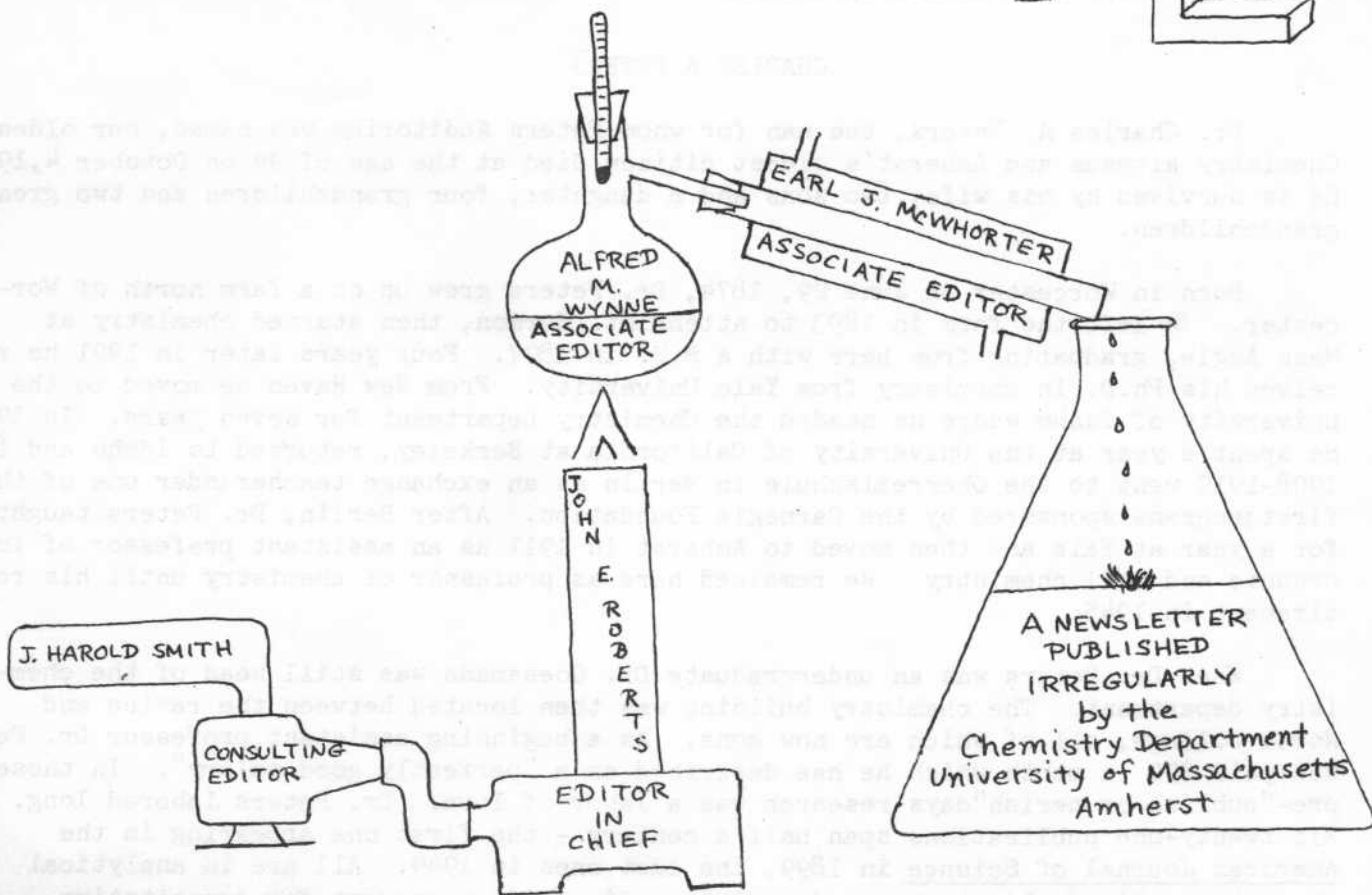


This issue dedicated
to the memory of
CHARLES A. PETERS
1874-1973

GOESSMAN GAZETTE

Spring, 1974



GREETINGS TO CHEM-ALUMS WHEREVER YOU ARE!

This, our second newsletter, is long overdue but nevertheless continues the objective of the first to keep alumni informed of developments here and to enlist your continuing interest and support in the development of the department.

CHEMISTRY REACHES UPWARD

In January 1973, the occupancy of the new 17 story Chemistry Tower was begun. This Tower, shared with Biochemistry and Polymer Science and Engineering, offers excellent facilities for both teaching and research and forms part of the Graduate Research Center Complex. Analytical Chemistry remains in Goessmann but other divisions are divided between the Tower and Goessmann. Two additional and connected Towers for Physics and Mathematics are well along in their construction. The physical sciences library which, together with the computer center and the graduate school offices, is located in the low rise portion of the GRC, conveniently close to chemistry. Dedication of the Tower took place on May 2, 1973. Opening remarks by Chancellor Bromery, Provost Gluckstern, Dean Appley of the Graduate School and Dean Edds of the faculty of Natural Science and Mathematics were followed by an inaugural lecture by John Pople, Carnegie Professor of Chemical Physics, Mellon University - "Quantum Mechanics and Chemistry". Paul Cade, University of Massachusetts, spoke on "What Electrons Are Really Doing in Molecules". A symposium of 10 papers by faculty and alumni concluded the ceremonies.

Much new equipment was acquired on occupancy of the tower ranging from balances and microscopes to much more sophisticated equipment. In the latter category are a multinuclear Fourier transform, NMR spectrometer, a mass spectrometer with GC interfacing and other specialized apparatus.

CHARLES A PETERS

Dr. Charles A. Peters, the man for whom Peters Auditorium was named, our oldest Chemistry alumnus and Amherst's oldest citizen died at the age of 99 on October 4, 1973. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Born in Worcester on June 29, 1874, Dr. Peters grew up on a farm north of Worcester. He left the farm in 1893 to attend Mt. Hermon, then started chemistry at Mass Aggie, graduating from here with a B.S. in 1897. Four years later in 1901 he received his Ph.D. in chemistry from Yale University. From New Haven he moved to the University of Idaho where he headed the Chemistry Department for seven years. In 1903 he spent a year at the University of California at Berkeley, returned to Idaho and in 1908-1910 went to the Oberrealschule in Berlin as an exchange teacher under one of the first programs sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation. After Berlin, Dr. Peters taught for a year at Yale and then moved to Amherst in 1911 as an assistant professor of inorganic and soil chemistry. He remained here as professor of chemistry until his retirement in 1945.

When Dr. Peters was an undergraduate Dr. Goessmann was still head of the chemistry department. The chemistry building was then located between the ravine and North College, all of which are now gone. As a beginning assistant professor Dr. Peters was paid \$90 a month which he has described as a "perfectly good salary". In those pre-"publish or perish" days research was a labor of love. Dr. Peters labored long. His twenty-one publications span half a century - the first one appearing in the American Journal of Science in 1899, the last ones in 1949. All are in analytical chemistry. His earliest papers describe oxalic acid as reagent for quantitative

