

Brush Fire Threatens Homes in North S.B.



"HOT SHOTS" IN ACTION—Members of the famed Hot Shot crew of the U. S. Forest Service at Del Rosa demonstrate fire line construction in the foothills of San Bernardino National Forest. The crew is called to battle fires in all parts of the state. Man in foreground is using hand radio to keep in touch with fire dispatcher.

RUGGED 'HOT SHOTS' LEAD WAY INTO BATTLE AGAINST FOREST FIRES

By JIM REINHOLD

Calling them "Hot Shots" is putting it mildly. The San Bernardino National Forest "Hot Shot" crew at Del Rosa is nothing less than a life saver. And much more.

Each year since its inception in 1946, the group—about 55 men—saves the government thousands of dollars by quick teamwork, rugged stamina, tremendous spirit and great understanding of fires.

Gordon Bosteder heads the outfit. Michael A. Roberts and Duncan J. McLarty, crew foreman, assist him.

HISTORY RELATED

Just what are these crews and what of their history?

They are maintained by the forest service during the fire season—July 1 until about Oct. 1.

The crews are used on initial attack—first to reach the fire—when they tie up the blaze. On a secondary attack Hot Shots hit the rough country where bulldozers and tankers can not go.

The outfit, which already has coped with 27 fires this year, is basically a hand-tool and line-cutting group.

Average age of the crack fire-

fighters is 20. There are 15 from San Bernardino. Home towns range from Redgewood, N.J., to scores of California cities.

Most are college students. Surprisingly, only five of these are majoring in forestry. Eleven attend the University of Redlands and 19 are from San Bernardino Valley College. Seven are high school students.

INDIANS RECRUITED

When the college men return to school, Indians are recruited. There are several Zunis on the crew full time and others who join it when school begins.

Young men are encouraged to take advantage of this job opportunity. Applications are taken each year from throughout the

country.

Like Mike Roberts, the crew foreman, says: "This work needs young blood." For this reason the turnover of crew members is relatively high.

Several Hot Shots are noted collegiate athletes. "It is a good way to keep in shape," says Harry L. Violette, 26-year-old basketball star from Los Angeles State College.

He has been with the Del Rosa crew four years and now is a head man on firefighting lines.

Of this year's 52 active fighters, 39 have served one year on the crew, seven served two years, four have been in Del Rosa three years and two are four-year men.

LIVE IN BARRACKS

The crew lives in barracks at Del Rosa. They work eight hours daily and are on duty 24 hours for five consecutive days. Then two days off. Things are run on a military-like basis.

"They are pretty soft after they (Continued on Page 11, Column 3)

Hundreds View 100-Acre Blaze From Doorsteps

Crews Quell Flames In Hour; Probe Into Cause Is Scheduled

The biggest brush and grass fire in San Bernardino city limits this year burst into life at 5:15 p.m. Sunday and blazed to the top of Shandin Hills before being brought under control and extinguished an hour later.

Several homes along Edgemont Dr. were threatened, but the wall of flames sped up the hillside instead of toward numerous nearby structures. A hundred acres were left blackened.

Fire Chief Dwight E. Littleton, who directed the 20-man force of city and state firefighters, said the cause of the blaze which broke out at Edgemont and I Sts. is unknown. But an investigation is scheduled.

VIEW FLAMES

Hundreds of northend residents watched the fire's progress from their front yards, as the fire front roared up canyons and ridges to the crest of 600-foot-high Shandin Hills. At times the flames leaped 20 feet or more into the air.

At the crest, where most of the force of eight trucks and a bulldozer were located, the fire ran into a headwind, slowed down and came under control of the firemen.

Most of the firefighting was done with water. The fire was declared under control at 6:05 p.m. Mopup operations continued for two hours more.

CREWS TEAM UP

Littleton remarked on the close cooperation between city and state fire departments in fighting the Shandin Hills fire and a small house fire reported on Ennis St. at 6:04 p.m.

With all available state rigs on top of Shandin Hills, the city answered a request from the Division of Forestry's dispatcher to "handle" a "call" from a home at 133 Ennis St. south of San Bernardino. It was quickly extinguished.

A number of state rigs from the San Bernardino area have been sent to fight several forest and brush fires burning out of control in San Diego County, leaving the division somewhat short-handed in this area.

State Forest Ranger W. W. (Butch) Skinner helped direct the Shandin Hills operation.

Man Refuses Advice, Dies Under Train

A man who refused to heed the warnings of a young passerby was struck and killed instantly by the Santa Fe Super Chief in southwest San Bernardino at 9:28 p.m. Sunday.

The boy, Bert Guerrero of 138 Meridian St., later told officers



'LET'S UNLOAD'—That is the cry which rises from the truck of the Del Rosa Hot Shots when they arrive on fire lines. It takes the 14-man crew just 55 seconds to get off the truck, tie on a canteen belt and get their assigned tools. Here several members of the crew are shown in the operation during a training session.

Vital Records

WILSON JEWELERS 405 E. Street

DIED

HUMPHRIES—In Long Beach, Calif., Sept. 3, 1955, Mrs. Ada Lillian Humphries, 80, native of Hills, Mich., resident of Long Beach 10 years, California 31 years. Services at 11 a.m., Thursday in Mark E. Shaw Memorial Chapel. Private interment in Hillside Park Cemetery.

SVEIC—In San Bernardino, Calif., Sept. 3, 1955, John Svec, 74, native of Czechoslovakia, resident of San Bernardino and California three years. Body to be forwarded by Mark E. Shaw Co., Tuesday to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for services and interment.

SHRECK—In Redlands, Calif., Sept. 3, 1955, Dr. John A. Shreck, 51, native of Manchester, Iowa, resident of Redlands 32 years, California 31 years. Services at 11 a.m., Wednesday in F. Arthur Cortner Mortuary, Redlands. Interment at Hillside Cemetery.

M'INERY—In San Bernardino, Calif., Sept. 4, 1955, Miss Irene McInery, native of California, resident of San Bernardino 49 years. Burial at 8:15 p.m., Monday in Stephens & Bohitt Chapel. Mass at 9 a.m., Tuesday in St. Bernardine's Catholic Church. Interment at Mountain View Cemetery.

YOUNG—In San Bernardino, Calif., Sept. 3, 1955, Clarence Lee Yone, 68, native of Elmdale, resident of San Bernardino 27 years. Services Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Mark E. Shaw Memorial Chapel. Interment in Montecito Memorial Park.

FEWSTER—In San Bernardino, Calif., Sept. 3, 1955, Martin Roy Fewster, 14, native and resident of Labeview, Calif. Services Wednesday at 10 a.m. at Billy and Evelyn Chapel, South Gate. Interment in Rose Hills Cemetery, Whittier. Lord's Funeral Chapel in charge.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our thanks and gratitude to every one for their help and sympathy; and for the beautiful cards and flowers, in the passing of our beloved wife and mother, Hannah E. Bloom. We would like to thank: Norton AFB, all the neighbors, Women's Relief City WRC, "The Jolly Eight," and the pallbearers. MR. & MRS. TED BLOOM MR. & MRS. LEWIS SANDERS

FLORISTS

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MOUNTAIN VIEW

CEMETERY San Bernardino Phone 5-6289 Highland Avenue at Waterman

By Nadine Seltzer

'HOT SHOTS' TAKE LEAD IN FOREST FIRE FIGHTS

(Continued From City Page)

Just get out of school," Roberts explains, "so we start with a training program to build them up and at the same time do constructive jobs in the forest."

Primary goal of the crew is, of course, firefighting, but work on the timberlands is a major portion of their jobs. In 1954, \$23,000 of the \$67,000 budget was tabbed for the protection and maintenance of forests. Money went for the wages of the crews and equipment costs.

Construction projects include everything from disposing slash in the Barton Flats area to replanting the burned-out Arrowhead north of San Bernardino.

Erosion control, new lookouts, spreading oil, painting, building heliport roads and general maintenance are lead parts of the crew's non-fire work.

TRAINING SITE

The brush country back of Del Rosa is typical of the foothills of the entire forest and much training is put into effect here. Movies and blackboard lessons are also presented. But on-the-line training is the best, officials agree.

In the camps, there are many recreation facilities. Naturally the mess hall plays a big part in the crew's life. The kitchen turns out 2,000 meals a month. During major fires, cooks accompany the crew.

Hot Shot crews originated in the San Bernardino National Forest in 1946. They now are all over California. Each crew—there are about a dozen—is sent to other parts of the state if needed.

The Del Rosa group just recently battled fires in the Angeles and Mendocino National Forests. They are flown to the distant blazes.

EXPERIMENT PAYS OFF

The initial Hot Shots were in Mill Creek Canyon. A year later they were in Sycamore and in 1948 they moved to Del Rosa.

The Hot Shot idea was an experiment of the U.S. Forest Service. It paid off.

Crews have it rough but they love it.

As it was put in an official forestry report on the crew: "When unavoidable, they can go long periods of time on the fire line without food, rest, blankets or water without losing morale or teamwork."

So far this year they: Have rolled on a fire following their regular eight-hour shift on project work and put in a total of 55 man hours in the first day's work.

Were called on the Lone Pine fire just one hour before quitting time. The blaze raged on 18½ more hours. Mopup work continued for three days.

QUAIL CANYON FIRE

Were dispatched to a blaze in Quail Canyon and had it out before tankers arrived on the scene. They were about to go swimming when the large siren at Del Rosa

blasted the fire call.

So it goes, on and on. And they love it more each time.

While on fires, the crew is in constant contact with the dispatcher in Del Rosa through radios in each truck and also hand walkie-talkies used when on the fire lines.

Two new stakeless trucks carry 10 double-bit axes, 10 brush hooks, 8 pulaskis (combination axe-grubbing tool) 10 shovels and 10 meleds (an oversized combination hoe and rake).

Of the 41,669 man hours worked last year only 51 were lost because of injuries. Poison oak is a big problem with the men. On the lines they carry a canteen, small first aid kit and their tools. A metal helmet is all the special equipment needed by the ace fire battlers.

CREWS PRAISED

Last August the Big Sand fire burned less than 10 acres but according to reports, "Costs would have exceeded \$100,000 had it not been for Hot Shot crew action."

It is no wonder that Sim E. Jarvis, San Bernardino forest supervisor, is so proud of his Hot Shot crew. They have a nationwide reputation among foresters as top notch fire warriors.

It is all summed up by one dispatch from Jarvis's office: "The trained Hot Shot crews more than pay for themselves in forest fire control work. . . and do an essential job which cannot be obtained in any other way."

Bystanders Rescue

Remorseful Driver

SEOUL.—(U)—Bystanders had to prevent a remorseful driver from killing himself after his army truck turned over near Kumhwa, killing a school child and injuring the other 60 picnickers aboard, police said. Twenty-three of the injured were reported in serious condition.

WEATHER

By Associated Press

Sunday weather summary:

	High	Low	Pres.
Albuquerque	91	67	
Atlanta	78	68	
Bakersfield	109	75	
Boston	79	65	
Chicago	84	59	
Denver	81	51	
Detroit	86	57	
El Centro	89	66	
Fort Worth	91	67	
Fresno	107	72	
Helena	89	59	
Kansas City	91	59	
Las Vegas	108	71	
Los Angeles	101	71	
Memphis	87	66	
Miami	86	74	.01
Minneapolis	63	52	
New Orleans	85	72	3.53
New York	81	68	
Oakland Apt.	89	58	
Oklahoma City	85	59	.05
Phoenix	105	79	
Portland, Ore.	98	54	
Red Bluff	73	59	
Reno	98	48	
Sacramento	105	72	
Salt Lake City	92	51	
San Bernardino	89	64	
San Diego	84	68	
San Francisco	78	64	
Seattle	89	56	
Spokane	92	62	
Washington, D.C.	89	68	