

NEWS BULLETIN

AN ASSOCIATION OF MEN



OF THE MOLES

ENGAGED IN HEAVY CONSTRUCTION

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JULY, 1964



ALREADY ARMED with his gavel, new Moles President John J. Walsh holds a preliminary strategy session with fellow officers installed at the May dinner meeting. Second from right is Henry C. Boschen, new second vice president, while at left is Francis G.

Carey, sergeant-at-arms. Next to Jack is Robert Crimmins, and at far right is Edward G. Armitage, who were re-elected secretary and treasurer, respectively. The new first vice president, Richard E. Mynatt, was unable to attend.

Bocci and Ball, Fellas 'n' Food

Bocci and two kinds of ball (soft and basket), and all kinds of fun and fellowship are on the program for the annual Moles' Clambake, to be held at the traditional diggin's, the New York A.C. grounds at Travers Island, Tuesday, August 11.

Two new events instituted last year by Program Committee Chairman D. G. LeTourneau — the ancient Italian game of bocci and the modern American backyard pastime of basket-shooting — are again on the fun-and-games schedule, along with the traditional matinee masterpiece, the softball battle with the team representing the Department of Public Works.

The schedule goes like this: Luncheon from 12:30 to 2; various individual and "pairs" field competitions running from 1:30 to 4:30; the softball contest starting at 2; the Clambake shore dinner,

starting at 6, to be followed, at 8 o'clock, by the awarding of prizes — both of the door and outdoor-sports type — in the Big Tent and then, at 8:30, the Big Show, also in the tent.

In the softball game The Moles' team will be trying to open up a three-game lead on the DPW in the competition for The President's Cup. The guest team will have considerably more incentive,

however, for it has yet to score its first run in the series, having lost by 1-0 and 6-0, respectively, the last two years. The current best-of-nine-games series is the third. Each side has won one of the series trophies.

The old standby field sports of golf pitching, horseshoes and spike driving will go on in the traditional ways. No egg-tossing this year, though.



PONDERING their responsibilities for the coming three years are these four new "trusty trustees": Roger H. Corbetta, Justin E. Hyland, Alfred H. Korsen and D. G. LeTourneau.



STUDENTS HAVE 'FIELD' DAY — The hard-hatted young men shown here are part of a visitation of nearly 300, from 20 engineering colleges in the New York and New England area, who participated in the annual "Students' Day" field trip put on by The Moles on April 17 this year. The collegians are getting a first-hand look

at the Yards Creek Pumped Storage facility, near Blairstown, N. J. Students' Day is an activity of the Education Committee of The Moles, as part of the association's continuing program of being of maximum service to those who may find richly rewarding careers in the construction industry.

Two Moles, Ole Singstad and Tom Walsh Jr., were honored along with H. M. Horner, chairman of the board of United Aircraft Corp., at the second annual Achievement Awards dinner, in June, benefiting the Harry R. Sheppard Research Fellowship Fund for the Children's Asthma Research Institute and Hospital at Denver.

Tom Walsh is board chairman and president of Walsh Construction Company, and Ole Singstad is a noted consulting engineer with Singstad & Kehart, New York. The dinner was at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel.



EARLY NOTICE: *Holing Through* has a tip that the November Members' Dinner this year will be held at the Roosevelt Hotel instead of The Biltmore. Paste it in your hat — or anyway in your memory.

Four Moles have moved into the Member Emeritus status as a result of favorable action by the Executive Committee at its June 9 meeting. The new "M.E.'s" are Guy J. Coffey, Herbert M. Crowley, William S. Downing and Howard B. Gates.



One of our members, Eugene F. Gibbons, Nassau County Commissioner of Public Works, was chosen as "Engineer of the Year" by the Nassau chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers. The citation paid tribute to Gene's "demonstrated efforts toward the furtherance of excellence and professionalism in engineering" in the country, and said he "epitomizes the practice of professional engineering both in his official capacity and in civic affairs."

Shortly before going to press *Holing Through* learned of the deaths of two members: Carman W. Garrison, 49, of Maplewood, N. J., who was with Allen N. Spooner & Son, Inc. and a Moles trustee in 1956, and Robert W. Sawyer of Scarsdale, a Member Emeritus who had been with Stock Construction Corp.



Stephen D. Bechtel Jr., son of our 1952 non-member Award recipient and president of the Bechtel Corporation, was honored with the "Distinguished Alumnus" title in May by the Purdue University Schools of Engineering. He is a 1946 graduate of Purdue.



The Office thanks all Moles who sent in their changes of address, etc., and reports the new 1964-65 membership directory will be distributed soon.

Moles Welcome New Members at May Dinner



NINE NEW MEMBERS — new to The Moles, that is — posed for this group shot as new members at the May dinner meeting. Left to right (top row): James W. Jenkins, John J. Decker, Paul G. De Marco, Allen K. Hammond, Charles E. McGraw; (lower row) Charles E. Defendorf, Edmund C. Fitzgerald, Louis L. Capone, Robert J. Koch.



EIGHT MORE new members, also captured by the camera at the May meeting. Left to right (top row): Clarence B. Sharp, Ralph W. Olmstead, Ralph C. Moffitt, Carl L. Swenson Jr.; (lower row) Adrian F. Ross, Norman A. Nadel, Edmund D. Phinney, Frank M. Raffo.



RAYMOND J. VAN WAGNER, 78, of New Rochelle, since 1960 a Member Emeritus of The Moles, died in early February at a nursing home following a long illness. He was a professional engineer and had lived in New Rochelle for more than 35 years. Born in New York City, he had his first employment at age 17 doing street surveying in the city, and soon became a junior engineer on construction of the Hudson & Manhattan tubes under the Hudson. By 1918 he was vice president and chief engineer of Slattery Engineering and supervised construction of many elements in New York's transportation system. Later, with another firm, he was in charge of the building of a \$3.3-million section of the Fort Washington subway. During World War II he was in charge of construction of air fields in the West Indies and South America, including a large field near Havana, Cuba. Surviving are Mrs. Van Wagner, two daughters and a son.



Al Warwick, who has been flying into and out of LaGuardia Airport since it was North Beach Airport, participated in the rededication ceremonies at the 25-year-old field as its new terminal was opened. He represented the Queens Chamber of Commerce on the program along with Robert Moses, Mayor Wagner and other top officials. He made quite a speech, speaking for many old-time greats of aviation with whom he associated — Berndt Balchen, Clarence Chamberlin and others who used the field way back when.

Committees Named For Current Year

Committee chairmen and members for 1964, as announced by the new president, John J. Walsh:

AWARD — Henry Boschen is chairman, with Howard Gould as v-c, and Eugene McGovern and Charles Stillman as members-at-large.

MEMBERSHIP — Alfred Korsen is chairman, with John J. Murphy as v-c; 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.

PROGRAM — D. G. LeTourneau is chairman, with William J. McPhillips as v-c; other members are William A. Abrahamson, Alonzo K. Burnham Jr., Howard R. Burroughs, Joseph A. Dooley, George A. Fox, William Durkin Jr. and Philip A. Rechel.

FINANCE — Arnold Thurber, chairman; William H. Bruce Jr., William J. Keahon, Warren N. Riker and Mandrup Skeie.

PUBLICITY — Dave Werblin is chairman, with Henry Perez as v-c; other members are William J. Green, Frank H. Peavey, George Reider and Thomas R. Trent.

EDUCATION — Henry Wasung is chairman, with Stanley M. Dore as v-c; other members are Anthony R. Bastone, Gardner M. Bishop, Howard G. Dixon, Daniel M. Lazar and Reuben Samuels.

A photo in this issue shows the four trustees just elected to three-year terms as of May, 1964. Other trustees on the current board are: Louis F. Booth, Howard Dixon, Fred L. Doolittle, Alfred Hedefine, Harry Immerman, Ralph L. Johnson, Eugene Rau, George W. Rogers, Arnold Thurber, Henry Wasung and David Werblin.



Among the various and cheerfully concise reports of Committee Chairmen at the May dinner meeting was one from Dave Werblin, chairman of the Publicity Committee, in which he made an earnest plea to members to volunteer news items about their activities — or about anything newsworthy they hear about — to The Moles office, for inclusion in *Holing Through*. The editor of *Holing Through* hereby renews that invitation, most cordially.



J. RICH STEERS Sr., 66, president of the contracting firm bearing his name and long one of the outstanding Moles, died of a heart attack May 7 at Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn. His home was in Brookville, L. I. Rich Steers was The Moles' president in 1948, having been vice president the two preceding years, and was a trustee for two three-year terms — and he was the Member Award recipient in 1954. A graduate of Princeton University, he was chairman of the Advisory Council of the university's Department of Civil Engineering and a past president of the Princeton Engineering Association. In World War I he spent two years overseas, first with the American Field Service in France, then with the Red Cross Ambulance Corps in Italy, and finally with the U.S. Army Artillery in France. He went to work in 1924 for Henry Steers, Inc. and upon his father's death in 1936 became president of J. Rich Steers, Inc. He was president of the General Contractors Association, New York, 1945-1950. Surviving are his wife, Gwendoline, a daughter, Mrs. H. Blake-mey Henry of Glen Head, L. I., and his son, J. Rich Steers Jr., a Mole.



A pleasant young man from Pleasantville, N. Y., who probably is the first third-generation Mole in the association's history, was formally welcomed into the fellowship at the May dinner meeting. He is Carl L. Swenson Jr., assistant vice present of Foley Brothers, Inc. His grandfather was Oscar W. Swenson, non-member Award winner in 1946 and an Honorary member from then until his death in 1948.