

The Month at Caltech

National Academy of Sciences

Two Caltech faculty members were elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences at its annual meeting in Washington, D.C., last month, in recognition of their outstanding achievements in scientific research. They are Ray D. Owen, professor of biology and chairman of the division of biology, and Robert B. Leighton, professor of physics and staff member of the Mt. Wilson and Palomar Observatories. Their election brings to 30 the number of Caltech faculty now members of the Academy.

Dr. Owen, a geneticist and immunologist, has made important contributions in the fields of tissue transplantation and inherited blood groups. He came to Caltech in 1946 as a Gosney Fellow, became associate professor in 1947, full professor in 1953, and was appointed chairman of the biology division in 1961. He is also a consultant for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee and is a past president of the Genetics Society of America.

Dr. Owen was graduated from Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin, in 1937 and received his



Ray D. Owen

PhD from the University of Wisconsin in 1941.

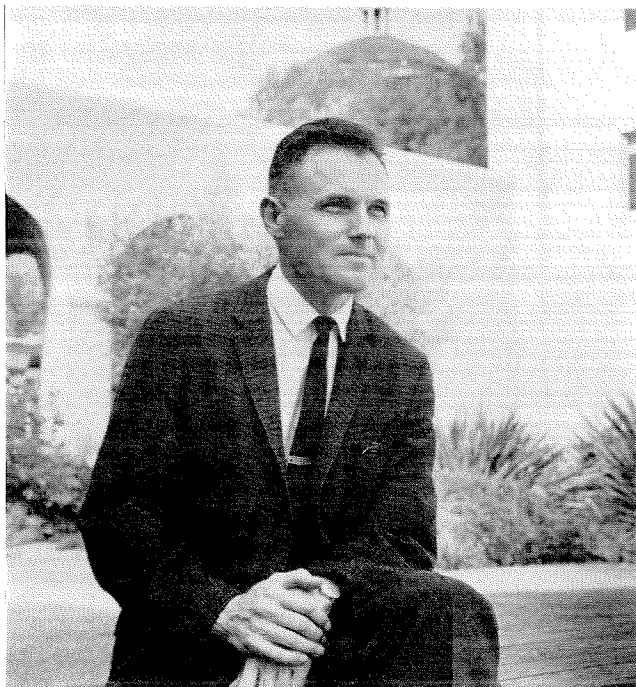
Dr. Leighton has made many important contributions to the fields of physics and astronomy. He was chief investigator of the Mariner IV television experiment. He also designed, built, and put into use a 60-inch infrared telescope which is being used in a survey of the skies. Earlier he developed a camera capable of disclosing details and patterns in the sun's atmosphere.

Dr. Leighton received his BS, MS, and PhD degrees in physics from Caltech in 1941, 1944, and 1947. He joined the faculty in 1947, became assistant professor in 1949, associate professor in 1953, and professor in 1959.

Melvin David Brockie

Melvin Brockie, associate professor of economics, died on April 24 of a heart attack at his home in Altadena. He was 45.

Dr. Brockie came to Caltech in 1947 as an instructor in economics. In 1949 he was promoted to assistant professor and in 1953 to associate professor.



Robert B. Leighton

Born in Boston in 1921, Dr. Brockie received his BA, MA, and PhD degrees in economics from UCLA in 1942, 1944, and 1948, and was a member of the economics faculty there from 1943 to 1947.

He was known for his work on business cycles, investment growth, and interest theory, and was a member of the American Economic Association, a life fellow of the Royal Economic Society of England, and a member of Pi Gamma Mu and Omicron Delta Gamma honorary societies. He is survived by his wife, Jane, and three children: Pamela, Lynne, and Bruce.

Honors and Awards

Don L. Anderson, associate professor of geophysics, is the fifth recipient of the James B. Macelwane Award, given by the American Geophysical Union for outstanding contributions by a young geophysicist. He is honored for his work on the structure of the earth's interior and the application of seismological knowledge to studies of the structure of the moon and planets. Frank Press, former director of the Caltech Seismological Laboratory and now chairman of the department of geology and geophysics at MIT, presented the award to Dr. Anderson in Washington, D.C., on April 20.

Jesse L. Greenstein, professor of astrophysics and staff member of the Mt. Wilson and Palomar Observatories, has been appointed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to a 13-man science advisory committee to help plan future space projects. The committee of distinguished astronomers, biologists, physicists, and geologists

from eight universities will also advise NASA on ways for involving more scientists in space projects.

Robert A. Huttenback, associate professor of history, has been awarded a research grant by the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. He will spend three months this summer in London and at Cambridge doing archival work on the history of the northern frontier of India from 1846 to 1901, with special emphasis on the development of British policy there. He is one of 23 scholars to be honored by the two organizations.

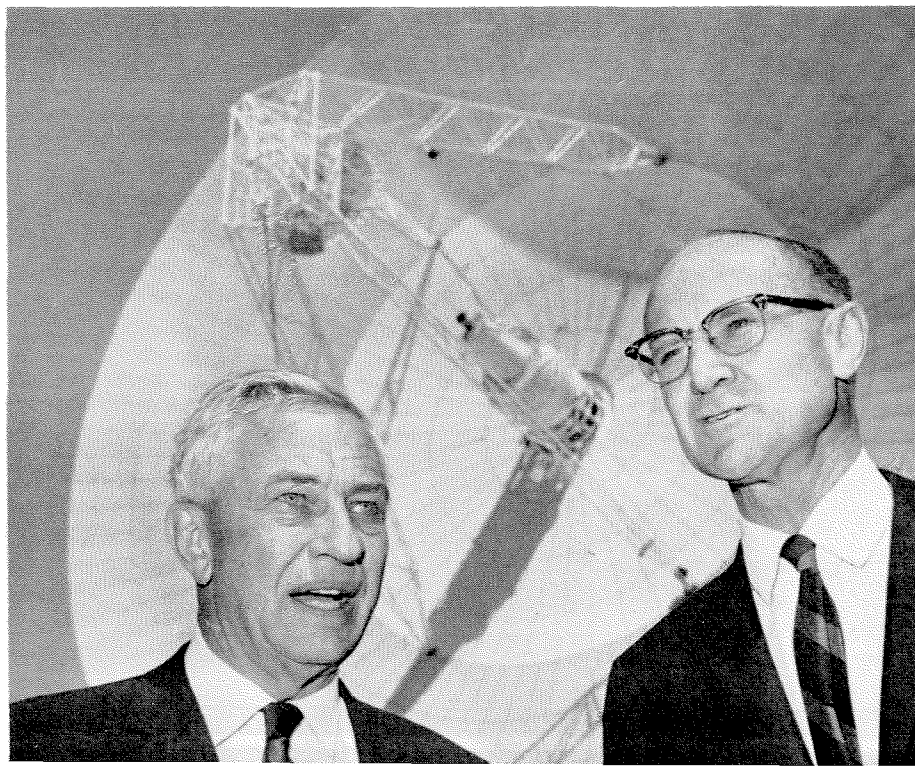
William H. Pickering, professor of electrical engineering and director of Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, received two honors last month for his contributions to space navigation—the "Commander" of the order of merit of the Italian Republic at ceremonies in Los Angeles, and the Magellanic Gold Medal of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia.

Goldstone Dedication

A new tracking and communication antenna at JPL's Goldstone deep space facility was dedicated on April 29. The 210-foot diameter dish is the world's most powerful instrument for tracking spacecraft missions into deep space, with the potential to maintain contact with a spacecraft at the distance of Pluto. The antenna is now operating on a limited basis in support of spacecraft missions and other scientific experiments, and is expected to be

continued on page 23

Caltech President Lee A. DuBridge and William Pickering, director of Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, at the dedication of JPL's newest and most powerful tool for its space flight programs—a 210-foot tracking and communication antenna at Goldstone in the Mojave Desert.



The Month at Caltech . . . *continued*

fully operational on the same basis as the other antennas in the Deep Space Network early in 1967.

New Development

Charles Newton, assistant to the president at Caltech, who has directed the Institute's fund-raising activities since 1948, will resign his development position on August 1 in order to resume his academic post as lecturer in English in the division of humanities and social sciences. He also will retain his assignment as assistant to Dr. DuBridge.

Succeeding Mr. Newton as head of development is H. Russell Bintzer, who comes from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, where he is vice president for development, the title he will have at Caltech.

Before joining the staff at Carnegie nine years ago Mr. Bintzer was at Washington University in St. Louis and, before that time, was coordinator and later development director at his alma mater, Drexel Institute of Technology in Philadelphia.

Pass-Fail To Be Continued

The "pass-fail" grading system for Caltech freshmen will be continued indefinitely. At the May 9 faculty meeting there was a "nearly unanimous" vote to accept the recommendation of the ad hoc committee on the freshman year—that the present system of recording pass-fail instead of letter grades become permanent policy.

The new procedure, which has been on a two-year trial basis at Caltech, has been thoroughly studied, discussed, and evaluated by faculty, students, parents, and administrators of other schools. Studies made by the ad hoc committee show that students and faculty directly involved rate the system as being partially responsible for a marked improvement in these areas: an easing of pressures in the transition from high school; an improvement in student morale; a closer association with the faculty through the new faculty advisor system; an increase in the number of freshmen engaging in honors work; and reduction of the freshman attrition rate.

Alumni Seminar

Nearly 1,300 alumni and guests were on campus May 7 at the 29th Annual Alumni Seminar for a day-long program of lectures and exhibits. Featured attraction was a special panel on "Air, Water, and People" with President Lee A. DuBridge; Arie J. Haagen-Smit, professor of biology; James Morgan, associate professor of environmental health engineering; and Thayer Scudder, assistant professor of anthropology. The day concluded with an evening banquet at which John A. McCone, former director of the CIA, was speaker.

