

NEWS BULLETIN  
AN ASSOCIATION OF MEN



OF THE MOLES  
ENGAGED IN HEAVY CONSTRUCTION

# HOLING

# THROUGH

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

AUGUST, 1962

## IT'S TUESDAY AT TRAVERS!

"Never change a winning team" is good strategy for any manager, and it's being followed in two respects by The Moles in staging their annual clambake: not only is the general program the same, but the Program Committee is headed by the same two guys that produced such a winner last year — Edward J. Johnson and his vice chairman William J. McPhillips.

One thing will be different, though: The Big Day is a Tuesday (August 14), which will be Clambake Day in the future, instead of Wednesday, as in previous years. The locale is, of course, Travers Island.

The softball game with the stalwarts of the Department of Public Works will see the start of a new best-of-nine series, with a handsome new trophy called the President's Cup at stake. After 22 years the two sides now stand exactly even: The Moles won their fifth-out-of-nine last year to retire the Commissioner's Cup; and exactly ten years earlier the DPW athletes did likewise to the original Founder's Trophy, and by the same count.

The game was omitted during World War II and in 1960 the game was called at the end of the ninth inning with the score tied 1 to 1.

So it really is "a brand-new ball game." And the DPW's will be under the titular leadership of the Department's new Commissioner, Peter J. Reidy. Game starts at 2.

Luncheon's from 12:30 to 2; assorted outdoor activities involving egg-tossing, spike driving, golf pitching, horseshoes and alley cats will go on from 1:30 to 4:30; the Clambake Dinner starts at 6, awarding of prizes at 8, and handsomely assorted entertainment in the Big Tent gets under way at 8:30.

The other members of the Program Committee are Joseph A. Dooley, George A. Fox, Alfred Hedefine, Lawrence F. Hickey, D. G. LeTourneau, Philip A. Rechel and George W. Shook.



CONFIDENTLY SMILING new officers of The Moles are caught by the cameraman at the May meeting. Left to right, seated, are Howard G. Dixon, first vice president; President Eugene G. Rau, and John J. Walsh, second vice president; standing are Joseph B. Diamond, treasurer, and Robert Crimmins, secretary.

### AWARD WORKING COMMITTEE

Here is the composition of the current Award Working Committee: The chairman is Charles Stillman; vice chairman is Eugene McGovern. Two members appointed by the chairman are Louis F. Booth and Hal W. Hunt; others, on the Award Working Committee by virtue of their other office in The Moles, are: Robert Crimmins (secretary); Howard G. Dixon (first vice president); Eugene G. Rau (president); John J. Walsh (second vice president), and David A. Werblin (Publicity Committee chairman).

The Publicity Committee has kept quite busy right through the summer months, with several strategy meetings. David A. Werblin is chairman; Robert H. Dodds vice chairman. Other members are James D. Parsons, Henry T. Perez, John H. Tiernan, and Robert E. White.

A report prepared by Ralph Atwater and fellow-members of a special committee, covering the drawing up of a health-and-retirement program for members of The Moles' office staff, was read and unanimously adopted at the June meeting of the Executive Committee. The plan has been put into operation.



## 'New Look' in New-Member Procedure

Chairman Howard Gould of the Membership Committee brings forth the following description of the revised membership procedure, along with the current status:

The general balance of membership, as between men engaged directly in heavy construction, on the one hand, and men in associated occupations, on the other, will not be changed. The eligibility of a man proposed for membership shall be measured first by the degree of his connection with heavy construction, second by "the degree to which the best interest of The Moles will be served by his being elected a member."

It has been traditional that The Moles are a group of individuals each equal to the other in all respects. However, for the convenience of the Membership Committee and the Executive Committee in the performance of their duties, the membership is assumed to be divided into four classifications, namely, Heavy Construction, Engineers, Sales Representatives and Associated Occupations.

Since experience has shown that it is not practicable to maintain the desired balance of membership within rigid limits, flexible limits have been adopted for each classification and for the over-all total.

The following table shows the "ranges" being used as a general guide (along with the current count):

	RANGE	AT PRESENT
Heavy Construction .....	300 to 340	341
Engineers .....	40 to 55	47
Sales Representatives .....	60 to 75	71
Associated Occupations .....	10 to 20	14

The over-all range is 450 to 490 and the current total of active members is 473.

A new type of membership recommendation form, known as Form No. 1, is now being used by members in proposing candidates. Forms can be obtained from The Moles office, and in addition to filling out and returning the form, it is the responsibility of the proposer to arrange to have five letters of recommendation written in behalf of each candidate. (It is preferable, but not mandatory, that these letters be written by members of The Moles.) They should be addressed to the Chairman of the Membership Committee and mailed by the writer to The Moles office.

From the "pool" of persons proposed, bearing in mind the number of vacancies that may be available, the Membership Committee will nominate candidates for the consideration of the Executive Committee. The latter will rate the candidates and at its April meeting each year will elect by a majority vote individually those candidates having the higher ratings to fill the then-current vacancies.

Eventually each sales company is to be represented by one member only. Thus a person in any such company having one or more members at present may not be proposed for membership in The Moles until the present memberships become vacant.

The by-laws provide that a member who resigns while in good standing may request to be elected a Member Emeritus. A Member Emeritus pays no dues, but his name remains on the Association's roster and he receives all notices of the Association's events and may purchase one ticket for any event for his own use. A number of senior members have resigned and requested this status so that younger and more active men in their companies can be considered for membership.

The election of 49 new members (see Page 4 photos) in April went a long way toward correcting a situation that had

developed over several years in which a number of companies had been left without representation in The Moles because of death or retirement of members, and the consensus is that the Association has been revitalized by the enrolling of this group of enthusiastic young members.

Chairman Gould commented in a P.S. that Form No. 1's are being received in good order at The Moles office, but that the required five supporting letters of recommendation are "coming in very slowly." These letters must be received, he said, before his committee can "process" a potential new member.

## New, But Unphotographed

The Moles had a truly bumper crop of new members at the May meeting — 39 of them, shown in three sets in the photos on Page 4 — but that still doesn't tell all of the story of the 1962 "class" of newcomers.

The full total was 49. The ten who did not get into the photos made at the May meeting are: Harold N. Hockensmith of Brown & Root, William J. Hunkin II of Hunkin-Conkey Construction Co., Richard H. Lukens of Peter Kiewit Co., Francis X. Murphy of Raymond International, Gus F. Rathert of Foley Bros. Inc., Spencer W. Thompson of The Foundation Co., Joseph F. Val-lone of S. J. Groves & Sons Co., D. J. Carroll Copps of Olin-Mathieson Chemical, Clifton W. Miller of Joy Manufacturing Co., and Brendan P. O'Hara of Martin Marietta Corp.

## Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is keeping its own members busy with the new procedure of new-member proposals. Howard Gould is the chairman, Alfred H. Korsen the vice chairman. Other members are: William F. Bradt, Alfred C. Maevis, Edward J. Mahoney, Gerard A. Neumann, William M. Sheehan, Richard A. Tower and Alfred N. Warwick



PRESIDENTS, past and present, are caught in action at the May dinner meeting as Incoming President Eugene G. Rau (right) confers Past President's pin on Harry T. Immerman. Harry had served as The Moles' top administrative officer for almost two full years, having succeeded the late Chester Cambell early in the latter's administration before his elected presidential term. Gene is vice president and chief engineer of J. Rich Steers, Inc.





NO WARMER TRIBUTE has ever been given a Mole by his fellow-members than the standing ovation that followed the presentation, shown here, of a special citation to Eugene F. Moran Jr. (right) by Ralph W. Atwater, honorary life president, at the May dinner meeting. The citation expressed "the heartfelt appreciation" felt by officers and members for Gene's 20 years of faithful service "in furthering the interest of this Association," and the applause indicated that everybody in the hall shared that sentiment, deeply.

Ralph Atwater started right out by saying he was "glad to have this assignment," recalling that almost exactly 20 years ago he himself had proposed "your retiring Secretary" for membership, along with his sidekick at Moran Towing Corporation, Eddie Johnson, and both had been elected to membership on May 20, 1942.

Noting that the late Jack Macdonald, 1943 president, appointed Gene to the Executive Committee, Ralph said, "Immediately Gene assumed an active role in the management of The Moles. He gave unsparingly of his time, and in addition he gave our young Association the experience and knowledge he had acquired through his wide association with other organizations and through his acquaintanceship with top executives.

"He has had a part in solving every major problem that has arisen in our deliberations, and the solutions have been tempered by his rare good humor, his sound judgment and his uncanny ability to compromise without surrender."

Ralph pointed out that Gene had, through the years, steadfastly refused the repeated urgings that he accept nomination as vice president (leading to the presidency) with the comment that "a tugboat man has no business being president of The Moles." The modest inadequacy of Gene's own characterization of himself was shown, Ralph indicated, by the fact that he is a graduate of Lehigh University and, in addition to his duties as vice president and director of Moran Towing Corporation, is recognized as an eminent naval architect.

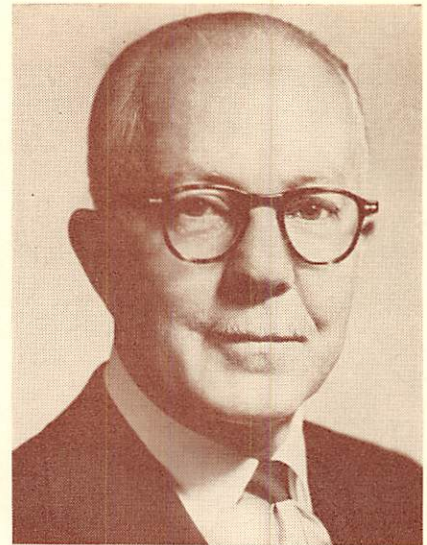
The citation formally declared Gene to be "a member ex-officio, for life, of the Executive Committee and the Award Committee, for the continued good of The Moles."

The Atwater tribute concluded: "So you see, Gene, this is not goodbye, not even au revoir; instead it is our heartfelt wish that you may continue in the future as you have done in the past, to attend as many of our meetings as your busy schedule will permit, and to continue to give us your able assistance and wise counsel."

Gene accepted the citation with his customary grace, but not without some evidence that he, too, was deeply touched. "There's a real great guy," everyone agreed (as they had done so often before!)

Here is a summary of the committee assignments and offices Gene Moran has held in The Moles:

- 1943-45 — Finance, Executive and Award Committees.
- 1946-48 — Chairman of Finance Committee; a trustee; member of Executive and Award Committees.
- 1949 — Chairman of Nominating Committee.
- 1949-53 — Finance and Award Committees.
- 1954 — Vice-Chairman, Award Committee; member of Executive Committee.
- 1955 — Chairman, Award Committee; member of Executive Committee.



COMMISSIONER REIDY

The 1962 Clambake will give The Moles an opportunity to bid an official "welcome" to the new Commissioner of Public Works, Peter J. Reidy, P.E. The softball game between representatives of The Moles and the DPW has been the outstanding feature of these outings almost from their very beginning, and The Moles are confident that the same wonderful relationship will mark the new regime.

Mr. Reidy was transferred to his new position from the post of Commissioner of Buildings by Mayor Wagner last January 1. A licensed professional engineer in five states and a structural engineer, he was president of Purdy & Henderson Associates, Inc., consulting engineers, at the time he accepted the Mayor's call to head the Department of Buildings, in 1958. He was born in Astoria, Queens, and was educated at Bryant High school in Long Island City, and at Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.

He is a past president of the New York Association of Consulting Engineers and past president of the Structural Engineers Society of New York, and holds numerous other memberships and distinctions.

Welcome to Travers Island, Mr. Commissioner, and to a long and pleasant "rivalry" with The Moles.

- 1956-57 — Chairman of Membership Committee; a trustee; member of Executive, Award and Education Committees.
- 1958-61 — Secretary; member of Executive and Award Committees.
- 1962 — Chairman of Nominating Committee.

In addition to the above he served on such special committees as Award Working (1954 to 1961); special committee to Revise By-Laws and to Edit Codes of Procedure (1955-57); committee to arrange for office space (1959-60); special committee studying health and retirement plan (1962).



## 39 New Members Watch Birdie at May Dinner Meeting



FRONT ROW: Emil M. Ondrey of Michael J. Torpey Inc., Jacob Wegweiser of The Foundation Co., Robert G. Springer of Keystone Portland Cement, Samuel J. Zara of Zara Contracting, George Reider of Frederick Snare Corp. (Back row): Elwood P. Vroome of J. C. MacElroy Co., James J. Kerr of Spencer, White & Prentis, Michael J.

Ucci of Clyde Iron Works, Inc., Francis A. Vitolo of Corbetta Construction Co., George A. Vogel of American Bridge, Clayton E. Mullins of Atlantic Refining, James E. MacDonald III of Goodall Rubber, and Gen. W. E. Potter of the New York World's Fair.



FRONT ROW: David H. Griffin of Wellpoint Dewatering Corp., Jack J. Burke of Gardner-Denver Co., James J. Bruschi of Madigan-Hyland, William A. Abrahamson of Morrison-Knudsen, Ronald C. Baldwin of Thalman Equipment Co. (Back row): Robert W. Denny of Spearin, Preston & Burrows, Herbert E. Fletcher of H. E. Fletcher

Co., Thomas W. Halligan of Walsh Construction Co., Anthony Bastone of Griffin Wellpoint, Williams D. Bailey of Seelye Stevenson Value & Knecht, James E. Downen of Atlas Chemical Industries Inc., Howard R. Burroughs of Johnson, Drake & Piper, and Clayton R. Carmen of L. B. Foster Co.



FRONT ROW: Rino M. Monti of Port of New York Authority, Albert E. Downes of Alpha Portland Cement, George H. Hollerith Jr. of The Foundation Co., John P. Moss of Moss-Thornton Co., Arthur J. Gold of Underpinning & Foundation Co. (Back row): Richard W. Loughney of Wellpoint Dewatering, Hubert F. Karcher of Tully &

Di Napoli, G. R. Compton Jr. of McKiernan-Terry Corp., John W. Herlihy of Western Foundation Corp., Vincent S. Fox of Frederic R. Harris Inc., James E. Halpin of Transit-Mix, Stanley Merjan of Underpinning & Foundation, and Louis W. Hall of Turner Construction Co.



# Collegians and Moles Have a Real Field Day



PANEL OF EXPERTS is shown in action at new Engineering Societies Building at climax of The Moles' Student Field Trip day. Harry Immerman is at microphone at left; others, left to right, are: George F. Ferris, Raymond International, Inc., Gustave G. Werner Jr., Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp., Sand Leitner, Federation Bank & Trust Co., Gerard M. Gausa, Johnson, Drake & Piper, Inc., Michael R. Pender,

World's Fair Corp., John M. Kyle, Port of New York Authority, Ralph DeSimone, construction consultant, and Robert J. Armstrong, of Coakley & Booth, who was moderator of the panel.

BELOW: Some of the 150 or so collegians who participated in the Big Day get an earful from the panelists.



A bright new chapter in the history of The Moles' educational program was written in spite of very dull weather last April 13, a Friday, when about 150 selected engineering students from sixteen colleges in the area were given a full day of down-to-earth, on-the-scene "education" at projects in and around New York City.

Several letters from faculty representatives and from the young men themselves testify to the enthusiasm stirred up among our visitors. The Education Committee's vice chairman, Bob Armstrong, in a summary memo to Chairman Dick Mynatt, stated quite frankly: "In my opinion, possibly 80 per cent were thrilled, 10 per cent were interested, and to the remaining 10 per cent it was just a day off from school."

Two young men who signed themselves as "spokesmen for Chi Epsilon and ASCE, City College of New York," wrote a most convincing letter of appreciation "to all connected with the planning and financing of this most fruitful of excursions." They added that their observation of various construction sites, "coupled with the informative dissertations explaining what was seen, proved an invaluable aid in correlating classroom and field practices."

Notes from faculty members contained several constructive suggestions that should prove most helpful in the conduct of future "student days," most notable that there be more specific brief-

ing in advance about some of the sites being visited, preferably reinforced with blow-ups of sketches or diagrams.

Jack Kyle, chief engineer for the Port Authority and a panel member, in his report to Chairman Mynatt said he felt the "high point" for all the students seemed to be "the inspirational pitch given by Ralph DeSimone, and I would hope this could be repeated next year almost verbatim." Jack said he felt each year's student program had improved on the previous one, and that he feels Ralph Atwater "is to be congratulated on a magnificent job of organization."

It was generally agreed that the hard hats donated by a number of Mole-related companies were a sensational hit with the collegians, and some suggested that The Moles insignia should also appear on the headgear.

Here are a few excerpts from Bob Armstrong's summary: "Between sites, a

site director should ride in each bus, recapping what we've just seen and key-noting what to look for at the next site. Louis Booth was exceptionally interesting in this respect, en route to the George Washington Bridge." . . . "George Ferris, Ralph DeSimone and John Kyle should be 'musts' as speakers at the next outing. And it would be good to weld into the group a couple of the younger Moles of the Dick Steers, Gene Fullam, young Bill Durkin category. The students seemed to have the impression that success was many, many years ahead and almost unattainable for most. A couple of younger Moles on the dais would dispel this depressing effect."

The tour started at the Port Authority bus terminal and included the George Washington Bridge's Manhattan-end approach complex, with the new bus terminal there and connections to the Cross-Bronx Expressway and Alexander Hamilton Bridge, and the site of the upcoming World's Fair. This was followed by informal discussions at the new Engineering Societies Building, dinner in the cafeteria there, and an evening question-and-answer session with a panel of experienced and articulate Moles fielding questions from the students.



## FINANCES FLOURISHING

The report given at the May meeting jointly by Treasurer Joseph B. Diamond and Finance Committee Chairman Gil Serber showed a cash balance as of April 30, 1962 of \$3,966.36, a substantial gain over the balance a year earlier, when it was \$2,366.

Mr. Serber further reported that his committee had examined and found the accounts of the several committees represented in the budget to be "correct and in line with the forecast made at the beginning of the year."

The over-all status of the Association's finances as of April 30, 1962 showed: Cash in operating account, \$3,966.36; Bowery Savings Bank, \$9,679.45; Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank, \$10,043.95; Seamen's Bank for Savings, \$8,847.85; Savings bonds (12) current value \$10,907.00 — total, \$43,444.61.

Other members of the Finance Committee are: Edward G. Armitage, William H. Bruce Jr., Mandrup Skeie and Arnold Thurber.

~

The freezing method for solidifying overburden was used by Poirier & McLane Corporation on 110 feet of overburden at the Manhattan 12-foot diameter shaft of the New York City Department of Public Works sewage tunnel to Greenpoint. It is reported that Perini and Morrison-Knudsen will use the same method in sinking the Brooklyn shaft through 120 feet of overburden for the New York City Board of Water Supply's water tunnel from Brooklyn to Staten Island.

~

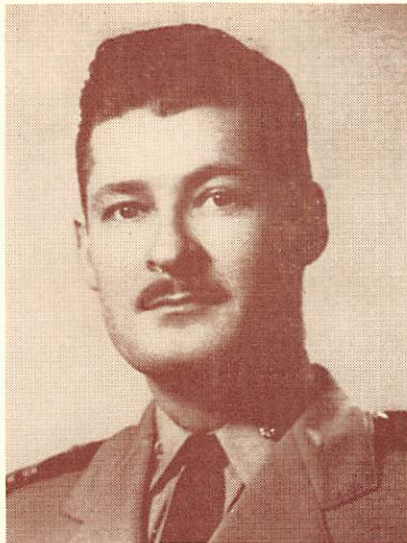
Requests for transfer to Member Emeritus status of three Moles were received and approved by the Executive Committee in June. The new M.E.'s are D. G. Aronberg, Thomas Crimmins, and Harry Siefke.

~

A new idea in the way of saluting long-time Mole members was broached and enthusiastically endorsed at the June meeting of the Executive Committee, namely the issuance of certificates or other symbols to members who have passed or attain a quarter century of Mole-ecular existence. There are eight members who now qualify for this distinction, and it is planned to suitably recognize them at the November Members' Dinner — next November 7.

~

Members of the Education Committee, in addition to Chairman Richard E. Mynatt and Vice Chairman Robert J. Armstrong, are: G. William Bailey, Anthony R. Bastone, Gerard M. Gaussa, Daniel M. Lazar, and Henry M. Wasung.



GEORGE I. SPOONER, 45, of Lincroft, N. J., a former vice president of Allen N. Spooner & Son, Inc. and nephew of Charter Member Ray N. Spooner, died of a heart attack on May 31, 1962 at Riverview Hospital in Red Bank, N. J. He had been in poor health for two years. He was the only child of the former president of A.N.S., John I. Spooner, who was present at the time of his son's death. George Spooner, a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy, was aboard the USS Argonne in Pearl Harbor at the time of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack, and later was aboard the Destroyer Blue when it was sunk in the Solomon Islands. Surviving are Mrs. Spooner and two daughters.

~

### Two Big Prizes For Parsons

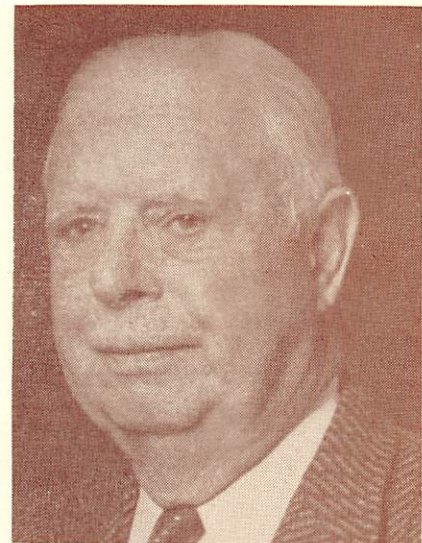
James D. Parsons, fellow of the ASCE, recently found himself the recipient of two coveted prizes for the same paper. The paper was "Foundation Installation Requiring Recharging of Ground Water," and it was awarded the Thomas Fitch Rowland Prize and the Arthur M. Wellington Prize. Jim is with Moran, Proctor, Mueser & Rutledge.

~

Ralph H. Mann, senior district engineer with the American Wood Preservers Institute, retired from active service with the Institute on May 1 last. Mann, an authority on foundation piles, waterfront structures and other heavy tidewater construction, joined AWPI's predecessor organization 33 years ago. He plans to carry on a consultant business from his home in South Daytona Beach, Fla.

~

James F. Salmon, responding to an invitation to serve on a Moles committee, in mid-June wrote from Miami, Fla. that he would have to decline because he was retiring on July 1, "after 41 years of very happy employment and association with The Arundel Corporation."



HAROLD L. USHER, 75, who had spent more than a half-century in the steel and heavy-hardware industry, died April 18, 1962 at his home in Northfield, N. J. He had retired in 1952 after 38 years with Oliver Iron & Steel Co., and before that had been with the Pacific Hardware Co. in New York. During World War I he was in Washington as co-ordinator for the steel companies, organizing supplies for the war in Europe. He was past president and honorary member of the New York Hardware Trade Association, a life member of the Railroad Club of New York, a member for 45 years of Commonwealth Stella Lodge No. 409, F. & A.M., of Brooklyn. Surviving are Mrs. Ida R. Usher and two sons, Harold L. Jr. and Kirk, and five grandsons.

~

### Advisory Educators

At a late-May meeting of the Education Committee it was unanimously voted that these five men be named as advisory members of the committee: Ralph E. DeSimone, George F. Ferris, John M. Kyle, Henry A. Letoile, and Charles Stillman.

~

One very active Mole and one very honorary one are on opposite sides in the hassle over the proposal to build a highway to or through Fire Island.

The honorary one is, of course, Mr. Robert Moses, the recipient of the very first Moles Award (non-member), in 1941, and who, likewise of course, wants to build the highway. One of two designated spokesmen for the Fire Island Voters' Association, vigorously opposing the idea of the highway, was Gilbert M. Serber, chairman of our Finance Committee and very active indeed in several other respects. Gil's co-spokesman was the news commentator, Charles Collingwood.

Gil is, among other things, chairman of the Fire Island Erosion Control Committee, which feels strongly that it can control erosion without resorting to a concrete highway out thataway.