

Taking a hike in the woods before dinner are, left to right: Clifford Lee, Newark, Dela., and Jim Cunningham, Greenwood, Miss.

(By MARJORIE DILLON)

There's a Utopia not so far from here in the outskirts of Granville, where convalescing soldiers from Westover Field find all the things that go to spell home—an attractive house overlooking a peaceful lake, a cat, a hammock swinging from a shady tree, the smell of homemade rolls in the oven, and the warm hospitality of a mother, father, and two sisters. Every Thursday during the summer months, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hier open their home and their hearts to as many as eight or nine boys, and since June 22 they have given 38 soldiers a whole day of recreation and relaxation. Mrs. Hier, a Grey Lady in the Westfield unit of the Red Cross, works in the hospital during the winter and when June rolls around she dons the role of hostess to her uniformed guests. Mr. Hier is the owner of the Noble-Cooley factory in Granville, a one-time producer of toy drums and now busy making war goods.

It all started two years ago when the Hier family, through the medium of the Service clubs, invited lonely servicemen from Westover to their home for several hours of cheer and fun. Now they take from the wards at the base hospital, soldiers recuperating from rheumatic fever, hernia, and appendicitis, and let them enjoy a day in the open. Occasionally a battle-scarred youth is among the group, like the gunner last week who had completed 64 missions over enemy territory.

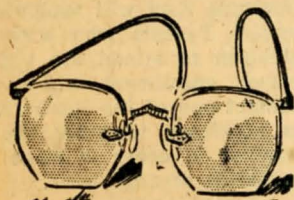
With the Red Cross beach-

wagon filled to capacity, Mrs. Earle H. Thomas of Holyoke, volunteer worker in the Motor Corps, drives the boys approximately 25 miles to their destination. This Thursday, as every Thursday, the five soldiers wasted no time in hopping out of the car, getting acquainted with the Hier family, and, at the invitation of their hostesses, removing their hats and ties.

What a choice of ways in which to spend the hours before dinner!

One fellow flung himself in the hammock, another tackled the job of husking the corn, and sooner or later all of them took the canoe or motor-boat out onto the lake. They preferred to save the swimming for the afternoon. Just before the gang was called in for "chow," Joyce, and Priscilla Hier proudly displayed to their guests their prize possessions—"Petunia" the pig, and "Rascal," the four-year-old family cat. These pets have become a "must-see" now to each visitor in khaki.

A long picnic table on a screened-in porch overlooking the quiet water, set for as many as 16 persons, allows the boys to prove that the country air has whetted their appetites. The table is always cov-



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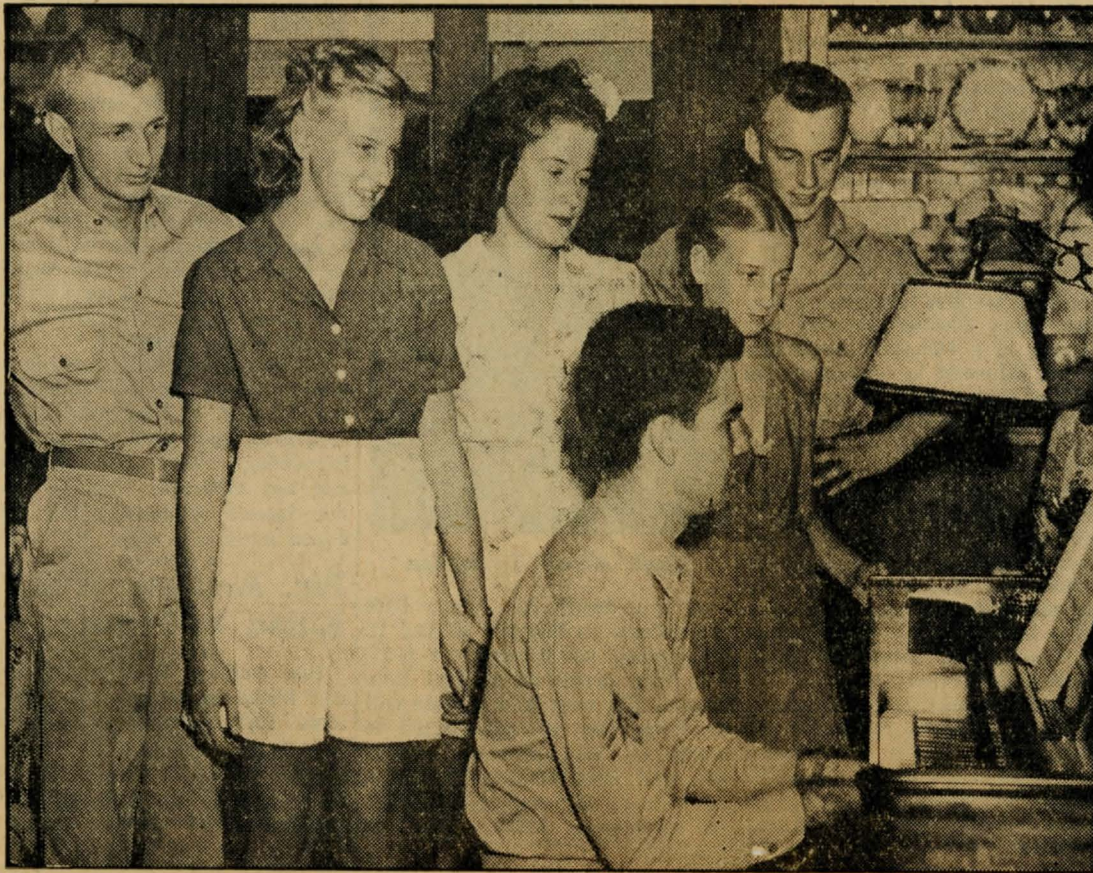
**will be closed next Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday to give our clerks a much needed REST.**

**Come in and stock up tomorrow or Saturday.**

**Re-opening Next Thursday at 8 A. M.**



# Granville Couple Hold Open House For Convalescing Westover Field Soldiers



Sgt. Gamon Lamar of Marianna, Florida, plays a favorite song for his eager audience who are, left to right: Harry Schwartz, Chicago, Ill.; Joyce Hier, Irene Banks, niece of Mr. and Mrs. Hier; Priscilla Hier and Edwin Hall, Newport, N. H.



Three soldiers and a girl enjoy a boat ride on the calm, inviting lake in front of the Hier home.

ered with the kind of food a fellow on furlough asks his mother for—homemade pies, cakes, and a heaping plate of sweet corn. Mrs. Joseph Dickinson of Granville, another Grey Lady, contributes generously to the goodies on the table each week.

After dinner the boys relax at the piano, in the hammock, laugh at the cuckoo in the porch clock, or wander about in the woods. If it rains, they all go next door to the home of Herb Hier and pass the hours quickly with a game of ping-pong, pool or shuffleboard, not to forget the elaborate, miniature train sets. The soldiers get a big kick out of playing with that.

Mr. and Mrs. Hier have a guest log in which each soldier writes his name and address and it seems that practically every part of the country is represented. The five soldiers who signed their names this Thursday were Gamon Lamar, Marianna, Florida; Harry Schwartz, Chicago; Edwin Hall, Newport, N. H.; Jim Cunningham, Greenwood, Mississippi; and Clifford Lee, Newark, Delaware. Some of the boys who spend the day at the Hier home are married, some are under 21 and others are over 30. Married or single, young or old, the house on the hill near the lake is a bit of home to each soldier who visits it. It's something to write "back home" about!

## BABY SHOW ON PLAYGROUNDS

A baby show was held at Avery Field under the direction of Miss Helen Dziadzio, director, and Miss Janice Wisley, girl's supervisor of arts and crafts. Prizes were awarded to Marie Sullivan for the cutest baby, to Carol Lyons for the curliest hair, and to Mary E O'Connor for the baby with the biggest eyes.

Prize winners in the Wednesday baby show held at Springdale playground were: chubbiest, Linda Goeldoer; cutest smile, Connie Urban; youngest, Kathleen Thaute; prettiest eyes, Gail Sullivan; curliest hair, Mary Ann Desorcy; blondest hair, Johnny Flynn; biggest, Theresa Desorcy; smallest, Dorothy Tourangeau; cutest, Eleanor Tourangeau.

Judges for the event were: Miss Irene Dugroo, Miss Marie Keane, Miss Janice Wisley, Miss Janet Jolicour, Miss Barbara Scott and Billy Irwin

Mrs. Emma Soper, resident of Miller Falls for 40 years, is healthy and active at 95.

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