Smoke Signals













TIP FOR THE MONTH Shirts will come out of the wash really clean if you put them in with towels and face washers. The fabric pile on the towelling rubs soap against the shirts and frees the dirt.

▶ Several Aboriginal rock paintings and stone implements have been found near Townsville, and although tourists can visit the spot (54 miles from the town, at Mount Spec) its out-of-the-way location probably will mean that the paintings will not be harmed. But isolation and Sydney don't go together, and the Australian Historical Society has been wondering how to preserve rock carvings around Sydney. To solve the problem they've arranged to have the carvings traced and reproduced on sandstone for protection in parkland at Belrose.

▶ "Bony" (Napoleon Bonaparte), the part-Aboriginal detective created by author Arthur Upfield, will live again in a film version of the "Bony" stories. Upfield's stories, and his Aboriginal detective, are well-known to millions of people around the world. Michael Powell, film producer-director who will make the films, feels that "Bony's" brilliant mind and native instincts make him one of the immortals of detective fiction. Mr Powell said that the films should have a wide international appeal.

Archie Wallford, a present-day real-life "Bony", recently led the search for two Glen Innes prison farm escapees. Archie, a 27-year-old part-Aboriginal tracker, used a walkie-talkie radio in the hunt, but otherwise could have stepped from the pages of one of Upfield's books.

▶ Charles Perkins, manager of the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs, received his Bachelor of Arts degree at a ceremony at Sydney University in May. As the first Aborigine to receive a university degree in Sydney, Charles deserves the praise he received from all quarters of the community. But apart from his wife Eileen, no one was more proud of him than his mother, Mrs Hetti Perkins. Mrs Perkins came from Alice Springs to see the event, and said that she had always hoped Charles would be able to get his Degree. Mrs Perkins was bewildered by the ceremonial trappings, and did not care for the bigness of Sydney, and its cold weather. She soon returned to her more-acceptable Alice Springs.