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ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY



WORK

in construction

2

PUBLISHED IN FOUR LANGUAGES: RUSSIAN,
ENGLISH, FRENCH AND GERMAN

1 9 4 9

VOL. XIII



Joseph V. Stalin

"Our proletarian revolution is the only revolution in the world which has been able to show the people not only political results but also material results."

J. STALIN



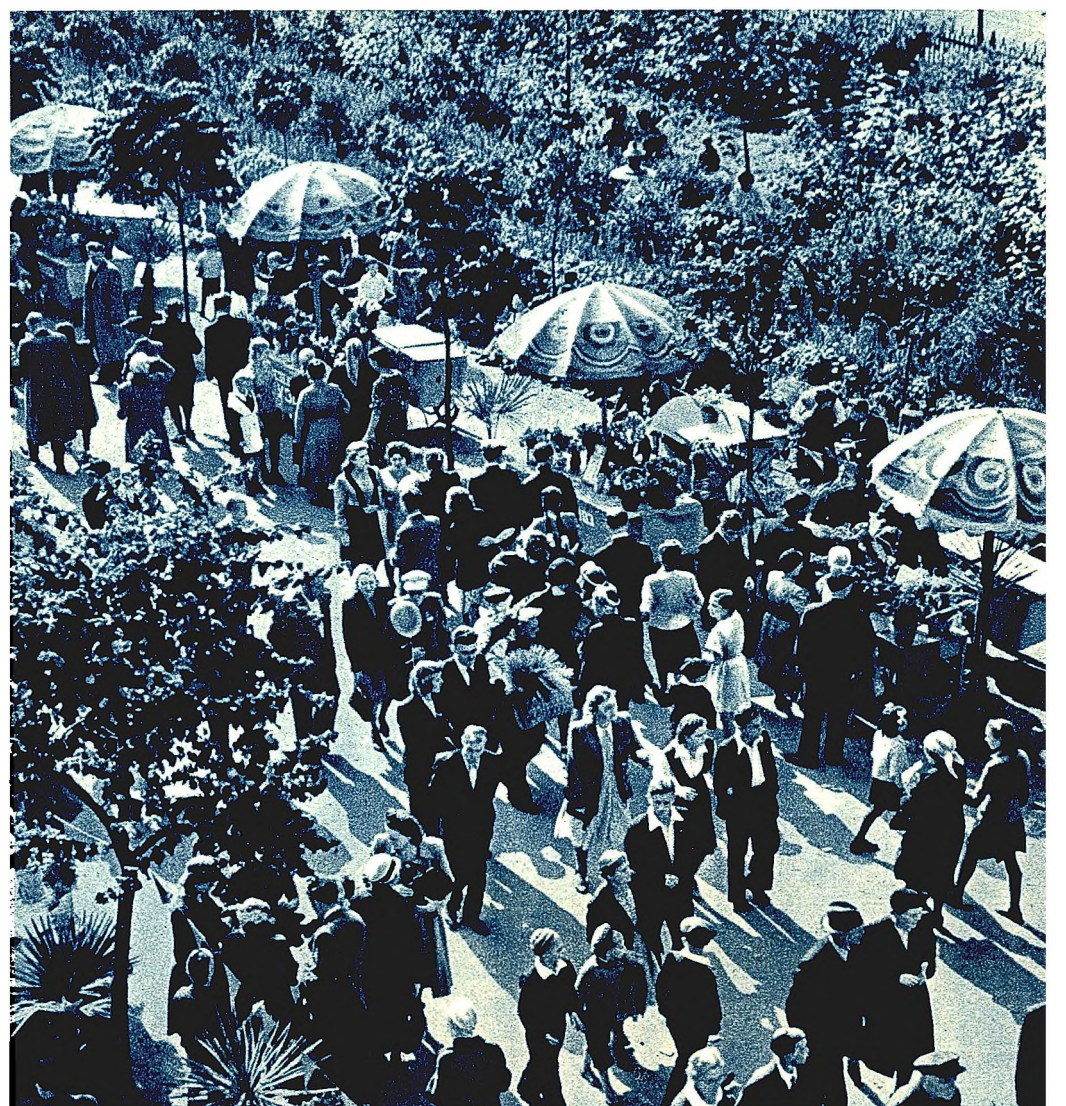
Let us take a stroll through the streets of the Soviet capital. Three and a half years after the war, Moscow is brighter, neater and gayer than ever before.



MOSCOW – SYMBOL OF THE WORLD'S YOUTH

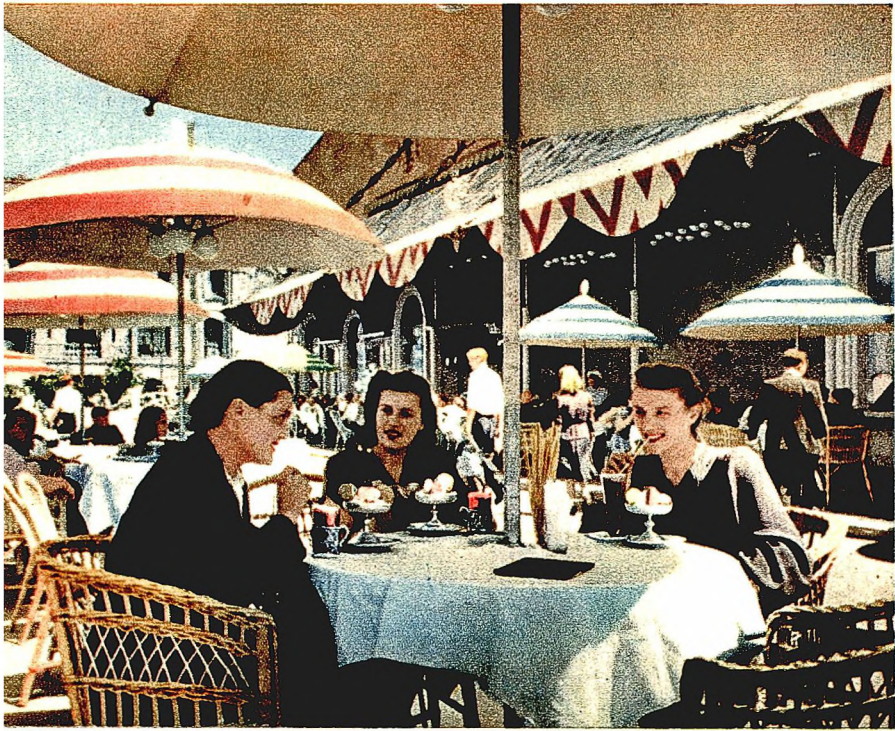


Moscow is a splendid sight on the days of national festivals. This is how it looked on its 800th anniversary. This is how we see it in the November celebrations. This is how we know it on May Day, when the Soviet millions celebrate the festival of labour emancipated. Festive animation similarly reigns throughout the city at the time of the big sports contests.



MOSCOW IN CONSTRUCTION

When the war ended, the reconstruction of Moscow was resumed on a larger scale than before. In 1948, 540,000,000 rubles were allocated for house construction. This was nearly two and a half times as much as was spent in the previous year. In the five years of the plan three million square metres of new dwelling space will have been added to Moscow's housing facilities.



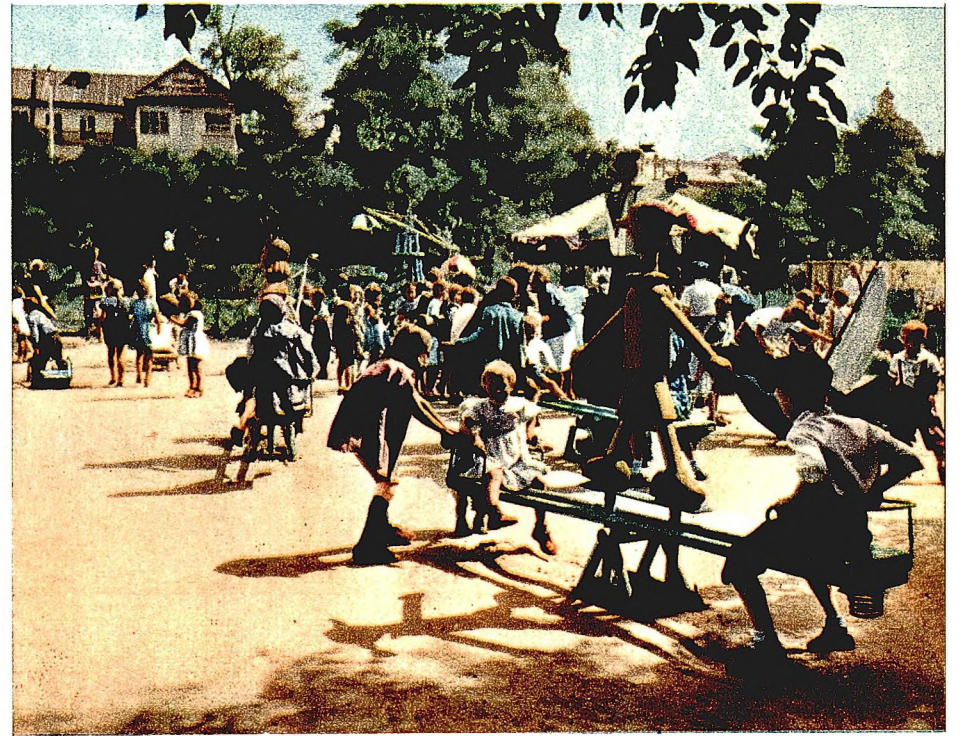
Apartment houses on Mozhaik Chaussee, a new thoroughfare.

Soviet Square, with the offices of the Moscow Soviet of Working People's Deputies in the background.



CITY IMPROVEMENTS

The five-year plan provides for big work on the improvement of the capital. Over a million trees and shrubs were planted in Moscow in 1948 alone. Scores of new squares have been laid out in various parts of the city. The boulevards and parks are dotted with the gaily coloured awnings of open-air cafés. Great attention is paid to the needs of Moscow's youngsters: in squares, in parks and in the courtyards of the big apartment houses, space is set aside for playgrounds equipped with every device for the amusement of children.



New residential blocks on Bolshaya Kaluzhskaya Street.





The word "new" is continually on the lips of Soviet people nowadays. New motor buses, trolleybuses and passenger cars ply through the city thoroughfares. New houses spring up on nearly every street. New stations, underground palaces of marble, are built on Moscow's subway — the Metro. A new section of the Metro was completed and began to function during the war, and new stations appeared in the centre of the capital and in the industrial sector near the green massif of Izmailovo Park. And another new section of the Metro is now in course of construction.



New Moscow. Okhotny Ryad.





ON THE ROAD TO ABUNDANCE

Big mills and factories, local industries and producing cooperative societies combine in the Soviet Union to increase the output of goods of every variety, which flow to the consumer through the shops and stores of town and country.

Socialist agriculture is rapidly recovering from the devastations of the war and producing increasing supplies of foodstuffs. The big dairies and processing plants have greatly enlarged their output of butter, sugar and other comestibles. Increasing from year to year, the production of sugar in 1950, according to the five-year plan, will reach 2,400,000 tons. In that year, the country will receive 1,300,000 tons of meat, 275,000 tons of butter and 2,200,000 tons of fish. There will also be a big increase in the output of canned meat, fish, milk, fruit and vegetables.

Prices of food and manufactured goods are being progressively lowered, and sales are steadily increasing. In 1948, the lowered prices of goods sold in the state shops alone meant a saving to the workers of 57,000 million rubles.

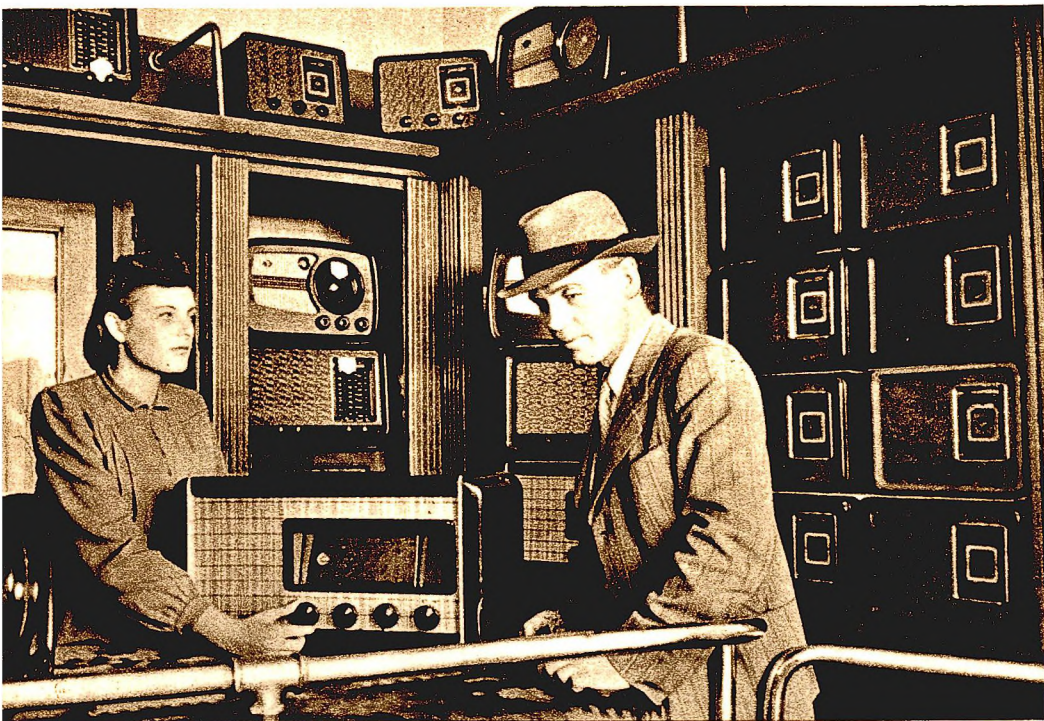
The main section of
Gastronom No. 1 —
Moscow's premier foodstore.



Dress designers, fur and pelt experts, artists, textile workers, furriers are all exerting their energies, taste and intelligence to supply the Soviet consumer with high-grade goods in wide assortment and pattern: handsome silks, fine cloths, elegant costumes and fur goods.

Some of the targets for 1950, the last year of the plan, are 4,686,000,000 metres of cotton cloth, 159,400,000 metres of woollen cloth, and 328,600,000 pairs of footwear.

Thousands of new shops have been opened this year in the towns and villages of the USSR, stocked with textiles, footwear, furs, clothing, knitted goods, household utensils, electrical appliances and every kind of food, in great and ever growing assortment. Goods will be available in still greater quantities in the last year of the plan.



Big pipe lines (Saratov—Moscow, Dashava—Kiev, Kohtla—Jarve—Leningrad) carrying natural gas to the cities have been laid, creating an increased demand for gas apparatus. The industry is being enlarged accordingly, and new shops have been opened where every item of kitchen and bathroom equipment can be obtained.

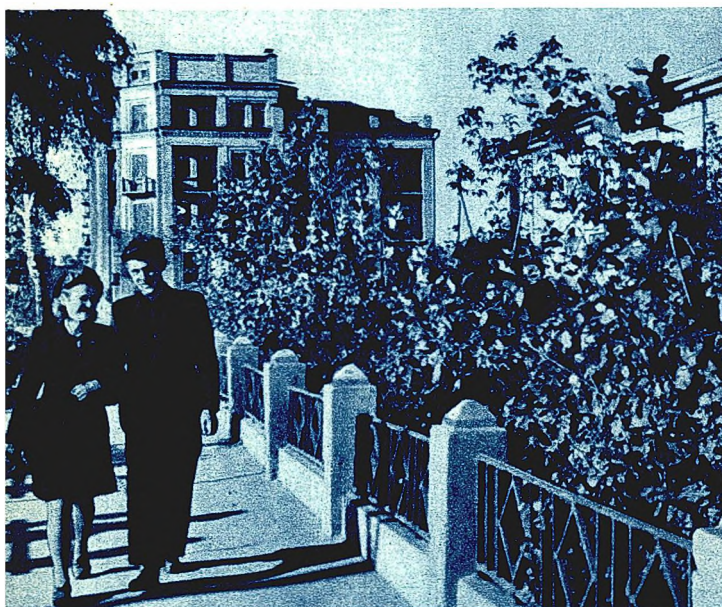


In every corner of the Soviet Union, big changes are to be observed, brought about by the achievements of the socialist economic system, harmoniously developing in accordance with a single state plan. These changes take place so quickly that the geographical maps and reference books cannot keep up with them.

New theatre in Kamensk-Uralsky, a district centre in the Sverdlovsk Region.



Ivanovo. Workers' houses of the Dzerzhinsky Textile Mills.



Arkhangelsk. New houses on Vinogradov Street.



Kuibyshev. Chapayev Square.



Magadan. The city House of Culture.



Kazakhstan. Central square of the mining town of Karaganda.

Huge sums are allocated for housing development in town and country. The five-year plan envisages an expenditure of 42,300 million roubles for house construction, and in the course of this period the Soviet people will receive 84,400,000 square metres of dwelling space, either rebuilt or newly built.



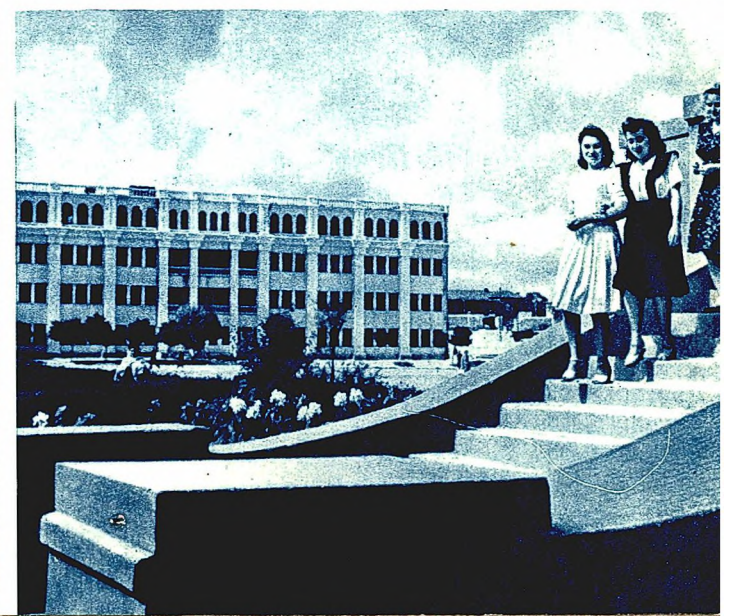
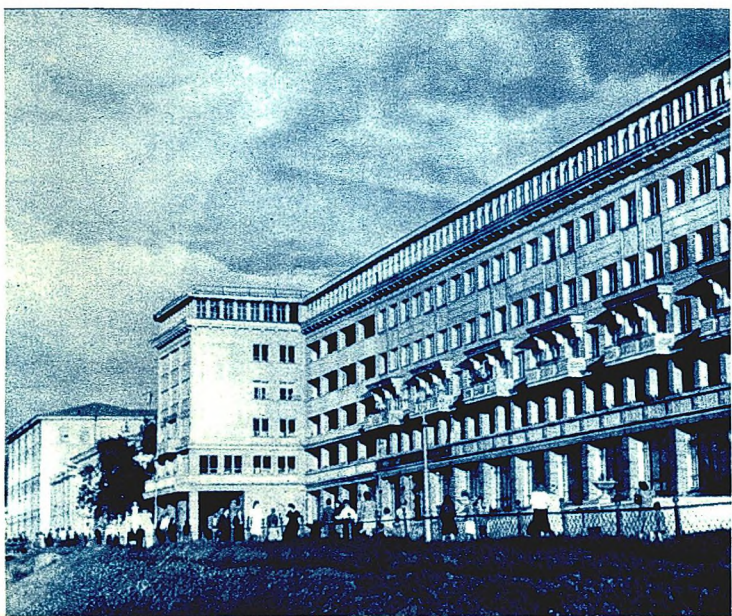
Novosibirsk. The Opera and Ballet Theatre.

The creative efforts of millions of workers are transforming the face of the country. The distinction between "city" and "provinces" is being gradually obliterated. In the Far North and in the Caucasian highlands, on the Volga and in Central Asia, in Siberia and in the Urals, everywhere old towns have changed beyond recognition, and new industrial and cultural centres have sprung up. Together with mills, factories and mines, arise modern houses, schools, hospitals, theatres, clubhouses, universities, kindergartens, shops, stores and restaurants.

Gorky. A hotel.

Voronezh. Koltsov Square.

Makhach-Kala. The Daghestan Medical College.





Stalingrad – the hero city. It is now rising again from the ashes, more beautiful than before. Together with factories and dwelling houses, are rising schools, hospitals, clubhouses, theatres. This is the interior of the new Gorky Theatre.

The flourishing state of the theatre is typical of the progress of the multinational culture of the USSR. There are over eight hundred theatres in the country, giving their performances in fifty different Soviet languages. The theatres of Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Baku, Sverdlovsk, Saratov, Gorky, Novosibirsk and many other cities enjoy well-deserved renown.

BACK TO MOSCOW

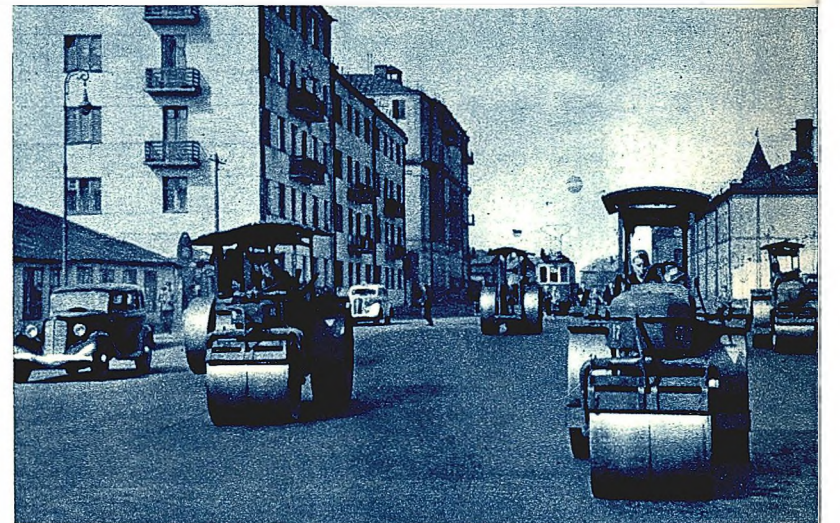
Let us return to Moscow, to its streets filled with festive throngs. Two men — a Moscow worker and a Tambov collective farmer in the capital for the celebrations — happen to meet outside the Central Telegraph Office. They get acquainted. One (right) is Vasily Bobkov, foreman of the spring shop of the Stalin Automobile Works, Moscow; the other (left) is Fedor Matsuk, team leader of the Lenin Collective Farm, Kirsanovo District, Tambov. What Bobkov told Matsuk of the life of the workers at his plant, and what Matsuk told Bobkov of life in his village, we shall illustrate in the following pages.





"Would you think that this place not so long ago was a quagmire, surrounded by narrow crooked lanes and wretched hovels?" said Bobkov to the Tambov collective farmer as they sauntered through the asphalted streets and green squares of the Proletarian District, Moscow. "All these workers' apartment houses, schools, stores, boulevards have sprung up in Soviet times."

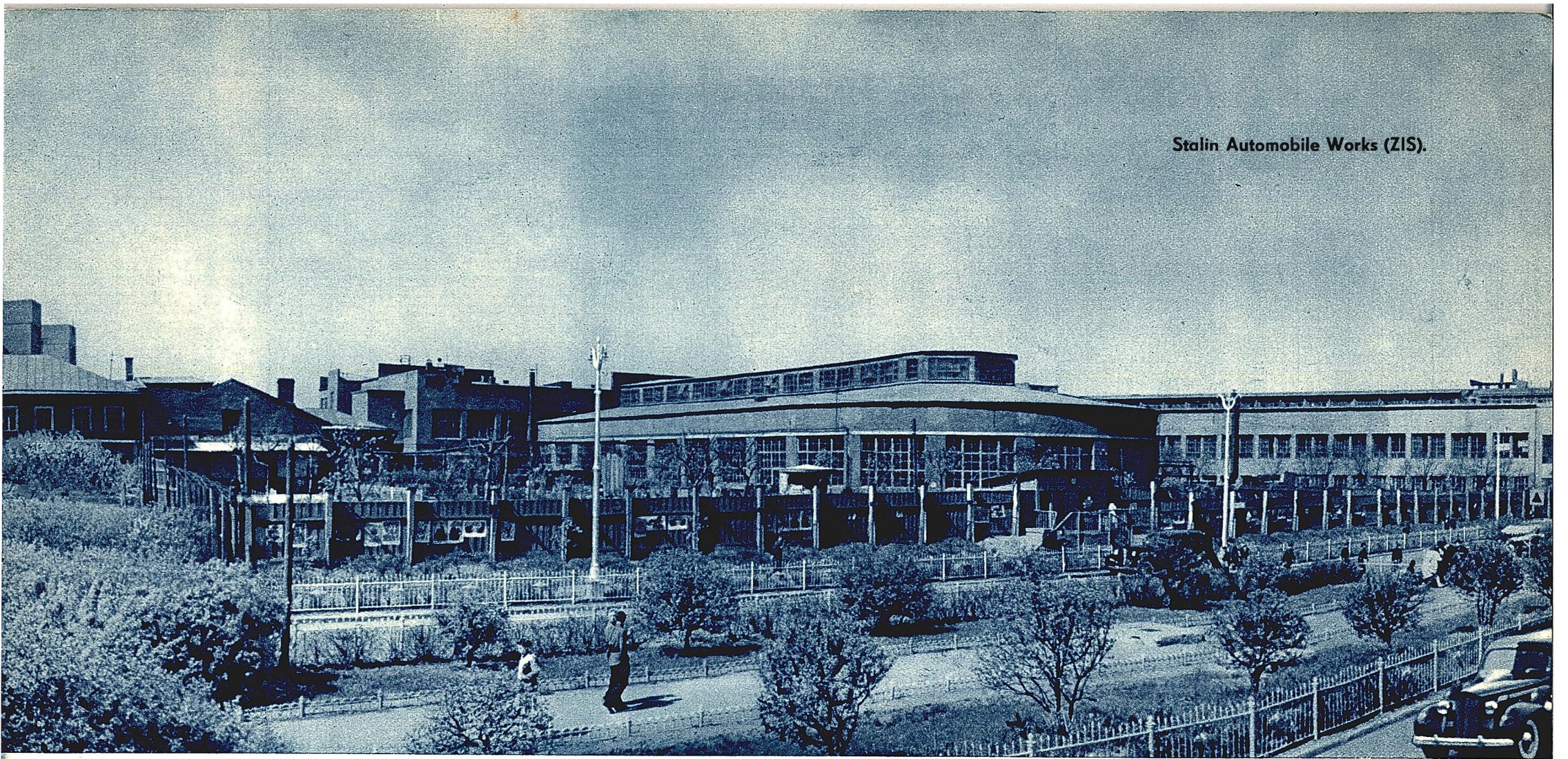
Not so many years ago the site of this residential area of the Moscow automobile workers was an area of ravines and gullies and low-lying marsh. The plant has a housing estate with upwards of 130,000 square metres of dwelling space.



THIS IS WHERE I LIVE...



Stalin Automobile Works (ZIS).



THIS IS WHERE I WORK...

There was no automobile industry in Russia in tsarist days. It was founded in Soviet times and has developed to powerful dimensions. Many new plants were built during the war, and others since the war. In 1950, the plants of Moscow, the Urals, the Volga area, Siberia, Byelorussia and Georgia will produce about half a million vehicles. The Moscow Stalin Works, the first of the Soviet automobile plants, will be turning out 100,000 vehicles in the last year of the five-year plan.

The Stalin plant took first place in the socialist competition of the automobile industry thirty-nine times, each time being awarded the challenge banner of the State Committee of Defence. It now holds the banner permanently.

While the war was still on, and the plant was engaged in producing machines for the army, it was busy on new designs of motor vehicles to be put into production when the war was over. And the Battle of Berlin was scarcely ended when the new comfortable ZIS-110 limousines, spacious ZIS-154 buses and first-class ZIS-150 trucks began to appear on the streets of Soviet cities.



Bobkov and a number of his fellow-workers on their own initiative devoted one of their rest days to help to complete an urgent order for the collective farms of the Naro-Fominsk District, Moscow Region. That day his shop produced 1,500 springs for collective farm trucks. Here we see Bobkov instructing one of the lathe men, M. Sinyakov.



The ZIS houses now get their gas from Saratov. The pipe line began to be laid during the war. This is Bobkov's wife, Olga, preparing the family meal.



The Bobkovs' bedroom.



Bobkov's daughter, Nina, preparing to take a morning tub.





Nina has come with her mother to the neighbouring dressmaking establishment to order a new coat.

MY HOME, AND MY FAMILY...

Vasily Bobkov has invited the collective farmer to his home (bottom left — Bobkov is on the right). Matsuk is interested in his new friend's life. In the early days of the Stalin five-year plans, he learns, Bobkov was one of the initiators of socialist competition among the forge-shop men of the automobile industry. He was then operating a power hammer, stamping crankshafts. For diligence and intelligence at his job, he was awarded the Red Banner of Labour, and the People's Commissar of Heavy Industry, Sergo Orjonikidze, presented him with an automobile.

During the last war, Bobkov was away at the front. On his return, he was put in charge of the experimental section of the spring shop, testing new designs. His section is topping its program from month to month.

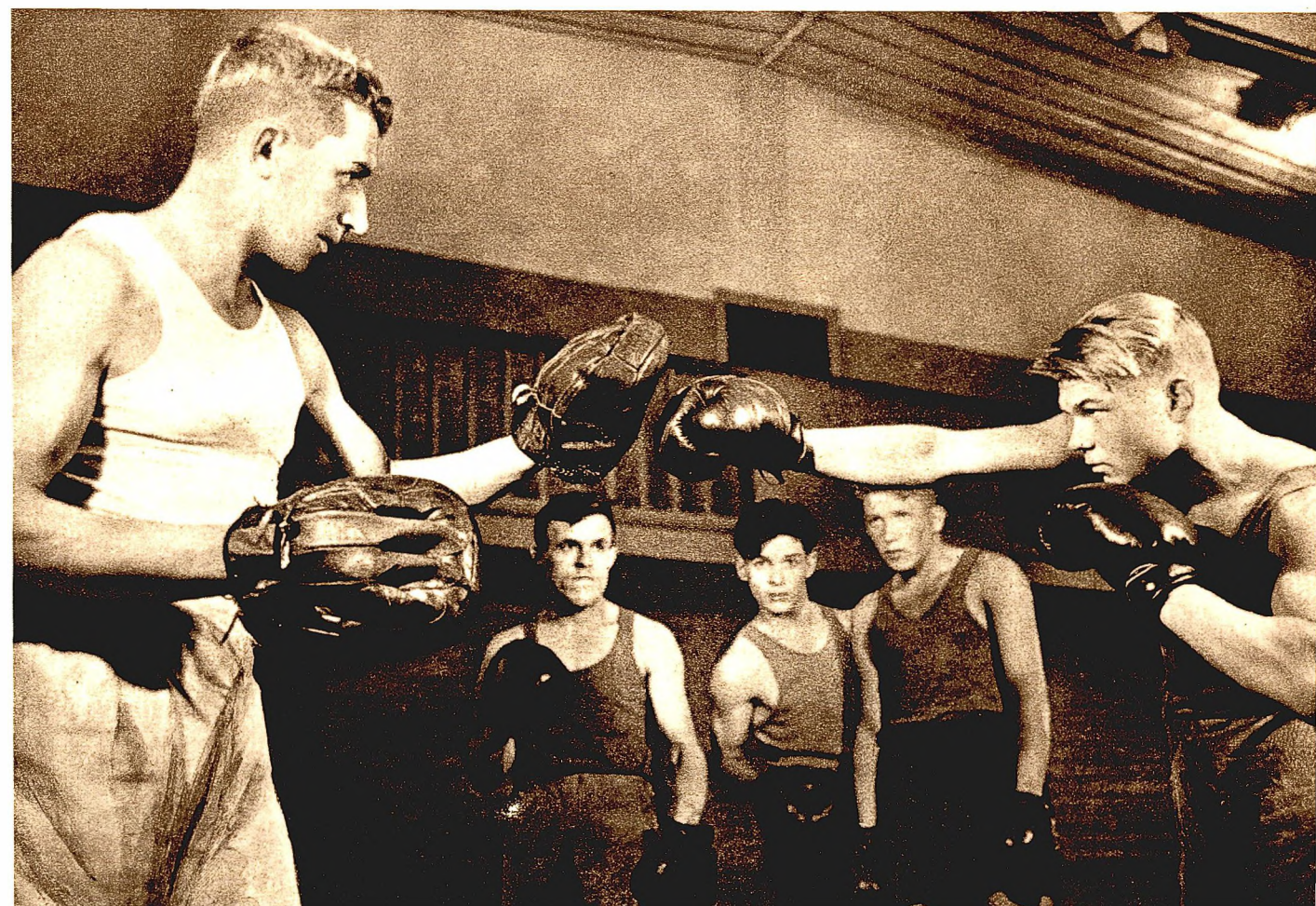
Vasily Bobkov takes an active part in the public life of the plant. For some time after the war he was in charge of the trade union organisation in his shop, and now much of his time is taken up giving popular lectures on current events to young workers at the plant.

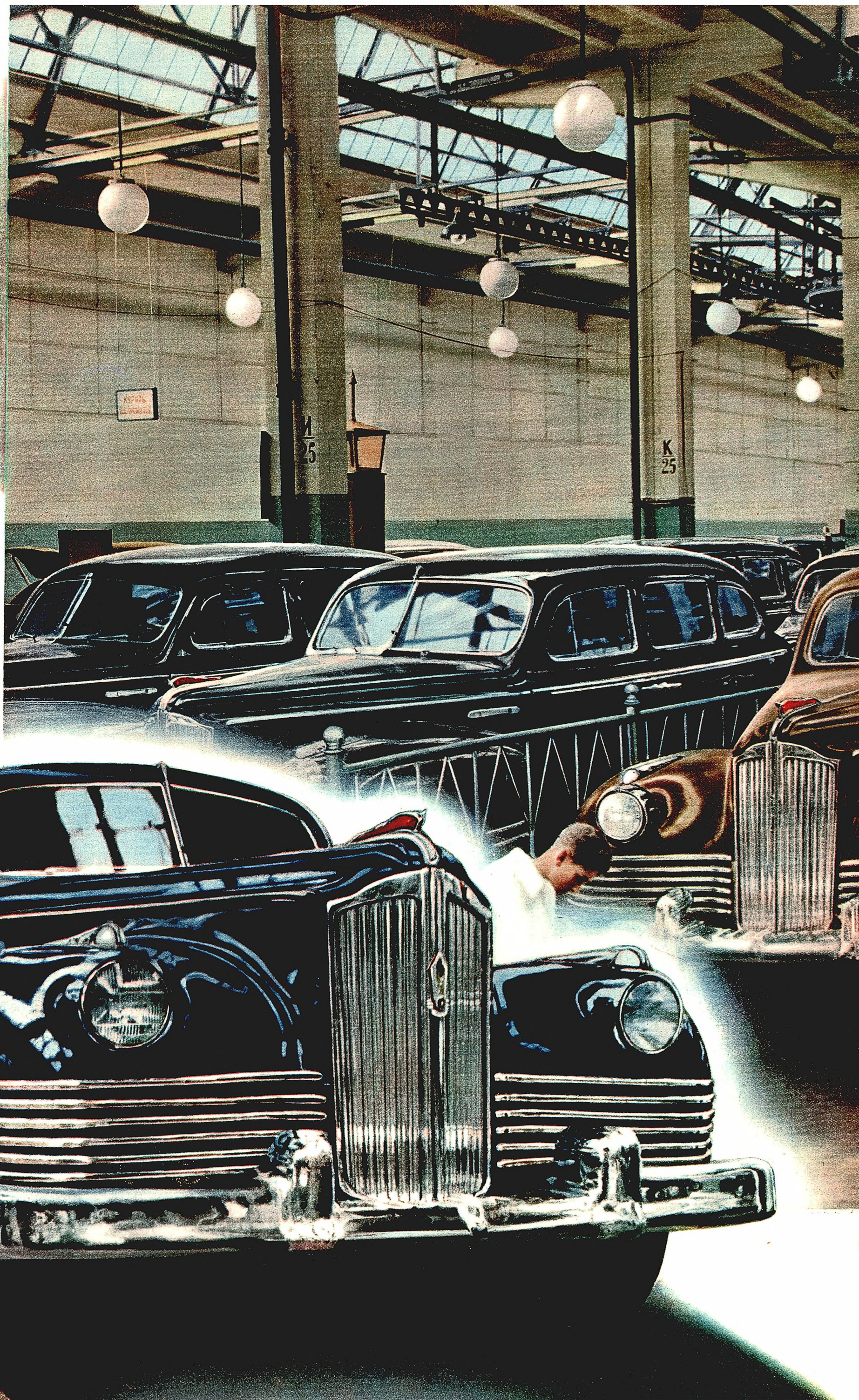
Bobkov is a man of broad interests. He is a regular frequenter of Moscow's theatres and museums, subscribes to several newspapers and magazines, and keeps up with latest developments in literature.



Nina and a friend preparing their lessons. She is a tenth grade pupil.

Yuri, Bobkov's son, is a fitter at the same plant. He is a member of the ZIS sports club, Torpedo, which ranks high among the sports societies of the Soviet Union. Yuri's forte is boxing. Here we see him training (right).







THIS IS OUR PLANT...

Passenger car assembly shop. These comfortable ZIS-110 limousines were put into serial production soon after the war.



Some of the innovations suggested by ZIS employees are so valuable, technically and scientifically, as to earn their authors high government recognition and the award of the Stalin Prize. One of the Stalin Prize winners may be seen on the left, A. Smetanin, mechanic in the tool shop; another is A. Assonov (right), chief metallurgical engineer of the plant.

Fifteen engineers of the ZIS plant have been awarded Stalin Prizes for new inventions, designs and perfected production processes.

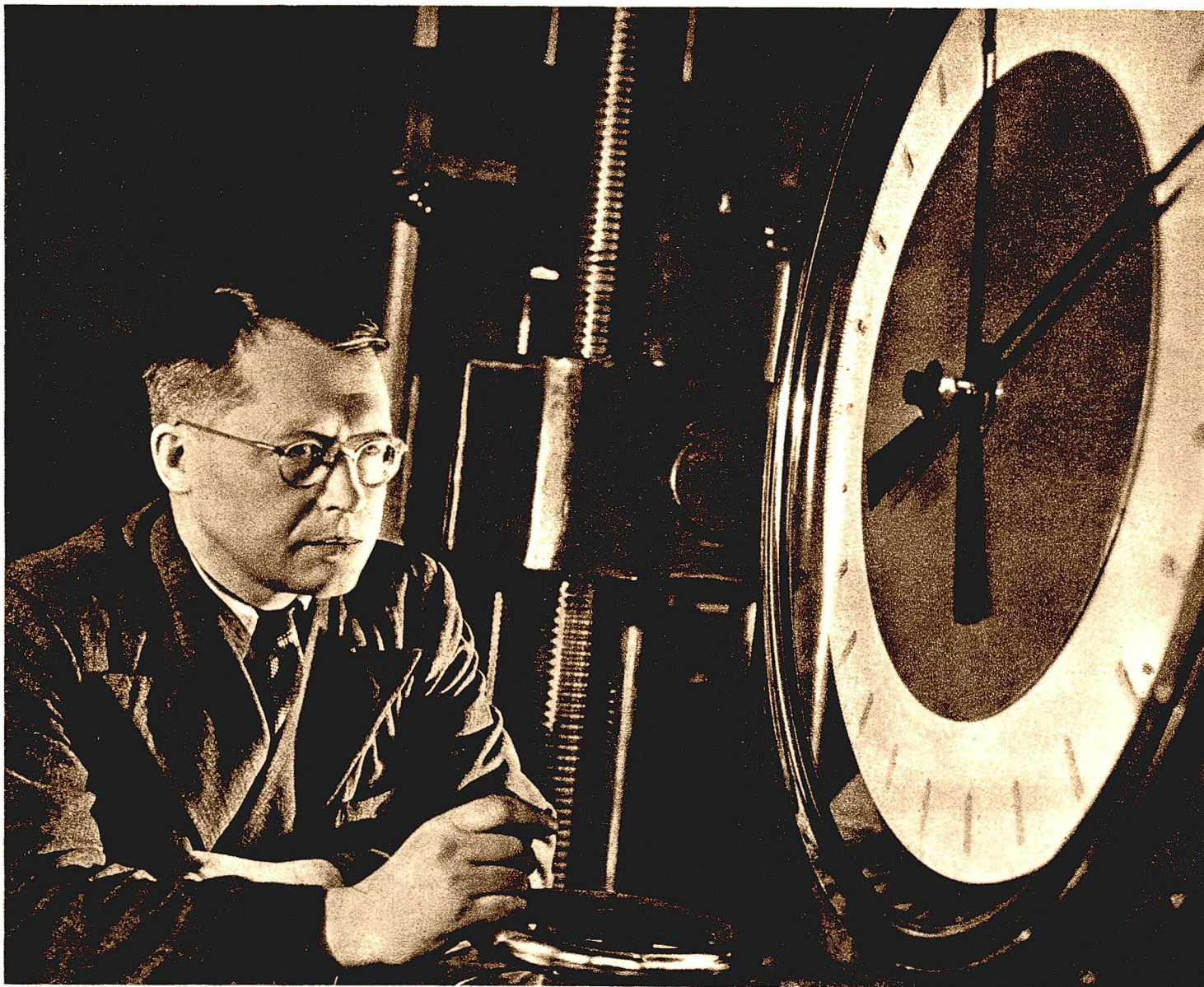
The young generation keeps pace with the old: 534 youth teams take part in the socialist competition at the plant.

These youngsters on the truck assembly line were only recently trade school pupils.

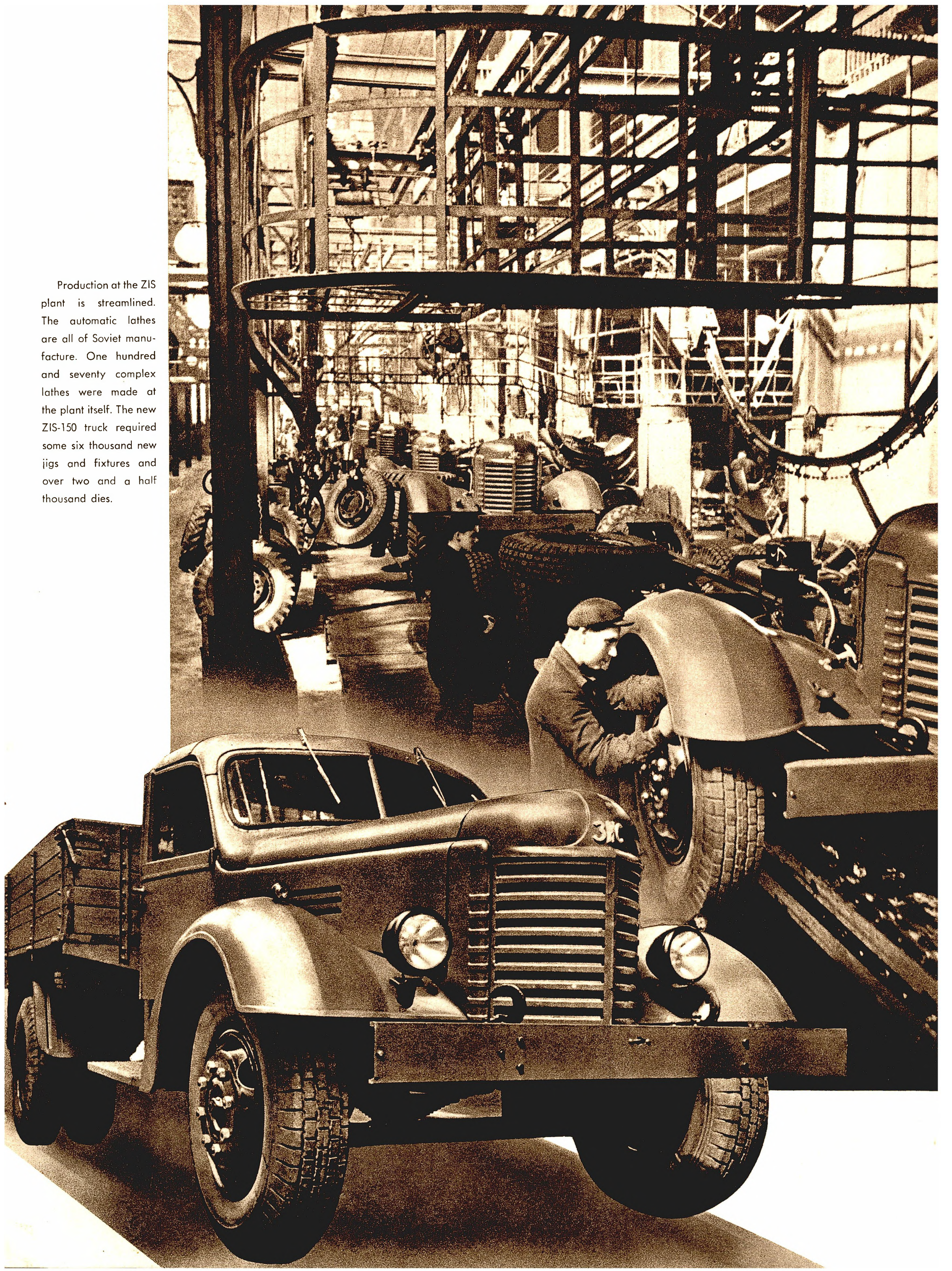
ZIS has steadily expanded ever since the first of the five-year plans, and now it is a huge up-to-date plant. With its growth, its workers have grown in skill and competence. It has trained hundreds and thousands of highly skilled mechanics, inventors and innovators.

Vasily Bobkov himself has several improvements to his credit. When he was working in the forge shop, he suggested a change in the furnaces. The new, more highly mechanised, types increased output fourfold.

In the course of one year, workers, technicians and engineers of the ZIS plant made 5,606 labour saving suggestions, which have resulted in an economy for the country of about 15 million rubles annually.



Production at the ZIS plant is streamlined. The automatic lathes are all of Soviet manufacture. One hundred and seventy complex lathes were made at the plant itself. The new ZIS-150 truck required some six thousand new jigs and fixtures and over two and a half thousand dies.





ALL THIS TOO BELONGS TO THE PLANT...

ZIS has a number of creches, kindergartens, sanatoria and country homes for the children of its employees. Last year some six million rubles were spent on their maintenance.

At country villas like this one the charges of nine of the plant's kindergartens, in addition to 2,300 children of school age, spent the summer. The plant has also a children's sanatorium.

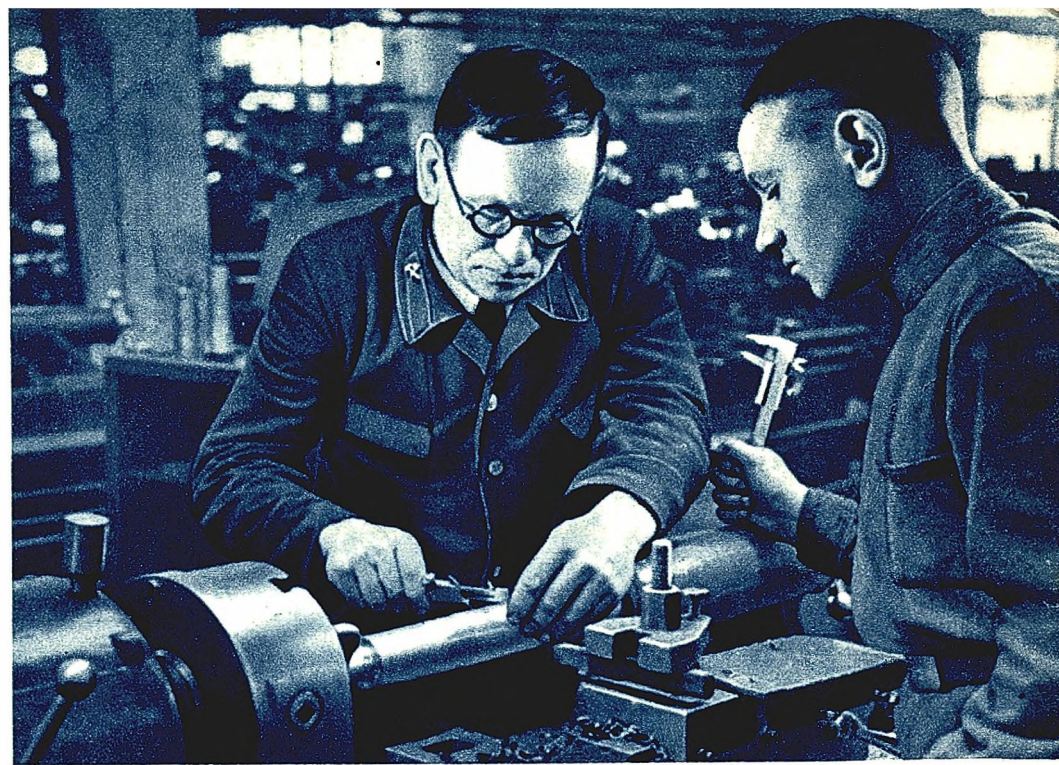
Many of the plant's workers spend their annual vacations at its rest home outside Moscow, or at its seaside sanatorium near Riga.





Many of the ZIS employees combine work with study. A branch of the Moscow Automobile Technical School functions at the plant. There is also an evening school in metallurgy. Top: Academician Chudakov lecturing to metallurgical students of the plant.

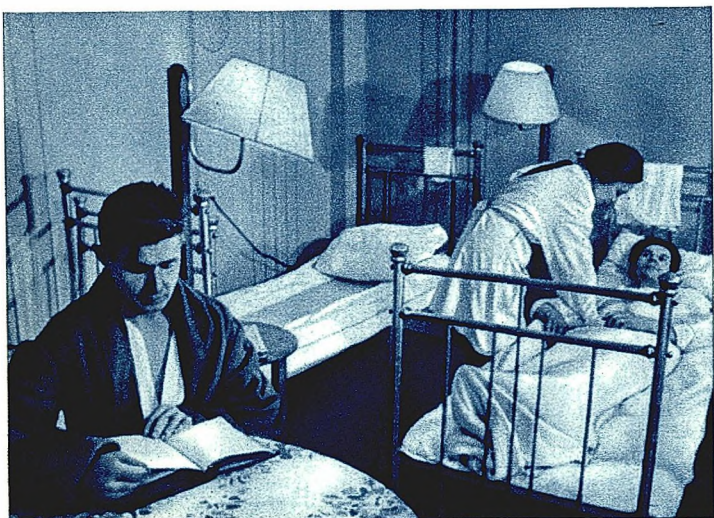
P. Tikhonov, ZIS apprenticeship school instructor, examining the work of a pupil.



More than 700 ZIS employees have graduated college and taken up jobs as engineers, and over two thousand have received secondary school education. Some seven thousand attend evening courses at college, technical school or special training school. About two thousand employees are studying foreign languages.



S. Zaitsev, student at the plant's technical school, doing his diploma work.



More than five million rubles are spent annually on the maintenance of the plant's medical service. This is a corner of a rest-cure establishment, or prophylactorium as it is called, run by one of the ZIS shops. Workers who feel off tone come here for a rest cure after hours of work. The course of treatment lasts one or two months.

V. Oreshenkov and M. Belov, in the metallograph laboratory. Both ex-servicemen, they have graduated technical school, and are now preparing to enter the plant's metallurgical college.



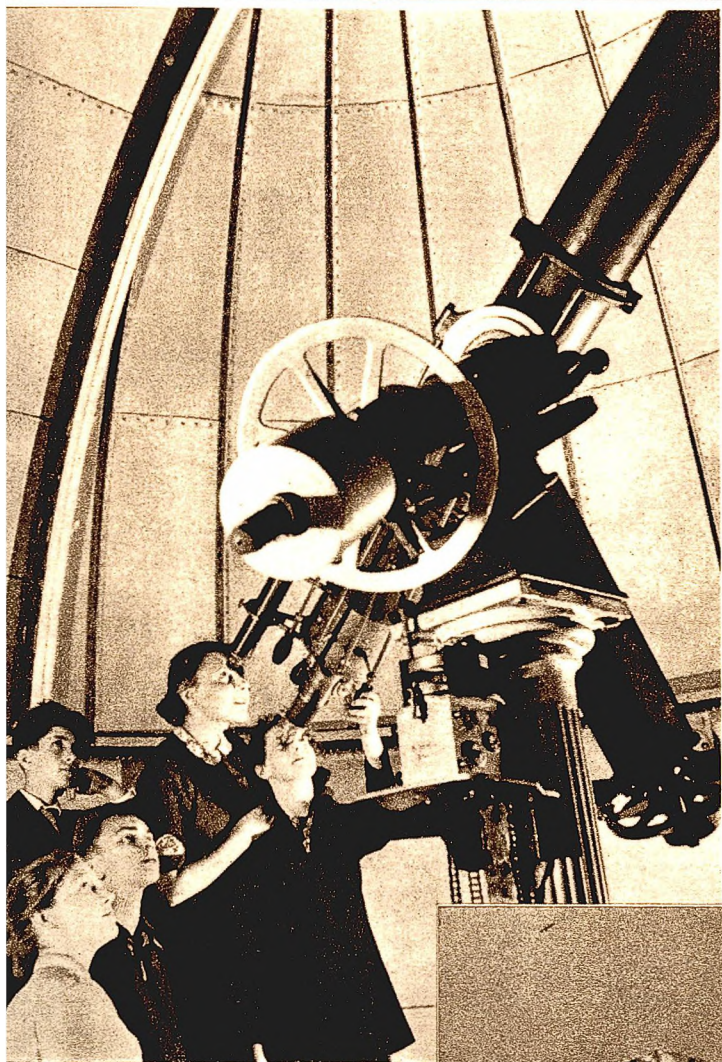


THIS IS OUR CLUBHOUSE...

The ZIS plant has a big clubhouse for its employees, known as the Palace of Culture. Besides reading rooms and games rooms, it runs various art classes. A branch of the Society for the Propagation of Political and Scientific Knowledge has been instituted at the ZIS Palace of Culture. Eminent scientists, artists and writers deliver lectures, which are always well attended. The club theatre is noted for its performances. The Lenin Library and the Foreign Languages Library also have subsidiaries at the club. The reading room is always filled to capacity. Some 160,000 books are available for the staff. Like every big Soviet plant, ZIS publishes its own newspaper.

There are over thirty dramatic, art and other circles at the ZIS Palace of Culture. Bottom, left: Varvara Vasilieva, balletmaster at the Grand Theatre conducts the choreographic circle. The orchestral class is conducted by Prof. V. Shcherbinin of the Moscow Conservatory. A. Rybnov, choir master of the Grand Theatre has had charge of the plant's choir for fifteen years. An accordion class is shown practising in the bottom picture.





Above: A lecture in the Palace's auditorium by university reader Alexandrov.

Left: The observatory in a tower of the Palace is a permanent attraction for the younger employees.

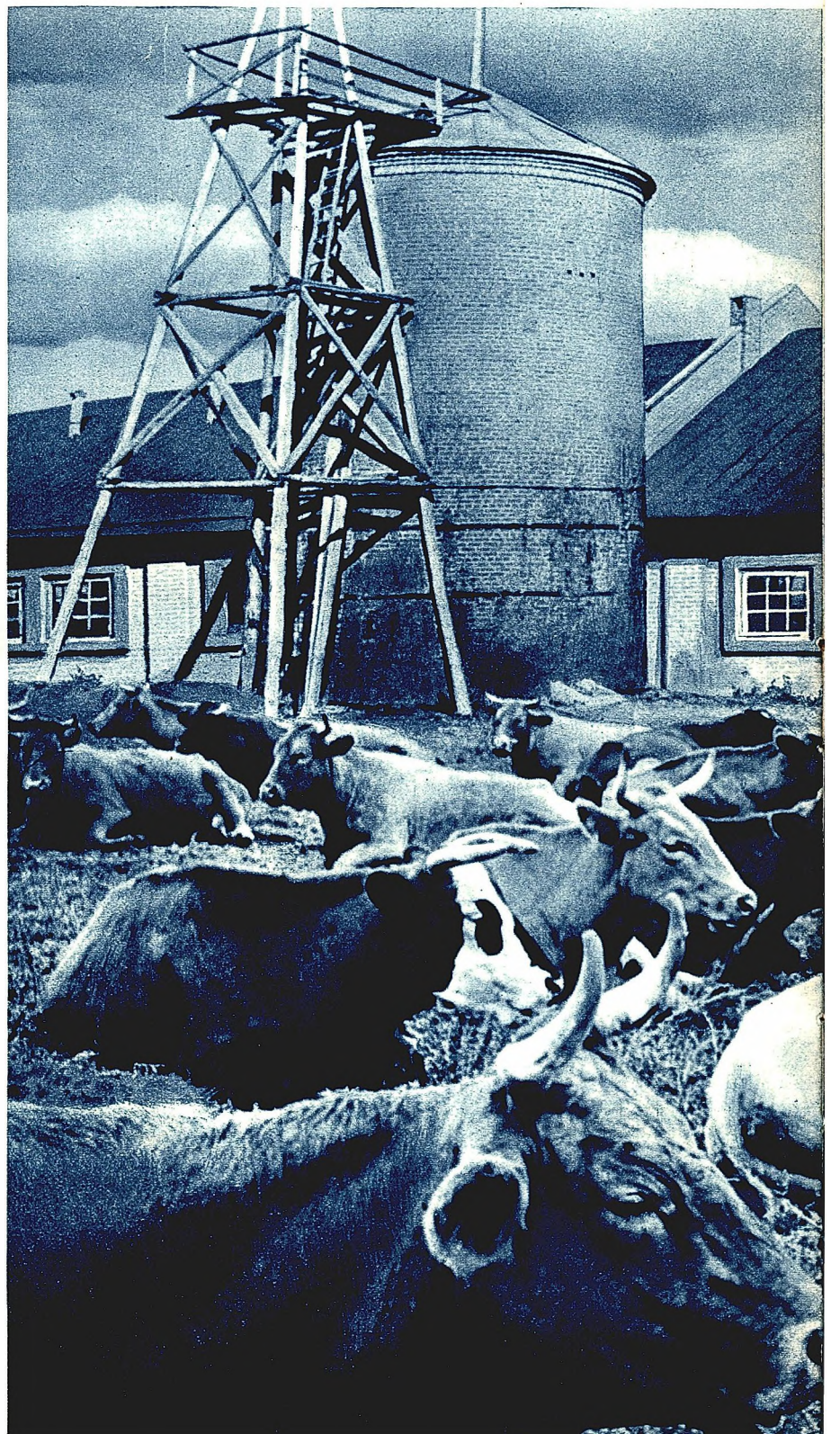
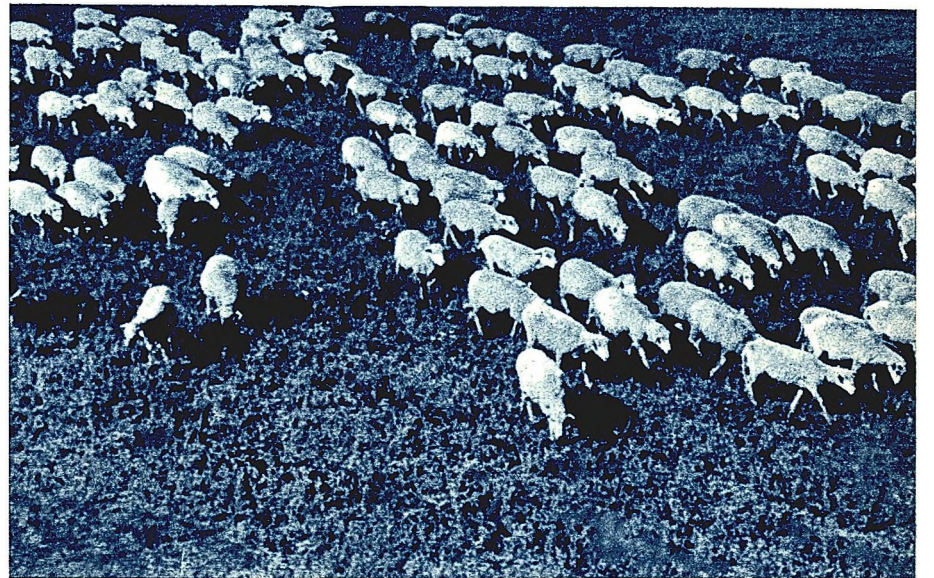
On Sundays, the Palace arranges country excursions. Right: Workers of the ZIS plant enjoying a Sunday, sailing on the Klyazma Reservoir of the Moscow Canal.



An art class in the ZIS Palace of Culture.



THIS IS OUR



FEDOR MATSUK TELLS HIS STORY...

"It is now apparently my turn to tell you how we live," says Fedor Matsuk after thanking Vasily Bobkov for the many interesting things he has told him.

"Our farm, the Lenin Collective Farm, is located in the Kirsanov District, Tambov Region. It was formed more than a quarter of a century ago. We have 3,284 hectares of land in permanent tenure. Like every collective farm, all our activities are directed by plan.

"We, too, have our five-year plan, which covers every aspect of the farm's operations — from the growing of grain, vegetables and fruit to the enlargement of existing and the creation of new subsidiary enterprises. We have, for instance, our own flour mill, creamery, machine shop, woodworking shop, brick and tile kiln, grain elevator, fruit and vegetable processing plant, wool-dressing plant, tannery and so on. Farm work is largely mechanised.

"We go in for stockbreeding — cows, sheep, pigs and so on. The Krasno-Tambov pedigree cows bred on our farm are well-known throughout the country.

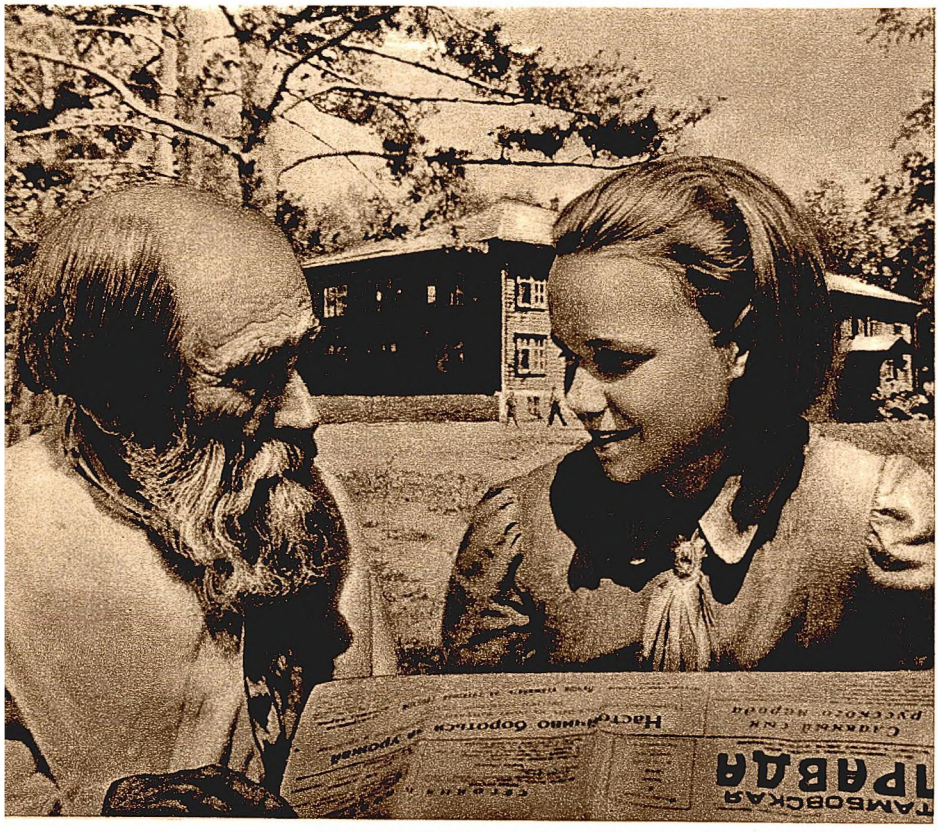
I should add that we have a reading room, a radio studio and quite a big library.

"I myself," said Fedor Matsuk, "am in charge of a field team, and this year we got an average yield of 2.3 tons of wheat per hectare." Matsuk did not add that he himself has been awarded the Red Banner of Labour for the high yields obtained by his team.



COLLECTIVE FARM





Everyone is interested in the latest news. Schoolgirl Raya Ruchaeva reading the newspaper to an old collective farmer, Stepan Selivanov.

The members of the Lenin Collective Farm live in spacious cottages surrounded by gardens and orchards, and supplied with electricity and water. The farm has a public dining room, bakery, bathhouse, laundry, shoe and clothing repair shops, barber shop, creche and kindergarten, and dispensary.



The collective farm is building its second hydroelectric power house. Engineer N. Vatrushchev is supervising the construction.



The farm goes in for bee-keeping: it has 350 hives. The share of the annual returns received in kind by each collective farmer always includes a certain amount of honey.

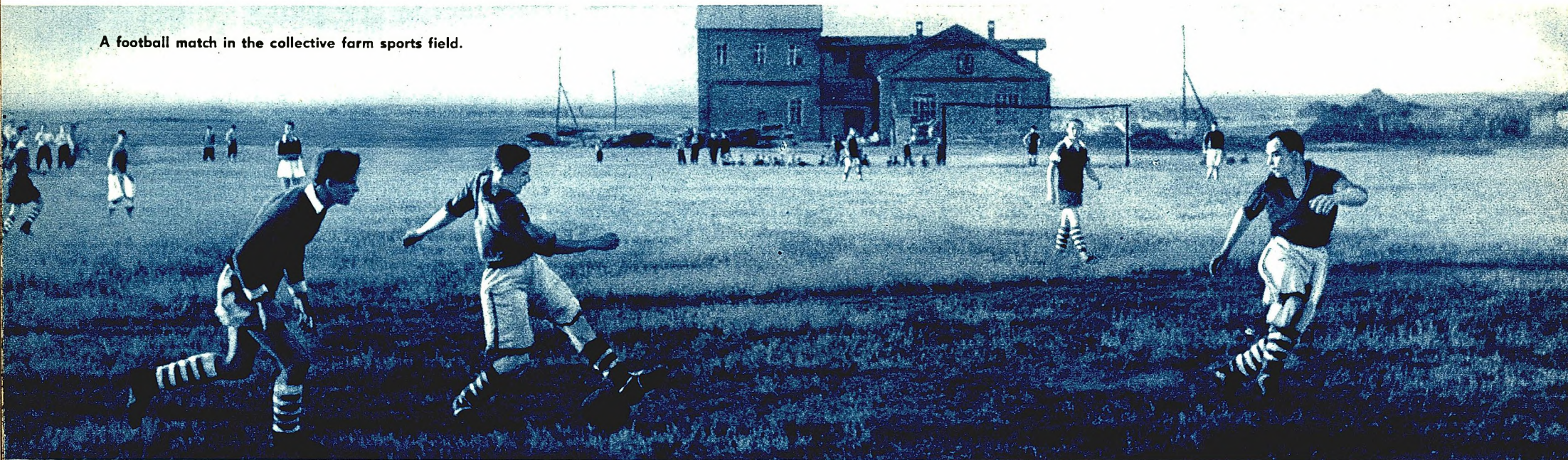


The farm's machines are always kept in good running order by its mechanics.

The farm grows more prosperous from year to year. Its agricultural machinery is valued at 188,000 rubles, and its total collective property — machines, buildings, stock, etc. — at several million rubles. It has thirteen motor trucks.



The collective farm's testing laboratory. Agronomist D. Zinoviev and farm chairman P. Fokin are examining vegetables brought in from the fields.



A football match in the collective farm sports field.



Many of the collective farm families have their own automobiles. They are useful when they want to go to theatres in town, or visit friends in other collective farms, or go picnicking.



SOVIET RURAL LIFE

The socialist system is more and more eliminating the gulf which divided urban and rural life. Take the Lenin Collective Farm, with its scientifically cultivated fields, its up-to-date cattle barns, flourishing orchards, power stations, workshops and schools. Thirteen of its members have graduated higher educational establishments, and sixty-five — secondary school or technical school. Its clubhouse is a centre of busy activity: sound films are shown, amateur dramatic and concert groups rehearse or give performances, lectures are arranged. Some of the farm members maintain regular correspondence with agricultural scientists of countrywide renown.

The top row of photos (left to right) shows members of the Lenin Collective Farm at hours of leisure.

1. The wife of beekeeper Zhelnov reads a bedtime story to her children.

2. Milkmaids A. Koroleva and A. Lavinskaya spend an evening taking a lesson from zootechnician Z. Mayunova (centre) in determining the bacterial content of milk.

3. Tractor driver I. Lebedev and his young wife give their infant son his evening bath.

4. Collective farmers Maria Slivinskaya and Sergel Drozd rehearse for a forthcoming concert at the village club.

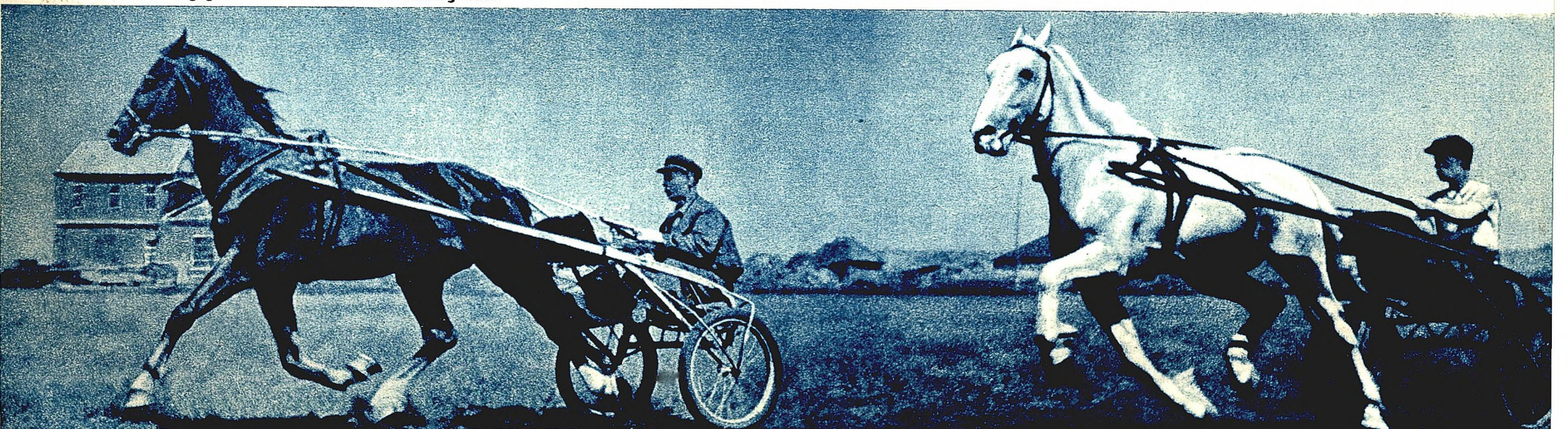
5. Ex-servicemen P. Zyuzin, S. Kadomtsev, V. Romanenko and N. Spiridonov gather to celebrate a memorable date — the day Generalissimo Stalin thanked the men who fought in the battle of Berlin.



The seven-grade school built by the farm for the children. Many of them later go to technical school or other educational institutions in various parts of the country.

One of the sidelines of the Lenin Collective Farm is the breeding of trotters, many of which have taken prizes at the regional races. Trotters being given a run on the farm's training track.

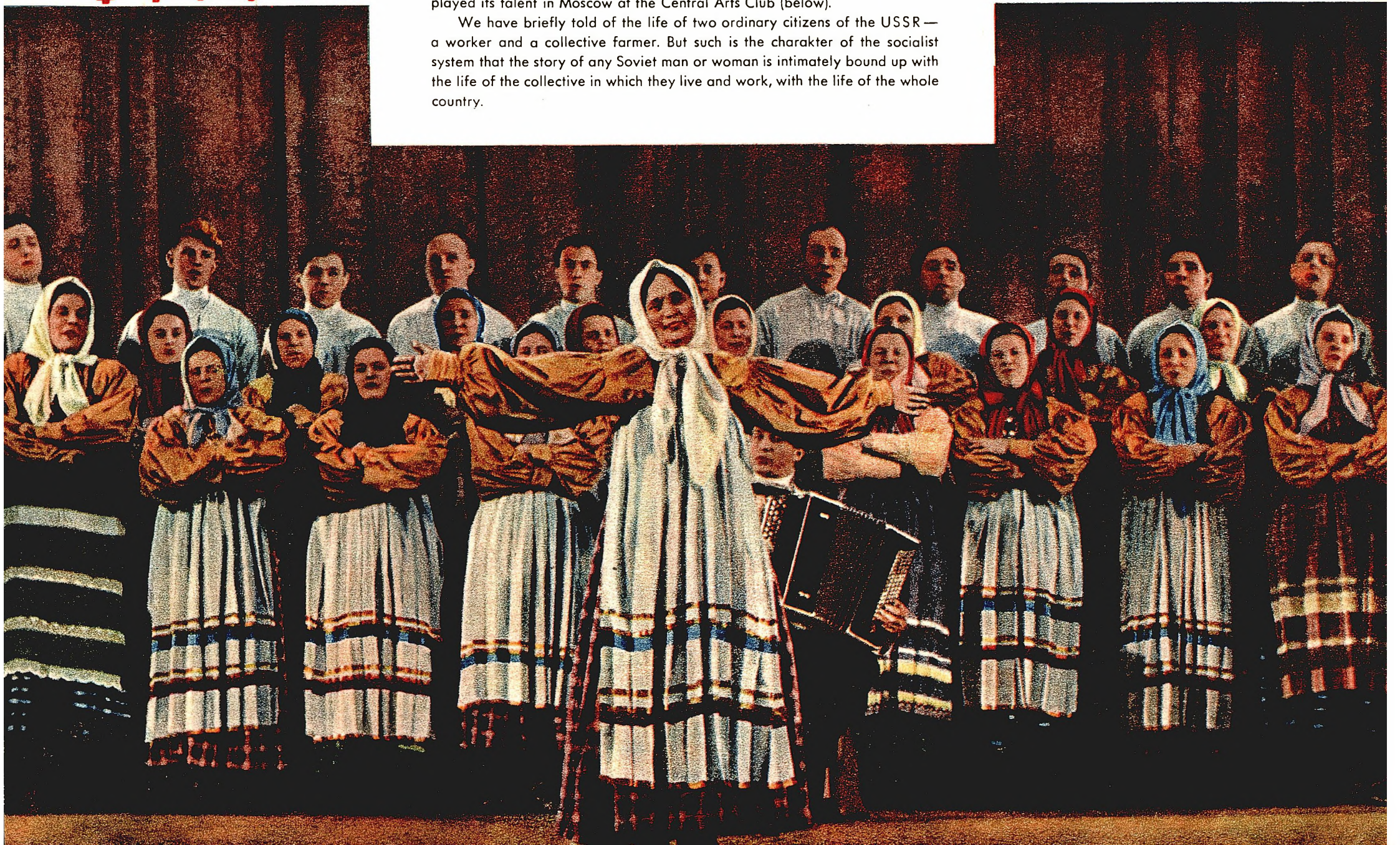
A meeting of the farm's political studies class.





At the recent national festival of amateur arts, the choir of the Stalin Automobile Works gave a performance at the Grand Theatre, Moscow (top). On this occasion, too, the folk song choir of the Lenin Collective Farm displayed its talent in Moscow at the Central Arts Club (below).

We have briefly told of the life of two ordinary citizens of the USSR — a worker and a collective farmer. But such is the character of the socialist system that the story of any Soviet man or woman is intimately bound up with the life of the collective in which they live and work, with the life of the whole country.



BY THE DEEP BLUE SEA

The health and harmonious development of the mentality and physique of its citizens is a constant concern of the Soviet socialist state. Here are three of the hundreds of thousands who every year spend their vacations on the salubrious shores of the Black Sea. They have flown here by plane: P. Butov, engineer from the Kuznetsk coalfield; Lyuba Nesterenko, student of the Irkutsk University, and V. Gorshkov, hewer at Colliery No. 10 of the Moscow coalfield.



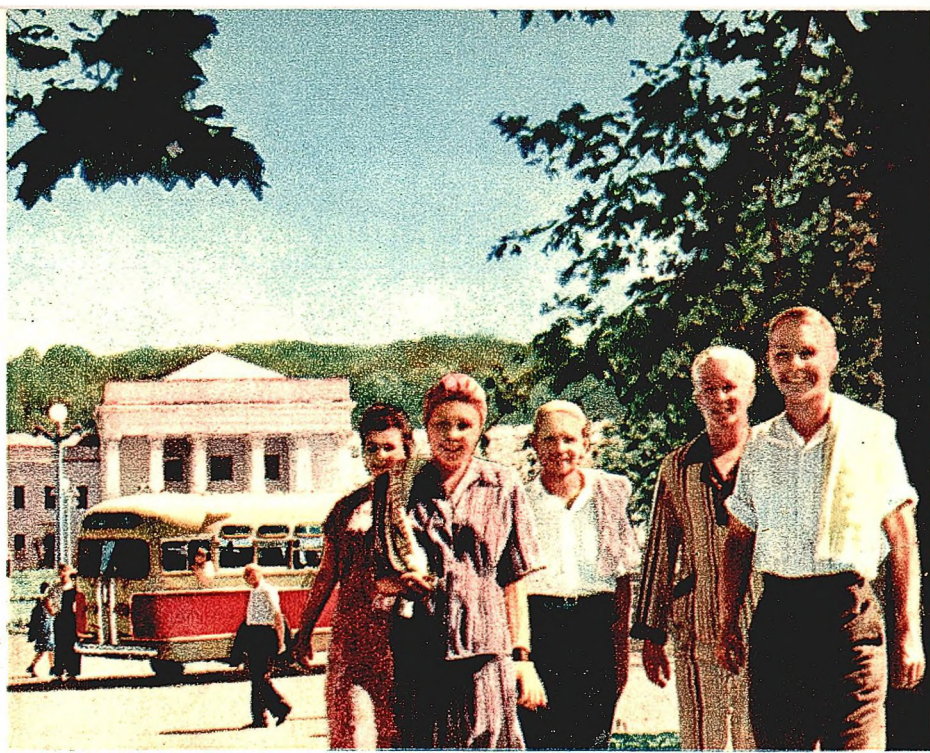


REST HOMES

Tambov collective farmer and Siberian miner, cabinet minister and steel smelter, poet and automobile worker — all alike have the opportunity to avail themselves of the splendid health resorts and sanatoria placed at their disposal by the Soviet government.

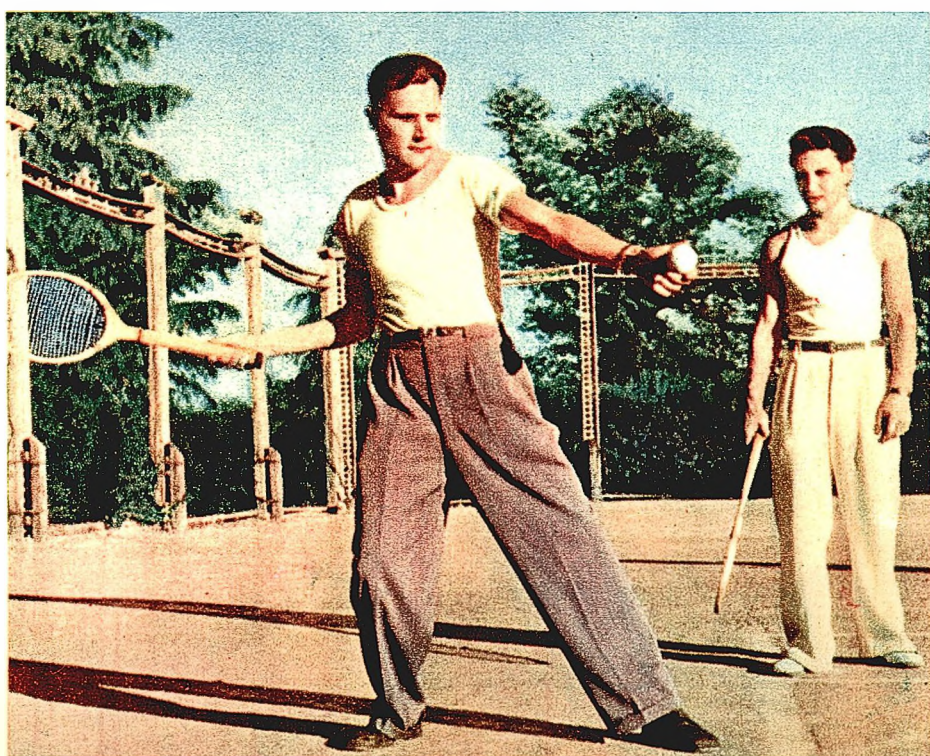
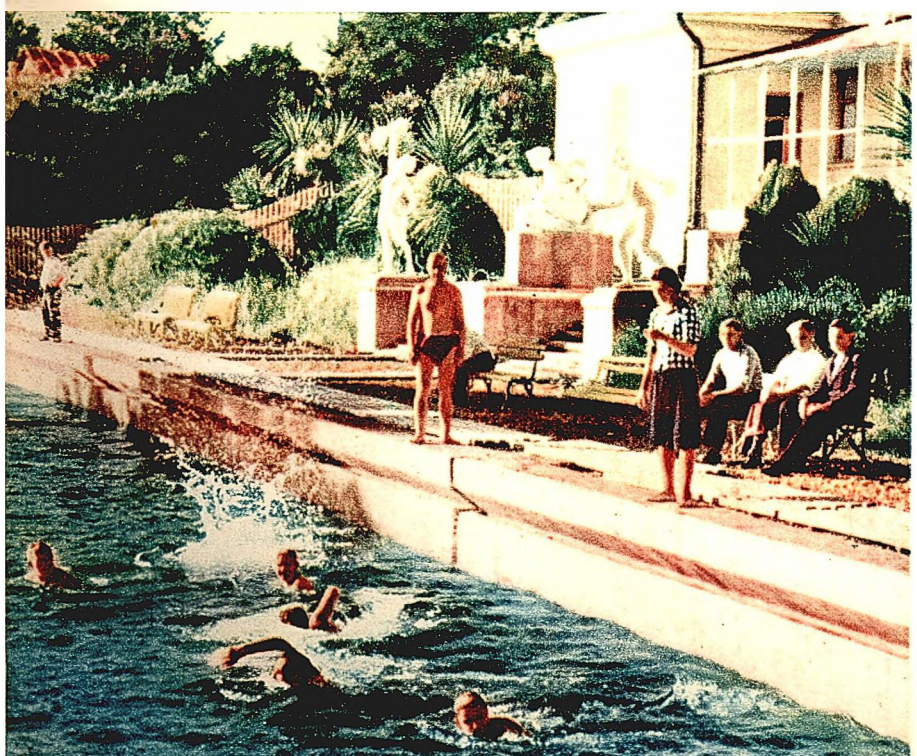
In Kislovodsk and Sochi, in Sukhumi and Yalta, in Yessentuki and Eupatoria, in the Altai and on the shores of the Gulf of Riga, wherever there are medicinal waters, sea, sunlight and invigorating air, the Soviet state builds palatial health resorts and rest homes for the working people. The number grows from year to year. Millions spend their annual vacations here. This is the right to rest and leisure of the citizens of the USSR written into the Stalin Constitution realised in practice.

Here is one of these health resorts — the palatial main building of the Orjonikidze Sanatorium, Sochi, built for miners. Below a group of mine workers and executives spending their vacation at the sanatorium.



The motor road along the Black Sea shore, by which motorbuses carry rest-curers from the seaside resort of Sochi to the mineral springs of Matsesta.

The rebates and grants given by the government and the trade unions enable workers to rest at the health resorts with their families. A. Baklanov, a young engineer, with his daughter, at Sochi.



The Orjonikidze Sanatorium has a salt-water swimming pool in its grounds. Water polo contests are a regular feature. In the tennis courts nearby, an instructor is giving a lesson to sanatorium patients.

The successful fulfilment of the programs of the first three years of the postwar five-year plan has made it possible greatly to improve the living standards of the workers. From year to year, their life and free creative labour grow fuller, happier and more fruitful.

Lake Baikal



The grand and austere beauty of Lake Baikal is still primitive and unspoiled. Nature has been bounteous in its gifts to this region. The waters of the lake teem with fish, and the primeval forests on its shores with valuable fur animals. Big deposits of coal, mica and other useful minerals have been discovered in the area. Baikal means "Rich Lake". It might with equal justice be called "Transparent Lake": fishermen out in their boats can distinguish fish swimming at a depth of forty metres below the surface.

Baikal is the biggest fresh-water lake in Europe and Asia (it has a superficial area of 34,000 square kilometres) — and the deepest: in places it sinks to a depth of 1,741 metres. The waters of the lake are fed by 336 big and small East-Siberian rivers. Of the twenty-seven islands on the lake, the largest is Olkhon, 73 kilometres long. Its shores roughly parallel those of the lake.

The Barguzin Mts. and the rocky foothills of the Primorsky and Hamar-Daban Mts. run almost down to the shores of Baikal. The railway skirting the shores of the lake has to tunnel the mountains in several places.

As a rule, the lake is calm. But when the "barguzin" or its wintry companion, the "sarma," blows, Baikal becomes stormy and formidable. The northwestern "sarma" sometimes attains hurricane force — 40 metres per second. Storms may then last for days or even weeks. The waves churn up huge rocks, the spray freezes before it falls to the ground. The fishermen of Olkhon Is. always know when the "sarma" is coming. It is usually preceded by fog, and when the dense milkwhite mist conceals the horizon, they at once turn their boats to shore.



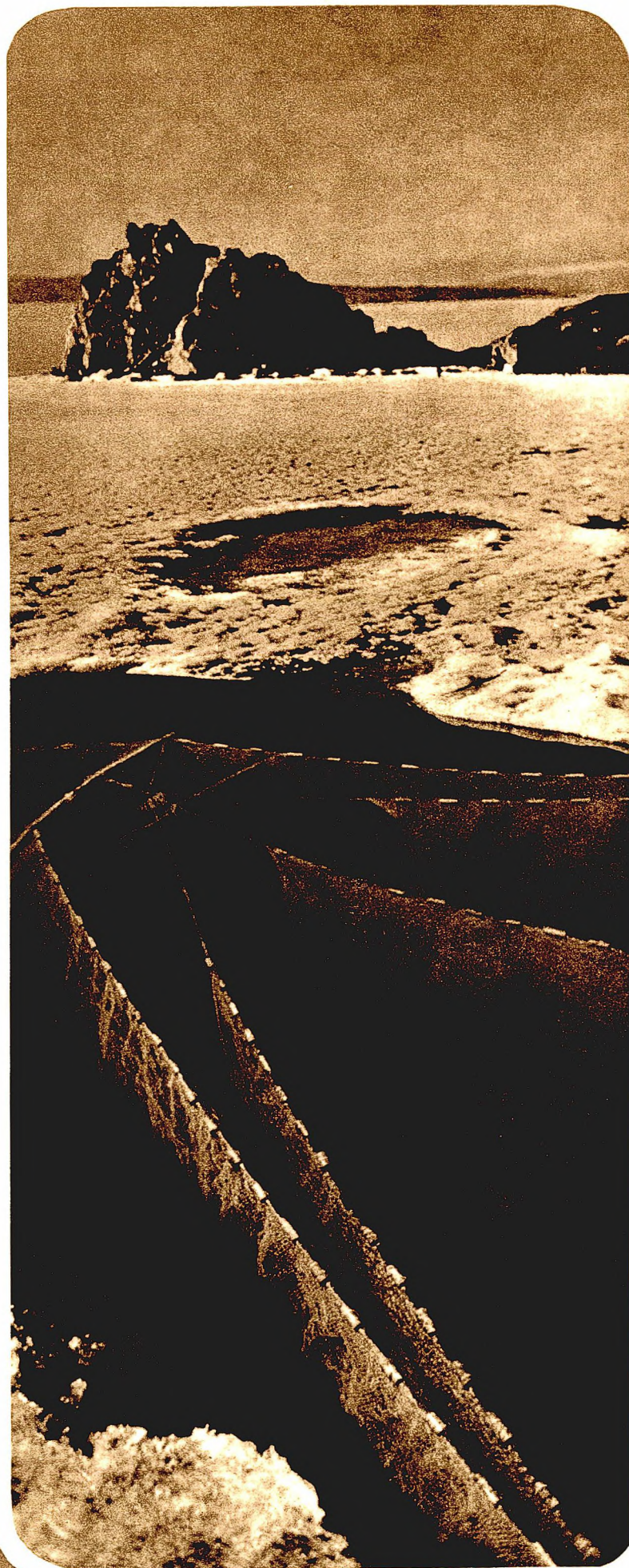
Above: One of the tunnels of the Baikal railway. Below: A fishing smack off Olkhon Is.



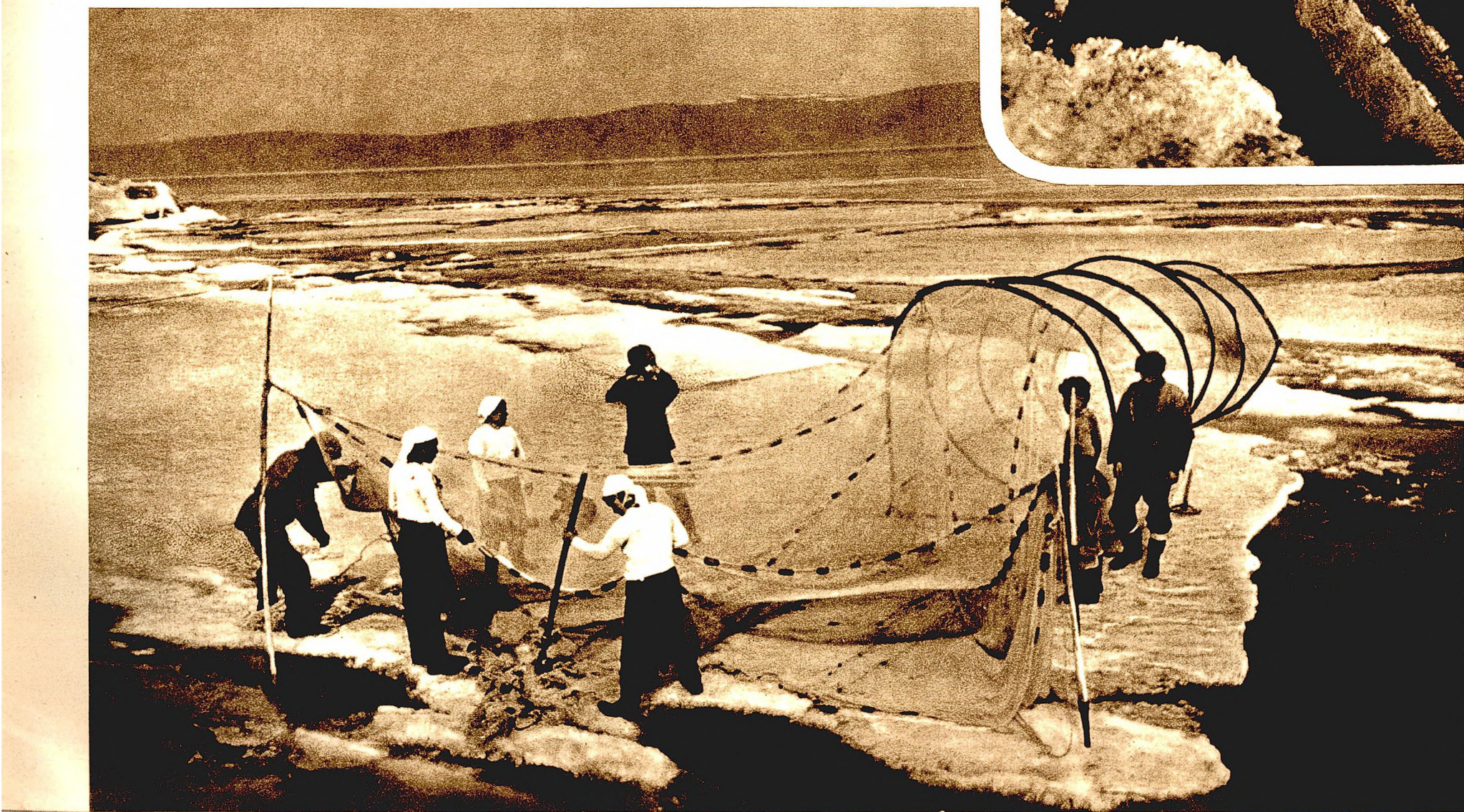


A string of fishing boats being tugged to the banks.

A gigantic seine near Olkhon Is. Shaman Cliff in the background.



Above: Boulders covered by icy spray raised by a storm caused by the "sarma".
Below: Fishing on the ice; the nets are about to be lowered into the water.





A typical representative of the older generation of the Baikal co-operative fishers, Vasily Shibuyev, making a net.

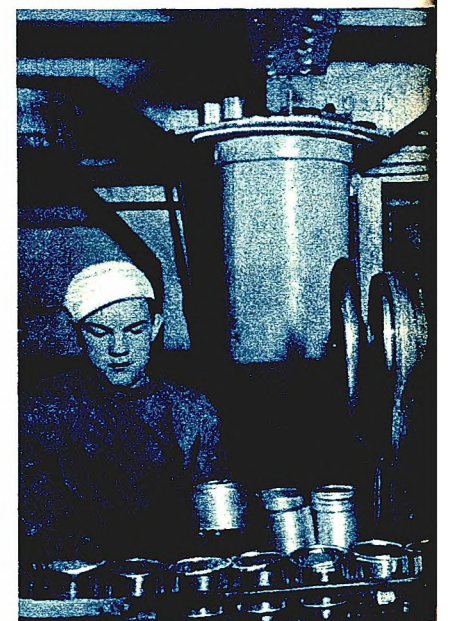
From January to May, Lake Baikal is frozen over. The ice crust, however, is very thin and unreliable, often splitting and forming wide rifts and channels.

Nevertheless, the fishermen do not cease plying their trade during the winter. They do their fishing on the ice. Their nets are like huge sacks kept rigid with hoops; they are lowered into channels or cuttings specially made in the ice. The process requires considerable skill. The fishermen have developed a

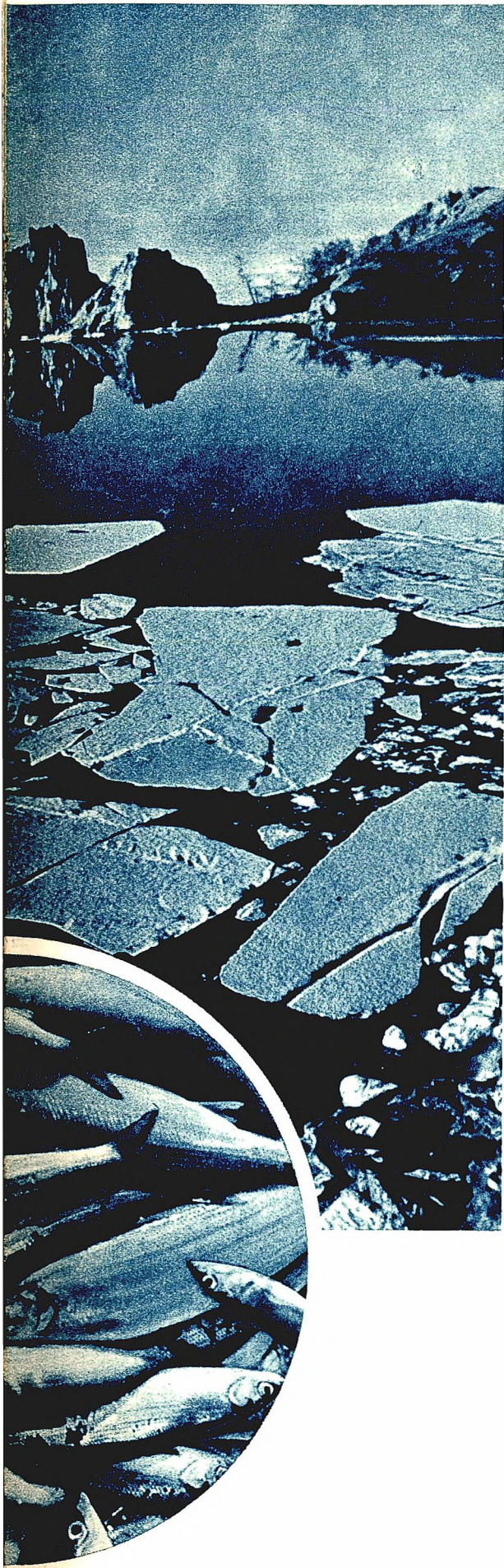
Olkhon Is. in the spring.



Barrels for salted fish on the shore of Olkhon Is.

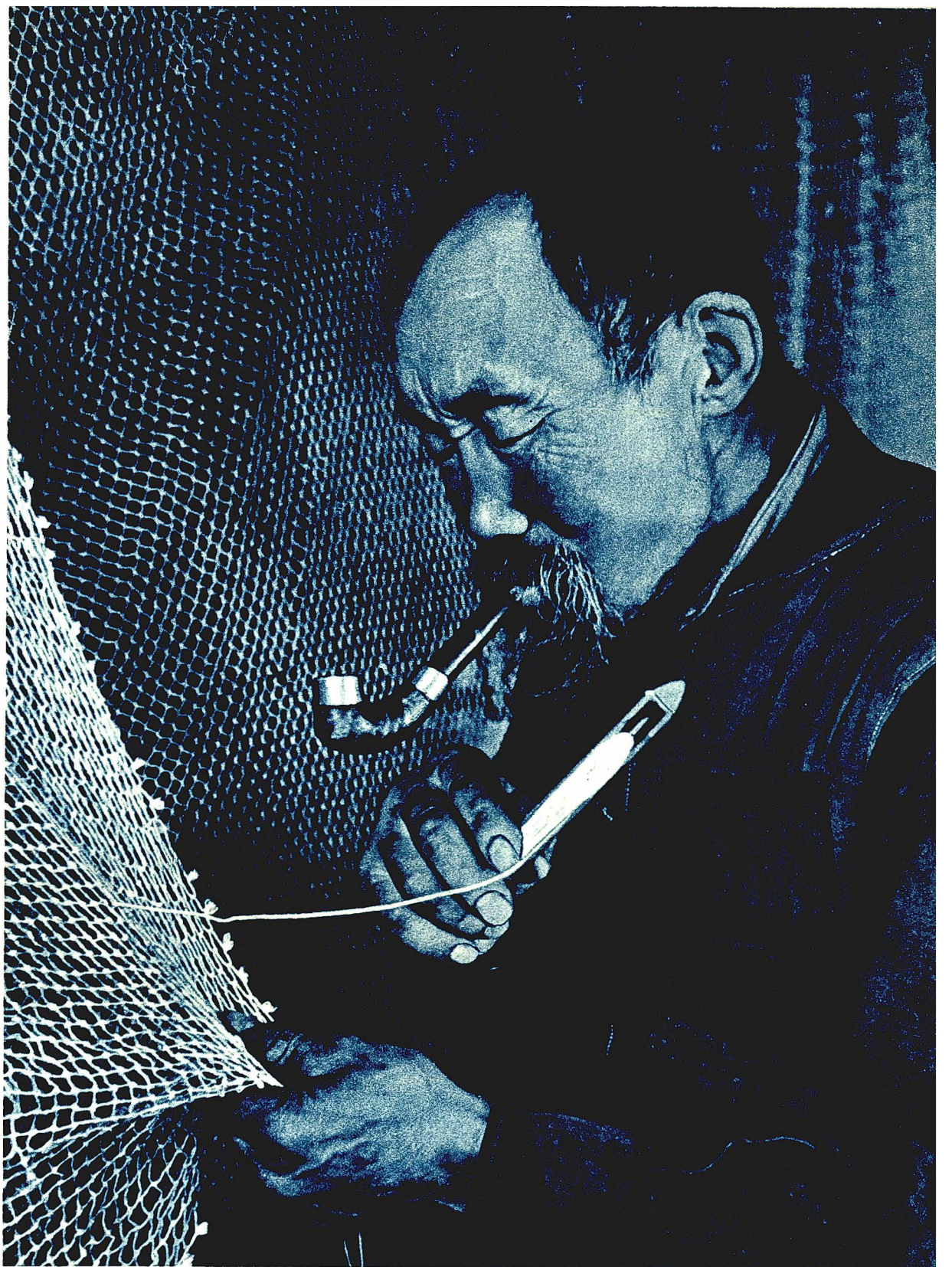


A section of the Barguzin fish canneries.



sixth sense, which tells them where the catch is likely to be most abundant.

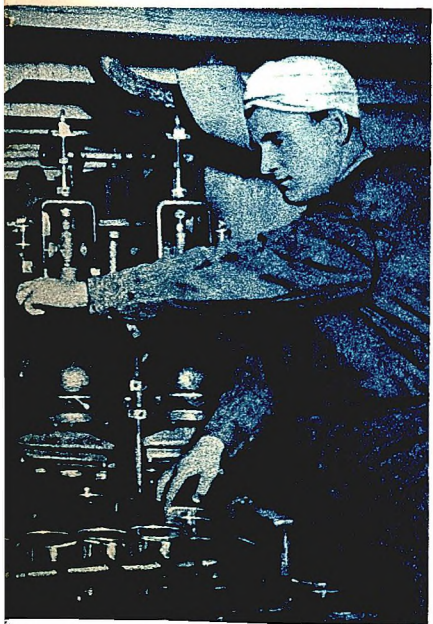
These photographs have mostly been taken on Olkhon Is., where Buryats and Russians, skilled fishermen from immemorial time, live side by side. The fisheries are now run as cooperative societies. Soviet government has brought the Buryats national equality and prosperity. The industry has been modernised with up-to-date equipment, canneries, and salting and smoking sheds.



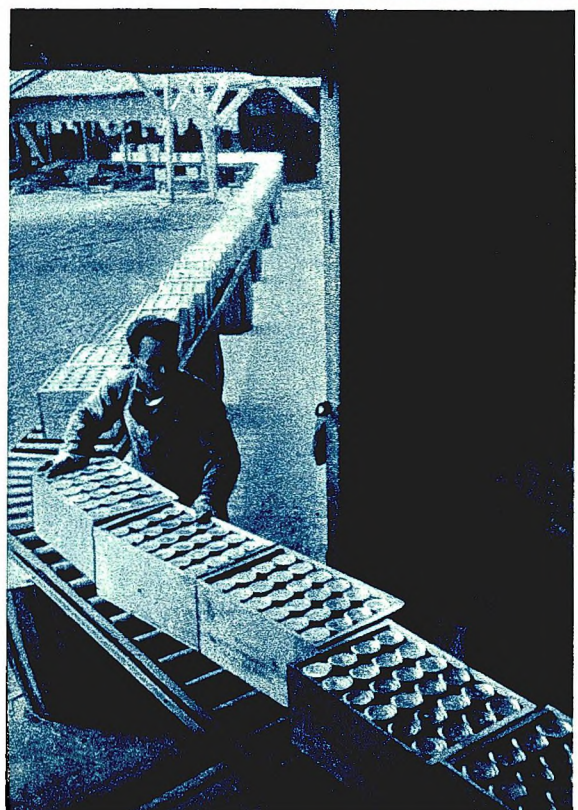
Prokopy Urbazayev, a Buryat member of the Olkhon cooperative fisheries, making a special net for omul fishing.



A noted Olkhon fisherman, Urbazai Urbakhanov. He completed his five-year program in two years.

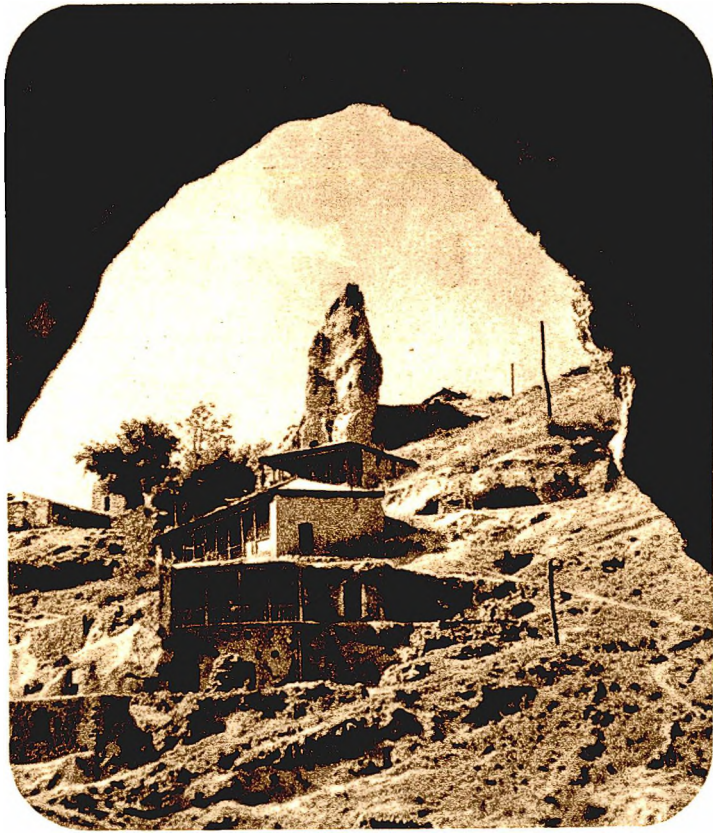


The products of the Baikal fisheries are known all over the country. Their canned omul, sturgeon, grayling and other fish are highly relished delicacies.

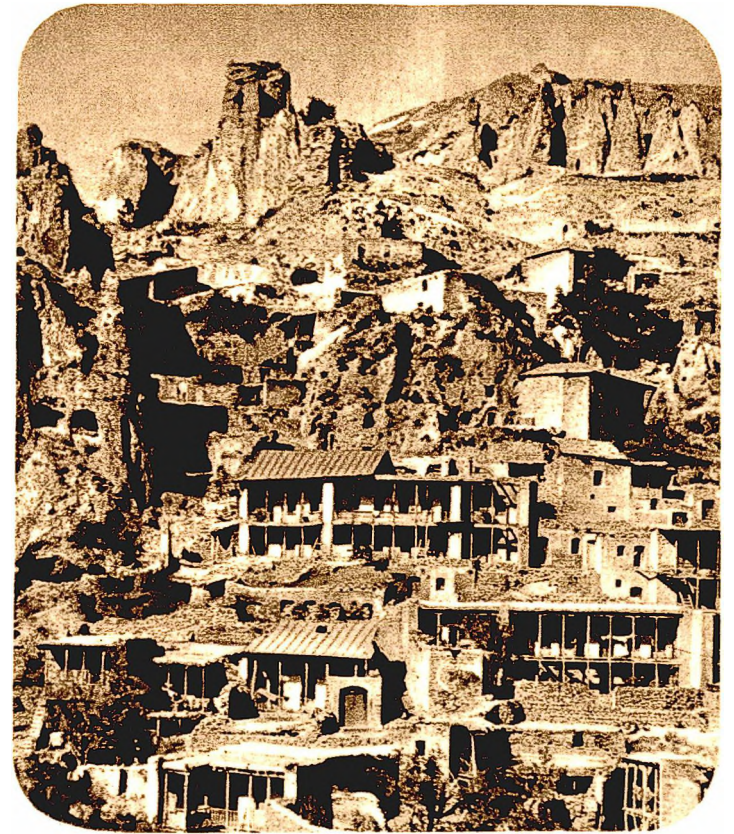




In the



Before the Great October Socialist Revolution, the peasants of Zangezur lived in wretched huts looking like beehives and clinging to the mountain slopes like swallows' nests, or simply in caves hewed out of the rock at the foot of the cliffs (right and left). Only one-third of the population could read and write. The land which fell to the share of the peasants was rocky and unfertile. Agricultural methods were of the most primitive kind. Communication with the outside world could be maintained only in the summer months, by pack animal over mountain paths which were sometimes mere cornices hanging over gaping abysses. In winter even these unreliable tracks disappeared beneath the snow.



Zangezur, one of the highland districts of the Armenian Soviet Republic, is a land of wild gorges, beetling cliffs and dizzy precipices. The stern beauty of this area has been sung by the poet Nizami. "A world of rock, swathed in robes of black," he called it.

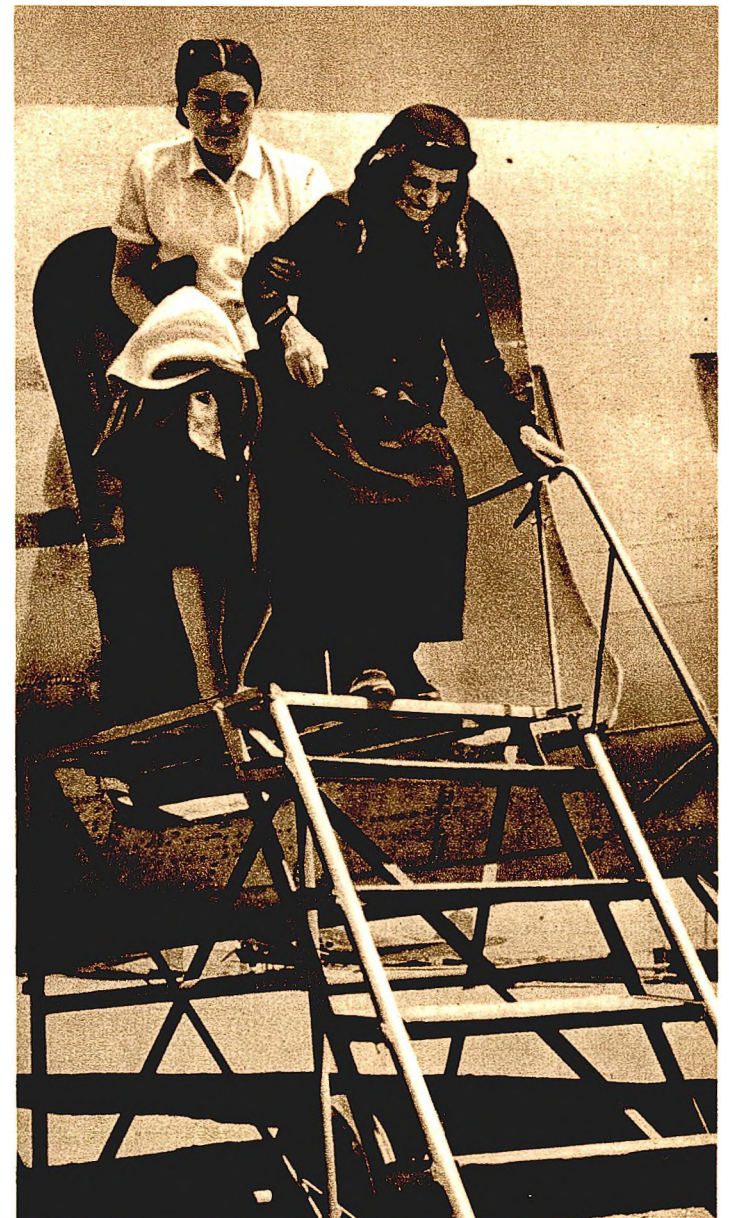
Motor road connecting the towns and villages of Zangezur with the railroad. It swings over deep gorges and past fantastic rocks.



The airplane is now a customary means of communication in Zangezur.

In Soviet times Zangezur has become a civilised and flourishing land. Its untapped mineral resources have now been geared to the needs of the national economy. It is the centre of the copper and molybdenum industry of Soviet Armenia. Motor roads and air routes connect Zangezur with the other parts of the Republic.

Delbar Kazanchan and her daughter, an agronomist, arriving in Yerevan by plane from Sisiyan, Zangezur.



Highlands of Armenia

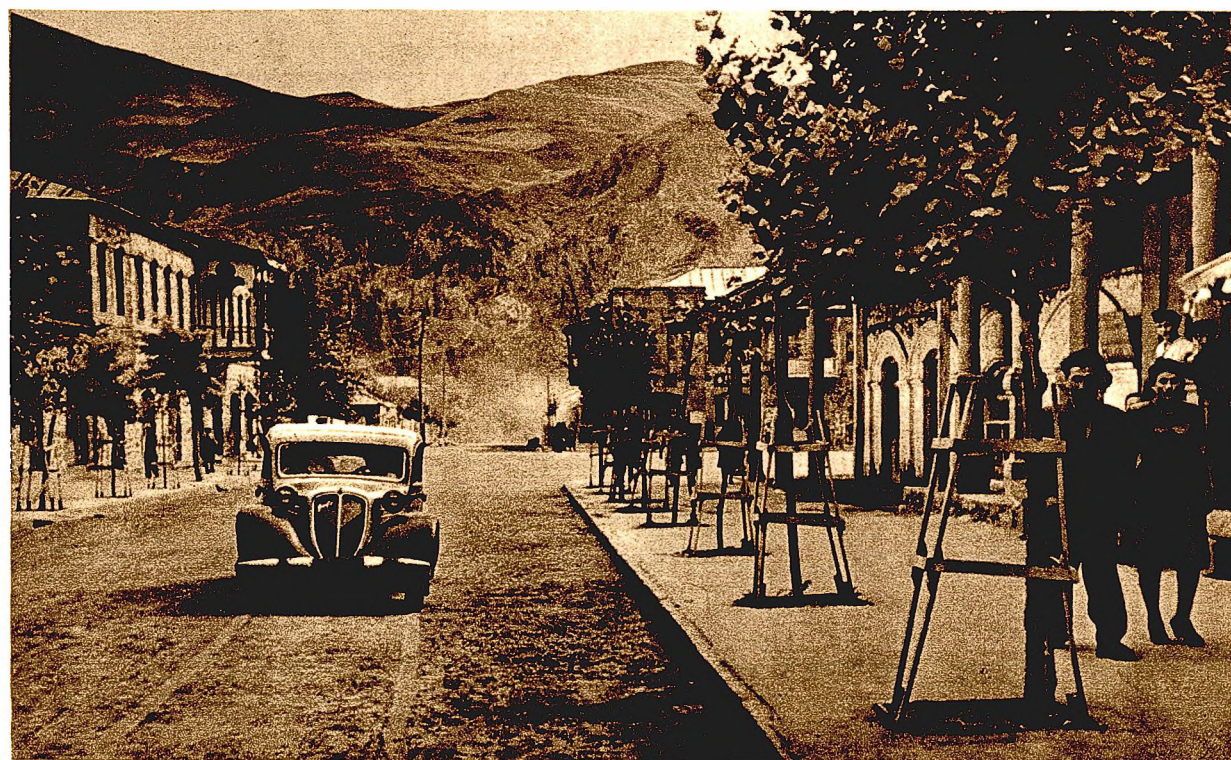
The Stalin postwar five-year plan provided for the building of factories, power stations and mines in Zangezur. They are now in course of construction. Where once only the eagles had their aeries, high-tension transmission lines rear their masts, and ore mine cable conveyors span the gulfs.

The village settlements of Zangezur are undergoing rapid growth, many of them turning into regular towns. Goris, the principal town of the district, has changed beyond recognition. Twenty years ago the people in its outskirts were still living in caves. The streets of Goris are now asphalted and lined with well-built houses, with laid-on water and electric lighting. The old cave settlement has given way to handsome, comfortable cottages, built in the noble Armenian style of architecture.

The villages of Zangezur have likewise been transformed. Each has its school, and clubhouses are being built everywhere, the centres of collective farm cultural life. Cinema and radio are established accessories of the present-day life of the Armenian highlanders.



Foundations of a new club in the village of Nor-Avan, Sisiyan District.



Street in the outskirts of Goris.

This cottage is typical of the rural architecture of modern Zangezur.



A knitting mill in Goris.



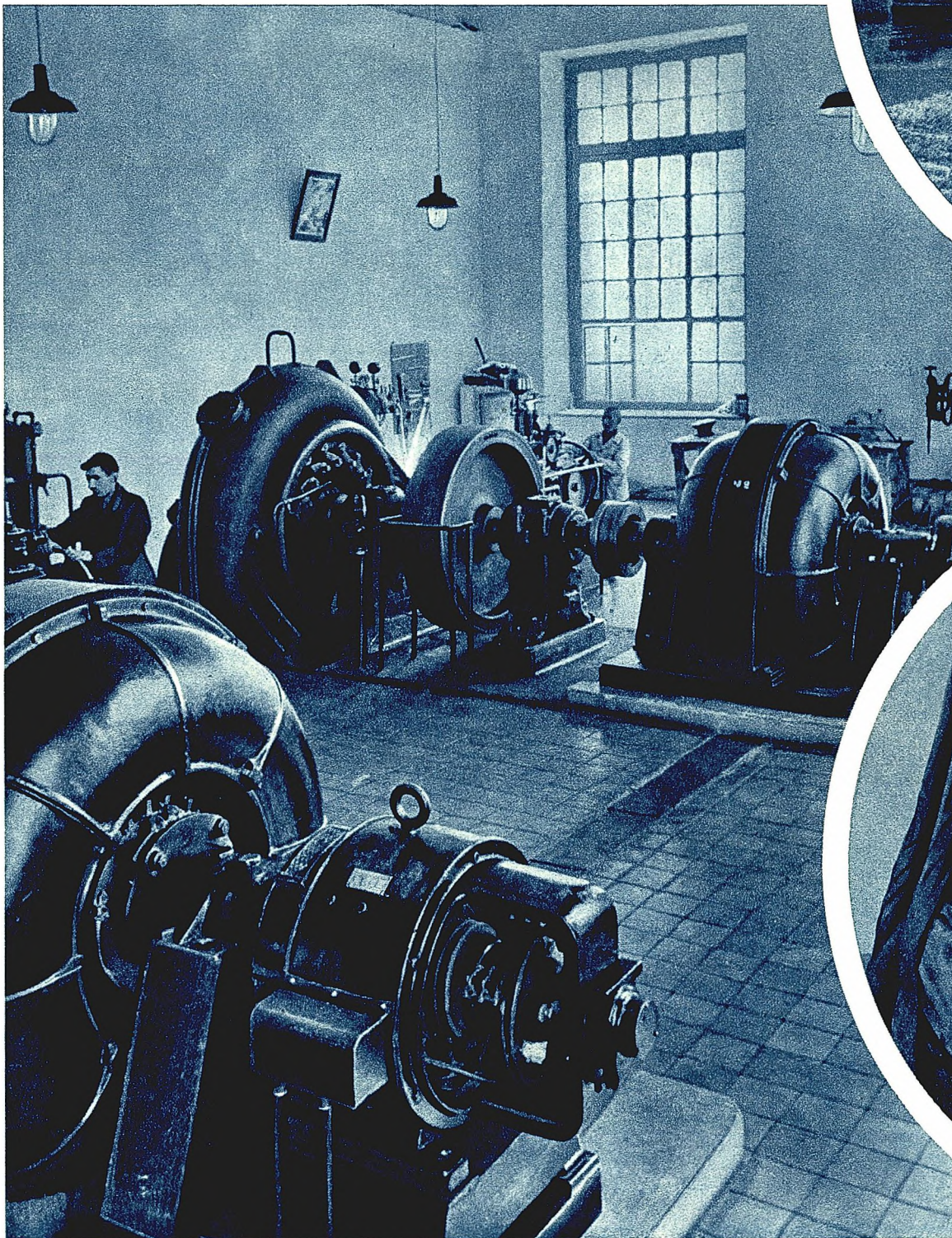
Above: Hydroelectric station near the village of Shaki, Sisiyan District, which supplies power to the district centre and seventeen collective farms. Below: Machine room of the Shaki power station.

Many a power station has been built on the swift mountain streams of Zangezur. By the end of the five-year plan all the collective farms in the area will be supplied with electricity. The current is used not only to light the houses but to mechanize laborious work on the farms.

Collective farming has brought prosperity to the peasant highlanders. They raise big crops and breed pedigree dairy cattle. Many of the farmers have their own automobiles or motorcycles. Books and magazines, good furniture, radio sets are to be seen in their homes.



A power dam, curbing a turbulent mountain stream.



Electricity has been laid on in the homes of the Vanguard Collective Farm. Anush Agadjanyan screws in the first lamp.

Electric power drives the threshers in the Vanguard Collective Farm.



The Zangezour peasants work with a vigour and joy unknown to them before. Last year three of them were awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labour for high achievement in farming, and many received other distinctions.

The want and depression which characterised the highland villages of Armenia in the past has been supplanted by wellbeing and firm confidence in the morrow. This is a direct sequel to the Lenin-Stalin national policy of equality and fraternity.



Besides the collectively owned flocks and herds, each collective farmer has his own domestic cattle. Anush Agadjanyan's family, for instance, has two cows, eight sheep and two goats.

Amaz Minasyan, sheep tender at the Kirov Collective Farm, raised from his flock of 1,402 ewes 1,691 lambs in one year, an achievement for which he was granted the title of Hero of Socialist Labour. Amaz Minasyan is seen breakfasting with his family in their orchard.



Grigor Agadjanyan has been awarded the Red Banner of Labour for high crop yields.

It would be no exaggeration to say that football is today the most popular sport in the Soviet Union. When the Red Army team won the USSR championship for the third time in succession, it received thousands of congratulatory telegrams from all parts of the country. The Dynamo Stadium, where the final match for the USSR Cup was played, accommodates 80,000 but nearly five hundred thousand applied for admission tickets. The unfortunate ones had to content themselves with following the game on the radio, along with the millions of other fans who "see" the match with their ears. Not less than half a million players take part in the various football contests held every year. The sport is equally popular in the countryside, and collective farm teams have their own national contest and their cup.

Every one of the matches of the 1948 USSR Championship and Cup finals was a tough struggle. They revealed that there are at least five teams in the country in no way inferior to the renowned Moscow Dynamo club.



"The match will be played in any weather." This rule is never broken. That is why nearly every spectator at a match takes the precaution to carry an umbrella with him.



Moscow Dynamo's Alexei Khomych saves a goal with a classical leap.



Young Sedov, Spartak back, reaches the ball a tenth of a second before his opponent.



The ball quivers in the net. A pleasant moment for the Spartak forward who made the shot. The Stalingrad Torpedo goalkeeper is probably not so happy about it.



We cannot see the field, but "on the face of it" the moment is a tense one.

ball



Dynamo Stadium, Moscow. It holds 80,000.

When Moscow Dynamo went to England, the home of football, what struck all observers was the splendid team spirit of the Soviet footballers.

The successes of the Dynamo team in England, and their smashing victory in Sweden, were a token of the high level of Soviet football generally. Successes, as a rule, attended the visits of Soviet teams to Hungary, France, Poland, Finland, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and other countries. Of forty international games played by Soviet teams in recent years, they lost only five.

It is now generally recognised that no international football contest can be regarded as complete unless the USSR is represented.

The first-class tactics of Soviet football teams is based on fine general physical training and the high fortitude and hardihood of the players.



A corner kick dropping in front of the Moscow railwaymen's goal. Will the army airmen's team clinch it?



The Red Army team which won the 1948 championship and Cup. They secured the title three years in succession.



An episode in the USSR championship match between the Red Army and Air Force.



Moscow Torpedo, the team of the Stalin Automobile Works, meets the Red Army in the Cup ties.



Three in the net: Margania, Tbilisi Dynamo's goalkeeper, Zharkov, Moscow Torpedo's centre forward, and – the ball! Concluding episode of an interesting match between two firstclass teams.



The cause of all the excitement, and cherished ambition of every team – the USSR Cup.

Mountaineering

1948 was a jubilee year for Soviet mountain climbing: it was founded as an organised and mass sport twenty-five years ago. In celebration of the occasion, 502 Georgian climbers scaled Mt. Kazbek, and another group for the first time successfully stormed Mt. Shkhary (5,184 metres) by the northern traverse, which was hitherto considered inaccessible, and surmounted the formidable Bezingi Wall. Dykh-tau, Koshtan-tau, Dombai-Ulgen and other difficult peaks were scaled from new approaches. In all, 173 Caucasian and Tian-Shan summits were ascended this year by 432 trade union mountaineering groups.

No better evidence than this is needed to show that mountain climbing has become a mass sport in the USSR. Many thousands devote their vacations to it every year. Training camps and bases are provided for them in the Caucasian and Tian-Shan mountains.



On the slopes of Elbruz. The eternal snow looks like a ruffled sea of ice – a result of uneven thawing. Mt. Ullukambashi in the background.



Climbers of the Locomotive Sports Society approaching the ascent to Mt. Gumachi, a peak in the Caucasian range. Mt. Diantugan can be seen in the background.



„Shelter of the Eleven” on Mt. Elbruz (Caucasus) – a hotel located at 4,200 m. During the war its interior was wrecked by the Germans, but repairs are now almost completed.



On the way to the Khotyu-tau pass in the Caucasian Mountains.



Instructor Vitali Abalakov's group bivouacking at high altitude.



A training descent of the Gunachkir cañon, North Caucasus.

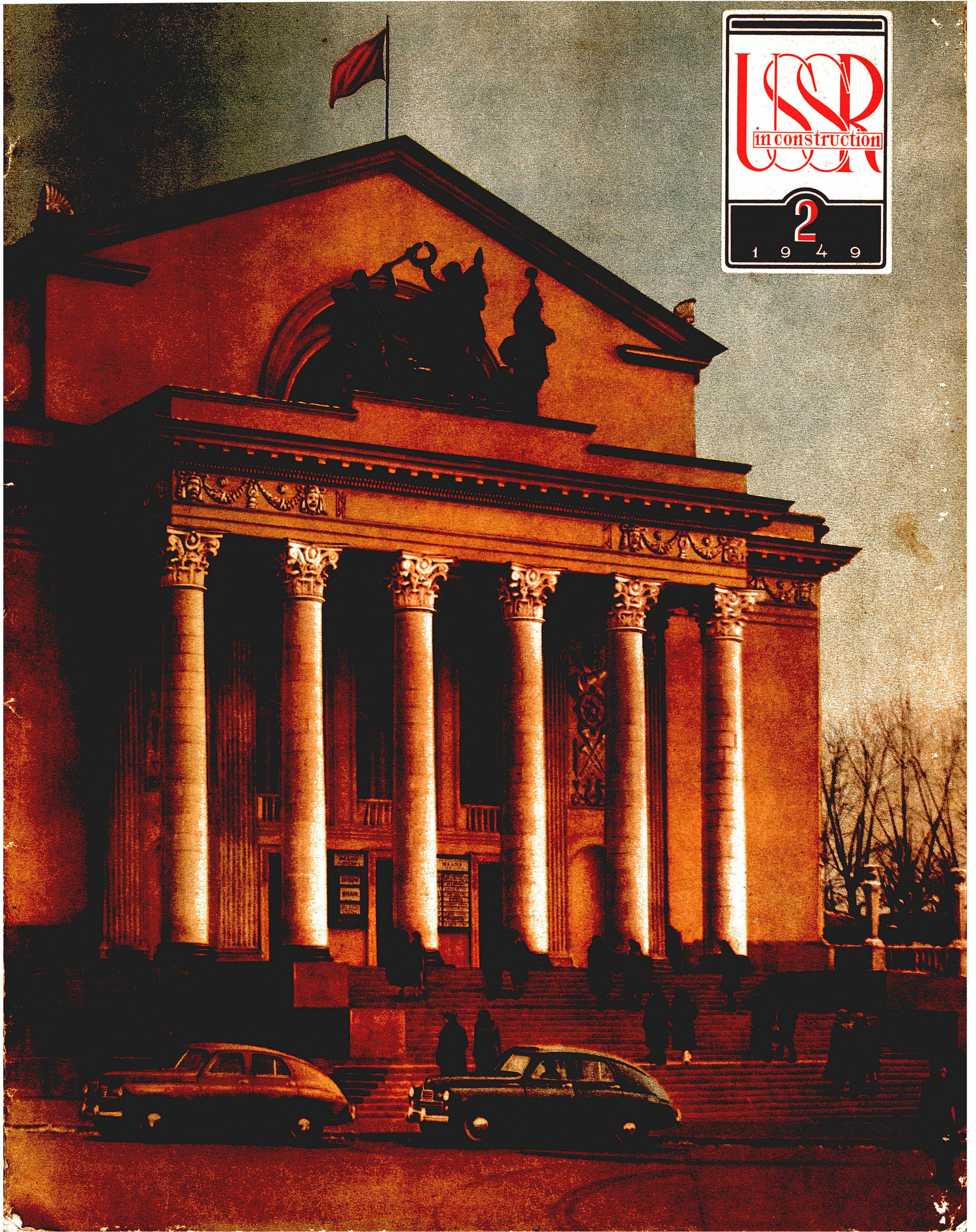
USSR in Construction No. 2 1949

The cover shows a picture of the new theatre built in the Stalin District of Moscow. Photo by A. Garanin.

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Having ended the second world war in an historic victory, the Soviet people at once devoted themselves to the constructive labours of peace. The first postwar plan was drawn up, charting the country's economic development for the next five years. Its objective was to repair the damage caused to the country by the German occupation, to rebuild the national economy; the level of prosperity of the prewar days was first to be recovered and then to be surpassed. By 1950, when the five-year plan is completed, the USSR will have made a gigantic leap in economic advancement. Industrial output will be 48 per cent, and agricultural output 27 per cent greater than in the prewar year 1940. The national income will be upwards of 30 per cent above prewar.

Three years of the five-year plan have now passed, and Soviet industrial output is already on a level 18 per cent higher than before the war. The gross cereal harvest has reached the prewar (1940) volume, while average crop yield is well above prewar.

One of the objectives defined in the five-year plan is:

"To promote agriculture and the industries producing consumer goods in order to raise the material well-being of the people of the Soviet Union and to create an abundance of the principal items of consumer goods in the country."

This objective is well on the way to achievement. The Soviet people have overfulfilled the programs of the first three years of the plan, thereby increasing the strength and wealth of their country.

In its turn, overfulfilment of the programs is reflected in a rising standard of living of the people. The food, textile and other consumer goods industries are increasing their output from month to month.

These achievements of industry and agriculture enabled the government, very soon after the conclusion of a most trying and strenuous war, to place the currency on a firm foundation and to abolish the rationing system; normal methods of trade were resumed, all restrictions were removed from the sale of goods, and uniform and lowered prices fixed by the state. Coupled with rising earnings, the effect of this has been to more than double the real wages of workers and office employees in the course of a single year (1948). The incomes of the collective farmers have likewise risen considerably.

The stabilisation of the currency contributed to increased productivity of labour. And this, in its turn, has made it possible to expedite the recovery and further development of the national economy.

In the USSR, a socialist country, increased labour output is necessarily accompanied by a rise in the general standard of living of the people. The largely increased crop yields, the big expansion in animal husbandry, and the growth of industrial output, notably of consumer goods, have created the conditions for a steady and continuous improvement of the well-being of the people.

The budget of the Soviet worker is not confined to his direct wages; nor is the budget of the collective farmer confined to the direct return he receives for his contribution to the common labour of his farm. Apart from the fact that all Soviet children are entitled to high school education

at the expense of the state, and that many thousands of university students are in receipt of government stipends, the working people of the Soviet Union enjoy numerous additional social benefits which constitute a substantial contribution to their standard of living. All workers and other employed persons enjoy paid sick leave and free medical service. All are entitled to annual paid vacations. Many of them spend their holidays in sanatoria or rest homes. More than 800 rest homes and sanatoria are owned by the trade unions. They are maintained out of the state social insurance fund, which is administered by the trade unions. Workers enjoy the benefits of these holiday homes and health centres either free of charge, or for the payment of a sum which covers only a small part of the maintenance. Women employees, in case of pregnancy, receive maternity leave before and after childbirth with full pay, as well as maternity grants. A number of categories of Soviet employees are entitled to annual service grants, which increase progressively with length of service. It is impossible to enumerate here all the benefits enjoyed by the working people of the Soviet Union the expense of which is directly borne by the state, and which represent a considerable addition to their real wages.

In the budget of 1948, the third year of the postwar five-year plan, 118,000 million rubles were allocated for education, public health, social welfare and social insurance.

The industry, agriculture, science and arts of the Soviet Union are registering continuous and steady progress. The creative achievements of the Soviet people were presaged by Lenin when he said:

"We have the material — in natural wealth, in our resources of human energy, in the splendid scope afforded to popular creative initiative by our great revolution — to make Russia really mighty and abundant."

In this issue of our magazine we shall present a picture of the life of the Soviet citizen in these days of national effort to complete the programs of the first postwar five-year plan ahead of schedule. We shall give individual examples to illustrate the changes that have taken place since the war and which are to be observed in every Soviet city and village.

We select two ordinary citizens of the Soviet Union — Vasily Bobkov, foreman of the Stalin Automobile Works (ZIS), Moscow, and Fedor Matsuk, team leader of the Lenin Collective Farm, Tambov Region. Their life at home and at their job reflects the new, socialist order, which has made the Soviet citizen the master of his country and the arbiter of his own destiny.

The Soviet Union can register big achievements in all branches of socialist construction. True, big difficulties have still to be overcome. But the Soviet people are not daunted by these difficulties, for, citizens of a socialist country, they are unwavering in their faith in ultimate triumph and are marching confidently towards their majestic goal — the building of a Communist society. And their road towards this goal is illuminated by the teachings of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin.