



AUGUST, 2019

## The Moles Students Day - Its Rich History

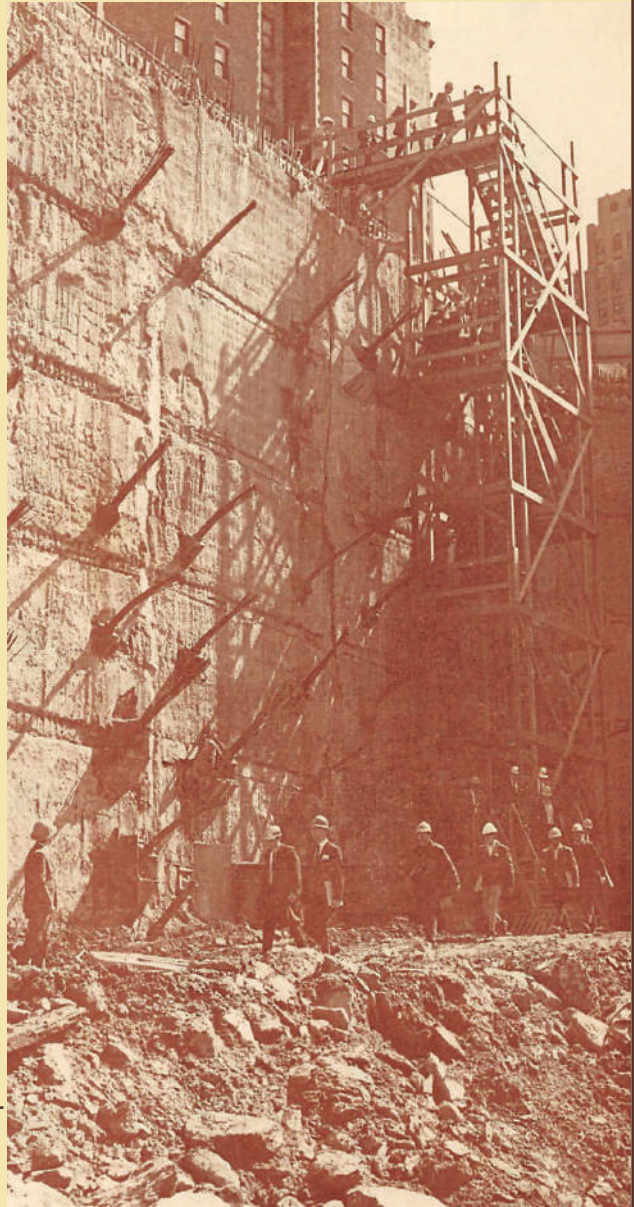
The Moles were established in 1937, but they didn't start with many of the events and programs that exist today. For example, the very successful Moles Students Day where The Moles arrange a site visit for approximately 400 engineering students to a major construction site did not start until 1962. The current Students Day program begins in an assembly hall where the students are offered breakfast beginning at 8 AM, immediately followed by a welcome address and a technical presentation. The technical presentation is designed to highlight the overall scope of the particular project in order that the students more fully understand the concepts of the project before actually viewing the work in progress at the individual construction stations during the tour which immediately follows. Typically, by about 1:30 PM the site tour is completed and the students reassemble for a box lunch provided by The Moles and the students then have the opportunity to ask questions and interface one-on-one with the numerous volunteer Moles members on hand to assist for the day. This meeting time also allows students to inquire about possible internships with Mole companies during the upcoming summer!

Back in 1962, there was the significant addition to The Moles yearly schedule when the inaugural Moles Students Day tour to three individual major projects in NYC was scheduled. The construction site locations included the Manhattan Approach to the GWB, the 200 buildings under construction on the 1964-65 World's Fair construction site, and also included the construction work for the new Shea Stadium. The program was very aggressive and very different from what is currently done. The tour of the three individual sites started at approximately 10 AM and continued until 5 PM. The tour was then followed by an hour and a half question and answer period in the Engineering Societies Building on 47<sup>th</sup> Street across from the U. N. Building. From 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM dinner was served in the cafeteria to the students who then attended a 3 hour technical presentation in the auditorium. The evening presentation described the work in great detail, from inception through all phases of a construction project, including financing, design, contracts, construction, materials, equipment, insurance, safety, labor relations, public relations and so forth. This was followed by a film on a unique construction project!

The Chair of the Education Committee that year was Richard Mynatt of Merritt-Chapman & Scott. Other Education Committee members were Bob Armstrong, G. William Bailey, Bill Durkin, Gerry Gausa, Howard Dixon, Henry Letoile and Charles Stillman.

*(continued on p. 2)*

*Right:* Students descended a staircase in the southeast corner of the World Trade Center site in 1969, affording a close-up view of slurry walls and tie-backs.





# The Moles Students Day *(continued from p. 1)*

Please view the picture of the students where all the students came dressed in jackets and ties! By the late 60's jackets and ties were no longer part of college life and never seen on the tour again. The students shown in the photo (bottom, opposite page) would have been 1963 college graduates so they would now be in their late 70's – recognize anyone?

The popularity of the tour day continued to increase very rapidly. In 1966, at Deep Rock Cut, West Orange, New Jersey, 250 students were given a walking tour by William Kirschner, District Bridge Engineer, NJ State Highway Dept and W.J. "Joe" Green that was reported by the Newark News, as "an open-air walking classroom." The event was recognized by then Governor Richard J. Hughes in the letter shown here:

In the spring of 1967, The Moles Students Day event was held at the site of the World Trade Center for the first of what would eventually be a total of seven site visits over the next 40+ years. The innovative approach to support deep excavations known as slurry wall construction was new to the US and the student group in 1967 were permitted a detailed explanation on the slurry wall process. In 1969, the tour returned to the WTC and viewed the slurry wall now supporting the overburdened material and the initial floors of the innovative steel design for One World Trade Center. Viewing the photo from that day in 1969, you can almost hear the distinct voice of George Tamaro explaining the slurry wall process to the students. No one back then could have ever imagined the truly unbelievable series of tragic events followed by extreme reconstruction efforts that were to unfold at the WTC in the coming years. I speak for all Moles members and also all Americans, that now that the WTC reconstruction is substantially complete, we wish that the stunning new WTC complex be allowed to stand for many, many, years as a symbol of peace and resilience for numerous future generations to visit, reflect and appreciate.

## Governor Richard J. Hughes Commends The Moles!

W. J. (Joe) Green who had very much of a hand in making the 1966 Students' Day the success it was, received a personal letter from the Hon. Richard J. Hughes, Governor of the State of New Jersey, which reads as follows:  
Dear Mr. Green:

It is a pleasure to make contact with you again, although by the less desirable medium of our letters rather than a personal meeting.

I want first to commend the Moles for transforming to action their desire to acquaint engineering students with the reality of construction and engineering work as it is being done in the field, and compliment you and your associates for approaching this project in a manner that measures the stature of your organization.

I find far too few examples of such sincere action undertaken for the benefit of a specific group with no thought of reward or return, and I certainly hope that your program is infectious.

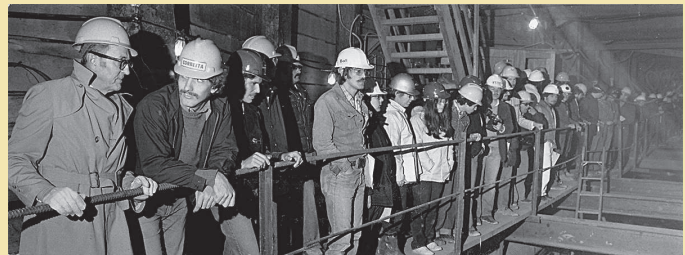
Your report of our Highway Department's cooperation and the part its staff contributed to your project is most gratifying to me. I think the spirit with which they approached and accomplished this project is a sign of how important they consider your effort. I am proud of them.

My congratulations on the success of your venture and best wishes for its future.

Sincerely,  
(signed) RICHARD J. HUGHES  
Governor

See a summary of all the Student Day Tours offered throughout the years on page three; it is truly a reflection of the dedicated volunteerism of numerous Moles members since the inception of the program. It is a very impressive list of construction projects. Of note, there has never been a year that it was cancelled or postponed for any reason!

Due to the dedication of numerous Moles members in the Boston area, an additional Students Day Tour was held last spring at the site of the MBA Green Line Expansion Project in suburban Boston. It was attended by roughly 150 students from Boston-area colleges. Well received, plans are underway to repeat the tour again in the Spring of 2020!





# Moles Students Day Site Locations 1962 - 2019

## Year Worksite Visited

- 1962 GWB Approach, World's Fair Site & Shea Stadium
- 1963 Verrazano Bridge Construction
- 1964 Yards Creek Pumped Storage Facility
- 1965 LGA Expansion Project
- 1966 NJ DOT Deep Rock Cut and Highway Const.
- 1967 World Trade Center Slurry Wall
- 1968 Route 78 to NJ Turnpike in vicinity of EWR
- 1969 WTC Slurry Wall and Steel Construction
- 1970 Newark Airport Redevelopment
- 1971 Bruckner Interchange + Yonkers Treatment Plant
- 1972 63<sup>rd</sup> Street – Tunnel Project
- 1973-4 North River Pollution Control Plant
- 1975 LGA Expansion + Bowery Bay Sewer Plant
- 1976 58<sup>th</sup>-63<sup>rd</sup> St. Subway, NYC
- 1977 P.A. Bus Terminal Expansion + I-78 in New Jersey
- 1978 63rd Street Tunnel
- 1979 Passaic Valley Sewage Treatment Plant
- 1980 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Tunnel
- 1981 Archer Ave Subway Tunnel
- 1982 Valve Chamber in Van Cortlandt Park
- 1983 World Financial Center + Battery Park City
- 1984 Javits Convention Center
- 1985 Hillside Queens Maintenance Facility
- 1986 NYC Board of Water Supply Water Tunnel #3
- 1987 PATH Station at Exchange Place
- 1988 US Navy "Homeport" Piers in Staten Island
- 1989 PATH Improvements @ Morton St. & Caisson 1
- 1990 JFK Redevelopment Program
- 1991 Route 295 in Bordentown, NJ
- 1992 Federal Courthouse in Lower Manhattan
- 1993 Manhattan Bridge Reconstruction
- 1994 NY Hospital + HSS over the FDR
- 1995-8 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Subway Expansion to Queens Plaza
- 1999-0 AirTrain - JFK Airport
- 2001 Brooklyn Queens Expressway Reconstruction
- 2002 I-87 and I-287 Interchange in West. County
- 2003-5 Newtown Creek Sewer Treatment Plant
- 2006-10 World Trade Center Reconstruction
- 2011-13 East Side Access Project
- 2014 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Subway Project
- 2015-16 Tappan Zee Bridge Replacement
- 2017 Bayonne + Goethals Bridges
- 2018 Spring & Fall: East Side Access Project
- 2019 Spring: Boston Green Line Extension
- 2019: Upcoming: LIRR 3<sup>rd</sup> Track Project



## PPE NEEDED!!!

The next Students Day is set for October 18th and the Education Committee is actively accepting and appreciative of all PPE donations. Please let us know what you are sending so that we may plan accordingly! Email Heidi Taber at [htaber@themoles.net](mailto:htaber@themoles.net).

Mail to: The Moles headquarters at 50 Chestnut Ridge Road, Suite 102, Montvale, NJ 07645.

Thank you to Kiewit for donating protective eyewear that they no longer needed!

Below: Students were appropriately attired at the 1962 Students Day.



# THE MOLES CHARITABLE FUND

**M**oles members have a long history of supporting the engineering students who will eventually replace us as the leaders of the Heavy Construction Industry. As an organization, we have shown our support for Moles Students' Day every year since 1962 through dedication and significant effort, along with the generous giving of time. Every year we somehow overcome challenging site logistics, the weather, the difficulty of finding a suitable size project, and sometimes the concerns of insurance companies over liability issues, in order to provide a unique "walking classroom" program that leaves the students with an eye-opening and indelible snapshot of a day in heavy construction. What the students experience that day often results in a career in heavy construction. Ask Hank Adams (Past Moles President); he was anticipating going to work for a building contractor until he attended the 1978 Students Day Tour at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Tunnel project. He immediately embraced heavy construction; with his 40 years of success at Kiewit, may I simply say "the rest is history".

Some may ask why the establishment of a new scholarship fund was needed; after all, The Moles have had a scholarship fund in place since 1996. However, a review of scholarship distributions under the original fund highlighted that we had limited ability to direct the selection of student recipients. Over time, it became apparent that many students receiving the grants, although perhaps the brightest in their class, were not truly interested in heavy construction.

Times have changed and we recognized that The Moles needed to improve its communication with the younger generation to encourage their entry into the heavy construction industry and improve their understanding of possible career paths. We undertook a two-fold initiative to strengthen the connection between The Moles' long-standing outreach (Students' Day) and possible financial assistance (Scholarships) available to students. The latter resulted in the establishment of The Moles Charitable Fund, Inc. (MCF). This IRS-approved 501(c)(3) charitable tax-deductible corporation, with the legal help of Mike McKenna, took over two years to fully establish within government mandated processes and guidelines. The Moles Charitable Fund Inc. is guided by nine Board Members all of whom are dedicated Moles members. The scholarship process operates in strict compliance with the already established By-Laws, thus allowing better control of the scholarship effort. The funds are being managed by financial professionals from Morgan Stanley who, with our guidance, invest and distribute the funds. Morgan Stanley also stands ready to advise donors of the current tax advantages of structured giving.

Recognizing that internships are now the norm for entry-level positions and a powerful tool in attracting students to the industry, Students' Day was strategically moved up from the spring to the fall of Junior year, allowing Students' Day attendees more time to pursue internships with Moles members' firms; the previous mid-April timeframe was too late to investigate the possibility of internships. The "Career Connection" on The Moles website, in which

members are encouraged to post internship opportunities, is promoted during the event and we remind members to update their listings. Last fall, the Education Committee also encouraged students who showed interest after the site tour, to email their resumé to headquarters. These were then emailed to members who expressed interest. A number of internships were secured this past summer through this initiative.

The MCF's Board Members recognized the need to revitalize the connections with academia at each participating college and university and approached Moles members, typically also alumni, to become a "Champion", tasked with maintaining a close working relationship with their particular college's engineering faculty advisor. The Champions have enthusiastically embraced their role and new programs are being rolled out, including the use of "town hall" type presentations aimed at introducing sophomores and juniors to the heavy construction industry and distributing updated literature and material introducing students to The Moles' mission and the existence of MCF scholarships. Champions will be instrumental in the scholarship selection process, reviewing applications and conducting interviews. Attending Students' Day and securing an internship with a Moles member's firm are weighed in the selection process, which will be fully communicated to students going forward. A huge note of appreciation goes out to this group of 20 Champions (listed at right) who are already improving the working relationships with their specific college. The MCF believes this enhanced communication will improve student interest in heavy construction internships and careers, with scholarship dollars more effectively distributed.

It is hoped that increased giving from the Moles membership will allow the MCF to not only increase the number but also the monetary amount of individual scholarships. Donations will allow us to add to the list of participating schools.

With the ever-rising cost of a college education, please consider "giving back" by supporting the newly organized MCF. In the spirit of what your parents may have often said, "Charity begins at Home", why not consider Moles members your extended work family and contemplate donating to the Moles Charitable Fund? Corporate matching programs may potentially be a vehicle to leverage your donations. An annual or structured giving program can be established to maximize the tax benefits to you and your family while at the same time allowing the Moles Scholarship program to expand far beyond what it is today. The Morgan Stanley financial advisors stand ready to advise and assist you individually if requested. Please let us know if we can help.

On behalf of the Moles Charitable Fund, I want to thank you all for your many years of support to The Moles in so many ways. Please continue your support into the future through donations to The Moles Charitable Fund.

Paul Schmall  
Chairman, The Moles Charitable Fund Inc.



# THE MOLES CHARITABLE FUND CHAMPIONS

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Gary Almeraris

Tim Arborio

Frank Arland

Al Brand

Bob Buckley

Ken Chadwick

John G. Civetta

Art Corwin

Al Daloisio

Hank Dobbelaar

Jim Hughes

John Kolaya

Rick MacDonald

Joe Malandro

Mal McLaren

Bob O'Neil

Jesse Ottesen

Milo Riverso

Peter Schneidkraut

Greg Ziegler

City College of New York

UCONN

US Coast Guard Academy

The Cooper Union

Drexel University

Rowan University

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Farmingdale College

Villanova University

Stevens Institute of Technology

NYU Tandon School of Engineering

Bucknell University

Lafayette College

NJIT

Rutgers University

Hofstra University

SUNY Delhi

Manhattan College

Lehigh University

US Military Academy

Every November, the Education Committee hosts a Reception for student scholarship recipients and faculty. The MCF, its Champions and the Education Committee will continue to diligently work together to promote the Moles' Mission to encourage next generations to pursue careers in Heavy Construction.



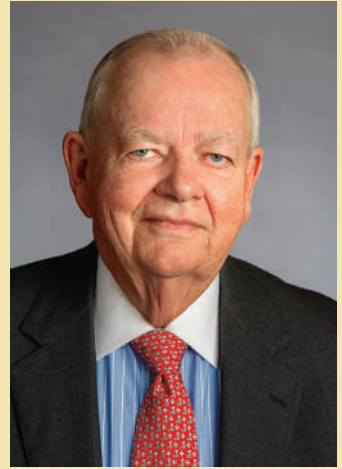
# May They Rest in Peace

**Ernest Alvarez** (at right) passed away on August 4, 2019. A Moles member since 1989, Ernie was a long-time employee of Fredrick R. Harris where he managed many of their largest projects throughout the world. He leaves behind his wife Joan, 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

**Norman A. Nadel** (pictured below with Ruben Samuels) passed away on June 14, 2019. A past president of MacLean Grove and Co., Norm spent his entire career managing underground projects. He received the ASCE's *Construction Management Award* in 1986. A Moles member since 1964, Norm became Moles President in 1982 and was awarded the *Moles Member Award for Outstanding Achievement in Construction* in 1985. He leaves behind his wife Cynthia, 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.



**John E. Roe, Sr.** (at right), of Shelter Island, NY, was a principle with City Underwriting Agency and former chairman of Flushing Bank. John was a Moles Member since 1989. John died on July 14, 2019 at 85 years young, leaving behind his beloved wife Colette, son John Roe, Jr. (also a Moles Member), daughter Karen Roe, six grandchildren and one great grandson, John "Jack" Roe, IV.



## Winter Meeting at the Boca Beach Club! February 27 - March 1, 2020

All members are welcome to next February's Winter Meeting at the Waldorf Astoria's Boca Beach Club in Boca Raton, FL! Additional details and hotel reservations can be found on the calendar page of The Moles website, [www.themoles.net](http://www.themoles.net). Activities include informative lecture and meeting, daily beach time, optional golf and evening events!

**H**oling Through is published by The Moles three times a year. Please e-mail news-worthy updates to: Executive Director and Editor of *Holing Through*: Thomas J. Groark, P.E. [tgroark@themoles.net](mailto:tgroark@themoles.net). The Moles office is located at 50 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Suite 102, Montvale, NJ 07645. Office: (201) 930-1923.

The Moles website, [www.themoles.net](http://www.themoles.net), is a valuable resource for staying connected; view current calendar events, additional photos in the photo gallery and members directory, as well as archived copies of *Holing Through*! Clambake photos courtesy of Robert Radske.





# Clambake 2019 - One for the Books!

August 6<sup>th</sup> at Pelham Manor experienced perfect weather for the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Moles Clambake. Temperatures were in the low 80's but more importantly there was a gentle breeze coming off Long Island Sound along with a slight cloud cover that shielded the sun's UV rays from the nearly 950 Moles members and their guests assembled to enjoy the day at the beautiful NYAC's Travers Island grounds.

In addition to the long-standing games, guests enjoyed the carnival game High Striker Challenge. Guests showed their strength utilizing a sledge-type mallet to ring the bell registering the weighted slide hitting the top. The sound of the bell could be heard many times throughout the afternoon. Many also enjoyed the sights and sounds of Mike McKenna and Dave Puza, Chairman and Vice Chair of the Program Committee, splashing into the dunk tank! In exchange for a nominal contribution to The Moles Charitable Fund, eager guests wielding either a softball or basketball took aim at the target, activating the dunking mechanism sending Dave or Mike into the tank! It was all in good fun and as a direct result of Mike's and Dave's gracious efforts, over \$1000 was raised for the newly formed Moles Charitable Fund. Also "on the hill" was the aroma of cigars custom rolled for the event that mixed with the distinct smell of hot dogs cooking on the grill with all the fixings! A talented magician strolled through the crowd all afternoon demonstrating his unique sleight of hand to onlookers.

On the front lawn outside the main entrance to the club house was an eclectic assortment of classic automobiles for the guests to view. The diverse collection included a massively long 1955 Cadillac (Chris Adams) parked next to a MGTD midget (Tom Groark) - the MG could have actually fit in the trunk of the Cadillac! There was a 1930 Ford

Model A (Tom Maxwell) parked immediately next to a 2018 Tesla (Tom Welby); those two cars could not have been more different and represented almost nine decades of automobile innovation! The Ferrara family arrived with a '69 Camaro RT/SS, painted in a beautiful orange color that was strikingly similar to the orange seen on numerous FB Concrete trucks throughout NYC streets every day. They also brought along a beautiful '72 GTO so as not to be outdone by guest Fred Provenzano's '50 Baby Lincoln 2-door, a beautiful maroon hotrod, chopped and decked, its gorgeous tan leather interior restored to its original splendor. Despite another commitment, Jesse Jameson sent his '52 Hudson and '55 Chrysler 300 to complete the field. Holding its own was the "Back to the Future" DeLorean movie car with a working time machine on board, which arrived along with a factory-correct DeLorean stainless steel automobile to please the true automobile purists in the group.

Earlier in the day, there were over 100 golfers who played at Pelham Golf Club. The big winners were Jake Bidosky Jr. (1<sup>st</sup> Place Low Gross); Bob O'Neill (2<sup>nd</sup> Place LG); Tim McLaughlin (1<sup>st</sup> Place Low Net); John Cubala (2<sup>nd</sup> Place LN); Frank Mazzaroni (3<sup>rd</sup> Place LN); Jake Bidosky Sr. (4<sup>th</sup> Place LN); Richard Capps (Closest to the Pin) and Chuck Kohler (Longest Drive). Other highlights included Moles members Mike Mergentime and Peter Kutil happily taking first place on the tennis court and after a competitive afternoon of Bocce, Brian Vella and John Cook were victorious!

The day ended with none of the rain that was predicted and the departing guests appreciated the gift and their favorite selection of ice cream from an antique Good Humor truck as they exited the clubhouse!

Mark your calendars for next year! **August 4, 2020**





# Candidly...Clambake 2019

