

# HOLING THROUGH

NEWS BULLETIN OF **THE MOLES** • 11 W. 42ND STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

An Organization of Tunnel and Heavy Construction Men

APRIL, 1949

## Annual Biz Meeting May 4th

Members Reception and Dinner to Precede  
Election of Officers at Roosevelt

**THE MOLES OWN PARTY**—the annual dinner and business meeting for members only—will be held Wednesday evening, May 4th, in the Grand Ballroom of the Roosevelt Hotel. President Steers requests every member in the New York area to be present for the election of officers, to hear the various committee reports and to discuss some important business matters.

Chairman Frank Loughman has arranged another delightful affair. The customary reception will start at 6 p.m. in the foyer off the ballroom. Dinner is scheduled for 7:30, and the annual meeting will be called to order at 9:00, followed by an entertainment program at 10:00. Nuff sed!

Principal business to come before the meeting will be:

- Reports of retiring officers and committees
- Election and installation of new officers
- Announcement of new committees
- Consideration of the Frolic
- Other business affairs

Remember, this is a Members Only affair—no guests. Tickets are \$4.50. If you haven't made your reservation, call Miss Lizotte at LŌngacre 4-1830 right now. You don't want to miss this fine event.

### The Slate

OFFICIAL NOMINEES for new officers and trustees, to be voted upon at the May 4th dinner meeting are:

*President*—CARLTON S. PROCTOR, Senior Partner, Moran, Proctor, Freeman & Mueser.  
*First Vice-President*—JAMES F. SALMON, New York Representative, The Arundel Corp.

*Second Vice-President*—RICHARD V. HYLAND, Co-Partner, Madigan-Hyland.

*Sergeant-at-Arms*—EDWARD J. MAHONEY, Pres., Mahoney-Clarke, Inc.  
*Secretary*—GEORGE P. WALKER, Sales Engineer, Johns-Manville Corp.

*Treasurer*—RALPH W. ATWATER, General Manager, Shultz Dredging Corp.

### TRUSTEES

A. HOLMES CRIMMINS, Treasurer, Thomas Crimmins Contracting Co.  
RICHARD A. JOHNSON, Vice-President and General Manager, Arthur A. Johnson Corp.

CORNELIUS VERMONT, Asst. to Pres., George H. Flinn Corp.

R. C. WILSON, Pres., Turner Construction Co.

J. RICH STEERS, JR., Pres., J. Rich Steers, Inc. (Ex Officio Member)

The above slate is submitted by the nominating committee: Eugene F. Moran, Jr., chairman; A. K. Burnham, Anthony M. Del Balso, Frank P. DiMenna, Ray N. Spooner, and Leonard Van Houten.

### CLAM BAKE August 17

PRACTICE on those horseshoe ringers, limber up the old ball bat, learn to toss and catch eggs, and develop the old thirst, for the Annual Moles Clam Bake has again been scheduled at New York Athletic Club's Travers Island Club on Wednesday, Aug. 17.

That's a Moles date you simply can't miss. Put it down right now. Guests will be welcome, as usual. Watch for more detailed announcement and reservation blanks.

### Plans for New Secretary

EVER SINCE former secretary Bill Hanly moved to St. Louis, past president Al Warwick has been devoting lots of his time as Acting Secretary.

Another hustling youngster, with the same dynamic qualities as Bill, has popped up in our membership, and the trustees and nominating committee have hailed him as a logical candidate for Moles Secretary. He is George P. Walker, sales engineer for Johns-Manville Corp. He already has been under fire as manager of the Women's Dinner at Brussels Restaurant the night of the Award Dinner. Nary a complaint came from the ladies—he's a natural for such jobs.

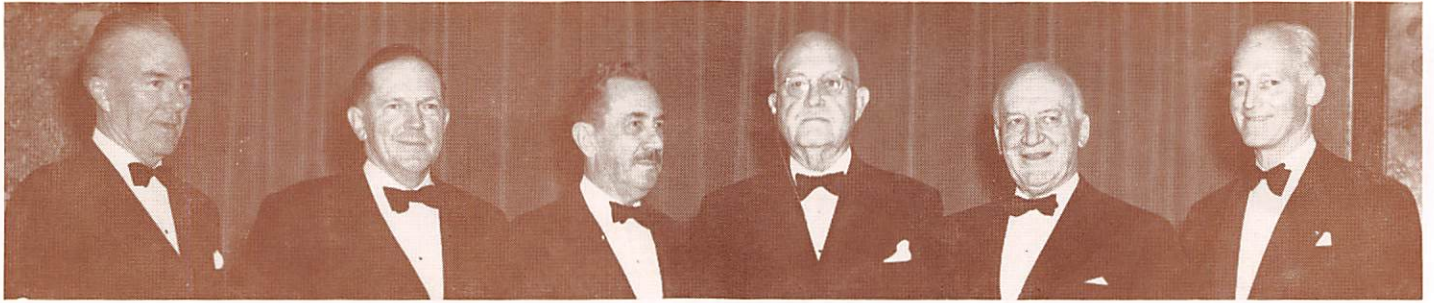
### To Frolic or not to Frolic

DO YOU WANT the Moles Annual Frolic revived? Or do you frolic enough at the Clam Bake, Annual Dinner and Award Dinner?

The Frolic was started during the War to take the place of the Clam Bake, temporarily suspended because of gas rationing and transportation difficulties. Last year, after resumption of the Clam Bake, the trustees voted to eliminate the Frolic because they felt that four big Moles functions a year might be considered too expensive by some members.

However, quite a howl has arisen over abandoning the Frolic. So the trustees are throwing it right back in the members' laps. Do you want it or don't you? You'll be asked to discuss this question and to vote on it at the Annual Business Meeting.

Come prepared to speak your piece on the Frolic or hold your peace forever after.



AWARD DINNER PRINCIPALS: Richard V. Hyland, chairman, Moles Award Committee; Frederic E. Lyford, who presented the membership award to Capt. Thomas A. Scott; Lieut. Gen. Raymond A. Wheeler, who presented the non-member award to Luther S. Oakes; Mr. Oakes, Mr. Scott, and J. Rich Steers, Jr., Moles president.

## Capt. Thomas Scott and Luther Oakes Receive Moles' Construction Awards

Thousand Moles and Guests Hear F. E. Lyford, Gen. R. A. Wheeler, Make Presentations... J. Rich Steers and Dick Hyland Run the Show

A THOUSAND MOLES and their guests assembled in the grand ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Feb. 9 for The Moles Award Dinner. There they saw two of their distinguished fellows receive what has come to be considered the highest honor an American heavy constructor can receive.

Capt. Thomas A. Scott and Luther S. Oakes were the award recipients. Captain Scott, the member-awardee, is chairman of the board, Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp., New York. Mr. Oakes, non-member awardee, is president of Winston Bros. Co., Minneapolis.

J. Rich Steers, Jr. presided, and Richard V. Hyland, chairman of The Moles Award Committee, introduced the men who made the short presentation speeches.

Formalities, run off with the contractor's usual neatness and dispatch, began after the lobster and crab meat *Louis*, beef *Chasseur*, golden *Sabayon* and *demi-tasses* were settled comfortably inside the white-shirted thousand.

On the dais was "who's who" of American construction. In addition to many New Yorkers who have worked tirelessly to bring The Moles to its preeminent

position, there were out-of-towners such as: Admiral Ben Moreell; Rear Admirals L. B. Combs and J. J. Manning; Lt. Gen. R. A. Wheeler; Maj. Gen. T. F. Farrell; and B. D. Tallamy. Prominent local guests included: Rear Admiral W. Mack Angas; Brig. Gen. George J. Nold, New York City; Commissioners S. B. Bingham, G. J. Minetti, F. H. Zurmuhlen, and I. V. A. Huie; R. E. Dougherty, Wallace K. Harrison and G. E. Spargo.

But the dais didn't carry all the important men. One old Mole, happily threading his way from table to table, beamed at the whole assembly. "There's enough talent here to build the world," he said with great conviction.

### Lyford introduces Scott

Unconsciously echoing this sentiment, F. E. Lyford referred to construction engineers and contractors as "the men who have literally created the very foundations of this country." Mr. Lyford was presenting the membership award to Captain Scott when he said that.

He went on to say that the basis of that creative accomplishment is the constructor's unsurpassed training, exper-



CAPT. THOMAS A. SCOTT receives 1949 Moles Member Award plaque from FREDERIC E. LYFORD.



LUTHER S. OAKES receives 1949 Moles Non-Member Award plaque from LIEUT. GEN. RAYMOND A. WHEELER.

ience and aptitude, the components of talent. Mr. Lyford, who has been president of Captain Scott's firm for two years, attributed to his boss the utmost in construction talent, together with another equally important factor—leadership.

This leadership has inspired a continuous loyalty to the firm, and it has inspired the respect and confidence of the construction industry. The best evidence of the industry's regard for Captain Scott is The Moles' award.

Mr. Lyford went on to outline the achievements due to Captain Scott's leadership: Construction of scores of industrial plants, including the first streptomycin plant; World War II naval bases reaching from Quonset Point, R. I., out across the North Atlantic and all the way to the British Isles; countless marine salvage achievements, crowned by raising the Normandie. "One of the finest things ever said about any construction man was said about Captain Scott when the January issue of 'Holding Through' announced his selection for The Moles' award," Mr. Lyford said. "'Captain Scott,' our bulletin said, 'has been active in the development of his company to its present status. He is a great construction man because he believes in construction, because he has the vision and courage to expand both scope and size of operations, and because he has the ability to direct an organization capable of doing the work it does.'" Mr. Lyford then made the award, to which Captain Scott responded, "I cannot imagine any honor that a man could receive that would carry such implications as The Moles' award." He passed the lion's share of the award's credit to his crews, saying, "No man, no matter how good, no matter how much he knows in this kind of work, can do much alone.... I think if we could make clear to the broad public, as well as to our clients, that this is the basis of our existence and our work, we would achieve that professional status to which construction men are entitled and which would greatly strengthen our position."

### Congratulations Wired By Those Who Couldn't Attend

"Congratulations to Moles Award recipients, and my best wishes to all Moles and friends at Award Dinner." — Alex Stagg, Delray Beach, Fla. "... heartiest congratulations to Capt. Thomas A. Scott and Luther S. Oakes... This is a most fitting recognition of great contribution which these veteran builders have made to America." — Luther W. Youngdahl, Governor, State of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn. "... As two great builders they are deserving of this honor given by their fellow leaders in the construction industry." — William O'Dwyer, New York, N. Y. "... They are in every sense true builders of the greatness of America." — John L. Sullivan, Secretary of the Navy "... They both did outstanding work in connection with the Navy's wartime construction program and contributed greatly to the war effort. In honoring them The Moles honor themselves. 'Well done' to Tom Scott and Luther Oakes." — J. J. Manning, Rear Admiral, Bureau of Yards and Docks, Washington, D. C. "I am keenly conscious of the contribution made by Capt. Thomas A. Scott to the success of many military and naval operations during World War II and I join with The Moles in congratulating both Captain Scott and Mr. Luther S. Oakes in receiving this well deserved recognition." — James Forrestal, Secretary of Defense, Washington, D. C.

#### General Wheeler and Luther Oakes

With full knowledge of the pride and gratification that a Moles' award brings to member and non-member alike, Lt. Gen. Raymond A. Wheeler, last year's non-member awardee, and retiring chief of the Army Corps of Engineers, stated that he was pleased as well as honored to present the award to Mr. Oakes.

General Wheeler briefly reviewed Mr. Oakes' life story, including the time he spent at Dartmouth's Thayer School. The

General felt a bond between himself and that school, because both he and General Sylvanus Thayer were Corps of Engineers' officers. "The bond ends there, however, since I am reliably informed that the alumni of Thayer School usually acquire much more money."

Mr. Oakes responded, "No greater honor has ever come to me... I accept it with humility and a deep sense of gratitude." He then proceeded to tell about early-day contracting in the West, and his firm's World War II work. Then he closed with some forward-looking that had his East-Coast listeners nodding their heads (in agreement).

Going back before his own time, Mr. Oakes said that shortly after the three Winston brothers went into their contracting partnership in 1875, they decided to bid on the removal of snags from a portion of the Minnesota River. "Before making the bid, they made a very thorough investigation of that portion of the Minnesota River from which the snags were to be removed. They hired a rowboat, and while one of them rowed, the other two counted the snags on the river bank and in the stream. From the invitation to bid, it was apparent that the engineers had over-estimated certain items and under-estimated other items. On this account, they unbalanced their bid.

"The work was awarded to them, and they carried it through to a very satisfactory completion. At the conclusion of the work, and at the time when the engineer in charge gave them the final estimate, he also told them that if he had accepted the highest bid submitted, it would have been cheaper for the government than the cost of their contract.

"Mr. W. O. Winston, one of the grand old men of the construction industry, told me one day about the first job they had, and with a twinkle in his eye said 'that is the only bid we ever unbalanced'."

One of the Winstons' most interesting jobs came with the award in late 1923, by the Montana Power Company, of the Mystic Lake development job. Mystic Lake is a mile-square body of water, 8,000 ft. up in the mountains, about 44



AWARD DINNER SECOND TABLE: In a restaurant near the Waldorf, the honored guests' ladies enjoyed a dinner comparable to the men's.

mi. south of Columbus, Montana, the nearest railroad station. The most important part of the work consisted of tapping the lake, 40 ft. underneath its surface, and carrying the water out through a 6-ft. tunnel. At the lake end of the tunnel, they put in a Y. One leg was to go through into a gate which would be built in the lake after the water had been lowered; the other leg of the Y was the one which was to be used to open up the outlet to the lake, 40 ft. below its surface. On Sept. 25, 1925, the final shot was fired. An opening was broken between the face of the tunnel and the bottom of the lake. The water broke through, even though some loose rocks were left in the inlet of the tunnel. "We met with complete success," Mr. Oakes said. "To the best of our knowledge, it was the first such feat in this country, although one of like nature had been performed, prior to our undertaking, in Italy."

During World War II, the Winston firm, together with four other contractors, built defense plants, mostly in the Midwest, ultimately going into the business of building LST's for the Navy. "In this connection, it was necessary to build a complete manufacturing plant and yard at Evansville, Ind. The site of this plant was about 45 ft. above the average pool of water in the Ohio River. On account of this variation in elevation of the yard and the river, it was necessary to devise some plan for launching the ships. After a thorough study by our engineers, funicular ways were constructed, down which the ships were launched sideways by controlled power."

Mr. Oakes' final remarks are worth repeating: "Among the many things which we, as business men, should be alert to and constantly fight against is the continued encroachment of the state into the realm which we think should be reserved

for private enterprise. The men in the construction industry, with their wide knowledge of people, both skilled and unskilled, should be able to take a leading part in guiding the thoughts and acts of our people and our government in the right direction. We live in a land of plenty, our production of all types of goods and merchandise is enormous, and, with wise and conservative leadership, we should be able to show the world the advantage of cooperation, industrial spirit, and a united purpose. Antagonism between labor, industry and politicians will not bring this about. If every man and woman in this country would put their shoulder to the wheel and, with a united purpose, spread the gospel of the wise teachings of our forefathers and the democratic principles of freedom, thrift, industry, we in the United States would soon be leading the world to a new and marvelous era."

## NEW MEMBERS

UPON RECOMMENDATION of the membership committee, the Trustees elected the following new members at its meeting March 22:

DONALD C. ANDREWS  
Turner Construction Co.  
420 Lexington Ave.  
New York 17, N. Y.

DANIEL J. BARROWS  
Drilled-In Caisson Corp.  
2 Park Ave.  
New York 16, N. Y.

VICTOR B. HUTSLET  
The Arundel Corp.  
Pier 2  
Baltimore, Md.

JOHN B. MATHEWS  
S. J. Groves & Sons Co.  
Woodridge, N. J.

SHERMAN H. SERRE  
Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp.  
Standard Building  
Cleveland 13, Ohio

A. K. WETZIG  
Texas-Irvington Form & Tank Corp.  
3815 Garrot  
Houston 6, Texas

PAUL J. HALLORAN  
Foley Bros., Inc.  
Pleasantville, N. Y.

EDWARD D. SABIN  
The Wait Associates, Inc.  
51 E. 42nd St.  
New York 17, N. Y.

These new members bring the total membership up to 379, distributed as follows: Active, New York area, 325 (limit established by Trustees); non-resident, 40; founders, 3; inactive, 3; military service, 1; honorary, 7.

## SEND IN CORRECTIONS FOR NEW DIRECTORY

THE NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY will be published in May. Every member is urged to report to headquarters office at once any changes in business connections, addresses, or telephone numbers.

## Go Easy on the Room Parties

PERHAPS through some misunderstanding, many members failed to take advantage of the reception facilities set up for pre-dinner entertaining at the last annual Award Dinner at the Waldorf. Numerous room parties were held instead.

Your officers and trustees feel that too many room parties will interfere with the orderly procedure in getting the Annual Dinner under way promptly. Other associations have found such parties soon get out of hand and eventually spoil the main event.

Ample reception and entertaining facilities will be set up near the Ballroom at the Waldorf next year. Your committee hopes you will use them. Let's keep the Award Dinners the dignified, pleasant and grand affairs they have been in the past.

## Prospective Members Must Meet Committee

ACCORDING to The Moles By-Laws, every prospective member must meet at least two members of the Membership Committee. Many applications have been delayed, and some even cancelled, because this rule has not been followed.

## Moles Member Active In Italian Boys' Towns

WHILE ON CONSTRUCTION DUTY in Italy, Col. Lester J. Hensley became interested in the plight of thousands of Italian boys made orphans and homeless by the War, some maimed and crippled. These innocent victims were resorting to black marketing, pilfering and highway robbery to feed themselves. They lived in debris-filled cellars, in culverts and on the streets.

Monsignor John Patrick Carroll-Abbing, an Irish priest residing in Rome, established the Boys Republic for the homeless waifs, similar to our own famed Boys' Town in Omaha. It was an experiment in self-government for young boys, and results have been most gratifying. The boys live in real villages without discipline other than that they impose upon themselves. Each village has its own mayor and judge, elected by secret ballot, and a Popular Assembly. Every citizen pays for board and lodging with merit credits, earned by working. Each boy learns a trade and is qualified to earn his own living when he leaves the village.

Hensley helped organize and supervise the various villages, and has been active in soliciting funds for the movement. About 22,000 boys have already been taken care of, but 50,000 more need the attention and protection of the plan.

Contributions for this worthy movement, to be used for food to supplement that grown by the boys, may be sent to Boys' Town for Italy, Food Industry Division, 29 Broadway, New York 6, N. Y.