

the news



PHILADELPHIA SECTION
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
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OUR 68th YEAR

October, 1980

OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1980

Engineers' Club, 1317 Spruce Street

Cocktails — 5:30 P.M. Dinner — 6:30 P.M. Meeting — 7:30 P.M.
(Cocktails: 2 for 1 — Downstairs Bar, 4-6 P.M.)

SUBJECT:

"CAN PUBLIC WORKS WORK? A VIEW FROM THE PRESS"

PANEL OF SPEAKERS:

DOUG BEDELL, Editorial Writer, Philadelphia Bulletin

MARY JO MELONE, KYW Radio

GEORGE WILSON, Chief Editorial Writer, Philadelphia Inquirer

MODERATOR: Ira N. Pierce, Chief, Public Transportation Planning, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.



Mr. Bedell

(Photo Not Available
At Press Time)

Ms. Melone



Mr. Wilson

Doug Bedell, Mary Jo Melone and George Wilson influence the opinions and attitudes of thousands of Delaware Valley residents.

This dialogue with these key Philadelphia news-media representatives is designed to provide ASCE members and their guests with an understanding of how our attitude-makers view the track-records of those concerned with bridging the gap between promise and performance in public works, as well as their tactics for getting things done, and their efforts to satisfy the needs and demands of the taxpayer. The panel has been asked to assess the perceived image of engineers and to be prescriptive in their comments as to how this image can be improved. The discussion will also focus of engineer/press relations and investigate the role of the media in providing positive assistance in advancing needed projects to construction.

SPECIAL FEATURE:

SWARTHMORE and WIDENER COLLEGE NIGHT

The ASCE Student Chapter, faculty and alumni of the Engineering Divisions of Swarthmore and Widener Colleges will be honored at this meeting. All students, faculty, alumni and friends are cordially invited to attend.

No Dinner Reservation Mailing Cards will be sent until further notice. Please call Mr. deKovacs at the Engineers' Club immediately. (215) 735-5234.

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

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

LUNCHEON MEETING
PHILA. SECTION ASCE

Tuesday, November 12, 1980

Engineers' Club

Luncheon Meeting—12:00 Noon

Subject: Love Canal

Speaker: **Dr. Ernest A. Regna**, Chief,
Solid Waste Branch, U.S.E.P.A.

READING BRANCH

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The first meeting of the new season, Reading Branch, was held on September 18, 1980 at The Green Valley Country Club. **John Madden** of Gilbert/Commonwealth spoke on Welding at Nuclear Power Plants.

October Meeting

Joint Meeting with the Lehigh Valley
Section ASCE

Date: **Thursday, October 16, 1980**

The Village Inn, Allentown, Pa.

Subject: **Small Hydropower Development**

Speakers: **Fred J. Brazina, P.P.&L.**

Ken Broome, Gilbert Associates

Howard Mayo, Allis Chalmers

Alex Panik, City of Bethlehem, Public
Works

Contact Ben Nacar, Program Chairman at Gilbert Associates, Inc., P. O. Box 1498, Reading, PA 19603, 775-2600, Ext. 3422, for reservations.

All Philadelphia Section members are welcome to Reading Branch meetings.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe that it's October already. It has always been a great time of year — the World Series, football pools, and the beginning of another Phila. Section ASCE year of activity.

As the Philadelphia Section starts its 68th year, it would be appropriate to set some goals that we as a group can strive to meet.

Our Program Committee has done an incredible job lining up the Main Section meeting speakers. The topics which are described on the enclosed program card are of national significance and encompass all disciplines of civil engineering. We are hopeful that this outstanding and exciting program will enable us to increase member participation, add new members and reclaim previously Active Members who have been less active in recent years. If each of us would bring just one new member out to a Section meeting I believe that we could retain most of them and significantly increase our membership roles. ASCE has much to offer its members but it is up to the individuals to take advantage of these benefits.

We should also try to broaden our leadership base. Surely there are many Section members who could bring new ideas and innovative activities to our programs. We are constantly looking for suggestions as to how ASCE can better serve its Membership and we are always in need of people to serve on committees or become otherwise active in the Society. If you have suggestions or want to get more involved please drop me a line. I'll guarantee that your concerns will be passed on to the Board and we have exciting roles to fill with willing people. Only through active participation can we make our profession what we want it to be.

We intend to get students more involved in Section activities, particularly the Technical Groups. Graduate Students and upper-classmen can reap real benefits from the technical seminars; but in the past they have not taken full advantage of this information source.

Our last and perhaps most important goal is to improve the image of the Civil Engineer. Our panel for the October Main Section meeting may give us some suggestions along this line and we will have an opportunity to discuss and explore this issue with them.

In summary, we believe we are embarking on a promising and challenging year. We need the support of all Members to make it a truly successful one.

Sincerely

JOSEPH R. SYRNICK
President, Phila. Section ASCE

TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES GEOTECHNICAL

Lecture Series

GEOTECHNICAL ASPECTS OF ENERGY

Energy projects will probably be the major engineering projects of the next two decades, and Civil Engineering has important contributions to make toward their design and construction.

The Geotechnical Group of the Philadelphia Section ASCE, is sponsoring a series of lectures on Geotechnical Aspects of Energy between October 1980 and April 1981. The lectures in these monthly meetings will highlight the role of the geotechnical disciplines in energy projects. Among the topics covered are power plant siting, geophysical prospecting for fuels (oil, gas, coal, and uranium), surface and underground mining, offshore platforms, monitoring by acoustic emissions, and the Alaskan pipeline.

The first lecture is listed below for the October 21, 1980 Group meeting. All Phila. Section members are cordially invited to attend. Should you have any questions, require further information,

or wish to have your name added to our mailing list, please call or write to:

Dr. Ziyad I. Husami, Chairman,
Geotechnical Group, c/o Stone & Webster Engineering Corp., P. O. Box 5200,
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 (609) 482-3889.
Date: **Tuesday, October 21, 1980**, Engineers' Club, 7:00 P.M.

Subject: **Siting of Conventional and Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Power Plants.**

Speaker: **W. F. Swiger**, Vice President and Senior Consulting Engineer, Stone & Webster Engineering Corp., Boston, MA.

Program Host: **Dr. Ziyad I. Husami**, Chairman, Geotechnical Group.

Refreshments are served.

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HYDRAULICS AND SANITARY

September Meeting

The Hydraulics and Sanitary Group held their first meeting on September 24. The speaker was **Kent Patterson** of Environmental Resources Management, Inc., West Chester, PA. Mr. Patterson spoke on the subject of **Hazardous Waste Management** with emphasis on

the new RCRA regulations and the problem of siting hazardous waste disposal facilities in the Delaware Valley. The program was hosted by **Dana Fizarro**, Vice-Chairman of the Hydraulics and Sanitary Group.

October Meeting

Date: **Wednesday, October 29, 1980**

Luncheon: 12:00 Noon - Engineers' Club

Subject: **Alternative Disinfection Systems at Water Treatment Plants**

Speaker: **Bob Chapman**, CH2M Hill

Program Host: **Guru Bose**, Secretary-Treasurer, Hydraulics and Sanitary Group

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STRUCTURAL

Date: **Thursday, October 30, 1980**,

Engineers' Club, 7:30 P.M.

Subject: **The Al-Jobail Desalination Power Plant - Phase II**

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PHILADELPHIA SECTION AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR
NOVEMBER, 1980 ISSUE
OCTOBER 14, 1980**

STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS

The planning of Student Chapter activities for the recently begun academic year will take place during a meeting for all Contact Members, Associate Contact Members and Faculty Advisors at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, October 14, 1980. The meeting will take place at the Engineers Club immediately preceding the main section meeting. Attendance by other concerned faculty members and Student Chapter officers is encouraged. Individuals with additional items for the agenda should contact Student Chapter Committee Chairman, John Durrant at 686-1776, Ext. 23-246.

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Concrete Canoe Race

After much anticipation, the 1980 Concrete Canoe Races sponsored by the Associate Member Forum of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE, were held the morning of April 12, 1980 on the Schuylkill River rowing course. Following the judging for the Best Construction and Best Appearance awards, which were later presented to the University of Pennsylvania and the City College of New York respectively, the canoes participating in the first men's heat were launched. A second men's heat and two subsequent heats to determine finalists for the women's race were then run. As the morning progressed mixed teams from Temple University and City College captured first and second place plaques. First place in the faculty division went to the City College entry which was followed at the finish line by the professors from Penn.

As the rapidly deteriorating weather conditions seemed to be more than a temporary phenomenon, a decision was made by the race chairman to award the winners of each heat in the men's and women's race first place plaques. The men's awards were presented to the Student Chapter teams from Temple and Lehigh while the successful women represented Drexel and Lehigh.

Presentation of awards was made by Philadelphia Section President Kenneth J. Zitomer to representatives from each of the winning schools. Other Student Chapters and Clubs also participating in this year's program were Spring Garden College, The New Jersey Institute of Technology and Villanova University whose canoe and racing team almost became the big story on Action News. The Associate Member Forum was most appreciative of the support shown by the Section Members who attended, the faculty judges and the members of the race committee who all combined to make

the 1980 races a successful and memorable event.

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DREXEL AND VILLANOVA STUDENT CHAPTERS HONORED

The Phila. Section is pleased to announce that the Drexel and Villanova ASCE Student Chapters were awarded Letters of Honorable Mention in recognition of their excellent Student Chapter activities during the 1979-1980 school year.

Special mention should be made of the fine efforts of Dr. Gene Parkin and Dr. Lewis Mathers, faculty advisors at Drexel and Villanova respectively.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Beetle Appointed to SEPTA

George Beetle, President of George Beetle Co., Engineers and Consultants, and a former Director of the Phila. Section, has been appointed by Mayor Bill Green to the SEPTA Board of Directors to represent the City of Philadelphia. The Phila. Section is proud of George upon his assumption of this important and challenging assignment. We wish him the best of success in his efforts.

*

Pennoni Elected Director

Phila. Section Past President Celestino R. (Chuck) Pennoni, President of Pennoni Associates, Inc., has been nominated and elected National ASCE Director, District 4. He succeeds Ron Drnevitch, whose term expires in October, 1980. District 4 includes the Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Central Pennsylvania and Lehigh Valley Sections, comprising more than 3500 ASCE members. Chuck will be inaugurated at the Society's Annual Convention and Exhibition at Hollywood-by-the-Sea, Florida on October 26, 1980.

The Section is honored by this accomplishment of its distinguished son. We promise Chuck our full help and co-operation in his difficult job.

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Section Honors Robin

Publications Chairman and Past President Sidney Robin has been honored as the Philadelphia Section's "Outstanding Civil Engineer for 1980". A bronze plaque commending Sid for his many years of devoted and dedicated service to the Section was presented to him by (then) President Kenneth J. Zitomer at the Annual Spring Social at Bala Golf Club, May 4, 1980.

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Moy Promoted

Lawrence M. Moy, Phila. Section Past President has been promoted to Chief Highway Engineer of the Philadelphia

Department of Streets. In this position Larry is in charge of a staff of over 600 and is responsible for all City street construction and maintenance in Philadelphia. The Section extends its congratulations to one of its foremost members.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OFFICERS 1980 - 1981

President —

Mrs. Robert M. (Paula) Koerner

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Mrs. William (Natalie) Clayton

Past President —

Mrs. James D. (Ann) Leasure

September Meeting

The first Luncheon Meeting of the 1980-81 Season took place at the Engineers' Club on Wed., September 17, 1980. The Auxiliary's Recording Secretary, Mary (Mrs. Edwyn L.) Shoemaker spoke on the subject: "Egypt, Land of the Pharaohs" — the exotic land which Mary and Ed have visited in recent years.

October Meeting

The next regular monthly Luncheon Meeting will be a visit to the famous Campbell Museum in Camden, NJ, on Wednesday, October 15, 1980. Members and guests are requested to be at the Museum by 10:30 A.M.

Luncheon will follow the tour of the Museum.

For reservations, directions to the Museum and luncheon arrangements, please call Mary Ellen (Mrs. Warren) Van De Vort - (215) 483-0714.

Auxiliary members and guests are cordially invited to attend all Luncheon Meetings and other functions arranged and sponsored by the Auxiliary. New members are always welcome to join. Please call Membership Secretary Marie (Mrs. Kenneth) Zitomer - (215) 548-5324.

TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(continued from page 2)

Speaker: John J. Brennan, Catalytic, Inc., Phila.

Program Host: S. T. Zaidi, (Bechtel Power Corp.) Chairman, Structural Group

The discussion will cover problems and progress of the largest desalination plant in the world — in Saudi Arabia.

For pre-meeting dinner reservations and full information please contact Mr. Zaidi at (215) 327-1200, Ext. 284.

STUDENT CHAPTER CONFERENCE

The 42nd Annual Pennsylvania-Delaware ASCE Student Chapter Conference, cohosted by Swarthmore College and Temple University College of Engineering Technology, was held at Temple on April 18, 1980.

Originally established by the Phila. Section in 1926, the Conference is an indoctrination exercise of Civil Engineering students into the profession by oral presentation of technical papers of their own authorship, on diverse civil engineering-related topics of interest to their peers. It also provides a forum in which the various Student Chapters discuss common problems and objectives.

Phila. Section Chairman of Publications **Sidney Robin** again served as Chairman of Judges — as he has for many years in the past. He was joined by **Robert C. Richert**, President of the Phila. Section's Reading Branch; and **Salvatore Spada**, of the Delaware Section, ASCE.

As in previous years, the papers were classified into two main categories; Group A, which involves laboratory testing and experimentation as well as investigative research; and Group B, which requires no lab work, but features literary research and analysis. In some cases, two or more authors compose the paper and select a speaker to present it at the Conference. The papers are judged on content, presentation and professional quality.

The papers were splendid in preparation and presentation. Each speaker invited questions and discussion by the audience after completion of his formal talk. To emphasize the impression the papers made on the judges and the audience, special Certificates of Honorable Mention were awarded to all authors and speakers.

Prize winners were:

First Prize — Group A (\$35.00) — "Analytical Applications of Computer Graphics to Civil Engineering," by **Patrick Harker**, University of Pennsylvania.

First Prize — Group B (\$35.00) — "A Dangerous Intersection in the State of New Jersey — Analysis and Solution," by **Cary L. Sklar**, Drexel University

Second Prize — (\$25.00) — "Comprehensive Storm Water Management," by **Steven J. Troch**, Drexel University

Third Prize — (Tie) (\$15.00) — "Bamboo-Quicklime Piles — A New Type of Foundation," by **Thomas R. Moore** and **Michael F. Rovi**, Lehigh University.

sity. Mr. Rovi made the oral presentation.

Third Prize — (Tie) (\$15.00) — "Yield-Line Theory Applied to a Model Slab," by **Dirk Schoonmaker** and **Craig Close**, Swarthmore College. Mr. Schoonmaker made the oral presentation.

Second and Third prizes are awarded irrespective of Group A or Group B category. In addition to the cash prizes a group of technical books were presented to the winners, compliments of National Headquarters, ASCE.

A special feature of the Conference, after Luncheon, was a slide-illustrated talk by **Richard Oswald**, Research Engineer, Energy Engineering Group, Franklin Institute Research Laboratory, on the subject: "Passive Solar Heating of Buildings" — a new and fascinating concept which does not require mechanical power methods for moving heat.

High praise for the success of the 1980 Conference is due **Dr. Robert J. Stone**, Chairman of the Civil Engineering Department at Temple University College of Engineering Technology. Dr. Stone is also Faculty Advisor of the College's ASCE Student Chapter and a very prominent Phila. Section member. Also deserving much credit are: **John J. DeFazio**, President of Temple's Student Chapter; **Dr. Arthur J. McGarrity**, Swarthmore Student Chapter Faculty Advisor; and **Dirk Schoonmaker**, President of Swarthmore's Student Chapter. (Mr. Schoonmaker was also co-author and presenter of a prize-winning paper at the Conference.)

ENGINEERS' CLUB EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia is sponsoring an educational program scheduled to commence in the Fall of 1980. Course titles to be included are: Effective Writing for Engineers
Electrification of Industrial Plants
Construction Management and Field Operations
Piping Design II
Practical Application of Pumps
Liability Law for Engineers
Modern Power Plant Practice
Basic Instrumentation Design
Nuclear Power Plant Reactor Behavior and Engineered Safeguard Systems
Piping Support Practices
Engineering Analysis — Using the Finite Element Method
Energy Conservation for Industrial Residential and Commercial Buildings
Management Insight Symposium on Engineering Technologies

For further information call Mr. Joe deKovacs at The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia on 735-5234.

FABRICS COURSE A SUCCESS

A very successful course on the subject of Fabrics in Construction, sponsored and arranged by the Phila. Section's Continuing Education Committee — **Dr. Bernard M. McNamee**, Chairman — was held at Drexel University on June 6, 1980. Section President **Joseph R. Syrnick** has addressed a letter of thanks and appreciation to Dr. McNamee, (who is currently 2nd Vice President of the Section), Past President **Dr. Robert M. Koerner** and Past Vice President **Joseph P. Welsh**, whose conscientious and hard-working efforts resulted in an educationally and financially rewarding seminar.

MINORITY STUDENTS SUMMER INSTITUTE

The Phila. Section sponsored two high school students in the National 1980 Minority Students Summer Institute. The highly successful program was initiated and subsidized by National ASCE in 1974, with the cooperation of various colleges and universities throughout the United States.

In addition to classroom sessions, the students visited engineering offices and construction sites. In this way, they saw engineers in action and were provided the opportunity to learn about the rewards of engineering careers.

The two-week program in this area, called "What is Engineering", was held at Northeastern University, Boston, MA, July 16 - 27, 1980.

The students, sponsored by the Phila. Section are: **Jeffrey Scott Diggs**, John Bartram High School; and **Jin Ho Cho**, Olney High.

DIED

William F. Lotz, Jr., Prominent Phila. Section, ASCE member and former Engineer of the Year of Delaware Valley, died on June 24, 1980 at the age of 66. Chairman of the Board of **William F. Lotz, Inc.**, Horsham Building Contractor, Mr. Lotz was President of the historic Carpenters Co. of Philadelphia, and was active in innumerable professional, business and community groups in the Delaware Valley.

ATTENTION - SECTION MEMBERS

If your job location, business or residential address for mailing is changed; or if you move out of the Philadelphia Section area jurisdiction; or if you do not receive Section mailings (THE NEWS, special notices, etc.), please notify Secretary **Albert M. Tantala**, c/o Tantala Associates, 4903 Frankford Ave., Phila., PA 19124 — Phone: (215) 289-4600.