

Adirondack Record

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ERECTING TWO NEW MOUNTAIN TOWERS

District Ranger Hopkins and Men Preparing for Difficult Task on Whiteface

There will shortly be placed on the summit of Whiteface mountain, one of the highest and most noted of the famed Adirondack peaks, a steel tower 22 feet high for the use of the fire observer stationed there.

For several years there has been a fire observer there, but he has never had a tower such as crowns the lofty summits of nearly all the other fire observation stations. Now, however, it is determined that Whiteface shall also be equipped with the needed tower.

The difficult and exacting task of getting the material to the summit and there erecting and anchoring the tower to the rocks, has been intrusted to District Forest Ranger James H. Hopkins of Saranac Lake and the men under his command, who, for several days, have been cutting a trail to the summit from the Franklin Falls side.

The material for the tower is to be shipped by rail to Au Sable Forks. It will then be hauled through the hamlet of Franklin Falls and along a lumber road to the logging camps upon the lower slopes of Whiteface. It is from this point upwards that the District Ranger and his men have their work cut out for them.

However, despite the steepness and roughness of the ground, it is thought that horses will be able to drag the small steel beams to the summit over the rude trail that has with the greatest difficulty been prepared for them. Once the material has reached its final destination at 5,000 feet above sea level it is expected that the tower will be quickly assembled and anchored.

Its completion will mean that the observer stationed there will be enabled to see for several miles farther in every direction over the vast panorama of mountains, forest and waters which lie at his feet.

District Ranger Hopkins and his men have also performed another difficult job of trail making under the most trying conditions on the steep and rocky slopes of Hurricane mountain, which is also to have a steel tower 35 feet high. Hurricane mountain, while not as high as Whiteface, is nevertheless, one of the highest of the Adirondack peaks and from its summit one may overlook a great territory lying about the famed and beautiful Keene Valley section.