

HOLING THROUGH

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

An Organization of Tunnel and Heavy Construction Men

AUGUST, 1949

Moles Clambake August 17

Day of fun, food, recreation and refreshment—all this and prizes, too. Travers Island will be site of annual event for Moles and their guests.

THE ANNUAL CLAMBAKE will take place at Travers Island, New York Athletic Club, Pelham, N. Y., on Wednesday, Aug. 17, beginning at noon and lasting until Frank Loughman's Entertainment Committee has produced the final act, sometime in the soft summer evening.

These are the "what, when, where, etc." The details are known to every Mole who has donned the Clambake ball cap and relaxed for a day with his fellow construction men. The major details are known, that is, but there is no way of knowing who will win the prizes of prowess and Lady Luck. And there's no way of knowing which of America's outstanding entertainers will tread the boards in the magic tent.

Many will come, each hopeful that a combination of skill and luck will bring him a ham or a radio for his efforts in horse-shoe pitching, golf pitching, spike-driving and poker darts. Others, sure of a prize on the links, will devote the afternoon to golf, while the boys in old clothes will take another crack at the flying eggs. For those who'd rather not work up a sweat there's still an excellent chance of taking home a door prize that the Mrs. will welcome.

And then there is a ball game. Last year's winners from the New York City Department of Public Works are coming back to try for another taste of Mole blood. The whole gang will be there to see that it's Public Works blood that's drawn, even if they have to get the score-keeper drunk.

Which brings up another feature that everyone knows about—Free Beer. The kegs will be spotted all over the playing fields, as well as indoors, so no one will have to work the beer off by chasing more beer.

Knowing nothing about the entertainment bill for the evening, the seasoned Mole nevertheless will enter the tent con-



THE NEW PRESIDENT TAKES OVER. Carlton Proctor, new president of the Moles receives the congratulations of his predecessor, J. Rich Steers, at the Annual Business Meeting, May 4th at the Roosevelt Hotel. Acting Secretary Al Warwick looks happy, too.

fidant that he'll have both the low and the high elements of his humor tickled, not bored. Fine art and crude comedy will be the termini of the gamut that will include hot jazz and cold precision. And of course, no clambake entertainment would be complete without the *piece de resistance*, the gal whose resistance to disrobing inspires anything but peace.

For those who think of eating, too, there's a luncheon at mid-day and a shore dinner at six p.m. The New York Athletic Club doesn't skimp, as we all know. See you and your pals at the Clambake this Wednesday.



James Fitzgerald, Moles Founder, Dies

A FATHER OF THE MOLES died June 16. He was Jim Fitzgerald, one of our Founder Members, and a member of the firm of Fitzgerald and Hudson, Inc., dealers in construction equipment.

James H. Fitzgerald began his construction career in 1910, with the Degnon Contracting Co. as assistant engineer on the Wallkill Pressure Tunnel for the Catskill Aqueduct, at Forest Glen, N. Y. In 1912 he went with George H. Flinn Corp., also on the Catskill Aqueduct. Ensuing jobs included the Passaic Valley Sewer Tunnel, Newark Bay, and the East 14th St. Subway Tunnel.

In 1918 Jim went with the Ransome Concrete Machinery Co. as a pneumatic engineer. While there he invented the Ransome Pneumatic Placer. Later, in 1921, he was made New York office manager for Ransome. In 1924 the firm of Fitzgerald and Hudson began business as sales representatives for heavy construction equipment.

In addition to helping get the Moles started (in 1936) he was active as a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

In public recognition of Jim's passing, the Moles inserted in the New York papers a note of sympathy, extended to his widow, Mary, of Westfield, N. J. A daughter and two brothers survive.

Proctor Becomes Moles' President At Annual Business Meeting

Members vote to hold an annual Members' Dinner in November; Committee reports presented efficiently; entertainment is up to The Moles' par.

CARLTON S. PROCTOR, of the firm Moran, Proctor, Freeman and Mueser, accepted the president's gavel from J. Rich Steers, Jr., at the Annual Business Meeting May 4, at the Roosevelt Hotel. Mr. Proctor then spoke briefly, exploring the genius of this successful organization:

He stated that there is a mysterious something that makes the Moles click. The Executive Committee meetings always are almost 100 percent in attendance, because members consider it a privilege to attend, instead of just something they must do. Mr. Proctor said the answer to all this comes right from the hearts of the members — it is due entirely to the type of men in The Moles. The root of all this lies, possibly, in the fact that while most of our American industries are interested in mass production, we in The Moles are interested in dealing with the human side — our fellow-men.

Mr. Proctor also spoke glowingly of the large turnout for the meeting — about two-thirds of the membership. This was unanswerable testimony of the members' confidence in their own ability to put on a meeting that would be both efficient and entertaining.

The entertaining part (fellowship at the tables and fun on the platform) is depicted on the opposite page. The efficient part was centered at the rostrum.

The Formal Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:50 p.m. by president Steers, who greeted the members and remarked that this was the largest turnout ever. He especially greeted Ralph Atwater, who was back after a serious illness, looking like his old self. He thanked Al Warwick for serving as Acting Secretary after Bill Hanley moved his business to St. Louis.

Al Warwick then paid tribute to the passing of Bertus Larkin and Oscar Swenson, read the secretary's report, in which the year's activities were reviewed, and the impending publication of the 1949 Roster was announced. Dave Bonner read the report of the membership Committee and Gene Moran read the report of the Finance Committee. The Moles are strong in both departments.

Frank Loughman told the gang that his Entertainment Committee would keep up the good work (a promise amply fulfilled a few minutes later) and Harold Richardson reviewed publicity activities, noting particularly that publicity on the last Award Dinner exceeded all previous

results. Through the cooperation of Merritt, Chapman & Scott Corp., we were offered the services of Edward Bernays, leading publicity organization in the city. Mr. Bernays himself assisted in the general plans. The committee is considering the possibility of publishing more issues of *Holing Through* each year.

Then Hal Hunt presented the report of the Election Committee, announcing the election of President CARLTON S. PROCTOR and the following assisting officers:

JAMES F. SALMON, First Vice-President
RICHARD V. HYLAND, Second Vice-Pres.
EDWARD J. MAHONEY, Sergeant-at-Arms
GEORGE P. WALKER, Secretary
RALPH W. ATWATER, Treasurer

and the new trustees: A. HOLMES CRIMMINS, RICHARD A. JOHNSON, CORNELIUS VERMONT, and R. C. WILSON. J. RICH STEERS automatically became a trustee when he passed the presidency to Mr. Proctor.

After Mr. Proctor spoke, the meeting came to the main topic of the evening: The answer to the question, "Are we to have a Frolic in the Fall?" Cards were distributed to the members, bearing three alternative propositions for vote. The three were: (a) To resume holding the Annual Frolic in Nov. 1949, and each November thereafter; (b) To cancel the Annual Frolic as a Moles' function and

in its place hold a "Dinner for Members Only" in November each year; and (c) To have no function during the period between the Clambake and the Award Dinner.

After thoughtful discussion by several members the ballots were collected. The results: (a) 60 votes; (b) 70 votes; (c) 29 votes. The plurality of (b) decided the issue in favor of a "Members Only Dinner" to be held each November.

George Walker Takes Over Moles Secretary Position

AMONG THE OFFICES that were filled in the recent Moles election was that of Secretary. George P. Walker is the capable gentleman who stepped into the shoes vacated last year by Bill Hanley. (Past president Al Warwick had been Acting Secretary). George, who is a sales engineer with Johns-Manville, comes to the position with the members' best wishes as well as their good will. (Also Miss Lizotte's good will — see opposite page).

Five New Members Elected June 14

THE FOLLOWING new members are cordially welcomed into The Moles, on the occasion of their election June 14:

M. WILLIAM GILBERT, Chief Engineer, Gull Contracting Co., Inc., 33-15 Lawrence St., Flushing, N. Y.

FRANK L. REYNOLDS, Executive Vice-President, Irons and Reynolds, Inc., 420 Lexington Ave., New York City.

M. HARRY WARTUR, Construction Superintendent, Horn Construction Co., Inc., 1776 Broadway, New York City.

GUSTAVE G. WERNER, JR., Partner, Malcolm Pirnie Engineers, 25 W. 43rd St., New York City.

EDWARD E. WHITE, Secretary, Spencer, White and Prentis, Inc., 10 E. 40th St., New York City.

Member of The Moles Heads A.S.C.E. Section

CHARLES B. MOLINEAUX, chief engineer of Arthur A. Johnson Corp., has been elected president of the Metropolitan Section, American Society of Civil Engineers, for the 1949-1950 year.

A graduate of Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, Mr. Molineaux worked with the New York Steam Corporation and the New Jersey State Highway Department before he joined the Arthur A. Johnson Corp., in 1925. He has been chief engineer there since 1930.

NOVEMBER Members' Dinner Price Set at \$4.50

Following up the vote for a Members' Dinner in November, the Executive Committee has announced that the affair will be held Nov. 2, and that the price will be \$4.50, the same as that of the Annual Business Meeting. The same high-caliber fellowship, food and entertainment will prevail.



GENE MORAN AND RICH RICHARDSON express the sentiments of all who attended the Annual Business Meeting May 4.



FRANK LOUGHMAN is the only serious one at the Dinner—he's probably dreaming up more fine entertainment; RALPH ATWATER is back in good health.



DICK HYLAND, CHARLIE WHALEN and JIM SALMON relax while the "To Frolic or Not to Frolic" votes are counted.



AL WARWICK, DAVE BONNER and HOLMES CRIMMINS were among those seated at the head table.



MORE MOLES: HOWARD MAXTON, BILL HANLEY (came all the way from St. Louis to see how the gang gets along now), HAL HUNT, THOMAS CRIMMINS and FRANK S. CARR.



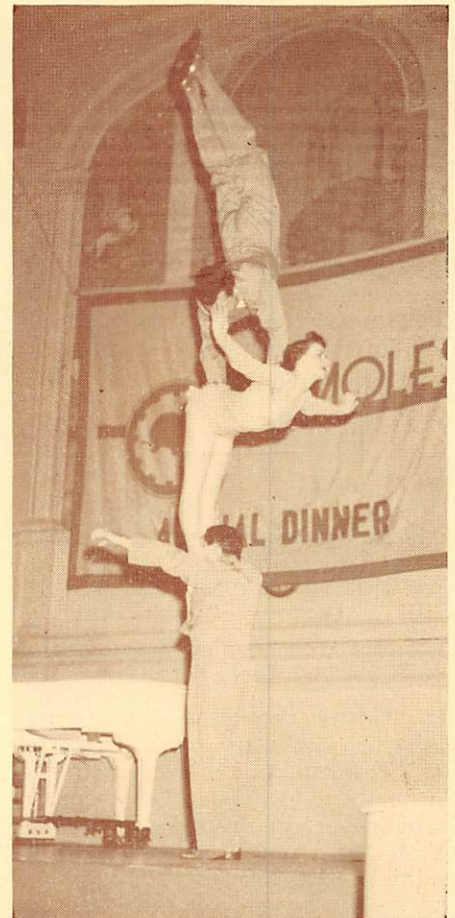
HAPPY HEADQUARTERS CREW. IRENE LIZOTTE, who keeps the office going, must have wowed GEORGE WALKER, our new secretary.



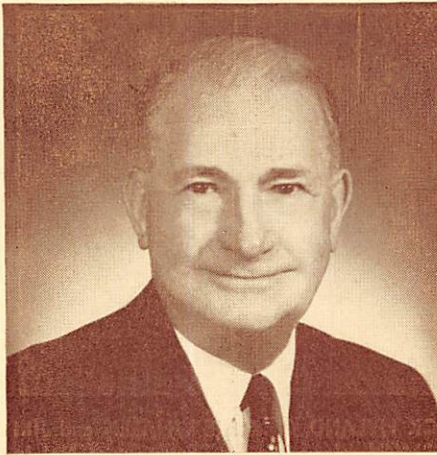
ENTERTAINMENT: These cute dollies play the vibraharp, too.



IN BANQUET HALL OR TENT, our favorites, the Vikings, can make their manly songs convincing.



A MASTERPIECE OF SUPERIMPOSITION.



Trustee Bertram Swett Dies May 14 at Age of 67

BERTRAM L. SWETT, 67, a Trustee of The Moles, died in New York, May 14, less than four months after his retirement as vice-president of the Lehigh Portland Cement Co.

In 1898, Bert started as an office boy with the Atlas Portland Cement Co. Eight years later he went with Lehigh. He became assistant western sales manager shortly thereafter, eastern sales manager in 1912, and vice-president and general sales manager in 1926. The company's annual report issued last March commented:

"During his forty years of service Mr. Swett has contributed more than any other man to the sales success of the company, and he is today one of the most widely and most highly regarded figures in the construction field. While others may succeed him, there is no one who can take his place."

On June 14 the Executive Committee of The Moles voted unanimously to keep Bert's trustee post open, *in memoriam*. He was a member of several organizations, including the New York Athletic Club, where he maintained an apartment. His widow, Myrtis, two sisters and a brother survive.

Committee Membership Changes Announced

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS who took office at the Annual Business Meeting May 4 include the following:

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE — A. Holmes Crimmins, chairman, Frank W. Barnes, Louis F. Booth, Andrew Fischer, Jr., and the late James A. Norton. They replaced Dave Bonner, chairman, A. K. Burnham, Chester W. Cambell, Edward J. Duffy and George W. Rogers.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE — Joseph B. Diamond, Lester J. Hensley and Joseph M.

Scheinin, who replace Anthony Del Balso, Howard Maxton and Mr. Norton.

FINANCE COMMITTEE—Mr. Maxton, chairman, James M. Slattery and Thomas J. Walsh, Jr. Past-chairman Eugene F. Moran remains on the committee. Outgoing members are Arron Burros, Walter H. Gahagan and Charles E. Trout.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE—Robert H. Dodds succeeds A. Walter Nelson.

New Trustees include, in addition to Past-president J. Rich Steers, Jr., Mr. Crimmins, Richard A. Johnson, Cornelius Vermont and R. C. Wilson. Outgoing Trustees are Forrest L. Jenkins, Mr. Moran, past-presidents Arthur A. Johnson and Ray N. Spooner, and Richard V. Hyland, who was elected second vice-president.



James A. Norton; Was NYAC President

THE MOLES, as well as the cement and concrete industry, lost another outstanding man when James A. Norton died May 24 at St. Petersburg, Fla. Mr. Norton, 60, was president of James A. Norton, Inc., merchants of ready-mixed concrete.

Jim's first job was with George A. Fuller Co., where he rose to become purchasing agent. He resigned to take over as head of the Materials Delivery Co., and later he formed the Norton Sand Co., which eventually became the Norton-Keating Co. Upon its merger with the Colonial Sand and Stone Co., Jim became vice-president of the latter, a post he held for twelve years.

He became president of the New York Athletic Club last January after 27 years membership in the club. A ball player in his youth, he was a great baseball fan, and he numbered many stars and sports writers among his friends.

His son, James, Jr., also a Mole, survives.



Edward M. Sansom

THE FOURTH MOLE whose passing has saddened this society of good fellowship since its last gathering is Edward Marsh Sansom. Ed died July 5 in Elizabeth, N. J., after an illness of several months. He was 47.

New York District Manager for the Whitcomb Locomotive Co. since 1939, he was a graduate of Lehigh University, Class of 1923. He had worked with the Electric Storage Battery Co., New York, before joining Whitcomb. His widow, Gladys, and two children, Ruth Anne and Edward M. Jr., survive.

Moles Calendar Issued; Circles Tell Big Days

INCONSPICUOUS BY conventional standards, the new Moles Calendar should take the place of a couple of whopping Petty Girls on the wall of every Mole's shanty, because four neat red circles spotlight the Big Days of the year.

This 8½x11-inch piece of cardboard, with the months from May 1949 to April 1950 neatly arranged so that our important months are at the left, was sent out to the whole gang a short time ago.

Four Wednesdays are encircled: May 4, when we decided to have a Members' Dinner six months later; Aug. 17, when we'll gather at Travers Island; Nov. 2, the date of the Members' Dinner; and Feb. 1, when, at the Award Dinner, we will pay homage to two great men of our own industry.

1949 Directory Out

ONE FEATURE has been added to The Moles Directory in its 1949 edition, mailed last week. Each Moles' Award winner since 1941 is listed, together with the man who made the presentation and the men who officiated at the dinner. Formerly, non-member awardees were listed under the heading "Honorary Members."