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NOVEMBER, 1963

Liles and DeSimone Named for Awards



SHERWOOD EDMOND LILES, JR.

On the stage of the grand ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria next January 29, Sherwood Edmond ("Sam") Liles, Jr. and Ralph E. DeSimone will be acclaimed by their fellow constructors as the 1964 non-member and member Moles Award Recipients. This is the 24th pair of distinguished heavy-construction men to receive this coveted award.

At just about the time of The Moles' annual Award Dinner, at the end of next January, one of the world's most spectacular crossings will be on the brink of completion: the \$140-million Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.

And the non-member recipient of the 1964 Award will be the man who, from its very inception to its completion, has been most responsible for the success of this job — Sherwood Edmond Liles, Jr.

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RALPH E. DeSIMONE

A rather quiet man, and one of the most beloved of all The Moles, will be saluted with affection as well as honor when Ralph E. DeSimone accepts the Member Award for 1964.

Born in Sorrento, Italy, Ralph came to the U.S.A. at age three, grew up in Hoboken, then tackled New York City and carved out a long and distinguished career in heavy construction.

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Sherwood E. Liles, Jr.

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"Sam" Liles, a resident of Virginia Beach, Va., has been president of Tidewater Construction Corporation (of Norfolk) since 1958, and he is chairman of the management committee representing the contractors responsible for the great crossing job. Such well-Moled firms as Raymond International, Merritt-Chapman & Scott, and Peter Kiewit Sons' Co., in joint venture with Tidewater, have accounted for all of this project except the superstructures of the two high-level bridges.

The Chesapeake Bay crossing has been described in Fortune magazine and The Reader's Digest as one of the five modern wonders of the world.

A comparatively young man as Moles Awardees go, Sam Liles was born in McColl, South Carolina in October, 1906. He graduated from Clemson College in his native state in 1927 — while still short of 21 years of age — with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering.

Following military service in World War II, which was extensive as well as distinguished, Sam has devoted his entire career to heavy construction. He has been with Tidewater since it was founded in 1932 (excepting the 43 war-service months) and has had a hand in an impressive array of major marine, industrial, and bridge and tunnel accomplishments throughout the South Atlantic area.

He volunteered for service with the U.S. Army shortly after Pearl Harbor and was continuously in the Southwest Pacific area, engaged in engineering activities and support in connection with the campaigns of the Sixth Army through the Philippines and into Japan. He was promoted to colonel while en route to the Lingayen Gulf invasion, and just

before retiring was notified that he'd been recommended for general officer rank. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Presidential Commendation ribbon and seven Battle Stars.

After his return from service he became executive vice president of Tidewater, and was elected president in May of 1958.

The waters and winds, the tides and tricks, and even the floor of Chesapeake Bay and its various reaches can hold very few secrets, any more, from Sam and his company. They have been involved in two other bridge-tunnel crossings in the same area: Portsmouth-to-Norfolk (in joint venture with Merritt-Chapman & Scott) and Hampton Roads to Norfolk.

One of the most unusual pieces of construction under Sam Liles' direction was the repair of the Cooper River Bridge at Charleston, South Carolina. The bridge had been extensively damaged by a ship. By the use of a bailey bridge, a type of bridge which had been used by the military to replace bombed-out bridges during World War II, traffic was restored in eighteen days. This is one of the few occasions where a bailey bridge has been used for civilian purposes in peace time.

The Liles organization currently is constructing, for the U.S. Navy at Charleston, Drydock No. 5 to be used in connection with the Polaris-submarine program.

The 1964 non-member Awardee is a member of Hampton Roads Post, Military Engineers, and the American Society of Military Engineers, and a member of the board of trustees of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges. He is active in many civic affairs in the Norfolk area. His wife is the former Mabel T. Davis. They have two sons.

Ralph E. DeSimone

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Upon graduation from New York University's School of Applied Science in 1914 with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering, Ralph went to work with New York City's Board of Water Supply. His first assignment was on the pipeline project under the Narrows of New York Harbor, bringing Catskill Mountain water to Staten Island from Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

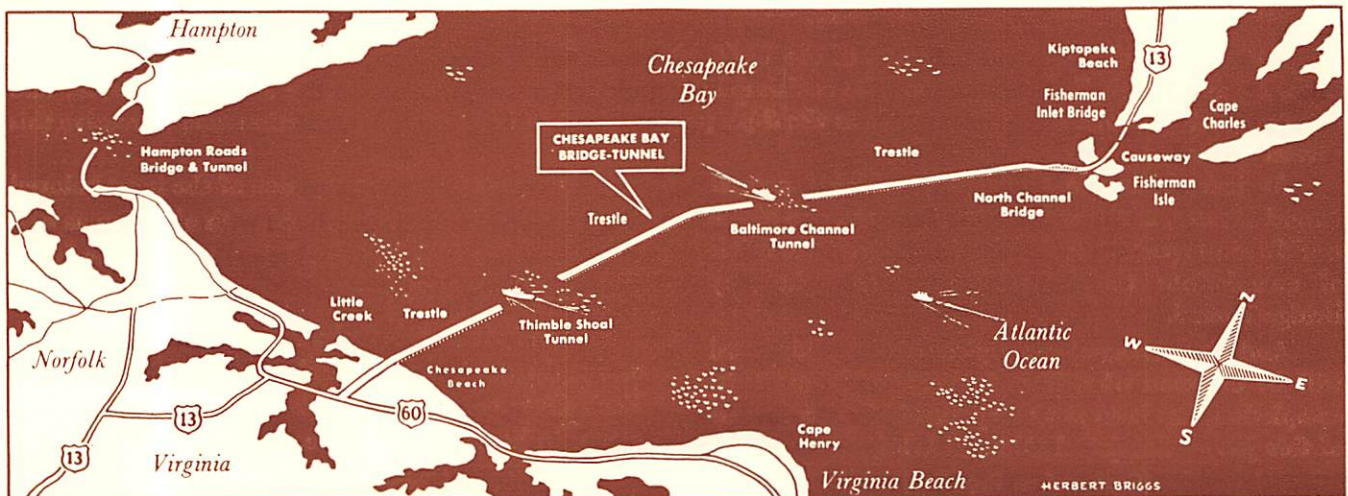
In 1916 he joined Merritt-Chapman Derrick & Wrecking Company, which was the contractor on the pipeline job. And he stayed with that outfit for 37 years, through its name change (to Merritt-Chapman & Scott, in 1922), and through an impressive and steady march of progress for him personally: He moved from engineer to superintendent, to district manager, to vice president, executive vice president and general manager, then director, then — in 1951 — to the presidency.

In 1953 Ralph DeSimone retired from M-C & S, where he had also been president and board chairman of M-C & S Overseas, a subsidiary. In the ensuing decade he has been in private practice as construction consultant on marine and heavy construction.

The projects to Ralph DeSimone's credit over his long career are too numerous to list in detail. They include bridges and bridge substructures, piers, bulkheads, marine terminals, subaqueous vehicular tunnels, jetties, breakwaters, lighthouse depots, outfall sewers and water intakes, water crossings and others.

During World War II he served on the operating committee for the construction of the Naval Air Station at Quonset Point, R.I., and the Advance Base Depot at Davisville, R. I. for the U.S. Navy.

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CAMERA'S CATCHES AT THE CLAMBAKE



UNDISMAYED by showers are: Jack Burke of Eastern Air Rentals, Joe McAlinden of Morrison-Knudsen, Hopewell, N. J., and Bill Abrahamson of the company of the same name.



MOLES PREXY Howard Dixon (right), of Johnson, Drake & Piper, confers with a predecessor president, Harry Immerman (center), and Bob Dunlap, both of Spencer, White & Prentiss.



Bill Wescott and Fred Wielandt of M. F. Hickey, Inc.; Bob Dodds of Gibbs & Hill; Al Hedefine of Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas, and Ted Moore, also of G & H.



Vincent Turecamo of Turecamo Contracting; Don Brock of Johnson, Drake & Piper; Ernie Stickles of Whitehall Cement Company, and George Tilton of Turecamo Towing.

Richard M. Nixon is Awards Speaker

Richard M. Nixon, former Vice President of the United States, has accepted The Moles' invitation to be the principal speaker at the Award Dinner next January 29 at the Waldorf-Astoria. Needless to say, when this announcement was made to the Award Committee's meeting on September 10 by Chairman Eugene McGovern, it was greeted with great enthusiasm, and the chairman was warmly congratulated on his having obtained such an eminent speaker.

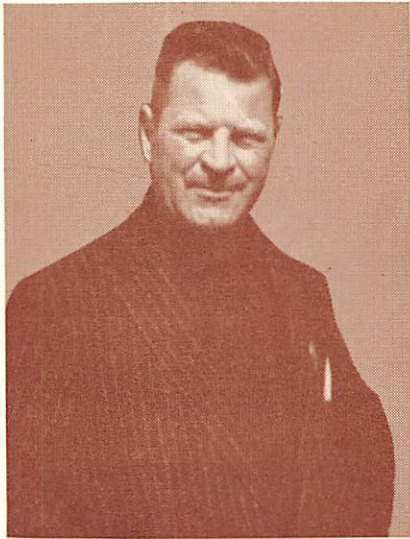
Education Committee Progresses

The Education Committee has taken note of the seven-year period during which The Moles have been carrying on their educational program, and reports, following a mid-September meeting, that the program now seems to have become established on a satisfactory plane of constructive aid to educational institutions and to the heavy construction industry. This committee approved in toto the re-draft of its Code of Procedure and voted to send it along to the Executive Committee for its approval. The customary meeting with faculty members from participating colleges is being held again on the afternoon of November 6, preceding the dinner meeting.

Election Time Change

The Executive Committee has approved a change in the timing of the annual election of officers, moving the election date ahead one month, to April 1, to enable the incoming officers to organize their committees so that the whole "administration" can be announced at the May dinner meeting.

The Award Working Committee for the 1964 Moles Awards selection and dinner is headed by Eugene McGovern as chairman, with Henry C. Boschen as vice chairman. The other members are: Robert Crimmins, Howard G. Dixon, William J. Green, Richard E. Mynatt, Charles Stillman, John J. Walsh, David A. Werblin and ex-officio, Ralph W. Atwater.



EUGENE J. NELLEY, 47, of Forest Hills, N. Y., who had his own civil engineering business in Baltimore, Md., died on July 4, 1963 in Baltimore after a heart attack. In the early 1930's Gene Nolley was a star cross-country runner at Passaic (N.J.) High school, which had nationally famous teams in those days, and in 1934 he was an All-American freshman cross-country runner at Manhattan College. In World War II he was a captain in the Army Engineer Corps, and later was with Vanguard Construction Corporation in New York, before opening his own office in Baltimore. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Lucille Nadler Nolley; a son, Eugene Nolley 3rd of Forest Hills, and a brother, Thomas J. Nolley, of Kentucky.

MEMBERSHIP MODERNIZED

During the past two years The Moles' procedure for nominating and electing new men to membership has undergone considerable "streamlining and modernizing," reports Ralph Atwater, and "it appears now that we have arrived at an excellent procedure that eliminates the confusion of having 'closed' and 'open' seasons for recommending candidates for membership."

This procedure is clearly set forth under Article II in the new general revision of the By-Laws. The manual embracing these revisions is being reprinted now and will be available for distribution right after the first of the year.

MOLES 'TWO UP' ON DPW'S NINE

The softball stalwarts of The Moles brought some sunshine into the somewhat rain-spattered scene of the 1963 Clambake as between raindrops they scored a 6-0 win over the Department of Public Works team. This gives The Moles a 2-to-0 lead in the third Cup competition of this 22-year rivalry. The current trophy is known as The President's Cup.

The noble Italian game of bocci was an innovation of this year's fun-in-the-afternoon program, and made a big hit. The four prize winners were M. Derelanko and J. Kerr, members, and William Pastore and E. DeFillipo, guests.

Member winner at golf pitching was S. Zara; the guest winner was John Joyce; member winner at horseshoes was J. Breen; guest winner, M. Sibilina; member winner at spike driving was J. Kerr (a double for him!); guest winner, Bill Morrison; member winner at basket-tossing, another new event this year, was S. Zara (another double-winning athlete!); guest winner was J. Gibbons.

The door prizes, six of them, all were won by guests. They were: Lou Joyal, Hal Rein, Spencer Flournoy, Bill Bassett, Herman Racer, and A. R. Haas.

EDUCATION GOING ON!

The Education program of The Moles is catching on. Recently two requests have come in to the office for speakers to address college engineer groups. Bob Armstrong of Eastern Foundation Company, Inc. already has been assigned to handle one of these, at State University, Farmingdale; the other request came from Connecticut State University at Storrs, Conn., and it is planned to send an engineer of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel job to fulfill that one, with a motion picture film of that undertaking.

Frank F. Duffy, of the Duffy Construction Company, Cleveland, Ohio, applied for Member Emeritus status and his application was voted upon favorably at the September 10 Executive Committee meeting. He has retired from business, and is living in Light-house Point, Florida.

700 Mole Years (or 28 times 25)

This year of 1963 is to a large extent a real Silver Anniversary year for The Moles! No fewer than 28 of our members will round out a full quarter-century of membership this year, and their Twenty-Five Year Certificates will be presented to them at the November 6 meeting.

Here, in alphabetical order, are the names of these authentic, certified Old Timers:

Barnes, Frank W.	Lenahan, Dan. W.
Bohanan, George F.	Mahoney, Edw. J.
Burros, Aaron	Martin, James B.
Buseell, Ralph R.	Maxwell, John C.
Cudworth, Frank E.	Mayo, Robert S.
de Sisti, Bruno P.	Morris, Michael J.
Ellis, Benjamin H.	Murphy, Porter C.
Garney, Harry	Ryan, Edward J.
Hanly, Wm. W., Jr.	Sackett, Arthur J.
Hunt, Hal W.	Savage, R. E.
Johnsen, Richard M.	Stokes, Richard P.
Krueger, Arthur E.	Van Name, H. A.
Lambert, John A.	Warwick, A. N.
Lee, James A.	Zimmator, F. G.

Ralph E. DeSimone

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One particular project of Ralph DeSimone's does deserve special mention: his feat in not only conceiving, but managing and carrying to a successful conclusion "the world's largest underwater concrete pour." This was for the foundations of the Delaware Memorial Bridge at Wilmington, Del., and involved a solid seven days of continuous, uninterrupted pouring, consuming 100 carloads of cement in the process!

Another of his favorite jobs was the foundations for the Mississippi River bridge at Memphis, Tenn.

An outstanding characteristic of Ralph DeSimone is his deep concern for the well-being of those who work for and with him, and for their families. One longtime associate says, "Ralph's more like a father than a boss." And he's always been a willing worker, often putting in 12 to 15 hours a day on the job.

The new Member Award winner is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and of Pi Tau Sigma and Tau Beta Pi, honorary engineering fraternities, and in 1955 was awarded the Certificate of Distinction by his alma mater, New York University.

His home is in Great Neck, L. I. and he has two sons.