

# Fire blackens 9,254 reservation acres



**Bucket brigade**

*Spilyay Tymoo photo by Leno*



**Chow time**

*Spilyay Tymoo photo by Leno*

**by Pat Leno**

Hot temperatures, high winds and an over abundance of tall, dried wildgrasses made conditions just right for a fire, and on July 22, the largest fire of this year and last year, raged through the Dry Creek area. The cause of the fire is under investigation but it is suspected that kids camping at Dry Creek on the Warm Springs River lost control of their camp fire,

according to Walt Sixkiller, BIA fire management officer.

The fire was reported at 12:08 p.m. by two reservation lookouts and fire fighting crews worked for 18 hours to control the fire. A total of 350 fire fighters, coming from as far away as the Burns and Umatilla Reservations, fought the burning sagebrush, juniper and grass. The fire covered a total area of 9,254 acres.

Cemetery but the cemetery suffered no serious damage.

It was reported a pumper truck had been destroyed but the truck received only minor damage. No livestock was injured or lost in the fire.

Traffic on Highway #26 was stopped at Bear Springs and Madras and rerouted through Maupin and Pine Grove on Friday afternoon due to the heavy smoke.

Friday afternoon, the fire threatened the homes and trailers in the Dry Creek area. Late Friday evening, the fire threatened the Catholic Church and housing in the Miller Heights area. The fire suppression crews, at times, were working against a fire that was estimated to be traveling 10 miles an hour. The high winds on Friday evening forced the fire through the Agency

Four helicopters were used to carry water to hotspots in the fire. Twenty-four tankers were used on the fire, those tankers were from the Forest Service, the State, BLM, WSFPI, BIA, North Unit volunteers from Madras, W.S. Fire and Safety and one privately owned tanker.

Mop-up operations should be completed within the next few days, stated Sixkiller.



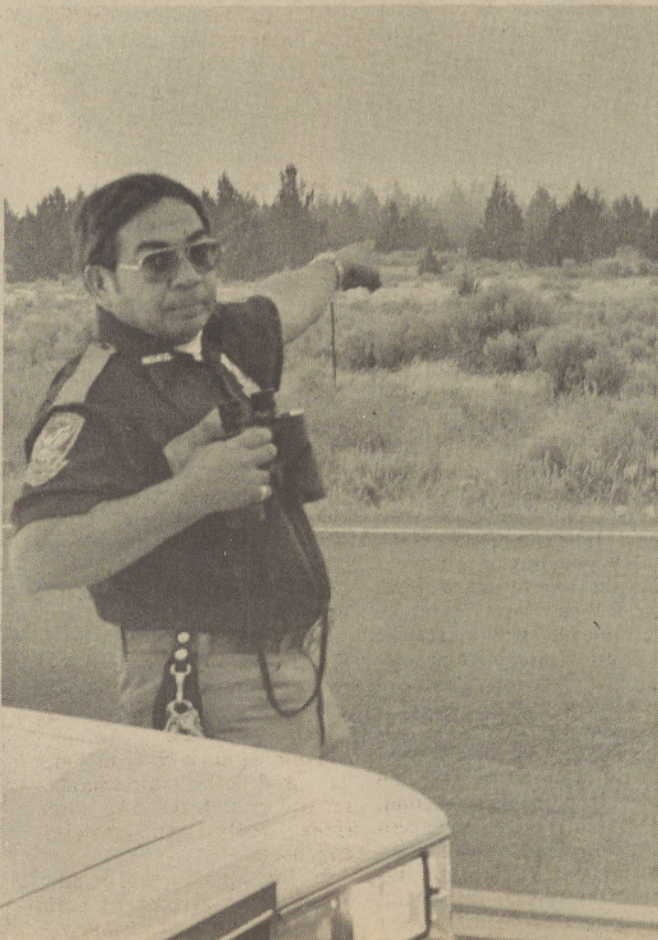
**Raging fire**

*Photo courtesy of Stoney Miller*



**Aftermath**

*Spilyay Tymoo photo by Leno*



**It's moving north**

*Photo courtesy of Stoney Miller*