

Councilman, pilot survive fiery helicopter crash

Councilman Jacob Frank, Sr. and helicopter pilot Ross Zeller of Corvallis narrowly escaped serious injury when

their craft plummeted to the ground and burned Saturday, July 28.

The crash occurred on the

south slope of the Mutton Mountains about 20 miles northeast of Warm Springs.

Although neither man was

hurt seriously, Frank suffered burns across his back and Zeller received burns on his hands when he pulled Frank from the flaming wreckage.

According to eyewitness Vernon Spino, the helicopter engine sputtered and then was quiet just before the crash. The craft reportedly bounced and rolled several times before it came to rest in flames at the bottom of the slope.

Extension Agent Clint Jacks said that Frank may have hit his head before the copter stopped rolling or when he was released from his seat belts. He had apparently been dangling upside down.

Jacks said that both men were badly shaken but thankful to be alive.

Frank, an Extension department employee, had been flying in the small rented helicopter to locate horses being rounded up in an eight-week program to ease an overgrazing problem on the north end. Most of the tribally-owned horses will be sold for rodeo stock, according to Jacks.

Because of extremely dry conditions related to the hot weather, the burning helicopter ignited surrounding sagebrush and grass. Fire control officer Grover Sixkiller said 132 acres

burned downwind from the crash site.

Engine malfunction is suspected as the cause of the crash, but the incident is under investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration.



NOT MUCH LEFT - Charred and unrecognizable pieces are all that remain of the helicopter that crashed in the Mutton Mountains July 28 with councilman Jacob Frank, Sr. aboard. He and pilot Ross Zeller escaped from the flaming wreckage with no major injuries. Frank, who is always telling the kids to get right back on a horse when they fall off, has already been up in another helicopter since the accident.

Photo courtesy of the Police Department



JACOB FRANK, SR.

Summer work crews leave the woods behind

Employed by CETA through the Tribes' summer work program, the brush clearing crew and field projects crew ended their work today after spending most of the summer vacation in the woods.

The brush clearing crew has been pruning away snowbrush, rose bushes and red stem in clearcuts on the northern end of the reservation. The crew's 21 workers clear the brush away to allow an adequate supply of sunlight and water to small trees and seedlings. If the brush isn't

brush isn't cleared away, it quickly outgrows the trees and

slows their growth, often killing them.

The brush is sometimes tough and not only causes sore backs but also wears pruners out fast. The crew reported five broken pruners on the first day.

Following a cold ride in the back of a truck, it doesn't take very long for the workers to work up a sweat in the hot morning sun, especially when bees and flies are plentiful. But they enjoyed the 7-3:30 workday and \$3.10 per hour pay.

The field projects crew's latest assignment was to

rebuild a corral at Seekseequa. After tearing down part of the old corral, the crew hauled poles and posts, which they cut themselves, to the site of the new corral. Working in assembly line fashion, the crew had the corral built in a couple of days.

It was the crew's second corral. Their other projects included painting bleachers at the softball field and building a fence around the senior citizens' homes. The field projects crew had sixteen workers and the bosses were Brenda Scott and Eliza Hicks.



HAPPY WORKER - Brush clearing crew member Flood Johnson cut brush away from seedlings and small trees to allow more sunlight and water to reach them.

Spilyay Tymoo Photo by Stwyer

News Bits

Vital Statistics is now taking applications for adoption into the tribe. In order to qualify, the child or individual must have resided here on the reservation the past three years prior to application date. The applicant must be the descendant of a member or former member of the Warm Springs Tribe.

Chester Van Pelt is one of three youths selected to go to Washington D.C. to attend a youth conference.

The Credit Department will be closed all day Tuesday August 14, the staff will be on a field trip.

The Tribal Prosecutor announces that if a person is charged with a criminal offense and is bonded out of the Tribal jail; if he does not appear for his court hearing, the two tribal members who signed the personal bond will held in contempt of court for the full cash amount of the bail.

Interested in gymnastics Sylvia Reynolds is having a symnastic clinic at the Madras senior high school August 15-18. Starting at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1-4 p.m.

A tentative date has been set for another flea market October 13. It was said that the last one was a great success.



KISS? - It only took the field projects crew two days to build a corral at Seekseequa once they hauled the poles and posts in. Aldwin Keo and Ronnie Holliquilla (foreground) and Lawrence Shike and Joseph Winishut (background) set posts in as soon as the holes were dug.

Spilyay Tymoo Photo by Stwyer