

P. C. Shop Centre Finds Gold in Trainee Business

Smith and Academy District Does Rushing Trade with Army Specialists

The junction of Smith street and Academy avenue, with its block of stores, blossomed suddenly into an American crossroads this morning.

Young Army specialist trainees from almost every section of the country, newly assigned to Providence College for engineering studies, converged on the little shopping centre for their first spending spree.

Merchants, to put it mildly, were happy. They hadn't had so much business, in a lump, for months. Cash registers were ringing open and shut at a merry pace.

Charles L. Troup, who runs the hardware estore, was cleaned out of his stock of razors and blades. The drug store on the corner was so busy the clerk said he was far behind schedule in his morning routine of tidying-up.

Haircuts Most Popular

But mostly, the horde of trainees were after haircuts.

There are two one-man barber shops in the square. The Ritz, where Tony Leone does the shearing, and Anthony's Tonsorial Parlor, where Roy Puleo wields the clippers. The fur was really flying in both places.

The Ritz is amply supplied with chairs, and every one was occupied. The overflow took seats on the floor. Pvt. Dan Rosenberg of Stockton, Calif., was getting his hair cut when a reporter and photographer called. Pvt. Art Hanes of Los Angeles, first on the waiting list, sat on a hobby-horse chair used for child patrons, rocking back and forth and reading a magazine at the same time.

Others waiting their turns included Joe Leonard of Rochester, N.

Y., Bob Kaltenbach of Columbus, O., John D. Exterkamp of Covington, Ky., Glenn Elste of Chicago, Ernest Moser of Jamaica, L. I., John Kobya of Chicago, Oliver Gallagher of Zion, Ill., Robert Dyruuff of Bronxville, N. Y., Jim Wulliman of Tuscola, Ill., and Edwin Feinstein of Brooklyn.

"Ya follow the Brooklyn Dodgers?" Feinstein was asked.

"You bet," said Feinstein. "Incidentally, how about getting a bundle of your daily newspapers up to the college so we can follow baseball and the war? We can't get our hands on a daily paper up here."

Long Wait for "Next!"

Anthony's Tonsorial Parlor lacked chairs to accommodate the bunch of trainees who flocked there, so those waiting sat in a row on the sidewalk, leaning against the front of the shop. Every now and then, Roy, the barber, would stick his head out the screen door and call, "Next!"

The gang outside the shop included Pvts. Olavi Lahna of Worcester, Mass.; Phil Blacksmith of Harrisburg, Pa.; Louis Goldfluss of Middle Village, N. Y.; Bernard Herman of Brooklyn; Sidney Schwartz of New York City; Jerome Altheimer of Chicago; Bill Ver Howen of Rochester, N. Y.; Dana Boynton of North Whitefield, Me., and Robert Blackshear of Peekskill, N. Y.

The trainees, 500 of them, took over at Providence College only last week-end but already they've formed the unanimous opinion that Providence is a swell place to be assigned. They like the college. They like the neighbors. Already many have been invited out to dinner in private homes. They're forming a glee club, under direction of Father Clark of the college faculty. They're having a dance in the college auditorium Saturday night with a group of nurses from Providence Lying-In Hospital invited.

Right now, the trainees are living the life of Riley. Classes don't start until Aug. 9 and they've plenty of time for leisure and recreation. The chow, they agree, is swell, with one of the East's biggest restaurant men supplying the grub.