CLASS AND SCHOOL SPIRIT

On the second time that the annual affair has been held in the summer since its conception in 1901, Field Day brings together the Classes of ’47 and ’48 tomorrow to decide the length of the rules period. The spirit of the two classes is not quite in line with Oscar’s prediction, but the old story of skill over enthusiasm seems to be the basis of this prediction.

The freshman class seems to have shown more spirit during its short stay here than the Sophomore Class has shown in the whole of the last year, so that maybe, if the freshmen continue their short stay here than the Sophomore Class has shown in the world of war and they hope that it will help instill in these new men the real feeling of Technology.

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Whatever the outcome of the events they should serve to unite these two classes into the large body of Technicians who know what the Institute means to them. The day will be climaxed by the Field Day Dance in Walker Memorial, the first dance to be held there since 1942. The affair marks a special date for those who knew Technology before the changes of war and they hope that it will help instill in these new men the real feeling of Technology.

On August 28 Professor Robert H. Richards, the oldest living graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the last member of its first class, is to celebrate his 100th birthday. Among the fifteen students who formed the first class of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology when it met in the winter of 1865 was Robert Hallowell Richards, who was later to become one of the country’s most distinguished metallurgists. Graduating with his class in 1868, Bobby Richards joined the faculty of the Institute, and later, as Professor Richards, won world-wide recognition for important developments in mining and metallurgy, particularly in the separation of ores.

Before his retirement in 1914, with the title of Professor Emeritus, Professor Richards was for 46 years a member of the Institute’s Faculty and for 41 years he was head of its department of mining and metallurgy. Following his graduation in 1868 he served for a year as assistant in chemistry and was then made an instructor in assaying and qualitative analysis. In 1870 he became assistant professor of analytical chemistry, and soon after was appointed professor of mineralogy and assaying. He held the post of professor of mining engineering from 1873 to 1884, and from that time until his retirement was professor of mining engineering and metallurgy.

Early in his academic career Professor Richards established the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s first educational laboratories of mining and metallurgy, in the world and revolutionary teaching in the available field by the introduction of laboratory methods of instruction and scientific research.

Professor Richards’ first wife was Eilen H. Swallow, who died in 1873. She was the Institute’s first woman graduate, the first woman member of the teaching staff and a pioneer in the fields of public health, life, economics, and food chemistry.

His brother Henry is 95 years and between the two there is rivalry as to which will live longer.

Looking back over his life Professor Richards says: “I have had a wonderful time and if I had my life to live over it would live it in the same way.”

Now on the eve of his 100th birthday, numerous engineering organizations and hordes of classmates and former students are paying affectionate tribute.