

Staff Ride

Resources



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

Rock Creek Fire – Audio Transcript

Interview with Raymond Gabica, Stand #3

[Narrator] The following is a segment from an interview conducted by Mike Bland with Raymond Kabika, during the winter of 2004. Raymond's family owned the Kabika ranch below the fire, and Raymond was one of the initial responders to the Rock Creek incident.

[Raymond Gabica] The first folks to that fire was myself, my brother, Dan, and my Uncle Frank and we was tryin' to fight it but we could tell the wind was gettin' a little bit stronger. But it quick, the wind got real strong and we decided, "Oh my God, we better make a move here." So, we went back to our horses. We had them tied up over there. We went over there and took the hauls off of em', got up on em' and we started down that ridge because about that time, that wind was really startin' to blow and we got down that ridge, oh, I don't know, maybe, half a mile or so, and we see these boys walkin' up that other ridge, towards the fire. And we was motionin', there was a canyon right between us, and we's motionin' to em' to turn back but they, they couldn't hear us, I guess, and I don't know if they could see the, our hats or not but we had our hats in our hand and hollerin' at the same time. But they kept right on a goin'. And we was scared to turn around to go back. That ridge was pretty steep there. Goin' towards to fire and the wind was really startin' to blow. We thought, "Well, the best thing we can do here is" "take the best shot out of here." And we did. The last time, I remember, lookin' over there to em' and to the fire, I'd say they was, pretty near, a quarter mile, within a quarter mile of that fire.