STEE Meet Oct. 26 Features
Perry Roehm & James Robert

Highlights of the annual Homecoming meeting of the Society of Tulane Engineers October 26 will be an address by Perry R. Roehm and the presentation to the School of Engineering of a portrait of former dean James M. Robert.

The addition of the portrait of Dean Robert to those of other former deans on exhibit in the School has been a major project of the STE for this year. The success of the drive for funds is reflected in this year’s financial statement on page four.

Miss Ella Miriam Wood, who is doing the portrait of Dean Robert, was graduated from Newcomb Art School in 1908. She then attended the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts and other schools of art in the East. She has been painting portraits here and elsewhere in the country for the past thirty years. Miss Wood did the portrait of Dean Douglas S. Anderson, which is already in the Tulane Engineering Building. She has done a great many prominent people in New Orleans, and some of her work has been written up in Life Magazine. Miss Wood is a natural choice to do a fine portrait of our beloved former dean.

Perry R. Roehm has gained rapid and outstanding success in his chosen field. Graduating from Tulane in 1937 with a BME-BEE degree, Perry became an engineer with New Orleans Public Service, Inc. In 1939 he became affiliated with Ebasco Services; in 1941, with Carl L. Norden, Inc.; and in 1943, with the U. S. Navy. From 1944 through 1955 Mr. Roehm was with the Bar.

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 2)

Report From The Dean
By Lee H. Johnson

In the last issue of the Tulane Engineer there was a discussion of faculty studies which are underway to evaluate and improve the character and quality of our curricula. Following this discussion it will be of interest to the alumni to know more about the graduate program and its development in the School of Engineering.

Last year there were 32 graduate students taking courses in the School of Engineering, 6 in chemical engineering, 19 in civil engineering, 5 in electrical engineering, and 2 in mechanical engineering. This represents a considerable increase over the enrollment of five years ago of about 10 graduate students.

A method of strengthening the graduate program in the School of Engineering, as well as in other divisions of the University, was initiated by Dr. R. M. Lumiansky, Dean of the Graduate School. Faculty members of the School cooperated with Dr. Lumiansky in holding individual interviews in the spring with all freshman, sophomore, and junior students who had at that time an overall quality point average of 2.0 or better. In each case the student was advised of the advantages of graduate work and the benefits to be derived from holding advanced degrees. Junior students were also told that they might take one or two graduate courses during the senior year which could be later counted as credit toward the Master of Science degree.

The graduate program has been supported to a large extent through the device of employing graduate students as instructors, either full or part-time, and permitting them (Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)
THE TULANE ENGINEER

Published by the Society of Tulane Engineers, whose officers are:

President: Joseph R. Mooney
1st Vice Pres.: Edward A. McEwan
2nd Vice Pres.: Thomas A. Fromherz
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Executive Committee:

Members-at-Large: Lyman L. Ellzey and William Stone Leake
Past President: Bernard A. Grehan

OCTOBER 1957

Alumni News

(Please send news about yourself to the Tulane Engineer.)

Nick Gagliano, '48, graduated from Loyola of the South Law School this June and has accepted a position on the faculty of Rutgers Law School. William Vorhaben, ChE, has joined the Refining Department, Butyl Section, of Humble Oil and Refining Company, Baytown, Texas. Robert W. Adamson, '41, has been appointed head of the Mechanical Engineering Department at California State Polytechnic College, San Luis Obispo, California. Over four hundred students in Mechanical Engineering are under Dean Adamson. David H. Rust, ME, after having spent a good many years in the U. S. Air Force specializing in atomic weapons, has been moved to the Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation in Lake Charles, Louisiana, as a Field Junior Engineer. Commander Ernest L. Eustis, Jr., '32, who has been Assistant District Public Works Officer of the Eighth Naval District, has been transferred to Yokosuka, Japan, as Assistant Officer in Charge of Construction, Bureau of Yards and Docks Contracts, Far East, covering all Naval Shore Establishment Construction in Thailand, Formosa, Okinawa, and Japan.

certain products related to engineering.

The quarters on the first floor of the DeSoto Hotel on Baronne St. are air conditioned. Lunch is served each working day by the Hotel staff, and dinner using either the Hotel or outside catering may be obtained for special functions. Seating facilities for meetings of approximately 100 persons are available, with microphones and other necessities furnished by the Club. As many as 200 meetings in a year have been held at the Club.

There are social functions at the Club handled by the Entertainment Committee. These are secondary, however, to the technical functions. At Mardi Gras, the Club is open to members and their families, and this has proved extremely popular. An individual member may use the Club at night at a nominal fee to cover expenses only, provided a technical meeting has not been previously scheduled.

The officers have sound and substantial ambitions for the Club. For example, records of all local branches of professional societies could be kept at the Club if more space were available, and mailing and secretarial services could be rendered if the funds were provided. Rental space is now available directly above the present quarters, and if the coordination necessary were effected Club facilities could be enlarged. It is hoped that in the future the Engineers Club could purchase its own building, as is the case in Houston, Atlanta, and many other cities.

A young engineer, even more so than an older one, should start making an investment in Engineering by joining one or more professional societies and an Engineers Club as soon as possible. Such an investment would pay dividends by enhancing the prestige of the profession of engineering. Those in the latter part of this generation have witnessed a decided improvement in the engineer’s status. There is still a great deal of room for betterment. One of the definitions, even though a fallacy, of an Engineer in Webster’s Dictionary is “One who operates an engine”. When are we Engineers going to work together to the extent that the layman knows the Engineer in the Professional terminology only? The writer believes that the Engineers Club is very important in this respect. If you do, then support your local Engineers Club.

ANNUAL DUES $2.00

SOCIETY OF TULANE ENGINEERS

P. O. Station 20 New Orleans, La.

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ANNUAL DUES $2.00

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Second

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Dean Emeritus
James M. Robert

By Joseph R. Mooney
President STE
B.E.M.E. '38, B.E.C.E. '39

At our annual meeting October 28, 1957, we will honor a gentleman who has been a teacher and a friend to many of us.

Most of us are familiar with some of the statistical information pertaining to James Robert. He was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1885. He received his degree in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering from Tulane in 1906.

During his distinguished years at Tulane, spanning the years 1906 to 1950, serving as teacher then later as Dean of the College of Engineering, James Robert was also active as a consultant. He has served as head of the U. S. Shipping Board, Marine Engineer School, Head of the Mechanical Division at Camp Martin, Chairman of the New Orleans Section of the A. S. M. E., Chairman of the Southeast Section of the American Society for Engineering Education, Panel Member of the War Labor Board, Member of the Board of Directors of Pendleton Shipyards, and President of the Louisiana Engineering Society. Dean Robert also belongs to Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Phi Delta, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternities.

Mrs. Robert is the former Gladys Roberta Kearney. They were married on April 21, 1909.

The statistical information tells only part of the story of Dean Robert. During a conversation recently, Professor A. Lee Dunlap reminisced about his old friend, Jim Robert:

"Jim was always a good teacher, not only because of his broad knowledge and thorough understanding of the subject he taught, but because of his interest in people, and because, whether he realized it or not, he had a real philosophy of teaching. This philosophy, or at least part of it, is well expressed in his oft-repeated observation, 'An instructor doesn't have to know a great deal about his subject in order to teach a student all he can absorb in the limited time allotted; after all, the teacher's main job is to get the student to want to learn.'"

"Jim was always adept with quotations to illustrate a point in question. On wealth: 'All I want in this world is one dollar—one dollar that no one else wants.' On social problems: 'We shouldn't be too hard on alcoholics; after all, there are chocolate-olives, social-olives, golf-olives, and many other olives that also need our help.'"

Professor Dunlap went on: "Jim is always welcome among ladies of all ages with his wholesome and complimentary conversation. A typical remark to a young lady: 'Cherie, if I'd been born twenty years later, I'd sure give this boy friend of yours a lot of competition.' Or to a more mature lady: 'God bless you and keep you. I wish I could afford to.'"

I think we truly can say that Dean Emeritus James M. Robert has lived a full life of making rich contributions to his profession and to his fellow man. We sincerely wish for him in his future years a bountiful return on the investment in happiness he has given others.

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 1)

The Deans' List
By Leo H. Johnson

The School of Engineering has had (including Dean Johnson) seven deans and one "twilight zone" dean. If we count the twilight zone dean and make it eight in all, the breakdown shows a rather interesting fact: only four of these were engineers. The others were: two professors of Latin; a professor of Greek; and a professor of physics.

The "twilight zone" dean was Richard H. Jesse, Professor of Latin and Dean of the "Acadimical Department" of the old University of Louisiana from 1878 to 1884 when the Tulane University of Louisiana was born. There was under Dean Jesse's direction a "School of Physics and Mechanics" which offered some elementary work in courses which today would be called engineering. This "School" was dropped in 1884, and in 1890 Dean Jesse left Tulane to become president of the University of Missouri.

The first real School of Engineering, of course, was the College of Technology founded in 1893-94 when Tulane moved to its present campus. The dean from 1893 to 1904 was Dr. Brown Ayers, a physicist and one of the University's most distinguished and versatile professors. Dean Ayers did a great deal for engineering at Tulane although he was not (Continued on Page 4, Col. 2)
Nominating Comm. Reports

The nominating committee for the Society of Tulane Engineers submits the following names as officers for the 1957-58 term of office:
President: Lyman L. Elzey
1st Vice Pres: Edward A. McLe'llan
2nd Vice Pres: A. J. Brodtmann
Secretary: Seymour Cambias, Jr.
Asst. Secretary: Stanley G. Dinkel
Treasurer: Henry L. Vix
Asst. Treasurer: John F. Vogt
Publication Chrm: Joseph G. Stassi

Executive Committee:
Member-at-large: William J. Drawe
Member-at-large: Claude Kelley, Sr.

Nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting and general election.

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MAD MONEY

Harry Hammett, our distinguished keeper of the keys and checkbook, reports that some very unconventional payments of dues have been made in the last few weeks. In his mail he has received an Australian pound, a Canadian dollar, and a Cuban money order.

But Harry says that he will even accept conventional engraved portraits of George Washington or your autograph on a check if you will join the Society of Tulane Engineers.

Join now! One hundred percent participation of the Engineering Alumni is not impossible if you will do your part. An application form is printed on page two for your convenience. Send it in with your first year’s dues. The money will be used for a worthy Engineering School purchase not otherwise possible.

(Note to old members—1958 dues become payable from the October annual meeting.)

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(Continued from Page 3, Col. 3)

a trained engineer. He left in 1904 to become president of the University of Tennessee.

From 1904 to 1911 the College of Technology and the College of Arts and Sciences were combined into one college. Two liberal arts men were deans of the combined colleges—James Hardy Dillard, Professor of Latin, from 1904 to 1907; and Walter Miller, Professor of Greek, from 1907 to 1911 when the colleges were separated again.

The first engineer to be a dean was William Henry P. Creighton who had joined the faculty as professor of mechanical engineering in 1894. He was a Naval Academy graduate, a stern disciplinarian and a thorough teacher. His term as dean was from 1911 to 1919.

Douglas Smith Anderson, an alumnus of Tulane (M. A. 1892), became dean in 1919 and served until 1927. He had joined the faculty as an assistant professor of physics in 1893 and in 1907 became a full professor. He was a pioneer in the field of electrical equipment and its engineering problems.

James Marshall Robert, also a Tulane alumnus, (B. E. 1906 with distinction), joined the faculty of the school of engineering in 1907 as instructor. He became the W. R. Irby Professor of Mechanical Engineering in 1917, until he became dean in 1937 and served until 1950—forty-seven years at Tulane as student, teacher, and dean.

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Treasurer’s Report

The following is our financial statement for the period Oct. 22, 1956 to Sept. 14, 1957:

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JAMES M. ROBERT PORTRAIT FUND

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H. L. Hammett, Jr., Treasurer

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