

# the news



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PHILADELPHIA SECTION  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS  
1317 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

VOL. 59 - 3

OUR 74th YEAR

December, 1986

## ... Greetings of the Season

The Editor and staff of THE NEWS, on behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE, extend to the Members and their families Heartiest Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season, and a Healthy, Prosperous and Fulfilling New Year.

### DECEMBER DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1986**

Engineer's Club, 1317 Spruce Street, Philadelphia

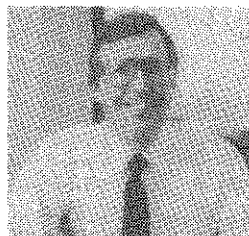
Cocktails - 5:30 P.M.      Dinner - 6:30 P.M.      Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

#### SUBJECT:

**THE RESTORATION AND RENOVATIONS OF THE HISTORICAL LIT BROTHERS BUILDING COMPLEX, PHILADELPHIA, PA**

#### SPEAKER:

**WILLIAM F. O'DONNELL, P.E.**, Partner, O'Donnell & Naccarato, Inc., Consulting Engineers, Philadelphia, PA



Mr. O'Donnell will discuss the history and existing conditions at the old Lit Brothers Department Store Complex at 7th and Market Streets, Philadelphia. The renovation work now underway at the building and its impact on the structural elements will be explained. He will also describe the testing programs for determination of soundness and strength characteristics of existing members and the effect of the new architectural modifications of the building on these fundamental functions.

(Continued on page 2)

### JANUARY DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1987**

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

#### SUBJECT:

**THE PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL RESTORATION**

#### SPEAKER:

**JOSEPH GRACI, P.E.**, Project Manager for City Hall Restoration Project, Department of Public Property, City of Philadelphia.

Mr. Graci will discuss the restoration project now in progress. He will describe the state-of-the-art techniques in scaffolding, plating, stone repair and the numerous other engineering and structural facets of this major project.

#### SPECIAL FEATURE:

**DREXEL UNIVERSITY NIGHT**

Please call Mr. deKovacs at the Engineer's Club immediately (215 735-5234), for reservation. Dinner Meal Charge:

ASCE Member-\$10.00      Non-Member-\$11.00      Students-\$4.00

STUDENTS-Note that your Dinner Charge is LESS than one-half price. Plan to attend for Dinner or Meeting after Dinner.

### YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM ACTIVITIES

#### One Liberty Place Tour

On October 13, 1986, 32 Philadelphia Section Younger Members and guests attended a tour of One Liberty Place, the new high-rise under construction at 17th and Market Streets.

The tour was conducted by the staff of DRISCOLL/HUBER, HUNT & NICHOLS, INC., CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS, who proved to be excellent hosts. Everyone rode the construction elevator to the 31st floor, then walked around the entire floor to get a feel for the immensity of the project. From there groups of ten went by elevator to the 51st floor, but they could only look out the elevator, as the floor decking has not yet been installed. After everyone was back on the 31st floor, the group walked the rest of the way down as our hosts explained numerous aspects of the project and answered a continuous flow of questions.

The tour proved to be an exciting continuation of this year's YMF program.

Special thanks go to **Rick Slack** of DRISCOLL/HUBER, HUNT & NICHOLS, INC., for arranging the tour.

### CHRISTENSEN WINS ASCE AWARD

**Dr. G. Lee Christensen**, Professor of Civil Engineering at Villanova University, and **Dr. Richard I. Dick**, the Joseph P. Ripley Professor of Engineering at Cornell University, have been named recipients of the 1986 Rudolf Hering Medal. The Rudolf Hering Medal is awarded annually by the American Society of Civil Engineers "to the author, or authors, of the paper which contains the most valuable contribution to the increase of knowledge in, and to the advancement of the environmental branch of the engineering profession." The award was based on a pair of papers entitled "Specific Resistance Measurements: Nonparabolic Data" and "Specific Resistance Measurements: Methods and Procedures" which were published in the Journal of Environmental Engineering (ASCE) in June 1985. The medals were awarded at the Society's annual convention in Boston in October, 1986.

**IMPORTANT!! 1986 - 1987 Meeting Notices**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the dates of the remaining Philadelphia Section, ASCE monthly meetings and social functions, as follows:

**All Dinner Meetings —**

Cocktails: 5:30 p.m. - Dinner: 6:30 p.m. - Meeting: 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, February 10, 1987 — Engineers' Club**

Arranged by the Water and Environmental Engineering Group

Topic: **Update on Asbestos Problems in Construction**

Speakers: **Dr. Edward Doheny**, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, Drexel University; and

**Dr. Lester Levin**, Professor of Industrial Hygiene, Drexel University

**University of Pennsylvania and Widener University Night**

**Tuesday, March 10, 1987 - Engineers' Club**

Arranged by the Transportation and Urban Development Group

Topic and Speaker To Be Announced

Presentation of Life Membership Certificates

**Temple University and Spring Garden College Night**

**WEDNESDAY, April 8, 1987 - Officer's Club, U.S. Naval Base, Philadelphia**

**Joint meeting with the Phila. Post, Society of American Military Engineers (S.A.M.E.)**

Arranged by The Structural Group

Topic: **National Building Safety Week**

Speaker: **Charles O. Everly, P.E.**, President, Building Officials Conference of America (BOCA)

**Saturday Evening, May 2, 1987**

**Annual Spring Social**

Location and details to be announced

**DECEMBER MEETING**

(continued from page 1)

**Wm F. O'Donnell** earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering at Villanova University. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in 23 States. His professional experience - dating from 1963 - includes: Civil Engineer Trainee with PennDOT; Design Engineer with Day & Zimmerman Engineers on heavy industrial buildings and power plants; U.S. Army in Korea, Headquarters Engineer, responsible for design of bridges, drainage, roads and housing projects in South Korea; Certain-Teed Products, Inc., Marketing Engineer, providing technical, research and development services to the Marketing Division on housing products, patent applications for various new products, etc. He joined his present firm in 1969 when it was titled Greenberg, O'Donnell & Naccarato, Inc., and became a Principal in 1981.

Mr. O'Donnell was elected to the National Engineering Honor Fraternity Tau Beta Pi. In addition to ASCE, he is affiliated with NSPE, PSPE, Engineer's Club of Phila., and the National Council of Engineering Examiners (NCEE).

**SPECIAL FEATURE:**

**SWARTHMORE COLLEGE NIGHT**

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

**IMPORTANT PARKING PRIVILEGE NOTICE**

Philadelphia Section, ASCE members are entitled to special parking rates after 5:00 P.M. for meetings at the Engineers' Club, through an arrangement between the Club and the E-Z Parking Garage on the east side of Broad Street, North of Pine Street. Have your parking ticket validated at the front desk of the Engineers' Club and your parking fee will be the special reduced price of \$3.25.

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR  
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DECEMBER 9, 1986**

*"They say good judgment comes from experience,  
but experience comes from poor judgment."*



## ASCE DUES BILL AND TECHNICAL GROUP DETAILS

Section members will notice in the 1986 dues bill from National ASCE Headquarters, that the PHILADELPHIA (SECTION) DUES is itemized as \$13.00. This amount includes assessment for membership in one Phila. Section Technical Group of your choice. *If you choose to be a member of more than one Group, please add \$1.00 for each Group.*

Also, because National's bill did not list the Technical Groups to which your \$1.00 payments were to be applied, *you are requested to get in touch with the Chairman of the Technical Groups of your preference, so that their membership lists can be classified.*

The appropriate individuals to contact are the following:

### Liaison

*Susan Lior*

Peer Systems, Inc.  
1218 Chestnut St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 925-3196

### Younger Member Forum

*Anthony M. Micciolo*, Chairman

Phila. Water Department Design Branch  
One Reading Center, 2nd Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 592-6088

### Construction

*Fredric L. Plotnick*, Chairman

806 Hillton Lane  
Elkins Park, PA 19117  
(215) 487-1443

### Engineering Management

*Madeline Salomon*, Chairman

Peer Systems, Inc.  
1218 Chestnut St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 925-3196

### Geotechnical

*Moustafa A. Gouda*, Chairman

Lippincott Engineering Associates  
501 Burlington Avenue  
Delanco, New Jersey 08075  
(609) 461-1239

### Structural

*Timothy H. Huahs*, Chairman

Walker Parker Consultants  
2 Penn Center Plaza  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215) 751-9555

### Transportation and Urban Development

*William T. Thomsen*, Chairman

Urban Engineers  
300 N. 3rd Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-1193  
(215) 922-8080

### Water and Environmental Engineering

*John E. Tunnell*, Chairman

Chief, Coastal and Special Studies  
Section; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Phila. District  
U.S. Custom House  
2nd and Chestnut Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
(215) 597-4714

## NOVEMBER MEETING

*(Continued from page 3)*

### Engineering Challenges

Mr. Pennoni was particularly impressed by the highly dedicated and enthusiastic work force in China. Chuck stated that challenges facing this unique country are in manufacturing, construction project management and quality control. Mr. Pennoni's anecdotal account of his lecture tour of this ancient country delighted the attendance. His charismatic style, combined with a keen eye for photography and a genuine interest in the people and culture of China resulted in a memorable and valuable presentation.

### Questions and Answers

May comments and questions from the audience were answered and discussed by our eminent speaker and colleague. Only the constraints of time limited the exchanges.

Section President **Al Tantala** ably presiding over his second General Membership meeting of the season, presented Chuck the Section's Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding presentation. He also thanked the members of the Women's Auxiliary for their attendance and participation in this highly successful joint meeting.

## FALL SOCIAL AT THE RUTECKI'S

The 1986 Philadelphia Section, ASCE, Annual Fall Social, sponsored and arranged by the Women's Auxiliary, was hosted by **Wallace H. ("Wally")** and **Joan Rutecki** at their beautiful home in Bywood, Upper Darby, PA., on Sunday, November 2, 1986. The misty Fall day did not discourage attendance or detract from the pleasant time enjoyed by the Section members, their wives and guests at the splendid affair. Arranging functions such as this comes easily to Joan, who has contributed immeasurably to the countless successful social affairs arranged by the Auxiliary during the many years of her dedicated participation in that extraordinary Section affiliate. She was the Auxiliary's President in 1971-1972. (It probably cannot be denied that Wally - himself a long-time active member of ASCE and the Phila. Section - helped Joan a little bit in preparations for the party!)

Joan and Wally - always the gracious and

amiable hosts - busily catered to the needs of their guests. They were ably assisted by Joan's sister, **Peggy Cantley** and her husband **Charles**, and the Rutecki's son, **Wally, Jr.** in serving, bartending and general attentiveness to the guests. With trepidation - but acknowledging reality - we must report that Wally, Jr. might have created a monster which could subliminally threaten his professional career (not to mention his pending marriage next May). Wally, a 1983 Economics Major graduate of Harvard University, so expertly bartended - dispatching fancy drinks to eager, outstretched hands - that it is doubtful he can henceforth revert to his alter ego with the same dedication and resolve which he obtained before this event.

As in the past Socials, tasty hors d'oeuvres and delicacies were brought to the party by members of the Women's Auxiliary. This added fulfillment and atmosphere to the occasion.

The "at home" Fall Social format was started by the Auxiliary in 1976. Proceeds of the function are deposited into the Auxiliary's **Annette Estrada Memorial Awards Fund**, in memory of the beloved President of the Auxiliary who was killed in an automobile accident many years ago. The Fund was established to help finance noteworthy civil engineering educational and research endeavors in area colleges and universities. Section members contributed modest fees to cover costs of the affair and to enhance the Memorial Fund.

The Philadelphia Section gratefully salutes **Joan** and **Wally Rutecki**, their competent assistants, the Social Committee and general membership of the Women's Auxiliary for their fine efforts in making the 1986 Fall Social a happy and memorable occasion. The glorious record of social programs sponsored and arranged by the Section's Women's Auxiliary continues to flourish.

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

### December Meeting — Christmas Party

The next monthly Luncheon-Meeting of the Phila. Section Women's Auxiliary will be held at the Engineers' Club on **Wednesday, December 17, 1986, 12:00 noon**. It is the Annual Christmas Party. As is customary, business discussion will be held at an absolute minimum. Pollannas will be exchanged and the Holiday spirit will prevail. All Auxiliary members and their guests are cordially invited to attend.

*There will be no Women's Auxiliary Meetings in January or February, 1987. The next regular Luncheon-Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 18, 1987.*

*Full details will appear in the March, 1987 issue of THE NEWS.*