

Opening Lookout in Spring

Shutters

A number of structural and mechanical items must be attended to to make the tower liveable and operational. The first thing is to secure the shutters in the "up" position. This is the only part of opening the lookout which will require two people. Wing nuts and washers for securing the shutters up will be found in the cabinet inside the lookout along the north wall. There are two shutters to be raised on each side of the lookout, and once the three wing nuts are secured for each shutter no more attention to them will be necessary for the remainder of the season. A handy place to store the 2 X 4's used to hold the shutters in the closed position is above the raised shutters on the shutter supports. As with the catwalk trapdoor, the door into the lookout locks with a regular Forest Service key.

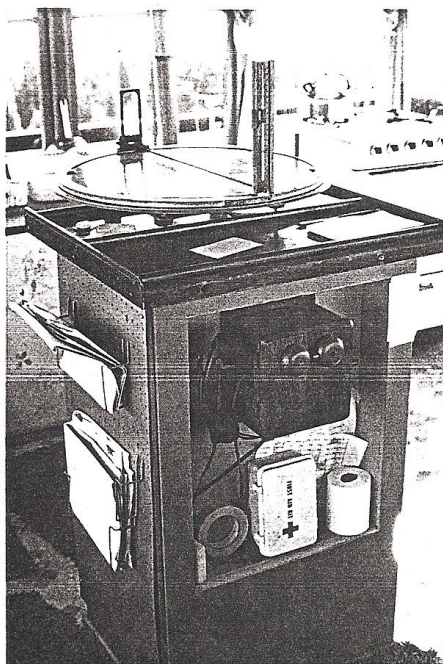
Radio

One of the radio packsets kept at Rager is designated as the Wolf Mountain radio and should be tagged as such along with an auxiliary dry cell battery box. The auxiliary battery box is wired to a modified pack-set battery holder thus allowing the more powerful auxiliary dry cells to power the radio when it is in place in the lookout. The radio should also have its regular battery holder fitted with "d" cells (regular flashlight batteries) so that the radio can be taken out on the catwalk and down on the ground. The radio should be equipped with a short whip antenna. In its operating position inside the tower the radio is attached to the fixed tower antenna by way of the cable coming up through the floor.

Proper use of the radio is outlined in the Fireman's Handbook, FSH 5109.12, pages 16.12 - 17.1. A copy can be found on the shelf under the fire fiader.

Crank Phone

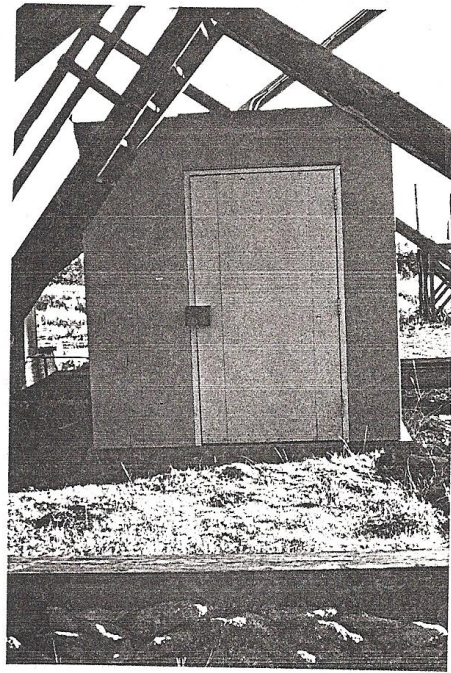
To complete communication hookups, the crank phone should be activated next. First check the dry cells on the shelf under the fire finder. Make sure connections are secure and batteries are not corroding. The phone is then turned on by throwing the switch on the tower leg at the first landing down from the catwalk. (Next to the switch is the fuse for the phone line. Extra fuses are in the cabinet along the north wall inside the lookout). The crank phone is used for most communications between Wolf Mountain and Rager. The phone should be switched off if lightning strikes begin occurring within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the lookout.



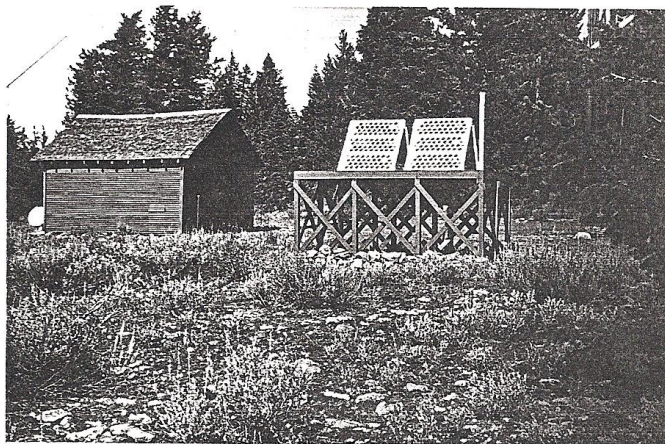
Fire Finder & Crank Phone



Wolf Mountain Lookout



Radio Repeater Building



Garage and Photovoltaic Cells

NOTES ON WOLF MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT

Some History

Wolf Mountain, elevation 6483 feet, has long been used as an observation point for forest fire detection on the Paulina District. The original main lookout on the mountain was a pole structure built by the C.C.C.'s at what is known as West Wolf, T14S, R25E, sec. 28, SW 1/4 of SE 1/4. This is about 1/2 mile west, southwest of the present lookout. An old road can be found off road 5840 leading south to the old lookout site. The C.C.C.'s built a platform in the top of a Douglas fir to serve as a temporary lookout while the main lookout was being constructed of poles. This tree lookout and other cultural artifacts can still be seen at West Wolf.

Salter's cabin was moved to its present location just above the Miller Ranch on road 42 from West Wolf where it served as the lookout's cabin. The garage which sits near the base of the present lookout was moved there from the West Wolf site as well.

About 1/2 mile east of the present lookout along the rim of Black Canyon the old East Wolf Lookout can be found. It is also a tree lookout and was used only occasionally as needed. The platform box with what is presumably a fire finder stand is clearly visible in the top of a tree, if the light is right, at about 106 degrees from the present lookout.

Plans were made to build the present lookout about 1940, but World War II postponed construction until the summer and fall of 1946. During the war the tower components, which were all pre-cut, were stored in a barn at Derr Meadow. The lookout was originally heated with wood, but was converted to gas in 1952.

Lookout Living Space

The lookout is usually opened for habitation in middle to late June. The tower is basically furnished with everything necessary for living, although it may be necessary to take a mattress up. Basic dishes and kitchenware are present as are a few tools handy for tower maintenance. Three 5 gallon water containers will be found in the lookout which are used for hauling water from Dusty Camp. Some cleaning supplies should also be on hand. An apartment sized gas range and gas heating stove take care of cooking and heating needs. A gas refrigerator is present, but as of this writing (Oct. 82) it is not vented so *checked ok July 83* may not be safe to use. A screened-in cupboard built on the north side of the lookout will suffice as a cooler for some foodstuffs. *Refrigerator is indoor type No vent required B. Campbell*

Description of Tower and Immediate Area

The floor of the lookout is 108 feet above the ground. The small metal building situated directly underneath the tower at its base houses the radio repeater which is an important link in the Ochoco's communication network. On the platform to the southwest of the tower are two photovoltaic cells. These cells charge the batteries which provide power to the repeater. West of the tower is a garage, moved from its original site at West Wolf. The garage houses a few maintenance supplies for the tower, such as lumber, paint and brushes. The stand for the rain gage is located about 75 yards south of the tower. A small campground and toilet are located immediately north of the tower in the trees.