

# 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, 1957

## 'AQUARAMA' AT CLAMBAKE!

Water and music, shapely gals and lithe young men in routines ranging from double-jackknife dives to ballet and with not a few touches of comedy, will regale Moles and their guests at the 1957 Clambake.

In the solid hour from 4:30 and 5:30 Wednesday, August 14 at New York A.C.'s Travers Island the "1957 Aquarama" will parade its 18-person cast in specialty singles, boy-and-girl pairs, clowns, and aqua-ballet dancers. It should be one of the most attractive afternoon shows in Clambake history, according to Program Chairman Bill Sheehan.

The card at the bottom of the page here confirms the basic time schedule of this famous "once-a-year-day," with the annual softball game between The Moles and the Department of Public Works holding center stage, as usual, starting at 2 p.m. The DPW athletes, having won close contests in both 1955 and 1956, will be trying to equal the three-in-a-row record the Mole Maulers achieved in 1952-53-54. Ted Avery and Dinty Moore will be masterminding the Moles team.

Last year's stunning innovation — of actually having clams at a mid-August clambake! — will definitely not be repeated. Other marine delicacies that present less of a problem in logistics will be available, in customary abundance.

Ed Good Sr. is the over-all boss of the "field games," with Howard Gould as his aide. And here are the fellows in charge of the various competitions: Eddie Johnson and Harry Siefke, running the "alley cats" game; Henry Wasung and Bob Gates, the ball-toss; Jim Tripp and Weldon Booth, the golf pitching; Bob Crimmins and Paul Wentworth, horseshoes; Bob Armstrong and Howard Gould, pile driving; Larry O'Neill and Art Riegel, spike driving.

Prizes will be on a slightly different basis this year: awards will be made to only first and second placers in the games, but there will be a larger array of door prizes given out at the evening show, 11 of them. Paul Wentworth and Bob Gates selected the prizes and gifts. Henry Wasung and Henry Siefke will be in charge of the bar and beer, Eddie Johnson and Bob Armstrong in charge of name cards (everybody writes his own this year) and distribution of souvenir caps.



DICK JOHNSON (right) is shown as he accepted the gavel of Moles presidency from his predecessor, Tom Walsh Jr., at the annual meeting.

The Big Egg-Toss — climactic event of the field activity — will be administered by all members of the games staff, with the highly articulate Larry Neuss, as usual, at the microphone relating the fortunes and misfortunes of the contestants as the battle ebbs and flows (well, at least the albumen flows!)

Wednesday, August 14, 1957

### *The Moles' Annual Clambake*

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

#### **Outdoor Activities**

1:30 to 4:30 P.M.

EGG TOSSING  
PILE DRIVING  
GOLF PITCHING  
SPIKE DRIVING  
HORSESHOES  
BALL TOSS  
ALLEY CATS

#### **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.



## '57 Officers And Committee Heads

Here is the "official family" of Mole-dom for the 1957 fiscal year:

President — Dick Johnson; first vice president — Howard A. Collins; second vice president — Mansell L. MacLean; treasurer — Richard M. Johnson; secretary — Gil Serber; sergeant-at-arms — John A. Lambert.

Committee chairmen: Award — John J. Walsh, with Howard King as vice-chairman; membership — Gene Moran; program — Bill Sheehan; finance — Eugene G. Rau; publicity — Henry T. Perez; education — Charles Stillman.

New trustees for the year beginning May 1, 1957 are: Eugene F. Gibbons, Daniel M. Lazar, John Malcolm and Henry T. Perez.

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### MEMBERSHIP DATA

Highlights of Gene Moran's report as chairman of the Membership Committee:

Active members as of the beginning of the fiscal year 1957, at May 1, totaled 464; there were 29 Members Emeritus, and 20 Honorary Members, for a total of 513.

Elected to active membership since the previous annual report were the following 13 men: Clark H. Batchelder, Guy J. Coffey, Herbert M. Crowley, Henry J. Fitzpatrick, Clarence L. Gallimore, Robert S. Gates, Gilbert A. Griffin, Joseph M. Kellogg, Emmet J. Oak, James Pinnell, Joseph F. Watkins, John H. Weidman Jr., and David A. Werblin.

Elected members emeritus since the last listing in H-T were: Robert B. Alsop, Carl E. Beam, John W. Fawcett, James H. Markley, Oliver J. Neslage (since deceased), Kirby Smith, and Erwin F. Kullberg.

Honorary members elected during the past year were: Guy F. Atkinson and Jesse V. Honeycutt.



NEW MEMBER attending first annual meeting was Robert S. Gates, of Gates Bros. Marine Contractors, Inc., of Little Ferry, N. J.



SIX NEW MEMBERS, snapped in a sextet at annual meeting: (front row, left to right) Herbert M. Crowley, James Pinnell, John H. Weidman Jr. (back row) Clarence L. Gallimore, Henry J. Fitzpatrick, and Joseph F. Watkins. Crowley and Pinnell are with Raymond Concrete Pile, Weidman with Walsh, Gallimore with Peter Kiewit, Capt. Fitzpatrick is with Dirtlandtocks, and Watkins with George W. Rogers company.

### FRESH-AIR HELPERS

Helping police the grounds and keep things moving at this year's Clambake will be a staff of young men who are "Fresh-Air Fund" boys, participants in the work carried on by the New York Herald Tribune.

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One of the numerous Johnsons in the many-chambered Moles' burrow—this one Ralph L. Johnson, president of the H.O. Penn Machinery Company — has been chosen a director of the Bronx Board of Trade, Inc.

### 'DOC' SLATTERY

Moleman Jim Slattery, of Slattery Contracting Company of Maspeth, L. I., was honored by Iona College of New Rochelle, N.Y. with a degree of Doctor of Laws at its commencement exercises on June 8. Congratulations, Jim.

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At the June 11 meeting of the Executive Committee requests for Members Emeritus status on behalf of three Moles were made and unanimously passed. The members are: Walter Caccia, John Hanly, and Harry Englander.



'AQUADEARS' is the group name of these four lovelies who'll perform in the Water Ballet section of the "Aquamara" feature of the 1957 Clambake — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Travers Island A.C. pool.



## DICK JOHNSON TAKES OFFICE

The first "second generation" president in Moles history — Richard A. Johnson, president of the Arthur A. Johnson Corporation, which bears the name of his father and predecessor — took office at the annual meeting May 1 in the Biltmore's grand ball-room.

He succeeded Tom Walsh Jr. during the brief business session that featured considerable comment on findings of the Education Committee, and other committee reports.

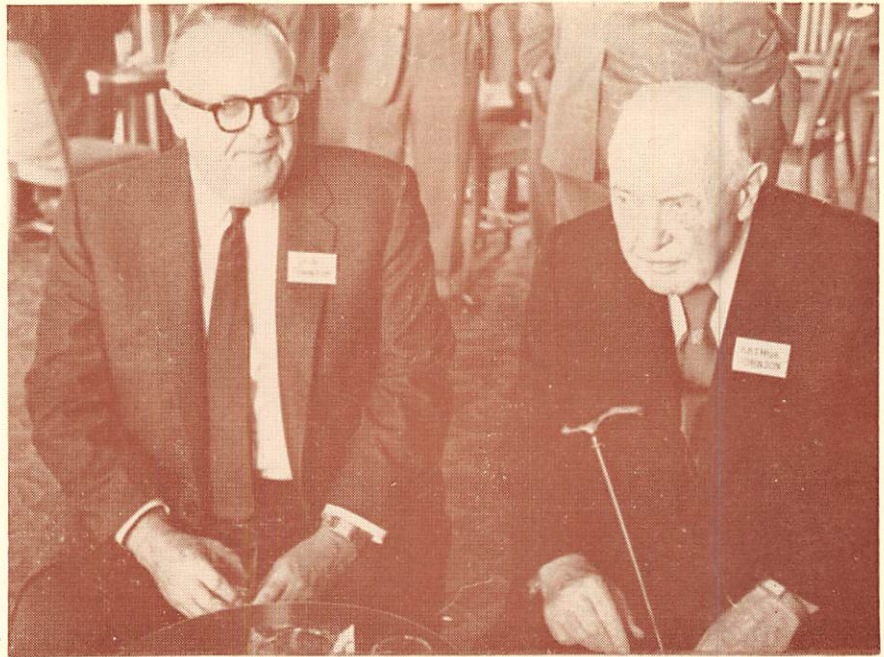
A six-piece orchestra knocking out calypso rhythms helped get everyone in good humor before the formalities started. President Walsh introduced the new members present, and then called for a rising salute to the absent ones. There was a moment of silent tribute after the names of 12 members who died during the year were read.

Reports were heard from Secretary Gil Serber, Treasurer Dick M. Johnsen ("we have more money than we had a year ago"), and Membership, Program, Finance and Publicity chairmen — Gene Moran, Charles Stillman, Ted Burke and Henry Perez, respectively.

Howard Collins formally presented the recommendations of the By-Laws Revision special committee, and the recommendations were accepted by unanimous vote.

Before bowing out, young Tom Walsh specially thanked all committee members for their work, and pointed out that the Executive Committee had had an over-all attendance record of 83 percent for its seven meetings, a record he called "outstanding."

He also asked for a special standing expression of greeting to three long-time Moles Arthur A. Johnson, Ted Avery and Honorary Life President Ralph Atwater.



'LIKE FATHER' — Arthur A. Johnson (right), president of The Moles 1944-45, is the first Moles president to have a son (Richard A. Johnson, left) also attain that honor. They're shown at annual meeting. Arthur won Member Award in 1944.

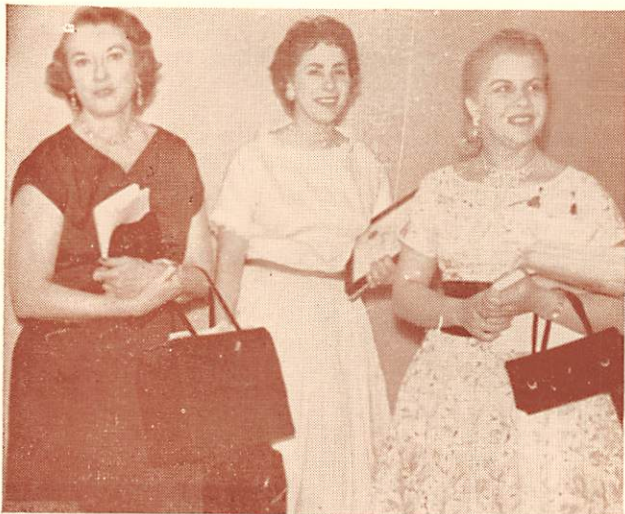
## Fresh Air Camp Looks to Moles

A request by the Herald Tribune Fresh Air Fund's director that a contemplated dam and lake on the Sharpe Reservation at East Fishkill, N. Y. — principal camp of the Fresh Air youngsters — be made a project of The Moles was put before the Executive Committee at its June 11 meeting.

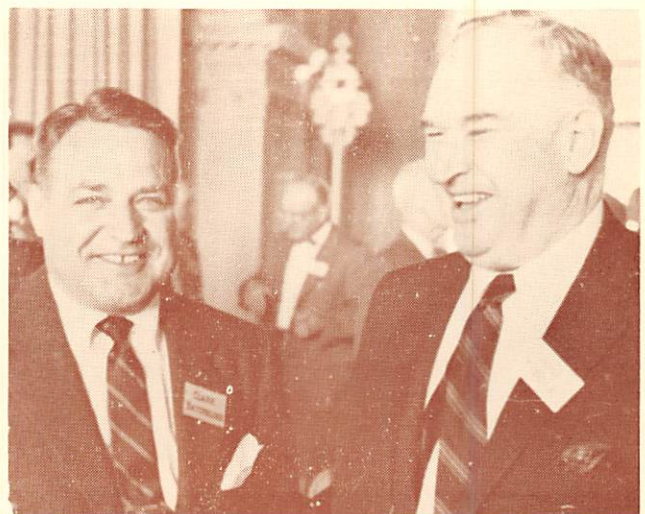
The development of Sharpe Reservation has been achieved through a combination of donated services (by national corporations, the Navy Seabees and others) and endowments, be-

quests and contributions from corporations, foundations and individuals. It was suggested that "the name of the dam and the lake might well be a matter of your choice if The Moles should undertake the project as a community service." The request mentioned, in this connection, the names of Irene M. Lizotte and Charlie Gleim.

The Executive Committee, feeling that the work of the Education Committee might logically be combined with camp activities, recommended that that committee's chairman, Charlie Stillman, get additional information from the Fund's director and report to a future meeting of the Executive Committee.



THE GIRLS who so accommodatingly staff The Moles office in The Biltmore lent their decorative touch — welcome, as usual — to the annual meeting. In the usual left-to-right order they are Marguerite McLean, Joan Magliari, and Alice Birr.



CLARK H. BATCHELDER (left) of Horn Construction Company, Inc., of Merrick, N. Y., a brand-new member, is shown at annual meeting, cutting up a few touches with one of the old-timers, Charles Riddle of Walsh.





AUGUST G. SPERRL, 65, president of Sperrl, Gowen & Gregory, Inc., died on June 4, 1957 at Manhattan General Hospital after a heart attack. He lived at 51 Fifth Avenue and his firm of consulting engineers and general contractors is at 441 Lexington Avenue. Mr. Sperrl became a licensed professional engineer after study in night school. Among his company's outstanding jobs were the St. Albans Naval Hospital and the New York University Law Center. Before forming that company he had been with Spencer, White & Prentiss (1919-1931), supervising construction; with George J. Atwell Foundation Co., with Pan American Airways building airfields and buildings in South America, and Todd & Brown Co. Always interested in helping others, Mr. Sperrl in the weeks before his death worked on organizing a permanent emergency service for helping save lives in cases like that of the Long Island boy who was trapped in a well. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Consuelo de Leon Sperrl, two children and four grandchildren.

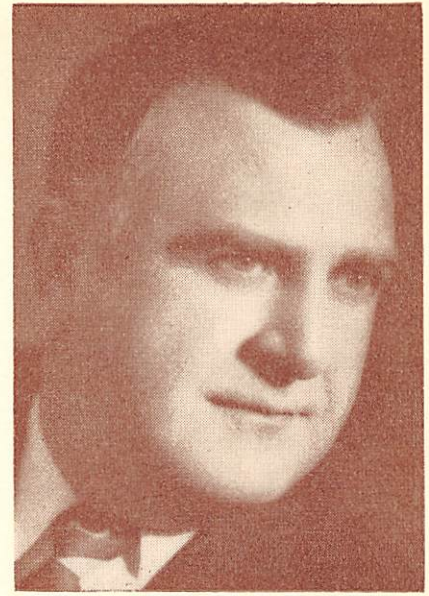


ERIC A. NELSON, 49, president of the Marine & Foundation Corporation, died June 29 at White Plains, N. Y. Mr. Nelson, a civil engineer who had been in heavy construction since 1930, had won high praise as an engineer who could overcome difficult and unusual engineering problems. He was active in the construction of viaducts and overpasses along the East River Drive in New York, at the United Nations site, and sections of the West Side Highway, and constructed a bridge on the New York State Thruway near Elmsford. Surviving are his wife, two daughters, two sisters, and a brother, John Nelson, who is associated with Marine & Foundation Corporation.

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#### Oliver Neslage Dies

Oliver J. Neslage, 64, an executive of the Joy Manufacturing Company of Pittsburgh, Pa. and a long-time Mole, died on June 27 after a long illness. He had become a Member Emeritus of The Moles last January.



MICHAEL J. TORPEY JR., 49, an executive of Michael J. Torpey, Inc., contracting and excavating firm of Woodside, New York, died suddenly on July 15 at his summer home at Candlewood Lake, Conn. This longtime member of The Moles had suffered a heart attack about a year ago. Surviving are his wife Alyce, one son and three daughters, and a brother, John W., who also is in the Torpey company. The Torpey residence is in Forest Hills.

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#### HONORS FOR KING

Howard L. King, honored as The Moles Member Award winner in 1956, received another distinction this spring when he was designated Metropolitan Civil Engineer of the Year by the metropolitan section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. King, vice president and chief engineer of Mason & Hanger-Silas Mason Company, Inc., was consultant on the third tube of the Lincoln Tunnel, opened this spring, and had also directed construction of the north and south tubes of the tunnel for the Mason & Hanger Company some years ago.

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#### Kyle Gets Medal

John M. Kyle, a Mole trustee in 1955 and 1956, was awarded the Port of New York Authority's "Distinguished Service Medal" for his role — as chief engineer for the Authority — in directing the design and construction of the \$100 million Lincoln Tunnel Third Tube. At the dedication ceremonies May 25, Kyle was characterized as "the human driving shield behind the Third Tube since its inception."



EDUCATION Committee's explorations and recommendations were a chief topic of discussion at annual meeting. Here are snaps of four men as they made brief reports (left to right): Chester W. Cambell, of The Foundation Company; Dick Mynatt of Merritt-Chapman & Scott; H. A. Letoile, who spoke for committee member Lou Perini, and Charles Stillman, of Linde-Griffith Construction Company, chairman of the committee.