speed.

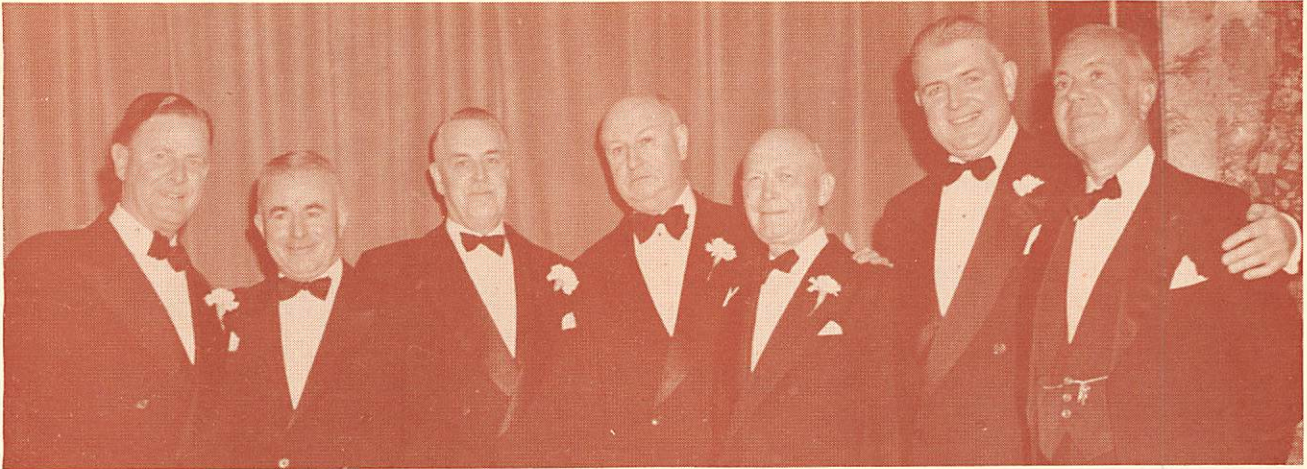
"Administrative personnel are selected and they truly become the generals. Many times the enemy to fight is a raging river, bad ground in a tunnel or a tricky foundation.

"You are all familiar with the procedure and know the enthusiasm which goes into the starting of a job — and I know how it fascinates all of us.

"I think Americans can take pride in their achievements in our field. We have developed the ablest engineers and contractors and have invented the best equipment in any country.

"Our engineers are called all over the world and some of our contractors are working in foreign countries.

"I think some of us older fellows like to look about occasionally in our own organizations.



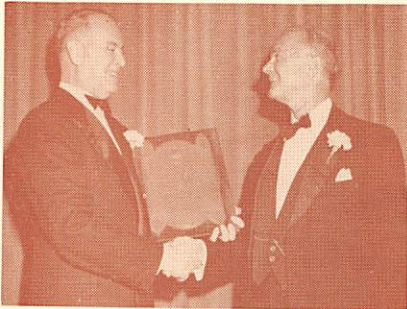
AWARD DINNER PRINCIPALS — Photographed just before they lined up to go on the dais, here are (l. to r.) George Ferris, Jack Macdonald, Ray Spooner, Jim Farley, Les Corey, Jim Salmon and Ted Prentis.

“We like to appraise the results of our handiwork in training the younger members — and I know we all feel our affairs are in safe hands.

“I think American construction people have the utmost courage. They will design and build anything the progress of civilization calls for and risk their reputations and their money doing so.

“Again about our friends — we appreciate the help we get from those who supply us; the bond companies who guarantee us; the bankers who let us have money, and the workers who make our success possible.

“I have been trying to say in these few words that we are in a grand game and we can feel we are doing our part in the affairs of the world.”



SPOONER THANKS PRENTIS

The Member Award recipient, Ray N. Spooner, was introduced by Edmund A. Prentis, who said:

“You have all heard of the “Long Arm of Coincidence” — you see it in action before you right now. It was nine years ago tonight that Ray Spooner stood where I stand before you to present to me the Member Award of our Society that I now have the high honor to present to him. As

some of you may recall, because of my absence in Persia for the Army Engineers, my award was made “in absentia” and was received on my behalf by my dearest friend and severest critic, my partner for a third of a century — Charles Burr Spencer.

“Ray Spooner . . . is that rare person, the distinguished son of a distinguished father. He has followed in his footsteps, too, for his father, Allen Spooner, was a Columbia man graduating in 1886 and it was he who organized Allen Spooner and Sons of which Ray Spooner is now one of the leaders after he too had attended the same university.

“Thus this outstanding man Ray Spooner comes by his engineering genius naturally enough, for in addition to his paternal inheritance, a great uncle Elias M. Howe, Jr., invented the sewing machine 1846, another invented the spring bed in 1855, and most important of all, another, William Howe, invented the Howe Truss we know so well, in 1840.

“Ray Spooner is not being honored because of his inheritance but because he himself has had an important career in this community. This great harbor—the greatest in the world — is studded with his accomplishments. And he has been president of so many things I hesitate to mention them all.

“Ray Newhall Spooner, because of your fine accomplishments as a citizen, as an engineer, and particularly because of your construction achievements, with very great pleasure I present to you on behalf of our Society, the 1951 Member Moles Award with the following citation:”

“The Moles’ Award for Outstanding Achievement in Construction, Presented this thirty-first day of January, nineteen hundred and fifty-one, to RAY N. SPOONER a member of The Moles, in recognition of his Superlative and Effective Service and his Eminent Accomplishments, Notably in the Fields of Waterfront, Pier and Harbor Construction”.

Ray Spooner replied:

“Tonight, at the eleventh Moles Award Dinner, for me to be the recipient of the Members Award — means more to me, than any honor I have ever received.

“Being singled out for this coveted award, reflects credit to the firm of Allen N. Spooner & Son, of which, I am but one of a team, whose monumental works dot New York Harbor.

“While I was born across the Harbor, in Jersey City—I have spent the major portion of my life in New York City. I see among those present here tonight, DeWitt Clinton High School and Columbia University classmates — and among the Moles, Jim Armstrong, my boss during my apprenticeship with the Pennsylvania Railroad. Also looking around, I note fellow Moles, who had the bright idea of joining together, those who were following similar pursuits, to form this body of prominent construction men.

“It was my privilege to preside at the Great Northern Hotel in 1938 when the first president of this organization was selected, the late Harry A. Leeuw,— and, I have been previously honored by The Moles, having been its third President.

“The Moles have come a long way since their inception, and it

Awards . . .

(Continued)

has not been an easy road, but it makes a task really worth while — one you can put your heart and soul into—when you can see before you, the distinguished gathering here tonight, my fellow Moles.

"The honor of being selected, for this outstanding award, has no equal, and to receive from this eminent body of heavy construction men, this plaque — with its inscription, — is a tribute I humbly accept, with my undying thanks."



FARLEY THANKS SALMON

In introducing Jim Farley, the evening's speaker and honorary member, Jim Salmon said:

"Tonight we have with us as our guest speaker a very distinguished personage—James A. Farley — a man you all know, and, as it has been said many times, who knows more people and calls them by their first names, than any other person in this country, — yes — even in the world. Frank, outspoken and revealing are the words which describe our guest speaker tonight. His success in life has been achieved not through intervention of luck or chance, but by hard work and a strict adherence to the highest ethical and moral standards."

The former Postmaster General lost no time in assuring the group of 1200 Moles and their guests, that he, too, is of the construction industry. He condemned cupidity on the part of public officials and strongly praised the good that is in capitalism. Granting that our foreign policy is in a mess, Farley asked for better leadership. "The American people want to know where they are going and what they are expected to do."

Saying that the construction effort should not be stopped, Farley hoped that real wisdom would be applied to controls.

"I sincerely believe that we

should proceed without interruption with all the plans that have been developed to the point of carrying out all of these water power developments, dam developments, housing programs, if you will, highways and everything that they can produce, without interfering with the war effort."

He also said that contractors should be justly paid for their work.

Gavel . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

privilege to recommend a Mole, Mr. Emil H. Praeger, as one of the two consulting engineers to the Commission, the other being Mr. Ernest E. Howard of Kansas City. I also recommended Spencer, White and Prentis as the contractors for the very difficult job of underpinning, shoring, demolition of the interior, etc.

I am sure that Mr. Praeger will agree with me that we cannot commend too highly the work of Spencer, White and Prentis. Charlie Spencer devoted a great deal of time to it and special consideration was given by every member of the firm including Messers. Immerman and Weaver, and Robert White, a most worthy son of a distinguished engineering father, was continuously assigned to the project. In addition, the firm had a wonderful little superintendent, Mickey Kenney.

Taking all these factors into consideration, it occurred to me that it is most appropriate for the Moles to have a gavel. I am enclosing a memorandum giving a bit of its history, and perhaps you will be interested in the attached description of the laying of the original corner stone of the White House in 1792.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ R.E.D.

The memorandum follows:

"This gavel was fashioned

Your Address Right?

The 1951 roster of The Moles membership will go to press early in May. If there has been any change in your address or business connection since last year, will you notify:

Irene Lizotte, executive secretary
The Moles
11 West 42nd St.
New York, N. Y.
(Phone LOngacre 3-3444 - 5)

from floor timbers at the White House, removed in 1950.

"The White House was burned by the British in 1814 and restored to service in 1817. The timber was therefore originally placed in 1815 or 1816, probably the former. The wood is also of particular interest inasmuch as it can be authentically stated that it was recovered from the supporting floor timbers carrying the "Lincoln Room" where Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

DeSimone Promoted

Ralph DeSimone, Mole Trustee, recently became executive vice-president and general manager of Merritt-Chapman and Scott. Congratulations, Ralph.

Downes Was Down

Al Downes' many friends will be pleased to hear that although he was in Harkness Pavillion for an operation early in March, he's back to work and feeling fine.

New Members

The following have been elected to membership in The Moles since the last issue of Holog Through:

WILLIAM J. GREEN, Vice-Pres. & Ch. Engineer

S. J. Groves & Sons Company
500 Wesley Temple Building,
Minneapolis, Minn.

D. G. LE TOURNEAU, Civil Eng.

S. J. Groves & Sons Company
Box 485

Woodbridge, N. J.

EDWARD P. MEEHAN, Vice-Pres.

Vanguard Construction Corporation
369 Lexington Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

HARRY E. PAGLIARO, President

Sterling Foundations, Inc.

55 William Street

New York 5, N. Y.

GEORGE I. SPOONER, Exec. Sec'y

Allen N. Spooner & Son, Inc.

143 Liberty Street

New York 6, N. Y.

CHESTER W. CUNNINGHAM

Partner

Condon-Cunningham Company

4229 Lafayette Avenue

Omaha, Nebraska.

EDWARD G. JOHNSON, Sec'y-Trea.

& General Management Consultant

The Arthur A. Johnson Corp.

347 Madison Avenue

New York 17, N. Y.

ALBERT L. REES, Vice-President

Transit-Mix Concrete Corporation

136 East 57th Street

New York 22, N. Y.

C. W. GARRISON, Superintendent

Allen N. Spooner & Son, Inc.

143 Liberty Street

New York 6, N. Y.