Easy Times Again At Tech; 'Mr. Smith' Revealed At Last

With the end of World War I, the nation made an effort to return to "normalcy." But the War had given the world the final push that made it break away from the comfortable progress of the 19th century. The old laws of the previous era were left behind as the fresh youngster that was the spirit of the twentieth century reared its head and demanded that it be heard.

Veterans Reunited To Tech

There was no lack of manpower for the New Technology; thousands of America's young men, returning from the sobering experience of the battlefield, flooded the Institute with applications for the 1919 school year. To keep with the progress of the times, MIT accepted an unprecedented student body of 3,000 men.

In January, 1920, Dr. R. C. MacInaray, President of the Institute, died suddenly of pneumonia. His death was a great and lasting loss for the school, for he had devoted every ounce of his energy to working for Technology.

The Corporation chose Dr. Ernest Fox Nichols to replace MacInaray. Nichols was known to the academic world not only for his scientific abilities, but also for his talent as an administrator. He was a former president of Dartmouth College and, at the time of his election to the Presidency, Professor of Physics at Yale.

However, in 1921 it was necessary for Dr. Nichols to resign because of a chronic illness which he felt would make it impossible for him to fulfill his administrative duties.

Stratton Named

The Corporation then chose Dr. Samuel Wesley Stratton to fill the post first occupied by William Barton Rogers. Dr. Stratton was Director of the United States Bureau of Standards when he was elected in 1922. He was received with much enthusiasm by the undergraduate student body when he made known his firm belief that "A man who studies and does nothing during his college career is missing a portion of his education."

The most generous benefactor of this time continued to remain anonymous. "Mr. Smith's" gifts finally totaled some seven million dollars. Speculation on Smith's identity raged high. At one point The Tech published a list of ten possible "Mr. Smiths," none of whom turned out to be the real donor of these gifts.

By 1924 the secret was out; the mysterious benefactor was George Eastman. At this time Mr. Eastman added to his already overwhelming gifts by giving the Institute Eastman Kodak stock conservatively valued at about $4,500,000.

Ves De Flora

Basking in the light of the era of the flapper, prohibition, and the big dance, was Ves De. MT's own outgrowth of a rash of college campus humor magazines. For it was college humor that was setting the pace for publications across the country, and it was from these same magazines that the editors of magazines such as Life and The New Yorker would come.

One fled of the day which has no modern counterpart was the Technique Rush, sponsored annually by the MIT yearbook, Technique. An area was roped off outside of which hundreds of excited undergraduates waited for the signal to start the annual riot for the first Technique off the press.

The April, 1920 Rush, for instance, occurred something like this: At 4:20 P.M. an airplane (a recently invented novelty) passed over the crowd of students and dropped a paddle by parachute. This was the signal for the annual dance to begin. Howling students scrambled for the paddle, which entitled them to the first free copy of Technique 1921, autographed by the President of the Institute.

The battle ceased when a member of the management board fired a pistol and the struggle then moved on to its next stage. Twenty paddles were located in a temporary structure called the Hut, and once again, for

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