

ALUMNI NEWS



Frank Jewett
1879-1949

FRANK BALDWIN JEWETT, one of the Institute's most distinguished alumni, and one of the nation's most distinguished electrical engineers, died in Short Hills, New Jersey, on November 18.

Dr. Jewett was one of the three members of the California Institute of Technology Advisory Council—along with Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; and Gano Dunn, president of the J. G. White Engineering Corporation.

Frank Jewett was one of the first male babies born in Pasadena, in 1879, when the city was little more than a cluster of ranches. And he was one of the earliest graduates of Throop Polytechnic, the forerunner of the present California Institute of Technology.

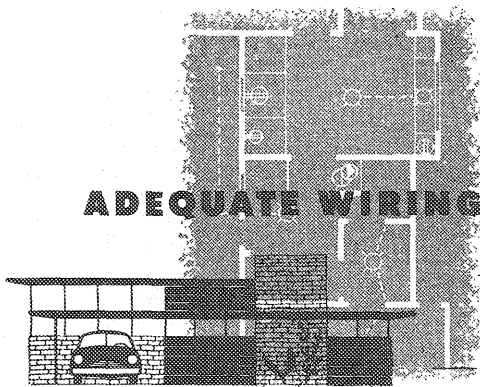
After his graduation in 1898 he studied for his Ph.D. under Dr. R. A. Millikan at the University of Chicago, then joined the faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as instructor in physics and electrical engineering in 1902.

In 1904 Dr. Jewett entered the new field of industrial research, as a member of the engineering staff of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. He rose rapidly to the position of chief engineer and was subsequently (1916) made vice-president in charge of development and research for A.T.&T., as well as vice-president of the Western Electric Company, pioneer developer and manufacturer of telephone equipment.

In 1925 Dr. Jewett became president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, one of the world's foremost research organizations. In this post, which he held until 1940, he directed all major telephone developments of the era—including the introduction of transcontinental and dial telephone systems. From 1940 until his retirement in 1944 Dr. Jewett served as chairman of the board of the Bell Laboratories.

In the first world war Dr. Jewett served as a lieutenant-colonel in the Army Signal Corps, and received the Distinguished Service Medal for his work in communications organization. In World War II he was a member of the National Defense Research Committee, and of President Roosevelt's Science Advisory Board. His work on submarine detection was particularly outstanding.

From 1939 to 1947 Dr. Jewett was president of the National Academy of Sciences—the first engineer elected to that office in the academy's history. He was also a member of the National Research Council, president of the American Institute of Engineers, and a trustee of the Carnegie Institution of Washington—to mention a few of the numerous offices he held at various times. He received honorary degrees from 15 colleges and universities. He was, as Dr. Millikan once said, "probably the most distinguished graduate of the Institute."



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