



# the news

PHILADELPHIA SECTION

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

VOL. 48 - No. 1

Our 63rd Year

OCTOBER, 1975

## OCTOBER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

Sponsored by the  
Construction Group

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1975**

Engineers' Club, 1317 Spruce Street, Philadelphia

Cocktails — 5:30

Dinner — 6:30

Meeting — 7:30

### SUBJECT:

**MERIT SHOP — PROVEN ALTERNATIVE**

### SPEAKER:

**JOHN P. TRIMMER**, Executive Vice-President  
Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.

### PROGRAM HOST:

**DR. ROBERT J. STONE**, Chairman, Construction Group



Mr. Trimmer will discuss the aspects of the merit shop for construction labor. As Executive Vice-President of the American Builders and Contractors, Inc. (ABC), Mr. Trimmer has had national involvement with construction labor problems. Locally, he has had direct contact with Mr. Leon Altomose in his disputes with construction unions.

Mr. Trimmer attended the University of Chicago, Yale University and Michigan State University. He was a lecturer at St. John's College in Annapolis, Md., a reporter and editor for the York Pennsylvania Gazette and Daily; an editor and correspondent for the Associated Press in Baltimore and Annapolis; former director of the Maryland Department of Information; and account executive for Hoffman Advertising. Mr. Trimmer has been associated with the American Builders and Contractors, Inc. for the past 20 years.

Mr. Trimmer actively participates in construction education and attends the annual meetings of the Associated Schools of Construction of which Temple University, Drexel University and Spring Garden College are members.

### SPECIAL FEATURE:

#### "Villanova University Night" —

The ASCE Student Chapter, faculty and alumni of the Civil Engineering Department at Villanova will be highlighted at this meeting.

The Student Chapter will be especially honored with a presentation on achieving its 50th Anniversary as an outstanding effective ASCE affiliate.

All students, faculty and alumni are cordially invited to attend.

## READING BRANCH FORMED

After many months of planning and policy formation, the Philadelphia Section, ASCE is pleased to report the establishment of a Reading Branch. Confirmation of the Branch's petition occurred on September 7, 1975 at a meeting of the National ASCE Committee on Sections and District Councils. Vice President **Will M. Heiser** has been conferring continually, as Section consultant and representative, with the Reading group since conception of the idea more than a year ago.

On May 22, 1975, the Branch held its initial formal meeting, mainly organizational, in which Officers and Directors for 1975-76 were elected. New President is **Fred L. Williams, III**. Mr. Heiser was speaker at the meeting and expressed the good wishes of the Philadelphia Section. He offered our continuing assistance and support to the Branch's functions. The Reading people, in turn, sincerely thanked Will for working closely with the Branch organizing committee.

The Reading Branch has already created a monthly paper: "Newsletter," and Section Publications Chairman **Sid Robin** is grateful to be a recipient of "Vol. 1 - No. 1". A calendar of regular dinner-technical meetings and social events for 1975-1976, starting on September 18th, has been scheduled. Joint meetings with the Phila. Section, at mutually convenient locations, are to be arranged.

THE NEWS, on behalf of the Officers, Board of Directors and Membership of the parent organization extends God speed and Good Luck wishes to the new offspring — the Reading Branch, Philadelphia Section, ASCE.

### 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

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Welcome" is the key word which should always be on our minds in all our activities. To be sure, it is the key word insofar as the Philadelphia Section ASCE is concerned. We welcome **all** to participate in the planning and undertaking of the various activities of the Section, some of which are the following:

**Section Meetings** — This major focal point of our activities is under the able guidance of Joe Synchronick. Some are to be joint meetings, some will highlight local Student Chapters, some will be luncheons. By now you should have a complete listing. We encourage you to take part in these meetings even though you initially may feel the topic to be a little off target for your particular interest. Hopefully, each meeting will be interesting and stimulating.

**Technical Group Meetings** — In these days when continuing education is spoken of so often, we have a wealth of information contained within our own five Technical Groups. Support them and encourage others to do so as well. All of these groups are eager for new ideas and volunteers, so contact Walt Clark for their plans and officers. As always, we ask for your continued support in the activities of the Women's Auxiliary under Audrey Heiser and the Associate Member forum under Ernie Brizell.

**Bicentennial** — The big one for Philadelphia! With a national ASCE coming, we have a mountain of work before us. Fortunately, we have Jim McPhillips coordinating the overall effort and John Gallen shepherding our history-making volume which you'll hear much about in the near future. Additionally, we hope to show a welcome hand to all our Philadelphia visitors who are Civil Engineers during next summer's activities. We are planning to have a listing of places to go and people to see which are of interest to visiting Civil Engineers. A "C.E. Hotline", if you will, which will be handled by Lou Petulla.

**Branch Activities** — Hello Reading! By action of the Board of Directors, we have accepted a petition to form a Reading Branch of the Philadelphia Section. Let's give them, their officers (Fred Williams is President), and their programs, our fullest support. Our thanks to Will Heiser for coordinating our efforts in this matter.

**Student Chapter Activities** — The well-spring of the profession deserves our enthusiastic support. With Bob Lynch as liaison to the six schools within our boundaries, every effort will be made to coordinate some of their activities with ours, and to act as hosts for a specific meeting during the year.

**Continuing Education** — This year, under the guidance of Al Ritchie, we will formally tip our toe into the Cont. Ed. waters. We welcome your cooperation and involvement.

**Legislation** — If ever an area existed where we need involvement and participation, this is it. George Beetle heads up this group and would be delighted to hear from you.

**Others** — Too many to list, but through this Newsletter, so well prepared by Sid Robin and his staff, we hope you'll respond to our notices.

In summary, we look forward to the year ahead, knowing full well that much is to be done, but that the pool of C.E. talent is willing and able to do it. We most sincerely welcome you and your ideas in this our 63rd year of operation. Let's communicate with one another.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Koerner, President  
Phila. Section, ASCE

## "OLD FASHIONED SQUARE DANCE"

### — ANNUAL FALL SOCIAL —

Sponsored and arranged by the Women's Auxiliary, Phila. Section, ASCE

Engineers' Club — **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1975, 8:30 P.M.**

(See Article on page 6 for details)

Enjoy an evening of fun and good fellowship!

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## NEW JERSEY SECTION CENTRAL JERSEY BRANCH

### October Meeting

Date: **Tuesday, October 21, 1975**

Fellowship at 6:00, Dinner at 6:30

Program and Meeting at 7:30

Subject: **Environment Assessment of New Jersey Water Resources Projects**

Speaker: **Mr. Ian R. Walker**, Chief, Office of Environmental Assessment, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Location: Glendale Inn, 48 New Hillcrest Avenue, Trenton, between Parkside Avenue and Prospect Street

**Ladies and Guests are Cordially Invited**

Dinner will be the Chef's Special, \$6.00

Attendance at dinner is not prerequisite for participation in the presentation and meeting. Please help us make adequate arrangements by contacting Clark Gilman, Program Coordinator for reservations by telephone at 609-292-2296 before noon, October 17, 1975.

## PHILADELPHIA SECTION AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

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SEND COPY TO:

Sidney Robin

4745 N. 12th Street

Philadelphia, Penna. 19141

**COPY DEADLINE FOR  
NOVEMBER, 1975 ISSUE  
OCTOBER 25, 1975**

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

**Dr. Robert D. Lynch**, Section Director, Chairman of the Student Chapters Committee, and Professor of Civil Engineering at Villanova University, has been appointed Dean of the College of Engineering at the University. He succeeds **Dr. John J. Gallen**, Section Past President, who retired from the post recently. Dr. Lynch will continue his teaching duties.

The Section extends its congratulations to Bob on his promotion to this distinguished position.

\* \* \*

A feature article on "Professional Liability Claims", authored by Publications Committee Chairman **Sidney Robin** and THE NEWS Staff Writer **Joseph R. Szymick** was published in the June, 1975 issue of CIVIL ENGINEERING magazine. The article was based principally on the authors' writeup of talks delivered at the March, 1974 Philadelphia Section meeting by two experts in the engineering liability field.

\* \* \*

Justin and Courtney, Inc., a Division of O'Brien and Gere Engineers, Inc., announces the addition to its staff of **George C. Elias** as Project Development Manager.

Long an active member of ASCE and the Philadelphia Section, George has an engineering background which covers 19 years of experience in the field of water resources. He has been associated in this work with the Delaware River Basin Commission; the Soil Conservation Service; and Justin and Courtney, Inc.

\* \* \*

Section Secretary **Ira N. Pierce**, Chief, Public Transportation Planning, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, has been appointed to the Sessions Program Committee of National ASCE Urban Planning and Development Division.

\* \* \*

**John E. Spitko, Jr.**, Staff Writer for THE NEWS, Special Assistant to the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for  
(continued on page 5)

Notice: If THE NEWS arrives late — or you forget to mail your dinner card — please call The Engineer's Club, PE 5-5234 and leave word for Mr. DeKovacs, Exec. Mgr., to reserve a dinner plate for you. Of course, you are welcome for the meeting later, if you are unable to have dinner. No reservation necessary.

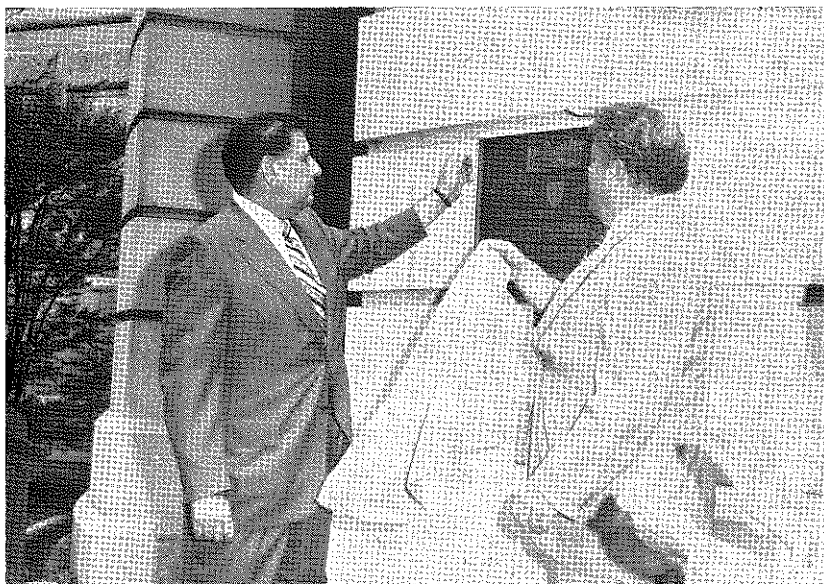
## PHILADELPHIA WATER SYSTEM HONORED AS ASCE LANDMARK

In impressive and memorable ceremonies, held on June 17, 1975, the Philadelphia Municipal Water System was honored by the American Society of Civil Engineers as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. (For previous detailed write-up of this award see the original announcement in the January, 1975 issue of THE NEWS).

The morning portion of the all-day program consisted of the unveiling of a bronze plaque in City Hall Courtyard, site of Centre Square, Philadelphia's first water works (1801-1815). Mayor

Frank L. Rizzo and ASCE National President William M. Sangster performed the unveiling jointly. Dr. Sangster then addressed the gathering in the Courtyard, describing the National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark Award program and the particular significance of the Philadelphia Centre Square honor.

Buses from the Courtyard then transported the assemblage to the site of the Fairmount Water Works adjoining the Museum of Art on East River Drive. There, more than 350 Philadelphia Section officers and members, National AS



At City Hall Courtyard — Mayor Frank L. Rizzo and ASCE National President William M. Sangster unveil bronze plaque, mounted on portal at entrance to the north corridor of City Hall Courtyard. This is the site of the Centre Square Works, Philadelphia's first water-pumping station, which was in operation from 1801 to 1815. It was the first public water system in America to use steam for large scale pumping.

CE officials, Water Department personnel and distinguished guests took part in the more elaborate and formal program and luncheon, hosted by the Water Department and the Phila. Section Committee on History and Heritage, Sidney Robin, Chairman. The Committee originally submitted the nomination for the Award to National ASCE in 1971.

The Fairmount Works program consisted of musical numbers by the City Police and Firemen's Band; an address by Water Commissioner Carmen F. Guarino on behalf of Mayor Rizzo, who was called away on urgent business at the last moment; a talk by President Sangster; and a tour of the old Fairmount Works. The latter included: grounds and buildings, highlighted by a decorative display of restored pumping machinery deep in the Works' sub-

terranean operating area; the Philadelphia Aquarium—which is in the process of restoration in the basement of the Fairmount Works; and a mobile testing facility—America's first water laboratories on wheels with automated equipment. A delightful buffet luncheon was served in the Reception Hall, and the attendees enjoyed their meal at tables on the beautiful open verandas and spacious environs of the scenic and historic site along the Schuylkill.

It was an extraordinary, notable day for the Philadelphia Section and its History and Heritage Committee. Their heartfelt gratitude is extended to the officials of the Philadelphia Water Department for the abundant assistance in the preparation of the nomination and the award ceremonies. Particular  
(continued on page 4)



At Fairmount Water Works — Bronze plaque is mounted on a rock on the grounds of the old Fairmount Water Works complex adjoining the Phila. Museum of Art (which stands at the site of the original storage reservoir). The station was powered by steam, water wheels and water turbines, and was in operation from 1815 to 1911.

Admiring the plaque are, left to right: Sidney Robin, Past President of the Phila. Section, and Chairman of the History and Heritage Committee; Dr. William M. Sangster, National President, American Society of Civil Engineers; Carmen F. Guarino, Water Commissioner, City of Philadelphia; City Councilman Joseph L. Zazyczny; and Robert McConnell, Director of Fairmount Park.

#### PHILA. WATER SYSTEM HONORED (continued from page 3)

thanks are due the following individuals: Carmen F. Guarino, Water Commissioner, for generously granting the assistance of Department personnel and the use of facilities; Samuel J. Schwartz, Assistant to the Commissioner, for the historical research of the project; Raymond J. Harris, Administrative Assis-

tant to the Commissioner, for his immeasurable work in the planning and implementation of the award ceremonies, program literature and historical brochures; and Samuel S. Baxter, former Water Commissioner, for his unsparing and invaluable consultation aid to Mr. Robin in cataloguing the relevant facts for the presentation of the nomination to National ASCE.

#### CONSTRUCTION CAREER DAY

The 15th Construction Career Day Conference for Junior and Senior High School students will be held at Drexel University on Saturday, November 1, 1975, 10:00 A.M. Cosponsored by the Phila. Section, ASCE, with A.I.A., Phila. Chapter, PSPE Phila. Chapter, the General Building Contractors Ass'n and Drexel University, — the Conference traditionally has been held at the Franklin Institute, but moves to Drexel this year because of space needs. Attendance has grown from less than 200 in the early years to more than 800 recently.

Designed to interest pre-college stu-

dents in careers in engineering (principally construction-allied), the program will consist of a film: "A Career in the Building Profession;" panel discussions by experts in various engineering branches; inspection of exhibits by colleges and Technology Institutions; engineering and architectural firms; general contractors, materials manufacturers, suppliers, etc. Refreshments will be served and, after the Conference, attendees are invited to be the guests of the sponsors at the Penn-Harvard football game at Franklin Field.

Section representatives on the Conference Committee are Robert E. Chester, Lawrence G. Adams and Walter H. Clark.

#### SECTION CO-SPONSORS CONSTRUCTION SEMINAR

The Philadelphia Section, ASCE Continuing Education Committee, Allan R. Ritchie, Chairman, announces accomplishment of its first major endeavor: co-sponsoring, with the New Jersey Heavy and Highway Construction Industry Advancement Fund (CIAF), and other construction-oriented professional and industrial groups, a seminar on "Planning and Managing Construction for Economy and Profit."

Date: Tuesday, October 28, 1975

1:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. (Coffee break and dinner included)

Place: Sheraton Poste Inn, Routes 70 and 295, Cherry Hill, N. J.

The seminar is organized to provide middle and upper management construction and engineering personnel current concepts on cost control, construction economy, and labor relations as they influence construction cost. Highlights of the program include discussions on:

"Cost Control from Bidding to Completion"—Moderator: Dr. Robert M. Koerner, President, Phila. Section.

"Construction Economy from the Owner's Viewpoint"—Moderator: Wallace Grant, President, N. J. Society of Professional Engineers.

One of the speakers in this category is James W. McPhillips, Chief Engineer and Survey, Phila. Dept. of Streets. Mr. McPhillips is a Past-President of the Phila. Section, ASCE.

"Labor Relations and the Effect on Construction Cost"—Moderator: T. B. Smith, II, President, Contractors' Association of Eastern Pennsylvania

Attendance is limited to 200. For registration, please address: Director of Engineering, CIAF — P. O. Box 327, Pennington, N. J. 08534.

Registration fee is \$15.00 per person for CIAF contributing employees, \$19.00 for non-contributors. Deadline for registration is October 20, 1975. Registration application must be in writing, accompanied by payment. Please include your name, address, company and telephone number.

Note: The Construction Technology Program of CIAF offers several courses during September - December, 1975. Subjects include: Soils, Foundations and Dewatering; Construction Computations; Concrete Construction; Estimating Materials and Methods; Construction Surveying; Field Problems in Concrete; and many others.

Inquiries may be addressed to the Education and Training Committee of CIAF at the address indicated above. The telephone number is (609) 737-0440.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

(continued from page 3)

Engineering, Phila. Water Department, accepted for the Department a special award from the Professional Engineers in Government Committee of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, at PSPE's 40th Annual Convention, May 22-24, 1975, at Hershey, Pa.

The award honored the Philadelphia Water Department. "...in recognition of outstanding performance and contributions which have enhanced the stature of the engineering profession..."

The citation also made particular note of the following qualities in the Department.

1. Low engineer-employee turnover.
2. Numerous engineer-training programs.
3. Over 100 memberships in engineering societies, a very high ratio of engineering personnel.
4. Many technical papers authored by Department engineers have been published.

The research for this award nomination was conducted in the main by Mr. Spitko, with help from other Water Department officials. The Philadelphia Section, ASCE is eminently proud of the Department for the 1975 P. E. G. Award, by PSPE especially in the light of its other major award recently: ASCE National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. (See write-up on this elsewhere in this issue of THE NEWS).

\* \* \*

**Brian J. Lewis**, of Roy F. Weston, Inc., has been appointed to the Committee on Public Affairs and Legislation of the Member Activities Division of National ASCE Professional Activities Committee (PAC), for a four-year term effective August 1, 1975.

\* \* \*

**Cetin A. Okcuoglu**, President of GEOTECH, INC., Consulting Soils and Foundation Engineers, Pennsauken, N. J., announces the opening of a branch office of the company in New Haven, Conn.



## "COUNTDOWN"

The 1976 ASCE  
National Convention  
and Exposition

Septemeber 27 - October 1, 1976  
Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.

Theme: "American Civil Engineering —  
A Bicentennial of Public Service"

General Chairman James W. McPhillips has submitted to the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Section a comprehensive Progress Report on the status of planning. Here is a synopsis of that report:

## FINANCE — Joseph Welsh, Chairman

Under the directorship of Past President John J. Gallen, a publication entitled: "History of Engineering and Construction in the Delaware Valley" will be developed as a fund-raising project. An explanatory letter has been mailed to all Section members by the Publication Committee. **The Membership's full cooperation is urgently needed.** There has been a good response already to the contributions appeal and advertising campaign.

## PROGRAM — Lewis Caccese, Chairman

Special effort is being made to develop a balanced program, giving particular attention and recognition to the Bicentennial Year and the significance of Philadelphia as the site for this important Annual Meeting of the Society. Specific emphasis is being focused on historic tours, excursions and Bicentennial events—to attract families to the Convention.

A unique approach to the Technical Program is that major engineering organizations have been invited to conduct "landmark" sessions. The Federal Department of Transportation, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, American Institute of Steel Construction, and the Portland Cement Association have already accepted and are planning unusual and interesting programs.

The local committee is actively coordinating its Technical Programs with the ASCE National Committee on Programs and Sessions-Allocation Board. A draft schedule is already set: (53) Technical Sessions, (2) History and Heritage, and (2) Professional Activities Committee (PAC) Sessions. The PAC meetings will cover late-developing subjects of importance.

Several field trips are being planned, to tie in where possible with Technical Sessions.

## STUDENT PROGRAMS —

Robert D. Lynch, Chairman

Students will be encouraged to participate in all Convention activities and social affairs. A special day (tentatively set for Friday, October 1, 1976) will be programmed Student Day, on which a diversified agenda of particular interest to students is planned, including a National ASCE History and Heritage Committee presentation. It is expected that the Mead Prize for Associate Members will be awarded on Student Day. A Student Social will be arranged for the evening, to be held at either Drexel University or the U. of Pa.

Many other Committees (and their chairmen) hard at work include:

**Excursions (Walter Clark)**—a series of non-technical trips to historic sites; **Reception (Will Heiser); Ladies Activities (Audrey Heiser); Social Events (Leo Goldstein)**—a Sunday night dinner for National Officers, Monday night Ice-Breaker party in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton, and Wednesday night Dinner-Dance and Show at Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park.

The **Attendance Promotion (Ken Zitomer)** and **Public Information (Sidney Robin)** Committees are busy preparing to "spread the Philadelphia word" to news media, all Local Sessions in the U.S., and to encourage engineering and industrial firms to permit employees to attend and take part in the Convention.

A slide and sound film entitled: "Philadelphia—the Bicentennial City. Come to Where it All Began", has been developed for use at Conventions taking place prior to Philadelphia's. It is presently being revamped for display at the coming November, 1975 Conference in Denver.

(Editor's Note: A regular column in THE NEWS editions for 1975-1976, "Countdown to Convention" will keep the Section membership informed of latest developments as we prepare for the big event at the Sheraton, September 27 - October 1, 1976.)



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## LEGISLATIVE CORNER

by John E. Spitko

*Editors Note: Starting with this issue of THE NEWS a regular monthly column will be dedicated to the activities of the Phila. Section's Legislation, Registration & By-Laws Committee (more commonly referred to as Legislative Affairs Committee). The column will be under the by-line of our talented new Staff-Writer, John E. Spitko, Special Assistant to the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Engineering, Phila. Dept. of Water. Mr. Spitko was the winner of the 1964 National ASCE Mead Prize for Associate Members (see THE NEWS, October 1974).*

*This issue's column is an introductory summarization of a policy report recently submitted to the Section's Board of Directors by George R. Beetle, Partner, Louis T. Klauder & Associates. Under Mr. Beetle's proficient chairmanship, the Legislative Affairs Committee is formulating a meaningful, effective legislative policy for the Section to pursue.*

The majority of legislative issues of professional interest to engineers arise at the State level. Many engineers never hear about the content or consequences of the legislation proposed and passed by our State Legislature. The engineers who are aware of the proposed bills and their consequences rarely can get together on a unified position in time to exert any influence before the bills become laws.

The Philadelphia Section ASCE Legislative Affairs Committee has two important goals. The first is to work with the other sections in our District 4 (Lehigh Valley, Central Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh) to carry out an organized review of all state bills which may affect engineers in their professional practice. Liaison among the local sections and the District 4 Council is accomplished by special Task Forces. These have responsibility for legislative matters in specific areas such as land use planning, General Services Department procurement procedures, flood plain development and others. The Task Forces function as an arm of both the District 4 Council and all of the local Sections within Pennsylvania. Members of our local Legislative Affairs Committee lead several of the state-wide Task Forces. These bodies are able to assess the flow of new legislation and determine which bills are important enough for the sections and District 4 to take a stand on.

Once this unified, statewide position

on a bill is established, the second goal of the Section Legislative Affairs Committee comes into play. This second goal is communication. Local members of ASCE will be informed about the content and possible impacts of new bills.

Topics of interest to the Committee include Registration Board reform, development of cooperation with the other closely related professional societies, flood plain management, political contributions as a corruptive influence, and others. The possibilities are too numerous to mention.

Watch for this column in the following months. An important bill may be reviewed; or the opposing or supporting points of view of the Section members may be reported here.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Committee on Continuing Education of the Philadelphia Section compiles a record of seminars and short courses that are planned by various organizations and colleges in our area. Upcoming events are briefly reported here. For more details contact either the sponsor or the committee, Allan Ritchie (215) 922-5024.

Sponsor: **Drexel University** (895-2154)  
Title: Management Introduction to EDP,  
October 7, 1975

Transactional Analysis for Management,  
October 8-10, 1975

Management Decision Making,  
October 13-15, 1975

Women in Management,  
October 14-16, 1975

Project Management,  
October 15-17, 1975

Principles of Professional Selling,  
October 20-22, 1975

Solid Waste Management,  
October 23-24, 1975

Location: Drexel University, Phila., Pa.

\* \* \*

Sponsor: **Penn State University, Ogontz Campus** (886-9400 x285)

Title: Substance of Supervision-Effective Communications,  
October 14, 1975

Safety Management,  
October 22, 23, 1975

Dynamics of Stress in Management,  
October 23, 1975

Transactional Analysis — Applications to Management  
October 31, 1975

Photogrametry,  
T. B. A.

Effective Utilization of Engineering Operations,  
November 4, 1975  
Management by Objectives,  
November 13, 14, 1975  
Zoning and Land Use,  
November 25, 1975

\* \* \*

Sponsor: **Drexel University** (895-2154)  
Title: CPE 7502 Review of Current Engineering Practice, preparation for taking the state examination for professional engineer.

Fee: \$200.00

Date and time: January 22, 1976, 7:00 to 9:40 P.M. for 20 sessions through June 10, 1976

Location: Drexel University, Phila., Pa.

## SQUARE DANCE AGAIN THE FALL SOCIAL

Last year's highly successful old-fashioned, authentic Square Dance, designed and arranged by the Section's Women's Auxiliary, will be repeated at this season's Fall Social—The Engineers' Club, **Friday, Nov. 7, 1975, 8:30 P.M.**

Vernon Wersler, veteran caller, will again lead the dance sequences and provide the music. Beef 'n' Beer, pastries, coffee and other refreshments will be served; and valuable prizes will be available for the lucky ones. Members are invited to bring guests to the affair.

Tickets are \$4.25 per person — and will be available at the Section's first regular meeting, October 14, 1975. Ticket reservations may also be made by writing or calling Square Dance Chairman Gloria (Mrs. Robert E.) Chester, 315 Canterbury Rd., Havertown, Pa. 19083; Phone: (215) HI 9-4069. **Tickets will also be available at the door on the evening of the affair.**

## RETIRED ENGINEERS WANTED

The Federal Disaster Assistance Administration is looking for retired engineers to be employed in disaster recovery efforts reviewing applications for federal assistance. After an initial two week training period in Philadelphia, selected persons will be kept on a readiness list and called upon as needed.

Interested persons should contact:

Alfred S. DeLucia, Public Assistance Disaster Program Officer, Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, DHUD/Region III, Curtis Building, 6th and Walnut Streets, 7th Floor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106  
(215) 597-0850

**TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES****Geotechnical**

In commemoration of the Bicentennial Year celebration the Group has planned a series of talks reflecting the State-of-Art of the various facets of Geotechnical Engineering in the Tri-State Delaware Valley Area.

Date: **Tuesday, October 21, 1975**

Engineers' Club — **7:00 P.M.**

(Dinner main dining room 6:00 P.M.)

Subject: **Sub-surface Exploration and Engineering Geology of the Delaware Valley Area**

Speakers: **Ron Gibson**, Eastern District Mgr., Raymond International, Inc. Hackensack, N. J.

**Al Depman**, Chief Geologist, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Phila. Dist.  
Program Host: **Dr. S. V. Nathan**, Chairman Geotechnical Group

\* \* \*

**Hydraulics and Sanitary**

October Meeting —

Date: **Thursday, Oct. 2, 1975—6:30 P.M.**

Field Trip — **Philadelphia Suburban Water Co., Load Distribution Center, Bryn Mawr, Pa.**

On May 15, 1975 the Hydraulics and Sanitary Engineering Group held its monthly luncheon at the Engineers' Club. Robert Day, Instrumentation Engineer, Black, Crow & Eidsness, was the guest speaker. The topic was the "Design of an Automation System for the Water Operations Division of the Philadelphia Water Department Utilizing Digital Computer Technology."

\* \* \*

**Structural**

Date: **Thursday, October 16, 1975**

Engineers' Club—**12 Noon Luncheon**

Subject: **Architectural Concepts and Structural Problems of Historic Franklin Court at 314-322 Market St.**

Speakers: **David Vaughn**, Associate, Venturi and Rauch, Philadelphia  
**Nicholas Gianopoulos**, Principal, Keast and Hood, Philadelphia

Program Host: **Professor Frederic Roll**, Chairman of Structural Group

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**ON ATTENDANCE AT MAIN SECTION MEETINGS — or****How to Lose Friends and Alienate People**

by Joseph R. Syrnick

Overall, last year's attendance at the monthly main Section meetings was very good. The Section averaged almost 200 people per meeting and has been successful in attracting and keeping college students. Many students have their first exposure to the Philadelphia Section on "College Nights" and keep attending month after month. Although we have seen this develop over the last couple of years, student attendance last season reached an unprecedented level. It's a good trend and it indicates that the Section must be doing something right. There is, however, something that has been bothering me for some time. It concerns the sporadic attendance at monthly meetings by many "Active Members" of the Section. Many times I have heard their absence explained as being due to "... that topic doesn't interest me". Well, naturally, every topic isn't going to interest every individual and with all the varied responsibilities and demands upon one's time, no one can be expected to attend every meeting. Therefore, it is reasonable, indeed wise, to be selective in deciding which meeting you are going to attend. Nevertheless, there appears to me to be an implied notion (and perhaps this is more imagined than real) that we should only attend those meetings which are concerned with the sub-discipline of Civil Engineering in which we work. A look at the attendees of past meetings tends to bear this out. For example (and I really mean as an example only), if the meeting concerns a bridge project we can expect all sorts of structural engineers to attend—and rightly so. Working in this area they are interested in what other municipalities are doing and in the innovative techniques used by their colleagues to solve complex design and construction problems. However, if the next meeting concerns a water resource topic, many of these same structural people will not attend, the reason being that it's not their field. RUBBISH!

I clearly remember a lengthy discussion in my senior year at college, concerning attendance at technical meetings and specifically considerations which can be summarized as "whazzit gonna do for me". Although many viewpoints

were aired, including the instructor's, my impression of the group's conclusion (if indeed there can be such a thing) is that it would be more beneficial to attend meetings which cover subjects outside of one's specialty area. The rationale was that engineers are probably reasonably up-to-date on developments within their own discipline simply by virtue of working in this area every day. Surely we all spend some time reviewing literature and seeking out information in conjunction with the particular project we may be working on. Now, certainly, we can always learn something new, and I'm not suggesting that all transportation engineers should get together and go bowling if the main Section meeting happens to feature the BART line. But doesn't it make sense that Civil Engineers should keep abreast of developments in all areas of the profession? I think it's odd that some Civil Engineers — people who work daily in the field — don't have at least a cursory interest in what is going on in other areas of their profession. The fact that you may have only a limited knowledge of the subject area is the best argument that I can see as to why you should be attending. Your education shouldn't stop when you graduate from school and you should think of your profession as more than just a nine to five shift. Most engineers, myself included, like to be thought of as professionals. As such we have an obligation to our clients, our employers, and most importantly to ourselves to make certain that we take advantage, to the fullest extent possible, of the many opportunities to broaden our outlooks. From this viewpoint, the Philadelphia main Section meeting appears to be an ideal vehicle toward this goal. ASCE belongs to us and how attractive a security it turns out to be depends a lot on how well we invest in it.

I'm sure that this article, for which I claim sole responsibility, will stir some grumbling within the CE community. I hope so. Please feel free to respond and take issue with all or any portion of these views via this newsletter (please, no letter bombs). The editor of THE NEWS has agreed to allocate appropriate space for responsible comments. Depending on the response, we may publish some of the replies in a letter to the editor format in the next newsletter. That's provided the Structural Technical Group doesn't smash our presses in the meantime!

**Section Members!**

Please Take THE NEWS Home. Your Wife Wants to Read  
The Women's Auxiliary Items!

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

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The first Luncheon-Meeting of the 1975-1976 season was held at the Engineers' Club on Wednesday, September 17, 1975. It was a get-acquainted social gathering; and a good turnout of ladies enjoyed every minute of it. A business meeting of the Officers and Committee Chairmen preceded the Luncheon.

### October Meeting

The next regular Luncheon-Meeting of the Auxiliary will be at the Engineers' Club on Wednesday, Oct. 15, 1975—12:00 noon. A delightful afternoon is assured, because the star attraction will be none other than President Audrey Heiser, (the "Julia Child" of the Women's Auxiliary) who will demonstrate, prepare and share the exotic and inviting adventure of "Dining in Pakistan with Audrey." Mrs. Heiser is intimately familiar with this subject, since she and husband Will (Section Vice President) spent several years in that interesting South Asian country, where Mr. Heiser's consulting firm, Justin & Courtney, Inc. was engaged in water resources engineering projects for the government.

All Women's Auxiliary members and their guests are cordially invited to attend the October meeting and all meetings of the current new season. Wives of Section members are urged to join and to take part in the varied and splendid activities of the group. Membership applications may be made at the meetings; or contact Membership Committee Chairman: Marie (Mrs. Kenneth J.) Zitomer, Phone: LI 8-5324.

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## VILLANOVA STUDENT CHAPTER

by Joseph A. Cavaliere, President

Now that the shock of registration is over, we are already planning what we hope will be a very active and profitable semester. The Villanova Student Chapter of the ASCE began the fall semester with our annual membership drive. With the support of the faculty and the officers of the student chapter, our membership drive should be a huge success.

The 1975-76 school year began with the appointment of a new dean to the College of Engineering at Villanova. Dr. Robert E. Lynch has been appointed Dean of the Villanova's College of Engineering. He succeeds Dr. John J. Gallen who retired at the end of last semester. Dr. Lynch's successor as ASCE moderator is Dr. Edward Wallo, who was a past moderator for the student chapter.

Our first monthly meeting will be on Thursday, October 9, 1975 room 202 John Barry Hall. The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M., and will last approximately two hours. For further details contact me or call the Civil Engineering Office at Villanova.

On Tuesday, October 14, 1975, the Villanova Student Chapter will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary at The Engineers' Club in Philadelphia. Not many student chapters have been in existence for 50 years, so it should be a very exciting night. I hope I'll see you there. For further information concerning the Villanova Student Chapter, call the Civil Engineering Office at 527-2100.

## SPECIFICATIONS WRITERS COURSE

Following last year's successful basic course program (see THE NEWS, November, 1974), the Specifications Writers School, affiliated with the Philadelphia Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) announces an advanced course on the writing of specifications and affiliated documents, to be held starting in the Fall, 1975 — continuing into February, 1976.

The course will examine specs related to all sections of general construction, from site operations to finishes and equipment. The facility will include experienced and qualified specifications writers, drawn basically from the membership of C.S.I., as well as technical representatives of materials manufacturers and applicators. At various times,

unaffiliated specialists, experts in their field, will be brought in as instructors.

Satisfactory completion of the previous "basic" course will be a factor in selection for admission. The class will be limited to 40 members.

Place — The Engineers' Club, 1317 Spruce Street, Philadelphia

Dates — 16 sessions—Tuesday nights  
5:30 to 8:50 P.M. Sept. 30; Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28; Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25; Dec. 2, 9, 16; Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27; Feb. 23

For full details and applications, contact Harry F. Schwenk, Jr., Secretary, C.S.I., 751 Mancill Road, Wayne, Pa. 19087; Phone: (215) 687-1942.

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