



*Edward C. Barrett*

# THE MONTH AT CALTECH

## Ned Barrett, 1880-1952

**E**DWARD C. BARRETT, Secretary of the Board of Trustees and Comptroller of the Institute, died of a heart ailment at the Huntington Memorial Hospital on February 23. He was 71 years old.

Ned Barrett had been associated with Caltech—and with Throop Polytechnic Institute and Throop College of Technology before it—for 41 years, one of the longest periods of service among the Institute staff.

Born on March 20, 1880, in Springfield, Massachusetts, he moved with his family at the age of nine to Burlington, Iowa, when his father became Secretary of the YMCA there.

He studied law at the University of Iowa, where he received the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1906. From 1906 to 1911 he was Registrar and Secretary to the President of the University. He married a former classmate, Mary Parsons West of Sioux City, Iowa, on June 19, 1907.

Mr. Barrett came to Throop Polytechnic as Secretary of the Board of Trustees and Business Agent in February, 1911, during the presidency of Dr. James A. B. Scherer. He was appointed Assistant Treasurer of the Board in 1912 and a lecturer in business law in 1914, serving the school in that capacity for seven years.

He was Secretary of the Executive Council during its entire existence from 1921 to 1945 as the administrative body of Caltech under the chairmanship of Dr. Robert A. Millikan. He was also Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer of the California Institute Associates, organized in 1925. In 1934 he was named Comptroller of the Institute.

He was a member of the All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, which he had served as a vestryman. His other affiliations included membership in the Twilight Club, of which he was President in 1936-37.

Survivors include his wife, Mary, and three sons: George West Barrett, Rector of the St. James Episcopal Church in Los Angeles; Edward Newell Barrett, attorney, of Pasadena; and Donald Parsons Barrett, attorney, of Oakland, California.

Among those who paid tribute to Mr. Barrett for his long and faithful service to the Institute was James R. Page, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. "His loyalty and devotion to the Institute," said Mr. Page, "and his meticulous care of all affairs entrusted to him made him of inestimable value to the Board. He was an ideal Comptroller and a greatly respected friend."

Caltech President Lee A. DuBridge said: "Mere words are wholly inadequate to pay proper tribute to Edward C. Barrett for his four decades of wise, kindly and loyal service to the Institute. From his arrival in 1911 to the present time he carried major responsibilities for the business and financial affairs of the Institute and for many years he was its only full-time business officer. His personal knowledge of all aspects of the Institute's history and affairs was unsurpassed. But Ned Barrett was more than just a corporate officer; he was the beloved personal friend of most of the members of the faculty and administration. He and Mrs. Barrett made a special effort to befriend new faculty members and their home was the frequent gathering place for an ever growing group of new and old friends."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Said Dr. Millikan, Professor of Physics, Emeritus, and Vice President of the Board of Trustees: "It is the lot of very few men to be as deeply mourned as Ned Barrett will be. He was a very much beloved man, friendly, capable and of unimpeachable integrity. His great interest in the Institute, his love of his work, his excellent memory and grasp of detail, his sure hand in financial matters, and his helpfulness, justice, and understanding in all his relations with his colleagues made him a most valuable member of the staff. His death will be felt keenly not only by the whole Institute family but also by his host of friends in the community."

Dr. William B. Munro, Professor of History and Government, Emeritus, and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, said: "He was a grand person and one of the best-liked men on the campus even though in his difficult position as Comptroller he usually had to say no to people who came to him for concessions in their financial appropriations. We all admired him for his patience, good humor and kindly cooperation. He was the good friend of many and we will miss him."

### Religion and Science

**D**R. ARTHUR H. COMPTON, Chancellor of Washington University in St. Louis, Nobel prizewinner and internationally-known physicist, spoke on "Religion and Science Shaping Man's Future" at a public meeting in Pasadena on February 18. The meeting was arranged by the Religion in Education Foundation of Los Angeles, and was sponsored by Caltech and Pasadena City College, in cooperation with Pomona, Occidental and Whittier Colleges and the University of Redlands.

"The world's most important chain reaction will occur when men catch a spirit of world brotherhood," Dr. Compton said. "We are on the threshold of such a reaction that will make the world truly free."

"In an atomic reaction there are some atoms that capture neutrons and won't let them go, thus poisoning and slowing down the entire reaction. Just so, in human relations, those individuals who only receive, and never give, poison the brotherhood of man."

"We have now entered the second half of the twentieth century. If I am not mistaken, the first half of this century will be remembered in the long view of history as epochal in the effect that the advance of science has had on man's view of himself. We have come to understand at long last our place in space and time. We have learned that we are an integral part of the great cosmic event which we call nature, but with certain distinctive characteristics: We are aware of our world, we are able within expanding limits to shape the world to our needs, and reaffirming that we are indeed our brothers' keepers, we find in this fact real meaning for the life of which we are a part."

"The social forces that science and industry are bringing into being are working directly for giving new life to the American dream ('not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely,' said the late historian James Truslow Adams, 'but a dream of a social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized for what they are regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth and position')."

"Thus as the counterpart to specialization there is increased stimulus toward working for each other's welfare. With our greater interdependence we feel an increasing need for humane goals on which we will unite. Our world demands of us more education, not only in techniques and skills but also in human understanding. Travel becomes easier and more widespread. Ideas are more readily interchanged. There thus arises better acquaintance with our neighbors. Our own best development we see arising from our endeavor to bring into being the world of our dream."

"Science offers us the means whereby the dream can be realized . . . The thrilling discovery of the twentieth century is that man may reasonably hope to free himself very largely and permanently from the curses of poverty and disease as causes of premature death. Instead he may reasonably hope for continued improvement of his lot, not only as to his physical needs, but also as to his human understanding."

"Such advances will not come, however, as the automatic result of advancing science. High aspiration, guided by appreciation of the worth of one's fellows, is necessary if the powers of science are to meet the human needs that we see ahead. Because the desire to enable our fellows to live is so clearly demanded as a condition for survival in a society based on science, one has confidence that the spirit which has been effective toward making possible our recent advances will itself continue to grow."

### National Science Foundation Grants

**T**HE INSTITUTE last month received \$54,900 in grants from the National Science Foundation for research in biology. This was the largest sum given any California institution. Nationally, the Foundation made a total of 28 grants, amounting to \$410,000.

Dr. Frits W. Went, Professor of Plant Physiology, received a three-year grant of \$21,700 for studies of differences among races and varieties of higher plants.

Dr. James F. Bonner, Professor of Biology, received a two-year grant of \$17,700 for studies of photoperiodism and vernalization, and a one-year grant of \$10,500 for work on the biochemistry of plant growth.

Dr. Arthur W. Galston, Associate Professor of Biol-

ogy, received a one-year grant of \$5,000 for studies of auxin physiology.

## Harrington Wilson Comet

**D**R. ALBERT G. WILSON and Robert G. Harrington, of the Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories, discovered a new comet on January 30. They've named it the Harrington Wilson Comet.

The comet is invisible to the naked eye, and was recorded on a photographic plate with the 48-inch Schmidt telescope. It's the first new comet to be found this year, and the fifth to have been discovered during the past two years by astronomers working on the National Geographic-Palomar Observatory Sky Survey. It's located in the constellation of Virgo (the Virgin) and is moving toward the constellation of Coma Berenices (Berenice's Hair).

## Civilization Against the Sea

**E**NGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS specializing in water supply problems and atmospheric phenomena met at Caltech on February 8 and 9 for a Pacific Southwest regional meeting of the Hydrology and Meteorology Sections of the American Geophysical Union.

Of the 27 papers presented—dealing with water supply and its utilization, winds, rain, the upper atmosphere and related subjects—the most interesting was probably "Civilization Against the Sea." Prepared jointly by Harvey O. Banks and Raymond G. Richter of the California State Division of Water Resources, the paper revealed that California is confronted with a constant battle with the sea to keep salt water from intruding into ground water basins bordering the coast and inland bays.

Several methods of control have been suggested to stop the encroaching sea: (1) Raising ground water levels to or above sea level by reducing or rearranging the pumping pattern; (2) Maintaining a fresh water pressure ridge above sea level along the coast; (3) Building artificial subsurface dikes along the coast and inland bays.

The California State Legislature during its 1951 session appropriated \$750,000 to the State Water Resources Board for an experimental program to discover the best control methods.

In another paper, "Water Quality Problems in California," Harvey O. Banks and Jack H. Lawrence of the State Water Resources Board reported that the Board is currently conducting a state-wide investigation of water pollution, which has been on the rise ever since California's phenomenal wartime industrial development and population increase.

## Tau Beta Pi

**F**OURTEEN CALTECH students were initiated into the campus chapter of Tau Beta Pi, national honorary engineering fraternity, last month.

The initiates included Wilbur J. Barmore, Manuel J. Crespo, Robert S. Deverill, Alan M. Haire, Rolf C. Hasturup, Clinton Lew, J. Crawford Noll, Hajimu Ogawa, William J. Rihn, Sheldon Rubin, Howard A. Shugart, Augusto L. Soux, Edwin J. Stofel, and Perry H. Vartanian.

Tau Beta Pi members are selected from the upper fifth of the senior class and the upper eighth of the junior class on the basis of undergraduate scholastic performance in scientific and engineering pursuits, as well as high qualities of character and participation in extra-curricular activities.

The Caltech chapter, one of 88 in the United States, was founded in 1921.

# THE BEAVER

## Some Notes on Student Life

**T**HE ASCIT ELECTIONS this year were unusual. In each election for at least the last four years, only two men ran for president; this year there were three. This year's student body elections were further distinguished in that only one man was nominated for the important office of vice-president.

For almost a whole week members of the student houses and Throop Club looked up from their dinners and heard the time-worn speech:

My name is....., and I'm running for the office of..... I feel that I am well qualified for this

office. In high school I was..... and here at Tech I have..... Now the duties of the office of..... are..... I have the experience, the interest, and the enthusiasm to serve YOU, the students, as a responsible.....

The triteness of the campaign speeches was not to be found in the campaign posters adorning the Olive Walk. A revolving sign encouraged voters to consider La-Tourette and Fazio, and a sign one foot high and a half block long admonished, DON'T GO INCHES, GO

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30