

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, 1955

CRIMMINS TOPS '55 SLATE

New Members

A. Holmes Crimmins, who's been most everything else a Mole can be in his nine years as a member, is a sure-pop bet to move into the top spot — the presidency — come May 11, 1955, when the ballots are tabbed at the annual business-dinner meeting.

Note Well: The meeting this year will be at the Hotel Biltmore . . . repeat, Biltmore. Reception starts 6:30 on the 19th floor, with dinner at 7:15, same floor; business meeting at 8:30 — and a typically Hush-and-lush "floor show" following.

Holmes (picture in next column) heads the slate chosen by Peter C. Connolly's nominating committee, moving up from first v-p. Into that latter niche for 1955 moves Thomas J. Walsh, Jr., while Richard A. Johnson of Arthur A. Johnson Corporation is nominated for second vice president.

Frank M. Loughman of Ace Builders Supply is named for sergeant-at-arms and Gilbert M. Serber of Stock Construction Co. for secretary. Edward G. Johnson was slated to repeat as treasurer.

These four men are up for confirmation as trustees: James F. Armstrong of Senior & Palmer; Edmund M. Burke of Bethlehem Steel; M. G. Kennedy of Morrison-Knudsen Co., Inc., and Leonard Van Houten of J. Rich Steers, Inc.

Serving on the nominating committee were Weldon S. Booth, G. Lloyd Comfort, Robert C. Johnston, Eugene G. Rau and Edward E. White.

The new president-designate is the treasurer of Thomas Crimmins Contracting Company, with which he has been associated ever since his graduation in 1932 from Harvard University — and even before, for the matter. He worked for it during summer vacations, notably on the Newark city subway in 1931.

During World War II he was a captain in the Army Engineers on port construction work in the South Pacific. He has been a versatile and



A. HOLMES CRIMMINS

very useful Mole, having served as membership chairman three years, awards chairman in 1952, trustee for three years, and publicity chairman one year leading up to his first vice-presidency.

He makes his home in Darien, Conn. and has two sons and a daughter, all pretty well grown up. This Harvardian sent both of his male heirs to Yale; one is still there, the other has graduated and is in the Air Force.

Harry Hush, hospitality chairman, has lined up what he expects to be one of the most high-voltage programs of entertainment in Mole history, to follow the brief business doings on the evening of May 11. Exact identities are held secret, but if plans go through as expected the show will be a sure-fire hit.

EXERCISE, MEN!

That's right, exercise! Exercise your right to the ballot.

Don't forget to return your ballot for 1955 officers of the Moles to the Moles office, 11 West 42nd street.

Every member should cast his vote.

A record crop of new Moles — 35 — was voted into membership at the April meeting of the Executive Committee. Oldsters will be delighted to extend their "right claw of fellowship" at the May 11 dinner and meeting to these "Moleophytes":

Edwin Ryan Akers of Frederick Snare Corp., William G. Armstrong of Arundel Corp., Dan S. Brock of Johnson, Drake & Piper, Inc., Arthur J. Bulger of Franki Foundation Co., Mario G. Canale of Spencer, White & Prentis;

Chester S. Crawford of Whitehall Cement, James P. Cummins of Centri-line Corp., John L. Doherty of B. Perini & Sons, Inc., Mike Dorcic of Stock Construction Corp., Sidney P. Gilbert of I.B. Miller Contracting Corp.;

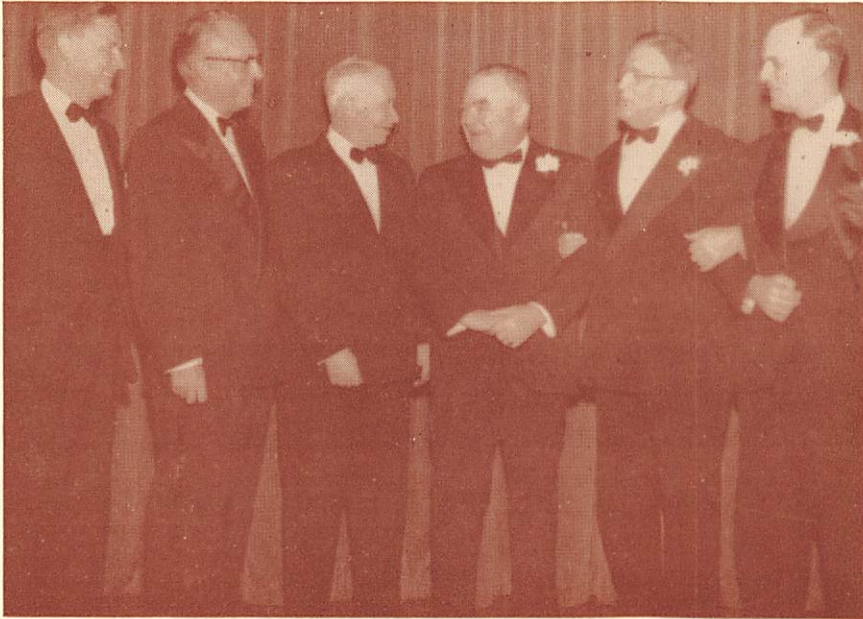
Philip Grove of MacLean-Grove & Co., Inc., Roy J. Gunther of Frazier-Davis Construction Co., Robert R. Helen of Healy Tibbitts Construction Co., Milton A. Hendrickson of Hendrickson Bros., Inc., William Orme Hiltabidle Jr. of Chas. H. Tompkins Co.;

Edwin Lee Jones of J. A. Jones Construction Co., Gail B. Knight of S.A. Healy Co., Eugene K. Lydon of Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co., Frank D. Manning of Thompson Starrett and Merritt-Chapman Scott, George N. Martin of Bates & Rogers;

Louis Nadel of MacLean-Grove & Co., Nicholas Brown O'Connell of Turner Construction, John Oman III of The Foundation Co., Ray F. Pape of Johnson, Drake & Piper, Inc., Charles B. Perini and Joseph R. Perini of B. Perini & Sons, Inc.;

John H. C. Pomeroy of J. H. Pomeroy & Co., Paul Charles Sanders of Johnson, Drake & Piper, Inc., Dudley A. Saunders of Slattery Contracting Co., Henry L. Schmeckpeper of the Arthur A. Johnson Corp.;

Howard A. Schroedel of Turner Construction, George S. Shinick of Shinick Building Co., John P. Soult of Fruin-Colnon Contracting Co., Harry B. Thornley of Western Foundation Corp., and Graziano Zara of Zara Contracting Co., Inc.



GOOD FELLOWS, and winners, too, got together for this photo at the Moles Awards dinner last Groundhog Day, Feb. 2. Left to right, they're George Ferris, Mole president; Carl B. Jansen of Pittsburgh, non-member Award winner; Dr. Richard L. Hearn, chairman of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, speaker of the evening; Thomas J. Walsh, member Award winner; Admiral Ben Moreell, who presented the Walsh award, and Edward G. Johnson, chairman of the Awards Committee.

'UNACCUSTOMED AS I AM —'

Active and honorary Moles will be very much in evidence, at the microphones and wielding the gavels, when the Society of American Military Engineers holds its 35th annual meeting May 5 and 6 at the Waldorf-Astoria.

Molemen will, in fact, "have the bases loaded" at the Contractors' Session (3 p.m. Friday) when President George Ferris will speak on construction of the "Texas Towers" — the off-shore radar-screen defense installations. Ned Johnson will do the introductory honors for George, and Fred J. Driscoll will preside over that whole session.

Other Mole gavel-wielders will be Gilbert M. Serber, who's president of the New York City Post of the Society, at the Thursday luncheon session; and Carlton S. Proctor and Vice Admiral John J. Manning, presiding at the 2 and 4 p.m. sessions, respectively, that day.

Dick Dougherty will do the introductions at the Friday luncheon session, and Emil H. Praeger the same at 4 on Friday. Brig.-Gen. Benjamin B. Talley will take part in services dedicating the restored monument to Etienne Marie Bechet, Sieur de Rochefontaine, at St. Paul's chapel and churchyard in lower Manhattan.

Rear Admiral John R. Perry, Budocks chief and an honorary Mole since addressing our 1953 Awards dinner, will be chief speaker at the opening session, and another honorary Mole, General Lucius D. Clay, will be guest speaker at the dinner dance that climaxes the two-day meeting.

TOO MUCH OPTIMISM, THAT'S FERRIS FEAR

President George Ferris sounded a "minor key note" at the Awards dinner that created sympathetic reverberations, when he called attention to the "apparently boundless optimism" that distinguishes the current crop of Moles. This, he said, must be the explanation for the consistently much-too-low bids that characterize today's contract-seeking situation. Several other speakers added morose confirmations of the latter.

STRAIGHT DIGGIN'!

Honorary Mole Robert Moses, chairman of the New York State Power Authority, is running true to form in his declarations as to the conduct of hydroelectric development on the St. Lawrence River project.

Such development will be carried out along the strictest of "strictly business" lines, he vows, and adds that there will be "no politics, patronage, favoring of contractors or kow-towing to pressure groups."

"We are tough!" he said.

Moles Clickin' In Ol' London

Joseph B. Diamond is glad he's a Mole in New York, instead of being a mole in London!

According to a news item from London, spotted by Diamond, a pack of moles in London has suffered the indignity of having radioactive "bracelets" hung onto their tails, so that a Mrs. Gillian Crowcroft can keep track of their eating, sleeping and other habits! She's doing it as an assignment from the London Zoological Society.

Her moles have metal bangles on their tails containing radioactive cobalt, Mrs. Crowcroft explains, and she "pursues" them by means of a Geiger counter hung on the end of a long fishing pole.

The pole, she says, is necessary because otherwise the moles would "feel her footsteps" and that would prevent them from "acting normally."

The American species of Mole needs no cobalt hung on his tail to make him click!

JANSEN WARNS ON JOINT VENTURING

The idea that the construction industry is in many respects "the greatest working example of the free-enterprise ideal" was convincingly expressed by Carl B. Jansen, president of the Dravo Corporation, in his acceptance talk upon receiving the 1955 Moles non-member Award — at the Waldorf-Astoria on February 2.

At the same time, he went on record with a warning that the practice of joint venturing — though undeniably necessary in super-large operations — could become "too much of a habit" in the industry. He said he felt it tends to "emasculate individualism," and indicated that the industry should beware of wandering too far down that lane.

Ontario's Power Needs Will Top Supply by '62

Energy from the international St. Lawrence River power project will be utilized to capacity as early as 1962 — only four years after the first generator will have gone on the line — and rapidly expanding Canadian industry in Ontario will have to look for sources of energy other than water power within 10 years.

This was the forecast made at the Moles Awards dinner by the chief speaker, Dr. Richard L. Hearn, chairman of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario.

He added that this St. Lawrence installation would be the last major hydro-electric source available in all of Ontario — and he didn't mention any alternative types of power source that might be called on after 1962.

TAPS



The Moles lost one of their most distinguished honorary members in the death on Feb. 13, 1955 of Gen. Brehon Somervell, U.S.A., retired — recipient of the non-member Award of 1944.

General Somervell, 62, commanded the Army's Services of Supply ("SOS") during World War II and in that capacity was credited with performing the most Herculean feat of logistics the world has known. It was estimated that he directed the expenditure of some 172 billion dollars in inducting the Army, feeding, clothing and arming it.

This native of Little Rock, Ark. was a West Pointer, one class ahead of Dwight D. Eisenhower. He graduated sixth in his class in 1914 and served in 1916 on the expedition to Mexico. He served in World War I and in various Army posts and schools, and in 1936 he was appointed Works Progress Administrator for New York, from which post he was recalled to military service in 1940.

At the time of his death he was president and board chairman of the Koppers Co. of Pittsburgh.

To Brehon Somervell, in his days as SOS chief, was attributed the classic expression: "The impossible we do at once; the miraculous takes a little longer."

* * *

DODDS DID IT

Bob Dodds, the old Iowa Stater who has done more'n his share of holding up the journalistic end of Moles doings for several years as an editor at Engineering News-Record, has ben-zined that printers' ink off his fingers. (But can he get it out of his blood?)

Bob has taken a position with Lockwood, Kessler and Bartlett, Inc., in Great Neck. He'll be working in "highway design and location."

Mole Goes Aloft As 'Top' Man on Steeple Project

The Moles, who generally are more concerned with the bottoms of buildings than with their tops, have a special interest now in a construction job that is really "tops" in sentiment, as well as architecturally.

It's the restoration of Boston's famous Old North Church steeple, which was toppled last August by Hurricane Carol. One of our boys, Clifford S. Strike, is head of F. H. McGraw and Co., whose offer to supervise the rebuilding of the steeple as a public service, without fee, was gladly accepted by "The Lantern League." This organization's chief purpose is preservation and maintenance of the famous landmark that played a key role in Paul Revere's "the British are coming" ride.

Brother Strike is a former director of the New England Council and was president of the New England Steel Development Corporation for several years. And now he's been made a director of the Lantern League, first appointee outside the Boston area since the League started in 1932.

The "restoration fund's" goal of \$150,000 was reached early in March, and Strike expects to have the job completed before the first anniversary of the capricious Carol's irreverent wallop rolls around in August. It is a completely different construction project from the usual 20th century kind of job — even for church spires — because in making a virtually exact duplicate of the original spire it is necessary to find and place four white-oak beams, each 46 feet in length.

"This project is a challenging combination of ingenuity and architectural building," said Strike, described as a "veteran Yankee builder." He added that it is "conceivable that some sections of the spire will be put in place by means of a helicopter" (because the working room is far more limited now than when the original spire was erected).

CHANGING ??

Your title?

Your company?

Your address?

The Moles office is at work on its new 1955 roster of Moles members . . . so if you have any corrections or changes, send them in promptly, please.

The telephone number is LOnGacre 3-3444.



WETZLER

Raymond A. Wetzler, 66, board chairman of Whitehall Cement company, died March 26, 1955 after a brief illness. He entered the cement industry in 1907 with the Atlas Cement Co., and his career included a long association with Thomas A. Edison as vice president of the Edison Cement Co. As a young man he was an outstanding athlete and well known as an oarsman. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War I. Surviving is his widow, Mrs. Ursula A. Wetzler.

McGRAW HANDED AN FOA BOUQUET

F. H. McGraw & Company, engineering and constructing firm, has been awarded a Certificate of Cooperation by the Foreign Operations Administration.

The award was in recognition of the firm's "significant contribution" to the foreign aid program, mainly in the form of furnishing technical assistance to selected representatives of cooperating countries.

BEN PLAYS BALL

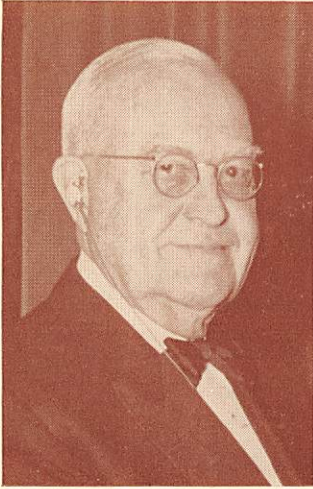
Admiral (retired) Ben Moreell really gets around!

One of his public appearances since our last publication was at the always-eagerly-attended banquet of the New York Baseball Writers' Association.

As one of the featured speakers, Ben paid tribute to baseball for its work in "breaking down barriers of intolerance."

CRIMMINS HONORED

Col. Thomas Crimmins, member Award winner of 1947 and father of our 1955 president-to-be was given a special honor by Cardinal Spellman on the completion of 50 years of service to the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum. The Cardinal presented the Colonel with a silver tray to signalize the event.



OAKES

LUTHER S. OAKES, 77, president of Winston Bros. Company of Minneapolis since 1921 and recipient of the Moles non-member award in 1949, died Feb. 25, 1955. A native of Vermont and graduate of Dartmouth, he early sought his career in the West, mostly on railroad jobs. Throughout his 48 years as a contractor, all with Winston, he held to three aims: advancing employee relations, giving a square deal, and raising the standards of contracting.

J. MURRAY GALLAGHER, 46, a member of the Moles since 1941, died suddenly on Feb. 7, 1955. He had suffered a heart attack. He was president of the United States Dredging Corp. and secretary-treasurer of Gallagher Brothers Sand & Gravel Corp., firms founded by him and his brother Peter and James F. Murphy, in 1933. He is survived by his wife, Eileen, and two sons and six daughters. He lived in Garden City, L. I.



GALLAGHER



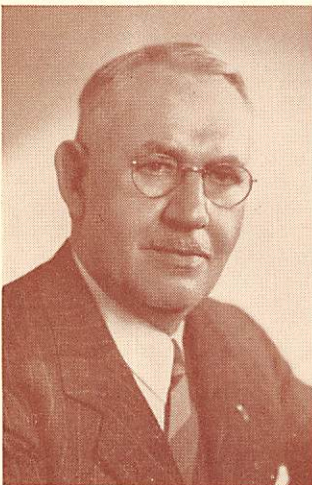
ELLIS

WILLIAM R. ELLIS, 68, retired vice president and member of the board of directors of Hercules Powder Co., died Jan. 30, 1955 at San Francisco, Cal. after a long illness. He had retired late in 1953 after 39 years with Hercules. He was largely responsible for the military explosives program carried on for the government by his company in World War II, and earlier gained recognition for his development of blasting practices used in building Hoover Dam.

SIDNEY A. SHINICK, 73, organizer and senior partner of Shinick Building Company and a Mole since 1938, died on Feb. 14, 1955. Sid had been in the building business more than a half-century, and had been mason subcontractor on subways, tunnels, parkways and bridges all around New York. An ardent member not only of the Moles but also the Ancient Order of Hibernians, he is survived by four children, 14 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren.



SHINICK



COPELAND

FREDERIC L. COPELAND, 71, who had retired from active duty as a vice president of Bates & Rogers in July, 1953, died January 8, 1955. He joined Bates & Rogers in 1905, when two years out of Yale, and worked on mountain bridges and tunnels in the Far West as the Milwaukee Railroad built through to the Coast. He supervised many notable projects, including tunnels on the Pennsylvania Turnpike and the permanent bridges on some 1200 miles of the Alaskan Highway.

EARLE R. EVANS, 63, vice president of McKiernan-Terry Corp., with which he had been an officer since 1920, died on Jan. 3, 1955. An expert on the problems surrounding pile installation, he had written several treatises on the subject. He was a graduate of the University of Illinois, and in World War I served in overseas waters with the Anti-Submarine Force for three years.



EVANS



GRIFFIN

TIMOTHY G. GRIFFIN, 69, inventor of the Griffin Wellpoint and a leader in soil stabilization and dewatering of construction sites, died Feb. 21, 1955 in Yonkers after a brief illness. In 1934 he founded the Griffin Wellpoint Corp. in New York and later corporations of the same name in Florida, Texas and Indiana. Surviving are his widow, the former E. Hazel Hancock, a son and two daughters. He lived in Bronxville, N. Y.

JAMES L. CAREY, 74, builder of subways, sewers and other heavy construction, died Dec. 31, 1954 at his home on Fifth Avenue, New York. Born in Brooklyn, he was a partner in Newman & Carey, and for many years president of the Necaro Co. which succeeded it. When Necaro was dissolved he became a member of James Stewart & Co., Inc., and he was president of Beverwyck Brewing Co. from 1947 to 1951. He was an officer in several other companies.



CAREY