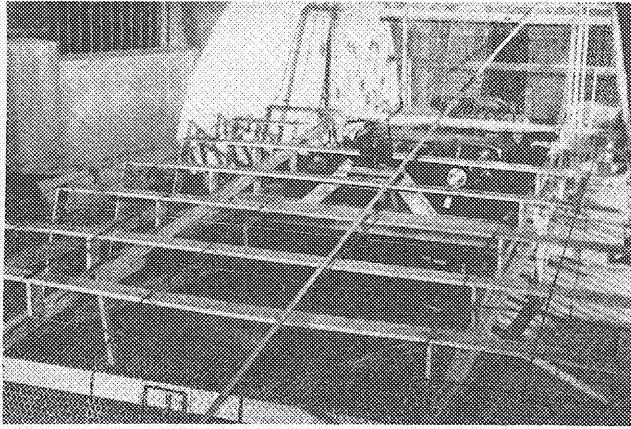
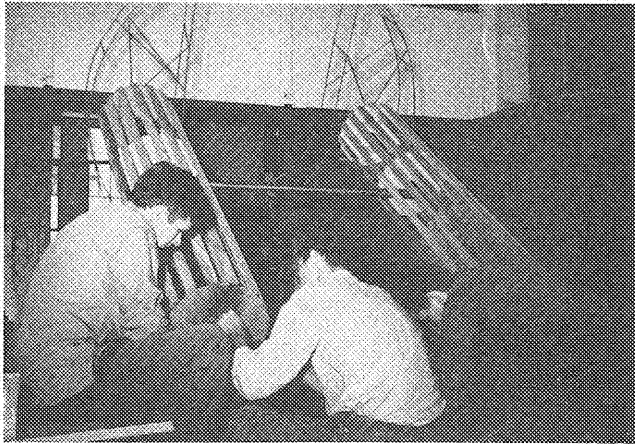


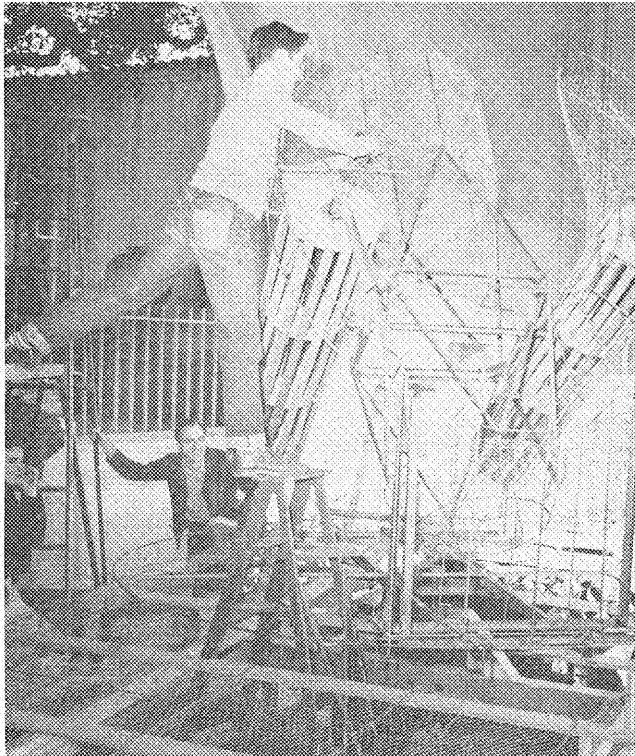
THE MONTH AT CALTECH



After five days work jeep is almost hidden by framework



Meanwhile, construction is underway on telescope section



Telescope section is now ready for mounting on turntable

Palomar on Parade

■ A HANDFUL OF CALTECH STUDENTS got an intensive, but liberal, education during the Christmas vacation by building a float for the 1950 Rose Parade. It was the first time the Institute had entered a float in the 61-year-old Tournament of Roses.

The float was almost entirely student-sponsored and built. More specifically, it was almost entirely the work of nine students—Mike Sellen '50; Robert Cobb, Richard Libbey, Anthony Malanoski, Dallas Peck, Peter Price, Noel Reed, all '51; Henry Clutz '52; and Ronald Wilkens '53.

Though most of the work was feverishly crammed into the period from December 17 to January 2, there had been talk of a Caltech float this year as far back as last October. When the Tournament of Roses committee invited the Institute to enter a float in this year's parade, the students o.k.'d the idea at a meeting last fall. Mike Sellen became general co-ordinator of the project.

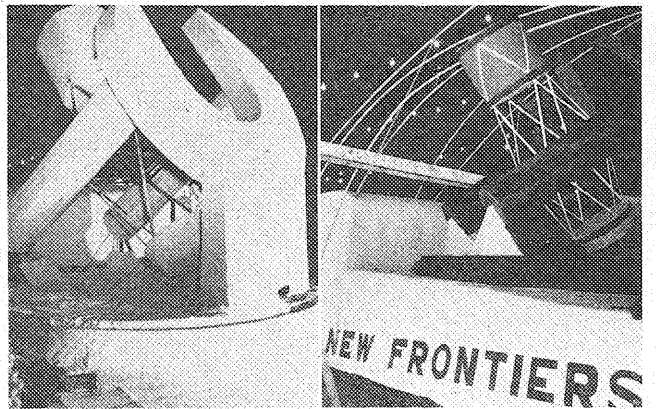
From the beginning Palomar was favored as the subject of the float. Henry Dreyfuss, the industrial designer, who lives in Pasadena, agreed to design the float, and by Thanksgiving he turned out some rough sketches. Then, supplied with a stack of photographs of Palomar, shot from every conceivable angle, he settled down to the final design.

Meanwhile Sellen had shopped for a florist, who agreed to supply all the flowers and materials for putting them on the float—but no labor. And he had arranged for the transportation for the float—a truck, which would back down the whole line of march in the parade. But at this point Sellen paid a call on an old hand in the float game, Roger Tierney, who runs a business known as Floats, Inc.

From this visit, among countless other nuggets of information, came the decision to use a jeep, going frontwards, instead of a truck going backwards, and to cover the float with chrysanthemums, because they cost less. (Hardly anyone, it turns out, uses roses.)

Work got under way on the float as soon as final exams were finished, on Saturday morning, December 17, after most students had gone home for the Christmas holiday. All the men who worked on the float lived too far away from Caltech to go home for the vacation.

The float consisted of a basic wood frame made up



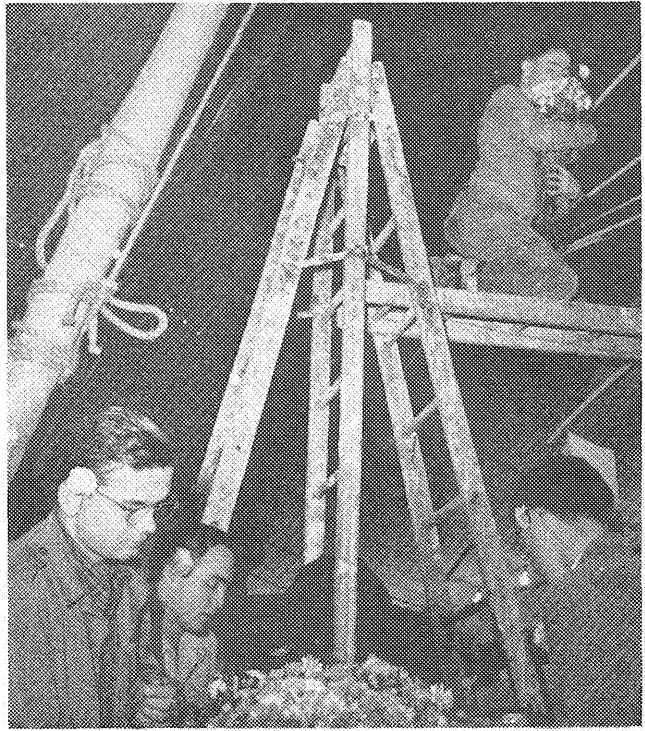
Float is covered with cheesecloth and plaster, then painted

of load-bearing 4 x 4's with 2 x 4's around the skirt, and 1 x 4's to form the outline. Over this a lattice of 1/4-in. steel rod, bent to give a smooth contour, was welded. The telescope itself was under construction inside the Astrophysics Shop while this framework was being built on the jeep in the archway between the Astro and Optics Shops. The 8-ft.-long tube and telescope were then set onto a turntable 9 feet in diameter and chicken wire was tied tightly over the whole surface of the float.

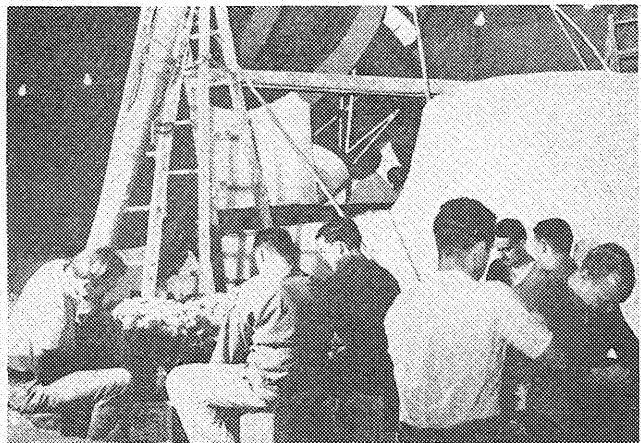
At this point the float moved precariously out onto California Street and headed into a huge circus tent set up on the grounds of the McKinley School at Hudson and Del Mar Streets, where it rendezvoused with several dozen other floats, all ready to be attacked by the florists.

The comet and stars and small 9-in. wood figures of men which further decorated the float were set in position now and the chicken wire was covered over with two layers of cheesecloth dipped in plaster of paris. When this was dry, the float was painted to look just as it would when covered with flowers. The flowers went on—and on—all through the day and the night of December 31, and the next day and the next night, until 4 a.m. on the day of the parade, January 2. Then the driver—and a man to operate the turntable which spun the telescope around—were sealed inside the float and it moved out of the tent to take its place in the parade.

After all this, the parade itself was something of an anticlimax. The float was a great success with the crowd. Nothing broke, nothing bent. (The float-examiners, incidentally, had been awed at the craftsmanship and solid construction of the Caltech entry.) The driver and turntable-operator not only lived through it, but even managed to make their way back across town after it, to join the other workers on the float in their free seats at the Rose Bowl Game.



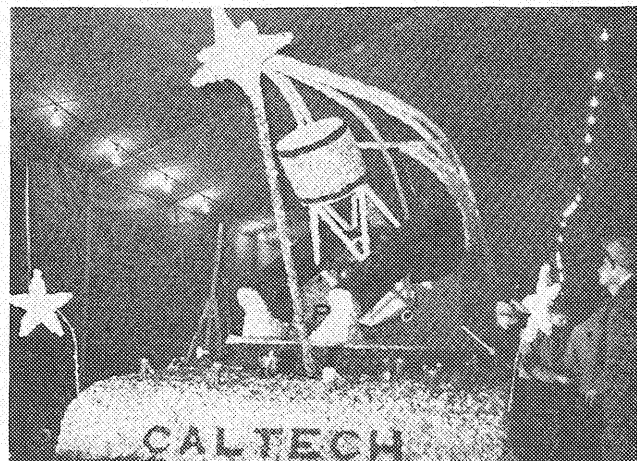
Workers went on night shift for job of applying flowers



Labor reserves had to be called out to finish job on time



Project Chief Mike Sellen paints legend on front of float



Float was finally ready for parade at 4 a.m., January 2