

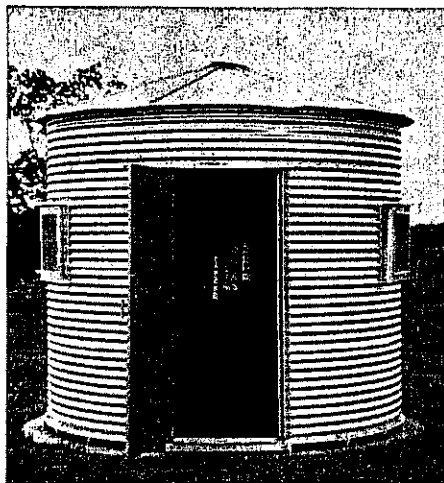
A YOUNG AMATEUR'S OBSERVATORY IN TEXAS

NOBLE OBSERVATORY is the product of 3½ years of work which began when I was 14 years old, without much experience in telescope making. But the three volumes of *Amateur Telescope Making* provided me with enough information to assemble and mount a refractor large enough for detailed observations of the moon and planets.

First, a 6-inch achromatic lens was bought from a very good amateur optical worker, and an equatorial mounting procured. As presently set up, the refractor is equipped with a large finder, a 3-inch guide telescope, a 3-inch astrograph, a 35-mm. camera, an astro-camera, setting circles, and a clock drive. The last is unsatisfactory, as its output torque is insufficient to turn the telescope, so I am attempting to make another clock drive.

All of the accessories listed above, except the two cameras, were made by me from locally available materials. I provided the mounting with slow motions and clamps, and plan for the future a console unit at which the instrument can be set for any position on the sky.

I bought the building, finished as shown in the photograph, for \$300. It is 10 feet in diameter, with a full-sized entrance door. One of the top sections opens to permit observing from the zenith down to about 30° altitude. Another section is for from 30° to the top of the door, and anything lower is observed through the open door. Mounted on 31 wheels,



The 10-foot-diameter building of Tommy May's observatory turns on 31 wheels. Inside is a 6-inch refractor.

the entire observatory rotates on an angle-iron track.

If this project were repeated, the total cost of \$900 would be much less, as I have learned a great deal. The observatory is named after Miss Charlie M. Noble, an astronomy teacher of Ft. Worth, Texas, who has pioneered in encouraging junior astronomers in this area. The observatory is open to all visitors, and correspondence concerning it is welcome.

TOMMY MAY
2422 Gibbins Dr.
Arlington, Tex.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

In the summer of 1958, several members of the National Capital Junior Astronomers began a systematic program of drawing the planet Mars. They used an 8-inch reflector and a 5-inch refractor for most of their work, which was completed last February.

From 47 drawings, an over-all map of Mars was compiled. A similar program is planned for next year. Junior groups who may be interested in conducting a project of this type are invited to write Roy R. Troxel, 3017 Cleveland Ave., Washington 8, D. C.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Two amateur societies are in operation in Humboldt County, in northern California. In Eureka, the Astronomers of Humboldt recently purchased 11 acres of land for a possible observatory site. The secretary of the club is William N. Abbey, Jr., 1745 Margaret Lane, Arcata, Calif.

Founded two years ago, the Astronomers of Southern Humboldt in Fortuna has nine active members, who meet on the second and fourth Sundays at private homes. Its secretary is William Shreeve, P. O. Box 862, Fortuna, Calif.

STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

The primary mirror of the 20-inch Cassegrainian-Maksutov telescope, described on page 622 of the September issue with the project of the Fairfield County Astronomical Society, will have a diameter of 24 inches. The 4-inch apochromatic spotting scope, another instrument of the observatory at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center, was designed by E. L. McCarthy, Perkin-Elmer Corp.

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

There are 12 members in the Albuquerque Astronomers. Interested persons should communicate with Dan Judd, 402 Central Ave., S.W., Albuquerque, N. M.

BURLINGTON, IOWA

Ten adults and two juniors comprise the Burlington Astronomy Club. The president is Jack R. Polson, 2214 Barrett St., Burlington, Iowa.

RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

Nineteen amateurs have formed the Riverside Astronomical Society. More information is available from H. E. Kaiser, 4868 Hedrick Ave., Arlington, Calif.

Cleveland, Ohio: Cleveland Astronomical Society, 8 p.m., Warner and Swasey Observatory. November 6, Dr. G. de Vaucouleurs, Harvard Observatory, "The Atmospheres of Mars and Venus."

Dallas, Tex.: Texas Astronomical Society, 8 p.m., Dallas Health and Science Museum. November 23, Michael Gardner, "External Galaxies."

New York, N. Y.: Amateur Astronomers Association, 8 p.m., American Museum of Natural History. November 4, Dr. George A. Morton, R. C. A. Laboratories, "New Eyes for Our Telescopes."

New York, N. Y.: Junior Astronomy Club, 8 p.m., Waverly building, New York University. November 20, Dr. Francis J. Heyden, S. J., Georgetown Observatory, "Observing Total Eclipses for Geodetic Measurements."

Washington, D. C.: National Capital Astronomers, 8:15 p.m., Commerce Department auditorium. November 7, Dr. Jack Green, North American Aviation Corp., "Geochemical Aspects of Lunar Exploration."

BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA

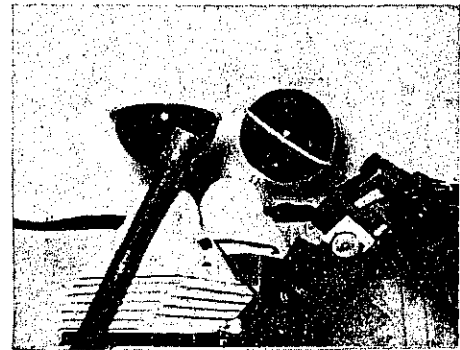
A new member of the Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League is the Bartlesville Astronomical Society, which is comprised of 19 amateurs. The president is E. L. Clark, 2054 Johnstone, Bartlesville, Okla.

A MICHIGAN AMATEUR'S BASEMENT PLANETARIUM

SINCE August, 1957, I have developed a small, inexpensive planetarium, with many auxiliary pieces of equipment. Although the seating capacity is only four to six, over 100 persons view the demonstrations each year, many of them returning every two months when I change the lecture subject.

So that the stars as seen from either the Northern Hemisphere or the Southern may be shown, the Spitz, Jr., projector is equipped with interchangeable spheres. These have been pierced to project 3rd- and 4th-magnitude stars not included by the manufacturer, and small holes punched together give a rather realistic impression of the Milky Way.

Half of a Spitz, Jr., sphere forms the



David DeBruyn's basement planetarium. The dome illuminator is at left.