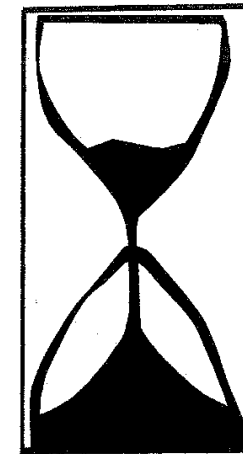
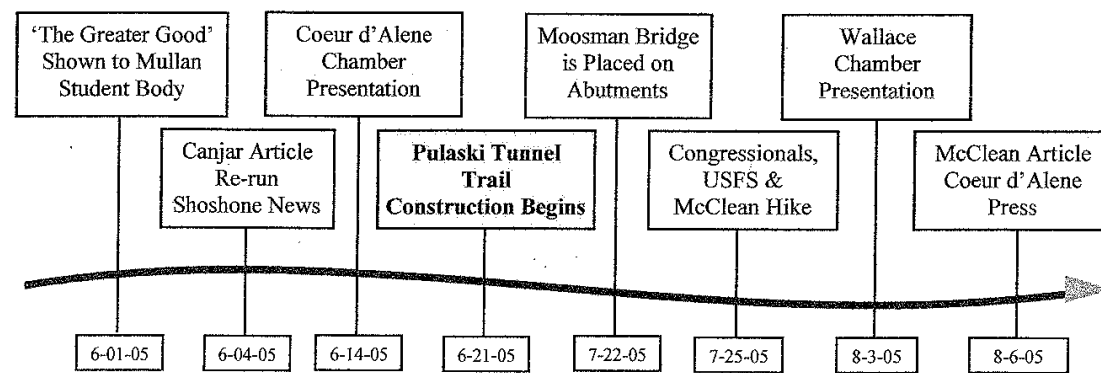
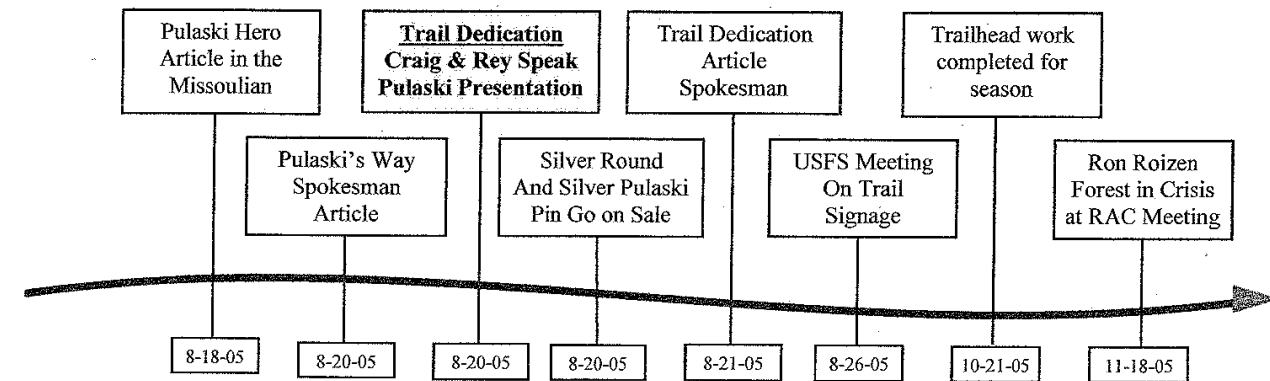


Pulaski Project Accomplishments & Activities Timeline

June - December 2005

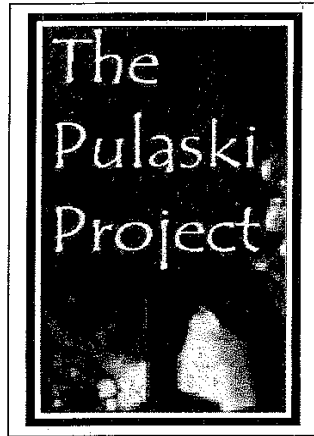


and News & Media Coverage of the Great Fire of 1910



Project Status Report

Pulaski Tunnel Trail Idaho Panhandle National Forests (June 8, 2005)



Trailhead Area:

A subcontractor has been selected to construct this portion of the project. The trailhead work is to include: erection of the 70 foot span pedestrian bridge, modifications to the existing parking area, installation of a concrete vault toilet, and constructing the ADA accessible section of the trail.

It is anticipated that the Contract Documents will be fully executed, and the pre-construction phase of the project will be completed by mid-June, after which it is the intention of the subcontractor to immediately begin construction.

Construction, structure control survey work by DJ&A, P.C., who is serving as the prime contractor under this design build contract, is scheduled to begin on Monday, June 13.

Fabrication of the Moosman Trail Bridge has been completed. The superstructure will be delivered after completion of site work the bridge concrete substructure.

Trail Restoration/Construction:

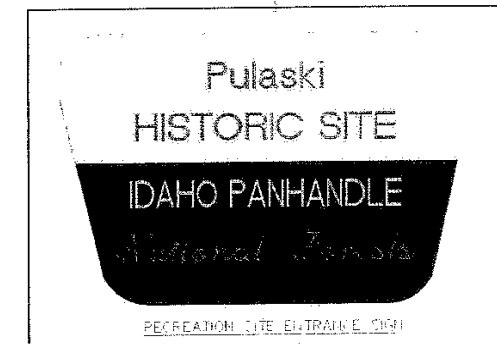
A subcontractor has been selected to perform this portion of the project. It is anticipated that the Contract Documents will be fully executed, and the pre-construction phase of the project will be completed by mid-June, after which it is the intention of the subcontractor to immediately begin construction.

RAC (Resource Advisory Committee) funding in the amount of \$26,500 has been obligated toward construction of the four glu-laminated treated timber trail bridges. Shop drawings for the treated timber elements for this phase of the project have been approved, and fabrication of this material should begin this month by Permapost, located in Hillsboro, Oregon. These four timber trail bridges will be assembled and installed along this approximate 2-mile trail segment along the West Fork of Placer Creek, to provide pedestrian access to the Pulaski Tunnel viewpoint.

Project Interpretive Signing:

The Forest Service has contracted with Grady Myers to develop the illustrations for the twelve porcelain signs planned for interpretation of the Pulaski story. Working closely with the Wallace Pulaski Committee headed up by Jim See and Ron Roizen and the IPNF Forest Archeologist (Cort Sims), this task is progressing very well. Grady Myers previously did a tremendous job with all the illustrations for the 46 porcelain interpretive signs currently located on the Route of the Hiawatha Trail.

The Forest Service has contracted with Melt Turley to fabricate the steel interpretive sign posts to be installed on the project. Both Melt and Grady Myers are providing their services to the project at minimal costs.



Project Funding Strategy:

The Forest Service recently received word from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) that the \$60,000 grant request for the Pulaski Tunnel Trail project has been approved. This was the final piece to the puzzle to provide adequate resources for completion of the Pulaski Tunnel Trailhead and Trail construction project. Contributions for this project has come from various sources with our thanks to all those who have contributed time and funding toward the project:

- Senator Craig's Office Federal Funding Earmark (Spearheaded by the Pulaski Committee)
- IPRAC (Idaho Panhandle Resource Advisory Committee)
- Wallace Pulaski Committee (Jim See – President)
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR Recreation Trails Program Grant)
- Idaho Panhandle National Forests (CMTL - Trails Capital Investment and TRTR – Roads and Trails Fund)
- US Forest Service Northern Region Centennial of Service Challenge Cost Share Program (Project Interpretation Funding)
- DJ&A, P.C. (Project Consulting Engineers)
- Grady Myers and Melt Turley (Project Interpretation)

We hope to have some construction pictures to include in next month's project status report.

SHOSHONE NEWS-PRESS

A rare portrait of a fireman

Relative's visit
reveals what
happened to man
in photograph

BY RON ROIZEN
and JIM SEE
Special to the News-Press

It's one of the best known photographs deriving from the Great 1910 Fire (below).



Here are two men with bandaged heads, and hats, standing next to each other — one with heavily bandaged hands as well.

The photo comes from the Barnard-Stockbridge collection at the University of Idaho (8-X545H).

It is almost certainly a studio portrait.

Carl Ritchie, Forest Service archeologist and Big Blowup historian, says it's the only post-Big Blowup portrait of injured firefighters known to exist.

"Their attire," says Ritchie, "is standard dress in early 1910. Pictures of other crews readying for the fire line show similar dress."

"Yet, their clothes might have been donated to these men once they were discharged from the hospital or they were furnished by the studio just for the photo."

Both men's names are known, says Ritchie. "Anton Canjar is on the right and a man named Zeller on the left."

Nellie Stockbridge probably took the photo — T.N. Barnard turned over most of the operation of the studio to her years earlier.

See CANJAR, Page 4

CANJAR

Continued from Page 1

Did Stockbridge seek the men out and take this photo as part of her ongoing documentation of Wallace's turbulent history — now including the Great 1910 Fire?

Or did the men come to Stockbridge — wanting a commemorative photo, perhaps one suitable for use as a postcard, to send to family, and marking their participation in and survival of a momentous and terrifying event?

"More likely," suggests Ritchie, "the men got their photos taken as documentation and proof that they were injured in the Big Blowup while in service to the U.S. Forest Service."

"This photo" continued Ritchie, "could be used later should evidence for compensation be required....A picture is worth a thousand words."

Who were they, these dignified men — who bore the injuries of trying to fight an overwhelming fire and who, doubtless, were lucky to escape with their lives?

Last week, Jim See, president of the Pulaski Project, was enjoying a social hour at a local watering hole when he happened to meet Ivan Canjar, a visitor in town from British Columbia.

Canjar, as it happened, had come to Wallace and the Silver Valley to check out the place where his grandfather, Anton Canjar — the man on the right of the photo — as a young man had once fought in the Great 1910 Fire.

Ivan, a fit looking and friendly man in his mid-fifties,

was born in Croatia and spoke with a moderate accent. He'd lived in Canada, he said, since the 1960s.

Ivan brought with him a collection of old letters, stained copper brown where paper clips had once held the pages together.

The letters comprised the Forest Service's side of a long exchange in which grandfather Anton had sought compensation for his badly burned hands as well as for time spent in Wallace's Providence Hospital and, thereafter, for time during which he was unable to work. The correspondence stretched into 1912, when the Forest Service was still assuring Anton that they were seeking appropriate relief for him.

Grandson Ivan also had a post-Big Burn picture of grandfather Anton. It showed a man with badly burned hands, now unbandaged.

Who was Anton Canjar? What happened to him?

Ivan knew very little of his grandfather, though what he knew was enough to define the deep structure of a human drama.

Anton had arrived in the U.S., at Ellis Island, in 1904 at the age of 17. Somehow, he made his way to Montana and Idaho — doubtless, Ivan said, following the lead and advice of other Croatians who had also come to the Inland Northwest.

He fought in the Big Blowup.

(Carl Ritchie informs that Canjar faced the fire at the head of Boulder Creek,

south of Mullan, in James Danielson's crew. "Danielson and his crew took refuge on a large talus slope," Ritchie added, "but the fire intensity was so great that every man on the crew had their hands, face and head burned by the searing heat. One crew member panicked and died in an attempt to flee.")

Anton Canjar survived but with badly burned hands.

In due course, Anton traveled back to Croatia, where he met and married Ivan's grandmother. A son, Ivan's father, issued from the union.

Then Anton headed back to America, promising to bring his wife and child over when he had settled.

Letters arrived for a time, but then they stopped coming. Anton disappeared in a distant and vast continent.

"I think he ended up in Tacoma," says Ivan, "but no one in the family really knows."

Ivan's grandmother, Anton's wife, never remarried. She never spoke ill of Anton, Ivan said.

"She was too dignified to do that," he added, with a

smile.

Ron Roizen and Jim See are members of the Pulaski Project, which group has partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to save the mine and trail where Big Ed Pulaski's heroic rescue of his crew was carried out in August, 1910.

THE BIG BLOWUP'S IMPACT ON AN IDAHO TOWN*

Ron Roizen and Jim See

In 1910, the Idaho mining town of Wallace was served by a weekly newspaper called The Wallace Miner. Its motto: "Devoted to the best interests of the entire Coeur d'Alene district, giving only authentic information and aiming to accomplish this without fear or favor."

Town Seemed Doomed

For weeks the forests in every direction have been burning, and it was known that only a heavy fall of rain would ultimately put them out. With a high and fitful wind Saturday afternoon and evening, the flames headed for the south toward Wallace, and for a time the entire town seemed doomed. Arrangements were quickly made to get the women and children to places of safety. The railroad companies assembled their locomotives and rolling stock preparatory to caring for everyone. Nestled in the heart of high surrounding hills, with egress limited to a narrow canyon, it was realized that it might become necessary for all to flee, as a general conflagration would mean certain death for any who remained.

As the flames neared town on the southwest, they followed the hillside on the south, and for a time it looked as if the town might escape.

Ron Roizen is the executive director and Jim See is the president of the Pulaski Project, Wallace, ID.

* The article first appeared in the Shoshone News-Press on October 23, 2004.

On August 25, the paper's front-page story announced, in big, bold letters, that "FIFTY LOSE LIVES IN FOREST FIRES THROUGH DISTRICT." The actual number killed in the fires now known as the Big Blowup, which had hit the Northern Rockies 5 days earlier, would later prove closer to 90.

Suddenly a sheet of flame, which appeared to be a hundred yards long, burst a hundred feet high into the sky, and it was only too apparent that the danger was graver than ever. Within a short time a brand from this lighted on a framed building and started the fire in town. The hills on the opposite side

Nestled in the heart of high surrounding hills, with egress limited to a narrow canyon, Wallace seemed doomed to destruction.

of the city then took fire, and on the south side the main hill was burning in 20 places. The residences on this hill took fire and were quickly demolished. It seemed as if the town could not be saved, but after several hours of valiant effort by the fire department, assisted by a large force of volunteers, the flames were stayed, and the damage is variously estimated at from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, the actual figures being probably somewhere near \$800,000.

The story placed the number of men in Ed Pulaski's crew who survived the night in the Nicholson Mine at 31, a figure later revised to 39. Despite such problems, The Miner offered a gripping and detailed account of the fire's encounter with Wallace, reprinted below.

Among the destroyed buildings are the Coeur d'Alene Ironworks, Sunset Brewery, Coeur d'Alene Hardware Company's warehouse, Worstell Company's Furniture Store, O.R. & N. station, Corner and Fisher's office and warehouses, Wallace Times, Wallace Cigar company, Turner Music Company, Pacific Hotel, Pacific Annex, several rooming houses and a large number of dwellings.

For a time it was feared the Providence Hospital and the Standard and Mammoth mills were destroyed, but they remained uninjured. The fire followed the hills to Mullan and Burke, and grave fears for both these towns were entertained. The damage will not be great in either place.

No Panic

In an editorial titled "Our Calamity," The Miner defended the town from the charge in a competing newspaper of a panicked reaction to the fire:

While we regard this as no time for denunciation, we cannot refrain from criticising [sic] the

The hills on the opposite side of the city then took fire, and on the south side the main hill was burning in 20 places.

Spokesman-Review for an article in its issue of Tuesday morning, which starts by saying 'we have passed the first stage of wild, unreasoning panic.' This was written by a special correspondent sent in here after

the fire had been controlled and consequently ignorant of the circumstances. There was no panic, wild or otherwise, and never was more reason displayed in an emergency. Every able bodied [sic] man

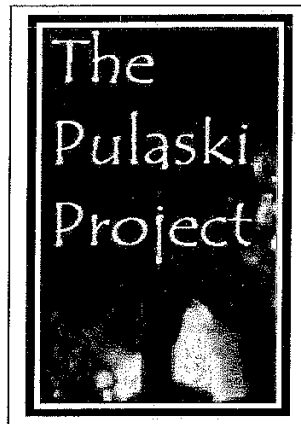
was active, going from one point of danger to another, to be of assistance to the best of his ability.

Acknowledgment

Thanks are due to Bernie Ludwig, librarian at the Wallace Public Library in Wallace, ID, for her generous help in preparing this article. ■

Project Status Report

Pulaski Tunnel Trail Idaho Panhandle National Forests (July 11, 2005)



Trailhead Area:

A subcontract for the trailhead was awarded to Wesslen Construction of Spokane, Washington with a scheduled completion date of September 30, 2005. The subcontractor has started work at the site and has been concentrating on constructing the two bridge abutments. Concrete for the first abutment was placed during the week of June 27th and for the second abutment on July 7th. Concrete for Abutment No. 2 will be required to cure for seven days, after which the subcontractor will be allowed to set the bridge superstructure.

On July 6th the Moosman Bridge was delivered to the project, was off-loaded, and is currently stockpiled on site. At present the subcontractor anticipates setting the bridge on Monday, July 18th.

In addition to the work on the concrete abutments, the subcontractor has set the vault for the toilet and has excavated for the parking lot retaining wall. The current schedule is to continue working on the parking lot area. It is anticipated that concrete for the footings will be placed during the week of July 11th.

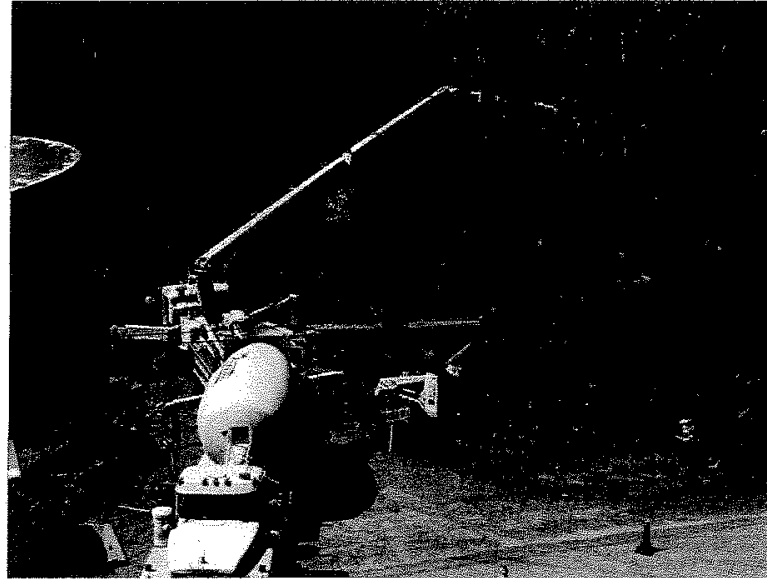


WORKERS FORMING ABUTMENT NO. 2

Trail Reconstruction:

KD Construction of Pinehurst, Idaho has been awarded the subcontract to construct the non-ADA portion of the trail with a scheduled completion date of September 15, 2005. The subcontractor has completed approximately 80% of the brushing for the trail, but still has to scatter the resulting slash.

The current schedule is to continue working on the grubbing of the lower, new section of trail, and re-constructing the non-timber elements of the original trail. Treated timber materials are scheduled to arrive on site by mid-August.



CONCRETE BEING PUMPED FOR ABUTMENT NO. 2



MOOSMAN BRIDGE STOCKPILED ON SITE

SHOSHONE NEWS-PRESS

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2005

Stories from the Pulaski Project: Big Blowup of 1910 produced heroines as well as heroes

Women Refugees Walk Over Mountain



Old photo of Burke women in time of fire speaks volumes

By RON ROIZEN and JIM SEE

WALLACE — This photograph (above) appeared on page 9 of the Spokesman-Review on August 25, 1910, five days after the firestorm known as the Big Blowup swept mercilessly through northern Idaho and western Montana.

The two women in the photo seem to be looking directly at us, as if, serenely

and with satisfaction, to memorialize their heroic ordeal.

Both women, Mrs. Henry Henderling and Miss Lillian Dube, were residents of Burke, Idaho; they were cousins.

According to the Spokesman's account, at 11 p.m. Saturday night, Aug. 20, word reached them that "the town was sure to burn."

They "immediately gathered up a little food, took what clothes we are wearing and with the children started out on the tramp across the mountains."

Mrs. Henderling brought her two children, aged two and three years old. Miss

Dube, age 20, traveled with her siblings, Emma, age 18, Philip, 23, and Arthur, 19.

Their account of the trek was brief and plainspoken:

"The boys did not know the way, but as we were leaving Burke we ran across another party in which was a man who knew the mountains well, and he acted as a guide. We got well up on the mountains and stayed for the night, and spent all day Sunday walking at intervals and spent Sunday night in a cabin near the Arlington prospector mine, which burned shortly after we left Monday morning. We arrived at Montana Standard at 12 o'clock and were met there by rigs which another party which had outdistanced us, owing to the children having to be carried, had sent back for us from Thompson. We arrived in Thompson at 5 o'clock Monday and Mayor Hoglan took us to his home, gave us supper and kept us until Tuesday afternoon, when we boarded a Northern Pacific train for Spokane."

We checked the North Idaho telephone directory for possible descendants of the two women.

There is no listing for a "Henderling."

But the "Dube" name lead to Mr. Arthur Dube, Jr. of Hayden Lake. Lillian Dube, on the right in the photo, was his aunt. Lillian's brother, Arthur, who is mentioned in the escape account, was his father.

"My father wore a coat when the little party left for Thompson," Arthur said. "Others in the group chided him for that because it was

mid-summer, my father told me, but the coat proved to be useful when the night turned cold."

Lillian was no stranger to suffering and hardship. Her father, John Baptist Dube, a Frenchman or French Canadian, had come out to the Coeur d'Alene mining district from Wisconsin — he was attracted, said Arthur, by "the huge salaries." He built a small house by the high school before calling for his wife and children to follow him to Burke. John Baptist and his wife Celine had five children, three boys and two girls. Sadly, Celine and the children were in Burke only two or three months when John Baptist was killed by a "short fuse" blast in the Tiger-Poorman mine on July 1, 1900. He was 46 years old.

Celine took in laundry to support herself and her family. She married a second time, to a man named Maurice Lajeunesse. Once again, however, tragedy struck Lillian's family. Celine was rushed by train to Spokane for an emergency appendectomy, but died of blood poisoning. The gravestone in her gated grave site at Nine Mile Cemetery gives Dec. 15, 1904 as the date she passed away.

Lillian must have married relatively soon after the Big Blowup in 1910. She married a mine carpenter named Thomas Shields. They had four children, from oldest to youngest: Margaret, Lewis, Albert, and Rita. Only Rita still lives, in Malta, Mont.

FIRE

Continued from Page 3

Lillian's husband, Tom, died in Moscow in 1939. Lillian, who would have been about 50 when Tom died, worked for a time at the Beanery in Burke. In 1942 or thereabouts, however, she moved to Spokane. She moved into what Arthur Dube described as "a nice little house" near what would later become Gonzaga University's music hall. Lillian did custodial work at the hall.

Lillian Shields is buried at the Holy Cross Cemetery in Spokane County. She passed away on Feb. 16, 1968 at the age of 79.

But Lillian's family line has not left the Silver Valley entirely.

Jim Shields, Shoshone County Sheriff's Department dispatcher and volunteer fire-

fighter — and Lillian's grandson — lives in Wallace with his wife Rema.

The two brave women, Henderling and Dube, offered a final comment about their harrowing ordeal in the Spokesman article: "We were treated nicely everywhere," they said.

Editor's note: Ron Roizen and Jim See thank Reference Librarian Dennis Bergstrom and the Spokane Public Library for their generous assistance. Ron Roizen and Jim See are members of the Pulaski Project, which group has partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to save the mine and trail where Big Ed Pulaski's heroic rescue of his crew was carried out in August, 1910. The public is cordially invited to the dedication ceremony for the Pulaski Tunnel Trail at the trailhead a half mile south of Wallace at 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 20, 2005 — please contact ron@roizen.com for more info.

See FIRE, Page 4

FIRES OF 1910

-MONTANA LIFE

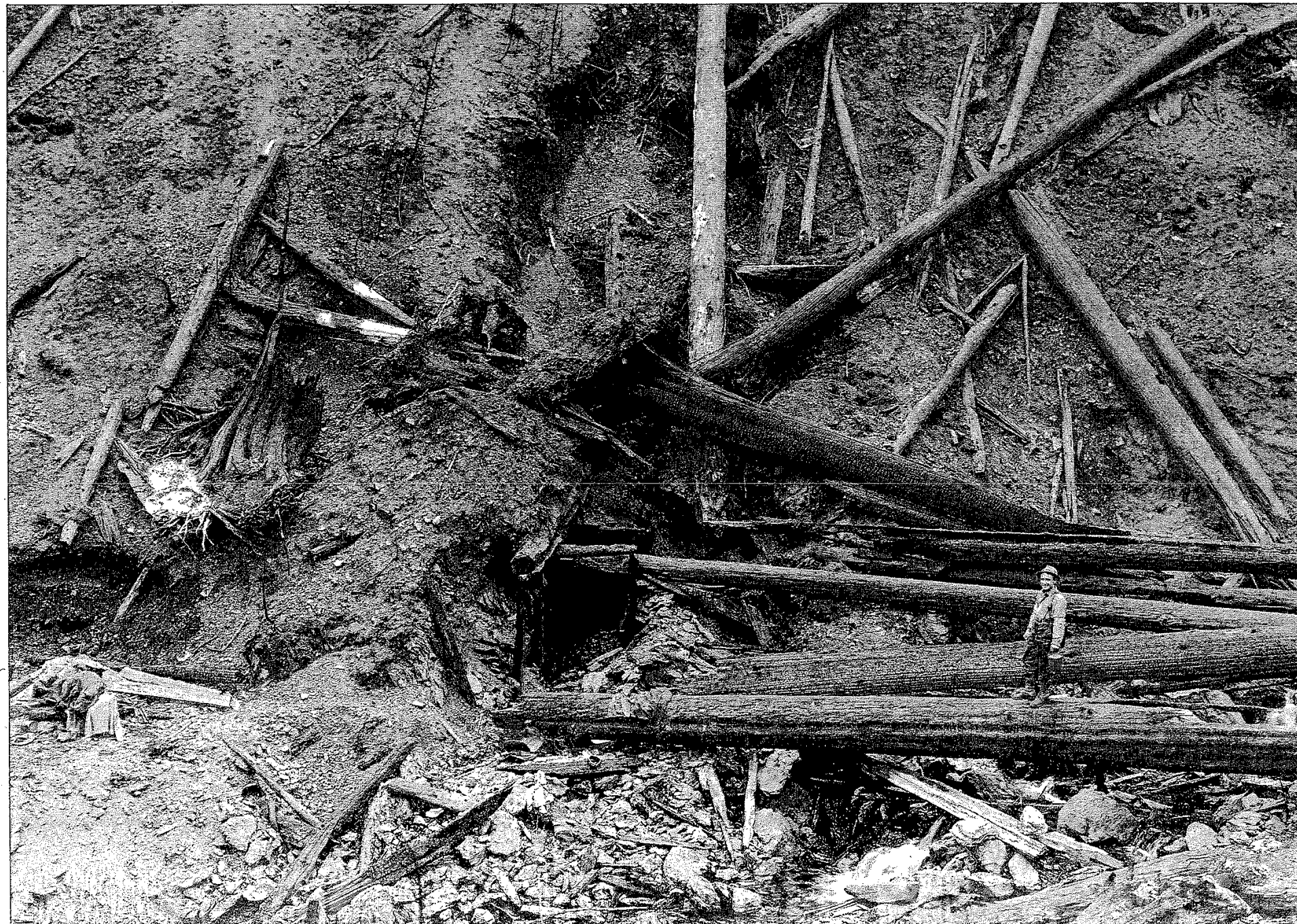
Hero among flames

Outdoors

Missoulian

C

Thursday,
August 18, 2005



Most evidence of the massive blaze is long gone, but the Forest Service will dedicate an Idaho trail in honor of Ed Pulaski, who led his firefighting crew to safety



U.S. FOREST SERVICE
Ninety-five years after Ed Pulaski led his men to safety, the Forest Service will dedicate a trail in his name.

In memory

On Saturday, the 95th anniversary of the fires of 1910, the Forest Service will dedicate the Pulaski Trail at a 1 p.m. PDT ceremony in Wallace, Idaho.

To find the trailhead, head south out of Wallace on Moon Pass Road. The trailhead is well-marked, and is the site of a memorial to the 1910 fires.

By SHERRY DEVLIN
of the Missoulian

The wind hit first, a hurricane force that uprooted entire forests, dropping them — like matchsticks — across the Bitterroot crest. The fires had been burning for a month or more, some ignited by passing trains, some apparently set by men hoping for 25-cent-an-hour firefighting jobs.

When, early on the afternoon of Aug. 20, 1910, the wind hit the dozens of backcountry fires, the result was an inferno of almost unimaginable intensity.

One fire after another and then another merged until the flame front reached 50 miles from side to side. Modern-day fire scientists have documented the likely power of the blowup: runs of more than 50,000 acres; fire brands thrown 10 miles from the flame front, explosions the equivalent of a Hiroshima-type bomb exploding every two minutes.

Three million acres of forest land burned in two days, reaching from the Nez Perce National Forest of north-central Idaho into the Flathead and Kootenai national forests of northwestern Montana, consuming the towns of Taft, DeBorgia, Henderson and Haugan in Montana, and Wallace in Idaho.

At least 78 firefighters and seven civilians died in the firestorm. Thousands of others survived by diving into creeks, lighting daring, last-second backfires and steering trains across burning trestles as the fire turned day into darkness.

Among the most enduring, and heroic, stories of the blowup came from the mountains just outside of Wallace, where a U.S. Forest Service ranger named Ed Pulaski led 45 firefighters into a mine shaft, then stood guard at the entrance to turn back those who, in their panic, tried to flee.

On Saturday, 95 years after Pulaski led his men to safety, the Forest Service will dedicate a new trail to the old mine site, forever preserving the story of Ranger Pulaski and the fires of 1910.

See HERO, Page C3



U.S. FOREST SERVICE
The wind that whipped the flames into a frenzy Aug. 20, 1910, flattened entire sections of forest in northern Idaho and Montana.

"The men were in a panic of fear, some crying, some praying," he said.

Pulaski stood at the entrance to the adit, assuring all who might try to leave that he would shoot them should they rise, all the while dousing the flaming mine timbers with water scooped into his hat.

The cold air of the mine tunnel rushed out, drawn into the fire outside. Fire, and more smoke, poured inside.

"Many of the men soon became unconscious from the terrible heat, smoke and fire gas," Pulaski said. "I, too, finally sank down unconscious. I do not know how long I was in this condition, but it must have been for hours."

The next thing he remembered was the voice of one of his men.

"Come outside boys," the man said. "The boss is dead."

"Like hell he is," came Pulaski's reply.

The trail was once well-worn, a main line for foot and horse traffic from Wallace to the St. Joe country. Ed Pulaski knew it from his years hunting the hills for silver and gold.

Over the decades after "The Big Blowup," the trail was largely forgotten and considerably overgrown.

Jim See started hiking the hills south of Wallace in the mid-1980s, occasionally picking his way along West Placer Creek to the long-abandoned mine adit where Pulaski and his crew rode out the fire.

"The trail was more or less abandoned, and it crossed private property several times, so it wasn't a true trail even," said See, a guidance counselor at Mullan High School, six miles down the road from Wallace.

But the more See learned about Pulaski's story and the fires of 1910, the more he became convinced that the trail was testimony to a significant event — not only in the history of northern Idaho, but of the nation and its public forests.

Hero

Continued

After the "The Big Blowup," Pulaski told the story to his wife, who took his words down longhand. He was 40 years old, and had prospected throughout the St. Joe and Coeur d'Alene country for 25 years before signing on as a ranger with the fledgling Forest Service in 1908.

In 1910, he was put in charge of 150 firefighters working a series of wildfires in the mountains outside of Wallace. When the firestorm hit, they were scattered all along the divide between Big Creek of the St. Joe River and Big Creek of the Coeur d'Alene.

"On Aug. 20," Pulaski said, "a terrific hurricane broke over the mountains. The wind was so strong it lifted men out of their saddles. The smoke and heat became so intense that it was difficult to breathe. Under such conditions, it would have been worse than foolhardy to attempt to fight the fire."

"I got on my horse and went where I could, gathering my men."

Pulaski's voice was gone by the time he had found 45 of the men, so incredible was the roar of the oncoming fire and the din of crashing trees. Not a tree remained standing in front of the fire.

Because of his many years prospecting the hills, Pulaski knew they were near two old mine tunnels. But it was almost impossible to see through the smoke and just as hard to find a path through the fallen forest. He headed for the longer of the adits; the rag-tag firefighting crew followed.

"We reached the tunnel just in time," Pulaski later told his wife. "I ordered the men to lie face down upon the ground and not dare to sit up, unless they wanted to suffocate, for the tunnel was filling with fire, gas and smoke."

FROM PAGE C1

'Ranger Pulaski was a true hero of the 1910 fires. He could have stayed in Wallace with his wife and child, but he went up into the woods and saved a lot of lives that day.'

- Dave O'Brien, information officer, Idaho Panhandle forests

Thus was born The Pulaski Project, a private-public effort of See and others in the Silver Valley and the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. They negotiated easements across the private land, secured a congressional appropriation of \$300,000 and \$147,000 in private money, and went to work interpreting Pulaski's story.

"Ranger Pulaski was a true hero of the 1910 fires," said Dave O'Brien, an information officer for the Idaho Panhandle forests. "He could have stayed in Wallace with his wife and child, but he went up into the woods and saved a lot of lives that day."

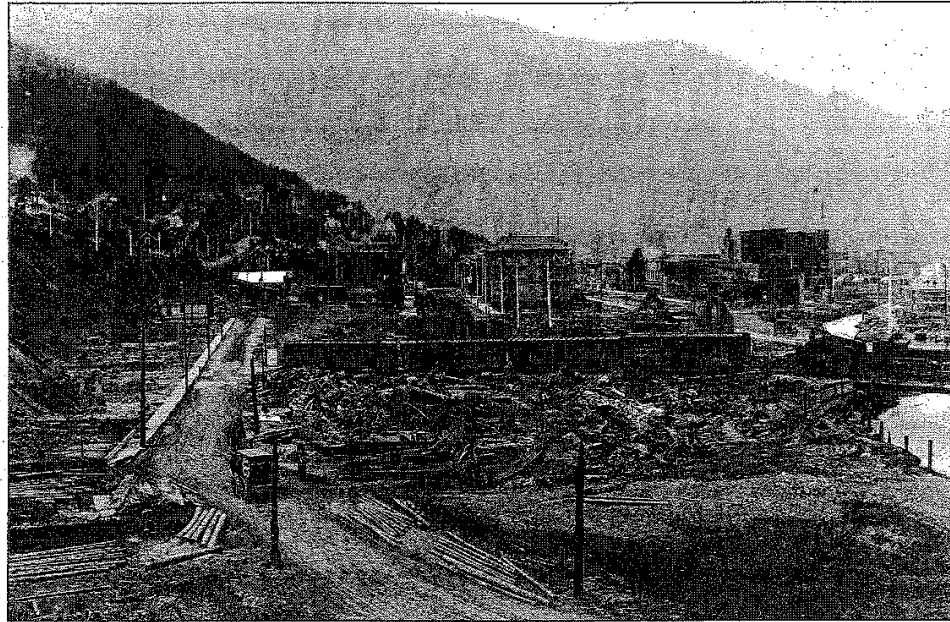
For the Forest Service, which marks its centennial this year, the fires of 1910 were pivotal, O'Brien said. "At the time of the fires, there was a big argument going on about what to do with these big tracts of land. The mission of the Forest Service wasn't tremendously clear."

"After 1910, fire suppression became a major goal for the forests in the West," he said. "As a result of 1910, there were fire policies put in place that strongly resemble what happens even today."

"On the Panhandle, Lolo, Bitterroot and Flathead forests, the suppression of fire has shaped the ecology we have today more than any other single thing that has happened. More than bark beetles. More than timber management. More than blister rust. It's the suppression of fire that has shaped the ecology of the Rocky Mountain West."

On the Pulaski Trail, visitors will be able to feel that history underfoot, See said. There's not much evidence left of the great fire itself, but interpretive signs along the two-mile route will tell the story.

Of Edward Pulaski: "Pulaski left school in Green Springs, Ohio, at age 15, seeking fortune and adventure out west. Before becoming a forest ranger, he learned many trades, from mining and ranching to logging."



U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Wallace, Idaho, suffered the brunt of the 1910 wildfires, with most of the town left in smoking shambles.

When, two years before "The Big Blowup," Pulaski signed on with the Forest Service, his supervisor described him as "a man of most excellent judgment, conservative, thoroughly acquainted with the region" and "one of the best and safest men that could have been placed in charge of a crew of men in the hills."

Of the 1910 fires: "How many people died in the Big Blowup? The conservative official tally stands at 85, but the final toll could be as high as 133. Seventy-two firefighters died on the Coeur d'Alene forest, four on the Cabinet National Forest and two on the Pend Oreille National Forest. The other casualties were homesteaders, townspeople and miners trapped in the flames in Idaho and Montana."

Of the aftermath: "The most profound impact of the 1910 fires was political. In 1911, Henry Graves, the chief of the Forest Service, stated that the 1910 fires clearly demonstrated that the first task of the Forest

Service had to be fire protection. For him and the next three chiefs of the Forest Service, suppressing wildfire was job one."

Of course, there were unprecedented impacts of the 90 years of aggressive wildland firefighting, as fire was an essential element in western forests - and, without fire, those forests changed in character and composition.

That history, too, will be marked along the Pulaski Trail, and during Saturday afternoon's dedication ceremonies at the trailhead on Moon Pass Road just outside Wallace.

Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey will be there, as will

Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, and various Forest Service and Silver Valley dignitaries.

The trail itself is still being rebuilt, so isn't yet ready for the public. (The Forest Service expects the trail to be fully open by October.)

It's a beauty, O'Brien promised, running two miles in and two miles back along the same path, much of which runs through a lush, creek-bottom forest.

"There's a beautiful little bridge right off the trailhead," he said. "It's really a neat trail."

The trail maintains an easy 4 percent grade along the route to the adit, which is blocked off for obvious safety reasons.

Eventually, See hopes for an overlook giving visitors a good view of the tunnel opening.

"One of the beauties of this story is that it's not ancient history," O'Brien said. "You can take the old photographs of the adit and see the same log that's in the photos from the day after the fire lying there on the hillside today."

"Ranger Pulaski was an incredible hero," he said, "and those fires were more than incredible."

It was 4 a.m. on the morning of Aug. 21, 1910, when Pulaski and his men came to consciousness in the burned-over mine tunnel - called the Nicholson Adit.

"We tried to stand up, but our legs refused to hold us," he said later. "So we dragged ourselves outside to the creek to ease our parched throats and lips. Our disappointment was terrible when we found the stream filled with ashes and the water too hot to drink. We counted our number. Five were missing. Some of the men went back and tried to awaken them, but they were dead."

The air cleared, slowly, and the men began to stagger down the mountainside into Wallace.

"When walking failed us, we crawled on our hands and knees," Pulaski said. "We were in a terrible condition, all of us hurt or burned. I was blind, and my hands were burned from trying to keep the fire out of the tunnel. Our shoes were burned off our feet, and our clothes were in parched rags."

"Those who died later were brought in on pack horses."

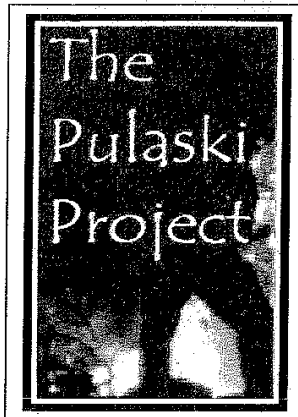
They returned to find Wallace

in ruins, having been overtaken by the flames during the night.

Pulaski led his men to the hospital, where their burns were bandaged. Then he set out in search of his wife and little daughter. They, too, had survived to tell the story of the great fire.

Project Status Report

Pulaski Tunnel Trail Idaho Panhandle National Forests (August 16, 2005)

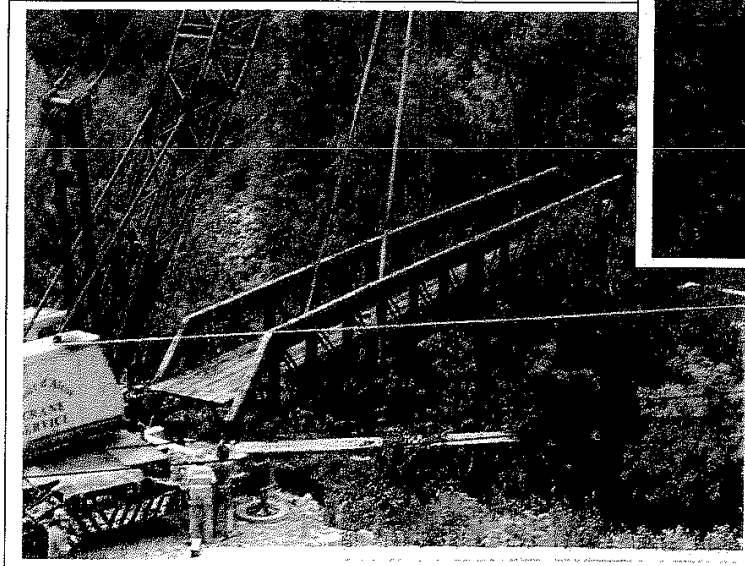


Trailhead Area:

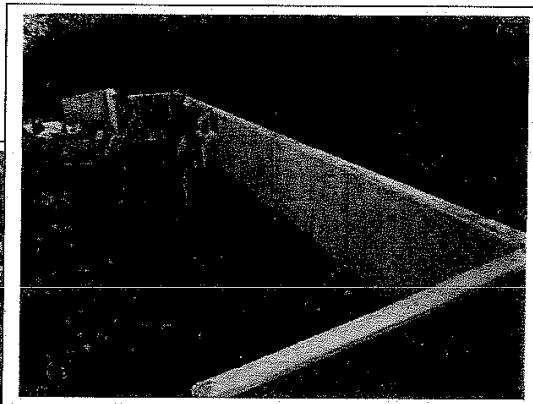
The subcontractor (Wesslen Construction) placed the prefabricated Moosman bridge on the cast-in-place abutments during the third week of July. Other major work during the past month includes placing concrete for the parking lot retaining wall. Now the subcontractor is concentrating on constructing the concrete footing for the first segment of modular block wall. All of the concrete for this section of footing should be placed by Tuesday, August 16th. For the remainder of the month, the Subcontractor will be placing blocks and backfilling to complete this initial 175 foot segment of trail utilizing a modular block wall.

The upper section of the concrete CXT Cascadian toilet building was damaged during erection and it is the intent of the Subcontractor to have the replacement section in place by the first of next week (August 22nd).

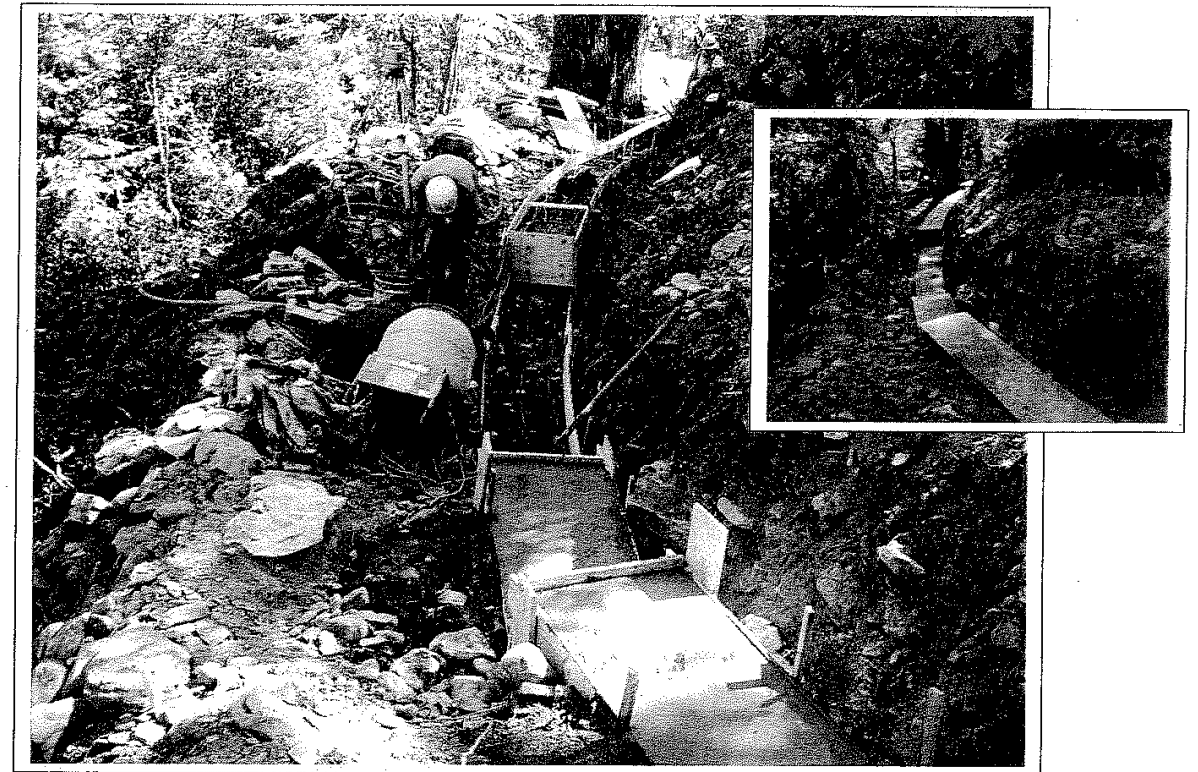
Trailhead Construction



Setting the prefabricated Moosman Bridge on cast-in-place abutments.



Construction of the parking area concrete retaining wall.

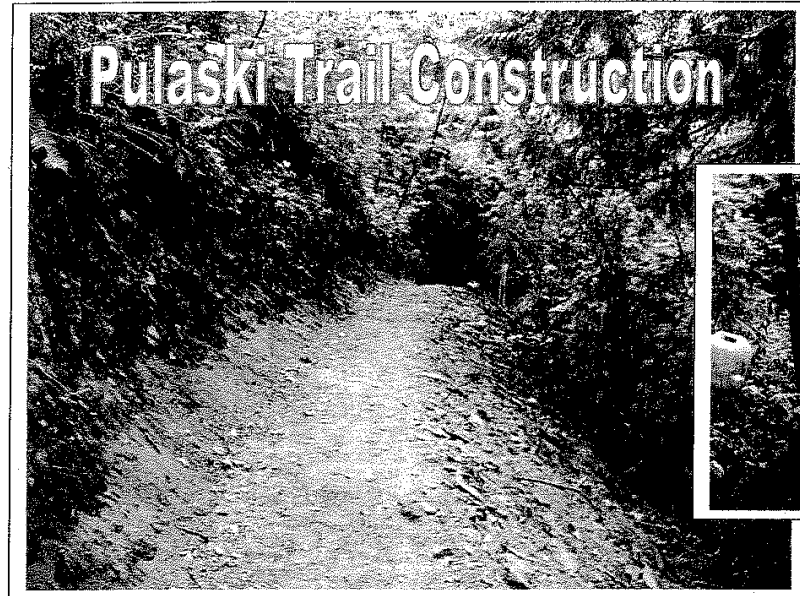


Concrete placement for modular block wall footing.
(Note: new trail will be constructed on an elevated grade to the right side of photo)

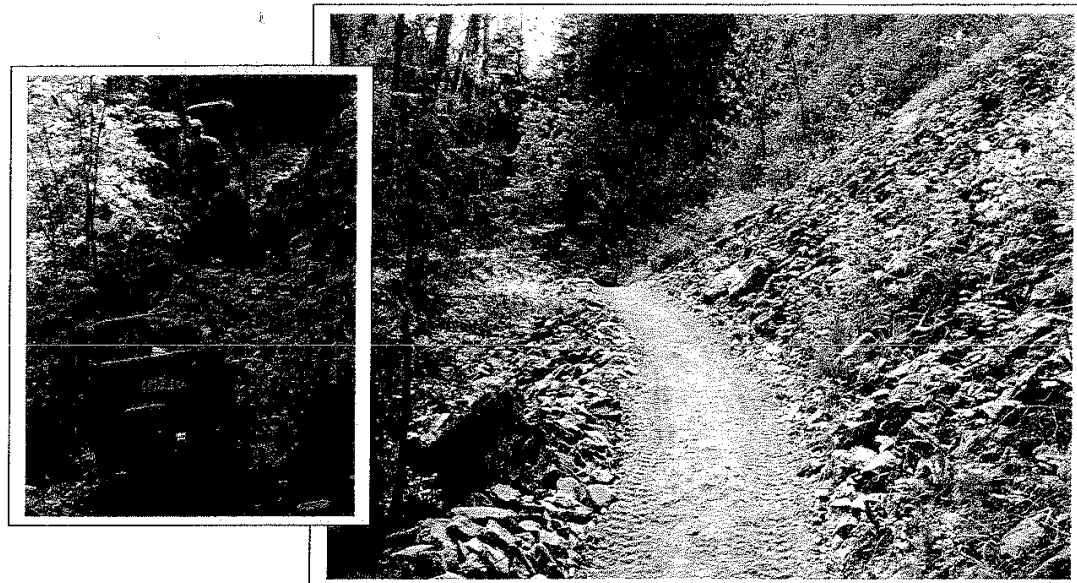
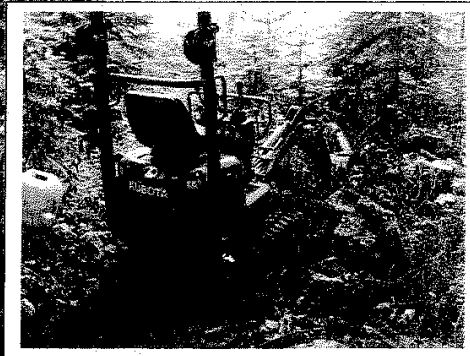
Trail Construction:

The subcontractor (KD Construction) has roughly completed approximately 4500 lineal feet of trail. This includes approximately 1/2 mile of new construction and 1200 feet of reconstruction.

The subcontractor is still waiting on timber materials to construct the four small timber bridges and three puncheon sections. Surfacing remains to be placed over the new section of trail construction. Surfacing will not be placed until the first bridge has been constructed to facilitate delivery of crushed aggregate material.



"Full Bench" section of new trail

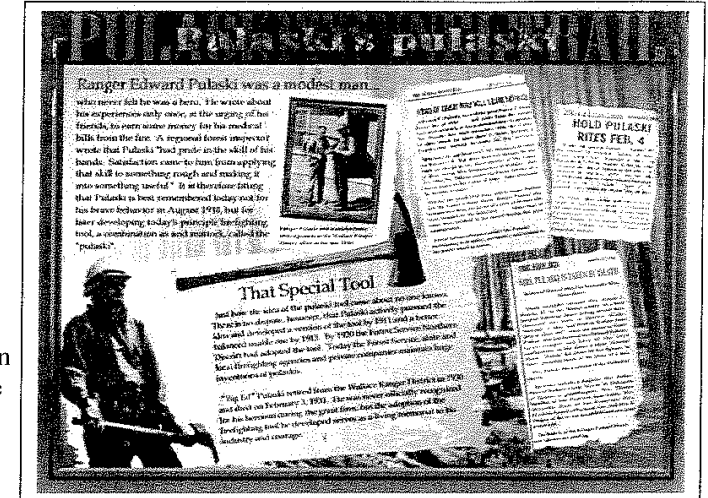


Trail construction through talus slope areas and placement of trail tread material

Interpretive Signing:

Grady Meyers has done an exceptional job with the completion of the 12 proofs for making the porcelain interpretive signs that tell the Pulaski story as well as the Great 1910 Fire and its impacts on the local community, the Forest Service and many generations to come.

Steel interpretive sign posts have been fabricated, powder coated and will be installed by the Contractors by late September.



Dedication Ceremony:

Although the Pulaski Tunnel Trail project is still in its early stages of construction, the scheduled August 20, 2005 dedication ceremony has been scheduled due to the significance of this date. On the night of August 20, 1910, Ranger Ed Pulaski secured his crew in the Nicholson mine, and held them there with the threat of using his revolver on any man who tried to leave.

The story became the best remembered event of the Big Blowup and, according to historian Stephen J. Pyne, also became the defining symbol of the U.S. Forest Service's subsequent disposition toward the suppression of wildfire.

Pulaski later refined the "Pulaski tool," a combination axe and mattock, which is the most popular implement used by wildfire fighters to this day.

Senator Larry Craig, key sponsor of this project, will attend the dedication and offer some remarks. Under Secretary Mark Rey has also indicated he will attend this dedication ceremony to commence at 1 p.m. on Saturday August 20th at the Pulaski Trailhead, located approximately a half-mile south of Wallace on the Moon Pass Road.

Larry Shepherd
Construction Engineer/COR



PULASKI TRAIL DEDICATION TOMORROW

AUGUST 19 -- WALLACE, IDAHO: On the afternoon of August 20, 1910, when the wind hit dozens of burning backcountry fires, the result was an inferno of almost unimaginable intensity. The fires merged till the flame front was 50 miles from side to side. Three million acres burned in two days, from north-central Idaho to northwest Montana. Five towns were destroyed, and at least 78 firefighters and seven civilians were killed.

Featured today in the [Missoulian](#) is the story of the U.S. Forest Service ranger named Ed Pulaski, who led 45 firefighters into a mine shaft, then stood guard at the entrance to turn back those who tried to flee in panic.

Tomorrow, 95 years after Ed Pulaski led his men to safety, the Forest Service will help dedicate a new trail to the old mine site. The trail was once well-worn by people and horses from Wallace to the St. Joe country, but over the decades the trail was forgotten and became overgrown. Jim See, who's been hiking the area's hills since the mid-1980s, said the trail was more or less abandoned, not even a true trail. But the more he learned about Pulaski's story and the fires of 1910, the more he became convinced that the trail was historically significant. He and others launched the [Pulaski Project](#), a private-public effort to negotiate easements across private lands along the trail, and secure a congressional appropriation of \$300,000 and private funding of \$147,000 for the trail.

See said there's not much evidence left of the 1910 fires along the trail, but interpretive signs along a two-mile route will tell the story.

Tomorrow's dedication ceremony will be held at the trailhead on Moon Pass Road just outside Wallace -- one of the Idaho towns devastated by the 1910 inferno. The trail itself is not yet open to the public, but should be fully open by October. The dedication's scheduled for 1 p.m. at the Pulaski Tunnel Trail trailhead. Note that there is NO PARKING available at the trailhead; school buses will pick up passengers at Wallace High School and the Northern Pacific Depot starting at 11:45 a.m. The same buses will return visitors after the ceremony. For more information on the dedication and the project, check out the [Pulaski Project](#) website.

We reached the mine

Pulaski Tunnel Trail Dedication

"The next man who tries to leave the tunnel I will SHOOT!"
I did not have to use my gun.



William Adams in front of the Nicholson mine tunnel just after the big fire.

August 20th - 1:00 p.m.

**Trailhead
Wallace, Idaho**

Huckleberry-Heritage Festival

The
Pulaski
Project

www.pulaski-project.org

History Is Alive and Well in Wallace, Idaho: The Pulaski Story

... of fear, some crying, some praying.

The Story

On August 20th, 1910 hurricane force winds blew together a number of smaller forest fires into a conflagration of epic proportions. Forest Ranger Pulaski's crew of firefighters were trapped in the Big Blowup until Big Ed led them the Nicholson mine, known locally as the Pulaski Tunnel. After barely surviving the night, this trail became their escape route.

... from the terrible fire and I had to ...
...ly mark down uncons...
...it must have been ...
...some ...
...air circulating th...
...ct in the morning.

...refused to hold...
...use our parched...
...n we found the...
...ink. We count...
...back and tri...
...became clear...
...our feet and...
...logs and t...
...on hands and

Ranger

The Dedication

Signs at the trailhead, along the trail and at the tunnel site will tell the story of Pulaski, the Big Burn and the formative impact these events had on the fledging U. S. Forest Service.

Senator Larry Craig, Forest Service representatives, and Pulaski Project members will dedicate the trail at a public ceremony using the original pulaski tool.

The Festival

Special displays and activities related to the Pulaski Legacy theme will be held throughout the Huckleberry-Heritage Festival.

The Pulaski Project

The public is warmly invited to attend three events hosted by the Pulaski Project and the U.S. Forest Service in Wallace, Idaho on Saturday, August, 20th, 2005.

At 10 a.m. at the Melodrama Theater on 6th St.: **FILM.** Please join Ranger Linda McFadden for a presentation of the U.S. Forest Service's centennial film, "The Greatest Good." The film offers a fascinating and beautifully photographed look at the Forest Service's view of its own past, its accomplishments, and its missteps. *Definitely worth seeing!*

At 1 p.m. at the Pulaski Tunnel Trail Trailhead: PULASKI TRAIL DEDICATION.

Please join Senator Larry Craig, Undersecretary of Agriculture Mark Rey, and other dignitaries to dedicate the Pulaski Tunnel Trail. There will be **NO PARKING** available at the trailhead. Traffic will be restricted during ceremony. School busses will pick up passengers at Wallace Jr./Sr. High School and the Northern Pacific Depot starting at 11:45 a.m. The same busses will return folks after the ceremony. Don't miss the Forest Service Honor Guard, which will "pipe in" our guests!

At 3 p.m. at the Wallace Inn: RECEPTION.

Noted author, lecturer, and publisher, Jim Petersen, will speak on forest health and related issues. Jim is head of the Evergreen Foundation, which publishes the highly regarded Evergreen Magazine. He is also a native of the Silver Valley. We are delighted that Jim accepted our invitation to speak on this historic day and occasion!

58897-0810

SHOSHONE NEWS-PRESS

Pulaski Tunnel Trail to be dedicated

By ERIKA KIRSCH
Staff writer

WALLACE — After years of preparation the Pulaski Tunnel Trail will receive an official dedication 95 years to the day after the 1910 fire forced Edward Pulaski and his crew into an old mine.

The Pulaski Project was named after Edward Pulaski, a United States Forest Service ranger during the 1910 firestorm between Wallace and Avery. He led a 45-men team of firefighters to the abandoned Nicholson mine south of Wallace to reach safety. The men survived the firestorm that trapped 1,800 men between Wallace and Avery.

The 1910 Fire burned for three months and burned 9 billion board feet of timber across 3 million acres of land. It was the largest wildfire in United States history.

In 1911, Pulaski presented a tool he invented to U. S. Forest Service supervisors. The tool was a cross between an ax and a mattock. The tool remained in Wallace until the last of the Pulaski family members moved to Washington. The tool returned to the Silver Valley in April and was on display at the Wallace District Mining Museum. The Pabst family, who own the Pulaski tool, will have it returned to them following the dedication.

Jim See, the Pulaski Project president, had the idea to rehabilitate the Pulaski Trail about 10 years ago. In 2002, See and Mullan School District Superintendent Robin Stanley organized the Pulaski Project committee and they held their first meeting on Oct. 31 of that year. The Pulaski

See DEDICATION, Page 4

4A THE NEWS-PRESS Friday, August 19, 2005

DEDICATION

Continued from Page 1

Project is partnered with the USFS, the Bureau of Land Management, HECLA, Stimson Lumber and East Shoshone County Water Company and the project is also a part of the Greater Wallace Community Development Corporation.

The project has not been completed as of yet, but a pre-fabricated bridge was placed at the site in July. A parking lot will also be constructed in the future.

The Pulaski Tunnel Trail, which is two miles in length, will be officially dedicated on Saturday at 1 p.m. at the trailhead, located approximately one-half mile south of Wallace on the Moon Pass Road. Those interested in going to the dedication are asked to meet at 11:45 a.m. at the Wallace Jr./Sr. High School to get a shuttle to the site, as there will be no parking available at the site.

Several organizations will be represented at the dedication ceremony. Senator Larry Craig and his wife, Suzanne, will be present at the event. Also planning to attend are Craig's Regional Director John Martin, his Communications Manager Dan Whiting, Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Mark Rey, U.S. Forest Service and Region I representative Ranotta McNair, U.S. Bureau of Land Management representative Eric Thomson, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Wallace Mayor Ron Garitone, Dwight Opp of Stimson Lumber Company, Carl Scheel representing East Shoshone County Water District, John Cantamessa of the Idaho Panhandle Resource Advisory Committee and Shoshone County commissioners, Shoshone County

Former resident returns home for Pulaski dedication

By ERIKA KIRSCH
Staff writer

WALLACE — Jim Petersen grew up immersed in the resource-based industry of the Silver Valley.

Now the small-town boy is the man behind the "Evergreen" publication and the non-profit Evergreen Foundation. The foundation was established in 1986 and works to help advance the public understanding and support for the science-based forestry industry and forest policy.

"At the time, Congress mandated a public involvement process to come up with a viable forest lands plan throughout the country," Petersen said.

Petersen was involved with a group that worked to develop a tool to help inform a non-industry audience about forestry policy and issues. "Evergreen" magazine is said to be one of the most widely read forestry magazines in the world, Petersen said.

Petersen will be coming back to the Silver Valley this weekend to speak on the health of the forests at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20 at the Wallace Inn. Following the Pulaski Tunnel dedication, which starts at 1 p.m. at the Pulaski Trailhead, Petersen's speech will be a memoir of his experiences growing up in the Silver Valley, Petersen said.

Petersen grew up in Kellogg and he has a family history of loggers, miners, farmers, cattle ranching, sawmilling and commercial fishermen. Darrell, Petersen's father, worked for the Bunker Hill Company for years. Darrell was later a Shoshone County commissioner. Petersen's mother, Reta, was a teacher in the Kellogg School District for several years. Petersen worked at the Bunker Hill Mine to pay his way through college.

Petersen attended the University of Idaho, where he majored in journalism and broadcasting. Petersen worked for newspapers in Idaho, Oregon and Illinois. He founded a public relations firm in 1973. "Evergreen" magazine and foundation was

founded in 1986 by Petersen and a group of southern Oregon lumbermen and loggers.

He was asked to be a speaker at the reception ceremony for the Pulaski Tunnel Dedication by Mullan School District Superintendent Robin Stanley. Stanley and Petersen met during a National Forest, County and Schools Coalition event in Reno, Nev. in March 2004. Petersen was a keynote speaker at the event and Stanley was impressed by Petersen's speaking ability and love for the Silver Valley.

"When Petersen was done with his speech, he had the crowd in awe and there were tears coming out of men's eyes," Stanley said. "He was far and away the most dynamic speaker there. He was boasting about Kellogg and it made me proud to be from this valley. He was proud to come from a family with soiled hands and a mother in the school district."

Stanley later contacted Petersen and asked him to speak at the Wallace event and Petersen accepted the offer.

"To say the very least, I was flattered," Petersen said.

Petersen is the recipient of many awards including: Best Forestry Public Relations Program in the Nation, American Forest and Paper Association in 1991; Outstanding Contributions to Forestry Education, Northeastern Loggers Association in 1999; Outstanding Forestry Activist in the Western United States, Forest Resources Association in 2000 and Communicator of the Year Award, Montana Wood Products Association in 2004.

Currently living in Bigfork, Mont. with his wife, Kathleen, Petersen is a member of the Society of American Foresters, the Forest History Society, the Intermountain Logging Conference and the Pacific Logging Congress. Petersen is currently publisher of "Evergreen" magazine and is also working on a book on the history of the West's independent sawmill owners.

Commissioner Sherry Krulitz, Pulaski Project Board members Harry Magnuson and Dale Lavigne and Mary Lou Shepherd of the Idaho State Legislature.

To celebrate the 100-year anni-

versary of the USFS, there will be a film called "The Greatest Good" about the history of the USFS. The film will be shown at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the 6th Street Melodrama in Wallace. At 3 p.m.

on Saturday, Jim Petersen, a former resident of Kellogg and publisher of "Evergreen" magazine, will be speaking at the Wallace Inn about his experiences growing up in the Silver Valley.

Pulaski leads men to safety in mine tunnel

By Ron Roizen and Jim See
Special to Handle Extra

A half-dozen or more accounts were written by crew members of ranger Ed Pulaski's crew's experience in the Great 1910 Fire, some written soon after the fire, some later on, and some even many years later.

U.S. Forest Service archeologist and "Big Blowup" historian Carl Ritchie collated these accounts into an approximate sequence of the events for Pulaski and his firefighting crew in the lead article of a document titled "Pulaski, Two Days in August 1910." The document was privately published by the Forest Service in 1984 on the occasion of the dedication of a monument to Pulaski and his crew.

The monument is located in the parking area across from the trailhead of the Pulaski Tunnel Trail, about a half-mile south of Wallace on Moon Pass Road.

"It should be understood," said Ritchie in a telephone interview, "that there is a lot of confusion surrounding accounts of these events."

"Above and beyond the inaccuracies created by the smoke and circumstances

of the fire itself, many men were wholly unfamiliar with the area, some were illiterate or unable to read maps or unable to connect their current location to a point on a map. Some may even have confused the experiences of other crews with that of Pulaski's crew."

"Incidentally," Ritchie adds, "all the sources of confusion and panic make it all the more important that the crew could rely on a knowledgeable and levelheaded leader like Ed Pulaski."

By the middle of August, 1910, firefighting crews were scattered along the ridge tops of the Coeur d'Alene River/St. Joe River divide, fighting a multiplicity of fires on several fire lines. On Aug. 19 and 20, winds began to enliven these fires, causing them to jump fire lines and pose an increased risk to firefighters.

Pulaski's crew was working the fire in the Stripped Peak area. According to C.W. Stockton's account, Pulaski was not present when the men began retreating to their camp because of the increasingly dangerous situation.

The oldest member of Pulaski's crew, 60-year-old Stockton, told the men of a nearby clearing at McPhee's homestead. The men fled to this location and took refuge in a small stream that flowed through the homestead.

"Stockton was definitely a member of Pulaski's crew," adds Ritchie, "but his account may have confused the experience of John Bell's crew, which was also on Stripped Peak and took refuge in a creek."

On the night of Aug. 19, Pulaski rode to Wallace to secure food and first-aid supplies. He returned on the morning of the 20th. His trip covered approximately 17 miles to Wallace and back.

The cook at the base camp, a man named Folz, offered a different account of the crew's departure from the Stripped Peak area. It was written in 1951. Folz said men retreated from the base camp to the north side of the Coeur d'Alene/St. Joe River divide in the late morning of Aug. 20.

There, thinking they were out of danger, a temporary field kitchen was established. Worsening smoke and fires, however, soon sowed confusion and fear.

According to Folz, "An unknown

Pulaski

Continued from 8

number of men had reached the camp when Pulaski rode into the camp and took charge."

Pulaski told his men that they had to try to make it to Wallace. By late afternoon the crew became trapped in the West Fork's canyon.

"Their route of escape to a safe refuge may have been blocked by backfire from Wallace," explained Ritchie.

"Pulaski changed plans and told the men they would try to make it to the War Eagle mine, the mine closest to Wallace on the West Fork.

"Illuminating their path was the orange hue of a crown fire," Ritchie said.

Upon reaching a small dwelling known as the J.I.C. cabin, Pulaski realized there was no hope of reaching the War Eagle, which was approximately three-quarters of a mile farther down.

Pulaski procured a cross-cut saw from the cabin and gave it to a crew member in order to clear timber that might block the horses. The saw was the only tool they had, everything else having been left behind in their hasty retreat from the temporary camp.

At first, Pulaski had his men take refuge in the J.I.C. tunnel. But he soon recognized that the J.I.C. was not deep enough to offer safe refuge.

Pulaski began a desperate search

back up the trail, in the direction away from Wallace, for the Nicholson mine. Once Pulaski located the mine, he returned and stationed Folz and another man along the route from the J.I.C. to the Nicholson in order to guide the crew through the smoke and confusion.

"It showed considerable presence of mind," commented Ritchie, "for Pulaski to post guides under these difficult circumstances."

All but one man reached the Nicholson mine.

"The next day," said Ritchie, "his body was so charred that it was initially mistaken for a burned tree stump."

It had taken the men fully five panicked hours to travel to, find, and secure themselves in the Nicholson tunnel.

"Inside, the tunnel was a madhouse," wrote William Chance. "Some men went berserk, clamoring over the prostrate bodies, choking, gasping. Others praying. Others laughing. I'll never forget one man lustily singing, 'The Pride of the House is Mama's Baby.'"

It was in this context that Pulaski drew his pistol to keep one man from trying to escape the mine.

Pulaski and two other men tried to extinguish burning mine timbers. Men buried their faces in the wet dirt on the mine's floor and in wetted clothing and hats.

Suffocation brought one man into convulsions, and he attempted to strangle another man "but freed his

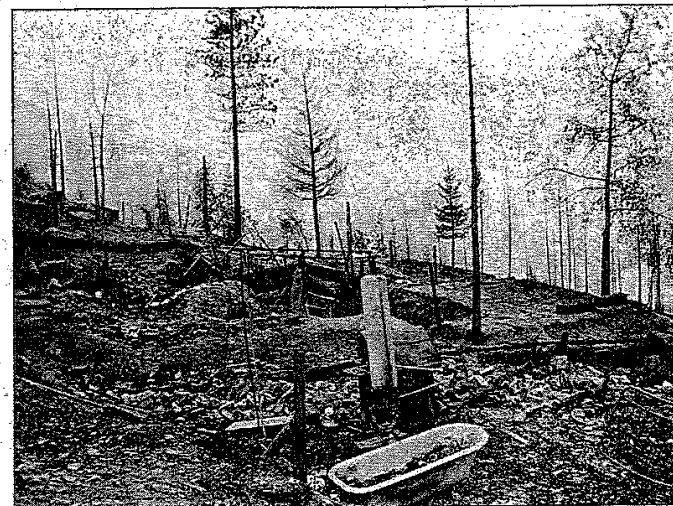


Photo from Museum of North Idaho

Ruins of a man's house are all that remain after the fire. The man died trying to save his parrot, Wallace.

grip in the final throes of death."

Two unconscious men drowned in a pool of water that collected behind the body of a horse lying on the mine's floor.

In all, five men perished in the tunnel, and 39 or 40 survived.

They spent approximately three hours in the tunnel (though another source says five hours). One man said "it seemed like only 15 minutes had passed."

As reported in Pulaski's own account, written in 1923, at some point in the awakening process the famous exchange occurred in which one crew member said, "Come outside, boys, the boss is dead."

Pulaski replied, "Like hell he is!"

dire was their condition that they accepted only water.

When the group reached Wallace, according to William Chance's account, "Those who were hungry, Pulaski took to the one restaurant not destroyed by the fire. The rest, he took to the hospital. Then he went home, to his wife and 7-year-old daughter."

"I have my doubts about the restaurant detail," said Ritchie. "The men would have been in pretty poor shape for a restaurant but perhaps one or two crew members would have been in good enough shape to do so."

Ritchie's account of Pulaski's route taking him and his crew down the West Fork of Placer Creek, past the Nicholson mine, and then doubling back in a desperate search for the same mine is lent support in a hand-drawn illustration that accompanied Pulaski's 1923 article. The illustration shows two men hastening uphill and up the canyon, or in other words in the direction away from Wallace, as Ritchie's article described.

Ron Roizen and Jim See are members of the Pulaski Project, which has partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to save the mine and trail where Big Ed Pulaski's heroic rescue of his crew was carried out in August 1910. The public is invited to the dedication ceremony for the Pulaski Tunnel Trail at the trailhead a half-mile south of Wallace at 1 p.m. today. Please contact ron@roizen.com for more information.



Photo courtesy of Pulaski

Edward C. Pulaski poses in front of the mine outside Wallace, where in 1910 he forced his crew by gunpoint take cover in the shaft.

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Photo courtesy US Forest Service

On Aug. 20, 1910, Edward C. Pulaski, the U.S. Forest Service's first Wallace District ranger, led more than 40 firefighters into this mine during the Idaho fire. Many miners were saved by huddling in the mine tunnel in the center of the photo.



Photo courtesy of US Forest Service

The graves of more than two dozen forest firefighters killed in the 1910 fire are arranged in a circle at a cemetery in St. Maries.

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