

NEWS BULLETIN

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HOLING



OF THE MOLES

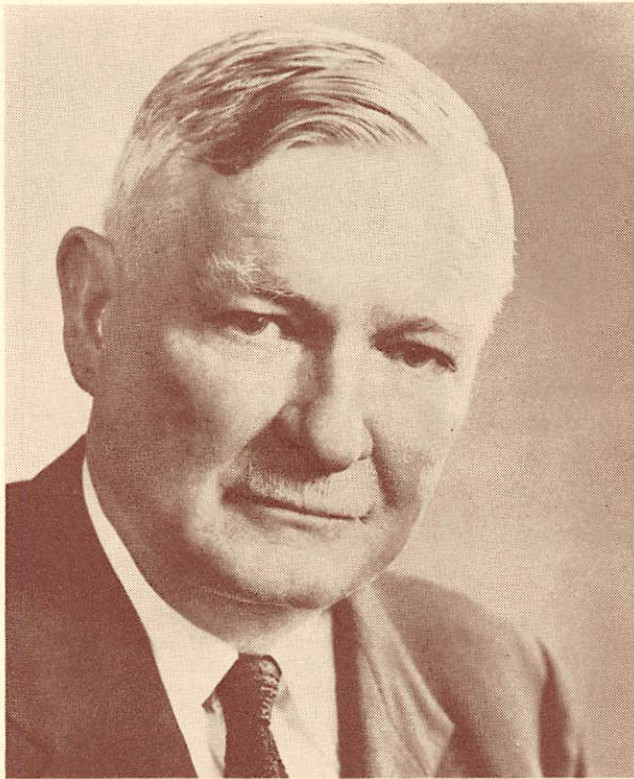
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NOVEMBER, 1960

BROWN AND IMMERMEN NAMED FOR AWARDS



HERMAN BROWN



HARRY T. IMMERMEN

Herman Brown, president of Brown & Root, Inc., Houston, Texas, is the non-member winner, and Harry T. Immerman, vice president and chief engineer of Spencer, White & Prentis, Inc., is the fellow-Mole who will be honored at the Annual Moles' Awards Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria next January 25. They make up the 21st pair of such honorees since the Awards were started in 1941.

In 1914 Herman Brown was a foreman of a street-paving crew in his native (1892) Belton, Texas, at a seldom-received wage of \$75 a month. Ultimately he quit and accepted part of the contractor's equipment — a few mules and wagons — in lieu of back salary. The equipment was mortgaged, so it couldn't be sold, and Herman Brown was in the contracting business.

Today he's founder and president of Brown & Root, Inc. (1914); president and director of

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One of the most beloved, respected, and "useful" Moles in the history of the organization will step into the Award Recipients' circle next January 25 when the Member Award plaque is handed to Harry Treadwell Immerman.

Harry has occupied almost every office it's possible to occupy in The Moles, and has served with energy, efficiency and unfailing good humor in all of them. And basic to all that is the fact that, like the ramblin' wreck from Georgia Tech,

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Herman Brown

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Brown Securities Corporation, Austin; vice president and director of Highland Oil Co. of Houston; and director of City National Bank, Houston; of Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation, Shreveport, La., and of Armc Steel Corporation, Middletown, O.

Between that inauspicious start and the success plateau where Herman Brown stands today there has to be quite a story of skillful management. It was the depression of 1929, which scuttled all but the hardiest of contractors, that caused him to resolve that never again would he be caught with all his eggs in one basket. Since that time the interests of Herman and his brother, George R. Brown, have branched out to such non-building pursuits as hotels, oil and gas production, paper mills, mines, real estate, office buildings — even a dude ranch!

Brown & Root, then based in Austin, "sweated out the depression (the company history says candidly) by making the most of the Roosevelt pump-priming jobs," and got its first really big contract in 1936 to build Marshall Ford Dam, on the Colorado river above Austin. This was a \$9,400,000 job, in joint venture with another company, and one of the biggest things that had been built in Texas.

But it was soon overshadowed by construction jobs needed for the war that was coming. There was a \$78,000,000 Air Force Base for the Navy at Corpus Christi, in which Brown & Root ventured along with W. A. Bellows Construction and Columbia Construction Company; and the \$58,000,000 ammunition storage depot at McAlester, Oklahoma, shared by Brown and Bellows.

Then, on 24 hours' notice, Brown & Root took over a lump-sum contract for the building of a shipyard at Houston and the delivery of a specified number of ships at a specified price on a specified date. No one in the organization had ever seen a ship built; there were few skilled shipbuilding laborers anywhere near Houston; materials were scarce, of course. The plant cost the Browns over a million dollars of their own money before the first hull hit the water, but the Brown Shipyard did muster a labor force of 25,000 and turned out more than 350 combat ships for the Navy, winning the Army-Navy "E" and a Presidential Citation.

That was when the company moved its base from Austin to Houston. Since those days the firm has branched out over the world and has built dams, repressuring plants, air fields, chemical plants, hydro-electric installations, pipelines and petro-chemical plants, even a football stadium.



ROOMINESS of new Moles headquarters is evident in these views of the Conference Room (above) and the Office Staff Room. Miss Margery McLean is in the foreground, with Mrs. Alice Lucarello behind her and Mrs. Marguerite McLean standing. The table and chairs for the Conference Room are a gift from Past President Mansell MacLean. The new suite also has a smaller "President's Room" and a partitioned-off area for mailing activities.

Harry T. Immerman

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he's "a helluvan engineer."

A native of New York City (1890), Harry has intimate acquaintance with several heavy-construction landmarks of the city. Within months after his graduation from Columbia University with the C.E. degree in 1913 he "got his first taste of air" as job engineer on Shaft 18 near Cooper Union for the Board of Water Supply. He served as chief engineer for the contractor who built Lewisohn Stadium for C.C.N.Y. in 1914, and then was job engineer on several of the early open-end-pipe pile jobs in Manhattan for the Underpinning & Foundation Co.

In 1915 he was with Holbrook Cabot & Rollins, in charge of underpinning for subway construction in the Times Square area, when two blocks of subway decking collapsed — in another section, that was, about three-quarters of a mile away. This caused HC&R to decide to construct the first all-steel subway decking system in New York, and Harry not only designed it, but supervised the installation.

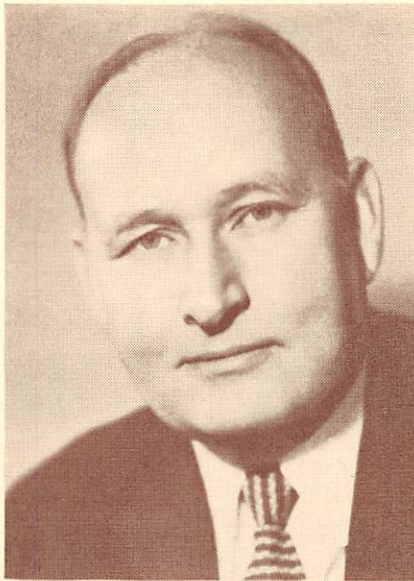
Harry was in World War I as a first lieutenant in coast artillery, serving at St. Mihiel, Argonne Forest, Verdun and in the Meuse-Aisne offensive. After the

war he remained in the Reserve Corps for five years with the rank of captain.

The new Moles Member Award designee — and current first vice president — began his long association with Spencer, White & Prentiss in 1923, and soon held the post of chief assistant to Charles B. Spencer. The painstaking and correct qualities of his engineering analyses were quickly recognized and appreciated. A contemporary has written of him that "it would be difficult to name anyone who has personally designed solutions to more foundation, underpinning and shoring problems."

The City of New York has called upon Harry on several occasions for expert testimony on such problems, and he has served as consultant to important industrial organizations in such matters. He has contributed numerous articles to the technical magazines and has lectured often before engineering schools and societies both in this country and in Canada. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Society of American Military Engineers.

Harry and Mrs. Immerman, who live in Larchmont, N.Y., have two daughters: Mrs. David Friedlander of Montreal, and Janice Immerman, executive secretary of The American Foundation for the Study of Man.



PRESIDENT DIES

It is with great sorrow and sense of loss that The Moles mark the death of their well-loved president, Chester W. Cambell. Chet suffered a heart attack on Sept. 17 and died two days later in St. Vincent's Hospital, Staten Island. He was 58.

A construction man of the highest caliber, Chet was president and chief executive officer of The Foundation Co., with which he had spent all but about 10 years of his 35 years in heavy construction.

He joined the company in 1926 upon his graduation from the University of Maine; in the 1933-38 period he was examining engineer with the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, working in Washington and New York, and in 1938-42 he was boro superintendent, Department of Housing and Building, New York City.

He was in charge of foundation construction for many notable buildings in this country and abroad, including the new Chase Manhattan Bank building and the Irving Trust Co. building.

Besides The Moles, whose presidency he assumed just last May, Chet was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Railroad & Machinery Club, and the Engineers' Club. Surviving are his wife, Katherine King Cambell; a son, 1st Lt. Chester F. Cambell, two sisters and two brothers.

As an expression of the pride The Moles feel in having Chet Cambell as one of their members, we are having a memorial booklet engrossed for presentation to Mrs. Cambell.

M. F. HICKEY

Maurice Frank Hickey, of the M. F. Hickey Co., Inc., Brooklyn, died on July 18, 1960. Surviving are two sisters, Mary A. Donovan and Ann C. Hickey, and a brother, George V. Hickey.

1-1 Ball Game Tie Features Clambake

A 1-to-1 tie in the annual softball battle between The Moles and Department of Public Works teams highlighted another highly successful Clambake in perfect weather at Travers Island on August 17.

The ball game was to have been the "rubber" in a nine-game series for the Commissioner's Cup, each having won four times before, but the hard-fought deadlock means the handsome trophy put up by Commissioner Frederick H. Zurmuhlen will still be up for decision, as to its permanent ownership, at next summer's clambake.

Winners in the other contests:

Alley Cats — G.A. Neumann and James Kerr. Egg-tossing — the teams of Harold Kramer and F.J. Driscoll, and Bill Macaroni and Bill Norwin. Golf pitching—E.A. Prentis III and V. Flynn. Horseshoes — Ray N. Spooner and Frank M. Ward. Spike driving—Howard Gould and Jack Burke.

First door prize went to Edward J. Petrillo; second to L. Van Houten; third to Gerald Pavlik; other door prizes were won by: Howard Gould, William M. Sheehan, Charles Stillman and W.W. Gingerick; also by C. Coppinger, Ray Ingersoll, M. Rhodes and Mickey Kenny.

Memberships Re-Opened

Receipt of applications for Moles membership re-opens as of today, Nov. 2, according to action taken at the September meeting of the Executive Committee. Re-opening is subject to the conditions that applications be limited to one per member, and receipt of applications in each category will automatically close after a certain number has been received, 48 in the case of the "heavy construction" category, and 16 in the category of "engineers and sales representatives."

Active membership of The Moles stood at 439 as of September 20.

TOM SCOTT BROWN

Tom Scott Brown, 73, died Oct. 2, 1960 at the Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville, N.Y. after an illness of two years. He was a native of Birmingham, Ala., and had held positions with Joy Manufacturing Co. of Pittsburgh and with Hercules Powder Co. in which he managed national contractor sales. Surviving are Mrs. Brown, a son, two daughters, a sister, a brother, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. His home was at 900 Palmer avenue in Bronxville.



NATHAN DAN TETERS, 59, vice president of Morrison-Knudsen Company, Inc., died July 25, 1960 at his home in Friday Harbor, Wash. He saw service in both World Wars — in the first as an enlisted man (at age 17) in the Signal Corps, where he built airfields; in the second as a prisoner for four years of the Japanese, after being captured at the outbreak of war on Wake Island. He was born in Columbus, O., and attended Gonzaga University and Washington State University as a civil engineering student before enlisting. He was with Morrison-Knudsen 22 years, becoming vice president in 1958 in charge of the special projects division, with headquarters in Seattle. An affectionate biography of Dan, in "The eM-Kayan" for September, was written by Jack Bonny, M-K president and 1960 Moles' Award non-member winner.

HAROLD FLETCHER

Harold H. Fletcher, president of H.E. Fletcher Co. of West Chelmsford, Mass., died Sept. 18 at Lowell General Hospital after a prolonged illness. He was 69. A native of Lowell, he attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He served as an ensign in U.S. Navy aviation in World War I. Affiliated with many organizations, he served as treasurer of the National Building Quarries Association for many years. The Fletcher company owns and operates granite quarries in West Chelmsford and Milford, Mass., and in New Hampshire.

OLIVER LANCHANTIN

Oliver A. Lanchantin, a Moles Member Emeritus since 1956 and a resident of Delray Beach, Fla., died in late September. He is survived by his wife, Grace Sentenne Lanchantin, and four brothers, Marion, Eugene, Frank and George.

Camera Catches at the Clambake



Frank Morley and Jack Burke of Compressor & Rock Service Corp., Joe McAlinden of McAlinden Construction Co., Steve Raimo of Ray Contracting Co., Al Warwick of Alfred N. Warwick Co.



Joe Gibbons and Sam Zarra of Zarra Contracting Co., Vincent Provenzano of Provenzano Construction Co., Dick Lloyd and Charles Epple of New York State Department of Public Works.



Pete Campbell of Martin Piling & Lumber Co., V. Nichols of Spearin, Preston & Burrows, Inc., Jerry Chambers of Port of New York Authority, Frank Leik of B. F. Goodrich, Bob Lightfoot of Port Authority, Jack Kane of B. F. Goodrich.



Charles Bevlacque of Lehigh Cement, Fred Gerosa of Gerosa Haulage Corp., Ben Berman of Catapano Contracting Co., Bill Brown and John Sisk of John A. Roebing Corp., Fred Brama of Brama & Weber, Al LePenna of H.O. Penn Machinery Co.

Atkinson Honored

Guy F. Atkinson, recipient of the 1957 Moles' Award (non-member), has been elected to honorary membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers. The honor was conferred on him at the same time as similar rank was given to S. C. Hollister, dean of engineering at Cornell; Frank Kerekes, dean of the faculty of Michigan College of Mining and Technology, and Fred Scobey, consulting hydraulic engineer of Berkeley, Calif.

Student Buffet Set

The Educational Committee's program for the 1960-61 season will follow essentially the same pattern as that for last year, it was decided at a committee meeting in late September. Friday, March 3 was selected as the date for the annual Spring Students Meeting and Buffet Supper, with George F. Flay Jr. as the member speaker of the occasion. There will also be a non-member speaker. Louis Booth will be in charge of the question-and-answer session.

Members of the Award Working Committee for this year are: Chairman, Richard E. Mynatt; vice chairman, Eugene G. Rau; Eugene F. Moran Jr., Hal Hunt, Mansell L. MacLean, and, ex officio, Ralph Atwater.

Prentis Heads Drive

Edmund A. Prentis, recipient of The Moles' member Award in 1942, now consulting engineer of Spencer, White & Prentis, Inc. and formerly president of that firm, has been appointed chairman, for the heavy construction industry, of the 1960 volunteer fund-raising campaign of the New York State Citizen's Committee for the Public Schools. The Committee, formed eight years ago, is a non-profit organization that helps almost 2,000 local citizen school groups in their work of strengthening their school programs.

Placement Program?

A special committee was appointed at the September meeting of the Executive Committee to study a suggestion that has been made for placing a number of engineering college graduates with construction companies each year. Past President Mansell MacLean is chairman of the new committee. Other members are: George F. Flay Jr., William J. Green, Charles B. Molineaux and Gilbert M. Serber.

In addition to the presentation of the new President's Pin to 14 past presidents at the November 2 dinner meeting, a special Life President's Pin will be presented to Honorary Life President Ralph W. Atwater.

High Honors For Stephen Bechtel

Two high honors were conferred in one month — October, 1960 — on Stephen D. Bechtel, 1952 winner of The Moles' Member Award and president of the Bechtel Corporation, San Francisco.

The 1961 John Fritz medal, "for notable scientific or industrial achievement in the engineering profession," was awarded him in Boston by the Medal Board of Award, which embraces five distinguished engineering societies. The 11th annual award of the National Defense Transportation Association was voted to Mr. Bechtel by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, of the nation's armed forces, for his contributions to pipeline transportation of petroleum and gas. This award was presented in New Orleans.

A Salute to Groves

The romantic 55-year history of S.J. Groves & Sons Company, of which Moleman Frank M. Groves is president, occupies the entire July 1960 issue of "America's Builders," a publication of the Pepperdine College Press, Los Angeles. Frank is described as "the hub of the Company's wheel of progress," and his foresight and judgment are credited for much of the success the Minneapolis-based company has experienced.