

# THE ALUMNI YEAR

## A REVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND AIMS

WARD D. FOSTER

Since this is the last issue of the Review for the year, a report herein of the activities of the Association for 1937-38 is appropriate.

The membership, which reached a figure of 854, is the largest in the history of the Association, and the expense incidental to acquiring this membership was kept exceedingly small. This was largely due to the efforts of the Membership Chairman, Ed. Kinsey, '26, and the Class Secretaries.

The general meetings and the social functions, including the annual dance, were well attended and well received. This work was carried on by the Social Chairman, Phil Schoeller, '32, assisted by Ed. Kinsey and others. The Annual Stag and Field Day, directed by Bill Mohr, '29, with the help of his assistants (and entertainers), secured an excellent turnout of alumni.

The Alumni Review, one issue of which appeared last year, was made a quarterly publication and maintained the high standard which the first issue set, under the continued editorship of Al. Atwood, '32. The enthusiastic reception of the Alumni Review, particularly by the members distant from Southern California, amply justifies the expense of its publication which amounts to about one-third of the total income of the Association.

Undoubtedly the biggest event of this year was the first Tech Alumni Seminar Week End, held March 5th and 6th upon the campus. This series of events included a very considerable number of most interesting lectures and seminars by the internationally famous members of the Institute staff who gave the Association every cooperation. The Seminar Week End deserved and secured a far greater attendance than any previous alumni event, and those who attended were unanimous in their requests that the event be repeated each year. Credit for this event is due to the assistants which the Alumni Chairman had both among the faculty and the alumni, and principally to the unceasing efforts of the Alumni Chairman to plan intelligently and in great detail all of the various events, and to execute those plans personally. The Alumni Chairman for the inaugural Seminar Week End was Clarence Kiech, '26.

Among the members of the Board of Directors whose two-year term expires in June, 1938, is H. Fred Peterson, '27,



WARD D. FOSTER  
*President Alumni Association  
California Institute of  
Technology*

whose organization plan for the Association has been carried on this year. Pete's interest in and help to the Association did not cease with his term as President, which consummated several years of work for the Association, but continued through this last year during his office as a Director. Edward E. Tuttle, '28, who is responsible for the corporate existence of the Association, has ably served the Association through two years, in the second of which he acted as Secretary, Wm. T. Taylor, '22, likewise has been very diligent in his efforts on behalf of the Association during his term of office in which he served as Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Association. These three men may well consider the obligation which they assumed when they became Directors of the Association as well and fully discharged.

Four men are to be elected soon to serve two years as Directors. All of the men nominated for such positions have spent many hours in serving the Association, and, in the opinion of the Board, deserve such recognition for their efforts. Al. Hall, '22, has for the past year been active as Assistant Treasurer, and has participated in the activities of the Finance Committee. Al. Atwood has been editor in chief of the Alumni Review since its first issue. Clarence Kiech was Director of the Seminar Week End. Bill Mohr was Director of the Annual Stag and Field Day. If such men are elected to the Board of Directors there is no doubt that the President of the Association during the next year will enjoy the complete cooperation and sincere and enthusiastic desire of the Directors to assist in every way the advancement of the interests of the Association, which it has been my privilege to have from the Board of Directors during the past year.

I can wish nothing finer for the new President of the Association than that he shall have from the Directors and Committee workers the same sincere cooperation and enthusiastic efforts which they have given me in the last year.

## BOSTON GROUP ACTIVE

The Alumni in Boston seem to be a most energetic and active gang who get together frequently and from reports that drift westward seem to have some mighty fine times.

At a recent meeting at the Hofbrau in Boston one of their members took time to prepare a series of biographical sketches of the fellows attending. The entertaining comments of this most worthy correspondent follow.

**HUGH COLVIN, '36.** Basketballer and incidentally a Chemical Engineer at Pasadena. . . . A grind at the Business School at Harvard with "distinctions" plastered all over his record . . . said he thought there couldn't be any better school than Tech though . . . and then laughed like hell! . . . plans finally to settle in Los Angeles . . . though at this meeting he's wondering if it's still there after the flood. . . . As to pulchritude in women, Southern California definitely gets his vote. . . . Recently elected an officer of the Harvard Business School Association.

**FREDERICK DION, '37.** Harvard Business School and doing well as might be expected. Fred is heading for Montana as soon as June arrives. Fred has no children yet.

**J. S. EDWARDS, '37.** Elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Boston Bean Chapter of the Alumni for the next year. Planning to get even better grades at Harvard Business School now that he has an office of trust.

**ROBLEY D. EVANS, '28.** Assistant Professor of Physics at M.I.T. Unable to attend meeting because of Mrs. Evans' illness and tenth wedding anniversary. Congratulations, Bob. Glad to report that Mrs. Evans is well on road to complete recovery.

**CLARK GOODMAN, '32.** Physics Dept, M.I.T. Working with Robley D. Evans, '28, in the "Determination of Geologic Ages by the Helium Method". Hopes to get Doctor's Degree in reasonable time. Elected President of Cal Tech Boston Alumni Assoc., March 10, 1938, because he made the loudest noise. Due to the limited resources of a college position, and the honest belief he is a handsome fellow, Clark has lately been posing as a male model for the "Boston's Friendly Baked Beans Co.," (Motto—They sneak up on you friendly like)—Clark's wife would be interested to know that he suggested going to the Old Howard (Boston's Follies Casino) after the last Alumni meeting. Clark recently startled the American Physical Society out of their sleep last

June at their annual convention in Denver by a paper on his work on the age of the earth. Clark knocked off 50 million years by means of the traditional misplaced decimal point, but after applying a C.I.T. "Skinner's Constant" everything was O.K.

**EVERETTE GRIFFITH, '36.** Griffith drinks "liters" holds chief post on spelling team of the Harvard Business School, heading for California as soon as possible, to Northampton more often than possible, keeps the wires hot to Wellesley and Claremont. No children, Women first.

**HOWARD HAMACHER, '36.** First year at Harvard Business School. Spent last year working for "American Smelting and Refining Co., Selby, California"—as Chemical Engineer. School is wonderful, i.e., fairly good—i.e. almost as good as Tech. Hamacher is *the Brains* of the Harvard Business School. He attributes it all to the Hofbrau Brew. He is still anticipating a future on the West Coast.

**TETSUO F. IWASAKI, '32.** Unfortunately "ice hockey" has trouble with his eyes and was forced to discontinue his work toward a master's degree at M.I.T. However, we understand from a reliable source that he did very well during his year here. He has returned to Southern California. We're all sorry to see him leave and hope he will be back soon in good shape.

**SAMUEL Y. JOHNSON, '33.** Johnson finishes a crack two year course at the Harvard Business School this year. It is whispered that he is a candidate for a degree with distinction. Surprising it is, Sammy is still a single man. We don't know how this has been possible. Sam explains, "It is because I care for so many". He is the core of most of the "Big Apples" around Boston. Sam reports to have visited Bob Smallman last Christmas vacation at Schenectady. He hopes to be off on the Boston Night Boat next Easter.

**ROBERT C. JONES, '37.** Studying Chemistry at Harvard. Two more years to go, can't decide whether to produce or be a Professor. Much thinner—must be working hard. Has another fellowship for next year.

**ANTHONY J. LARRECQ, '29.** Tony Larrecq, who has been with the General Electric since graduation, was transferred from Schenectady to Lynn about a year ago. He is in a new department specializing in aeronautical equipment. Superchargers are one monopoly of this department, but he is working on an exhaust turbine for airplane propulsion. Romance has actively entered

Tony's life. At a Pop Concert last June, Tony struck up an acquaintance with a girl sitting near him, and they are to be married on the anniversary of this meeting June 11. The fiancee's name is Alice Bogdan.

**HARRY MILLER, '37.** Is a first year medical student. Likes to dance well. Is getting along fine with his work. Hopes to specialize in surgery. Seems to have several hobbies but names are not known.

**RICHARD NELSON, '35.** Dick is chasing electrons through M.I.T.'s physics dept. in search of a Ph. D. degree . . . writing thesis on Thermionic Emission and expects to finish this June. . . . Plans to stay in East because of necessity, but still prefers the wide open spaces of native Wyoming.

**BOB SHARP, '34.** Bob dragged back into Greater Boston around the first of the year after a full investigation of Nevada during the summer and fall. It being assumed that he snaked up a bit on his thesis ("Cenozoic Geology of the Ruby-East Humboldt Mountains, Nevada"), he'll be awarded his Ph.D. in Geology this spring. He plays a good bit of squash and occupies himself with less important pursuits. After June he'll be waiting for the first University smart enough to snap him up. Likes New England but not well enough.

**J. DAVIS SHUSTER, '27.** Mr. Shuster, the gentleman on my right, of whom I am requested to give the "cold dope" so to speak, has been in these parts since graduation. Apparently he likes the climate (better circulate a little more propaganda, you Californiites). Upon graduation he worked for about 3 years for *General Electric* at Schenectady and then transferred his allegiance to the Grace Line, being chief electrician on one of their ships operating between New York and Chile, South America. At present he is working in the electrical division of a subsidiary of the Bethlehem Steel Corp. He is an excellent fellow of rare talents and apparently enjoys Hofbrau beer in spite of being married. From the looks of things Mass. seems to be the majority choice of those who left the sunny clime, Harvard Business School being well represented. Tech men seem to do very well back here.

**MICHAEL SILVERMANN, '29.** Keeps Navy clear of decks: Late of Washington, D.C. Now "Hitting the Deck" Braintree, Mass. Still looks as well preserved as in 1929. Likes New England. Not married yet. Nose dives into ski banks when not howling on the green. Guzzles plenty of beer. Remembers old Tech friends.

FOLKE SKOOG, '32. University of California at Berkeley, in 1937. National Research in Biology and Physiology, Ph.D. in Biology from Cal. Tech. in 1936. Left his skis in California. Moustache — Harvard haircut — Married five years. No children. Still would like to have a chance to race Glen Cunningham.

W. G. McSPARRAN, 37. Harvard Business School this year and next and he is working harder than at Tech (hearsay). Civil engineer at Tech. Business administration at Harvard. Going to be a business man, civil engineering not very profitable.

LAWRENCE STUPPY '35. Third year at Boston Medical School. One more year. Greatly enthused about his work. Last summer motored to California for a short visit. Now is working in Massachusetts General Hospital Clinic along with his studies. Is not confined to Psychopathic Hospital, only lives there. Stuppy appeared with typical "Haa-vd" bow tie. Stuppy has recently given up chasing debutantes from Chicago to Washington via New York. He is now cultivating a Southern accent in an effort to gain access to Boston's exclusive Southern Club. Stuppy is making a study of joints — he says from an arthritic point of view—we doubt this but we'll let it pass.

TYLER THOMPSON, '36. Studying at Boston School of Theology and working three days a week running a church. (Barrie, Mass., 1,000 people in community.) During spare time he spends three weeks in Florida singing to the natives. (Last two winters with choral group.) Marriage seems to agree with him.

MARTIN HASKELL WEBSTER, '37. Harvard Law School. Thinks it a lot better than Tech. Thinks Boston is more interesting, more varied, more lively than Pasadena. Thinks Wellesley makes the difference. Planning to get married in April and planning to become Patent Lawyer with plans to live in New York. Loves skiing (great stuff).

VICTOR VEYSEY, '36. Vic is graduating this June and he shows promise of being the fair haired boy of the Harvard Business School. True to his undergraduate environment, our hero has been very active as one of the founders of the "Harbus News," the Business School newspaper. As further evidence of his adaptability to every environment, Tech's shining light boy has become one of New England's better skiers.

HUGH WARNER, '37. Studying at Harvard Business School.

## SAN DIEGO ALUMNI MEET

On the sixth of April the San Diego Alumni held a meeting at the University Club at which Mr. Edward Price of the Solar Aircraft Company gave a very interesting and profitable talk on "Tolerances". Mr. Price reviewed the rise and decline of religious and political intolerances from the time of the Greeks to the present, thus giving a background for judgment of present intolerances.

There was a pretty fair turnout for the southern city among whom were the following alumni: Maynard Anderson, '31, who is connected with the engineering design department of the W.P.A.; Perry Booth, '31, who works for the San Diego Electric Railway; Jack Rossum, '35, a water chemist for the National City Water and Telephone Co.; Byron Hill, '25, in charge of the construction work at Mt. Palomar; John Gates, '36, who is a chemist with the Kelco Company; Dan Schuman, '37, who is in the right of way department of the San Diego Gas and Electric Company; Lee Pratt, '31, from the production department of the Kelco Company; Art Mathewson, '33, who is in the sales department of the Solar Aircraft Company; John Rutter, '33, of the State Division of Highways; Fred DeSilva, '22, who is a professor of Mathematics at La Jolla High School; Maurice Ross, '24, a member of the Board of Education of San Diego; Bob Heilbron, '27, of the Heilbron Electric Company, and Dan Mathewson, '34, who is in the design department of the Solar Aircraft Company. Incidentally Dan Mathewson is in charge of the next meeting to be held June 1st at the University Club of San Diego.

## FENWICK MARRIES

Kenneth Fenwick, '28, and his brother, Hobart Fenwick, were proud bridegrooms in a double wedding on May 14 at All Saints' Episcopal Church, Los Angeles. Perhaps this should be called a double-double wedding, for the beautiful brides, the former Misses Darelyn and Marjorie Walker, are sisters. But this occasion was even more notable, for the brides are nieces of Governor James V. Allred of Texas who was present to give them away in marriage.

Following a honeymoon, Ken and his Darelyn have returned to Los Angeles where Ken has resumed his work with the State Division of Highways.

## FRANK CAPRA '18 WRITTEN UP IN SAT. EVENING POST

In the May 14 issue of the Saturday Evening Post there appeared an article by Alva Johnson entitled "Capra Shoots As He Pleases". Mr. Johnson presented in a highly entertaining manner the success story of this famous alumni.

Frank Capra, '18, was a brilliant student at Tech; he also took an active part in undergraduate affairs, being editor of the college paper. That Mr. Capra has maintained this interest is shown by the fact that he was one of the first men to take out life membership in the Alumni Association.

Some years after leaving Tech a quirk of fate and a big bluff gave Frank Capra his start in the movies and once in he went from one success to another. Today he is one of the most outstanding directors of Hollywood and known to all for his direction of such pictures as, It Happened One Night, Mr. Deeds Goes to Town, Lost Horizon, Lady for a Day, and many another top notch picture.

If you missed this story you will find it both worth while and entertaining to dig out the May 14 Post and read Alva Johnson's story of Columbia's ace director.

## SERRELL WRITES FROM GERMANY

Akademische Auslandstelle  
der Technischen Hochschule  
Darmstadt, Germany  
April 20, 1938

The Alumni Association,  
Calif. Inst. of Tech.,  
Pasadena, Calif., U.S.A.

Dear Bill Taylor or Ed Tuttle, or whoever is interested (probably Miss Dierkes):

Here are my eleven dollars toward my life membership. I don't know when they're due, but fairly soon as far as I can remember.

The quarterly Alumni Review is great stuff, especially for those of us who are in exile, even though voluntarily and for a short time. My job this year is Exchange student to Germany from Caltech, and it's proving to be a most interesting year to be in Europe. If you need a space filler for the next review, here's some dope you may be able to use.

When the Institute of International Education informed me that my application had been accepted, they continued to add that my language recommendations were remarkable only for their scarcity, and that the fellowship would be granted only on the condition that I go over early in the summer and take some of the vacation courses. To this I agreed readily, and sailed from New York on the 20th of June. Just to get in the proper frame of mind, I took the Hamburg America liner "Deutschland," which was so full of Americans that my good intentions of studying a grammar book went completely by the board. We had a pleasant passage, and arrived in Hamburg harbor on the evening of June 28th. My first and deepest impression of Europe was how long the days were. I had never been north of New Hampshire, and for the last ten years, nowhere north of San Francisco, and daylight from five a.m. to after ten-thirty in the evening was something entirely new to me. My second deepest impression was how small many familiar things, especially automobiles, were here. Next, the unbelievable intensity with which everything was cultivated, including forests, and finally, the amazing number of uniforms all over. Not only the soldiers (and there were plenty of those) but even the taxi drivers and street cleaners wore them.

Hamburg is a lovely city, and impressed me as having much more atmosphere and charm than Berlin, where I went directly after landing, and where I spent two months studying at the foreign institute of the University of Berlin. I lived with a German family and learned probably as much from them as from the courses. Parts of Berlin are very nice, but on the whole it gives the impression of trying to be what it isn't quite able to be, a great cosmopolitan city. In size it's great all right, but it sprawls without much rhyme or reason, and is full of Baroque architecture, which is fine for those who like it. My stay there was pleasantly punctuated by the arrival of Placement Director Donald S. Clark, and Gottfried Dattweiler on their last summer's European tour.

From the beginning of September to the beginning of November, I made a tour of Germany, avoiding English-speaking people and enlarging my meager vocabulary. With a knapsack and a bicycle, which I took on the train with me over long, uninteresting stretches and during bad weather, I headed up through Hamburg to the Baltic coast for what was left of the sailing before the season

closed. From Kiel and Flensburg I biked eastward through the deserted beach resorts and the anything but deserted Hansa cities to Swinemunde. From there I took the steamer to East Prussia where I spent a week looking at Konigsburg and making a sightseeing trip as a guest of the government. From there back by boat to Swinemunde and by train via Berlin, Dresden, Leipsig, spending a few days in each city, to Jena, the home of Carl Zeiss and the wonderful optical instruments. I should have liked to have seen how Contax cameras, etc., are made, but was informed that few who are not employed there ever get inside the factory. From Jena to Eisenach I biked through the Fall colors of the Thuringen forest, took the train from Eisenach to Cologne where I visited Erwin Keutner, the German boy who was at Caltech last year. Finally I took the steamer up the Rhine and biked from Wiesbaden to Darmstadt.

The Hochschule here is good, but otherwise Darmstadt isn't much. If one wants to get historical, Darmstadt is the capital of the former Grand Duchy of Hessa whose mercenaries were hired by England during the American Revolution. It is at present the home of a large number of bureaucrats. However, the surrounding country is pleasant, and an exchange student isn't required to keep his nose too close to the grindstone, and Frankfurt am Main and Heidelberg are not too far distant. I do mostly research for which the opportunities are good here both in Strength of Materials and Metallurgy, and listen in on a couple of lectures.

During Christmas vacation, a bunch of us went skiing in the Allgavian Alps in Southern Germany, and on the return trip I visited Munich. During Spring vacation (the month of March) I buzzed through Southeast Europe, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Italy, including Sicily. It was amazing to me how the people differed from one country to another. In each country I got a new slant on it and all the others. Hitler had not yet rescued Austria while I was there, but the country was definitely in the process of going German. The Dalmation coast of Yugoslavia was wonderful, prettier even than Italy, and reaped the golden tourist harvest much less obviously. If one bargains for it, life in Italy is extremely cheap. However, Italy will never have a Jewish question as has Germany; only the very smart Jews can out-jew an Italian and exist there. Finally I spent the Easter week-end in Paris, which quite exceeded my expectations as being a beautiful city.

The German people love Hitler, who, after all, has done quite a bit for them, having restored national pride by knocking holes in the treaty of Versailles, removed unemployment, and added to the "Reich." They pay high taxes, but are willing to provide if they feel they are getting something for it. The impression one gets from the American publications, especially the weekly with the red bordered cover, should be discounted about ninety percent.

And finally, here are two true stories to illustrate two different national temperaments. The first was told me by a German and concerns the bureaucracy connected with driver's licenses. Motor vehicles are divided into four grades: those with under 200 cc. piston displacement and less than 20 Km/h top speed, motorcycles, those with a weight of more than three and a half tons empty, and all the rest. For the first group one needs no license. A motorcycle license is no good for a car or truck, and vice versa, which is not too unreasonable. However, if one buys a motorcycle with 199 cc. displacement, he can climb on board and ride without thinking of a license. But, if he has the machine, which he may have ridden three years or more, rebored, so that the displacement is 200.5 cc., he must get a license before he dares ride the thing again.

The second was told me by a lady in Paris who had the occasion to take the French air line from Munich to Paris. They had been up only a little while when they had to turn back because of motor trouble. They landed, and the pilot and his assistants began to tinker, which they hated to do in front of the Germans who gathered around with their hands in their pockets and broad grins on their faces. Finally international relations became so strained that the French boys tied up the job with bailing wire, or its equivalent, and took off again. The repairs didn't last long, for all the oil ran out of one motor, which had to be shut off, but instead of turning back again to Munich, they preferred to go on with one motor to the nearest French port.

You are welcome to use the less mercenary parts of the above as you see fit.

When I get back this Fall about the beginning of September, I'll probably be among the unemployed, so might as well make myself known to the placement service. I prefer Machine Design or research, but will take what I can get, and geographical location makes little difference.

Best regards to all.

Peter Van H. Serrell.