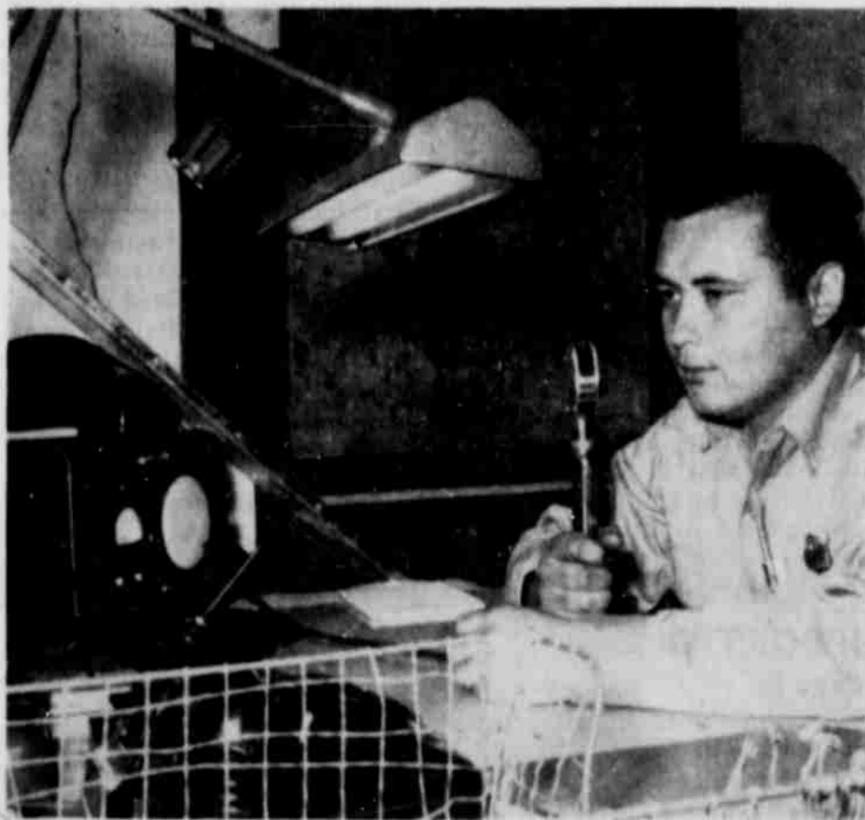


State Forestry Dept. Undertakes Reservation Fire Protection Job



At top, left to right, Billy Crawford, Bob Madsen and Hank Davies map out fire protection strategy on a portion of the Reservation. Arlen David, bottom, coordinates fire protection activities as the new dispatcher.

Since the beginning of termination months ago the residents of the Klamath Reservation have become accustomed to change as the machinery of the termination law moves along to the day in 1961 when the change will be complete. During the spring of 1960 the fire protection of the

reservation forest lands was contracted by the Indian Service to the US Forest Service, who, in turn, contracted the portion roughly lying west of a line running north and south through Beatty, and private lands east of Beatty, to the State Forestry Department. This protection area is made up of the large block of land retained by the Indians under trusteeship by the U.S. National Bank; the allotted lands which have now been deeded outright to the former settlers; lands sold without sustained yield requirements; the 91,500 acre block re-

cently purchased by the Crown Zellerback corporation, and part of the tribal lands which are to go on sale in the near future but but were under contract with the forest service for protection. There is a small amount of additional lands which have been in private ownership for a number of years.

To take care of this fire protection obligation, the State Forester has set up an administrative organization at Klamath Agency, where the tribal council has turned over some of the facilities to the State on a temporary basis. This includes the tribal council chambers, two garages, a warehouse and also three residences. Equipment includes a number of trucks and transports, as well as several caterpillar tractors. Final decision as to the disposition of the property is to be made later in the fall.

Les Cummings, staff forester from Roseburg, is assigned the job of setting up the district and Bob Madsen, formerly of the rehabilitation division in Salem and protection division at Prineville, has been appointed to the District Warden position, and he will remain at the Agency in charge of all State District activities after Les has completed his job there.

Other state employees assigned to the district are: Harry Marshall, Senior Forester, primarily concerned with management of state properties in Klamath and Lake Counties; Earl Brown, Assistant District Warden, who will do inspection work on the reservation as well as deal with problems of reforestation of state lands; and Hank Davies, Assistant District Warden, working in the fire prevention, detection and suppression fields, primarily.

Although Victor Sisson has elected to accept a transfer to another station within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, he will remain on the Klamath Reservation this fire season in a liaison capacity. Billy Crawford has accepted a field foreman job with the state organization, freeing him self from the confinement of the dispatcher job to work more in the field. Arlen David has become the new dispatcher and will direct much of the work activity of the seasonal people in fire protection and in the prevention and suppression of fires. Joe Dumore, Dean Parks, Virgil Wilson, Elmer Duarte, Loretta Wilkie, Dorothy Moore, and Herb and Marianna Snell, as well as many others employed in protection

work in past years will also be working at their accustomed jobs in preventing fire loss this summer.

Two changes in policy will be apparent to those familiar with the operation of the Agency organization through the years. The first is the policy on burning permits. In the past, seasonal permits were sometimes given for certain areas and situations, and a phone call was required at the time of burning to make it legal. It has been decided that such seasonal permits will no longer be issued. State law, for example, does not allow a permit to be written for longer than ten days. In most cases permits may be obtained by contacting any of the Forest Warden stations — Beatty, Sprague River, Yamsey G. S., Little Wocus G. S., Three Creeks G. S., or Klamath Agency. The warden at each of these stations will be charged with making the necessary inspections and then will be empowered to make any limitations he feels necessary, write the permit, or refuse it if he finds the situation too dangerous for safe burning. Permits may be obtained from the dispatcher at the Agency for any area until the Wardens occupy their stations. Since most privately owned lands are included in the state area, this should satisfy most permit requirements. The US Forest Service office at Bly will have the protection responsibility in the Sycan Marsh area and in certain other areas east of the Sycan River and will write the permits there. The US Forest Service at Silver Lake will protect the north part of the reservation east of the Williamson River, while KFPA continues to protect the Long Bell block and some adjacent lands.

The second proposed change is that the side roads will not be closed to travel on the reservation as in the past and this means that no entry permits will be required. There is risk in allowing this additional freedom, but it is felt that local residents have long demonstrated their fire consciousness and will continue to cooperate with the protection effort. It is hoped that if more travel does result, that fires spotted by people in the area will be put out and/or reported by them, thus actually improving the quality of fire protection.

On April 28 the annual budget hearing was held at the Agency. (See story on page 3 regarding this meeting.)