Anmial Banquet

A TOTAL OF 220 ALUMNI met at the Los Angeles Athletic Club for the annual Alumni Banquet on Wednesday evening, June 4. The featured speaker of the evening was Milton Katz, Associate Director of the Ford Foundation. His talk on “The Question of Peace” appears in full on page 9 of this issue.

President DuBridge reported to the alumni on events of the past year at the Institute, and Alumni President Robert P. Sharp delivered a short year-end report on the Association’s activities—promising a full written report in the first fall issue of E&S. A highlight of the Sharp report was the news that the Alumni Fund had its biggest year in 1951-52. It now stands at just over $116,000. Plans have been drawn up for a swimming pool, and a permit to start construction on the campus has been applied for from the Federal government. As soon as this comes through—and it is expected sometime this summer—construction of the first unit of the Alumni Fund gymnasium project will get underway.


Reunion classes this year included 1902, 1907, 1917, 1922, 1927, 1932, 1937, 1942 and 1947. Reports from some of these are presented below.

At the annual Alumni Banquet, held in Los Angeles on June 4, John Sherborne ’34 takes over from Bob Sharp ’34 as President of the Alumni Association for 1952-53.

Neither of the two living members of the Class of 1902 were able to show up for this year’s 50th reunion. Distance kept Kirk Dyer away; he lives in Cromwell, Connecticut. And illness prevented James Gaylord from attending. He’s retired chief electrical engineer for the Metropolitan Water District, living in San Marino.

Oldest-timer at the dinner was Irving C. Harris ’00, of Temple City.

The class of 1917 had a 44 percent representation at this year’s Alumni Banquet. Apparently retirement tends to increase the number of graduates in the class who plan to reside in southern California. Of the nine living members, six are already in this area. Four of these—Kemp, Kensey, Searl and Youtz—were present at the Alumni Banquet. Fred Poole sent his regrets because of the very considerable distance between his home in Ventura County and the Los Angeles Athletic Club. Roy Richards of Phoenix, Arizona, disappointed us all by not being heard from this year.

—Paul Youtz

We hoped to have 30 at the 30th reunion, but didn’t quite make it. However, 25 of the class of ’22 were there, which is about 40 percent of our surviving members. A good time was had by all, and we were particularly pleased to have Dean Franklin Thomas join us at our table.

The only representative from outside California was W. F. (Shorty) Wilson, from Houston. He brought along some real Texas hospitality, for on the day after the banquet he was host at a cocktail party at the Athletic Club.

Much-appreciated messages were received from several who could not attend—including Ed Groat in Chicago, and Harold Ogden in Erie, Pennsylvania. There was also a cable from Howard Vesper, sent from Paris, and explaining that he and Ruth are taking in the sights of Europe. Ray Preston phoned his regrets to Linne Larson from Portland, Oregon, where he has a flourishing practice as an electrical engineer.

In checking on the activities of those present, it was learned that Don Darnell is now Chairman of the Board of the Fluor Corporation, and Gerald Spencer is Superintendent at the Fricot Ranch School for Boys of the California State Youth Authority, at San Andreas.

—Al Knight

Our 25th reunion was considered sufficiently important to merit a dual celebration. There were 29 members of the class present at our special reunion held on the night of June 3, and 20 were present at the class table at the Alumni Banquet the following night—which speaks very well for our recuperative powers.

Jim Boyd travelled from New York to act as our reunion chairman. Ralph Watson came all the way from his home in New Jersey. Dave Gardner made it
from Winslow, Arizona; four came south from the San Francisco area for the occasion, and the rest could be classed as local boys. Altogether, 38 percent of the living members of the class made their appearance.

This year is doubly significant to the Class of '27, for in addition to being our 25th reunion year it marks the maturity of the Class of '27 Gift Fund, which has been slowly but surely accumulating from contributions by the members of the class ever since our graduation. It was with considerable pride and pleasure that we listened to Chairman Boyd present this Fund, presently amounting to some $4,800, to Dr. DuBridge, for the establishment of an undergraduate scholarship.

—Rolland A. Philleeo

1932

For the depression class, we had a very good showing at the annual meeting. Of the 95 living recipients of the 96 B.S. degrees awarded in '32, 25 were present at the meeting, or 26 percent.

—Howard W. Finney

1937

There were 17 men from the Class of '37 present at the 15th reunion, representing about 30 percent of those in the southern California area. Of those on hand, the average families included two children—with girls predominating two to one. Occupational fields represented included engineering, education, insurance, psychiatry and law.

Messages were received from George Dorwart of Bakersfield, Tom Harper of New York, Walter Moore from Texas, Martin Webster and Bruce Lockwood from Los Angeles and Glendale.

—Paul Schaffner

1947

A gang of 15 only slightly aged members represented the class of '47 at its first reunion. Those present in the flesh were: Bearson, Eimer, Felberg, Hawthorne, Linam, Mason, Richeson, Reidel, Rosner, Scull, Van Dierling, Vieweg. Notes were received from Caldwell, Nevis, and Shipway.

—Fred Eimer

Family Picnic

The Annual Alumni Association Family Picnic will be held at Mount Wilson on Sunday, June 29. There will be special guided tours of the TV stations there, starting at 1 p.m., and the Mount Wilson Observatory will be open for general inspection.

Families can either bring their own picnic lunch or buy sandwiches or dinner at The Mount Wilson Hotel dining room. Reservations for the affair are $1.75 per family—no matter what size. This includes the tours, the beer, soda pop and coffee which will be served throughout the day, and the entrance and parking fees.

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