

France in About-Face; Prisoners Exchanged



RESERVE AWARD PRESENTED—Col. Samuel C. Grashio, Commander of the 40th fighter group, Klamath Falls, is shown above (left) presenting a defense department citation, for cooperation in military reserve programs, to A. S. Cummins, president of the California Oregon Power company. The citation was in recognition of Cummins' outstanding record of cooperation with reservists and reserve activities of the armed forces. (See story of it in Med.) Gen. Joseph Hicks, USAF (Ret.) now county civilian defense director. (See story page 3.)

Late Shoppers May Boost Holiday Sales

Nearly all Medford merchants are depending on last-minute shopping activity Saturday and Monday to bring 1956 Christmas business up to the level of the past few years.

Although sales in general do not appear seriously under the average for this time of year, few downtown merchants gave encouraging reports this week.

Fog, snow and generally bad weather early in the shopping season seemed to have had a bad effect on sales in many local stores, although a few merchants said customers more than made up for the lag later.

Unemployment in the area, especially in the lumber and sawmill industries, also was considered a factor in slow sales. Reports indicated people were buying as many items this season as in most years, but were not spending as much money as they generally do. A few merchants commented that people just don't seem to "have the Christmas spirit" yet.

One department store manager said sales in the men's wear department are considerably more than the 1955 record, while sales of "frivolous" items have been slow. A women's wear store said sweaters were selling better than usual and attributed this to the novelty styles available this year.

One men's wear store reported business about 1 1/2 per cent behind the average now, but Saturday and Monday shopping was expected to bring sales closer to normal or possibly over last year's record. Another men's wear store reported sales are expected to equal last year's record volume.

Two local photography studios said business was about the same this year as in last year's Christmas season. It was explained that the peak of sales in this type of business usually occurs early in November and continues until about Thanksgiving. Later sales usually involve less expensive items.

At least one local jewelry store reported "business definitely" this year and sales

SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

20 CHRISTMAS SEALS

1956

School Census Shows 29.3 Per Cent Rise

The number of children between 4 through 19 years old in the Medford school district has increased 29.3 per cent in the past year, according to the annual school census report released yesterday.

The size of the increase is largely due to the addition of Dewey, Oak Grove, West Side and a large portion of the Kenwood district during the past years.

A total of 7,809 children were counted in the census, which started Oct. 25 by 10 enumerators. Last year there were 6,040 children between 4 through 19 in the district.

On the basis of the old boundaries, the Medford district increased from 6,040 to 6,634, or 9.8 per cent, this year. In the Dewey district, there were 131 children in 1955, 163 in 1956, an increase of 24.4 per cent. In the Oak Grove district, the increase was 24.9 per cent, from 358 last year, to 447 this year; and in the West Side the increase was from 129 to 149, or 15.5 per cent.

The number of children in the Kenwood district was 458 in 1955, and 416 this year, a decrease of 9.2 per cent. Elliott Becken, assistant school superintendent, said the decrease was accounted for by the fact that a portion of the Kenwood district was annexed to District 6C, Central Point.

The census included all children within the district, including those attending St. Mary's school and Rogue River Academy. The census is taken to give school administrators an estimate for future needs of the district.

By age group, comparative figures for Oct. 25, last year, and Oct. 25 this year are:

Age four, 462 in 1955, 573 this year; five, 462 and 635; six, 529 and 573; seven, 453 and 623; eight, 507 and 573; nine, 412 and 623; ten, 336 and 543; eleven, 355 and 419; twelve, 424 and 462; thirteen, 369 and 525; fourteen, 325 and 458; fifteen, 288 and 402; sixteen, 283 and 356; seventeen, 313 and 344; eighteen, 272 and 378; and nineteen, 250 and 320.

Of the total 7,809, 3,979 are boys and 3,830 are girls. Families with six or more children number 18 this year, compared

to 10 last year, for a total of 119 children, or 1.6 per cent of the total census.

Twins, of which there are 53 pair, total 106, or 1.3 per cent of the total census. There are 16 sets of male twins, 22 female twins and 15 pair of mixed sex twins.

Four of the children in the census were born on Feb. 29, 1944, and 15 of them were born on Christmas day.

Johnson and Johnston are the most common names listed in the census, with 78 Smiths total, 72 Millers number 55, Andersons total 54, and Wilsons number 36.

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CONTROL FIRE—Medford firemen are shown controlling a fire which damaged the roof and attic of the parish hall behind Sacred Heart Catholic church on Oakdale ave., early last night. Several off-duty firemen and volunteers responded to the general alarm fire.

Oregon Traffic Accidents Account For Six Deaths

A Salem woman and a Portland youth were killed instantly in a head-on collision on the Baldock Freeway a few miles southwest of Portland today, bringing to six the number of persons killed in Oregon highway accidents since yesterday.

The Baldock crash victims were identified as Myrtle Ella Barbee, 53, Salem, and Gordon Willis Little, 17, Portland.

Two persons were killed in Portland last night and other accidents claimed lives near Eugene and Ontario.

Automobiles struck and killed two men in Portland.

The victims were John Bergin, 35, Beaverton, and Fred W. Roswurm, 71, Portland.

Wilfred W. Bonner, 50, Junction City, was killed late yesterday in a collision between a car and a pickup truck on the River road south of Junction City.

A soldier en route to his Missouri home after being discharged from the Army died from injuries suffered in a six-car pile-up in the fog near Ontario yesterday. The victim was Bobby Lee Backus, 23, of Belle, Mo.

NO ORDER TUESDAY
In order to permit its employees to observe the holiday, the Mail Tribune will not publish a paper on Tuesday, Christmas Day.

Fire Damages Roof, Attic at Parish Hall

Attic and roof of the parish hall at Sacred Heart Catholic church, 326 South Oakdale ave., were considerably damaged last night in a general alarm fire.

Firemen said they were informed that the damaged structure would be torn down. It has long been a source of concern because of its age and poor construction, they added. Plans for replacing the building were not available today from church officials. It was understood that the church planned to raze the structure this spring.

The fire originated in the kitchen at the west end of the old building. City Fire Marshal Truman Nelson and Assistant Fire Chief Earl Harrison were attempting this morning to determine the exact cause of the blaze.

Fire Discovered
Ted Marcisz, a fireman off duty, discovered the fire, seeing flames coming through an attic louver. Thirteen firemen on duty, 14 off duty and seven volunteer firemen responded to the alarm about 6:35 p.m. Five trucks were dispatched to the hall. The blaze was extinguished

Justice Walter Toozie Dies at Salem Home
Salem—(U.P.)—Oregon Assistant Chief Justice Walter Toozie, 69, died in his sleep here early today.

Cause of Justice Toozie's death was not immediately known but he was thought to have suffered a heart attack while sleeping at his home here.

Mrs. Toozie said she thought her husband was sleeping too long and entered his bedroom to find him dead.

Justice Toozie had been slated to become Chief Justice beginning early next year and announcement by the State Supreme Court of his appointment was planned for next Wednesday.

Egyptian Captives Hurriedly Returned From Cyprus Bases

French Takes Action To Prevent Snarls
London—(U.P.)—The Anglo-French-Egyptian exchange of prisoners of war began in Port Said today. It has been held up previously by Egyptian complaints that the Allies allegedly took prisoners out of Egypt.

France hurriedly returned 160 Egyptian prisoners by liner from Cyprus to Port Said today and six Egyptian officers in Paris were flown back to Egypt.

As a result, a train with 450 British civilians arrived in Port Said from Egyptian internment camps. Egyptian prisoners were being returned with in the exchange.

The British returnees were to embark immediately for home, authorities said.

The French acted to prevent further snarls in prisoner exchange programs and to make sure that current agreements to clear the Suez Canal are carried out without a hitch. The United Nations expected the canal clearance work to start Sunday.

Egypt called off an exchange of 450 British civilian Suez Canal workers when it learned France was planning to intern 160 Egyptians on Cyprus. Britain had planned to send back 160 Egyptian prisoners by train this morning.

The work of removing 49 wrecked ships and two bridges is to begin one day after the last Anglo-French invasion troops leave the Port Said area. Port Said dispatches set the final date as "probably" Saturday.

Bus Segregation Ended in Alabama

Montgomery, Ala.—(U.P.)—Negroes by the thousands boarded city buses as the equals of whites today for the first time in the history of the Deep South.

Leaders urged Montgomery's 40,000 Negroes to seal themselves on a "complete non-segregation" basis—that includes sitting next to whites—but to sit with "calm dignity and wise restraint."

The Negroes acclaimed by singing votes at two large rallies Thursday night to end a week-long boycott swayed to gain a right to sit anywhere on buses of the city transit system.

The U.S. Supreme Court in a decision formally delivered to a federal district court here Thursday denied an appeal of a decision that local bus segregation laws are unconstitutional.

Two Killed, 37 Injured in Illinois Train Wreck
Belle Meade, Ill.—(U.P.)—Two persons were killed and 37 injured today when the behind schedule Illinois Central train Chickasaw was derailed here and eight cars plunged down a 10-foot embankment.

Mrs. Jennie Covell, 70, North Platte, Neb., died shortly after being taken to the hospital, and Henry Hudson, 67, Grovesdale, Miss., died about seven hours later.

Conservative Requests
Many of the youngsters, while eager and excited, were conservative in their requests, asking for one or two articles and stating that whatever else Santa wanted to bring would be all right. One nine-year-old girl told Santa that she wasn't calling for herself but wanted to be sure a needy family in her neighborhood would be taken care of.

Kiwanians were able to arrange the telephone service through the cooperation of PT&T and California Oregon Power company and commended the operators of both firms for their help in enabling youngsters to make the calls.

Schools Close; Shoppers Expected to Start Last Minute Buying on Week End

Schools in Jackson county close today for the annual Christmas vacation while many people started their last minute shopping and Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company made plans for an anticipated increase in long distance calls.

The five-day weather forecast calls for little change in weather conditions in western Oregon, and rain was predicted Sunday and Monday with fog in many valleys. Christmas morning and clearing that afternoon. Temperatures are expected to remain about the same during the five-day period.

Retail merchants in southern Oregon expected a last minute Christmas shopping spurt tomorrow and Monday. Stores will re-

main open until 9 p.m. today, but not all retail merchants will remain open Saturday night, and the majority will be closed Monday night.

Most retail stores, and federal, county, city and other offices will be closed Christmas day. The Mail Tribune will not publish Christmas day.

Christmas vacations in Medford and county schools will end Jan. 2.

and PT&T have asked "the assistance of our customers in easing the situation."

Creager pointed out that customers may help by knowing the number being called to reduce time in placing the call, and making seasons greetings type calls prior to Christmas day to reduce the number of calls that day.

Low rates will be in effect Christmas day, and between 6 p.m. Saturday to 4:30 a.m. Monday, Creager said.

Telephone company officials expect Oregonians to place 15,000 calls to eastern points, and 60,000 calls to cities along the Pacific coast. Creager estimated that Medford residents will place about 7,000 long distance calls on Christmas day.



Medford Stores Open Until 9 o'clock Tonight