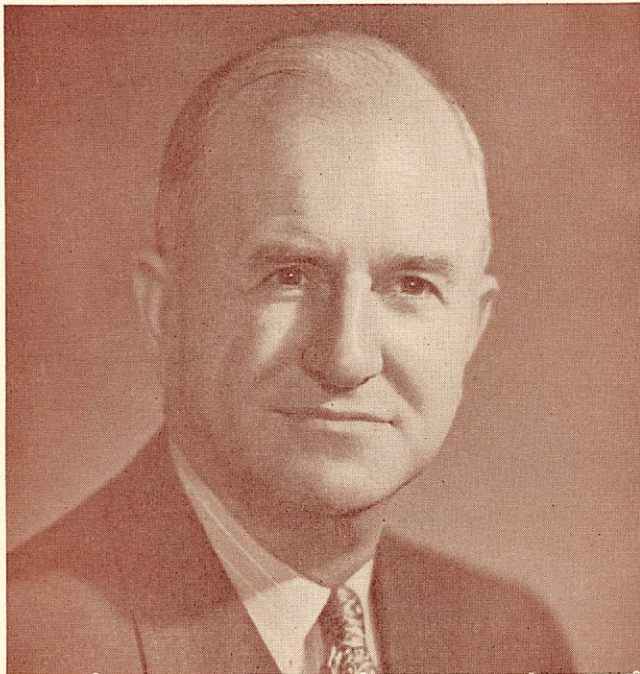


# HOLING THROUGH

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

An Organization of Tunnel and Heavy Construction Men

NOVEMBER, 1951



STEPHEN D. BECHTEL



CHARLES B. SPENCER

## Awards to Bechtel and Spencer

Stephen D. Bechtel and Charles B. Spencer are The Moles Award winners for 1952. The awards were announced by Award Committee Chairman George Ferris November 7 at the Members Dinner in the Roosevelt Hotel, New York.

Considered the highest recognition for service to the American construction industry, the awards are given annually to one member of The Moles and to one non-member.

Occasion for presentation of the awards will be The Moles Award Dinner, to be held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel on February 6.

Winner of the Non-Member Award, Steve Bechtel is president of the Bechtel Corporation, San Francisco, a world-wide construction organization.

Charlie Spencer, the Member

Award winner, is president of the engineering and construction firm of Spencer, White and



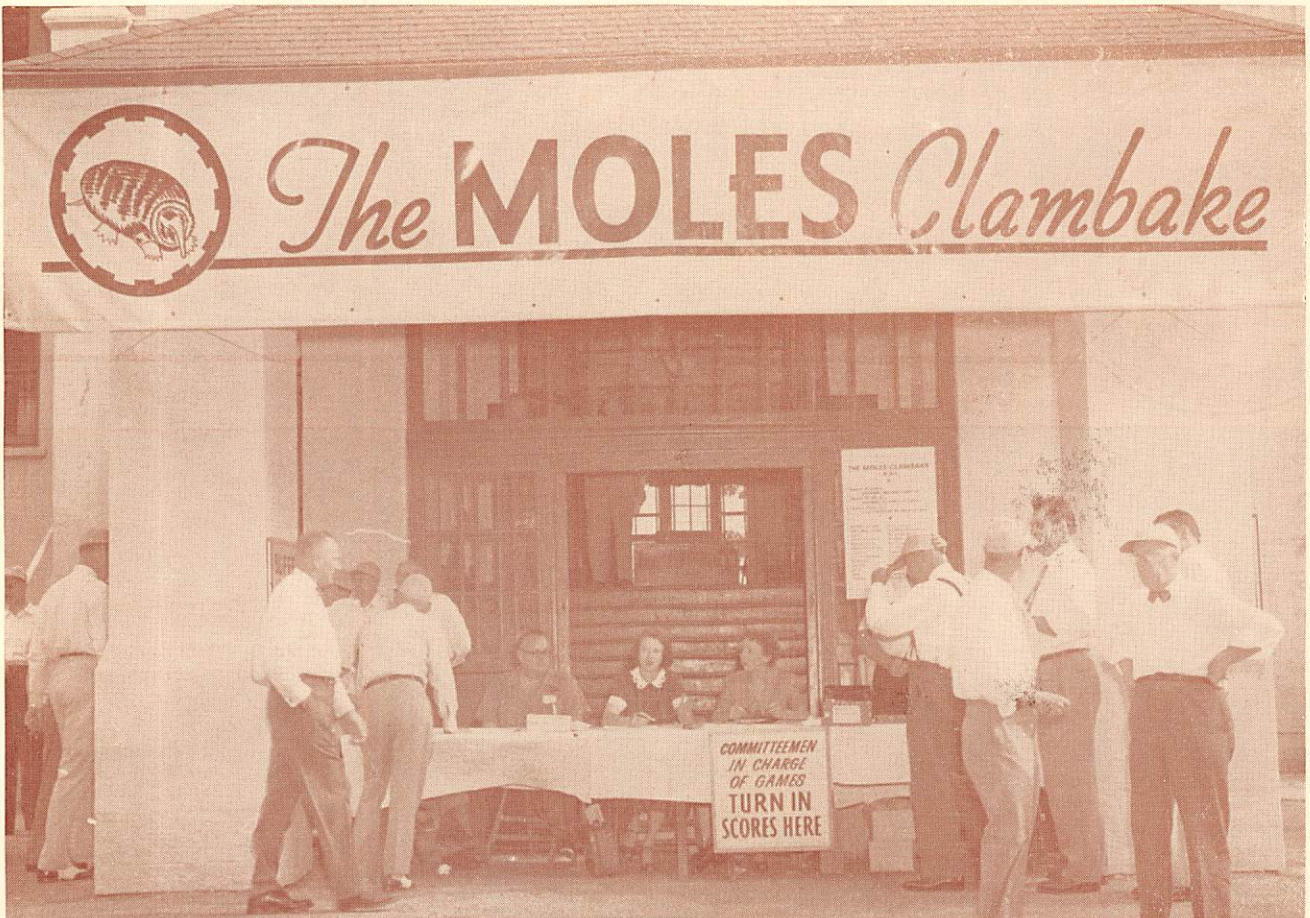
GEORGE FERRIS  
Award Committee Chairman

Prentis, New York. Like the Bechtel firm, Spencer, White and Prentis works on a world-wide basis, primarily in the field of heavy and unusual foundations for structures.

**Stephen D. Bechtel** — A 1923 civil engineering graduate of The University of California, Steve served with the U. S. Army Engineers overseas in World War I. He started his construction career as a summer-time employee of his father, president of W. A. Bechtel Co. He was a director and member of the executive committee, Six Companies, during the construction of Hoover Dam. On the east crossing for the San Francisco Bay Bridge his firm was a part of Bridge Builders, Inc., on pier construction.

The firm also was a part of  
(Continued on Page 4)





REGISTRATION FOR THE CLAMBAKE was ably handled by Irene Lizotte, The Moles executive secretary (right, at the table), and Marguerite McLean (center). Program Chairman Dick Johnson is at left.

## 1951 Clambake a Huge Success

Alex Stagg's hardy perennial—his prediction of good weather on the third Wednesday in August—again proved 100% correct. Moles and their guests were present 1000% and 1000 strong to enjoy the solid fun of the Clambake at Travers Island., August 15.

Dick Johnson really had the program committee organized.

Although the ball game didn't go the way we'd have liked it to, (see pictures), complete reports were filed on all the competitive events. Here's how they came out, and what the prizes were:

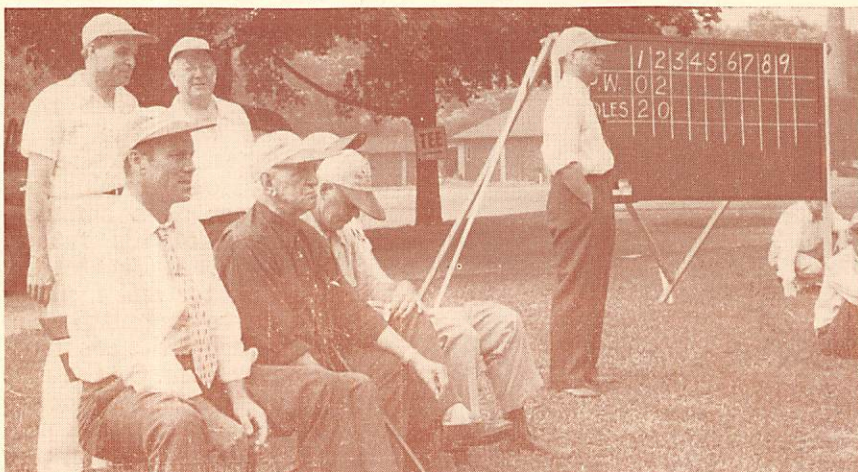
**Golf**—Henry Ireys, first (Mohairst bag); E. A. Prentis (Salad bowl); C. A. Hinckley (Golf umbrella); Victor Hugo (Glass set).

**Egg tossing**—Leo Tobias and

Vincent Romano, champs (Carving sets); Franz Zupack and Lauritz Nelson (Cocktail sets).

**Golf pitching**—H. Tyler, first (Steak knives); F. L. Jenkins (Radio); D. G. Baillie (Juice-O-Mat).

**Horseshoes**—Bob Dodds, first (Electric percolator); John Flick (Barometer); Leo Tobias (Juice-O-Mat). (Continued on Page 4)



THE SCORE WASN'T SO BAD when this picture was taken. Later it added up to 16-6 in favor of the Department of Public Works. Ted Avery watches his team swing into the annual classic's next inning.



CHEERFUL LOSER is Dave Bonner, Moles vice-president (right) who hands trophy to Commissioner Fred Zurmuhlen.

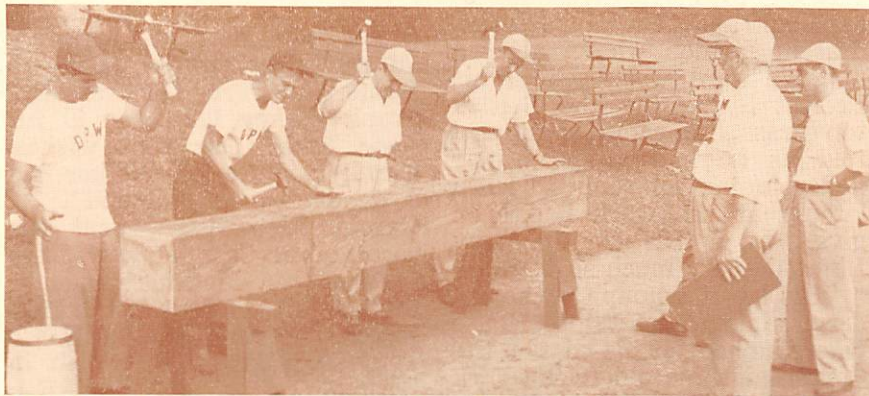




**THE CHAMPIONS**—Baseball team of the New York City Department of Public Works lines up in front of the scoreboard, after retiring the Founders Challenge Trophy.



**THE RUNNERS-UP**—These Moles don't look so dejected. Maybe they're thinking of that new trophy they'll start working on next year. (Constructioneer photos.)



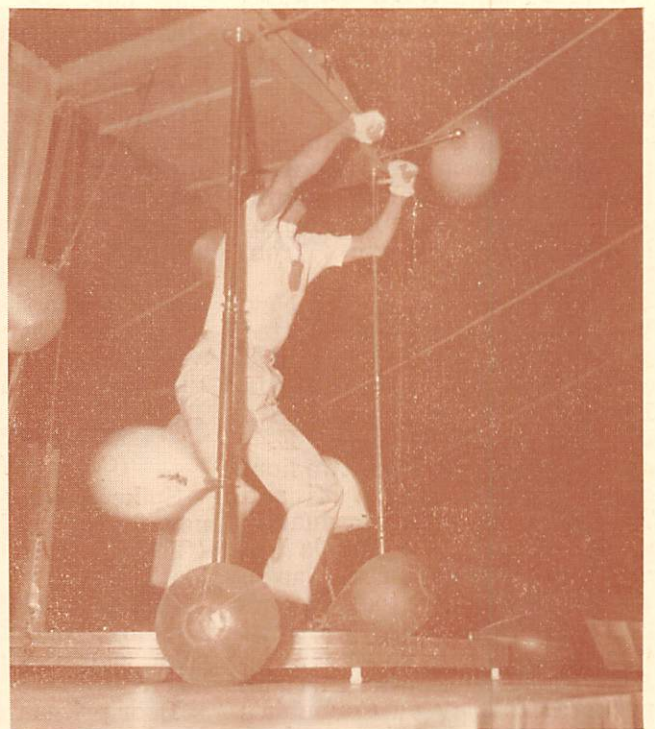
**SPIKE DRIVING**—Long-experienced supervisor of the spike-driving contest, Dick Stokes, (with clip board) watches to see that the contestants play fair. Looks like the Public Works boys vs. the Moles here, too. (Constructioneer.)



**WINNING SHOE**—Horseshoes contestant poses for photographer, to show what it took to win the event.



**IT'S ALL HIGH-CLASS STUFF**—The saxophone was one of the more conventional instruments played by this ribald professor of musical knowledge.



**HIGH SKILL**—This gentleman is keeping four bags going with his hands and knees. Next he did a fifth one with his head (good for hangovers, he says.)



## Award Winners

(Continued from Page 1)

Pacific Naval Air Base Constructors, which did pre-World War II defense construction on Wake, Midway, Guam, Johnston and the Hawaiian Islands.

During World War II Bechtel built numerous industrial plants, air bases and refineries, as well as a section of the "Big Inch" pipeline that fed oil from Texas to the East Coast.

Bechtel directed construction of the Canol Pipeline, in Canada, as a partner in Bechtel-McCone, general contractors on the project. The firm engaged in military base construction in Arabia during World War II, and now is building pipelines there (also built a section of pipeline in New York State this year — one of many pipeline jobs put in by the Bechtel company since the war.)

Wartime Bechtel activities also included association with Marinship Corp. and California Shipbuilding Corp. in the construction of ocean-going vessels for war service.

Bechtel companies include Bechtel Constructors, Bechtel International Corp., International Bechtel, Inc. and Compania Bechtel, S. A.

**Charles B. Spencer** — Jim Salmon, our past-president, supplied the following information about Charlie Spencer.

"Up to this year, Charlie Spencer has had three main interests—engineering, The Moles, and golf. I suppose he would tell you that the highlights of his career are the underpinning of the White House, his election as President of The Moles, and winning the golf championship of the General Contractors from Joe Meehan in 1938.

"Born 64 years ago in New York City, Charlie was educated in New York public schools and entered Columbia University in 1903. In 1910 he emerged with two degrees—A. B. and C. E.—and wearing keys from two honorary societies, Sigma Xi and Tau Beta Pi. His graduation thesis, "Strength of Metals Under High Temperatures" was so timely, particularly to the growing automobile industry that it was published all over the world. Also, somehow or other, he had managed to play on Columbia's two championship teams, basketball and soccer.

"Up to World War I, he work-

ed at various jobs—railroading, tunneling, even architecture and finally, foundations and underpinning. Before leaving for France in World War I, he was given a special leave by the Army to report on the settlement of the Cotton Exchange into New Orleans mud.

"Returning from Europe after World War I, he joined Ted Prentis and Lazarus White in forming Spencer, White & Prentis, which is still going strong after 32 years and a thousand contracts all over the world.

"Looking back over his busy life, Charlie likes to talk about the 70-story 40 Wall Street building where the foundations of the new building were sunk beneath an old 13 story building on the site where the tenants refused to move. We like to tease him about St. Paul's Cathedral in London where, after a month's hard work selling his Pretest System to the British top brass, he came home and told us he had a spectacular underpinning job, only to learn later that the work had been given to a British Company Limited (very much so).

"His latest triumph is the underpinning of the White House where he had for his boss on the Commission his old friend Dick Dougherty. Dick will talk more about this difficult underpinning and shoring job than Charlie will, but each one gives the other a lot of credit. Charlie has always been a great writer and everyone has seen his articles on interesting works in the Engineering News-Record, Civil Engineering, Construction Methods, and other magazines. He served two terms as President of the General Contractors Association and during that time was active in the revision of the New York City Building Code, a job he had done before, in 1916 and again in 1936."

## Clambake Winners

(Continued from Page 2)

**Spike driving**—John H. Garney, first (Tool kit); R. S. Mayo (Clock); C. J. Prohop (Ice-O-Mat).

**Quoits** — Bill Sullivan, first (Radio); Lauritz Nelson (Kitchen set); F. Cuomo (Cigarette box).

Door prizes were won by H. P. Maxton (Game set); R. G. Flynn (21" leather bag); and Tony Gull (Clock radio).

## FIELD NOTES

Hal Hunt, one of our most active members, has gone to Portland, Oregon, to handle Port of Portland work for Frederic R. Harris Associates . . . Nice to see Tom Walsh, Jr. back from the West Coast . . . Jim Tripp left Oct. 6 for a European trip . . . **Other European trippers:** Charlie Spencer, Jim Martin, (Where did Rich Steers go?) . . . **Ralph DeSimone is in New Zealand . . .** George Ferris came back from there recently . . . **Carl Proctor installed as Centennial Year president of ASCE last month . . .** Rod Doremus and Lou Miller have been working on taconite development in Minnesota's iron range . . . **Lt. Col. John Maxwell is on active duty with an engineer aviation brigade . . .** Troy Carmichael writes from Montana he's sorry he can't get to the Members Dinner . . . **Percy Donovan says Frank Hickey has been ill for some time (Our best wishes, Frank) . . .** George Walker had a good time in England . . . **Harold Richardson spent his vacation in Canada with Jesse Glaeser . . .** Maurice Quade is this year's president of the Metropolitan Section of A.S.C.E. . . . **Tony Del Balso has a job in Bermuda . . .** Leonard Van Houten in Tripoli . . . Chet Campbell in Greece.

## The Moles Welcome . . .

**JOHN E. DAVIDSON**  
Massman Construction Company  
20 West 9th Street  
Kansas City 6, Mo.

**FRANK W. FOLEY**  
Triangle Contractors, Inc.  
1520 East 31st Street  
Brooklyn 34, N. Y.

**WILLIAM J. HUGHES**  
James Hughes, Inc.  
17 Battery Place  
New York 4, N. Y.

**OLIVER MAGGARD**  
Clyde Iron Works, Inc.  
856 East 136th Street  
New York 54, N. Y.

**ADMIRAL JOHN J. MANNING**  
James Stewart & Company, Inc.  
230 Park Avenue  
New York 17, N. Y.

**HENRY J. MASSMAN, JR.**  
Massman Construction Company  
20 West 9th Street  
Kansas City, Mo.

**EMIL H. PRAEGER**  
Praeger-Maguire  
126 East 38th Street  
New York 16, N. Y.

**LESTER C. ROGERS**  
Bates & Rogers Constr. Corp.  
600 West Jackson Blvd.,  
Chicago 6, Ill.