



Six-man crew of the schooner *California*, now on its way around the world, includes Hal McCann, '46 (checked shirt), Ward Vickers, Art Teets, '45 (right).

ALUMNI NEWS

Two Years Before the Mast

The only people we happen to know about who are doing precisely what they want to right now are three Caltech alumni: Hal McCann, '46, Art Teets, '45, and Ward Vickers, V-12 student during the war. With three others they're on their way around the world in a 72-foot three-masted schooner.

Their ship, the *California*, was built in 1936 and participated in the Hawaii sailing race of that year. It is refitted with a 100-horsepower Diesel auxiliary engine, a radio, and new bunks—including an out-sized one for six-foot-six McCann. Stowed in the hold are 200 gallons of fresh water and some eight tons of canned goods, which they expect to last them about 400 days. Thoughtful friends also contributed cook-books.

All told, the six crew members have invested about \$16,000 in the trip. They expect to pay their way, and perhaps get back some of their investment, by supplying articles and photographs (already contracted for) to travel and yachting magazines, and by doing odd jobs in various ports-of-call. Four of the crew are fliers, and they hope to get jobs as bush pilots for small airlines during a two-month stop-over in France.

Their itinerary includes Acapulco, Costa Rica, through the Panama Canal to Jamaica, Haiti and Bermuda. Then across the Atlantic to the Azores, Lisbon, and around Gibraltar to the French Riviera. After a two-month-or-more lay-over, they plan to cross the Mediterranean to the Suez Canal, the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean and

Singapore. From there they will sail to Australia, over to Fiji and South America, and up the Pacific Coast to California.

The boys have no timetable, and they're in no hurry. About two years ought to do it, they say.

Battling Boyd

After a two-year fight, James Boyd, '27, has finally been confirmed by the United States Senate as Director of the Bureau of Mines. John L. Lewis, president of the United Mines Workers, who has done his best to block Boyd's confirmation since 1947, went so far as to call a two-week coal mining stoppage this spring in protest against the appointment. Boyd's appointment was promptly approved by a Senate vote of 50 to 11.

Lewis's chief objection has been that Boyd never worked as a coal miner. As Director of the Bureau of Mines, however, Boyd's job includes a good deal more than making mines. He is not only responsible for mine safety, but for scientific research in the problems of mineral conservation and utilization.

For the record, Boyd received his B.S. from Caltech in engineering and economics, then went to the Colorado School of Mines, where he received his M.S. in geophysics in 1932, and his Sc.D. in geology in 1934. He taught at the school until the war, when he entered the Army as a captain in 1941. He was discharged as a Colonel in 1946, and served as dean of the Colorado School of

Mines until his appointment to the Bureau of Mines post in 1947.

Boyd took over as Director of the Bureau in August, 1947. He received pay for about four months, but this stopped when a short session of Congress adjourned without confirming him. His nomination was sent to the Capitol in 1948 and again this year before it was finally confirmed. This month he will be getting his first paycheck since December, 1947.

Placement Year

The Discussion Series on Placement Opportunities, cooperative venture of the Placement Committee of the Alumni Association, the Student Relations Committee of the Alumni Association and the Institute Director of Placement, recently concluded its first annual program.

The purpose of the series was to offer Caltech students an opportunity to find out what fields are actually open to trained engineers and scientists. Starting last October 20, discussions were held weekly—when school was in session—through February 23. Specific fields covered in the series included the petroleum industry, construction, aeronautics, industrial research, business management, sales, teaching and academic research, design engineering, and production and manufacturing. More general discussions covered opportunities in large and small industries, non-technical requirements for success, the problem of looking for a job, and summer jobs.

Speakers included T. A. Atkinson of the General Petroleum Corp., Edgar Layton of the Holman and Powell Paving Co., Milton U. Clauser of Douglas Aircraft, Norris Johnston of Oil Properties Consultants, Charles B. Thornton of Hughes Aircraft, R. E. Johnson of General Electric, Dr. Joseph F. Manildi of the Department of Engineering at U.C.L.A., Arthur M. Whistler of the Fluor Corp., O. N. Anderson of Procter & Gamble, T. W. Johnson of the Security First National Bank of Los Angeles, William V. Roberts, M. M. Boring of General Electric, and Hugh Colvin of the Consolidated Engineering Corp.

Success of the series was chiefly due to the herculean efforts of W. D. Sellers, '25, chairman of the Alumni Placement Committee, and Ruben F. Mettler, B.S. '44, MS. '47, head of the Student Relations Committee—with the assistance of Dick Shuster, Dan King, and Dick King, all '49. The various sponsoring committees are now considering following through with a second series of placement talks next year.

Meanwhile, the Placement Consultant Service established this year by the Alumni Placement Committee continues to operate in high gear. Some 100 alumni in this area have now agreed to act in an advisory capacity—to counsel Caltech students on courses of study or employment requirements and opportunities in various fields. All deans, department heads, and placement representatives at Caltech have lists of these consultants, who are available at all times.

Alumni Dance

The Alumni Association held its "lucky" thirteenth annual dinner and dance at the Oakmont Country Club on March 4. With John Farneman, '38, in charge, the evening went off smoothly and highly successfully. There were 330 at the party—174 for dinner, and 156

who came later on to dance to Hal Lomen's music.

The next dance, for both alumni and undergraduates, is scheduled for May 21, at the Altadena Country Club. Jack Osborn, '39, is alumni chairman for the event; Bill Freed, '50, is student chairman.

Chapter Notes

The San Francisco Chapter gave a Pot Luck Supper at the Twentieth Century Club on February 18. After supper there was a brisk business meeting, followed by a showing of the popular Palomar film. On hand, with wives or girls, were: K. B. Andersen '24, Bob Bowman '26, Manly Edwards '26, H. P. Henderson '26, Maurice Jones '26, Marshall Baldwin '27, Hilmer Larson '27, Bob Vaile '27, Alex Hazzard '30, Bob Stirton '30, Chuck Lewis '31, Charles Gibbs '35, Jim Halloran '35, Bob Jones '35, Virgil Erickson '37, George Horne '37, Bob Jones '37, Walton Wickett '37, Al Jurs '38, Jerry Kohl '40, Dick Walker '40, Harrison Price '42, Leonard Alpert '43, Andy Benson '43, John Otvos '43, Shelton Steinle '43, Charles Wagner '43, Jim Hadley '45, and Joe Rosener '47.

The New York Chapter held a dinner meeting at the Hotel Holley on March 30, took time to nominate a nominating committee to nominate nominees for next year's officers, then heard a talk by Caltech's Professor of Business Economics, Horace N. Gilbert, on "How's Business—East and West."

ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET

of the

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

and the installation of new officers

will take place

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 8

COMMENCEMENT WEEK REUNIONS, JUNE 8

for the classes of 1944, '39, '34, '29, '24, '19