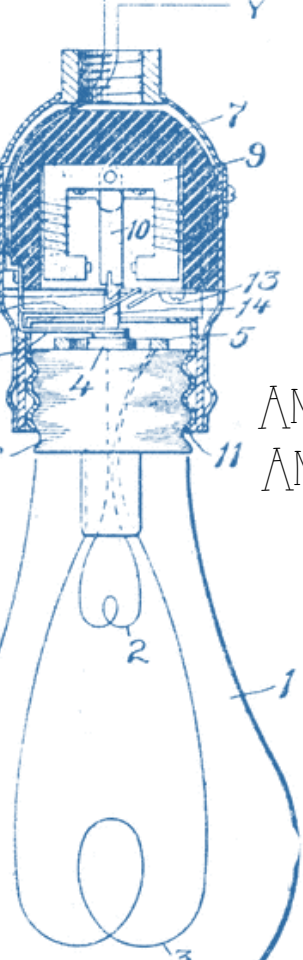


SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY

1246. WALTER SIMMONS



MY PARENTS THOUGHT THAT I WOULD BE
AS GREAT AS EDISON OR GREATER:
FOR AS A BOY I MADE BALLOONS
AND WONDROUS KITES AND TOYS WITH CLOCKS
AND LITTLE ENGINES WITH TRACKS TO RUN ON
AND TELEPHONES OF CANS AND THREAD.



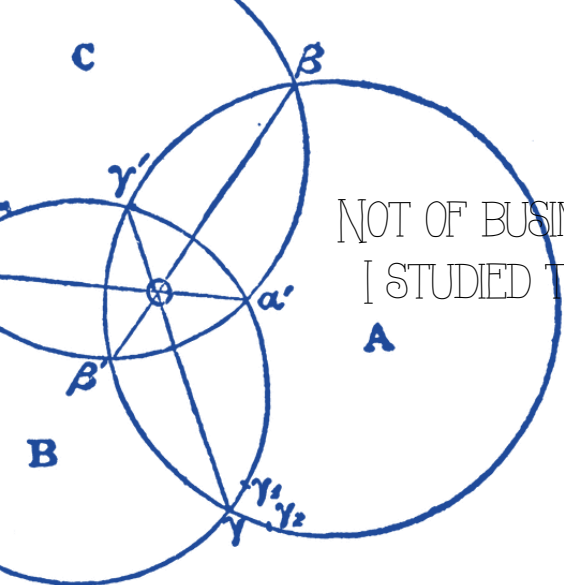
I PLAYED THE CORNET AND PAINTED PICTURES,
MODELED IN CLAY AND TOOK THE PART
OF THE VILLAIN IN THE "OCTOROON."



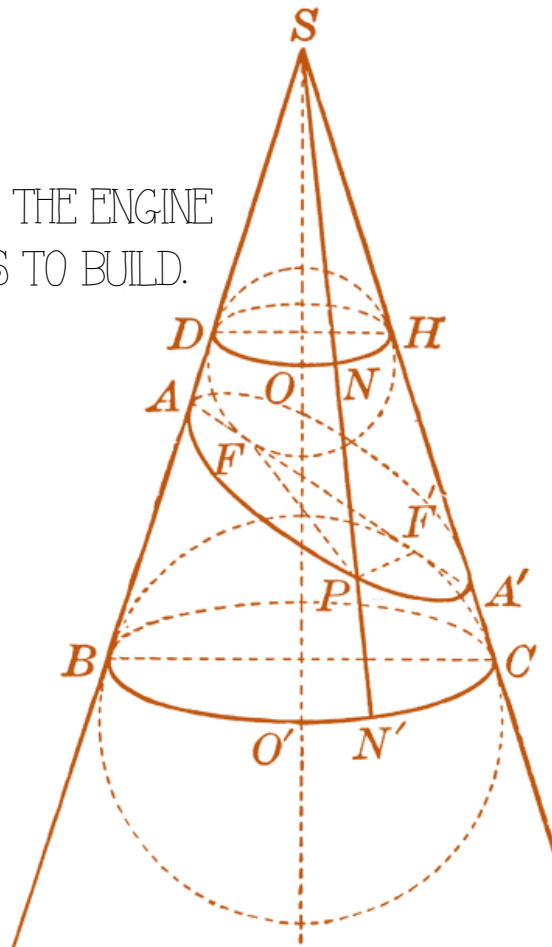
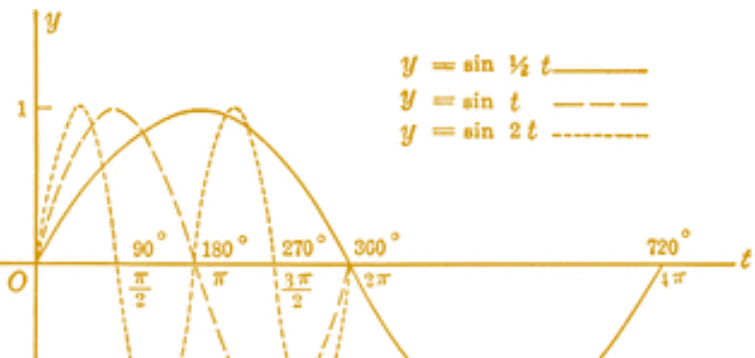
BUT THEN AT TWENTY-ONE I MARRIED
AND HAD TO LIVE, AND SO, TO LIVE
I LEARNED THE TRADE OF MAKING WATCHES
AND KEPT THE JEWELRY STORE ON THE SQUARE,



THINKING, THINKING, THINKING, THINKING,--

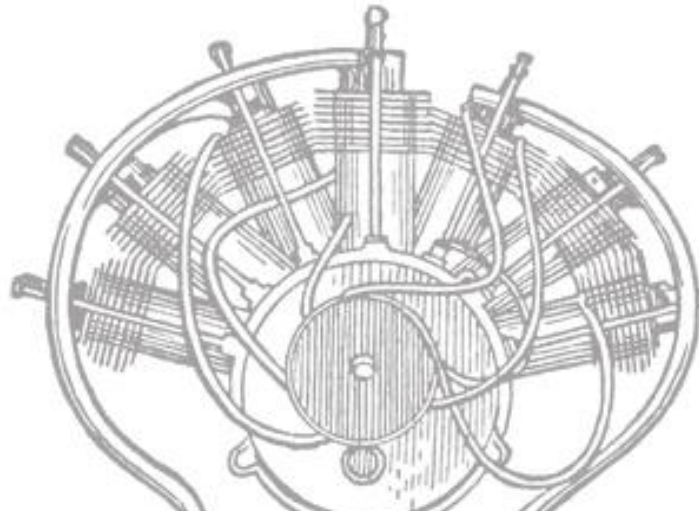
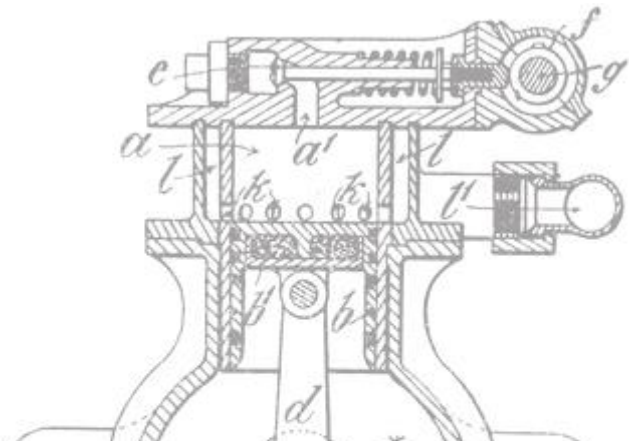


NOT OF BUSINESS, BUT OF THE ENGINE
I STUDIED THE CALCULUS TO BUILD.



AND ALL SPOON RIVER WATCHED AND WAITED
TO SEE IT WORK, BUT IT NEVER WORKED.

AND A FEW KIND SOULS BELIEVED MY GENIUS
WAS SOMEHOW HAMPERED BY THE STORE.



[IT WASN'T TRUE.]

THE TRUTH WAS THIS:
[I DID NOT HAVE THE BRAINS.]