

Thank you for the special issue of *E&S* on JPL. It read like a very good novel. Even though I was familiar with all of the missions that you described, the details of the problems that had been addressed were fascinating. My familiarity with JPL as a Caltech student, having classmates on the staff, working with them in setting up Seminar Day talks, and following the adventures in the news media gave particular significance to your story. As I followed the pictures I recognized many as persons that I had met or worked with in industry.

My one compelling thought was that it would be great if some sort of recognition could be afforded to JPL itself. I doubt that the ground rules for the Nobel Prize could be stretched far enough to permit their inclusion in such an award, but I do feel that their contribution to the exploration of the Solar System should receive some sort of international recognition.

Thanks again for your work.

Alfred W. Thiele (BS '51)

I thoroughly enjoyed your "50 Years of Caltech and JPL" issue. Very well written. An excellent selection of material. As an alumnus who closely followed the many spectacular events chronicled, it was great to get such a well-done compilation. I enjoy every issue of *E&S*, but this one was special.

Walter V. Goeddel (MS '51)

The article by Erik Conway, arriving shortly after my 90th birthday, really stirred memories.

I would have been the class of '39, but took a year off to work for the New York World's Fair of 1939, followed by returning for my senior year with my new bride, a Hungarian girl who's fluent in about five languages. This put me in with a group of postgraduates, all delightfully somewhat weird, including Frank Malina.

Part of our association was because I was a good mechanic and there were things to be performed on rocket motors, and mostly because my wife was good at translating various technical papers for this group and some other postgraduates.

Your article led me to dig out my scrapbook, made from 35-mm film that has long since deteriorated, but I enclose not only the original prints but some enlargements from my office copier that show one of the firings, sandbags and all.

The group played when they weren't rocketing, and I have other photographs showing us camping on the Mojave and trying to shoot jackrabbits with a .45.

I graduated and went to work for Menasco airplane engines, and all of a sudden JATO came along and the weird but wonderful group all became VIPs.

Robert O. Cox (BS '40)



According to Cox, these old scrapbook photos show Frank Malina testing rockets—apparently in someone's backyard. If anybody knows where these photographs were taken (Cox doesn't remember), we'd love to hear from you!

E&S welcomes letters. Send correspondence to Douglas L. Smith, Editor, E&S magazine, Caltech Public Relations, Mail Code 1-71, Pasadena, CA 91125, or e-mail dsmith@caltech.edu. We reserve the right to edit any letters selected for publication for length, content, and clarity.