

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.

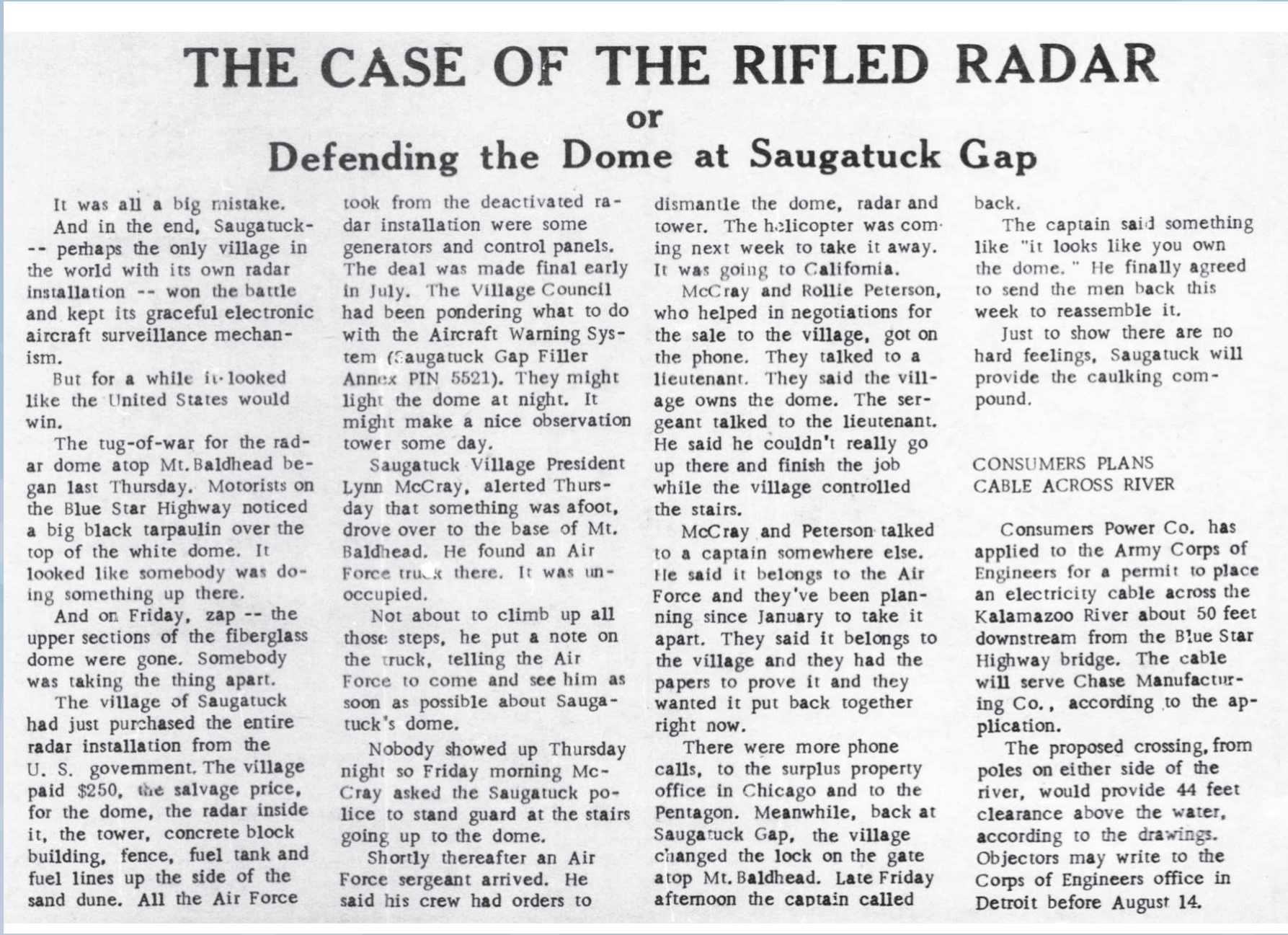
December 31, 1968 | The Air Force terminated its lease and the land reverted to the Village of Saugatuck.

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



Commercial Record, July 24, 1969

Next: Civil defence in the atomic age

