



Heroes. Heritage. Renewal.

**Exerpts from the collection
"When the Mountains Roared"**

Stories of the 1910 Fires

COEUR D'ALENE NATIONAL FOREST

Setser Creek Fire

R. M. Debitt, Asst. Forest Ranger in Charge

1.	George Smith	\$21.25
2.	Geo. A. Blodgett	\$51.00
3.	James Kerr	\$39.50
4.	Harry Jackson	\$ 5.50
5.	L. Ustlo	\$41.75
6.	James Donahue	\$19.25
7.	Frank Sanders	\$ 5.50
8.	Patrick Grogan	\$51.50
9.	Larry Levar	\$39.00
10.	M. Phweiser	\$39.00
11.	J. Rusick	\$42.00
12.	M. Dilo (May be Frank Polick)	\$ 5.50
13.	Jack Hill (May be J. B. Pease)	\$ 5.50
14.	O. Bing (Oscar Burg)	\$ 5.50
15.	Ed Murphy	\$21.50
16.	H. Sipheas (Harley Siphers)	\$ 5.50
17.	Ralph Ekhoen	\$ 6.00
18.	Frank Skeychell (Frank Getchell)	\$ 5.50
19.	Ed Dunn	\$41.00
20.	W. F. Norton (May be Frank Polic Or Joe Jappa)	\$ 5.50
21.	L. Schwartz	\$ 5.50
22.	W. H. Baker	\$ 5.50
23.	Frank Masterson	\$40.50
24.	George McGurk	\$39.00
25.	O. Ellefson (O. Ellefseu)	\$38.75
26.	F. D. Swick	\$ 5.50
27.	W. Polk	\$ 5.50
28.	Wm. Casey	\$ 5.50

Excerpt from the collection of "when The Mountains Roared", (page 82), US Forest Service.

SETSER CREEK FIRE
R. M. Debitt's Crew

1. GEORGE SMITH.

Home is Missoula, Montana. Identified by Thomas Murphy, San Jose, California. Mr. Smith's father came to Avery a short time after his death for the purpose of removing the body, but he found that he could not do it at that time. Since then we have been trying to correspond with Mr. Murphy and Barney Smith, father of the dead man, but have been unable to reach them up to the present time.

The effects found upon Mr. Smith consist of one silver watch, open face, 25 jewels, Columbus Kind make. Watch in Wallace office.
Buried on Setser Creek.

Time

Aug. 16 – 12 hours

17 – 12

18 – 13

19 – 12

20 - 24

21 - 25

85 hours, \$21.25 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "when The Mountains Roared", (page 87), US Forest Service.

2. GEORGE A. BLODGETT

His father, Henry Blodgett, of Willet, Cortland County, N. Y. and his mother, Elizabeth Blodgett, Whitney Point, Broome, Co., N.Y., R.D. No. 1, were notified of their son's death, and they have executed the necessary papers to receive the amount due their son.

Time

Aug. 4 – 10 hours 13 - 11

5 – 11 14 – 12

6 – 11 15 - 13

7 – 11 16 - 12

8 – 12 17 – 13

9 – 15 18 - 13

10 – 11 19 – 12

11 – 12 20 – 13

12 – 12 204 hours, \$51.00 amount due

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 88), US Forest Service.

[Back to Top](#)

SETSER CREEK FIRE
R. M. Debitt's Crew

3. JAMES KERR

Address Lewiston, Idaho. Wife found. Died on Setser Creek, buried on Setser Creek. Wife communicated with Lewiston, Idaho. Mrs. James Kerr.

Time

Aug. 9 – 11 hours	15 - 13
10 – 13 hours	16 – 12
11 – 12	17 - 13
12 – 12	18 – 13
13 -11	19 - 12
14 – 12	20 - 12
	21 – <u>12</u>

158 hours, \$39.50 amount due, which was paid to wife, Mrs. James Kerr, at Lewiston, Idaho (Vo.No. 900).

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 88), US Forest Service.

4. HARRY JACKSON

5. L. USTLO.

Name may be Ustolos or U. S. Tole. Address unknown. Effects, gold watch with dealer's name, Sloan and Froinburg, Ironwood, Michigan. Buried on Setser Creek. Was a foreigner. This man was a tall and well-dressed Finlander. Effects, pocket knife and watch sold by Sloan and Froinburg, Ironwood, Michigan. Open face gold watch, 17 jewelled adjusted, called "The Accurate Time." Manufactured by the Cosmopolitan Watch Co., U.S.A., works No. 1349879, case No. 1044055, Watsworth case.

Wore lace belt and picture. Scar on right knee. Have so far been unable to get clue as to this man's identity.

Time

Aug. 9 – 11 hours	12 – 15
10 – 11	20 - 12
11 – 12	21 – <u>12</u>
13 – 11	167 hours, \$41.75 amount due.
14 – 12	
15 – 21	
16 – 12	
17 – 13	

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 89), US Forest Service.

[Back to Top](#)

SETSER CREEK FIRE
R. M. Debitt's Crew

6. JAMES DONAHUE.

Address unknown, no known friends. Effects, pocket knife, bowl of pipe, axe stone, tobacco, pipe and stone and pocket knife found on body. Identified by these. Probably from Havre, Montana. Wrote Mayor of city.

Age about 50 years. Height, 5 ft. 10 in., light blue eyes, inclined to be weak, hair sprinkled with gray. Wore calked boots, smooth shaven, thought to be a lumber jack by trade. No reply from mayor of Havre, Montana.

Time

Aug. 16 – 14 hours

17 – 14

18 – 13

19 – 12

20 – 12

77 hours, \$19.25 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 90), US Forest Service.

7. FRANK SANDERS.

Address unknown. No known friends. Worked for a time for B. R. V. I. Co. in Ravalli County, Montana. This company has been written, but they know nothing about the man. On body were found a note book partly burned, and special road tax receipt for 1910, and poor tax receipt for year 1910, Ravalli Co., Montana. Note book gives address as Ravalli Co., Montana. Also gives name of Sam Blazer. Worked for B. R. V. I. Co. from about March 19 to Aug. 1, 1910. Wrote to Milwaukee and to places in Indiana, but received no reply. Name in note book which looks like Miss Murther, Center, Indiana. Wrote to Post Master, Center, Indiana, but received no reply.

Time

Aug. 20 – 10 hours

21 – 12

22 hours, \$5.50 due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 90), US Forest Service.

[Back to Top](#)

SETSER CREEK FIRE
R. M. Debitt's Crew

8. PATRICK GROGAN

Address, Butte, Montana. Body shipped to Butte, Montana, to his daughter, Mrs. Dolan, Hotel Reilly, 222 Dearborn St., Butte, Montana.

Time

Aug. 6 – 12 hours	14 - 12
7 – 11	15 - 12
8 – 16	16 - 24
9 – 11	17 - 13
10- 11	18 - 13
11 – 12	19 – 12
13 – 11	20 – <u>24</u>

206 hours, \$51.50 due

Mrs. Dolan and Mrs. Kline, daughters of Patrick Grogan, deceased, were paid \$51.50 on account of services of their father.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 91), US Forest Service.

9. LARRY LEVAR.

Buried on Setser Creek. Identified by M. J. Merrick, 223 Howard St., Spokane, Washington. We have corresponded with his mother, Udova Maria Levar, Posta Hreljin Silo Zastene, Europa, Austria, Hivatsko Primorji, The necessary papers have been sent to his mother for execution, so that the amount due him from the Government may be paid to her.

Time

Aug. 9 – 11 hours	14 - 12
10 – 11	15 - 13
11 – 12	16 - 12
12 – 12	17 - 13
13 – 11	18 - 13
	19 – 12
	20 – 12
	21 – <u>12</u>

156 hours, \$39.00 due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 91), US Forest Service.

[Back to Top](#)

SETSER CREEK FIRE
R. M. Debitt's Crew

10. M. PHWEISER

Address unknown. Buried on Setser Creek. No clue as to this man's identity.

Time

Aug. 9 – 11	15 - 13
10 – 11	16 - 12
11 – 12	17 - 13
12 – 12	18 - 13
13 – 11	19 - 12
14 – 12	20- 12
	21 – <u>12</u>

156 hours, \$39.00 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 92), US Forest Service.

11. J. RUSICK.

Buried on Setser Creek. Address unknown. Identified by M. J. Merrick, Spokane, Washington. On May 27, 1911, we wrote the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Consul, Denver, Colorado, for information regarding father of J. Ruzic, who, we are informed, is Stjepan Ruzic, post office Hrejin Hrvatsko Primorje, Hungary. If it is determined that he is the father of J. Rusick a voucher and affidavit will be sent to him through the Anstro-Hungarian Consul for his execution.

Time

Aug. 9 – 11	16 - 12
10 – 11	17 - 13
11 – 12	18 - 13
12 – 12	19 - 12
13 – 11	20 - 24
14 – 12	21 - <u>12</u>
15 – 13	168 hours, \$42.00 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 92), US Forest Service.

[Back to Top](#)

SETSER CREEK FIRE
R. M. Debitt's Crew

12. M. DILO.

Address unknown. Buried on Setser Creek. No clue as to this man's identity.

Time

Aug. 20 – 10 hours

21 – 12

22 hours, \$5.50 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 93), US Forest Service.

13. JACK HILL

Buried on Setser Creek. Mrs. J. C. Hill of Seattle thinks that this man was her son, Richard Hill. We sent her a photograph of the man, but she is still not quite positive as to the identification.

Time

Aug. 20 – 10 hours

21 – 12

22 hours, \$5.50 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 93), US Forest Service.

14. O.BING

Address unknown. Buried on Setser Creek. No clue to this man's identity.

Time

Aug. 15 – 6 hours

19 – 12

16 – 12

20 – 18

17 – 13

21 – 12

18 – 13

86 hours, \$21.50 amount due

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 93), US Forest Service.

[Back to Top](#)

SETSER CREEK FIRE
R. M. Debitt's Crew

15. ED MURPHY

Address unknown. Buried on Setser Creek. No Clue to this man's identity.

Time

Aug. 15 – 6 hours	19 – 12
16 – 12	20 – 18
17 – 13	21 – <u>12</u>
18 – 13	86 hours, \$21.50 amount due

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 94), US Forest Service.

16. H. SIPHERS.

Home in Mercur, Utah. Harley Leroy Siphers, 20 years of age, hair nearly black, slightly pock marked, height about 5 ft. 8 ½ in. Wore #8 or 9 shoe. Buried on Setser Creek, body No. 5. J. W. Siphers, Wallace, Idaho, called at office and found photograph with effects, which he identified. Effects: 2 dimes, 1 nickel, 1 Ingersol watch, 1 photograph button. Turn over to brother.

Shipped from Missoula, Aug. 19 at 9:20 P.M. for Avery, Idaho. Brother claims to be only living relative.

Time

Aug. 20 – 10 hours
21 – <u>12</u>
22 hours, \$5.50 amount due.

Voucher and affidavit in favor of J. W. Siphers, brother sent to Missoula for payment Vo. No. 1458.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 94), US Forest Service.

[Back to Top](#)

SETSER CREEK FIRE
R. M. Debitt's Crew

17. RALPH EKHORN.

Address unknown. Buried on Setser Creek. No Clue to this man's identity.

Time

Aug. 20 – 10 hours

21 – 12 hours

22 hours, \$6.00 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 95), US Forest Service.

18. FRANK SKEYCHELL.

Address unknown. Buried on Setser Creek. No clue as to his identity. This man may be Frank Getchell, Basin, Montana. Mr. L. G. Huntley of Basin, Montana, writes inquiring about a man that name started to fight fires. Letter written to Mrs. Huntley requesting photograph or further information but no reply to letter has been received.

Time

Aug. 20 – 10 hours

21 – 12

22 hours, \$5.50 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 95), US Forest Service.

19. ED. DUNN.

Buried on Setser Creek. Numerous traces followed up by letters but no identification.

Time

Aug. 9 – 11 hours

10 – 12 16 – 12

11 – 12 17 – 13

12 – 12 18 – 13

13 – 11 19 – 12

14 – 15 20 – 18

15 – 12 21 – 12

164 hours, \$41.00 amount due

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 95), US Forest Service.

[Back to Top](#)

SETSER CREEK FIRE
R. M. Debit's Crew

20. W. F. NORTON.

Address unknown. Buried on Setser Creek.

Time

Aug. 20 – 10 hours

21 – 12

22 hours, \$5.50 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 96), US Forest Service.

21. L. SCHWARZ.

Buried on Setser Creek. Louis Schwarz, father of L. Schwarz, noticed his son's name in the list of dead published in the paper, and through the German Consult at Seattle we have established his identity, and vouchers and affidavits have been sent to his father for execution.

Time

Aug. 20 – 10 hours

21 – 12

22 hours, \$5.50 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 96), US Forest Service.

22. W. H. BAKER

Buried on Setser Creek. We wrote to Mrs. Martha Bachus, Box 372 Luverne, Minnesota, and through her we have established the identity of W. H. Baker, she being a sister. She states that his brother and father are living in San Antonio, Texas. We have again written to Mrs. Bachus for further information concerning the identity of this man.

Time

Aug. 20 – 10 hours

21 – 12

22 hours, \$5.50 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 96), US Forest Service.

[Back to Top](#)

SETSER CREEK FIRE
R. M. Debitt's Crew

23. FRANK MASTERSON.

Buried on Sester Creek. Was identified by Dock Materson of St. Croix Fall, Wisconsin. Mary Masterson, mother of Frank Masterson, deceased, who lives in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, R. F. S. No. 2, has been paid \$40.50, the amount due, by voucher No. 1328.

Time

Aug. 9 – 11 hours	16 – 13
10 – 11	17 – 13
11 – 12	18 – 12
12 – 14	19 – 12
13 – 15	20 – 12
14 – 13	21 – <u>12</u>
15 – 12	162 hours, \$40.50 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 97), US Forest Service.

24. GEORGE McGURK

Address unknown. Duplicate time shows "G. McGusk.) No clue as to his identity.

Time

Aug. 9 -11 hours	16 – 12
10 – 11	17 – 13
11 – 12	18 – 13
12 – 12	19 – 12
13 – 11	20 – 12
14 – 12	21 – <u>12</u>
15 – 13	156 hours, \$39.00 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 97), US Forest Service.

[Back to Top](#)

SETSER CREEK FIRE
R. M. Debitt's Crew

25. O. ELLEFSON.

Buried on Setser Creek. Identified by Mrs. M. Kloven who saw the name of Ellefson in the paper. She wrote to this office concerning the same, and we requested that a photograph be sent. The photograph was positively identified by Ed Basset, one of the men working in the fire crew. Voucher and affidavit have been sent to Mrs. M. Kloven, R. F. D. No. 2, Douglas, South Dakota, and Mrs. L. O. Tollefson, Spring Grove, Minnesota, for execution, these persons being the sisters and only heirs of Mr. Ellefson.

Time

Aug. 9 – 11 hours	16 – 12
10 – 11	17 – 13
11 – 12	18 – 13
12 – 12	19 – 12
13 – 11	20 – 12
14 – 12	21 – <u>12</u>
15 – 12	155 hours, \$38.75 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 98), US Forest Service.

26. F. D. SWICK

Address unknown. Buried on Setser Creek. No clue as to his identity.

Time

Aug. 20 – 10 hours
21 – 12
22 hours, \$5.50 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 98), US Forest Service.

27. W. POLK

Address unknown. Buried on Setser Creek. No clue as to identity.

Time

Aug. 20 – 10 hours
21 – 12
22 hours, \$5.50 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 98), US Forest Service.

[Back to Top](#)

SETSER CREEK FIRE
R. M. Debitt's Crew

28. WM. CASEY.

Buried on Setser Creek. He was an elderly man. We wrote Mrs. William Casey, who was supposed to be the wife of William Casey, at 519 Second Ave West, Great Falls, Montana. Mrs. Casey thinks that William Casey was her husband, but we have no positive way of identifying him.

Time

Aug. 20 – 10 hours

21 – 12

22 hours, \$5.50 amount due.

Excerpt from the collection of "When The Mountains Roared", (page 99), US Forest Service.

[Back to Top](#)