

## NEWS BULLETIN

AN ASSOCIATION OF MEN

# HOLING



## OF THE MOLES

ENGAGED IN HEAVY CONSTRUCTION

# THROUGH

ROOM 50 • FLOOR I-M • THE BILTMORE • NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

APRIL, 1961

## Still More Work for Harry!

Harry Treadwell Immerman, whose many years of skillful professional performance and of able and amiable services to The Moles were capped earlier this year by his receipt of the Member Award, hits another high spot at the May 3 Annual Business Meeting with his election to the presidency of the association.

Harry heads the 1961 slate of officers prepared by Edward G. Armitage's Nominating Committee, a slate that is sure to be rousing endorsed by the meeting.

If ever it could be said that a man "needs no introduction" it could be said of Brother Immerman at this time especially, for his career has been set forth several times lately in Moles' publications, in consequence of his Award honors. For the record, though, he's vice president and chief engineer of Spencer, White & Prentis, with which firm he's been associated for some 33 years.

The other nominees to be ratified by the membership at the May 3 meeting are: Eugene G. Rau of J. Rich Steers, Inc. as first vice president; Howard G. Dixon of Johnson, Drake & Piper, Inc., second vice president; Joseph B. Diamond, as treasurer; Eugene F. Moran Jr. of Moran Towing Corporation, secretary, and Herbert Giles of Harold Dessau, Inc., sergeant-at-arms.

These four men were nominated for three-year terms as trustees: Robert Crimmins of Thomas Crimmins Contracting Co.; George F. Flay Jr. of Stock Construction Corporation; Howard Gould of Spencer, White & Prentis, Inc., and Robert C. Johnston of Moran, Proctor, Mueser & Rutledge.

William M. Sheehan was vice-chairman of Ed Armitage's Nominating Committee, and the other members were: Robert J. Armstrong, Alfred C. Maeviss, Arnold Thurber and Paul M. Wentworth.

The schedule for the May 3 meeting, in the grand ballroom of the Biltmore, is: Reception starting at 6; dinner at 6:45; business meeting at 8.



HARRY T. IMMERMAN

Harry Immerman will have had an unusually long tenure as chief administrative officer of The Moles, for he was elected first vice president a year ago but because of the untimely death of Chester W. Cambell in September he has carried on the duties of the president most of the past year.



On January 12 our soon-to-be-new president, Harry Immerman, received his Life Membership status — upon completion of 35 years — in the American Society of Civil Engineers. No more dues in that one for Harry!



### WATCH IT! NEW PHONE NUMBER

You might wish to make a note of this: The Moles' office will have a new telephone number "on or about" June 10. It will be TN 7-0044. That's right, TN. It's true you never heard of any word starting with those two letters, but still, that's what it'll be.

### New Members

These 21 new members were voted into the fellowship of The Moles by the executive Committee at its April meeting:

G. William Bailey of Raymond International; Steven R. Berke of Berke Moore Co., Inc., Boston; Harold A. Blauvelt of Blauvelt Engineering Co.; Ralph L. Browning of Lehigh Cement, Allentown, Pa.; Donald G. Canale of Slattery Contracting Co.; Howard G. Dixon Jr. of Johnson, Drake & Piper, Inc., Buffalo, N. Y.;

Hubert H. Everist Jr. of Western Contracting Corp., Sioux City, Ia.; Joseph F. Foley Jr. of Callan Construction Corp., Bristol, R.I.; Victor Frenkil of Baltimore Contractors, Inc., Baltimore, Md.; Lawrence F. Hickey of M. F. Hickey Co., Inc.; Howard W. Holmes of Charles A. Maguire & Associates, Providence, R.I.;

N. Blake King of N. B. King & Co., Inc., New London, Conn.; Earl S. Larson of J. Rich Steers, Inc.; Robert A. Lincoln of Clinton Bogert, Engineers; Clinton F. Loyd of Madigan-Hyland; Nicholas Marsch Jr. of Foster-Marsch Construction Co., Chicago;

Larrie A. Pisegna of Koppers Co. Inc.; Oliver A. Ray of Fruin-Colnon Contracting Co., St. Louis, Mo.; James H. Reck of Insurance Company of North America; George W. Shook of Bethlehem Steel Co., New York, and Alexander J. Walker of Brookfield Construction Co., Inc.



### YOU STILL THERE?

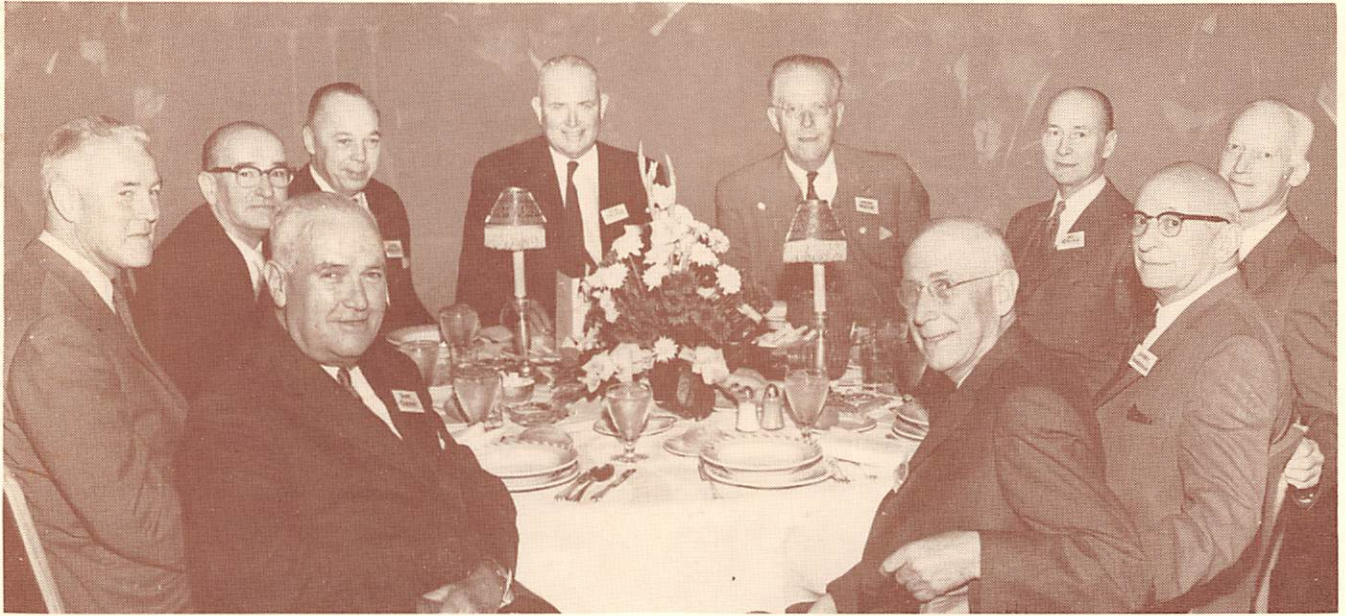
If you aren't with the same company, and at the same address, and with the same telephone number, as a year ago, please get in touch with The Moles office and give the girls the up-to-date information. They are industriously putting together the new directory, so let's make it 100 per cent accurate.



Bertram D. Tallamy, who became an honorary member of The Moles upon being the speaker at the 1958 Award Dinner, is one of the Top Ten Public Works Men-of-the-Year named by the American Public Works Association.



# Past Presidents Honored at Pin Presentations



This photo, together with its companion piece on the opposite page, both made at the November meeting, constitute the largest aggregation of Moles past presidents ever persuaded to sit still, all in approximately the same place, and have their gleaming personalities recorded for posterity. The occasion was the presentation of the new Past Presidents' pins, with Honorary Life President Ralph Atwater and Harry Immerman dividing the presentation honors.

Some of the compliments and comments made on these men in connection with the pin presentations were: Holmes Crimmins "filled every office over a period of 10 years or so, and finally there was nothing more he could do here but become president." . . . Mansell MacLean was extra-busy and doing a lot of traveling, as usual, during his term, but kept things humming on all fronts and is credited with appointing the "Cambell Committee" which did a fine job in its report that has served as a guide to proper proportions of membership classifications . . . Jim Salmon traveled all the way from Miami for the meeting; "among the things that will be remembered during his term of office was his good judgment in appointing Jack Macdonald as Award chairman and his selection of Jim Farley as Award Dinner speaker . . . "Probably the high point in my life," said Presenter Atwater, "was the privilege of working with Carlton Proctor in arranging for the 1950 Award Dinner, and the privilege of watching

Here, clockwise starting left foreground, are: Guy Coffey, vice chairman of the Program Committee; A. HOLMES CRIMMINS, 1955; MANSELL L. MacLEAN, 1959; Richard E. Mynatt, Award Committee chairman; JAMES SALMON, 1950; CARLTON PROCTOR, 1949; ALBERT SIELKE, 1939; J. RICH STEERS, 1948; Harry Immerman, and RALPH W. ATWATER, honorary life president.

"the Master" at work." This was the dinner at which ex-President Herbert Hoover was the non-member Award winner, and General Eisenhower was the principal speaker . . . Albert Sielke was the second president of The Moles, and "among the many things he contributed to the good of the association is the design of the Moles' insignia which appears on our letterheads and at the top of 'Holing Through.'" . . . J. Rich Steers was "another man prominent in the industry who could always find the time to do his full share in the activities of the association, and by his quiet, dignified presence enhanced every occasion." . . . Although never elected to a mere year's presidential term, Ralph Atwater had been such a tireless and devoted worker for the association, and had been so much the veritable bulwark of its existence in many ways, that in 1950 he was elected Honorary Life President.

(Continued on Opposite Page)

## Father and Son

In the column just to the right of here is a photograph of the first father-son Moles' presidency combination, Arthur A. Johnson and Dick Johnson, the seventh and nineteenth presidents. Arthur was a vigorous leader, and his associates hold that many of the admirable characteristics and high standards of The Moles originated during his term of office, which extended over nearly three years. Possibly his "outstanding gift" to the association was his son. Neither Johnson was able to attend the pin-presentation meeting.



## Applications Closed

All members of The Moles are urged to take notice that the Executive Committee at its February 14 meeting, acting on a recommendation of Chairman James T. Denton of the Membership Committee, voted that membership applications shall be closed as of that date — until further notice — and that the Moles' office staff be instructed not to issue any application forms from that date until the lists are re-opened.

Horace S. Evans has been named executive director for flood control of the New York State Department of Public Works.



# Fr. Gannon's Wit, Wisdom Sparkle at Award Banquet

An address that neatly mingled the wit and wisdom of the Reverend Father Robert I. Gannon, S.J., former president of Fordham University, was a highlight of the 21st annual Moles' Awards banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria ballroom on Jan. 25.

The other highlight, of course, for the more than a thousand guests was the presentation of the Awards, the Non-Member Award to Herman Brown of Houston, Tex. and the Member Award to Harry T. Immerman.

Father Gannon said he had "never been so thoroughly conditioned" for a speaking engagement as he had for this one, but said he had enjoyed all the pre-dinner contacts greatly. "I've decided," he said, "that since these Moles are so hard-boiled, and seem able to see around corners as well as in the dark, maybe our new President might be well advised to interlard those Phi Beta Kappas down in Washington with some Moles."

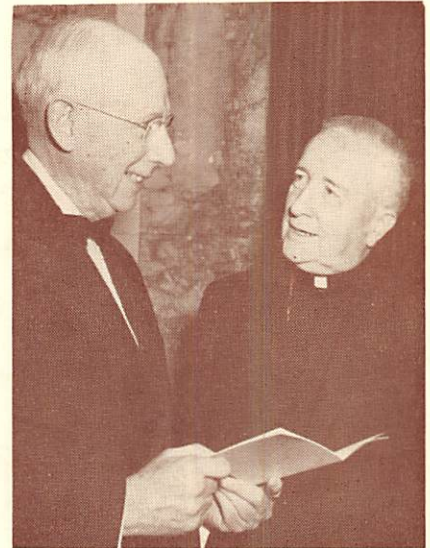
The speaker spoke sadly of "this graceless age of ours, where the relative has taken the place of the absolute in so many areas, and nothing is absolutely right or absolutely wrong, anymore." He said it could almost be called "The Age of False Foundations," but men like the Moles stand out because they do make sure of their foundations. "The life of the Mole," he said he had found, "doesn't encourage soft living — or soft thinking."

The award to Mr. Brown, founder and president of Brown & Root, Inc., of Houston, was made by Francis Donaldson of New York, himself the recipient of the same award (non-member) in

1958. The Brown & Root company is the builder of huge dams, Air Force bases and other defense installations in the Southwest. Mr. Brown is also president and director of Brown Securities Corporation, Austin, Tex., vice president and director of Highland Oil Co. of Houston, and director of Texas Eastern Transmission Corp., Shreveport, La., of Armeo Steel Corporation, Middletown, O., and of City National Bank, Houston.

Mr. Brown's award citation said it was "in recognition of accomplishments spanning nearly a half-century, and for his many contributions to our nation's welfare; truly a great American."

The Member Award presentation to Mr. Immerman was made by George F. Flay Jr., of Stock Construction Corporation. Mr. Immerman, a native of New York City (1890), is vice president and chief engineer of Spencer, White & Prentis, Inc., New York heavy construction firm. He has intimate acquaintance with a number of heavy-construction landmarks in Manhattan. Within months after his graduation from Columbia University in 1913 with a degree in civil engineering he was job engineer on Shaft 18, near Cooper Union, for the Board of Water Supply, and in 1914 he was chief engineer for the contractor who built Lewisohn Stadium for C.C. N.Y. He designed and supervised the installation of the first all-steel subway decking system in New York — when he was in charge of underpinning for



ATWATER AND FR. GANNON

construction in the Times Square area, with Holbrook Cabot & Rollins.

Mr. Immerman has been called on by the City of New York on numerous occasions for consultation on underpinning and shoring problems, has served as consultant to industrial organizations, has written technical articles and has often lectured before engineering schools in this country and Canada.

His citation was "in recognition of extraordinary skill in constructing difficult foundations, and for his participation in Association and academic activities to better the construction industry."

Presiding was Eugene G. Rau, second vice president of The Moles. In a brief keynote talk he called upon members of the construction industry to "be more realistic," not so optimistic, in their estimates, to "mark up, not mark down."



DONALDSON PRESENTS TO BROWN



FLAY PRESENTS TO IMMERMAN





FREDERICK H. ZURMUHLEN, who had been Public Works Commissioner of the city for 13 years and became an Honorary Member of The Moles just a year ago, died Jan. 19 at his Staten Island home after a short illness. Mr. Zurmuhlen, 63, was a long-time friend of The Moles and a respected "adversary" as he piloted DPW teams in their annual contests with the Moles' team at the August Clambakes. He served as Commissioner longer than any other man and during the greatest building program in New York City's history. Mr. Zurmuhlen had engineering and architectural degrees from Manhattan College, and won many honors from fellow professional engineers. Surviving are Mrs. Zurmuhlen, a daughter, five sons, three sisters, and 19 grandchildren.

### FOR AULD LANG SYNE

A very large photograph that will have a great deal of nostalgic appeal for many Moles has been given to the organization by James E. MacDonald Jr. of Goodall Rubber Co., and has been hung in an appropriate spot in the Board Room. It is a photograph made some 21 years ago "on the job" at the New York Aqueduct, and shows 47 men, all of them outstanding figures in the construction industry, and many of them Moles. Among those readily identifiable are: Thomas J. Walsh, the late Jack Macdonald, William A. Durkin, Henry J. Kaiser, the late Samuel R. ("Subway Sam") Rosoff, Edmund A. Prentis, Carl L. Swenson, the late J. R. Glaeser, Louis R. Perini, Francis Donaldson, Miles I. Killmer, the late Howard L. King, S. A. Healy, J. H. Gill, T. M. Price and R. V. Johnson.

C. Glenn Browning applied for Member Emeritus status, and his application was unanimously approved at the February meeting of the Executive Committee.

### WHITE CONSULTS ON RAMESES STATUE JOB

Ed White of Spencer, White & Prentis is one of several world-famed engineers and architects serving as consultants on a super-colossal "memorial preservation" project under consideration by the Egyptian government.

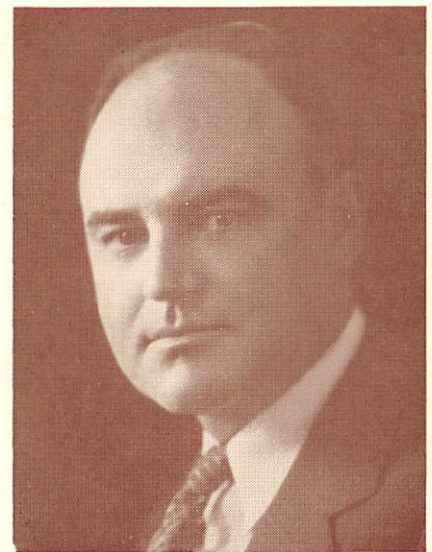
The proposal is to raise two tremendous monuments built by Rameses II (13th century B.C.) some 200 feet above their position on a rock mountain so they won't be engulfed by the rising waters after the Aswan High Dam starts operating. The proposed operation, said the New York Times, would itself probably rank among the "wonders of the world." It would be, the paper said, "comparable to lifting eight Washington Monuments the height of a 16-story building."

Ed's confreres on the committee included a Swiss, a Russian, a West German, and an Egyptian.

One of our boys, Francis G. Carey, senior resident engineer in charge of the New York Port Authority's current \$20,250,000 expansion of its \$24-million Manhattan bus terminal, got a highly complimentary big "write-up" in the Daily News on Sunday, Feb. 12. A nice pre-Valentine's Day Valentine.



JAMES M. McLAIN, 49, a sales executive with the James Peter Homann, Inc. Construction Equipment Company, died on Feb. 27, 1961 while at lunch with business associates in New York. His home was in Manhasset. Before joining Homann he was with the Thew Shovel Co. for 20 years. He was a native of Greenville, Tex. and a graduate of the University of Texas. Surviving are Mrs. McLain, a son and two daughters.



ALEX LYLE, 72, a Charter Member of The Moles and president in 1942, died unexpectedly Jan. 19, 1961 in New York following a cerebral hemorrhage. A 1917 graduate of Cornell University, he was reputed to be the youngest major in the Army Engineers in World War I and was long known as "Major." An expert on underpinning, he was a key figure on many important subway construction jobs in New York and Philadelphia, and on the Holland Tunnel. For the past eight years he had been associated with Underpinning & Foundation Co. Inc. Mrs. Lyle survives him.

### Bechtel Recipient of Two More Honors

Stephen D. Bechtel, president of Bechtel Corp., San Francisco, and recipient of the Non-Member Award in 1952, received a pair of new honors in recent months: The American Society of Civil Engineers, at its convention in Boston, presented him with the John Fritz Medal; the National Defense Transportation Association, meeting in New Orleans, voted him its annual award as "the man who has done most for national transportation" during the year.

The sympathy of all Moles is extended to Eugene F. Moran Jr. in the death on April 13, at 89, of his beloved and much-honored father, Eugene F. Moran Sr., for many years recognized as "the dean and sage of the Port of New York."

Two of our Moles, Ed Tully and Pete DiNapoli, in January were invested as Knights of Malta by Cardinal Spellman in ceremonies at St. Patrick's Cathedral, in recognition by the Pope of their extensive charitable activities over a period of many years.

Next year's Award dinner is scheduled for Jan. 31, 1962.



# Another Table Packed With Past Presidents



In this photo of the other "honor table" at the November meeting are, left to right: RICHARD E. DOUGHERTY, 1953; GEORGE FERRIS, 1954; HOWARD COLLINS, 1958; RAY M. SPOONER,

1940; AL WARWICK, 1946; Eugene F. Moran Jr.; H. Austin Van Name; the late ALEX LYLE, 1942.

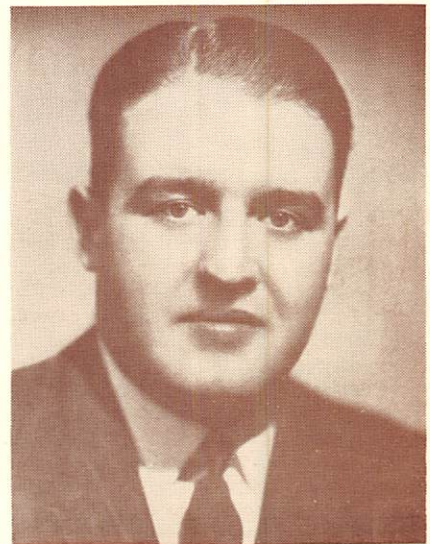
When Herbert Hoover was selected as non-member Award recipient in 1950, the committee scrutinized the membership to find a Mole of sufficient stature and eminence to be a suitable "running mate." Dick Dougherty was selected, and went on from there to the Moles' presidency in 1953 . . . . At the conclusion of his wartime construction efforts in the Pacific, Bill McMenimen brought George Ferris to the East Coast to serve as his assistant at Raymond, and after several years as an effective worker on various committees, George became our president in 1954 . . . Howard Collins, president in 1958, was one of the most energetic and conscientious men we have had in that office . . . Ray Spooner presided at the historic meeting in 1938 at the Great Northern Hotel when Harry Leeuw was installed as the first president, and Ray himself became the third president of the association. "Much of the success of the Moles can be attributed to his becoming president at that stage and his work in inducing prominent

men in the heavy construction industry to become members. In addition to serving as an inspiring leader, Ray sponsored and brought in such men as Charlie Spencer, Ted Prentis, J. Rich Steers, Arthur A. Johnson, and Al Warwick, among others." . . . "From the inception of the association, Al was a tireless and faithful worker in various capacities, and became the eighth president in 1946. No one can ever forget the excellent programs he put together for the entertainment of the members at various affairs, and the admirable manner in which he served during his year as president." . . . Many of the original members of the Moles were employed by the Carlton Company on its section of the Sixth Avenue subway, and it naturally followed that Alex Lyle contributed a great deal of his time during the early years on committees and as trustee. He was chosen to be the fifth president. (Mr. Lyle died since the meeting, on January 19.)



## *Alex and Tom Jr.*

To the left is shown one of the eldest, and to the right one of the youngest, of our ex-presidents who missed the meeting, Alex Stagg, one of the real Founder Members in deed as well as name, and Tom Walsh Jr. Alex met frequently in 1936 and '37 with Harry Leeuw, Al Sielke and James Fitzgerald while The Moles was being "born," and he was the association's fourth president, serving during 1941. Tom became president in 1956, a year after his father was the Member Award winner.







**JOSEPH CLAGETT WEAVER, 64**, board chairman of Spencer, White & Prentiss and an expert on underpinning and difficult foundations, died suddenly at his home in Irvington, N.Y. on March 18, 1961. With SW&P since 1922, he became general superintendent in 1926 and served in that capacity for 21 years. He became president in 1954, chairman in 1960. He was in charge of some of the most difficult foundation work ever accomplished, including the underpinning of Trinity Church. Surviving are four daughters.



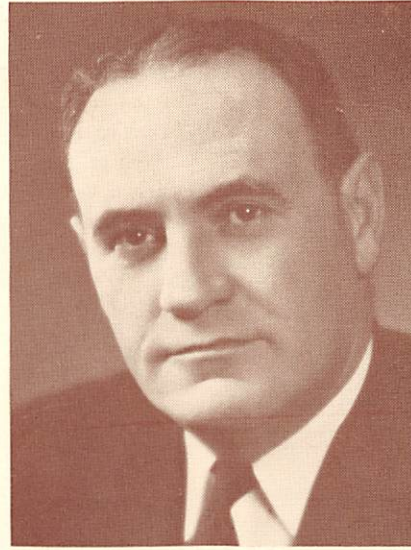
**THOMAS A. SCOTT, 83**, for many years at the helm of Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp. and 1949 recipient of The Moles Member Award, died April 5, 1961 in New York of heart failure following an attack of bronchial pneumonia. He was a U.S. Navy commander in World War I, directing salvage. Then in 1945 he was awarded the Medal of Merit for the same kind of operations in World War II. He was born in New London, Conn. in 1877 and was elected president of the T. A. Scott company when it was first incorporated in 1903.



**JOSEPH F. FOLEY, Sr.**, president and treasurer of Callan Construction Co. of Bristol, R.I., died Feb. 9, 1961 in a Boston hospital after a short illness. A native of Scranton, Pa., he was educated in the public schools there and Scranton University. He was a registered professional engineer and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Society of Testing Engineers; he was very active in civic and church affairs in Somerset, Mass. Surviving are Mrs. Foley, his son, Joseph Jr., a new Mole, and two daughters.



**LUTHER McCONNELL, 75**, died of a heart attack Feb. 16, 1961 in Bethlehem, Pa. He was co-ordinator and one of the pioneers in Bethlehem's Redevelopment projects, which was a "second career" for him. Earlier he had risen from office boy in a Midwest bank to vice presidency of Lone Star Cement Corp., retiring from that position in 1956. He was a native of Morning Sun, Ia. and attended Lake Forest College in Illinois for two years. Surviving are Mrs. McConnell, three sons, two daughters, and 16 grandchildren.



**CHARLES B. PERINI, 50**, vice president of Perini Corp. and affiliates, including the Milwaukee Braves, died April 7 of a heart attack. He and Mrs. Perini had just returned from a 25th wedding anniversary trip abroad. C.B. was born in Olivebridge, N. Y. and followed the family tradition of starting in construction as a water boy. He attended Staunton Military Academy, Rhode Island State College and the University of Georgia. Also surviving are three sons, a daughter, three brothers, and four sisters.



**PERCY J. DONOVAN** died on Dec. 22, 1960, following an operation for a brain tumor. His death came just 15 days short of his 80th birthday. His "first and only job" was with the Giant Portland Cement Co., which he served for 64 years, most of that time as leading salesman. He was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, the New York Athletic Club and the Elks. Percy's wife, who survives him, was Mary J. Deehan. They had four children, two sons and two daughters, and 22 grandchildren, three of whom are in religious orders.