



VOL. 22 NO. 2

SUMMER 2011

LOOKOUT NETWORK

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION, INC.



- *Western Conference - Mt Hood, Oregon September 16-18*
- *Boucher Hill Coming to Life Soon*
- *Historic Maine Lookout Lost*

www.firelookout.org



ON THE LOOKOUT

From the
National Chairman
Keith A. Argow
Vienna, Virginia
Summer 2011



WEAR YOUR FIRE LOOKOUT BADGE PROUDLY!

IT EXPRESSES BOTH YOUR COMMITMENT AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR OTHERS TO SERVE

Our communal efforts and hard work to protect fire lookouts comes from a love of these vintage structures as well as our enjoyment of the beautiful views they afford. We also appreciate the trees and forests they were built to protect. Most of us have spent time as a volunteer or paid fire lookout observer. Those who haven't had this opportunity likely harbor the dream that they may one day wear this badge of honor. If not, at the very least they know they have helped keep these symbols of forestry up on the skyline for future generations of outdoors people to enjoy.

This spring, the Executive Committee (which serves as our governing body between the annual meetings of the FFLA Board of Directors each January) approved an FFLA Fire Lookout badge in two versions: Volunteer and Observer. The 1-3/4 inch diameter badge, with a polished silver finish, is designed to be worn with an appropriate uniform (i.e. a khaki shirt). With many visitors to our most popular lookouts, a uniform and identity is appropriate.

The badge was proposed by Brad Eells, California-Pacific Chapter Director and San Diego-Riverside Local Chapter Chair. Brad is also the National Secretary of FFLA and our liaison to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire). In addition to the badge, Brad submitted an FFLA nametag design (see page 3) that was also approved by the Executive Committee, as well as an attractive shoulder patch to be worn on their local chapter uniform.

The Volunteer option of the FFLA badge is modeled after the U.S. Forest Service Volunteer badge seen in many USFS Visitor Centers and Ranger Stations. The alternate Observer badge option may be preferred for paid, part-time, and volunteer observers who have not received a badge from their agency.

If enough interest is shown, the badges will be purchased in bulk by the FFLA and made available to Directors at cost (\$6.85 + s/h). This is not a fund raising item. The standards for use will be set by the Directors as appropriate for their state or region. A minimum uniform shirt standard is suggested.

With nearly 800 active lookouts staffed this year, about a quarter of them by volunteers, these new badges and/or nametags will give FFLA the visibility and respect we have earned. Most visitors to lookouts probably think the observer



on duty is an employee. Yet of the 12 active lookouts in Southern California, only one is staffed by a paid lookout.

YOUR CHANCE TO HAND OUT A FFLA BROCHURE!

When folks see these badges with the distinctive FFLA logo, they are likely to ask about our association. Voila! Here is the opportunity to present them with the FFLA brochure! Let them know how they can become involved in either maintenance or staffing as a volunteer. A select few will even adopt a favorite lookout as the Lookout Steward by making application through their state director, with the approval of the agency confirmed by the national chair.

Some lookouts in remote areas of the west, especially those with only trail access, really need a Lookout Steward. In fact after years of minimal maintenance, we are now witnessing an increase of declarations of unsafe conditions. It is much easier to save a lookout before that condemnation is made.

FIRE TOWERS IN THE SOUTH IN DANGER

Last quarter I summarized an ambitious program of work for our Association, especially in the southeastern U.S. Unfortunately, too few people have responded to that urgent agenda! The public agencies--both state and federal--are receptive to our assistance in helping maintain their large inventory of fire towers. Even though they may only remain standing to hold up a radio antenna, they are still important symbols of forestry and protection from wildfire.

We have bought time, but not forever! Please contact a friend or relative in the 13 southeastern states today and ask them to help. It just won't be the same in the piney woods of the south to have fire towers but a memory. You may have a relative who has become a "snow bird" spending their winters down south. We have opportunities for them too.

After you read this, and before you put down this magazine, please take a minute to drop a line or email a friend in the south--or anywhere for that matter--who could be willing to lend a hand. I know a number of fire towers that will be glad you did! Email me! I will see they get an opportunity to help.

Keith A. Argow

CEO/Chairman of the Board

argow@cs.net

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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
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email: weblookout@roadrunner.com

cover photo: Sisi Butte Lookout, planned for the Sunday tour at the Mt. Hood, Oregon, Western Conference in September (see page 3)

Western Conference

September 16-18
Mt. Hood, Oregon

Pre-Registration Form - Page 23

The 2011 FFLA Western Conference will be hosted by Oregon FFLA Director Howard Verschoor September 16-18 at the Mt. Hood Lions Club near Welches, Oregon. The Lions Club is located on the southeast corner of East Woodsey Way and Highway 26 (24730 E. Woodsey Way).

Program details are still being developed, but will include the traditional silent auction, concluding after the catered Saturday evening dinner. A portion of the auction proceeds will go toward the restoration of the nearby Devils Peak Lookout. A potluck barbecue is planned for Friday evening at the Mt. Hood Village RV Resort with the Oregon Chapter providing the meat and condiments. For those arriving early enough, there will likely also be an informal gathering and barbecue at the RV park on Thursday evening.

For early arrivals, there will be a guided hike (two miles each way) to Devils Peak on Thursday the 15th. Plans are to visit Five Mile and Flag Point Lookouts on Friday afternoon, and Hickman Butte on Saturday afternoon. Clear Lake and Sisi Butte Lookouts are on the Sunday schedule. For those going east on Monday the 19th, there will be an opportunity to visit the Warm Springs Reservation Lookouts.

Howard Verschoor is cutting back on his collection of over 100 wildland fire and disaster books (not his lookout books). He and Ray Kresek will hold a book sale at the conference with the hope of drawing in additional fire people.

Registration, covering site rental, snacks, and Saturday night dinner, is \$30 (pre-registration \$25 until September 6).

The Mt. Hood Village RV Resort, 65000 E Highway 26 (two miles west of the Lions Club), www.mthoodvillage.com, 1-800-570-2267, has a variety of accommodations. The resort offers full service RV hookups, tent sites, rustic cabins, yurts, and fully furnished cabins with lofts. Ask for the FFLA discount when making reservations. A variety of other accommodations are available at vacation area rates along the Highway 26 corridor between Sandy and Government Camp.

For updated information, see www.ffla.org or contact Howard, lookoutoregon@gmail.com or 541-544-2066.

See page 23 for Conference Schedule and the Pre-registration Form

Eastern Conference

No Eastern Conference has been proposed for 2011. If one develops, information will be posted on www.ffla.org.

FFLA Restoration Grants

Wilton (Cornell Hill) Fire Tower, New York

The first FFLA Restoration Grant of 2011 went toward the restoration of the Cornell Hill Aermotor LS-40 tower, relocated at Camp Saratoga in the Town of Wilton. FFLA-NY is working with the Town to complete the restoration of the tower and site. Cornell Hill is listed on the NHLR (US #734, NY #31).

Stillwater Mountain Fire Tower, New York

The second FFLA Restoration Grant of 2011 was awarded to the Friends of Stillwater Fire Tower to go toward the total restoration of the 47-foot Aermotor LS-40 tower, located near Stillwater Reservoir in Herkimer County. Stillwater is listed on the NHLR (US #904, NY #32).

NHLR

Another Half-Dozen Listings!

The past quarter's six new listings were widely spread, coming from six different states. To learn about all of the NHLR listings, visit www.nhnr.org. The new listings are:

NHLR #902 OR #115 Wolf Mountain Lookout
NHLR #903 LA #06 Gum Springs Lookout Tower
NHLR #904 NY #32 Stillwater Mountain Fire Tower
NHLR #905 MT #53 Barren Peak Lookout
NHLR #906 SC #09 Horsehead Lookout
NHLR #907 VA #10 Bald Knob Lookout

For details on how to nominate a lookout to the register, see: http://www.nationalforestry.net/NHLR_App.htm.

The NATIONAL HISTORIC LOOKOUT REGISTER is a project of the American Resources Group^(R), 374 Maple Avenue East, Suite 310, Vienna, VA 22180, (703) 255-2700, www.american-resources.org



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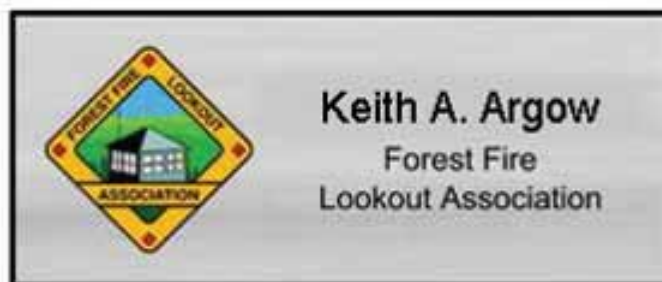
FFLA Local Chapters

FFLA local chapters, leaders, and parent chapters are:

San Diego-Riverside, Brad Eells, Southern California
Tahoe Nat'l Forest, Larry Gruver, California - Sierra Nevada
Yosemite-High Sierra, Jeff May, California - Sierra Nevada
Salmon River, Denis Norton, Southern Idaho
Salmon River Mountains, Larry Kingsbury, Southern Idaho
Southern Cascades, Dick Morrison, Western Washington
Southern Kentucky, Michael Spanjer, Kentucky
Beebe Hill, Bill Starr, New York
Pillsbury Mountain, Bob Eckler, New York
Wakely Mountain, Ann and Kevin McBride, New York
Berry Hill, Fred Lamb, New York
Colville, Rod Fosback, Eastern Washington
Kelly Butte, Bob Adler, Western Washington

FFLA Name Badges

The San Diego-Riverside Chapter has developed name badges with the FFLA logo. The nametags are 1" x 3.25" plastic material; they have chosen a brushed aluminum color with black letters to match the volunteer badges. All chapters may use this tag design without incurring an additional \$35.00 set up fee. The material and all three lines of type should be customizable; several attachment options are available. A minimum order is 5 tags. The cost is \$6.85 each plus shipping, the nametags can be ordered directly from the vendor, Name Tag, Inc. www.nametags.com. Specify "FFLA" design.



Notes from All Over

INDIANA

Skyline Drive Lookout Tower Restored Jackson-Washington State Park

ARRA Restoration funds paid to restore the Jackson Washington State Forest Lookout Tower. This tower was taken down, sandblasted, painted and new planks and steps put in. Part of the work was accomplished in 2009, but the project was completed in 2010. The Young Hoosier Conservation Corps - YHCC - (another ARRA initiative) did much of the work. Indiana Department of Corrections (IDOC) and a local Jackson County Corrections Crew also worked hard to restore the tower.



Brad Schneck, Property Manager, said work on the tower has drawn a great deal of interest from the public. Work on the tower included:

- Installing new barrier post in front of the tower
- Sandblasting metal and applying primer and new paint
- Replacing stairs and viewing platforms with new treated lumber
- Replacing safety fence with new vinyl coated safety fencing
- Replacing a few badly rusted support braces with new metal braces

Teena Ligman



MINNESOTA

Pinewood Fire Tower Site Fundraising Video

The first phase of the "Pinewood Fire Tower Site" was the dismantling and moving of the Pinewood Fire Tower from its original site to the Beltrami County Fairgrounds, where it was re-erected in 2005. Fundraising is now underway for the final phase, the building of the "Pinewood Ranger Station and Environmental Education Center" adjacent to the tower. Dave Quam has produced a new fundraising video; it is posted at: www.paulbunyan.net/fair/pinewood/index_files/video.htm. Donations can be sent to The Beltrami County Ag Association, PO Box 1057, Bemidji, MN 56619, a 503(c)3 organization.

Videos on MN Website

Dave has also added two other videos to the MN Fire Tower site www.paulbunyan.net/mnfiretower/; one is about the Forest History Center in Grand Rapids and the other is a VHS video shot in the 80's about a ride-along in a UH-1 Helicopter with Harold Jones on a Forest Fire in Maine.

Big Bog Tower Erected

The Big Bog State Recreation Area is located just north of Waskish, about an hour's drive north of Bemidji. While the mile-long elevated boardwalk enabling visitors to get a first-hand look at unique plant and animal life is the centerpiece of the area, a new visitor center has been built, complete with a fire tower (below). The 100-foot tower had been moved from the nearby Pine Island State Forest. The Big Bog Visitor Center will have its grand opening on June 11; the FFLA will be there working the tower and with a large fire tower display. The tower has new steel steps and a grand handrail system. **Dave Quam.**



(photos by Doug Easthouse and Dawn Jensen, Big Bog State Recreation Area)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire experienced the third snowiest December, January and February on record. The White Mountain NF had their spring fire refresher and pack test the end of March, but two days later on April 1st there was 4 to 6 inches of snow throughout the State. Spring is quite late this year. Despite this there was a two-acre fire in southeastern New Hampshire in January. Sparks from a cutting torch set a snow free area on fire. Other than that incident things have been very quiet with only a few small fires thus far in April. Three towers, Warner Hill, Mt. Pawtuckaway, and Pitcher Mountain opened on April 12th and other towers will open as weather and conditions necessitate.

Towers are funded into the end of June but although the positions are included in the new two-year appropriations legislation, they are not (yet) funded. Towers continue operations only on Class 3 or higher fire danger days.

With regret we learned that Ed Maheux will no longer be staffing Red Hill tower where he has worked the past 23 years since the town reopened the tower after the State ceased using it. His position and funding were cut from the Town budget. Thank you Ed, for watching out for our forests all those years! You may find Ed helping staff Green Mountain tower this spring. Meanwhile Red Hill will be staffed on Class 3 or higher danger days by Moultonborough on-call firefighters or other department personnel. The Fire Department is moving ahead with plans to have the tower repainted.

If you were unable to spend a night at the lookout cabin on Mt. Magalloway last year, you have another chance to take advantage of the opportunity this year. For information, go to: www.nhdf.org/fire-control-and-law-enforcement/cabin-rental.aspx.

See you on the trail.

Chris Haartz, et al.

IDAHO

Grant Awarded to Spyglass Project!

A week in May saw bad news, good news, bad news, good news, and then GREAT news for the proposed Spyglass Restoration project. After having one \$5,000 grant application declined (that foundation had twice as many requests as available funding), another foundation unanimously voted for the Spyglass request, saying that it was the one request in all of their history that truly hit the nail on the head as far as their objectives and grant goals. But, they were then put in a position to decline the \$10,000 request. Because of some obligations from prior years, they do not have the resources this year to allocate money to the project. But, they then asked that the request be submitted again in December for 2012, so they can take it up again. That timing may actually be better for Spyglass, since that grant dealt with interpretive displays at the site.

A few days later, the announcement was received on the third grant request submitted by Lutherhaven Ministries Executive Director Bob Baker. The Inland Northwest Community Foundation awarded the Spyglass project the full \$20,000 requested, their biggest award in this grant cycle.

Lutherhaven Ministries and the FFLA are partnering with the Idaho Panhandle NFs on the project. The Spyglass site has a 1930s gable L-4 ground house, a 1950 53-foot L-4 tower, and a 1930s outhouse, all suffering from neglect and vandalism. With this grant award, restoration of the ground house and stabilization of the tower is planned, but a full site assessment scheduled for July 11 (providing the snow melts by then) will determine the scope and details of this year's work.

The Spyglass project provides an unparalleled opportunity to preserve an important historic lookout site, while providing high school students high quality experience working in the woods and learning carpentry skills. The partnership melds the strengths of three different organizations into a single entity that can accomplish much more than any of the three singly.



COLORADO

Squaw Mountain Ready to be a Rental

After years of restoration work, Squaw Mountain Lookout is planned to be available this summer as a rental. At 11,486 feet, the two-story lookout has electricity, will be furnished with beds, tables, chairs, stove and refrigerator, and will sleep four.

The stone-and-wood structure was built in 1940 by the CCC to replace the peak's original 1925 tower. Five years ago, Sondra Kellogg accepted the position of Colorado FFLA Director and teamed up with the Colorado Forestry Association and the USFS to begin the restoration. Current director Kent Argow has continued the summer work parties and the restoration is nearly complete - at least close enough to let the lookout start earning its keep through its planned \$90 per night rental fees.



Summer 2011

SOUTH CAROLINA

SCFC Tower Sales Information

In the last issue we noted that the South Carolina Forestry Commission had declined to provide sale and bidder information to SC FFLA Representative Ron Stafford. Since then, SCFC has gone out of their way to make sure Ron has the proper contacts to use when looking for this type information, as their intent is to try to be upfront and honest and furnish any information they can. It seems likely that Ron's unreturned phone calls may have been directed toward the wrong section of the agency. Regardless of what happened, SCFC has assured Ron that is not how they operate, and have been providing him information and sale data regarding the various towers that have been auctioned off in recent years.

PENNSYLVANIA

PA Forest Fire Museum Grand Opening

In spite of the rain, over 100 people attended the grand opening of the Pennsylvania Forest Heritage and Discovery Center at Caledonia State Park near Fayetteville on May 14. FFLA Keystone Chapter Director Steve Cummings has been a driving force in the establishment of the museum, located in the former park office, a stone building built in 1937 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The museum features four rooms: the reception room, the tower room, the prevention room and an equipment room, each exposing visitors to firefighting history. Exhibits in the Tower Room will take visitors back through history to a time when there was a fire tower on the dome of the state capitol building. Not only is there a picture of the first steel fire tower built by the state in 1914 on Piney Knob, but a part of the ladder that led to the top of that tower is also on display.



Steve Cummings giving a few words, left, cutting the ribbon, right (Peter Linehan photos)

MISSISSIPPI

Help Still Needed for Towers

After Chairman Argow was able to persuade USFS officials to withdraw the five fire towers from the GSA auction in December, the question remained, what options are available for the towers? No solutions have come forward from the limited membership in the region and the clock is again ticking, with the USFS still wanting to get the towers off their inventory.

ARIZONA

FFLA Director Dave Lorenz and member Gary McElfresh participated in a May training session with 32 people (26 fire lookouts) from the Coconino, Kaibab and Prescott National Forests. The program included a visit to the Flagstaff Dispatch Center as well as a tour of the Flagstaff Weather Service office. Included in the several demonstrations and presentations was a talk, "Don't be a pain in the ass", in reference to lookouts not being friendly to the public. Donna Ashworth's "What Are You Trying to Do - Be a Hermit?" written for the 2001 Western Conference in Flagstaff was read and was well received. Dave handed out brochures and talked about the FFLA and NHLR.

LOOKOUT NETWORK 5

CALIFORNIA

Boucher Hill Construction Underway

Boucher Hill Fire Lookout Station, Education and Interpretive Center is coming to life very soon! Construction has begun on Cal Fire's Boucher Hill Lookout at Palomar Mountain State Park. Scaffolding surrounds the structure and work is progressing steadily on the exterior of the lookout; all of the aluminum siding and original wood exterior siding have been removed. The interior siding is being repaired and primed. New, as well as some of the original, wood exterior siding is going back up on the building. The roof now has a double sheath and new reinforcement under the fire resistant shingles. The catwalk will be renovated and additional damage sustained in the 2007 Poomacha Fire will be repaired.



The lookout, constructed in 1948, will be transferred to Palomar Mountain State Park at the conclusion of the project. The park and the FFLA's San Diego-Riverside Chapter will complete a 1948 period restoration and operate the lookout and grounds for interpretation, education and fire detection.

Volunteers are needed to complete the restoration of the lookout grounds and structures. Experience with water, propane and electrical systems will help greatly. Anyone with general construction experience, sheet rock, paneling, wood floor refinishing can help too ... no experience??? You can still be used! Email highpointlookout@yahoo.com if you can help.

Lyons Peak Collection Received

A significant collection of photographs, articles and mementos has been donated to FFLA by Barbara Hover DeWilde. Barbara's parents, Howard and Bobbie Hover served as lookout operators on Lyons Peak from 1932-40 and again from 1946 until their retirement in 1955. Barbara grew up on the mountain with her two brothers, Vernon and Johnny. Barbara donated a treasure of photographs and information that indicates the first Lyons Peak Lookout may have been built as early as 1910. This construction date would make Lyons Peak one of the earliest permanent fire detection sites in California. Four separate lookout structures have graced the peak with construction in the 1910's, 1920's, 1935 and the current 1964 lookout. Barbara now lives in Missouri and has shared many stories about her time growing up on Lyons Peak. FFLA hopes to restore and re-open the 1964 built tower for fire detection in the future.



American Camp Tower Vandalized

During the late fall of 2010, someone cut and removed several steel sections on the historic American Camp Lookout on the Mi-Wok RD, Stanislaus NF, undermining the stability of the tower. An LEO and an FS Archaeologist responded to investigate the incident. Additional warning signs were placed on the tower and arrangements were to have been made to replace the missing steel. The 60-foot tower was built in 1930 by the CDF and operated until 1969. It is currently managed as a standing ruin.



Grouse Ridge Lookout Restoration

Due to late snowmelt last year, the lookout was not accessible until August. Hanta virus and lead paint remediation were completed in the upper portion of the lookout by two volunteer contractors. Supplies including paint, siding, roofing, and concrete were purchased and stored. Depending on weather availability, the construction volunteers expect to be able to finish the construction this field season.

High Sierra Fire Lookout Rehabilitation

Thanks to a Fresno County RAC grant received by the Sierra NF, via the Buck Rock Foundation, Fence Meadow and Mt. Tom Lookouts are receiving maintenance and restoration.

A good start was made at Fence Meadow in the fall of 2009, and despite late spring storms delaying the start of work at Mt. Tom, new flooring and cabinets were installed before the lookout went into service in mid-July. With staffing shortages, fire activity, conflicting forest priorities, and the complications of construction work in an occupied tower, topped off by an injury to the project leader, the project came to halt for 2010.

Mt. Tom projects remaining for this year include hardwood flooring, the new door, the tankless water heater, reglazing the windows, and the new sink connection. Fence Meadow will see the completion of the exterior lighting and propane heater.

Mary Ann Evans - Tobias Peak Memorial Bench

Buck Rock Foundation has started a memorial fund to honor their beloved long-time Tobias lookout (see page 9). The Sequoia felt a similar loss with the passing of Bald Mountain Lookout Carol Ann Ralston in 2007, and found some comfort in dedicating a memorial bench at Bald Mountain in her honor. Watch www.buckrock.org for details on the tribute at Tobias.

Buck Rock Open House - Labor Day Weekend

To avoid future snowmelt/access issues, the annual Buck Rock open house has been moved from the 4th of July to Labor Day weekend. This year's open house, barbecue, and Blessing of the Rock will be held Sunday, September 4th - don't miss it!

Cell Phone Signals and Lookouts

Several posts on the Yahoo firelookout discussion group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/firelookout/>) concerned cell phone reception at remote lookouts. Choice of carriers was an issue in places. External antennas were the solution for some, but many cell phones don't have an external antenna jack. An answer to that was to use a Wilson Electronics Cell Phone Cradle, connected by coax cable to a yagi directional antenna directed toward the best signal. A signal amplifier to use in conjunction with the Wilson Cradle is also available. <http://www.wilsonelectronics.com/mobile-solutions.aspx>

WASHINGTON

Green Mountain Litigation

The FFLA became formally involved in the litigation when on May 9, the National Trust for Historic Preservation filed an amicus brief in support of the USFS position to keep Green Mountain Lookout where it is. Both the FFLA and the Darrington Historical Society are listed as partners in the amicus filing. Other groups on board in the effort to preserve the lookout are the Darrington Town Council, the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, the Everett Mountaineers Lookout and Trail Maintenance Committee, Snohomish County Sportsmen's Association and the Snohomish Sportsman Club. These groups maintain that Green Mountain is simply a rehabilitation and restoration of the original historic lookout, and not an "illegal new lookout" as claimed by Wilderness Watch in their lawsuit.

Wilderness Watch had previously filed a motion for summary judgment. On May 2, the US Attorney handling the case filed a memorandum of points and authorities in opposition to the motion of plaintiff Wilderness Watch for summary judgment and in support of the Forest Service's cross-motion for summary judgment. The impressive 37-page document went into detail on the authorities allowing the actions undertaken in the restoration of the lookout, and how these actions did not violate either the Wilderness Act or NEPA, as claimed by Wilderness Watch. It also offers that much of the plaintiff's case is built on the mischaracterization of Green Mountain Lookout as "new", denying its historical significance.

FFLA Western Washington Director Forrest Clark organized a program on May 22 in Snohomish featuring Darrington Historical Society's program on the dwindling number of lookouts in the area. The Snohomish showing wasn't as packed as an earlier program in Darrington, but the donation fund for the local alliance supporting Green Mountain did well.

NEW YORK

Interest in Re-erecting Tower at Cross River

A movement is in the initial investigative stages to assess the feasibility for the Westchester County Park Commission to re-erect a fire tower at Cross River Mountain. The original 60-foot Aermotor LS-40 was erected in 1926 and was operated by the Westchester County Park Commission up through the 1930 fire season. Control and operation of the tower was transferred to the NYS Conservation Department in 1931 and it was operated by the state through the end of the 1970 fire season. The fire tower was decommissioned by the NYS-DEC in 1971 and removed by DEC sometime in the mid to late 1970s.

NYS Fire Tower Centennial Patches

While the New York State Fire Tower Centennial may be officially over, a limited quantity of the patch is still available. The 3" x 3" patches may be ordered from "FFLA-Gary Weber, 2590 W Versailles Dr, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815", \$8.00 each (includes postage). See page 21 for check or PayPal payment details.



Active Lookouts

We Need to Hear from You!

We have been accused of being more interested in abandoned lookouts than in actively staffed lookouts! While we are frequently involved with active lookouts, many times it is in the form of behind-the-scenes support to agencies and staffers, and the saving, restoration, and history of the old lookouts gets the publicity. If you have noteworthy features or news regarding your active staffed lookouts, please let us know!

Summer 2011

SILVER SMOKEY

Another Trinket for Ray's Smokey Collection

Ray Kresek's account of his day on May 11:

Today, I was invited to a lunch at Colville with some of my old Washington DNR worker bees of fifty years ago. After lunch we were to get a "royal tour" of the new unified DNR/USFS Regional Dispatch center at 2pm. But first, I was hustled to the armory for a minute, to pick up yet another little Smokey Bear trinket for my Fire Lookout Museum collection. "We're gonna be late for the dispatch office tour", I told 57-year fire buddy Bill Wilburn; "you run inside and get it, and I'll wait outside". There were about a hundred DNR, USFS, BIA, BLM, NPS, and Fire Department rigs parked outside for the annual pre-season training meeting. "You gotta come in with me and meet some of these folks", he said. OK. OK.

I was standing in the doorway, half listening to a couple of DNR and Forest Service high officials saying something about Smokey Bear, but my ears didn't really perk up until I heard Guy Gifford call my name. That's when I noticed my wife Rita, son, daughter, and two grandsons in the room. It wasn't until then that I smelled a rat.

It was then, that I was presented the 2011 Silver Smokey Award... the "Oscar" of the wildland fire world; something I'd only dreamed I'd ever hold in my arms, for more than forty years! You could've knocked me over with a feather.

Also presented today, was the 2011 Bronze Smokey Award, to Washington DNR Highlands District fire manager, John Foster. John has devoted his entire firefighting career to earnestly Keeping Washington Green. In my opinion, he deserves the honor far more than I. But I wouldn't trade mine for anything in this world.

Thank You, Sandy Groth of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, and Guy Gifford of the Washington Department of Natural Resources, for nominating me; and to the many other wildfire experts throughout the nation who bestowed in me such a distinguished honor. I am truly humbled!

The National Smokey Bear awards are presented annually by the Ad Council, the National Association of State Foresters, and the U. S. Forest Service to individuals for sustained excellence in wildland fire prevention.

The Silver Award recognizes performance of a multi-state significance. Ray authored the book, *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest*, which preserves and shares the history of the fire lookout system. The revenue generated from his book goes back into supporting the Fire Lookout Museum which also hosts a Smokey memorabilia collection.

Ray says, "No more Griz. You can call me Smokey now..."



LOOKOUT NETWORK 7

Bigelow Lookout Lost

On April 15, 2011, Maine lost a historic lookout and Appalachian Trail landmark. The fire lookout on Avery Peak of Mount Bigelow was burned on this date, having been recommended for removal many years ago by the Maine Department of Conservation. There has been a lookout of one form or another on Bigelow since 1905, pre-dating the Appalachian Trail and even the Maine Forestry District itself, which was formed in 1909.

The first lookout on the mountain was built in the latter half of 1905 and was said to be a wooden cab on steel, low legs. Most early towers in Maine were made from whatever materials were available, typically wood and logs. There was nothing uniform about their design at all. Over the years, this tower deteriorated and finally collapsed in 1917. It was replaced the same year by a 38 foot steel tower with the traditional Maine style wooden cab. Avery peak being barren, the weather up there can be brutal on just about any structure that might find its way there. This was true for Bigelow, and tower up-keep was always an issue. Icing and heavy winds were a continuous problem in the winter and it took its toll on tower and cab.

In September 1933, the Appalachian Trail was marked over Mount Bigelow. Portions of the AT actually followed the watchman's trail down the north side of the mountain into the Town of Dead River (now displaced by Flagstaff Lake). This route, known as the Dead River Route, was abandoned in late 1939. The AT was rerouted over Little Bigelow and the watchman began using the Parsons trail, another trail up the north side of the mountain. This began the AT years for the Bigelow lookout. It was often a treat for hikers to visit the watchmen, sign their logs, and even stay in their camps.

In 1947, Duluth (Dude) Wing was in his first year as the Bigelow watchman and found himself in a challenging situation when he climbed the mountain that spring. The cab of the tower was in tough shape due to ice and winds, and all the windows had been broken out. Dude was able to use the cab from time to time, but many of his days were spent down on the summit itself and inside the small tin lightning shelter that was also on the summit. Dude made repairs in 1948 with that year's watchman, Franklin Sargent, but knew a different style of tower was needed and "deserved" for Bigelow.



Around 1960, Dude proposed replacing the tower with a 12 x 12 ground house. This idea was accepted and Dude embarked on an adventure that winter - building the complete ground house inside the Eustis Storehouse. The idea was to build it in sections and fly it to the summit in the summer. The adventure got even more challenging when it was decided that a foundation built of stone, 2 feet thick, would be the foundation of the ground house.

During the summer of 1961, supplies started to be flown to the summit. First, starting with parachute drops of mortar and other supplies, then free-falling supplies in burlap bags. This proved to be ineffective due to much damage. Helicopter flights then began to be utilized. Pilot George Johnson made more than 30 trips to get the 2 1/2 tons of materials to the summit. Watchman Bill Conner along with R. LaRoche, G. Probert, Walt Durgin, and Austin Sillanpas carried rocks from all over the mountain to build the stone foundation in 950 man-

hours. The foundation was made up of 14 tons of stone and some portions of steel from the old 1917 steel tower, which was removed to accommodate the new one.

It was then time to assemble the ground house. The pieces that Dude had assembled that winter in Eustis were trucked to Stratton Pond and flown by helicopter to the summit. They were quickly assembled and the lookout was complete by October. Bigelow remained open until 1976 when it was closed as a fire watch forever, replaced by air patrols.



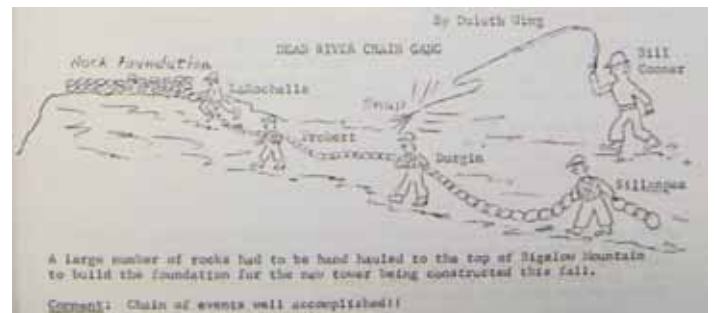
Over the years, pressure grew from various places to remove the closed lookout. Many agencies and organizations citing reasons ranging from vandalism / liability concerns to returning the site to its "Natural State" were heard for years. This theme was further reinforced by the Bigelow Act. On June 8, 1976, the Bigelow Act, a citizen initiated referendum was passed forming the Bigelow Preserve. The Bigelow Preserve was established to protect the Bigelow Range from development and to maintain the visual quality of the mountain. This additional pressure to "retain the land in its natural state" likely played a part in its demise.

Some attempts to keep the tower in repair were made over the years, with most contributions being made by Dude's son Kenny Wing, also a Maine Forest Service ranger. The vandalism, growing pressure to remove it, and it being in a difficult to access location, largely discouraged most from organizing any restoration efforts.

Although Bigelow never did receive any historical listing status, it was Maine's second lookout in 1905, preceded only by Squaw Mountain built in May 1905. It was also one of only 3 remaining standing ground house type lookouts in Maine, leaving the 1913 Beetle Mountain and the 1929 Deasey Mountain lookouts as the 2 remaining ground houses.

To those that appreciate the Bigelow story and Maine's fire detection history, it was truly a sad day when it was learned of its razing. For some, Bigelow didn't get the respect that it deserved, and for others, Bigelow is now returned to its natural state. Either way, all that remains of the Bigelow tale now are the memories.

Bill Cobb, FFLA Maine Director



A cartoon depicting the building of the Bigelow Lookout as published in a 1961 edition of Forest Protectors.

In Memorium

Mary Ann Evans

Mary Ann Evans - well-known and well-loved as Tobias Lookout in the Sequoia National Forest, and a long-time FFLA member - passed away at the age of 75 on February 7 after a period of illness. On the mend after suffering a hemorrhagic stroke, she was diagnosed with leukemia, a disease she probably had for years. With her immune system compromised, she was unable to battle the pneumonia, which quickly took her life. She died peacefully with her family nearby.

Mary Ann was the consummate professional - well-studied and proficient, friendly and intelligent, always on the ready. She lived and breathed the forest and loved everything about it - the people, the excitement of calling in a smoke, what the Forest Service represented, and the history. She collected history like some people collect rocks. So much so, that she wrote and self-published a book titled "Fire in the Eyes," a compilation of stories and history of fire lookouts on the Sequoia National Forest. Mary Ann touched everyone who knew her - and if you knew her, you could not forget her. She was intelligent, generous, hard-working, funny, talented, creative, and opinionated. A consummate professional, she never stopped studying and learning - even to the point of taking firefighting classes with the young college-aged fire fighters (imagine her cutting line!). Mary Ann was a natural talent as a hostess, and had great fun as master of ceremonies at our annual fire lookout end of season parties. Every party had a theme, with hand-made party favors, decorations and door prizes. She had a memory like a steel trap and would not let us forget our foibles, each year gleefully handing out the "FOOWA" (Fish Out Of Water Award) to the unfortunate lookout who did something unforgivable!

Mary Ann and her late husband Earl loved to travel the countryside, and while Earl liked the desert, Mary Ann



particularly loved the mountains. It was not unusual for them to take a road just to find out where it lead, and one time that road lead into the Greenhorn Mountains where they discovered Tobias Lookout. The fire watcher there at the time - Minnie Barkley - was legendary, known both for her home-made

cinnamon rolls and her eagle-eyes. After several visits with Minnie (and discovering that there was no age limit on being a fire watcher), Mary Ann figured she would give the lookout a try. She was hired as Minnie's relief and it was to be a perfect fit. Her first season was a big one - the Stormy Fire burned thousands of acres right up to Tobias. Instead of scaring her away, Mary Ann was hooked and when Minnie retired, she was ready to take her place.

Mary Ann regaled visitors with her stories, history and tales of Tobias and the surrounding Forest. She especially loved children and always had Smokey Bear memorabilia or little trinkets she bought to hand out to them. As her daughter Vicky Dains put it, "Mom never met a stranger."

Mary Ann was "Tobias Lookout" for 20 years and our lookout world will not be the same without her. **Kathy Allison**

Bud Moore

In 1934, at age 16, William R. "Bud" Moore started working for the U.S. Forest Service on fire crews. He worked seasonally until World War II as lookout, trail crew foreman, fire dispatcher and alternate ranger on the Powell Ranger District, "over the hill" from his Montana home on the Lolo Fork of the Bitterroot River. He joined the Marine Corps during World War II and served as a machine gunner, sniper, and finally a gunnery sergeant, but returned to the Powell District and in 1949 was appointed ranger. He subsequently spent time in Missoula, Utah, and Washington, D.C. He finished as Chief of the Division of Fire Control and Air Operations, retiring in 1974. During his career he never lost his connection to his beloved Lochsa Country and the lands he worked and managed.

Bud was well-known for his dedication to ecosystem management and conservation, and was one of the founders of the first "natural fire plan" for wilderness areas in the 1970s. In June 1974, the University of Montana awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science Degree for his contributions to natural resource conservation (even though he only had an eighth-grade diploma from Woodman Elementary School), and in 1996, he published "The Lochsa Story - Land Ethics in the Bitterroot Mountains." This book turned out to be both a historical adventure and a textbook of sorts for those interested in forested ecosystem management.

Bud passed away in November, at the age of 93. In addition to various memorials already held, there is also going to be a memorial service at Powell Campground on July 16.

Sharon Stratton

Sharon Stratton passed away peacefully in her sleep on December 2nd in Elkford B.C. Sharon discovered tower life and spent seven seasons working towers in Northern Alberta. She wrote "Between Forest and Sky: A Fire Tower Journal", a book detailing some of her experiences during her first three seasons. Most recently, Sharon had staffed Lovett tower, through the 2008 season. Sharon touched many lives in various ways and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Mark White

Libby District Archaeologist (MT-Kootenai NF) died on January 16, after a courageous battle with cancer.

After growing up in Billings, he attended the University of Montana in Missoula and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in archeology and anthropology. He worked in Georgia, Texas, California and southern Wyoming before coming to Libby in 1989, working as an archeologist and historian for the USFS.

Mark's true passion was history and archeology. He was very involved with the Heritage Museum and served as president of the Pioneer Society for the past two years in Libby. He was known around the area for his presentations on local history. His crowning achievement was locating Fort Kootenai.

At the 1997 FFLA Western Conference in Libby, FFLA members worked with Mark on stabilization efforts at Tony Peak Lookout, even though it was later "written off" for restoration.

Mavis Rogers

Word has been received that long-time Kaibab NF (AZ) lookout Mavis Rogers passed away February 6 at the age of 89. Mavis had spent half a century between Dry Park and Big Springs lookouts, north of the Grand Canyon, before finally retiring about ten years ago. After spending summers at Big Springs with Mom, son Ross currently staffs Big Springs.

Dealing with Automatic Fire Detection

Australia recently trialed a number of automatic fire detection systems. This came about after proponents of camera systems went to people who didn't understand the issues at a time of mourning after the Black Saturday bushfires. One politician claimed "the owners of the systems were breaking down my door". She managed to get a free trip to Germany where her sister happened to live. At no stage did anybody contact fire lookout operators or fire management experts for further information.

Out of fear for the safety of our communities, our jobs and the history that we are a part of, a group of Victorians started to make a stand against these greedy people. We knew that things were wrong, when one of the proponents got up before a royal commission and made all these claims, then was asked to give a demonstration of how the system worked. The road names given for being in the footage cannot be found on any of the 6 different map types that I use. The camera footage was from my tower. This camera system was being tested during the Black Saturday fires with interesting results. The proponent got a couple of minutes of useful footage as the fire burnt under 1 of the towers, but what was missed that he conveniently leaves out of his sales pitch is absolutely phenomenal. Basically all the cameras in place had fires burn in most direction up to 40km away for daylight hours. There was camera's in place 15kms away from the towns that were hardest hit during the fires. My favourite miss from this system was a fire started from smoke caused lighting 200m directly from the camera. The first footage came 3 hours later when the fire had moved about 12kms away. Of course this system is supposed to be able to detect fires and lightning and map them. One of the other proponents claimed it to be acceptable to scan an area every 12 minutes in 10degree blocks with a system that needed 100m³ of smoke for it to be detected.

The trial results were representative of what we expected. Under Australian conditions there was about a 1 in 25 chance of the fire being detected early enough for a first attack to be successful. Of the test fires used the cameras and sensors all came up with similar results and averaged a detection rate of 1 in 4 fires that the fire tower operator reported from the same location. Overall the trial results were very negative about the systems. A conclusion was reached that even if they could adequately detect fires, they couldn't fulfill the extra roles that a fire spotter does, such as information flow. The Attorney General's Department held a workshop to discuss the results. The proponents had another chance to sell their products and this provided us with the only chance we had to question them. One of the proponents spent his presentation time basically abusing everybody for the failure of his system, the design of the project and for involving fire spotters as a baseline in the trial. I found this entertaining, as his stories and claims changed very significantly from other presentation that I had seen. It took the cake when he after spending so much time saying it wasn't a competition, he complimented a fire spotter by saying "seeing how committed this guy was I knew we would never beat him". He had also apparently told this fire spotter that he had "no future".

Of interest was the cost of the systems. I have often read about them being cheaper, but the costings we had access to indicate that you could build a new tower and operate it. All the systems still required human monitoring and associated costs plus added costs like buildings and computer systems. It seems to be more like an excuse for people trying to be seen to be doing something. We always knew that we had fire

managers as supporters but sometimes they don't get a choice in what they do.

When we started to fight this issue, we were somewhat disturbed to find no real evidence that fire spotters anywhere had made a stand against the cameras and sensors. We all knew that no camera has ever been developed equivalent to a human eye; they have very limited capabilities, tend to breakdown and have other flaws. The fire spotter community seems happy to whine about, but take it on the chin what our bosses say. I have always worked on the belief that YOU FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU DO AND WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN.

Into uncharted waters we went. Previously we had only been dealing with the camera proponents in an answer to their claims methodology. Now they had politicians and people with financial interests on the bandwagon, so we started to campaign against them in a more active way. My first step was to get environmental groups to express concerns to people we knew where interested. Most likely this was instrumental in getting a trial rather than straight out implementation. When the trial was announced this was changed to engaging and briefing potential supporters and developing media opportunities. The Wilderness Society was very helpful as was the media unit of the Greens. I asked other fire spotters to contact extractive and other industries, as I knew they would be supporters. But personally speaking I didn't see myself as the best person to deal with these groups so I passed it on to people that would be better at dealing with these groups. I never heard back from them to know how they went. Of interest was the support from human rights groups concerned about cameras that could be used to monitor to people's activities without them knowing or when there wasn't a security risk. After the workshop we sent out a media release to all major Australian newspapers and local newspapers in areas that we expected would have fire towers. A number of radio interviews also occurred.

Some of our main points for these groups were:

Existing structures and systems in place that work, they would need to build a new system of structures through our protected areas for no gain in fire protection.

Increasing unemployment in rural areas, risk to investment and risks associated with having fire fighters away from their normal work as fires would be larger when first detected.

Loss of places for Bush user groups to go to, loss of history and a further reliance on computer based information.

Computer failings where pretty much related to most of the failings on Black Saturday.

Loss of the human aspects of fire detection and the community nature of fire detection.

The history surrounding fire detection.

Threats to environmental values.

And of course, they are currently very inferior to the human fire spotter.

Unfortunately some of the proponents made a lot of money from the trial and from an overseas government and can still employ staffs to continue to harass politicians and decision makers that don't understand the issues. So the fight continues, but at least we have a lot of ammunition to use against them.

I really hope that people will make a stand against camera and sensors proponents. I toyed with the idea of a campaign heading "Automatic Fire Detection is Murder". I also hope that it is realised that one of the best ways of protecting the history and allure of fire lookouts is to ensure they are in use.

Remember, stand up and fight for what you believe in.

Paul Jones

Victorian Fire Lookout Observer Get-together

2010-11 season, Ballarat

The 2010-11 Australian fire season was a lean year for our observers. After 13 years of drought, many parts of Australia received well above the average rainfall; consequently, work-hours were sparse. Melbourne Water towers were only up on 26 days for a total of 166 tower hours. Compare this with an average of 73 days and 505 tower hours!!

The turnout was terrific for our annual Victorian FLO get together 30 April - 01 May; a few had arrived at camp the night before already. We all met at Mt. Buninyong (left) near Ballarat.



This tower has the main (small) cabin on a viewing platform which is also accessible by the public. Then there is a larger cabin with communications equipment on top and the FLO has also access to the roof; a three-story lookout!! Group photos were taken and then it was off to ESTA. This is the call centre for Police, Ambulance and Fire. Most regional 000 calls come to this place and dispatch is handled here. The building has the ability to grow with demand and it was interesting to see how things work once a 000 call is made. Thanks to Peter Sharman from ESTA for the guided tour and the hospitality. Unfortunately, they still don't do official triangulation!!

Nathan Jolly, the organiser of the weekend, took us to his tower, Cherry Tree Hill (right). The tower is just off the road, within a pine plantation. The weather hadn't improved and the view was only fair.



A lovely roast dinner was served back at camp and the rest of the night was spent socialising.

The official meeting took place after breakfast the next day. The minutes have been distributed separately. The main points were the re-occurring issue of inconsistency in working conditions in the different regions, the formation of the "Victorian Fire Tower Association Incorporated", Fatigue Management and pay conditions (loss of the \$1500 payment). The Enterprise Bargaining negotiations are to start later this year and it was decided that Phil Searle and Dick Noble are to represent the FLOs. Peter's Hill, Mt. Beenak and Mt. Wombat received new cabins this year. Mt. Mittamatite is next on the list.

Lunches were gathered, goodbyes were said to people who were heading home and the rest of us made our way to Mt. Franklin near Daylesford. The tower had more aerials added to it and the footings have been re-enforced with more concrete. The ladies insisted that we stop at the Chocolate Mill nearby. Due to time constrain, it was also decided to forgo the visit to Blue Mount and go direct to Mt. Blackwood. More people dropped off after the chocolate fix and we ended up with only about 10 of us. Mt. Blackwood is a 45m high tower



Mt. Franklin



Mt. Blackwood

with the cabin at approximately 8m off the ground. The large cabin is divided by the cable housing and we were surprised by the trees blocking a lot of the view.

After more goodbyes, Paul and André decided to backtrack to Blue Mount (right) with Nathan showing them the way. We made it at dusk and the fog was rolling in so we decided not to climb the tower.



It has been an action filled weekend with a productive meeting and a record number of towers (5) visited. A big thank you to the DSE for sponsoring the weekend and to Nathan Jolly for organising this year's event. We hope to have another full weekend next year in the far North East. C U there.

The towers represented over the weekend were: Mt. Useful, Mt. Arapiles, Mt. Buck, Mt. Hickey, Mt. Stanley, Mt. Clay, Annya, Mt. Macedon, Mt. Franklin, Mt. Moornapa, Mt. Buninyong, Mt. Porndon, Mt. Sam, Peter's Hill, Mt. St. Leonard, Mt. Benambra, Chetwynd, Mt. Wombat and Cherry Tree Hill.

Details on individual towers can be found at: www.firelookoutsdownunder.com. Look for the new 'latest update' link on the Home page. Photos from the weekend will be added over the next few weeks.



The Class of 2010-11

Three Wilderness Fire Towers

by Ken Jackson

Three lookout towers, Norway, Sioux River and Angleworm, graced the western part of the present Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness near Ely, Minnesota.

Rangers hewed a trail in the wilderness around 1910ⁱ to provided access and telephone service to ranger stations stretching northwest of Ely. The trail eventually became a 45-mile roller coaster road of gravel and rock in the 1920's. Gradually, highway engineers straightened and paved portions. However, much of the Echo Trail today still retains its twisty, unplanned look.

I drove the Echo Trail with my brother to visit these three wilderness lookout towers during the summer of 2009.

After a seven-mile drive south down a minimally-maintained forest road from the Echo Trail, I hiked one mileⁱⁱ into the wilderness to the site of the former Norway tower. The trail has the characteristics of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built trails: rock curbing which strengthens the tread and neat flat rock bridges over low spots.



Flat stone CCC-style bridge along trail to Norway Lookout

Before my hikes, I set waypoints for the tower locations on my GPSr unit. The forest has reclaimed the spurs to the Norway and Sioux River tower sites. Finding the towers requires GPS-guided bushwhacking. The waypoint at Norway guided me over a tangle of windfalls, hazel and brambles. However, when leaving the site, I noticed orange plastic tape, which marked the track of the former access trail. Perhaps the Forest Service anticipates clearing the old trail.

Most of the old towers remain on site at these wilderness lookouts. These three wilderness towers keep many secrets; age, for example.ⁱⁱⁱ My research to date tells me that Sioux River is the oldest. The Forest Service used this lookout and had some structure built before the CCC era (1933-1942).

The Forest Service instructed new rangers, or guards as they were called, to use high points to scan for smoke. In some cases they climbed a tall pine or built wooden structures to get a better view. A strong push for towers with telephone communication at lookout sites began in 1910-11. Before then, a fire report to Ely might require days or a week or more, depending how quickly a ranger could hike or paddle back to headquarters.

Ely, Minnesota and the Western United States experienced drought in 1908, 1909 and 1910. Just one month into the summer of 1910, Minnesota already reported 189 fires.^{iv} Many burned around Ely and threatened the town. A new forest

supervisor in Ely, Joe Fitzwater, announced an aggressive goal, "As fast as appropriations allow, trails, together with telephone lines, will be built through the more inaccessible districts."^v

To demonstrate his resolve, in early spring, United States Forest Service (USFS) Supervisor Fitzwater dispatched a crew of six up the Kawashiwi River east of Ely. On a high rock outcropping at a bend in the river they constructed a 50-foot lookout tower by attaching poles and a platform to a large pine tree. The rangers cut a trail, complete with telephone line, to connect with Ely Headquarters. Ole Fernlund and John Handberg, two crew members, contributed their names to the title of the new tower: Fernberg.



Early Fernberg Lookout structure near Ely (from Minnesota Foresters Report)

During that same time, another crew built a station on the Echo River some 50 miles northwest of Ely. By 1920, the Forest Service had built five ranger stations along the Echo Trail.^{vi}

The towers proved successful. In 1920 the Minnesota Forest Service (MFS) reported they had placed the final equipment in the Jasper Peak tower. Already the tower had more than earned back the initial investment for its construction through lessening the cost of firefighting.^{vii}

'As funds permitted'... I can imagine another crew paddling the Little Indian Sioux River and choosing a tall pine on the high ridge above the Devil's Cascade some eight miles off the Echo Trail. A December 1920 issue of the outdoors magazine, *Outing*, notes the existence of the Sioux River Tower in an article titled "A Canoe Fire Department".^{viii}

In 1910, the Forest Service required 'every patrolman and ranger, in his early trips through the territory assigned to him' should search 'for points where lookout stations would be of value.'^{ix}

Eventually, among the many possible lookout sites, the forest services selected those that fit the pattern needed to see smoke and provide triangulation to locate fires. In some cases, Sioux River for example, the lookout guard would hike the telephone line trail many miles or, perhaps paddle and portage a canoe that far.

The Minnesota Forester reported, "in 1911 the money spent built: 92 wooden towers, 13 steel towers and eight cabins for a total cost of \$3587.52." ^x

I hiked six miles^{xi} into the Sioux River Lookout. Ambitious tourists use this trail to visit the Devil's Cascade along the Little Indian Sioux River. Wilderness hikers use it as the first leg of



Sioux River Lookout cabin with guards, August 1932 (Courtesy of the Forest History Society)

the 35-mile Sioux Hustler Trail. The huge bald rock outcropping is the most spectacular of the three tower sites. The lookout guard occupied a cabin about one mile away, perched above the canyon of the Devil's Cascade.^{xii}

The USFS and MSF scattered small ranger cabins throughout forest. District rangers lived permanently in some of these cabins. Other cabins served as temporary headquarters for rangers working in the area and as caches for firefighting supplies. If necessary, a fire fighting operation might headquarter in such a cabin. Also, the forest services placed cylindrical steel chests on prominent rocks throughout the forest filled with fire fighting tools.

A network of telephone lines strung along forest trails connected these remote wilderness cabins and fire lookouts to each other and to headquarters.

How would you build such a telephone line?^{xiii} First clear a trail. Next string a single strand of No. 9 GI



Remnants of telephone line to Sioux River Tower



Bolts and steel anchored this telephone pole on the bare rock at Norway

(galvanized iron) wire through an eight-mile series of split ring insulators attached to trees. The split ring insulators allow some play in the line. This slack will often prevent a fallen tree from snapping the line. In areas void of trees due to past fires, barren rock offers a reason to cut a tree, drag it in and erect it, an 'artificial' telephone pole, supported by a cairn of rock. Make sure to mount the wire high enough to avoid entangling the antlers of a bull moose, but low enough that the ranger who must regularly patrol the line can reach to repair it. Also install regular lightning grounds to minimize damage from lightning strikes during storms.

Angleworm tower and its tiny cabin formed part of the "Canoe Fire Department". A 2-1/2 mile hike^{xiv} off the Echo Trail brought me to the site of the former tower.

By the early 1920s a spur of the Swallow Hopkins Logging railroad reached the eastern shore of Angleworm that could provide easy access to the



Angleworm Lookout cabin, August 1928 (Courtesy of the Forest History Society)

site of the Angleworm Tower on the western shore. The USFS used a small gasoline powered speeder to facilitate access to the tower until 1937 when the logging company pulled the rails.^{xv}

How much longer the USFS used this right-of-way or when they built the present 2-1/2 mile trail from the Echo Trail to the tower is unclear. (However, the current trail does not show the markings of CCC work.)

I found pieces of the entire tower structure deposited a few hundred yards over the brow of the hill in the brush. It appears that once toppled (with explosives), the crew disassembled the structure into pieces a man could carry.



Pieces of the Angleworm tower

On the hike to Sioux River lookout, I paused and imagined how the men and women in the USFS and MFS made this system work. We have the Canoe Fire Department in place. So, as Donald Hough in his article "The Canoe Fire Department" suggests, let's "have a fire, just to try the thing out."

A party of canoeists travels one of the many routes. They cook coffee and breakfast over a small campfire one morning. The fire seems out especially after casting the dregs of the coffee pot over it. By day's end, our party is many miles away and all seems well at their morning campsite. However a few hot embers remain in the thin duff. A wind freshens the second evening after their departure. The embers glow, a bit of flame erupts, spreads, and the woods begin to burn. With nightfall, the fire abates a little, but still slowly eats into the forest.

On the third morning, our lookout guard at Sioux River walks the mile from his cabin at Devil's Cascade to the tower. He climbs the tower, scans the horizon but sees nothing. A stronger wind starts late morning. During a later sweep of the horizon with his glasses he sees



Cab of Sioux River tower

smoke rising from trees on the mainland of Lac La Croix, a lake many miles to the north. He sights across his map and notes the compass reading. Climbing down the tower he opens a cast iron box, retrieves the telephone^{xvi} and rings Ely to report smoke at the compass reading of his sighting.

Next, on the large map at headquarters in Ely, the supervisor takes a string attached to the Sioux River tower location on the map. Surrounding that spot, and the places of other tower locations, is a large circle inscribed with degrees of a compass. He stretches the string out from Sioux River to the compass degree reported by the lookout and fastens the end on the map with a thumbtack. He then calls other towers that might see the smoke and asks them for readings as soon as they see smoke. Being at greater distances, other towers might not see smoke until the fire has grown. Finally, he gets more readings and tacks more strings to the map. The intersection of the strings pinpoints the location of the fire.

Now he calls the nearest district ranger, gives him the information, and says a fire crew of twenty men will leave as soon as he recruits them. Men in town learn the forest supervisor needs a crew and enlist. From the warehouse, he pulls canoes from storage and gathers the packsacks and boxes with supplies. The Minnesota Forest Service supervisor in Tower, a town close to Ely, often sent along a crate of homing pigeons with the crews.^{xvii} The fire crews could then send emergency messages back to headquarters.

After enough men assemble, they mount a truck with their supplies for a short to ride to the water route that they will follow to the fire. (These early crews used water travel. In those days road travel for any distance around Ely followed tote roads and required the extensive use of a shovel and axe.)^{xviii} These fire fighters must paddle through lakes and channels, and walk long and short portages around rapids. They may arrive at the fire site that evening or the next day to begin fighting the fire.

The Sioux Tower guard and those of other towers continue monitoring the smoke. When the smoke continues for several days, the supervisor will dispatch more supplies by canoe. When smoke increases indicating an intensifying fire, or the smoke plume moves from a traveling fire, the supervisor recruits, outfits, and sends more crews to the fire.

Extensive use of airplanes in spotting fires would not begin until the late 1940s - after the Second World War. When planes began to replace towers, trails and canoes, our three towers were retired. Wilderness legislation in 1964 required removal of man-made structures throughout the wilderness. Crews toppled the towers from their heights.

Sometime in the late 60's or 70's the USFS brought down the Sioux River tower and her two sisters. They placed them out of sight to rest in the wilderness forest the towers had guarded for half a century.

ⁱI have used a number of online resources. This printed presentation does not lend itself to including long, complicated internet addresses. Please find a web presentation of this article which will allow you to easily review the www.kjackson.us/articles/ThreeWilderness.pdf I used. Unless otherwise noted, photographs by Ken Jackson.

ⁱⁱHike to Norway Tower Lookout.

ⁱⁱⁱI have uncovered these dates from my research to date: **Sioux River:** referenced in 1921 issue of *Outing* magazine, Lookout

displayed on 1920 map of Superior National Forest (SNF), photograph of lookout cabin in 1932. **Norway:** Not shown on 1920 SNF map although a trail is shown which roughly follows the current trail from the Nigh Ranger Station to Little Trout Lake, Survey monument in 1936 and described as a 100-foot steel lookout tower. **Anglemorm:** Not shown on 1920 SNF map, Photograph of lookout keeper's cabin dated 1928, Described in 1934 survey data as 90 feet high constructed of steel, The Anglemorm Trail is described in various 1935 survey reports.

^{iv} Forester, Jeff, *The Forest for the Trees: How Humans Shaped the North Woods*, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2004, pg 128.

^vIbid., pg 130.

^{vi} See a 1920 map of the Superior National Forest.

^{vii} Cox, Wm. T., State Forester and Surveyor of Logs and Lumber, *Report Minnesota Forest Service: Forest Protection and Conservation in Minnesota*, 1920, pg 28

^{viii} *Outing*, December 1921, Vol 79 no 3, "The Canoe Fire Department" pg 109

^{ix} *Minnesota Forestry Board: First Annual Report of the State Forester*, Dec. 31, 1911, pg 47

^xIbid., pg 49.

^{xi} Hike to Sioux River Tower Lookout

^{xii} Rangers are Tesaker & H. Matthews & Lookout Guard Tikkala. La Croix District Forest Service, Photograph courtesy of U.S. Department of Agriculture, Eastern Region photograph courtesy of the Forest History Society, Durham, N.C.

^{xiii} Hansen, Mary Alice, *Sawbill: History and Tales*, Sawbill Press, Tofte, MN, 2005, pg. 43-44.

^{xiv} Hike to Anglemorm Tower Lookout

^{xv} Heinselman, Miron, *The Boundary Waters Wilderness Ecosystem*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1996, p. 104

^{xvi} An interesting article on telephones for lookout towers.

^{xvii} *Outing* December 1921, Vol. 79 no. 3, "The Canoe Fire Department" pg 108

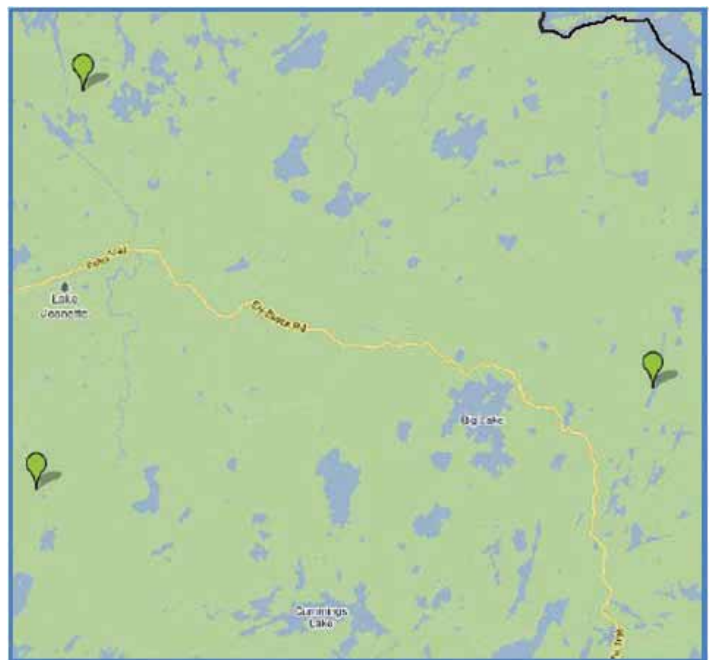
^{xviii} Ahlgren, Clifford & Isabel, *Lob Trees in the Wilderness: The Human and Natural History of the Boundary Waters*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1984, p 94.

I want to thank my brother, Steve, who accompanied me on these tower excursions.

Towers:
 North: Sioux River (N48° 12' 29.5" W092° 14' 33.5")
 West: Norway (N48° 02' 36.4" W092° 16' 18.6")
 East: Anglemorm (N48° 05' 07.4" W091° 53' 32.3")
 Straight-line distance from Norway to Anglemorm approximately 16 miles. The dark line is the US-Canadian Border.



Burnt piece of steel from Sioux River tower. Result of explosives?



Online map of Minnesota Fire Tower sites
<http://kjackson.us/towers/index.php>

Childhood Memories of the Berry Hill Fire Tower

by Teresa Monroe-Werner

I grew up on the farm below the fire tower in East Pharsalia, N.Y. Our farm was a dairy farm, owned and operated by Carl and Wanda Monroe. My brother Leonard and I first knew the Ranger, Mr. Huntley who was the lookout in the tower.



Berry Hill flyover 10-8-1934 (NYS Archives)

Mr. Huntley was very fond of my brother and me. He used to send paper airplanes out the window of the tower and my brother and I would run all over the side of our hill (which was used as a hay field or cow pasture) and try to catch those airplanes. I'm not sure if we ever really caught one in flight but it wasn't for lack of trying. Those airplanes on occasion were found beyond the large meadow of the hill, down in the pasture area where my brother and I would on occasion find Mr. Huntley's paper plane that had landed with what appeared to be a scheduled stop in one of our cow paths.

During these years there was no fence around the tower, there was no mesh wire going up the stairs on the tower at all. Mr. Huntley built a swing on the lowest rail of the fire tower nearest the cabin wall. My brother Leonard and I would swing there with regularity if mother would allow.

Smokey the Bear, whose life-like character resided inside the cabin, was more greatly known and respected than he is today. The cabin was great fun although small. I recall a desk, small wood stove, Smokey's character, a little corner room with a cupboard, and shelf. In the floor to the right as you entered the room, a hatch door on the floor uncovered a large rectangular pool of clear water where drinks and certain food could be stored in the cold water. I recall there may have been a small bedroom as well. The interior wood was dark like the logs it was made from, four windows and a fine porch for sitting. There were two stone square markers outside in the ground, one on the left corner of the front of the cabin, and I think the second was to the left of the tower. I used to run and jump to stand tall on the top. Now as an adult it appears only a few inches high.

My brother Leonard and I used to go visit Mr. Huntley in the tower's top. He would show us various locations and on a clear day you could actually see a part of the state of Pennsylvania we were told. A visit to the tower and Mr. Huntley was a natural and regular part of our summers on the farm.

After Mr. Huntley moved on there were no more airplanes, and he was missed. Years later, Mr. Huntley came back to visit the tower and see Leonard. Mr. Huntley was a tall and gentle man to us and the memory of him is a pleasant one for my brother and me.

Ranger and Mrs. Phillips and their daughter Christa came to the tower. Mesh wire was put on the sides of the steps

going up the tower for safety. We didn't really like it very much; it took away the freedom of the climb, but of course was a wise move for safety.

Thinking back as children we were never afraid, the wind would blow especially on stormy days, your hair would blow and you would hang on tightly to

the rails. The wind would challenge you to go higher. Mrs. Phillips (Herda) became friends with my mother Wanda and they did women things like berrying, coffee time, and so on.

On the hill behind the tower there was a great wild strawberry patch. Mother made many jars of jam from those berries and short cake was a treat. Blueberry patches off to the right in the trees were plentiful and no one could pick berries like my mom. Is this how it became Berry Hill?

I don't recall the year but the air force out of Rome, N.Y. had a practice bombing range beyond the Monroe farm. This turned out to be memorable. They flew really low; there were several stories to tell, but the one involving the tower was when the jet turned its wings vertically and flew between the cabin and the tower! This may be difficult to believe but I watched it with my own eyes.

I believe the fenced area around the tower was built when Ranger Phillips was there and the driveway up the hill was added.

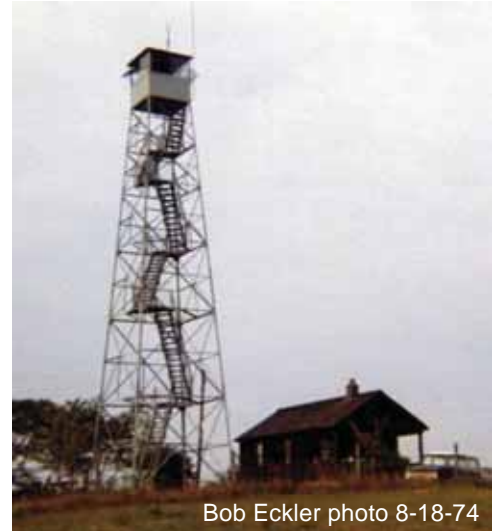
The hiking trails, which they now call part of the Finger Lakes Trails, began from Bowman Lake State Park and people would hike to the tower. The problem was that they would be so tired from the hike to the tower or they didn't plan their time very well and the Monroe family started driving those tired hikers back to Bowman Lake. I can remember countless trips where my dad would load them up in the pickup truck and off he would go.

The farm was sold and our parents are gone now, but my brother Leonard and I have great memories of growing up on the farm and with our Fire Tower.

Teresa Monroe-Werner
September 2009

Note: In New York State, the people who staffed the fire towers were officially given the title of Forest Fire Observer, yet to the majority of the public these Observers were commonly known as the Ranger. Charles Huntley served as the Forest Fire Observer at Berry Hill from 1959 through 1965.

Bill Starr



Bob Eckler photo 8-18-74



Bill Starr photo 3-3-09

PYRAMID MOUNTAIN

"MY FOREST SERVICE DAYS"

by Austin Post

"My Lookout experience mostly took place before World War 2 when fire suppression attitudes were totally different and fire lookouts - lots of them - were a fully accepted, crucial part of them. It was literally a different world; I can't say it was a better one, but most anyone that has lived in both would agree with me that a whole world, and a good one, too, has been lost, unfortunately, forever.

These totally different attitudes are quite unconsciously expressed in my memoirs. Perhaps this is their main value; this is the way things were, during, not after, the heyday of the lookout system. Not many of us who experience those times are left! For those that loved nature and took pride in doing what we fully believed was taking our part in its preservation, it was a priceless time to be alive - how fortunate I was to live when I did!" AP

(Scanned and edited from Austin Post's memoirs and archive photographs of his lookout experiences in the Lake Chelan area of Washington State. FFLA Historian 2010.)

Pyramid Trip, First Meeting with David Hale

I don't know just why Dad chose to take Phyllis and me up Pyramid. Perhaps it was due to several things: one, the mountain is so prominent when going up lake on a boat that Dad must have looked up there many a time from his own open launch, "Cupid", as a young adult. Then, there were the trips on the Fantasy. Finally, Dad and I were invited on an outing with Mr. Hallock and son Lee, Mr. Hastings and son Greg, all in Hallock's truck, into the upper Entiat country. Returning, we spent a night camping at Big Hill lookout and it is from there that the Pyramid trail takes off.

Probably it was all of these memories that made the hike attractive. Whatever the reason, on a late summer day, we arrived at Big Hill in our new 1936 Oldsmobile. We must have camped there overnight, for it takes a full day to make the hike. If I recall correctly, I was fourteen and Phyllis, equipped with her free Eastman Kodak, seventeen. I was in seventh heaven and rushed on ahead and back again like an eager, excited pup. I can remember Dad cautioning not to use up my energy too quickly. But to a fourteen-year old farm kid on an outing, energy is what one has most of. Anyway, it was a delightful hike through the alpine slopes of Crow Hill, a precipitous dive into Corral Creek, then a ramble through forest past several sheep herder campsites (a couple of these were "Poodle Dog" and "Farview" - identified with box-board signs nailed to trees). The next climb was up Graham Mountain. Around the slopes of this and another drop follows. One more intermediate mountain to skirt, one I call 'Albicaulis' after the plentiful white-bark pines. Then a lesser descent and at last one is at the base of Pyramid itself. As this is all in the subalpine zone, vistas abound and from here one looks directly up the slope of the mountain. Most summers a snowbank lingers about halfway to the summit. I don't think it survived that year. A picture Phyllis took doesn't appear to show it.

This was the place one might expect the very indifferent trail (a sheep driveway, actually), the climb up that scab rock slope, to really get awful. Quite the opposite. For three reasons: first, the sheep didn't use it and ruin it and second, it was laid out sensibly. The final reason: it was within easy reach of the fire lookout station so eager beaver lookouts had worked that

part of the trail into fine shape. Instead of a final battle, it was a nicely graded switchback route to the summit.

At over 8,000 feet even I was panting as we slowly worked our way up that final pull. The trail works around to the north side, where it reaches a col overlooking Lake Chelan far below. Here was snow, a remnant of the big cornice that forms in winter and which is present all years. This had melted down thirty feet or more from the crest. Dad went down to get some and Phyllis took a picture of this, too. Real snow in midsummer! One has to be brought up in the desert to appreciate what this means.

Then on to the lookout, now conspicuously in view only a few hundred feet higher.

David Hale was the Pyramid lookout and he continued on the job there for several years. We must have been the most remarkable visitors of the season, what with a very popular, good-looking young woman in the party! This probably was part of the reason for the really wonderful reception we got. To me the top of the mountain was heaven. Way, way up there - such grand scenery on every side. Not least was Glacier Peak, now close enough to be dominating the scene but with worthy allies, glacier-bearing peaks and rocky, ragged summits rising in ranks toward the horizon to the north and west.

Dave had plenty of snow-cold lemonade for us and maybe Phyllis remembers other goodies he might have prepared. To me the lookout building up there on top of the world was as near Utopia as one could possibly get: the wonderful air, the fabulous view which extended from the Selkirk Mountains of Idaho, the Eastern Washington plains, and way down below. Lake Chelan, a brilliant deep blue in the bottom of that incredible trench, then the snow peaks to the west. To what more could one aspire? Not to speak of the big 1,400-foot cliff, down which Dave proceeded to roll some big rocks! A few of them set off others much larger that made it all the way to the bottom where they could be seen as tiny specks, creeping across the residual snow and ice patch far below. It wasn't until I was Pyramid Mountain lookout myself that I began to appreciate what labor Dave had gone to in order to give us this show. Find a loose rock anywhere near the summit of Pyramid? Not on your life! Previous lookouts had tossed them all years ago.

That evening we were treated to a spectacular sunset over Glacier Peak. Phyllis tried to take a picture of it. With the cheap black and white film, a free camera that leaked light, and no filters, it's no surprise it didn't do the scene real justice. At the time, though, I recall it was a beauty. I was to see quite a number more in later years, with the deep shadows that form, the peaks falling into silhouette, then after the sun sinks and the earth's shadow rises the mountains and glaciers come back into view again, now in tones of gray. It's a grand spectacle one doesn't get on the lower stations. I never saw anything to compare with it from McGregor or Crater Mountain, both nearly equally high peaks but without the open view as from Pyramid. These lookout stations were enclosed by their surrounding mountains and did not have Pyramid's variety and expansive sweep, which came as a surprise. I had expected the views from these peaks to exceed Pyramid's grandeur.

The night passed uneventfully and the next morning we were on our way back down the mountain. With little to do but rush on ahead, I probably didn't see much of Dad and Phyllis, although I can remember being shouted at not to stray off the

trail. I do recall Phyllis commenting on how far I was ahead and how tired she was, but at that age scrambling around the hills was so wonderful I couldn't get enough of it. All too soon we were heading down into the low country and this second great adventure with the lookouts was a memory.

I Build My Own: "Sage Brush Point" Lookout Station

If I couldn't have a Forest Service job yet, the least I could do was build a lookout of my own. One of the limiting factors was that it had to be close enough to Lake Chelan to make salvaging wood off the beach practical - no small chore. I explored around, seeking the best site, before choosing and naming "Sage Brush Point" for a vantage. Another reason for the choice was that Greg Hastings lived nearby. He was just enough younger to be malleable to my wishes and was already endowed with a hefty, strong back which could be very useful. Also, we were friends.

The site has been an orchard for many years now so it's sort of hard to describe the location easily. It is the second and lower of two rounded granite knobs on the north shore of the lake going west from town. Many years before, someone had dug out a round reservoir on its broad summit about three hundred feet in diameter which looked much like a meteor crater. I doubt if the scheme had ever been utilized because with the coming of electric pumps the orchards were irrigated directly from pipes under pressure, so there was no need of a reservoir. When the lookout station was built, sagebrush was well grown in the circle leaving only the conspicuous, pale gray rim of clay, evidently dug out of the pit.

The station must have been constructed mainly after school. That was the most time I would have had free, and that by going there direct from the bus! The folks were lenient knowing my enthusiasm for the project and doubtless allowed me more free time to devote to it than I realized. In any case, four rather skinny driftwood logs were located on the beach and with "Chunky", the rowboat Dad built for Phyllis and me one winter, were towed to the nearest practical place from which they could be dragged, by brute force, to the site. Other building materials were easier to transport. These included old abandoned flume boards, generally about eight to ten inches wide and strictly on their last legs as building material. The hardest to find were long poles for braces. Eight, nearly twenty feet long, were required. Finally, with no other choice available, a neighbor's prop pile (props are used to shore up overloaded apple trees as the fruit matures) was raided when no one was observing closely. This expedient provided good quality one and one-half by three-inch milled fir stock and the tower was duly raised. I don't recall many particulars of this operation. Presumably this means it didn't fall down too many times in the process.

Once the legs were raised and the braces nailed (most of the nails were salvaged from old boards as well), the flume lumber was used to construct the deck, about 5 x 5 feet square, maybe fifteen feet off the ground. I'm afraid the prop pile came in for further raiding to provide framing material, but this time only short, less valuable pieces were needed which helped save our consciences. As there was to be no lining, five-foot high walls were sufficient. Ample headroom in the center was provided by the pitch of the roof. The walls were built up about two and a half feet, then a top plate nailed around the top of the "prop" studs and the space between left open to the breezes as wide open glassless windows which in summer in those parts are better than the real kind. The roof was of similar flume board construction, with no time wasted in planning any waterproofing, which at Chelan was rarely needed anyway.

The tower complete, a bunk of more flume boards was constructed. I even made a plywood fire finder complete with map and rotating pointer, this project done in the basement at home mainly with a Christmas gift coping saw.

One night shortly after the structure was complete we had a real windstorm; I looked with dread to "Sage Brush Point" when daylight came. My worst fears were realized. Where the tower had so proudly stood was now only the bare sagebrush-covered knoll! It wasn't until after school that Greg and I were able to visit the site and survey the damage. It was total for most of the structure. Little but ruins remained. This was bitter, as plans had been to install old pipe-wire guy wires that day! One day too late! Even so, we resolved to rebuild.

This was done with aid from Greg's dad, Francis Hastings. He must have taken considerable interest in the project as he

located four real posts about the same length as the beach ones we had previously used and he delivered them to the site with the tractor. This was a real boon. By now the prop pile had become a staple source of material, and though the shattered remains of the first tower were utilized where possible, 'newer' scrap lumber was added as necessary with an



increasingly clear conscience. Again, the major construction was of discarded materials and close up the structure was something else in appearance. From the highway, some half mile distant, the tower did look remarkably neat and finished.

Sim Beeson

This was fortunate, as it was to give me a clear shot at my goal of being a real lookout. Sim Beeson, the U.S. Forest Service Assistant Ranger, who had a passel of kids himself, spotted the tower and, intrigued, drove by back roads to Hastings' place, the nearest house. Here, either Greg or his Dad took him up for a look, and if I know either of them, gave him a real snow job in the process. I doubt if this mattered. Sim was taken with it to the extent of looking me up a few days later and together with Greg, and in a real USFS pickup, took us to the Forest Service office, where he presented us with a genuine, if discontinued model, firefinder on which he had spent hours shellacking a Forest Service map. In addition, an official United States flag, more maps, fire reports - the works! Oh, yes, and some official bright yellow signs, "No



Osborne firefinder and view to the east

Smoking While Traveling" and "Douse Your Campfire, Every Spark" - these to be erected along our highway. Then he wrote up a neat story about it all for the local paper, the Chelan Valley Mirror. This must have been in the summer of 1937 or 1938.

What an event in MY life! I doubt if Sim ever realized what a profound effect this generous act was to have. I have him to thank for so much of my future professional career, which was to result from that interest shown in a kid's project. Of course, neither did any of the rest of us see it as pivotal; it was just one of those special things a considerate adult does that inspires a kid at the right time. It may not have influenced Greg's life nearly as much, but to me this was the wedge. From that day on I haunted the Forest Service office, scrounged all available maps and materials and doubtless made a thorough pest of myself. Whatever, one thing they couldn't escape knowing, that the pesky "Post kid" was one eager youngster to join up, the sooner the better!

Those maps and supplies were put to good use, too. I soon knew every feature shown on the maps as well or better than anyone else who hadn't actually been to those places, and probably better than most who had. Not a single feature I wasn't as familiar with as a map or descriptive pamphlet could make it. I even scrounged up a copy of the official "Lookout Manual" and memorized it. I was rarin' to go. But it was to be another year or more before this was to be.

September 1939

An Exciting Lightning Storm

My chance to actually become a real fire lookout came very unexpectedly in the fall of 1939 and it couldn't have happened under much more spectacular circumstances. This was in the nation's 'dust bowl' era. Eastern Washington was bone dry, too. One year, perhaps that one, Chelan's rainfall was less than three inches. Even at high altitudes in the mountains only a foot or so of snow fell. That day a rip roaring lightning storm had set fires everywhere around the town of Chelan. We watched from our porch as one strike after another hit the dry, cheat-grass hills, smoke instantly following, as yet another fire blossomed. That night as it got dark fires were burning all over, a frightening sight. Protected from the dry slopes by the orchard, we were reasonably safe, but not our dry farm neighbors above. They must have been plenty worried. At the least, it would strip the hills of forage for their cattle.

Emergency!

Can I Go Up On Horton Butte Lookout Station?

We went to bed with fires still raging on all sides. Some time after we were all asleep, someone was pounding on the door. This proved to be Sim Beeson. Could the kid go up on an emergency lookout? No doubt the answer was YES even before I was consulted - a very excited kid when I was! In moments the whole family was up, Dad and I heading for town to add to the skimpy supplies available at home which could be collected in a hurry. The whole town was awake. It was some sight, fires everywhere around, everybody up, Forest Service office and the grocery stores open, everyone available joining the fire crews.

Soon I was at the office, too, being herded into a gang that was to head up lake to fight a fire at Railroad Creek. The emergency station I was headed for was Horton Butte, eight miles by trail from Meadow Creek Lodge which was located about forty miles up Lake Chelan. The date was 1939, not difficult to recall for while I was at the lodge with the owners listening to the radio, war was declared in Europe. (England declared war on Germany September 3, 1939.)

Heading Up Lake in the USFS Forester

So, a hasty goodbye to Dad and I was in the back of a Forest Service truck with the fire crew as the driver furiously pounded around the corners on the way to Twenty-five Mile Creek. In those days the road was said to be gravel. In reality that means washboards and chuckholes. I don't think anyone thought much of it on that trip, though. I sure didn't, on this first real adult experience of my life. One I was more than eager for, but mighty nervous and shy, there in that bunch of big, powerful, strange men. I felt very much the greenhorn kid. There are no roads up the western part of Lake Chelan due to the sheer granite cliffs extending for thousands of feet above the shores. The only way to get up lake in those days was by boat. For this reason, the Forest Service had two vessels - a workboat, the USFS Stehekin, and the high speed twenty to thirty-passenger fireboat, USFS Forester. The latter was a narrow craft probably about thirty-five feet long, powered by a big Hall Scott gasoline engine which drove it along at a lively clip, maybe twenty miles an hour or more, as it threw up an enormous bow wave and wake, probably making it the fastest craft on the lake. It was so narrow that single seats on each side of the aisle took up all the space. Large windows on each side could be rolled down. (Several years later these were to come in handy when fire shovels were utilized for paddling when the boat had a stalled engine while on a lee shore. Maybe I'll get to that presently. For now, I'll get on with my first trip aboard.)

It was 'dark as midnight' all this time, with the cooler air of night and being on the shady side of the lake. I can remember the change to cool freshness as we unloaded the truck and carried tools and food down the dock to others loading the boat and then the excitement of boarding.

Next came my moment: the fire crew boss made a head count by the boat's dim cabin lights. Due to me, he came out one too many! I realized what was wrong, but was too bashful to speak up. A second count was made, with the same result. This caused quite an uproar. How could this be possible? Finally, someone remembered, "Ain't there s'posed to be some kid goin' up on a lookout somewhere?" So, at last I spoke, loud enough so the guy next to me could hear it, anyway, and the mystery was solved, to everyone's high amusement. I know it caused a big laugh. Then the guard who ran the boat fired it up, lines were cast off and the Forester was on her way, throwing that impressive bow wave which loomed white in the darkness on either side.

Meadow Creek Lodge; Climbing the Mountain; Opening the Station

It was a run of several hours to Meadow Creek Lodge where I was let off with my meager supplies while it was still dark. I had been instructed to wait there for a packer who was on his way up from Prince Creek to take me up the mountain. So I sat on the dock. After it started to get light, a friendly dog and I explored around a bit but with the arrival of the packer on schedule, my supplies were quickly loaded on a pack horse - not much of a load, even with the radio sent up from Chelan. The packer was scornful and said he could eat all my groceries in a day which to my dismay he came very near proving. (In retrospect, I'll bet he was supposed to furnish his own grub. I was green enough not to protest and was mighty glad to have his help setting up the station.)

It was only a few minutes before we were heading up the trail. I walked. We soon crossed the "East Shore Trail", the lookout route switchbacking up the mountain. All proceeded uneventfully as by degrees we gained altitude, the air gaining

the additional freshness, the views between the trees becoming more numerous. We must have reached the ridge crest in the white-bark pine belt in late morning and a short time later arrived at the isolated lookout building. This was unlined, 10 x 10-foot ('100-square footer') and built on the ground. The packer had a key and soon we were opening up the shutters and the lookout building immediately looked operational.

Checking in by Radio; An Embarrassing Experience

The next thing was to set up the radio, SPF 134. Here the packer's professed experience didn't help much. Although we followed the instructions, we got no response other than horrible static and after experimenting all afternoon we still had no contact. Finally that evening the packer hit the right button, the radio went to work and he checked in. The Stehekin Ranger, "Ross", sounded thoroughly cranky and demanded to know why I hadn't checked in before. The packer wasn't one to take guff from anyone and in very plain, blunt language, said why. Then the discussion turned to supplies, or lack of same. There was supposed to be bedding in the building, which, however, was an unlined shell containing nothing but a fire finder, table and stove. A rusty pan or two and a couple of plates about finished the inventory. This upset Ross and he angrily demanded to know if I had checked the attic and if not, why not.

To this the packer, replied in equal heat, "Ya wanna know why the hell I ain't, do ya? Wul' I'll tell ya why! There ain't no damn attic in this -n hole."

As the Ranger clearly thought he was talking to me, this rather shook me up, as evidently it did Ross! It had a very improving effect, however, and in a much-chastened tone "I" was told, "Fer chrissake, kid! Take it easy on the language over the radio!"

I was next told to hike down to Meadow Creek Lodge for blankets and fire pack in three days' time.

Finally we went to bed on the lookout station floor. As I had no bedding the packer loaned me two trailworn, canvas mantas, well soaked with horse sweat, in which I spent an uneventful, if rather gasping night. Already his free use of my supplies was alarming. I was helpless and now anxiously looked forward to his departure in the morning.

I'm Alone! I'm the Horton Butte Fire Lookout

After breakfast, meager on my part as an example which he ignored, the packer saddled up and departed down the mountain with about half of my food in his belly. But, he was gone! I was alone! What a wonderful feeling - my own real lookout station! I didn't care if I starved or froze, what difference would that make? I was really a fire lookout, a REAL one at last!

As fire lookout stations go, Horton Butte would come in somewhere more rugged and a lot more remote than most. It was situated on one nondescript ridge among hundreds, neither higher nor more spectacular than the others, and decidedly lower than the main peaks such as nearby Star Mountain (8,500 feet), which I would have chosen had I been asked to site the station. Its purpose was to overlook the Fish Creek drainage and also various slopes across Lake Chelan, which could be seen 'down there' on both sides of Round Mountain. A good view up Railroad Creek to the out-of-control "Tinpan Mountain fire" may have been the major reason they put me up there. As it turned out, I didn't report any new fires at all, as there were no further lightning storms, but I did a lot of relaying of radio messages for this fire and, strangely enough, one located on the West Fork of Flat Creek, far away out of sight in the Stehekin wilderness.

That morning I began the first of my regular reports on a schedule: eight o'clock, noon and at five in the afternoon. It must have been immediately apparent to all that the rough voice of the evening before had changed to a scared kid's rather than a foul-mouthed roughneck. Much to my relief, I was told to report to 'Bob' on Domke Mountain from then on. Bob turned out to be one of those warm, fatherly types that made the Forest Service generally such a friendly place to work and the radio a thing not to be feared, which it was with Ross on the other end. Evidently realizing I was very green indeed, Bob certainly went out of his way to be helpful and in late evening chats told me of experiences he was having on top of his one hundred-foot steel tower which boasted so few comforts I felt I was living in a palace by comparison.

So my career as a fire lookout began. Uneventfully the days passed. As directed, I made the hike to Meadow Creek. It was on this brief return to "civilization", that we heard by radio that war had been declared in Europe that day. The old couple, the lodge owners, were very despondent because of it. Being an age to make excellent cannon fodder if this continued to spread which seemed more than likely, I wasn't exactly pleased, either. Even then it seemed there must be better ways for so-called 'civilized' humans to settle their spats. Nothing since has changed my mind. But this is about Horton Butte, and after hearing the bleak news, the kind people loaded me up with some much-needed foodstuffs for which I would pay them upon my return home. These and three old, tired, rat-chewed wool blankets and a heavy fire pack, the total Forest Service contribution, made a big load and I was soon on my way back up the mountain.

Getting Water

Getting water proved to be a problem that couldn't be completely solved with the available equipment. A metal can on a packboard, used for fire fighting, was supposed to be used to provide the water supply and was to be filled every other day at a spring a long two miles down the trail. The problem was, this old pack leaked so much from various cracks and missing rivets that by the time one got back up the mountain, all the water had gone into a thorough cooling of one's back, rump and legs and irrigating the trail. I tried alternatives, such as lugging the miserable thing in my arms to tip it so it didn't leak so copiously. This obligingly soaked one in front instead, a dubious improvement, and helped only as far as preserving a pint or so of water, but not at all enough relative to the agony of the struggle involved. After a few attempts with the miserable thing with jury-rigged patches, I gave it up completely.

There was a small canteen, maybe two quarts or so. As I could go for water only every other day, this called for rigid rationing, the utmost economy. First, I drank the minimum to get by. Cooking required some. Then clean-up. If any of this dishwasher remained, it was used to scrub the table. No water was ever simply tossed out. By the time it had made the circuit, none was left to throw away. (Good thing I was a boy!)

Another event was connected with the water supply. While still attempting to use the pack one blistering afternoon, I hung my sweaty shirt over a branch along the trail on the way down, as I knew it wouldn't be needed on the steep pull back up. Imagine on my return to find no shirt anywhere! I even went back down searching all the way to the spring with no luck. This mystery wouldn't ever have been solved if a day or so later an old mule deer doe hadn't come up to the lookout. Hanging from a corner of her mouth and on which she was still chewing, was the last remnant of that shirt. *(to be continued)*

A North American History of Forest Fire Detection

By C. Rod Bacon

Chapter XXVI

LOOKOUT OBSERVERS

The previous chapter looked at protection against lightning. This chapter looks at the lookout person. Source: USDA Circular No. 449, November 1937: Planning, Constructing, and Operating Forest-Fire Lookout Systems in California, and R1-5120-26.

The lookout job is a peculiar one, in which only a very small percentage of men can find permanent satisfaction. The use of any device which will help pick out these men is thoroughly justified because of the enormous wastage in the trial-and-error method heretofore used.

The results of applying personality tests to a group of 80 lookouts by Paul P. Pitchlyn, chief personnel officer of the California Region, gave some surprising preliminary results. While the tests were insufficient evidence for detailed conclusions, they demonstrated clearly that the best lookouts were not of the so-called introvert type who prefer living to themselves, but represented qualities nearer to the extrovert end of the personality spectrum. Such investigations aid in dispelling many traditional preconceptions that in the past have had undue influence on the selection of lookout observers.

FUNDAMENTAL DETAILS IN PROCESS OF SELECTION

1. Eyesight can be determined by appropriate eyesight tests administered by oculists. Often correct fitting with glasses will take care of defects of vision. In addition, a specialized eyesight test has been designed which goes further than the assurance of normal eyesight. This has shown considerable promise.
2. Physical ability to live on the job, and presence or absence of serious organic defects - by appropriate medical examination by a physician.
3. Ability to take care of himself and cook - by simple tests at any Forest Service station.
4. Ability to live alone, etc. This can usually be judged from a man's previous occupations and his own opinions, or by modern personality test.
5. Capacity to do the job continuously without frequent outside stimulus. This can be judged from individual's previous history, particularly if he performed creditably on small jobs such as one- or two-man trail maintenance.
6. Contentment with a job, with little change of scenery, and with little required physical exertion. Previous satisfaction with jobs such as caretaker or guard jobs at isolated stations will often give a clue to this quality. More often it will be necessary to test this quality on the job itself.
7. Ability to describe what he sees. This can be tested from a suitable point in the field.

Lookout Items on Zazzle

Oregon FFLA member Elaine Broskie has a wide variety of products featuring Oregon lookouts available on zazzle.com, including posters, notecards, stamps, calendars, shirts, coffee mugs, envelopes, postcards, and more. Elaine will donate profits from the lookout items to the FFLA. Visit her zazzle store at www.zazzle.com/ebroskie1234/ and navigate to "Fire Lookouts and occasional guard station" on the menu. The Bald Butte Sunset image above is available on several products.



MERCHANDISE FROM OUR PARTNERS

Buck Rock Foundation Merchandise...

Clothing items embroidered with your favorite Sequoia logo.



<http://www.buckrock.org/giftshop2.html>



www.westernheritage.com

(Navigate to USFS Store, "Other Customers")

Hand-made Wooden FFLA Logo Items

Hand made, hand painted, wooden FFLA logo merchandise, including wall plaques, clocks, and picture frames. Lookout mouse pads also available. Contact KY member Zach Bruce, whitesgraphics@bellsouth.net, 859-498-9087

Osborne Fire Finder Featured on Belt Buckle

The summer issue of Dawn Fazio's Woodland Catalog features the Osborne Fire Finder on its 2011 version of pewter belt buckles. The limited edition, numbered buckle series always depicts Smokey Bear. In this case, Smokey is in a lookout tower sitting through the fire finder. On the reverse is the wording: "The Osborne Fire Finder was invented 100 years ago by William Osborne, a Forest Service employee in Portland, Oregon. It has been serving in lookout towers nationwide since 1915." The buckles sell for \$23.50 plus shipping/handling.

Dawn and Jim Fazio are long-time members of the Forest Fire Lookout Association and can be reached at 208-882-4767 or www.smokeybeargifts.com.



Links to lookout merchandise from other partners at:

www.firelookout.org/store.htm

FFLA MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Order all items on this page from:
 Gary Weber - 2590 W Versailles Dr - Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
fflamembership@yahoo.com
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 Pay through PayPal (<https://www.paypal.com/>)



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FFLA CAN COOLERS

Keep your drinks colder longer while displaying the FFLA logo!

The crisp white FFLA logo outline stands out on two sides of the royal blue foam can cooler. The coolers are made of polyurethane foam with a no-slip grip.

2 for \$5.00 + \$2.00 s/h (ask for s/h rate for larger orders).



FFLA CAPS

Embroidered FFLA logo caps are now in stock, available in two styles, both adjustable to fit. For those preferring the stand-up, shaped style, structured caps are available. The unstructured style is available for those preferring soft, low-profile caps. Both styles come in charcoal gray or forest green.

Specify structured (left) or unstructured (right) style

\$15.00 each + \$3.00 shipping/handling

FFLA Multi-colored **Patches** \$ 5.00 each (includes s/h)

FFLA **Lapel Pins** \$ 5.00 each (includes s/h)



Lookout Library DVD

FFLA 20th Anniversary 1990-2010

A limited edition and number of Lookout Library (ver. 2010) is currently available. This will be a single DVD disk in Windows Vista format holding approximately 1.6 gigabytes of information - fire tower listings, chronology of the FFLA, Show & Tell series, and other lookout information. Order from address above, \$12.95 each, includes shipping, or email directly to the Historian at fflahistorian@gmail.com with payment to FFLA Treasurer Gary Weber (above). An email confirmation will be sent for each order; delivery should be within two weeks.

A maximum of twenty DVD's will be made of this first edition, first come, first served. When the maximum number is reached, further orders will be applied to the next edition's run.

Summer 2011

FFLA SHIRTS!



Black/white design w/4-color FFLA logo on Ash color shirts

Wide range of sizes available!

T-shirts (short-sleeve) S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X \$13.00

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Sweatshirts (long-sleeve) S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X \$20.00

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Full-color FFLA logo vinyl decals with rear adhesive. **The new large size is now available, 5" across (3-3/4" per side)!** The small size is 2-1/2" across (1-3/4" per side), the medium 3-1/2" across (2-1/2" per side). The small decal is ideal for hardhat applications, the medium is the same size as the popular FFLA multi-colored patch.

Large (5") decals, \$1.50 each, Medium (3-1/2") \$1.00 each, Small (2-1/2") \$0.75 each.

Shipping: \$.50 per order, order from address at above left

LOOKOUT NETWORK CDs

The entire collection of LOOKOUT NETWORK issues is now available on CD. Each issue, beginning with Vol.1, No.1, has been scanned and saved as a .pdf file. An index is also included to easily search for past articles.

As a bonus, a variety of local/regional editions produced prior to the advent of central printing/mailling are also included! \$20.00 each, includes shipping/handling.

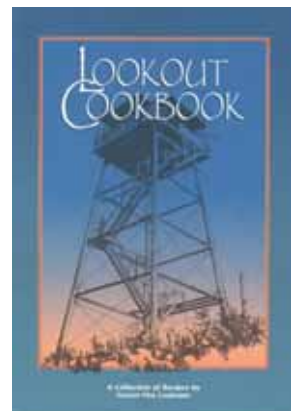
LOOKOUT COOKBOOK

A Collection of Recipes by Forest Fire Lookouts

by Libby Langston

Lookout Cookbook is a blend of recipes, history, personal stories, and over 100 photographs bringing together the lookout staffers, their stations, and their creativity. *Lookout Cookbook* is a cooperative venture between the North Idaho/Montana Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association, the Lolo National Forest and the Museum of North Idaho.

Order from address at above left. \$14.95 each + \$4.00 s/h for first book, \$1.00 s/h for each additional book to same address.



Books

FIRE LOOKOUTS OF THE NORTHWEST, Third Edition by Ray Kresek, \$34.95 (s/h, tax included) from: Historic Lookout Project, 123 W. Westview, Spokane, WA 99218 www.firelookouts.com.
Limited quantities remaining - will soon be out of print!

HIKING NORTH CAROLINA'S LOOKOUT TOWERS by Peter Barr. Guidebook to the lookout towers in western North Carolina. peterontheat.com/hiking-north-carolinas-lookout-towers/, \$15.00 (includes s/h), or email Peter at pjbarr@unc.edu

POINTS OF PROMINENCE, Fire Lookouts of the Payette National Forest, by Richard H. Holm, Jr. History of over 100 Payette lookouts. \$20.00 (includes s/h) from: Richard Holm Jr., P.O. Box 294, McCall, ID 83638. Also available from Amazon.com

BETWEEN LAND & SKY: A Fire Lookout Story by Dixie Boyle. Former New Mexico FFLA Director's experiences from twenty years as a fire lookout. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 1432704397

BETWEEN FOREST AND SKY: A Fire Tower Journal by Sharon Stratton. A fire tower journal of several seasons in northern Alberta. Available from bookstores. ISBN 1894974166

STANDING WATCH: The Fire Towers of Arizona by Eileen Moore. Tribute to the fire towers and the lookouts of Arizona features the state's eighty-one fire towers and cabins and includes 115 photos. \$13.99 plus \$2.01 s/h from www.mortenmoorepublishing.com.

CLIMBING THE LADDER LESS TRAVELED, Adventures, Insights and Life Journeys by Joe Bill. \$15.00 (includes s/h) from Mountain Forest Publishing, 12240 N. Barrel Cactus Way, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

LOOKOUTS IN THE SOUTHWESTERN REGION is available online: <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/jspui/handle/1957/9577>.

RANGER TRAILS: The Life and Times of a Pioneer U.S. Forest Service Ranger in the West on the La Sal, Santa Barbara, Cache, and Deschutes National Forests, 1907-1913 by John Riis, prologue/epilogue by Les Joslin \$15.00 (s/h included). Also available: **TOIYABE PATROL: Five U.S. Forest Service Summers East of the High Sierra in the 1960s** by Les Joslin, \$14.95 (s/h included). Order from Wilderness Associates, P.O. Box 5822, Bend, OR 97708, www.wildernessheritage.com.

FINDING FIRE: A Personal History of Fire Lookouts in Lane County, Oregon by Doug Newman. Available from bookstores or online at www.lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org/

FIRE LOOKOUT HIKES IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES, Second Edition by Mike Potter, \$24.95 (US) includes s/h, to Luminous Compositions, 2815 Lionel Cres SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3E 6B1. e-mail: luminouscompositions@shaw.ca.

FROM YORK TO THE ALLAGASH, Forest Fire Lookouts of Maine by David N. Hilton. Diane Bishop still has copies of her late husband's masterpiece available! \$10.00 + \$4.00 shipping from: Diane Bishop, 131 Route 103, York, ME 03909.

AMERICA'S FIRES, A Historical Context for Policy and Practice by Stephen Pyne. Forest History Society's Issues Series. The author says that "America does not have a fire problem. It has many fire problems." \$9.95 plus \$4.00 s/h. To order, go to the FHS website www.foresthistory.org/Publications/Issues/amfires.html or call 919-682-9319 to place credit card orders.

EYES OF THE FOREST by Vivian Demuth. Novel set in the boreal forests of Canada. ISBN: 9780968562352. Order from www.amazon.com.

FIRE TOWER by Jack Kestner (republished in 2007)

\$12.00 plus \$3.00 s/h from www.clinchmountainpress.net

HOW TO RENT A FIRE LOOKOUT IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST (2nd Edition, 2005) by Tish McFadden and Tom Foley. Available in bookstores.

HIKING THE NORTH CASCADES by Dr. Fred Darvill, Jr. Also: **MOUNTAINEERING MEDICINE and Back Country Medical Guide, 14th edition**. Available from used book dealers.

BUCKSKIN LARCH AND BEDROCK by Mike Hiler. Collection of poems and passages from the Central Washington Cascades, honoring author's 30+ years there that began at Jumpoff Lookout in 1969. Available at Amazon.com. ISBN: 1453844074

GUARDING DINOSAUR by Jean Burt Polhamus. The 1953 adventures of a young couple serving as fire lookouts on Round Top in Dinosaur National Monument. Available at www.lulu.com or contact Jean Polhamus, johnandjean@gmail.com.

The HELENA NATIONAL FOREST, The Early Days by Vicky MacLean. Helena NF History includes an entire chapter on lookouts. \$16.95 from the Montana Discovery Foundation, 406-495-3711.

MORTON PEAK by Jack Dietz. Novel set in and around Morton Peak Lookout in the San Bernardino NF. Available at Amazon.com, Xlibris.com, Barnes & Noble, etc. ISBN: 1441511938

FIRE WATCH, A Summer to be Remembered by Ham Rideout. The "Summer Of 42" on two Wenatchee NF lookouts. \$15.25 + \$3.00 shipping, online at: www.steilacoom.net/rideout/.

FISH CREEK: A Western Adventure by Robert Lodder \$15.50 (includes s/h), from: Bob Lodder, 12 Prospect Street, Trumansburg, NY 14886, tburgtoys@ftg.net, 607-387-7891.

HIGH-MOUNTAIN TWO-MANNER by Frank Fowler. A Montana smokejumper's memoir based on letters home to his mother. Available from Amazon.com or other bookstores.

LOOKING OUT FOR OUR FORESTS, the Evolution of a Plan to Protect New Hampshire's Woodlands from Fire, by Iris W. Baird, \$20.00 + \$2.00 shipping from: Iris W. Baird, 11 Richardson Street, Lancaster, NH 03584

A FIELD GUIDE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRETOWERS, second revised edition, by Chris Haartz and Iris W. Baird, \$5.00 + \$1.50 shipping (same address as above).

THE FIRE OBSERVATION TOWERS OF NEW YORK STATE, Survivors That Still Stand Guard by Paul Laskey

\$19.95 + \$2.00 shipping, from: MKL Publishing, PO Box 407, Ballston Spa, NY 12020, or at: http://explorewithjulie.com/Paul_Laskey/. CD-ROM and .pdf versions available. Also available in bookstores.

MOUNTAINS OF MEMORY: A Fire Lookout's Life in the River of No Return Wilderness by Don Scheese. Available from bookstores or U. of Iowa Press 1-800-621-2736

SMOKECHASER by Warren Yahr

Life as a lookout fireman in Idaho's Clearwater National Forest during the 1940s. Available from bookstores. ISBN: 0893011800

THIS IS OUR FOREST: A Collection of Stories from a Lookout-Smokechaser Who Worked in the Bitterroot Mountains of Montana and Idaho by Harold E. Coffman

\$11.95 + \$2.95 shipping/handling from: HalMar Publications, 10240 W. Pleasant Valley Rd, Sun City, AZ 85351-1842

Marty Podskoch Website and Books

Former FFLA NY Director Marty Podskoch's website www.adirondackstories.com/, features his books: **ADIRONDACK STORIES, Historical Sketches** \$18.95, **ADIRONDACK STORIES II, 101 More Historical Sketches** \$18.95, **ADIRONDACK FIRE TOWERS, Their History and Lore, The Northern Districts** \$20.00, **ADIRONDACK FIRE TOWERS, Their History and Lore, The Southern Districts** \$20.00, **FIRE TOWERS OF THE CATSKILLS, Their History and Lore** \$20.00. Add \$3.00 shipping (includes 1 or more books). Send check or money order to: Podskoch Press, 36 Waterhole Rd, Colchester, CT 06415, 860-267-2442.

FFLA Special Offer!

THE BIG BURN: The Northwest's Great Forest Fire of 1910, Centennial Edition by Don Miller and Stan Cohen. Limited quantity of signed copies of this pictorial history available at a special price of \$10.00 plus \$2.50 s/h. Order from FFLA-Gary Weber (see p. 22 for ordering and payment details).

Newest Books!

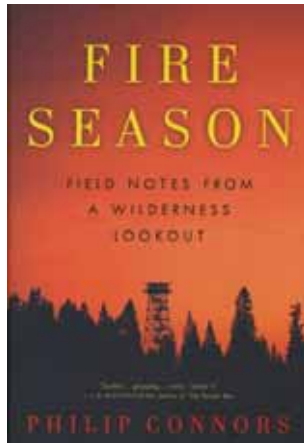
FIRE SEASON

Field Notes from a Wilderness Lookout

by Philip Connors

Ecco, 2011, Hardcover, 256 pp. ISBN: 0061859362

For nearly a decade, former Wall Street Journal editor Philip Connors has worked as a fire lookout on the Gila NF in New Mexico. *Fire Season* is his reflection on work, the wild, and the solitude of only having his dog Alice for company. While Connors has changed the names of some people and places to "protect their innocence", his "Apache Peak Lookout" has been identified by several as Hillsboro Peak Lookout. Several NM FFLA members are acknowledged for their assistance. Available from bookstores.



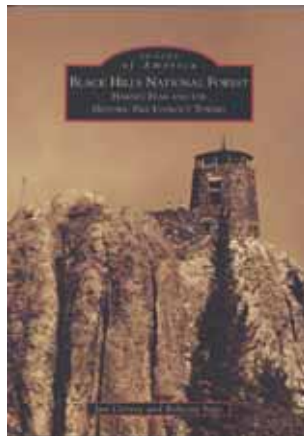
BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST Harney Peak and the Historic Fire Lookout Towers

(Images of America Series)

by Jan Cerney and Roberta Sago

Arcadia Publishing, 2011, paperback, 128 pp. ISBN: 0738583707

One of the most famous and architecturally and aesthetically valued towers is the Harney Peak Fire Lookout, situated on the highest point east of the Rocky Mountains. Over 200 vintage images tell the story of Harney Peak and over twenty other historic Black Hills NF fire towers and those who manned them. FFLA member June Johnston provided several photos and former FFLA NM Director Dixie Boyle was acknowledged for her help. Available from bookstores.



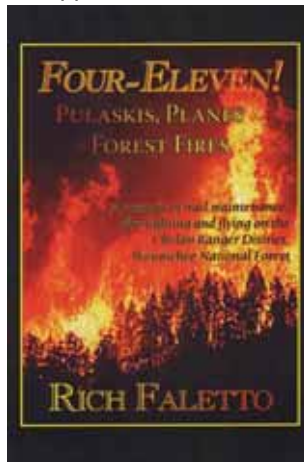
Four-Eleven!

Pulaskis, Planes & Forest Fires

by Rich Faletto

Blue Creek Press, 2010, paperback, 178 pp. ISBN: 1452892903

Four summers of adventure are outlined in Rich Faletto's memoir of trail maintenance, fire fighting and flying on the Chelan Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest. Rich worked clearing trails and fighting fire around Washington State's incredible Lake Chelan in the early 1960s. His last summer was spent flying fire patrol both as a spotter and a pilot. The FFLA's late Ron Johnson is even in the book! For availability or to order, go to: www.four-elevenstore.com.



Summer 2011

PRE-REGISTRATION FFLA WESTERN CONFERENCE

September 16-18, 2011

Mt. Hood Lions Club

Hwy 26 & E Woodsey Way

Welches, OR

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Registration covers facility cost, snacks, and Saturday dinner.

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DISPLAY SPACE Models and displays are encouraged! Bring your picture books, stories, and wisdom to share! Openings are available for speakers and presentations.

_____ Yes, I need TABLE space

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SILENT AUCTION I would like to donate items for the Silent Auction. Item descriptions and value:

Return to:

Gary Weber, 2590 W Versailles Dr, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
or to: **Howard Verschoor, c/o White River Wildlife Area, 78430 Dodson Rd, Tygh Valley, Oregon 97063**

Thurs	9/15	8:00 a.m. - Devils Peak Hike (meet at Mt. Hood Village) evening - gathering at Mt. Hood Village RV Park
Fri	9/16	8:00 a.m. - Registration/Sign-in 9:00 a.m. - Morning Session begins afternoon - Five Mile Butte/Flag Point Lookouts Tour evening - Potluck/BBQ at Mt. Hood Village RV Park
Sat	9/17	8:00 a.m. - Morning Session (includes Board Meeting) afternoon - Hickman Butte Lookout Tour evening - Dinner, Silent Auction, photo/story sharing
Sun	9/18	all day - Clear Lake Butte/ Sisi Butte Lookouts Tour
Mon	9/19	all day - Warm Springs Reservation Lookouts Tour

See page 3 for lodging/camping details

Watch www.ffla.org for conference information and updates.



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