

# **Colorado Fire Lookout Tower Collection**

## **Mss.02651**

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center
<b>Title</b>	Colorado Fire Lookout Tower Collection
<b>Date</b>	1925-2014
<b>Extent</b>	1.0 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Fire lookout towers began being built prior to 1905, when the United States Forest Service was incorporated. They reached the height of their popularity from the 1930s through 1950. As fires began to be more prominent across the United States, more towers were built to help with wildfire management. This collection contains information on several fire lookout towers throughout Colorado and the United States. Information on the towers includes articles, the donor's personal research, Forest Fire Lookout Association meeting minutes, and "Lookout Network Magazine." Also included are photos, a cookbook, correspondence, and a DVD chronicling the donor's life at Thorodin Lookout. The collection's significance lies in the documentation it provides for many towers that no longer exist or are not operational. The collection examines the use of the towers as well as restoration of some towers and their transition to vacation lodging.</p>

### Preferred Citation note

Cite as: Colorado Fire Lookout Tower Collection, Mss.02651 (2015.45) History Colorado

## Historical note

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Fire lookout towers began being built prior to 1905, when the United States Forest Service was incorporated. They reached the height of their popularity from the 1930s through 1950. As fires began to be more prominent across the United States, more towers were built to help with wildfire management. Many fire lookout towers were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

A fire lookout tower provides housing and protection for the people living in the tower. Their job while stationed at the tower is to search for wildfires in the surrounding area. Usually a tower is located on the summit of a mountain or high vantage point with a small room on top of a large steel or wooden tower. From this vantage point and using an Osborne Fire Finder or other device, fire spotters can use the location of smoke to determine the location of a fire.

The use of technology has become more prominent in fire management, and as a result many fire lookout towers have been neglected or abandoned.

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## Scope and Contents note

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This collection contains information on several fire towers throughout Colorado and the United States. Information on the towers includes articles, the donor's personal research, Forest Fire Lookout Association meeting minutes, and "Lookout Network Magazine." Also included are photos, a cookbook, correspondence, and a DVD of the donor's life at Thorodin Lookout. The collection's significance lies in the documentation it provides for many towers that no longer exist or are not operational. The collection examines the use of the towers as well as restoration of some towers and their transition to vacation lodging.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center

### Provenance

Donated by Sondra Kellogg in November 2014. Kellogg belonged to the Colorado/Utah chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association. In 1960 Kellogg began creating files when she served as director of the Colorado/Utah chapter. She also was head of restoration of the Squaw Mountain Fire Lookout. Kellogg and her first husband, Jim Jackson, spent two seasons at the Mt. Thorodin Fire Lookout in 1960 and 1962.

### **Processing Information note**

Processed by Haley Suby, August 2015.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Forest Fire Lookout Association.

### **Genre(s)**

- Article
- Cookbooks
- Correspondence.
- DVD-Video discs
- Email correspondence
- Magazines
- Maps.
- Newspaper clippings.
- Photocopies.
- Photographs.
- Tourist maps.

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Colorado.
- Roosevelt National Forest (Colo.)
- Utah

**Personal Name(s)**

- Kellogg, Sondra

**Subject(s)**

- Fire lookout stations--Colorado
- Fire lookout stations--Utah
- Women fire lookouts

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**Accession number**

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2015.45

Colorado Fire Tower Lookouts

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## Collection Inventory

FF1 Forest Fire Lookout Association and National Register 1956, May 2003, May 2008, Aug. 2008, Undated

FF2 Forest Fire Lookout Association Annual Meetings 2008-2010

FF3 Colorado Fire Lookout Coordinates Undated

FF4 Fire Lookout Trivia May 19, 2009

FF5 Lookout Tower Notes and Correspondence 2004, 2005, 2008, 2009

**Series I Colorado Fire Tower Lookouts 1925-2014 28.0 File folder(s)**

FF6 Photo copy image of Air Force Academy Tower and Archuleta Mesa 1958; Feb. 12, 2009

FF7 Benchmark Lookout and Beulah Lookout Oct. 15, 2008; 2009

### Scope and Contents note

Includes photos.

FF8 Castle Peak Lookout and Chimney Rock Feb. 11, 2009; 2009

FF9 Deadman Lookout and Devil Mountain Lookout Feb. 11, 2009; June 2009

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FF10 Devil's Head Lookout 1991, 1998, 2009

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes photos.

FF11 Echo Mountain Lookout and Fairview Peak Lookout 1958, 2009

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes photos.

FF12 Glade Mountain Lookout and Hahn's Peak Lookout 2014, Undated

FF13 Jersey Jim Lookout and Leon Peak Lookout Feb. 11, 2009; 2009

FF14 Photo copy images of Marble Lookout 1959

FF15 Park Point Lookout and Parkview Lookout June 18, 2003; 2008-2009

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes photos.

FF16 Roundtop Lookout 1953, 2009-2010

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes photos.



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FF17 Sandoval Lookout 2010

FF18 San Juan Lookouts 1964, 1965, 1968, 2002, Undated

FF19 Shadow Mountain Lookout 2008, 2009, 2012

FF20 Soda Point Lookout March 16, 2010

FF21 Squaw Mountain Lookout: Work Day July, Sept. 2007; July, Aug. 2008;, Feb. 2010

### **Scope and Contents note**

Includes photos.

FF22 Squaw Mountain Lookout: Email Correspondence, notes, and "House of Radio, Part I" May 15, 16; July 13, 2008

FF23 Squaw Mountain Lookout: Printed Material and Newspaper Clippings 1926, 1943, 1967, 1969, 2008, 2009, 2013, Undated

FF24 Squaw Mountain Lookout: Photocopy images and photos 1944, 1958, 1967, 1970, 2003, 2008

FF25 Thorodin Lookout: "Mt. Thorodin Fire Lookout" 1960, [2007], Undated

### **Scope and Contents note**

Included in this file is a DVD of slides along with slide narrations of daily life in the tower at Mt. Thorodin from Sondra Kellogg and her husband. The narration highlights the difficulties of living in a remote region, the tools used for living and sighting fires, and geography of other towers in Colorado.

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FF26 Thorodin Lookout: Map Undated

FF27 Thorodin Lookout: Research and Slides CD June 23, 2004; Undated

FF28 Thorodin Lookout: Correspondence Nov. 9, 1884; Nov., Dec. 2003; Jan. 2004; Nov. 2008; Dec. 2009; Jan. 2010

FF29 Thorodin Lookout: Newspaper and Printed Articles Sept. 13, 1941; July 20, 1960; June 25, 1967; Undated

FF30 Thorodin Lookout: Photo and photocopy images 1941, 1960, 1980, 2003, [2009], Undated

FF31 Twin Sisters Lookout 1925, 1954, 2003

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes photos.

FF32 West White Pine Lookout Feb. 2008, Undated

FF33 White Mesa Lookout Jan. 2010

FF34 Zenobia Lookout 2009

FF35 Utah Lookout Towers Dec. 3, 2009

FF36 Lookout Towers outside of Colorado 2003, 2007, 2009, 2011, Undated

**Scope and Contents note**

## Lookout Network Magazine

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Includes Lookout Towers in Arizona, California, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Washington, and Wyoming.

FF37 *Lookout Cookbook* 1939, 2005

### **Scope and Contents note**

Includes photocopy from 1939 cookbook and original cookbook from 2005.

### **Series II Lookout Network Magazine 2003-2010 7.0 File folder(s)**

FF38 Spring 2003, Winter 2005

FF39 Spring 2006, Winter 2006

FF40 Spring 2007, Autumn 2007

FF41 Winter 2007, Spring 2008, Summer 2008

FF42 Autumn 2008, Winter-Spring 2009

FF43 Summer 2009, Autumn 2009, Winter 2009

FF44 Spring 2010, Summer 2010, Autumn 2010

FF45 Lookout Tower Vacation Rental 1995, 1996, 2008

FF46 Holiday Card Undated

Photos

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FF47 Pine Beetle Newspaper Clippings 2008

FF48 Newspaper Clippings Aug. 16, 1974; July 11, 2011; Undated

**Series III Photos 2007-2009 3.0 File folder(s)**

FF49 Cedar Tree Lookout 2009

FF50 Squaw Mountain Fire Lookout Sept. 22, 2007; 2007

FF51 Squaw Mountain Fire Lookout 2008; June 6, 2009