

DISTRICT 10

WHITNEY INDUSTRIES, INC.

SABATTIS STAR ROUTE

LONG LAKE, N.Y. 12847

TELEPHONE: AREA CODE 518 624-2581

Feb. 22, 1984

Bill Starr
2828 Campbell Ave.
Apt. 1
Schenectady, N.Y. 12306

Dear Mr. Starr,

In reply to your letter of Feb. 18, I can give you some information on the Buck Mountain and Salmon Lake Mountain Towers, which were both on Whitney land at one time. The Buck Mt. Tower is now on International Paper property, which they purchased from Whitney Industries.

I came to work on the Whitney Industries' land in June of 1934, as a forester. At that time, the present tower, which is still on Buck Mountain, had just recently been erected, perhaps the previous summer. Some of the year-around employees said that all the material for the tower was hauled up the mountain with dog teams, of which the Company had two. The handler in charge of the dogs was with Byrd on his first trip to the South Pole. His name is Jack Bursey. I think his home was in Newfoundland. The actual erection was supervised by a NYS Conservation man whose specialty was erecting fire towers. The tower was manned for many years by Frank Sibley up until his death. About this time, the State had so many towers, that the Company felt that their towers on Salmon Lake and Buck Mountains were not really needed. So after his death, they pulled the observer off Salmon Lake Mt. and placed him on Buck Mt. for about two years, until his health gave out. From then on, the tower was abandoned. The name of the observer on Salmon Lake Mt. was William Touey. Both of these men knew and often communicated with a woman fire-observer on Partlow Mt. on the Webb property. The Electra tower could be the one on Partlow Mt. We always spoke of it as the Partlow Tower. There was a tower made of timbers and lumber on Buck Mt. previous to the steel tower, but probably of a lower height.

The Salmon Lake tower was built about the same time as the Buck Mt. tower. Which was built first, I am unable to say. The Buck Mt. tower had stairs, while the Salmon tower had a ladder in a cage of sorts. Both towers are still standing. While they were operating, there was telephone communication anywhere they might wish to call. These towers furnished azimuths and distances of the smoke to the State towers, whenever one was spotted. The State towers furnished the Company with the same information.

I hope this has been of some help to you.

Don Mace

D. Mace