

# Edward C. Showacre

*September 21, 1896 — February 28, 1978*

Long before Doctor Showacre's sudden illness and death his varied accomplishments and talents were recognized and acclaimed by all his colleagues, who bade him a reluctant farewell at his retirement party in 1972.

Born in Cumberland, Maryland, he attended Allegheny High School, where he played football and developed the groundwork for a lifelong interest in sports. He obtained his premedical education at Bucknell University, and in 1917 he was graduated from Loyola University School of Medicine in Chicago, earning his Doctor of Medicine degree. Internship followed at Cook County Hospital.

Showy, as he was affectionately called, came to Cornell in 1920, assuming at once the position of team physician, a post that he held for three years. (It was the golden period of Cornell football when its teams, sparked by all-American players, enjoyed undefeated seasons.) Subsequently, he taught hygiene for several years. The developing field of radiology drew his interest, and eventually it became his specialty.

A long, productive period followed, in which his well-grounded knowledge of radiology was put to use in the Student Health Service; in addition, he became the medical consultant throughout the University in matters pertaining to ionizing radiation. He was among the first to recognize and to report on the clinical entity of virus pneumonia in the 1930s, and he had a strong hand in writing the provisions of the New York State Sanitary Code that dealt with ionizing radiation in educational institutions. In advance of most of his medical colleagues, he recognized the hazards of clinical overuse of X rays and adopted measures to limit unnecessary exposure. When Gannett Medical Clinic came into being, it was Dr. Showacre who designed its modern X-ray facility. He also wrote a manual for Cornell University department heads dealing with safety measures for students and faculty doing research with ionizing radiation—a manual that became the model for all the higher educational institutions of New York State.

Dr. Showacre had other talents no less noteworthy. He used a scholarly approach to his problems and was a perfectionist. A project assigned to him was guaranteed to be done well. He was also an enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and lucid teacher who contributed enormously to the professional development of his medical colleagues. His organizational ability was put to use in such projects as developing a medical record system and planning and implementing mass medical screenings for the physical education and ROTC departments.

A profile of Dr. Showacre would hardly be complete without mention of his genial personality, his modesty, his sociability, his enthusiasm for sports. He was an excellent photographer and a formidable bridge player. He enjoyed

good conversation and a good laugh. He will be remembered with respect and affection by those of us who had the good fortune to work with him.

Dr. Showacre was granted the title of professor emeritus in 1967 and retired in 1972. He was a past member of the board of trustees of Acacia Fraternity and a member of the board of directors of the Tompkins County Red Cross Chapter.

Surviving him are his wife, Margaret Burlingam Showacre; two sons, James C. and Richard E. Showacre; two daughters, Elizabeth A. Showacre and Mrs. Ann Hemken; and four grandchildren.

*C. Douglas Darling, Norman S. Moore, Alexius Rachun*