

# ALUMNI NEWS

## The Lady Who Licked John L. Lewis

In *Collier's* for June 4, 1949, Sam Stavisky, labor writer for the *Washington Post*, has an article on "The Lady Who Licked John L. Lewis"—Ruth Brown Boyd, wife of Jim Boyd '27. It's the story of how, and why, the Boyds stuck it out, through 15 payless months, until Jim finally won Senate confirmation of his appointment as Director of the Bureau of Mines (E & S, April '49).

"There never was any question in our minds as to what we ought to do," says Ruth Boyd. "You just don't step out in the middle of a fight. Sure, Jim was offered an easy way out, and a higher paying job (with the Atomic Energy Commission), but money isn't the only thing you work for. You've got to live with yourself, and with your children. The children must learn by example the decent thing to do, and what integrity stands for."

## George Felbeck's Award

Dr. George T. Felbeck, Ph.D. '43, Vice-President of Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corp., New York, last month won the 1948 John Wesley Hyatt Award for outstanding achievement in the plastics industry.

The annual award, consisting of a gold medal and \$1,000, went to Dr. Felbeck for engineering developments leading to the large-scale manufacture of polyethylene resins and plastics. His work was primarily instrumental in relieving a wartime national emergency—the procurement by the United States Navy of polyethylene insulation in sufficient quantity to complete its vital radar installations. The Navy needed polyethylene for the production of coaxial cable and other components used in radar equipment. Other materials had failed in this job; polyethylene could do it, but was available only in small quantities.

Dr. Felbeck directed the design of the plant and the high-pressure equipment for the polymerization of ethylene on a large scale and in a continuous process. This wartime accomplishment has helped to establish

a new branch of the peacetime plastics industry. The plastic has already become a major raw material for electrical utilities, electrical manufacturing, packaging, household accessories, and communications.

Dr. Felbeck, who was placed in complete charge of operation of the K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant project at Oak Ridge in 1943, now supervises—in addition—the Y-12 Electromagnetic Plant and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. All three of these installations at Oak Ridge are operated for the Atomic Energy Commission by the Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corp. Dr. Felbeck's other responsibilities are primarily in new process development for Carbide and Carbon.

## Frank Jewett: Un-Retiring

Since his retirement as Vice-President of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co., President of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, and President of the National Academy of Sciences, Frank B. Jewett '98, of Short Hills, N. J., has been resigning many of his trusteeships and directorships. One of the Institute's oldest living graduates, Frank Jewett has served as officer, director, or trustee of such impressive institutions as Princeton University, the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Tabor Academy, and the New York Museum of Science & Industry.

Recently, however, Mr. Jewett reversed the retiring process and *added* another trusteeship—at the Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio. His most recent honorary degree—speaking of honors—was a 1948 LL.D. from the University of California.

## Alumni Fund Dance

The Spring Sport Dance sponsored by the Alumni Association, and co-sponsored by the Associated Students, brought a whopping turnout of 500 to the Altadena Country Club on May 21. Highlight of the evening was a short ceremony in which the Class of 1949 donated \$500 to the Alumni Fund. President Chuck Forester made the presentation for the class, and President Howard Lewis accepted for the Alumni Association. Dr. DuBridge was on hand to express the appreciation of the Institute.

# PERSONALS

## 1916

**Max H. Carson** reports from Honolulu that he is still District Engineer for the U. S. Geological Survey in Hawaii, doing stream-gaging work. His oldest son, Arthur, graduated from Caltech in 1944; his other two children are grown-up—"as happens to us all," he adds philosophically.

## 1922

**Harold S. Ogden** is holding the same job he's had for many years with G. E. in Erie, Penna., but his department has a new name—"Control Division of the Locomotive & Car Equipment Divisions." He is

working on straight electric locos, mostly of the A. C. variety. Ogden has a wife, a son, 12, and a daughter, 10.

**Bryant Essick** and his Essick Manufacturing Co., have recently purchased control of the T. L. Smith Co. of Milwaukee, one of the largest and oldest manufacturers of concrete mixers in the country. Bryant now spends most of his time commuting by air between the Essick plants in Los Angeles and Little Rock, and the Smith plant.

## 1924

**William C. Dreyer** writes that his life is uneventful but agreeable. "I retired into

Westinghouse almost 25 years ago," he says, "and live a very comfortable life with my wife and daughter in Houston, as manager of the Westinghouse Engineering and Service Department in Texas."

From **Doug Tellwright**: "I very seldom have anything of interest to report. But today is different. Our first grandson, Douglas Henry Austin, was born April 23. He has already decided he wants to go to Caltech. I am afraid his older sister (our first grandchild, born February 16, 1947) will probably want to go to Oxy or Pomona. Don't suppose there are very