S. Allen Bacon
My experience at the Skyesville, MD mental hospital

After…three months in camp, I had a chance to do mental hospital work, where my wife could also work. So I transferred and we spent the rest of the war in mental hospital work in Skyesville and Bowie, Maryland.

At the mental hospital there was a good deal of feeling against the conscientious objectors. We were there as a unit, and there must have been 25 or 30 of us, including some wives. We replaced men who were drafted and women who got better paying war work. There were nurses whose husbands were in the Army and some of them were pretty nasty, calling us “yellow-bellies” and showing their disdain and dislike in various ways. But it wasn’t devastating and we had our own group for support.

Excerpted with permission from Men of Peace: World War II Conscientious Objectors, Editor, Mary Hopkins, Publisher, Producciones de  la Hamaca, 2010, pp. 51, 52.