

# GRAHAM ALLAN LAING

Professor of Economics, California Institute of Technology

Born July 14, 1884

Died November 12, 1946



Social Hour at the home of Professor Graham Laing, after one of his Economics Seminars.

**A**LUMNI who elected "Econ 45" in the senior year at the Institute will recall scenes similar to the one in the photograph. Annually, for almost 20 years, Professor Laing conducted his seminar at home one night a week throughout the term. Toward the end of the evening, Mrs. Laing always appeared with coffee and tea and a selection of cakes and sandwiches.

Many hundreds of people in the communities between Santa Barbara and San Diego will recall Professor Laing's lectures delivered before various civic and educational groups. For many years also, in addition to his popular lectures, he taught courses for the Extension Division of the University of California, Berkeley, and for the American Bankers' Institute.

Professor Laing was encyclopedic in his learning.

At home both in science and letters, he exemplified the humanistic spirit. On the platform and in conversation, the play of his active mind was invariably stimulating, and his retentive memory seldom was at a loss to produce the apt quotation. The many who have listened to him will recall with pleasure, in addition to the wisdom he proffered, the clear and witty delivery in rapid, incisive, Dundee-American Scots.

Many who knew Professor Laing well will remember most vividly perhaps the rich human qualities that made him the colorful personality he was. Few men have so relished humanity. With Terence he might have said, "I am a man; therefore I consider that nothing human is alien to me." A great capacity for fun accompanied an even greater one for sympathy and tolerance. In consequence, he was much

sought after, as much for his helpful counsel as for his whole-hearted laughter.

Those who knew Professor Laing best will recall evenings of serious, though never solemn, conversation; an inexhaustible supply of stories, limericks, and other light verse; and, occasionally an evening when he would sing, in a rich natural baritone, Scotch border ballads and other old songs.

Among Professor Laing's closest friends a number treasure some gift from his wood shop; for next to the delight he took in his work as a skilled wood-craftsman, he delighted to give it away.

From 1942 through 1944, Professor Laing was project supervisor for one of the Institute's confidential defense activities. A heavy responsibility, it meant making and administering a total budget of several hundred thousand dollars. Though his health was precarious during the war, he did not become seriously ill until about a year ago.

Mrs. Laing continues to live at the familiar, hospitable house on Pleasant Way.

---

This article was prepared by Dr. Roger Stanton, assistant professor of English Language and Literature, California Institute of Technology.

---

### Seventy-Three Years of Photography

(Continued from page 8)

Most of Peabody's later work was designed to be used in visual education. In the twenties and thirties he photographed all of the national parks, at first producing lantern slides and later 35 millimeter film strips and motion pictures. More recently his motion picture films have been re-issued by Bell and Howell on 16 millimeter film with a sound track of descriptions by the photographer. Before this was done, Peabody traveled for 15 years, lecturing on the natural phenomena that he had photographed.

In the fall of 1920 the Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics was under construction at the California Institute. Peabody suggested to Hiram Wadsworth, a trustee of the Institute at that time, that a photographic laboratory should be incorporated in the structure. After consultation with the architect, Bertram Goodhue, it was decided to adopt Peabody's plan, and a laboratory was built on the top of the building, connecting with the elevator shaft. Much of the original equipment in the laboratory was contributed by its designer, and some of it is still in use.

Mr. Peabody recently moved from Altadena to Glendora, and although he built a darkroom in his present home within a month after his arrival, he still commutes to his Pasadena laboratory two or three times a week. He still has prints to make from his negative files, and after the next fall of snow there will be several winter scenes to develop.

## C. I. T. NEWS

### PRESIDENT DUBRIDGE APPOINTED TO ATOMIC ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD

**P**RESIDENT Lee A. DuBridge was named last month by President Truman to serve on the nine-man advisory board to the Civilian Atomic

Energy Commission. This board, according to President Truman, has been chosen to advise the Civilian Commission on "scientific and technical matters relating to materials, production and research and development."

The first item on which the advisory board is expected to aid the commission is the layout of an atomic energy power plant and establishment of research centers in various parts of the nation.

Other members of the board include Professor J. R. Oppenheimer, Dr. J. B. Conant, Enrico Fermi, Glenn T. Seaborg, and I. I. Rabi.

---

### SAILING TEAM LOSES CUP

**C**OMPETING with Pacific Coast collegiate yachtsmen, the Caltech team failed to repeat its 1941 victory, and came in seventh out of a field of 10 in the second annual Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Sailing Association Regatta. Held in Newport Bay on Sunday, December 22, the race meeting was won by Stanford sailors, with Loyola and U.C.L.A. coming in second and third. Other colleges participating were Pomona, Santa Barbara State, U.S.C., U.C., and Fullerton and Santa Ana Junior Colleges. An Annapolis team was invited, but failed to arrive in time for the meet.

Three crews of two men each were entered by the participating colleges. Boats were supplied by the Newport Yacht Club, which borrowed them from members. In this race Dyer Dinghies were used, and distributed to the teams by lot.

Weather on the day of the race proved poor for sailing. Light breezes only occasionally disturbed the calm bay. The dinghies crept around the course with a few spurts by a boat or two on the windward side of the fleet.

Active on the race committee was Jack Palmer '41. This group laid out courses for three races, with all boats entered in each.

Further meets of a dual or triangular sort are planned by Institute sailors during the spring. No definite dates have been set so far.

---

### MANY FORMER LETTERMEN ON TRACK TEAM

**T**RACK and field prospects for 1947 look good. Coach "Doc" Hanes, with 14 lettermen back in school, is expecting an exceptionally well-balanced squad. From the 1946 team are Paul Saltman, hurdles, George Brown, pole vault, Tom Miller, high jump, Doug MacLean, javelin, Bill Simons, 880 and mile, Bob Funk, 440 and Charles Shaller, sprints. Two javelin throwers from previous years, Jim Smith, who won letters in 1942 and 1943 and was throwing the javelin around 200 feet while in the service, and Chuck McDougall, 1942 letterman, are back. Stan Barnes, who ran the 880 in a little under two minutes in 1944, and Elroy Chinn, a 21-foot broad jumper, are squad members this year. Three graduates who starred on the championship 1945 team are eligible: Hubie Clark, quarter miler, Ken Shauer, 440 and 880 man, and Don Tillman, weights. Shauer holds the school record of 49.4s in the 440, and ran the 880 in 1m 59.2s. Tillman established new Tech records in 1945 with marks of 47 feet 3 inches in the shot and 142 feet 3 inches in the discus.