

## Sho-Ban fighting reservation drugs

by Laverne TopSky

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The Fort Hall Police Department made its first arrest Sunday night in what it calls an intensified effort to stop the flow of illegal drugs on the reservation.

Confiscated Sunday at a reservation home were five pounds of marijuana, an indeterminate amount of hash (a concentrated form of marijuana) and paraphernalia such as scales and ledgers believed to be used in the sale and distribution of the illegal drugs, said Police Chief Mike Ostlie on Monday. The estimated street value of the marijuana and hash was about \$14,000.

Ostlie said the suspect will most likely be charged under federal law for possession, cultivation and possibly for sale of an illegal substance and processed through the federal system. Police have reason to believe the five pounds of marijuana were grown indoors under fluorescent lights.

Ostlie said Sunday's arrest is the first in a series of planned raids on the reservation's drug dealers and part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' intensified effort to eradicate the harvest, distribution and sale of

illegal drugs on the nation's reservations.

"The department wants to send messages to the reservation populous and let them know we're taking Fort Hall's drug problem very seriously," he said.

The crackdown on drug dealers has been timed to coincide with the marijuana harvest season in the region, said Ostlie, and the department is stepping up its search for marijuana fields on the Bottoms and other areas of the reservation where marijuana can thrive.

The BIA has one surveillance plane available in the region for use by reservations in locating marijuana. The plane has spent most of its time this year at the reservation in Hoopa Valley, California, where the pot growing season is now at its height.

Ostlie said his department is concentrating its effort on drug dealers, but will arrest users if they are caught with drugs or paraphernalia which is connected with drug use.

"The department is trying to clean up the dealers and work its way down. . . . As far as the users we're not looking for them, but they can be arrested if found in possession of controlled substances during the normal course of our

work," he said.

He explained that under the federal government's broad description of controlled substances, a person could be charged with possession if he or she had in possession a roach clip or stone with marijuana residue on its surface. A person, however, could not be charged if he or she had marijuana seeds but no leaves which could be smoked.

Ostlie believes the use of marijuana is widespread on the reservation, with the average user about 13 years of age. He said many of the young users seem to smoke pot for "prestige" and to identify with their peers.

"There's nothing to suggest that Fort Hall's drug problem is unique, however, it's here and we're going to contend with it as best we can," said Ostlie.

He characterizes the majority of drug dealers at Fort Hall as lower income individuals who see selling drugs as a fast way to make money. Some grow it outdoors, others ship it from out of state, while others grow it indoors under lights, allowing for several growing seasons a year.

The department's criminal investigators have received training from

the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in marijuana detection and eradication and are now handling reservation drug cases normally handled by the DEA or FBI on reservations.

Another aid in the crackdown on pot is an instrument recently acquired by the department, Loran, which can pinpoint a sighted pot field by air and lead police to its location on the ground. The Loran can also determine a specific location's legal description in minutes, enabling the department to execute search warrants more efficiently and accurately, said Ostlie, who noted that the instrument would also be valuable for search and rescue missions.

Ostlie, who once served on the Colville Reservation police force in Nespelem, Washington, noted that reservations in the country are gaining the reputation of being havens for drug growers and dealers. He said cases of where big-time drug traffickers have bought or leased reservation land to grow marijuana have been documented, especially in areas like California where the climate and land are prime locations for pot fields.

Besides its intensified effort to reduce the reservation's drug problem on the enforcement end, Ostlie said the department's juvenile officer will present drug prevention workshops and materials to students in area schools.

Most of the funding for the department's anti-drug effort is being provided by the BIA.



Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk

Artist Charles Tailfeathers adjusts feather on wax mold destined for bronzing shop. Tailfeathers has completed many drawings but this is his first sculpture.



Spilyay Tymoo photo by Behrend

The first-ever Organizational Information Fair was held at the Agency Longhouse October 23. All tribal departments presented information to interested community members. Approximately 100 people attended the event.

## PP & L offering HELP

For the fifth year running, Pacific Power and Light Company has donated \$100,000 to Project HELP, an emergency fuel assistance program for customers.

Project HELP was initiated by the company in 1982 to help customers during the recession. The need for the program continues, says Dick Laudahl, Madras district manager for Pacific.

"Although the national economy has improved, recovery in the Northwest has been slower," said Laudahl, "and government-sponsored programs often lack adequate funds."

"Last year the Low Income Emergency Assistance Program (LIEAP) helped half of eligible clients. Project HELP and similar local programs go a long way in filling the gap between government funds and community need," Laudahl said.

Project HELP is funded by customer and shareholder donations and is available to all Pacific Power customers who will begin after the first of the year.

Tax deductible contributions should be sent to Project HELP, P.O. Box 8798, Portland, Oregon 97208, or left at the Madras district Pacific Power Office.

## VFW to present awards

An award presentation for the Veterans of Foreign Wars will be held at the Toppenish Community Center November 9, 1986 at 11:00 a.m. Honor Guard is Elliott Palmer post #4217 of Warm Springs. All veterans are welcome to participate. Post members are to bring their colors.

Awards will be presented by: Lt.

Colonel Dale Hill, commander, Yakima Firing Center; Major Garth G. Germond, adjutant, Yakima Firing Center and Sgt. Major Thomas E. Ingram, Yakima Firing Center.

Following the award presentation Lonnie Selam will lead Indian Religious Ceremonies to honor Veterans of all wars.

## Helitorch used to clear planting units

Burning ground cover in preparation for planting is a common procedure. It enables seedling trees to take root more easily without their having to compete against other vegetation for moisture, light and soil nutrients.

The usual burn method used involves a crew of forestry personnel setting fires to designated planting units and watching the fires to prevent their getting out of control.

An alternate method of burning has recently been employed by Warm Springs Bureau of Indian Affairs Forestry department. The use of a helicopter, equipped with a torch to ignite ground cover has proven to be more efficient and more economical.

According to Forestry fuels manager Jim Steele the helitorching of six units or 150 acres of forest land in two days saved a full day's work and was completed at half the cost that would be incurred using only manpower.

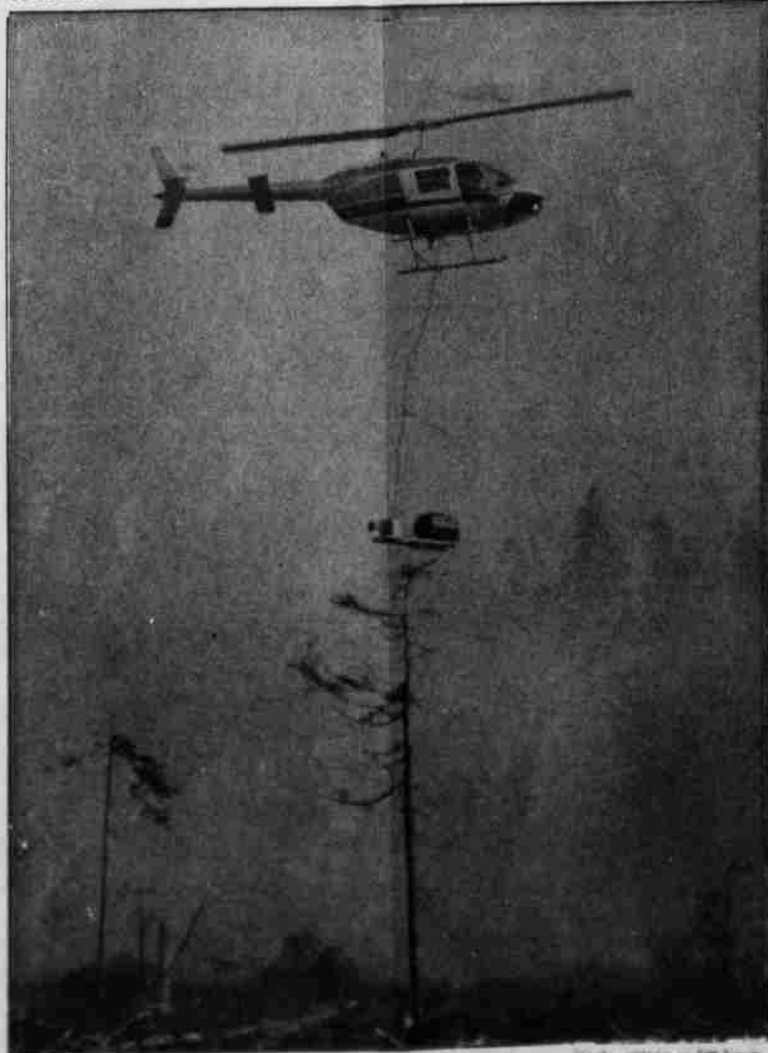
Helitorching is a burning method which was developed in Oregon for use in areas of heavy ground cover. It is used extensively on the west side of the Cascades. Helitorching was used only once before on the reservation and will be used again, according to Steele.

When moisture and wind conditions are correct, 30 or 50 gallon barrels filled with a fuel mixture of

gasoline and alumogel are hoisted by helicopter over burn areas. The fuel mixture is pumped through a pipe to the tip of the torch where the gel is ignited and dropped from 20-200 feet above the unit. Crews on the ground keep the fire from spreading beyond burn unit boundaries.

A base crew is stationed near the burn site to refuel the helicopter and to replace empty burn mixture barrels with full ones weighing approximately 500 pounds each.

Safety precautions are emphasized for helibase crew working with the fuel mixture. The crew must be certified to work with the fuel and must wear special protective clothing. An Emergency Medical Technician is stationed at the base in case of an accident; and, the base manager reinforces the importance of safety, says Steele. There have been no problems and no accidents with the use of the helitorch, Steele added.



Helicopter carries frame holding barrel filled with fuel mixture used to ignite ground cover during burn operations.

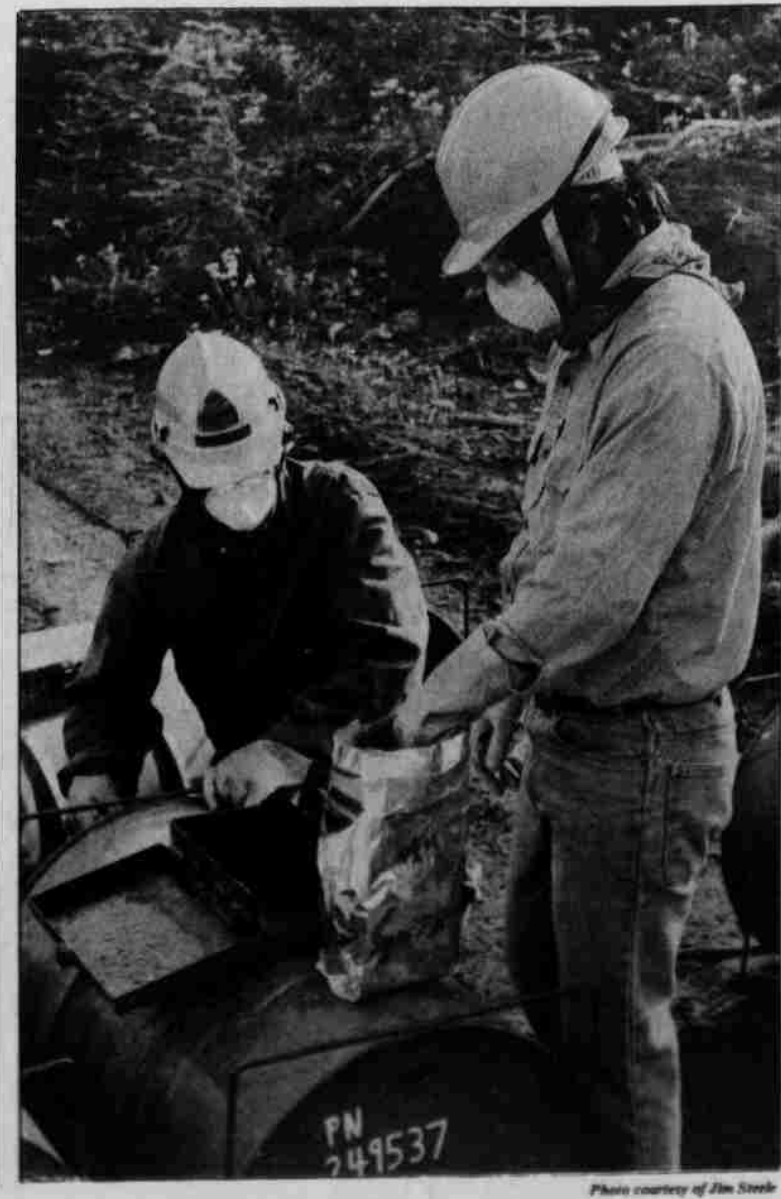


Photo courtesy of Jim Steele

Using safety precautions workers prepare fuel mixture for helitorch.

## Spilyay Tymoo

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