Random Walk

Chemistry Lab

The earthquake of 1971 shook the Caltech campus hard enough to necessitate the removal of the undergraduate chemistry labs from their time-honored spots in severely damaged Gates Laboratory to a series of makeshift sites in buildings all over campus. Fortunately, it was possible to raise money for, design, and build an 8,000square-foot minimum-amenity replacement building by the fall of 1972. It is into that building (just west of Noyes Laboratory) that the chemistry division has with increasing difficulty shoehorned several of its undergraduate lab courses ever since.



Chem 4 and 5 students now have these handsome facilities in the Mead Undergraduate Chemistry Laboratory.

This fall, life in lab-land looks much better. The building, remodeled and refurbished, has become the Clifford S. and Ruth A. Mead Undergraduate Chemistry Laboratory; and it is now comfortably serving the needs of all those enrolled in Ch 3, 4, and 5 — up to a maximum of 180 students each term.

Happy Birthdays

A number of important birthdays were recently celebrated at Caltech, one of which was that of Lee A. DuBridge, president emeritus, whose 80th birthday was the occasion for a dinner at the Athenaeum on September 20. Hosts were President and Mrs. Marvin Goldberger and Provost and Mrs. John Roberts. Roberts presided after dinner, and the speakers included Goldberger, Trustee William Zisch, Jesse Greenstein (the DuBridge Professor of Astrophysics, Emeritus), William A. Fowler (Institute Professor of Physics), and DuBridge himself. A musical helping of nostalgia was provided by Kent Clark (professor of literature), who sang "Lee, Lee, Lee" from his own 1956 musical *Who Is This Guy DuBridge?* Gary Lorden (professor of mathematics) accompanied him.



Lee DuBridge's 80th birthday party brought out Mrs. Stanton Avery and W. A. Fowler, right, whose 70th birthday was honored a few weeks later. One gift Fowler collected early was DuBridge's autograph of a 1932 edition of Hughes and DuBridge's Photoelectric Phenomena.



Three birthdays crowded the first week of November, beginning on November 2. That was the 90th anniversary of the opening of the doors of Throop University. Those doors were in a building that became a part of the Green Hotel in Pasadena. Neither this name nor this location lasted very long, however, and several changes later the school wound up as the California Institute of Technology located on its present site. As a tribute to the school's origins, there was a luncheon for community leaders and an exhibit of some of the medals awarded to Caltech faculty over the years. On the day itself, there were birthday cakes and balloons for faculty, staff, and students.



Later in the week, on November 5 and 6, the W. K. Kellogg Radiation Laboratory celebrated its 50th birthday with a conference, a special dinner, and a grand finale "Kellogg Party" in Dabney Garden. One of the conference highlights was the dedication of the new accelerator laboratory built in the underground area between Kellogg and Karman laboratories.

Distinguished physicists and astrophysicists from all over came to participate as guests and speakers in the seminar and celebrations. One of those celebrations — the special dinner at the Athenaeum on November 5 — was billed as "Willy's Birthday Party." It honored the 70th birthday of one of Kellogg's most noted scientists, who is also among Caltech's most noted alumni — William A. Fowler.