

**DIDN'T HAVE TO HAPPEN** - The November blaze that destroyed Hazel Suppah's home in West Hills was started by candles left burning in the basement. Concerned community members are looking into new approaches to fire prevention and discovery. Spilyay Tymoo Photo by CDS

# Community Expansion Alerts Residents to Protection Needs

... Ten men answered the fire alarm which summoned them to a Warm Springs housing development. The six residents narrowly escaped from the home with their clothes and lives, leaving many memories and belongings to burn in the inferno. The total response time seemed like an eternity but was, in reality, only five minutes. No lives were lost, but the house totally destroyed. Cause of the fire was determined as smoker's carelessness.

Fires, such as the one simulated above happen daily, perhaps hourly, across the country. In fact, the number of fires in Warm Springs took a dramatic 37 per cent jump in 1978 as compared to 1977. Property damage alone amounted to over \$280,000 last year.

Because of those astonishing figures, Fire and Safety Officer Elmer Quinn, along with several other Bureau, Tribal and PHS employees held a safety meeting December 1. Discussed at the meeting were several problems that concern the reservation communities of Warm Springs, Simnasho, Kah-Nee-Ta and other outlying areas. Because that meeting brought out so many different issues, it was decided that a task force should be appointed to prepare recommendations to improve the present fire protection system.

The sub-committee recommended that education and training programs be organized to help the entire community, school aged children and the present volunteer fire department members. One way to help the community understand the true hazards of fire might be to publish and distribute a fire prevention inventory list. The Tribal Safety Officer would offer assistance to residents in administering the inventory. Other ways would be to provide window stickers for each room in the home which is occupied by a child and to place posters in conspicuous places throughout the reservation reminding of fire

danger.

For the education of children the committee suggested films, fire truck visitations, poster contests, fire evacuation practice, and instructions on turning in fires and using fire extinguishers.

Because of the high rate of volunteer turnover on the reservation, it is necessary that a continuous training program take place. Further, it is suggested that a trained volunteer fire department is more attractive for potential volunteers than the situation that presently exists. Training could come from Central Oregon Community College, grant funds or from the State of Oregon. Also, to encourage more people to join the fire department, a youth volunteer recruiting and training program is suggested.

In addition to those ideas, it was advised to maintain a volunteer community awareness schedule by recognizing the location of fire plugs, public building floor plans, becoming familiar with the total community by area and street name and understand any potential community-related fire fighting problems.

Presently, there is no 24-hour fire protection and no local protection in the North End of the reservation, plus there is a lack of adequate protection in the Kah-Nee-Ta area and Warm Springs Forest Products, say committee members.

To solve those problems it is recommended that five persons be hired at the agency as full-time fire fighters with the duty of providing 24-hour coverage. It is also recommended that additional pumpers and tankers be purchased so that adequate fire protection can be provided. In addition, it is advised that the fire equipment at the mill meet the National Fire Association code. The hydrant fittings do not match the hose fitting of the fire department. Adequate hardware should be provided in case of simultaneous fires.

The existing alarm systems are not adequate for the total reservation nor for the expanding high density residential areas. The existing siren system is hard to hear plus it has a tendency to call out more spectators than fire fighters.

A partial solution to that problem, the committee feels, is to purchase emergency alarm equipment for the senior citizens housing and tribal apartments. Also, at least three contact persons for each area on the reservation should be designated to act and assist in immediate response to any fire or other hazardous situation.

Presently, less than 50 per cent of the homes on the reservation have fire extinguishers and there is no way to determine which of the existing ones are operational. It is suggested that the Tribal purchase A.B.C. fire extinguishers and smoke detectors in volume and sell to residents at reduced cost.

It was also determined that one person should have total authority in handling the constant upkeep of fire hydrants and the enforcement of safety regulations on the reservation. As it stands now no one person has the authority to act independently in safety matters.

Nearly all of the 52 fires reported in 1978 could have been prevented, say officials. Five were arson-caused, 19 were home-type fires and eight of those were caused by children. Fourteen were car fires, which includes car accidents as well as engine flareups. Fortunately, there was only one false alarm called in and responded to.

After studying the recommendations of the sub-committee, it was decided that further investigation of the problems and solutions should be made in line with the following four concerns: education, fire protection, improved and additional fire alarms, and the authority issue. On January 12, the entire committee will meet to discuss the findings of that research.

## Fish Dealer charged with illegal sales

By David Whitney of The Oregonian staff

A licensed Washington fish dealer has been arrested on indictments alleging 15 felony counts of unlawfully selling, processing and transporting more than 12 tons of food fish, mostly spring run chinook salmon.

The indictments were returned Tuesday by a Multnomah County grand jury against Mary Settler, who was arrested at her home along the Comumbia River upstream from the Bonneville Dam near Carson, Wash. She is being held in the Skamania County, Wash., jail pending extradition to Portland.

Steve Seymour, a prosecutor with the Multnomah County district attorney's office, said an investigation into the case is continuing.

Charges against Ms. Settler, a former resident of The Dalles, involve more than 24,000 pounds of food fish valued at more than \$48,000.

The district attorney's office said, however, that during the period the crimes are alleged to have been committed — April through August of 1978 — the total illegal sales amounted to more than \$380,000.

The indictments were obtained under a new Oregon law passed by the 1977 Legislature which makes it a Class C felony to catch or market fish out of season.

The spring chinook salmon season was closed in 1978 between April 1 and Aug. 15, when it is alleged the crimes were committed.

If convicted on all counts, Ms. Settler could face a 75-year prison term and fines up to \$37,500.

"On felony fish cases, this office has a strict policy of no plea bargaining," said Multnomah County District Attorney Harl Haas.

"Spring run chinook is becoming nearly an endangered

species in the Northwest," said Haas. "The Legislature has made this crime against our environment a felony, and we intend to follow their lead by prosecuting instances of illegal fishing to the fullest extent of the law."

The case against Ms. Settler, whose age could not be immediately learned, is the first involving a dealer-buyer to be prosecuted under the new law, Haas said. Two other such indictments against fishermen are pending.

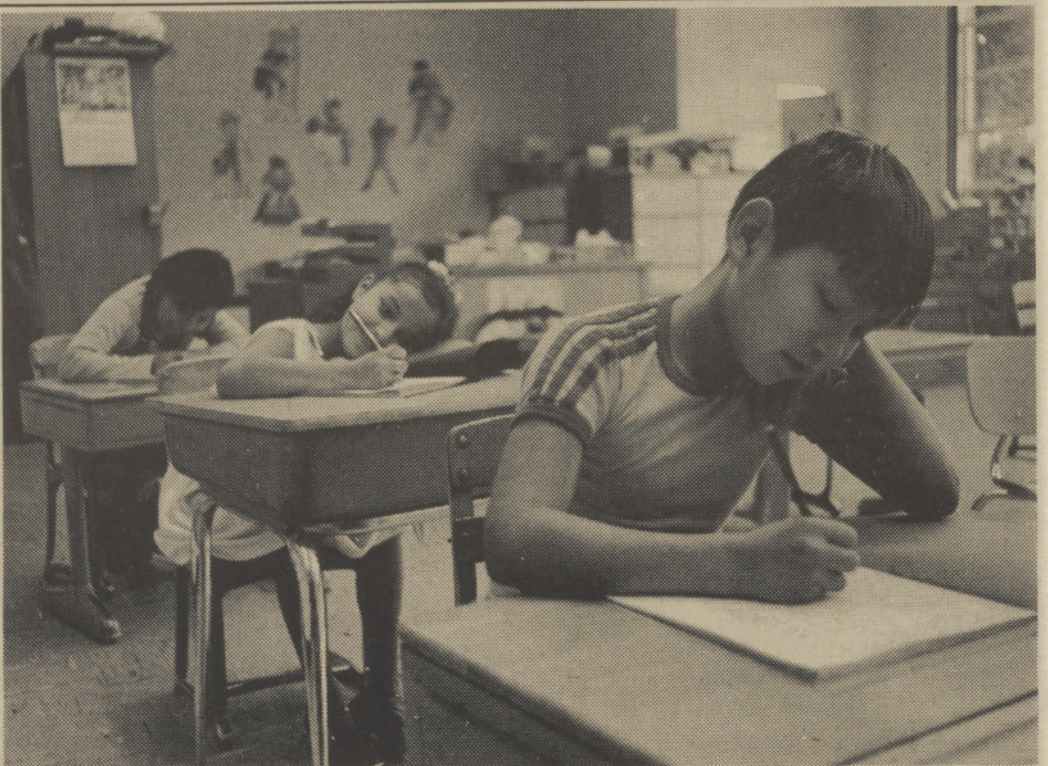
The district attorney's office said the indictment accuses Ms. Settler of buying fish caught out of season by fishermen and then processing them through her packing plant for sale through her broker. The indictment alleges that the fish were transported by air to areas such as Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Denver and San Francisco.

Multnomah County claims jurisdiction in the case because of the use of Portland International Airport for transportation of the fish to out-of-state destinations.

The district attorney's office said William Robinson, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist, told the office that out-of-season fishing reduces the number of fish that can escape past Columbia River dams to spawn.

An escapement of more than 120,000 fish past the Bonneville Dam is needed to sustain the spring chinook run at optimum levels. The 1978 spring chinook escapement past the dam was slightly more than 120,000. But with the 8,500 fish that were alleged to have been illegally processed and sold, the actual escapement figure will be below the optimum level, according to Seymour.

"Evidence shows that (the) operation was responsible for taking 7 per cent of the 1978 spring run of chinook salmon," the district attorney's office said.



**Whiz Kids**

Third graders Flora Frank, Carla Tewee and Clint Switzler have been spending their free class time doing extra work in math. Their teacher Mrs. Cunnion has encouraged the fast workers to go beyond the regular math program and while the rest of the class is catching onto multiplication, they are multiplying with two digits. Mrs. Cunnion says that the extra work keeps the students from getting bored and the students are all for it, since math appears to be their favorite subject.

Spilyay Tymoo Photo by CDS