

Sisters Country,  
spot for a lookout,  
s of hikers.

Carl Demoy worked the lookout for many years and liked his pet chipmunks more than people. He was notoriously unpleasant to visitors, being accused of dropping rocks and “yellow fluid” down the tower stairs. Carl had an interesting garbage dump I liked to investigate. He appeared to live on a diet of canned ham, peanuts, and paperback novels, he would tear the covers off to write his lookout notes then throw the books down the mountainside. Finally, one year he



PHOTO BY MARET PAJUTEE

Friends of the Metolius led the restoration of the UFS cupola on Black Butte.

protest on rare climbs to the summit. I marvel at the beautiful restoration work done by the Friends of the Metolius to bring the 1922 cupola back to life. Little remains of the tower where I began, and my honeymoon cabin was condemned and burned in 2016. But I still know where the tree tower ladders lie half burnt in the brush. And I wonder if my spirit will someday wander the Butte, keeping company with the lonely ghosts of others who loved living on a mountain top, keeping watch over us.

refused to come down at the end of the season, filled the cupola with firewood, and insisted he could winter over.

After they insisted he come down to cash his paychecks he had a stroke. The lookout who took over for him visited me one day, bringing fresh peaches. He had visited Carl in the hospital and reported he had yearned for his little animal pals and implored him to “please feed my chipmunks.”

rehabilitation of the sensitive habitats impacted by the hundreds of people who climb Black Butte.

These days, my older legs



PHOTO COURTESY USFS

The Forest Service burned down the old ground cabin on the site after it had been condemned.

By the time the 1934 tower fell in the winter of 2001 I had married two men I met on the Butte, and spent my second honeymoon in the 1979 ground house. I had a real job as a botanist/ecologist but worked relief whenever I could, even working from the old cupola after the tower was condemned in 1990. The old tower shattered and fell in the winter of 2001, in a coat of ice with high winds. I helped with planning of the new 1994 tower and worked on



PHOTO BY KIRK METZGER FOR GLEN CORBETT PHOTO

A new lookout tower overlooks the ruins of the old one as work crews dismantle it.

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