

"FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING DON'T MEAN A THING" (Old Farmer's Almanac)

We've heard reports that the sap is running in Vermont, that Old Ironsides is in drydock for a spring refurbishing -- and that there are signs of migratory activity in the Great Court. A weak cluck has been voiced by a rhododendron-hopping robin, and the first staunch representatives of the perennial picnic parade have arrived on the scene from warmer climes in the interior.

To keep abreast of these developments, the M.I.T. Grounds Crew is now packing a very tight schedule. The maples, elms, oaks, flowering crabs, and the ONE Magnolia in the Great Court are being trimmed, on a selection-of-the-fittest basis, of their winter crop of "water sprouts" -- small, sickly branches that grow out where bigger



branches have been lopped off by wind and weather. The sycamores near the Auditorium and Chapel are being "shaped," for they are young trees and many of them are still lopsided from overcrowded conditions in the nursery. Then there are the lawns (5 acres, almost, in the Great Court alone) to think about, the endless spraying which is in order for trees and shrubs (especially elms), and the special care being given to two new maples which were transplanted, at the unusual height of 35 feet, to the end of the Great Court just three weeks ago.

In addition, a new species of elm, first imported to the campus last fall, is being nursed along on Vassar Street. The trees at present are hardly bigger round than a pencil, but what they lack in size they make up for in quality. Their English name: Augustine Ascending Elm -- the first tree we've heard of with a patent AND royalties attached, that is supposed to be immune to the fateful Dutch Elm disease to which so many New England elms are succumbing. The competition for these trees is so heavy that the growers can send only junior specimens, but M.I.T. has 35 more on order which will be added to the environs of Westgate West within the next few months. Vassar Street, incidentally, used to be lined with poplars, but they went down like tenpins in the '38 hurricane. (And if Carl Peterson, Director of Physical Plant, has anything to say about it, more poplars will not be forthcoming. "They're one big nuisance," he comments emphatically. "Grow like a weed, blow over just as fast, and send their roots out all over the place so that new shoots start popping up where you least expect them.")

Another landscaping job scheduled for the near future will brighten things up in the Compton Lab area. The landscaping around the lab itself is part of the building contract, but some

of the surrounding buildings will receive an independent bouquet from Hideo Sasaki and Associates, Landscape Architects. According to early plans, Bldg. 24 is first in line for 4 flowering dogwoods, 18 forsythia bushes, 1 shadblow serviceberry, 6 willows (to match the row outside Bldg. 31), and some Regels privet. Bldg. 32 can look forward to an Oriental offering of 1 Japanese flowering crab and 28 Japanese barberry bushes.

Foreman of all these complex operations is John Ayer. When things are at their busiest, vegetation-wise, which is in summer, Mr. Ayer sends a squad of as many as 35 (including students) scuttling around the campus with pruning shears, lawn mowers, sprinklers, and grafting tape. Chief of one of these crews is Myron Pratt, a long-time expert on the subject of growing things, who has been connected with forestry, botany, horticulture and agriculture projects -- in that order -- for almost 25 years. Right now Mr. Pratt is keeping a private eye on a spindling oak in the Great Court, almost half of which was blown away a year or so ago by a hurricane. To our inexperienced eyes, it looks as if both are doing fine.

ON THE HOUSE

M.I.T. will hold its biennial Open House on Saturday, April 27. As in the past, a dazzling display of exhibits is planned, which should be especially interesting this year because of the variety and novelty of the research projects in progress at the Institute.

A capacity audience is expected at Open House. The last time about twenty-five thousand visitors jumped at the chance to see M.I.T. in action. But the event is also designed to serve as a get-acquainted-with-the-plant affair for M.I.T. staff, students, and employees. Open House Committee emphasizes that EVERYONE is invited to visit the laboratories and other departments on the Open House roster. Better start boning up on things right now, for the Committee also urges M.I.T. personnel to help "entertain and educate the visitors."

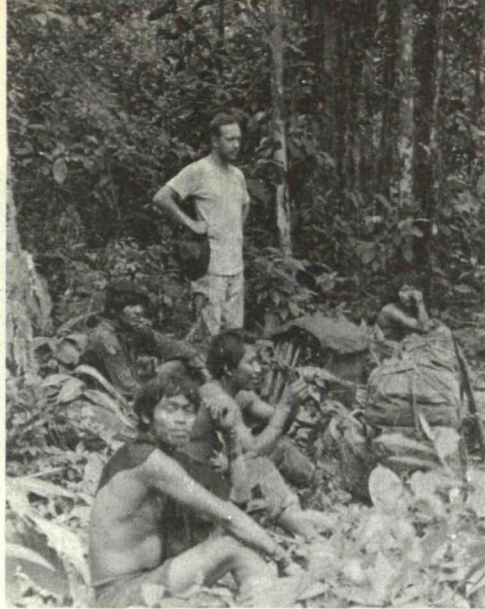


Sleuth Loughran nabbed his man

TOUCHÉ ENCORE

As we were saying (issue of March 12), the D.S.R. guards have an excellent record of protection. But, as of this writing, it seems that major incidents do sometimes occur. On Thursday, March 14, at 2:00 a.m., Guard Joe Loughran completed a routine check of the Instrumentation Lab. As he crossed Albany Street on his way back to headquarters in Whittemore 5, he noticed a stranger in a car belonging to one of the other guards. Loughran made a lightning round-up of two guard buddies, and together they surrounded the car, nabbed its alien occupant, and turned him over to the Cambridge police.

"Turned out he'd had quite a busy night," commented Loughran. "He'd already been into a station wagon parked in front of 77 (main entrance) and an M.I.T. wagon parked on Albany Street." The Cambridge Police Department was very grateful. They had been swamped with car-breaker complaints from the M.I.T. area and thought this might be their man -- thanks to Guards Loughran, John Leger, and Joe Gibouveau.



From

explorer

to



CHECKING THE CHANCELLOR

You might think that administering M.I.T.'s entire academic program and acting as general executive officer for all its affairs would be considerably more than a 9:00-5:00 proposition. It is -- but Chancellor Julius A. Stratton adds to this formidable schedule a continuing interest in his chosen field of study, which is electronics. Currently chairman of the Naval Research Advisory Committee and a trustee of numerous scientific and cultural organizations, Dr. Stratton received on March 20 the 1957 Medal of Honor of the Institute of Radio Engineers.

Dr. Stratton is probably one of M.I.T.'s few American students to have arrived at the Institute by boat. He began his career as a crystal set ham in Seattle when he was about 14. At the age of 17 he became a sea-going wireless operator, first in coastwise shipping and then in the Orient. After a year at the University of Washington, he decided to attend M.I.T. and shipped on a boat bound for Boston. It was a successful voyage. Dr. Stratton got both a B.S. and an M.S. during that first visit to the East.

His travels did not end in Cambridge. Dr. Stratton did graduate work in France, Switzerland, Austria and Germany (Ph.D. in Mathematical Physics in Zurich). For a time he was an operator for the President Line between New York and the Philippines. As a youthful member of the M.I.T. faculty, he made two "adventurous expeditions," one by boat down the Yukon River, the other among the headhunting Jivaros in the jungles at the headwaters of the Amazon River. During World War II, while dealing with knotty problems of radar and radio communications for the U.S. government, he visited Labrador, Greenland, Iceland, Europe, and North Africa. Today Dr. Stratton is still travelling -- a little -- but his administrative duties tend to limit the itinerary to official visits in Washington, D.C., and to summer vacations on his farm in Newfane, Vermont.

RECOMMENDED

André Marchal, outstanding French organist of world-wide fame, is scheduled for FIVE recitals in Kresge Auditorium on April 2, 16, 23, and May 7 and 14.

The last event in this year's Humanities Series will feature home talent in the person of Ernst Levy. Prof. Levy will give a piano recital on April 7 at 3 p.m. in Kresge.

On the same day Prof. Eugene Boehne (Elec. Eng.), Brain Ticklers mastermind on WGBH's program of the same name, will hold a "Brain Tickler Jam Session" in Rm. 10-250, 4 p.m. Everyone invited with their own ticklers and questions. The TV program, incidentally, is now on Fridays at 9:15 p.m. Its new emcee: John O'Brien of Lincoln Lab.

HERE AND THERE

A whopping audience of 500 (including "at least a dozen men") turned out for the fashion show sponsored by the M.I.T. Dames. Publicity for the event was on an unusually high level -- with a poster contest judged (see right) by President Killian, Mrs. Tau-Yi Toong, artist wife of Prof. Toong (Mech. Eng.), and Prof. C. Fayette Taylor (Mech. Eng. artist). First and second places in the contest went to Dames Binoux and Larson, third to Ray Parks of Instrumentation Lab. Final winner in this worthy event: the M.I.T. Committee for Hungarian Refugee Students.



Prof. Lawrence Anderson (Arch.), currently a Fulbright Exchange Lecturer at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, didn't go to the party -- but on March 8 he saw the Danish guards, resplendent in scarlet jackets and black busbies, turn some special pirouettes in honor of his Highness' birthday, King Frederik IX.

The first graduates (67) of the M.I.T. Guard Force Training Program will receive their certificates at a ceremony in the Little Theatre on March 29.

Dean George Harrison has been guest of honor in the state of Pennsylvania more than once this month. On March 6 he received the first award to be given by the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field. Three days later, in Wayne Pa., author-scientist Harrison was married to author Betty Cavanna Headley, honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa for her contributions to "juvenile literature."

M.I.T. will begin construction of a new radar field station atop Boston Hill in North Andover about May 1. The station will be used by Lincoln Lab for experimental research under contract with the U.S.A.F. The specific assignments: CLASSIFIED.

Statistics from the Medical Department: up to March 12, Salk polio vaccine was given to exactly 1,176 M.I.T. personnel, 1,956 students. So far, no reactions reported. Dr. Faulkner urges all under 45 -- and especially those under 35 -- to take advantage of this easy method of protection BEFORE the next polio season is heard from.

FOR SALE ETC.

'39 Ford V8 sedan (2-door). New tires, heater, directionals, seat covers, plus other gadgets and radio. Dependable and economical. Dana, Ext. 5377 (Lincoln).

Littleton, Mass. Mod. 6-rm. ranch house. 3 bdrms., full basement, comb. storm doors and windows. 1/4 acre. 20 min. to Lab. Mr. Parrelli, Ext. 339 (Lincoln).

Wanted: someone with car interested in seeing West Coast and most famous national parks with young foreign couple. June & July. Will share driving and pay all gas and oil. Bernardi, Ext. 542.

'51 Ford Custom V8 (2-door). Radio and heater. 45,000 miles. Excellent condition. Bill Horgan, Ext. 7125 (Lincoln).

'50 Nash (4-door). 26,000 miles. Best offer. M. McManus, Ext. 3361.

Lexington's Sun Valley area. 3-bdrm. mod. ranch house with double carport. 3/4 acre. Oil hot water heat, GE remote control wiring, Hotpoint kitchen. \$18,900. Capt. Gibson, Ext. 4470.

'52 Crosley station wagon. Excellent condition. \$150. A. Newell, Ext. 463 (Lincoln).

'55 MG convertible. Santos, Ext. 840 (Lincoln).