GOING UP
"Like a proposition from Descartes, it will be hard to dismiss, because its extraordinary good design makes good sense."

This, a comment from "Architectural Forum" some weeks back, was about the Earth Sciences Building, first to be erected under the Second Century Program. And Dean Belluschi (Architecture and City Planning), back last week with a deep tan from the Italian sun, added: "This is the first building I can think of in which architectural expression of concrete as a material comes into full blossom . . . has the beauty of a formula in physics."

Creator of the coming masterpiece: architect Ioeh Ming Pei, who was born in China and graduated from MIT in 1939. Pei plan uses concrete structure as the "face" of the 19 -story building. The walls will be of horizontal trusses of steel clothed in concrete, supported at the ends by heavy concrete columns. The oval windows, approximately $6 \times 5^{\prime}$, will be contained within the criss-crosses of steel reinforcing bars. And since the building will be air-conditioned, the windows will be fixed in place -- there'll be no need to open them. Machinery for airconditioning, on the twentieth floor, will be masked by curved


Pei model of Earth Sciences Building metal.

Right now construction of the building is waiting on the grant of a variance to Cambridge height limitations, but Carl Peterson (Physical Plant Director) hopes excavation can be started before the end of the year, just east of the Dorrance Building. Completion sights : aimed on two years.

The building will be made possible by $\$ 6,000,000$ (including a million for maintenance) from Mr. and Mrs. Cecil H. Green of Dallas, Texas. Mr. Green '23, Course VI, started a career in earth sciences with seismic exploration. His gift will provide geologists, geophysicists, meteorologists and oceanographers a place to work together on important problems in earth sciences.

## ELECTRIC

Last Monday in the postprandial hush following lunchtime, certain corners of the Institute suddenly grew dim, electric typewriters stopped in mid-memo and several people got stuck in elevators for half an hour. Occasion for the shutdown -- installation of a new power bank in Bldg. 10 basement, and a resulting -- though short -- failure of old equipment to carry some of the added load.

When MIT moved to Cambridge in 1916, two banks of transformers were installed to supply light and power for the main buildings. Two years ago the lighting bank was replaced with a new one of double capacity. New additions this month -- three transformers, 3-333 KVA, single phase, oil-immersed, self-cooled, also double the old capacity.

Work on installation has been going on since May, involving electrical contractors as well as Institute electricians. Not the least of the job: splicing new cables into the complex network which leads beneath the Institute to the Power Plant. Newly installed switch gear and circuit breakers are encased in slick grey "dead front" steel enclosures.

Right now MIT electricians are still taking temperature readings of the huge transformers to see if they're operating satisfactorily, and the feeder switches are safely padlocked for use by authorized personnel only. Temperature a few inches away from the new models is 92 Fahrenheit.


Castellano (left) and Morrison (right) take temp BAGGED BY THE BASKET

Bright and early some weeks ago, Bldg. 3 inhabitants discovered a punctual hamster ambling along the corridor on the third floor. It seemed to be


Visitor's view headed for a $9 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. appointment in the Development Office, stayed a few minutes to the dismay of several secretaries.

One soon plunked him in a wastebasket, transferring him next door to the Publications Office to await claim.

Mrs. Leone Slotchin made inquiries at the Food Technology building, but hamster headquarters reported none missing. And everyone doubted that a runaway would have made the trip from Bldg. 16 to Bldg. 3 just for fun. Visiting artist George Adams even posted a sign to inform passersby that a tame hamster was available -inquire within.

After a relatively quiet day and a diet of salad donated from someone's BLT, the hamster was still homeless. Mrs. Slotchin called a neighbor who already owned one hamster, was glad to take in a second. Off he ( or she) went to the suburbs, was christened Carlo and plunked down with a roommate -- "Honey."

## PLATE PRATE

On the heels of a motor trip, during which his daughter took up the old game of license plate counting, our dedicated, roving reporter undertook a similar survey here at MIT.

And at high noon on what, he reports, was the hottest, stickiest day in August, he set out to discover the home ports of cars which create parking problems even in mid-summer. Before he finished hiking, he'd seen license plates from 39 states (none from 49 or 50 ), District of Columbia, U.S. Government, two Canadian provinces and something called Pampanga -which turned out to be a province in the Phillipines.

Scooters seemed to be more out-of-state than Massachusetts residents, including a couple
from Kentucky and Georgia. Notable by their absence: political stickers. A dearth that will change soon.

## A SCORE AND MORE

He retired over a month ago to spend half-time here at the Institute. But until last week Harry Laurence (Electrical Engineering.) hadn't taken time to leave. Work in the Bldg. 10 lab involves much overhauling of equipment, which he's been doing since 1924. His projects include building of the first generalized machine, and aid to countless students working on material for experiments. (One, he recalls, spent hours covered with grease trying to cut a hole in a piece of bronze. At 5 p.m. Harry discovered him still at it, with no results. Says Harry, "He had the lathe going the wrong way."

Oldest in a family of eight, Harry started his career driving horse and wagon for a produce man. Most trips they made to the Charleston Navy Yard, also took frequent and large quantities of potatoes to the prison, where, he chuckles, "They had lots of time to peel 'em."

Several years later he came to the Lowell Institute School to take the Mechanical Course, decided they"spent too much time talking about tanks" and switched to electrical studies. About then a schoolmate retired from the basement lab and Harry took his place at the Institute.

Cigar in hand, he can reminisce about student pranks and inundations like "Diane" which left the shop floor afloat with three inches of water. Also remembers the days when MTA fare was $5 \not \subset$ one way.

In those times he lived in Charleston, used to spend rainy days in the basement of his 12 -year-old friend's house -- engrossed in the quiet pastime of tatton lessons with a kit belonging to a sailor relative.

## LUX FLUX

Down with a bang came the 125 -foot Lever Brothers water tower in Kendall Square two weeks ago. Proceedings began demolition for Technology Square -- 800, 000 square feet of space for offices, research labcratories and technical facilities sponsored by MIT and Cabot, Cabot and Forbes.

In the presence of interested onlookers, representatives of MIT, CC\&F, urban renewal and the press, his honor Mayor Crane of Cambridge was supposed to effect


Laurence in lab-- minus cigar


Fall of the flake the great topple.

Bolts on the tower had been loosened, and the Mayor was to maneuver a 10 -ton bulldozer by cable. Unfortunately, the tower tired of its 25 -year stay ahead of schedule, crashed to the ground without benefit of mayoralty.


Flash in the foundry for Crucifix

HERE AND THERE
On August 20 at 7:30 p.m. the Indian Students Association will celebrate Indian Independence Day in the Little The ater at Kresge.

Guest will be C. S. Jha, Indian ambassador to the U.N., and Institute people are welcome to attend the session.

In the Metallurgy Department foundry last week -another step in their investigation of new methods of statuary castings and art techniques.

Poured, amid a crowd of foundrymen and United States Production movie makers, was a statue called The Crucifix. Creator Al Duca reports the casting was "flawless", was cleaned out of the mold only a few hours later. Material of the work: iron.
'58 Ford convert, red and white, all power, Cruisamatic drive, exc cond, $\$ 1,700$. INA-1540 (after 5 p.m.)
'59 Dauphine sun roof, R, wind washer, ww's, seathelts, backup lights, best offer above $\$ 1,150$ by Aug. 15. UN4-0112.
'59 Buick Le Sabre 4-dr hdtop, power brakes, power steering, auto trans, 20, 000 $\mathrm{mi}, \$ 2,400$. KI7-1082 (after 4 p.m.)
Beautifully furn comp mod apt, reas rent, walking dist from MIT. CO7-1310.
$4-\mathrm{rm}$ unfurn apt, 1 block to $\mathrm{Hvd} \mathrm{Sq}, \mathrm{lg}$ LR, 2 BRs , mod K with disposal, elec dishwasher, refrig incl. 50 Boylston St. $\$ 135 / \mathrm{mo}$. Mr. Janes, EL4-8432.
Furn house for rent Sept-May. 3 BRs, LR, DR and den, 1-car garage, laundry \& toilet in basement, $\$ 175 / \mathrm{mo}$ plus ht. Mrs. Crawford, 68 Oak St., Dedham, DA9-9711.
For rent: Woburn 6-rm single, oil ht, 1 child over 10, avail Sept 1. MI8-2373. Furn Back Bay apt, ideal for couple, \$110/mo. Gopan, Ext. 2146 or CO2-0229.
Six-rm Cape in Westford, conv to Millstone, 18 mi to Linc Lab. 4 BRs, K, LR, knotty pine playrm in basement, garage. Children welcome, near new elemr school, $\$ 100 / \mathrm{mo}$. Mrs. Ted Lapierre, Ext. 7138 or MY2-8322.
Burlington custom built $4-\mathrm{rm}$ ranch with garage, situated on $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in wonderful location. $\$ 15,900$. WE5-0564.
Wanted: 2 riders to Cleveland, leave Aug 30 or 31, share driving, expenses. Rosemary Parkins, Box 361, East Orleans, Mass, or phone Orleans 710.
Wanted: ride to Pittsburgh about Sept. 5. Maurrey Cerul, Ext. 711 or TAS-7034.
Wanted: priv apt, furn in fam home, pref Cambridge for post-doctoral student. Maclaine, Ext. 700 or TR6-7246.
Wanted: English bike, woman's. Liz, Ext. 2595.
Wanted: Used Boxak B-207A coaxial loudspkr or B-199A woofer and B-200X tweeter separately. Larry, Ext. 2140.
Wanted: Maple bureau, mirror, dresser, chairs, deek. Susan Hostek, Ext. 3833.
Girl wanted to sha re light spacious furn apt on Beacon Hill, reas rent. Patti, CA7-9063 or CA7-6979 (evgs).
Home needed for adorable and housebroken $8-\mathrm{wk}$ old male, beige kitten. Mrs. Cathou, Ext. 3703 or UN8-7723 (evgs).
Wanted: occupant(s) for comp furn $2 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{rm}$ apt, Cambridge for 3 wks , Aug 27Sept 17. Rent: less than reas if willing to feed cats. Good opportunity for apt hunters and students waiting for dorms. TR6-1308.
Wanted: used furn: bed, bureau, couch, lamps, etc. Rhoda Abrams, Ext. 2671 or RE4-1129 (evgs).
Wanted: concert grand piano at reas price. Mr. Benton, Ext. 2691.
Charming Beacon St. basement apt. . . girl needed to share apt with present inhabitants (Chem. Dept. secretary, $\lg$ mod painting, upright piano and cat), furn incl utils, 20 min walk from MIT, $\$ 42.50 / \mathrm{mo}$ per person. Nancy Duesinberre, Ext. 528.
Matched pair of liquid helium and nitrogen dewar flasks similar to lg thermos bottles on inside of tube, with outer section made of plastic foam and nylon comb. Missing from area near refuse door at Bldgs $4 \& 6$, MIT on Thurs afternoon, July 25. These dewars of great impt to owner for specialized experiment. Would appreciate return. C. R. Grant, Ext. 5331 (Lincoln) or MIT Security Police, immed.

Tech Talk is published every two weeks. Send news and ads to Miss Agnalt, Ext. 2709, Rm 3-339. Next Deadline: August 24.

