



the news

PHILADELPHIA SECTION

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

VOL. 46 - No. 3

Our 61st Year

DECEMBER, 1973

DECEMBER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1973

Engineers' Club, 1317 Spruce Street, Philadelphia

Cocktails — 5:30

Dinner — 6:30

Meeting — 7:30

SUBJECT:

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND THE CIVIL ENGINEER

SPEAKER:

RICHARD D. GRUNDY, Professional Staff, U. S. Senate Interior Committee

PROGRAM HOST:

IRA N. PIERCE, Chairman, Transportation and Urban Development Group

The energy crisis will inevitably lead to a reassessment of the environmental controls placed on society in the past several years. It has been estimated, for example, that sufficient coal exists in the U. S. to provide energy for 1000 years. However, coal burning degrades the environment. Civil Engineers were under severe criticism during the environmental era. The same can be expected during the energy conservation era.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER:

Richard D. Grundy is a 1963 MPh graduate of the University of California and completed one year of pre-doctoral studies in sanitary-radiological engineering. He was with the Public Health Service Bureau of Radiological Health for eight years before joining the U. S. Senate Committee on Public Works. While with the Public Works Committee, he was the professional staff member assigned to the sub-committee on air and water pollution which was responsible for the major environmental legislation.

In 1971, Mr. Grundy became involved with the U. S. Senate Interior Committee to undertake a major study on our energy needs. Legislation is forthcoming from this work.

Free Beer and Refreshments at the Meeting

Mail Reservation Cards Immediately — Win a FREE DINNER!

STUDENTS — Plan to attend for Dinner (Half Price) or meeting after Dinner

DECEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS U. of Pa.

Student Chapters Committee Chairman and Coordinator Dr. Frederic Roll announces that the December 11, 1973 Philadelphia Section meeting has been designated "University of Pennsylvania Night." This is in keeping with the established Section policy of honoring, alternately, the Civil Engineering Departments of local colleges and universities.

Dr. Roll has been in contact with Professor Sidney Shore, Head of the Department of Civil and Urban Engineering at Penn, regarding arrangements for the meeting. Four complimentary dinner tickets will be distributed to selected Student Chapter officers and students. (PLEASE NOTE THAT STUDENTS FROM ALL COLLEGES ARE ENTITLED TO DINNER AT ONE-HALF PRICE AT ALL SECTION MEETINGS; or they may attend the meeting only, after dinner at about 7:30 P.M., without charge).

Dr. Shore will present a brief talk on Civil and Urban Engineering activities at Penn; and he will introduce U. of Pa.'s Student Chapter officers and members, alumni and faculty, all of whom have been invited to attend.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

John J. Williams, Justin & Courtney, Inc., attended the Hydraulics Division Specialty Conference in Bozeman, Montana recently.

Joel B. Justin, prominent Phila. Section member and a Life Member of ASCE, is President of the Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin for the current year.

(Continued on Page 4)

The President's Christmas and New Year's Message

One of the real pleasures of being the President of the Philadelphia Section of ASCE is the opportunity on several occasions during the year to send the membership a message in THE NEWS. The Christmas and New Year's season is one of these.

For many of us, this time of year is a sacred time of year since Christmas marks the birth of Christ for us. For others of us who are of the Jewish faith we have the celebration of Chanukah. For still others it is still a time of family, friends and celebration. Whatever your persuasion, this time of year has been dedicated in America as a time of peace and goodwill. In this year of 1973, it is my fervent hope that this will be truly a time of peace and goodwill not only for you and your family, but also for our nation and for everyone throughout the world.

Then comes the New Year. This is a time for rededication and renewal for all of us. For the first time in many years, we face shortages in many areas across our land. This offers a great challenge for all of us who are engineers. We have built this Land of Plenty. This coming year we must find a way to recast this ideal. We have always been interested in improving man's environment, but this year we must find a way to do this and still not shortchange our people. We have found the title "engineer" dragged through the mud and besmirched by some of our number. This we must rectify. We really do have a challenge facing our profession in the coming year that will tax all of our resolve. Here in Philadelphia we have two patron saints—William Penn and Benjamin Franklin. These were not men who looked back and tried to emulate the past, but rather men who looked to the future and tried to make it happen. Let their example be our pattern for the coming New Year.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I want to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

May this Holiday Season be a joyous one for you all.

Sincerely, Robert O. Drange, President

(P.S. The editor and staff of THE NEWS join Mr. Drange in this Holiday Season wish.)

MAIL RESERVATION CARDS PROMPTLY

Thanks to the super-effort by the Engineers' Club staff, President Drange and the Phila. Section's Reception Committee, utter chaos was barely avoided at the dinner preceding the November 13th meeting. Only 40 dinner reservation cards had been returned as of meal time . . . and 120 showed up for dinner! It is grossly unfair and inconsiderate for members to neglect the simple task of marking on the card their name and number of plates to be reserved, and dropping it in the mail box. It is already pre-addressed and stamped to further reduce the amount of work for you.

So, please help us to avoid future repetition of this embarrassing and intolerable situation. The Club must pre-arrange its table settings and food inventory. If you find at the last minute that you can come to dinner, but did not mail the card because of uncertainty, call the Club Manager, Mr. Kovacs (even as late as the day of the meeting) or leave word at the desk that you will be present for dinner. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated by the Club (PE 5-5234).

THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY WILL DISAPPEAR — UNLESS . . .

Betty (Mrs. Sidney) Robin, Publicity Committee Chairman of the Phila. Section Women's Auxiliary, reports to THE NEWS that ". . . if the trend of small attendance at the monthly luncheon-meetings continues, the Auxiliary soon will go down the drain . . ."

How tragic this would be! This wonderful group has become almost indispensable to our Society. Without the Women's Auxiliary the Phila. Section itself would go down the drain insofar as its social programs are concerned. Every major Fall, Winter or Spring social—the 1966 National ASCE Convention held in Philadelphia, and many other parties and events would have been absolute social disasters had they not been planned, arranged and executed by the deft, delicate and experienced hands of the noble ladies of the Auxiliary. Established in 1957, their monthly Luncheon-meetings are painstakingly planned and programmed with interesting speakers and demonstrations on varied subjects of arts, crafts, political and judicial opinion and expertise. There is good-fellowship and animated conver-

sation, often over cocktails, and warm friendships are born as a result of these contacts.

THE NEWS implores the Phila. Section members not to allow the Women's Auxiliary to dissolve because of apathy, inertia or indifference. Please prevail upon your wives and their friends (guests are **always** welcome to attend Auxiliary functions) to enroll in this fine group of devoted women who have spared no effort or expense to forge a viable, warm and cordial social atmosphere within the technologically-confined environs of us hard-nosed, sober-pussed engineers. With the ladies around, the Engineers' Club dances and smiles. Without the Women's Auxiliary the Club, and the Phila. Section ASCE, would be dark and dank.

So—prevail on your wives to join the Auxiliary **today**. Make them read about the coming Christmas Party on December 19th in the WOMEN'S AUXILIARY column elsewhere in this issue. They may also call or write Membership Committee Chairman Mary (Mrs. Richard E.) Wisniewski, 9950 Dungan Road, Phila. 19115, Phone: OR 6-3821.

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NOVEMBER MEETING

The Soil Mechanics and Foundations Group was the sponsor of the Section's November 13th meeting at the Engineers' Club. As usual, they presented a stimulating program which featured Dr. Charles C. Ladd, Professor of Civil Engineering at M.I.T., who discussed the subject: "Embankment Construction on Softground."

Temple and Princeton Featured

A gratifying large audience of about 150 members and guests attended. Following a practice of the past few years, in which tribute is paid, alternatingly, to the Civil Engineering Departments of area colleges, the November meeting saluted the ASCE Student Chapters, alumni and faculty of Temple University and Princeton University. Program host Richard E. Mabry, Chairman of the Soil Mechanics and Foundations Group, presented the Faculty Advisors of the Student Chapters of the two schools: Princeton's Dr. Alain L. Kornhauser; and Temple's Dr. John L. Rumpf, who is also Dean of Temple University College of Engineering Technology.

Dr. Kornhauser introduced Student Chapter officers, alumni and faculty members who were in the audience, and he reviewed Princeton's latest civil engineering program and curriculum innovations. Dr. Rumpf capsuled the history and accomplishments of this dynamic institution which in its few short years of existence has opened new dimensions in orienting civil engineering students to the realities of the technological-industrial world which awaits them. The college encompasses two-year technician courses, and specialty curricula such as building technology, continuing education and others; as well as the full four-year B.S.C.E. Baccalaureate program.

Director McCall Reviews National Affairs

ASCE National District 4 Director John E. McCall (Past President of the Philadelphia Section) chronicled current National affairs of particular interest to Local Sections.

Professor Ladd

Using descriptive color slides, charts and graphs, and an articulate and easy-flowing commentary, Professor Ladd presented the various facets of foundation design and construction for two major highway projects in New England which involved soft, very sensitive clay soils which were to be used for embankments for the roadway sections. In order to build successfully and economically on these marginal lands, it was

necessary to blend sophisticated technological systems and procedures with detailed field measurements and observations.

The first project discussed was a portion of Interstate Route 95 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The soil on this project was very sensitive in nature with a natural water content which was in excess of the liquid limit. A four to one test slope was purposely constructed to failure. During the loading, extensive tests and field measurements were made to determine specific performance criteria and to check design assumptions. Although the test embankment did withstand a loading in excess of that predicted by the designers, failure did eventually occur in a convincing manner. With the information which was gained from the heavily instrumented test section, Professor Ladd decided that it would be necessary to employ sand drains and surcharge to hasten consolidation, construct adjacent berms to help stabilize the main embankment, and strictly control the construction procedures. Dr. Ladd discussed in some detail the various techniques in sand-drain construction and noted that prequalification was required for the prospective bidders on the sand drain contract. As a result of reasonably stiff bidding competition, the Dutch method of construction was awarded the contract with a low bid of \$1.50 per foot.

With the experimental information gathered from the test embankment it was possible to design and construct the actual fill section with relatively few problems. At one point, however, it was discovered that the stabilizing berm was subject to relatively large creep forces. This caused considerable concern for the designers until they established that the main embankment was not suffering any creep damage. Another problem was circumvented when a local power company was found removing the stabilizing berm to construct a high power transmission line. Their intent was to place the tower foundations directly on the sensitive clay material. This would not only have jeopardized the highway project but would also have proved to be an impractical foundation for the towers. After discussing the special soil problems with the highway engineers the power company decided on a different foundation design.

The second project discussed by Professor Ladd was a portion of Interstate Route 295 in Portland, Maine, which was to be constructed on embankment across tidal mud flats which were comprised primarily of organic clay. The

technique on this project was similar to the Portsmouth job. However, on this project the sand drain work was not a separate contract but was part of the overall construction contract, and prequalification of the sand drain contractor was not required. As a result of this, the quality of the entire sand drain operation was inferior to the Portsmouth project. The drilling process caused lateral displacements in the embankment material and once this soil began moving it continued to move approximately three feet down the slope while the adjacent mud flats heaved up a corresponding amount. However, in spite of these difficulties, the project was completed successfully and the roadway is now open to traffic.

In summary, Dr. Ladd noted that, in his opinion, soil problems often are not given adequate consideration in the design process. He indicated that the scope and quality of subsurface investigations are normally inadequate to get a real feel of subsurface conditions. As a result of his experience on the two projects discussed, he firmly believes that sand drain contractors should have separate contracts and be subject to prequalification. He emphasized the importance of field visits by the designers and in fact felt that designers should monitor a project throughout the construction since they are often the only ones who are familiar with the rationale behind special design features.

Because of his broad background—not only in academia, but also as a researcher and active consultant in soils and foundations on major construction projects—Dr. Ladd is not arbitrary (as are many teachers) in his attitudes toward the realities of knowledge, or the lack of it, among public works officials and political powers-that-be; earthworks designers and builders—regarding soil properties. The physical characteristics and qualities of earth, the dangers inherent in certain soil conditions, requisite factors of safety, etc., demand a reasonable posture, sensitive to the importance of soil-stress analysis and adequate test programs. Absence of such posture and sensitivity is irreconcilable with sound professional practice and concern for the public welfare.

The discussion was followed by an abbreviated question and answer session, in order that Dr. Ladd could make a flight back to Cambridge. We congratulate program host, Dick Mabry, for arranging this stimulating meeting and its informative, and provocative subject.

PHILA. SECTION AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS CITED

National ASCE has honored the Philadelphia Section and two individual members with special commendations and Certificates of Appreciation, respectively. The citations were presented by District 4 Director John E. McCall at the November 13, 1973 Section meeting at the Engineers' Club.

President Rinne Commends Section and Welsh Report

National ASCE Past President (@ October, 1973) John E. Rinne has issued a special Award of Commendation to the Philadelphia Section for its work in helping to improve the employment environment and working conditions for civil engineers.

This award bears direct relationship to the superb presentment entitled: "Special Report on Salary, Fringe Benefits and Opinion," published in the Spring of 1972 by the Section's Committee on Employment Conditions, Joseph P. Welsh, Chairman. A synopsis of the report was published in THE NEWS (May, 1972), and also in CIVIL ENGINEERING magazine. It was the principal thesis of the Philadelphia Section meeting on March 14, 1972 entitled: "An Analysis of National and Local Employment Practices and Conditions," in which Mr. Welsh was one of two principal speakers.

Drange and Whipple Honored

Certificates of Appreciation have been issued through ASCE President Charles W. Yoder and Executive Director Eugene Zwoyer on behalf of National Headquarters, to Phila. Section President Robert O. Drange and General William L. Whipple, Past President of the Trenton Branch. Mr. Drange is honored for his service as 1973 Chairman of the National Committee on Programs for Professional Sessions. General Whipple is acclaimed for his service as 1973 Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Administrative Division, Professional Activities Committee (PAC).

Mr. Drange's Certificate of Appreciation was presented to him by Director McCall at the Phila. Section meeting on November 13, 1973. General Whipple's Certificate was presented to him by Mr. McCall at the Trenton Branch meeting on November 20th.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

(Continued from Page 1)

Hugo W. Buda, has been elected a vice president of Sanders & Thomas, Inc., consulting engineers headquartered in Pottstown, it was announced by F. W. Heilman, Jr., president.

Buda is head of the Pottstown civil engineering department of the firm, which is the largest of the seven STV, Inc., professional firms. He is also project manager for the design of two sections of the Center City Commuter Connection in Philadelphia, a subway-elevated rail commuter transit project now under design.

With Sanders & Thomas for the past five years, Buda was previously chief highway engineer for the Pottstown office. A recent design project was a \$32 million changeover of the eastern section of the Pennsylvania Turnpike to a mainline toll barrier system. This system is scheduled for future construction.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Drexel College of Engineering Changes Form

Drexel University recently reorganized its College of Engineering after 2½ years of a grid-type structure which separated administratively the functions of teaching and research. The College has now changed back to the traditional Departmental structure (Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, etc.) Dr. P. Walton Purdom, prominent member of the Phila. Section, is Chairman of the Civil Engineering Department.

The announcement of the change was made by Dr. Richard E. Woodring, Dean of the College of Engineering. Dr. Woodring is also an active and prominent member of the Phila. Section, ASCE. The reorganization will place more administrative responsibility on individual Department Chairmen, thus allowing them to coordinate the teaching and research efforts of their faculty. The Dean will thus be free to participate in a wide range of professional activity.

Dr. Robert Koerner, Vice-President of the Philadelphia Section ASCE, and Arthur Lord, (both are professors at Drexel University) have developed a system that can sense whether collapse of an earth dam is imminent. This system is being tried out in several dams. Research, financed by Environmental Protection Agency, is continuing to perfect the sensing devices. This system will be useful, not only in dams, but in many small embankments that create holding ponds for industrial waste, which, in the event of failure, could pose a pollution threat.

(Editor's Note: See the October 1973 issue of THE NEWS for more information on this very important work of Dr. Koerner's.)

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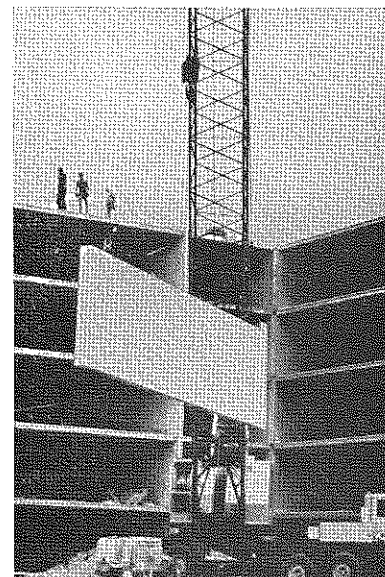


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1974 MEAD PRIZE FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The Daniel W. Mead Prize for Associate Members was established in 1939 to give an opportunity to alert young Civil Engineers to further their professional development and gain national attention.

The 1974 subject is: "The Engineer's Response to Non-Engineering Criticism of His Professional Work." This forthright topic faces squarely the most pressing concerns of the public: the far-reaching effects of engineering projects on quality of life, the conditions of the environment, and the delicate balance of nature. How can and should the Civil Engineer, who is in the forefront of this dilemma, explain the inquiries, of responsible lay citizens and other professional groups in related non-engineering disciplines, regarding the integrity and worth of his proposed solutions to needed physical improvements? (Relations between the engineers and public officials or political agencies are not intended to be discussed in the paper).

The general rules for the competition are:

1. One person only may write each paper, not to exceed 2000 words.
2. Papers shall be presented before a local, regional or national meeting of the Society or its Local Sections.
3. Zone winners (one from each of the 4 ASCE zones) and a national winner will receive a wall plaque and certificate. The paper by the national winner will be published in CIVIL ENGINEERING or ENGINEERING ISSUES, the Journal of Professional Activities.
4. By **June 1, 1974**, seven copies of the paper must be submitted to New York Headquarters of ASCE, through Section Secretary C. R. Pennoni.

Associate Members are urged to get to work immediately on this year's challenging subject. For further details, contact Publications Chairman Sidney Robin at DA 9-4121.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER FORUM NEWS

December Luncheon Meeting

Luncheon Meeting on Thursday, December 6, 1973, at 12:15 p.m. at the Engineers Club.

TOPIC:

Restoration of Independence National Historic Park — A Return to the 18th Century.

SPEAKER:

Ronald Thompson, an historian employed by the National Park Service. Mr. Thompson has a BA in History from Moravian College and has done graduate work at the University of Virginia. He was a VISTA volunteer in Green Bay, Wisconsin and has been with the National Park Service since December, 1972.

Mr. Thompson will speak on the fundamentals of restoration, concentrating on the types of evidence which is sought to reveal a building's original appearance. His talk will present the historian's, not the AE's, point of view.

LUNCHEON:

Soup, sandwich, dessert, and coffee for \$1.95 (gratuity included).

All ASCE members and their guests are encouraged to attend. While reservations are not necessary, we would like to be able to give the Engineers Club an idea as to the number of people attending. We ask, therefore, that you notify Miss Backall or Mrs. Augustine, at MU 6-5539 if you expect to attend.

Registration News

Congratulations to everyone who, last month, received notice of passing June's PE exam. For those of you who plan to take the exam in June, 1974, now is a good time to get started on your applications.

News Items Wanted

Anyone with news of particular interest to Associate Members is asked to contact the AMF editor,

Richard Daniels
United Engineers &
Constructors, Inc.
1401 Arch St., Phila., 19105

SECTION PROFILES



by William Padlasky

Editor's Note: This month's profile was submitted in autobiographical form. Your editor could not possibly have put it together better. So here it is — in Bill Padlasky's own hand.



Bill Padlasky

It isn't usual that one is asked to scrutinize his past and lay bare his activities for public view. Some of us, probably most of us spend our time purely for our own benefit. It does not appear to be worth our while to devote

time to ASCE or similar organizational work because it does not pay off in dollars and cents. I can now tell you that there are times when these things do pay off, not necessarily in dollars and cents, but in rewards more than money can buy.

I earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering at Drexel University in 1939. My industry periods while at Drexel in the 5 year cooperative course, offered me varied and valuable experience in soils testing, field engineering in construction, and office work. The periods during which I did soils work in Eastport Maine and at Cornell University, working for the U. S. Government stand out in my mind as having been most helpful in setting up my career.

After college graduation I was employed as a detailer for Bethlehem Steel in Pottstown. The second World War was rapidly building up and I went to work as a Naval Architect at the Phila. Navy Yard. I left the Navy Yard and accepted a position as an estimator for Fleming Company and later continued in this field with Consolidated Construction Company in Woodbury, N. J. In 1952 I joined my present partner, Joseph A. Schulz, as consultants in the construction industry. In our 21 years of practice together, I have experienced something which very few people are privileged to encounter during their careers. I have a partner, a friend and a man whose judgment and advice I can value and respect all in one package. Through the years he has been a very valued friend. My wife and daughters

(Continued on Page 6)



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SECTION PROFILES

(Continued from Page 5)

feel the same way about his wife, Patricia and their four boys and daughter.

I have a school-teacher wife, Grace, and two daughters, Estelle and Sandra. Grace, also a Drexel graduate, teaches home economics at Swarthmore Jr.-Sr. High School. Estelle is a program analyst and works in Manhattan, New York. Sandra is a senior in Civil Engineering at Drexel. I am proud of my girls and I think we have always been a happy family group.

Through the years I have had many

TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES**Transportation & Urban Development Group**

December Luncheon Meeting:

Monday, December 17, 1973,

Engineers' Club, 12:00 noon sharp.

Subject:

**Light Rail Vehicle Technology —
An Alternative for Public Transportation.**

Speaker:

Rush D. Touton, Jr., Associate, Louis T. Klauder & Associates, Consulting Engineers.

Mr. Touton is an expert in the field of light rail technology, and he has been responsible for the many improvements in light rail transit in Boston and San Francisco.

interests outside of my work and beside my family. I have been honored with the presidency of several groups. In 1944 I served as President of the Associate Member Forum, and in 1952-53 I had the honor of serving as secretary-treasurer of the Phila. Section and in 1961-62 I was President of the Section. During the last two years I have been serving as president of Temple Israel of Upper Darby.

My work with our ASCE covered a period from 1940 to the present. I was on the Board for 8 years and served on many committees. I am presently serving as chairman of the Humphrey Fund Committee which is involved with the investing of a sum which we inherited from our predecessors and which furnishes the Section with funds. I am presently on the Board of the Engineers Club of Philadelphia. Since 1961 I have served as a guest lecturer in the graduate school of Civil Engineering at Villanova University. I have been listed in Who's Who in Engineering (Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc. - Ninth Edition).

I have many hobbies and my interests are widespread. I enjoy, but do not claim any degree of expertise in bridge and chess. Much of my spare time is spent in listening to and taping classical music. I am a once-a-week golfer, playing all year around until the temperature goes below about 40 degrees in this area. I enjoy the game but never enjoy looking at my score.

During the second World War I studied the Chinese language for several years. I was fascinated at the philosophy which is demonstrated in the written language. I renewed this interest somewhat this past summer during a trip to the orient covering Japan, Tai-

wan, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Singapore.

I have no visions of ever retiring but if I do I will certainly find more than enough wonderful things to do to occupy my time.

Editor's Note: Bill's associates and friends will affirm his declaration about "retiring." We count our blessings for his boundless contributions in the past and present. The Phila. Section, ASCE anticipates the future reinforced with optimism, enthusiasm and hope in the conviction that Bill Padlasky will be part of that future.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary will celebrate the holidays at its Annual Christmas Party, Wednesday, December 19, 1973, 12:00 noon at the Engineers' Club. Polyannas will be exchanged and, as always, good-fellowship will abound in the atmosphere of a good lunch and the holiday spirit. Auxiliary members are urged to bring guests and to encourage all Section members' wives to join the Women's Auxiliary. An intensive membership drive is now under way and everyone must pitch in to make it a success. (Please see special article on this subject elsewhere in THE NEWS).

Please note that there will be no meetings of the Auxiliary in January or February, 1974.

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