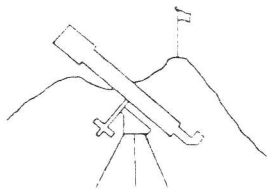
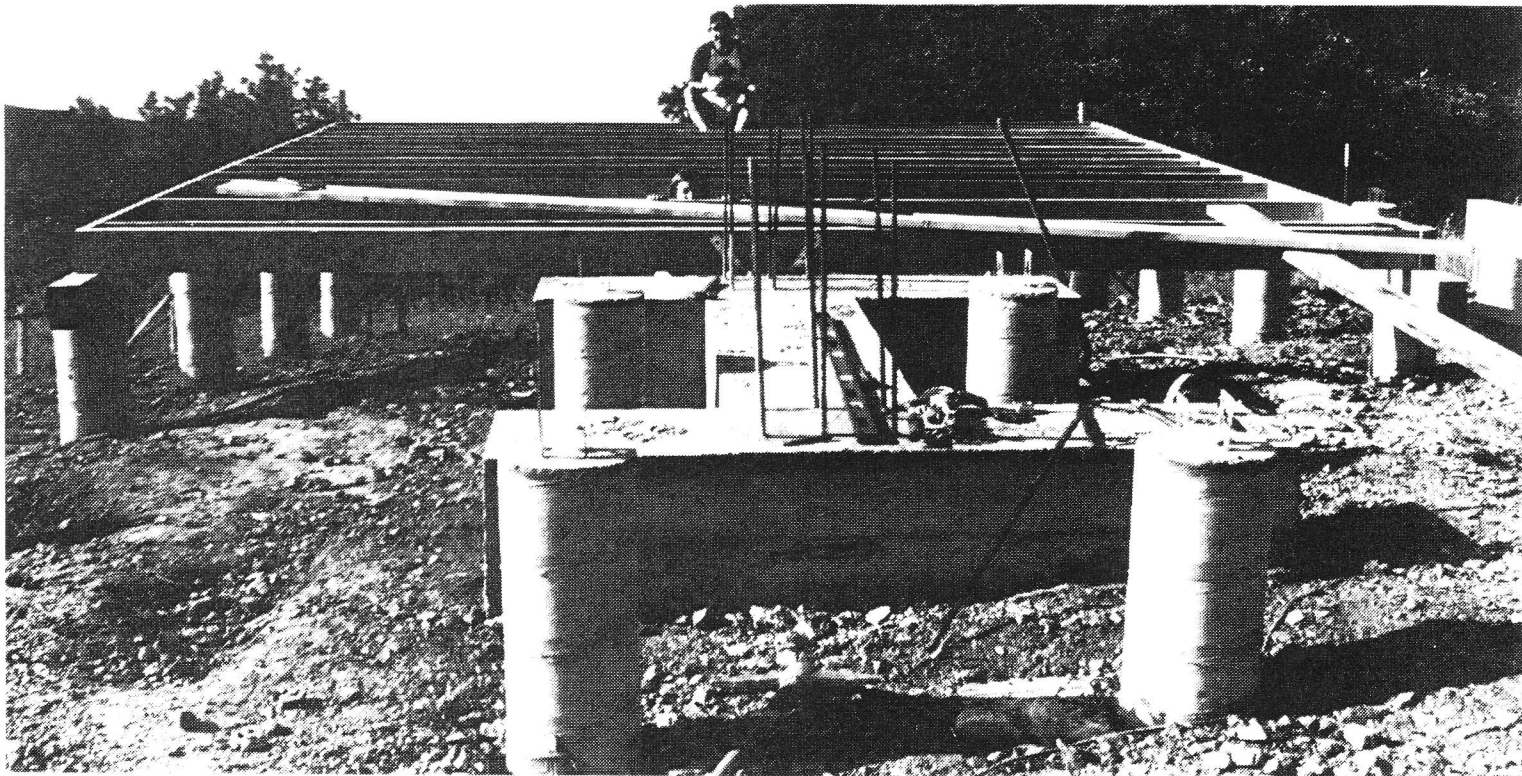


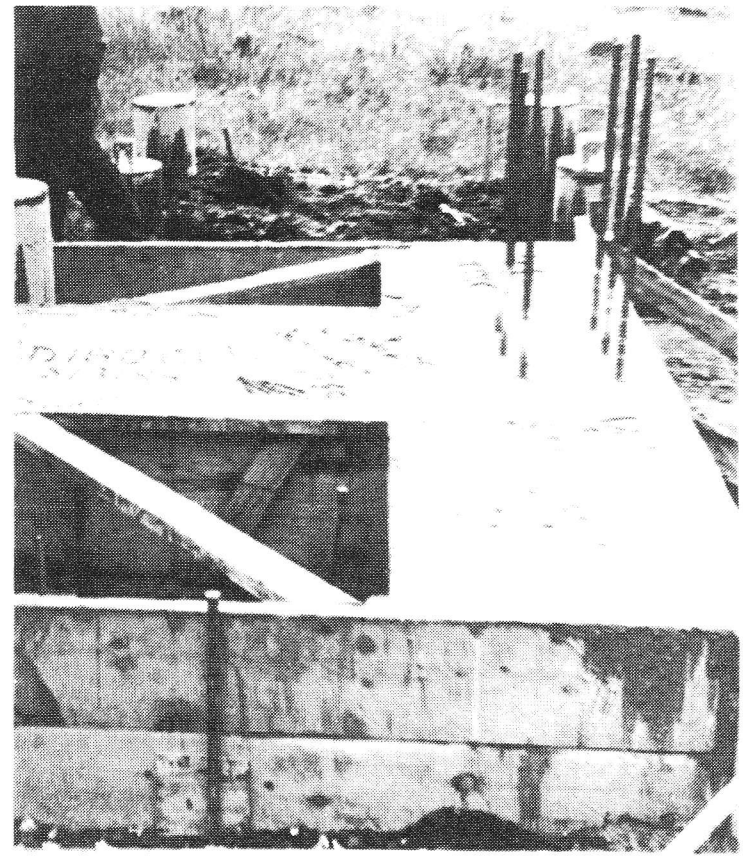
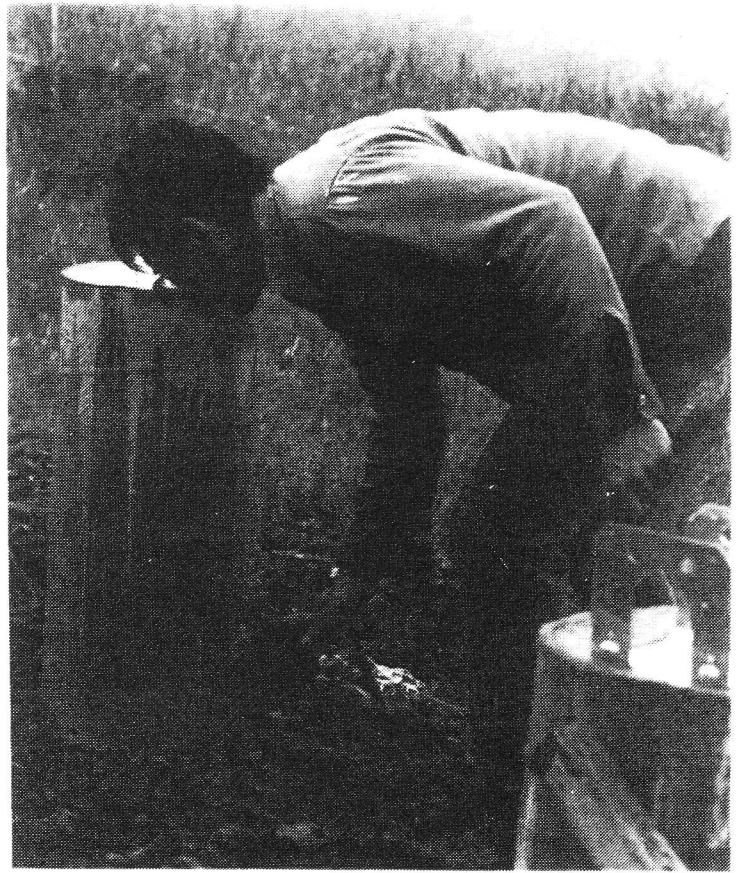
THE FREMONT PEAK OBSERVER



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

August General Membership Meeting

The Annual meeting of the *FPOA* is tentatively scheduled for August 30th, 1986. In addition to a barbecue and Star Party, we will be holding elections for board members (see next article), and we will be having our formal Observatory Dedication Ceremonies. More information on the annual meeting and Dedication Ceremonies will be provided in a special invitation to be sent out in July.

Elections

The *FPOA* Board of Directors is composed of nine Association members, elected from the general membership, to serve three year terms. A term begins January 1st of the year following the election, and expires on December 31st of the third year of the term. Each year, one-third of the Board is up for re-election. Our first election, to be held at the August Annual Meeting, will be to fill the positions whose terms expire this December 31st.

We are currently looking for Association members who want to take an active part in the operation of the *FPOA* to run for a position on the Board of Directors. To qualify, one must have been an *FPOA* member for one year, and have a desire to actively participate in the growth of the Association.

If you have such a desire, or know someone who does, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee (Frank Dibbell or Bob Fingerhut).

Use Of Association Instruments

One of the benefits of membership in the *FPOA* is the opportunity to use Association equipment. Now that the time when our primary instrument will be operational draws near, we need to give some thought as to how to allocate its resources. At least one night a month will be devoted to public programs (usually a Friday and/or Saturday). The Board is interested in hearing ideas from the membership as to how time on the 30-inch should be allocated on nights when the scope is not in use for public programs.

If you have an idea, please let us know. Suggestions should be submitted in writing, but I will take verbal ideas over the telephone.

Either call or write to Frank Dibbell (address and phone always at the end of this publication!) with your idea.

As a final note, the Association does have two smaller instruments, a 4-inch refractor and an 8-inch reflector, that are currently available for membership use. Their use for the moment is on a first come, first served basis. To use one of these scopes, contact Ranger Rick Morales, and be prepared to show your membership card!

PROGRESS REPORT

by the FPOA Board

Observatory Status

We are pleased to announce that construction is underway on our Observatory! Volunteer crews working on Saturday April 12th and Sunday April 13th got all 39 pier holes dug. Although we had hired an auger and an operator to drill the holes, the ground was so rocky that each hole required hand digging with post-hole diggers to clear the rocks from the augered holes. Add to that a thermometer which refused to go above 36 degrees F., and you can picture the type of weekend we had!

The following weekend was spent erecting the sonotube forms over the holes, and on April 26th the re-bar was installed. On Saturday, May 3rd, we poured almost 20 yards of concrete (two big cement truck loads) in freezing rain! Naturally, when we finished pouring the concrete, the rain stopped. The highlight of the day was writing our names in the concrete of the telescope pier base.

On May 17th we tore the forms away from the concrete piers, and built the sub-floor for the "meeting room" portion of the observatory. The site right now looks a little like a concrete post forest, with half of the posts covered with wood beams and 2x8's!

We still need volunteers to help with construction. If you haven't already done so, there is a State Liability form you will need to fill out before helping. The forms will be available at the site. For more details on volunteering, contact Rick Morales at the Peak at 408-623-4255.

FPOA PICTORIAL

by Frank Dibbell

The first two pages of this Newsletter contain selected pictures of the construction effort of the past several weeks. In addition to these pictures that are published, we also have many more that will be on display when the Observatory is complete. If you have taken pictures of the building project, and would like to donate any to the display, please contact me at (408) 735-9597.

Page 1, top: This picture, taken at the end of the workday on May 17th, shows just how far we have gotten with this project. All the piers are in which will support the building, the huge concrete I-beam which will support the telescope is in place, and the subflooring for the meeting room is complete. Our foreman Charlie Carlson is sitting on the far side gazing over the day's labor. In the foreground is Donn Mukensnabe, peering Kilroy-style over a floor joist. (Photo by Frank Dibbell).

Page 1, bottom left: Digging the holes on April 12th. The ground was so rocky that a team with shovels and post-hole diggers had to stand by to clean out each hole as the auger finished. (Photo by Frank Dibbell).

Page 1, bottom right: Checking the alignment of the pier holes. (Photo by Frank Dibbell).

Page 2, top left: Pouring the concrete (May 3rd). Workmen pump concrete into each of the sonotube forms during a freezing rain. (Photo by Frank Dibbell).

Page 2, top right: Morgan Smith, the architect who designed the Observatory for us, inspects a freshly poured pier. (Photo by Chris Angelos).

Page 2, bottom left: The symbolic "carving your initials in the finished telescope pier". Construction foreman and Association member Charlie Carlson carves his initials into the wet cement as Frank Dibbell, Kevin Medlock, and

an unidentified worker look on. (Photo by Chris Angelos).

Page 2, bottom right: Part of the concrete "I-beam" which will support the 30-inch telescope. Each corner of this massive "I-beam" has a 4-1/2 foot re-inforced concrete "foot" imbedded in the ground. Once the Observatory floor is built, the framing of the rest of the telescope pier will be done. (Photo by Frank Dibbell).

Would you like to have one of your pictures published? The subject matter must be relevant to the project, and be in black and white (35mm preferred). Negatives only should be submitted to Frank Dibbell. Call for further details.

Change of Address?

Have you moved recently? Please let us know so that we may send your *Fremont Peak Observer* to the right address. Send address/phone changes to Frank Dibbell at the address below. Thank You!

The purpose of the *Fremont Peak Observatory Association* is to provide educational and interpretive services of astronomically related topics to visitors of Fremont Peak State Park. The *Fremont Peak Observer* is published quarterly, and is the official publication of the *Fremont Peak Observatory Association*. Articles and other items for publication should be sent to:

Frank Dibbell, FPOA
710 Georgia Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication.

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