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MAY 2002

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## ASCE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY – PLANNING THE CELEBRATION

By Craig F. Butler, P.E.

Here's the latest news on our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities in the Syracuse Section!

- ***Chittenango High School Team Qualifies for National Final Round of the West Point Bicentennial Engineering Design Contest!*** - The national semi-final round of the ASCE-sponsored West Point Bicentennial Engineering Design Contest was held on March 16, and two teams from Chittenango High School were among the top qualifiers from Zone I (includes all states from Maine to Maryland, along with Puerto Rico)! The student team members are Mark Kasdorf and Nathan Durfee (also known as "The Assembly" team), and Team "Do It Now", consisting of team members Walt Owens and Bill Burns. The students' teacher/mentor is Chittenango physics teacher Beth Carpenter.
- Stearns & Wheler Engineers in Cazenovia served as the host site for the Chittenango student teams during the semi-final competition. During the semi-final round, the teams downloaded a new design challenge, and then had three hours to develop and submit a completed design. A contingent of supporters was on hand to observe the students in action, including Syracuse Section President Chuck Stanton, Stearns & Wheler President Jerry Hook, West Point representative Lt. Colonel Nancy Stevens, Syracuse Post Standard reporter Aaron Gibson, Stearns & Wheler staff members, and yours truly. Of course, teacher Beth Carpenter was there to monitor the student teams, and the students' proud parents were also on hand.
- It was obvious from the start that the students were very experienced and proficient in using the design program. Once the competition started, it seemed like just a matter of minutes before both teams had developed their own workable bridge designs, to allow themselves as much time as possible to "optimize" the most economical design configurations. Their speed and efficiency was so impressive that Brad Smith, Stearns & Wheler Associate (and long time ASCE Syracuse Section Board member) remarked "They can work on my projects any time!" At the end of the competition, both teams had submitted their best designs and then awaited the results from West Point. When the results were posted, The Assembly team of Mark Kasdorf and Nate Durfee learned that they had qualified to compete in the national finals at West Point on the weekend of April 26th!! Based on their success to date, The Assembly team will be a strong contender for the contest top prize of a \$15,000 college scholarship and notebook computer (for each team member). Congratulations to these exceptional students and best of luck to you during the final round of competition! We will certainly keep everyone updated on the contest results, and you can check it out yourself by visiting the contest web site at <http://bridgecontest.usma.edu/results.htm>.
- The next "big event" for our Section's sesquicentennial celebration was the hosting of the regional ASCE Student Chapter concrete canoe and steel bridge competitions at Syracuse University on April 12 and 13. More information on that event will be presented in the next issue of the Technologist.

- Jim Tyler, coordinator of the “sesquicentennial (thank goodness for spell check) Skychiefs game/picnic” event, announced that this will be held on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The Skychiefs will do battle against the Norfolk Tides (N.Y. Mets AAA affiliate) with the game starting at 7:00 PM. The family picnic will take place in the P&C Stadium picnic area prior to the game. This is sure to be a good time for all attendees!
- Tom Horth, committee chairman for the Section “sesquicentennial classic golf tournament”, has indicated that the event will take place this September at the beautiful Green Lakes State Park golf course. The date has been set for September 21<sup>st</sup> (no conflict with S.U. football), so mark this down on your calendars and plan to participate this year. More details will follow in the next two months.
- Additional plans on the horizon for our Section’s sesquicentennial celebrations include an area “beautification project”, continuation of our regular “Adopt-A-Highway” duties on I-81, and recognition of local civil engineering “historical landmarks”. Stay tuned for further details on these events.

Now that 2002 has arrived, we have an exceptional opportunity to take advantage of the special events associated with the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Society. Don’t let the year go by without participating in one or more of these activities. We should all be proud of our role as civil engineers, and as ASCE members. As always, please contact me or any other member of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committees, for further information and to **GET INVOLVED** in these noteworthy events.

## **HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

By Jim Tyler

**A Bit Of History- Final** The Solvay Process Company was growing rapidly and a second soda ash plant and coke oven were built in Detroit in 1898. During World War I, the company also operated a plant in Hutchinson, KS, which was acquired by purchase. In 1917, The Solvay Process Company joined with Brunner, Mond & Company, the English associates of the Solvay system, to establish Brunner, Mond Limited of Canada, and a plant was erected at Amherstburg, Ontario, Canada. In 1935, due to demand for alkalies in southern United States, The Solvay Process Company built an additional ammonia-soda plant at Baton Rouge, LA. In addition to soda ash, Solvay produces many co-products, including caustic soda, caustic potash, potassium carbonate, bicarbonate of soda, ammonium chloride, ammonium bicarbonate, nitrite of soda, chlorine and chlorinated products, calcium chloride, modified sodas and detergent compounds. A few of the many important uses for Solvay products are in the manufacture of glass, soap, petroleum products, pulp and paper, paints, plastics, metal refining, explosives, ceramics, leather, textiles, medicines, etc.

This series of articles was taken from the December 1942 issue of SOLVAY SAFETY NEWS. The Solvay plant continued to prosper after World War II, closed and was modernized and expanded in the late '40s and early '50s. The discovery on minable deposits of trona, a mineral that could be refined to make soda ash without chemical reactions, led to the closure of all the plants operated and licensed by Allied Corp, a successor to The Solvay Process Company. The last soda ash was manufactured in Solvay in February 1986.

## **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY**

The first patrol of 2002 will be on Saturday May 4 at 9 AM. We meet in the gravel parking lot behind McDonalds on Route 20 in Lafayette for safety orientation and equipment disbursement. Wear appropriate clothing including long sleeve shirts and waterproof boots. We supply gloves, hard hats, safety vests, water, and trash bags. Some bring the hard hats, vests, and gloves that they use in their work. Many hands make for a quick patrol. Let's have a good turnout. Looking forward, we will do it all again on June 22 and August 24. Should the scheduled day be a washout, we will try for 2 PM the following day.

What happened to our sesquicentennial signs? I wondered the same thing as I returned from the south in late March. The DOT engineer that oversees the Adopt-A-Highway program told me that a FHWA traffic engineer spotted the signs and felt they were not appropriate and requested their removal. President Chuck Stanton will be securing the signs. If you have a suggestion on how they can be put to use, please contact Chuck or any Board Member.

## ITHACA/SYRACUSE ASCE JOINT DINNER MEETING

- Location:** Holiday Inn, Cortland - NY Exit 11 off I-81
- Date:** May 23, 2002
- Time:** Cash Bar 5:30 PM  
Dinner 6:30 PM  
Presentation 7:30 PM
- Price:** \$20.00 per member or guest, students \$10.00
- Reservations:** By May 20, 2002 at 4:00 pm  
Dinner Choices TBD, please ask when making your reservation.  
Beth Ann Smith, P.E., Stearns & Wheeler at (315) 655-8161

### PRESENTATION BY MOUSTAFA GOUDA, P.E. ASCE DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR

1. What is new at National ASCE?
2. Geotechnical Aspects of Construction on Existing Landfills.

As virgin and easy to develop sites become scarce and difficult to locate, existing sanitary landfills present a golden opportunity for owners and developers to convert wasteland into beneficial and ratable projects.

Development on existing sanitary landfills present three major challenges to the Civil Engineer. The first challenge is how to address the site development and geotechnical issues. The second challenge is how to protect the building against the danger of landfill gases including methane gas. The third challenge is how to obtain the necessary NJDEP permits. Mr. Gouda will address these issues and will talk about his experience in the field of Landfill reutilization projects. These projects include regional malls, baseball stadium, and golf courses to name a few.

#### About the Speaker:

Mr. Moustafa A. Gouda, P.E., F. ASCE is a Senior Vice President with Schoor DePalma of Manalapan, NJ. Mr. Gouda has over 38 years experience in the field of geotechnical engineering and Landfill Redevelopment Projects. Mr. Gouda holds a B.Sc. degree and two MS degrees in Civil Engineering. He has been practicing geotechnical engineering in the USA for over three decades. Some of his notable projects, which were developed on landfills, are Jersey gardens, Ikea mall Elizabeth, NJ, Newark State Prison, and Angelsea Landfill in North Wild Wood.

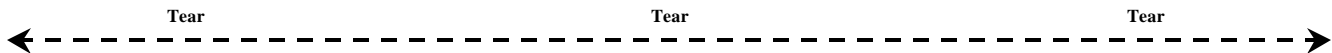
Mr. Gouda is the current District 1 Director, he previously served as the president of both the Philadelphia section and the New Jersey section. The South Jersey ASCE Branch named Mr. Gouda distinguished Engineer in 1999. The Central Jersey ASCE Branch named Mr. Gouda Outstanding Civil Engineer in 1997. The Philadelphia section ASCE named Mr. Gouda Civil Engineer of the year 1987.

**ASCE Syracuse Section  
2001 – 2002 Program Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Information</b>
<i>First Tuesday of Each Month</i>	<i>ASCE Syracuse Section Board Meetings</i>	<i>C&amp;S Engineers Building</i>	<i>5:15PM; Food/Beverages Provided</i>
May 3, 2002	Continued Education Course	Holiday Inn, Liverpool	See Notification for details
May 4, 2002	Adopt-A-Highway	I81 north of Lafayette Exit	Meet at 9:00AM in McDonald's parking lot
May 23, 2002	Ithaca/Syracuse ASCE Joint Dinner Meeting	Cortland Holiday Inn	5:30 Cocktail Hour 6:30 Dinner 7:30 Presentation
June 7, 2002	Syracuse SkyChiefs Game/Picnic	P & C Stadium	7:00PM game time. Food and drinks within the rightfield picnic area during a SkyChiefs vs. Norfolk Tides Game
June 22, 2002	Adopt-A-Highway	I81 north of Lafayette Exit	Meet at 9:00AM in McDonald's parking lot
August 24, 2002	Adopt-A-Highway	I81 north of Lafayette Exit	Meet at 9:00AM in McDonald's parking lot
September 21, 2002	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual ASCE Golf Tournament	Green Lakes Golf Course	TBD

**SESQUICENTENNIAL PICNIC**

Let's have a big turn out for this event a P & C Stadium on June 7. The picnic will take place in the picnic area beyond the right field fence. It will start at 6 PM and continue for 75 minutes. At 7 PM the Skychiefs take on the Norfolk Tides. This is an opportunity for Mets fans to cheer on their AAA Affiliate. The package price includes the picnic and a reserved seat for the game. The menu will be: 1/4 BBQ chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, nachos, tossed salad, cole slaw, dessert and soda. Draft beer will be available for purchase in the picnic area. Adults: \$17.00 & Children 12 and under: \$10.00. RSVP to Jim Tyler by June 4, 2002. Preferably this is a pay in advance event. You may make a verbal or e-mail reservation and pay at the gate knowing that if you do not show you are responsible to pay as once we commit to a number of attendees, we have to pay for that number. Please send RSVPs to: Jim Tyler3949 Derby Drive Syracuse, NY13215-1003 tel: 315-468-3798 Email: jhtyler@juno.com Since tickets are picked up the day before the picnic, it is impossible to get them in your hands in a timely fashion. So, as in the past, I will be at the picnic entrance gate at 6 PM with tickets in hand.



**ASCE BALLOT**

**Mail, fax, or email ballots to:**

Chuck Stanton  
1099 Airport Boulevard  
N. Syracuse, NY 13212

Tel: 315-455-2000  
Fax: 315-455-9667  
Email: Cfstanton@cscos.com

**Ballots must be received by May 17, 2002.**

Write-ins are welcome

**President Elect:**

- Tom Trytek
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President:**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Directors (3):**

- Jeffrey Till
- Thomas Horth
- Joseph Way
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Your participation in electing a new board is important, please take the time to fill out the ballot.