

# 1,000,000 DRAFTEES WITH NOTHING TO DO

Brothels on wheels, poolrooms, juke joints and just plain corner-standing tear down morale of Uncle Sam's armed young men with idle time on their hands. U.S.O. steps in with a welcome remedy.



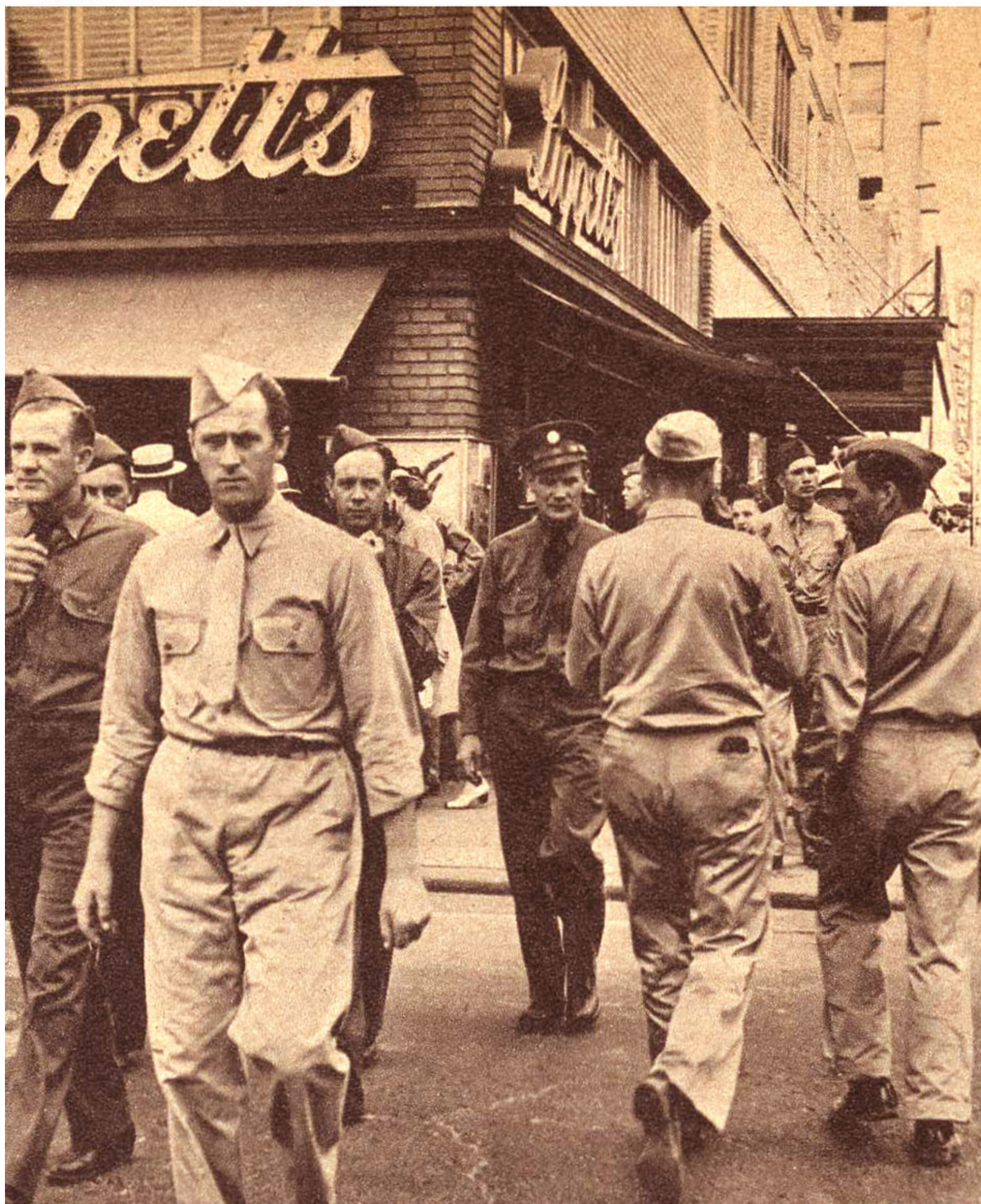
THE UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATION BELIEVES THAT ARMY SELECTEES WOULD NOT CROWD BARS LIKE THIS IF THEY HAD SUITABLE PLACES TO GO DURING RESPITES FROM MILITARY ROUTINE

**W**HEN 1,000,000 young men are uprooted from their home towns, their jobs, their circles of friends, and transplanted to Army and Navy training camps in isolated sections of the country, the problem of providing them with proper recreation facilities is a tremendous one. Some 50,000 selectees may suddenly be installed at a base just outside a town with a population of under 10,000. The influx not only disrupts the normal life of the community, but also leaves the boys with no place to go for wholesome fun.

During a furlough there may be ten soldiers to every one civilian on the streets of such a town. On Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and Sundays, in some localities, the "nice people" stay indoors

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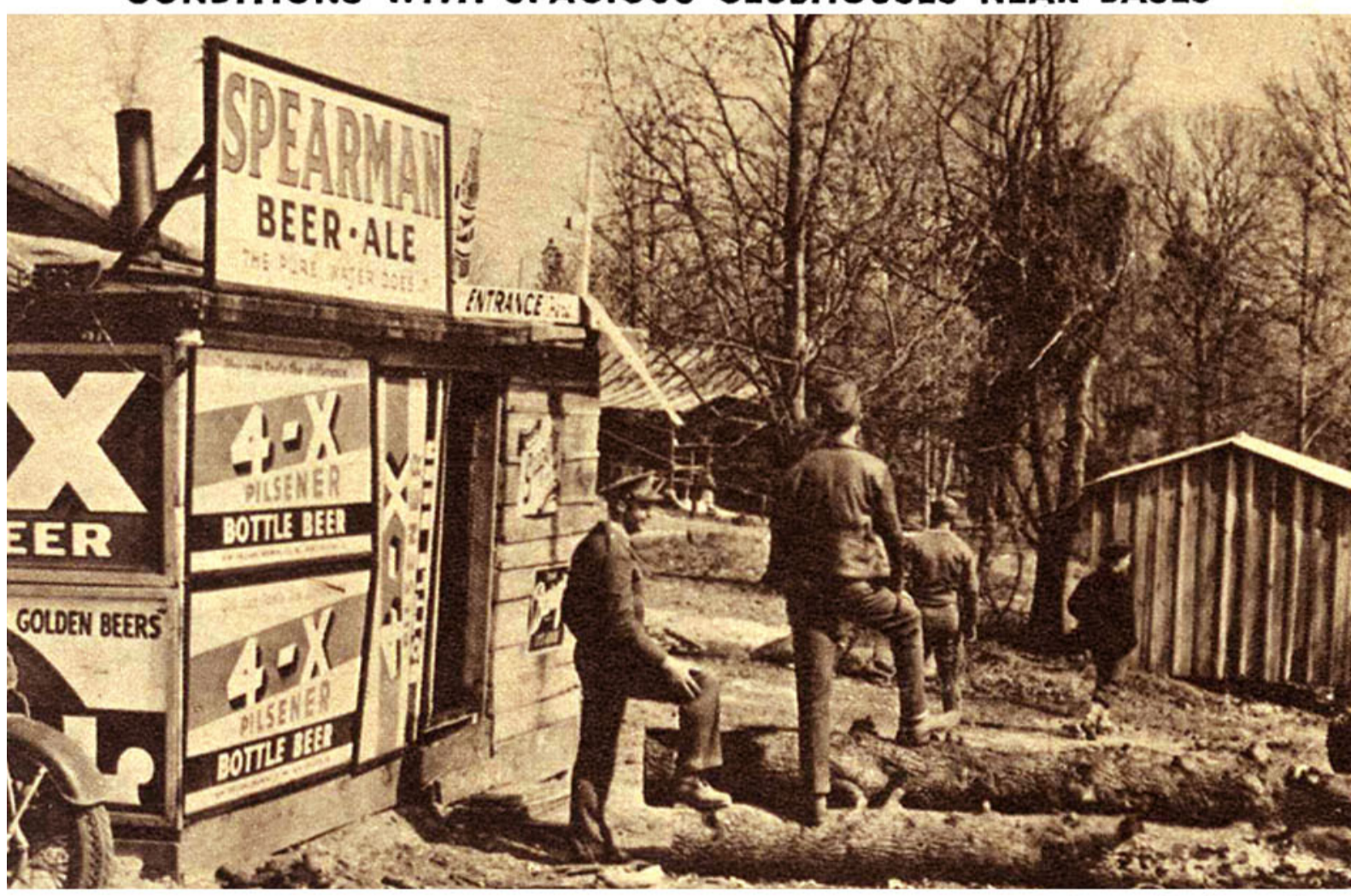
and let the boys of our budding armed forces take over. But the boys find little to amuse them. The local movie theater, if there is one, is usually closed on Sundays, and can accommodate only a small percentage of the boys. The rest fill poolhalls, "juke joints" and unsavory cafes to overflowing, or simply stand on street corners. In many towns, on days of camp leave, 90 percent of the women who pass these corners are looking for business. Many prostitutes travel in trailers, solicit in town and drive the soldiers several miles out, where Army authorities cannot interfere with them.



**The creation** of clubs and recreational facilities with U.S.O. funds would keep boys from outnumbering civilians on streets.



**PRESENT CLUBHOUSE FACILITIES ARE SO OVERTAXED THAT EVEN LETTER-WRITING IS BOTTLENECKED. THE U.S.O. HOPES TO RECTIFY CONDITIONS WITH SPACIOUS CLUBHOUSES NEAR BASES**



**Ramshackle juke joints** provide soft and hard drinks, canned music, and hangouts for prostitutes. They're one of the chief evils effectively being fought by the U.S.O.

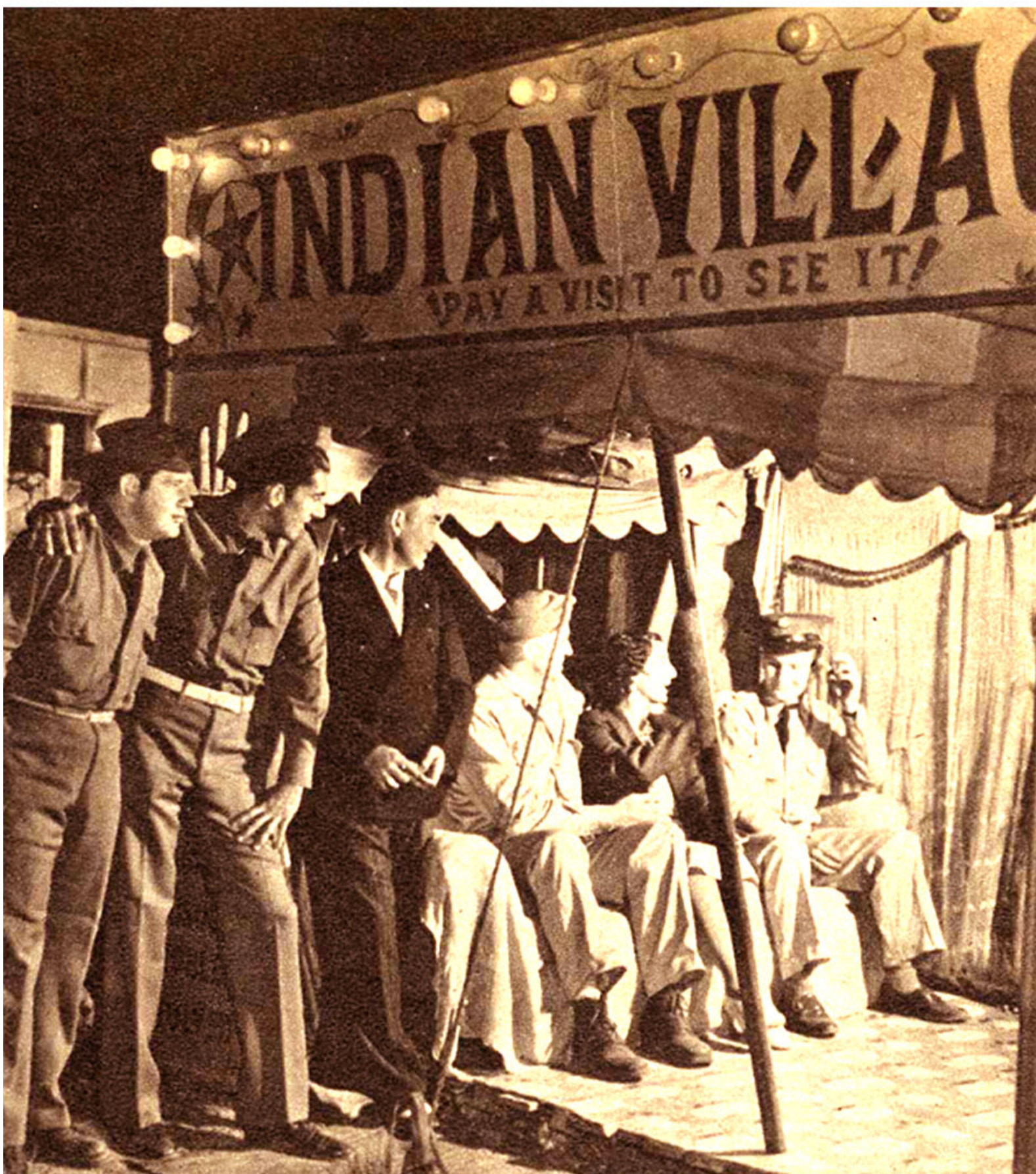
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**This rare photograph** shows a row of travelling brothels on the outskirts of an Army camp town. The U.S.O. would substitute normal companionship with town girls.

In many sections, disreputable roadhouses make a ring around the town, just outside the city limits, providing beer, dancing, and often hard liquor. Marihuana rings have been found operating in one or two instances, but were promptly broken up by efficient officers. Fifteen or twenty girls, far more than are needed to wait on tables, staff the joints on the edge of town, and there are cabins in back of them. Some of the new places in town, hastily opened to catch the soldier trade, also employ many more girls than are needed for legitimate service.

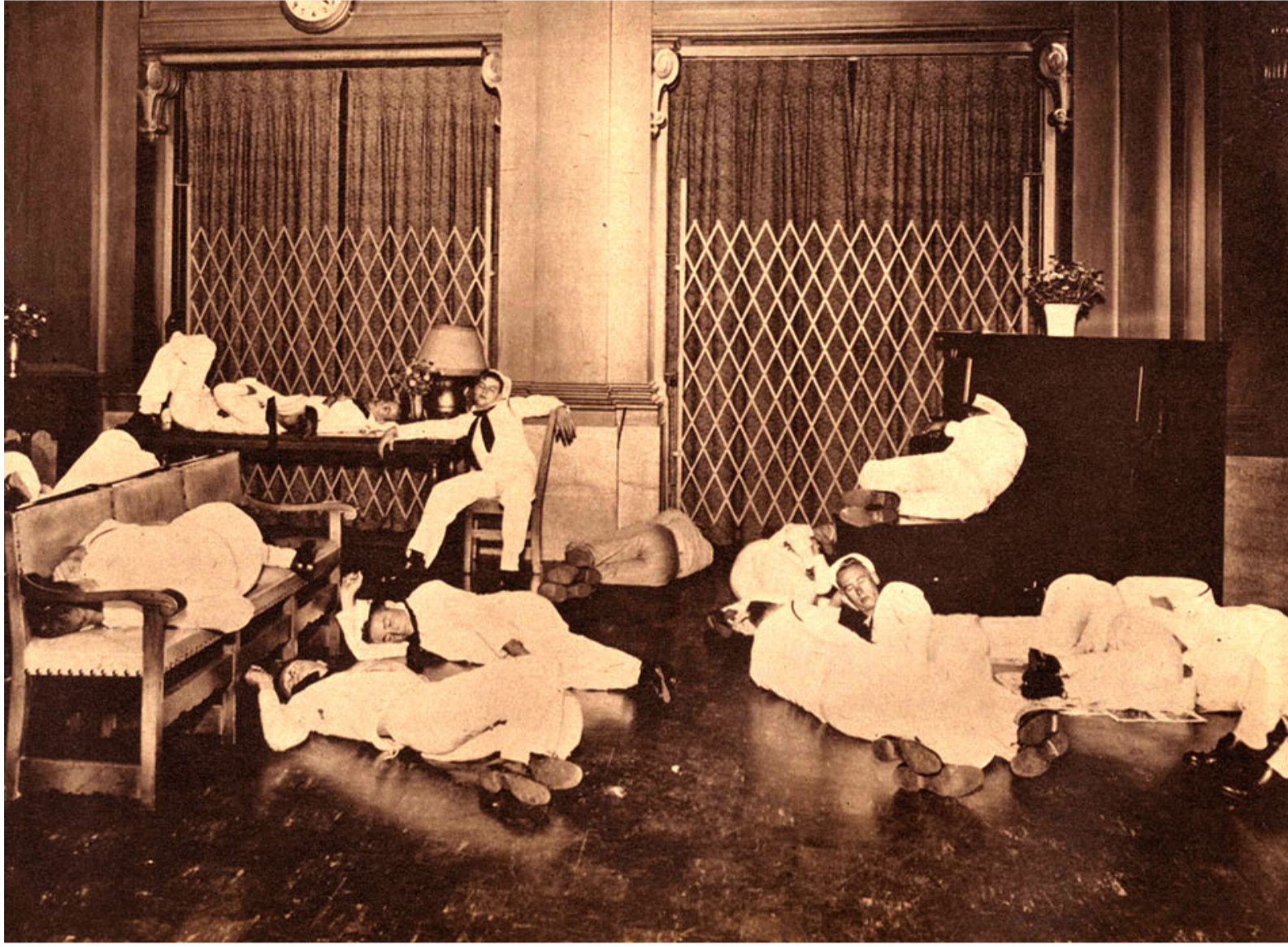
It is safe to say that 90 percent of the boys do not want the sort of company they are offered at roadhouses, juke joints and red light districts on wheels, but resort to it out of sheer boredom, loneliness and lack of the right kind of feminine companionship. A vast majority of the draftees come from perfectly respectable families and in their home towns they were accustomed to being accepted by decent people as social equals. Those who looked for any change probably looked for a better break in uniform. Now that they have become draftees, they find themselves socially ostracized. That the families of respectable girls would warn their daughters to keep away from soldiers was the last thing the boys expected when they enlisted, and this state of affairs has had a very bad effect on the morale of our army-in-the-making. These pages show conditions as they exist in training camps throughout the United States and what is being done to correct them.



**Gypsy fortune tellers** are among the many grifters who move in around Army camps to take soldiers' few spare dollars.

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THESE SAILORS ON LEAVE COULD FIND NO PLACE TO SLEEP EXCEPT ON CHAIRS, AND FLOOR OF OVERTAXED CLUBHOUSE. THE U.S.O. SEEKS FUNDS FOR BETTER EQUIPPED SERVICE CLUBS



# U.S.O. PROGRAM PROPOSES NEW PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO

**T**O COMBAT the morale-shattering conditions pictured on the previous pages, the United Service Organization has mapped out a program that, with proper public support, will give our budding armed forces the wholesome recreation they need. When men in training camps are off duty for an afternoon or evening, they want to be on their own, "off the reservation but not necessarily out of bounds," as one official has expressed it. When local facilities for harmless amusement are nil, the boys cannot be blamed for resorting to the harmful diversions put in their way by commercial exploiters of their free time. The national drive of the U.S.O. to raise \$10,765,000 is for the purpose of erecting 360 service clubhouses for soldiers and sailors, beyond military property lines but adequately supervised, where they can get together for dances, games and singing, relax from discipline, and recapture a little back-home feeling. Local groups are cooperating with the U.S.O. in getting across the idea that selectees are in most cases just kids looking for decent companionship. They might be the sons or brothers of the townspeople who, in too many cases, forbade their daughters to associate with them. Now, under U.S.O. auspices, girls are organizing Junior Service Leagues to give chaperoned dances.



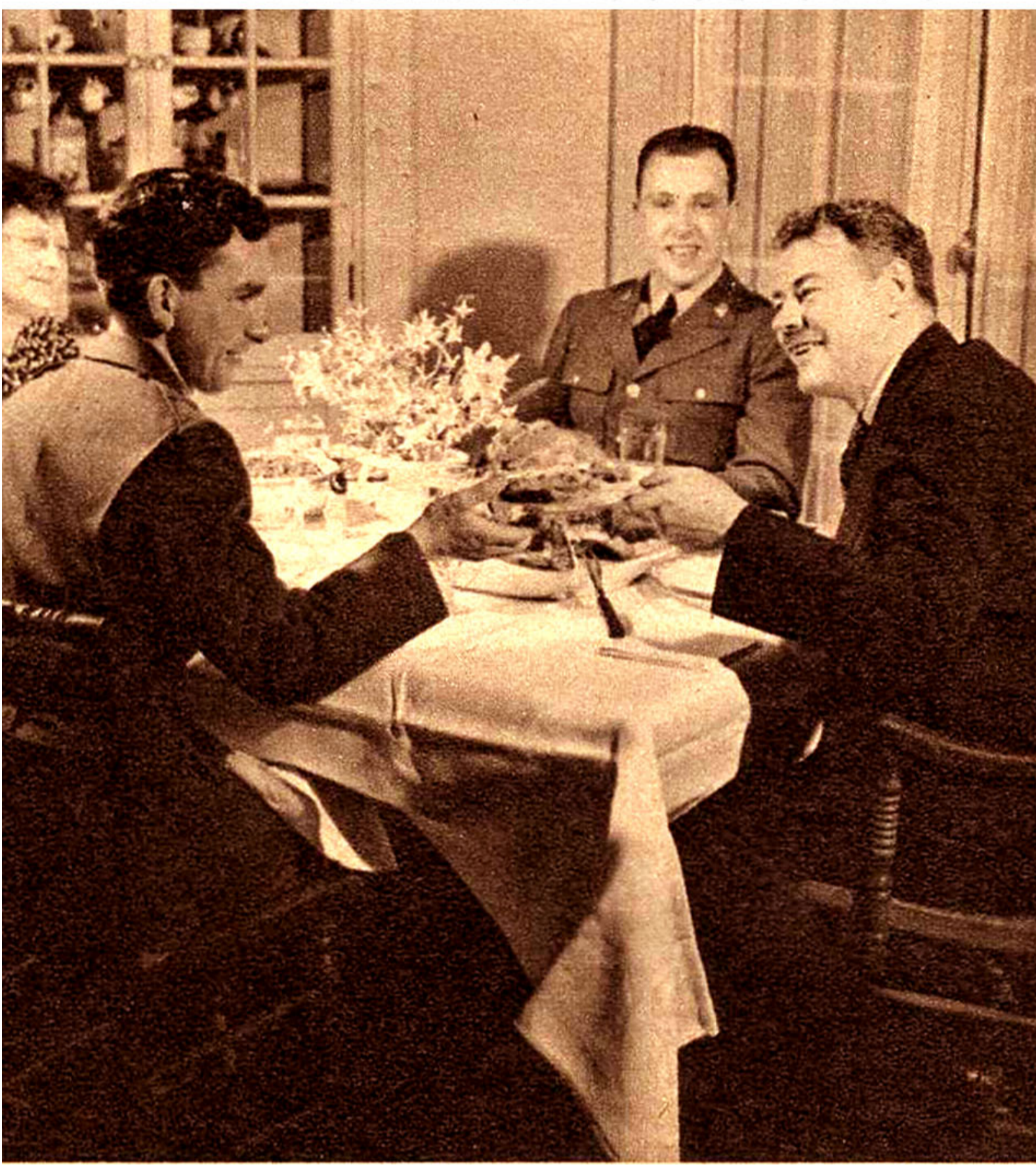
IN SPACIOUS DANCE HALLS BUILT BY THE ARMY THE U.S.O. PLANS TO PROVIDE WHOLESOME COMPANIONSHIP UNDER PROPER CHAPERONAGE WITH GIRLS FROM TOWNS NEAR TRAINING CAMPS



An old-fashioned song-fest with town girls is example of sort of fun selectees enjoy.

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**Model clubhouses** planned by the U.S.O. will provide ample space for reading and writing.



**Public-spirited citizens** of a small town cooperate with the U.S.O. by asking selectees to a friendly meal.

# SPOT

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