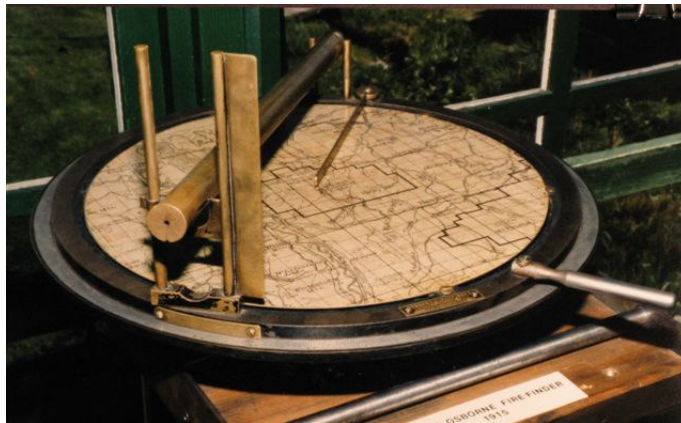


## **Lookout Show`n Tell #8 – 1915 Osborne Firefinder**

Wm. B. Osborne's first fire finder in 1913 was an alidade with 360 degree bearings, like that of a compass, etched on the outer rim of a circular iron map plate, with two brass upright sights on a center pivot bar.

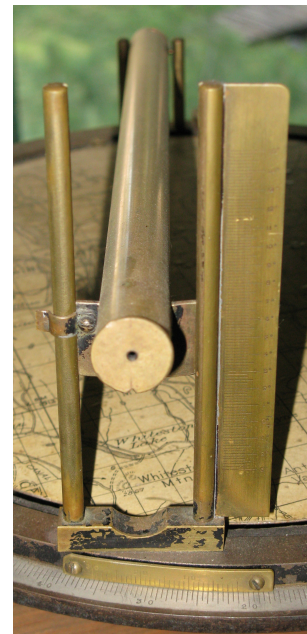
In 1914 he changed only slightly the front and rear sights, but installed them on an outer iron ring, which revolved around a cast iron base that fit snugly on a sliding rail tabletop. This allowed the lookout to see around obstacles such as corner posts in the building.



1915 Osborne Firefinder

By 1915, Osborne came up with different sights, by adding a 0-power sighting tube resembling a rifle scope. The circular map disc remained 14" in diameter, and the instrument otherwise remained much the same as in 1914. An azimuth reading on the base of a distant smoke could be obtained, accurate to 1/30th of 1 degree on the compass. A vertical angle reading could also be obtained, with accuracy to within 1/10th of one degree above or below the zero elevation.

About 300 were made for state and federal forestry agencies in Portland, Oregon by Leupold-Volpel & Co.



1915 sights

Next, the 1917 Osborne Fire-Finder.

Ray Kresek - Fire Lookout Museum - Spokane, Washington