



**A & D. HAHN'S PEAK FIRE LOOKOUT TOWER
atop Hahn's Peak, Hahn's Peak**

The Hahn's Peak Fire Tower, a fortified fire suppression lookout built in 1912 and funded by the United States Forest Service, was constructed by Harry Ratliff (see Unincorporated Steamboat Section, Mad Creek Barn), District Ranger, and others. The foundation was constructed of broken rocks laid in cement; doors and windows were framed dimensional lumber. A glassed-in cupola, supported by 6-inch rough-hewn posts was originally roofed with metal laths and rimmed by a narrow balcony. A cook stove, a mine-set telephone, detailed maps, and an Osborne Fire Finder, hauled to the site by packhorses, were supplied the original watchers, often teachers who spent their summers there. Hahn's Peak, a perfect cone-shaped mountain known traditionally as Old Baldy, was named after Joseph Henn, the phonetic spelling of which has been retained. Henn discovered gold on the mountain in 1862 and died of starvation and exposure in 1867 after mining gold on the mountain. Circa 1939, the structure underwent modifications that still exist on this well-preserved landmark that stands as a testament to the early mission of the Forest Service to protect and conserve forest lands.