

The Other Side

Bruce Longtin Combines Research and Originality, Hiking and Painting

By HILL BURKHART

Picture a methodical research worker, mix in a streak of Rube Goldberg's inventive genius, add a love of the outdoors, and you have Dr. Bruce Longtin, associate professor of chemistry at IIT, and this week's glimpse of "The Other Side."

Dr. Longtin's interest for the outdoors and hiking in particular dates back to before his college days. He has made many camping trips in the Sierra Nevada Mountains; in 1930, his party hiked over 130 rough mountain miles in 14 days to set a record which still stands.

He has climbed many mountains in the Sierra range, and has four times reached the 14,500 foot drop of Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the United States.

It was while he was at California that Dr. Longtin became interested in the field of unusual distillation processes. His doctoral dissertation dealt with the subject, and was entitled, "The Theory of Separation Processes in the Transient State."

After receiving his Ph.D., he continued his distillation work under the sponsorship of a Shell Research Fellowship until 1939. Graphical methods were employed to a large extent in this investigation, and Dr. Longtin made extensive use of projective geometry. In connection with his work connected with petroleum distillations, he published a paper on "The Intuitive Descriptive Geometry of Spaces of Infinite Dimensions".

After completing his work on the Shell Fellowship, Dr. Longtin received an offer to join the teaching staff of IIT. "I had traveled down south and in the Northwest," he

says, "but I had never been east. The opportunity presented itself, and I came. Of course Chicago can't match the California air, but I'm here now, and I intend to stay awhile."

It took his research at Illinois Tech to bring out the aforementioned Goldberg in Dr. Longtin. He continued his work on distillations and sought a practical method for determining the heats of mixing organic compounds. The problem has been a serious one confronting chemical engineers undertaking separation operations, and he decided to do something about it.

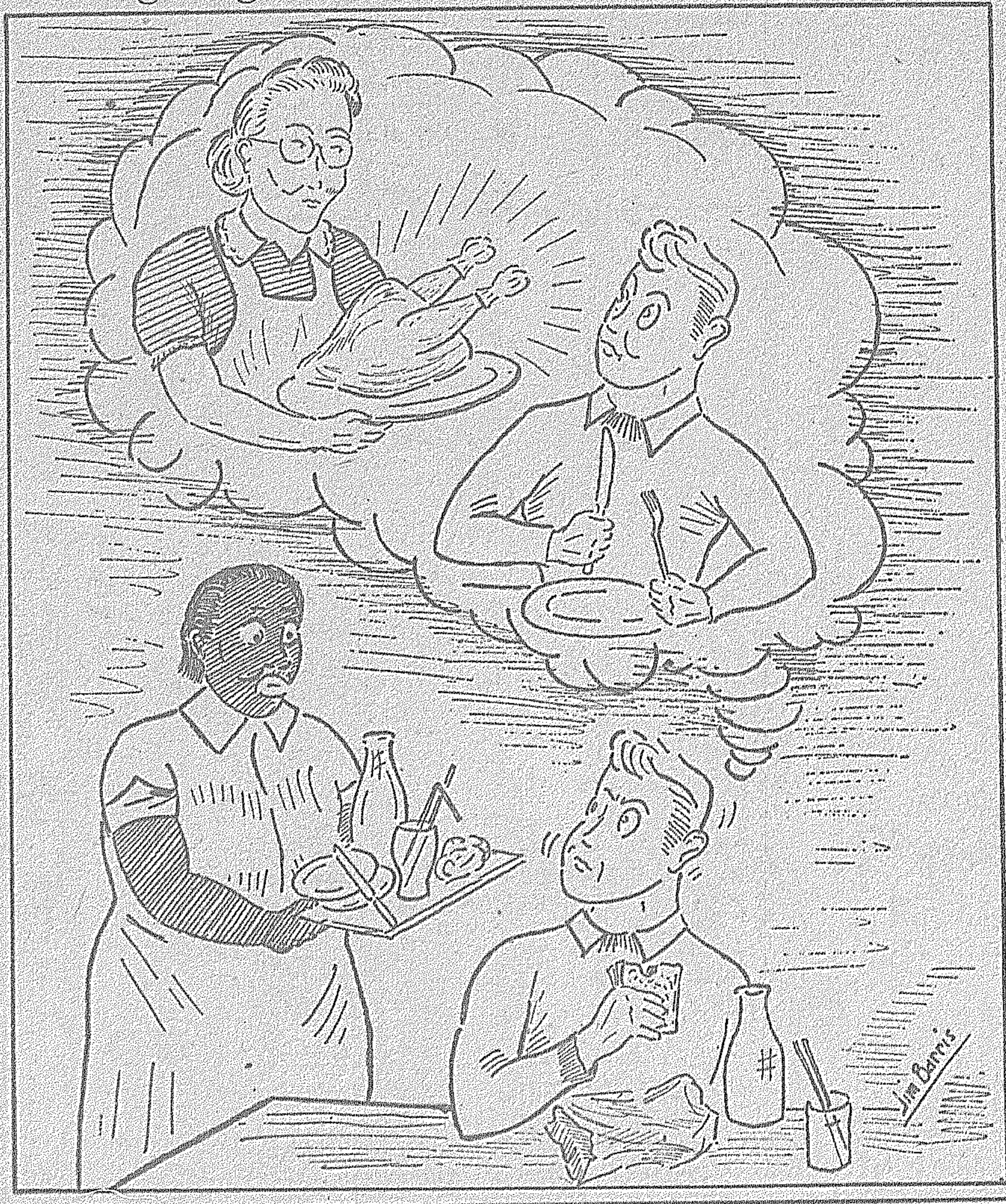
The first experiments were conducted using calorimeters requiring about twenty milliliters of liquids, and Dr. Longtin found that these quantities were too large for the type of work which he wished to do. But when he tried to use smaller volumes, he found that no thermometer sufficiently sensitive was available.

To solve the problem, "Gertrude" was born. Remembering that the mountain had come to Mohammed, Dr. Longtin reasoned that if he couldn't put the thermometer into the liquid, he would put the liquid into the thermometer. A thermometer was obtained, a cup shaped bulb was fixed in it, and it was transformed into the first mercurial aneroid imeter.

Longtin has been interested in sketching and literary writing for some time. When his other activities are at a lull, he likes to spend some time sketching and painting. His aims for the future, other than reeling "Gertrude" and continuing research, include the wish to do extensive work in oil painting.

His activities consist of his memberships in Phi Lambda Upsilon, American Chemical Society, and IIT chapter of the Society of Chemical Engineers. He is, in addition, the faculty advisor for Alpha Psi chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma.

Thanksgiving at IIT



CHICAGO—

The Plot Makes the Motion Picture

CHICAGO motion pictures this week show the importance of a good story to any comedy team. It is often the writer who does the work, while the actor takes the credit, and this is easily realized after two of the films offered at downtown theaters are seen.

BILLED as "the wackiest khaki riot of the decade," "Let's Face It," nevertheless leaves much to be desired in a motion picture. The film is showing at the Garrick, and features the heralded Bob Hope-Betty Hutton combination.

While the picture does have some funny spots, a person used to the usual high calibre performances of Hope and Hutton will be disappointed. Perhaps too much is expected upon the basis of the jobs done by the two in separate pictures, but the film does not live up to its advance publicity.

names 'n notes

GUS SKIZAS, freshman, had a try-out with the Chicago Cubs. . . . PRESIDENT HENRY T. HEALD was only 18 years old when he received his B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Washington State College. . . . SHELDON YOUNG, senior civil, and CHARLES ROWBOTHAM, senior mechanical, have lived on the same block all their lives; yet they had not become acquainted until last semester. . . . HENRY L. NACHMAN, professor of thermodynamics, has been teaching at Armour for 40 years. To the Armour graduating class of '02 he was known as "Hungry Hank" because he would eat his lunch at 10 a.m. . . . HERBERT E. BUSEMANN, instructor of mathematics, was a member of a city tennis team while attending college in Germany. . . . FEDERAL STREET was once known as Armour Avenue. . . . JOHN I. YELLOTT, director of the Institute of Gas Technology, was selected in 1939 by Pi Tau Sigma, honorary mechanical engineering fraternity, as the outstanding mechanical engineer of the past decade. . . . PVT. JOHN B. ARMESTRO, trumpet player in I.I.T.'s mass band, is also an expert on the violin and piano.

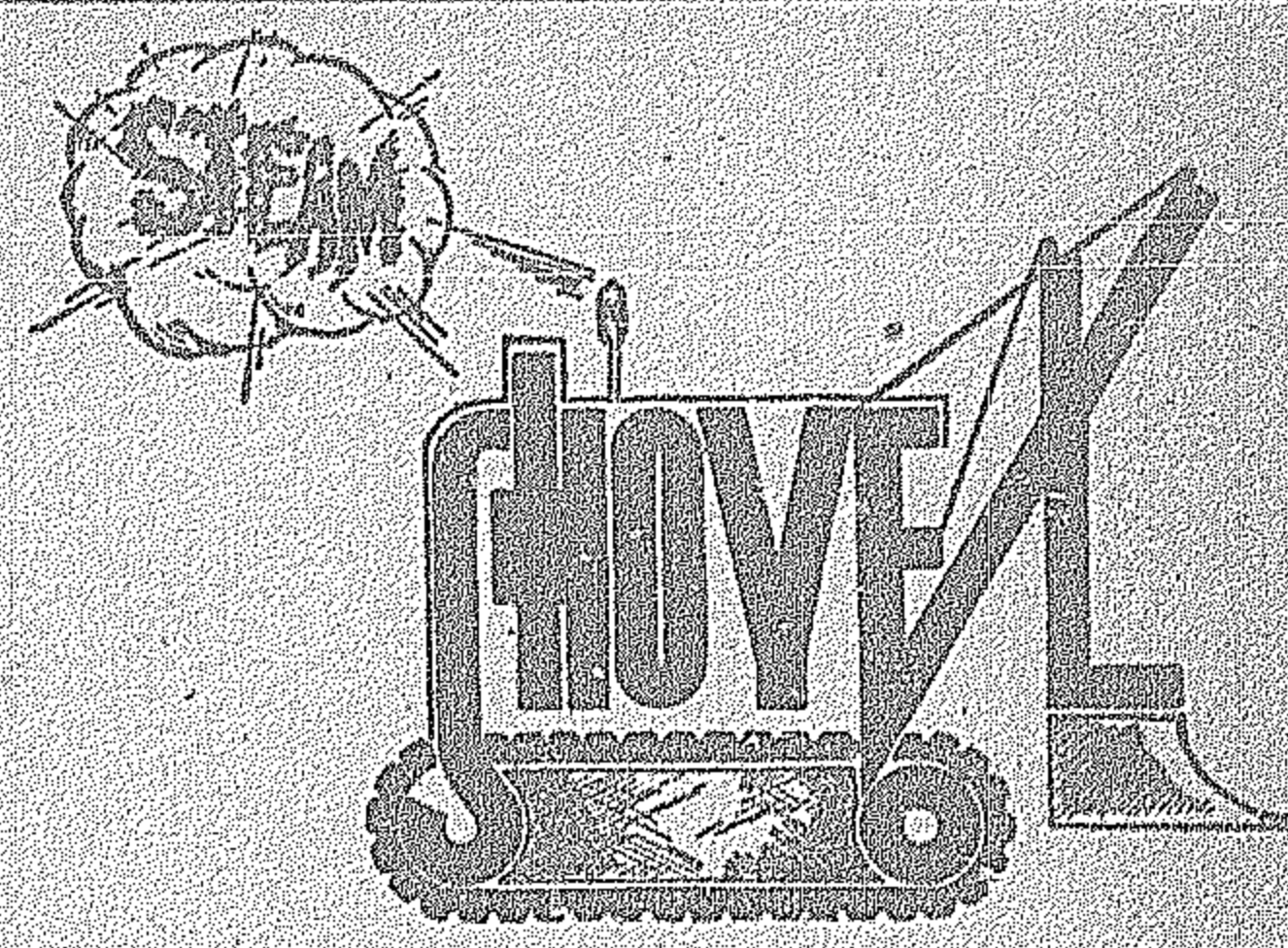
Illinois Tech hit the jackpot on September 10, 1943, when Lt. Martin P. Anderson, "Sonny" Weissman, and Edgeley W. Todd, English instructor, were each presented with a bouncing baby girl.

The picture could be improved if the plot matched the quality of the cast. Hope did his best, but even his ad-libs couldn't keep it from floundering. Betty Hutton tried hard to duplicate the success she achieved by singing "The Fuddy Duddy Watchmaker," but didn't make the grade. Again the fault lies in poor material.

Hope and Hutton may make a good team, but it will take work and not publicity to undo the harm done by "Let's Face It."

"UNHOLY Matrimony" offered at the Apollo shows just what a new comedy team can accomplish when given a suitable vehicle. Monte Woolley and Grace Fields provide a surprise combination, and this surprise is pleasant. Both deviate from their established patterns; Woolley almost entirely hides the Caustic wit which has made his name, and Fields does no song and dance act. Each has changed a little and a new personality has developed.

The plot is lively; it moves along and while comedy is the theme, the audience is kept in suspense. Anything can happen until the picture ends, and the finale finds the audience ready for more.



Had you noticed the mail that Vernon Selback has been receiving from his O.A.O.? This V-12 trainee daily receives a note, sealed with a kiss and signed "The Future Mrs."

Not being able to say all he wishes to by this medium he nightly calls her and spiels for a great length of time much to the anguish of fellow trainees waiting to call their women.

"Baldy" Sloyan has learned his lesson. Following in their slogan "Dead-heads become burr heads," a school spirited group of sophomores ensnared this retiring wall-flower and clipped his flowing mane.

The clipping was the result of petition signed by the more patriotic sophomores who had heard that human hair is used in weather forecasting. Hard to explain, however, is the signature of James C. Peebles on said petition, filled in, no doubt by some aspiring sophomore.

Miss Shirley "the coed?" Sexon, has been practicing with the army band on Friday nights. This bespectacled thrush has aspirations to be a second "Sergeant Ginny Sims." To help keep Shirley's mind on the business at hand, her mother is present at all these Friday concerts.

It is with the deepest regret that we are forced to make the following announcement. The beautiful bonds of friendship that had existed between Gordon Theurich and Nat Stein have been severed through the usual means: Women.

Seems that Mr. Stein had promised to fix Mr. Theurich up with a "super blind date" for last Saturday night. Four couples, consisting of Stein, Theurich, Ben Johnson, and George Cherimpes with their dates were to make a night of it.

The gorgeous escort that Nat brought for his best friend turned out to be one Bernice, something absolutely out of this world. According to Theurich, she should have stayed out of this world. Bernice had the same effect on the party that a case of polio would have had.

It is for this reason that "Turk" has been muttering about a "stab in the back" for the past week.

The love-bug has been biting over at Lewis. In certain instances like the Bucky Walthers and Pat Arnes couple the bug has been thwarted. Bucky has gone off to camp, and Pat is sitting quietly at home weeping and worrying. Pat has worried so much that she has lost quite a bit of hair. That might be because of the loss of her loved one, or it might be just that Florence Bartusek wields a mean razor blade, and has a yen for giving feather-cuts.

George Prachnow has been bitten by the same love-bug. The latest temperature results have not come in yet, but it is known for sure that George can't concentrate on his Analytical Geometry. It all started when George saw a vivacious, brown-eyed blonde working in one of the ESMWT chemistry courses.

Dorothy Vedel of the Sigma's at Lewis has her sisters on the alert for one Ed Cygan of Triangle fraternity. It seems that at the Triangle party last spring Ed made Dot an offer to help her with her Organic Chemistry but never came across. Dot's getting impatient Ed!

The letter in last week's "Shovel" was not written by Chet Swan, as you readers probably realized. Chet states that if the occasion demanded he could write a MUCH better letter.

Members of the internal combustion engines class under Prof. Daniel Roesch have devised a human demonstration of the firing order of a four cylinder engine. Upon command piston one fires and Jim Heap raises his right hand, three fires and Jack Tregay raises his hand, piston four was a misfire, William Hornbaker was thinking about the effect of the torsional critical upon the nut on the left rear axle and forgot to raise his hand.

When Dick Larson was on that weekend Christian Endeavor Retreat at Des Plaines, he had a bad boy part in a play. Larson tried to entice soldiers into a crap game in a local tavern. Dick played his part so well that the audience suspected that he had pulled this trick before.