

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, 1952

Annual Business Meeting, May 7th

Dave Bonner is official nominee for president; good show predicted

It's printed on your Moles calendar, but you'd better underline it—May 7. That's the day of The Moles annual business meeting, when we choose new officers, take stock of ourselves—and have a helluva good time, following that tried and true pattern.

So if you haven't done it already, obey that impulse and put your ticket application in the mail. Once again, \$6.00 gets you the works. Free drinks before dinner, The Roosevelt's finest meal on red-checked tablecloths, a little seriousness, and then, at ten p.m., The Moles Show.

Here's the timing: Reception (the drinks, boys), 6:30 p.m.; dinner, 7:30 p.m.; business meeting, 9:00 p.m.; and entertainment, 10:00 p.m. (if you'll pardon the repetition.)

Here's the slate:

President —

David Bonner

First Vice-President —

Richard E. Dougherty

Second Vice-President —

George F. Ferris

Sergeant-at-Arms —

Charles E. Simmons

Secretary

Harry T. Immerman

Treasurer —

Howard P. Maxton

Trustees (three years)—Peter F. Connolly; Andrew Fischer, Jr.; Eugene G. Rau; James G. Tripp; (two years, to fill George Ferris' unexpired term) Edward P. Palmer.

Dave is a candidate for the spot held last year by Dick Hyland, who hopes to be there to

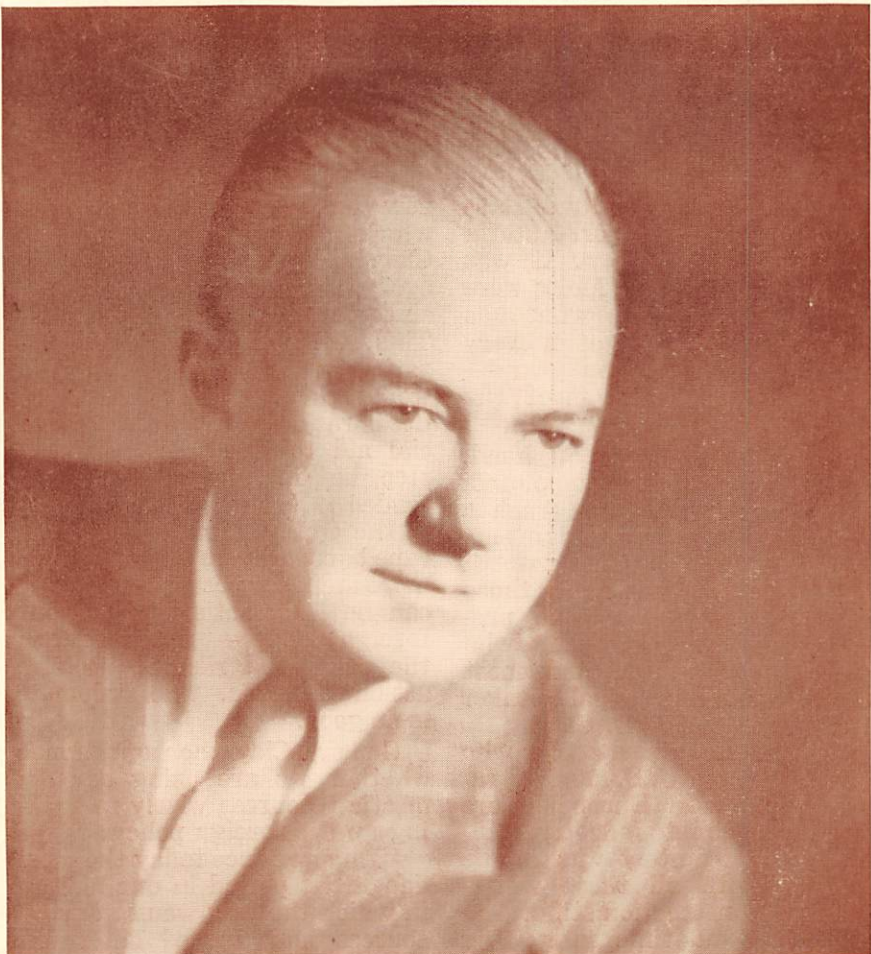
pass the historic White House gavel that Dick Dougherty gave to The Moles last year.

Another Mole who's stepping out of office with all our best wishes and thanks for a job well done is George Walker. George has been secretary for the past three years.

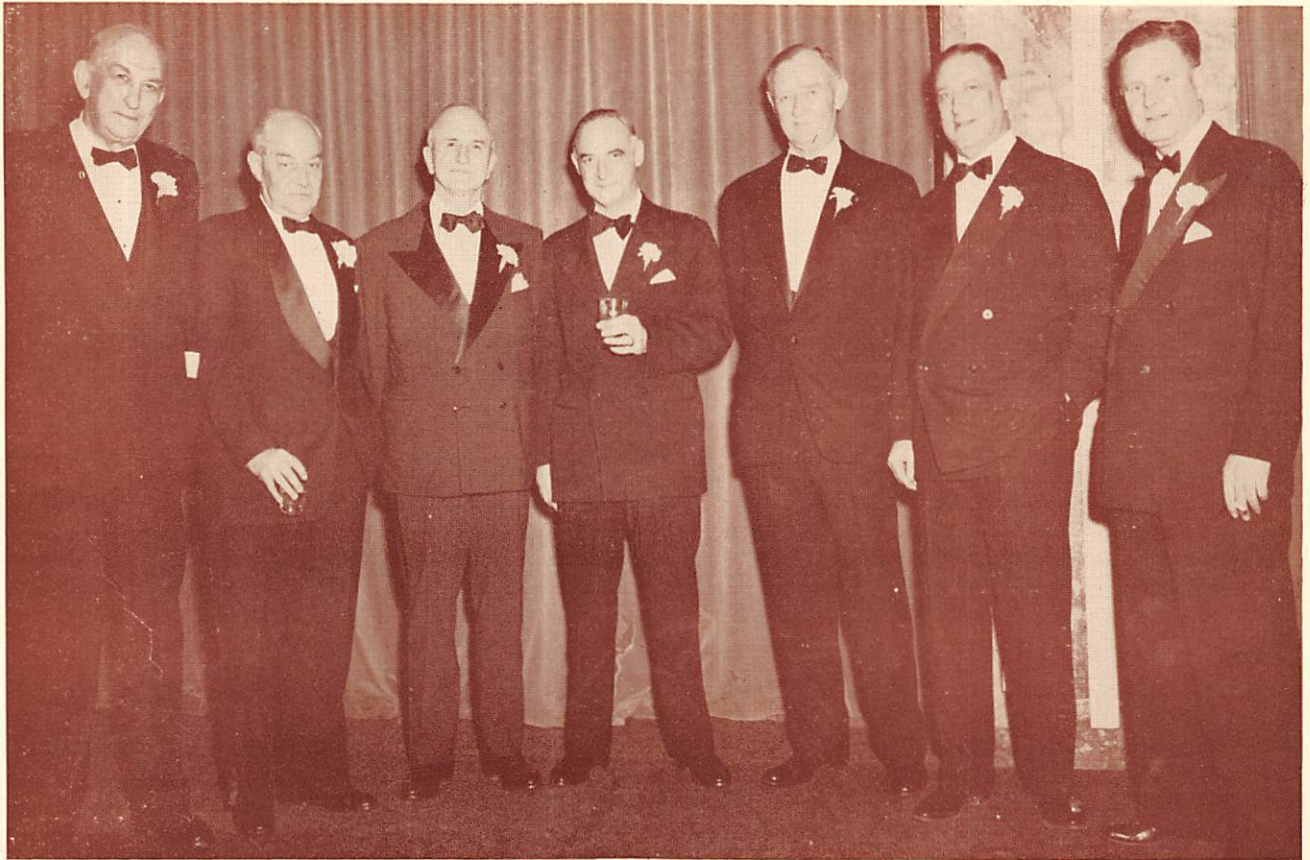
By now the ballots are pretty much all in, but if you haven't voted yet you can get a ballot at the meeting and mark it up

to the time the presiding officer declares the election closed. Then the canvassing of the ballots will be performed and the Elections Committee will announce the results.

Other business includes the reports of retiring officers and committee chairmen, and the announcement of the chairmen for 1952. Then we're off to another glorious year! See you at the dinner.



Richard V. Hyland — He'll hand gavel to new president.



HAPPY MOLES — Principals at The Moles Award Dinner Feb. 6 were: (l. to r.) Richard E. Dougherty, former award winner who presented the Member Award to Charlie Spencer; David Bonner, First Vice-President of The Moles; Steve Bechtel, Non-Member Award winner; General Lucius D. Clay, principal speaker and Honorary Member; Mr. Spencer; Admiral Ben Moreell, former award winner who presented the Non-Member Award; and George F. Ferris, chairman of the Award Committee.

Award Dinner a Colossal Success

General Clay asks decisive action in Asia, defends free enterprise against complex controls.

Once again the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria was filled to overflow. It was February 6, and The Moles were gathered to observe what has become a real highlight in every American construction year — the annual presentation of The Moles Awards.

Almost 1100 were on hand, and they were not disappointed. Every man who spoke (each a great construction man in his own right) had something worth while to say. This went for those who presided, those who presented the awards, those who received the awards, and, most of all, for the principal speaker — General Lucius D. Clay.

An Army engineer officer who rose to the top U. S. administrative position in Europe before retiring to go into industry, General Clay definitely was in his element with all these white-bosomed construction stiffes. And he wasted no time in getting right down to serious talk.

Saying that the United States

now has a foreign policy of which it can be proud, General Clay traced the slow and painful evolution of this foreign policy since the end of World War II. This evolution was one of realization, in 1947, that the Kremlin would have to be opposed with deeds rather than words. Financial aid to Europe was a first step, but in helping Europe we tended to lose sight of the peril in the Orient. Now we have escaped jeopardy in Asia, but one more step is necessary before we can be fully satisfied with our foreign policy — we must take the calculated risk of decisive action in Korea. The stalemate is no good.

General Clay then questioned whether we are using our domestic resources wisely in backing up the foreign policy:

“Thus, we face today the most dangerous period in our history in which the way we use our resources may indeed determine the future of coming generations. Although our defense ef-

fort is less than 15% of our total productive capacity, we have resorted to controls which impair, if they do not destroy the initiative, the free enterprise which has given us a productive capacity without parallel in world history. We have imposed price controls unrelated to wage ceilings and in doing so, have made impossible the collective bargaining between Management and Labor which has become an essential part of the free enterprise system. Certainly, some controls were necessary to channel scarce materials into defense production. However, to do this we chose to impose controls on the entire economy. Each control created conditions which required further controls and led to the complex structure which we have today. Surely we have not lost faith in the ability of the free enterprise system which made us and can keep us great. I suggest now to be the time for an orderly removal of controls as the sure way to a sound economy and increased production.”

General Clay went on to speak in favor of the balanced budget,

which goes hand-in-hand with government economy — including realistic economy in the defense establishment.

General Clay was introduced by Dave Bonner, Moles first vice-president, who represented President Dick Hyland. Dave lauded General Clay, quoting a friend of whom Dave had asked, "Who would be the best man for military governor of Germany?" The friend replied, "I hope they give the job to Lucius Clay. I think he is the man for it. He has the integrity, judgment and balance to do it the way it ought to be done."

Dave also called the evening's assembly "the greatest group of heavy construction men that has ever been gathered together." He cited the dinner's purpose: "To further the cause of heavy construction by making two awards calling attention to outstanding achievement in that field."

After General Clay's talk, George Ferris, chairman of the Award Committee, took over. George called the general's words "a shining message," and he congratulated him on his honorary membership in The Moles.

George lauded the character and integrity of the Award Committee, noting that the 45-man group had given generously of its time and thought in arriving at the evening's selections.

He then introduced Admiral Ben Moreell, former award winner, whose pleasure it was to present the Non-Member Award to Steve Bechtel.



MOREELL AND BECHTEL

Big Ben the Builder lost no time in coming to grips with the assignment. He pleasantly insulted the assemblage, reviewed Steve's career, and convinced everyone that the Award was going to the right place:

"It is indeed gratifying to see

how these Moles Award Dinners have progressed and developed. In the good old days we used to meet in a modest little place on 44th street, where Eddie Mahoney, our efficient sergeant-at-arms, kept everybody in comparatively good order by making so much noise that no one else could be heard.

"Now we have moved to the Waldorf with the rich people. Instead of plain Scotch and Bourbon we drink dainty cocktails. Everybody speaks in well-modulated tones, sometimes with slight overtones of British accent. The boys have fresh haircuts and manicures, and some of us carry a faint odor of the latest perfume.

"It is all kind of sad. What is the world coming to? Who will be left to build the sewers if we all become cultured?"

"But I still feel at home among you roughnecks. You may get civilized and cultured, but you can't fool old Ben Moreell. I say 'old' Ben Moreell advisedly, because I was referred to in that manner about three weeks ago by my friend, Phil Murray, in a hearing in Washington on a certain little wage dispute. I told Phil later that I didn't mind what he called me, as long as he pronounced my name right and didn't call me 'old'.

"Then the other day when I was ousted as president of Jones and Laughlin and became merely chairman of the board, I knew from the many letters I got, exactly where I stood. So I quietly lined myself up with some of you old crocks who spend most of your time sitting around telling the boys what hell-raisers you were fifty years ago.

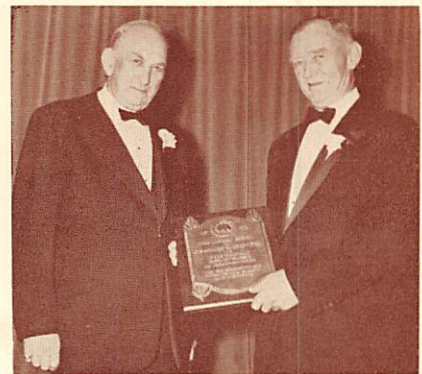
"But to get back to Steve Bechtel. What can you say about a fellow whom we all know so well and so very favorably? They sent me a biography of Steve to use in preparing this award address, but it read like it was written by Steve's sales department. It told all about the work the outfit has done, how they were prepared to undertake any job any place in the world, how this would be done at bargain-basement prices, in a minimum of time, satisfaction guaranteed or your money back."

Admiral Moreell then reviewed Steve's career, noting that it doesn't tell the kind of guy he really is: "He is the kind of a fellow that the American Con-

struction Industry is mighty proud of. I . . . wish that all representatives of the American people who travel to foreign lands would offer such an example of business statemanship, technical proficiency, devotion to duty and high moral character as does our good friend, Steve Bechtel."

In his response, Steve paid tribute to his own force and to the many fine construction firms he has worked with on joint ventures. He then commented on Point Four, noting that American construction know-how has been used as a sort of Point Four program for many years, spreading good and good will over the world.

"We are living in an era when engineers and builders have the greatest opportunities of all times. The construction business is a wonderful business and I am mighty proud to be a part of it."

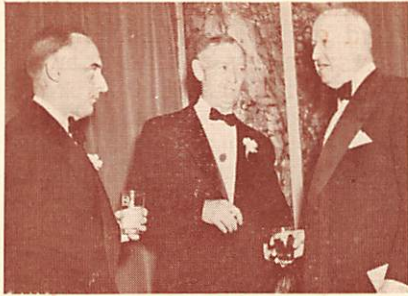


DOUGHERTY AND SPENCER

Next Dick Dougherty, another former Award winner, made the presentation of the Member Award to Charlie Spencer.

Dick took great personal pleasure in the assignment. He outlined a parallel between his career and Charlie's, then dwelt on their intimate association during the four-year reconstruction of the White House, which at the moment was practically complete. Charlie's firm had underpinned the historic building's ancient walls, excavated new basements and braced the structure while a brand-new interior, including fireproof frame, was built by the general contractor.

A member of the Commission on the Renovation of the White House, Dick paid tribute to others who directed the work — several of them were at the dinner. He terminated his remarks with "It is now my pleasure to



TWO HONORARY MOLES chat with Member Award winner, Charlie Spencer (center). They are General Clay (left) and Jim Farley (right).

present this scroll and plaque to Charlie, and let me say to him and to all of you that I do not believe any greater thrill can possibly come to a contractor or engineer in the construction industry than The Moles Award."

There was no pretense in Charlie's acceptance. He was in a frankly reminiscent mood, and he began by recalling the Award Dinner ten years ago when he accepted the Award for his best friend and partner, Ted Prentis. Then he recalled the night when Ben Moreell got the Award. "He (Admiral Moreell) concluded his remarks with something like this — He saw around him hundreds of engineers and contractors, most of whom were his personal friends. He had dragged many of these men out of semi-retirement, chased them around the world, put on the pressure to make them break every construction record, didn't let them make any money, and if they did he was going to renegotiate it away from them. But as he put it, 'You are all a grand bunch of guys and I love every one of you.'"

Then Charlie told about the time General Somervell was the Non-Member Award winner. The general had an awful cold, so they fed him a dinner consisting mostly of whiskey. He made a swell talk, went to bed at ten o'clock and woke up the next morning completely cured.

Other incidents involved Frank Crowe, General Eisenhower and Herbert Hoover. Charlie concluded with "As I wrote George Ferris in accepting the Award, it is not only the greatest honor an engineer can receive but more important still, it carries with it the affectionate regard of all our members. I deeply appreciate the great honor, and I reciprocate your affection from the bottom of my heart."

Salmon to Miami

After more than 30 years with The Arundel Corporation on New York and New England operations, Jim Salmon has been promoted to General Superintendent, Florida Area, with headquarters at Miami.

The announcement was made by John A. Reilly, a Mole and Arundel vice-president in charge of the New York and New England area.

Jim, who served The Moles ably as president last year, goes to Florida with our best wishes for sunny skies and successful contracts.

Hush is AED president

Here's another feather in The Moles cap: Harry Hush was elected president of the Associated Equipment Distributors, at the organization's annual meeting in Chicago last winter.

His election culminates a rapid rise in the association. During 1951 he served as AED executive vice president, and in previous years held the offices of vice president and director of Region II, which includes New York and New Jersey.

Black is V.P.

Here's more Arundel-Mole news. C. Warren Black, vice-president of Arundel since 1940, now is vice-president in charge of engineering and construction. He has been with the company since 1919.

Driscoll re-elected

Another Moles Trustee, Fred J. Driscoll, is piling up his honors. He was recently re-elected president of the Building Trades Employers Association.

Andrews a director

Donald C. Andrews, vice president in charge of New York operations for Turner Const. Co., has been made a director of the corporation.

Vermont to Snare

Cornelius Vermont, Moles Trustee, now is with Frederick Snare Corp. He was with George H. Flinn Corp. for many years.

Tripp in Turkey

Jim Tripp, whose U.S.-Turkey commuting has been noted in previous issues of Holog Through, now is likely to be

there for some time. Thompson-Starrett, New York builders, got the \$100,000,000 dam job that Jim was consultant on (for cableways and other construction plant), and prevailed on Jim to be the job's administrative engineer.

Stagg recovering

Genial Alex Stagg, Founder Member and Jersey City lumber man, was in the hospital for a five-week siege, but he's home now. Says they took some "choice cuts" and he's spending part of his time in bed. His home address is 10 Bergen Avenue, Jersey City 5, N. J.

The Moles Welcome . . .

The following were elected to membership in The Moles April 15:

MORRIS F. HALLETT

Union Building and Const. Co.
Passaic, N. J.

LOUIS G. COAKLEY

Cummins, Coakley and Booth, Inc.
153 W. 53rd St.
New York 1, N. Y.

DUGALD J. CAMERON

The Fireproof Products Co.
138 Bruckner Blvd.
New York 54, N. Y.

HENRY M. WASUNG

Drilled-In Caisson Corp.
2 Park Ave.
New York 16, N. Y.

WALTER H. COBI

Pneumatic Pile Co. of N. Y.
25 Vanderbilt Ave.
New York 17, N. Y.

EDWARD W. LEWIS, JR.

Lewis and McDowell, Inc.
285 Madison Ave.
New York 17, N. Y.

JOHN F. MEEHAN

John Meehan and Sons
916 W. Dakota St.
Philadelphia 22, Pa.

HOWARD R. GOULD

Spencer, White and Prentis, Inc.
602 Hammon Bldg.
Detroit, Mich.

WILLIAM H. BRUCE, JR.

Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Hall and Macdonald
1701 Florida St.
Baytown, Texas

GEORGE M. REAVES

Turner Const. Co.
53 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago 4, Illinois

EDWARD KOHNEN

The Arundel Corp.
Pratt St.
Baltimore, Md.

CHARLES E. FRASER

Fraser-Brace Eng. Co. Ltd.
Montreal, Quebec