Colorado Fire Lookout Tower Collection
Mss.02651

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists’ Toolkit
October 21, 2015
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**Summary Information**

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<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Colorado Fire Lookout Tower Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>1925-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>1.0 Linear feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>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 &quot;Lookout Network Magazine.&quot; Also included are photos, a cookbook, correspondence, and a DVD chronicling the donor's life at Thoradin 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.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Preferred Citation note**

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

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.

Scope and Contents note

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.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

History Colorado. Stephen H. Hart Research Center

Provenance

**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

Accession number

2015.45
## Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>FF2</td>
<td>Forest Fire Lookout Association Annual Meetings 2008-2010</td>
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<td>FF3</td>
<td>Colorado Fire Lookout Coordinates Undated</td>
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<td>FF4</td>
<td>Fire Lookout Trivia May 19, 2009</td>
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<td>FF6</td>
<td>Photo copy image of Air Force Academy Tower and Archuleta Mesa 1958; Feb. 12, 2009</td>
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<td>FF7</td>
<td>Benchmark Lookout and Beulah Lookout Oct. 15, 2008; 2009</td>
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**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 |       |       |

**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.
FF17 Sandoval Lookout 2010


FF20 Soda Point Lookout March 16, 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


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.
FF26 Thorodin Lookout: Map Undated

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


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


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


Scope and Contents note

### FF37 Lookout Cookbook 1939, 2005

#### Scope and Contents note

Includes photocopy from 1939 cookbook and original cookbook from 2005.

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<tr>
<th>Series II Lookout Network Magazine 2003-2010</th>
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<tr>
<td>FF38 Spring 2003, Winter 2005</td>
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<td>FF40 Spring 2007, Autumn 2007</td>
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<td>FF42 Autumn 2008, Winter-Spring 2009</td>
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<td>FF44 Spring 2010, Summer 2010, Autumn 2010</td>
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<td>FF46 Holiday Card Undated</td>
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Photos

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