The Month at Caltech

Steele Laboratories

A greatly expanded program of teaching and research in the electrical sciences at Caltech has been made possible by a gift from the Harry G. Steele Foundation of Pasadena which will finance most of the construction of a building to be devoted to the study of electrical phenomena. It will be named the Harry G. Steele Laboratories of Electrical Science, in honor of the late president of U.S. Electrical Motors, Inc.

The new building will be located on Chester Avenue just north of San Pasqual Street and adjacent to the Willis H. Booth Computing Center. It will have three stories above ground and two below, with a total floor space of 55,000 square feet. Together, these buildings quadruple the space heretofore available at Caltech for work in electrical engineering and related fields.

The cost of the new Steele Laboratories is estimated at $1,978,900, of which the Steele Foundation has given $1,136,900 and the National Science Foundation $842,000.

Harry G. Steele, who died in 1942, was a prominent figure in the cultural activities of Los Angeles and Pasadena and was keenly interested in Caltech's progress. He was a member of the Southern California Symphony Association, and was active in the affairs of the Los Angeles County Art Museum, the Southwest Museum, the Pasadena Art Museum, and the Pasadena Playhouse.

The Steele Laboratories will provide facilities for intensified work in two broad areas of the electrical sciences — physical research and systems research.

Physical research embraces solid state physics, plasma physics, and lasers — further developments in which could lead to new devices for energy conversion, power generation, and communication.

Systems research deals with the transmission and detection of signals, automatic control of devices or vehicles, and computers. Such studies have already revealed analogies between electronics and the mechanisms of the human brain and nervous system.

Arthur Amos Noyes Professor

George S. Hammond, professor of organic chemistry at Caltech since 1956, has now been appointed Arthur Amos Noyes Professor of Chemistry. The chair is named for the distinguished chemist who was one of the founders of Caltech and who at one time served as acting president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Hammond, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, is considered to be one of the world's leading investigators in physical organic chemistry. He is especially interested in the chemical changes that occur in some molecules as the result of energy being transferred to them by other molecules that have absorbed energy from light. His earlier work produced new insight into the action of oxidation inhibitors. At present, Dr. Hammond is active in the field of photochemistry, which he considers an enormously important means of harvesting, transferring, and storing energy, as well as a selective method of producing chemical transformations.

New Appointments

H. Frederic Bohnenblust, professor of mathematics and dean of graduate studies; and Jesse L. Greenstein, professor of astrophysics and staff member of the Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories, have been named as executive officers of the division of physics, mathematics and astronomy. They will help share administrative responsibilities of the division with its chairman, Carl D. Anderson. Professors Bohnenblust and Greenstein have been assisting Dr. Anderson for some time with administrative problems in the large and complex division, and the appointments formally recognize these efforts.

Harold Lurie, associate professor of engineering science, has been appointed assistant dean of graduate studies to help Dr. Bohnenblust. The work load of the graduate office has grown steadily along with the increasing number of graduate students — 687 this year, compared with 555 five

years ago. The number of graduate students at the Institute now nearly equals the number of undergraduates – 697 in the current year.

Glee Club Spring Tour

The Caltech Glee Club will make its annual spring tour from March 16-20, opening its concert schedule in Evanston, Illinois, and continuing with engagements in Illinois and Wisconsin. This will be the first time the club has given concerts outside the state. The tour is being supported by the faculty, trustees, and student body. To date, concerts are scheduled for:

Monday, March 16	8:00 p.m.	National College of Education, Evanston, Illinois
Tuesday, March 17	8:00 p.m.	Beloit College Chapel Beloit, Wisconsin
Wednesday, March 18	1:00 p.m.	Rosary College River Forest, Illinois
	8:00 p.m.	Mount Morris Methodist Church Mount Morris, Illinois
Thursday, March 19	8:00 p.m.	Lawrenceville Township High School Lawrenceville, Illinois
Friday, March 20	8:00 p.m.	Carbondale Mormon Church Carbondale, Illinois

William N. Lacey Fund

A William N. Lacey Fund has been established at Caltech in honor of Dr. Lacey, professor of chemical engineering, emeritus. Dr. Albert Raymond, BS'21, MS'23, PhD'25, who is vice president and director of research and development at G. D. Searle & Company in Chicago, and a longtime friend of Dr. Lacey, suggested the fund in recognition of Lacey's many contributions to the Institute – and started it off with a generous amount.

The income from the fund will be available to the division of chemistry and chemical engineering for a variety of purposes – an honor award for notable achievement by a student, graduate or undergraduate; a scholarship or fellowship; a series of lectures by a distinguished visiting professor. The fund will be kept flexible to permit the income to be utilized most effectively at any given time.

Dr. Lacey had been a member of the Caltech faculty for 46 years, served as dean of graduate studies from 1946 to 1956, and was named dean of the faculty in 1962.

Dr. Lacey was married on July 15, 1963 to Madeline Hawley McClellan in Minden, Nevada. They now make their home in San Diego.

Honors and Awards

Robert F. Bacher, provost of the Institute, is the new president of the American Physical Society for 1964.

John R. Pierce, director of research in communications principles and systems at the Bell Telephone Laboratories, is one of five scientist-educators to receive the National Medal of Science from President Johnson. Dr. Pierce got his BS (1933), MS (1934) and PhD (1936) from Caltech.

Hallett D. Smith, professor of English and chairman of the division of humanities at Caltech, has been elected president of the board of trustees of the Polytechnic School in Pasadena.

Albert Tyler, professor of embryology at Caltech, has been elected president of the American Society of Naturalists.

Dean E. Wooldridge, research associate at Caltech, has received the $1000 magazine award in the 1963 AAAS-Westinghouse Science Writing Competition for his article in the June 1963 issue of *Harper's Magazine* on "Man's Mysterious Memory Machine."