

ALUMNI NEWS



G. K. Whitworth, new president of the Alumni Association, takes over from Joe Lewis at the Annual Alumni Meeting, June 9. At left, Clark Millikan, speaker of the evening; at right, R. A. Millikan.

Annual Meeting

THE ANNUAL DINNER and meeting of the Alumni Association held on June 7 at the Los Angeles Athletic Club brought one of the best turnouts in years—275 members.

President Joe Lewis opened the meeting, and after Treasurer H. R. Freeman's annual report (which will appear in full in the October E & S), some of the distinguished guests present were introduced—including Dr. DuBridge, R. A. Millikan, Prof. Royal W. Sorensen, Dean Franklin Thomas, Prof. George R. MacMinn, Hal Musselman, and Prof. Harold Wayland.

Reunions

■ The seven classes which were holding their reunions this year then delivered their reports—such as they were. The cream of these—which has been separated from a large amount of material of questionable taste and validity—appears herewith:

1915

Of the 10 original members of the class, 8 remain, and 5 are here tonight—or 62½%; a record, I imagine, that few classes will ever meet. All 5 of those here, I might add, are charter members of the Alumni Association.

—Earl A. Burt

1920

This is not only the 30th anniversary of the Class of 1920, but is also the 30th anniversary of Caltech. Our class started out at Throop College of Technology and spent over 3½ years there but graduated from Caltech, as the name was changed on February 10, 1920.

Out of a total of 34 alumni of this class now living, 28 are within a radius of 130 miles of Los Angeles. There are 16 of us here tonight—a 60% turnout. Of

these 16, only half have stuck to engineering or related fields. The non-engineering activities range from real estate and building to insurance and politics; we even have an ex-mayor and a deputy city attorney.

Based on the performance of those present, we have produced about 1 1/3 children and .3 grandchildren per member. And, at our age, I don't think much improvement can be expected on this score.

—Mark Sawyer

1925

The Class of '25, whose 25th anniversary has been celebrated this afternoon and this evening, was truly an outstanding class, whose exploits and triumphs are now being recounted to a third generation.

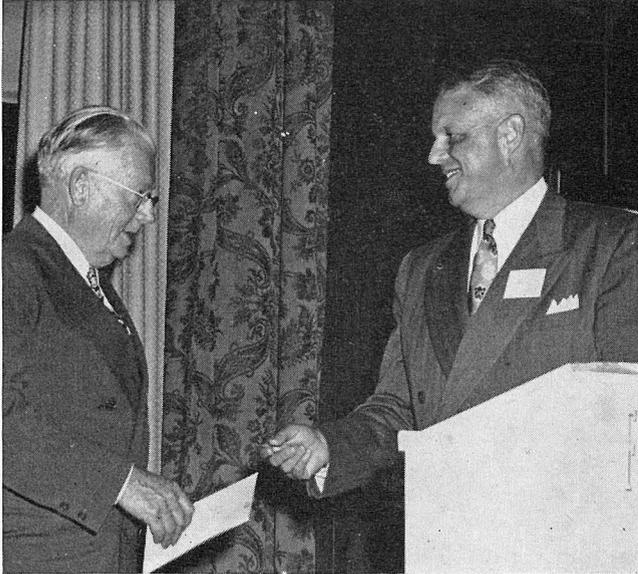
While still freshmen of only a few days, the class established supremacy over its rival, the Class of '24, by winning the annual Pole Rush, a he-man version of the present Mudeo.

A year later the class, as sophomores, won the Pole Rush a second time—a feat never before accomplished—and therefore slapped down the frosh so diligently that the faculty found it necessary to intervene in their behalf.

In their junior and senior years, members of the Class of '25 distinguished themselves in many of Tech's activities. As juniors they contributed much toward a very successful football season—one highlight of which was the Tech-U.S.C. game in which U.S.C. was held to an 18 to 7 score.

Of 220 total membership, 77 graduated in 1925, representing almost equally the various branches of engineering then taught. Of these, 37 are still practicing engineering in some form or another. The others, who undoubtedly pay more income tax per capita, are occupied in such widely divergent fields as insurance, oil, teaching and law.

There are 31 members of the class here tonight, and from them we have gathered these vital statistics:



Dr. Sorensen receives news from Howard Vesper of creation of the Sorensen Fellowship in Electrical Engineering

- 91% still have hair
- 50% have waist measurements of 40 or worse
- 87% are married and have averaged 2.15 children each
- 1 grandfather is in escrow
- 3% could work an elementary calculus problem
- 100% are convinced they are underpaid

—Wesley Hertenstein

1945

There are 24 members of the Class of '45 here—approximately 10% of the class. Of these, 14 are married and have a total of 12 children. Most of us have stayed with our options, though 3 are going to school and learning a different field, 2 are in sales engineering, 1 is teaching, and 1 is a hotel owner. Incidentally, our class produced the greatest athletes Tech had ever seen or ever will see; our offspring production may someday give Tech some athletes of merit.

—Gene Bolster

President's Report

■ In a brief resume of his official annual report, Alumni President Joe Lewis noted that membership in the Association climbed to a record total of 2216 this year. This means that 45% of all Caltech degree-holders—including two out of every three bachelor degree graduates—belong to the Association. Most colleges and universities, let it be noted, feel that a 25% membership ratio is full and sufficient justification for the existence of an alumni organization.

Joe also noted that a new and badly needed Alumni Directory might be forthcoming within the year; and that the Alumni Fund for the new gymnasium totalled \$24,201.70 for this year, \$62,102.69 for the three years it has been in existence. (These figures as of approximately 9 p.m., June 7, 1950.)

New Officers

■ The election of officers for the Alumni Association for the year 1950-51 put George K. Whitworth '20 in as President, Robert P. Sharp '34 as Vice-President, Donald S. Clark '29 as Secretary, and H. R. Freeman '25, Treasurer. The new directors of the Association,

as well as the new 1950-51 officers of the Chapters are listed in the box on page 18.

Sorensen Fellowship

■ Howard G. Vesper, '22, announced the creation of a Royal W. Sorensen Fellowship in Electrical Engineering—a \$900 annual graduate fellowship to be awarded for the first time this fall. A small group of alumni—mainly electrical engineering graduates—have established the new fellowship, as a recognition of the leading role Prof. Sorensen has played in Institute life for more than 40 years. He retires from active Institute participation at the close of this academic year.

Dr. Sorensen has been on the Institute staff longer than any other member, having become head of electrical engineering at Throop Polytechnic Institute back in 1910.

The announcement of the new fellowship was a complete surprise to Dr. Sorensen. Because more than 100 alumni have contributed to the establishment of the fellowship, it would be difficult for Dr. Sorensen to thank each one of them, but to those who were at the dinner—and those who will be reading this magazine—he extends his thanks, and his heartfelt appreciation.

Caltech and the Supersonic Age

■ Speaker of the evening was Dr. Clark B. Millikan, Director of the Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory. His subject: "Caltech and the Supersonic Age."

Dr. Millikan described the extensive engineering and technological developments in supersonics in the last decade, and the part Caltech has played—and is playing—in these developments. Caltech, he explained, is interested in this field for a number of reasons—most importantly, because of its future peacetime applications, but also to develop basic research, to investigate the possibilities of space travel (which now, of course, definitely is a possibility), and finally, because of the military significance of supersonic flight.

Dr. Millikan concluded his talk with this forceful statement:



C. B. Millikan, director of Guggenheim Aeronautical Lab, addressed meeting on "Caltech and the Supersonic Age."

"It is, I think, universally agreed by participants and believers in our so-called Western world that the single problem of our age which transcends all others in importance is that of ensuring that we do not lose our heritage of freedom and human dignity, which has been won through so many centuries of painful effort and struggle. The communist group which controls Russia and much of what is called the Eastern world has the avowed aim of dominating and controlling the entire world. Thus our most impregnable resolve must be never to succumb to such domination even if this means engaging in another war in defense of our freedom. We must accordingly so conduct our national life as to make our chance of winning such a war, should it be forced upon us, as large as possible.

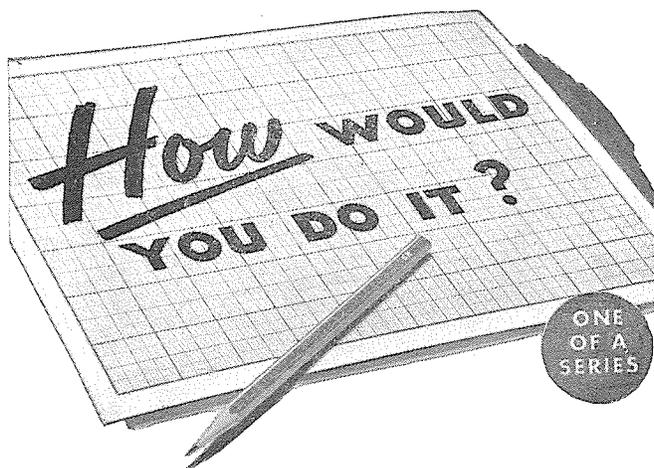
Totalitarian Menace

"However, of almost equal importance is the problem of removing this totalitarian menace without permitting the conflict to reach the stage of all-out war. For the material and spiritual losses in such a war, even if we were eventually to win it, would be only less tragic and disastrous than would follow from succumbing to the tyranny either supinely or through military defeat. The intellectual question of how best to meet this problem has for some years divided and confused us. Many intellectuals have been blinded to the realities of totalitarian dictatorship as it actually works by the altruistic aims expressed in communist literature. Other persons, disillusioned with or suffering from the admitted injustices and weaknesses of our present democratic system, have transferred their allegiance either overtly or secretly to the communist doctrine, without realizing the hideously greater injustice and personal degradation which in practice result under its regime. And there has been sincere doubt and confusion in the minds of many men of good will as to the real nature of the problem and how it can best be met.

"It is only within the last few months that an official statement has been made by our government giving an estimate of the situation (to use a technical military phrase) and a definite policy for coping with it. This statement, made in the vitally important San Francisco speech of Secretary Acheson, is in essential agreement with the views of many who have thought much about the problem. It seems to me that the policy enunciated is based on two fundamental postulates: First, the present group of leaders in the Kremlin are implacable in their objectives of eventual total Communist domination, and of the retention of personal power, and, in consonance, are entirely ruthless and unfettered by moral considerations in their methods of reaching these objectives. Second, the monolithic tyranny which they dominate and control from Moscow is intrinsically unstable and must eventually be split and rent asunder by schism and internal pressure.

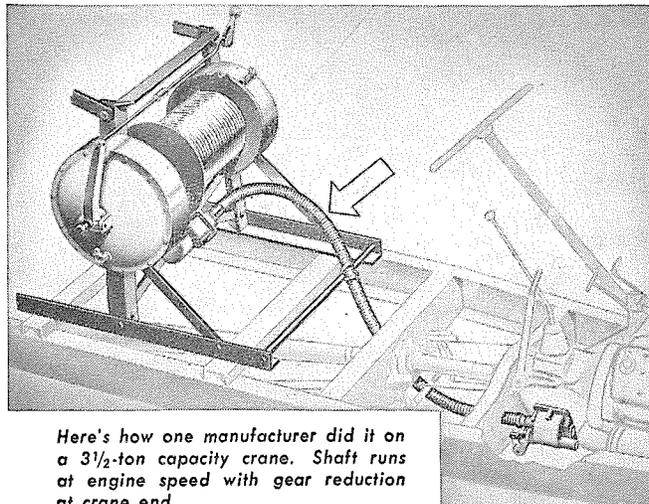
Military Strength

"Certain consequences of these postulates seem inescapable: We must remain so strong that the Kremlin analysts, who are certainly both intelligent and able, will believe that their chance of victory, following a military attack on the West, would be slim. For if, as a result of estimates of our weakness, they believed that military aggression on their part would have a large chance of success, it is certain that no moral scruples would restrain them from attack. Further we must attempt by every possible means to exploit the instability of the regime behind the iron curtain, and



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thus to accelerate its ultimate disintegration. These means include penetration of the curtain so as to reach the masses behind with information and data to which their masters know they cannot safely be exposed, active assistance to insurgent groups, and many others.

"Thus it has finally become clear that the military strength of our country is the first essential to any reasonable hope both of avoiding the tragedy of war in the near future, and of avoiding defeat by totalitarian aggressors if war should be forced upon us. The military aspects of supersonic flight as included in the fields of Aeronautics and Guided Missiles are considered by our military planners as comprising perhaps the most important element (aside from atomic energy) of their development program. These two fields are currently receiving nearly one-half of the Department of Defense 550 million dollar annual Research and Development budget (again this does not include the atomic energy appropriations).

"Many of us at Caltech who are working in this supersonic realm accordingly feel, I think rightly, that we are not only enjoying ourselves with the fascinating scientific and technical problems which we have chosen as our life work, but are also contributing in some small way to the solution of the most vital human problem of our time. Further, those of us on whom government has called are willing, indeed anxious, to spend a considerable fraction of our time and energy to give what help we can towards the wisest and most effective use of these powerful new scientific and technical tools in the great task of preserving our precious heritage of freedom and dignity."

Field Trip

■ THIS YEAR'S ALUMNI Field Trip was held at the Inyokern Naval Ordnance Test Station in conjunction

with a schedule of activities staged by the Navy on Armed Forces Day, May 20.

Thanks to the efforts of the entertainment committee at China Lake, the activities of the Caltech group proved to be unqualifiedly successful and enjoyable. The man primarily responsible for Caltech alumni participation in the program was K. H. Robinson '28, general chairman of the committee. Working with him to provide a smooth-flowing schedule were Carl Heilbron '25, Clarence Weinland '25, Arthur Ellings '38, and R. M. McClung '39.

To establish a meeting place for Caltech alumni, their families and guests, we took over the Anchorage, an air-conditioned building which was convenient to the various exhibits and demonstrations. Free beer, coffee and pop were served to registered members, and proved to be a well-received "extra" to the 700 people who visited the Anchorage through the day, including a number of faculty members.

About 440 people stayed for the barbecue dinner in the Michelson Laboratory cafeteria, which was followed by short addresses by station personnel and alumni and faculty representatives.

The Navy's all-out show provided an active day. The Air Force cooperated as well, and sent a flight of North American Sabres to Inyokern to demonstrate some of the capabilities of what is officially recognized as the world's fastest plane. The Navy show included firings of rockets from aircraft and from the ground, arrested landings and catapult take-offs. Throughout the day a color film was shown at the station theater, covering early rocket development work and testing which could not be shown to the visitors to the base.

All in all it was a big day for Caltech alumni and—with some 700 of us on hand—about the biggest alumni field trip since the Palomar junket.

—Phil Shepherd '38

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