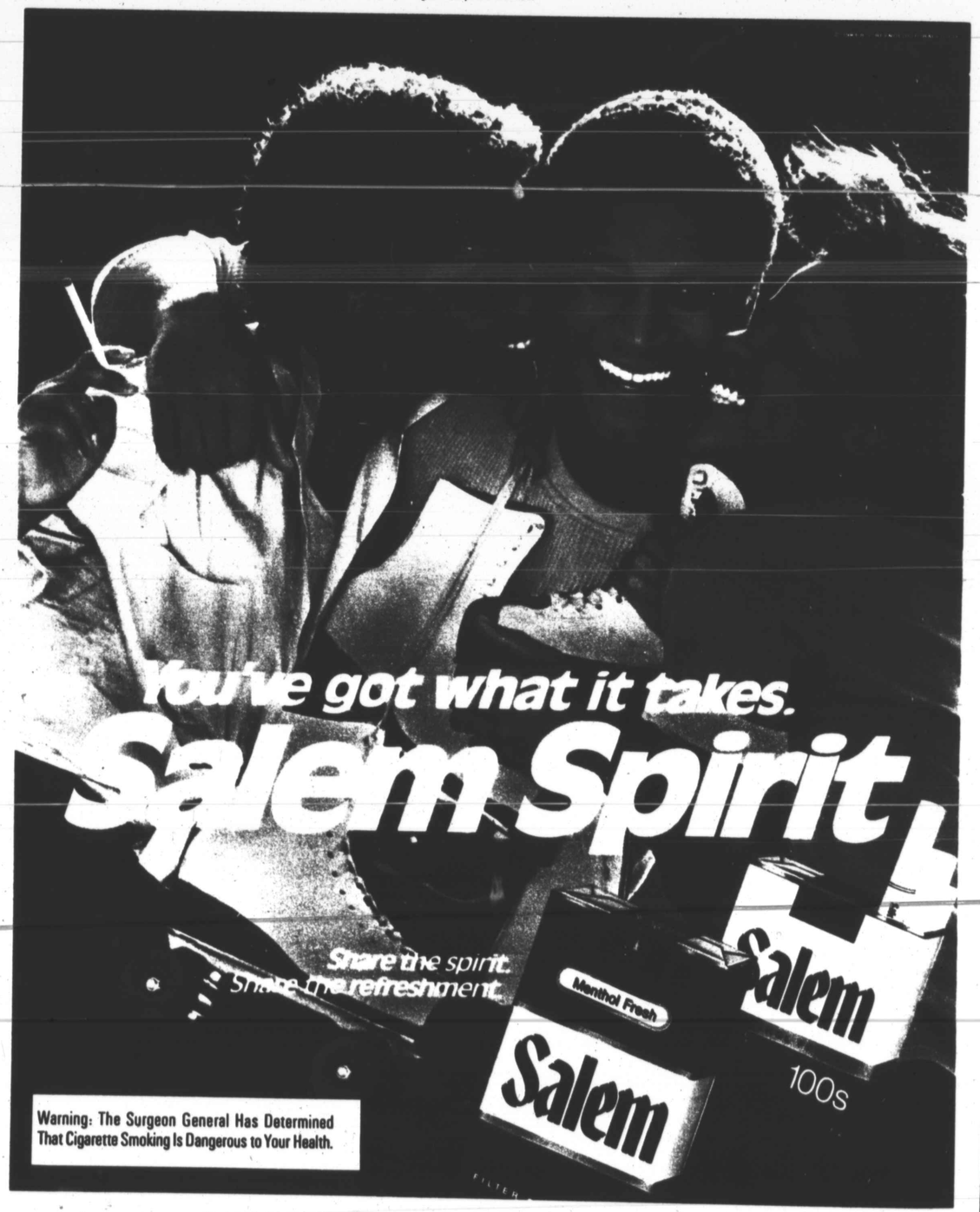
KING: 17 mg. "tar", 1.3 mg. nicotine, 100's: 17 mg. "tar", 1.4 mg. nicotine, av. per cigarette by FTC method.



The Swinging Seniors:

Swinging Seniors Chorus Line — Left to right, Ruby Riley, Myrtle (LaZonda) Hawkins, Bernice Thomas, Sue Brady, Corinne (Chickie) Martin and Juanita Boisseau. Not pictured are Luddie Jones and Lyle Smith.

By P. Ann Tatum

The bright lights, the travel, the excitment of a life on the stage fills a cozy livingroom of a 16th floor East Harlem highrise as Corinne "Chickie" Martin and Kitt (Warren) Wilson relive the days when they performed in the nation's black nightclubs and theaters.

Unlike some senior citizens, these two talented and active women are not content to live in the past. Instead, they are very much in the present as members of a musical revue entitled the "Swinging Seniors",

And, at least in New York City, vaudeville lives again.

Ms. Martin and Ms. Wilson told the Swinging Seniors show began during the fall of 1980. It was at the behest of Jeri Kennedy, who now serves as the group's director, that a group of older show business professionals decided to produce a program benefiting the Kennedy Community Center of New York.

Sitting at Ms. Martin's livingroom table at her small apartment, the two women leaf through newspaper clippings, photographs and programs which tell how the group was born thanks to Mrs. Kennedy's initial efforts.

They were called the Central Harlem Senior Citizens Coalition, Inc., until the name was changed to the Swinging Seniors early in 1981 after their third show, Ms. Martin said.

The first show was billed as a musical extravaganza featuring music from the "Roaring 20's to the Disco 80s".

It debuted November 22, 1980 after several weeks of rehearsal. Ms. Wilson and Ms. Martin said the audience ate it up and things never have quite been the same for the show's cast members.

"The show was such a success", Ms. Martin

(Continued on page 18)

Kitty Warren as she appeared in 1946. She was featured at the Club Orleans in Baltimore, MD.