

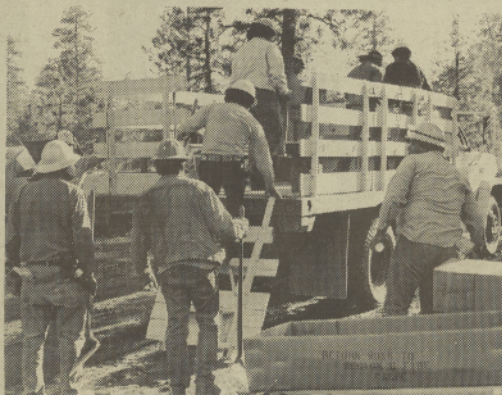
Fighting Forest Fires

Some glamour and a lot of grit

Getting up in the middle of the night, traveling for several hours and digging fire lines can't be all fun. There are the admiring gazes you get from bystanders as you choke on smoke (**right**) stand atop a pumper (**below**), or direct helicopters with their watery cargo (**far right**).

But when it's over for the day you struggle to cut your meat with a spoon in the school cafeteria (**bottom left**) and crawl into the paper sleeping bag issued by people who must have mistaken you for a casualty and slipped you into the temporary morgue (**bottom right**).

Meanwhile, locals who volunteered for the night shift are herded onto a cattle truck (**right**) and given a chance to share the "glamour" of fighting a forest fire.



Photos by
Cynthia Stowell
and
Sid Miller

