



# 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 1956

## YOUNG TOM WALSH IS NAMED

The "Accent on Youth" theme in Moles' top leadership is carried on this year as Thomas J. Walsh Jr. is scheduled to take over the presidential gavel from A. Holmes Crimmins when all votes are counted at the annual business meeting and dinner on May 2, at the Biltmore Hotel.

Young Tom, only son of our 1955 Member Award winner and since 1953 president of Walsh Construction Co., heads a strong slate put together by Dave Bonner's nominating committee. It moves Richard A. Johnson of the Arthur A. Johnston Corp. into the First V-P spot and names Howard A. Collins of the construction company bearing his name as Second V-P.

R. E. Savage of Northwest Engineering Co. is nominated as sergeant-at-arms; Gilbert M. Serber of Stock Construction Co. is prevailed upon to carry on another year as secretary, and Richard M. Johnsen of The Foundation Co. is slated to succeed Edward G. Johnson as treasurer.

This last-named Johnson is nominated as a trustee for three years, along with Eugene F. Moran Jr. of Moran Towing Corp., Richard E. Mynatt of Merritt-Chapman & Scott, and Emil H. Praeger of Praeger-Kavanagh. Nominated for a one-year term as trustee to fill the unexpired term of Howard Collins is C. W. Garrison of Allen N. Spooner & Son, Inc.

The new president-designate is a native of Davenport, Iowa who was educated in St. Mary's (Kansas) High school and the University of Notre Dame ('35). He was a Moles trustee 1950-51-52 and has come up through the vice presidencies. He and his wife and three sons and a daughter live in Darien, Conn. (That happens to be Holmes Crimmins' residence town, too.) In recent months Tom has been able to resume his earlier interest in golf as an active participant, thanks to an electric — like Ike's —



TOM WALSH JR.

cart in which he rides the Connecticut links almost every week-end.

The doings at the Biltmore on May 2 will start at 6 p.m. with the traditional Moles fellowship reception hour, with dinner scheduled for 6:45 and the business meeting at 8. An orchestra will play for atmosphere and to provide the musical setting for several acts during the dinner hour, but the main accent will be on visitin' and "cuttin' up old touches," according to Harry Hush, program chairman.

The business session, expected to be brief, will embrace reports of retiring officers and committees, election and installation of officers, naming of new committees, and any other proper business.

Serving with Dave Bonner on the nominating committee were: William J. Hughes, Edward J. Mahoney, James B. Martin, Donald B. McKinley, and John J. Walsh.

## New Members

Twenty-nine new members, the 1956 crop, will be extended "the right claw of fellowship" at the annual dinner meeting on May 2. Here they are:

Robert J. Armstrong, civil engineer with Babor, Kramer & Stiles; Nicola James Barletta, chief engineer of V. Barletta Co., Roslindale, Mass.; George R. Barlow, project engineer, Morrison Knudsen; A. Douglas Burrow, construction engineer with Cayuga Foundation Corp.; Charles E. Cantine, general superintendent of Lawrence J. Rice Co.;

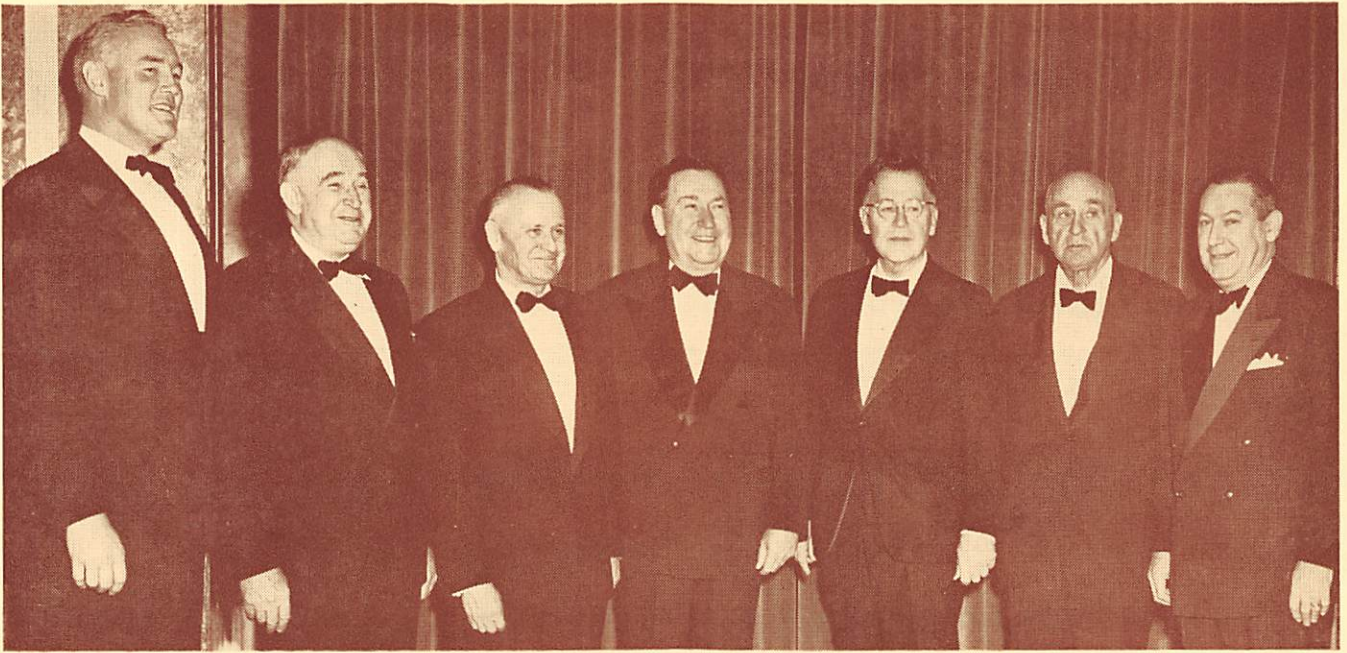
Lucius E. Dixon, president of L. E. Dixon Co., San Gabriel, Cal.; Joseph S. Drinane, chief engineer for Elmhurst Contracting Co.; Henry A. Druding, resident engineer for Port of New York Authority; L. Garland Everist, construction manager for Western Contracting Corp., Sioux City, Ia.; Christopher J. Foster, partner in Foster & Cafarelli;

Thomas G. Guerin, project engineer for Tully & DiNapoli; Donald Lee Hensley, district sales manager for Penn-Dixie Cement; Harry Earl Hinkel, superintendent of Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co.; Samuel E. Hunkin, president of Hunkin-Conkey Construction Co., Cleveland; Ray V. Johnson, vice president of Winston Bros. Co., Minneapolis;

John Callen King, chief engineer of Intrusion-Prepakt Inc., Cleveland; Lamar C. LeBron, manager of explosives department of Hercules Powder Co.; Glenway W. Maxon Jr., vice president of Maxon Construction Co., Dayton; James H. McGrath, manager of contractors section, du Pont Co. explosives, Wilmington, Del.; Clarence L. Ohl, vice president, Maxon Construction Co.;

Stirton Oman, board chairman of Oman Contracting Co., Nashville, Tenn.; Frank H. Peavy, chief engineer for South American operations of Morrison Knudsen; Edward J. Petrillo, president of Yonkers Contracting Co.; Edmund A. Prentis III, engineer with

(Continued on Following Page)



STAR-STUDED lineup of honored guests at 1956 Awards Dinner read, left to right, like this: A. Holmes Crimmins, Moles president; Charles Riddle, presenter, and Harvey Slocum, recipient, of Non-

Member Award; Benjamin F. Fairless, speaker; Howard King, recipient, and Miles Killmer, presenter, of Member Award; and Eugene F. Moran Jr., chairman of the 1956 Awards Committee.

## AWARDS DINNER HIGHLIGHTS

The international fame and pepperness of our Non-Member winner; the graciousness and wit of our Member winner in his acceptance speech, and the distinction of our principal speaker made the 1956 Awards Dinner one of the brightest affairs in recent Mole history.

Member Howard King carried off rhetorical honors. Not only did he weave in quotations ranging from Shakespeare and a Marlene Dietrich song to the Negro roustabout's lament that "Dat ol' hammer too damn' heavy fo' mah size — fo' mah size," but made some touching commentary of his own on the deep values of true friends and the inexplicable charm of even ugly New York City sights ("the small unstyled homes of the Borough of Queens with their television antennae like uncombed hair.")

The exploits of our Non-Member awardee, Harvey Slocum, not only in building huge dams but in having "talked back" to Khrushchev and Bulganin, earned him attention from the local press. The Herald Tribune interviewed him and used the designation of him as the "best dam man in the world."

And our chief speaker was Benjamin F. Fairless, president of the American Iron and Steel Institute. Speaking on "Faith, Bulldozers and Progress," he paid tribute to The Moles as men who, finding the right combination of faith and bulldozers, do literally "move mountains" and thereby contribute materially to the nation's and the world's aspirations for constantly higher standards of living.

Vice President Richard Nixon lent a special fillip to the occasion by sending a telegram of congratulations to Slocum, a fellow-Californian. The wire said Slocum's "handling of the problems of construction of the Bhakra Dam" in India had been "brilliant," and that he had "increased the prestige of America and Americans in that country, which is so crucial for freedom in the Far East."

Eugene F. Moran Jr. was chairman of the Awards Committee.

### MAIL-BOX BONUS

This issue of Holing Through marks resumption of the practice of sending "HT" and various notices to resigned members. This action was decided upon at the January meeting of the Executive Committee, in the interests of helping old friends "keep in touch" with Moles doings. It was made clear that the mailings will go to retired and resigned members, but not those who have been dropped for non-payment of dues. For about two years Holing Through and meeting notices and the like had been going only to active members.

## HONORS FOR PROCTOR

Carlton S. Proctor, former Moles president (1949), has been elected president of the American Institute of Consulting Engineers. He is also a former president of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Proctor, a Princeton University graduate and a trustee of that institution, is a partner in the firm of Moran, Proctor, Mueser & Rutledge. He served in both World Wars, in the Engineers, as a captain and colonel, respectively.

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## ASCE HONORS NEEDLES

A signal honor has been accorded Moleman Enoch R. Needles, senior partner in the engineering firm of Howard, Needles, Tammen & Bergendoff, in his election as president of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Enoch succeeds William Roy Glidden of Richmond, Va. in the position.

\* \* \*

## NEW MEMBERS

(Continued)

Spencer, White & Prentis; Abraham I. Savin, president, Savin Construction Co. of East Hartford, Conn.;

Henry Siefke, sales manager of Lehigh Cement; Ole Singstad, senior member of Singstad & Baillie; Fred L. Wagner, vice president of Universal Atlas Cement, and Jack T. Walle, construction superintendent of Thomas Crimmins Contracting Co.

Edward E. White was chairman of the membership committee.

# C. B. SPENCER

One of the grandest of "grand old men" of The Moles passed from the scene when Charles B. Spencer died on January 7, 1956 at his Sutton Place home after a year's illness. He was 69.

In the last year of his busy life, during which he knew it wouldn't be long, "C.B." could have looked back — if he'd wanted to — over a long career marked by many noteworthy and diverse achievements in engineering, and by many evidences of the extraordinary affection and respect his fellowman had for him.

He was a founder, with Lazarus White and Edmund A. Prentis, of the firm of Spencer, White and Prentis in 1919, and was its president from 1948 until a couple of months before his death. He served the Moles in many capacities — two three-year terms as trustee, awards committee chairman, and two vice presidencies and the presidency (1947) — and in 1952 he was honored with the Member Award.

This tall, rough-hewn, gruff but kindly fellow was honored in other circles, too. He was a past president of the General Contractors Association and of the Society of Older Graduates of Columbia University, held many positions of responsibility as consultant to municipalities and corporations, and was often found in the thick of drives for public-service agencies.

A partial list of engineering enterprises in which C.B. had a hand: the shoring, bracing and underpinning of the White House (1952); underpinning of St. Joseph's Cathedral, Hartford, Conn., where the entire 30,000-ton cathedral load was carried down through clay 40 feet to hardpan (all told he underpinned about 300 buildings "under various conditions");



CHARLES BURR SPENCER

three sections of New York subway system; aqueduct tunnel under Hudson river at Newburgh, N. Y.; six big locks and dams on the Mississippi river between St. Paul and St. Louis; in World War II, harbor work in Persia, airports in the Bahamas, three graving docks in Philadelphia and Norfolk as deep as 70 feet below water level; 100 large tankers built in Mobile, Ala.

A native of New York City, Charlie was educated in Manhattan's public schools and Columbia University, from which he emerged in 1910 with two degrees, A.B. and C.E., and keys of two honorary societies, Sigma Xi and Tau Beta Pi. He attained academic honors in spite of having to do considerable tutoring of less-apt mates, to supplement his funds, and also found time to play on Columbia's then intercollegiate championship basketball team, and the varsity soccer team. He served in France in World War I as a captain in the Ordnance Corps.

He lived in Riverdale for most of his life, and had moved to the Sutton Place apartment only a few months before the end came. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Irene Spencer, two sons and a daughter, and two brothers — Frederick, who is with the SWP firm, and Edgar, a lawyer.

\* \* \*

## Charles Burr Spencer

*My Friend — He did not just Pass On  
Nor does my Friend just lieth there.*

*My Friend is dead.*

*And when my Friend died, to be sure  
No Charon moved his worldly bier . . .  
He would not go that way.*

*A Mighty Steed would be his choice —  
One strong in limb, with gentle voice  
To guide him through the World to Come.  
His Soul is with us here.*

*Can you but hear his sharp, crisp voice —  
And yet so gentle, good and kind?  
He left us with no other choice . . . .  
To say a prayer.*

— J. E. MacDonald, Jr.



LADIES are scarce at Moles doings, but those that are on the scene are highly decorative. Here we get another good look at Joan Magliari and Marguerite McLean, our secretarial staff, as they hosted the Awards Dinner.

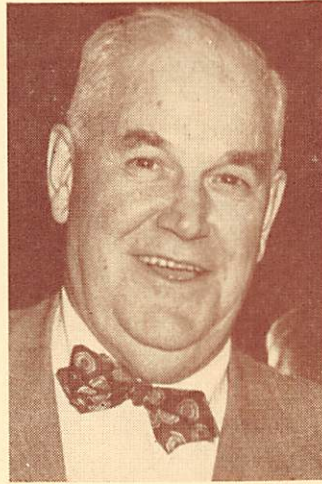
## CHECK!

A new membership roster is about to go to the printer.

Any corrections or changes in affiliation or address should be sent in promptly to Mrs. McLean in The Moles office—  
11 W. 42nd street, N. Y. C.,  
L Ongacre 3-3444.



WADE



DOWNES



FAUST



SANDERS

**STUART A. WADE**, 64, executive vice president of the H. O. Penn Machinery Co., died Nov. 5, 1955 at his home at 2 Fifth Avenue, New York, after an unexpected heart attack. He had been in the construction business 35 years, and with Penn since 1936, engaged in service and distribution of heavy construction equipment. Surviving are his widow, Charlotte, and a son and a daughter.

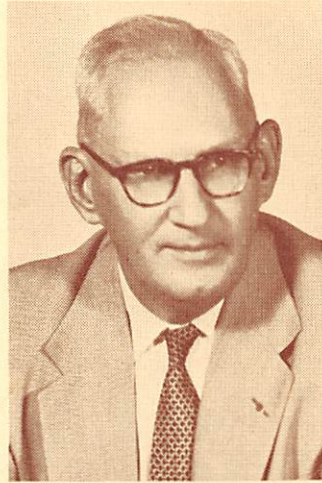
**ALBERT E. DOWNES**, 72, one of the greatest athletes the Moles have boasted, died Dec. 17, 1955 at Harkness Pavilion after a year's illness. He was world's champion diver 1904-1918, and excelled at basketball and golf, the latter even into his 70's. He had been with Lehigh Cement in sales for 27 years, but was associated with Fireproof Products Co. in 1955. He is survived by his son, Al Downes Jr., and two sisters.

**ARTHUR H. FAUST**, 70, died suddenly on Oct. 19, 1955, the day after he had arrived at his home in Winter Park, Fla. to spend the winter, as had been his custom since his retirement in 1949. He was for many years identified with the construction industry in the New York area, in purchasing and administrative capacities. Surviving are his widow, Elsie, and a sister, Charlotte, living at Point Lookout, L. I.

**PAUL C. SANDERS**, 51, vice president of Johnson, Drake & Piper, Inc., died Oct. 27, 1955 in Lenox Hill hospital after a brief illness. In World War II the War Department awarded him its Commendation for Meritorious Civilian Service Overseas for construction work in Africa and the Middle East. For the last five years he had spent a great deal of his time on the company's defense building in Goose Bay, Labrador.



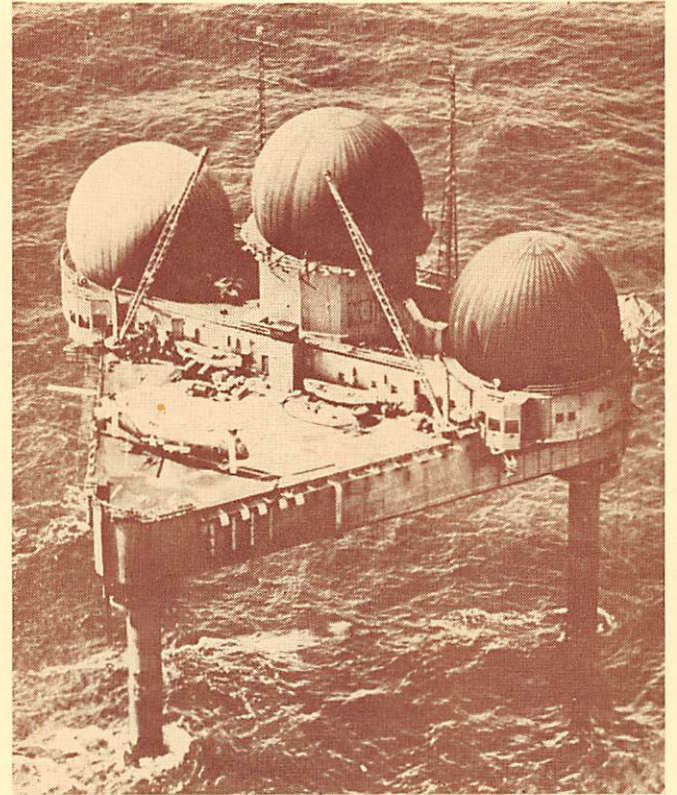
COLLINS



WETZIG

**JOSEPH F. COLLINS**, 56, of White Plains, died Jan. 18, 1956 at St. John's General Hospital in Yonkers, N. Y. He had been under doctor's care four years. He was associated with Fischback & Moore as a special representative in recent years, but earlier had been with the Lone Star Cement Corp. for 25 years. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Lillian M. Collins, three sons, four daughters, and a brother, William C. Collins.

**A. KARL WETZIG**, 65, a registered engineer and consulting engineer, died Nov. 29, 1955 after an operation in Houston, Tex. A native of Turtle Creek, Pa., he started work with McClintic-Marshall Co. in 1909 and studied structural design in the company's evening school. He worked with Irvington Form and Tank Corp. before moving to Texas 10 years ago to specialize in form design. Surviving is his widow, Mrs. Ruth B. Wetzig.



**SEA-GOING MOLES** of several Mole-related companies have played important roles in this odd three-legged structure in the sea off Cape Cod, Mass. This is the first photo of the "Texas Tower" radar picket station showing its huge rubber "radomes." On deck is an Air Force helicopter used to transfer supplies and personnel to the briny outpost.