## TIMELINE

1884 The Village of Saugatuck purchased Mt. Baldhead for a public park. The 40-foot-high wooden observation tower built on top of the dune was soon a tourist destination.

June 1, 1956 The United States Air Force leased 0.34 acres of land atop Mt. Baldhead from the Village of Saugatuck.

August 5, 1956 | Construction of the building and tower began.

July 1958 | The Bendix AN/FPS-14 radar was operational, sending data to the 781st Aircraft Control and Warning (AC&W) Squadron in Battle Creek, Michigan.

June 1963 | The AN/FPS-14 radar and antenna was deactivated and removed. At this time the site was under command of the rechristened 781st Radar Squadron (SAGE) at Ft. Custer, Michigan.

December 14, 1963 | The new AN/FPS-18 radar and antenna, enclosed in a protective dome, began operation.

1964-8 SAGE system phased out. Command of the Mt. Baldhead Annex transferred to the 752nd Radar Squadron (SAGE) at Empire, Michigan.

April 1, 1968 Mt. Baldhead radar permanently deactivated.

December 31, 1968 | The Air Force terminated its lease and the land reverted to the Village of Saugatuck.

July 1969 Village of Saugatuck purchased the building, tower and radar equipment for \$250. Soon after, the Village defended the dome from erroneous dismantling.

Today Visitors willing to climb

the Mt. Baldhead stairs can view an essentially intact Cold War defensive installation. The building is closed to the public but efforts are underway to add the site to Michigan's Register of Historic Places.



News-Palladium, Sept. 13, 1969

He said he couldn't really go

up there and finish the job

while the village controlled

McCray and Peterson talked

to a captain somewhere else.

He said it belongs to the Air

Force and they've been plan-

ning since January to take it

the village and they had the

papers to prove it and they

wanted it put back together

There were more phone

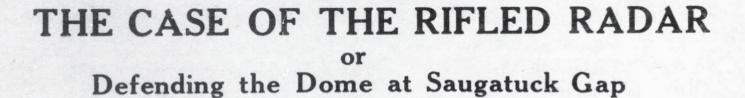
calls, to the surplus property

office in Chicago and to the

Saugatuck Gap, the village

afternoon the captain called

apart. They said it belongs to



The deal was made final early It was going to California.

-- perhaps the only village in world with its own radar and kept its graceful electronic aircraft surveillance mechanar dome atop Mt. Baldhead began last Thursday. Motorists on the Blue Star Highway noticed a big black tarpaulin over the looked like somebody was doing something up there.

The tug-of-war for the rad-And on Friday, zap -- the upper sections of the fiberglass was taking the thing apart. The village of Saugatuck had just purchased the entire radar installation from the U. S. government. The village paid \$250, the salvage price, for the dome, the radar inside it, the tower, concrete block building, fence, fuel tank and

fuel lines up the side of the

sand dune. All the Air Force

had been pondering what to do might make a nice observation geant talked to the lieutenant. tower some day. Saugatuck Village President Lynn McCray, alerted Thursday that something was afoot, Not about to climb up all those steps, he put a note on the truck, telling the Air Force to come and see him as Nobody showed up Thursday

generators and control panels.

soon as possible about Sauganight so Friday morning Mc-Cray asked the Saugatuck po-Pentagon. Meanwhile, back at lice to stand guard at the stairs going up to the dome. changed the lock on the gate Shortly thereafter an Air Force sergeant arrived. He atop Mt. Baldhead. Late Friday said his crew had orders to

The captain said something like "it looks like you own ing next week to take it away. lieutenant. They said the vill-

CABLE ACROSS RIVER Consumers Power Co. has applied to the Army Corps of Engineers for a permit to place

an electricity cable across the Kalamazoo River about 50 feet downstream from the Blue Star Highway bridge. The cable will serve Chase Manufacturing Co., according to the ap-The proposed crossing, from poles on either side of the river, would provide 44 feet clearance above the water, according to the drawings. Objectors may write to the

Corps of Engineers office in

Detroit before August 14.

Commercial Record, July 24, 1969

Next: Civil defence in the atomic age

