

NEWS BULLETIN

AN ASSOCIATION OF MEN



OF THE MOLES

ENGAGED IN HEAVY CONSTRUCTION

**HOLING**

**THROUGH**

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JULY, 1958

## MOLES PUSH EDUCATION PROGRAM



GENERAL SCENE AT 1958 SPRING MEETING AT BILTMORE

An intensified program of encouraging young men—students, junior engineers and young job employees—to participate in heavy construction will be carried on by The Moles in the coming 1958-59 year.

The program, outlined by the Education Committee and approved by the Executive Committee, will be highlighted by two meetings in New York similar to those held last year for the benefit of young men in the metropolitan area. Also, there will be speakers-bureau activity in which contractors and engineers who are Moles will hold meetings at various colleges outside the New York area. A special booklet is being prepared for distribution to the students to give them information about the construction industry.

Our Education Committee was formed several years ago to fulfill a public-service role appropriate to the stated purposes of the Association, in the same spirit as The Moles Awards. The by-laws provide that the Committee "is to utilize all available means to provide young men with the ability, experience and guidance to lead them toward important positions in the heavy construction industry," and that it is "to co-operate with engineering and educational institu-

tions, other associations and the contracting industry, to achieve this goal."

During the past Moles' year three open meetings were held under Education Committee auspices, two at the Engineering Societies building and one at the Biltmore.

Each meeting featured a motion picture of some outstanding "Mole-made" construction project, talks of both inspirational and instructive nature to show how young men of various degrees of education and ability can fit themselves into the many phases of construction, and question-and-answer sessions.

These meetings were very well attended by faculty members as well as students of virtually all the leading universities and technical schools in the metropolitan area; they served to bring us into intimate contact with faculty members of the schools that will to a great extent supply the construction men of the future, and greatly enhanced the prestige of The Moles.

Charles Stillman, who has fought the good fight as chairman of the Education Committee through the

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# CLAMBAKE PLANS SET

Wednesday, August 13 is the day, and as usual, Travers Island is the place, for the annual Moles' Clambake — and Program Chairman William M. Sheehan and his committee have everything well in hand for a great day of fun and fellowship.

Highlights of the schedule are: buffet luncheon, 12:30 to 2; assorted field contests, 1:30 to 4:30; softball game for The Commissioner's Cup starting at 2; shore dinner at 6, awarding of contest and door prizes at 8, and the big music-and-dancing show in the Big Tent, starting at 8:30.

Moles in charge of the field contests will be: John Torpey for golf pitching, Larry O'Neill for the spike driving, Bob Crimmins for horseshoes, Jim Parsons for the alleycats game. Grand finale contest will of course be the Giant Egg-Toss, with Larry Neuss "egging" on contestants via microphone.

Chairman Sheehan promised that the softball game would be "back on a real amateur basis" this year, with no strong-armed mercenaries dominating the rivalry between Moles and the DPW fellows, whose team has won three times in a row.

John Robbins, entertainment entrepreneur, is especially enthusiastic about the lineup he has for the Tent Show this year, with the piece de resistance being "Po-Po San," an exceedingly exotic exponent of Oriental rhythms and rituals who has inspired some sensational press notices all the way from Honolulu to Las Vegas, Nev.



MISTRESS of Ceremonies at the Clambake will be Sylvia Barry, who made a big hit in the same spotlight a couple of years ago.



GAVEL transfer from Dick Johnson to Howard Collins was symbolic highlight of May 7 annual business meeting, as Howard succeeded Dick in president's chair.

## Dan Lazar Scores As 'Diversionist'

"Builder Thinks Way Out Of Hole" was the headline the New York Times put on a very complimentary story about Dan Lazar of Cayuga Foundation Corporation and Dan's solution of a problem with kids about to fall into a big Lower East Side hole he had dug.

After finding that big fences and extra watchmen were unable to cope with the kids' ingenuity and adventuresomeness, Dan sought "diversionary" methods, and succeeded. He got the co-operation of the Lower East Side Neighborhoods Association in setting up a Cayuga-financed day camp, and a 200-player softball league.

At last reports the kids were so busy playing ball and day-camping they'd quit trying to climb over or tunnel under the fences.

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## New Honor for Wheeler

First Mole to be awarded the Hoover Medal, "awarded by engineers to a fellow-engineer for distinguished service," is Lt. Gen. Raymond A. Wheeler. He was the non-member winner of the Moles' Award in 1948.

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## 'A Night To Remember'

"The last Wednesday in January" has now been officially designated as the "traditional date" for The Moles' Award Dinner. This was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee after being recommended by the Headquarters Committee.

## St. Lawrence Project

Five famous firms, each with a fair share of Mole members among its officials, shared in the joint venture of the St. Lawrence Power and Seaway Project. Mole Award Winner Lou Perini paid tribute to his fellow-workers and others in a full-page ad in the New York Times. Perini Corporation managed the work on Barnhart Powerhouse and Snell Lock; Morrison-Knudsen, Inc. sponsored Mas-sena Intake and Eisenhower Lock; Peter Kiewit Sons' Co. sponsored Iroquois Dam, Long Sault Canal and Waddington Canal; Walsh Construction Co. sponsored Long Sault Dam, and Utah Construction Co. was mentioned for its role in the project.

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## NERBA Likes Moles

Molemen seem to have a more or less permanent tenure in the presidency of the New England Road Builders Association. Joseph Foley wrote The Moles office a few weeks ago to point out that he is the "immediate past president" of the group, that he had succeeded another Mole, Joseph R. Perini, and that still another Mole, A. I. (Butch) Savin, would be serving as president for the year beginning May, 1958.

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## Membership Figures

Moles' membership as of the end of June, 1958, stood at a grand total of 501. Of these, 444 were Active members, 3 were Founder members, 33 Emeritus members, and 21 Honorary. The three Founder members are Ralph W. Atwater, Albert V. Sielke, and Alex M. Stagg.

## HARVEY SLOCUM GETS WRITE-UPS

Harvey Slocum, Moles non-member Award winner of 1956 and regarded by everyone, not excluding himself, as "the best dam man in the world," is currently the subject of two extensive magazine articles.

"A Crusty Californian Builds a Dam in the Himalayas" is the title of a piece in "The Reporter" that gives a lively picture of the energetic and outspoken Slocum's effect on both the personnel and the topography of India as he pushes the Bhakra Dam toward its 740-foot crest.

And Harvey is "True" magazine's "True's WHO" feature for July. It calls the Bhakra project "the biggest construction job going on in the world today," and reports Slocum has been putting into it 400 tons of concrete per hour, 24 hours a day, since November of 1955, with about three more years to go, at the same rate!

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## Here Are Year's Committee Ranks

Committee chairmen and members for the 1958-59 Mole Year are as follows:

Award Committee — Howard L. King, chairman; Philip Grove, vice chairman.

Membership — James T. Denton, chairman; Peter F. Connolly, vice chairman; Edward P. Albright, Joseph B. Diamond, Howard Gould, Hal W. Hunt, Edward J. Mahoney, George I. Spooner, and Alfred N. Warwick.

Program — William M. Sheehan, chairman; Harry Siefke, vice chairman; Robert J. Armstrong, Robert S. Gates, Edward S. Good Sr., Edward J. Johnson, Arthur F. Riegel, John W. Torpey, and Paul M. Wentworth.

Finance — Eugene G. Rau, chairman; Edward G. Armitage, William H. Bruce Jr., Mandrup Skeie, and Arnold Thurber.

Publicity — John J. Walsh, chairman; John J. Murphy, vice chairman; Francis G. Carey, Robert H. Dodds, Henry T. Perez, and George W. Rogers.

Education — (listed in story on Education Program).

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### Driscoll Honored

Fred Driscoll was awarded an honorary L.L.D. degree by Fordham University on June 11, for "his ability and integrity as a builder and as an arbitrator in labor disputes." He had received a similar honor from Boston College in 1955.



NEW MEMBERS lined up for the camera at the May 7 business meeting: Front row, left to right: H. Warren Pattberg, Neil O'Leary, Garland S. Tinsley, and Thomas R. Trent. Rear row: John R. Sloan, Eugene Joseph Fullam, W. A. Milbury, and George J. Landers.

## CLAMBAKE MEMORIES

This being the 20th anniversary of the first Moles' Clambake, a few recollections of that historic event — of August 24, 1938, taken from the carefully kept records of Alex Staggs — may be in order:

It was held at Karatsonyi's, at Glenwood Landing, L.I., because that had been the scene of some fabulous affairs that O'Brien Brothers had staged for years with men of the construction industry in the metropolitan area as guests.

All transportation was via a chartered excursion boat that started at the Battery. The program was generally similar to that still followed today, except that there were three softball games, not just one. The games pitted Ray Spooner's Dock Rats against Miles Killmer's Sand Hogs, Al Lyle's Molecules (that's cute, eh?) against Al Warwick's Caterpillars, and Joe Dixie's Sand Snipes against Johnny Hagen's Bulldozers.

The evening meal was a real-for-sure clambake with all the fixin's, followed by professional entertainment that was the beginning of the tradition carried on so brilliantly under John Robbins' direction ever since.

The memory-filled climax of the evening came after 10:30. The Captain of the steamboat had announced that it would positively have to leave by 10:30 or be grounded by the ebbing tide, but he was by no means completely successful in prying Moles and their guests away from the after-the-show fellowship bar. Finally he had to pull out — leaving just about half the total assemblage of 400 to make their way home as best they could from Glenwood Landing!

Apparently the Mahogany Bar was more attractive to them than the Sand Bar!



FRED G. BIRCH, 73, a Member Emeritus of the Moles, died last Nov. 26 in Great Falls, Mont. Born in Pembina, North Dakota Territory, he grew up in the Dakotas and graduated from N.D. Agricultural College in Fargo in 1906, and spent his long career in construction in the West and Northwest. The S. Birch & Sons Construction Co. which he and his father and brother formed in 1908 in Salt Lake City laid the first concrete paving put down in Montana. The company has been situated in Great Falls since 1913. Always keenly aware of his civic responsibilities, Fred Birch also was one of the founders and a president of the Montana chapter of A.G.C., and a director of the national association.

The committee for this epochal event was headed by Ralph Atwater and consisted of 30 members, very nearly the entire Moles membership at that time.



JAMES J. LUCY, 59, a partner in the Lucy, McNiece and Bull surety bond agency, died June 24 of a heart attack in Mercy Hospital, Rockville Centre, shortly after entering the hospital for a check-up. Long active in public relations on behalf of the construction industry and surety bond programs, he had just recently been reappointed to the board of governors of the New York Building Congress. He got his first job at the age of 12 with the American Surety Company, and founded his own general agency in 1937. He lived in West Hempstead, N.Y. Surviving are his widow, Lillian, a son, James J. Jr., of West Hempstead, and a daughter, Mrs. Frances Warren of Arlington, Va.

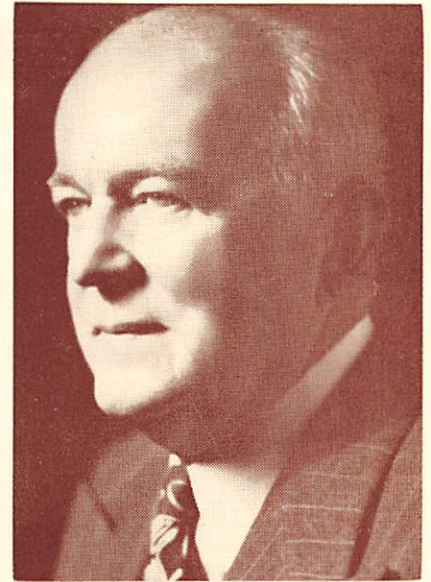
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#### Four 'Emeriti'

Applications of four Moles to be transferred to Member Emeritus status were acted upon favorably by the Executive Committee at its June meeting. The four new Members Emeritus are: Charles E. Fraser, W. Linus Martin, Porter C. Murphy, and Frederick B. Spencer.



CHARLES KANDEL, 69, founder and president of Craftsweld Equipment Corporation, died April 21 at Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital. A native of Rumania, he came to this country at the age of 12, in 1900, attended New York City schools and worked his way through Columbia Engineering School by serving as a guide for tours of the city. In 1927 he founded Craftsweld, manufacturing welding and cutting equipment and commercial diving equipment, and pioneering in underwater cutting and welding equipment. The company was awarded four Army-Navy "E's" during World War II. He contributed many articles to technical magazines and devoted a great deal of time to community work, much of it with children. In his later years he was an ardent and inventive radio "ham." His home was in Jackson Heights. Surviving are his widow, Edith; two sons, Richard and Robert; two sisters and a brother, Monte Kandel.



ROBERT CLIFFORD WILSON, 75, retired board chairman of the Turner Construction Company, died in University Heights Hospital July 1, after a brief illness. Mr. Wilson graduated from the Columbia University School of Mines in 1905, and immediately engaged in heavy construction, principally on the East River tunnels of the Pennsylvania Railroad, before joining Turner in 1907. He was general manager of Turner's office in Atlanta from 1919 until 1928, when he was elected a director of the company. He became a vice president in 1935 and in 1947 was elected chairman. He had retired in 1953 but had continued as a director and consultant until last January. Among big projects in which he participated were the James River Bridge in Virginia, the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, the Naval Fleet Supply Base in Brooklyn and the Alton Dam on the Mississippi. Surviving are his widow, Ruth; two sons, Robert C. Jr. and Charles H., a brother and four grandchildren. He lived at 850 Fifth Avenue in New York.

### Education Program

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last three years or so, continues as chairman for the coming year, with these helpers: Charles B. Molineaux, vice-chairman; Richard E. Mynatt, George F. Flay Jr., Henry A. Letoile, Louis F. Booth and Howard G. Dixon. The three last-named are new members of the Committee this year.

A special subcommittee consisting of Booth, Mynatt and Honorary Life President Ralph W. Atwater has been given the assignment of preparing the booklet mentioned above.

All members of The Moles will receive in the mail — about the same time as this issue of *Holing Through* — an official invitation from Treasurer Harry Immerman to make voluntary contributions in support of The Moles' Education

Program. The letter cites President Howard Collins' firm belief that the program "will develop into a useful and important contribution to the heavy-construction industry" and will be an outside activity that "will be universally recognized as enhancing The Moles' prestige."

Three points about the meetings with college men have been agreed upon by the Education Committee and are emphasized: (1) that the purpose of the meetings is "educational and not to find employment for the young men;" (2) that it is to be explained to the students that finding employment is primarily their problem, and (3) the talks are to be planned to demonstrate how young men of varying degrees of education and ability can fit into the many phases of heavy construction, and to make clear their chances for year-to-year progress.

The Committee has a large file of letters and memos from students and faculty members commenting — mostly in enthusiastic terms — about the helpfulness of the sessions held last year. The file is being used for guidance in arranging the coming season's program.

The colleges that will be receiving literature and invitations from The Moles in connection with the 1958-59 Education Program include: City College of New York, Columbia University, Cooper Union, Fairleigh Dickinson College, Fordham University, Lehigh University, Manhattan College, New York University, Newark College of Engineering, Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, Pratt Institute, Princeton University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rutgers University, Stevens Institute of Technology, University of Connecticut, and Yale University.