

The Other Side—

Dr. Hobson Is Engineer Who Likes Music, Journalism, Horticulture, Psychology

By HAROLD BURKHART

Did you ever think of mixing into one character the personalities of a journalist, a symphony violinist, a home-made horticulturist and psychologist, and an engineer?

Such a varied personality is found in the person of Dr. Jesse Edward Hobson, chairman of the electrical engineering department.

During his undergraduate days, "Jess" was made the editor-in-chief of the *Purdue Engineer*, a monthly student magazine. At the same time he was a first violinist in the *Purdue Symphony Orchestra*. After receiving his bachelors degree, he says, the violin was temporarily laid aside due to a lack of time. Although he will still fiddle occasionally, he now finds greater enjoyment in his large collection of both classical and non-classical records.

The horticultural side of his nature finds vent in his garden, a favorite sanctuary, which blossoms during the entire summer.

The home-made psychologist? He likes to study people. He even goes a step farther than most psychologists. He likes people. In fact, that is why he is here at IIT.

Dr. Hobson He recently said, "It is more fun to be in contact with students than to sit down and work on formulas. That is why I am not in active engineering."

And then comes the engineering side of this complex person's life. He received his masters degree in electrical engineering in 1933 using as his masters thesis "An outline for a text book in high voltage measurements."

Then, because of his graduate work, he was simultaneously awarded the Charles A. Coffin Foundation fellowship and position as a graduate assistant and research fellow at the California Institute of Technology, where, in 1935, Dr. Hobson received his Ph.D., Magna Cum Laude.

He then assisted in Designing and building a 1,000,000 volt surge generator for Cal Tech. During the summer of 1935 he became supervisor of high voltage frequency and surge acceptance tests on circuit breakers for the Boulder Dam-Los Angeles transmission line.

OUTSTANDING PEOPLE make up the faculty of Illinois Tech, and this column seeks to acquaint the students with the activities, and particularly the research work, of some of the members of the faculty and to tell "the other side" about them.

Professor Hobson left Cal Tech in 1935 when he was called upon by Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, to reside there as an assistant professor of mathematics.

In 1936 he left Earlham and came to what was then Armour Tech as an instructor of electrical engineering.

The year of 1937 saw him with the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company as a central station engineer in Pittsburg. In August of 1938, he was a central station engineer at headquarters for the Northwestern district.

In 1940, Eta Kappa Nu selected him as "The Outstanding Young Electrical Engineer of 1940."

At the present time, he is a member of four honorary fraternities; namely Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, Eta Kappa Nu, and Sigma Delta Chi. He is secretary of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and a member of the sub-committee for the investigation of arc furnace over-voltages and the committee on basic sciences. He is also a member of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education and the American Association of University Professors.

Dr. Hobson is the author or co-author of more than twenty technical and scientific papers.

Don't Be Alarmed—It's a 20 Minute Warm-up



CHICAGO—

Studio Theater Still Breaking Records

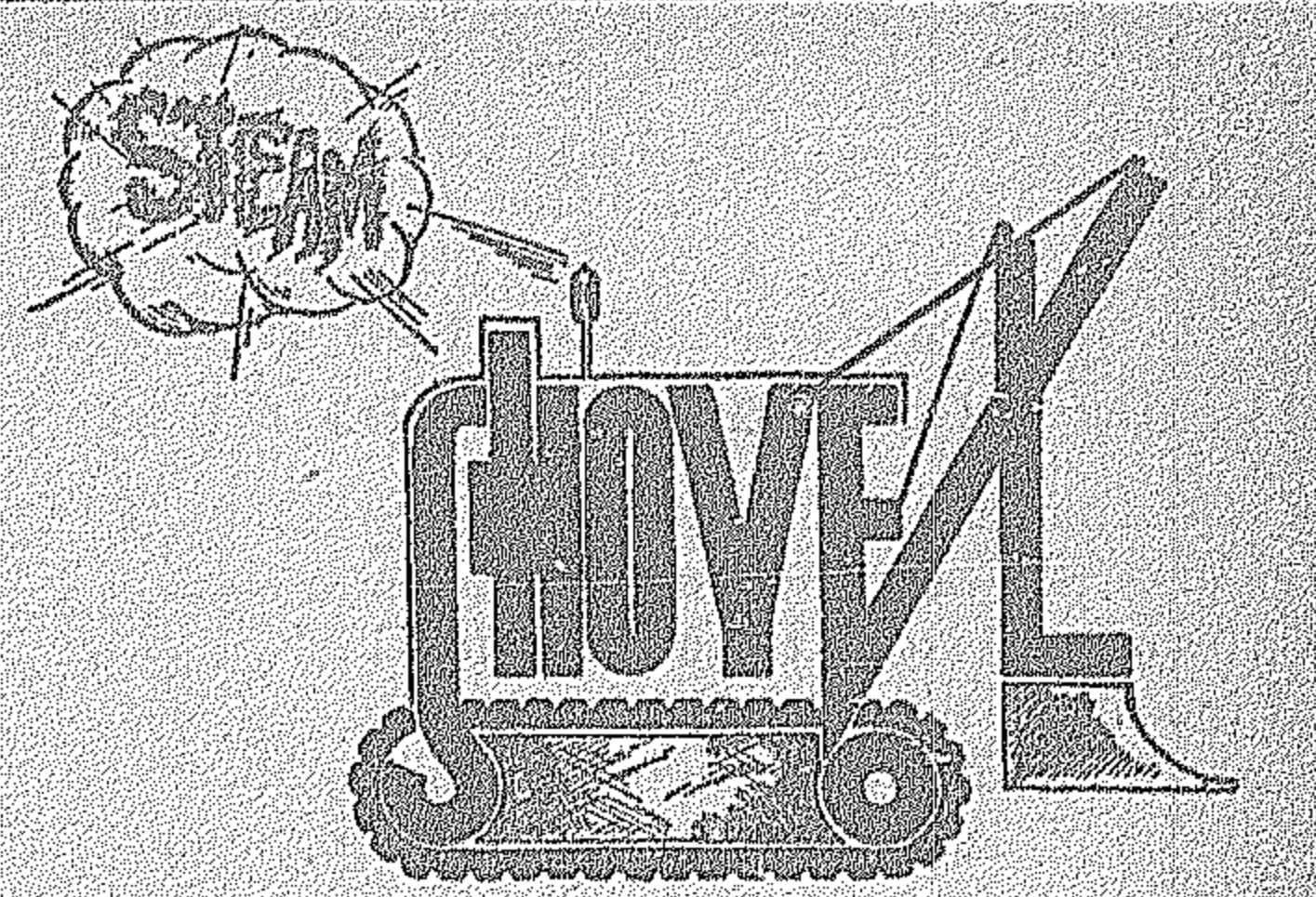
THE STUDIO Theater is still breaking records.

Noted as the theater which set an all-time Chicago record when it showed the "Virgin Bride" on a run that lasted more than a year, the Studio this past week set another record. It was the first Chicago entertainment spot to respond to *Technology News'* request for co-operation in keeping service men at IIT informed as to what goes on in the "Windy City."

A form letter was sent to more than 100 entertainment centers—movies, legit theater, concert managements, night clubs, dance halls, et al—and the Studio was the first to respond.

names 'n notes

CORRECTIONS (notes from the editor on a couple of names) . . . That was a basketball team that NELL STEELE played center on . . . And SHELDON YOUNG, whose avocation is saving lives as lifeguard, is preparing for a vocation as a civil engineer, not as a chemical, and Chi Epsilon, the honorary which he heads, is of course a civil honorary . . . DR. MYRIL B. REED who has a Ph.D. in mathematics is assisted by MRS. REED in grading quizzes and homework. She has a master's degree in mathematics . . . The Chicago Flat Janitors Union, Local 1, has BERT ANDERSON, senior mechanical, as a member. Bert "janitorized" apartment buildings during his summer vacations . . . PVT. LEON KRANTZ of New York City was Playground Director of the New York Dept. of Parks during the summer of 1942 . . . CHARLES LaMANTIA, president of the freshman class, graduated sixth highest scholastically in his class at Tilden Tech. He was also an officer of the champion Tilden ROTC . . . RAYMOND MAYER, sophomore chemical, collects various species of insects as a hobby . . . The president of the Armour Tech Camera Club in 1903 was DANIEL ROESCH, present professor of automotive engineering . . . The Victory Garden of ROBERT H. SAUNDERS, assistant in chemistry, has been acclaimed by his neighbors as the best in his block. When not doing research work, he spends his time growing vegetables . . . WILLIAM ZECHEL, freshman fire protect from Maine Township High School, Park Ridge, refused a scholarship from Northwestern University in order to accept one from IIT . . . DON RICHARDSON, freshman electrical, has been an amateur magic enthusiast since he was eight years old.



Too many students are under the impression that the faculty consists of a bunch of "long-hairs" who live only for the torture they can inflict on the students. These next few lines are in contradiction of this belief.

Higher education is a wonderful thing. When one reaches the top, as represented by the status of department head at IIT, you can be sure that person has "something on the ball." It is little wonder, therefore that one of these men has displayed remarkable versatility. Totally engrossed in his subject, one of these lofty administrators was seen reading not one, but three copies of "Esquire" on an elevated train.

When "Diesel Dan" Roesch was Chief Engineer of the Lorraine, Ohio, Power Co., he was testing the voltage on those old-fashioned arc lights on the street intersections. The test consisted of placing a volt meter across the lamp terminals. Roesch sat on a stool and thought himself perfectly insulated and so he was until a dog came along and stuck his wet nose against the tester's leg. Both Dan and the dog described a parabolic arc to the opposite side of the street.

Continuing in our policy of bringing to the attention of all you wolves the "mostest of the bestest," Steamshovel again publishes a phone number heretofore considered "private" by one Techman, Mr. Robert Kirk, grad student. After long and concerted effort, he has managed himself into the inside track with Hazel Byrnes, luscious south-side femme. If you want the details on his smooth operations, phone SAGinaw 4717—Hazel will tell all to any man!

As it must to all men, romance has finally entered into the dreary lives of Gordon Theurich and Ben Johnson. After several weeks of tactful maneuvering and down to earth wolfing, the two have found themselves in the good graces of those two luscious bits of femininity, Mary Ann and Irene of the cafeteria staff.

Another Contestant for the charms of Irene, cafeteria belle, is that debonair Senior Electrical, Harry Weinberg. He carefully staked out his claim Wednesday night at the dance club. Evidence of the success of this claim showed in his starry-eyed face upon entering the lounge from the secluded stairway with the aforementioned "woman in white."

The title of this story is "How a Sailor Saves His Money." The principal characters are Jerry Houle, V-12 civil, Lou Brodt, and Jerry's little one-and-only. Mr. Houle gave his entire pay from the Navy to Mr. Brodt, who forwarded it to Jerry's O-and-O. After considering his expenses for the coming month, she returned half of the pay, keeping the remainder for Jerry's hopechest.

That tired haggard look on George Erkart's face last Monday was the result of a week-end visit to Nashville to see Karen.

In order to spend the maximum amount of time there, George prolonged his return until 8 a.m. Monday morning.

The "girl friend" is a United Air Lines Stewardess flying between New York and Nashville.

Sorry no phone number—it's a toll call anyway.

Doris Meller, one of the few female freshmen, has been conveying Don Dunning, frosh mech, to school every day that she can. She calls for him at his home and together they make the long journey from Brookfield to IIT.

Bob Roberts and a certain math instructor have both been smitten by the charms of a slim, dark-haired damsel named Dorothy Blum. The instructor may have money, but the men of IIT have that irresistible charm that appeals to all fair and lovely females.

Don Anderson, soph physics major, has been squiring Lorraine Fortunato, golden-voiced Rogers Parker. He is thereby added to the long list of her ardent admirers. As an engineering student this poor fellow is at a disadvantage, but just think of all the money he will make when he graduates, Lorraine.

NOW PLAYING at the Studio is "Ravaged Earth." This is a film photographed and produced by Mark L. Moody, a prominent American business man in China for 23 years.

Quoting from the press sheet on the film, it is learned that "Ravaged Earth" shows the bombing and killing of thousands of peaceful men, women and children, wanton destruction on a wholesale scale, rape, pillage and brutalities" and that "the picture is 100 per cent non-Hollywood, and on account of having no 'staged shots' it brings an impressive impact of the truth."

Sounds like a picture servicemen, and in fact everybody, should see; a *Technology News* reporter will be dispatched to the Studio this week to check up and bring back a report for the next issue.

A REPORTER—two of them in fact—did drop in on "Kiss and Tell" at the Harris this last week, and the report is: Put this play on your MUST list.

The two *Technology News* reviewers were in unanimous agreement that this comedy is just what the doctor ordered for summer laugh relief from the heat. Only argument they had was as to which was the funnier, "Kiss and Tell" or "Good Night Ladies," but both agreed that "Kiss and Tell" provides plenty of laughs.

RECOMMENDED for after-the-theater is a stop at the Downbeat room, just around the corner from the Harris.