

# the news



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

VOL. 59 - 5

OUR 74th YEAR

February, 1987

## FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1987**

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

**SUBJECT:**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING CONCERNS  
OF ASBESTOS REMOVAL**

**SPEAKERS:**

**EDWARD DOHENY, Ph.D.** Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, Drexel University; and

**LESTER LEVIN, C.I.H.** Professor of Industrial Hygiene, Drexel University.

Professors Doheny and Levin will describe the physical characteristics of asbestos and asbestos fibers, and their environmental health hazards. They will review the E.P.A.-regulated courses designated at Drexel University on asbestos removal techniques for health and safety.

**Edward Doheny** is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Service School Command, Bainbridge MD, and CCNY, where he earned a B.S. in Geology. Before coming to Drexel, he was engaged in research and teaching of Physical Geology, Sedimentology, and Geophysics at Indiana University, where he received the Ph.D. in 1967. In 1968, Dr. Doheny assumed responsibility for the Engineering Geology Program at Drexel. He has received many teaching awards; was elected to the Legion of Honor by the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Philadelphia; and honored by National ASCE for "valued contributions to ASCE Technical Programs." (continued on page 2)

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**MARCH DINNER MEETING**

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

**TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1987**

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

**SUBJECT:**

**CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT ON PennDOT PROJECTS**

**SPEAKER:**

**JOSEPH P. McATEE**, Project Manager, Joint Venture - Gaudet/O'Brien Associates and Urban Engineers, Inc.

**Presentation of Life Membership Certificates.**

Mr. McAtee will discuss the construction management techniques used on the Schuylkill Expressway Reconstruction Project from the completion of design in the summer of 1984 through the completion of the 1986 construction season. Included in the presentation will be a discussion of the impediments encountered and overcome, together with an overview of the physical limits of the project.

**SPECIAL FEATURE:**

**TEMPLE UNIVERSITY AND SPRING GARDEN COLLEGE NIGHT**

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

ASCE Member-\$12.00      Non-Member-\$13.00      Students-\$5.00  
STUDENTS-Note that your Dinner Charge is LESS than one-half price. Plan to attend for Dinner or Meeting after Dinner.

## TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

**Construction Group**

**February Meeting**

Date: **Thursday, February 26, 1987**

Engineers' Club

Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Subject: **Scheduling/Cost Control Software in Engineering and Construction**

Speaker: **Joel M. Koppelman**, President, Primavera Systems, Inc.

Program Host: **Fredric L. Plotnick, Esq., P.E.**, Chairman, Construction Group

Mr. Koppelman will describe scheduling and cost control software processes which his company has developed and markets for engineering and construction projects. These processes include: Primavera Project Planner, Primavision, and Finest Hour, which are fast becoming the industry standards in the planning and scheduling field. Primavera Project Scheduler has been the scheduling software used on the Schuylkill Expressway Reconstruction Project.

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**Structural Group and Transportation & Urban Development Group**

**February JOINT MEETING**

Date: **Tuesday, February 17, 1987**

Engineers' Club

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

Meeting - 7:15 P.M.

SUBJECT: **THE VINE STREET EXPRESSWAY--PHILADELPHIA'S MISSING LINK**

SPEAKER: **Ollie Hinsman, P.E.**, Project Manager, Michael Baker Corp., Beaver, PA

The following topics will be highlighted:

1. Project History
2. Goals
3. Constraints
4. Execution

PLEASE CALL FOR  
RESERVATIONS BY  
FEBRUARY 16th - Tim Haahs'  
Secretary: **Barbara Hatton**,  
(215) 751-9555

(continued on page 2)

**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.

**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)

**THE ANNUAL SPRING SOCIAL**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1987 (Rescheduled Date)**

**Park Towne Place, 2200 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Phila., PA**

DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEWS

RESERVE THE DATE NOW!!!

**FEBRUARY MEETING**

(continued from page 1)

Lester Levin holds an M.S. in Industrial Hygiene (Harvard University), and is Certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene. Before joining the Drexel Faculty he was Chief Industrial Hygienist for Mobil Oil Corporation. He has conducted research on asbestos exposure to roofers and firefighters. He serves on the NIOSH, Philadelphia Health and Fire Departments, and Professional Society Advisory and Review Boards dealing with asbestos and occupational health.

**SPECIAL FEATURE:**

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AND WIDENER UNIVERSITY NIGHT**

The ASCE Student Chapters, Faculty and Alumni of the University of Pennsylvania and Widener University will be honored at this meeting. All students, faculty and alumni are cordially invited to attend.

**TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES**

(continued from page 1)

**Geotechnical Group**

**February Meeting**

Date: **Tuesday, February 17, 1987**

Engineers' Club,  
6:30-7:00 P.M. Cheese & Wine  
7:00 Meeting

**SUBJECT AND SPEAKER  
TO BE ANNOUNCED**

For full information and reservations, contact: **Moustafa A. Gouda**, Chairman, Geotechnical Group, Lippincott Engineering Associates, Inc. 501 Burlington Ave., Delanco, NJ 08075  
Phone: (609) 461-1239

**INVITE YOUR ASSOCIATES  
TO ALL ASCE MEETINGS!**

*Please mail in your  
ASCE dues promptly*

**LUTZ SUBMITS SECTION'S  
ANNUAL REPORT**

Once again, Philadelphia Section Secretary **Edward J. Lutz**, has submitted to ASCE New York National Headquarters the *Annual Report of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE, Fiscal Year October 1, 1985 - September 30, 1986*. With the expert assistance of Section Treasurer **Charles Denny**, Technical Group officers and Committee Personnel, Mr. Lutz has assembled a magnificent Report.

As required by National Society By-Laws, the Annual Report of Section Activities and Finances and Membership summarizes programs and operations. It includes data on District 4 Participation; the Reading Branch; Technical Groups; Committees; Publications; Younger Member Participation, including ASCE Student Chapters and Clubs in area colleges and universities; Section Prizes, Awards and Scholarships; Women's Auxiliary; and other subsidiary affiliations.

(continued on page 3)

**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.

**PHILADELPHIA SECTION  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
CIVIL ENGINEERS**

**OFFICERS 1986-1987**

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Tantala Associates  
4903 Frankford Avenue  
Phila., PA 19124  
(215) 289-4600

**Secretary - Edward J. Lutz, Jr.**

Rollins Environmental Services, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2349  
Wilmington, DE 19899  
(302) 479-3168

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

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**SEND COPY TO:**

Sidney Robin  
64 Nancy Drive  
Richboro, Pennsylvania 18954  
Phone: (215) 322-7464

**COPY DEADLINE FOR  
MARCH 1987 ISSUE  
FEBRUARY 10, 1987**

**ITEMS OF INTEREST****Structural Group Vice Chairman**

**David A. Van Ocker, P.E.**, of the A & R Engineering Co., Inc. has accepted the appointment as Vice Chairman of the Philadelphia Section's Structural Technical Group, it has been announced by President Al Tantala and Group Chairman Tim Haahs.

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**Peer System Merges into Weston**

Peer Systems, Inc. (PSI), Philadelphia, specializing in municipal infrastructure rehabilitation planning and maintenance management, is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Roy F. Weston, Inc., a world-wide leading Environmental, Health and Safety, and Energy Management firm, headquartered in West Chester, PA.

**D. Kelly O'Day, P.E.**, a Philadelphia Section, ASCE Director and Chairman of its Infrastructure Committee, is President of PSI, and he has been appointed a Vice President of Weston.

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**SAFE International Consolidates Offices**

**Dalim K. Majumbar, Ph.D., P.E.**, President of Safe International, Inc., Consulting Engineers, Voorhees, NJ, announces that, for organizational and management purposes, his firm has consolidated its offices in Philadelphia, PA and Cherry Hill, NJ, into:

SAFE International, Inc.  
800 S. Burnt Mill Road,  
Voorhees, NJ 08403  
(609) 429-1221

The firm requests that all correspondence be directed to this address.

**LUTZ SUBMITS REPORT**

(continued from page 2)

The Report conveys information helpful to the National Board of Direction, Committee on Local Sections and District Councils, Headquarters Staff and other Sections in evaluating Philadelphia Section affairs. It is also a prime prerequisite for the payment by National of the annual allotment to the Section.

In addition to Finance and Membership data and Intra-Section functions, the volume features comprehensive descriptions of the Section's participation in Intersociety organizations, including: The Engineering and Technical Societies Council of Delaware Valley (ETSCO); Engineers' Week Committee; Joint Meetings with The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME); the Philadelphia Urban Manpower Program (PUMP); Construction Career Day and many others.

The Philadelphia Section extends its highest praise and appreciation to Secretary Lutz and his skillful helpers for this excellent and outstanding publication.

**JANUARY MEETING**

January 13, 1987      **Engineers' Club**  
**The City Hall Restoration**

By Staff Writers **Michael Peleszak**  
and **Dave Perri**

An overflow crowd - in excess of 150 members, guests and students attended the January Section Meeting, to hear an outstanding presentation on the subject: "**The Philadelphia City Hall Restoration Project.**" Principal speaker was **Joseph Graci, P.E.**, Project Manager for the Project, Department of Public Property, City of Philadelphia. Mr. Graci courageously left a sick-bed in order to address the meeting, and we are extremely grateful to him for it.

**Drexel Night**

The meeting honored the Student Chapter, Faculty, Alumni and the Civil Engineering Departments of the Drexel University Day and Evening Colleges. True to tradition, the Drexel C.E. delegation was formidable.

**President Ippolito Presents Colleagues**

Drexel ASCE Student Chapter President **Monica Ippolito** introduced her fellow officers and Civil Engineering Department representatives, after thanking the Section for its courtesies:

Vice President - **John Fuller**  
Treasurer - **Joe Reilly**  
Recording Secretary - **Blaine Chipola**  
Corresponding Secretary - **Paul Cardie**  
Membership Secretary - **Amy Strodoski**  
Newsletter Editor - **Dennis Nagg**  
Concrete Canoe Comm. Chairman -  
**Lou Donofrio**

Student Department Head - **Dave Bennett**  
Evening College President - **Mark Shourds**  
Student Chapter Faculty Advisor -  
**Dr. Joseph Martin**

The Chapter has been very busy this past year, informed Ms. Ippolito. This summer was also active, filled with many events and field trips. The field trips included tours of the Lit Brothers Renovation Project and One Liberty Place. The Chapter also began an annual wine and cheese party to familiarize new students with potential co-op companies.

**Dr. Pipes Speaks**

President Ippolito introduced **Dr. Wesley Pipes**, Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering. Dr. Pipes discussed the present and future plans for Drexel. Despite a drop in undergrad enrollment, new programs have been instituted. New labs and new courses of study have enriched the education programs at Drexel. Dr. Pipes also pointed out that Drexel has great support from the faculty and alumni in all of its endeavors. He thanked the Philadelphia Section for supporting student activities and allowing student participation in Section functions.

**Plotnick Introduced Mr. Graci**

Construction Group Chairman **Fredric L. Plotnick, J.D., P.E.**, who arranged the evening's program, introduced **Mr. Joseph Graci**, the Project Manager for the Restoration Project.

**Public Misconception**

Mr. Graci began his enlightening slide presentation by explaining that contrary to public perception, City Hall Tower is not falling down. Though the structure needs extensive restoration and additional funding is required, the 43 acre complex, including the tower, is structurally sound and work is progressing on the project.

Mr. Graci stated that the rehabilitation is a three phase effort. Foremost is the repair or replacement of the four thousand copper clad cast iron plates that comprise the skin of City Hall Tower. The second phase includes repair of the massive stone and masonry portion of the structure including underpinning of the footings. The third and most delicate phase involves meticulous cleaning and restoration of the numerous statues and ornamental stonework adorning the complex.

**Scaffolding Surrounds Tower**

The entombing of the tower within a massive cage of scaffolding is the most visible sign of the restoration effort. Construction of the scaffolding took two years and cost \$2.5 million. It begins approximately 300 feet above street level and rises to the top of William Penn statue, 547 feet above Market Street. By comparison, the scaffolding surrounding the Statue of Liberty rose just 250 feet above the Statue's base.

Mr. Graci informed the attendees that the rehabilitation project is the first major restoration effort to be undertaken on the 90 year old structure. The tower portion of the project is expected to be completed in two years.

**Statue Restoration**

Curators from five museums have been consulted on the delicate process of removing the thick carbon deposits disfiguring the City Hall statues. Mr. Graci lamented that it is unfortunate that much of the detail of the artwork is not visible from street level. The hollow bronze statue of William Penn, which is 37 feet high and weighs 20 tons, is finely detailed, down to fingernails and lace shirt cuffs. The restoration of the Penn statue is expected to be completed by the Constitution Bicentennial celebration in July.

**Dedicated Professional**

Mr. Graci's enthusiasm for the restoration of this grand landmark was refreshing and infectious. His efforts on this project are obviously a labor of love, judging by his appreciation of the craftsmanship and architectural splendor of the City Hall complex. The dedication of a professional like Joseph Graci instilled a renewed spirit of appreciation for this exquisite Philadelphia landmark in all who attended.

**Question and Answer Period**

Following his formal presentation, Mr. Graci graciously conducted a long and detailed question and answer discussion with the members of the audience. Undoubtedly, the effort was extremely arduous to him, because of his physical discomfort. He responded to all comments and questions directly and fully.

Section President Albert M. Tantala presented our distinguished speaker the Section's Certificate of Appreciation for his excellent talk. Mr. Tantala also congratulated Chairman Plotnick for his capable arrangement and hosting of the meeting.

## 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. Haahs, 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  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Phila. District  
U.S. Custom House  
2nd and Chestnut Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
(215) 597-4714

## TIMBER STRUCTURAL DESIGN SEMINAR

The American Institute of Timber Construction (AITC), in cooperation with the Philadelphia Section, ASCE, is conducting a three-hour *Seminar on Structural Design with Glued Laminated Timber*, on **Thursday, February 26, 1987, 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon**, at the Engineers' Club, 1317 Spruce Street, Phila., PA. Distinguished authorities on timber design will comprise the instructor panel.

Pre-registration fee is \$65.00, at door - \$75.00, which includes the new and expanded Third Edition of *Timber Construction Manual*. The 836-page volume, which provides technical data and recommendation on engineered timber construction, is the essential reference for architects, structural engineers, contractors, teachers, the wood laminating and fabricating industry, and all others requiring up-to-date information on the design of a wide range of timber members and their fastenings.

For reservations and full information, please call the Engineers' Club - (215) 735-5234, or the AITC - (800) 525-1625.

## ENGINEERS WEEK PARTICIPATION URGED

Philadelphia Section ASCE members are urged to participate as fully as they can in the 1987 Delaware Valley Engineers Week activities, **February 20th through the 28th**.

Section members who are serving as Committee Officers are: **C.R. "Chuck" Pennoni**, Past Chairman; **Joseph R. Syrnick**, Vice Chairman; **Norman G. Weintraub**, Secretary. Sub-committee Chairmen are: **Victor A. Marcus**, College/University Liaison; **Leo F. O'Connor**, Engineering Achievements; **Joseph R. Syrnick**, Publicity; **Dr. Robert M. Koerner**, Long-Range Planning; **Kenneth J. Zitomer**, High School Program. Other Committee Members are: **Lewis A. Caccese** and **John E. Durrant**. Highlights of the Week's functions include:

### PROCLAMATION LUNCHEON -

The Union League, **Friday, February 20 - 12:00 noon**, featuring an address by **Dr. Richard E. Woodring**, 1987 Engineer of the Year.

### ETSCO SCIENCE-ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE -

Drexel University, Creese Student Activities Center, **Saturday, February 7, 8:00 A.M.**

### PENJERDEL COUNCIL LUNCHEON -

Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel, 17th and Race Streets, **Tuesday, February 24, Reception 11:30 A.M., Lunch 12:00 noon.**

### ENGINEERS' CLUB LUNCHEON -

1317 Spruce Street, **Wednesday, February 25, Reception 11:30 A.M., Lunch 12:00 noon.** Featuring Remarks by **Dr. Woodring**.

## ENGINEERS WEEK

(continued)

### SECOND ANNUAL DELAWARE VALLEY ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE -

The Valley Forge Convention & Exhibition Center (Next to The Sheraton), King of Prussia, PA **February 26-28**

### ENGINEERS WEEK BANQUET -

Creese Student Activities Center, Drexel University, **Saturday, February 28, Reception 6:00 P.M., Dinner 7:00 P.M.**, Featuring Presentations of Committee Awards, 1987 Engineer of the Year Citation, and an address by **Dr. Richard E. Woodring**, 1987 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year.

### SPECIAL EVENTS -

Universities of the Delaware Valley are planning a variety of special events highlighting engineering opportunities and achievements. Programs and schedules will be provided by the host school.

The theme of the 1987 Engineers Week in the Delaware Valley is: **"Engineers: Turning Ideas Into Reality."** Brochures containing full details of the programs, reservation forms, etc. are available at the Engineers' Club and will also be available at the **February 10, 1987** Philadelphia Section ASCE Meeting.

## PICPA CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SEMINAR

The Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) Foundation for Education and Research is conducting its *Sixth Annual Construction Industry Seminar* on **February 12, 1987** at the Sheraton Hotel, Valley Forge; and **February 19, 1987**, at the Marriott in Greentree, to analyze the components of a successful construction operation. Falling interest rates and dramatic changes in the tax laws will have a drastic impact on the construction industry.

The theme of the seminar is: **"Building For the Future."** Individuals who are responsible for the financial operations of construction companies are urged to attend. Speakers will discuss basic management principles, and will focus on those areas unique to contractors, including: Computer System Selection; Double Breasted Accounting; Taxes; Building Credit; Claims Management and Claims Documentation.

A registration fee of \$100.00 includes all course materials, coffee breaks and luncheon. For full details and registration information, call **(215) 735-2635**. Registration at the Seminar takes place at 7:45 - 8:15 A.M.

## NOTA BENE

If you find any errors in THE NEWS - typographical, grammatical or otherwise, be assured that they were put there deliberately. We aim to please everybody - even those individuals who are always looking for mistakes!