

# A REPORT ON THE ALUMNI FUND

**T**HIS IS THE FIFTH year of the Caltech Alumni Fund. As of February 1 the Fund totals \$101,356.62. Last year's gain equaled \$21,688.08.

The Alumni Fund rightly dates back to a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association on March 28, 1946. At that meeting a motion was passed requesting the President to appoint a committee to consider the possibilities of contributions by alumni for the assistance of the Alumni Association and the Institute.

The Fund Study Committee, under the chairmanship of Howard B. Lewis '23, presented its report to the Board of Directors on March 4, 1947, estimating that annual contributions of \$2,500 to \$5,000 might be expected from the solicitation of alumni, over and above Alumni Association dues. It was estimated that this would increase rapidly in the next ten years to between \$15,000 and \$25,000.

The Committee made certain specific suggestions for a program of fund raising, the most important being to "determine a definite and tangible objective for the use of funds which will render maximum service to the Institute and have maximum appeal for the alumni." It was suggested that an objective that would fulfill these

requirements might be a gym and/or pool.

The Board of Directors accepted the program at its meeting of March 4, 1947 and Howard B. Lewis was appointed as a representative of the Board to consult with the Institute concerning a mutually acceptable objective and an allocation and authorization for the use of funds when, as and if available.

On March 11, 1947 Howard Lewis reported that a discussion with President DuBridge indicated that the cost of a gymnasium and swimming pool might run anywhere from a quarter to a half million dollars. The Board agreed that this amount would be difficult if not impossible to raise, and the suggestion was then made that the Association sponsor the construction of a swimming pool which might cost between \$50,000 and \$150,000.

Meanwhile the Board of Trustees of the Institute was discussing the proposal of an alumni fund, but was unwilling to establish a specific project without further detailed study. It was Howard Lewis who suggested to the Alumni Association that fund solicitation could be initiated, at any rate, even though a specific project had not been established. Members of the Alumni Board

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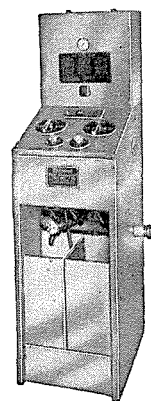
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and committee chairman therefore contributed \$1,560 to start the Alumni Fund and the money was presented to President DuBridge at the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association on June 13, 1947.

On November 17, 1947 a meeting of the Board of Directors, President DuBridge, the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Institute, and several faculty members was held for the purpose of informing the representatives of each class of the Institute of the proposed fund-raising program. The class representatives elected the following as members of the Directing Committee:

Chairman, J. W. Lewis '41;

Vice Chairman, G. A. Alles, for classes of 1896-1923;

Vice Chairman, J. E. Kinsey, for classes of 1924-1932.

Vice Chairman, A. A. Ray, for classes of 1933-1940;

Vice Chairman, S. E. Sohler, for classes of 1941-1948;

Joseph W. Lewis reported to the Board shortly thereafter that, at a meeting of the Directing Committee, it was agreed that the goal of the Alumni Fund should be \$250,000 to be raised on a five-year basis for the construction of a gymnasium for the Institute. The Board of Directors was in such disagreement as to whether or not this goal was too high that a motion was passed requesting the Fund Committee to recommend at least two alternative objectives having a lower dollar value.

The alternatives were arrived at in a special meeting of the Board of Directors on December 8, 1947:

Raising \$100,000 toward an outdoor swimming pool with dressing-room facilities.

Raising of no specified amount of money with no specific goal established.

After extremely lengthy and pointed discussion, the Board passed a motion approving the recommendation of the Fund Committee to attempt to raise \$250,000 in five years for the Alumni Fund.

The program was officially established on December 8, 1947 with H. B. Lewis and J. W. Lewis directing the solicitation for the year 1947-48. Subsequent annual programs have been under the direction of the following members of the Board:

1948-49—J. W. Lewis, and R. F. Mettler;

1949-50—R. F. Mettler, and R. J. Hare;

1950-51—D. C. Tillman, and E. J. Macartney;

1951-52—D. C. Tillman, and K. E. Kingman.

As the Fund enters its fifth year with the \$100,000 mark just passed, serious consideration is being given to the possibility of starting construction this year on a swimming pool and locker room as a first phase of the gymnasium program. Preliminary plans and specifications have been drawn up by the Institute—despite the fact that there are several sizable hurdles to be cleared before such a project can become a reality. First, the Federal government would have to allow the Institute a permit for the allocation of materials. And, secondly, this year's contributions will have to be sufficiently above those of previous years, since the rough estimate of \$100,000 originally set for the project is hardly adequate for a swimming pool and locker room today.

Whatever construction results from the Fund this year, it is apparent from all the discussions which led to the initiation of a Caltech alumni fund, that this is to be a permanent institution which—it is hoped—will be of continued benefit to the Institute.

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