

## **Pulaski Story Outline – page 1 of 2**

- I. Natural disaster vs. man
  - A. Fire verses quick thinking
  - B. With a crew of panicked firefighters
  
- II. August 1910
  - A. Dry spring and summer
  - B. Small fires - Lightening & Sparks from RR
  
- III. Pulaski
  - A. Forest Service Ranger
  - B. Leader of 150 men fighting fires near Wallace
  
- IV. August 20<sup>th</sup>: A fateful day
  - A. Weather change
  - B. Winds – fires growing together – winds grew to hurricane force
  - C. The fire created its own weather system – developed into a firestorm
  - C. Great Fire of 1910 – The Big Blowup – The Big Burn
  
- V. Fire descriptions
  - A. Pulaski wrote: Men lifted from saddles by wind
  - B. Roar of a thousand freight trains
  - C. The hissing, roaring flames,  
with terrific crashing of falling timber was deafening and terrifying
  
- VI. Pulaski's Actions
  - A. Rounded up more than 40 men
  - B. Led them toward Wallace
  
- VII. Wallace backfire
  - A. Burned to provide safety zone
  - B. Trapped Pulaski's crew between fronts
  
- VIII. Pulaski prospected nearby for years
  - A. Knew of two prospector tunnels that may be safe havens
  - B. Wet gunnysack over his head to locate a bigger tunnel
  - C. Led to tunnel just in time
  - D. Crew & horses - herded in
  - E. Unfortunate man who lagged behind
  
- IX. Inside Tunnel
  - A. Intense outside heat
  - B. Inside cold air sucked out
  - C. Smoke and scorching air rushed in

## **Pulaski Story Outline – page 2 of 2**

- X. Pulaski's Actions
  - A. Order to lie down
  - B. Men praying, crying, panicking
  - C. Held at gunpoint to prevent certain death outside
  
- XI. Pulaski's heroics
  - A. Battled blaze at entrance
  - B. Horse blankets and hat water
  - C. Fell to unconsciousness with the rest of the crew
  
- XII. Aftermath
  - A. Upon consciousness - the Boss is dead – “Like hell he is.”
  - B. Most crew survived
  - C. Five men died
  - D. Horses shot – Fish dead – Rocks hot
  - E. Burned and tattered firefighters - two miles – downed, blackened and exploded trees
  - F. Pulaski – burns, eyesight, respiratory ailments
  
- XIII. “Big Burn” took an awful toll
  - A. One third of Wallace burned
  - B. Three million acres of forest burned
  - C. 87 people died
  - D. Daylight was turned to night as far east as Watertown, NY
  - E. Smoke from the big blaze reached one-third of the way around the world
  - F. A disaster of global dimensions had occurred
  - G. The Great Fire of 1910 was eventually extinguished by dropping temperatures, cooling moisture, and high elevation snow
  
- XIV. Pulaski endures
  - A. Forest Service Ranger until he retired in August 1930
  - B. Grave markers erected
  - C. Writing contest won
  - D. Pulaski tool invented
  - E. The Pulaski Project was created
  
- XV. The story endures
  - A. It is more than folklore
  - B. It is woven into the historic fabric of the nation
  - C. It is a legacy of Pulaski,
    - It is the legacy of the men, who fight fire,
    - It is the legacy of the wildfire itself
    - It is The Great Fire of 1910.