

HOLING THROUGH

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

An Organization of Tunnel and Heavy Construction Men

JULY, 1953

Clambake Set Aug. 19

No one really remembers why we call it a clambake — but every Mole remembers scores of laughs and good times from the annual outing at Travers Island . . . and that's why there's a big red ring around Wednesday, August 19, on every Mole's desk calendar.

The time and the place, otherwise, are "the same," according to Harry Hush, chairman. That is, the New York Athletic Club grounds on Travers Island (off Pelham, N. Y.) is the scene, and the time-table opens, as usual, with free beer starting on the stroke of noon. (And continuing ad finitum.)

What Harry calls, mysteriously but confidently, an "expanded type" of luncheon, in buffet style, will be served from 12:30 to 2 inside the NYAC main clubhouse, and all those who can waddle away from that groaning board will have no difficulty finding ways to start working up a brand new appetite for the big evening meal (6:30 to 8).

Highlight of the afternoon's athletic activities, of course, will be the annual baseball game with our deadly rivals from the Department of Public Works. They will be loaded — but really! for this one, seeking revenge for the 12-2 shellacking we gave them last year, but Captain Ted Avery has been laying his own plans for "gittin' thar fustest with the mostest" base hits. Anyway, it is sure to be thrilling enough to keep even the most calloused armchair-sitting Mole from sneaking away to see how the Yanks or the Dodgers are doing on TV.

A lot of other, more individual sports are on the afternoon pro-



DICK DOUGHERTY
(Story on Page 3)

gram, with prizes awaiting the skillful (or lucky) contestants: things like horseshoes, golf pitching, spike driving, darts . . . and for those who really must get in a game of full-length golf, arrangements have been made for use of the beautiful Pelham Country Club course, nearby, upon payment of greens fees. No prizes for this, though. Register in advance for this.

Climax of the big day will come, of course, with the big show that follows the dinner. There'll be presentation of all the awards won during the afternoon, and five door prizes — a new high in this department, Harry avers—and a star-studded lineup of specialty acts.

So if you haven't ringed Aug. 19 on your calendar, do it now!

Palmer Ponders

Edward P. Palmer has suffered a few flutterings of literary impulses since receiving the member Mole Award in February, and has committed to paper some of his most introspective thoughts on Moledom, as follows

"I have been wondering:

What is the role of the Mole in the over-all plan of the world as a whole?

Does the Mole have a soul?

Where is he going down there in his hole?

Does the Mole have a goal?

Is he searching for coal?

What does he do when his day's work is done; does a Mole ever bowl?

And what does he eat in his underground hole . . . has he ever enjoyed a frank on a roll?

Are times ever so bad in his dark dampish hole that the Mole must give up and apply for the dole?

Has it ever been proved that a Mole ever stole?

And if Mr. Mole is endowed with a wife, just how, do you think, do they have family life?

~ ~ ~

WELL-WISHING DEPT.

Two of our Moles have undergone sieges in hospitals since the last issue of *Holing Through*. Our best wishes for continuing recovery for George W. Glick and Miles I. Killmer.

CAMERA CATCHES MOLES AT ANNUAL MEETING



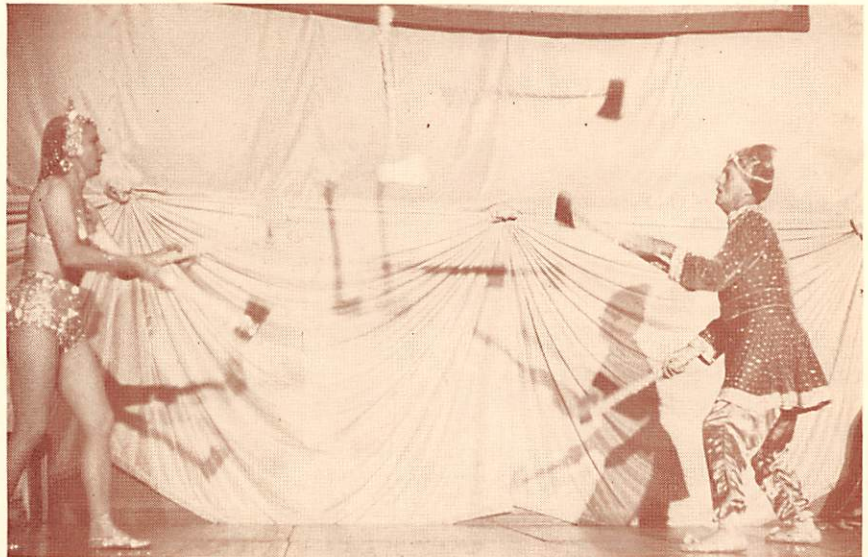
SEVEN NEW MOLES who attended the annual meeting lined up in this orderly array to say a photographic "Glad t'be here!" to the Old Hands. Left to right: William H. Casey, of William Casey & Sons, Inc.; George Benisch, of Slattery Contracting Company; August G. Sperl, of Sperl, Gowen & Gregory, Inc.; Justin E. Hyland, of Madigan-Hyland; Michael G. Kennedy, of Morrison-Knudsen Company, Inc.; John J. Walsh, of Walsh Construction Company, and Francis G. Carey, of the Port of New York Authority.



MIND-READING was the announced theme of the The Tuckers' act, but after trying the audience they apparently decided they'd have to read each other's minds if they were gonna get any reading done that night!



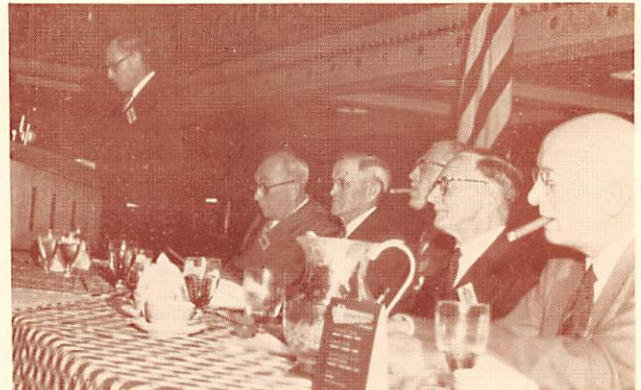
DAVE BONNER, preserving his customary mixture of geniality and aplomb, shown presiding as he neared the end of his term as Moles president.



TALK ABOUT "Holing Through!" These are real axes The Littlejohns are tossing to (at?) each other in such obvious over-abundance — so if they hadn't all been properly caught the holing-through would have been quick and probably fatal.



HOLDING HANDS exactly where Hypnotist Tucker told them to hold 'em, come Hell or high water, are Charles Stillman (left) and Ray Spooner (right). Even the crew-cut Svengali himself seems unable to de-handcuff Stillman!



PAUL WENTWORTH (the flash-bulb didn't reach him too well, in left background) delivers his report on the results of the balloting for officers at the annual meeting. Listening are (right to left): Harry Immerman, Jules Breuchaud, Howard Maxton, William Durkin and incoming President Dick Dougherty.

Dougherty Chosen 1953-54 President

Richard Erwin Dougherty, who spent almost a full half-century in the service of the New York Central railroad — 1902-1951 — became the 15th president of The Moles on May 6, 1953, at the annual business meeting at the Hotel Roosevelt.

Dick Dougherty is one of those seemingly rare birds around New York, a fellow actually born and brought up in the Big Town. He not only got his public school education in New York, but higher larnin' at both City College and Columbia, graduating as a C.E. from the latter in 1901.

He had been honored signally by his fellow-Moles before, notably by being given the member Award in 1950 when his co-recipient (of the non-member Award) was Herbert C. Hoover.

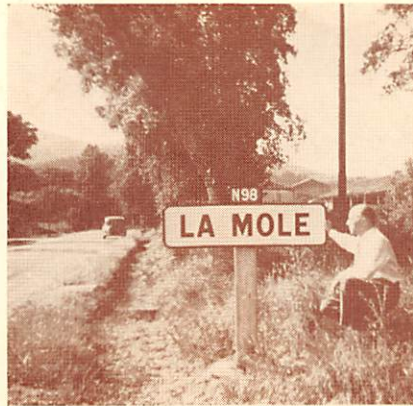
Dick entered the service of the "Central" in the fall of 1902 as rodman and transitman on the Mohawk division. Within three years he had been moved to New York City and was in charge of all eastern district construction. From 1926 through 1948 he was on the staff of the president of the road, acting as his assistant and as senior engineering officer, with supervision over all engineering activities and maintenance-of-way standards.

His duties also included supervision over Grand Central Terminal real estate, which embraced all that building and concessions, plus nine other office buildings, eight apartment houses and six hotels.

Dick has served on a great many important railroad committees dealing with wartime, postwar and suburban transportation problems and has been honored by many groups, significantly enough not only for distinguished "achievement" but often for distinguished service and contributions to the welfare of New York and Westchester, where he makes his home.

Among his club memberships is one in the "Blizzard Men of 1888." (He was eight years old at the time.)

George F. Ferris of the Raymond Concrete Pile company moved up to first vice presidency at the May 6 meeting. Other officers for the 1953-54 year elected



IF ED ALBRIGHT were still a college lad we'd have to assume there was some larcenous intent behind this studious contemplation of a village name marker near Cannes, France. As it is, he came home with only photographic proof that, somewhere, there must be a lady Mole.

Mole Moves . . .

Moles have been extending congratulations to Ralph DeSimone and William Denny, former and present Moles trustees who moved to new posts in Merritt-Chapman & Scott corporation early this year.

Ralph, former president and a director of the company, was named to serve as board chairman and president of Merritt-Chapman & Scott Overseas, Inc., with responsibility for the planning and development of construction operations outside the United States.

Bill, vice president in charge of the company's marine and heavy construction division in New York, was named executive vice president and general manager, and to a directorship.

John S. ("Jack") MacDonald of Walsh Const. Co. is nearing the end of a year's overseas duty during which he has been serving in a supervisory capacity on a big project involving 11 air bases in France.

George F. Ferris has been "moving up" in two realms in the spring and summer of 1953; he moved up to first vice presidency of The Moles, and to the presidency of the Raymond Concrete Pile Company.

then included:

Second vice president: William A. Durkin of Walsh Construction company; sergeant-at-arms: Ted Avery of Blaw-Knox company; secretary: Harry T. Immerman of Spencer, White and Prentis; and treasurer: Edward G. Johnson of the Arthur A. Johnson corporation.

Spencer Honored By Egleston Medal

Charles Burr Spencer, past president of The Moles and president of Spencer, White & Prentis, Inc., on April 30 became the 26th person to receive the Egleston Medal for distinguished engineering achievement. The medal is awarded by the Columbia University Engineering School Alumni Association as a memorial to Thomas Egleston, founder of the school of mining at Columbia. Twelve medals were given in 1939 when the award was founded, one each year since then.



SPENCER receiving Egleston Medal from A. Dexter Hinckley (right), president of Columbia Engineering School Alumni Assn.

The citation refers to Spencer as "eminent engineer and constructor, faithful public servant, devoted son of alma mater, B.A. 1907 and Civil Engineer 1910, developer of numerous original and ingenious methods for underpinning and the installation of deep foundations, director of the underpinning of the White House, president of General Contractors' Association, president of The Moles and recipient of their award for notable engineering and construction achievements, and president of the Society of Older Graduates."

MOLES MAKE NEWS —

but let's not keep so quiet about it! Holing Through has broadened and intensified its editorial outlook — which is just a fancy way of saying we're more interested than ever in hearing about everything that happens to any Mole anywhere: weddings, births, new assignments, unusual experiences, the works. Get in touch with Miss Lizotte at LOngaere 3-3444 — or call John Stahr at MURray Hill 6-3200.



FRANK McCULLOUGH



WILLIAM D. MALCOLM



CORNELIUS VERMONT



CHARLES E. SIMMONS

Since our last bulletin four members of our Society have died:

FRANK McCULLOUGH, assistant chief engineer of J. Rich Steers, Inc., died May 23 at Stamford Hospital in Stamford, Conn., at the age of 71. His home was in Cranford, N. J., where he was long active in community affairs and held such positions as street and water commissioner. He had been with the Central Railroad of New Jersey before entering the employ of Steers in 1914. He was visiting friends in Stamford when he was stricken. He had been ailing about six months. Frank was a 1904 graduate of the University of Maine.

WILLIAM DUNCAN MALCOLM, 70, who had been in charge of millions of dollars' worth of all types of heavy construction in the New York area, died April 22. He was graduated in 1902 from the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, with a Ph. B. degree in engineering. He first came to New York in 1906 as assistant superintendent on the construction of the Pennsylvania railroad terminal at 33rd street. In 1909 he was employed by Henry Steers, Inc. as superintendent on the Manhattan Transfer project; in 1929 he was made a director, secretary and chief engineer of J. Rich Steers, Inc. with which organization he remained until his retirement in 1948.

CORNELIUS VERMONT, 51, who had been associated with a number of top-rank heavy construction firms, died suddenly on May 20 at his home in Ridgefield Park, N. J. Connie took over heavy family responsibilities early when his father was killed during construction of a high school building in Paterson, N. J. He was a member of the class of '25 at Columbia and of Phi Upsilon fraternity there. He worked with Arthur McMullen on Potomac river bridge foundations, then Merritt-Chapman & Scott, and with Bayonne Dry Dock Associates played a leading part in a notably hazardous job of raising a vessel loaded with dynamite. He also worked with George Flynn on the Brooklyn end of the Battery tunnel, and later with Frederick Snare. He served The Moles long and capably as a trustee.

CHARLES E. SIMMONS, 48, contracting manager of the Fabricated Steel Construction division of Bethlehem Steel company, died April 5th in a New York hospital following a heart attack. Born July 24, 1904 in Mount Vernon, N. Y., he was graduated from Dartmouth college in 1926. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity there, and in New York was a member of the Whitehall Lunch Club, New York A.C., University Club, Woodway Country club (director), and the New York Building Congress. He started with Bethlehem in 1926 and moved into the managership of the F.S.C. division in 1946. His wife and four children survive. He served The Moles ably as sergeant-at-arms.

THINK THIS OVER

A mole, according to the dictionary, is supposed to have only "rudimentary eyes," yet some Moles are able to see with great clarity some eternal truths about their work and the responsibilities that their work, by its very nature, puts upon them.

A few months ago at a dinner meeting Holmes Crimmins had occasion to make a few remarks that made an especial impression on several of those present. At their request, he has recalled as best he could the comment. Here it is:

"Yesterday someone asked me what 'Moles' were. Well, in engineering we learn God's laws and then abide by them. When we wish to use our knowledge to create something concrete, we begin to work with men, no longer with lines on a drafting board. So then, when we make a mistake it's not just a line that is erased.

"Because this is so, each of us owes his life and his fortune to the integrity and experience of other Moles working in the hole with us. Because of this we are a group apart and are extremely fond of each other and jealous of our Society."

WELCOME

Holing Through, on behalf of the Old Moles, extends the right claw of fellowship to the following members who have been received into the Society since our last issue:

William H. Casey, of William Casey & Sons, Inc.

George Stanley Coley, Jr., of Bechtel International Corporation.

Leland Bertram Fraser, of Fraser, Brace & Company.

Merton Grant Kennedy, of Morrison-Knudsen Company, Inc.

John J. Walsh, of Walsh Construction Company.