

NEWS BULLETIN

AN ASSOCIATION OF INDIVIDUALS

HOLING



OF THE MOLES

ENGAGED IN HEAVY CONSTRUCTION

THROUGH

JULY, 2006

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING



Annual Business Meeting commences at New York Hilton Hotel after lecture, cocktail hour and dinner. See more on page 8.



Outgoing President, Thomas J. O'Neill (left), receives President's certificate from incoming President, Richard S. Weeks

**CLAMBAKE
TUESDAY
August 1, 2006**

***GOLF AT LEEWOOD GOLF
CLUB and PELHAM
COUNTRY CLUB IN A.M.***

TRAVERS ISLAND

**REGISTRATION
11:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

**LUNCH
11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.**

**OUTDOOR GAMES
2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

TENNIS TOURNAMENT

SOFTBALL GAME

**TUG BOAT RIDES
Noon to 4:00 P.M.**

**SURF & TURF DINNER
SERVED AT 5:30 P.M.**

**COME OUT AND HAVE
A GRAND DAY**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2006

The following Committee assignments have been made for the current year.

AWARD COMMITTEE: Robert E. Alger, Chairman; Kirk Samuelson, Vice Chairman; Members at Large: Joseph F. Malandro and Janice L. Tuchman

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Arthur B. Corwin, Chairman; Richard D MacDonald, Vice Chairman; Members: David M. Cacoilo, John E. Eckart, Robert J. Jenny, Anthony J. Mazzo, David M. Oneglia, Kenneth R. Ouelette, Thomas F. Peyton and Stephen G. Price

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: James H. Hughes III, Chairman; John R. Roma, Vice Chairman; Members: Gary Almeraris, Wesley Bermel, John Civetta, Jr., Kurt G. Conti, Margarita D. Gagliardi, Raymond J. McCabe, Paul C. Schmall, Denise Cruz Serpico and Michael T. Traylor

FINANCE COMMITTEE: James E. Kelly, Jr., Chairman; Members: Lawrence H. Lehman, John F. McNamara III, Val S. McWhorter, George P. Neumann and John A. Rupich

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Michael M. McHugh, Chairman; Cesare De Rose, Vice Chairman; Members: Charles Androsiglio, Ali M. Catik, Michael J. Chow, Anthony Del Vescovo, Edward P. Forte, Charles J. Montalbano and Arturo L. Ressi di Cervia

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: Joel Moskowitz, Chairman; Thomas A. Gelormino, Vice Chairman; Members: Gerard P. Brady, Andrew F. Catapano, Cosema E. Crawford, Kirk D. Junco, Richard J. Raczynski and Andrew D. Walker

FLORIDA MEETING DATES

The 2007 Moles Winter Meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 1 to March 4, 2007 at the La Playa Beach Resort, Naples, Florida.

SOME INTERESTING WORDS FROM FORMER PRESIDENT REAGAN

Here's my strategy on the Cold war: We win, they lose.

The most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help.

Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed, there are many rewards. If you disgrace yourself, you can always write a book.

The taxpayer: That's someone who works for the federal government, but doesn't have to take the civil service examination.

Government is like a baby: An alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no responsibility on the other.

If we ever forget we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.

Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

I've laid down the law, though, to everyone from now on about anything that happens; no matter what time it is, wake me, even if I am in the middle of a Cabinet meeting.

THE MOLES

Holing Through is published by The Moles three times a year: April, July and November. The Moles is an organization of people engaged in Heavy Construction. Its purpose is to promote better acquaintance among individuals engaged in heavy construction to the end:

- That past and future friendships and a spirit of fraternization among the members be fostered.
- That meetings and other gatherings be held to exchange construction information and promote good fellowship among the members.
- That advancement of the Construction art be achieved, and outstanding performance be recognized through awards and otherwise.
- That the youth of our country be encouraged to participate in heavy construction by a multi purpose program of education in cooperation with engineering colleges and other associations.
- That, in the public interest, standards of construction shall be raised both as to engineering and business ethics.

The Moles' office is located at 577 Chestnut Ridge Road, Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey 07677. Telephone: 201-930-1923 Fax: 201-930-8501
Website: www.themoles.info; Executive Director and Editor of Holing Through: Gerard J. Carty, P.E.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

ROBERT E. ALGER, President and CEO of the Lane Construction Company, has received the Outstanding Engineering Alumni Award from Penn State's College of Engineering. Bob received his Civil Engineering Degree from Penn State in 1979 and upon graduation joined Lane as a job engineer and progressed through various assignments as project engineer, superintendent, district manager and Vice President before being named CEO in 2001. Only 262 men and women—out of more than 75,000 alumni worldwide—have received the award since it was established in 1966. Bob currently serves as Chairman of the Moles Award Committee.

A. JAMES CLARK, of the Clark Construction Group, is the recipient of the ASCE Opal Award for lifetime achievement in construction. Upon graduation from the University of Maryland with his engineering degree, Jim Clark went to work for the George Hyman Construction Company, a Washington, D.C. street and road contractor. He ultimately became the owner of the company, subsequently changed its name to Clark Construction Group, which was listed 9th on the 2005 ENR list of the top 400 contractors.

ANTHONY G. CRACCHIOLO has retired from The Port Authority of NY & NJ as Director of Priority Capital Programs and has joined STV, Inc., as a Senior Vice President and Director of Design.

The editor failed to take note earlier of the editorial, written by Moles member and Editor Emeritus of Engineering News Record, ARTHUR J. FOX, JR., about the vigilance required by all of us working in the construction and engineering industry to combat corruption. One of the objectives of the Moles is *That, in the public interest, standards of construction shall be raised both as to engineering and as to business ethics.* For a healthy America and a prosperous construction industry, corruption must be rooted out at all levels and Moles members have an obligation and responsibility to take the lead in doing this. Art, thanks for showing us the way.

PETER F. MC KENNA has been appointed Executive Vice President of Skanska USA Civil, Southeast Region. He previously had been President of Underpinning and Foundation Skanska, Inc. In his new position, Peter will assume responsibility for Tidewater-Skanska, Atlantic Skanska and Bayshore Concrete Products. EDWARD P. FORTE has succeeded Peter McKenna as President of Underpinning and Foundation.

THE MOLES WEBSITE
www.themoles.info

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

ROBERT B. GITTINS was 80 years old at the time of his death on September 12, 2005. He graduated with a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Michigan in 1945. His early career was with Raymond International and Merritt-Chapman & Scott. The latter part of his career was with Tecon Corporation, Dallas, Texas, a then prominent heavy construction company owned by Clint Murchison. He served as President of Tecon before his retirement.

WILMOT A. MILBURY died on April 6, 2006 at the age of 94. He was a World War II Marine Corps veteran. He spent his career in the pile driving industry, being employed in executive positions with Western Foundation Company and Franki Foundation Company. Among his notable projects were the foundations for Stuyvesant Town and the Western Electric Building in New York City and the Prudential Tower in Boston.

Thank You for Your Support of the Moles Scholarship Fund

With the 2005 dues notices, Moles members were invited to make a \$100.00 voluntary contribution to the Moles Scholarship Fund. About one half of The Moles active members responded to this appeal, raising over \$25,000.00 for the Scholarship Fund. A similar amount is expected to be raised following the same procedure with the 2006 dues notices.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

THOMAS P. (Tip) O'NEILL, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, was the Principal Speaker at the Award Dinner. J. DONOVAN JACOBS and MILTON HENDRICKSON were the recipients of the Moles Awards.

DAVID B. PERINI (Perini Corporation) completed his term as President of the Moles and at the May Business meeting he turned the gavel over to SALVATORE V. De-SIMONE (Mueser Rutledge). CHARLES E. MERGENTIME completed his three year term as Secretary of The Moles. IRVING R. HUIE served as Chairman of the Membership Committee.

New members of The Moles included Louis Berger, Rocky Burns, Karl Fritsch, Bernie Grand, Pat Kelleher, Martin Kelley, Dan Redmond and Lyle Smith.

Plans were being finalized for the Annual Clambake at Colonie Hill, Hauppauge, Long Island, one of the few years the Clambake was not held at Travers Island.

NEW MEMBERS



**Left to Right: Front Row - Jay I. Dier, Robert Koch, Domenic D'Argenzio and Peter Kutil
Back Row - Vincent D. Krause, James L. Kaufman, Anthony C. Barila, Clyde L. Joseph and Jeffrey P. Petersen**

PETER J. ARBORIO is Vice President of Arborio Corporation, Cromwell, Connecticut, a heavy, highway and underground construction company. He is a Civil Engineering graduate of the University of Hartford.

ANTHONY C. BARILA earned his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Manhattan College and an MSCE from Rutgers University. He is President and Co-Owner of Terra Drilling Company, Hudson, Massachusetts, a specialty geotechnical construction company.

DAVID F. BENTON is Vice President and Chief Engineer of The Lane Construction Corporation, Meriden, Connecticut, where his father was employed for 47 years. He attended Rochester Institute of Technology.

ANDREW J. CIANCIA is Principal and Executive Vice President of Langan Environmental Services, P.C., New York City. He holds Bachelor and Masters Degrees in Civil Engineering from Rutgers University.

DOMENIC D'ARGENZIO is Senior Associate of Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers, New York City. He earned both Bachelor and Masters Degrees in Civil Engineering from McGill University.

JOHN P. DURGIN is Project Executive/Senior Estimator, Barletta Heavy Division, Canon, Massachusetts. He earned an Associates Degree in Civil Engineering from Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology.

JAY I. DIER earned a Degree in Engineering from the University of Washington and a Masters degree in construction management from Polytechnic University. He is President of Judlau Contracting, Inc., New York City.

MICHAEL J. GOLDSTEIN is Vice President of Operations for Schiavone Construction Company, Secaucus, New Jersey. He is a Civil Engineering graduate of Manhattan College.

JACK HARNEY is a Civil Engineering graduate of the University of Massachusetts and is Vice President and Area Manager of J.F. White Contracting Company, Framingham, Massachusetts.

F. KEITH JABOBSON is Vice President of Operations for Massman Construction Company, Kansas City, Missouri. He is a Civil Engineering graduate of the University of California, Berkley.

CLYDE L. JOSEPH is a Civil Engineering graduate of the University of Washington and is Vice President and Chief Engineer of MERCO, Inc., Lebanon, New Jersey.

JAMES L. KAUFMAN is a Partner of Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers, New York City and is a Civil Engineering graduate of Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.

CHRISTINE KEVILLE is President and CEO of Keville Enterprises, Inc., Marshfield, Massachusetts. She has a Masters Degree in Construction Management from Northeastern University. Her father, Francis Keville, was a member of The Moles.

ROBERT KOCH is President and CEO of Koch Skanska, Inc., Carteret, New Jersey. He is a Civil Engineering graduate of the University of Notre Dame.

VINCENT D. KRAUSE is a Civil Engineering graduate of Newark College of Engineering and is Senior Estimator of Slattery Skanska, Whitestone, New York.

PETER M. KUTIL is a Partner in King & King, a construction contract law firm in New York City. He holds Bachelor of Arts and Engineering Degrees from Columbia University as well as a law degree from the same institution.

BERND N. LAUDORN is Vice President of High Steel Structures, Inc., a structural steel fabricator and erector located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Delaware.

DAVID A. NOELKEN is Manager, Eastern and Canadian Regions, Caterpillar, Inc., Peoria, Illinois. He has a Bachelors degree in mechanical Engineering from the University of Missouri, Rolla.

JEFFREY P. PETERSEN is a Construction Management graduate of Oregon State University and Vice President and Underground District Manager for Kiewit Construction Company, Omaha, Nebraska.



**Left to Right: Front Row - Bernd N. Laudorn, Andrew J. Ciancia, John P. Dargin, Christine Keville and Peter J. Arborio
Back Row - David F. Benton, F. Keith Jacobson, Jack Harney and Michael J. Goldstein**

THE MOLES MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

At its April 4th meeting, the Executive Committee of The Moles formed an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Moles membership process. The charge of the committee was to determine whether new members being admitted to The Moles had the proper qualifications and experience and brought a balanced geographical representation to the organization.

The committee met on May 3rd and as a result of considerable research on the part of The Moles staff prior to the meeting, the committee was able to complete its work at that time. The findings were as follows:

The average age of new Moles members has remained the same over the past twenty years: 48 to 52 years of age.

Representation, by geographical area, has remained consistent with the following distribution of new members:

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Metropolitan New York Area | 50 % |
| New England Area | 10 % |
| Mid Atlantic States | 10 % |
| Far West | 8 % |
| Mid & Central West | 6 % |
| Remainder of Country | 16 % |

A privilege of membership in The Moles is the right to nominate candidates for membership. The Ad Hoc Committee formulated several recommendations in this respect:

Those members nominating candidates for membership should use the form provided by The Moles office. Often, members develop their own form on their computers, which is not consistent with the standard form. It is planned that the form will be available on The Moles website.

For each candidate nominated for membership, a total of five (one page) letters supporting the candidacy are required. When writing such letters, members should be very specific and clear as to their knowledge of the qualifications of the candidate.

A resume of the candidate is encouraged to be submitted by the sponsor, but it must be limited to one page.

The membership's cooperation in adhering to these recommendations will be greatly appreciated by the Membership Committee.

THE CONCLUSION OF JAMES E. GIBBONS' 1936 TRIP TO THE ORIENT

In the April 2004 issue of *Holing Through*, we commenced the travel log (in a series of letters written to his father) of a three month trip to the Far East, made in 1936, by Moles member James E. Gibbons. The narrative continued in subsequent issues of *Holing Through*. We ended the last account with his stay in Japan from September 24, 1936 to October 13, 1936.

On October 16, 1936, he wrote his final letter to his father.

While en route to Los Angeles via the four day motor bus trip, I will try and jot down my impressions of Japan. I have waited until now to do it, rather than to have done so while either in Japan or on a Japanese ship, because I wanted to see just what things impressed me enough to recall them when I am entirely removed from any Japanese suggestions or influences.

Before arriving I was quite surprised to find that Japan, instead of being a small island, as I had thoughtlessly supposed, was a far flung empire of islands extending 2600 miles from tip to tip. Almost as far as from New York to San Francisco. That Tokyo had a population second only to New York in size was another thing I should have known but didn't.

The reading of Upton Close's book on Japan proved very informative. Later I thought it was unfortunate to have read it because I found it was prejudicing me against Japan and particularly against the Japanese before seeing for myself. Other reading later helped to soften the prejudices somewhat, but I must say that my experiences with the Japanese have strongly tended to confirm most of Close's accusations.

I thought the bad feeling towards Japan, expressed by most of the passengers on the *Empress of Canada*, was nothing more or less than a reflex of some sort of British animosity. However, when I saw the Harbor Police, in action, upon our arrival I could understand their feelings. My first impression was that you certainly are not welcome in Japan.

The contempt and disdain with which the Japanese hold Americans and Europeans, whom they class as Westerners, is plainly evident at every contact you make. This disdain and contempt is seen and felt on all sides, even when they are bowing and scraping while taking your money from you. I don't mean just the contacts with merchants. A tourist is always soft game for them in any country. They spot the tourist readily. It must be that they smell the salt water on them.

I was forcibly struck with the regimentation of everything and everyone and with the singleness and unity of national purpose of every man, woman and child. The German influence is seen in everything and they are obsessed with

the same materialism and imperialism that Germany possessed before 1914. I am convinced that Japan's dream of world conquest will fail to materialize, in the same way that Germany's did, and that several of the big nations will have to combine and squelch her before many generations pass. Before that takes place however she will be in control of Pacific Asia, including the Philippines. I believe that will be a good thing for China because I am convinced that China needs a boss to prod her and Japan is the logical nation for the job. Well, that will be enough prophecy for the present.

I was disappointed in not finding the country anything like as colorful as it is always pictured. Of course, I was too late for blossoms and too early for fall foliage. When you take these away, you have taken away practically all of the color in Japan's landscapes. After awhile you learn to appreciate the beauty as well as the utilitarian value of their ideal subduing artificial and developing natural colorings. For example, their use of wood, in natural color, and soft gray roof tiles in their palaces and homes. Their dependence upon the line, from and massing of evergreen groupings etc., instead of colored flowers, in their gardens. The great amount of black lacquer exteriors in their shrines and temples, and the prevalence of dark and subdued colors in the street clothing of all but their young folks. Even their beloved sacred Mt. Fuji is dark color except for its white cap. White is their color of purity and purity with them is beauty transcendent.

The universality of industriousness and personal cleanliness is as striking as the meagerness of their physical needs. Most of the things we have come to look upon necessities are unknown luxuries to them. They have practically no need for furniture. Personal adornment and fine raiment is only for the small group comprising the upper castes. They are extremely frugal. Their principal foods are rice and fish, both of which are plentiful. The presence of rice fields everywhere makes it kin to a greater degree than cotton is in Dixie.

The absence of factories, in all but the big centers, and the substitution of small workshops in the homes instead, together with the trifling amount of money necessary to provide the needs of their low standard of living, is the real explanation of their ability to produce articles for world trade at a fraction of the cost of producing the same article in any country having a high standard of living. But I suppose I ought to write about the sights of the country instead of its economics.

Well, the country side is lovely to look at everywhere you go. It is almost wholly a monotone of deep green with the rice fields predominating in the lowlands and tea fields on the hillsides, both of which make very pretty, quiet pictures. Every square foot of land outside the woodland areas is under cultivation of some sort. While men, women and children are seen working the fields, it is very evident that they individually work an area larger than a whole Chinese family works, and what's more it is worked and developed to a much

(Continued on following page)

THE CONCLUSION OF JAMES E. GIBBONS' 1936 TRIP TO THE ORIENT (Continued)

greater degree. The buildings, with their subdued color schemes, blend into and enhance the general landscape scenes.

Everybody is busy at something or other all the time, but there does not seem to be any suggestion of drudgery about even the plainly grueling and arduous tasks of both men and women. The streets of the large cities are veritable bee hives, but that does not prevent the excessive amount of low bowing with which they greet one another. Merchants and their entire families will wait upon you with all the attention possible, including the furnishing of tea and rice cakes etc, regardless of how trifling your purchase may be. There is a very marked orderliness about the streets, even in the busiest sections. Traffic lights, regulations etc. are rigidly obeyed. Restraint and inward calm is as plain on every face as its nose and you can sense in every contact you make, the feeling that they are children of the destiny of Japan. There I go talking about the people again instead of the sights of the country. I just can't help it.

There is a sameness about the countryside wherever you go which undoubtedly accounts for the reverence paid to Mt. Fuji. It is so different in character from all the rest of Japan. Its high visibility in all directions, for a considerable distance gives it a pre-eminence and an austerity which, coupled with its volcanic nature, was bound to develop an idea of sacredness in the minds of the ancient worshipping Nipponese.

The famous Inland Sea is as beautiful as its description and there are many places like the beautiful scenes from "Madame Butterfly". The rocky islands of the Southern end of Japanese Archipelago jutting sheer out of the water in rugged grandeur are fascinating, when viewed from a distance, because their outlines silhouetted against the sky, present a constantly changing picture as your ship sails by.

The hotels are very modern, clean and comfortable and I found the food very satisfactory. The service is prompt, efficient and extremely polite, as long as you follow the usual routine and procedure. If you try to depart from it you will find it is very awkward, aggravating and never complete. I must say that every possible effort to take full care of your needs is made by the management of every establishment you use. They must need the foreign money very badly.

Well, in conclusion, let me say that I do not recall any single outstanding place or thing except Mt. Fuji. Japan as I saw it might be described as an endless number of pretty islands completely covered with green and indented with one lovely bay after another. Mt. Fuji was the only spot rising above the timber line, therefore, no rugged Archipelago. Many lovely, quaint little villages, situated in ideal settings, usually with mountainous back grounds. Large cities with every modern facility but still an air of

ancient Japan. Particularly Kyoto. Beautiful shrines and temples everywhere, the most notable being at Nikko and at Nara. Wonderful avenues of 300 year old giant cryptomeria trees at Nikko and those grotesque looking gnarled and twisted pine trees everywhere. Religious pilgrims of various types, on foot, are seen everywhere on the road both singly and in groups. There seems to be very colorful religious festivals going on all the time at one place or another. The sun comes up like thunder (apologies to Mr. Kipling) and those blood red sunsets over the Inland Sea I will never forget. Mt. Fuji, of course, is the symbol of Japan and a beautiful one indeed. Their rice fields are beautiful symphonies in green. The small villages are lovely ensembles even tho there was nothing in particular in them that was beautiful. I let my imagination loose and pictured what the landscape and innumerable flowers must look like when the spring blossoms or the fall reds are at their height. However I saw no spot that had the grand setting of those cherry trees around the tidal basin at Washington.

The beehive activity of the larger cities is as great, but is less obtrusive and noisy and is better regulated than in the big cities of both the U.S. and Europe. The fine classical style public buildings in Tokyo are the equal of the best buildings anywhere, but somehow or other look very much out of place. The great number and variety of hand drawn vehicles and bicycles with trailers of all sorts are as amazing and astounding as they are amusing. Motor cycles built into small trucks are in great use and provide cheap trucking. The skill and agility of men, women and children in walking, skipping and running with those wooden sandals for foot gear was very striking. Private autos with chauffeur at 90 cents an hour was another thing. Very nice for the visitor but just try and figure how much the chauffeur gets. I did not get a chance to go on a night cormorant fishing party, but understand it is quite a spectacle. This gives me an excuse for revisiting Japan if I can ever make it. That luxurious tea house just outside Tokyo was an example of interior decorating the equal of which, for perfect exquisiteness, I doubt exists anywhere. I think the hurdy gurdiness of the theatre streets of the larger cities far exceeds any and all other places of similar character.

The all day trip I made from Kyoto to Miyanoshta gave me quite a cross section of the principal island of the Japanese Empire, namely Honshu. It was a constant succession of lovely scenes, each entirely different but equally lovely with the other. Also a grand view of Mt. Fuji, across Lake Hakone, and a night at the Flower Castle of the Fujiya Hotel as a climax. I think I prefer this recollection of Japan to all the others so I will leave off here because it puts me in such glowful frame of mind.

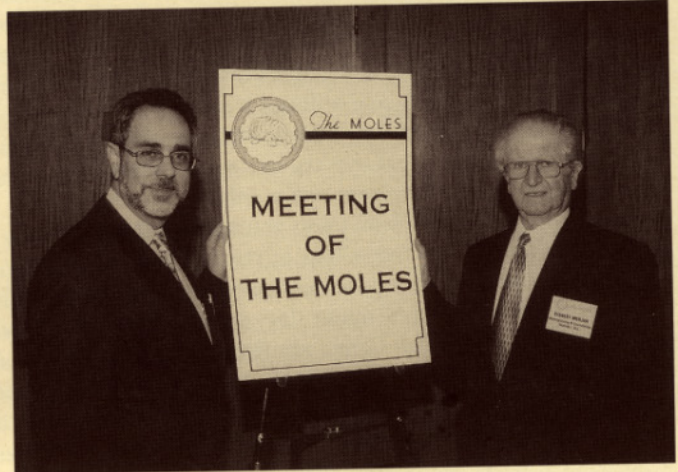
Will soon be home to tell you verbally about the trip across the U.S.A. and anything that I may have omitted in previous letters. Accordingly I will herewith close this letter, my last concerning my trip to the Orient, and will bask for a while in the afterglow of my fondest recollections of Japan.

MAY 3rd BUSINESS MEETING

Thanks, Ed Forte and Stan Merjan, for a Great Lecture on
Current Trends in Deep Foundations



Moles members listening attentively to Lecture



Ed Forte (left) and Stan Merjan (right)

After the serious attention to the Lecture, a spirit of conviviality reigned during the
Cocktail Hour when Moles' photographer Matt Mauro shot photos at random

