

# the news



PHILADELPHIA SECTION  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS  
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OUR 67th YEAR

December, 1979

## DECEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1979**

Engineers' Club, 1317 Spruce Street, Philadelphia

Cocktails — 11:30 A.M.      Lunch — 12:00 Noon      Meeting — 12:30 P.M.

**SUBJECT:**

**\$80,000 IN PAYOFFS: AN ENGINEER TELLS HIS STORY**

**SPEAKER:**

**MR. ALAN KAMMERER**

Kammerer Associates, Medford, N. J.

**PROGRAM HOST:**

**JOHN DURRANT, President, Associate Member Forum**

The personal experiences of an A.S.C.E. member which began with a kickback request by a county engineer and culminated in an appearance before the Society's Committee on Professional Conduct will be the subject of the December Luncheon Meeting. Mr. Alan Kammerer of Kammerer Associates in nearby Medford, N. J., will discuss the ease of falling into the payoff trap as well as the relief of having the burden lifted from his conscience when the scheme he was involved in became uncovered.

The consequences of violating the society's Code of Ethics and the value of ASCE membership will be explained from a personal point of view. Younger members especially of the Philadelphia Section will be able to learn from the past experiences of someone else and also learn that A.S.C.E. membership is a worthwhile endeavor worth fighting to retain.

The ordeal Mr. Kammerer has gone through, which began in 1967, in a sense is still continuing because he chose not to take the easy way out of a tough situation. In addition to his appearances before section meetings and student chapters in an educational role Alan Kammerer is the "star" of a videotaped professional conduct hearing which portrays his experiences in a most realistic manner. Since this speaker is eager to help others avoid his mistake, questions will follow his initial presentation.

**NO RESERVATION CARDS FOR THIS MEETING.** Call Mr. deKovacs at the Engineers' Club 735-5234 within 24 hours of the luncheon.

## TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Hydraulics and Sanitary

December Meeting

Date: **Wednesday, December 19, 1979**

Luncheon **12 noon** — Engineers' Club

Subject: **Strengthening of a Concrete Gravity Dam**

Speaker: **David B. Campbell,**  
O'Brien and Gere Engineers

Program Host: **Dana R. Pizarro,**  
Secretary-Treasurer, H & S Group

The dam to be described is a structure approximately 130 feet high with a crest length of 850 feet. Slides and discussion will cover the basis of design, stability criteria, post tensioning design and construction.

## NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

PHILA. SECTION ASCE

**Tuesday, January 8, 1980**

Engineers' Club

**Dinner Meeting—Cocktails 5:30 P.M.**

Subject: **Soil Stabilization**

Speaker: **Dr. James Mitchell,**  
University of California

Program Host: **James Alexander,**  
Chairman, Geotechnical Group

**Drexel University Night**

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

**Diskant Life Member**

At the Nov. 13, 1979 Phila. Section meeting, one ASCE Life Membership Award was made. The recipient was **Robert Diskant**, a Consulting Engineer, Ardmore, Pa., specializing in Management and Value Analysis. Presentation of the Certificate was made by Section Past President Sidney Robin, Chairman

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## Holiday Greetings

ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PHILADELPHIA SECTION, ASCE, THE NEWS EXTENDS TO ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS, A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR AND A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON.

**IMPORTANT !!**

THE NEWS is now being mailed at Non-Profit Organization Bulk Rate. While this promises postage savings to the Section, it also runs the risk of much longer delivery time from your local post office to your mail box. Therefore, please refer to your 1979-1980 Section Program Schedule and mark your calendar for all meetings and social functions. Listed below is a summary of remaining meeting dates.

**Tuesday, January 8, 1980** — Section Dinner Meeting  
Engineers' Club — Drexel University Night

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1980** — Section Dinner Meeting —  
Engineers' Club  
Joint Meeting with Women's Auxiliary — Swarthmore College Night

NOTE: This date for the February meeting has been changed from the original date marked on your pink program card.

**Tuesday, March 11, 1980** — Section Dinner Meeting  
Engineers' Club — Widener College Night

**Tuesday, April 8, 1980** — Section Dinner Meeting — Engineers' Club  
Joint Meeting with Society of American Military Engineers (SAME)  
University of Pennsylvania Night.

**Saturday, May 3, 1980** — Annual Spring Social — Bala Golf Club

Time schedules for Dinner Meetings at the Engineers' Club are:

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

NOTE: NO RESERVATION CARDS WILL BE SENT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE; PLEASE CALL MR. deKOVACS AT THE ENGINEERS' CLUB — 735-5234 WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE MEETING.

THE NEWS also admonishes all Technical Group Chairmen, Committees and other contributors to get your copy to the Editor by the deadline date printed prominently at the bottom of Page Two of each issue. In general, the deadline for copy for a given month is the Section meeting date of the previous month.

Mail all copy to Editor Sidney Robin, 64 Nancy Drive, Richboro, Pa. 18954 — Phone (215) 322-7464.

**MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

(continued from page 1)

of Publications, who was a fellow student with Bob Diskant at Drexel University.

**Carroll Paper Published**

Phila. Section Director **John W. Carroll** is the author of an article entitled "Flip Side", which was published in the October, 1979 issue of *AE Concepts in Wood Design*.

The article expresses the contractors viewpoint on the installation on wood piling.

Mr. Carroll is President of J. H. Terry Pile Co., which specializes in land and marine pile-driving and heavy construction.

Section Member **John C. Donch** has established offices at his home 934 Filmore St., Phila., for the general practice of Civil Engineering and Consulting. The Phila. Section extends its best wishes to Mr. Donch in his new venture.

**Dr. Robert M. Haythornthwaite**, Professor of Engineering Mechanics at Penn State University, has been named Dean

of the College of Engineering Technology at Temple University. (The College — whose Civil Engineering Department was featured at the Phila. Section meeting, October 9, 1979, — has an enrollment of some 1400 full and part-time students and 50 faculty.

Dr. Haythornthwaite has more than 30 years of teaching and research experience, including Brown University and University of Michigan. He has been at Penn State for 12 years, including 7 years as Head of the Department of Engineering Mechanics.

**THE KOERNER'S HOST SOCIAL**

The 1979 Fall Social of the Phila. Section was held at the lovely Springfield home of **Past President and Mrs. Robert M. Koerner** on Sunday, November 4th. With the energetic and capable assistance of their sons, Michael and George; and daughter, Pauline — Bob and Paula were splendid hosts. (Paula Koerner performed double duty, since she is the Auxiliary's Fall Social Committee chairman).

It was the Fourth Annual "at-home"

party of the Section's revised Fall Social policy. Like the others that preceded it, the affair was a magnificent success, socially and financially. It was sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary as a fund-raiser for the **Annette Estrada Memorial Fund**, to assist deserving Civil Engineering students at area colleges.

The Section appreciates the efforts of the Auxiliary members who contributed their home-made delicacies; and to the Section members who paid modest fees to cover costs and enhance the Memorial Fund. As always, our incomparable Women's Auxiliary accomplished a winner, and we are very grateful to it. Of course, special praise to Bob and Paula Koerner and their children for doing the honors at this enjoyable and long-to-be remembered party.

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
CIVIL ENGINEERS  
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DECEMBER 11, 1979**

## NOVEMBER MEETING

Engineers' Club November 13, 1979

**Editors Note:** THE NEWS thanks Patrick Cairo, Chairman of H & S Group for the technical portion of the following review.

A good turnout — about 125 Members and guests, including a large contingent of Villanova University students, alumni and faculty — attended the Philadelphia Section's first Dinner Meeting of the 1979-1980 season (the October meeting was a Luncheon). The subject was: "The Delaware River Basin Comprehensive Study — Meeting Water Needs for the Future;" and featured speaker was **Gerald M. Hansler**, Executive Director, The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). The meeting was sponsored by the Section's Hydraulics and Sanitary Group, and Chairman **Patrick R. Cairo** was the very capable Program Host. President **Kenneth J. Zitomer** presided.

### Villanova Night

The spotlight was on the Civil Engineering Department of Villanova University. About 40 ASCE Student Chapter members, alumni and faculty attended. **Dr. Lewis J. Mathers**, Professor of Civil Engineering and Faculty Monitor of the Student Chapter — again demonstrated, as he has in the past, his amiability, droll wit and charm. Dr. Mathers, serving as "Master of Ceremonies" for the Villanova group, presented Student Chapter officers and members, alumni and faculty (in that order of priority). Called upon for a special bow was Section Assistant Secretary **William M. Malarkey**, who is Contact Member for the Villanova Student Chapter.

Student Chapter President **Mark Zimpleman** introduced fellow officers and recited the Chapter goals and objectives. He stressed its efforts to get involved in ASCE Society matters, exemplified by the presence of two-thirds of the Chapter Membership at the meeting. He reviewed civil engineering lecture and practice programs sponsored by the Chapter. These included: energy problems; the Atlantic City construction boom (possibly incorporating a field trip to you-know-where!); and social and athletic events.

### 75th Anniversary Observance

The Villanova College of Engineering is celebrating its 75th Anniversary. In honor of, and appropriate to the occasion, remarks were made by Civil Engineering Department Chairman, **Dr. Edward M. Wallo**, and (in Dr. Mathers' words) "Our Leader", **Dr. Robert D. Lynch**, Dean of the College of Engineering — both of whom are prominent and

active Phila. Section members. Dr. Wallo and Dr. Lynch reflected on the 75-year history of the College of Engineering and the aspirations of the founders, which have been researched in depth.

### The Perspective of 1905

Dr. Lynch pointed out that Civil Engineering was the first Department to be established at the College. He reviewed the tough, sometimes amusing, admission requirements of 1905, which included all aspects of "historical learning" with the exception of Latin and Greek; and "substantial" mathematical knowledge. The founders prophetically recognized and addressed the great technological requirements of the future growth of the United States.

Villanova, emphasized Dr. Lynch, adapts to changes in and updating of curricula necessary to adhere to the essence of the needs of the time: computer technology, sophisticated surveying instrumentation and techniques, etc.; and the growing complexities of engineering practice. Dr. Lynch counsels students and practicing engineers to keep the lines of communication open among themselves, the other professions and the other important economic and political forces of our constantly growing democracy.

### The DRBC Study and Tocks Island

Mr. Hansler's principle theme dealt with the competing demands which exist for the water resources of the Delaware River. In discussing the findings and alternative plans contained in the 1.5 million dollar, three year study by the Delaware River Basin Commission, Mr. Hansler warned that difficult decisions must soon be made by the states bordering the Delaware if we are to insure the existence of a proper quantity and quality of flow in the years ahead.

The study is particularly sensitive since it follows years of controversy surrounding a plan to build a main stem dam at Tocks Island. When construction of Tocks Island was halted by a decision to maintain the middle Delaware River as a wild and scenic river, few viable alternatives existed to surplant the flow lost from this impoundment. Although the Delaware River seems quite plentiful, Mr. Hansler pointed out that a large flow of fresh water must be maintained at Trenton if the salt line which emerges from the Delaware Bay is to be repelled. The salinity concentration has a major impact on many diverse areas including industries along the Delaware, the oyster and fishing industry, the well system of Camden and approximately one-half the Philadelphia water system. The prob-

lem of managing water resources in the Delaware is further complicated by New York City's withdrawal of up to 800 million gallons per day before this water can be used by residents of the lower basin.

### Alternative Plan

Mr. Hansler stated that the study presents three alternative plans — an environmental quality, an economic development, and a mixed objective plan. These plans were developed around 75 flow scenarios representing a matrix of five different river flows at Trenton, three levels of water conservation and five diversion-releases from existing impoundments. The representatives of the DRBC member states and the U. S. Government will select the recommended plan after a public comment period. The decisions which should serve as major amendments to the DRBC Comprehensive Plan will be significantly influenced by the public's reaction to the report. Already, industrial and environmental interest groups have expressed their differing opinions on which elements of the plan should be stressed.

Mr. Hansler concluded his presentation by asking the engineering community to participate actively in the review of the report. Although the principles involved transcend strict engineering issues, he encouraged an active participation by professional organizations to insure adequate consideration of their concerns.

### Discussion Period

Probing questions and comments on the DRBC Report emanated from experts in the audience, including officials of the Philadelphia Water Department, Delaware Valley Public Works agencies, and Consulting firms specializing in Hydraulics and Water problems. Knowledgeable responses were immediate and forthright by our well-informed speaker, including his personal views on certain aspects of the Report as distinct from the Commission majority's findings. One comment from the floor reflected upon the obligation of ASCE collectively and Civil Engineers individually and independently to make their voices heard in manifesting economic and useful policies designed to exploit, as well as to preserve, our precious water resources.

At the conclusion of Mr. Hansler's presentation, President Zitomer awarded him the Section's Certificate of Appreciation and a copy of the Section's publication honoring the National ASCE Convention in the Bicentennial Year Celebration hosted by Philadelphia Section in 1976: "History of Civil Engineering and Construction in the Delaware Valley."

## 1980 Daniel W. Mead CONTEST

### FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The Daniel W. Mead Prize for Associate Members was established in 1939 to honor the memory and accomplishments of the 67th President of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The talents of many of the leaders of the profession were first recognized in previous contests for this significant professional honor. The current contest provides another opportunity for alert young civil engineers to further their professional development and gain national attention.

### RULES

- \* Papers are to be written on "Whistle Blowing." Engineers are among the first to know of the hazards of nuclear waste and arms proliferation, industrial pollution, and unsafe machines. They are also aware of the misdeeds committed in the name of corporate profit. Some engineers have chosen to speak out against corporate wrongdoing, obeying the engineers' Code of Ethics which places public safety and welfare above loyalty to an employer. In doing so, most of these "whistle blowers" have carried the stigma of disloyalty and incompetence to the ruin of their careers. Is it realistic to think that anything will ever be done to provide the engineer-employee with the incentive to blow the whistle on his employer, or to think that the engineering profession will come to his aid when faced with company retaliation? Will the public place confidence in the engineer's capability to determine what is in the best interest of our society? Should we, can we, or must we become capable of fighting the "establishment" with the whistle?
- \* Authors must be Associate Members of the Society.
- \* Only one person can write each paper.
- \* Each Section can submit only one paper.
- \* Papers must contain no more than 2,000 words.
- \* One winner will be selected from each of the Society's four zones.
- \* The National winner, selected from the zone winners, will receive a wall plaque and a certificate.
- \* Winners will be invited to present their papers at the ASCE Annual Convention in Miami, October 1980.
- \* The paper by the national winner will be published in CIVIL ENGINEERING or ISSUES IN ENGINEERING.
- \* By May 1, 1980 seven copies of each paper must be submitted through

## ASSOCIATE MEMBER FORUM

Associate Members interested in becoming more active in Section activities are invited to take part in three committees being set up by the Associate Member Forum. Any Associate Members interested in working on the Concrete Canoe Race, New Member Orientation, or the Forum Meetings Committees are urged to contact AMF President, **John Durrant** at (215) 686-1776 Ext. 23-246 prior to December 31, 1979. These committees will present a good opportunity for all Associate Members to become involved in a worthwhile Section activity. Newer members are especially welcome to participate.

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## 1980 NATIONAL ENGINEERS' WEEK FEBRUARY 15 - 23, 1980

Vincent S. Boyer, vice president for engineering and research at Philadelphia Electric Company, and 1979 Engineer of the Year, has been named general chairman for the 1980 Engineers' Week observance in Delaware Valley. The theme this year is: "Engineering—Our Renewable Resource."

The Phila. Section, ASCE, is one of some 50 engineering scientific and technical societies sponsoring and participating in the Delaware Valley observance.

Also announced was the appointment of **Louis A. Madonna**, of Widener College, and **Stanley J. Snarski, Jr.**, of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, as vice chairmen of the 1980 Engineers' Week observance. Both men are Civil Engineers.

The National and Delaware Valley programs will include high school conferences, special events at colleges and universities, guidance counseling seminars on engineering careers, talks by engineers before student and scientific groups, guided tours of industrial plants, and the selection of the 1980 Engineer of the Year.

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Section Secretary Albert M. Tantala to AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS / United Engineering Center, 345 East 47th Street, New York, New York 10017.

Phila. Section Associate Members are urged to get to work on the Mead Competition. We are proud of our past winners and want to continue to be in the forefront.

Recent Phila. Section Mead Competition winners are the following:  
1974—**John E. Spitzko**, National Award  
1977—**Joseph R. Synchronick**, Zone I Award  
1978—**David S. Shaw**, Zone I Award

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

### Christmas Party

The next monthly Luncheon-Meeting of the Auxiliary will be held at the Engineers' Club on **Wednesday, December 19, 1979 - 12:00 noon**. It will be the Annual Christmas Party, and Chairman is **Audrey (Mrs. Will M.) Heiser**. Business matters will be at an absolute minimum. Pollyannas will be exchanged, and the spirit of the Holiday Season will abound. All Auxiliary members and their guests are cordially invited to attend.

### THERE WILL BE NO WOMEN'S AUXILIARY MEETING IN JANUARY, 1980

The first meeting of the new year will be Combined Dinner meeting with the regular Phila. Section at the Engineers' Club on **TUESDAY, February 19, 1980**. The February, 1980 issue of THE NEWS will contain full details. **BUT MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THAT EVENING.**

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Special features of the Delaware Valley program will be the Third Annual college undergraduate Student Papers Competition on the 1980 Engineers' Week theme; a combined Careers Day and Science Teachers Workshop at Drexel University for high school students, their parents and school counselors; annual awards to outstanding secondary school science and mathematics teachers, and annual awards for outstanding engineering achievements in Delaware Valley.

Phila. Section ASCE members serving in official capacities include the following:

**Dr. John Burnes**, of Upper Darby, secretary of the general committee.

**Dr. Richard E. Woodring**, Dean of the College of Engineering, Drexel University.

Phila. Section Past-President **Will M. Heiser**, Engineer-of-the-Year Election Committee.

**Leo O'Connor**, Outstanding Engineering Achievements; **Lewis Caccese**, is in charge of fund raising; **Victor Marcus**, Chairman of the Student Papers Competition and Engineering College Liaison; **Barry D. Leatherman** is in charge of Intersociety Relations.

Phila. Section, ASCE, delegates for the Engineer-of-the-Year Selection are: President **Kenneth J. Zitomer**; Vice President **Joseph R. Synchronick**; Director **James D. Leasure**; and Vice President **Frederic Boli** (Alternate).

Full details of the Engineers' Week Program will appear in a coming issue of THE NEWS.