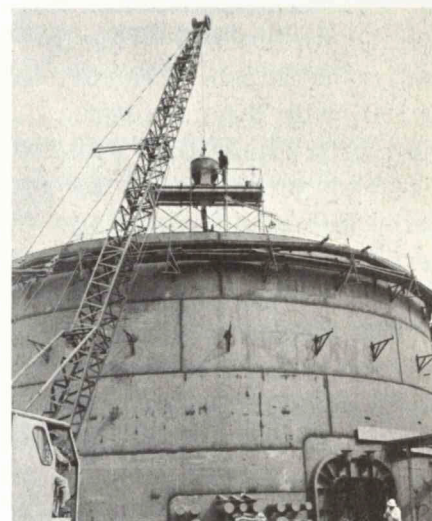


TO FOSTER RESEARCH

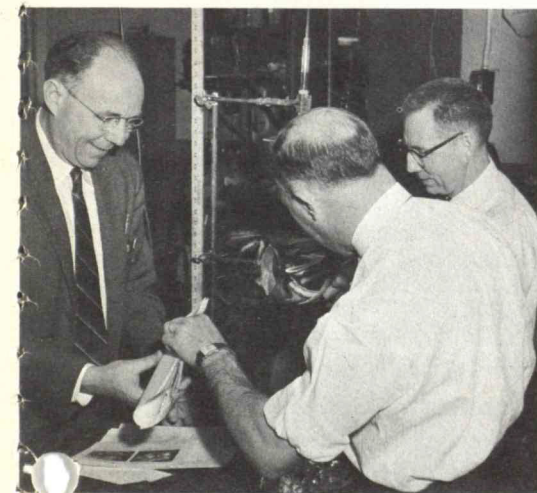
They're not off on sabbatical to the Amazon jungles. The "pith helmets" jauntily sported by Gov. Foster Furcolo and President Killian (see right) were donned for inspection of M.I.T.'s nuclear reactor, rapidly taking shape across the railroad tracks on Mass. Ave. Reactor is scheduled for completion early in 1958. It will be used for "peaceful" research by scientific and medical groups throughout the area.



FAIR OR FOUL

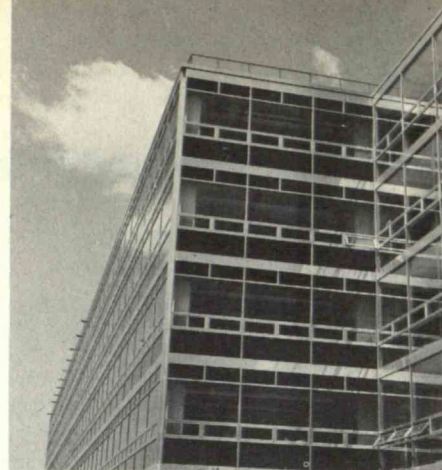
We hope, in some respects, that June will be an improvement over May. The last has been a month of tornadoes in Oklahoma, flash floods in Texas, droughts in New England, and raiding hippopotomi in Africa. The only one of these to be brought fully under control, after doing considerable damage, was the hippos. Some ingenious Germans produced an aromatic powder called "Lion 4," which put the animals in such a tizzy they galumphed back to the jungle and haven't been seen since. (An earlier experiment, of tiger extraction, did not have the same happy effect.)

At M.I.T. the cyclones are yet to come. They begin with Baccalaureate on June 6 and run through to Alumni Day on the 10th. The latter will be topped off by the dedication of the Compton Lab. The full program of speeches and tours on this occasion will be missing only one item: on June 5, at 2:00 p.m., President Killian will jump the dedication gun by burying, in a well chosen spot beside the building, a TIME CAPSULE. Capsule will contain a few M.I.T. mementos, collected by Prof. Harold Edgerton (Elec. Eng.), to be goggled over 1,000 years hence. Sample materials: "A Scientist Speaks," by Karl T. Compton, new coins from the First National Bank, a brief hello from President Killian, a dash of synthetic penicillin, and one cryotron - - the tiny unit invented at M.I.T. this year which will replace complex tubes and expensive transistors in electronic computers of the future. Materials were last week sealed into their glass tomb with blowtorches wielded by R.L.E. glassblowers Lawrence Ryan and Anthony Velluto.



Stuffing the capsule

All these festivities, long since worked out to the last detail, will keep squadrons of planners and fixers on duty pretty nearly around the clock. A prodigious memo, sent to appropriate M.I.T. personnel with minute-by-minute instructions of "what goes where and when," contained exactly 113 items. Mr. Murphy will have the Chapel bell rung three times, at five second intervals, at 3:00 p.m. . . . Mr. Barraford will provide a policeman. . . . Mr. Dondero will contact the Department of Public Safety for a certificate after the stage has been erected. . . . Mr. Crowell will provide five men on Friday morning "to assist the Guests of Honor, the Corporation, and the Class of 1907 with their robing". . . Mr. Conant will divert all air traffic from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and so forth.



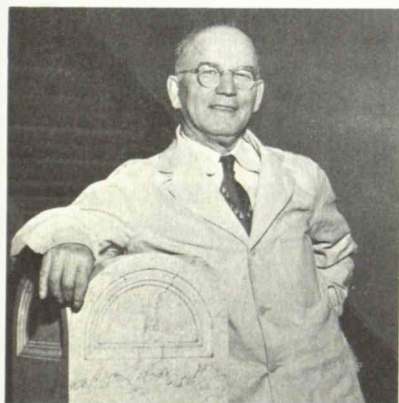
In memory of Dr. Compton

Then there are all the things to be thought of, such as public address systems, wool banners, silk standards, flags, "No Smoking" signs, fire extinguishers, folding chairs, "Vorando" fans ("so directed as to blow air across the spot where the diplomas are presented"), cocoa matting for the stage, diplomas ("to be handled with gloves"), tents, awnings, speaker's platforms, luncheon tables, etc. In addition, the "jumping pits" in Rockwell Cage have to be covered with plywood, the voluminous curtains "cleaned and flame proofed" (by the Fireproofing Corporation of America, if necessary), the ramp at the Armory checked for "tripping hazards," the audio controls between the Auditorium organ and the Cage tested, the stage decorated (by Pallotta Flowers, Inc.), a rehearsal room in Kresge converted to a nursery, fancy food for the thousands of visitors provided on schedule (by Seiler's), the Mass. Ave. truck traffic rerouted, and, at commencement itself, "the unseated guests restrained until after the playing of the National Anthem."

As if this weren't enough, many of the listed items are prefaced with the devastating qualifier: "If Monday is a rainy day. . ." Anyone who wants to give a helping hand to commencement mastermind, Jack Sheetz (Development Office), can start sending up smoke signals right now to clear the Cambridge skies well in advance.

PICKLED

Speaking of digging (issue of May 21), a roving reporter tells us that when the foundations of M.I.T.'s own Alumni Pool were laid the following items were uncovered -- about 12 feet down: (1) fragments of English china, and (2) a jar of pickles. Interested observers hustled the jar over to the experts in Biology, who fixed its contents at about 100 years of age. Pickles, rumor has it, were finally honored in a way befitting a school of science: they were downed (with relish?) at a big banquet dedicating the Pool.



AULD LANG SYNE

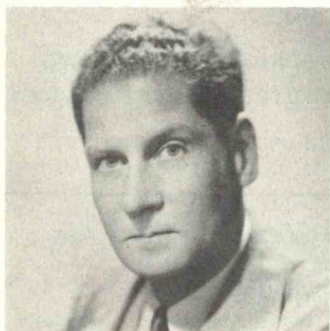
If the weighty pillars of Walker Memorial are a little displaced on Thursday morning, June 13, it will all be due to one of the major social events of the season which is scheduled for the Blue Room on the evening preceding. The program looks quiet enough -- dinner, a speech or two, and perhaps a smattering of business -- but when Harold (Nick) Carter takes the rostrum as emcee at the Quarter Century Club's annual banquet, he is sure to lead the old-timers and their honorary guests on a merry chase that will not soon be forgotten. Nick, who could give Danny Kaye a good race on the number of words

run through in the space of a minute, is a pillar himself in the Dept. of Chemical Engineering where he's been working for 38 years. "Chem. Engineering's fair-haired boy," he's called by some, and "fair" in this case is about as close to snow as you can get.

It is the custom, at the Q.C.C. banquet, to honor retiring members. This year there is only one, and he is a man who knows every corner of Walker Memorial from the Blue Room to the basement. Eugene Blacquier (see p. 3) came to M.I.T. in 1921 from New Brunswick, Canada ("it was too cold up there"). He worked in Bldg. 1 for five years, that being about the only building there was at that time, then moved to the new Walker Memorial in 1926. There he has been ever since -- as custodian of everything from forgotten rubbers to bowling alleys. A man of few words -- and those with a still noticeable French Canadian accent -- Gene says he has enjoyed the location. "It's near the coffee," he adds genially. And what about those early days in Cambridge? "Prohibition was on when I came here," says Gene, laughing, "and that's about all I do remember."

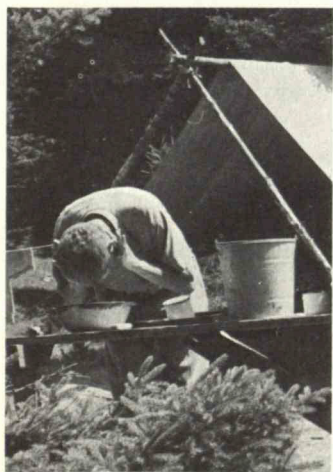
After fighting with the Canadian army during World War I, Gene made a tour of all the Canadian provinces. His favorite: the prairie country out around Saskatchewan. But when he retires this month, Gene is going to stay on in Cambridge. "I'm still keeping house for my young feller," he says, the "feller" in this case being his 28-year-old son who is the one bachelor among four Blacquier progeny. Gene has only one ominous reflection on his coming leisure. "I'll probably have to take up cooking," he says ruefully -- and for a man who has been reporting to M.I.T. at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast for 36 years that will be quite a change.

Also to be honored at the banquet are some retiring personnel who have given long service to M.I.T. -- but not quite a quarter century of it. They are Walter Kidder (Bursar's Office) -- 15 years, John Olsson (Heating & Ventilating Div.) -- 23 years, Thomas Osborne (Machine Shop) -- 14 years, and Alvin J. Peterson (B & P) -- 11 years.



Whitehead. . .

. . . goes exploring



ROCK OF AGES

He's seen a lot of the globe already -- and more than its surface, too. Prof. Walter L. Whitehead (Geol. & Geophys.) hopped from M.I.T. to Chile in 1917 to do research for his thesis on silver mines. Later he crossed the Andes, from Argentina to Peru. In 1929 he toured Venezuela in a Model-T (and a "pack train"), becoming the third geologist ever to enter the now oil-rich upper Orinoco Basin. During World War II, with M.I.T.'s Prof. Shrock, he scouted (successfully) the Caribbean islands for new sources of bauxite, an aluminum desperately needed for the manufacture of armaments.

At one point in his career, Prof. Whitehead received orders from a leather company "to go and find some chromium" which was at that time used in the tanning process. The company gave him carte blanche to look anywhere in the world, and Prof. Whitehead chose New Caledonia, an island in the South Pacific which he is reputed to know more about, geologically, than any other living man. There, in a matter of months, he discovered three extensive deposits of chromite. There he also met his wife -- the daughter of French colonial administrators on the island.

Prof. Whitehead is also an authority on the geology of Nova Scotia. He went there with Prof. Shrock some years ago to look for petroleum. As they sat on a grassy bank in Antigonish (northern coast) wondering just where the oil might be hiding, Prof. Shrock suddenly observed that that particular bit of coastline would be

"magnificent" for a summer geological school. Prof. Whitehead agreed, and in 1948 the Nova Scotia Center for Geological Sciences came into being. Supported by the Canadian government and staffed by M.I.T., the Center is a flourishing summer concern for students from both the U.S. and Canada. Prof. Whitehead is looking forward eagerly to his tenth summer as director of the Center. To cap things off this year, he will receive in August an honorary degree from St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish.

Between all these excursions, Prof. Whitehead has found time for 16 full years of teaching at M.I.T. and part-time connections dating back to his graduation in 1913. This month he will retire -- but not from the field of geology. After the summer, he may head for some new territory in the Sahara Desert. For Africa is one of the few continents that Prof. Whitehead does not know well, and he says the French are just now making some petroleum explorations in Algeria that may, come autumn, tempt him clear across the Atlantic.

HERE AND THERE

Maj. Gen. James McCormack, Jr., President of the Institute of Defense Analyses, will succeed M.I.T.'s Admiral Cochrane as Vice President for Industrial & Governmental Relations.

Vacations already? Miriam Yoffa (Metallurgy) and Ann Koek (D.S.R.) spent theirs in Puerto Rico last year (Ann having already sampled Germany and Japan with the Red Cross), but this time they're on their way to new terrain in the southwest. Destination: Mexico City.

New laurels, won by M.I.T. personnel: to Dr. Jerome C. Hunsaker (Aero. Eng.), the Gold Medal of the Royal Aeronautical Society of London; to Dr. Harriet L. Hardy (Medical), membership in the select Association of American Physicians -- the third woman in the U.S. and/or Canada to be so honored; to Profs. Albert Dietz and Walter Voss (Bldg. Eng. & Const.), Awards of Merit of the American Society for Testing Materials.

Prof. Gordon Brown (Elec. Eng.), spot shots of M.I.T., and lots of local color will turn up in CBS-TV's "See It Now" on Sunday, June 9, from 5-6:30 p.m. The program will be carried simultaneously on WGBH-TV, Channel 2.

FOR SALE ETC.

'50 Studebaker Champion. 70,000 miles. Front, rear transmission in good shape. Brakes recently relined. Needs motor job. Best offer. Ext. 250 (Lincoln) or MI8-9353 after 7 p.m.

URGENT -- leaving country. Must sell '55 2-door Ford Custom. 19,000 miles. \$1300 or best offer. Robin Boyd (Arch.) or UN4-0481.

300 Savage high-powered rifle with case. Practically new. Asking \$70. Mr. Berry, Ext. 2379.

Golf bag, 14 club divisions, almost new -- \$17. Also carrying cart if required -- \$15. Ext. 3706.

For summer rent (July 1 - Aug. 1). Cambridge. Spacious house, mod. furnishings, porch & back yard. Close to transportation, good neighborhood. Prof. Rodwin, Ext. 4406 or EL4-4551.

For rent. Cambridge. 1-rm. apt., K & B. Avail. now until Sept. (or later, if desired). About \$75/mo. F. Jacobs, Ext. 2642.

Sublet (9 mos. to year). Copley Square area. Designer's apt. Furn. in impoverished modern. 4 lg. rms., all conveniences & minor luxuries, plus FULL responsibility for owner's cat. Prefer one person. Ext. 2813 or CO7-7238.

Sublet (June 15 - Sept. 15). Newton Center. Furn. 2½ rm. apt. 20 min. from MIT. Parking. Quiet & cool in summer. \$80/mo., incl. utils. Leiby, Rm. 5-420 or LA 7-5405 after 5 p.m.

Sublet (June 15 - Sept 15). Belmont. 5-rm. apt. with garage. 15 min. from MIT, excellent bus service. Fully furn. \$115/mo. including utils. Winter, Ext. 3370.

Summer sublet. Harv. Sq. area. Mod. furn. apt. LR, bdrm., DR, K & B. 1st floor. \$90/mo. Ext. 2672.

For summer rent (June 25 - Oct. 10). Cambridge. Completely furn. apt. LR, bdrm., K & B. Well ventilated. 15 min. walk to MIT. Ext. 2739.

Sublet (summer) and rent. Harv. Sq. area. 3-rm. apt. with f.p. Unfurn. Avail. July 1. \$85/mo. Mrs. Johnson, Ext. 3601.

Sublet (summer) and rent. 29 South Russell St., Beacon Hill. 2-rm. apt. with K & B. \$80/mo., including utils (\$70 during summer). Robert Shields, Ext. 2175 or LA 3-1095, evenings.

Sublet (summer) and rent. Louisburg Sq., Beacon Hill. Mod. apt. Huge LR, bdrm., K. Elevator. Unfurn. \$125/mo. Ext. 2672.