

Random Walk

Ray Untereiner —
1898-1983



ROBERT ANDREWS MILLIKAN met Raymond Edward Untereiner between trains in Chicago in 1925 and hired him on the spot. Millikan wanted all Caltech students to do at least one-fifth of their academic work in the humanities, and he was building an outstanding teaching faculty to do the job.

Born on April 25, 1898, in Redlands, California, Ray Untereiner became an outstanding debator on an outstanding University of Redlands debate team. With his AB in hand he went to Harvard to study economics and law. He taught economics and had the best academic record in the department while earning his master's degree, but he really wanted to be a lawyer and was disappointed when eye trouble forced him to leave Harvard Law School in 1923.

He moved to Joliet, Illinois, where he taught high school and was able to resume his law studies at night at Mayo College where he received a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1925, the same year he met Dr. Millikan — and married Lucile Whitlock, to whom he proposed the night they met.

Beginning in the fall of 1925, Ray coached the Caltech debate team and practiced law in downtown Los Angeles until 1931 when he returned to Chicago for one year to finish a Northwestern PhD in economics. During the depres-

sion years, he taught economics and law and, when Bill Munro was away, history. One law class particularly remembered him for his offhand remark, "A contract is binding even if it is written on cheese."

Ray was dean of freshmen from 1937 to 1943, during which time the Unter-einers got to know the Millikans quite well. Every fall the Millikans had the freshmen (and the Unter-einers) to dinner, 30 students at a time, for six consecutive Sunday evenings. In those days Caltech had fraternities, and Ray was also the faculty adviser to the Gnomes.

From 1941 to 1943, Ray was chairman of a Los Angeles County Citizens Committee on local tax reform. He was also chairman of the Free Enterprise Committee of the L.A. Chamber of Commerce. In 1943 he went to New York City where, for two years, he was economist for the National Association of Manufacturers, but he returned to Caltech as professor of history and economics rather than opting for a higher paying job in industry.

In 1951, Ray ran for the Pasadena School Board on a reform ticket, was elected president of the Board, and guided the schools through a difficult time. From 1954 to 1959, he was a member of the California Public Utilities Commission. He and Lucile lived in San Francisco and loved it. From 1959 to 1961, after he resumed his teaching at Caltech, Ray was an adviser to the Atomic Energy Commission.

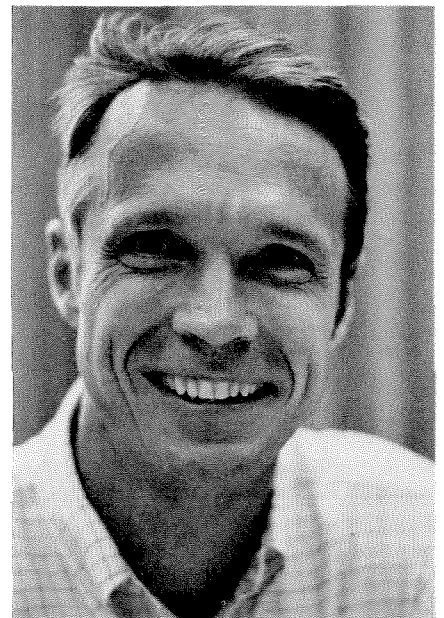
When I came to Caltech in 1959, I shared an office in the basement of Dabney Hall with Ray Untereiner. No one could have been more gracious than he. I much enjoyed his good humor, his stories, and his appreciation of good living. Ray and Lucile entertained the Olivers with grace and elegance in the lovely home they owned for the 34 years between 1932 and 1966. It was on the northeast corner of Wilson and San Pasqual, virtually on campus.

When I was a city director, Ray was a member of a Charter Study Committee considering, among other things, a charter amendment to permit district-only primary elections. It was a change I favored, and I was greatly pleased when he told me, in some confidence, that I was "on the side of the angels." He was a good friend and a thoughtful person whose wisdom was widely acknowledged.

Ray retired in 1968, after which he and Lucile traveled widely. Until recently, they spent summers at Lake Tahoe where they enjoyed their friends, their children, and their grandchildren. Ray suffered a stroke in 1981, but he allowed his disability to interfere only slightly with his social schedule. He came to Caltech faculty parties, he dined as well and played bridge as fiercely, and as well, as ever. He was 85 when he died on July 7, 1983. He had had a good life.

— Robert Oliver,
professor of economics

People Power



THE LATE John D. MacArthur, an insurance and real estate magnate, liked to bet "on individual explorers, while everybody else is off on another track." So he set up the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation of Chicago and made it clear that he wanted it to support exceptionally talented people, not projects. In July, John Hopfield, who is Dickinson Professor of Chemistry and Biology at Caltech, was recognized as one of those people. He received a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellow Award — a no-strings-attached, tax-free grant of \$244,000 to be paid out over a period of five years.

Hopfield will use his award to continue his current research — sans a lot of economic pressure. He is attempting to understand the relation between struc-

ture and function in biological systems by constructing models of collections of neurons in an effort to determine how the brain functions as a physical system. He believes it is possible that some of the unique mechanisms of the brain can be incorporated into computers to dramatically change and improve computer capabilities. (See "Brain, Computer, and Memory," by John Hopfield. *E&S*, September 1982.)

Originally a physicist, Hopfield came to Caltech from Princeton where he had been on the faculty for 16 years, and before that, at UC Berkeley. He got his AB from Swarthmore in 1954 and his PhD at Cornell in 1958 and then was a member of the technical staff of Bell Telephone Laboratories for two years. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1969 he was recipient of the American Physics Society's Buckley Prize in Solid State Physics for his work on the interaction of light with solids.

Information Resource



CALTECH's libraries acquired a new head man on July 1, one who is charged with developing and implementing a new approach to problems of a

university library system in an era of rapidly expanding amounts of information and almost equally rapidly changing technology to deal with it. Glenn L. Brudvig has a title that is new in the history of libraries at Caltech as well — director of information resources. Brudvig comes to the Institute from the University of Minnesota where he was director of the Bio-Medical Library, a post in which he developed automated procedures that put that institution in the forefront of medical libraries in the country. He was also director of the Institute of Technology Libraries at the University and had been responsible for the direction and development of computer applications in the libraries system.

A native of Wisconsin, Brudvig attended the University of North Dakota, where he received a BS in education and an MA in history. He also has an MA in library science from the University of Minnesota. And he is the father of a Caltech alumnus, Gary, who received his PhD at the Institute in 1981.