

MOUNTAIN MILEPOSTS #1152

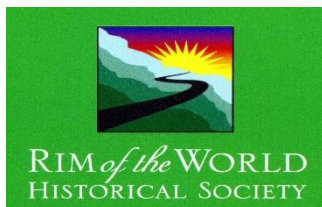
By Bill Pumford, Image from ROWHS Collection

90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE STRAWBERRY PEAK FIRE LOOKOUT

To help celebrate the 90th birthday of the Strawberry Peak Lookout we are republishing the Ken Brafman Mountain Milepost from a couple of years ago. The Lookout was built in 1933 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) which was a work relief program that gave millions of young men employment on environmental projects during the Great Depression. In the 1920's 913,700 acres burned in the Southern California national forests. With the CCC laying truck trails, building fire breaks and thinning trees, in the 1930's the acres burned was reduced to 395,700. United States Forester E.A. Sherman proclaimed that disastrous fires would soon be a thing of the past and that "within five years such fires will be unthinkable and impossible." The unthinkable happened in November 1938, however, with the Arrowhead Fire. Lasting four days, it burned 11,000 acres including the famed Arrowhead Springs Hotel. The original lookout tower was located in Grass Valley. It was 80 feet high and was built from wood, reinforced with rails donated by the AT&SF Railroad. It succumbed to a heavy snow load and a lightning strike in 1922. The tower was relocated to Strawberry Peak in 1933 where there was a better view and was 30 feet tall and built out of metal. The May 20, 1933 San Bernardino Daily Sun has a small article which refers to the new tower having better visibility and stating, "construction began yesterday and it is estimated that work will be completed within a week." This week's image shows the tower in 1938, with a worker or volunteer standing duty.

The Tower's birthday celebration will take place on October 28th at the Strawberry Peak Lookout Tower from noon to 3 pm. Smokey Bear will be there also.

Our Mountain History Museum located at 27176 Peninsula Drive in Lake Arrowhead and will close for the season on October 29th but is open this weekend. Visit us Friday 12-4 and Saturday/Sunday 10:30-4:30. Check out the website for events and additional information.



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FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (909) 744-8625.

ALSO, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

www.mtnmuseum.org

