

THE STORY OF FRANK "STUBBY" MOORE

Northeast of Seeley Lake MT on Rice Ridge via good gravel roads (single lane with turnouts).

Frank "Stubby" Moore was killed here in 1949 while fighting a forest fire. It was at night, someone yelled a warning that a snag was falling, and Stubby ran, but ran under the snag. Stubby Moore was an 18 year old firefighter in his first season as a forest fire fighter. He was going to school in Missoula and had a paper route. His older brother, Bud Moore, describes the incident as. "He hired on to the Forest Service as a fire fighter. He was 18 I think. He went out on his first summer. He fought fires all summer, all the early part of the summer. They attacked, his crew attacked the fire on Rice Ridge out of Seeley and he was hit by a snag. It was in the night. They were mopping up. Just holding it for the night. Snag burned off and came down and hit him. Killed him. As an aftermath of that, they went up later and put up a nice sign there along the trail where Stub was killed. So that set there for awhile. Still to this day I haven't been up there."

Later... "We got to talking about it. Stub came up and I said, "Yeah, that was my brother." So that was the first anybody knew of it, at least in recent times. Maggie Doherty, she said, "Well we have a new sign made. The sign up there is all faded and chewed. We'll give you the old sign. " So one day Maggie and Bruce, they came over with the old sign. I've got it in the (office) all chewed up and covered with grizzly hair where they'd been rubbing." When the family was finishing Stubby's graveside service, his older brother Bud Moore was approached and informed by his assistant "Say, something big has happened over there on the Helena. . ." That the first he learned the Mann Gulch disaster had occurred.