Alumni Aid Expected for Phoenix Plan

Club Leaders Indicate Support

Although plans for alumni participation in the Phoenix Project have not yet been settled, statements from two prominent alumni representatives indicate that country-wide support for the memorial will build up quickly after the announcement.

T. Hawley Tapping, General Secretary of the Alumni Association, the largest group of its kind in the country, is one of the most energetic supporters of the project:

Eagerly Awaited

"Michigan's alumni have been thinking in terms of a war memorial ever since the end of the war. Today's announcement by the War Memorial Committee has been eagerly awaited."

"Last fall the Directors of the Alumni Association voiced high approval of the work of the Committee, one member of which is a past president of the Association.

"At the next session of the Alumni Association June 10 the Directors will have the opportunity to speak for Michigan men and women in approval of this magnificent project and to set the stage for alumni participation."

Michigan Alumnus

Tapping said that the Michigan Alumnus, bimonthly alumni magazine, would be boosting the project in its next issue, May 22.

Christian F. Matthews, Mt. Clemens, Mich., attorney, was the alumni representative on the Memorial Committee. He said the Committee had spent approximately a year working with suggestions for a memorial which would be a real tribute to the country's war dead.

"We hope that this project will be of benefit for everybody, and not only our own people," he said. "I think we have finally found a wonderful project, worthy of our most enthusiastic support."

The following is the text of a resolution passed by the Alumni Association when the Memorial Committee was first organized:

RESOLUTION: It is resolved that the University of Michigan Alumni Association whole-heartedly support and assist the Committee appointed by the Board of Regents to study the advisability of adopting a War Memorial Program and recommends that such a Memorial incorporate the philosophy that it is better to commemorate the memory of those who have made the supreme sacrifice by attempting to develop a project that will aid all mankind in living in a war-free world rather than to attempt to build a mound of stone the purpose of which might soon be forgotten.

Key Roles for 'U' Alumni, Students Seen

Will Direct Project With Experts, Faculty

The tentative organizational set-up of Project Phoenix indicates key roles for both students and alumni in the workings and financing of the University's War Memorial.

A Board of Directors will be set up to supervise the entire project. It will be composed of representatives of the student body, the faculty, the administration and the alumni plus several technical experts.

Project Chairman

Under the Board of Directors will be the Building Chairman, and the Project Chairman who will be concerned with operation of the Memorial and the Administrator, who supervise the raising of the funds.

The Building Chairman will have charge of planning and constructing the physical part of Project Phoenix, its memorial rotunda, laboratories, etc.

Actual Planning

To the Project Chairman and his group will fall the planning of the actual atomic applications research work of the Memorial. They will select the various projects to be undertaken, subdivide the work to individual scientists and then supervise and coordinate the overall progress.

The Administrator, whose name will be announced within a few weeks, will have charge of the mammoth fund raising drive to be innaugerated next fall, tentatively during the Annual Homecoming Weekend.

Plans are also being considered to hold a series of prize contests to draw publicity to the Phoenix Project. Competition would be held in four fields: poster, speaking, essay and architectural with prizes to be offered.

Student Group

The Student Chairman will have a committee of fraternity, sorority and independent leaders under his supervision, and in this way the entire student body will be brought into the campaign.

The Special Gifts Chairman will coordinate the work of faculty members and all special campaign groups.

NO ATOM AUTOS YET:

Present Studies Make Some Headway

It's too early to begin accepting bids for installing an atomic power plant in your automobile, but atomic energy for peacetime use has already been shown practicable in industry, medicine and agriculture.

The University "Phoenix Project can be expected to improve peacetime applications currently employed or being studied for use in treating disease in homes, industries, transportation and to produce new aids in manufacturing a whole host of products.

Most medical advances throughout the nation are being made through the use of radioactive materials.

Through the Atomic Eenergy Commission at Oak Ridge, radioisotopes such as radioactive cobalt needles are distributed as an inexpensive substitute for radium.

Atomic Tracers

Materials easily assimilated by the human body are radioactivated and used as tracers to tell doctors how the body operates normally or when it is diseased.

Some encouraging results in direct treatment have also been noted. For this purpose, the most spectacular results have been obtained by exposing diseased parts of the body to the radiations of radioactive isotopes.

Until now this method has been effective, though not miraculous, in treating thyroid cancer, polycythemia vera (an ailment of the marrow of the bone) leukemia and some tumors.

Power Use Uncertain

For would-be neophyte industrialists, the best advice up to now indicates that it will be wise to stick to conventional sources of power such as coal, oil or natural gas. Expert opinion believes that a workable demonstration plant producing atomic power will be in operation within a decade, but commercial plants will probably lag several years behind.

Most scientists, however, doubt that commercial atomic power will be appreciably cheaper than conventional power.

Still, it is considered likely that public utility power plants producing energy for homes and industrial users will eventually convert, followed by naval vessels, other ships and locomotives.

—Photo by Alex Lmanian
—Engraving Courtesy The Detroit News

RAW MATERIAL—Henry Gomberg, University of Michigan graduate student unpacks a radio-iodine shipment sent from government controlled atomic energy centers. Starting with this and other isotopes as "raw materials" the Phoenix Project will probe medical and scientific fields in an attempt to use the atom for the benefit of humanity.

* * * *

Industrial Uses

Use of radioactive material in production and industrial research is already underway in some fields.

Radioactive sulphur, for example, solved a perplexing problem for the rayon industry. Just plain old ordinary sulphur used in the process of manufacture must be removed. When a pinch of radio sulphur is tossed in, it gives off rays that can be detected by a Geiger until all the sulphur is removed.

Oil geologists use radioactive tracers to seek the richer oil strata and probe the limits of the old fields.

Coming, but too late to help the United States in its foreign relief program, is more food for the world through the atomic control df diseases of plants and livestock and improved use of fertilizer.

Research in fluorocarbons, necessary for the manufacture of atom bombs, has already produced a lubricating oil that will not burn.

It may be a long time before all of these prospects are realized, but the Phoenix Project will speed the way.

'U' Scientists Again Massed For Research

'Atom for Peace' Goal This Time

The "Phoenix Project" will blend the University's entire scientific and research facilities into a drive for technical progress for the second time in less than ten years.

Now, it is in an effort to harness the atom for peace, but during the war years, the weight of University scientific experience went into the development of weapons of destruction. The results were outstanding. 'U' professors and staff members worked on projects ranging from the atom bomb to anti-malarial drugs.

While the atom bomb was born under the football stadium at the University of Chicago in 1942, Michigan men had their share in its development. Prof. James M. Cork of the physics department, Professors G. C. Brown, Clarence A. Siebert and E. M. Baker of the engineering school worked on various phases of the bomb. Last year, Dean Ralph A. Sawyer of the graduate school served as technical advisor of the Bikini tests.

Atomic Center

Since 1929, the University has been a center for atomic development. Such noted scientists as Enrico Fermi, J. Robert Oppenheimer and Ernest O. Lawrence of cyclotron fame have lectured here, trying to iron out the problems of nuclear physics.

The University built a cyclotron in 1935 and is now constructing a more powerful syncytron. Using them, Professors David M. Dennison and H. R. Crane of th Physics Department have been attempting to break down atomic nuclei to get cosmic rays.

The proximity fuse, developed here by Prof. H. R. Crane and a crew of 25 picked scientists played a big part in the victory in Europe. More than three years of experiment brought the fuse, which is exploded by radio waves at a pre-determined distance from its target, into production by January 1943.

Working at MIT, University professors S. A. Gouldsmit, G. E. Uhlenbeck and Dean B. McLaughlin helped perfect still-secret radar devices. Instruments to "jam" enemy radar stations were developed by Prof. W. G. Dow of the engineering school, at Harvard.

Radar Jammers

Prof. Dow supervised the construction of three "Tubas", giant 125 ton land-based radar jammers used to protect American planes over Europe.

SN 7618, a white drug which can stop an attack of malaria in one fourth the time needed by older methods was another University project. Michigan was one of the seven experiment stations where tests of the new drug were made. Dr. L. T. Goggeshall, of the public health school, headed the project. When Dr. Coggeshall entered the navy in 1944, the anti-malaria work was continued by Dr. R. J. Porter.

'U' staff members also worked on penicillin. Prof. Werner E. Bachmann and Prof. Emeritus Harrison M. Randall of the physics department aided in the synthesis of the wonder drug.

With this vast reservoir of scitific and research experience behind it, the University stands ready to launch a peacetime atomic development program which will dwarf its wartime program.

FRED SMITH
. . . his dander up

* * *

Criticism of Country Starts Phoenix Idea

Smith Finds Failure To Coordinate Efforts

This is the story of the man who conceived the idea of a peacetime atomic energy research center in tribute to University war dead.

It's about Fred Smith, one-time University student and an American ever sensitive to foreign criticism of this country's efforts. Smith, a tall, greying, 39-year-old New York publishing executive, got his dander up over a statement by a high placed official in the French Government.

French Charge

The French official charged that while Americans devoted all their energy toward creating the atom bomb to win the war, they had done nothing to aid humanity through this tremendous discovery.

Smith set out to prove that this French official was wrong. But after extensive research Smith discovered that actually no concerted effort had yet been made by Americans to harness this power for humanity.

Sporadic Efforts

True, there were scattered, sporadic, research efforts. But nowhere was there anything on the scope of the Manhattan Project which bent the full resources of the nation to exploring the destructive attributes of atomic energy.

When he learned of the University War Memorial Committee's search for a suitable tribute to war dead he suggested this research center.

The committee picked it up from there, but Smith continued to play a vital role in developing the project to its present stage. It was Smith who suggested the center be titled the Phoenix Project, embodying the idea of a new enlightenment from flame and ashes.

Noted Career

This is not the first time that this man has dropped private interests to serve the nation. His career carries notations like "Asst. to Secretary of the U. S. Treasury, Asst. to President, Bretton Woods International Conference, member National Labor-Management Conference." His private interests have been varied. He has held numerous executive positions and is currently consultant to Book-of-the Month Club and Associate Editor the United Nations World.

He attended the University of Michigan in 1924-26, establishing his lifelong friendship with Dean Erich Walter. It was through Walter that he learned of the War Memorial Committee's search for a suitable tribute.

Project To Include Humanistic Aspect

Sawyer Predicts Study of Atomic Impact on Culture, Civilization

The Phoenix Project will be of tremendous importance not only in the technological but in the sociological and humanistic fields, according to Dean Ralph A. Sawyer of the Graduate School.

Dean Sawyer, who was the civilian technical director of the atomic bomb test at Bikini Atoll and who assisted in obtaining Atomic Energy Commission approval of the War Memorial Project, predicted that the Project would "study all of the phases of the impacts of atomic energy on civilization and culture."

National Implication

"Current events bear out the fact that the implications of atomic energy are being felt in every phase of our national life," he continued. "The fields of economics, philosophy, political science, medicine and law will be greatly affected as well as those of physics and chemistry."

"So it can be seen," Dean Sawyer said, "that whole new concepts have arisen in every field because of the discovery of atomic energy—and one of the tasks of the Phoenix Project will be to study and evaluate them."

Dean Sawyer revealed that the War Memorial Project would use existing facilities on the campus until funds are provided for a Memorial building and equipment. But he emphasized that the Project's work would in no way interfere with the work of any department of the University.

All Forms of Research

"On the contrary," he said, "the Phoenix Project plans to provide funds to support other departments in work which is connected with any form of atomic research."

"It is hoped, too," he added, "that the Project will support research professorships and fellowships to permit investigators to devote full time and energy to problems connected with peacetime uses and implications of atomic energy."

Largest Scope

According to Dean Sawyer, the Phoenix Project is conceived on a broader basis than any existing institution for the investigation of atomic energy.

"We all hope," Dean Sawyer stated, "that it will not only have profound influence on all parts of the University but also, through the results of its study, will exert a widespread influence for good throughout the entire nation."

Phoenix Based On SL Plans For Memorial

Functional Project To Honor 'U' War Dead

The newly announced Phoenix Project springs from a Student Legislature proposal made Dec. 18, 1946.

At a regular meeting of the student governing body the legislators made the first campus suggestion that a functional war memorial be established as a tribute to University war dead.

Joined Forces

They later joined forces with the student - faculty - alumni War Memorial Committee in a search for a suitable tribute.

Dave Dutcher, president of the present Student Legislature has greeted the announcement of Phoenix with promises that the Legislature "will do everything within our power to bring this project into a functional reality."

Commends Plan

In a statement to The Daily, Dutcher also declared that "Never has a more commendable plan of action being proposed to our University," and pointed out that besides the economic and medical advancement in peacetime uses of atomic energy made possible through the project, it will indicate to the world our desire for peace.

Adding that the Phoenix Project makes all of us aware of the great role we can play in our own future, Dutcher suggested that each student direct a letter to the editor of his hometown newspaper and do a real "selling job to materially put across the new plan."

UN Plans End In Stalemate

Follows Two-Year Atom Bridle Debate

The establishment of the University's center for directing atomic energy applications to peace comes on the heels of the breakdown of negotiations to bridle the atom's war-making potential.

Two years of debate within the United Nations ended in impasse last week. The Soviet Union would not accept the essentials of a majority plan for an international atomic devtlopment authority. Seven members of the eleven - nation Atomic Energy Commission decided that further talking was futile unless Russia changes her mind.

Atomic control had been put on the list of questions that would wait for an answer until the East-West split heals.

The move to end the life of the Commission had been brewing for weeks. The writing on the wall was the suspension a month ago of the commission's two major committees — the Committee on Control and the Working Com-

Initiative for the break came in a three-power resolution from the United States, France and Britain, chief advocates of the Baruch plan for international control and inspection of atomic energy's development. "It's apparent," a spokesman for the three nations said, "that this deadlock cannot be broken on the commission level."

French Began Atom Studies 50 Years Ago

It was on a quiet summer day in 1945 that Ann Arbor was first exposed to the Atomic Age, but it was some 50 years earlier that the Atomic Era was born.

In 1896 Henri Becquerel discovered the radioactivity of uranium. This was the first step in the long development of atomic energy. It was followed two years later by the Curies' history-making separation of radium from pitchblende, after almost endless time and effort.

Here is a brief history of the development of nuclear energy:

1904—Rutherford discovers Alpha particle.

1905—Einstein announces equivalence of mass and energy.

1912-13—Bohr states theory of nuclear atom.

1919—Aston develops mass spectograph for isotope separation.

1930—Compton measures cosmic ray intensities.

1932—First transformation of lithium nuclei by artificially accelerated protons.

1932-35—Development of cyclotron and high voltage atom smashers.

1939-40—Discovery of artificial radioactivity by Irene Curie and F. Joliet.

1939—Discovery of uranium fission by Hahn and Strassman in Germany. Extensive research carried on in the United States.

1939, March—Navy department advised of possibility of fission.

1939, July—Einstein, Wigner and Szilard take steps to inform President Roosevelt of the possibility of military utilization of atomic energy.

1940-42 — Gaseous - diffusion method of separating uranium isotopes developed.

1941—Exchange of American and British scientists in a cooperation plan.

1941 — Preliminary studies of atomic bomb begun at the University of Wisconsin. Work continued by Oppenheimer at University of California.

1942—First atomic pile built at University of Chicago.

1942 — Construction begun at Los Alamos, N. Mex., of atomic bomb laboratory.

1942, Fall—Design of large-scale diffusion plant at Oak Ridge begun.

1943—One thousand kw. pile constructed at Oak Ridge for production of plutonium.

1943—Plant at Hanford, Wash., for the production of plutonium designed.

1943—Large - scale mass - spectograph separation plant at Oak Ridge designed and built.

1945, July 16—First experimental bomb detonated near Alamogordo, N. Mex.

1945, August 6—First military atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.

1948—May 17—Phoenix Project announced as vast research center to make the atom slave of mankind. The project will act as coordinating agency for individual scientists throughout the nation.

Phoenix Myth

The choice of the phoenix bird to represent the University's war memorial injects a new and vital meaning into an ancient, sacred symbol of rebirth.

According to legends dating as far back as 450 B.C., this fabulous bird mysteriously flew out of Arabia every 500 years and regenerated itself in a fiery ceremony.

The most popular account of the bird appears in the Physiologus, a collection of Christian allegories much read in the middle ages:

"The bird flies to Heliopolis, enters the temple, and is burned to ashes on the altar. Next day the young phoenix is already feathered, and on the third his pinions are full grown and he flies away."

And so, out of the ashes and destruction of a war climaxed by the use of atomic energy, the University's war memorial will arise, dedicated to the "rebirth of beauty and life."

Site Undecided

Although architects are already at work on possible plans for the War Memorial Rotunda and the other Phoenix Project buildings, no official decision has yet been made about where they will be placed on campus.

Unrestricted Thinking Basis For Research

Nucleus of the Phoenix Project should be the "free,unhampered thinking of brilliant and nimble minds," according to Dr. Fred Jenner Hodges.

(Dr. Hodges, nationally-known University radiologist, has been doing research in radioactivity ever since the physics department and the Medical School began their spadework in nuclear physics here back in 1931.)

He adds that "almost by definition, there can't be any fences around the Phoenix Project, because their are no fences around science or the human mind."

Once the men for the project have been selected, they should go ahead on their own, Dr. Hodges says.

He adds that—by the same token—although the Phoenix Project will focus on atomic energy, it will come to include in ever-widening arcs all branches of science, and eventually, of the social sciences and the humanities.

"Cutting across every field of knowledge will, in itself, be a real memorial for the whole University, because it will include every phase of University life," Dr. Hodges asserts.

Phoenix Plans To Supplement Current Study

Currently five categories of atomic research are being carried on under government and private sponsorship.

The Phoenix Project will not duplicate this work, but will carry on where it stops.

The categories include:

1. Generation of power from atomic fission.
2. Atomic powered aircraft.
3. Production of rare metals and rare earths.
4. Study of experimental work in radiation.
5. Production and distribution of radioactive isotopes for medical and other scientific research.

It is where this fifth category ends that the Phoenix Project will begin. Utilizing already produced isotopes as "raw materials" the project will probe all fields of science and medicine.

'ACTIVE SAY ON DECISIONS':

Role of Three 'U' Vets in Project Emphasized

Three student veterans — two men and a woman — played an active part in the selection and development of the Phoenix Project as members of the University's War Memorial Committee.

Since security restrictions imposed on the Committee prevented an all campus selection of delegates, Chairman Erich Walter invited Virginia Smith, Arthur Rude and Arthur Derderian to act as representatives of the students in the choosing of their War Memorial.

Backed Center

According to Dean Walter, "The student members were the ones who kept constantly insisting and reiterating the notion that Mr. Smith's idea was the one we ought to explore and develop if possible."

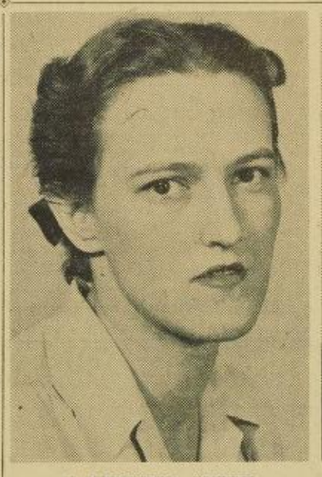
Miss Smith, a sophomore in the literary college, is a graduate nurse from New York City. She was selected as a member of the Committee when it convened in September because of her three and a half years service overseas in the ETO as a Lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps.

"The student members on the Committee were given a very active say in all the decisions, we were in no way figureheads," she reported.

Asked Suggestions

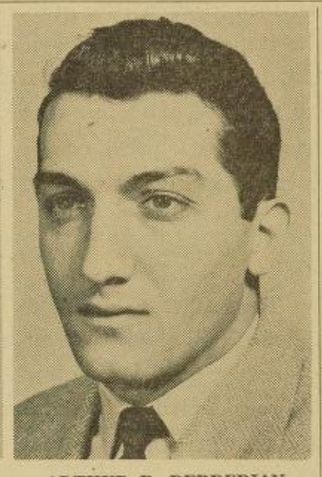
Miss Smith emphasized that the student members of the Committee all solicited proposals for a War Memorial from as many fellow students as possible. "There was general agreement that the Memorial should be more than a pile of stone and should be directed at the prevention of further war," she reported.

"The Phoenix Project gets bigger the more you think about it—it combines dynamic moral aspect and also a dignity of commemoration and is important enough to be worthy of the University," she said. "I don't see how students can help catching the fire when they think it out, and their enthusiasm is vital in selling it to America and the world."



E. VIRGINIA SMITH
. . . enthusiasm is vital

ARTHUR M. RUDE
. . . biggest single job



ARTHUR R. DERDERIAN
. . . a peaceful future

Established Scholarships

Rude, a law student, graduated from the literary school in 1942. Before enlisting in the army he established the Bomber Scholarships for needy students which once totaled over $30,000. He spent the latter part of his four years in the Army in the Pacific and was a first lieutenant upon discharge.

"The Atom suggestion came up early in the Committee meetings, which were held bi-weekly over a period of almost eight months, but there were so many complications we didn't think it had a chance of succeeding," he said.

Praised Smith

Rude praised Fred Smith, originator of the idea for the Phoenix Project as an "outstandingly successful publicity man with good common sense." He revealed that the Committee was greatly attracted to the name "Phoenix" for its symbolism and the appeal it would have as against a name like the "Michigan Memorial Institute" or other suggested titles.

"The students themselves must be the publicity agents for the Phoenix Project — that is their biggest single job," Rude declared. "By our own enthusiasm we must stir enthusiasm in others. The project is something that will put Michigan on the map of the world if the students get behind it."

Arthur Derderian, third student member of the committee is a senior in the literary college and veteran of four years in the Navy. He first became interested in a War Memorial as a member of the 1947 J-Hop Committee, which considered a J-Hop raffle to begin a drive for funds.

Other students became interested in a possible War Memorial and an official request was filed with the Regents, according to Derderian. Because of his interest in the project Dean Walter asked him to join the Committee the Regents later set up.

"If the students get a spirit on campus of what the Phoenix Project can someday mean to mankind, it will be felt throughout the entire world," he declared. The Project is flexible enough to include every man's own idea of what he wants for a peaceful future."

Derderian, in answer to "what can the students do?" pointed out that by the time actual construction is begun, half of the students now on campus will be alumni. We will provide the spark for alumni all over the country in supporting the Phoenix Project," he said.

War Dead . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

Wassell, Frank L., Jr.; Westport, Conn.
Wassell, Harry B.; Westport, Conn.
Waterman, Richard T.; Albany, N.Y.
Webster, Thomas J.; North Hornell, N.Y.
Westheimer, Ferdinand L.; Cincinnati, Ohio.
White, William E.; Marion, N.Y.
Wienner, Robert N.; Detroit, Mich.
Wilcox, Albert P.; San Bruno, Calif.
Wilkie, John C.; Detroit Mich.
Willard, Dean D.; Bay City, Mich.
Williams, Donald F.; Fairport, N.Y.
Williams, Ralph H.; Bloomington, Ill
Williams, Woodson J.; Richland, Mich.
Wilson, Robert C.; Address Unknown.
Wilton, James B., Jr.; Peoria, Ill.
Winkler, Richard S.; Camarillo, Calif.
Wolaver, David A.; Ann Arbor, Mich.
Wolcott, George G.; Ann Arbor, Mich.
Wolfstein, James S.; Shaker Heights, Ohio.
Wood, Stephen A.; Fountain City, Tenn.
Wyse, Arthur B.; Wooster, Ohio.
Yarrow, Donald W.; Chicago, Ill.
Yolton, Leroy W.; Bloomington, Ill.
Young, Robert B.; San Francisco, Calif.
Zimmerman, Robert O.; Chicago, Ill.
Zornow, Dale F.; Rochester, N.Y.