

# Alumni News

James W. McRae



James W. McRae, vice president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, collapsed and died suddenly in New York on February 2. He was enroute to a scientific conference at the Savoy Hilton Hotel,

where he was to give the opening address, when he was stricken. He was 49.

Dr. McRae was born in Canada and received his BS in electrical engineering from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver in 1933. He then came to Caltech, where he received his MS in 1934 and his PhD in 1937.

He left Caltech to work in various research fields for the Bell Telephone Laboratories until 1942, when he was commissioned a major in the Signal Corps. During World War II he served as chief of the engineering staff at the Signal Corps' Engineering Laboratories in New Jersey. He rose to the rank of colonel and received the Legion of Merit for his work in developing radar counter-measure devices.

He was serving as vice president in charge of systems development at the Bell Labs in 1953, when he was elected president of the Sandia Corpora-

tion and vice president of the Western Electric Company in Albuquerque, N.M. After five years in Albuquerque, he moved back to Madison, N.J., when he became vice president of AT&T. Dr. McRae leaves his wife and four children; two daughters attending Stanford University — and two sons, 15 and 13, at home.

## *New Assistant Director*

Robert C. Poolman, who got his BS in mechanical engineering at Caltech in 1945, has been appointed assistant director of Caltech's Physical Plant Department, in charge of planning and engineering. He comes to Caltech from the United States Government's Housing and Home Finance Agency in San Francisco, where he has been regional engineer for the past two years.

After receiving his degree at Caltech, Mr. Poolman went to the University of Nevada in 1946, eventually becoming assistant professor of civil engineering. In 1956 he organized and developed the Physical Plant Department at the university and served as university engineer until 1958.

## *Alumni Dinner Dance*

The beautiful Crystal Room of the Huntington-Sheraton Hotel in Pasadena will be the setting for the gala 24th Annual Alumni Dinner Dance on March 5th.

Cocktails will be served from the adjoining Patio Room bar starting at 7 p.m. An evening of gaiety promises to follow, with a complete dinner at 8 p.m. (broiled ham steak or breast of capon). Dancing will begin during dinner, with music provided by La Verne Boyer and his Orchestra.

Make it a date now and join your friends for this evening to remember. Invitations have been mailed. Send in your reservations or call the Alumni Office at SYcamore 5-6841 or MURray 1-7171, Ext. 258. Your tickets will be held at the door.

—Rolf Hastrup '53, Chairman

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