

## Lookout Show`n Tell #6 – The Osborne Firefinder

In 1911, William B. "Bush" Osborne Jr., a young Yale graduate U.S. Forest Service forester in Portland, Oregon came up with an idea he called a "Fire-Finder". His alidade instrument didn't find the fire; but made it possible to accurately plot its location on the map. At first, it was a circular map mounted on a portable 8-sided iron plate that could sit on a stump, rock, or in a tree; oriented precisely N, S, E, and West.

His invention was first commercially produced in 1913, when Fred Leupold & Adam Voelpel of Portland turned out about 100 of the instruments that consisted of a 14" circular map on a cast iron base, and upright brass sights on a brass bar that pivoted on a center pin exactly above the lookout position on the map. A 360 degree scale was etched into the outer edge of the iron base to align with the sight bar. It was accurate to 1/30th of 1 degree. Pictured is the 1913 Osborne Firefinder.





Osborne 1913 Firefinder



1913 Osborne Fire-Finder



1913 Osborne Fire-Finder. Anchor



1913 Osborne Fire-Finder Center Pivot

Next to come, a Show'n Tell of the 1914, 1915, 1917, and 1934 models...

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