

# TECHNOLOGY NEWS

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## Clean-Up Be Praised

It is heartening to discover that someone reads and does something about the conditions mentioned in the editorials on this page. In this instance we credit the deed to Mr. W. J. Parduhn, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds.

In the issue of Oct. 15, the editorial titled "Faulty Plumbing" tried to bring to the attention of the Maintenance Dept. the deplorable conditions of the Illinois Tech washrooms. Some wise soul from that department must have rested his gaze upon said words, for so behold: improvement has been in evidence.

A word of praise is in order for the responsible, namely Mr. Parduhn. There is an easily accessible, clean shelf for books in the washroom; even the handinks and latrines are easily flushed—rubbers do not need to be worn anymore in order to keep the feet dry. The new coat of paint provides the room with an appearance of cleanliness once more. A proclamation, Gents, in the form of a notice upon the door would add a finishing touch to the redecoration work.

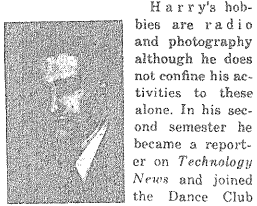
This gratifying improvement of conditions at Illinois Tech, where the abnormal situation of overcrowdedness in classrooms and other building facilities has been created by the heavy demand of youth for a college education, provides the *Technology News* staff with encouragement.

Opinions of student majorities in addition to criticism of poor conditions at IIT and suggestions for improvement are an important part of the editorial scope. Letters to the editor are looked upon as concurrent student views and even if they are uncommon, they are published. Any student having something to say should write a comment to the editor about it; letters may be deposited at the *Technology News* box on the first floor of Chapin Hall, first entrance. These words are directed to those faint-hearted souls who have something pertinent to student interest on their mind and yet find no opportunities to voice their opinions. The writers are urged to sign their letters, for anonymous letters in addition to not being as effective are rarely printed.



## Man Of The Week Harry Burkart Returns to IIT To Resume Campus Activities

**Sherwood Benson**  
 Harold H. Burkart, Man of the Week, with an eye on the future attended Metropolitan Business College after graduating from Lane Technical High School. He had engineering and business administration in mind. Says Harry, "The ability to take shorthand and to use the typewriter is a definite asset to the engineering student." But as he relates there were 36 gals up there and he was the only man in the class. After five months of this Burkart came to IIT in Sept. 1941 as an EE major.



Harry's hobbies are radio and photography although he does not confine his activities to these alone. In his second semester he became a reporter on *Technology News* and joined the Dance Club where he demonstrated a technique that has little to do with engineering. To top the list of his activities in 1943, Burkart was elected president of his junior class. In addition to this he was selected managing editor of *Technology News*. In reward for his efforts in journalism he was made a member of Pi Delta Epsilon, national honorary journalism fraternity. Harry was also on the all school social committee at

this time. Among some of the other activities to occupy his "spare" time Harry became a member of the Student War Council, the Interhonorary Council, and in the latter part of his junior year he was elected vice-president of Rho Epsilon.

In his seventh term Burkart was chosen editor-in-chief of *Technology News* as well as president of Pi Delta Epsilon.

The navy secured Harry's services in July 1944 when he was sent to boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois. From there he went to Huston, Texas where he began his training as a radio technician. He finally wound up at Navy Pier as an instructor in theory of radio transmitters.

Burkart was discharged from the navy in July 1946 and September saw him once more at IIT. Harry's future plans after graduation include further night school courses in ultra high frequency radio work. After he gains sufficient background in this work he intends to study business administration as he still professes a strong interest in the administrative aspect of engineering.

## NROTC Training Opportunities To be Offered to 270 Students

The navy entered IIT campus life July 1, 1943, when a V-12 unit was established here. During the fall of '45 the NROTC unit was activated which, as the Department of Naval Science, is now a permanent department of the school.

The present program started as a result of the Holloway Bill which was named after its originator, Rear Admiral Holloway, and was put into effect as Public Law 729. Its purpose is to provide a source, additional to the Naval Academy, of active officers for the fleet as well as reserve officers.

The teaching staff consists of Captain Donald McGregor, Commander R. R. Little, Lt. L. W. Griswald, Lt. R. A. Heath and Lt. M. Hjalmarson. The head of the department is designated as Professor of Naval Science. Assisting this teaching staff in instruction and administration are ten enlisted men, seven of whom are chief petty officers.

It is noteworthy that Alumni Hall is one of the two complete modern Naval Science buildings in the U.S., the other being at the University of Rochester.

Eventually there will be a total of about 270 naval science students



Capt. Donald McGregor

## Curtain Call

Bill Knowles

"I Remember Mamma" is such an unusual play in so many respects that I hardly know just how to begin to tell you about it. The plot is not of the usual protagonist vs. antagonist kind that is often seen. The casting is not of the common star and satellite variety. Nor is the staging done in what might be called the orthodox manner.

Let's look at these three phases of the production in reverse order so that the most interesting, the story itself, will be saved until last.

The stage is laid out in three main areas. At center stage is a raised level where most of the main action takes place. On either side, downstage and just inside the act curtain line, are two small revolving areas. These are used along with the area between the raised center level and the curtain line for small, short scenes designed to explain the main action and to develop side issues in the plot. Attention is drawn to these various areas by means of the cross fading of the spotlights. It is the degree of flexibility and continuity that this set up allows which is the unusual aspect of the production. I have seen this type of staging used only in some of Margaret Webster's recent Shakespearean productions, "Lady in the Dark," and a few others.

Next, as you perhaps know only too well, there is a vicious tendency in casting, brought on through the lack of really good actors, to have a stellar player in the lead and various inferior grades of actors in the supporting roles. The cast of "I Remember Mamma," on the other hand, is excellent right down to the walk-on telegraph messenger.

Two of the leads, Mady Christians, Mamma, and Kurt Katch, Uncle Chris, are products of Max Rheinhardt, one of the greatest producer-directors the theatre has ever known. The acting histories of the rest of the cast read like a directory of the best plays on the American and British stage for the last score of years.

Now to the story. It can best be described as a character study of Mamma, Uncle Chris, and Katrin. Mamma and Uncle Chris are Norwegian immigrants. Katrin was born in this country. Mamma is a practical, intelligent, kindly soul who strives constantly with the wolf at the door, so that Katrin and the rest of the children can learn and enjoy the blessings of the America she loves. She is full of the ways of the "old country," but wants her children to be as Americanized as possible.

Katrin longs to be a writer. The play is evidence that she has succeeded in her desire. For she is the author and Kathryn Forbes in real life. This play is the result of some very good advice she was given in her early struggles to authorship. That advice was the same your English Composition professor has given you a thousand times: Write about the thing you know best from everyday life.

Uncle Chris absolutely defies adequate description. He bullies everybody in sight—except Mamma. He has a "kept woman." And he drinks too much. But it's only an act. He really has a heart of gold. Because he has gone through life with a crippled leg all of his money has been spent on making little lame boys walk again. His blustering way is only a mask to keep his family from finding out about his philanthropy.

These wonderful characters and many more are all introduced in a series of scenes depicting the highlights in the everyday life of Mamma's family. The individual parts are tied into a well ordered, continuous whole by the running narration of Katrin as she writes her story. I say, as Mamma would say, "Dot sis goot!"



Zoology research takes the Digger out to morbid places to study the habits and culture of an odd type of mammal known as the Tech-hawk. Neither human nor bird is this creature that dotes on slipsticks and quizzes. Social activities are very limited in its dull existence.

For instance, at a recent impromptu party Al Kautzi sat around amusing himself only with his thoughts. One of the women asked what Al does for a living, to which other participants answered that he was studying to become a doctor. The inquirer affirmed with, "Yes, the strong silent character is typical of medical students."

One cute little bird was seen on the wing, leaving the Phi Kappa Sigma house. This particular chick has repeated the performance previously so the Digger assumes that it is a perpetual habit. Pat Porcelli of Theta Xi expressed wishes that the chick might visit his house.

June Lyons finally found out why Pat Kennedy takes lecture notes in illegible shorthand. She's be horribly embarrassed if any one could read the zoology notes she takes.