

ALUMNI NEWS

Boyd to Kennecott

ON OCTOBER 16, James Boyd '27 resigned as Director of the United States Bureau of Mines to join the executive staff of the Kennecott Copper Corporation. Kennecott is the world's largest copper producer and has copper mining activities in Utah, Nevada, New Mexico and Chile; titanium mines in Canada; gold mines in the Orange Free State; and several other mining and manufacturing operations. Primarily, Boyd's new job at Kennecott is to assist the president of the corporation—working under the general direction of the vice-president in charge of exploration—in selecting projects arising from the company's own exploration activities and those that come to the company from the outside, and in planning the company's expansion activities.

After his graduation from Caltech in 1927, Jim Boyd spent two and a half years in the mining geophysical business in Canada and in most of the western states. He received his M.S. from the Colorado School of Mines in 1932, and his Ph.D. in 1934. From 1929 to 1941 he was variously Instructor, Assistant Professor and Associate Professor in Geology at the school, and carried on a consulting practice during the summer months. He also ran small mines in Colorado and did some work for the oil industry. In 1941 he was called into the Army,

and served with the Office of the Undersecretary of War and the Army Service Forces, primarily as the Army's member of the War Production Board's Requirements Committee. Later, as Executive Officer to General Lucius D. Clay, he went to Germany early in 1945 to take charge of the Industrial Division in the Office of the Military Government. In 1946 he returned to the Colorado School of Mines as Dean of the Faculty. Shortly thereafter he went to the Office of the Secretary of the Interior as his Mineral Advisor, and was appointed Director of the Bureau of Mines in August, 1947. During 1950 and 1951 he was simultaneously the Defense Minerals Administrator.

Smits in Iran

HOWARD G. SMITS '31, M.S. '33, President of Pacific Iron and Steel Company in Los Angeles, took a round-the-world trip last spring, with Mrs. Smits, in connection with work his company is doing in the Far East. After his return this summer Howard got off a long letter to California Senator Richard M. Nixon, giving him some impressions of some of the places he visited—in particular, Iran, where Howard had the good fortune to travel about 1500 miles by auto and to talk to a number of people.

We quote, herewith, some of the highlights from this colorful and informative letter:

"The Iranians distinctly hate the Russians, and have very good historical reasons for doing so. They have nothing but contempt for Russian methods and do not

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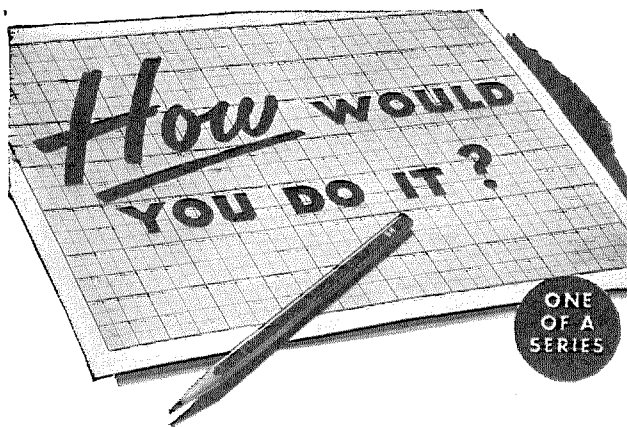
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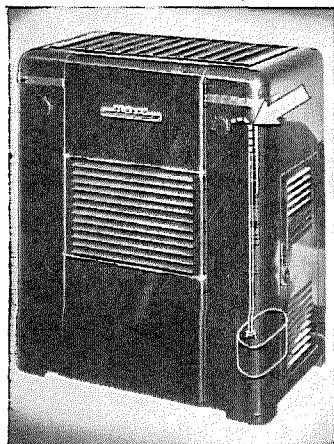


Photo courtesy of Quaker Mfg. Co., Chicago, Ill.

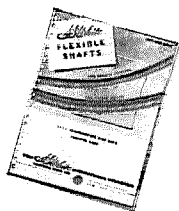
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THE S.S.White INDUSTRIAL DIVISION
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believe that Russia is a paragon of productive ability. It is necessary that Iran carry on trade with Russia, which consists principally of the exchange of Iranian food items for Russian cotton goods. The Persians have always been good bargainers. They will settle their oil dispute with Britain, in spite of Harriman, with each side using tactics peculiar to themselves. They are Nationalists and they believe strongly in their own religion (which, incidentally, has the same roots as our own, namely, the recognition and use of the Old Testament). The people are Western in their thinking when compared to the Hindus, Buddhists, etc.

"I was told repeatedly of the disastrous effects of our giving money. This does not mean the people are uninterested in help. It means the giving of money is a positive evil and retards rather than helps a country. Put simply, the reason for this is that giving money merely causes an 'inflation' in the standard or rate of graft and creates dependence."

Giving—and receiving

"If our Government feels compelled to give, by all means let me urge the Government to give 'things,' not money; and to attempt to give the type of 'things' that cannot be resold. For example, Iran desperately needs roads. We would generate enormous good will should we go into Iran and actually build these roads. However, if our Government attempts to do the actual construction, I am sure the results will be disappointing. If, on the other hand, a contract is let by our Government to an American contractor under competitive bidding with no restrictions tied to him as to whom or what he shall pay, and if our Government assumes its normal role of inspection for quality and performance of contract, you will witness amazing results."

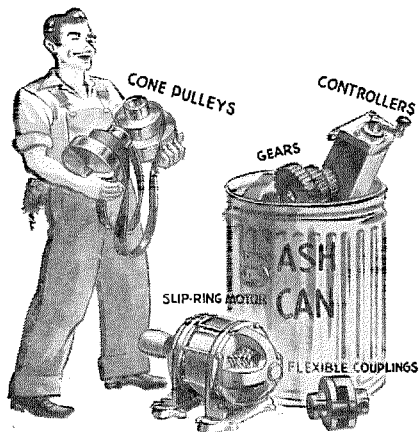
"The Voice of America is ignored. However, radio sets are common even among the poorest of the people. They have a surprising way of getting the facts without the benefit of our colored and often pointless Voice of America."

"The Iranians understand the word 'power' and the meaning of 'law and order.' Further, they have a fundamental knowledge of the power of 'trade.' They understand that these are the factors which govern the course of the world and the peoples therein. From many of the strange utterances and behaviors of the State Department, it would seem that we have rather lost touch with these fundamentals in working with the world."

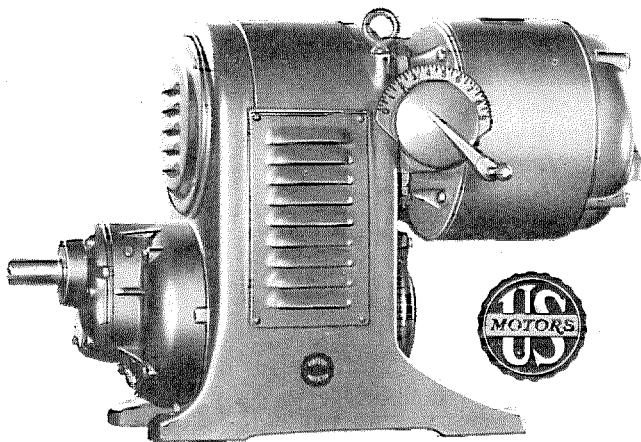
"Briefly, as we progressed eastward through Kashmir, India, Thailand and Indonesia, there was evident a progressive deterioration in 'law and order' and well-being. Communism is entirely overrated as a force. There are liberal and revolutionary forces at work everywhere, as there have been since the beginning of time. These, how-

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"Good bye contraptions"



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ever, are concerned with the elemental things of a wider distribution of land and a lighter tax burden. These revolutionary forces are *not* concerned with any Government ideologies or social ideologies and are not supported in any material way by Russia.

"Universally, I found an awareness that Russia was in arrears in its commitments, whether they be trade, political help or token arms.

"I can find no reason to believe that Russia is anything but a colossal hoax which our State Department appears to be enormously afraid of."

Sorensen Fellowship

AT THE ANNUAL Alumni Banquet in 1950 (E&S June, 1950) Howard Vesper '22 announced the establishment of the Royal W. Sorensen Fellowship in Electrical Engineering. The fellowship was set up by an interested group of alumni in recognition of Dr. Sorensen's retirement at that time. Dr. Sorensen had been on the Institute staff longer than any other member, having become head of Electrical Engineering at Throop Polytechnic Institute in 1910.

There wasn't time to get the fellowship into operation last year, but it has now been set up and Jerome K. Delson was named as the first recipient this fall. The annual stipend for the graduate fellowship has been set at \$900 and funds have been collected for approximately three years. The project has been handled thus far by an informal group, including Abe Zarem, M.S. '40, Ph.D. '44, Fred Lindvall, Ph.D. '28, Bob Bowman '26, and Howard Vesper, acting as chairman. Funds were contributed for the most part by alumni in classes graduating prior to 1940, with a considerable portion of the donors being electrical engineers.

Back Numbers

CALTECH'S STUDENT newspaper, the *California Tech*, asks the help of alumni in completing its files of back issues. Still missing:

- Vol. 48 No. 30 (The Hot Rivet, 1947)
- Vol. 49 No. 1 (October 9, 1947)
- Vol. 49 No. 5 (November 6, 1947)

Anyone who has copies of these three issues will do the *California Tech* staff a great service by sending them to Editor Chuck Benjamin in Ricketts House.

ALUMNI CALENDAR 1952

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| February 9 | Dinner Dance |
| April 12 | Seminar Day |
| June 4 | Annual Meeting |
| Date to come | Family Day |