

The Other Side—

Komarewsky, Russian Admiral, Skier, Expert on Both Gasoline and Rubber

By BURT FRIED

Whether rubber or gasoline is more important to the war effort is a moot question, but it does not bother Vasilii Komarewsky.

For Komarewsky, who is a research professor of chemistry and head of the catalytic laboratory at IIT, has done work on both synthetic rubber and aviation gasoline.

For many years, Dr. Komarewsky has been concerned with the problem of catalysts. After coming to IIT in 1936, he organized the catalytic laboratory for the purpose of studying further this very complex problem. His research on synthetic rubber and high octane gasoline has been concerned with this subject.

Komarewsky was born in Moscow, and entered the University of Moscow in 1913. However, the advent of the first World War cut short his studies, and he became an officer in the air force of the Russian Navy.

The task of his unit was to patrol the Northern part of the Black Sea for German submarines, and to bomb the ones found. His was not too difficult a task, since anti-aircraft was at that time in a primitive state.

However, being an officer in the Czar's navy had its drawbacks, for, when the Russian Revolution took place, Komarewsky was imprisoned several times, merely because of his officership.

In 1920, he went back to the University of Moscow, completing his studies in 1925. The subject of his thesis for a Ph D. was a co-precipitated nickel-aluminum catalyst. This has since been used for many reactions, one of the most timely being the production of toluene (used for TNT) from petroleum.

From 1925 to 1928, Professor Komarewsky did research at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Berlin, as a fellow of the Soviet Union. His work there was on three Soviet fuels, cellulose, coal, and peat.

Upon returning to Moscow in 1928, he became chief chemist of the State Institute of Peat, and assistant professor of the Moscow Academy of Mines. He organized the first laboratory to study the chemistry of peat.

While attending a World Power Conference in 1930, Komarewsky was invited by Universal Oil Products Co. and Northwestern University to come to the United States.

He did so in March, 1932, and lectured at Northwestern for two years. He was also a research chemist for Universal Oil for eleven years, and has some 50 patents.

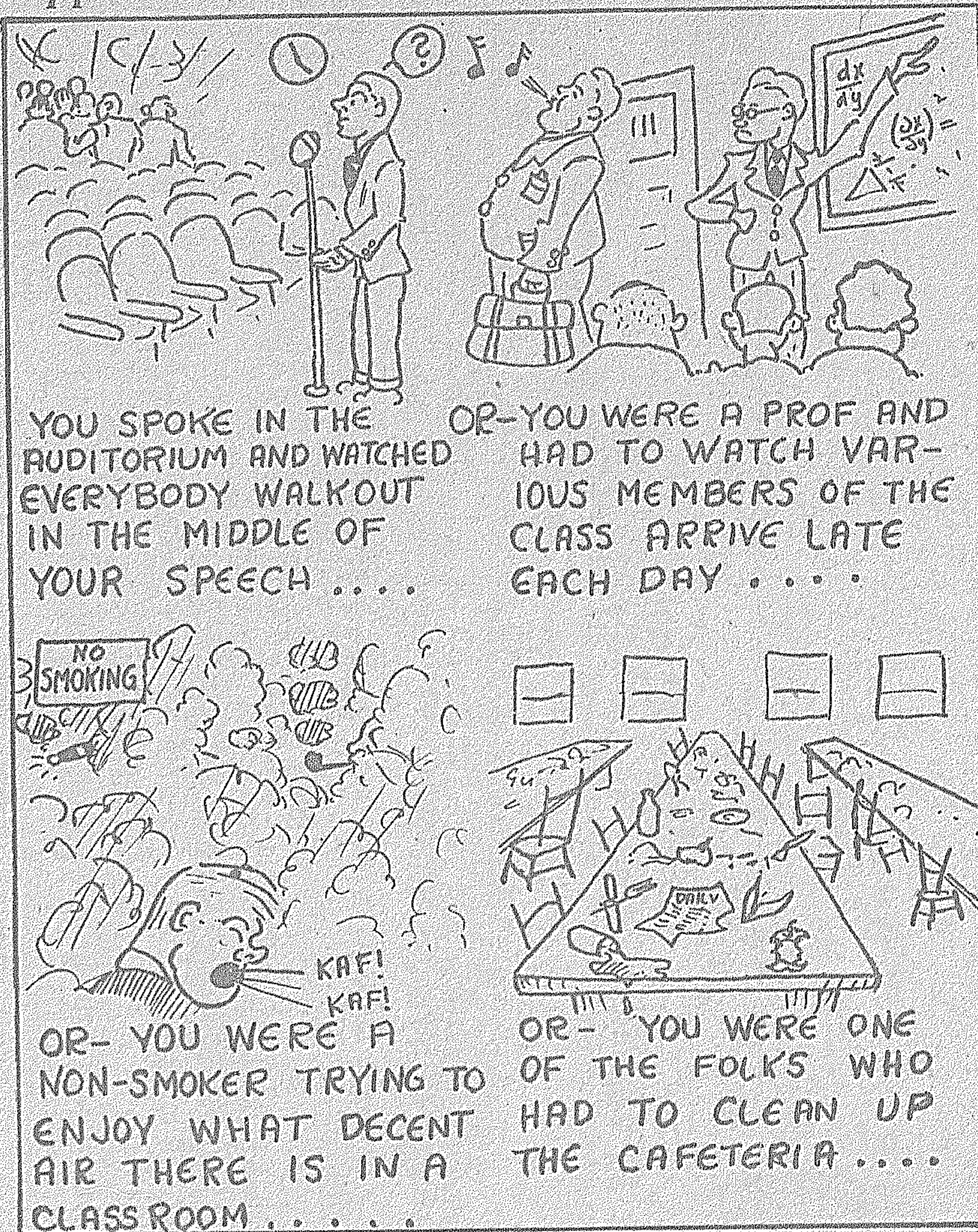
In 1936 he came to Illinois Tech. The catalytic laboratory and the catalysis were the first of their kind in the country. Only a few of Dr. Komarewsky's research accomplishments while at IIT can be listed.

With C. H. Riesz, of the Gas Institute, he improved the production of the synthetic rubber, butadiene. Using a single-stage dehydrogenation of butane, he obtained larger yields than are possible by other processes.

The application of catalysts to organic syntheses has resulted in new methods for the preparation of ketones, aldehydes, and unsaturated hydrocarbons.

Since much is still unknown about the phenomenon of catalysis, Dr. Komarewsky has combined the methods of the physicist and the organic chemist to study it. One development has been the complex-action catalyst.

Suppose—



YOU SPOKE IN THE AUDITORIUM AND WATCHED EVERYBODY WALK OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR SPEECH

OR—YOU WERE A PROF AND HAD TO WATCH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE CLASS ARRIVE LATE EACH DAY

OR—YOU WERE A NON-SMOKER TRYING TO ENJOY WHAT DECENT AIR THERE IS IN A CLASSROOM

OR—YOU WERE ONE OF THE FOLKS WHO HAD TO CLEAN UP THE CAFETERIA

How would you feel?

CHICAGO—

Romantic Beach Walk Always a 'Must'

DANCING under the stars—that is the outstanding feature of the Beach Walk of the Edgewater Beach Hotel. Gay lanterns and colored lights swing from the trees around the dance floor; they lend a romantic atmosphere to blend with the soft waves of nearby Lake Michigan.

The board walk along the beach and the pier out into the lake provide that added touch of romance, unmatched in Chicago.

Ed Oliver's band provides danceable music; the Dorothy Dorben Dancers plus other specialty acts provide floor shows twice each evening at 9:15 and midnight.

Service men are admitted free at all times. Civilians pay \$1.50 admission per person on Saturday and \$1.25 on all other evenings. Drinks served at tables are, of course, separate charges.

names 'n notes



The picture of Warren Furst, last week's "Man of the Week", was not available then in time to be included with his biography. So that Illinois Tech will recognize this outstanding student, his picture is included here.

SAM ZIRLIN, freshman, placed second in the recent state archery contests . . . RICHARD KOENIGSBERG, a

freshman attending IIT on a scholarship, is following in the footsteps of his father, Ned Koenigsberg, class of '14 . . . BILL WOODS, sophomore physics major, recently donated a clarinet to the Illinois Tech music clubs . . . Two senior mechs, NORMAN ADDIE and WARREN DECATUR, have tested the automobiles of the students in Prof. DANIEL ROESCH'S engine class. They determined the engine R.P.M. and the combustion efficiency for rich and lean fuel mixtures.

ALBERT GAIL, professor of aeronautical engineering, is one of the engineers who designed the German Messerschmidt airplanes . . .

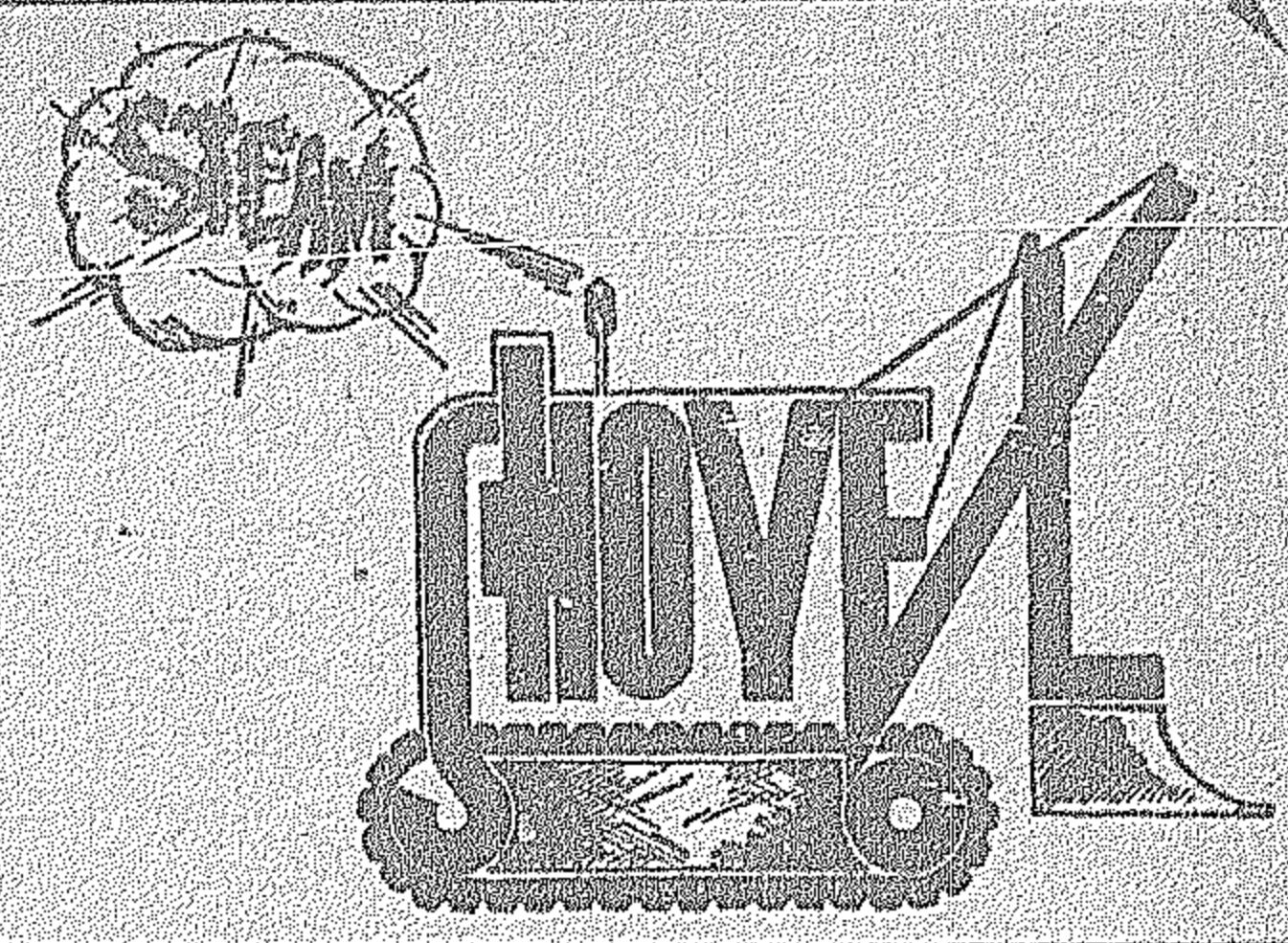
DON PRICE, sophomore electrical, has been a model railroad enthusiast since he was 13 . . . CARL GAUSEWITZ, electrical engineering junior, is also an instructor in a U.S. Signal Corps School.

FOR those of you who have a hankering for football in August, and if you can manage a few hours away from the books, there's next Wednesday's All-Star Game between the Washington Redskins and the College All-Stars.

In the years past, the game has proved to be a good exhibition of college and professional football, even though last year a fog rolled in from Lake Michigan so thick that one couldn't see the length of the gridiron.

By now, all of the lower priced seats are gone, but those remaining are good ones. Transportation furnishes a further problem; the scene of the contest has been moved from Soldiers' Field, where it has been held since its conception, to Dyche Stadium, on the Evanston campus of Northwestern University.

Present reports announce that both teams are in good condition; the Redskins have been working out in Loyola University campus, while the All-Stars have been whipping their team into shape over at Northwestern.



"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime;
And in parting leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."

—Longfellow

Yes, friends, the fickle finger of fame points to Milton Burkhart, who not only has left his footprints but his reputation on the sands. The following ditty will attempt to explain:

Oh, Burkhart the red head, now coos like a dove,
For Milton the sucker has fallen in love
And the lady he swears can never be beat
Is Peggy, the queen of West Madison street.

She owns her own tavern; she calls it an inn
She sells week-old whiskey, and drinks White Mule gin.

The flop house she runs is filled up every night
Five cents if you're sober, ten cents if you're tight.
She packs them so well, it has often been said,
Her income per night is two dollars a bed.

Her manners are lady-like, gentle, refined,
Those that say different are being unkind
For though she can swear and fight like a man
She's given up drinking her beer from a can.
She's going to start eating her soup with a spoon
And start wearing skirts if her pants wear out soon.

She's witty and clever, she's dainty, petite
With her size forty waist and size thirteen feet.
They make quite a couple, we all do agree
She's never had a lover devoted as he,
Milt gives her a kiss; she gives him a hug
Then they each take a bite from her "Horse Shoe" plug.

And as they there sit and so solemnly chew
They make the best couple that I ever knew.

Here is a little problem that was recently solved by students of IIT.

Tom Costello sold a 1932 Harley Davidson motorcycle to Norman Addie. On New Year's day Addie smashed into an automobile. Norm was in the hospital for three months with one broken arm, one broken leg, and severed wrist tendons in the other arm.

Addie sold the "bike" to Howard Dvorak as is. Dvorak paid \$100 for it and is spending another \$100 for repairs. Dvorak has finally come to the conclusion that he was rooked with these words, "Even the pistons are upside down."

Here is the financial end of the story. Phil Rinck was waiting for the money for the car Costello bought from him. Costello was waiting for the final motorcycle payment from Addie. Addie was waiting for the \$100 from Dvorak. Dvorak sold his coupe to his aunt to pay Addie for the motorcycle. The aunt did not want to pay for the coupe until she had moved, and she was waiting for the movers. This game of "money, money, who's got the money" went on for a month. Finally it was settled and everybody was happy; the movers came through!

There is a big garbage can in the back of the concrete lab in Chapin Hall. When the civil students mix up a bad batch of concrete, they throw the mix into this can. This can is now full to the brim with one solid chunk of concrete.

The mechanical engineers are wondering how John Volakakis, lab instructor, and his brilliant "civils" are going to move this 500 pound can of concrete, empty it and bring it back for another load. Volakakis says, "We did it before, and we can do it again."

"Goat of the Week"

The response to last week's phone number was, to say the least, very gratifying. Therefore, this unusual service will be continued.

This week's "Goat of the Week" is Don Arensen who spends all of his leisure hours in the company of one Lorraine Fortunato. This enchanting miss may be reached at Sheldrake 1783. Carry on, men!

Navy Notes

That patch on Nat Ratner's head is the result of scuffle with a bar of soap. This rough sodium salt rose from the bottom of the bathtub and slugged him, Ratner claims.

Semaphore drill proved to be on the damp side for John Dittmore and Joe Waldvogel at the corner A.C. (quarters 6). Both men are puzzled as to how they became drenched, soaked or otherwise slightly damp while the sun shone brightly in the sky overhead.

Jack Shepard has been taking a good deal of ribbing on the last date he had. In all fairness to Jack, he should be allowed to tell his own story about the walk to the streetcar.