

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

This series of the Rolla Clymer collection includes sent and received correspondence arranged chronologically beginning in 1909. With few exceptions, the correspondence provides a continuous and very complete view of his activities. Much of the earliest correspondence in the Clymer collection pertains to information about the College of Emporia for the period Clymer was a student there. Scattered throughout the remainder of the correspondence is information about Emporia athletics and alumni activities and letters with former classmates. From 1914 to 1918, Clymer was editor and manager of the Olathe, Kansas, Register. In 1918, Rolla Clymer moved his young family to El Dorado, Kansas, where he became editor and manager of the El Dorado Republican. Except for a six month hiatus in 1937 as editor and manager of the Santa Fe New Mexican in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Clymer served the remainder of his professional career in El Dorado.

In his later years, Clymer devoted much of his time to efforts to preserve the Kansas Flint Hills region which he dearly loved. In addition to newspaper editorials, he wrote and published numerous widely circulated articles and poems about the Flint Hills. Perhaps his best known tribute was his poem "Majesty of the Hills," which helped earn him the designation as Poet Laureate of the Flint Hills. Rolla Clymer died on June 4, 1977, having been the editor of the El Dorado Times for fifty-nine years. For a complete contents list of the Rolla Clymer collection, see the External Links below.

Date: 1909-1977

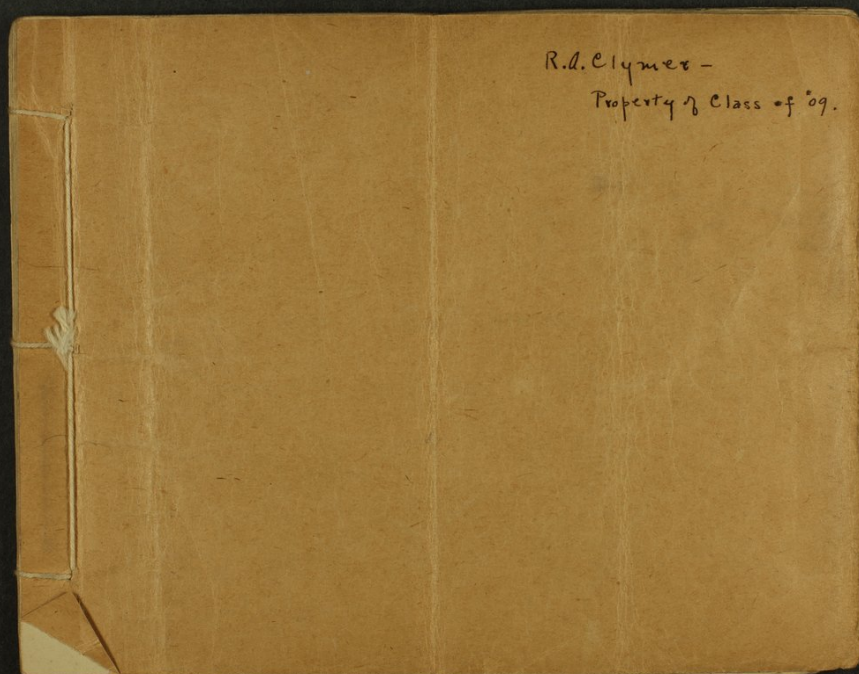
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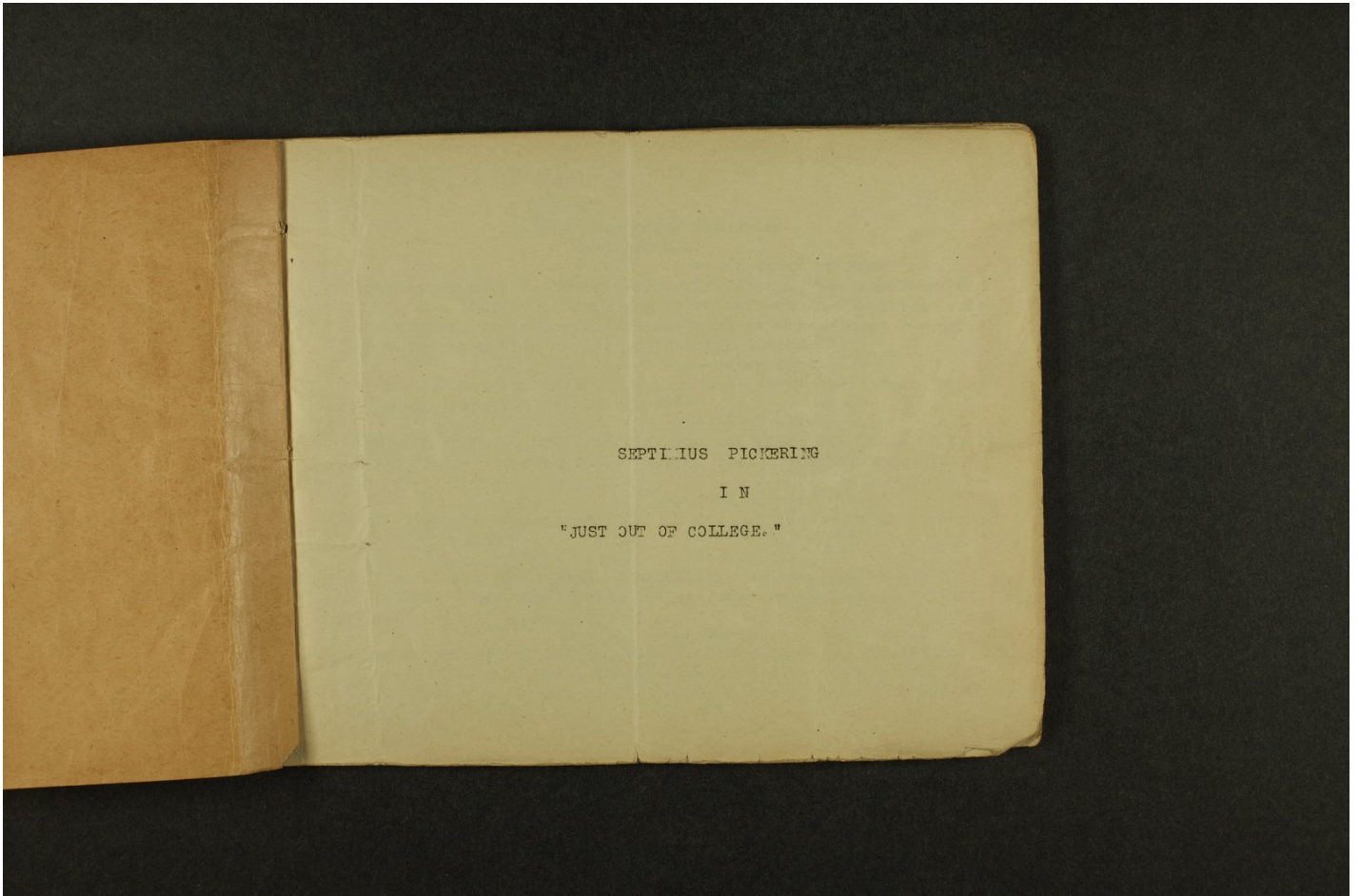
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Rolla Clymer correspondence

1:E

Septimius Pickering
Act 1st.

---so sweet of you.

(Enters from arch R. He is very gruff, except when speaking to Miss Mc C. Then he is very meek) Good afternoon. (Looks at watch) Mr. Bradford, it is now 8:45 A.M. Would it convenience you any if we did not open this office until after luncheon?

----delayed until--

Another excuse, and everyone a good one. (crosses L. sees Rufus) Ah Rufus, I see you have a new hat.

---I--I--I--

Clear out of here, and Bradford, you get those St. Louis bills of lading ready. (crosses to C. back of desk) Good morning, Miss Mc Cormick.

---good morning

I will try and have the mail y for you some time this morning Miss Mc Cormick.

---very well

And now if you don't mind, I would like to have you take a little dictation. I hate to trouble you so early in the morning. (sits at desk C.)

---no trouble.

(Answers phone) Hello. Yes, this is Pickering. No, did he? (chuckle) How much? (Laughs) Well, that's a good one. (Laughs) All right, so long. (Places telephone on desk) That's a good one. A friend of

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2:E

Pickering

mine who doesn't know anything about the market, bought grain and they caught him for \$20,000. We'll have the laugh on him at lunch. Are you ready, Miss McCormick?

----quite ready

R.U. Pitt and Co., Milwaukee, Wis. Gentlemen:- "Now with best wishes, we beg to remain sincerely yours." "Snake River and Tombstone Gulch Mining Co., Chicago, Ill. Gentlemen:- "Yours of the 1st inst. received, inviting me to invest \$50,000 for shares in your Company. In reply will say, in my country home, I have two rooms papered with certificates of Gold Mining Stock as I find them more decorative and less valuable than ordinary wall paper. Will say further that if you were giving shares away, I would not pay express on a million dollars worth, with renewed assurance of my distinguished consideration. I beg to remain, sincerely yours. (Picks up another letter) Um! This one is not so easy. Mrs. Luella Jenkins Pickering, President Co-Ordinated Culture Club, Medea, Orange County. "Yours received. Am glad to--

---to begin this?

Begin it!

---want to call her?

She is my wife. I don't want to call her anything.

----my own darling wife

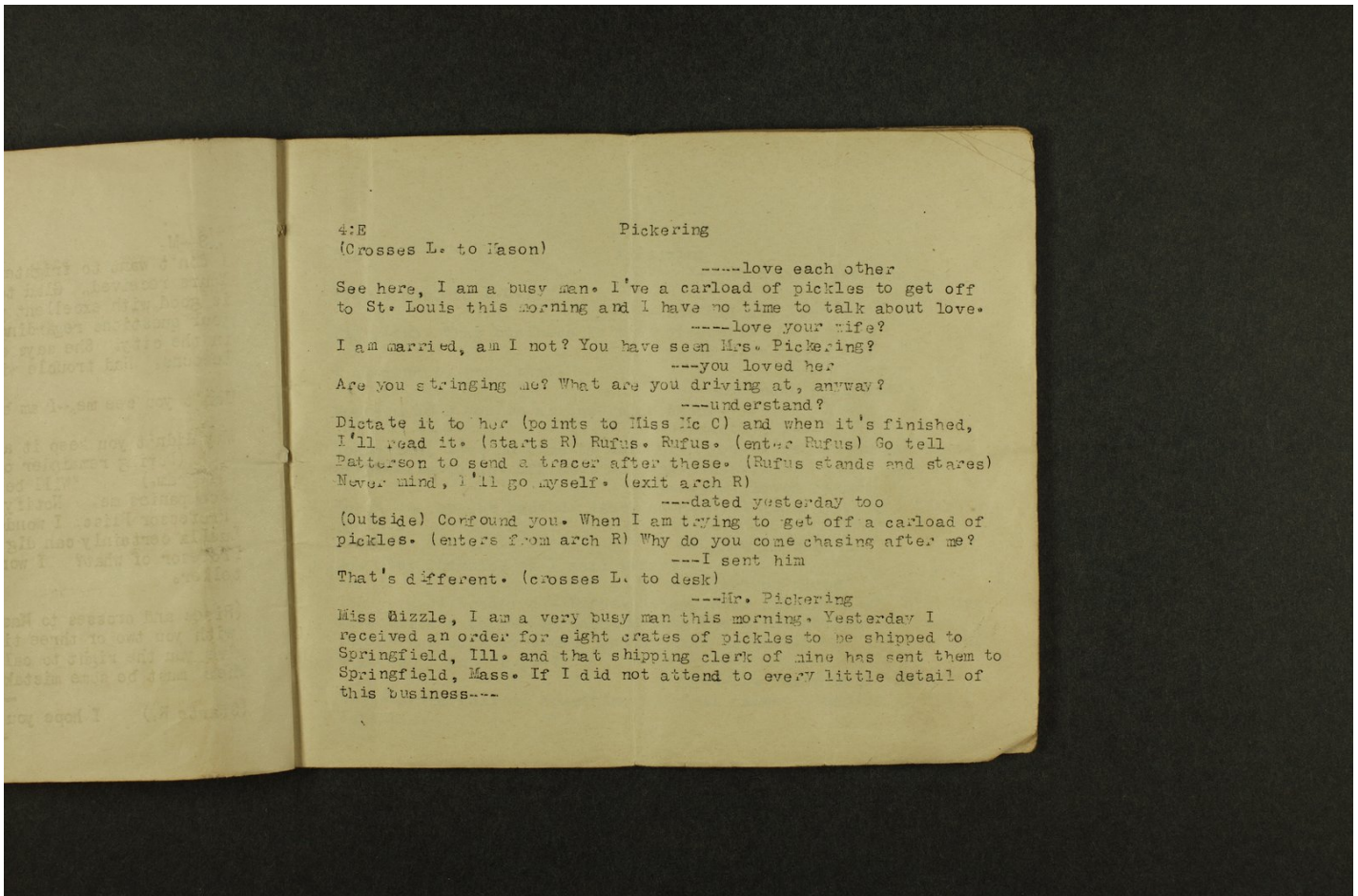
No. We celebrated our silver wedding last month.

---dearest Luella.

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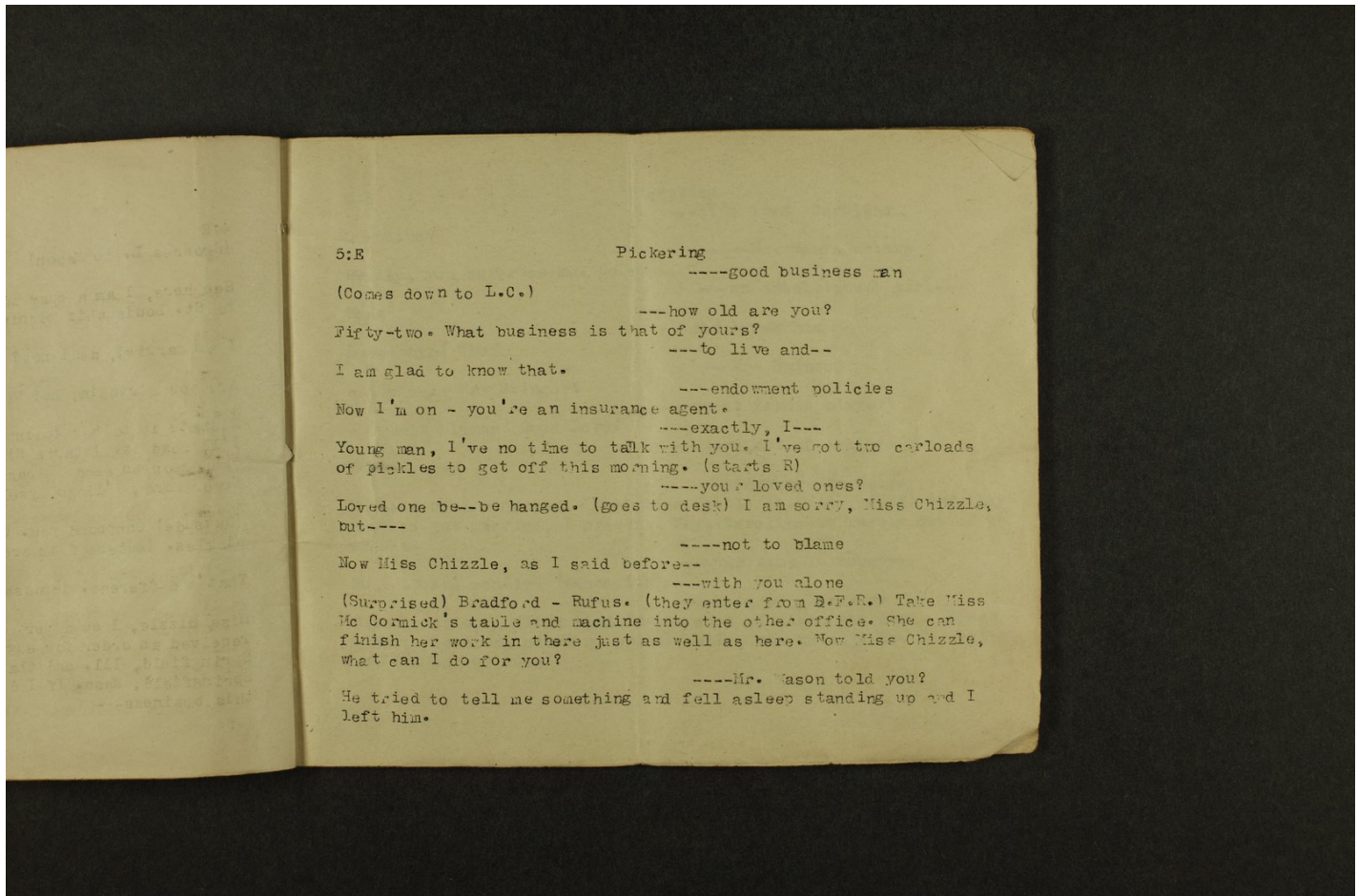
3--M. Pickering.
I don't want to frighten the woman. Just say Luella, Got that?
You're received. Glad to hear of your continued success. Business
is good, with excellent prospects for fall trade. In answer to
your questions regarding Caroline--she spends most of her time
in the city. She says she has to be here to attend to her Music
lessons. Had trouble with the cook last week----
----Mr. Pickering----
Can't you see me,--I am busy.
----you went home.
Why didn't you keep it all day? (Sees Rufus waiting.) Get out.
(During remainder of dictation he opens envelope, takes out
telegram.) "Will be home to-morrow morning Prof. Bliss
accompanies me. Notify Caroline and servants. Luella.
"Professor Bliss: I wonder who he is. (Places Telegram on desk)
Luella certainly can dig up some of the freakiest specimens.
Professor of what? I wonder if he is a Chiropodist or Fortune
teller.
----Hello Pixey.
(Rises and crosses to Mason.) Mr. Mason, I have played poker
with you two or three times at the club; but that does not
give you the right to call me Pixey. (Looks at watch)
There must be some mistake. Something wrong--you are up too early.
----I'll miss something.
(Starts R.) I hope you don't want to see me.
----I am here.

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4:E Pickering
(Crosses L. to Mason)
-----love each other
See here, I am a busy man. I've a carload of pickles to get off
to St. Louis this morning and I have no time to talk about love.
-----love your wife?
I am married, am I not? You have seen Mrs. Pickering?
---you loved her
Are you stringing me? What are you driving at, anyway?
---understand?
Dictate it to her (points to Miss Mc C) and when it's finished,
I'll read it. (starts R) Rufus. Rufus. (enter Rufus) Go tell
Patterson to send a tracer after these. (Rufus stands and stares)
Never mind, I'll go myself. (exit arch R)
---dated yesterday too
(Outside) Confound you. When I am trying to get off a carload of
pickles. (enters from arch R) Why do you come chasing after me?
---I sent him
That's different. (crosses L. to desk)
---Mr. Pickering
Miss Rizzle, I am a very busy man this morning. Yesterday I
received an order for eight crates of pickles to be shipped to
Springfield, Ill. and that shipping clerk of mine has sent them to
Springfield, Mass. If I did not attend to every little detail of
this business---

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5:R Pickering
 ----good business man
 (Comes down to L.C.)
 ----how old are you?
 Fifty-two. What business is that of yours?
 ----to live and--
 I am glad to know that.
 ----endowment policies
 Now I'm on - you're an insurance agent.
 ----exactly, I---
 Young man, I've no time to talk with you. I've got two carloads
 of pickles to get off this morning. (starts R)
 ----your loved ones?
 Loved one be--be hanged. (goes to desk) I am sorry, Miss Chizzle,
 but---
 ----not to blame
 Now Miss Chizzle, as I said before--
 ----with you alone
 (Surprised) Bradford - Rufus. (they enter from B.F.R.) Take Miss
 Mc Cormick's table and machine into the other office. She can
 finish her work in there just as well as here. Now Miss Chizzle,
 what can I do for you?
 ----Mr. Mason told you?
 He tried to tell me something and fell asleep standing up and I
 left him.

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G:E Pickering
---it's about Caroline
Caroline?
-----Mr. Mason drinks
Really, you surprise me. Go on. ---an intellectual girl--
Huh? ---she loves him.
Loves him? Who? ---Mr. Swinger
And who is Mr. Swinger? ---great tennis player?
A tennis player? Good Lord! ---just out of college
Noise yet. ---somewhere in Ohio.
The son of a preacher - that does settle it. (disgusted) And they
want to get married, I presume. Why, Caroline is barely out of t
cradle.
---Caroline is twenty.
No -- is she really? (sarcastic) ---lots of character
Miss Chizzle, I think that is the sort of a man you need. (Phone
rings, Pickering picks up phone) Hello, yes this is Mr. Pickering
No, I'm out of town.

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7:E

Pickering

---Genevieve told you%

(Crosses to Caroline L.) Caroline, if you had to do this fool thing, why did you not wait? Your mother is away on a lecture tour and this - my busiest season of the year.

---cutest thing

Yes, and a tennis player.

----the piano too

A tennis player and a musician. A great combination. (starts R. disgusted. Caroline catches him by the arm and turns him around)

---I ever loved

Does your mother know of this?

---you were gone

(To Caroline) Your mother will be here to-day. You can turn your Mr.---

---Swi nger

Over to her. I guess she can take care of him. (starts R)

---to see Jiggsey

Jiggsey?

---you understand?

Perfectly. You are so lucid. (disgusted)

---understand?

How can I help it when you make it so perfectly clear? (to Caroline) Where is the tennis player?

--- waiting outside.

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8:E Pickering
Outside? --- come in
Ah I see, attacking me in relays. ---- such a dear
I believe you have made that statement three or four times before.
And keep your tennis player out of here.
---- let him come in
No. I've got three carloads of pickles to get off this morning.
(Goes to arch) And I have no time to be bothered by little things
like a love affair. (turns) Now I don't want to appear impolite,
but all of you better clear out of here and if that son of a
preacher comes in here, I'll bite him. (Exit R. through arch)
-----next year?
(Enters from arch R) And don't run here after me. I've something
else to do beside tend to that shipping department. (turns, sees
Swinger) Is this the tennis player? Young man---
--I am sure
(Looks, places his hand behind his back)
---they are related.
(Turns and looks at him disgusted - after long pause) I'll tell
you what you better do. You go to some first class hotel, go to
bed, and rest up for a couple of days. (Goes up stage to desk)
---off my hands
Mr. Shinger.

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9:E Pickering
---Swinger, father
Well Swinger, then. I told my daughter---
---is the nicest--
He is the freshest thing I ever saw. ---come, Genevieve
Caroline, when I want you, I'll send for you. ---good-bye Jiggsey
(Mimics her) Jiggsey!
---good-bye Caroline
Young--(sees Mason asleep in chair R. comes to him, shakes him)
Here Mr. Mason.
---where we are we now?
Just past Englewood. (Name some local station) Time to get up and
dress. (Goes to desk and sits)
---take a joke
Now Young man, in the first place--
---at his house
How do you get along with him?
---knce this week
Now to business. Do you smoke cigarettes?
---or Egyptian?
I don't smoke the infernal things. I wanted to know if you did.
---oh.
You want to marry my daughter?

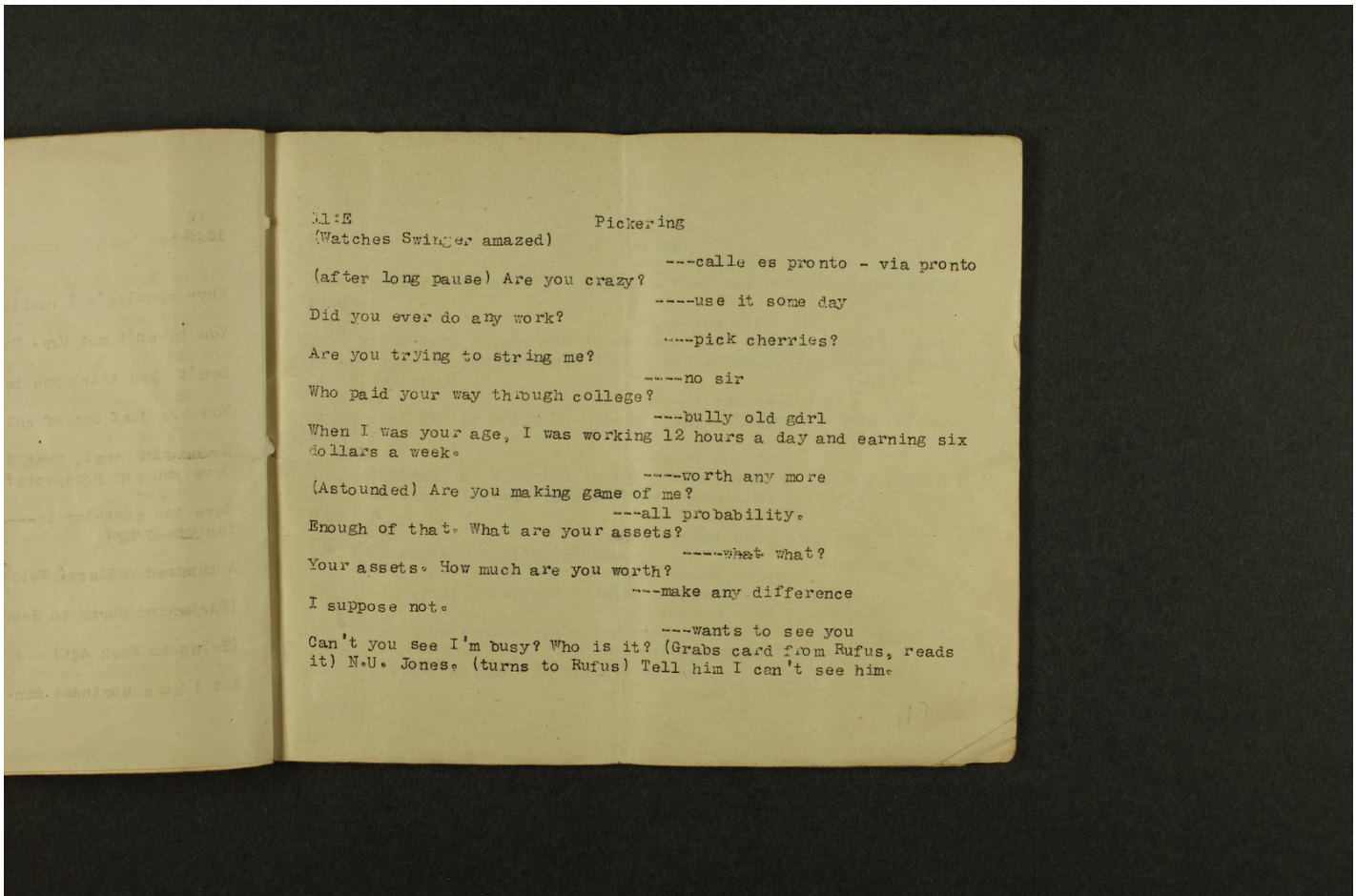
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10:E

Pickering

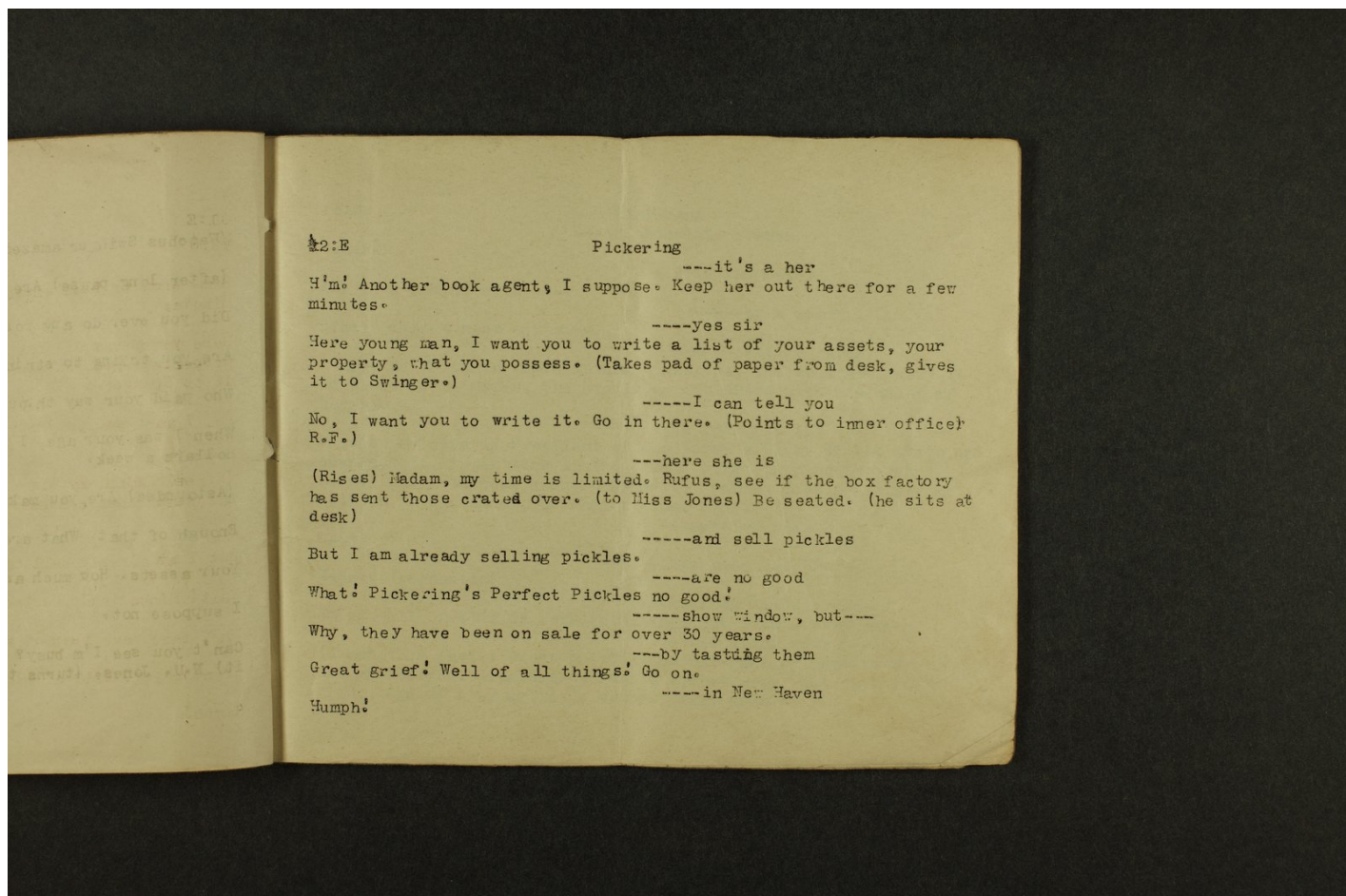
-----most loveable girl
Why shouldn't I realize it? She's my daughter, isn't she?
---yes sir
You haven't met Mrs. Pickering, have you?
-----no sir
Don't you think you had better look her over, before you decide?
-----take a chance.
You are just out of college?
--- I won for---
Never mind that, what I want, is to learn something about you.
Have you any prospects?
---some advice.
Have you anything to----do you know what it costs to dress a girl
for one year?
-----a hundred dollars
A hundred dollars! Well that is rich.
-----out of my way, boy
(Pickering turns to desk, starts to write as Book Agt. enters)
---Mr. Pickering--
(Turns to Book Agt)
---of the city and---
But I am a business man. I am not interested in books. I---
---we do this. (bus ad lib)

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11:15 Pickering
(Watches Swinger amazed) ---calle es pronto - via pronto
(after long pause) Are you crazy? ----use it some day
Did you ever do any work? ----pick cherries?
Are you trying to string me? ----no sir
Who paid your way through college? ----bully old girl
When I was your age, I was working 12 hours a day and earning six
dollars a week. ----worth any more
(Astounded) Are you making game of me? ----all probability.
Enough of that. What are your assets? ----what what?
Your assets. How much are you worth? ----make any difference
I suppose not. ----wants to see you
Can't you see I'm busy? Who is it? (Grabs card from Rufus, reads
it) N.U. Jones. (turns to Rufus) Tell him I can't see him.

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22:E

Pickering

---it's a her

H'm! Another book agent, I suppose. Keep her out there for a few minutes.

---yes sir

Here young man, I want you to write a list of your assets, your property, that you possess. (Takes pad of paper from desk, gives it to Swinger.)

-----I can tell you

No, I want you to write it. Go in there. (Points to inner office) R.F.)

---here she is

(Rises) Madam, my time is limited. Rufus, see if the box factory has sent those crated over. (to Miss Jones) Be seated. (he sits at desk)

-----and sell pickles

But I am already selling pickles.

---are no good

What! Pickering's Perfect Pickles no good!

-----show window, but---

Why, they have been on sale for over 50 years.

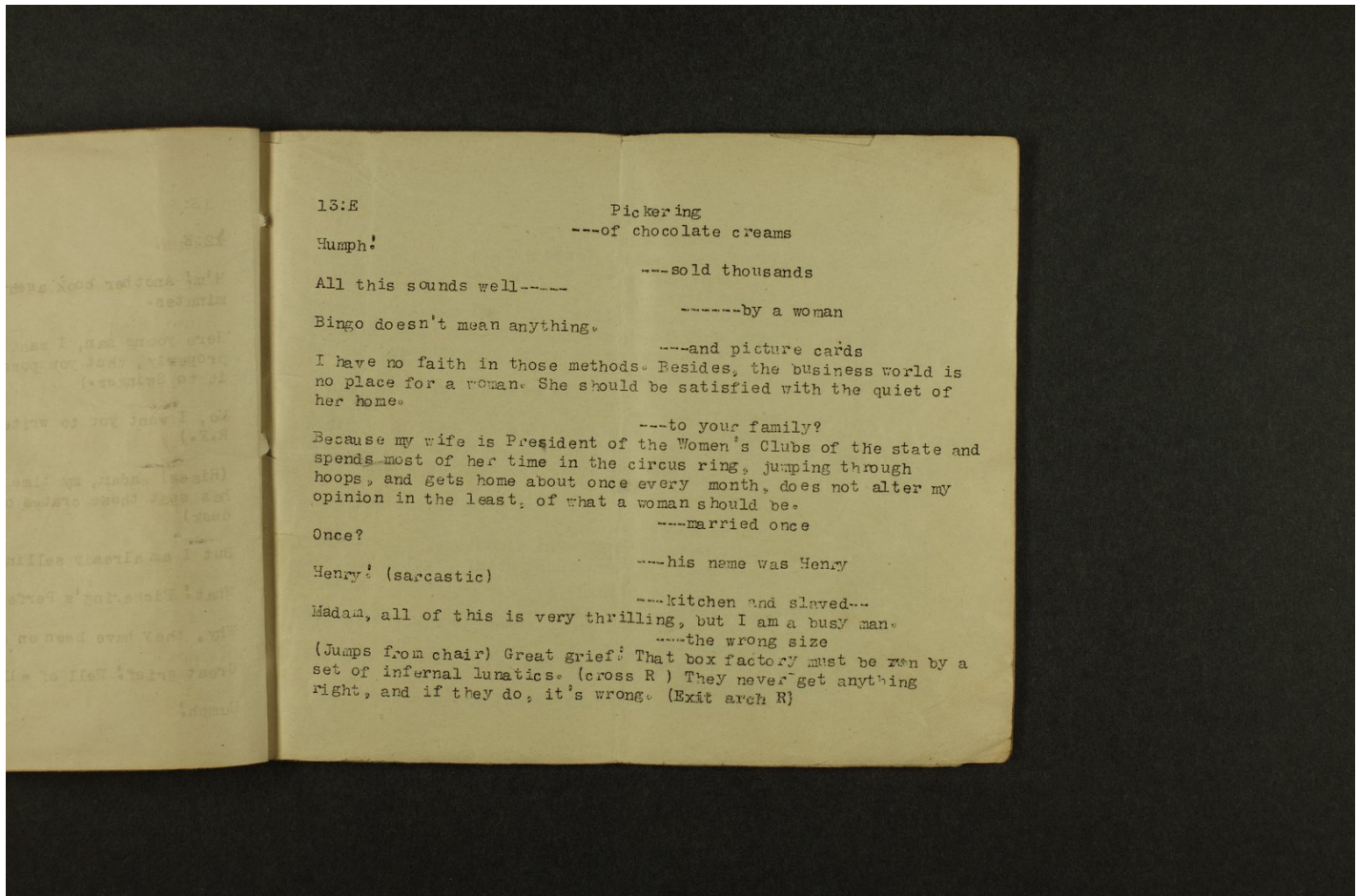
---by tasting them

Great grief! Well of all things! Go on.

-----in New Haven

Humph!

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13:E

Pickering

Humph!

---of chocolate creams

---sold thousands

All this sounds well----

-----by a woman

Bingo doesn't mean anything.

---and picture cards

I have no faith in those methods. Besides, the business world is no place for a woman. She should be satisfied with the quiet of her home.

---to your family?

Because my wife is President of the Women's Clubs of the state and spends most of her time in the circus ring, jumping through hoops, and gets home about once every month, does not alter my opinion in the least, of what a woman should be.

---married once

Once?

---his name was Henry

Henry! (sarcastic)

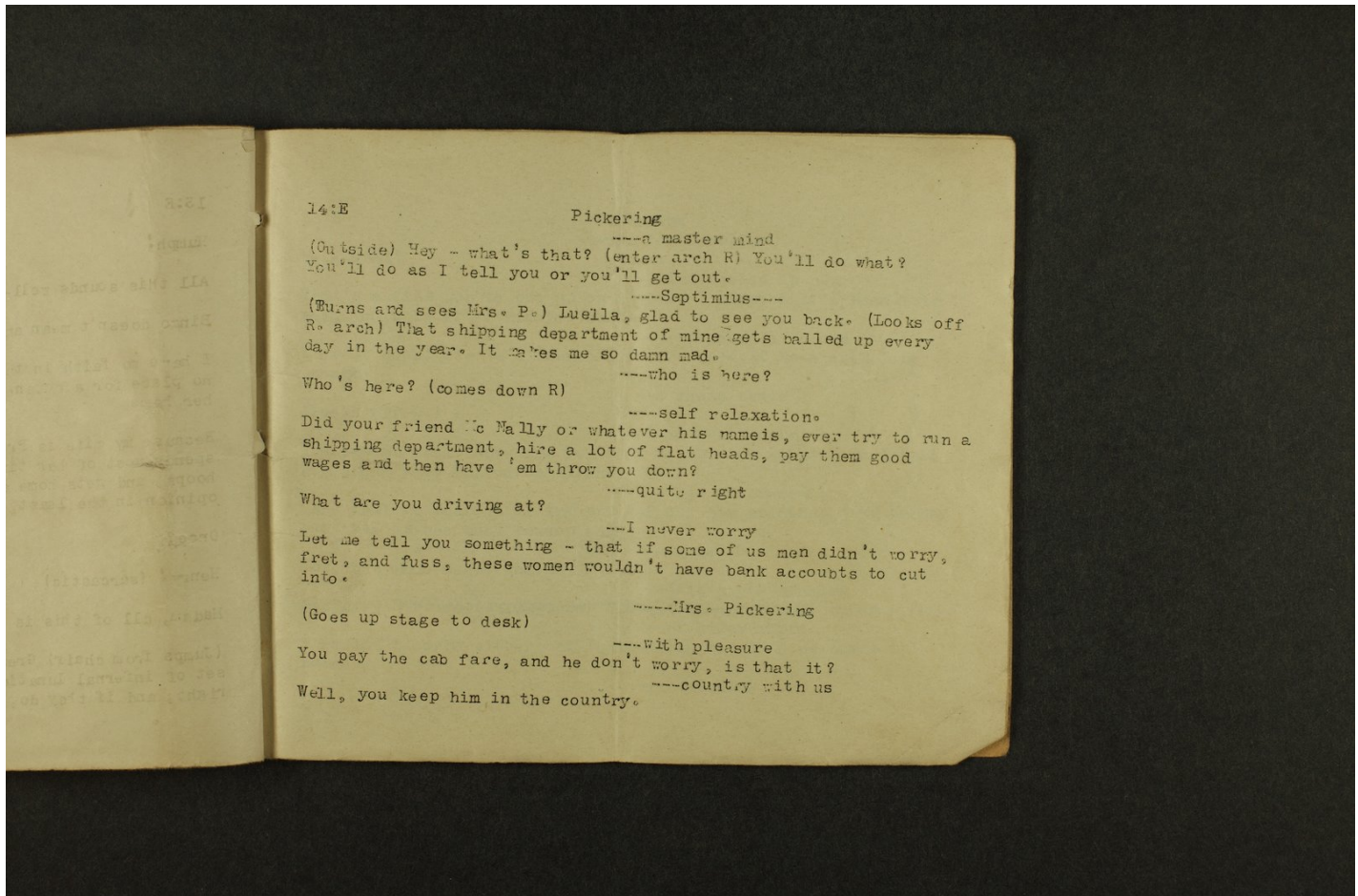
---kitchen and slaved---

Madam, all of this is very thrilling, but I am a busy man.

---the wrong size

(Jumps from chair) Great grief! That box factory must be run by a set of infernal lunatics. (cross R) They never get anything right, and if they do, it's wrong. (Exit arch R)

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141E

Pickering

---a master mind

(Outside) Hey - what's that? (enter arch R) You'll do what?
You'll do as I tell you or you'll get out.

---Septimius---

(Turns and sees Mrs. P.) Luella, glad to see you back. (Looks off
R. arch) That shipping department of mine gets balled up every
day in the year. It makes me so damn mad.

---Who is here?

Who's here? (comes down R)

---self relaxation

Did your friend Mc Nally or whatever his name is, ever try to run a
shipping department, hire a lot of flat heads, pay them good
wages and then have 'em throw you down?

---quite right

What are you driving at?

---I never worry

Let me tell you something - that if some of us men didn't worry,
fret, and fuss, these women wouldn't have bank accounts to cut
into.

---Mrs. Pickering

(Goes up stage to desk)

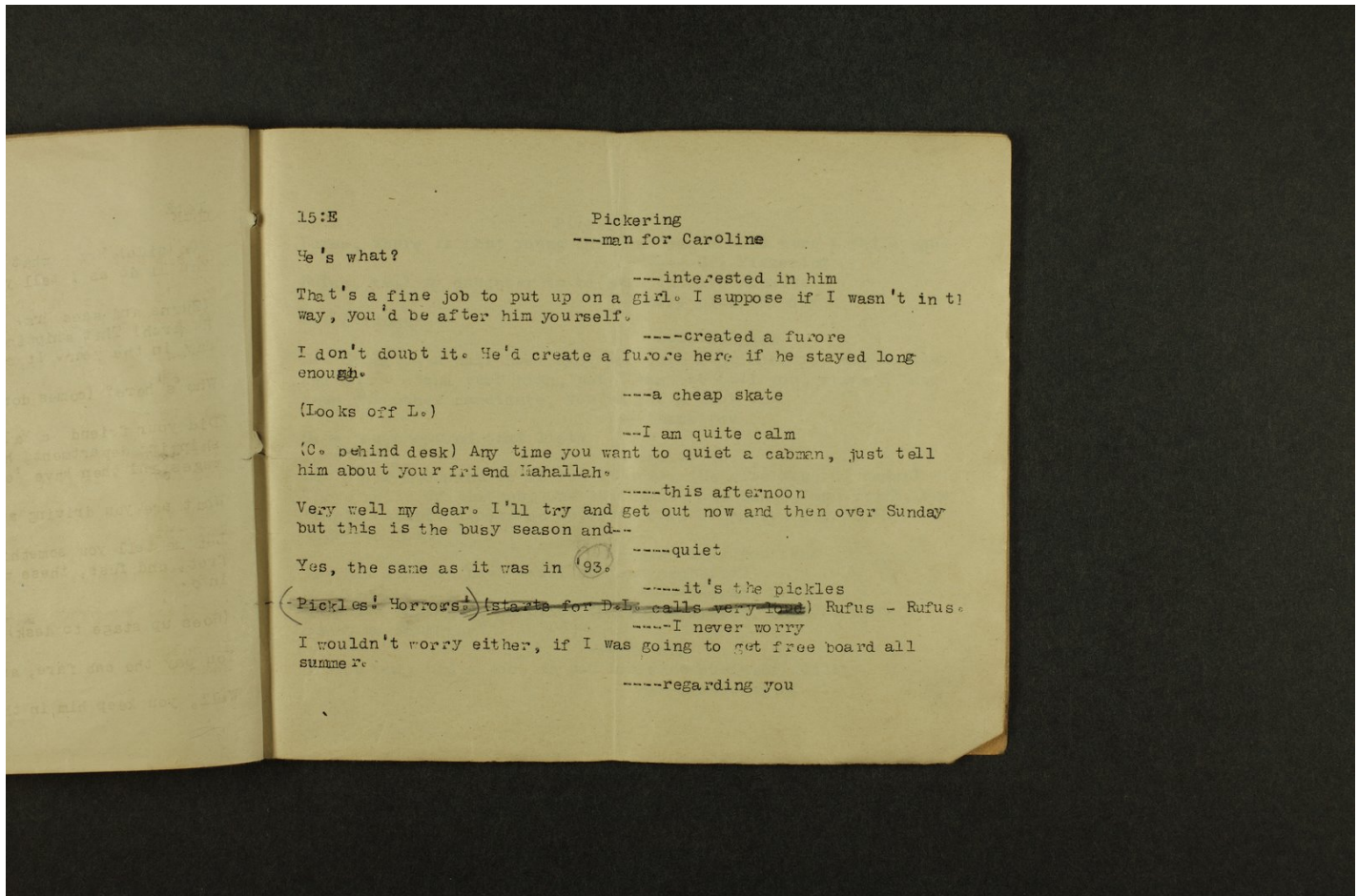
---With pleasure

You pay the cab fare, and he don't worry, is that it?

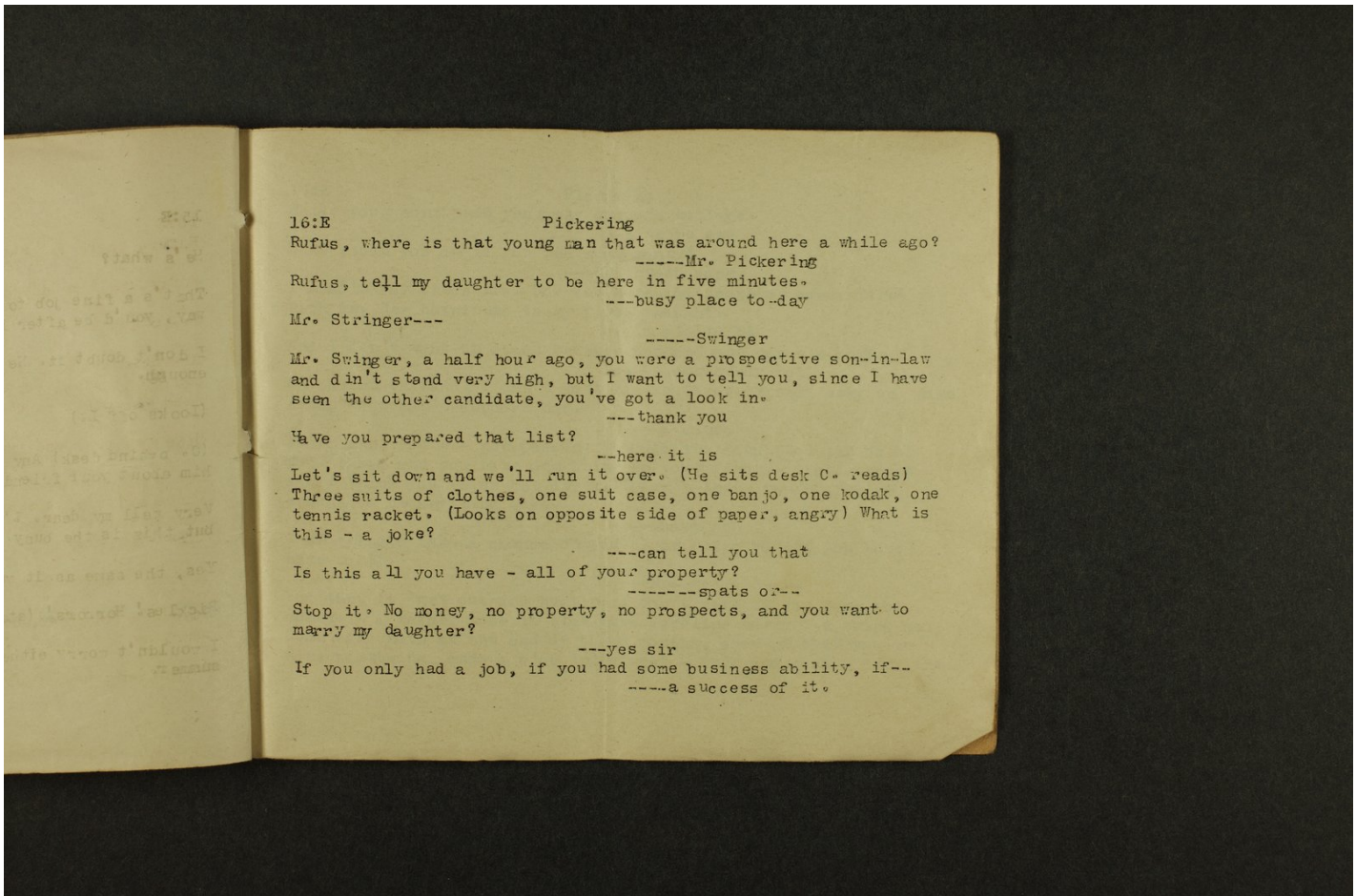
---country with us

Well, you keep him in the country.

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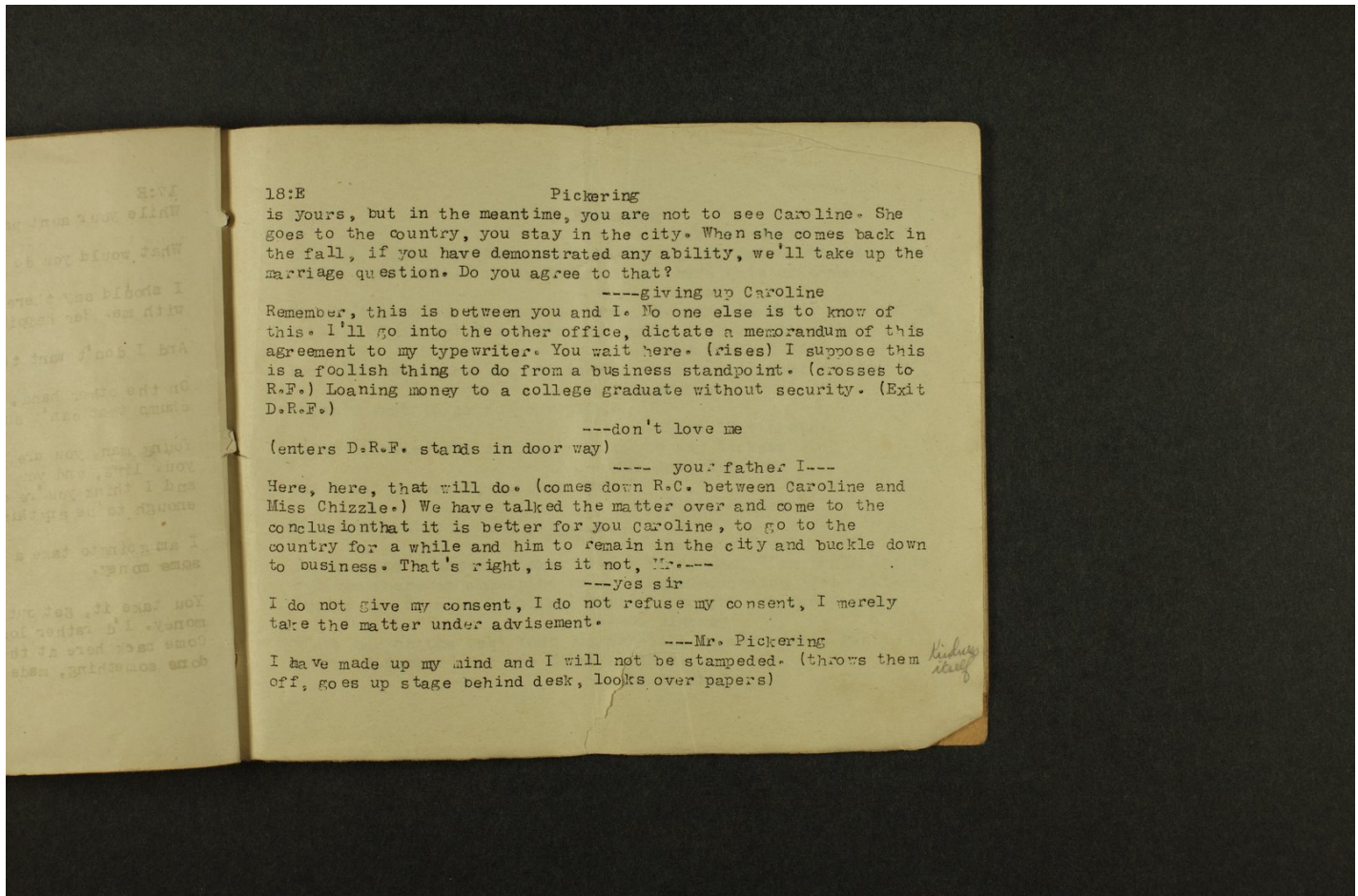


16:E Pickering
Rufus, where is that young man that was around here a while ago?
-----Mr. Pickering
Rufus, tell my daughter to be here in five minutes.
-----busy place to-day
Mr. Stringer---
-----Swinger
Mr. Swinger, a half hour ago, you were a prospective son-in-law
and didn't stand very high, but I want to tell you, since I have
seen the other candidate, you've got a look in-
---thank you
Have you prepared that list?
---here it is
Let's sit down and we'll run it over. (He sits desk C. reads)
Three suits of clothes, one suit case, one banjo, one kodak, one
tennis racket. (Looks on opposite side of paper, angry) What is
this - a joke?
---can tell you that
Is this all you have - all of your property?
-----spats or--
Stop it. No money, no property, no prospects, and you want to
marry my daughter?
---yes sir
If you only had a job, if you had some business ability, if--
-----a success of it.

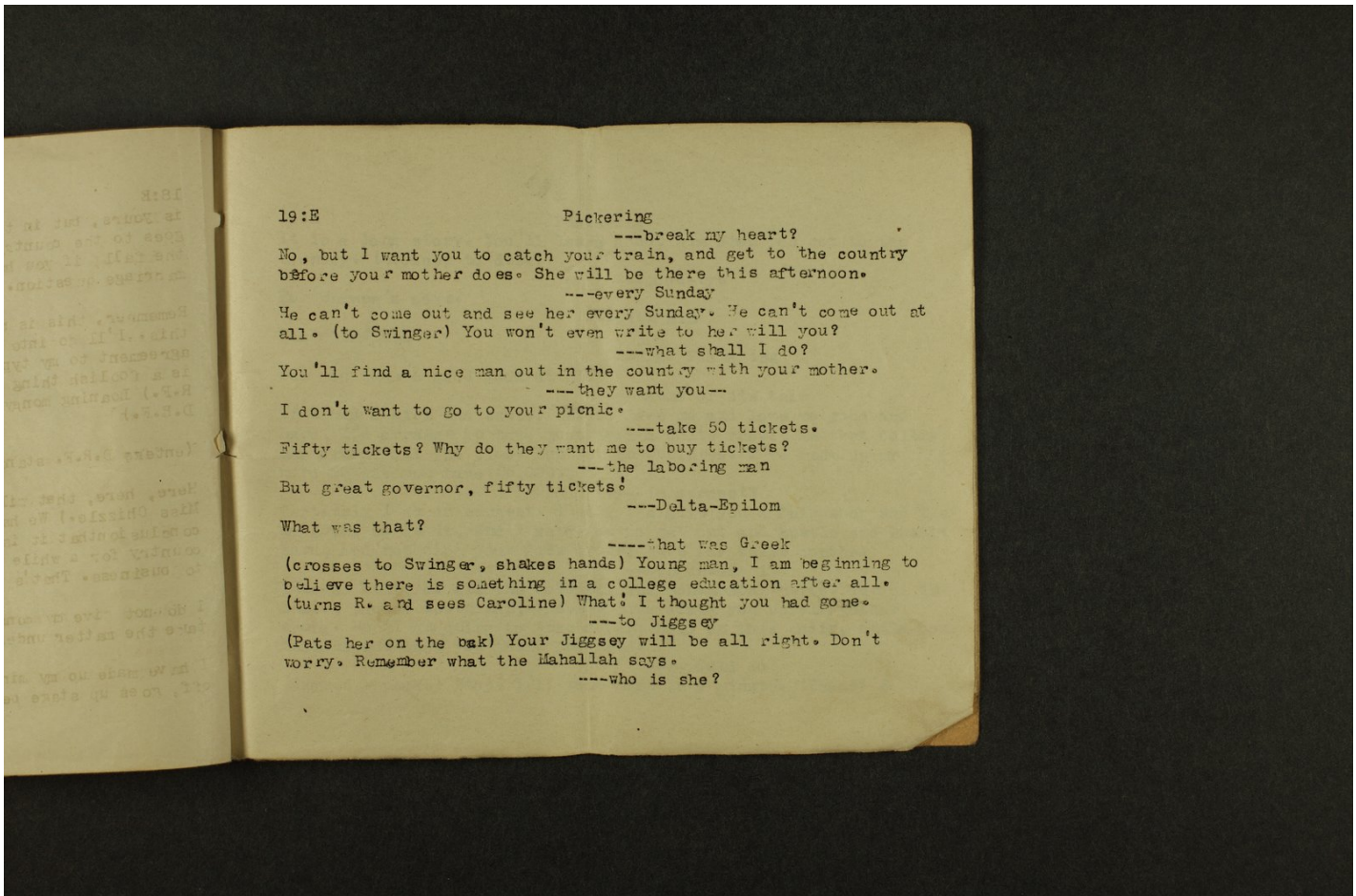
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17:E Pickering
While your aunt paid your way through college.
---like to ask
What would you do if you had some money?
---to invest money
I should say there are. Now see here, my daughter comes first
with me. Her happiness is my first thought.
---it should be
And I don't want to stand between her and the man she loves.
-----certainly not
On the other hand, I don't want her to throw herself away on some
chump that can't support her.
----a cinch
Young man, you are now passing through the damn fool period of
your life, and you have one thing in your favor - that's nerve -
and I think you're on the level. I don't think you've brains
enough to be anything else.
----thank you
I am going to take a chance on you. I am going to let you have
some money.
---Mr. Pickering--
You take it, get out and hustle. I don't care if you lose the
money. I'd rather lose it than have Caroline marry the wrong man.
Come back here at the end of three months, show me that you've
done something, made a wise investment - well and good - Caroline

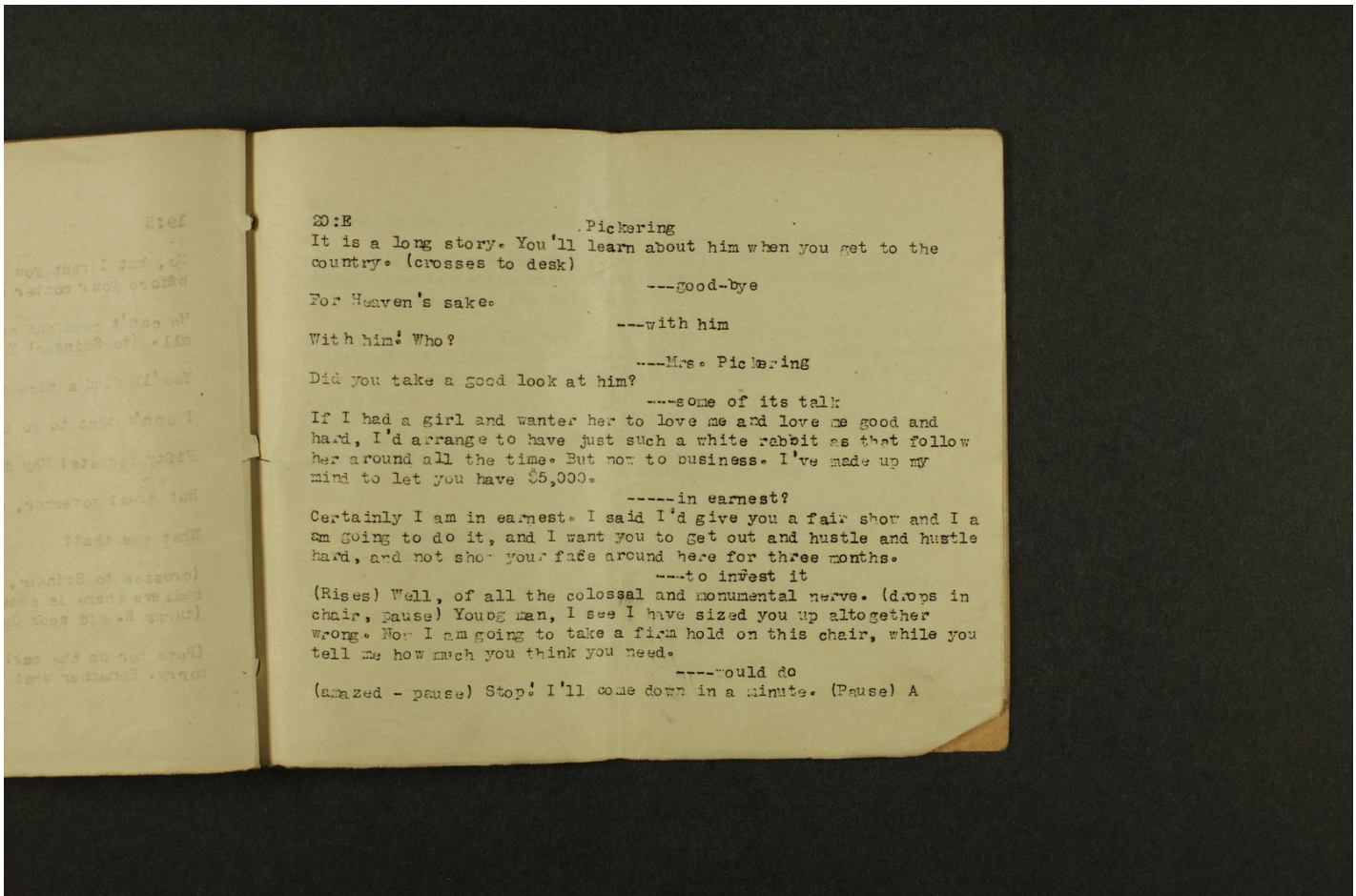
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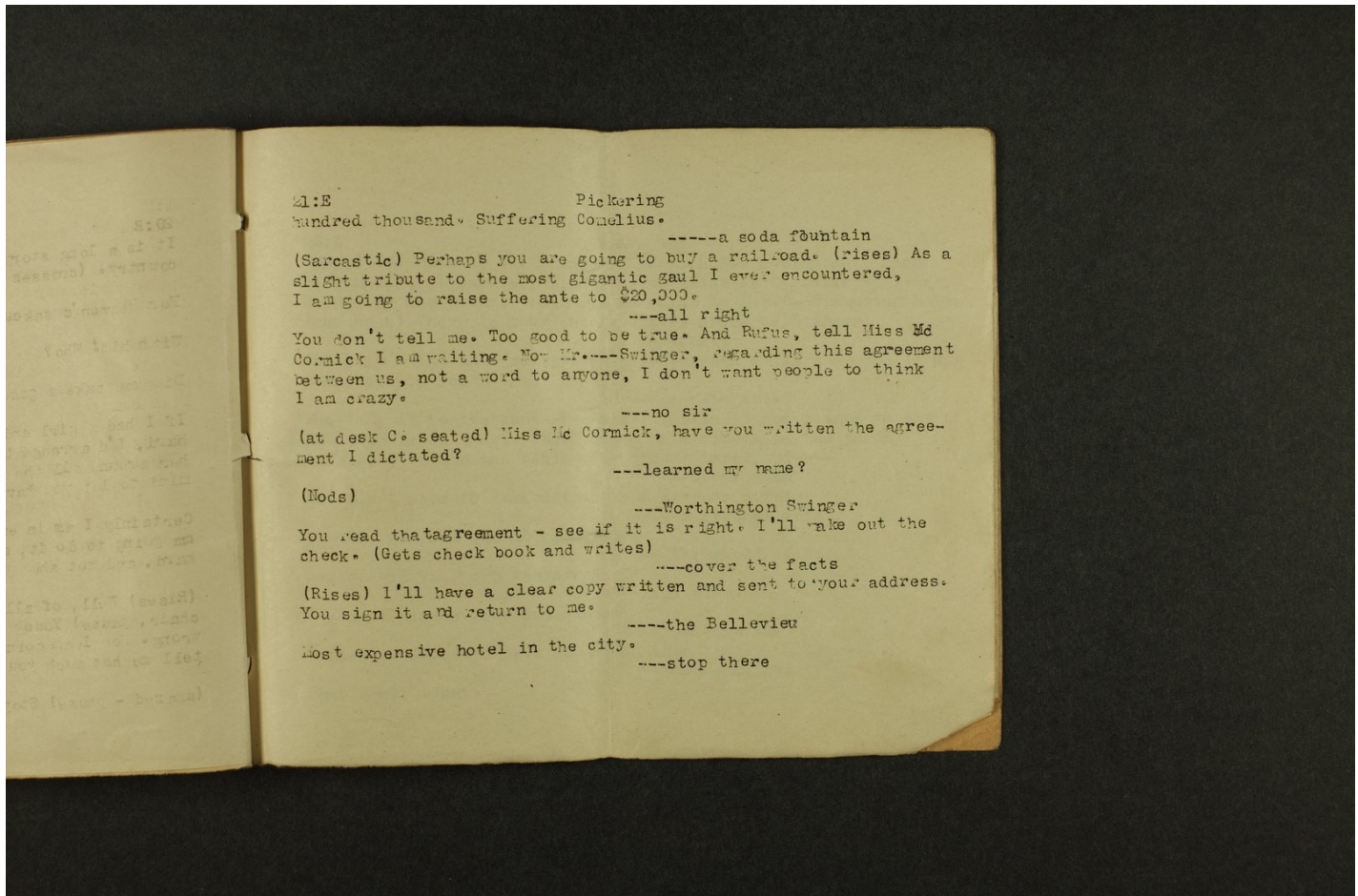


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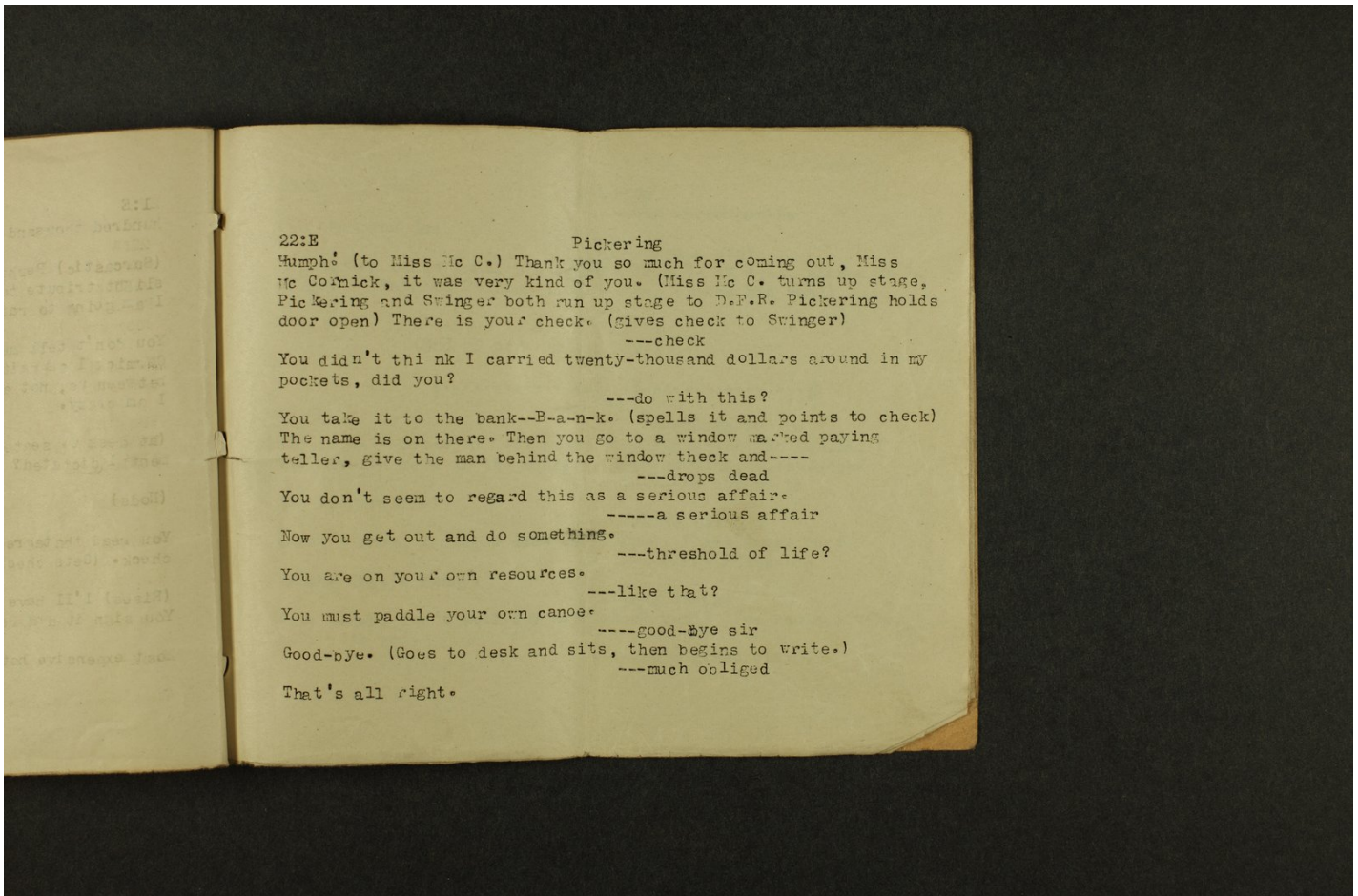


20:E Pickering
It is a long story. You'll learn about him when you get to the
country. (crosses to desk)
---good-bye
For Heaven's sake.
---with him
With him? Who?
---Mrs. Pickering
Did you take a good look at him?
---some of its talk
If I had a girl and wanted her to love me and love me good and
hard, I'd arrange to have just such a white rabbit as that follow
her around all the time. But now to business. I've made up my
mind to let you have \$5,000.
-----in earnest?
Certainly I am in earnest. I said I'd give you a fair show and I am
going to do it, and I want you to get out and hustle and hustle
hard, and not show your face around here for three months.
---to invest it
(Rises) Well, of all the colossal and monumental nerve. (drops in
chair, pause) Young man, I see I have sized you up altogether
wrong. Now I am going to take a firm hold on this chair, while you
tell me how much you think you need.
-----would do
(amazed - pause) Stop! I'll come down in a minute. (Pause) A

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22:1

Pickering

Mumph: (to Miss Mc C.) Thank you so much for coming out, Miss Mc Cornick, it was very kind of you. (Miss Mc C. turns up stage, Pickering and Swinger both run up stage to D.F.R. Pickering holds door open) There is your check. (gives check to Swinger)

---check

You didn't think I carried twenty-thousand dollars around in my pockets, did you?

---do with this?

You take it to the bank--B-a-n-k. (spells it and points to check) The name is on there. Then you go to a window marked paying teller, give the man behind the window check and----

---drops dead

You don't seem to regard this as a serious affair.

-----a serious affair

Now you get out and do something.

---threshold of life?

You are on your own resources.

---like that?

You must paddle your own canoe.

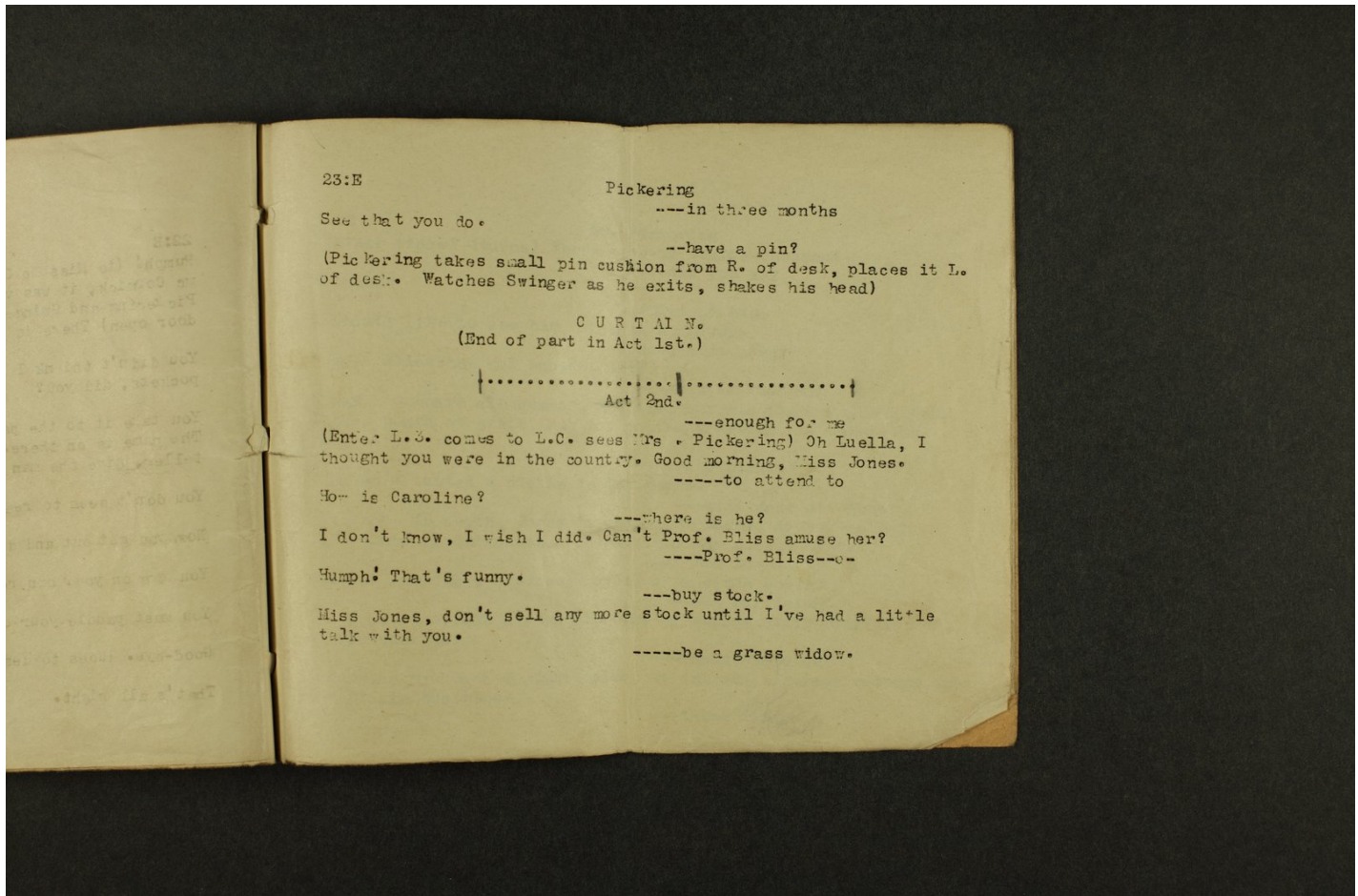
----good-bye sir

Good-bye. (Goes to desk and sits, then begins to write.)

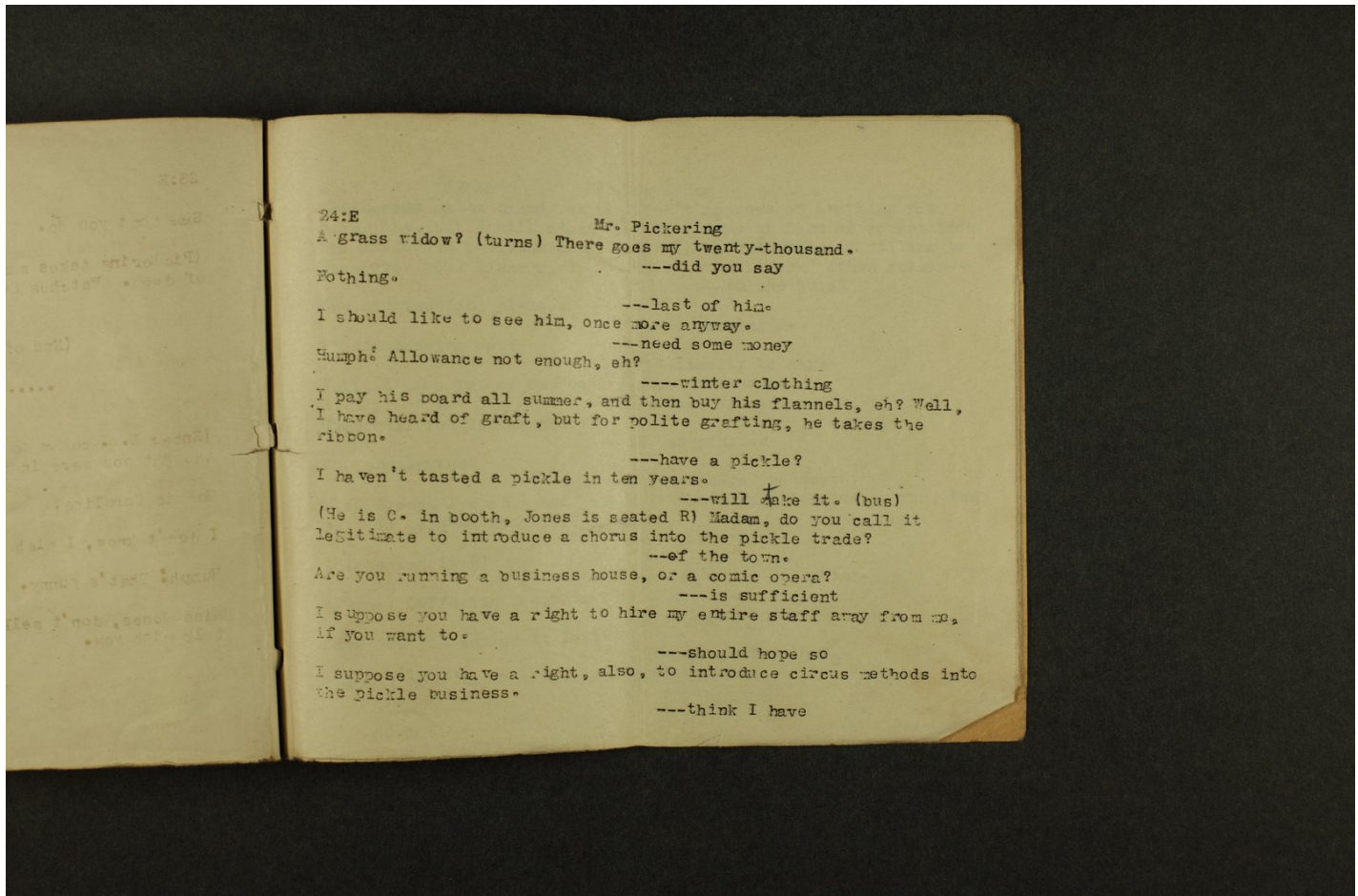
---much obliged

That's all right.

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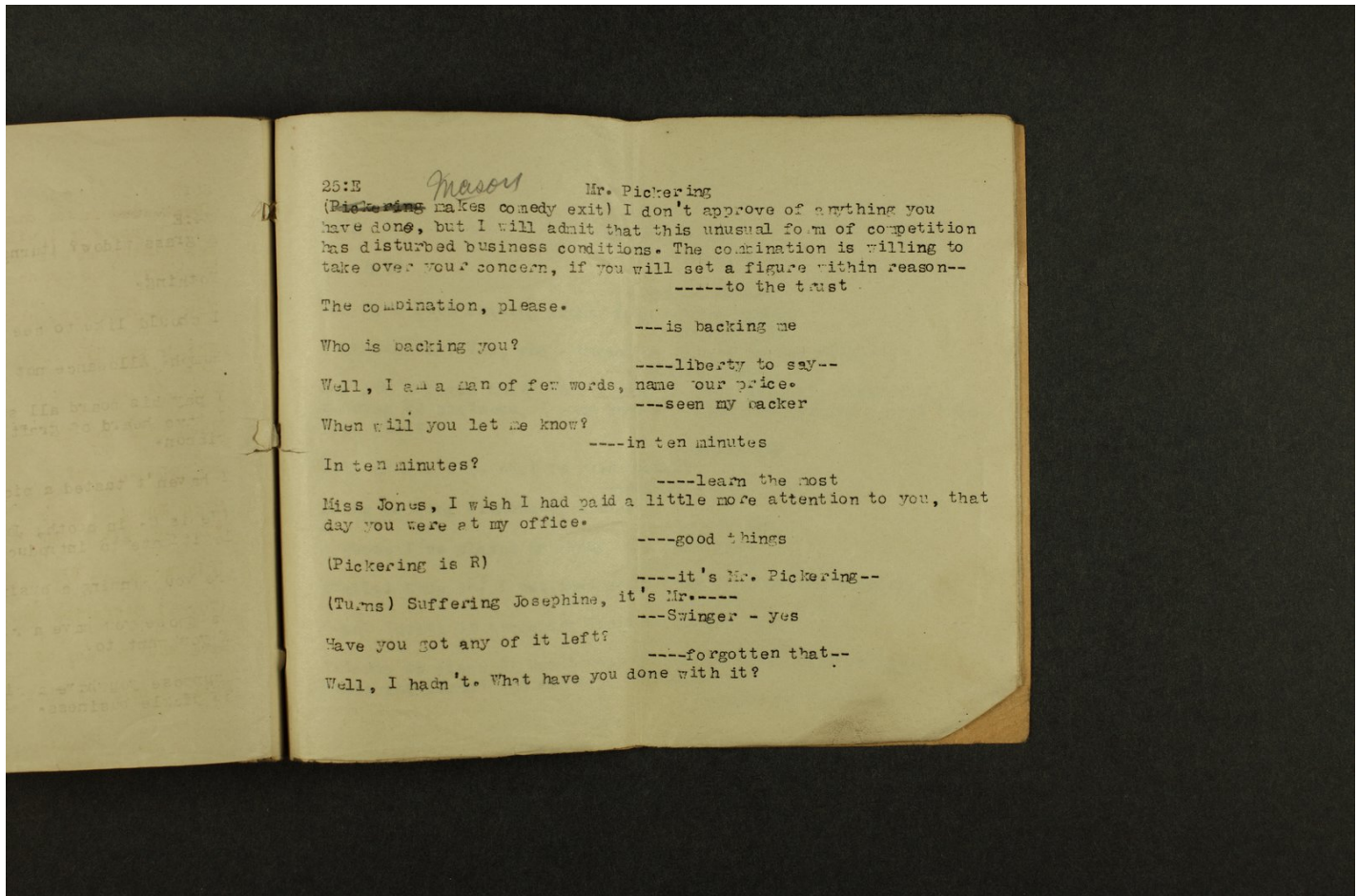


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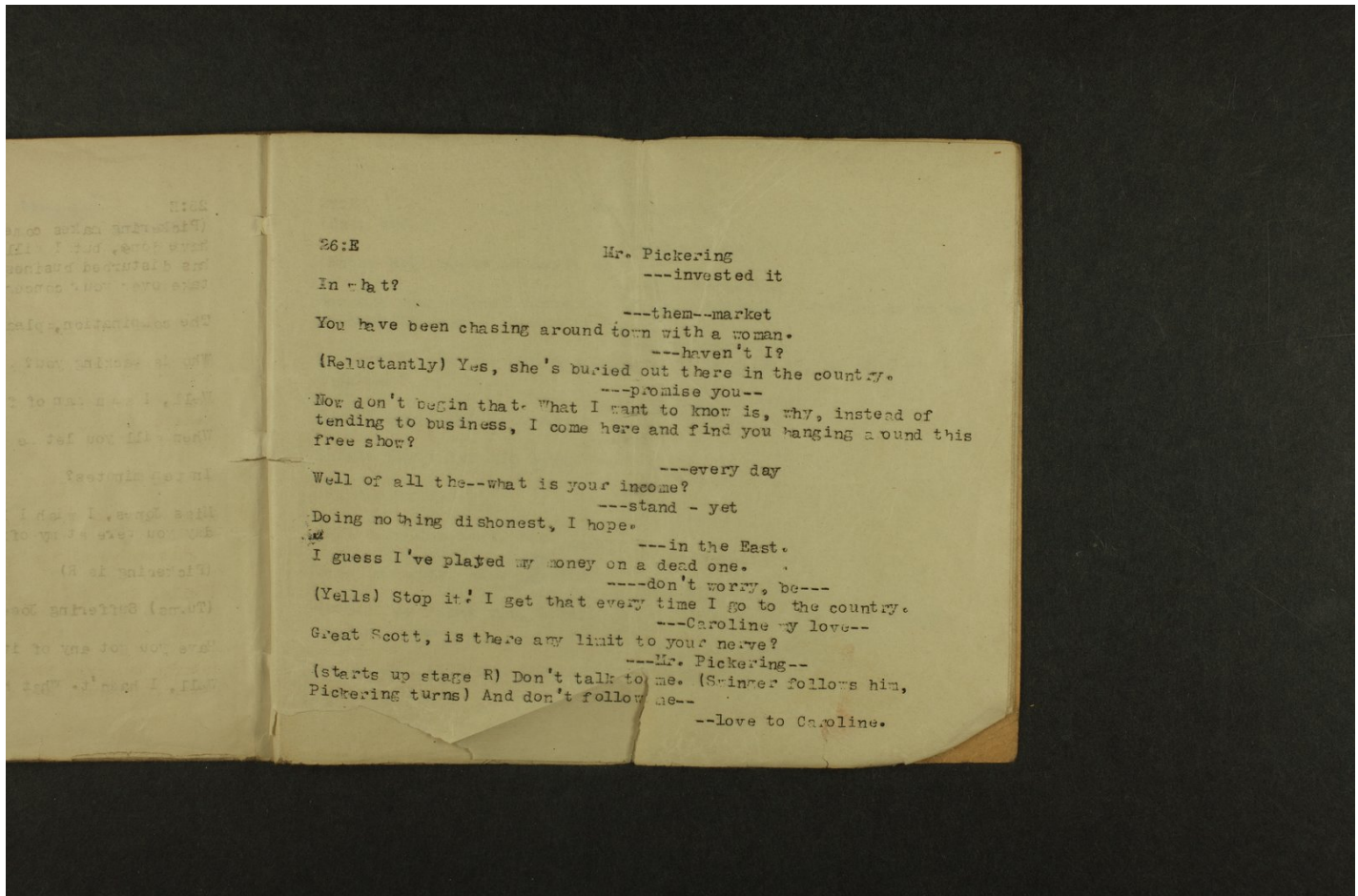


24:E
Mr. Pickering
A grass widow? (turns) There goes my twenty-thousand.
---did you say
Nothing.
---last of him.
I should like to see him, once more anyway.
---need some money
Humph! Allowance not enough, eh?
---winter clothing
I pay his board all summer, and then buy his flannels, eh? Well,
I have heard of graft, but for polite grafting, he takes the
ribbon.
---have a pickle?
I haven't tasted a pickle in ten years.
---will take it. (bus)
(He is C. in booth, Jones is seated R) Madam, do you call it
legitimate to introduce a chorus into the pickle trade?
---of the town.
Are you running a business house, or a comic opera?
---is sufficient
I suppose you have a right to hire my entire staff away from me,
if you want to.
---should hope so
I suppose you have a right, also, to introduce circus methods into
the pickle business.
---think I have

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26:R

Mr. Pickering

---invested it

In what?

---them--market

You have been chasing around town with a woman.

---haven't I?

(Reluctantly) Yes, she's buried out there in the country.

---promise you--

Now don't begin that. What I want to know is, why, instead of tending to business, I come here and find you hanging around this free show?

---every day

Well of all the--what is your income?

---stand - yet

Doing nothing dishonest, I hope.

---in the East.

I guess I've played my money on a dead one.

---don't worry, be---

(Yells) Stop it! I get that every time I go to the country.

---Caroline my love--

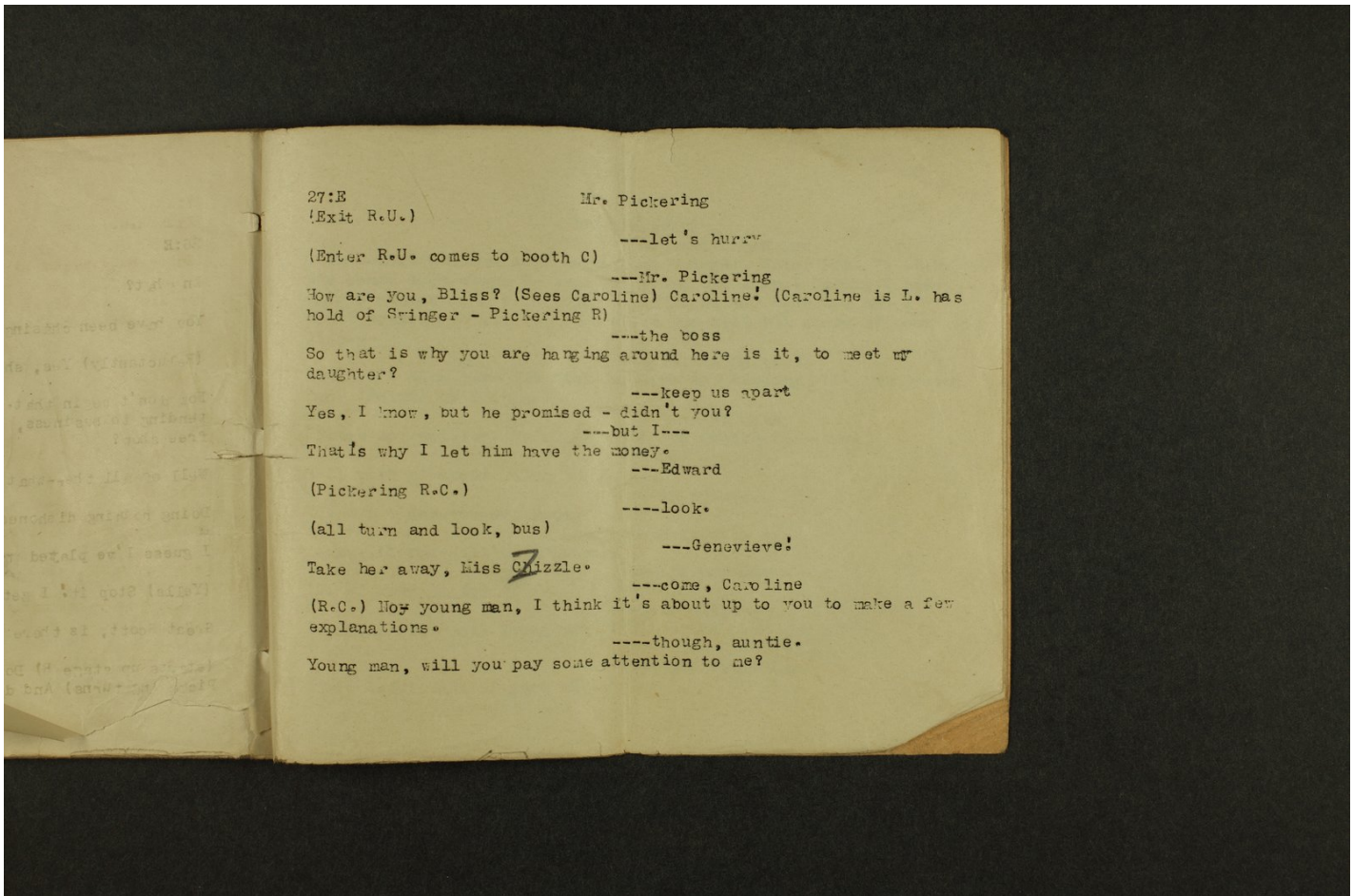
Great Scott, is there any limit to your nerve?

---Mr. Pickering--

(starts up stage R) Don't talk to me. (Swinner follows him, Pickering turns) And don't follow me--

--love to Caroline.

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