

Distinguished Alumnus Winner of First Honor Award



FRANK EMERSON, left, president of the University of Wyoming Alumni Association, hands Admiral Emory S. Land, right, the first Distinguished Service Alumni Award at half-time ceremonies at the Homecoming football game.

IT WAS Old Home Week and Field Day all rolled into one for Admiral Emory Scott Land when he attended Homecoming at his Alma Mater this year. First he attended a dinner given by President G. D. Humphrey in honor of all graduates of the University prior to 1903; next he made the first presentation of his own award given for the first time to the outstanding University athlete; then he received the first Alumni Honor Award for outstanding individual achievement given by the University Alumni Association.

The presentation was made by Frank Emerson, president of the Alumni Association, during half-time ceremonies at the Homecoming football game and followed immediately his presentation of his own athletic award. The award was a handsome Schaeffer Snorkel desk pen set with an attached engraved plate stat-

ing that it is the first Distinguished Service Alumni award.

"Jerry"—as he is known to his friends—is no stranger to winning awards, since he has won honors in every field of endeavor he has been in from the U. S. Naval Academy to an award of the Navy Cross for work done in the Bureau of Construction and Repair during the first World War.

After his graduation from the University of Wyoming in 1898, where he was a star football player, he went on to the U. S. Naval Academy and was graduated from there with honor in 1902. While at the academy he was presented with the Sword for General Excellence in Athletics and was Cadet Commander of the battalion in his graduating year.

His degrees also include an MS from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1907, an MA from the University of Wyoming in 1907, and an

honorary LLD degree from the same school in 1939. He has also received honorary degrees from New York University and Columbia University. In 1945 he received the Diploma of Honorary Fellowship from the North East Coast Institute of Engineering and Shipbuilders.

Perhaps his greatest service to his country was accomplished during World War II when he was Chairman of the Maritime Commission and was responsible for construction of the largest merchant ship program ever attempted by any nation. He was first appointed to the Maritime Commission in 1937 and was named chairman by the President in February, 1938, a post he held until his resignation in January, 1946.

During this time he built up the American merchant fleet to approximately 5,600 ships, aggregating 54 million deadweight tons. As War Shipping Administrator Admiral Land was responsible for the operation of the entire merchant fleet consisting of approximately 4,500 vessels.

Other Presidential appointments during this time were Director of Shipbuilding under the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense in July, 1940; Chairman of the Strategic Shipping Board, December, 1941; and Administrator of War Shipping Administration, February, 1942.

At the request of President Roosevelt, he attended the Quebec Conference in September, 1944, and the Yalta Conference in January-February, 1945. At the request of President Truman he attended the Potsdam Conference in July, 1945.

Since his resignation from the Maritime Commission he has been president of the Air Transport Association of America, Inc., a position he now holds. He and Mrs. Land, the former Elizabeth C. Stiles, now live at the Sheraton-Park Hotel, Washington, D. C.

His list of honorary medals is a long one, including the Distinguished Service Medal, Navy; Distinguished Service Medal, Army; Knight Commander, Military Division, Order of the British Empire; and an award from the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers for "outstanding accomplishment in the Marine Profession," 1952.

It was indeed an honor for the Alumni Association to be able to award its first Alumni Honor Award to such an outstanding public servant and accomplished alumnus.