

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, 1963

Dixon's The Pick For '63

Howard G. Dixon, senior vice president of Johnson, Drake & Piper, Inc., is president-elect and will assume office at The Moles' annual business meeting and dinner on Wednesday evening, May 1.

Howard, a man whose engineering background can be traced back to an ancestor who was a surveyor with George Washington for The Ohio Company, has long been hailed as a man who thoroughly enjoys his chosen profession and is wholly and enthusiastically dedicated to it. A native of Baltimore, Md., he worked his way through Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, worked a year with the B & O railroad on surveys, and then entered West Virginia University as "a junior by examination," studying civil engineering there until enlisting in the Field Artillery in World War I.

He has been with JDP since the late 1920's, and has played key roles in many of that company's largest enterprises in many parts of the world. He is a professional engineer in New York state, served two terms as president of the New York State chapter of AGC, and, among other memberships and offices, is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, where he is Civil Defense Construction Coordinator.

The next-to-top position on the slate is occupied by John J. Walsh of Walsh Construction Company, elected as first vice president; elected as second vice president is Richard E. Mynatt of Merritt-Chapman & Scott; as treasurer it's Edward G. Armitage of Armitage & Company, Inc.; secretary — Robert Crimmins of Thomas Crimmins Contracting Company, and sergeant-at-arms — James A. Lee of North American Cement Corporation.

The following four men have been elected to three-year trusteeships: Robert



HOWARD G. DIXON

J. Armstrong; Alfred Hedefine of Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas; Ralph L. Johnson of H. O. Penn Machinery Co., Inc., and Arnold Thurber of J. Rich Steers, Inc. Elected trustee for one year to serve out Dick Mynatt's term is Leo F. Forrest of Nazareth Cement Company.

The Nominating Committee—Richard A. Tower, chairman, with Edward J. Johnson, vice chairman — drew up the 1963 slate. Other members of the committee were John J. DiMenna, Joseph A. Dooley, David H. Griffin and George W. Shook. Ed Johnson is also chairman of the Program Committee.

The schedule for the May 1 meeting, in the grand ballroom of The Biltmore, is: Reception starting at 6; dinner at 6:45; business meeting at 8. There will be introduction of a group of new members, in addition to the election and installation of officers, announcement of committees for 1963, and reports of committees and retiring officers.

7 'Sons' Among 31 New Members

There will be an extra thrill for many a seasoned Mole when the association welcomes a large crop of new members at the May 1 dinner meeting, for seven of the thirty-one newcomers are sons of Moles. (There is no official record book on such matters, but so far as anyone can recall this is the largest crew of second-generation members ever taken in in one group.)

JAMES A. BREEN, graduate of Rensselaer Polytech, is associated with his father Michael, in Michael F. Breen, Inc.

ALONZO K. BURNHAM JR., chief estimator and project manager for Spearin, Preston & Burrows, Inc., for many years served in a similar capacity for M-C & S. Alonzo Sr. is a long-time Mole.

WILLIAM JAY CARROLL is successfully carrying on the business established by his late father, William J. Carroll, of supplying the heavy construction industry with reinforced steel and associated products. He also is an RPI graduate.

FRED J. DRISCOLL JR. is associated with his father in the George F. Driscoll Company, one of the oldest and most outstanding construction companies in the New York area.

ROBERT J. MALONEY is carrying on in the tradition of his father, Ben R. Maloney, as a supplier of explosives to the construction industry. He is a graduate of Fordham University.

JAMES G. TRIPP JR. is also carrying on in his father's way, as project manager for the Winston Brothers company on many important projects in the West. He is a graduate of Cornell University.

LEONARD E. VAN HOUTEN, son of Leonard Van Houten, as a member of

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

BAYARD HEADS GCA OF N. Y.

Congratulations have been pouring in on Robert P. Bayard, executive vice president for the eastern and foreign divisions of Johnson, Drake & Piper, Inc., for his election in January as president of the General Contractors Association of New York.

Fellow-Moles were elected to three other high positions with the Association: George W. Benisch, president of Slattery Contracting Co., Inc., as first vice president; Andrew Gull, president of Mac Asphalt Construction Corp., as second vice president, and Edward E. White, president of Spencer, White & Prentis, Inc., as treasurer.

Bob Bayard has served as president of the New York chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, and as president of the New York City Post of the Society of American Military Engineers.

NEW MEMBERS (Continued)

the consulting engineering firm of Frederic R. Harris, Inc., has been in charge of many major projects in the States and overseas. He is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic.

Other members of the incoming group are: GARDNER M. BISHOP of Slattery Contracting Co.; PHILIP F. BRUECK of General Contractors Association; JOSEPH H. CASEY of the George W. Rogers Construction Co.; MICHAEL DERELANKO of J. Rich Steers, Inc.; WILLIAM E. DUNN of Associated General Contractors of America; and CHARLES W. EDGAR of Morrison-Knudsen; ROBERT R. ELLIS of Frederick Snare Corporation; DICK P. FULLERTON of the New York Telephone Co.; WESS L. HARRELL of Brown & Root;

ROBERT B. JARVIS of Nevius, Jarvis and Pilz; ARTHUR J. KENLAN of Simpson & Brown; ROBERT G. LENZ of American Dewatering Corp.; HENRY B. McDONALD of Wright Contracting Co.; EDWARD C. MOFFETT of Poirier & McLane; THOMAS NICOL of Thomas Nicol Co. Inc.; GERALD A. O'CONNOR of Raymond International; ELLIS E. PAUL of Howard, Needles, Tammen & Bergendoff; HENRY A. PFISTERER, a consulting engineer; MASON C. PRICHARD of Oman Construction; WARREN N. RIKER and NORTON C. WILDE, both of the Walsh Construction Co.; REUBEN SAMUELS of Thomas Crimmins Contracting; WILLIAM F. TRAYLOR of Traylor Brothers; and ARTHUR VILLATOR of Ingram & Greene.



NEW NOTE in New York's skyline symphony: the 20-foot-wide catwalks slung between the towers of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, world's longest suspension span. This is one of the sites — and sights — to be visited by our Students' Day tours on April 26. This view looks toward Staten Island, from the Brooklyn side.

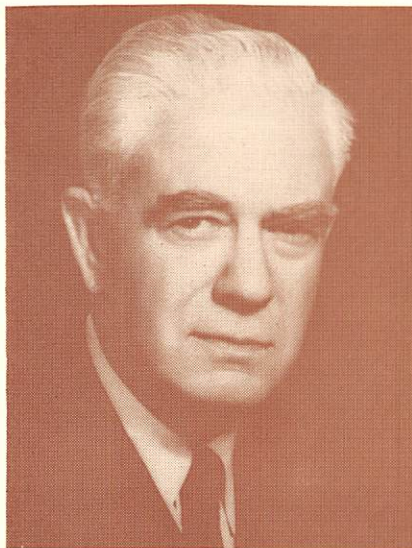
— Photo courtesy U.S. Steel

WELCOME BY WILLIAM H. WISELY

William H. Wisely, executive secretary of the American Society of Civil Engineers, has graciously accepted our invitation to be on hand at the sitdown dinner concluding the Students' Day activities to welcome members of the various ASCE Student Chapters to the new United Engineering Center building. The Moles' president, Eugene G. Rau, and 1963 president-elect, Howard G. Dixon, also will be present.

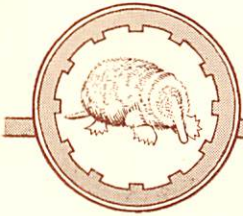
The "STUDENTS' DAY" side of the insert sheet in this issue of *Holing Through* was originally printed as a "flyer" and was distributed several weeks ago among the engineering students at the 20 colleges that are participating in The Moles' cooperative Educational Program.

after joining M-K as a laborer. He was an artillery sergeant in World War I. He became a vice president in 1943 with headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, and was elected a director in 1949 and transferred to New York. He was regarded as "an outstanding builder of inter-American friendships." Surviving is his wife, Eleanor Chatterton Kennedy.



M. G. "MIKE" KENNEDY, 72, who had recently retired as vice president of Morrison-Knudsen, died April 7 at Scottsdale, Ariz. He had suffered a heart attack on March 25. With M-K for 44 years, Mike directed construction of many outstanding dams and hydroelectric installations in Brazil, Venezuela, Peru, Colombia and Paraguay. Though born in Parkersburg, Ia., he grew up in Idaho and was graduated from the University of Idaho in 1914, shortly there-

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The MOLES

COMPOSED OF MEN NOW OR FORMERLY ENGAGED IN THE
CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNEL·SUBWAY·SEWER·FOUNDATION·
MARINE·SUB-AQUEOUS OR OTHER HEAVY CONSTRUCTION

STUDENTS' DAY

IN NEW YORK — FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1963

- The Moles will be your hosts and guides as you get first-hand looks at some of today's greatest construction undertakings - - - the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge where they'll be "spinning the cables" of the longest suspension span in the world . . . the new Flushing Meadow Stadium, where portions of the bleachers will be electrically rotated inward from the first- and third-base lines on sunken tracks to convert, almost in minutes, from baseball to football! . . . and the New York World's Fair 1964-65, with its theme, the Unisphere, together with the structures for the Heliport, Bell System, Festival of Gas and 75 other fantastic exhibits which are now in various stages of construction. Eventually, there will be structures for about 250 exhibits which with roads, services and landscaping will involve expenditures of about one billion dollars prior to the opening of the Fair in April, 1964.
- Six busloads — each seating 45 and each with two Moles as mentors — will provide transportation. They'll leave at 10 a.m. from Gate 43 on the long distance platform on the lower level of the Port Authority Terminal, 40th Street and Eighth Avenue. Box lunches will be provided and eaten enroute, and between 5 and 6 p.m., the tour will terminate at the United Engineering Center (just across First Avenue from the United Nations "campus") where at 6 o'clock all hands will have a sit-down dinner.
- No evening meeting, no speeches — just dinner and plenty of chance to talk over the sights of the day. The Moles guides will be there to discuss the jobs visited and answer further questions.
- All the students will be **guests** of The Moles the entire day. "Students' Day" is an activity of the Education Committee of The Moles as part of the organization's continuing program of being of maximum service to those who may find richly rewarding careers in the construction industry.
- Engineering students from the following 20 colleges will participate:

City College of N.Y.
Columbia
Cooper Union
Cornell
Fairleigh Dickinson
Lafayette
Lehigh

Manhattan
Newark College of Engineering
New York University
Brooklyn Poly
Princeton
Rensselaer Poly

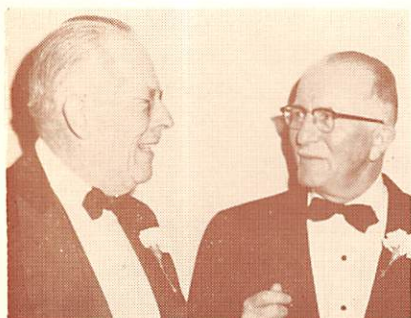
Rutgers
State University (Delhi, N.Y.)
State University (Farmingdale)
Stevens Institute
Union College
University of Connecticut
Yale

FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION YOU NEED, SEE YOUR FACULTY ADVISOR.



SPEAKERS, RECIPIENTS and PRESENTERS at the Silver Anniversary Awards Dinner of The Moles, at the Waldorf on January 30, are shown arrayed on the "great stage." Left to right, they are: John J. Walsh, Edgar F. Kaiser, H. Ladd Plumley, Moles' President Eugene G. Rau, Award Chairman Charles Stillman, Carlton S. Proctor, and

Lt. Gen. Raymond A. Wheeler, U.S. Army (Ret.). Mr. Kaiser and Mr. Proctor were the Non-Member and Member recipients, and Mr. Plumley, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, made the principal address.



THREE PAIRS of hail fellows well-met at the Awards Dinner: At left, Awardee Carlton Proctor heeds a point being driven home by Speaker H. Ladd Plumley; in the center a pair of Award winners,



Jack Bonny (1959) and Lou Perini (1957), prove this is the time to be lighthearted, and at right is the great father-and-son team of Henry J. Kaiser and his Award-winning son, Edgar F.



PROFESSORS from 18 of the eastern seaboard colleges and universities participating in the Educational Program of The Moles were guests of the association at the November dinner meeting, and sat for this photo. Left to right, seated: Charles Thurston of Columbia, Vincent J. Vitagliano of Manhattan, William Brotherton of CCNY, James N. O'Gorman of Cooper Union, Morris Grosswirth and Albert H. Griswold, both of N.Y.U., H. Gilbert Harlow of Union, Sidney F. Borg of Stevens Institute, Richard D. Mangasarian of

Newark College of Engineering and Donald E. Waite of State University (Farmingdale). Standing: Donald J. Butler of Columbia, Anthony J. DelMastro of Rutgers, Dr. Roy J. Leonard of Lehigh, Robert B. Moorman of Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, Robert P. Vreeland of Yale, Robert K. Palmer of Rensselaer, Dr. Vincent A. Forss of Lafayette, Melvin I. Esrig of Cornell and Dr. Peter C. Clifford of State University (Delhi).



ARTHUR A. JOHNSON, 83, one of the most highly honored of all Moles, the group's president 1944 and '45 and recipient of the Member Award in 1944, died Dec. 20, 1962 at his home in Manhattan after a long illness. He was founder and chairman of the corporation that bears his name. He came to this country from England in 1904, assigned by Pearson's, Ltd. to be general superintendent on construction of four railroad tunnels under the East river, connecting Queens and Manhattan. Surviving are his second wife, Marguerite; two sons, Richard A., president of the firm, and Edward G. and three grandchildren.

One of the many "monuments" to the work of this outstanding constructor is the Arthur A. Johnson Laboratory, a civil engineering laboratory at Cooper Union, created in 1958 by his associates in the heavy construction industry as a tribute to him.

He was president of the General Contractors Association in 1928 and 1929, and served on various committees of that organization for many years.



DICK MYNATT SAYS 'THANKS'

The editor of *Holing Through* was asked by Dick Mynatt, Education Committee chairman, to express the Committee's "deep appreciation and thanks" to the Mole members whose companies are contributing the "hard hats" that will be worn, and retained as mementos, by the students participating in the April 26 Students' Day program. Dick plans to send individual letters, but wanted to get this acknowledgment on the record as early in the game as possible.



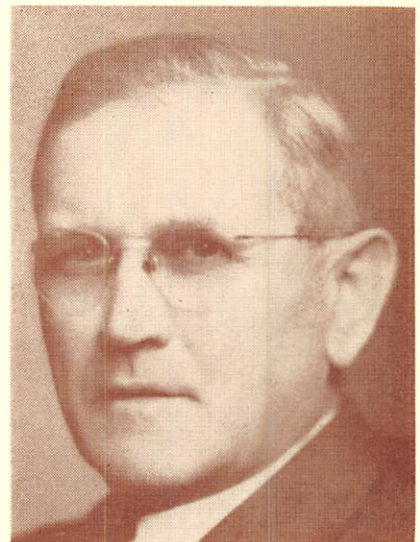
THOMAS J. WALSH, 77, board chairman of the Walsh Construction Co. and recipient of the 1955 Member Award, died March 16 at Naples, Fla., where he was spending the winter. A native of Davenport, Ia., he kept the company headquarters there although it has operated all over the world and has offices in New York, Chicago and San Francisco. After graduation from St. Mary's College in Kansas, where he was an outstanding athlete, he was a catcher with the Chicago Cubs in 1907. However, his father, Patrick T. Walsh, a stonecutter who had founded the company just before the turn of the century, insisted that he come into the company. He became president of it in 1916, and board chairman in 1946. His son, Tom Jr., president of The Moles in 1956, now heads the company.

In addition to The Moles' award, he was given honorary doctor of laws degrees by St. Ambrose College, Davenport, and Pepperdine College, Los Angeles, and a Certificate of Commendation from the U.S. Navy for outstanding service in construction during World War II.



A BOOST FOR CHARLEY

Charles Stillman, one of our most active Moles, stepped up to the presidency of Linde-Griffith Construction Co. in January upon the resignation of Raymond A. Finley, who had been president and board chairman. Mr. Finley, who was one of the incorporators of the company back in 1929, retains his chairmanship. Mr. Stillman, like Mr. Finley a graduate of Cooper Union, joined the firm in 1942 and has been an officer since 1945.



WILLIAM AUSTIN DURKIN, 77, chairman of the executive committee of Walsh Construction Co. and recipient of the 1948 Member Award, died suddenly on Feb. 18 at Pompano Beach, Fla., where he was vacationing. Born in a tiny Indiana village and left fatherless at 6, he literally worked his way up "all the way," for he started as water boy with a local highway contractor. En route, thanks to night studies, he became a qualified civil engineer. In 1906 he joined the engineering corps of the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway Company (The Big Four) as an axeman. It wasn't long before he was promoted to rodman, then transit man, and finally resident engineer. Then he was assigned to work in various engineering capacities for the New York Central, the Pennsylvania, and the St. Louis-San Francisco railroad companies. He joined Walsh in 1912. Surviving are his wife, Margaret, a married daughter, and Bill Jr., a vice president of Walsh.

CHANGE YOUR JOB?

If you have changed your job, or your job has changed its address — or even, as may be more likely, its telephone number — The Moles office would like to hear from you. The girls are compiling a new directory and would like to have all references completely up to date and accurate. The Moles' office number, incidentally, is TN 7-0044.



HERMAN BROWN, 70, recipient of The Moles' non-member Award in 1961 and president of Brown & Root, Inc., one of the world's largest construction firms, died Nov. 15, 1962 after collapsing at dinner in a private club in Houston, Tex. He had undergone heart surgery in 1960. Herman Brown's great career started when, at 22, he quit his job as \$75-a-month foreman of a street paving crew because his wages were long overdue, and was given a few mules and wagons in lieu of the wages!

The equipment, being mortgaged, couldn't be sold, and thus Herman Brown found himself suddenly in the contracting business. That, as he himself recalled, was in 1919, in the early days of the road construction industry, when America was just beginning to "get out of the mud" as the popularity of the automobile zoomed. And his "good mule sense" helped him get not only out of the mud, but well out of the red. The depression of 1929 caused him to vow that he'd never again be caught with all his eggs in one basket. So in the intervening years, the interests of Brown & Root branched out to embrace such non-building pursuits as hotels, oil and gas production, paper mills, mines, real estate, office buildings — and even a dude ranch.

After World War II the company branched out still further, all over the world, building dams, repressuring plants, air fields, chemical plants, hydro-electric installations, pipelines and petrochemical plants, and a football stadium.

Edward G. Armitage has been carrying on faithfully and efficiently as chairman of the Finance Committee since the death of Gil Serber.



GILBERT M. SERBER, 60, longtime head of his own company, Stock Construction Corp., and since December of 1961 director of new construction at Columbia University, died Nov. 30, 1962 at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital after a long illness. A 1922 graduate of Columbia (and with a C.E. degree in 1924), he was active in affairs of the University, and in 1949 he established the David C. Serber Scholarship in honor of his father, an 1896 graduate. He served as Moles' secretary 1955-57 and as trustee in 1960. Surviving are his widow, Ruth, and two daughters, Barbara Jo and Diana.



HUGH E. CRONIN, 50, consulting engineer who had served as chief engineer, project manager and in other executive capacities on many outstanding heavy construction projects, died February 20 at his home in Ridgewood, N. J. A 1935 graduate of Manhattan College, he was

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JAMES E. GIBBONS, 77, a Charter member of The Moles and later Member Emeritus, died January 12 at the home of his son, James, in Garden City. His first employment was as office boy for the F. L. Cranford Co., and some 30 years later he became president of that company, though he had worked for several other organizations in the meantime. He was a licensed professional engineer in New York state. He was a trustee of The Moles for seven years and chairman of the finance committee for four years. Surviving are another son, Eugene, a member of The Moles and Commissioner of Public Works of Nassau County, New York, and 10 grandchildren.



CHRISTIAN BRUN HENRICHSSEN, 65, professional engineer who had a long career of associations with Mole-related companies in various executive capacities, died on Jan. 17. A native of Norway, Christian grew up in Bergen and studied at Copenhagen, Denmark and got his B.S. in civil engineering at the University of Wisconsin. Surviving are his second wife, Doris Taylor Tucker Henrichsen, whom he married in 1952, a son, Christen Brun, a brother, Knut, and two granddaughters. A reproducible photograph was not available at this time.

with MacLean-Grove & Co. Inc. from 1952 to 1960 as chief engineer, actively directing work on the Lincoln Tunnel's third tube. From 1949 to 1951 he was project manager with Underpinning & Foundation Co., Inc. Surviving are his wife, Alice; five sons, Hugh, Martin, Robert, Christopher and Brian, and a daughter, Jillan.