

French Troops Press Drive Against Rebels

Algiers, Algeria — (U.P.) — Hard-driving French forces are sweeping across the rugged Constantine area in a series of new offensive actions that already have taken 60 rebel lives, French authorities have announced.

The French troops, thousands strong, swung into action all across the easternmost Algerian department against rebels who derailed a train with a mine and set fire to a railroad station seven miles south of the city of Constantine.

There were no victims of either rebel attack but French soldiers were ordered into action in another major crackdown

State Blind School Superintendent Quits

Salem — (U.P.) — Walter Dry, for 25 years superintendent of the state school for the blind, will retire at the end of June, it was announced today.

He will be succeeded by Everett Wilcox, blind school principal, the Board of Control said. Dry was 65 last December. He said he was retiring so he would still have time to do things while he could enjoy them.

Portland — (U.P.) — Walter W. R. May of Portland has been re-elected president of the Oregon Tuberculosis and Health Association.

against the nationalist rebels who hope to drive France out of Algeria.



SEI FREE—James P. Duty, 78, a Harvard Law School graduate sentenced to life imprisonment in 1929 for stealing a car, was set free from Illinois State Penitentiary at Clinton on a writ of habeas corpus which he wrote himself. In 1934 he was extradited to Virginia to serve sentence for jailbreak. After 4½ years he was pardoned and returned to Illinois. He claimed Illinois had lost jurisdiction over him and he was wrongly imprisoned.

Council Against Shorter Work Week

Ashland — The Ashland city council this week voted against extending the 40-hour work week to include all departments. The 40-hour work week will start June 1 for workers in the recorder's, water and electric offices.

Councilman Ken Jones proposed extending the shorter work week to include other departments including the police department. He said it was bad "public relations" to grant a 40-hour week to some employees and not others.

Policemen work a 44-hour week on a monthly salary basis. He noted that policemen do not receive the seven paid holidays other city employees get.

Mayor Dick Neill said the work week cut was not intended for employees other than office workers in the three departments. He noted the cost of a 40-hour week in other departments would require "considerable additional money."

Grant Given OSC for Wood Insect Control

Corvallis — A \$19,000 grant has been given Oregon State college to study ways to control forest insects. The grant, provided by the Foundation for American Resource management, is a five-year study with \$3,800 provided each year.

Research work on testing various insecticides on forest will be done in the forest experiment station under the direction of Dr. Julius Rudinsky, project leader. A \$35,000 forest insect laboratory at OSC is scheduled to be completed this fall.

This is the only research of its kind in the nation. The Pacific Northwest forest pest action committee, a regional group of foresters, made possible the foundation's donation.

A Nichol's Worth of... Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Washington — (U.P.) — "Merlin, the Story Teller" has a big family of friends in the Near and Middle East.



He can credit it to folks like "Uncle Remus." Merlins' job is to help peddle the gospel of America. The pulpit is a table; the medium is a microphone. John Merlin is a New York television actor, on the payroll of the United States Information Agency's "Voice of America." A native of Bridgeport, Conn., he is a graduate of Columbia university, New York university, and Queens college, New York.

John has a weekly 15-minute live broadcast in English, aimed largely at the kids. The areas he covers through the ether, mostly, teach our tongue to the schools, so there's not much of a language barrier.

The cast goes to such spots as India, Pakistan, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Iran, Israel and parts of Africa.

Merlins' fort is American folklore. He spins yarns about the above-mentioned Uncle Remus-Rip Van Winkle, the man who snored the longest, and others. Gun fights over the Mother Lode in California and the space ship travel yarns he leaves to the fancy duns of Hollywood.

He gets a lot of fan mail and, for all he knows, most likely has fan clubs in considerable areas of this world.

A lot of the mail is from youngsters. But the old folks like him, too.

Take a letter from New Delhi, which said:

"We, the old fogies, also enjoy your stories. It makes us feel young all over again."

From another part of India came a letter from the good Catholic sisters in a convent. The nuns, it appears, listen in with the same enthusiasm as the kids. They like John's Bible stories, which he tells well.

The Favorites
John loves animal stories most of all.

"Every animal has a character," he told me.

Kids and big folks often ask for repeats of "how the elephant got its trunk," butterflies, and how the python is "quiet and strong."

From China, the folks write in asking for more about the "bride with one eye brow." Other areas like the one about "the plowing stone."

For the "Voice," John goes on the air only as "Merlin, the Story Teller." He is not identified as an American, but it is pretty obvious to the kids who write in.

His kiddie shows have not sneaked behind any curtains as yet, but one day they may.

DOG'S LIFE
Trumbull, Conn. — (U.P.) — John Kadric resigned as dog warden. He said he particularly objected to telephone calls at 2 a.m. from people complaining about barking dogs.

Ten IFYE Delegates To Visit Oregon

Ten International Farm Youth Exchanges from seven countries will visit Oregon this summer, Glenn Klein, county extension agent, has announced.

Five of them will arrive during May and the rest of them in August, he said. Countries represented will be India, Japan, Philippine Islands, Ecuador, Scotland, Sweden and The Netherlands.

The IFYE program is designed to provide young people from other countries experience in living with farm families in the United States. Young people between 20 and 30 years old spend about three weeks with farm families in at least two states in the United States. They live as a member of that family so that families interested in having exchange delegates in the home may apply at the county extension office in the courthouse. Host families are selected at Oregon State college.

Oregon will send four delegates abroad this summer. They are Marilyn Bradshaw, Albany, Thomas Zinn, Klamath Falls, Carolyn Vartz, Estacada, and Wade Armstrong, Newburg.

Azle, Tex. — (U.P.) — Mrs. J. F. Kimberly proudly pressed the button of her new doorbell Wednesday to show a neighbor how it worked. Faulty wiring set her six-room house on fire and it burned to the ground.

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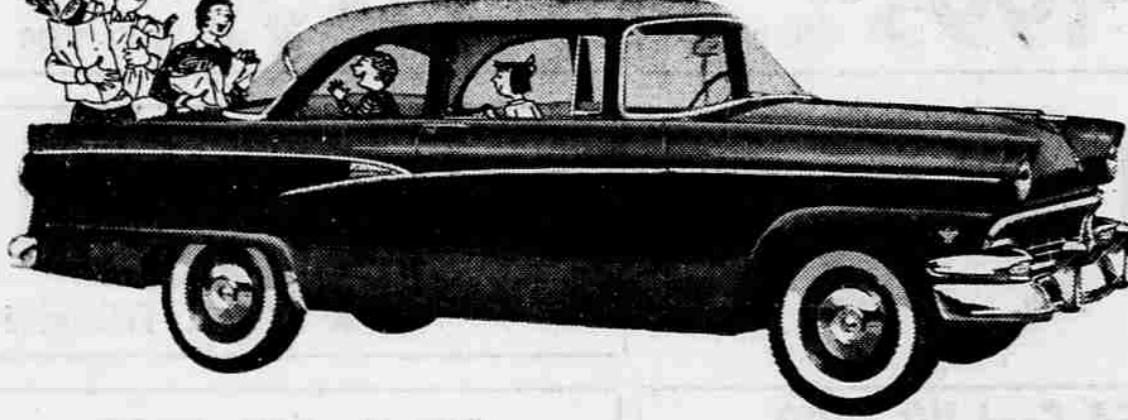
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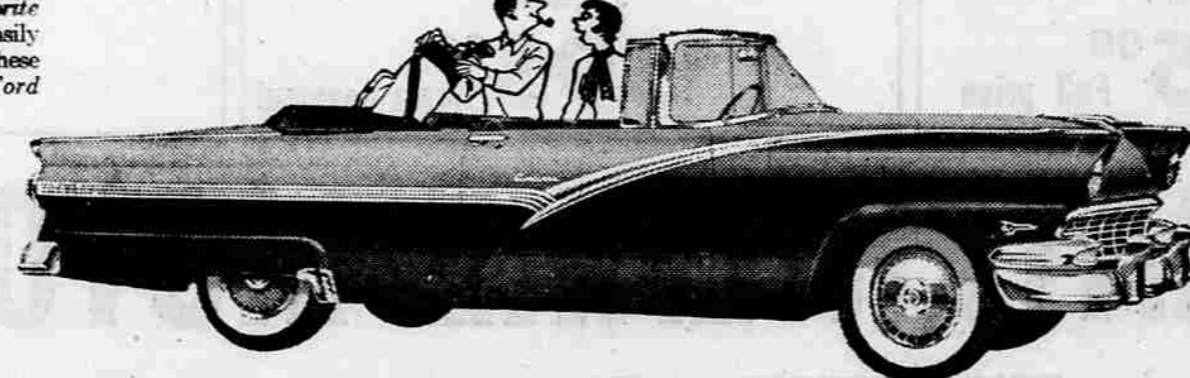
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