

Successor to Supervisor Weigle,
Wallace, Idaho

Cathedral City
April 8, 1938

Dear Sir:

-None found

Is there any records to substantiate my claim of being a member of Ranger Pulaski's crew of firefighters, in the Bitter Root Mountains in August or September of 1910. I understand records were destroyed by the fire.

I was with Ranger Pulaski and Bell, the night the fire got beyond control. Both Rangers had gone to Wallace. We retreated over "Mcfee's Trail" or maybe to Mcfee's cabin, anyhow, when we arrived the people who occupied the cabin had dug a hole in the ground to bury their supplies, they jumped in when the fire hit and I believe roasted; our crew remained in the creek. Ranger Pulaski returned and found us at this point and guided us through the burned over region towards Wallace. All went well until we reached Plazer Creek, which we followed towards Wallace. The back-fire from Wallace caught us about this time, and Pulaski (God Bless Him) told us to get into the War Eagle Tunnel, (an old abandoned prospect Tunnel). We did as directed, Pulaski entering last and using as a barricade two horses, one he rode from Wallace, the other a pack horse. Then the tunnel timbering caught fire, and the smoke choked all into unconsciousness. I believe I was the first man out and saw a tree on fire and about ready to fall across the mouth of the tunnel, (at least I thought so) I went back, spoke to Pulaski and he advised me to get all the men out soon as possi-

ble, (I believe he tried to keep the tunnel timbers from burning and was himself burned). Anyhow, all the men got out, except 5 or 6, one my good working pardner of Racine Wisconsin, Red Hansen, was among those who stayed in the Tunnel, and both horses were dead.

After a while we heard a shout, and scrambling towards us, (crawling under and climbing over large fallen trees) was Supervisor Weigle, an unknown man to me. They guided us to Wallace.

That briefly is the story I intended to give to a local paper, who asked residents of this district for true stories and adventures; that is why I asked if there are any record to bear me out.

Also, after 27 years I think its time to express my thanks and appreciation to a trio of Uncle Sam's Rangers, and God's noblemen, who risked their lives to pull their men, "Out of the Fire". Rangers Pulaski and Bell and Supervisor Weigel, I salute you.

Thanks for any information of this subject.

Wm. Chance
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