Grinter Calls for Revamp of Present Training Methods

Stating that the leading nations of the future will be those with the best systems of technological education at all levels, Dr. L. E.Grinter of Illinois Institute of Technology last week urged a complete revamping of present day methods of engineering education in an address before the International Technical Congress in Paris.

Decrying the present practice of training engineers and technicians, one a highly professional group and the other non-professional, within the same system of education, Dr. Grinter proposed a further subdivision based upon the aptitudes of the individual students.

"Two systems of education are needed," Grinter said, "a professional education for engineers and scientists, and a period of practical training for technicians.

"In the United States this distinction seems to have become confused because of the desire of young people to study in a degree granting institution. Many other countries appear to have been more successful in this regard."

The present subdivision of engineering education into civil, mechanical, electrical, and chemical engineering is primarily useful in attracting and holding the interest of the student, he said.

"Clearly, however, different sets of aptitudes are needed to become a successful manager, researcher, production engineer, or technician. And within limitations these aptitudes can no doubt eventually be determined and measured by tests. It is therefore the direction of further subdivision to fit such groups of student aptitudes that the evolution of technical education seems likely to take."

"In peace as in war," Dr. Grinter stated, "no nation can become great or even maintain its competitive position without an adequate industrial productivity. To a greater and greater degree the standard of living of a people will depend upon their industry rather than their agriculture. Along with industry go transportation, power development, and communications, all of which require the services of the engineer and the scientist.

"It seems certain that each generation will make use of more and more technical services until society satiates itself with mechanical, electrical, and chemical products and devices; finally, perhaps reaching the point where material things, being readily available to all, lose much of their value. Under present conditions of scarcity such a technological plateau seems far in the future," he said.

IIT Camera Club To Elect Officers

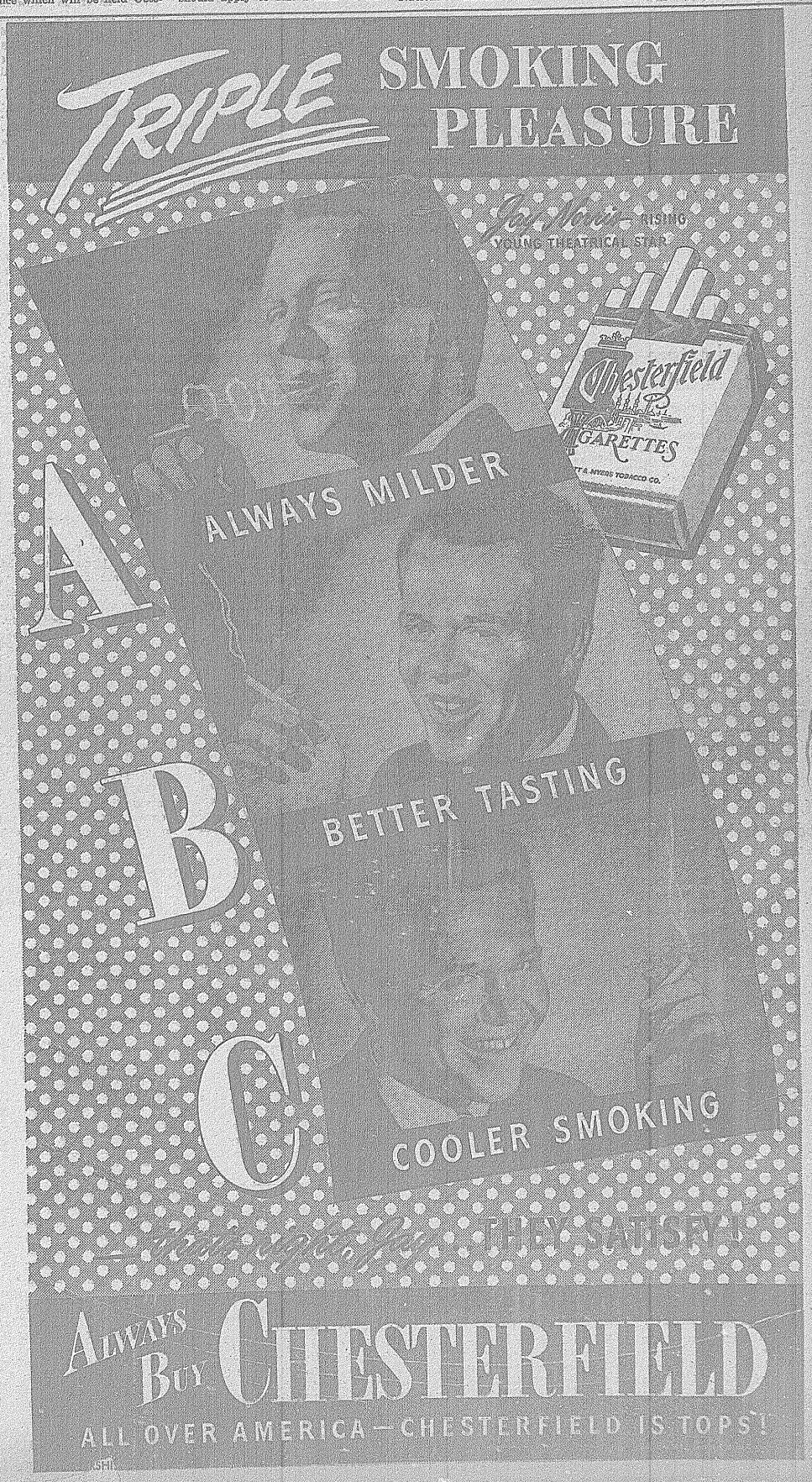
The Illinois Tech camera club will hold its first meeting of the year Thursday afternoon at 5 p.m. in the Armour Eye clubroom according to Chuck Hatstat, president. The purpose of the meeting will be reorganization, election of officers, and recruiting of new members.

Graduation of nearly all sit active members in one group last Februray has hampered the activities of the club to a great extent, but it is hoped that an extensive membership drive will bring in enough new members to put the organization back on its feet, said Hatstat.

The club has facilities for nearly every phase of amateur photography, including two darkrooms, two enlargers, a contact printer, a supply of tanks and trays for developing films, a print drier and all necessary chemicals. Members are entitled to a drawer for storage of individually owned equipment. Other equipment will be bought with club funds in the future.

EE Conference to Convene This Week

All electrical engineering classes will not convene this Thursday, Friday and Saturday to permit EE students to attend the Electronics conference which will be held October 3, 4, and 5 at the Edgewater Beach Hotel. Over 1100 of an expected 3500 from all over the United States have registered already.

Help is desperately needed. Any junior or senior EE who wishes to help will be welcome. Volunteers should apply to Mr. Schulz of the EE department for work. Assistants will be admitted free whereas the regular admission and registration fee is $1.00. All army officers wil be excused to attend the conference.

Dr. E. E. Condon, director of the National Bureau of Standards will deliver the keynote address, "Electronics and the Future," at the opening session. "Science, Politics and the National Welfare," is the title of the speech Dr. Frederick L. Hovde president of Purdue University will deliver. A demonstration lecture on microwaves and radar will be given by Dr. J. O. Perrine