

Letters

Eppy Log

Tucson, Arizona

EDITOR:

I read with considerable interest and nostalgia Winchester Jones's fanciful tale of Professor Paul Epstein's driving habits as related to him by Professor Fritz Zwicky ("Have You Heard Winch Jones Tell This One?" *E&S*, November-December, page 22). It brought to mind an *actual* event that led me at the time to believe that Eppy was indeed protected by divine providence.

It happened sometime in 1943 or 1944, when Pacific Electric street cars ran on tracks along Colorado Blvd. and into downtown Los Angeles. Eppy invited me to attend with him a committee meeting of the American Friends of Hebrew University in L.A. I met him at his home near the campus, and when we got into his car, he told me that his wife usually does the driving but that she's busy this evening. I was a bit frightened by his erratic driving along the (then) Arroyo Seco freeway, but when we were in L.A. I became certain that I would not survive the ride. The high point came when, with unconcerned innocence, he decided to pass a Pacific Electric car by driving on the tracks to the left while another P.E. car was approaching from the opposite direction. I closed my eyes, held my breath, and prayed!

When I came home that evening, my wife tells me, I was still pale and shaking. That was my first and last ride with Eppy.

LEON BLITZER, PhD '43
Professor of Physics
University of Arizona

Cover Story

In its November-December issue, E&S ran a cover picture and a story about the stone capitals on the colonnade that runs between Ricketts and Fleming houses on the campus. To our delight "A Capital Idea" brought us several responses and even a little fan mail, some of which we'd like to share with our readers. The first letter is from the man who executed the stone figures.

Keaau, Hawaii

EDITOR:

I have studied the pictures carefully, and they are made from what we classed as waste molds. They were structural as well as ornamental and were cast of structural concrete. This could not be worked on after casting as the aggregate was too hard and would shatter instead of cut. The interior cast stone was given more attention. The mantel in Fleming was French Caen stone, but the other three house mantels were my cast stone. I also did some 23 flights of stairs.

As an incident of record, when Gordon Kaufmann (the architect) was doing the Santa Anita Race Track buildings, I hit

him up to be sure and put some cast stone on the job for me. His answer was: "My God, Hood, I just can't do it because I have to take \$40,000 of my fee out in Santa Anita stock!" His stock paid 100 percent the first year, and he designed a fountain for me.

JOHN H. HOOD, '21

Los Angeles

EDITOR:

A brief note to express my admiration for the persistent investigation and the fine writeup on your article, "A Capital Idea." You certainly were successful in digging out comparative pictures. I feel strongly that Gordon Kaufmann or one of his aides had such people in mind when they designed the molds.

Congratulations also on taking over as editor of *E&S*. It is quite a job, and I am happy to see the magazine so successful, as I was the founder and the editor for the first years (1937-38) of the *Caltech Alumni Review*, which subsequently became *Engineering and Science*.

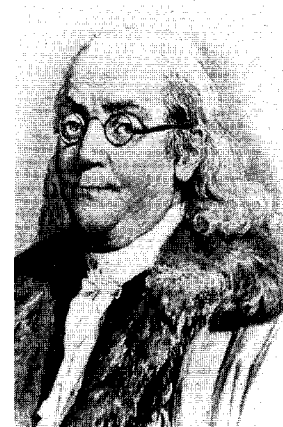
ALBERT W. ATWOOD JR., BS '32, MS '33



Pasadena

Your readers' choice figure looked a lot like Paul Epstein, who just happened to have his picture on page 23.

ROBERT E. SHERIDAN



Anderson, Missouri

My choice for the readers' choice figure in the ornamental capitals story on page 14: Benjamin Franklin.

EDSON W. CARD