



the news

PHILADELPHIA SECTION

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Vol. 50 - No. 4

Our 65th Year

January, 1978

JANUARY MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1978

Engineers' Club, 1317 Spruce Street, Philadelphia

Cocktails — 5:30 P.M. Dinner — 6:30 P.M. Meeting — 7:30 P.M.

SUBJECT:

THE USE OF DREDGINGS FOR LANDFILL

SPEAKER:

DR. RAYMOND J. KRIZEK,

Professor of Civil Engineering, Northwestern University

PROGRAM HOST:

DR. JACK L. ROSENFARB, Chairman, Geotechnical Group

To maintain the required depths of water in our Nation's harbors and navigable channels, approximately 300 million cubic yards of bottom sediments must annually be dredged at a cost of about 200 million dollars. Current environmental considerations dictate that most of this spoil be deposited within confined disposal areas located on land, adjacent to the shore, or surrounded by water.

Professor Krizek will offer an interesting slide presentation of the details of his research efforts aimed at assessing the feasibility of using this complex material for useful landfill sites.

Dr. Krizek has advanced degrees from the University of Maryland and Northwestern University and is the author of over one hundred research papers in various journals and proceedings.



SPECIAL FEATURE:

DREXEL UNIVERSITY NIGHT

The ASCE Student Chapter members, faculty, and alumni of the Civil Engineering Department of Drexel University will be honored at this meeting. All students, faculty, and alumni are cordially invited to attend.

Mail Reservation Cards Immediately — Win a FREE DINNER!

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

WE'RE LATE!!!

Notice: If THE NEWS arrives late — or you forget to mail your dinner card, please call The Engineers' 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.

READING BRANCH

The January meeting of the Reading Branch will be on **Thursday, January 19, 1978**, at the Iris Club of Wyomissing. **Carlyle Gray** will speak on "Geology and Mineral Resources of Berks County". Dinner will be at 6:30, the meeting at 7:30. Contact Robert Richert at (215) 376-6611, Ext. 347 for reservations. All Philadelphia Section members welcome!

TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Construction — No meeting in January

Geotechnical

Sponsoring Main Section Meeting
January, 10, 1978. See Title Page.

Hydraulics and Sanitary

Date: **Wednesday, February 8, 1978**

Luncheon Meeting — Engineers' Club
12:00 noon

Subject: **Collection of Hydrologic Data through Satellite Communications**

Speaker: **Richard W. Paulson**, an official of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey (U.S.G.S.)

Program Host: **Patrick R. Cairo**,
Secretary-Treasurer, H & S Group

The talk will encompass the acquisition of remote sensing data, and the application of this information to particular problems, such as: flood or spill warning systems, hydrologic basin management, and water quality investigations.

For details and reservations, contact Patrick Cairo, Phila. Water Dept., 1270 Municipal Services Bldg., Phila. 19107; (215) 686-3883.

Structural — No meeting in January

Transportation and Urban Development

Date: **Thursday, January 19, 1978**

Luncheon Meeting — Engineers' Club
12:00 noon

Subject: **Problems of Fitting Mass Transit to Automobile-Oriented Suburbs**

Speakers: **Roger Moog**, Transportation Planner, DVRPC; and an official of PATCO.

Program Host: **John W. Schumann**,
Chairman, T & U D Group

For reservations, please call Shirley Fox - (215) 563-2570 by 12:00 noon January 18th.

DECEMBER MEETING

December 14, 1977 Engineers' Club

THE NEWS thanks Dr. Edward F. Gilardi, Vice-Chairman, Hydraulics & Sanitary Group, for authorship of the main body of this article.

An ecologically sound alternative for disposal of sewage sludges was discussed at the December ASCE Section meeting hosted by the Hydraulics and Sanitary Group. Dr. James Parr of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Beltsville, Maryland presented the results of their work on sewage sludge composting to the 75 Section members attending the luncheon meeting at the Engineers' Club, Swarthmore Highlighted

It was "Swarthmore College Night", and the ASCE Student Chapter and Civil Engineering Department of that school were honored at the meeting. Professor Joseph E. Willis, long a devoted member of the Phila. Section, introduced the officers and members of the Swarthmore Student Chapter. He spoke of the encouraging growth in enrollments and applicants in civil engineering at the college in recent years; and the doubly pleasant increase in the number of women civil engineering students.

Professor Willis described the major renovations of the main engineering building and the establishment by the college of its own computer facilities. The Engineering Building has been dedicated to the memory of the late Samuel T. Carpenter, distinguished Past President of the Philadelphia Section (1953-1954) and Isaiah V. Williamson, Professor of Engineering at Swarthmore, who died suddenly in January, 1977 (see March, 1977 issue of THE NEWS).

Dr. Willis reviewed proposed programs for the newly expanded facilities and he invited inquiries from possible candidates for teaching positions in the enlarged Civil Engineering Department at Swarthmore.

Composting Interest Grows

Dr. Parr explained that interest in composting has increased greatly during the last few years as many municipalities are finding that incineration and landfill are becoming more and more difficult to implement. Of specific importance to the East Coast, is the EPA ruling that ocean dumping must cease in the early 1980's.

Experiments were started at Beltsville on sludge composting in 1972. Initial efforts used the "windrow" method. This procedure was found to be satisfactory during periods of low rainfall; however, extensive odor problems occurred when the piles remained wet.

The technique which finally was developed to overcome this problem is called the "aerated pile" method. Here the sludge is mixed with a bulking agent (woodchips, paper, shredded automobile tires, or similar materials). This material reduces the moisture content of the mixture and allows air to penetrate the entire pile. The compost pile is covered with a layer of previously composted material so as to maintain a reasonably odor-free seal. Air necessary for the microbial action is forced into the pile by mechanical means. Dr. Parr explained that after approximately 25 weeks, the composted sludge is suitable for use as a soil conditioner and as a low analysis fertilizer.

Of particular importance to anyone considering the use of composted sludge is the presence of pathogenic bacteria and heavy metals.

Dr. Parr's experiments indicate that the very high temperatures formed in the composting operation through the action of thermophilic bacteria completely eliminate pathogens within 10 days. The temperatures can easily reach 75 to 80 degrees centigrade and under some conditions have gone as high as 90 degrees centigrade. These high temperatures were maintained even when the ambient temperatures were low; composting has been conducted with outdoor temperatures as low as a minus 30 degrees fahrenheit.

The heavy metal question is somewhat more complicated in that although the metals present in the sewage sludge are not removed or altered in the composting process, they can be kept in an insoluble state by maintaining the pH above 6.5. Dr. Parr showed slides of the marked difference in metal toxicity to plants exhibited between pH of 5.5 and 6.5; the lower pH showing toxic effects and the higher pH indicating none.

Enlightened Commentary

Dr. Parr's talk was augmented by an adequate, well-coordinated supply of slides. His commentary was enlightened and interesting. The presentation was excellent. He even distributed sample packages of processed sludge to members of the audience!

Speaker Honored

Capable Program Host Hal Gilman, Chairman of the Hydraulics and Sanitary Group, presented Dr. Parr the Section's Certificate of Appreciation at the conclusion of his address. President Lewis then presented the speaker a copy of the Section's notable publication: *The History of Civil Engineering and Construction in the Delaware Valley*. The volume was composed to honor the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration and the ASCE

National Convention hosted by the Philadelphia Section in September, 1978. (See article on the Book in the October, 1977 issue of THE NEWS).

Lewis Announcements

In addition to technical matters a number of other topics were considered at this meeting. The ASCE Section President, Brian Lewis, discussed the present lacking in dam safety procedures within the state of Pennsylvania. Although regulations are on the books, the staff and funds are extremely limited.

President Lewis congratulated "Legislative Corner" writer John E. Spitko for his outstanding column published in the December, 1977 issue of THE NEWS, and recommended that the members read it carefully.

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR
FEBRUARY, 1978 ISSUE
JANUARY 21, 1978**

SYRNICK HONORED

Phila. Section Membership Secretary and Assistant Chairman of Publications **Joseph R. Syrnick**, Zone 1 winner of the 1977 Daniel W. Mead Competition for Associate Members, was honored at the December 14, 1977 Section meeting. President Brian J. Lewis presented Joe a National ASCE Certificate of Commendation for his award-winning paper: **Engineering Advertisement - Where Should the Line be Drawn?** See photo below.

An abstract of Mr. Syrnick's paper will appear in next month's issue of THE NEWS.



President Brian Lewis (left) presents National ASCE Certificate of Commendation to Mead Prize Winner Joe Syrnick at the December 14, 1977 Section Meeting.

SENT IN YOUR PHILA. SECTION DUES YET? If not, please do so **NOW**. Do your part to maintain the Section's progressive and dynamic professional programs.

Mail your check, payable to: **Phila. Section, ASCE**, in the amount of \$10.00 to Theodore Davis, Treasurer, c/o Engineers' Club, 1317 Spruce Street, Phila., Pa. 19107. Thank you.



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Greetings from Vic Thomassen

Publications Chairman Sid Robin received a pleasant and rewarding communication recently from his dear friend of many years, **Victor G. Thomassen**, Phila. Section Past President (1953-1957) and one of its most distinguished and active members. Mr. Thomassen's message was a greeting and a response to a request for historical information regarding the Section's Presidential gavel (see THE NEWS, November, 1977).

Vic's valuable recollections contributed greatly to the revelations about the gavel's evolution and history (see article, "The Gavel History Unfolds," elsewhere in this issue). Mr. Thomassen sends his best Holiday Wishes to the Section membership. He is living in busy "retirement" at the **Madison House, Room 801, Atlantic City, N.J. 08401**. He would enjoy hearing from his many Phila. Section friends. Drop him a line.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 'T' & 'D'

Once again Section Secretary **Albert M. Tantala** and Treasurer **Theodore Davis** have collaborated to produce and submit to ASCE New York Headquarters a magnificent document: **The Annual Report of The Philadelphia Section, ASCE, Fiscal Year October 1, 1976 to September 30, 1977**.

As required by the Society By-laws, the Annual Report of Section Activities and Finances summarizes programs and operations. It includes data on the Reading Branch, Technical Groups, Committees, Publications, Associate Member Forum, Student Chapters, Women's Auxiliary, and other subsidiary groups.

The Report conveys the information which will be helpful to the National Board of Direction, Committee on Local Sections and District Councils, Headquarters Staff, and other Sections - in evaluating the Phila. Section affairs. It also is an important prerequisite to the payment by National of the annual allotment to the Section.

This year's volume features an expanded and detailed treatise on "Goals and Objectives of the Philadelphia Section," authored by the Long Range Planning Committee. It discusses, in addition to its title, ASCE National goals, Local Section Objectives, and Short Range Concerns.

Your Publications Chairman was extended the courtesy of a complimentary copy of this splendid report and he vouches for its excellence. The Section is deeply indebted to our esteemed Secretary and Treasurer for their outstanding work.

STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS

Drexel University - An Active Season
by Frank McCreesh, President

Drexel's ASCE Student Chapter is enjoying one of its most active years in recent history. Our first meeting saw over 120 students join the Chapter and the interest in activities has been tremendous. One of the Chapter's main objectives was finally realized this year when it was granted space to be used for an ASCE lounge. At first, the room resembled something out of a 1930's horror picture, but with a few cans of paint and the hard work of many of the members, the lounge has become the most popular spot on campus. The students gather there for project design meetings, study sessions, lunch, or happy hours.

Meetings and Seminars

As always, the Chapter had many interesting seminar speakers throughout the past term. Among them were **Ed Trojan** from PennDOT, **Ernie Brizell** from DVRPC, **Don DiSciascio** from the Corps of Engrs., **Ken Johnson** from the R. M. Shoemaker Company, **Joe Ucciferro** from United Engineers and **Chuck Pennoni** from Pennoni Associates. All the speakers had interesting topics and their talks ranged from the construction of nuclear power plants to the installation of glass doors for an office.

The Chapter also co-sponsored a talk by U. S. Congressman Peter Kostmayer from Bucks County. Congressman Kostmayer talked to the student body on significant energy and environmental legislation of the 95th Congress.

Instruction Program

Our Chapter offers a tutorial service for the benefit of the underclassmen and is in the process of setting a big brother type relationship between seniors and the underclassmen. Our Chapter newspaper, **The Influence Line**, is published every two weeks and keeps our members abreast of the many events we are involved in.

Social Activities and Sports

Socially, the Chapter has a good num-
(continued on page 6)



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THE GAVEL HISTORY UNFOLDS

Thanks to the recollections of several Past Presidents of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE, some historical data on the origins of the famous Presidential gavel of the Section has been uncovered. (An article requesting information on this subject appeared in the November, 1977 issue of THE NEWS). As noted previously, the rather enigmatic inscription on the gavel reads: "This gavel was made from timbers used in the construction of the Rainbow Bridge."

Research by three distinguished Past Presidents: **Samuel S. Baxter** (1951-1952); **Joseph A. Schultez** (1952-1953); and **Victor G. Thomassen** (1956-1957) leads to the following conclusions:

1. The bridge referred to - the Rainbow Bridge - was originally a two-hinged wooden arch over the gorge at Niagara Falls, N.Y. In 1940-1941 the old wooden bridge was dismantled and replaced by a steel plate girder rib-type hingeless arch with a span of 950 feet.

2. Waddell & Hardesty, of New York City prepared the design plans, and the Edward Lupfer Corp., of Buffalo, N.Y. supervised the construction. General Contractor for the fabrication and erection of the main span was Bethlehem Steel Co. Contracts were awarded to others for the concrete approaches on the New York and Canadian sides of the bridge. It was opened to traffic on November 1, 1941.

3. It is known that the late and beloved Section Past President, **Captain Richard deCharms** (1968-1969) was employed by one of the concrete contractors on the bridge. Some time before he became President - probably around 1965 - Captain deCharms, who was very active in the affairs of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, particularly as Chairman of Membership, came across the gavel hidden away at the Club. Recalling his experience as an Engineer on the bridge construction, he rescued the memento from the oblivion of a storage closet and donated it to the Phila. Section, ASCE. Thus began the

annual ceremony of each President handing down the gavel to his successor at inaugural (usually the Spring Social).

Our research has not yet determined who actually made the gavel and how it got to the Engineers' Club in the first place. Perhaps someone will recall that information, and send it to us. We will quickly pass it on to the Membership.

Thus, the Philadelphia Section again is in the forefront in perpetuating the memory of a great, pioneering engineering achievement - "The Rainbow Bridge". Chairman Robin and THE NEWS thank all the Past Presidents and individual members interviewed; and particularly all those whose correspondence and research were so helpful in this project.

ETHICS ADVISORY SERVICE ESTABLISHED by ASCE

National ASCE has established a Confidential Ethics Advisory Service designed to advise members faced with questions involving professional ethics.

Members faced with ethical problems ranging from extortion schemes to conflict of interest situations can get some expert confidential advice by telephoning ASCE Headquarters. In addition to Executive Director Zwoyer and appropriate individuals on the Headquarters staff, members in need of advice will be able to tap the resources of a special advisory board of distinguished engineers chosen for their years of experience and reputations for high ethical and professional standards.

The Society's Committee on Professional Conduct was established many years ago to investigate charges that the ASCE Code of Ethics had been violated. However, a number of inquiries have come to staff and members of the Committee which have been handled on a more informal basis. It is this latter area that the new Advisory Service seeks to address.

Some problems that the service might consider involve questions on bribery and extortion, plagiarism, defamation of character, falsifying qualifications, unfair employment practices, and the displacement of one engineer by another (supplanting).

The 75,000-member American Society of Civil Engineers has been a leader in enforcing its Code of Ethics. In 1976-77, ASCE's Committee on Professional Conduct considered approximately 35 cases involving allegations that members had violated that Code.

DAM SAFETY BOOK AVAILABLE

The "Evaluation of Dam Safety" is the title of a newly issued reference volume published by the American Society of Civil Engineers. This makes available extensive information produced at the December 1976 Asilomar Conference on dam safety sponsored by the Engineering Foundation. The list price of this 523-page book is \$16.

The volume contains an analysis of current public law and considerations for new legislation. It contains detailed descriptions of safety inspection procedures and of the role of engineering organizations in the national dam safety program.

Chapters of the book deal, additionally, with failures and near failures, evaluation of static stability, evaluation of seismic stability, and evaluation of hydrologic and hydraulic conditions.

ASCE has also published the following books on dam safety and construction:

- Rock Engineering for Foundations and Slopes, 1976, 2 volumes, \$20
- Lessons from Dam Incidents, USA, 1975, \$12
- Responsibility and Liability of Public and Private Interests on Dams, 1975, \$12
- Safety of Small Dams, 1974, \$14
- Foundations for Dams, 1974, \$12
- Inspection, Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Old Dams, 1973, \$16
- Economical Construction of Concrete Dams, 1972, \$12
- Rapid Construction of Concrete Dams, 1970, \$10
- Design and Construction of Arch Dams, Embankment Dams, and Concrete Dams, 1967, \$4
- Stability and Performance of Slopes and Embankments, 1966, \$10

These books are available from the American Society of Civil Engineers, 345 East 47th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017. Payment must accompany the order; ASCE members may deduct 50% from the foregoing prices.



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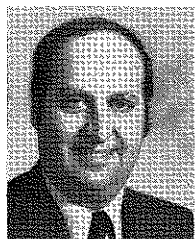
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SECTION PROFILES



PETULLA JOINS PENNDOT



Louis W. Petulla, long active in the Philadelphia Section as a former Director Secretary, and this year's Chairman of the Meetings Program Committee, has been appointed District 1 Engineer of the Pennsylvania

Department of Transportation (PennDOT). His former position was Principal Engineer, Louis T. Klauder Associates, Philadelphia. The acceptance of the new position followed persistent persuasions of the past two Secretaries of Transportation. District 1 encompasses a large area: the entire northeast corner of Pennsylvania; Allegheny County (Pittsburgh); the upper reaches of the Shenendoah Valley; and extends to the Ohio State line. About 3,000 PennDOT employees will be under Lou's charge. Headquarters of District 1 is Franklin, Pa., a happy coincidence for Lou and his wife Sheila because it is the hometown of both.

One of the initiatives of the Philadelphia Section which has been of primary importance to Lou Petulla is the Committee on Community Services, which he co-chaired with other esteemed Section members **Richard Z. Zimmermann, Jr.** (Past President of the Section) and **Ira N. Pierce** since the Committee's inception several years ago. The Committee's objective has been to establish programs to assist minority group and underprivileged high school students to find opportunities for training and occupation in engineering-allied fields. Through a combination of education and on-the-job training through the cooperation of private consulting engineering firms and construction companies, and government subsidies and grants where available, many young people have received exposure and launched careers in a profession that had been denied them in the past. Several candidates were enrolled by the Klauder firm through Lou's efforts, and they have proved to be valuable assets to the organization.

Lou Petulla's philosophy on the obligations of citizens to help improve the democratic process through public service was recently expressed succinctly in an article he authored and published

in the Philadelphia Bulletin. We reprint hereinbelow a condensed version of the article.

The Philadelphia Section, ASCE extends its congratulations to Lou in his new career, and wishes the best of luck and happiness to him, his wife and their children in the new life which enfolds before them.

Government by — us

Louis W. Petulla

President Kennedy was fond of saying that those who criticize power are as important as those who exercise power if we are to control government rather than government controlling us.

There is a third group which seems to be increasing in number, at least according to Bert Lance. This is the group that, rather than criticize or exercise power, simply goes fishing.

In some respects, there are good reasons for people to shun public service. One is that the financial compensation is often only a fraction of what is available outside government. While it is true that Henry Kissinger will reap a fortune as a result of his service, most others would be faced with the experiences of Adlai Stevenson and Hubert Humphrey. Stevenson left a small financial estate compared to his lifetime earnings potential and Humphrey can look forward to the same.

Another reason for avoiding government service is related to the Bert Lance affair — individuals in the private sector are accustomed to operating under a set of business methods that may or may not be acceptable in government. And the publicity changes the private sector. The endless discussion of Bert Lance's overdrafts will probably result in inconvenient banking practices as each bank attempts to identify with Caesar's wife. One shudders to think what would happen to the economy if a government official left office as a result of criticism over real estate speculation or the amount of legal fees charged clients.

Probably the biggest reason people are reluctant to enter government service is that they don't feel they can get anything done. They feel that the bureaucracy is too cumbersome, the amount of authority granted lower and middle managers is insufficient, and that it is difficult to understand the competing interests within government.

Bureaucracies are, of course, cumbersome but they are so largely as the result of rules and regulations that make certain everything has been thoroughly checked. Authority is lim-

ited, but that is probably a wise course of action. And while competing interests within government are different from the less subtle competing interests in private organizations, it is interesting to attempt to understand them and deal with them.

Even though it's not always rational to take a government job, thank goodness — like falling in love — people still do it and do it well. Thomas Hoving took over as parks commissioner in New York City without knowing the rules and regulations and why it was impossible to make parks for people. He opened up Central Park to people, got rid of the automobiles and most everyone is better for it.

Lennox Moak probably lost some of his liberal friends by joining Philadelphia's Rizzo Administration as budget director. Yet we can all be thankful to him for maintaining the fiscal soundness of the city during a difficult and trying period. Herbert Denenberg went to Harrisburg and published a multitude of shoppers' guides, alienating various industries and interest groups and left with all of us a little better informed.

The examples above are of people at or near the top. However, there is a need for people at all levels to consider public service for some portion of their careers if given the opportunity and if they feel they have something to contribute.

Maybe we should draft 40 to 55 year-olds for two years to serve at a level of government commensurate with their private jobs. We could make it a status symbol to be drafted and, since there would be no choice in the matter, consider it a patriotic duty.

Or possibly we should change the current mix of political/civil service appointments by making every sixth employee, from the lowest grade to the highest, an outside appointment which would guarantee outside influence, however good or bad, within the bureaucracy.

In any case, every person should accept a government service job if offered, provided there is reasonable compensation and that there is a reasonable chance that things could be accomplished. We would then truly get the government we deserve.

SECTION MEMBERS!

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

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

ASCE Hosts Combined Meeting

The Phila. Section Women's Auxiliary hosted a highly successful combined Luncheon-Meeting at the Engineers' Club on Tuesday, December 20, 1977. Other Auxiliaries participating were: ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers), IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers), and PSPE (Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers). A talented guitarist serenaded the enthusiastic gathering of about 65 ladies. The group enjoyed a thoroughly fulfilling afternoon.

January Meeting

The next regular Luncheon-Meeting of the Phila. Section Women's Auxiliary will be a departure from the usual. It will be held on **WEDNESDAY, January 18, 1978, 12:00 noon** at the **Canuso 2nd Street Tavern, S.E. Cor. 2nd & South Sts. Head House Square, Center City Phila.** For reservations (including guests), please contact Mary Ellen (Mrs. Warren R.) Van De Vort - (215) IV 3-0714.

Wives of Phila. Section members are urged to join our fine Women's Auxiliary, and guests are always welcome at their monthly luncheons. For membership information and applications, please call Membership Committee Chairman Marie (Mrs. Kenneth J.) Zitomer — (215) LI 8-5324.

STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS

(continued from page 3)

ber of happy hours which are held in the lounge. The happy hours offer members free beer and pretzels and gives the students a short break from their busy schedules. We also had a fall picnic at the Drexel Lodge which was a fun filled day of football, volleyball, beer and food. The turnout for the picnic was almost 100% and a great time was had by all. The highlight of the day was the senior-faculty rough touch game in which the faculty offered little challenge to the highly talented senior class. Final score: Seniors 32, Faculty 0. The Chapter had two very successful intramural teams in football and volleyball. Both teams reached the finals in their respective sports but were unable to pull out the championship. The highlight of our football season was the defeat of Villanova's ASCE Chapter in our annual fall classic.

Canoe Race Preparations

Presently, we are getting our concrete canoe ready for competition in the spring. More details will be given at a later date for this as well as our other upcoming events.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR

Editors Note: Recently inaugurated National ASCE District 4 Director **Ronald J. Drnevich** sent us the following notes and comments on recent ASCE activity. Ron promises to provide this type of communication periodically. Mr. Drnevich may be reached at: Gannett Fleming Corddry & Carpenter, Inc., P. O. Box 1963, Harrisburg, Pa. 17105, (717) 238-0451.

The annual meeting of ASCE in San Francisco marked the 125th Anniversary of the Society. The great majority of the items discussed from the agenda dealt directly with the affairs of or service to the Membership. Some items are new such as improved procedures recently implemented to speed the processing of applications for membership and changes in grade. Others are old perennial problems like the budget and dues. Some also are of more recent vintage such as continuing development with the consent decree, tax status and the National collection of Local Section dues.

The actions taken on these items were as follows:

1. Election to membership, Sections 3-15 of Bylaws Article II have been revised entirely to eliminate the requirement for Board action on applications and place the responsibility on a small committee (The Application Review Committee-ARC) meeting monthly.

2. The Society Budget received a great deal of attention at the meeting resulting in a final figure of \$7,217,350 for 1978 plus a \$133,000 surplus. The dues increase reflected in your recently received notice is planned to meet the Society's needs until 1981.

3. The Board voted not to appeal the District Court's August ruling that ASCE is in contempt of the 1972 consent decree (See CE mag. Nov. pg. 77, Dec. pg. 92) but did direct the Executive Committee to take the necessary steps to open negotiations with DOJ in an attempt to obtain favorable modifications in the wording of the original decree.

4. IRS has recommended ASCE's tax exempt status be changed from 501 (c) (3) to 501 (c) (6). This would result in significant additional annual expense to the Society including more than \$100,000 annually in postage expense alone. The BOD directed that an appeal in the courts be initiated to counter an adverse ruling on the current 501 (c) (3) status.

5. ASCE staff on acquisition of a data processing system is developing a proposal for the possible national collection

of Local Section dues effective 1979. More to come on this one in April.

The above are only several of more than 50 items on the agenda discussed and acted on in San Francisco.

With the upcoming **Spring meeting** scheduled in **Pittsburgh, April 24-28, 1978**, we in Pennsylvania, have an opportunity to attend a National meeting involving technical sessions, continuing education opportunities and social functions without a lot of travel. Further, the Board of Direction will meet all day Saturday and Sunday April 22 and 23. These are open sessions to the members of the Society and if you are interested in seeing how this part of ASCE operates, you are welcome to attend!

One final note: I am serving as a member of the Publications Committee and at a conference of the ASCE Division Publications Chairmen, a desire for an increase in the number of "Practical Papers" for publications in the journals was noted. Anyone with particular experiences on actual projects is encouraged to share them through the journals with all members of the Society. Please feel free to contact me or write to National ASCE for requirements on papers for publications.

I look forward to this initial year of involvement in ASCE as the representative of District 4.

Sincerely,
Ron Drnevich

EIT REVIEW AT TEMPLE

Temple University College of Engineering Technology announces an **EIT EXAMINATION REVIEW COURSE-1978:**

Where: Temple University College of Engineering Technology, Stauffer Hall, Broad Street and Columbia Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. 19122

When: Thursday evenings - 6:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M., January 26, 1978 thru April 27, 1978

Cost: \$160.00 Tuition and Handout Material

Registration: January 9, 10, 11, and 12, 1978 or First night of class - January 26, 1978, Stauffer Hall, Room 300, 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. - See: Mr. Walter Uecker

For Additional Information Call — College of Engineering Technology Continuing Education Programs 787-7802 or 787-8821

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