

in the Air Force, Dahler, an Hirschfeldian theoretical chemist, contributing not only a new expertise and the highest intellectual standards to the group but also a new awareness of the world around. From Edinburgh Aris ("almost a mathematician") came that year, and in 1959 Scriven, the rectitude of whose technical upbringing was matched by the variety of his interests and thoroughness of his work. It was never true that the department had a prejudice against chemical engineers or experimentalists, though the Dean was once heard to wonder when the next would be hired. The next in fact was a chemical physicist, the fire-eating Davis, whom Dahler attracted to the troupe and who, like the others, took to the routine mapping as conscientiously as to the more exciting excursions, periodically returning from Hilbert space to teach compressible flow. From Admiral Rickover via the Johns Hopkins came the urbane and able Keller in 1964, his biomedical interests reinforcing the teaching and research of Frederickson and Tsuchiya. Yankee Carr and plainsman Schmidt, a brace of gifted experimentalists, followed a year later to strengthen and broaden the work in kinetics and surface chemistry and the far-travelled Hickman, with interests ranging from electro-chemistry and ecology to Teilhard de Chardin and the Fish, joined a few years later. Such a various bunch would never have been knit without the superb leadership they found in "The Chief." Most recently the troupe had an even larger addition when four materials scientists—Hutchinson, Nicholson, Sivertsen and Toth—moved en bloc from a redistributed metallurgy department and Macosko came from Princeton, to polymerize in place and help cement the structure. As it did before in the interactions with biology, chemistry and mathematics, so now with materials science is the process of cross-fertilization in teaching and research beginning again.

PERHAPS IT WAS THE problems of cross-fertilization that attracted Neal to the art of growing orchids, another project—this time for personal rather than public good—that blossomed under his hand. A few years ago, his wife's gift of African violets, for "the man who had everything," started this interest which, followed up

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with characteristic thoroughness, soon led him to graduate to orchids. When, a year or so ago, he built a new house, it was distinguished not only for the tastefulness of its architecture—to which he would readily admit that his wife made a major contribution—but also for a 20' x 30' greenhouse now stocked with a few hundred orchid plants. When he disappears at AIChE meetings, it is usually to the local orchid growers and he is commonly rumored to count their chromosomes before going to bed at night.

To recite the honors and awards that Neal has received would be like decorating a voyageur's buckskins with boy scout badges. But his Regents' Professorship perhaps deserves mention. In the University of Minnesota a handful of professors are entitled "Regents' Professors," an honor for which they are proposed and judged by their peers. From the morass of the present-day state university, overburdened with top-heavy administration and forced to make meretricious advances to all and sundry, the distribution is intended to select a few outstanding faculty members among those who have kept faith with the traditions of scholarship and service. It would be a strange interpretation of the charge of that selection in any university if Neal Amundson were not among those few.

ChE news

ONE WEEK COURSES AT SAN FERNANDO VALLEY STATE COLLEGE

Control Systems Design. A short course covering basic principles of control system design for linear, non-linear, continuous, and discrete-data systems using modern optimization techniques will be presented July 26-30, 1971. Applications to chemical and petroleum industries will include the analyses and design of control systems for distillation columns, blending systems, and chemical reaction systems. The fee is \$300. Contact E. J. Hriber, 227 Engineering Building, San Fernando Valley State College, Northridge, California 91324.

Analog Simulation and Computation. A lecture-laboratory course in basic concepts and advanced techniques for the solution of engineering problems by analog simulation will be presented August 2-6, 1971. No prior knowledge of analog computers is required. The fee is \$300. Contact J. F. Paul, 414 Engineering Building, San Fernando Valley State College, Northridge, California 91324.