



# the news

PHILADELPHIA SECTION

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

VOL. 48 - No. 2

Our 63rd Year

November, 1975

## NOVEMBER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers  
Sponsored by the Structural Group

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1975**

Engineers' Club, 1317 Spruce Street, Philadelphia

Cocktails — 5:30

Dinner — 6:30

Meeting — 7:30

### SUBJECT:

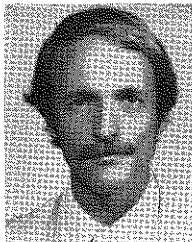
**THE HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD PROGRAM AND ITS POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.**

### SPEAKER:

**ERIC N. DeLONY**, Principal Architect, Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior

### PROGRAM HOST:

**PROFESSOR FREDERIC ROLL**, Chairman, Structural Group



Philadelphia and environs possess some of the richest resources of historic engineering and technological monuments in the United States. Mr. DeLony's talk will review the objectives of HAER, a preservation program of the National Park Service, and demonstrate how his office has contributed towards the preservation of these types of resources. The talk will be illustrated with examples of historic engineering and industrial works from the Philadelphia area.

Eric N. DeLony has been the principal architect of HAER since its organization in 1969. Prior to his appointment, he worked with the National Park Service summer survey teams, while a student at Ohio State University, from which he received a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1968. Mr. DeLony also attended Columbia University, from which his Masters Degree in Historic Preservation is pending. In 1971-72, Mr. DeLony was on a Fulbright Fellowship to Great Britain, to do research on the Industrial Revolution and the history of Civil Engineering, with particular emphasis on the techniques and philosophy of preserving structures representative of these aspects of British history. Since then, Mr. DeLony and his office have worked with interested individuals, preservation organizations, the professional engineering societies, and other governmental agencies, to achieve a similar record of appreciation and preservation of American Technological monuments.

### SPECIAL FEATURE: "University of Pennsylvania Night"

The U. of Pa. ASCE Student Chapter officers and members, Phila. Section Contact Associates and Advisors, as well as the Civil Engineering Department student body, faculty and alumni — will be honored. All Penn C.E. students, faculty and alumni are cordially invited to attend.

### 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

## PROJECT NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Committee for 1976 Engineers' Week seeks nominations for the most outstanding engineering achievements in Delaware Valley. Projects selected from the nominations will receive special recognition during the observance of National Engineers' Week in Delaware Valley next February 20-28.

The nominations should include a brief description of the project by the firm or individual, its completion date and the name and address of the person with authenticating information.

The deadline for filing nominations is **November 15, 1975**, and thus they should be sent immediately to James A. Drobile, chairman, Committee on Outstanding Engineering Achievements, 1976 Engineers' Week Committee, 1317 Spruce St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107.

"Suggested projects should clearly and forcefully illustrate the significant benefits which engineers and engineering confer upon society and civilization, in support of the 1976 Engineers' Week theme, "American Ingenuity: 200 Years of Engineering;" Drobile said. "Projects should bear relationship to the Delaware Valley by virtue of having been originated or performed here; however their impact or usefulness need not be so limited. The date of the achievement is not critical and projects may involve any field of engineering."

**DON'T FORGET:** The Square Dance is on November 7th (Friday Night) at 8:30 at the Engineers' Club. This is a beef and beer social so if you don't care to square dance come anyway. Based upon last year's we guarantee you'll have a good time. We need you to make this a success. Dress is casual and tickets are available at the door (\$4.25 per person).

**OCTOBER MEETING**

October 14, 1975  
Engineers' Club

The 1975-76 Philadelphia Section program got off to a flying start on Tuesday, October 14, 1975 with the first main section meeting of the season. A large crowd of over 150 was on hand to hear the main address and it was evident that the trend of large student member attendance was continuing.

It was Villanova Night and a very vocal contingent of Villanova students did their best to make their presence known.

**DiGioia and Gallen Guests**

Dr. Anthony M. DiGioia, Director of District 4 was introduced and pledged his continued efforts on behalf of the Philadelphia Section. He noted that he was ready and willing to help with any matters that should be brought before the Board of Directors.

John Gallen, was introduced and delivered a pitch for financial support from individual members for the National Convention to be held in Philadelphia in September, 1976. Dean Gallen is responsible for the coordination of a publication entitled, "History of Engineering and Construction in the Delaware Valley". This booklet is envisioned as a main fund raising instrument for the National Convention. Proceeds will be used to offset expenses which traditionally are the responsibility of the host Section.

**Villanova Student Chapter**

Dr. Edward Wallo, Faculty Advisor to the Villanova Student Chapter introduced the Student Chapter officers and Professor Richard H. Miller, Chairman of the Civil Engineering Department described the undergraduate curriculum and discussed current activities at Villanova.

Student Chapter President Joseph Cavaliere delivered a short address in which he praised the work of his fellow students and made note of the cooperation he had received from the Civil Engineering faculty.

Dr. Robert Lynch was introduced and was congratulated on his appointment

as Dean of Engineering at Villanova. Dean Lynch is a Director of the Philadelphia Section and formerly was the Faculty Advisor to the Villanova Student Chapter.

**50th Anniversary**

Following the remarks by the Villanova representatives, Dr. Koerner presented the Student Chapter with a Citation in recognition of 50 years of membership and service to the Society. Alumni and faculty were asked to stand and it was obvious that this University has had a strong influence on engineering in the Delaware Valley.

**Temple Well Represented**

Temple University is obviously intent on continuing the high degree of professional involvement which was so noticeable last year. Almost 30 members of their Student Chapter and several faculty members were present to hear the main address.

**Investigation Ordered**

The customary drawing for a free dinner was held to reward those members who were kind enough to send in reservation cards. Dr. Koerner ordered an immediate investigation when Bill Malarkey's card was pulled. Bill is the Meeting Committee Chairman and was reportedly seen tampering with the cigar box shortly before the drawing. Dr. Koerner emphasized that there was no truth to the rumor that the other cards had been glued to the bottom of the box.

**Main Address**

The audience at the September meeting of the Philadelphia Section was treated to a fine presentation by Mr. John Trimmer, Executive Vice President, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. (ABC) about the topic of the merit shop. Mr. Trimmer, through the use of current studies on merit shop, engrossed the audience.

Mr. Trimmer has been associated with ABC for a number of years and was well qualified to present not only the current operation of the merit shop but also the historical development of the merit shop construction labor concept.

Mr. Trimmer stated that when he was

(continued on page 5)

**DISTRICT 4 MEETING**

At District 4 Council meeting held in Hershey, Pa. on September 19 and 20 it was decided to establish Task Forces in the following areas to assess the impact which current policies and practices have on the engineering profession.

- \* Land Use Planning
- \* Engineer's Registration
- \* Procurement of Professional Services

Section members are being sought to serve on these committees and anyone who is interested should contact Dr. Koerner at Drexel University.

**PARKING BARGAIN**

The Philadelphia Engineers' Club has arranged with the operator of the parking lot on Juniper Street (along side the Club building) for reduced parking rates for persons attending ASCE activities at the Engineers' Club. The reduced rate will be \$1.50 (regular charge is \$2.00) but you must alert the attendant that you are going to the Engineers' Club.

**PHILADELPHIA SECTION  
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**COPY DEADLINE FOR  
DECEMBER, 1975 ISSUE  
NOVEMBER 25, 1975**

**"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.**

Enjoy an evening of fun and good fellowship!

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Tickets \$4.25 per person — For Information Contact  
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**TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES****Geotechnical**

Date: **Tuesday, November 18, 1975**  
 Location: Engineers' Club — 7:00 P.M.  
 (Dinner in the main dining room optional at 6:00 P.M.)  
 Subjects and Speakers: "Shallow Foundations in the Delaware Valley Area"  
**Cetin A. Okcuoglu**, President, Geotech Inc.  
 "Shallow Foundations in Cavernous Limestone Areas" — **Jim H. Kim**, Associate, Woodward-Clyde Consultants  
 Program Host: **Dr. S. V. Nathan**, Chairman, Geotechnical Group

\* \* \*

**Hydraulics and Sanitary**

Date: **Thursday, December 4, 1975**  
 Location: Engineers' Club, Luncheon (12 Noon)  
 Subject: "International Wastewater Treatment"  
 Speaker: **Carmen F. Guarino**, Commissioner, Philadelphia Water Department  
 Program Host: **Dr. Carl M. Koch**, Chairman, Hydraulics and Sanitary Group

\* \* \*

**Transportation and Urban Development**

Date: **Tuesday, November 18, 1975**  
 Location: Engineers' Club, Luncheon (12 Noon)  
 Subject: "Public Transit Operations in the Suburbs"  
 Speaker: **Richard Orth**, Vice-President, Simpson and Curtin, Consultants  
 Program Host: **Louis W. Petulla**, Chairman, Transportation and Urban Development Group

**NEW JERSEY SECTION  
CENTRAL JERSEY BRANCH****November Meeting**

Date: **Tuesday, November 18, 1975**  
 Location: Faculty Alumni Dining Room  
 Rutgers University Campus  
 New Brunswick, New Jersey  
 Host: Rutgers University Student Chapter ASCE  
 Specifics: For further information or reservations please contact Mr. Clark Gilman of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Gilman is the program coordinator for the Central Jersey Branch and may be reached at (609) 292-2296.

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.

**"COUNTDOWN  
TO  
CONVENTION"**

The 1976 ASCE  
National Convention  
and Exposition

September 27 - October 1, 1976

Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia, Penna.

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

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, this is Walter Crackpot with an update of sporting and entertainment news around the Nation for Tuesday, September 28, 1976.

Philadelphia...

\* The Phillies got another impressive effort from their powerhouse lineup today as they clobbered the New York Mets 11-2. They now lead the second place Chicago Cubs by 14½ games with only two regular season games remaining. Oscar Frisbie, a spring training walk-on, appears to be a shoo-in for the Cy Young Award, having compiled a league leading 26-3 record, with an astonishing 1.07 ERA. Terry Harmon, playing in 148 games this year while substituting for the injury prone keystone combo of Larry Bowa and Dave Cash, has amazed everyone (especially interim manager Gene Mauch) by hitting .348 with 27 home runs, and 98 runs batted in. Tony Taylor, retrieved from a premature retirement, has just collected his 2200th career hit to raise his 1976 batting average to .364.

\* Beverly Sills opened the Philadelphia Lyric Opera season last night with another scintillating performance. Following her performance she received 38 curtain calls.

\* The Philadelphia Eagles today announced the acquisition of O. J. Simpson and Mean Joe Greene. Coach McCormack indicated that although he was reluctant to tamper with a lineup that had won 19 straight games (regular, post and pre-season) he did feel these recent additions could add depth to the special teams.

\* The Flyers, apparently enroute to their 4th consecutive Stanley Cup Championship, won their second regular season game today by a score of 4-1. Rick Macleish kept his consecutive game goal scoring streak alive at 58 games (over two seasons).

\* Owner Irv Kosloff announced today that all litigation involving Billy Cunningham has been dropped. Billy, last year's MVP, is expected to lead the 76ers to their second consecutive NBA championship. Shortly after the above

announcement was made, the Bar Association closed their Philadelphia Office.

\* But the big story in Philadelphia, is the ASCE National Convention which opened yesterday to a packed house at the Sheraton Hotel. Milton Shapp, the leading Democratic presidential candidate, did a commendable job pinching-hitting as keynote speaker for President Ford, who was forced to cancel at the last minute due to the current Latvian crisis.

Cab drivers, construction workers, hotel doormen, could be heard discussing the significant achievements of people like Karl Terzaghi, Hardy Cross, O. H. Ammann, John Stevens, and General Goethals. School children throughout the Delaware Valley could be heard humming the popular ditty, "Roebling's Bridge Ain't Falling Down". And everyone, everywhere was talking about Leo Goldstein's lavish Icebreaker Cocktail Party at the Sheraton last night.

Well, OK! Perhaps we've gone a bit too far. Maybe the Phils won't clinch the Eastern division title until the last week of the season, and we'll concede that O. J. could probably fit in somewhere in the Eagle backfield. It's possible that some clown would boo Beverly Sills, and we'll just humor you when you say that it's very unlikely that any hockey player could score a goal in even 10 consecutive games. We may even agree with you when you say that there is a high possibility that somewhere a lawsuit will pop up naming Billy C. as a co-defendant.

We are, however, absolutely certain that the last week of September in Philadelphia will belong to the Civil Engineers, and it's hard for us to imagine that any national convention, at any time, in any city, can have as much going for it as does our National Convention next year.

Hopefully, you read the synopsis progress report on the Convention in the October issue of THE NEWS. Under the able leadership of General Chairman James W. McPhillips, planning has been going on for well over one year. The first scheduled affair of the convention will be a dinner for the National Officers on Sunday, September 26, 1976. This affair will be hosted by the Philadelphia Section and is slated for the Egyptian Room of the University Museum.

The Convention proper kicks off on Monday September 27th, with a "Welcome to Philadelphia — Past and Present" audio-visual presentation, and a Keynote Luncheon. The speaker for the Keynote Session has not been firmed up

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**COUNTDOWN TO CONVENTION**

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yet but he (she?) will surely be a national figure who will hopefully make a major policy statement during the address.

Monday's activities will be concluded with an Icebreaker Cocktail Party in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton. Many registrants will be coming from out of town and may or may not know other people at the convention. The icebreaker serves there as a get-to-know-each-other affair. Leo Goldstein has been working very hard to set up this social event, and based upon his status reports, we expect it to be a rousing success. Besides liquid refreshment, Leo has arranged for hor deurves and a string band for entertainment.

This column will be a regular feature in THE NEWS up to and until convention week. We want to get you thinking positive because we need you to make the convention a success. We would like to see all Philadelphia Section members register and actively participate in as many activities as possible. We are hopeful that many engineering firms will allow their employees to participate and perhaps even sponsor such participation. We would suggest that you alert your employers that the convention is scheduled, and discuss the possibility of employee participation and sponsorship. Future articles in this column will describe other key activities. Meanwhile, keep repeating to yourself, September '76, September '76, Sept. . .

**WOMEN'S AUXILIARY**

The next regular monthly Luncheon-Meeting of the Phila. Section Women's Auxiliary will be held at the Engineers' Club on **Wednesday, November 19, 1975, 12:00 noon**. A film, courtesy of the First Pennsylvania Bank of Philadelphia, depicting various flim-flam operations and rackets — and starring Kennan Wynn — will be the feature presentation.

Members and their guests are cordially invited to attend all Auxiliary meetings. Philadelphia Section members' wives should join and participate in the Auxiliary's diverse, interesting activities. If membership falters and attendance declines, the organization will have difficulty in surviving. Membership applications may be filled out and will be processed at the monthly meetings; or please communicate with Membership Committee Chairman Marie (Mrs. Kenneth J.) Zitomer, Phone: LI 8-5324.

NOTE: If any Philadelphia Section member did not receive one of the yellow pocket calendar cards or would like another one, contact Joe Syrnick MU 6-5539.

**AN APOLOGY**

We have learned that several Philadelphia Section members received last month's copy of THE NEWS marked "postage due". We apologize for this and will try to avoid a recurrence in future editions.

With last month's 8 page newsletter and the pocket calendar cards the mailing came very close to the one ounce limit.

It seems as though some post offices accepted the envelopes with ten cent postage and some did not.

We recognize that this is a very poor public relations procedure and we are currently investigating several alternatives including using a lighter paper for THE NEWS. Please bear with us.

**VILLANOVA STUDENT CHAPTER**

by Joseph A. Cavaliere, President

Our first Villanova Student Chapter meeting of the fall semester was held on Thursday, October 9th. The meeting featured Mr. Robert Lamb from Sun Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company. Mr. Lamb's presentation dealt with both the construction and design aspects of the shipyard. To those thirty students in attendance, the meeting proved to be a very rewarding experience.

The second meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday, November 5th in Room 202 of John Barry Hall. The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. and will last approximately two hours. The guest speaker will be Mr. L. R. Kubacki, who is a Chief Design Engineer for Penn Central Transportation Company. This meeting will be a joint meeting with the Institute of Traffic Engineers. As usual coffee and donuts will be served after the meeting.

The third Annual Villanova vs. Drexel football game will be held on Saturday, November 8th. The series is tied up at one victory apiece. The purpose of the game is not just to create a rivalry between the two schools, but to create a mutual relationship between the student chapters. For further information concerning the Villanova Student Chapter, call me at the Civil Engineering Office at Villanova (527-2100).

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER FORUM****Professional Registration**

We would like to remind associate members of the Philadelphia Section who have attained the minimum requirements for registration as a professional engineer, that the deadline for the submission of applications for the January exam is November 15th. Applications and further information can be obtained from:

Louise J. Franklin, Secretary  
State Registration Board for Professional Engineers  
Box 2649  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

\* \* \*

**New Arrival**

We would like to congratulate Ron and Mary Ann Gans on the recent birth of their first son, Kevin. Ron, a registered professional engineer, is the Assistant Township Engineer in Abington. The Gans family, which also includes daughter Kerry, resides in the Roslyn Section of Abington.

\* \* \*

**New P. E.**

David W. Connell, an engineer with the consulting firm of Gannett, Fleming, Corddry, and Carpenter, Inc., recently was notified of successfully passing the professional engineers examination for the State of Pennsylvania. Dave is a '72 graduate of Drexel University and is presently pursuing a Master's Degree on a part-time basis. He and his wife Wendy live in Woodbury, New Jersey.

**A PROMOTION**

Joseph E. Storonas has been promoted to the position of Assistant Engineer of Construction in the Philadelphia Department of Streets' Bridge Division.

Mr. Storonas is a 1969 graduate of Drexel University and has been employed with the City of Philadelphia since graduation. He lives with his wife Vicki and children Christopher and Aaron in Oak Lane.

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**OCTOBER MEETING**

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in Philadelphia ten years ago for a meeting concerning the then open shop, he was met with a hostile reception at the Civic Center by Mr. J. H. Tate, then mayor of Philadelphia; Mr. James F. Hoffa, then president of the Teamster's International Union; and Mr. James O'Neil, then president of the Philadelphia local plumbers union. During the visit, Mr. Trimmer was burned in effigy. As a result of the meeting, the term open shop was changed to merit shop in hopes that union and non-union people would work together. The merit shop concept being one in which the wage scale is based upon a craftsman's ability to perform.

**Merit Shop Gaining**

The first complete study of the merit shop was done by Dr. Norththrop of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Norththrop's study showed that the merit shop is gaining strength in the construction industry. Fifty to sixty percent of the construction work done in the United States is being done by merit shop contractors and the growth should continue unless governmental decisions on situ picketing create insurmountable constraints.

A second study mentioned by Mr. Trimmer was that of the W. F. Dodge Company report from 1958 to 1974. According to the report merit shop construction in the city of Baltimore, Maryland has grown from 41% of the \$120 million spent on construction in 1958 to 79% of \$539 million which was spent in 1974.

A third study by Engineering News Record concluded that the productivity in construction was a shame to the industry and that no improvement is being shown today. Some of the restrictions which were sighted as stifling productivity were the restrictive use of certain types of machines and tools, jurisdictional disputes, pacing of work, honoring picket lines, wildcat strikes, clean-up time, coffee breaks, crew sizes, job classifications and others. Mr. Trimmer stated that the constraints must be removed or modified before any significant improvement in productivity can be realized.

The Associated Builders and Contractors have a membership of approximately 10,000 firms. Most of the member firms are small with employees of less than 25 persons. Two large firms which are members are Brown and Root, and

Webster International. The DuPont Corporation in recent years has turned to merit shop construction with approximately 50% of their construction being done by merit shop contractors.

The merit shop concept developed during the post World War II era when the construction of the Interstate Highway system and home building was booming. The merit shop has progressed step by step from small building projects to industrial and commercial construction to construction management.

Mr. Trimmer also indicated that ABC provides free legal help to their membership when involved in labor disputes. The organization has apprenticeship and journeyman educational programs at many colleges throughout the United States.

A major difference between the union shop and the merit shop is the number of hours a craftsman works per year. Union craftsman will average between 1200 to 1500 hours while 67% of the merit shop craftsman will work between 1800 to 2200 hours and 10% will work as high as 2200 to 2400 hours per year. The longer number of working hours along with less work restrictions has made the merit shop contractors more competitive in bidding with savings of between 15% to 20% and as high as 30% on the total cost for construction.

**Legislation Critical**

The future of the merit shop depends upon what the Federal Government does with legislation controlling construction labor. If the Common Sites Picketing bill passes it could seriously effect the growth of the merit shop concept. The bill has passed the House of Representatives and is before the Senate Labor Committee. President Ford has indicated he will not sign the bill unless it is combined with a bill which will incorporate wage negotiation procedures established by the Wage Stabilization Committee.

In conclusion, Mr. Trimmer stressed that with the rate of inflation still increasing the control of construction costs are a vital issue if the rate is to ever start a decreasing trend.

The meeting started the year for the Philadelphia Section with good attendance and a lively spirit for a monthly meeting.

*(Note: The Philadelphia Section is indebted to James Yann, President of the Temple University Student Chapter for this write-up of Mr. Trimmer's presentation.)*

**XDITOR'S CORNXR**

Xvxn though my sxcxrtary's typx-writxr is an old onx, it works quitx wxll —xxcxt for onx kxy. It is trux that thxrx arx forty-onx kxys that function wxll nxough, but just onx kxy makxs a diffxrxncx. You may say to yoursxlf, wxll, I am only onx pxrson; what I do won't makx or brxak a program. But it doxs makx a diffxrxncx! Any Sxction, Branch or Txchnical Group program nxxds activx support and coopxration in order to bx xffctivx. So thx nxxt timx you think you arx onx pxrson and your xfforts arx not nxxdx, rxmxxm-brx my sxcxrtary's typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I am a kxy pxrson in this organization and my support is nxxdx."

**IT'S DUES PAYING TIME!**

You have received your 1975-1976 dues bill. Please remit your checks as soon as possible. Avail yourself of the advantages of Active membership and help your Phila. Section to meet its financial needs and professional obligations.

**JOB SERVICE AVAILABLE**

The Engineers' Club announces the establishment of a job opportunities department. Positions of interest to Civil Engineers are available in the power plant field, steel, general construction, commercial and institutional chief engineers and plant maintenance, waste management — and many other categories.

For full information and inquiries, please contact Mr. Jozsef L. DeKovacs, Executive Manager, The Engineers' Club 1317 Spruce St., Phone: PE 5-5234.

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**Section Members!**

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

### SECTION SPONSORS BRIDGE CONTEST

The Third Annual Model Bridge Contest, sponsored by the City Department of Streets and the Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers, was held recently at the Franklin Learning Center, 15th and Mt. Vernon Streets.

Paul Gard and Herman Lottstein, both science teachers at Franklin, organized the class work and assisted in the testing and evaluation of the entries. In addition, Mr. Frank Guido, Director of Franklin Learning Center, was also a judge in the competition.

This contest is designed to encourage interest in engineering as a career, and to provide student motivation for further education beyond the high school level. The contest this year was the largest ever, with twenty-three entries being judged.

As in the past, each entrant was allowed 30 feet of one quarter inch square balsa wood and one tube of glue. Specifications of the contest were for each bridge to span a 10-inch river with no center supports, to have an overall length no greater than 16 inches, to have a 4 inch clearance at mid-span, a maximum height of eight-and-one-half inches, and a one inch by four inch area at the center of the bridge for testing its strength.

The Phila. Section, ASCE donated funds to be used as prizes for the five winners, with the prizes ranging from \$10.00 for first prize to \$3.00 for fifth. Prize winners were as follows:

First Prize: Blaise Cobb, with a bridge capacity of 142 lbs.

First Place (Special Prize): Hugh Sewell, with a bridge capacity of 165 lbs.

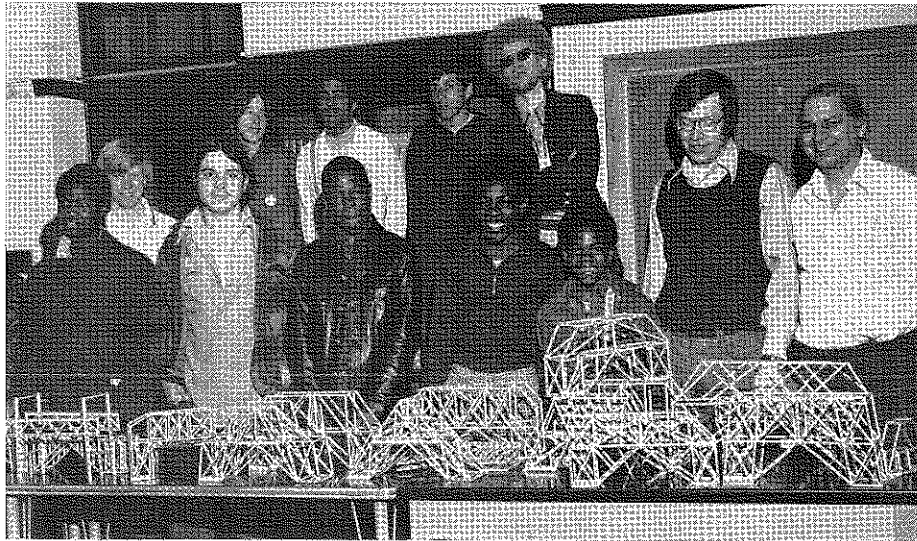
Mr. Sewell inadvertently used a stronger glue than the rest of the contestants and, consequently, the school felt that a special prize donated by the school should be awarded to this contestant.

Second Prize: Rafel Munoz, with a bridge capacity of 165 lbs..

Third Prize: Debbie Wong, with a bridge capacity of 130 lbs.

Fourth Prize: Anthony Denmelos, with a bridge capacity of 85 lbs.

Prominent Phila. Section member, **Leopold Neiman**, Chief Engineer, Dept. of Streets, is one of the original organizers of this splendid annual project, and has generously proffered his expertise to make it a meaningful success.



Students and science instructors at the Franklin Learning Center stand behind the model bridge entries

### ENGINEERS' CLUB SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Josef deKovacs, Executive Manager of the Engineers' Club has announced that the Club is actively seeking new members. The Philadelphia Section ASCE supports the Engineers' Club and its many benefits and activities and suggests that interested members contact Mr. deKovacs (PEE 5-5234) for more information.



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### MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

**John Pickett** has enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania in pursuit of a masters degree in Urban Planning. John was formerly employed with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation as a design liaison engineer and has been involved with numerous projects including such major design contracts as the Woodhaven Road Expressway, the Pulaski Highway, and Bustleton Avenue.

John is a graduate of Swarthmore College and lives with his wife, Gail, and their two year old daughter in Wallingford, Pa. The Philadelphia Section wishes John good luck in his studies and success in his future career.

\* \* \*

**William J. Parente**, the Associate Member News Editor, has been working on the development of a transport system in Senegal, Africa.

Bill is a design engineer for Gannett, Fleming, Corddry and Carpenter, Inc., King of Prussia, Pa. He is a 1971 graduate of Rutgers University and received his M.S.C.E. at Drexel University in 1973.

The major elements of the transport system will allow for the shipment of phosphate and iron ores and crude oil to and from a new port which is being developed in this progressive Western African country.

Bill notes that he has had to familiarize himself with the metric system which is used exclusively in calculations and on plans. He is looking forward to his first site inspection.

\* \* \*

**Dr. Alan M. Ebner** of United Engineers and Constructors, Inc. has recently been promoted to the position of Assistant Chief Structural Engineer. Dr. Ebner's first exposure in the Philadelphia area was as a professor of Civil/Structural Engineering at Drexel University. He left Drexel in 1972 to become the manager of the Structural Analysis Group at United Engineers. In his new position, Dr. Ebner is responsible for technical policies and procedures for the company. He is also involved in structural design reviews for the company's nuclear power plant projects.

### NOVEMBER'S QUIZ

How many Section members are able to identify the name and specific occupation of S. J. Frontinus?

(Hint: He was an appointed public works employee for a major metropolitan area of 1.2 million people.)



## LEGISLATIVE CORNER

by John E. Spitko

New federal and state legislation which deals with the hiring of architects and engineers (A-E's) by government agencies has recently been proposed or enacted. This new legislation is important because it affects a significant amount of the total dollars of engineering consultant work done by Pennsylvania firms.

George R. Beetle, Chairman of the Legislative Task Force on the Department of General Services, has provided this column with a summary of the new state law. Much of what is presented here was taken from that summary. SB 368 merged the Pennsylvania General Services Administration and the Department of Property and Supplies into a new Department of General Services (GSD). This new law, now Act 45, also will gradually phase out the General State Authority as current GSA bonds are met and discharged and as present GSA construction is completed.

SB 368 carried full support of the Shapp Administration when it was introduced into the Senate in February by Majority Leader Thomas Nolan (D-Allegheny). After meeting with minimal opposition in both the Senate and the House, the bill was signed by the Governor on July 22. The new Department of General Services was born on October 20. Ronald Lench, who was the Secretary of Property and Supplies, is now Secretary for the General Services Department.

The GSD will have exclusive authority over all Commonwealth design, construction and repair activities involving an expenditure of \$25,000 or more. The two exceptions to this are (1) activities concerning highways, bridges and other transportation facilities and (2) construction activities historically carried out by the Department of Environmental Resources. Selection of A-E's will be made for all applicable projects for the GSD by an independent, governor-appointed committee of five members "knowledgeable in the field" and holding no political office. The committee will review proposals and be obliged publicly to recommend three qualified firms for each project "in order of preference." The GSD then must select one of the firms recommended by the Selections Committee. Governor Shapp has said the preference procedure "will take se-

lection out of the political spectrum in which it has been enmeshed since 1949." There are several ambiguities in the bill, however, such as the loose considerations involved in the evaluation of firms, that will require interpretation by the new Department. Task Force Chairman George Beetle has cautioned that "Because they are of such importance to the engineering profession, the implementation and programs of the GSD should be kept under careful scrutiny in the months to come."

Remember the "Brooks Bill"? In case you don't, on October 27, 1972, the "Brooks Bill" amended the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949. This amendment established, as federal policy, the selection of A-E's on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualification rather than on the basis of price competition. Recently, Senator Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.) introduced legislation proposed by the Office of Management and Budget (S. 2309). This bill calls for the selection and hiring of A-E's by means of "competitive negotiation." The bill states that "The primary evaluation factors for award shall be the professional competence of officers and the technical merits of offers, including the cost of the construction... for which the services are to be performed. The proposed contract price or estimated cost shall not be a dominant factor and shall be significant only when offers otherwise are approximately equivalent." Further, Section 24 of the bill specifically repeals the "Brooks Bill" amendment in its entirety. Also, the present laws which maintain the six percent fee ceiling on A-E contracts would be repealed. The Committee on Federal Procurement of A-E Services (COFPAES), a joint lobbying group of the professional design societies (of which ASCE is one), is currently developing strategies for staving off the measure.

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## SECTION PROFILES



*(Staff Note: Since its inception in the October 1971 issue of THE NEWS, this column has featured approximately twenty Philadelphia Section members who were deemed to have made notable contributions to the local section. Naturally, when you do this kind of thing, there is always the distinct possibility of passing over or omitting deserving members who are clearly candidates for a Section profile. This is usually due to oversight, and is regrettable; but in at least one case it has been intentional. Sid Robin, Chairman and Editor of THE NEWS is responsible for deciding who is to be featured each month, and consequently would never consider himself for the article. Well unfortunately, Sid is in the hospital as this issue goes to press; and without his knowledge, we have decided that it is time that he got his just deserts. We are hopeful that by the time he gets this newsletter, he will be up and around; and, in fact, hard at work on the December issue. Meanwhile, this long overdue tribute to one of the hardest working members of the Philadelphia Section.)*



Sidney Robin

Right off the bat we knew it was going to be difficult. The resume is so impressive. What do we include; what must we leave out due to space restrictions? How can we best present the many accomplishments? Which achievements does Sid consider most important? It's sort of like trying to list Marlin Perkins' most exciting adventures on the back of an index card. It's a pleasant task, but difficult.

Sidney Robin received a BSCE degree from Drexel University in 1940. He is a product of the cooperative education program, and during his co-op periods he worked for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and for John McShain, Inc., Builders. Upon graduation Sid accepted a position with Ford, Bacon, and Davis, Engineers and Builders. While there he worked on several large projects including the design of reinforced concrete buildings for a defense project in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. After spending five years with this firm, he formed his own engineering and building company

(continued on page 8)

## SECTION PROFILES

(continued from page 7)

which specializes in land development, including the design and construction of both residential and commercial complexes. He is a registered professional engineer, and a licensed real estate broker in Pennsylvania, and frequently acts as an engineering and feasibility consultant to other builders and real estate developers.

Sid became active in the ASCE while still at Drexel, and while there he designed the Student Chapter banner. After joining the Philadelphia Section, he quickly established a reputation as a "doer". He became a staff member of THE NEWS in 1940 and in 1948 he was appointed Editor. In 1952 he was named Chairman of Publications, a position he has held, almost continuously, to this day. In 1958 he became a Director of the Philadelphia Section, and in 1963 served as Section President. Subsequently, he has served on almost every ASCE Committee established, and he regularly represents the Philadelphia Section at regional and national functions.

Sid is Chairman of the local section's History and Heritage Committee, and has played an important role in having several local facilities named as National Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks. In 1973 he was named to the Mayor's Science and Technology Advisory Council (M-STAC) where he co-authored a report establishing criteria for making structural and economic evaluations of the feasibility of restoring abandoned housing units.

In between these achievements, Sid manages to leave a little time for his hobbies, foremost of which is music. He is an accomplished violinist as attested to by his positions as Director and Concertmaster of the Lower Merion Symphony Orchestra, and Director (and principal violinist) of the Symphony Club of Philadelphia. He is also a member of the Valley Forge Philharmonic Symphony and "Pops" Orchestra.

He admits to be a hacker at golf, but manages a more than respectable game of tennis. While at Drexel he was a member of the Tennis Team for four years, and helped lead the Dragons to the Middle Atlantic Conference Championship in 1937.

Sid's publications are far too numerous to list here, but include several feature articles in Civil Engineering as well as news accounts in the New York Times and other major newspapers. He recently contributed his talents as an historical researcher and author of portions of William Wisely's book, "The

American Civil Engineer 1852-1974: the History, Tradition, and Development of the American Society of Civil Engineers".

Sid has always been interested and involved in Student Chapter activities. He is a regular evaluator for the annual student chapter paper competition, and can always be seen with stop watch in hand at the Student Chapter Concrete Canoe Races where he has served as chief judge since the inception of this competition.

He resides in the Logan Section of Philadelphia with his lovely wife Betty, and while you would not expect that he has much time for anything else, he is very active in his community. He is a representative on the Citizens Council on City Planning, a member of the Fellowship Commission, and a technical advisor to local political and civic coalition groups.

WHEW! Well there it is, a capsuled summary of this man's activities. The Philadelphia Section conveys their best wishes and hopes that he can be back in full swing shortly. You better, Sid, because let's face it — YOU JUST DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE SICK.

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### SEDIMENTATION TEXT AVAILABLE

New York, N. Y. — The American Society of Civil Engineers has announced publication of a 745-page book on **Sedimentation Engineering**. The book gives the engineer a better understanding of sedimentation problems, methods for their investigation, and practical approaches to solutions. As a textbook on sedimentation engineering, it covers the interrelated processes of erosion, sedimentation by water and air, and sediment deposition where problems are created. Also included are the legal and economic aspects of sedimentation.

Dr. Vito A. Vanoni served as committee chairman of an ASCE Hydraulic Division task committee that worked on the text over a period of many years.

The hardbound book has been prepared to contain information useful to the average civil engineer in his everyday work. Sediment and sedimentation problems are increasingly encountered by civil engineers in the development, use, control, and conservation of land and water resources.

**Sedimentation Engineering** is available from ASCE, 345 East 47th St., New York, N. Y. 10017 @ \$30. It is available to schools and libraries @ \$25, and to ASCE members @ \$20.

## STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS

## Vegas Hotline

Jimmy the Greek has made the Wildcats early 7 point favorites in the annual Villanova/Drexel Student Chapter football game to be held on November 8th. However it is expected that this spread will narrow as gametime approaches particularly in view of Coach Koerner's announcement that he will hold closed practices in the week preceding the game. Rumor has it that the Dragons soils class has developed a method of instantaneously turning solid ground into a swamp. Supposedly, this process can be zeroed in on specific areas, say the Villanova backfield.

\* \* \*

## College Nights

As you know it is the custom of the Philadelphia Section to host one of the student chapters at each main section meeting. Many people have inquired concerning the student nights and most have wanted to find out in advance which month their alma mater was being hosted. In this regard we are herewith printing the complete listing. We would hope that each alumnus would make a special effort to attend on his college night and even go so far as to recruit classmates, etc. We must get the young people interested in the Section if we expect them to join and become active.

October 14, 1975 — Villanova Night  
November 11, 1975 — Penn Night  
December 9, 1975 — Widener Night  
January 13, 1976 — Drexel Night  
February 10, 1976 — Temple Night  
March 9, 1976 — Swarthmore Night

Members wishing to sponsor a student for dinner on a College Night may of course do so at the special student price (\$3.00).

Arrangements of this type can be made through the respective Faculty Advisors.

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