

# Staff Ride

## Resources



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

## Rock Creek Fire – Audio Transcript

### Interview with Kirk Studebaker, Stand #1

[Narrator] The following is a segment from an interview conducted by Mike Bland with Kirk Studebaker. Mr. Studebaker was the store owner in Orovada, Nevada in 1939 and was one of the first on the scene to the Rock Creek fire.

[Interviewer] Was there a, was it unusually dry as far as the weather? I mean were you guys kind of in a drought or a dry spell?

[Mr. Studebaker] No it wasn't any drier than normal it was a normal year I think. You can look in the weather records but I don't think it any dry year.

[Interviewer] Okay so it was just kind of an average summer then?

[Mr. Studebaker] Yeah.

[Interviewer] How big do you think the fire was when you guys actually got to it?

[Mr. Studebaker] Oh I suppose it was an acre.

[Interviewer] Really? Okay.

[Mr. Studebaker] Half an acre to an acre, something like that. But we were having pretty good luck putting it out. We were out on the ridge, and there wasn't all that much brush. It wasn't as thick as your picture. There was a lot of brush there but, we were putting it out. And it was pretty good size brush, even though it was on the ridge, it was still pretty high brush. And we were doing pretty good until the wind kicked up first, and started whipping the fire. And then, all of a sudden, it got behind the fire and started coming down towards us. We got outta there. We said, "This is too hot now."