

# Heath Home Destroyed

For the second time in twenty years, Lillie Heath's home on the Deschutes River near Kah-Nee-Ta was burned to the ground. The cause of the fire which occurred Monday January 2 is unknown.

According to Benson Heath, who was home with his mother Lillie and a third occupant Buzzy Berry when the blaze started around 2:00 p.m., the house was an "inferno" in a matter of moments and they were "just lucky to get out."

The occupants were unable to save any of their belongings, which included valuables such as beaded leather outfits, baskets, old photographs and recently acquired Christmas gifts. Benson ran to the nearby home of brother Sanders Heath to get hoses while Lillie drove to Kah-Nee-Ta to report the fire.

Kah-Nee-Ta sent their fire apparatus and the Warm Springs Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched but by the time either of them arrived the house was lost. Snowy roads caused delay for the Warm Springs crew.

The Heath home was insured and an arson investigation may be requested by the insurance company, said tribal investigator Ray Scott. The Heaths were burned out of their home in 1959 and they rebuilt on the same site in 1960. Uncertain of their future housing arrangements, they are presently living with Sanders Heath.

# New Task Force To Study BIA Reorganization

Key BIA responsibilities were identified and a three-fold BIA mission was set forth at the first meeting of the newly appointed BIA Reorganization Task Force December 21.

Under Secretary of the Interior James A. Joseph announced December 6 the appointment of the task force to develop recommendations for the Secretary on the reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"Secretary Andrus wants to insure that the trust responsibilities of the Federal Government are carried out effectively, that services to Native American people are provided efficiently, and that tribal governments are strengthened," Joseph said.

"As part of a continuing effort to meet this objective a Task Force on the reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been established to formulate and present recommendations to the Secretary for immediately improving the management, organization and practices of the Bureau."

Under Secretary Joseph said the study is to be comprehensive and the changes will be fundamental — not just cosmetic. He emphasized that the changes will be instituted in an orderly fashion to minimize any hardship on BIA employees and upon established relationships between the tribes and BIA offices.

The eleven-member task force includes representatives of the National Congress of American Indians and the National Tribal Chairman's Association; two representatives of the BIA named by Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Forrest Gerard; Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Budget and Administration Larry Meierotto; and six public members. The public members include Stewart L. Udall, former Secretary of the Interior.

Assistant Secretary Gerard is an ex-officio member. The task force director is Jack Rushing, a member of the Under Secretary's staff.

The task force, which held its first meeting December 21, will schedule subsequent meetings at least twice a month. Recommendations will then be presented to Secretary Andrus at the beginning of this coming April.

During the task force's December 21st meeting, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Forrest Gerard (an ex-officio member of the task force) laid out the following three-fold BIA mission:

(1) To recognize and preserve the inherent rights of Tribal self-government, to strengthen Tribal capacity to govern, and to provide resources for Tribal Government pro-

grams.

(2) To serve as an advocate for the sovereignty and rights of American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native groups in dealing with other governmental entities and the private sector.

(3) To fulfill and execute the federal government's trust obligation to American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native groups.

Recommendations of the American Indian Policy Review Commission and other studies of the Bureau and its responsibilities will be considered.

Among the areas for improving the performance of the BIA which will be studied are: planning, advocacy, trust protection services, human resource development, natural resource development, social service delivery, personnel and administrative services, and consultation.

Members of the task force are: Robert J. Hampton, vice president of ATE Management in Arlington, VA.; Willie Hensley, executive vice president of NANA Regional Corp., Inc., zebue, Alaska; Ted Marston, vice president of Cummins Engine Company in Columbus, Ind.; Larry Meierotto, acting assistant secretary policy, budget, and administration, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

Included are: Lorraine Misiaszak, acting director of Advocates for Indian Education in Spokane, Wash.; Jim Sansaver, reservation program office, Billings area office, Billings, Mont.; Dr. Thomas Sawyer, director of ARIES Consulting Corp, in Provo, Utah; Ronald Toya, reservation program office, Bureau of Indian Affairs in Southern Pueblo Agency in Albuquerque, N.M.

Also, Ray Goetting, National Congress of American Indians in Washington D.C.; Steward L. Udall of counsel, Duncan, Brown, Weinberg & Palmer in Washington D.C.; and William Youpee, executive director, National Tribal Chairmen's Association in Washington D.C.

Secretary Andrus has also invited the Departments of Energy, Transportation, Commerce, Labor, Health, Education and Welfare, Justice and Agriculture to designate representatives to participate in Task Force meetings as observers because of the responsibilities to these Departments for administering certain Indian programs. The same invitation was extended by the Secretary to Rep. Teno Roncalio, chairman of the Subcommittee on Indian Affairs and Public Lands of the House Interior Committee and Senator James Abourezk, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

# Health Branch Has New Manager

Out of 140 applications and hours of interviews a new Health and Social Services Branch Manager has emerged for the Tribes. Bob Jackson, a mental health administrator in Kansas, will arrive in Warm Springs before the end of the month to take over the position vacated in September.

The previous manager, Noel Day, "stepped down" September 13 and responsibility for the branch was placed in the General Manager's office. Administrative Assistant Ralph Minnick guided the branch through the critical budget process and subsequent budget trimming exercises.

Jackson, 45 will take on the challenge of directing an array of departments from welfare to parole and probation. Social

Services have been identified as a priority by both management and the Tribal Council, and the branch's budget has increased 30 per cent for 1978.

Part of the increase is the transfer of the branch manager's position from the BIA to Tribal payrolls. The alcohol and drug programs are also receiving significant boosts.

Jackson said, from his Crawford county Mental Health Center office, that he is impressed with the Tribal Council's philosophy and approach regarding health and social services.

"For too many years, other people have done things for the Indians. This Tribal Council said 'We want to do it ourselves.'"

Jackson has a great deal of experience working with adoles-

cents and sees in them a reflection of larger problems in a community. From his visits to Warm Springs Jackson has noted the passing on of adult problems such as alcoholism to the youth and has heard the community's call for increased parenting skills.

As the new branch manager, Jackson hopes to enhance communication and cooperation among his departments so that they might present more uniform services to the clients and community.

But getting his feet wet and becoming acquainted with his staff will be Jackson's first order of business. "I'd like to hear what people in the organization think and involve as many people as possible in decision-making," he said.

Jackson has a Master's in

Social Work which he earned from the University of Kansas in 1961. In addition to administering a mental health center in Pittsburg, Kansas, he is consultant to state hospital alcohol, drug and adolescent programs.

Previously Jackson had a variety of experiences in direct services as well as administration. He has been a mental health therapist, the administrator of an adolescent treatment unit, a clinical social worker and a psychiatric social work aide in geriatrics.

Jackson is a Korean War Veteran and is married with four children.

He and his wife and their two younger children will be living in Madras, since no housing is available in Warm Springs. Jackson hopes to be on the job by January 23.

# Club Activities

## The W.S. Rodeo Association

The Warm Springs Rodeo Association is planning a club meeting in the near future. The main purpose of this meeting is to elect officers for the coming rodeo season. A spokesman for the club said guidelines will be set up for the new officers in planning of the first rodeo of the

year which usually is the annual root feast rodeo held in March or early April.

Other events will be discussed at the meeting such as dues, membership, other rodeos and roping jack-pots. The meeting date will be posted at all social gathering places.

## North American Indian Womens' Assoc.

Membership here in Warm Springs is up to 25 now after receiving applications from Janice Clements here recently. It is rumored that Janice deliberated in her mind for some time on becoming a member of the organization and finally decided, "What the heck, I might as well be one of the gang."

The next N.A.I.W.A. meeting will be on January 17, and the public is invited to hear special speakers on Drug and Alcohol and other general information on the user and-or disease.

N.A.I.W.A. will have its regular business meeting on February 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

## The Lions Club

At its last meeting held at Alice's Restaurant the Lions Club discussed the raffle of the steer. The steer will be butchered into four quarters so there will be four winners. The steer was donated to the club by Wilbur Johnson. The drawing will take place on February 16th at the Community Center. All Lions Club members will be selling

tickets. On the drawing board plans are in final form for the annual gold tournament sponsored by the Warm Springs Lions Club. The tourney is open to anyone and it will get underway at 8:00 a.m. Snacks and beverages will be sold at various points throughout the course. Other activities are also being planned.



Joining the Spilyay Tymoo staff as secretary is Greg Smith, 18. The able young man, who was featured in a recent Spilyay article about male secretaries, faces the challenge of creating a job and routines where none existed. In other words, he's helping us get our office act together. CDS Photo.