



MT. LASSEN IN ERUPTION.

A FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT STATION ON TOP OF THIS MOUNTAIN IN CALIFORNIA WAS DESTROYED DURING THE RECENT ACTIVITY OF THE VOLCANO.

THE LOOKOUT ON MOUNT LASSEN

By WILLIAM C. HODGE

THE forest fire lookout house on Mount Lassen was destroyed by the eruption of June 12th.

After the first eruption, which occurred May 30th, the summit was pick scaled by Ranger Harvey Abbey of the Lassen National Forest, who left Mineral at 4 p. m. May 31, and arrived on top next morning at 9 a. m. He found the house unharmed. The crater from which the explosions were issuing was situated about a quarter mile from the lookout house; but the crater at

this time was small, measuring only 25 x 40 feet and the eruptions, although spectacular, were not yet considered dangerous.

On June 12th, after eruptions had occurred on June 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th, Abbey made another ascent with a party which included a moving picture outfit.

One of the party suffered from fatigue, being unused to mountain climbing, and in consequence they took considerable time. At 3.45 p. m., while



DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE ERUPTION.

OWING TO THE FALL OF STONES AND ASHES IT WAS UNSAFE TO GO MUCH NEARER TO THE MOUNTAIN THAN ARE THESE SPECTATORS. THE SKY FOR DAYS WAS FILLED WITH MASSES OF SMOKE CLOUDS SUCH AS ARE SEEN HERE.



THE LOOKOUT STATION.

There was not a single part of this station which could not be carried by a man, and all of it was transported to the peak by men. Instead of windows it had a ribbon of glass around it, affording an uninterrupted view to the man inside.



BEFORE THE ERUPTION.

A VIEW OF THE PEAK FROM CLOSE QUARTERS A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE INTERNAL ACTIVITIES MADE THIS GROUND HAZARDOUS.

they were still half a mile from the peak, a terrific explosion occurred and they had to run to escape the shower of stones.

This eruption was brief and Abbey resolved to take another chance, which he did. He found the crater greatly enlarged and the roof of the lookout house punctured with rocks. One had fallen upon a rafter but instead of smashing things it had merely sliced its way through the timber.

The explosion of June 14th seriously injured two sightseers who were caught in the rain of rocks.

Eruptions still continued at intervals and the peak is regarded as unsafe for visitors and untenable as a lookout.

The lookout cabin on Mount Lassen was one of the most interesting in California even before its destruction.

It was carefully designed by former Supervisor Kling. No one part was larger or heavier than could be packed on a man's back and by an ingenious

method of joints the house when set up in the shop in Red Bluff was as stable and rigid as a fort and the house was then taken apart and the pieces transported as far as possible up the mountain by wagon. The pack horses were used as far as they could go; finally giving way to the most primitive means of transportation—men's backs.

The house was 14' x 14' and was provided with every appliance needed by the lookout man in the performance of his duties. Instead of one or few windows, it had a ribbon of glass extending clear around the building, affording a practically uninterrupted view for the man inside.

Forest Supervisor Rushing has taken steps to equip for lookout purposes another peak in lieu of Lassen. The point is Brokeoff Mountain, a few miles distant.

At last accounts the crater measured 600 feet by 150. No flames or lava have been seen at any time.
