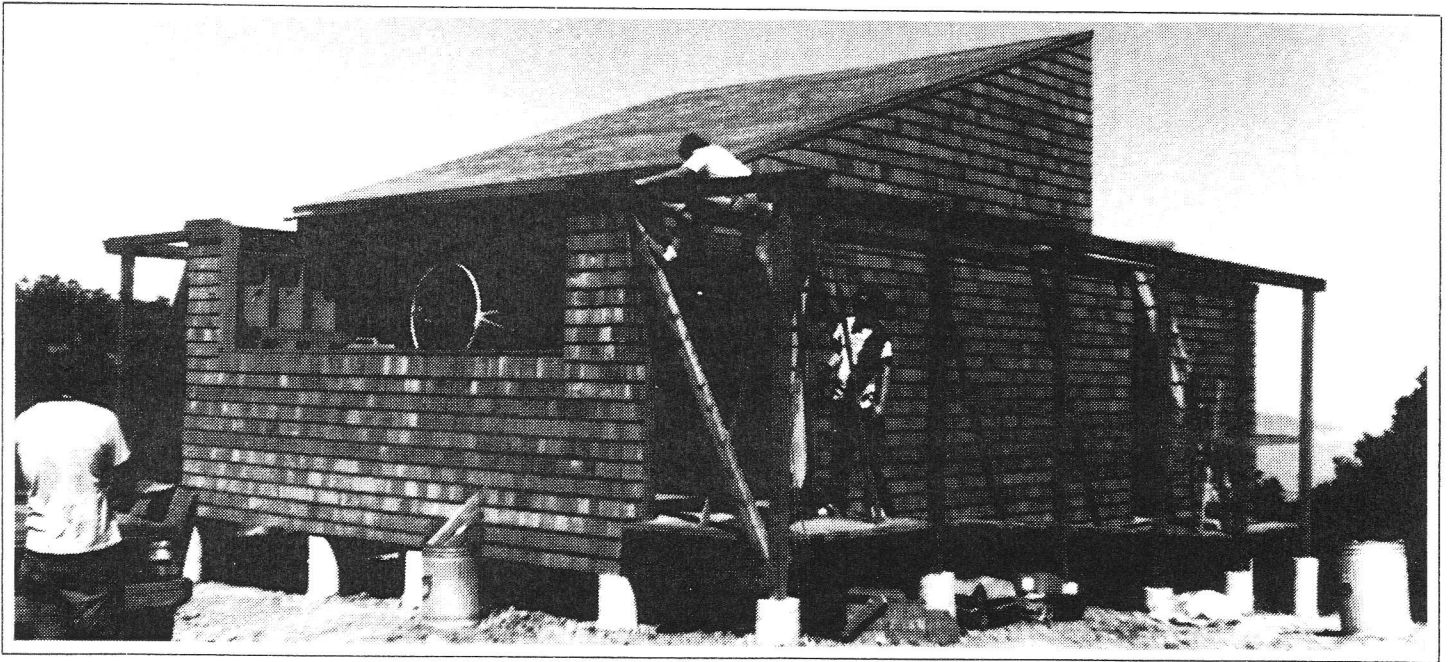
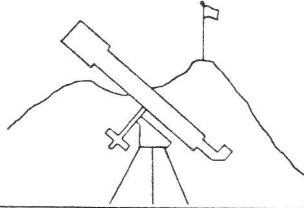


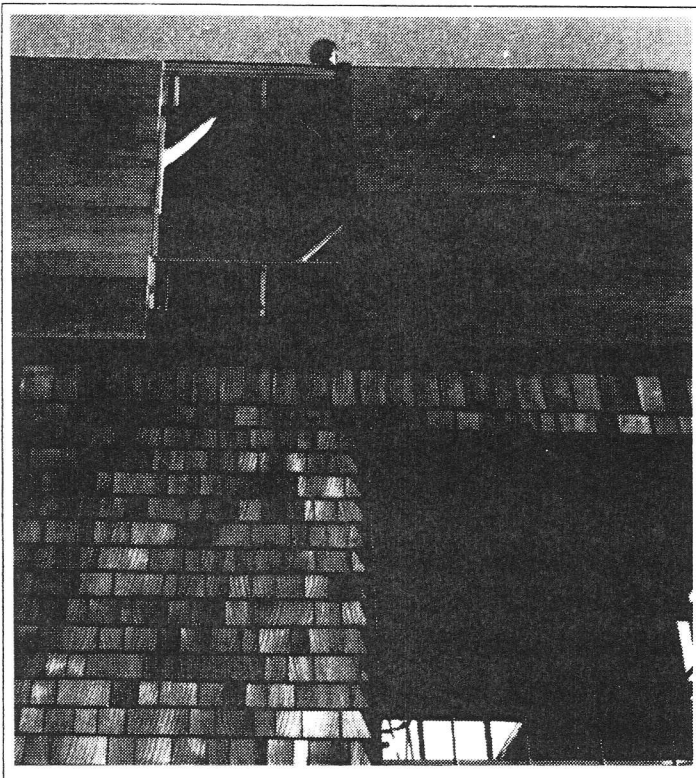
THE FREMONT PEAK OBSERVER

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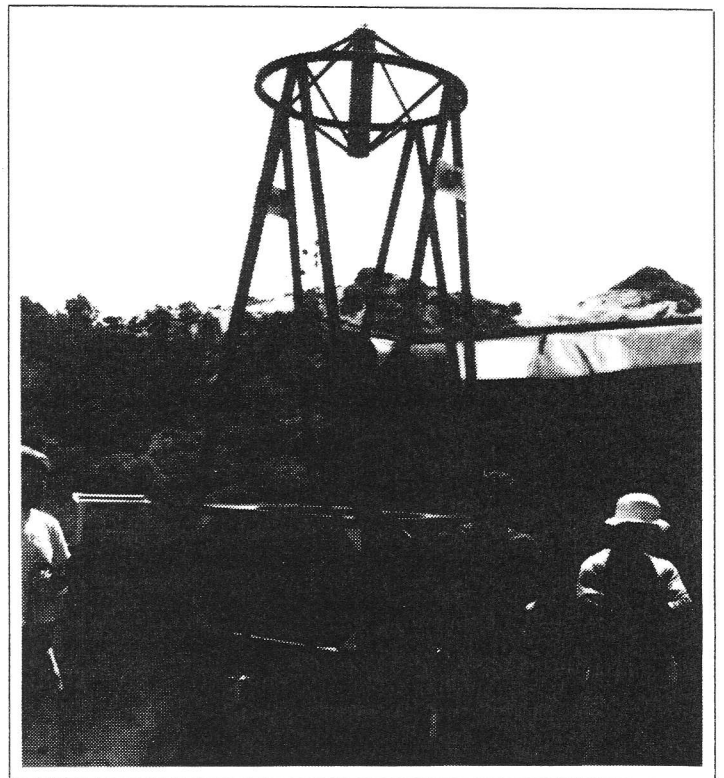
November 1986



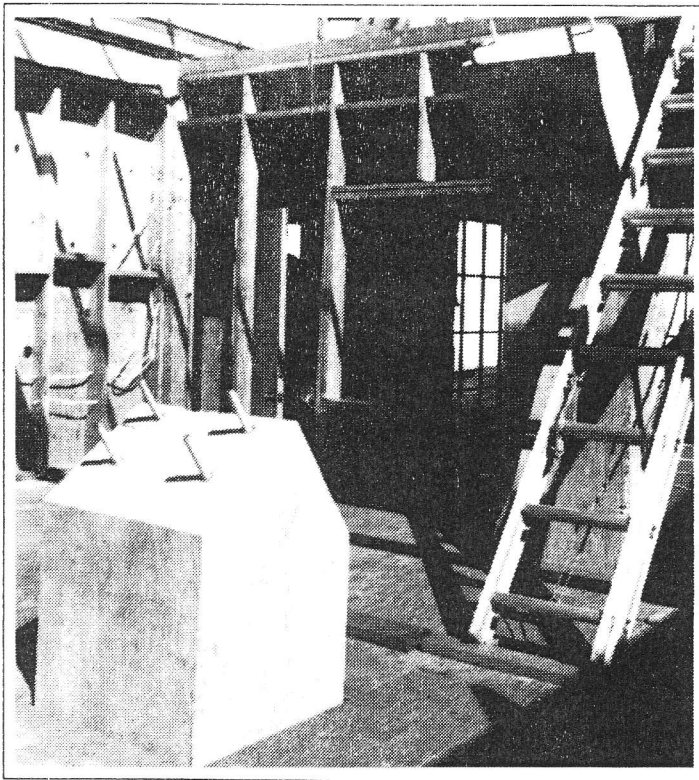
Fremont Peak Observatory, southeast corner. Association member Donn Mukensnoble works on the trellis while Dave Ambrose looks on. The scope, visible through the open south wall, rests in its "parked" position. (All photos on this and the next page taken by Frank Dibbell)



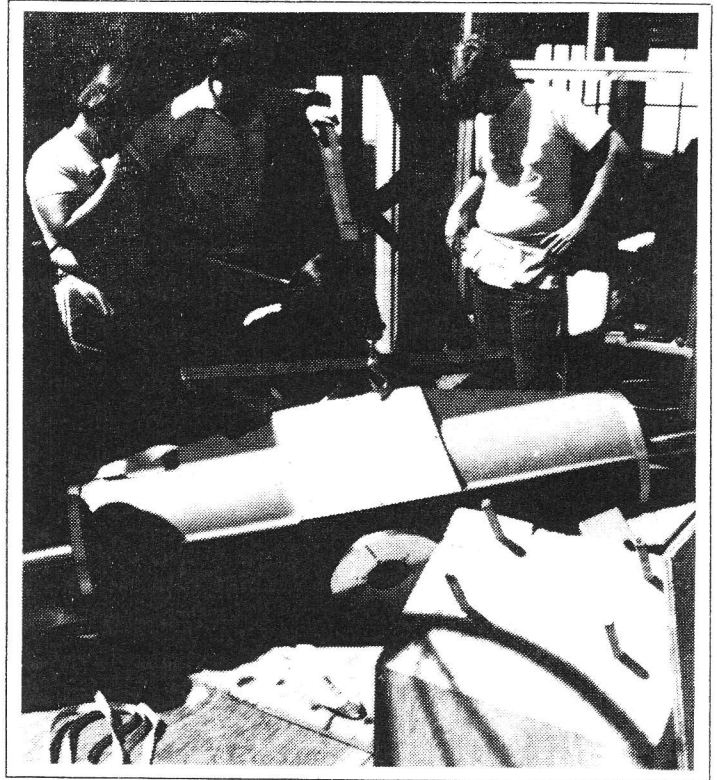
A view of the north face of the Observatory. The octagonal framework (shingled over now) will support our stained glass window.



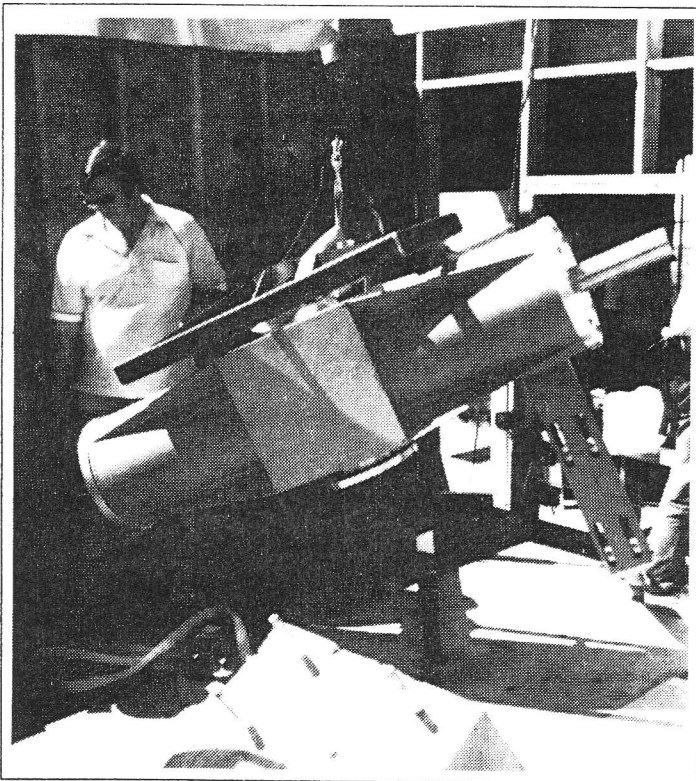
Telescope Arrival Day. The open tube assembly stands majestically in the observing room, waiting to be installed on its mount.



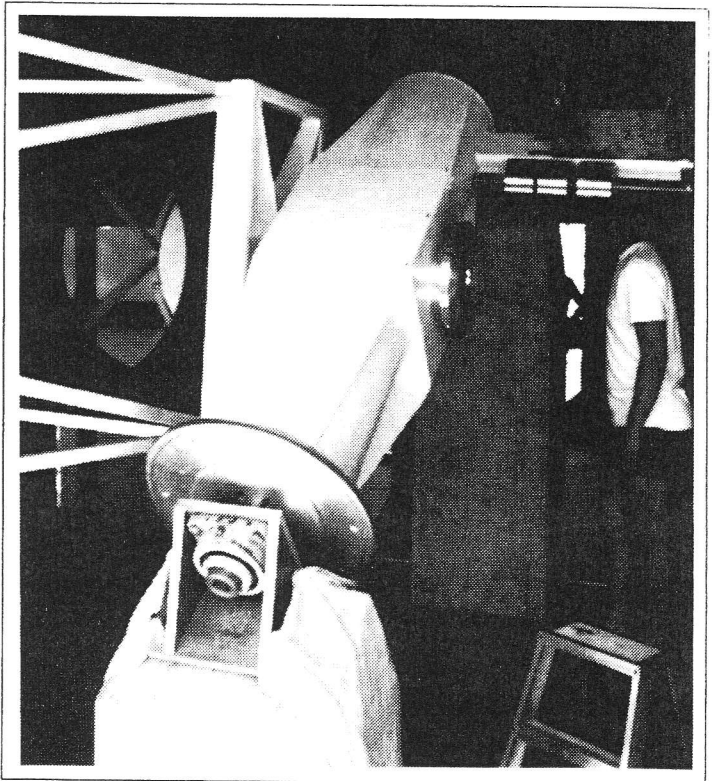
The piers that will support the 30-inch.



"OK guys, this thing weighs about 800 pounds. The four of us ought to be able to lift it up onto the pier!"



Hoisting the massive polar axis into position.



The assembled telescope resting on its mount. The R.A. drive gear is 24 inches in diameter. The entire assembly weighs close to a ton, yet isso well balanced one person can move it around quite easily.

THE AUG 30th "STAR-B-Q"

By all accounts our August 30th general membership meeting was a huge success. President Bob Fingerhut began the meeting in the Observatory, giving a brief history of the Association and thanking all those who made it possible. Park Ranger Rick Morales, representing the State Parks and Recreation, also said a few words on our behalf.

Upon completion of the brief meeting, approximately 60 people cheered Denni Medlock on, who christened the Observatory building with a bottle of "Comet Champagne" from the Mirassou Winery, thereby formally dedicating the Observatory. Kevin Medlock was available in the telescope room of the Observatory to talk about the scope, and a continuously running slide show giving the construction history of the project was set up in the Park's equipment building.

Cooks Frank Dibbell, John Gleason, Skip Whitworth and John Stewart fired up the Webers around 5:00, and spent the next two hours cooking 120 hamburgers and 60 hotdogs. Many thanks to the volunteers who contributed the delicious salads and baked goodies. The barbecue went so well that we want to make it a regular part of our annual meeting!

The event culminated with long lines at the 30" scope to see Jupiter and other selected objects. Many scopes were set up that evening for viewing, so it was not necessary to wait in a long line for some spectacular celestial views. Thanks to Association members who set their instruments up for the public show!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Election Results

John Gleason has been re-elected to the FPOA Board of Directors, and both Charles "Skip" Whitworth and Charlie Carlson have been elected, filling the openings created by our two retiring Board members, Kevin Medlock and Howard Medlock.

Board members serve a three year term of office, the term commencing on January 1st of the year following the election, and terminating on December 31st of the third

year of the term. The FPOA Board consists of nine members. By electing one-third of the Board each year we are able to strike a balance between continuity and "new ideas".

Association officers are appointed from the board at the first Board meeting following the general election, and serve a one year term of office. The FPOA officers for the 1987 calendar year are:

- Frank Dibbell, President
- Charlie Carlson, Vice President
- Rick Morales, Exec. Secretary
- Denni Medlock, Admin. Secretary
- John Stewart, Treasurer

If you are interested in the prospect of being a future Board member, let us know! You may call me or any other Board member to discuss what membership on the Board entails. Our phone numbers are conveniently placed on the last page of this newsletter.

Stained Glass Window

The Board wishes to thank the membership for the tremendous response for our request for funds to purchase the stained glass window for the observatory. We have exceeded our goal of \$350.00. Denni Medlock is now negotiating with the artist for a suitable motif. We'll keep you posted on its progress!

Fundraising Ideas Needed

We have done a lot of work, and have come a long way with the Observatory project. An almost universal difficulty associated with projects of this size is the "cost overrun" factor. Yes, it is true, we have spent all our money and we aren't quite complete with the project.

Thankfully, the major work and the "big ticket" items are done and paid for. It's the little stuff now, things like paint, floor coverings, cabinetry, window coverings, etc. that we have left to do. The FPOA Board has set a fundraising target of \$2000.00, with the money raised to be used to finish up these little details.

We are soliciting the membership at large for ideas on how we may attain this goal. One idea already expressed is to sell "World's Finest Chocolate", those candy bars that the Scouts and Little League groups sell to raise

money. Another is to get a piece of equipment donated to the *FPOA*, then hold a raffle. If you have a good idea, please contact Frank Dibbell, who is temporarily acting as Fundraising chair. C'mon people, we can DO it!!!

PROGRESS REPORT

Observatory Status

The Observatory building is now a weather-tight shell. The tar and gravel roof was installed literally days before the rains came in September! Not much work was done in October, since the dozen or so of us who gave up our weekends through the summer took some time off to rest, recuperate, and become re-acquainted with our families.

The exterior work remaining involves finishing the redwood decking and installing a guard rail. The rest is interior work. We need to finish the rough electrical (PG&E is scheduled to come out in November and hook up our power), sheetrock, tape and paint, and install the floor covering.

The sliding roof is simply phenomenal! Right now opening and closing it is a two person job; we need to engineer a way to make opening and closing it easier. The telescope itself is absolutely awe-inspiring, taking up almost half of the observing room when it is sitting on its side in the "parked" position. It is so well balanced, however, that one person can easily move it around.

A schedule for the completion of the details (pending fundraising goal attainment) will be drawn up at the next Board meeting, tentatively scheduled for November 1st. We will be opening "for business" in May of 1987. A complete schedule will be published in the March 1987 issue of this newsletter. Until then, we plan to have the observatory open on new-moon weekends for informal gatherings. For further details on when the scope will be available, call Rick Morales at 408-623-4255.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

1987 Renewals

January is *FPOA* Membership Renewal Month. You will be receiving the formal renewal notice in the mail sometime in December. If you haven't received yours by December 31st, please call Frank Dibbell.

Change of Address?

Have you moved this past year? Please let us know so I can update my mailing list, ensuring that you receive your *FPOA* publications in a timely manner. Notify the editor (Frank Dibbell) at the address listed at the end of this newsletter.

Did You Know...

that the *FPOA* is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization? That's right! This means that your membership fees in the *Fremont Peak Observatory Association* are tax-deductible as charitable contributions! When you receive your membership renewal form next month, think about renewing as a contributing or sustaining member. Your dues help us attain our goal of public education in Astronomy.

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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