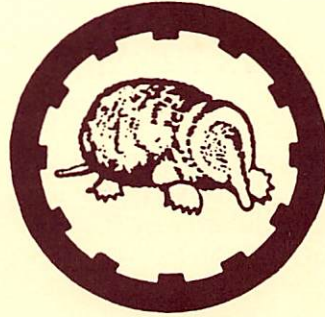


## NEWS BULLETIN

AN ASSOCIATION OF INDIVIDUALS

# HOLING



## OF THE MOLES

ENGAGED IN HEAVY CONSTRUCTION

# THROUGH

APRIL, 2000

## ROBERT R. BUCKLEY ELECTED PRESIDENT of THE MOLES

ROBERT R. BUCKLEY, President of Buckley & Company, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has been elected to serve as President of The Moles for the year 2000/2001. He will receive the gavel from retiring President, Raymond R. Oneglia, at the Annual Business Meeting and Dinner to be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2000 at The New York Hilton Hotel.

Other officers elected are: First Vice President, GEORGE J. TAMARO, Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers; Second Vice President, Peter S. Schneidkraut, Kiewit Constructors Inc.; Treasurer, ARTHUR B. CORWIN, Moretrench American Corporation; Secretary, RICHARD S. WEEKS, Weeks Marine, Inc.; Sergeant-at-Arms, ARTURO L. RESSI DI CERVA, Icos Corporation..



ROBERT R. BUCKLEY

Trustees elected for three (3) year terms are: GARY ALMERARIS, Slattery Skanska, Inc.; EUGENE F. KELLEY, Misener Marine, Inc.; JEFFREY M. LEVY, EMCOR Group, Inc.; and JOHN F. MC NAMARA III, Modern Continental Construction Company.

Buckley & Company, Inc. was founded by Bob Buckley's father, John J. Buckley, in 1928. In 1974, Bob succeeded as President and Chief Executive Officer and since that time the company has evolved from primarily a foundation contractor into a heavy and highway contractor. Under his direction, the company has been involved in such projects in Philadelphia as the Market Street and Broad Street Subways, the Philadelphia Center City Commuter Connection, I-95, the Schuylkill Expressway and the Passyunk Avenue Bridge; in New York City's Lexington Avenue Subway, Holland Tunnel and Newton Creek Pollution Control Project; the original widening of the New Jersey Turnpike; the EPCOT Center in Walt Disney World; expansion of the San Francisco International Airport; numerous projects for PRASA in Puerto Rico; and the Nassau County Outfall Sewer on Long Island, New York.

Bob earned a bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Drexel Institute of Technology in 1958, graduating as a member of Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges. While attending college, Bob worked at the company in a

(continued on Page 2)



## ROBERT BUCKLEY

(continued from page 1)

variety of positions from 1953 to 1958. Following graduation, he served as a Captain in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1958 to 1959. He returned to the company in 1959 and rose to the position of Vice President.

In addition to his responsibilities at Buckley & Company, Inc., Bob has served the industry in numerous ways: a five year term as President of the Contractors Association of Eastern Pennsylvania, Heavy and Highway Division; two years as President of the Associated Pennsylvania Contractors; as a Director of both of these organizations. In addition to his Moles' activities, Bob has been an active member of the General Building Contractors Association, Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) and the American Society of Highway Engineers. Bob has received numerous awards, including the Award of Appreciation from SAME, Alumni Achievement Award and the Delaware Valley Chapter of the American Society of Highway Engineer's Person of the Year in 1997. He served as Chairman of Transportation Sector of The March of Dimes from 1998 to 1999.

Bob serves on the Board of Directors at Drexel University and has received numerous honors from his alma mater. In 1997, he received both the A.J. Drexel Paul Award for the Outstanding Alumni and the Drexel 100 Award for being one of the 100 most outstanding graduates from the University.

Bob resides in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Marlene. Bob has five children and eight grandchildren. He enjoys time with his family, speed boating, swimming, golfing and is a baseball, football and basketball fan.

Bob was an outstanding athlete while attending Drexel and is a member of Drexel's Athletic Hall of Fame.

## Twenty Four New Members Elected

At the Executive Committee meeting on April 4, 2000, twenty four new members (listed below) were elected to membership in The Moles..

Charles Androsiglio  
Defoe Corporation  
Robert Band  
Perini Corporation  
Marvin J. Bloom  
URS Greiner Woodward Clyde  
Robert J. Burick  
Granite Construction Company  
David M. Cacoilo  
Mueser Rutledge  
John A. Cavanagh  
Morse Diesel International, Inc.  
Anthony G. Cracchiolo  
The Port Authority of NY & NJ  
Joseph W. Ertle, Jr.  
Perini Corporation  
Raymond J. Finnegan  
The Port Authority of NY & NJ  
Joseph G. Griffin  
George Harms Construction Co.  
Joseph J. Iorio  
Yonkers Contracting Company  
John S. Karpinski  
Weeks Marine, Inc.  
Lawrence W. Klein  
Yonkers Contracting Company  
Robert A. Koch  
Weeks Marine, Inc.  
John A. Loftus  
Perini Corporation  
Patrick P. Loftus  
High Steel Structures, Inc.  
Robert J. McKinstry  
Barker Steel Co.  
Mysore Nagaraja  
NYC Transit Authority  
Rory D. Neubauer  
Modern Continental Construction  
Gary D. Platt  
Weeks Marine, Inc.  
Benjamin D. Redd, Jr.  
Raytheon Engineers & Constructors  
Ralph V. Russo  
Slattery Skanska, Inc.  
Kirk Samuelson  
Kiewit Construction Company  
Donald R. Williamson  
Rogers Group, Inc.

## One Moles' Member Celebrates Forty Years

STEPHEN D. TEETOR is the only surviving member of the sixteen who were inducted into Moles' membership on May 4, 1960. Steve spent a large part of his career as a Partner with Seelye Stevenson Value & Knecht. His longevity may well be due to his approach to life. Sometime ago he wrote the following letter to the Moles:

"In 1978 due to a bad back I retired from engineering. For the fun of it I went to Northrop University Law School in California for two years and obtained a Masters in Taxation. I have spent the following winters in Maui, HI and the summers at my house in VT. The summers are spent swimming and sailing while the winters are spent swimming and occasionally on committees for the Episcopal Bishop of HI helping on tax advantageous giving plans and fund raising. In other words, after 35 years of work, I retired and have been having a ball."

Good example for us all to follow in retirement: relaxation and some charitable work.

### BOOK REVIEW: *BUILDING THE EMPIRE STATE*

Sometimes one has to wonder about how far we have come in construction. We now have the benefit of the Critical Method of Scheduling, the computer and other technology but are we really doing better than what was done seventy years ago.

The Empire State Building was completed less than eleven months after the first steel columns were set on April 7, 1930. The book, *BUILDING THE EMPIRE STATE* (edited by Carol Willis), recounts the construction of this landmark building and contains copies of the in house notebook documenting the entire construction process. Recommended for your reading.



## *How Specs Live Forever*

From an unknown source

The US Standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and the US railroads were built by English expatriates. Why did the English people build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used. Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing. Well, why did the wagons use that odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing the wagons would break on some of the old, long distance roads, because that's the spacing of the old wheel ruts.

So who built these old rutted roads? The first long distance roads in Europe were built by Imperial Rome for the benefit of their legions. The roads have been used ever since. And the ruts? The initial ruts, which everyone else had you match for fear of destroying their wagons, were first made by Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were made for or by Imperial Rome they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Thus we have the answer to the original questions. The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman army war chariot.

Specs and Bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right. Because the Imperial Roman chariots were made to be just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses.

### ***ROOMS AT NEW YORK HILTON HOTEL***

The Moles office has arranged for a block of rooms at the New York Hilton Hotel for all Moles' functions at the special rate of \$215.00 per night. It is necessary that you make your reservation three weeks in advance of your arrival.



Vic Hertslet receives his 50 year Certificate from Moles' President Ray Oneglia at the November Dinner. Vic is expected at May 3rd Dinner along with 56 year member, Dan Lazar. Lets all come out and enjoy a fine evening.

## **THE MOLES**

Holing Through is published by The Moles three times a year: April, July and November. The Moles is an organization of people engaged in heavy construction. Its purpose is to promote better acquaintance among individuals engaged in heavy construction to the end:

- That past and future friendships and a spirit of fraternization among the members be fostered.
- That meetings and other gatherings be held to exchange construction information and promote good fellowship among members.
- That advancement of the Construction art be achieved and outstanding performance be recognized through awards and otherwise.
- That the youth of our country be encouraged to participate in heavy construction by a multi purpose program of education in cooperation with engineering colleges and other associations.
- That, in the public interest, standards of construction shall be raised both as to engineering and business ethics.

The Moles' office is located at 577 Chestnut Ridge Road, Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey 07675. Telephone: 201-930-1923 Fax: 201-930-8501 Executive Director: Gerard J. Carty, P.E.



# A MOMENT OF SILENCE



JOHN DAVID SAUNDERS

Former Moles' President, JOHN DAVID SAUNDERS, died on March 24, 2000. John served as President of the Moles in 1983 and in the same year was honored with The Moles' Member Award. John graduated from Cornell University in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering and immediately went to work for Slattery Contracting Company where he was to spend his entire career. Under his leadership as CEO of Slattery, the company grew considerably through the acquisition of Underpinning & Foundation Constructors, H. Sand & Co. and Grow Tunneling Corporation. John was a former President of the General Contractors Association and was active in industry affairs and Moles' activities through much of his career.



GUSTAVE FLEISCHER

GUS FLEISCHER died on February 19, 2000. Gus graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. His early career through 1975 was with Porier & McLane Corporation on various heavy construction and tunnel projects in the New York City area. The remainder of his career was with MacLean-Grove & Company and Schiavone Construction Company, Inc. where he worked on New York City tunnel projects. Gus was a very devoted member of The Moles, serving on the Education Committee and the Program Committee. He was very interested in our young engineers and was a regular helper on Student's Day.

Long time Moles' member, MATTHEW M. MC INERNY, died on December 27, 1999, just short of his 84th birthday.. Matt earned his Civil Engineering Degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1937 and before going into the service, during World War II, worked for Walsh Construction Company and Connolly Construction Company. Matt had an outstanding military record serving with the Marines in the Pacific. He subsequently worked for Merritt Chapman & Scott and Conduit & Foundation Corporation, as well as being in the construction business on his own. The latter part of his career was as construction consultant. Matt's son, Denis, recently retired as CEO of Frontier Kemper Constructor and another son is Assistant General Counsel of Stone & Webster.

ARTHUR R. TRAUTMANN died on October 16, 1999 at the age of 73. He was a graduate of Penn State University and when he became a member of The Moles in 1983 was Executive Director of the Associated General Contractors of New Jersey. He subsequently became Administrator for the Heavy and Highway Laborers Health and Welfare Fund.



## **ANNUAL CLAMBAKE**

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**TRIVERS ISLAND  
TUESDAY  
AUGUST 1, 2000**

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**Make plans now to  
attend**



# NEWS OF MEMBERS

## POLVI AND WETMORE HONORED BY THEIR ALMA MATERS

ROBERT L. POLVI was inducted into the Oregon State University's College of Engineering Hall of Fame on October 24, 1999 and BYRON WETMORE was honored with an Outstanding Engineering Alumni Award by Penn State's College of Engineering on April 3, 2000.

BOB POLVI earned his Bachelor's Degree from Oregon State University in 1956 and Master's Degree in Civil Engineering in 1958. Bob rose to a senior executive position as a member of Board of Directors of the Bechtel Group (1984-1992), and President of Bechtel Civil Company (1986-1991). He served as President of the US Commission on Large Dams and as President of The Beavers in 1993. His pumped storage project in Ludington, Michigan, was selected as the Most Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement in 1973 by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

BYRON (SKIP) WETMORE received his Civil Engineering Degree from Penn State in 1957, began his career with Lane Construction Corporation at that time and has been with the company ever since. He is President and Chief Executive Officer and under his leadership the company has expanded from a regional firm to a national leader in heavy construction. The Outstanding Engineering Alumni Awards are the highest conferred by the College of Engineering. Only 200 persons - out of 72,000 alumni worldwide- have received the award during its thirty-four year history.

## NEW ASSIGNMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

BRIAN FLAHERTY was named Senior Vice President of STV Inc. Brian's early career in construction was with Horn Construction Company. From there he moved on to Morrison Knudsen, rising to Regional Vice President of Eastern Operations.

EUGENE F. KELLEY was named President of Misener Marine Construction, Inc., Tampa, Florida. Gene was most recently a Senior Executive with Weeks Marine and prior to joining Weeks he received his indoctrination to marine construction with J. Rich Steers, under the tutelage of Bob Koch. All of Gene's friends and colleagues at Weeks were sorry to see him leave but wish him success in this major new assignment.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND PROMOTIONS (CONTINUED FROM COLUMN ON LEFT)

RICHARD J. MAITINO retired as Director of Region II of the NYS Department of Transportation and has taken on the position of Deputy Regional Manager of New York and New Jersey with Parsons Transportation Group. He is a graduate of Penn State University.

JOHN A. RUPICH has joined Felix Industries as Executive Vice President. For the past several years John has been with Spiniello Construction Company. Prior to that he had approximately fifteen years service with Gates Construction Company where he was Vice President. John graduated from West Virginia Institute of Technology with a Degree in Civil Engineering.

GEORGE GEOFF SEARLE has assumed the position of President of IA Construction Corporation, Concordville, PA. Geoff is a graduate of the University of Miami and has been with IA for seventeen years, working his way from Estimator, Project Manager, Region Manager, Vice President and now President.

GARY WINSPEER, Project Director of the AirTrain, JFK Light Rail, has been appointed Vice President of Slattery Skanska. Gary is a Civil Engineering graduate of City College. He joined Slattery in 1978 as Project Manager on the Friendship Heights and Tenley Circle subway stations in Washington for WMATA.

## HONORS

DAVID S. GEDNEY was awarded the Wilbur S. Smith Award by the American Society of Civil Engineers. The award is made to the person judged worthy of special commendation for his contribution to the enhancement of the role of civil engineer in highway engineering. Dave is Executive Vice President for Infrastructure for Fluor Daniel, Greenville, SC. Prior to that he was Executive Vice President of Morrison Knudsen. He has Civil Engineering Degrees from Purdue University and Tufts University.

LARRY LEHMAN of Berger Lehman Associates is justly proud of the two awards being given his firm for the planning, design and construction management of the Founders Bridge/Riverfront Plaza project in Hartford, CT. One award is the Grand Award from the American Consulting Engineers Council and the other a Merit Award from the U. S. Department of Transportation. RAY AND DAVID ONEGLIA'S O&G Industries was the contractor on this project



# MRCE CELEBRATES 90 YEARS OF FOUNDATION ENGINEERING

The year 2000 marks the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for New York City based Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers (MRCE). Since the founding of the firm in 1910, MRCE has provided professional services for geotechnical and foundation engineering and the design of underground and waterfront structures. Concentrating work in these specialized areas enables the partners, associates, and staff engineers to keep abreast of technological developments in the expanding field of geotechnical engineering. Solving the difficult foundation and special structure problems on a wide variety of assignments, the firm developed and maintained expertise in all phases of foundation engineering.



*"Foundation engineering is an art in which there is no substitute for judgment based on wide experience."*

**Daniel E. Moran** (1864 – 1937)  
MRCE Founder

If a firm can have a personality, Mueser Rutledge's reflects that of its founder, Daniel E. Moran. For ninety years, MRCE has carried on the tradition of Moran, an intellectually curious, inspired pioneer in the field of foundation engineering. An 1884 graduate of Columbia University's School of Mines, he obtained his first patent in 1893 for an air-lock device for caisson construction. By 1901, he formed the Foundation Company in New York City, after observing that most great cities of the world were built along waterways with inherently "unsuitable soils." Moran focused on foundation engineering in New York, constructing deep foundations on difficult sites for many Manhattan landmarks. Through his work he became known as "the man who made the skyline of New York."

Then, in 1910 Moran established the consulting firm that has become the firm of Mueser Rutledge Consulting



## MRCE Partners

Seated left to right: **Hugh Lacy, Peter Edinger, George Tamaro**  
Standing left to right: **David Cacoilo, Peter Deming, Alfred Brand, Joel Moskowitz, Tony Fennimore**

Engineers. Moran focused his young business solely on foundation engineering, establishing the founding philosophy that guides MRCE today. An innovator in the testing of soils, Moran preceded many notables in experimenting with changes in soil due to pressure changes. He established the first commercial soil mechanics laboratory in the USA, the basis for MRCE's current laboratory.

In 1920, Charles F. Maurice and Carlton S. Proctor became Moran's partners, and the firm became known as Moran, Maurice and Proctor. Over the years, the firm had several name changes, reflecting the partners at the time: Moran, Proctor & Freeman, 1936; Moran, Proctor, Freeman & Mueser, 1939; Moran, Proctor, Mueser & Rutledge, 1951; Mueser, Rutledge, Wentworth & Johnston, 1963; Mueser, Rutledge, Johnston & DeSimone, 1977. In 1985, the firm selected Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers as its permanent name.

Throughout the firm's history, the partners have always committed themselves and the firm to the specialized field of foundation engineering, rather than branching out to other fields. That commitment stands today. Although MRCE's knowledge base has expanded, as has the field of Geotechnical engineering, Mueser Rutledge remains focused on

underground construction, waterfront structures, and in providing innovative designs for today's challenges. Working from its "world headquarters" office in New York City, Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers has developed a long-established reputation for problem solving in the field of underground construction. Preparing economical and buildable designs for contractors has become an increasing part of Mueser Rutledge's business. This includes redesign, design/build, value engineering, designing of temporary earth support or underpinning, and investigations of failures.

Mueser Rutledge has always been very active in The Moles. Former Partners Carlton S. Proctor, Sal V. DeSimone, and Elmer A. Richards have all served as Moles' Presidents. Carlton Proctor had the honor of presenting Honorary Membership to Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Non-Member Awards to Herbert Hoover and Karl Terzaghi, and was himself the recipient of the Membership Award in 1963. Former Partners William H. Mueser, James P. Gould, and Elmer A. Richards received Member Awards. Today, current Partners and associates are active members of the Moles, and Partner George J. Tamaro serves as a Moles' Vice President.



# EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Civil Engineering - Beyond the Classroom by *John Kolaya, Chairman of the Education Committee*

Have you ever stopped to wonder how civil engineering students become convinced to follow a career in construction. Some students may have been hooked at an early age by their parents or relatives who work in the industry. However, many young people never have had an opportunity to see or hear first hand about the engineers and contractors who design and build the great bridges, dams and tunnels across our country.

Through the years, the Moles has provided thousands of students a chance to experience that excitement that enables us to meet the risks and challenges we face every day. We have found that the students are eager to learn about what we do and are grateful for the opportunity, each year, to tour a construction site led by the people who design and build the work.

Annual Student's Day is just one way that The Moles carries out one of the most important of it's missions: "to encourage young people, through education programs, to participate in heavy construction and it's related fields". Exposing engineering students to real life experiences is an important element of their education. Communicating what goes on beyond the classroom walls compliments the theories and principles that are fundamental to educating practical civil engineers by opening their eyes to what is required to build the end product.

The success of our program depends upon the commitment of our membership. Moles' members who participate in our Education Committee programs each year have been rewarded by the opportunity they get to interact with these bright young people. Moles are encouraged to participate in the activities of the Education Committee which now includes some new programs to help us to achieve our mission. You may participate in the following ways:

Annual Students Day - Join us for the day as a tour guide and meet some of the over 200 students who participate each April in this highly popular program.

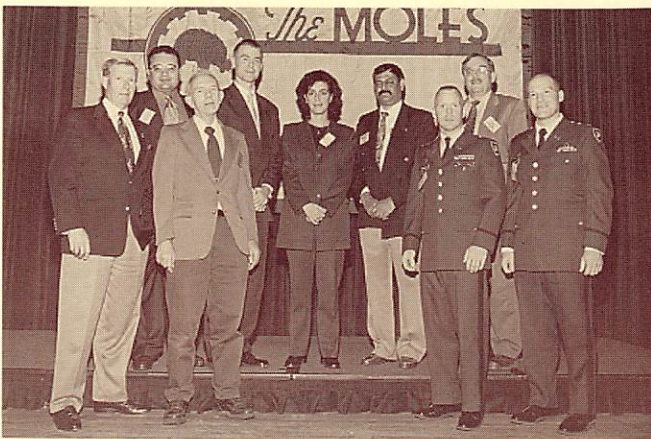
Students Awards - At the request of one of the schools, a Moles' member may be requested to present the award at a meeting or awards ceremony at one of the 20 participating schools.

Career Connection - Become a Moles contact for your firm and receive inquiries from students seeking internships or full time positions in your field.

Speaker Forum - Volunteer to visit one of the participating schools and speak to students about your experience in design and construction.

Special Site Visits - Volunteer one of your construction sites or design offices for a class or small group of students to visit and learn more about the heavy construction industry.

## STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT NOVEMBER DINNER



Faculty members at November Dinner.



Student Award and Scholarship Recipients at November Dinner.

*2000 Student's Day on April 7th at JFK Airport was another success. Thanks to all who donated hard hats and others who helped as guides. More about this in the July issue of Holing Through.*



## ***“Storm, a Surprise Punch, Blankets East Coast”***

Headline - New York Times, Wednesday, January 26, 2000

### ***Classic Northeaster, Worst in 4 Years, Kills at Least 5***

*A powerful winter storm, a frosty sucker punch from the South, took the Northeast by surprise yesterday, shutting thousands of schools and businesses, making a mess of roads and airports, and resulting in at least five deaths.*

The above described winter storm on Tuesday, January 25, 2000, the day before the 2000 Annual Awards Dinner, caused considerable disruption to the plans of many Moles' members and guests. Member Award Recipient Sherwood Liles, left home in Virginia Beach early Tuesday morning to get his flight up to New York's La Guardia Airport. Upon arrival at the local airport, he was advised that La Guardia was closed but he and his family could be routed via Pittsburgh into Newark Airport. With some concern, Sherwood agreed to proceed. No trouble getting to Pittsburgh but upon arrival there, he was told that Newark was now closed.

Sherwood had made plans to host a dinner for friends and relatives that evening in New York. All day he waited in Pittsburgh for Newark Airport to open. It never happened. Sherwood stayed over in Pittsburgh that night while those who could make it into New York City (about one half of those expected) toasted his good fortune in being selected to receive The Moles Member Award but regretted his ill fortune in not being present.

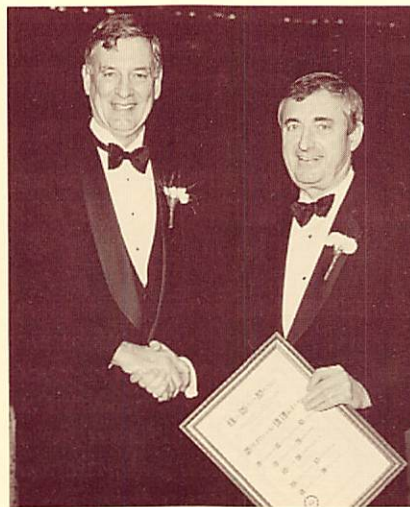
Concern then grew as to whether he would make it to New York the following day. Fortunately, the weather broke on Wednesday and Sherwood arrived in time for the Award Committee luncheon at noon on Wednesday. The Non Member Award Recipient, Pat Stricklin, had arrived in New York on Monday before the storm.

Many traveling from the west ran into the same problem as Sherwood and most coming from such a distance did not make it to New York at all. Despite all of these problems, those who did attend (the vast majority) enjoyed the usual fine evening that the Dinner has come to be known for. Former Governor Jim Florio of New Jersey was the Principal Speaker, John Donohoe presented the Member Award to Sherwood Liles and Skip Wetmore presented the Non Member Award to Pat Stricklin. All did a fine job in their assigned tasks.

The Spouses Dinner and Show went well, with dinner at the Halcyon Restaurant and then all off to the Broadway hit, "Fosse".



Governor Jim Florio receiving Honorary Membership certificate from Moles' President Ray Oneglia.



John Donohoe (left) presenting certificate to Member Awardee, Sherwood Liles.



Pat Stricklin, Non Member Awardee (left), receiving certificate from Skip Wetmore.