April is Jazz Appreciation Month!

In Search of Mildred Bailey

Bing Crosby’s 1937 Homecoming

The Heir of Stan Kenton’s Wall of Sound
The inscription reads “Completed Oct. 5, 1942, Builders John Miles, Steifo Albirto, and Bruno Melgrin. First used by builders.” It wasn’t meant to be graffiti. The prose, free of modesty and written with lead in cursive, was left as a mark of pride in their craftsmanship. Now, nearly 70 years later, the FS Plan No. 70 Individual Latrine still stands in testament to the workmanship done by these young Forest Service carpenters.

This Colville National Forest fire lookout station on Marble Mountain lasted nearly 50 years from the 1920’s into the 1970’s. A tent provided living quarters, known as a rag camp, in the beginning. It was replaced with a cabin (see Fire Lookout: A Boy’s Summer of 1941, March 2007 Nostalgia Magazine). The final lookout structure was the classic Model L4 live in lookout house on a tower.

The little comfort station is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The lookout site is listed in the Historic Fire Lookout Sites Register.

Rod Fosback is the Eastern Washington Director of the Forest Fire Lookout Association.