The Tower Rises!

The soaring red eye of the radar on top of Mount Baldhead now searches the skies for a potential enemy ... Thus the villagers lived in faith with themselves and each other, confident that their homes, their way of life, would survive the rest of this century.

— Nina Flexon, from "To Push a Mountain in the Sun, 1970"

What's up there?
The Ansons in a two-room, concrete block building with three-legged radar antennas tower above. The installation was designed to be unobtrusive so as to not be noticeable. Before the World War II, the Ansons were added in 1963, the antennas could be seen rotating, complete with a radius of about zero revolutions per minute (RPM).

The building has two square rooms with no communication dorm. One room housed two diesel power generators that were removed in 1970. In place are two motors/genset type rotary generators. The larger room on the west side contains a generator with a similar rated power of 600 HP. SAGE computers would monitor a few dozen antennas, including the one on top of this building.

The SAGE computer
To counter the threat of Russian bombers, the US Air Force, in conjunction with MIT and IBM, built a command-and-control system. The installation was designed to be unobtrusive so as to not be noticeable. Before the World War II, the Ansons were added in 1963, and the antennas could be seen rotating, complete with a radius of about zero revolutions per minute (RPM).

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The white radar dome is an iconic landmark visible for miles in all directions and used a navigational aid for mariners seeking Sagatuck or nearby ports.

SAGE was an ambitious and essential project that aimed to provide vital information to the military. The installation was designed to be unobtrusive so as to not be noticeable. Before the World War II, the Ansons were added in 1963, and the antennas could be seen rotating, complete with a radius of about zero revolutions per minute (RPM).

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December 14, 1966 - The new AN/FPS-18 radar and antenna, enclosed in a protective dome, began operations.

Cable television was eventually connected by the speed of the new intercontinental ballistic missile and submarine program. SAGE, however, remained a part of the NOAAS's defense system into the 1980s and 1990s. This is when the building reverts to the Village of Sagatuck.

July 1967 - The Village of Sagatuck purchased the building, tower, and radar equipment for $200. Soon after, the tower was demolished and the current radar installation in use today.

Timeline
- July 29, 1965: The Village of Sagatuck purchased the building, tower, and radar equipment for $100. Soon after, the tower was demolished and the current radar installation in use today.

- June 1965 - The AN/FPS-14 radar and antennas were dismantled and removed. At this time the site was under the control of the newly constructed 754th Radar Squadron (SAGE) at Fort Custer, Michigan.

- July 1967 - The new AN/FPS-18 radar and antenna, enclosed in a protective dome, began operations.

In 1909 the western Michigan fruit industry was still reeling from the big freeze of 1906. Sagatuck became a seaport for the 250-mile-long New York and Erie Canal. The town was served by the Grand River Canal, which was the only way to access the interior of the state. The canal was eventually abandoned in the late 1930s.

The Big Pavilion, built in 2001, is an example of the new wave of industrial architecture. The building provides a unique place to celebrate the history of Sagatuck and the Sagatuck-Douglas Area.

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LANDMARK BIG PAVILION BURNS
The Brightest Spot on the Great Lakes Destroyed. Cause of Fire Unknown.

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