

Mock Disaster Staged For Drill

"Burned" and "injured" children moaned in a "smoke-filled" classroom at Buff Elementary on Monday, September 26, as sirens wailed in the distance.

It could have been real, but fortunately the ugly disaster scene, the result of a "boiler explosion", was a drill — the first of its kind in this area.

The disaster drill was conducted to test the capabilities of area emergency personnel and to point out any deficiencies or weaknesses that could prove fatal, should the real thing occur, according to Sam Hornbeck, training coordinator for the Central Oregon Firefighters Association.

But the scene at the school Monday night seemed frighteningly real. When the alarm sounded at 6:35 p.m., the classroom with 16 "victims" was in shambles and totally dark.

Nine minutes after the alarm was sounded, the first rescue rig arrived, followed by an ambulance. By 7:45, the last of the "victims" had been transported to Mountain View Hospital.

Firemen, wearing Scott Air Packs (breathing apparatus) laid hose down the hallway, put out the fire, and located the classroom where the "injured" were trapped.

"Oh my leg," cried a young boy wearing a fake rubber wound which was "bleeding". Simulated wounds, some quite gorey, were given emergency medical treatment in the room before the patient was carried by stretcher to a waiting ambulance.

The scene at the hospital was one of planned pandemonium as anxious mothers crowded the emergency entrance at



This is the way firemen found Kenny Suratt, a "victim" in the September 26 disaster drill at Buff Elementary which was conducted to test emergency skills of area personnel.

(Sandy Rangila Photo)

Mountain View Hospital, impatiently awaiting word of their children.

But four doctors and other hospital staff coolly and competently treated the fake wounds as the patients arrived, determining which should be transferred to Bend.

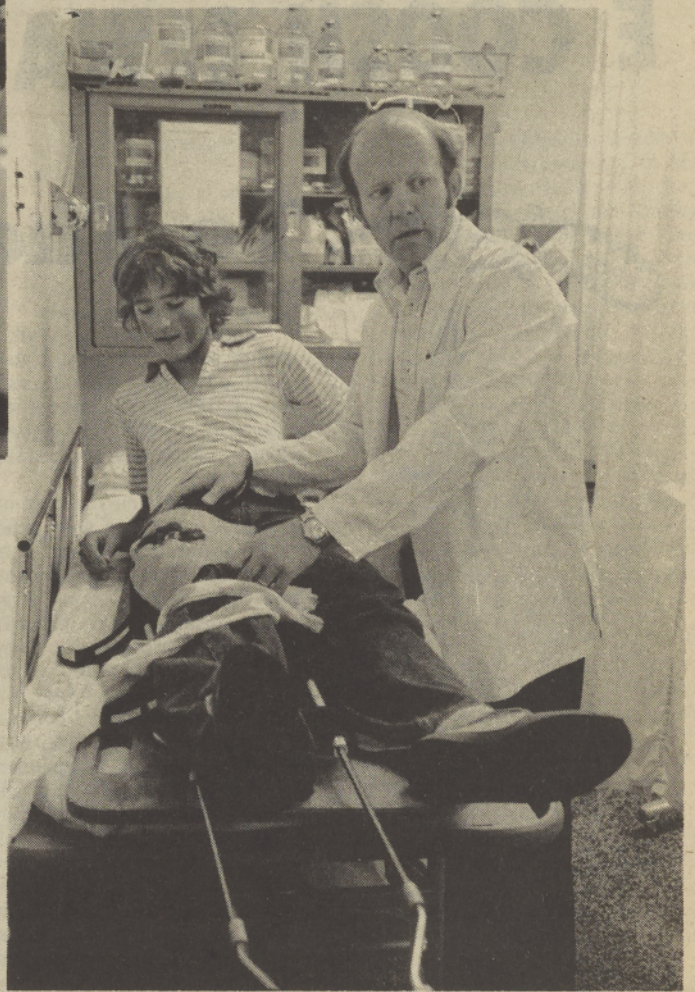
Director of Nursing Evelyn Johnson said later, "It wasn't just fun and games." She explained that a disaster drill is required by law for all hospitals every six months. Hospitals have to be prepared to handle such emergencies, she said.

Hornbeck said he was "real satisfied" with the drill and felt that it had most definitely been worthwhile.

Although there were no "major goof-ups", according to Hornbeck, the drill did point up some weaknesses. An evaluation of the disaster drill is being prepared this week.

One problem that needs to be worked on is communication. Hornbeck cited three problem areas in that respect. (1) Warm Springs was to have been called but never received notification from the Mutual Aid dispatcher. (2) Notification was late to the hospital, and (3) the County Chief was not informed of the "disaster".

Said Warm Springs Fire Chief Jack Fiala, "The drill pointed up one of the things that's got to be ironed out. Why weren't we called? Is it because of the dispatcher not knowing



Dr. Carlos Kemper treated Chuck Crandall's fake wounds at Mountain View Hospital during the September 26 disaster drill. The injuries, caused by a "boiler explosion" included burns, fractures, internal injuries, and serious lacerations.

(Sandy Rangila Photo)

how to contact Warm Springs? (Warm Springs is on a different frequency).

Fiala said he heard the drill went "real well" and agreed that it was worthwhile to catch any deficiency. "You betcha."

The evaluation is being compiled, and COFA officials will meet this week to make recommendations and suggestions in the areas of communication, personnel, hospital, and equipment.

Aurolyn Chosen Miss NCAI Runner-up

Timber, Tribal Sovereignty and Backlash Interest WS Conventioneers

Warm Springs representatives at the convention of the National Congress of American Indians in Dallas September 19-23 came home with a couple of pieces of good news. One is that the formation of a National Indian Timber Council is fast becoming a reality. The other is that Warm Springs' Aurolyn Stwyer wooed the judges and the whole convention and was named first runner-up to Miss NCAI.

Aurolyn said she was "pretty happy" about the honor which may entitle her to some national traveling. Warm Springs conventioneers showed their pride

by staging a banquet for Aurolyn and presenting her with a Pendleton blanket.

Speaking of the experience, Aurolyn said "I kind of got the hang of it in Sheridan at the Miss Indian America contest. I felt really relaxed." Apparently her poise was not at all ruffled by the fact that the hoops for her traditional talent display did not arrive and she had to improvise a poetry reading at the last minute.

Many topics of interest to the Confederated Tribes made it to the convention floor but as usual much of the action was behind the scenes in caucuses

and private meetings.

Seven timbered tribes met and hammered out some details for the formation of a National Indian Timber Council which General Manager Ken Smith described as a "strong advocate for tribal timber programs and making sure we get our fair share in the total BIA budget."

Functions of the Council will be to provide political and technical expertise in seeking legislation helpful to Indian timber interests, to develop marketing and to review existing BIA policies relative to the harvest.

Membership would be open to any tribe with an interest in a

timber resource. It is expected that all members would have equal voice regardless of the extent of their resource. The creation of the Council is dependent on adoption of the proposed by-laws by the seven tribes who are Colville, Quinalt, Warm Springs, Yakima, Spokane, Coeur d'Alene and Makah.

Ken Smith has been a prime mover in the development of the Council which has received the support of newly appointed Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs Forrest Gerard.

In the NCAI general assem-

bly recurring topics were tribal sovereignty and Indian recognition. Forrest Gerard made it clear that his office doors were always open to tribal representatives from whom he expected to get his direction on such matters of national Indian concern. He is planning a meeting October 12 to discuss treaty rights with tribal leaders from all over Indian country - executive order reservations, state reservations, pueblos and rancheros.

Warm Springs representatives in Dallas seemed worried

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Dallas, Texas, September 22

Assistant Secretary Forrest Gerard Speaks To NCAI Convention

After addressing the President Mel Tonasket, Distinguished Guests and Delegates to the convention, he spoke of his hometown where he grew up, and this is in Browning, Montana, on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation, spoke of the climate, his people and also of all those that made it possible for him to be selected as the Assistant Secretary.

After the brief introductory portion of his speech he expressed great concern on Indian matters; also mentioning changes he would like to see made in the Bureau.

He continued to say that there is a great chance for improvement if we all work together. Being in a position such as this could perhaps create a change in Policy, and Attitude that could benefit all Indians.

The survival of Indian rights, land claims could be in danger due to Political pressure; these pressures will not be resolved and positive action should be taken.

Gerard stated his role should be is to keep in communication with The Congress, National Association of Counties, The Governors Conference Na-

tional and Western, and the Council of State Governments.

We should be out among people telling them our side, reminding them of the Treaties, Federal Indian Policy and Trust responsibility.

His new position within the Department of the Interior as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, is a chance for Indian people to be represented at the highest policy levels with in the Department of the Interior and other Agencies.

As Under-Secretary James Joseph told the Committee on Indian Affairs, the Assistant Sec-

retary will not be restricted simply to policy decisions which have direct and obvious impact on Indian Community, but also a chance for input on decisions which govern the operations of the Bureau of Reclamation, The Bureau of Land Management, The National Park Service and other Bureaus that have been in conflict with BIA and needs of Indian People.

This will allow him to be the Advocate not only in the Interior, but also in other agencies of government. A good point, Trust Responsibility, to stand

firm on Treaty and other legal rights the Indians have with the Federal Government.

Strengthen Bureaus capabilities to deal with Trust Responsibilities. Look closely at the Indian Financing Act coming up for re-authorization in the next session of Congress.

In conclusion Gerard stated there was a bill introduced to Congress that disturbed him and it was to repudiate all Indian Treaties and Federal Trust Responsibilities that result from them. Gerard is opposed to that bill and any other of that nature.