

ALUMNI SCHOLAR

Some notes on Robert Poe,
fourth winner of the Alumni Association's
four-year, full-tuition scholarship

ROBERT POE, a freshman from San Jose, California, is the fourth Caltech student to receive an Alumni Scholarship. The award—a four-year, full-tuition grant, made by the Caltech Alumni Association through contributions to the Alumni Fund—has been given each fall since 1954.

In 1954 Robert Poe was just a freshman in high school, but even then he knew he wanted to come to Caltech. His older brother Bill applied for admission to four colleges that year—including Caltech—and the whole Poe family (with the possible exception of the youngest of the three brothers, who was 2 at the time) spent every waking moment discussing the relative advantages of the four institutions. The more they discussed, the more they were all convinced that Caltech was the best possible choice. Ironically, Bill was turned down by Caltech—at the same time as he was offered scholarship honors by the three other schools. But Bob has been determined to come here ever since.

Bob will be 17 this month. His main interest now is in theoretical physics and mathematics, and his present intention is to pursue his education as far, and for as long, as circumstances permit. His father is a partner in a childrens' wear business in Santa Clara. His brother Bill, now a senior at the University of Chicago, will be going to medical school next year.

At Lincoln High School in San Jose, Bob ranked sec-



ond in a class of 264, and got A's almost without exception through his high school years. He was active in debate and speech, dramatics, basketball, swimming and wrestling, and he was manager of the varsity football and basketball teams.

At Caltech he not only has an Alumni Scholarship, but two others he won with his writing talents in high school—a \$400 scholarship in an essay contest sponsored by the National Safety Council and the American Teamsters Union, and a \$100 bond in an essay contest sponsored by the San Jose Real Estate Board. (The subjects of these contests were safe driving and the advantages of home ownership, respectively, and it may be interesting to note that Bob Poe (a) has no driver's license and (b) doesn't own his own home.)

A red-headed, soft-spoken, serious minded young man, Bob Poe is a fine example of the well-rounded freshman Caltech keeps searching for—as you can tell at a glance at this abbreviated list of his recent reading:

Macbeth
Playing the Piano for Pleasure
The Night Life of the Gods
Lucretius—De Rerum Natura
MacDougall on Dice and Cards
Collected Poems of T. S. Eliot
Plain Talk to Men Under 21