

Communist Troops Open Drive On Government Held Changchun In Spring Move

NANKING, Feb. 27 (AP)—Nearly 125,000 tank-led Chinese communists have opened a fierce drive in Manchuria that has swept to within 15 miles of Changchun, the capital, government dispatches said today.

Whether this was the long-awaited push to break the winter lull in that vast region was not known in Nanking, where it was impossible to confirm the Central news agency report.

The government agency in a dispatch from Changchun said the communists quickly overran Nungan and Kutai, 32 miles north and 30 miles northeast respectively of the capital.

Advance units then lanced on southward to Wanpaoshan, a village only 15 miles north of Changchun, the agency added.

This would place the vanguard 50 miles or more south of the Sungari river, which has been the dividing line between the contending armies since Manchuria's long and harsh winter settled over the land.

Previous reports from the zone have indicated, however, that wide stretches on both sides of the Sungari are but lightly held and any attackers in force could move quickly against little resistance.

If the communists were headed for Changchun, they will run into a hard core of resistance because the capital is stoutly garrisoned.

Among the defenders is believed to be the government's well-equipped, well-trained new first army, military observers in Nanking said.

The attackers were under Gen. Lin Piao, commander of all communist forces in Manchuria.

Central news agency asserted they were using a limited amount of armor, including tanks and armored trucks.

The reports overshadowed the fighting in China proper, which in recent weeks has been centering around the Tientsin-Pu-tow railway in central and southern Shantung province.

Low premium rates on all forms of national service life insurance are made possible for World War II veterans because the government bears the entire cost of administration.

Flashes Of Life

STRIP TAX
ROCHESTER, N. Y., Feb. 27 (AP)—A middle-aged taxpayer appeared before U. S. Deputy Collector Francis A. Dalton in the federal building with a problem. "I owe the government \$27.37," he told Dalton, "but it's sewed

on the inside of my underwear and I can't get it out in front of all these people."

Dalton led the way to an unoccupied cashier's booth where the frustrated taxpayer removed his long underwear, and plucked from it the money to meet Uncle Sam's bill.

"This," remarked Dalton, "is the first time I've ever had to strip a customer to get his tax."

U. S. freight trains moved an average of 377 miles in 24 hours in 1945 compared with 247 miles in 1920.

Boston Teachers Come To Portland

BOSTON, Feb. 27 (AP)—The nationwide quest of a Portland, Ore., educator for teachers to fill positions in that city paying salaries up to \$3100 a year was meeting with success in greater Boston today.

Dr. Willard B. Spaulding, superintendent of Portland schools, reported that he had hired 52 in this area and that he hoped to sign up more before he departs tonight. Only eight are men. "It is pretty obvious," he said, "that teachers will go where the pay is attractive."

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Judge Fee Opens Trial

HARRISBURG, Pa., Feb. 27 (AP)—U. S. District Judge James Alger Fee today opened the trial of former Federal Judge Albert W. Johnson, 74, Lewisburg, Pa., and five others on government charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice and defraud the United States.

Judge Fee was brought from Portland, Ore., to preside in the case to be tried in the same courtroom where former Judge Johnson presided for more than 20 years.

Motions by two defendants asking the court to dismiss the indictments against them were denied by Judge Fee yesterday in clearing the way to open the trial.

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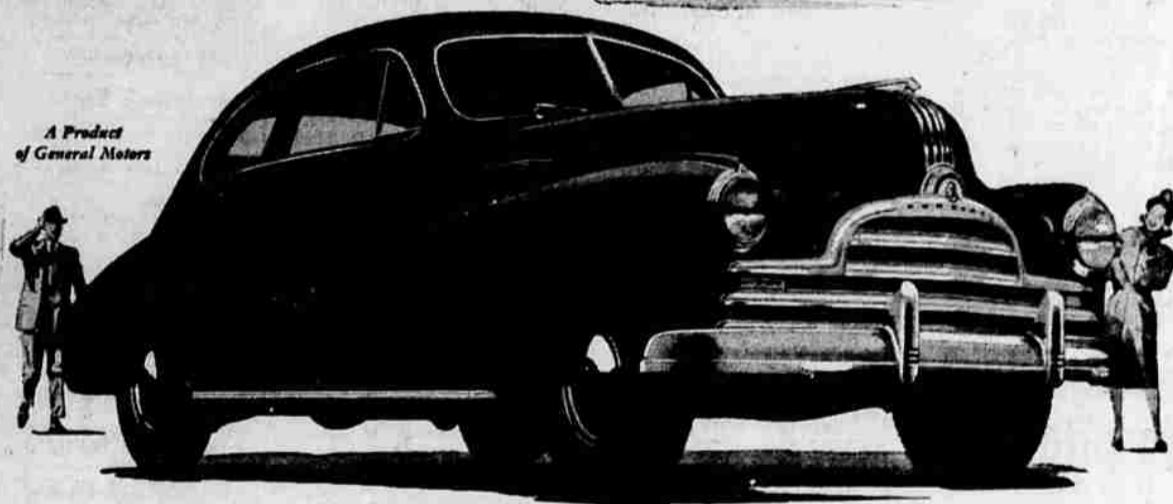
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