

Random Walk

Real Time

IN OUR September issue Charles Elachi of JPL reported on the ancient dry river channels beneath the Sahara, which were discovered by the shuttle-borne radar. Part of his story concerned optically developing the 1,000 meters of film retrieved from the shuttle after it landed — and the scientists' surprise at first sight of the buried channels — months later while still developing film.

Now Demetri Psaltis, assistant professor of electrical engineering, has come up with a camera that will process the radar data in real time. In place of film it uses an "acousto-optic" device — a tellurium oxide crystal transducer and charge-coupled devices — to detect the signal and display the synthesized image on a TV screen. Astronauts on board the shuttle can view the images in real time and adapt experiments. And investigators on the ground won't have to wait months for the surprises.

In Memoriam

THE CALTECH community recently lost two of its long-time members. Dr. Lawrence A. Williams, a life member of the Board of Trustees since 1975, died on December 1 at the age of 79. He first became a trustee in 1954, and he was a life member of The Associates even before that. Williams, who began the practice of medicine in Pasadena in 1939, was a prominent local physician, having served as chief of staff at the Huntington Memorial Hospital, on the senior attending staff of County General Hospital, and as an associate professor of medicine at USC. He is survived by his wife, Lovina.

Arthur L. "Maj" Klein, professor of aeronautics, emeritus, died on November 25. He was 85. Klein had been at Caltech since 1916, earning his BS in 1921, his MS in 1924, and his PhD in 1925. He retired in 1968. Klein was responsible for much of the design and engineering for the building in 1929 of Guggenheim Laboratory and the wind tunnel. He also supervised renovation of the equipment 40 years later. Beginning in 1932, he was a consultant for Douglas Aircraft. A memorial service was held on December 8, and a fund in his honor has been established. Contributions should be sent c/o Susan Walker, Caltech 1-36, Pasadena, CA 91125.

For Old Times Sake



OUR SEPTEMBER story, "A United Vision," showing some old buildings at Caltech evoked several responses from alumni, the focus of which was the photo of the Old Dorm on page 15. One of our correspondents pointed out that — contrary to what our caption said — Throop Club did not meet in the Old Dorm but occupied a separate building connected to the Old Dorm by a roofed porch.

Another spoke of a sentimental journey for his memory to return to the Old Dorm in which he had lived as a graduate student. "If you still have some old photos to show of some other corners of Caltech," he went on, "please publish them. They are certainly most sentiment

tal and nostalgic to all old alumni."

We had no luck finding a picture of the outside of the Old Dorm that would show its relation to Throop Club, but we did find the picture above that we thought might interest all those "old alumni."

The occasion was a Throop Club housewarming in 1936, and these men gathered around the fireplace in "The Dugout" for a group photo. We can't name the first and third men from the left, but the others are Frank Jewett, Bob Mahoney, K. Watanabe, Hugh Colvin, Wally Swanson (from whom, via the Caltech Archives, we got the photo), Paul Hammond, Howard Hamacher, and Ed Kasnika.

For the Record

WE ARE indebted to James Bonner, professor of biology, emeritus, for some interesting information about Barbara McClintock, winner of the 1983 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine. Bonner points out that none of the recent news stories about her seems to have mentioned her Caltech connection, to wit, that she was a National Research Council Fellow in Caltech's Division of Biology from 1931 to 1933. She was, in fact, the Institute's first woman postdoc.

She also returned as a visiting professor in 1946 and 1954.

Bonner was a graduate student in the 1930s, and his lab was close to McClintock's on the third floor of the Kerckhoff Laboratories — along with that of another National Research Council Fellow and future Nobel prizewinner, George Beadle. Beadle was, however, usually off in Temple City hoeing his corn at the corn farm maintained by the division.