

THE DUTIES OF A LOOKOUT

Until recently, the Forest Service Handbook of the United States Department of Agriculture had an entire chapter dedicated to the lonely fellow the Service referred to as the eyes of the system.

To fill those big shoes of the key man in the Fire Control organization, you had to:

1. Keep all windows clean inside and out at all times.
2. Insure that the cabin interior and exterior grounds are clean and sanitary.
3. Be accurate, neat, and orderly in maintaining the daily logbook.
4. Let the dispatcher know when you leave, where you're going, when you plan to return, and upon returning each time you leave the tower.
5. Learn every peak, ridge, hill, road, trail, lake, creek, building and false smoke. Be able to plot their legal description to the nearest 40-corner.
6. Know how to use the map, compass, protractor, pulaski, Lookout Cookbook, fuel moisture sticks, wet bulb thermometer, rain gauge, anemometer, fan psychrometer, hygrothermograph, dewpoint & BI & NFDRS & AFFIRMS & cloud charts, Motorola PT-300, and Osborne firefinder.
7. Check lightning protection system immediately upon arriving at the station, and again after each storm.
8. Be able to pace the progress of a thunderstorm before it arrives overhead.
9. Be on watch all during the storm, day and night (don't let meals interfere); keep a list of every ground strike, using the form provided; mark each strike on the map; watch their location intensively during the succeeding days and nights for a week.
10. Make a systematic and complete scan of the visible area, using no less than 20 minutes out of every hour *every* day.
11. Know how to complete all items on Smoke Detection Report 5120 quickly and accurately.
12. Know how to gage the progress of a fire's behavior by the smoke column; be able to calculate its acreage with the firefinder vernier scale.
13. Be able to make necessary repairs on the telephone and phone line.
14. Maintain a 48-hour fresh water supply, and a 10-day supply of chopped wood at all times.
15. Keep all hand tools sharp and in safe condition.
16. Have the Fireman's pack complete and ready to go; and keep yourself physically prepared for long and continuous duty at a fire.

You and your station were subject to inspections. You didn't always get the mail or fresh fruit you requested; but you could always count on the inspections! These visits were not for the purpose of spying on you, but to keep you fit.

The chapter closed with this bit of wisdom:

"Guard against becoming impatient with the general public. For some of them, you will be their first contact with the Forest Service. Answer their questions with integrity and enthusiasm. Remember you are the representative of a very important organization. Don't let it down."

Edward P. Cliff, chief

MARYS PEAK

In the days of the fur traders, it was called Mouse Mountain for its abundance of the prolific little creatures.

In the days of the gun slingers, it became known as Mary's Peak. It seems that a character named Wimple married a very young girl named Mary. Within a year he was hanged for shooting her with the pistol she'd attacked him with.

MARYS PEAK, highest of the hills in the Coast Range, offers a splendid view to the Pacific Ocean and snowy landmarks of the Cascade Range on opposite far-off horizons. In the foreground are scenes of the broad Willamette Valley and millions upon millions of Douglas fir trees—the richest soils and the richest crops in the Northwest.