# ALUMNI NEWS

## Annual Banquet

THE ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET was held this year on June 6 at the Los Angeles Athletic Club. The honored guest on this occasion was Miss Diantha May Haynes, only surviving member of the class of '96—which means she was not only in the first graduating class, but was the first woman to be graduated from the Institute. Caltech has had only three women greduates in its 60-year existence; Miss Haynes is the only one now living.

The class of 1896 at Throop Institute, as the school was then called, had a total of two pupils. Miss Haynes majored in biology and became a high school science teacher after receiving her degree. She taught for 38 years—27 of these at Redondo High School, where she was chairman of the science department at the time of her retirement in 1938.

Alumni Association President George K. Whitworth's report on the year's activities revealed that membership in the Association this year had reached a peak of 2315, and that the Alumni Fund now stood at a healthy $84,000.

President L. A. DuBridge, in his year-end report on the affairs of the Institute, announced that Caltech's total assets now amounted to $45,000,000. Student enrollment is (purposely) declining after the peak war years; applications for undergraduate scholarship aid are constantly increasing, so that scholarship funds are urgently needed—though graduate scholarships are on the rise now. Tuition, which is going up as much as 5 or 10 per cent in some schools, will remain the same ($600) at Caltech next year, but student house rates will have to be increased.

The main speaker of the evening was Gordon P. Larson, Director of the Los Angeles Air Pollution Control District, whose topic was, "Smog—The Talk of the Town."

Reunion classes this year included 1911, 1916, 1921, 1926, 1931, 1936, 1941 and 1946. Reports from some of these are presented herewith:

### 1911

Our class was the first to graduate at the present campus and consisted of three men. Two of us are now alive and were present for our 40th Reunion at the annual Alumni dinner. That makes 66 2/3 per cent of the class or 100 per cent of the ones alive, which must certainly be a record turnout.

All three of us went with General Electric, but I am the only one still with them. Royal Ward, the other

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

*Robert P. Sharp, new president of the Alumni Association; George K. Whitworth, outgoing president; and Caltech's President L. A. DuBridge chat with Diantha Haynes, honored guest at the annual Alumni Banquet. Miss Haynes was a member of the Institute's first graduating class, and the first woman graduate of Tech.*

living member of the class, is with the San Bernardino Flood Control, and has done a lot of consulting engineering, as well as carrying on a citrus ranch. He has two sons and, I believe, six grandchildren. I have one daughter and a grand-daughter.

We have seen Tech grow to become one of the best known technical schools and are pleased to have had a small part in its history. I hope we can continue to assist in its progress.

*—Harold C. Hill*

### 1921

At the 30th reunion of the class of 1921 there were 14 present out of 25 southern California residents—Barnett, Catlin, Craig, Honsaker, Smith, Lee, Lyon, Makosky, Mintie, Morrison, Mullin, Potts, Quirmbach, Simpson and Stenzel. Regrets were received from Alfred Stamm of Madison, Wisconsin and Dick Hambrook of San Francisco.

*—C. F. Quirmbach*

### 1926

There were 26 men from the class of '26 at the 25th reunion. This is about half the number living in southern California, and approximately a quarter of the living members of the class. In 1926, 105 were graduated; 101 are now living.

Messages came in from Joe Matson of Hawaii, Bob Bowman from San Francisco and Jack Fahs and Al Ball from Wilmington, Delaware.

Most startling news received was from Don Macfarlane, Class Secretary, who had just got married and was honeymooning in South America. At the other extreme, Bob Moodie, who was married in June, 1926, was at the meeting.

*—Allen Laws*

### 1931

The class of '31 was represented at the Alumni dinner by Bob Lehman, E. Peer, Emory Buffum, Ray Labory, George Langsner, Tom Tarbet, Ed Green and Ted Jurling. We enjoyed reading the notes some of our non-attending classmates sent in (they're in the Personals section of this issue of the magazine), and observed that of all the men who did show up there wasn't one bald head. In the dim light there were hardly even any gray hairs either.

We're already making plans for our 25th in '56. This is going to be a special event for all of us.

*—Ed Green*

### 1946

A motley gathering of nine '46ers showed up to recall wartime Tech and make a few high-powered deals. W. G. Misner of Filtrol Corporation and R. A. Golding from Shell Chemical Corporation ably represented the chemical industries. A research problem for Douglas at El Segundo is taking up most of J. W. Stuart's time these days, while R. C. Siegel told us about his work at Margo Operating Company at Oceanside. From Long Beach came L. C. Haupt, ace soap maker of Proctor & Gamble. Down the table from him sat John Anderson, who is helping design the new Lever Bros. plant for the Bechtel Corporation. J. C. Evans from Audio Products, H. R. Woods of Studebaker, and J. E. Fleming from Clary Multiplier completed the group.

*—J. E. Fleming*

## James W. McRae

JAMES W. MCRAE, M.S. '34, Ph.D. '37, has been named a vice-president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories. Director of Transmission Development since 1949, Dr. McRae will be in charge of systems development which, besides transmission development, embraces switching development and systems engineering.

Dr. McRea has been with the Bell Labs since 1937. His first work there was concerned with research on trans-oceanic radio transmitters. His next assignment was in the field of microwave research, which led naturally to work on military projects.

In 1942 he was commissioned a major in the U. S. Army Signal Corps and was assigned to the Office of the Chief Signal Officer in Washington, D. C. He remained in Washington for more than two years, engaged in coordinating development programs for airborne radar equipment and for radar countermeasures devices. He later received the Legion of Merit for his work on these programs.

In 1944 Dr. McRae was transferred to the headquarters of the Signal Corps Engineering Laboratories at Bradley Beach, N. J., as Chief of the Engineering Staff. He later became Deputy Director of the Engineering Division and attained the rank of colonel before returning to civilian life at the end of 1945.

Back at Bell Labs in 1946 he was appointed Director of Radio Projects and Television Research, and, with the addition of responsibility for electron dynamics research in 1947, he became Director of Electronic and Television Research. In 1949 he was appointed Assistant Director of Apparatus Development, soon became Director, and, later in the same year, Director of Transmission Development.

Dr. McRae is a fellow of the Institute of Radio Engineers, a member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and of Sigma Xi.

## Harold C. Hill

HAROLD C. HILL, '11, has been appointed Assistant to the Manager of the General Electric Company's Industrial Division, Apparatus Department. Mr. Hill, who has been leader and manager of the User's Section, Industrial Division, for the past eight years, will take

over duties which include the further development of the industrial heating business in the Los Angeles area.

Mr. Hill joined GE in 1911, immediately after receiving his Mechanical Engineering degree from the Institute — then the Throop College of Technology. He worked in the Lynn and Boston, Mass. offices until 1923, and then joined the Los Angeles office as sales engineer. His time with GE has been interrupted only by a two-year hitch in the Artillery during World War I.

Hill is being replaced as Manager of the User's Section by another Tech man, R. E. Bear '22, who has been a sales engineer in the Los Angeles office since 1925.

## Gordon Bussard

GORDON LUCAS BUSSARD '37 died of a brain tumor on April 29 in the Delaware Hospital, in Wilmington, where he had been a patient since January 24.

Born in Montana, Gordon spent his boyhood in Spokane, Washington. At Tech in 1936-37 he was president of Dabney House, treasurer of the student body, and chairman of the Interhouse Committee. He was a member of the Varsity Club, Beavers, and was on the staffs of both the Big T and the California Tech.

After his graduation from Tech with a B.S. in mechanical engineering, Gordon went to work for the DuPont Company, first at the Richmond, Va., plant, then at the nylon plants in Seaford and Martinsville, Va. Five years ago he went to the Wilmington plant, as a member of the personnel division of the DuPont Service Department.

He is survived by his wife, the former Carolyn Ackart; a son, Gordon Jr., and daughter, Roberta.

## Kenneth Pitzer

KENNETH S. PITZER '35, who was named "Alumnus of the Year" by the University of California last month, has now been appointed Dean of Cal's College of Chemistry. He has been on leave from the university—where he was a professor of chemistry—since January, 1949, and is now serving as Director of Research for the Atomic Energy Commission in Washington. His new appointment at Cal is effective July 1.

## Sacramento Chapter

BY RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association at its meeting of April 17, 1951, a Sacramento chapter was created at the request of a group of members of the Association. The officers and their addresses are as follows:

**PRESIDENT** — Fred Groat '24
California Division of Water Resources
Public Works Building
Sacramento

**SECRETARY-TREASURER** — Richard Silberstein '41
Arthur A. Sauer, Consulting
Structural Engineer
2203 13th Street
Sacramento 18