

Alumni News

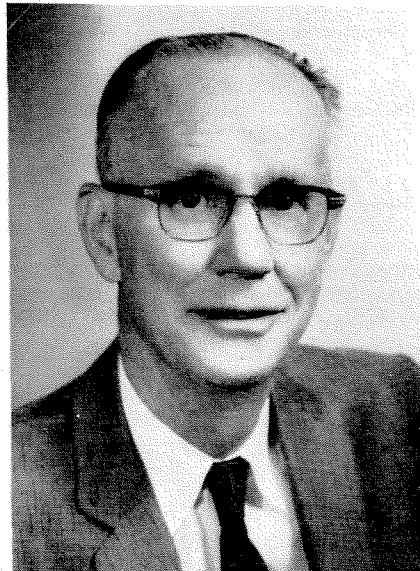
Hallan Neil Marsh (1899-1964)

Hallan N. Marsh, BS '22, a prominent petroleum engineer, inventor, author, and a director of the Caltech Alumni Association during the years 1951 to 1953, died suddenly in Whittier, California, of a heart attack on July 24, 1964.

Born April 21, 1899, in Neillsville, Wisconsin, he became a Californian in 1914. His father, Spencer M. Marsh, was a lawyer and state senator in Wisconsin who came west to become District Attorney and later Judge of the Superior Court in San Diego County.

Hal Marsh served in the Army in 1918 and received his BS in mechanical engineering from Caltech in 1922. He was elected to Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Xi. He worked as an engineer for the San Diego and Arizona Railway, spent a year in graduate work at Caltech, and then entered the engineering department of the General Petroleum Corporation in Los Angeles.

After 37 years with General Petroleum (now Mobil Oil Co.), he retired in 1960 as manager of its Production Engineering and Equipment Section. He was a national authority on how to measure and control the underground conditions encountered in oil and gas production. His papers have enriched the technical literature. He held eleven patents on drilling or producing instruments and equipment, and it was he who long ago developed the "Marsh funnel," which is now used in rotary



Hallan N. Marsh

drilling all over the world.

In 1961, the AIME gave him the John Franklin Caril Award for distinguished contributions to petroleum engineering. The citation, which summarizes his contributions to the engineering profession, was "in recognition of his contributions to the art of petroleum engineering, his advancement of the professional status of the engineer in oil producing operations, and his inspirational teaching and development of junior engineers—all accomplished through a dedicated adherence to the simple, basic concepts of science, economics, and professional integrity." He was active in the American Petroleum Institute, served as the chairman of the Central Committee on Drilling and Production Practice, and was a leader for more than 30 years in the institute's program of standardization.

Hallan Marsh was elected to the Executive Council of Tau Beta Pi in 1961. He served as secretary of the council from December 1962, until his death. He was very active in Tau Beta Pi activities and was most concerned with financial matters of the association.

He was a person of extraordinary integrity. He recognized no degrees of integrity—saying that honesty, like pregnancy, is either present or absent. Once asked if he was a cynic, he quoted a Chinese proverb saying that if a man has both ideals and intelligence, he is bound to become a cynic when he discovers how far short mankind fails of its ideals, and then his happiness will depend on mixing his cynicism with kindness.

Hal Marsh's greatest success was in the selection and development of junior engineers. Before World War II, he was instrumental in setting up a training program for newly hired engineering graduates. From 1937 until Marsh's retirement, 71 graduates had entered the program and 54 of them were still with the company. Of these, one was then a division vice president, one an operations superintendent, one a joint interest manager, one a division controller, and five were district superintendents. About half of the 54 were supervisors or managers of field operations and half were staff engineers, some with great responsibility. Two were in foreign operations of Socony

A Short Reminder:

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Mobil. A Mobil executive commented that "Hal Marsh has multiplied his contribution to the company by multiplying the skills of his juniors, setting in motion a chain reaction that can continue for decades."

Hal Marsh was an ardent mountain climber and life member of the Sierra Club, a licensed pilot of private airplanes, a boating enthusiast, and a superb color photographer.

Hal Marsh had a clear concept of the distinction between the scientist and the engineer as follows: "A scientist is concerned with what happens from a given combination of materials and forces. An engineer starts with the particular result desired, and then deter-

mines what combinations of materials, forces, and human factors will produce the result, or something close to it, at an acceptable cost."

Mr. Marsh is survived by his wife and companion for 40 years, Kareen, of 16342 East Prudencia Drive, Whittier, California; their son, Dr. John S. Marsh, Whittier neurosurgeon; their two daughters, Mrs. Neila Gregory and Mrs. Janet Davis; and 6 grandchildren.

—Donald S. Clark

Ernest Maag Retires

Ernest Maag, principal structural engineer for the school section of the Office of Architecture and Construction of the State of California, is retiring on December 1. For the past ten years

he has been in charge of the southern California office of the school section, which supervises approximately two million dollars worth of public school construction per year.

After graduating from Caltech, Mr. Maag got his first training at the Pasadena Building Department. From 1933 to 1945, he worked in the L.A. County Building Department as a research engineer, in charge of building code work. He joined the State of California in 1946.

He has been active in many engineering organizations, and served as president of the Structural Engineers Association of both California and southern California. He was president of the Caltech Alumni Association in 1943-44.

ALUMNI EVENTS

- November 21 Interhouse Dinner-Dance
- May 8 Annual Alumni Seminar
- June 9 Annual Meeting

PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE TO CALTECH ALUMNI

There are two ways in which the Placement Service may be of assistance to you:

- (1) To help you seek new employment or a change of employment.
- (2) To inform you when outstanding opportunities arise.

This service is provided to Alumni by the Institute. A fee or charge is not involved.

If you wish to avail yourself of this service, fill in and mail the following form:

To: Caltech Alumni Placement Service
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California 91109

Please send me:

- An Application for Placement Assistance
- A form to report my field and operation so that I may be notified of any outstanding opportunities.

Name Degree (s)

Address Year (s)

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| VICE PRESIDENT
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| Vice-President | Bruno H. Pilorz, '44
75 Echo Lane, Larchmont, N.Y. |
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Old Orchard Road, Armonk, N.Y. 10504 |

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56 Summer Street, West Acton, Mass. |
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4720 Sedgwick St., N.W., Washington, D.C. |
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| President | Laurence H. Nobles, '49
Dept. of Geology, Northwestern Univ., Evanston, Ill. |
| Vice-President | Philip E. Smith, '39
Eastman Kodak Co., 1712 Prairie Ave., Chicago, Ill. |

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| President | Edwin P. Schlinger, '52
G.E. Vallecitos Atomic Lab., Pleasanton, Calif. |
| Vice-President | Dallas L. Peck, '51
U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, Calif. |
| Secretary-Treasurer | Thomas G. Taussig, '55
Lawrence Radiation Lab., Univ. of Calif., Berkeley, Calif. |
- Meetings: 15th Floor, Engineers' Club, 206 Sansome St., San Francisco
Informal luncheons every Thursday at 11:45 A.M.
Contact Mr. Farrar, EX 9-5277, on Thursday morning for reservations.

SACRAMENTO CHAPTER

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| President | Dudley E. Bennett, '47
4535 Marble Way, Carmichael, Calif. |
| Vice-President | Harris K. Mauzy, '30
2551 Carson Way, Sacramento 21, Calif. |
| Secretary-Treasurer | William D. Pyle, '49
3920 Dunster Way, Sacramento, Calif. 95825 |
- Meetings: University Club, 1319 "K" St.
Luncheon first Friday of each month at noon.
Visiting alumni cordially invited—no reservation.