

This Wide World

NOUVELLES DE FRANCE

Après 300 kilomètres à la nage dans les eaux glacées de la Garonne, l'homme-grenouille Louis Lourmais est arrivé cet après-midi à Bordeaux.

Sa femme Liliane, qui l'accompagnait depuis plus de 100 kilomètres, arriva la première en vue de la capitale du Sud-Ouest; son mari, les jambes paralysées par le froid, nageait lentement et elle avait dû l'abandonner en progressant à son rythme pour se réchauffer. La jeune femme attendit le nageur du Saint-Laurent et c'est ensemble que Louis et Liliane Lourmais furent salués par les coups de sirène des péniches du port.

A 10s. 6d. book token will be awarded for what the Editor considers to be the best translation of the above received by Wednesday, 20th March. Send your translation addressed to the Editor, Nouvelles de France, Children's Newspaper, Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4. The book token for 23rd February issue has been sent to Lucy Edwards, Morden Lodge, Morden, Surrey.

No more shoe-shine boys in Algeria

FIRST AMERICANS

Archaeologists are hunting with bulldozers in a Nevada (USA) desert for signs of the first human beings to live on the American continent.

It is generally agreed that the ancestors of the American Indians came from Siberia, and crossed to Alaska by a land "bridge" where the Bering Strait is now. Some scientists say this happened about 10,000 B.C. and others put it as long ago as 30,000 B.C.

The bulldozers have unearthed mammoth teeth and also stone implements dating back to about 11,000 B.C.

Air-spotting to help reindeer

When reindeer grazing grounds were frozen in Russia's Arctic regions, tens of thousands of the animals were driven to new pastures located by planes and helicopters.

The barefoot shoe-shine boys, with their boxes of brushes, have disappeared from the streets of Algiers. The government has decided to educate them and teach them other trades.

At an enthusiastic meeting in Algiers, where "operation shoe-shiners" was started, a shoe-shine boy sat beside President Ben Bella on the platform while other "yaouleds," as the boys are called, broke up their boxes and brushes as a sign that the old life was ended.

Helping the yaouleds is not the whole of Algeria's youth problem. As a result of years of war there are many lost children living in the towns, and for these the government intends to establish villages with farms where they can work.

A PIER FOR A SHILLING

In New Zealand a seaside pier is being offered for sale at a shilling!

Built in 1894 at New Brighton, near Christchurch, it is 600 feet long. For many years it was very popular with fishermen and holiday-makers, and a small pleasure steamer made trips down the coast from it. Then it was declared unsafe and closed.

At a shilling, the pier is practically being given away; but whoever buys it will have to spend about £4,000 on repairs.



ATTENTION PLEASE!

Many German cities now use schoolboy traffic pilots to help elderly or disabled persons over dangerous street crossings. These young pilots are all volunteers and they not only help pedestrians but are of real service to drivers of vehicles too.

SPACE BIRDS

Two huge space "birds" with aluminium wings are to be put into orbit round the Earth by the United States next year. The purpose of the wings is not flight—but to find out more about the dangers of meteorites striking space-craft. Measuring 96 feet from tip to tip, the wings will be electrically charged to record strikes by meteor fragments.

Folded during launching, the wings will open out when the two-ton "birds" go into orbit.

Saved by a shell

After drifting for six days, without food or water, in their dismantled fishing boat, eleven Indonesians attracted the attention of a passing vessel by blowing SOS blasts on a conch shell.

Taking Home the Ne-nes

The Ne-ne, or Hawaiian goose, is a very rare bird—and might well have become extinct had it not been carefully preserved at the Wildfowl Trust's sanctuary at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire. Now there are more of these geese there than in Hawaii.

Last year the Hawaiians asked for some of their native birds

from Slimbridge, and 30 were sent out to them by air. In Hawaii Boy Scouts carried the birds in cardboard boxes for a distance of 8½ miles on Maui Island and released them.

Recently these ne-nes, though reared in captivity, were reported to be successfully fending for themselves in their native land.



Ne-nes at the Wildlife Trust's sanctuary at Slimbridge.

What's going on here?



Who are the people in this picture, and where are they appearing?
Answer on page 11

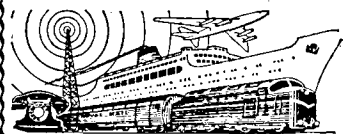
WORKING HOLIDAYS ABROAD

About 800 young people will leave Britain this year to spend working-holidays—farming, grape-harvesting, building—in foreign countries. Nearly 4,000 from 40 countries will come to work here.

These working holidays are organised by "Concordia Youth Service Volunteers," the 21-year-

old movement which aims at encouraging international friendship by providing camps and centres where young people of many nations can work and play side by side. Concordia's address is 188 Brompton Road, London, S.W.3. Volunteers have to be at least 16 years old.

Briefly . . .



School turban

Because of his religion, a Sikh boy at Chesterfield Grammar School has been allowed to wear his turban instead of a school cap.

A youth club at Ilkeston, Derbyshire, has been given a 26-year-old car. After repairing it and putting it through the ten-year test, the boys and girls hope to learn to drive it.

Surplus lions from the Johannesburg zoo have been on sale at about £20 when full-grown and £10 when cubs.

No-clubs club

Axes and clubs have to be left at the door of a new social club opened in a remote part of New Guinea.

The last big phase has started of rescuing wild animals from islands in the Kariba Dam Lake in Rhodesia, which is now approaching its full level. Over 5,000 animals, birds, and reptiles have been carried to the mainland since "Operation Noah" started in 1958.

Schoolchildren in Israel recently planted over 100,000 saplings in honour of the traditional New Year of the Trees.

Guiding light

Experiments with ducks at California University, USA, have proved that so long as the sun is shining or stars are visible, the birds can find their way through unknown territory to their favourite pond.