

NEWS OF CLASSES

(Continued from page 15)

1938

John Minasian is now an office assistant for the William Neil Company of Los Angeles.

Albert E. Jurs is now employed by the Yale Townsend Corporation of New York

Robert Custer is a chemist at the General Petroleum Corporation's Laboratory at Santa Fe Springs, California.

Peter Goff is now employed by the Board of Fire Underwriters with headquarters in Los Angeles.

Jack Johannessen is now employed by the Imperial Irrigation District.

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LETTERS

The following is an excerpt from a letter to Charles Schwieso, former Y.M.C.A. secretary at the Institute.

Hong Kong, China
March 16, 1939

Dear Chuck,

It happened that when your letter reached Canton, the latter had fallen into the hands of the Japanese. However, the letter was forwarded to the Pui Too Girls' School, which is an American owned academy in which there are some missionaries staying to watch over the property.

I was engaged in governmental railroad work the last two years until last July when I came down to Hong Kong to join my family. Since then I've been teaching in the Engineering College of Kuomin University which had also moved from Canton to Hong Kong last September.

Just two weeks ago I was called again to go into the interior to work in Yunnanfu—the southwest border province of China. I am to join the staff members of the Yunnan-Szechuan Railroad, a line of about 800 kilometers. It will be the main road connecting these two big provinces.

I shall leave Hong Kong on March 19. Owing to the fact that living conditions in Yunnanfu are unfamiliar I shall leave the family in Hong Kong for the time being. I know it is hard to leave them, but conditions are so in China in this time of our struggle. I hope that they will be able to join me in the summer.

We have our confidence to win the battle if we will stick it out hard enough with the Japs.

I'm sure you will remember Drs. Woo (Ph.D., '31) and Liu who were with me in Pasadena. Both of them are staying in Yunnan now. I will look them up when I get there and say hello to them for you.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID WONG, '32.

OMSTED WRITES

Telling of boom conditions in Norway, as well as of much improved outlook for technicians, Harold Olmsted, M.S., '33, writes interestingly to Prof. H. R. Martel of the Institute civil engineering staff.

When he left Pasadena two years ago, after receiving his master's degree, Mr. Omsted expected to spend a vacation of several week in Norway and then return to the United States. He had worked in east and in the neighborhood of Los Angeles for 18 years before being able to afford his graduate tuition as a civil engineer.

Finds Job Position

However, he writes, he landed a position with one of Norway's prominent consulting engineers, A. L. Hoyer, who is a son-in-law of the famous Dr. Fridtjof Nansen. When he was previously at home in 1930, he had tried unsuccessfully for six months to obtain work.

"The country in general, and Oslo in particular, has witnessed a building boom the like of which it was never my fortune to experience in the United States. It has encompassed all kinds of building as well as highway construction."

The young Norwegian-American engineer criticises much of the new construction he has seen as being "arty" rather than sound basically in engineering. Concrete work is not up to best American standards, he finds.

In a brief reference to the political situation, he says:

"We in the quiet corner of Europe 'view with alarm,' to say the least, the present trend toward barbarism in certain European countries. . . . In recent Swedish papers, Norway has been severely criticised for not arming enough!

Aware of Danger

"But with gangsters for neighbors we are forced to make a few precautions. Voluntary groups of citizens are drilled for various duties during air attacks. All inhabitants of the larger cities are registered with the bureau for evacuation in case of raids. . . . In short we are constantly being reminded of the situation.

"I am thankful to be an American citizen, and to be able to return if need be to the safety of the United States, behind the world's strongest army and navy. And this is an old-time pacifist speaking!"

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LINDBERGH

Col. Charles A. Lindbergh, while on his recent tour of active duty in which he was engaged in investigating aeronautical research and production facilities for the Chief of the U. S. Army Air Corps, visited the campus on the afternoon of May 9.

A conference was held in the Guggenheim laboratory in which aeronautics research and problems were discussed. After the conference, Colonel Lindbergh viewed the polishing of the 200 inch mirror for the Palomar Mountain Observatory.

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PITTSBURGH GROUP ACTIVE

The frequent visits of Tech men provide Pittsburgh Alumni with a close personal touch with the Institute—particularly because they, whenever possible, seize these occasion for get-togethers. Professor Sorensen was feted in January and Professor Maxstadt, Ph.D. '31, was the honored guest in February.

Late in March the presence of Professor Frederick C. Lindvall, Ph.D. '28, was made the occasion for a dinner party. Those in attendance were: Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Brown '36, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Hobson '35, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Schuler '26, Mr. P. H. Wyckoff, M.S. '37, Mr. W. E. Stephens, and Professor Lindvall.

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NEBULAE CONTAIN METALS

The existence of the heavier metallic elements in planetary nebulae has recently been definitely established by Dr. Ira S. Bowen, Ph.D. '26, professor of physics, Lick observatory. This discovery announced in collaboration with Dr. Wyse, at the ed at the recent meeting of the National Academy of Science in Washing promises to be of considerable astronomical importance.

There is now reason to believe that the heavier elements exist in planetary nebulae in about the same proportions that they exist in the sun.

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CORRECTION

The Alumni Review wishes to make a correction in the biography of the late Dr. Calvin Bridges who spent his summers at the Carnegie Genetics Laboratory at Cold Springs Harbor, Long Island, N. Y., rather than at the Woods Hole Laboratory as stated in the March issue of the Review.