

# 'Pink Lady' Spots Forest Fires

## World War II Mustang Big Help to Firefighters

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"Fairbanks — This is Four-Eight Victor. I have spotted a fire. . . ."

These have been familiar words the past several summers over the radio located in the dispatch office of the Bureau of Land Management fire

control center on Airport Road.

Since the "Pink Lady," N5448V, a World War II F51 "Mustang" fighter, has been used on fire patrol, the plane's pilots have spotted and plotted several hundred fires—most of which have been extinguished before doing major damage. The plane is nicknamed for its stunning paint job.

Owned by Earl "Red" Dodge of Anchorage, the plane is leased and flown each fire season by the BLM. During the past four years it has become a familiar sight over all of interior and western Alaska.

Its speed of nearly 300 miles an hour on the straight-away and maneuverability in tight places has made the plane a key tool in the BLM's fight to combat wildfires in Alaska.

It is powered by a 12 cylinder engine that takes up roughly one-third of the plane's length. Two auxiliary wing tanks are attached to give the craft a four hour supply of fuel.

Many days the plane is called on to patrol more than 1,000 miles following the track of fire producing thunderstorms.

At times it is at 10,000 feet, bumping the under side of high cumulus clouds; and at other times it is zooming low over lake strewn flats, meandering streams, tundra topped hills and the knife like ridges of Alaska's interior mountain ranges.

When a fire is spotted the pilot puts the "Pink Lady" into a dive pulling up close to the ground, and going into a series of tight turns, he checks the way the fire is burning. Then he will climb back up, and using nearby landmarks, will plot the exact location of the blaze.

When this is done, the pilot calls his information into the Fairbanks office. Here plans are made for the initial attack on the blaze, using the pilot's recommendations.

If the fire is small, then Smokejumpers and Borate Bombers will be sent. If it is large, the blaze will be classified as a project fire, and handled on a larger scale.

Thanks to the speed of the "Pink Lady," more and more of the fires are being spotted while still small, and fewer of the blazes are project size when they are attacked.



**SCANNING FOR FIRES** — John McCormick, chief pilot for the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska, is shown in the cockpit of the World War II F51 fighter used in Alaska as a fire patrol plane. McCormick, strapped into the tiny cockpit with a shoulder harness, and wearing special water filled earphones to muffle engine sound, is shown scanning for a suspected forest fire southeast of Big Delta last Friday.

### News in Brief

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6, (AP)—Dr. Frances Kelsey urged the Senate Judiciary Committee today to approve President Kennedy's requests for increased federal policing of possibly dangerous new drugs. Dr. Kelsey is the Food and Drug Administration medical officer who blocked U.S. marketing of thalidomide, a tranquilizer which some medical men blame for malformation of infants in Europe.

The House has delayed action on a bill which would re-open National Service Life Insurance for one year to 16 million veterans.

The treasury is said to be considering a plan which would give taxpayers the option of accepting income tax refunds in the form of savings bonds rather than cash.

A deep storm centered some 300 miles north of Shemya continued to bring rain, drizzle and fog to the Aleutian Chain and Alaska's western coast from Bristol Bay to Norton Sound today.

#### BULLETIN

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee, Aug. 6, (AP) — An American Airlines Electra crash-landed as it came into the McGhee Tyson Airport here in a rain-storm this afternoon, but airline officials said no one was injured. There were 66 passengers and a crew of five aboard.

#### BASEBALL

##### NATIONAL

Dallas Green, Billy Smith (2) John Ozer 151 Chris Short 171 Billy Pierce R: Willie Mays, SF, 1st, 1 on (132nd) Ays, SF, 2nd, 1 on (34th) P—Pierce (10-3) P—Green (4-5)

## Wichita Tournament Fund Only \$1,400 Short of Goal

The Wichita Travel Fund—the campaign to send the Gold Panners to the national baseball championship tournament in Kansas — was only about \$1,400 short of its goal today.

Team manager Red Boucher reported the fund drive has hit \$5,601. Needed to finance the trip: \$7,000.

Contributions may be made by check, made out to the Wichita Travel Fund and sent in care of any of the three banks in Fairbanks.

Latest contributors are In-

side Alaska Tours, \$100, and Fairbanks Insurance Co., \$50. Boucher said S. T. "Bud" Saario is making up a \$400 parka for presentation by the Fairbanks Squad to the Governor of Kansas.

Boucher has to notify Wichita by Wednesday as to whether Alaska will be represented in the big tournament.

### Board Elects Robert Crow

Acting City Manager Robert Crow was elected president of the state Board of Engineers and Architects Examiners at its annual meeting in Anchorage over the weekend.

Harold Galliett, of Anchorage, was elected vice president. Bjarné Olson, of Juneau, was re-elected secretary of the board.

The board approved a substantial number of applicants for registration in the state. The list will be released in about a week.

### WEATHER

Partly cloudy today, tonight and Tuesday. Low temperature tonight 45; high tomorrow 70; low last night 41; high yesterday 61. Temperature at 11 a.m. 62. Sunrise tomorrow 3:11 a.m. and sunset 8:41 p.m.