

Architect's drawing of the new Eudora Hull Spalding Laboratory of Engineering

THE MONTH AT CALTECH

Engineering Building

CONSTRUCTION on the new Eudora Hull Spalding Laboratory of Engineering at Caltech will get under way this spring, and the building will probably be ready for use in the fall of 1957. The \$1,500,000 laboratory is being financed by the Spalding Trust Fund. It will occupy the area north of the chemical engineering building, where the hydraulic model basin and the internal combustion laboratory now stand, on San Pasqual Street between Michigan and Chester Avenues.

The laboratory will be a five-story structure, with three stories above and two below ground. It will be 210 feet long and 58 feet wide, and it will have 60,000 square feet of floor space, and more window space than the existing engineering building.

The chemical and electrical engineering departments will share the new laboratory—chemical engineering taking the west half of the building and electrical engineering the east. Work in both departments will be expanded and the equipment they now have scattered around the campus will finally be housed under one roof. The chemical engineering work and equipment now in building T-3 will be moved to the new lab, as will the analog computer from West Bridge and the electrical engineering equipment in Kellogg. A new electronic computer will be installed in the building, and the in-

ternal combustion engine lab and the mechanical engineering shop will occupy the sub-basement.

Goddard Professor

DR. W. DUNCAN RANNIE, professor of mechanical engineering, has been appointed the new Robert H. Goddard Professor of jet propulsion at Caltech. The Goddard professorship is the principal post in the Institute's Jet Propulsion Center, established in 1948 by the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Foundation. Dr. Rannie is the second Goddard Professor at Caltech. His predecessor, Dr. Hsue-Shen Tsien, resigned last June to return to his native China.

A graduate of the University of Toronto, Dr. Rannie came to Caltech as a graduate assistant in 1938. During the war years, he headed the aeronautics and thermodynamics group at the Northrop-Hendy Company. In 1946 he returned to Caltech and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where he was chief of the Ramjet section.

AFROTC—In Again

CALTECH'S AIR FORCE ROTC program, cancelled last month (E&S—January 1955) after being in operation for four years, has now been re-established. Caltech was

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one of 25 institutions (out of 188) at which the units were being discontinued; they will now be re-established at any of the institutions that want to remain in the program.

"In trying to economize through disestablishment," the Air Force stated, "it became apparent that patriotic interest and enthusiastic support for the AFROTC in the majority of the institutions affected outweighed the potential dollar and manpower savings involved."

Junket

ROYAL W. SORENSEN, professor of electrical engineering, emeritus, is leaving early in March to be the special representative of the American Institute of Electrical Engineering at the 150th celebration of the Verein Deutscher Ingenieure in Berlin in May. From there he will go to Paris to attend CIGRE, the International Congress of High Voltage and Power Transmission Systems which will be held from May 30 to June 9. From there on, the trip becomes a vacation, and the Sorensens will visit other parts of Europe—stopping to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in Venice—and return home in August.

Seismological Annex?

CALTECH'S SEISMOLOGICAL LABORATORY has received a \$75,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation of Detroit, Michigan, for the construction of a much-needed annex to the present seismological building—conditional on the Institute raising the additional funds needed (\$175,000) from other sources.

Announcement of the grant was made last month at a conference of representatives of the 21 organizations supporting the Seismological Laboratory's program of earthquake reasearch.

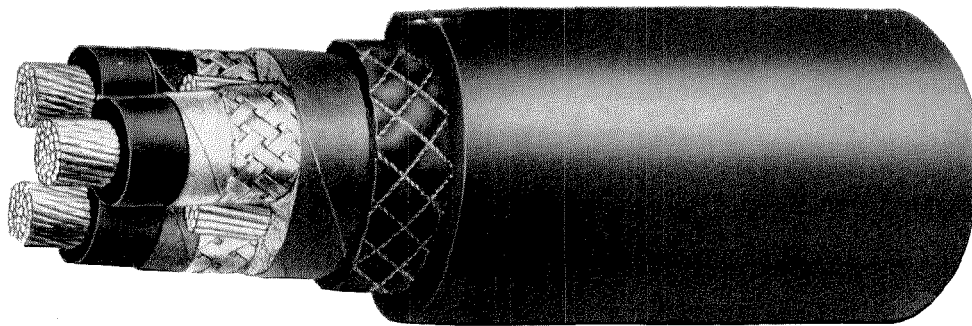
Among the companies represented at the conference were Bethlehem Pacific Coast Steel, Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, the Santa Fe Railroad and the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Honors and Awards

DR. ARNOLD O. BECKMAN, an alumnus of Caltech, a former faculty member, and now on the board of trustees, has been elected president of the Los Angeles

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Chamber of Commerce for 1956. A member of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce since 1954, Dr. Beckman also served as a vice-president and chairman of the Air Pollution Control Committee last year. He is president of Beckman Instruments, Incorporated, which he founded in 1940. He is also president of Arnold O. Beckman, Inc., scientific instrument manufacturing company; the Berkeley Scientific Division of Beckman Instruments, Inc., and the Helipot Corporation a subsidiary.

PRESIDENT L. A. DUBRIDGE was chosen as one of ten outstanding Americans to receive an Award of Merit from the Los Angeles branch of the National Vocational Guidance Association at its annual Awards banquet held last month. Dr. DuBridge was acclaimed a "senior statesman of science, distinguished educator, devoted to the encouragement of study and careers in the fields of pure science, research and engineering."

THEODORE VON KARMAN, Caltech profesor emeritus and chairman of the planning board of Gruen Precision Laboratories, Inc., was awarded the Daniel Guggenheim Medal in New York last month for "notable achieve-

ment in the field of aeronautics." Dr. von Karman is credited with having spurred the U. S. lead in the design of supersonic aircraft as well as originating the concepts that led to starting research on the first plane to break the sound barrier.

Arrivals and Departures

RALPH HULTGREN, professor of metallurgy at the University of California, Berkeley, returns to the Caltech campus this month as a research associate in chemistry. Dr. Hultgren received his PhD at Caltech in 1933.

JULIUS MIKLOWITZ, associate professor of applied mechanics since the first of the year, was formerly with the Naval Ordnance Testing Station as head of the applied mechanics branch of their research division. He received his PhD from the University of Michigan and, prior to that, did three years of research in plasticity work at the Westinghouse Laboratories.

JOHN L. STEWART, assistant professor at the University of Michigan, arrives this month to be associate professor of electrical engineering at Caltech. Dr. Stewart spent two years with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Caltech from 1949 to 1951 doing research in radar, analog computers and current theory.

FRANK E. MARBLE, associate professor of jet propulsion at Caltech, left this month to spend the spring term at Cornell's Graduate School of Aeronautical Engineering as a visiting professor, offering courses on combustion in jet engines and rockets.

FRITS W. WENT, professor of plant physiology, leaves on February 13 for a tour as a National Lecturer for Sigma Xi. He will visit universities in 18 states and give approximately 37 lectures based on his research in environment and its role in plant growth.

Caltech Associates

STUART O'MELVENY, president of the Title Insurance and Trust Company, has been elected president of the California Institute Associates. Mr. O'Melveny has been a member of the Caltech Associates since the organization was founded in 1926 by 100 of the leading citizens of southern California. Dedicated to advancing the welfare of Caltech, the association now has 241 members.

Others newly elected to office were W. Herbert Allen, vic president, and Ernest A. Bryant, Jr., treasurer. Homer D. Crotty, John G. Baum, and John S. Fluor were elected as directors. Incumbent officers re-elected were Seeley G. Mudd and William Clayton, vice presidents; and Alexander King, secretary.

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