Dean of the Faculty

William N. Lacey, professor of chemical engineering, has been named dean of the faculty at Caltech. He succeeds George W. Beadle, who recently accepted the chancellorship of the University of Chicago.

Dr. Lacey served as dean of graduate studies at Caltech from 1946 to 1956 and has been a member of the faculty for 45 years. He came to Caltech as an instructor in chemistry in 1916. A graduate of Stanford (1911), he received the degree of chemical engineer there in 1912. He served as an assistant in chemistry at the University of California from 1912 to 1915, when he received his PhD. He then worked for a year as a research chemist for the Giant Powder Works in San Francisco and went on to be a research associate at MIT before joining the Caltech faculty.

For many years, Dr. Lacey, with Bruce H. Sage, professor of chemical engineering, headed a hydrocarbon research program at the Institute called Project 37. In 1953 he and Dr. Sage received Certificates of Appreciation from the American Petroleum Institute for their work on the project. The award noted that “the work carried out at the Institute has been of untold value to refiners and others because it enabled them to predict accurately how hydrocarbon mixtures would react under given circumstances” and “to save tens of millions of barrels of high-grade distillate which otherwise might have been lost forever.”

In 1946 Dr. Lacey received the Hanlon Award of the National Gas Association of America “for meritorious service to the natural gas industry.” In 1947 he was given the Anthony F. Lucas Gold Medal of the American Institute of Metallurgical Engineers.

During the first world war Dr. Lacey served as first lieutenant in the Ordnance Department Reserve, and saw active duty from 1917 to 1919 at the Rock Island Arsenal, in Illinois, where he was assigned to a plant for loading artillery shells and fuses.

In World War II he served with the National Defense Research Council as a supervisor of research and development of artillery rocket ammunition at Caltech, and, in 1948, he received a Presidential Certificate of Merit for this work.

Dr. Lacey has been a consultant on many government and industrial research products, and is the author or co-author of 6 textbooks and nearly 150 scientific papers. He is a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and the American Society for Engineering Education. Since June 1960 he has been a member of the California State Board of Registration for Civil and Professional Engineers.

Honors and Awards

Frank Press, director of Caltech’s Seismological Laboratory, has been appointed to a four-year term on President John F. Kennedy’s science advisory committee. Dr. Press has served on California Governor Brown’s scientific advisory committee on atomic energy, and on the national level as a consultant to the Departments of State, Defense, and Navy.

Dr. Press received another high honor this month when the U.S. National Committee for the International Geophysical Year designated a mountain in West Antarctica as Mount Press. Caltech operates a seismographic station at Wilkes Coast in Antarctica, under the direction of Dr. Press.

Clarence R. Allen, associate professor of geology, has received the first Grove Karl Gilbert Award of $9,000 to continue his studies of fault scarps that are caused by earth movements around the Pacific Basin. The award is made possible by the Harry Oscar Wood Fund, which is administered by the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Harry Wood was in charge of the Seismological Laboratory, a joint enterprise of Caltech and the Carnegie Institution, until it was formally turned over to Caltech in 1935.

Arthur A. Klein, professor of aeronautics at Caltech, has been elected a director of the Society of Automotive Engineers. Dr. Klein, who has been active in the organizational affairs of SAE, received a plaque last year honoring him for his many contributions. He received his BS from Caltech in 1921, his MS in 1924, and his PhD in 1925.

New Caltech Trustees

Three new members were elected to Caltech’s board of trustees this month: Robert S. Ingersoll, president and chief executive officer of the Borg-Warner Corporation.
The three members were elected under a new policy adopted by the board to broaden the geographic base of its membership by the inclusion of a group of national trustees.

Robert S. Ingersoll has held managerial positions in several of Borg-Warner’s divisions since he joined the company in 1939. He was named administrative vice president of the parent company in 1953. In 1956 he became president and in 1958, chief executive officer.

He is a director of the First National Bank of Chicago, the Container Corporation, the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry, and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. He is also vice president of the National Defense Transportation Association.

Mr. Ingersoll was born in 1914 in Galesburg, Ill., and is the son of Roy C. Ingersoll, chairman of the Borg-Warner Corporation. He was educated at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., and Yale University.

Frank Pace, Jr., joined the General Dynamics Corporation in 1952 as executive vice president. He became president in 1957, and board chairman in 1959.

He began his career in 1936 as an assistant district attorney in his native Arkansas. During World War II he served for four years with the Air Transport Command of the Army Air Corps, and after the war spent eight more years in government service as a civilian. He served as special assistant to the Attorney General, executive assistant to the Postmaster General, and assistant director of the Bureau of the Budget. In 1949 he was appointed director of the Bureau of the Budget, and in 1950 he was made Secretary of the Army. He was then only 38.

Mr. Pace is a director of many companies, among them the American Fidelity Life Insurance Company, Carriers & General Corporation, the Colgate-Palmolive Company and the Continental Oil Company. He is also a trustee of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

He was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1912, and attended the Hill School in Pottstown, Pa., and Princeton University.

Thomas J. Watson, Jr., has been with IBM since 1937, except for five years, from 1940 to 1945, when he served as a bomber pilot in the Army Air Corps. He was elected president of IBM in 1952, and chief executive officer in 1956.

Mr. Watson is a director of the Bankers Trust Company of New York, and of Time, Inc., and is one of the public governors of the New York Stock Exchange.

He is also a member of the corporation of Brown University in Providence, R.I., where he received his BA in 1937, and of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a trustee of the Air Force Aid Society, the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships, Inc., the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation, and the American Museum of Natural History.

Engineering and Science