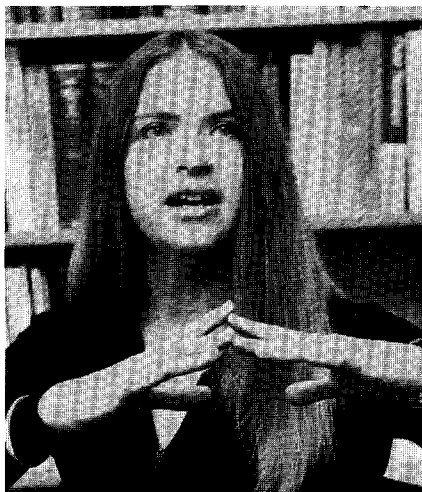


# In This Issue



### Stony Silence

On the cover — a statue of George Ellery Hale? Well, not necessarily, but that's one guess, and after an inconclusive investigation, we've decided guessing is all anyone can do. "A Capital Idea" on page 13 has more pictures of great stone faces on campus and a little history of their origin.



Karen McNally

### Shakeup

Earthquakes are a subject of such interest and concern to so many people that *E&S* frequently prints information about them and about seismological research. After all, we have a completely reliable source of material — the distinguished staff of Caltech's Seismological Laboratory. Recently they (and we) have begun seriously discussing earthquake prediction, partly because in spite of a lot of uncertainty about the subject, now and then an earthquake prediction comes true.



October 4, 1979 — Elizabeth and Ed Hutchings, with Lee DuBridge

### Not in This Issue

For the first time in more than 30 years (and 238 separate issues) the masthead of this magazine does not list the name of Edward Hutchings Jr. as its editor and business manager. This is because Ed decided to retire as of October 1, a fact that brought some 150 of his friends and colleagues to honor him at a dinner at the Athenaeum on October 4.

The idea for the dinner came from Ed's long-time friend Charles Newton, lecturer in English emeritus; it was presided over by President Emeritus Lee DuBridge and highlighted by a brief talk by Ed himself — a talk that was illustrated with slides of some hitherto unseen photos from his private "You Can't Print That" file. James Workman (BS '57, MS '58), vice president of the Alumni Association, presented a gift from the Association, and DuBridge recalled some of the scientific progress of the last 30 years that *E&S* has reported. He also presented Ed with a 20th-anniversary

volume of letters and articles, assembled by Newton, from many of the contributors to *Frontiers in Science* (a collection of some of the best articles published in *E&S* between 1949 and 1959, selected and edited by Ed Hutchings).

All this was very festive, but Ed has created such respect for both the magazine and himself that puzzlement and apprehension were also components of the evening. In fact, two questions heard frequently before, during, and since have been: How has he done it? and How can he ever be replaced?

The answer to the second question is, of course, "He can't." But one answer to the first — plus some autobiographical information — can be found in his own words on page 24. "Editing from Scientist to Informed Layman" is an illustrated adaptation of a speech Ed made some time ago giving his approach to the job of editing *Engineering and Science*. The new editor couldn't ask for a better blueprint.

One of the best documented examples is that of the Oaxaca, Mexico, earthquake of November 29, 1978, the subject of a recent Watson Lecture by Karen McNally, senior research fellow in geophysics. In "Trapping an Earthquake" on page 6, which was adapted from that lecture, McNally discusses some of the problems and payoffs — human and scientific — of that prediction.

McNally knows whereof she speaks, because she was on the scene with an

array of seismographs. And, in a way, she had been preparing for an opportunity like that ever since she read an article in *Scientific American* at the age of 23 and decided to become a geophysicist. A native of California, she attended UC Berkeley, becoming in 1976 the first woman in 46 years to receive a PhD in geophysics from that institution. She has been at Caltech ever since, except, of course, on those not-so-rare occasions when she's monitoring earthquakes out in the field.