

# HOLING THROUGH

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

An Organization of Tunnel and Heavy Construction Men

JULY, 1956

## WATER POLO AT CLAMBAKE!

You won't have to "go near the water," to get some of the biggest water-borne thrills of your life at this year's Moles Clambake.

Thanks to a lucky break in scheduling, we'll be able to sit in on national championship matches in water polo — a sport in which, they tell us, "the things that go on under water" are almost as hazardous as the under-surface hazards the Moles have to cope with in their professional lives.

It happens that the actual, official National Water Polo Championship tournament starts at Travers Island the same day as our Clambake, with the nation's very best teams thrashing away at each other practically in our laps. The most attractive matches are being scheduled fore and aft of the classic Moles-DPW softball game so there will be no conflict between these major athletic events of the day.

Otherwise the gala day of fellowship, fun and feats of strength and skill will contain all the usual features, says General Chairman Charles Stillman. There will be one other highly appropriate innovation among the latter — "almost as appropriate as if we were to have clams at the clambake," he said — namely a PILE-DRIVING contest. If anybody should be qualified to ring the bell in this

one, the Moles should. (But they'll have to do it with sheer muscles, no steam hammers allowed). George Walker and Ed Good Sr. will run it.

The card below gives the general outline of the program for the August 15 outing, at New York A.C.'s Travers Island preserve, as usual.

In charge of the various activities will be these special chairmen:

Paul Wentworth, assisted by Jerry Neumann, in charge of games; Ted Avery and Dinty Moore, the softball game; Ed Johnson, darts; Cy Comfort, spike driving; Henry Wasung, horseshoes; Jim Tripp, golf pitching; Jerry Neumann, duck-egg-tossing; George Walker, the evening show (with John Robbins as producer); Bill Sheehan, beer and bar, also prizes; Edward Good, Sr., signs; Jerry Neumann and Garry Garrison, badges.

The big new pool will be available at off hours to Moles, for a modest fee.



YOUNG TOM WALSH (right) is shown accepting the gavel, symbolic of his presidency of The Moles, from his predecessor, Holmes Crimmins, at the annual meeting.

### ANNIVERSARY!

August 15 is Clambake Day this year — and it has one other claim to distinction: As many a good Mole knows (oh, does he?) August 15 was the day, back in 1914, when the Panama Canal was officially opened.

Wednesday, August 15, 1956

### *The Moles' Annual Clambake*

TRAVERS ISLAND, NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB, PELHAM, N. Y.

#### **Outdoor Activities**

- EGG TOSSING
- GOLF PITCHING
- HORSESHOES
- POKER DARTS
- SPIKE DRIVING
- RING GAME

#### **SOFTBALL GAME**

NEW YORK CITY DEPT. PUBLIC WORKS  
vs.  
THE MOLES  
FOR THE  
COMMISSIONER'S CUP  
2:00 P.M.

FREE BEER ALL DAY  
BE ON HAND FOR LUNCH AND SPEND A FULL DAY

#### **Program**

- LUNCHEON  
12:30 to 2:00 P.M.
- SHORE DINNER  
6:00 P.M.
- PRIZE AWARDS  
8:00 P.M.
- ENTERTAINMENT  
8:30 P.M.

# Annual Meeting Snappy & Happy

Good fellowship, swift and brief business reports, and a sparkling floor show marked the annual Moles business meeting in the Biltmore's grand ballroom on May 2.

A. Holmes Crimmins turned over the presidential gavel to incoming prexy Tom Walsh Jr. — after the votes were counted! — and in turn received his own past president's certificate while the 223 Moles applauded both these admirable young men appreciatively.

Committee reports included, of course, one from Membership Chairman Ed White that showed thirty-one active and two honorary members taken in during the year in which eight members died, six resigned and three were dropped. This meant a net gain of 16, so that as of May 2 we had 477 active and 18 honorary Moles, for a total of 495.

Ed White also reported that during the year a Code of Procedure for the Membership Committee had been drawn up and adopted.

Harry Hush, retiring program chairman, reported that the organization had "made" about \$2,500 on the year's programs, although on both of the "members only" meetings the receipts do not come up to disbursements.

Holmes Crimmins told the members about the work Charles Stillman and his special committee had been doing in encouraging promising young men in college to turn their attention to construction as a career.

Committee chairmen for the coming year as appointed by President Walsh and named at the meeting are:

Award committee — Harry T. Immerman, with Jack Walsh as vice chairman; membership — Eugene F. Moran Jr.; program — Charles Stillman; finance — Edmund M. Burke; publicity — Henry T. Perez.

The new officers who were installed, along with Walsh, are: first vice president, Richard A. Johnson; second vice president, Howard A. Collins; secretary, Gil Serber; treasurer, Richard M. Johnsen; sergeant-at-arms, R. E. Savage.

Ned Johnson, Gene Moran, Dick Mynatt and Emil Praeger were elected as trustees for three-year terms, and C. W. Garrison was elected to fill out Howard Collins' term as trustee.

Most of the year's crop of new members came early for a picture-taking session (see results on Page Three).



**MOST HAPPY FELLA**, cuttin' up old touches at Moles annual meeting was Alex Stagg, founder member and one-time (1941) president. He brought his daughter and wife (left to right in the photo) up from Delray Beach, Fla. when he came to the meeting.

## The Stagg at Bay Sure Fights Back!

"It will take more than a savage double punch from cancer to dim the twinkling eyes or erase the happy smile from the ruddy face of Alex Stagg."

That was the lead paragraph on a nationally circulated newspaper feature story about our founder member and 1941 President, now living in Delray Beach, Fla. The story goes on to say "The ex-New Jersey lumberman not only holds himself out as an example of how you can whip cancer if you catch it in time, but can also tell you with sadness how years ago cancer claimed the life of a member of his immediate family because 'we failed to recognize the danger signals in time'."

He was first stricken in 1952 when doctors discovered an abdominal obstruction that, within a month or two, would have meant death. After long months of recovery from the surgery he and Mrs. Stagg decided to take up a modest retirement sort of life in Florida. Two years later he spotted another danger signal. It was back to the hospital for another siege of surgery, but again he emerged a smiling, optimistic winner.

His experiences, and his courageous reaction to them, have made him an effective crusader in the "fight back" movement, and he has responded cheerfully and helpfully to invitations to serve as honorary delegate-at-large in that work.

Alex Stagg was a Brooklyn boy, but almost all his working career in lumber, accounting and construction was in New Jersey. A self-taught suc-

cess, he nevertheless found time also to study piano as a young man.

What's in this name Stagg, anyway? There was Amos Alonzo Stagg, that "Grand Old Man" of American college football . . . and our Alex is certainly a "Grand Young Man" himself!

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## Members Emeritus

Twenty-two resigned members have been voted into a new status of "Members Emeritus" by the Moles executive committee. They — and subsequent retiring men who are voted into this status after the executive committee's acceptance of their letter of resignation — will continue to receive issues of "Holing Through" and notices of member dinners and other literature, and their names will continue in the Members' Roster with the "emeritus" designation.

Such members will be issued annual membership cards, and will enjoy all privileges of membership except voting and purchasing tickets to the Award Dinner and Clambake.

The initial crop of "Members Emeritus:"

Harry Armstrong Sr., Fred G. Birch, A. K. Burnham, C. C. Cotton, Joseph J. Elkin, G. L. Freeman, T. M. Garrett, Maurice Hallen, A. Hjort, Anthony Keogh, Oliver A. Lanchantin, Luther G. McConnell, John I. McDonald, W. Mikell, L. Morris Mitchell, Louis J. Newburg, Robert E. Parker, J. Rex St. Clair, Louis W. St. James, Thomas W. Smith, Charles E. Trout, and Harold L. Usher.

# NEW FACES (AND NEW BODIES) AT ANNUAL MEETING



James H. McGrath, manager of contractors section, du Pont Co. explosives, Wilmington, Del.; Fred L. Wagner, vice president of Universal Atlas Cement; Harry Earl Hinkel, superintendent of Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co.; Thomas G. Guerin, project engineer for Tully & DiNapoli; L. Garland Everist, construction manager for Western Contracting Corp., Sioux City, Ia.



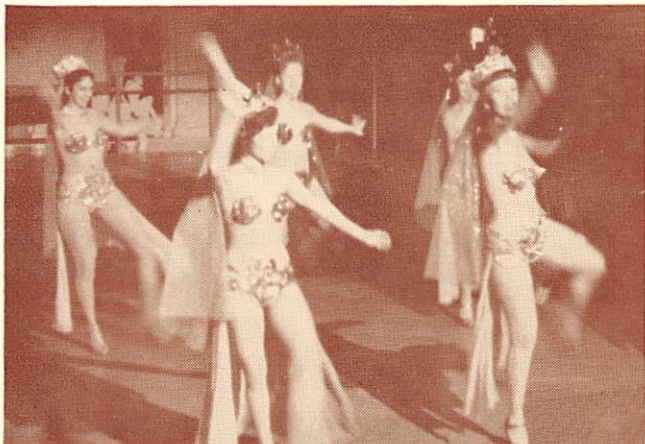
Henry Siefke, sales manager of Lehigh Cement; George R. Barlow, project engineer for Morrison-Knudsen; Frank H. Peavy, chief engineer for South American operations of Morrison-Knudsen; Nicola James Barletta, chief engineer of V. Barletta Co., Roslindale, Mass.; Lamar C. LeBron, manager of explosives department of Hercules Powder Co.



Donald Lee Hensley, district sales manager for Penn-Dixie Cement; Charles E. Cantine, general superintendent of Laurence J. Rice Co.; Robert J. Armstrong, civil engineer with Coakley and Booth; Christopher J. Foster, partner in Foster & Cafarelli.



Ray V. Johnson, vice president of Winston Bros. Co., Minneapolis; A. Douglas Burrow, construction engineer with Cayuga Foundation Corp.; Henry A. Druding, resident engineer for Port of New York Authority; Stirton Oman, board chairman of Oman Contracting Co., Nashville, Tenn.



THE FLOOR SHOW WAS VERY WARM FOR MAY — ONE OF THE GIRLIEST IN YEARS.

# Lincoln Tube's a Moleworthy Job!

New Yorkers have been reading more than usual about the accomplishments of some of our Moles lately in connection with celebrations marking the actual "holing through" and the ring-locking that completed the actual tube structure of the Lincoln Tunnel's third tube.

Molemen have been playing prominent roles in this job: Project manager is Mansell L. MacLean, and consultant is Award-winner Howard King. Hugh E. Cronin is resident engineer and Louis Nadel is design engineer, both these fellows being with MacLean-Grove and Company, Inc.

And among the men working for or with the New York Port Authority in connection with this big project are John M. Kyle, chief engineer; Louis F. Booth and H. George Decancq, construction engineers, and Henry A. Druding, resident engineer. All these are Moles, Druding being of the "class of 1956."

A few statistics about the Third Tube may appropriately be set forth here:

The total length of the crossing is 8,013 feet; the underwater section is 5,486 feet long. (The New York Times had that figure, and commented that the engineers have the satisfaction of knowing that this more-than-a-mile section was found to be "only three-quarters of an inch off center" when the last ring was locked up June 28.)

Cost of the project: \$100 million.

The steel rings are each 32 inches wide. There are 2031 of them. (Don't reach for that pencil, your editor has already discovered that  $2031 \times 32$  makes only 5,416 feet; maybe The Times figure included some footage of the construction shaft at each end.)

It's expected that 10 million vehicles a year will whiz through this tube.

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## HAM-FISTED HENRY

A "ham-fisted buckaroo" who is resident engineer on the Lincoln Tunnel (third tube) job for the Port Authority, is the identification given our new Mole, Henry A. Druding, by Meyer Berger, NY Times "About New York" columnist.

Berger devoted a whole column to odds and ends of tunnel-digging lore inspired by the holing through of No. 3. Much of it was concerned with the odd souvenirs that are turned up by those who drive through under-river muck. Druding, it seems, has quite a notable collection of such relics.



**HOLED THROUGH!** — Moles and their fellow-workers mingled with governors, some 95 feet below West 38th Street near Twelfth Avenue, when this historic scene was enacted last June 28. In this "double-wrench ceremony" (with specially shined-up wrenches) Governors Harriman (right) and Robert B. Meyner tightened the final bolt in the final ring of the Lincoln Tunnel's third tube. Recognize any Moles among these Far-Below-Sidewalk Superintendents?

## Subway Heroes

The many-Moled firm of Spencer, White and Prentis could take a deep bow in response to the laudatory comments and the expressions of gratitude of the New York subway-using public for the swift restoration of service at the Astor Place station after the big Wanamaker store fire.

Speedy and efficient work in pumping in some 350 cubic yards of rich concrete to underpin a 100-foot washed-out section of track was the key to the amazingly early restoration of subway service. The SWP folks were called as early as 9 a.m. the Sunday the fire was still raging, and a half-dozen of their executives, headed by President Joe Weaver and Executive VP Ed White, took part, on the scene, in devising the method of making the fill.

Ed revealed that the water that filled the basement of the burning (old) Wanamaker building "found a course under the subway, then burst into the basement of the other (new) Wanamaker building, and carried into that building some 500 yards of the washed-out sand. It was four feet deep there in some places."

## Moles Figure in Book Dedication

Another Mole has become an author, and has graciously bowed a deep bow to fellow-Moles. Elwyn E. Seelye's book, "Foundations: Design and Practice," bears this dedication: "Dedicated to the association of foundation engineers and contractors known as The Moles, whose members risk their lives and fortunes delving into the earth's crusts — and particularly to Richard E. Dougherty, former president of The Moles."

The author also prints acknowledgment of assistance received from the following fellow-Moles: Edward P. Albright, H. J. Hush, Jules R. Breuchaud, H. P. Burrell, Harry T. Immerman, Ralph Mann, William H. Mueser, Philip C. Rutledge, Capt. E. H. Praeger and Ole Singstad.

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## ADDENDUM

The membership committee reports one new member that did not get included in the list that ran in the April issue of Holing Through: Albert E. Forster of Hercules Powder Co. Welcome, Albert!