

STELLAR

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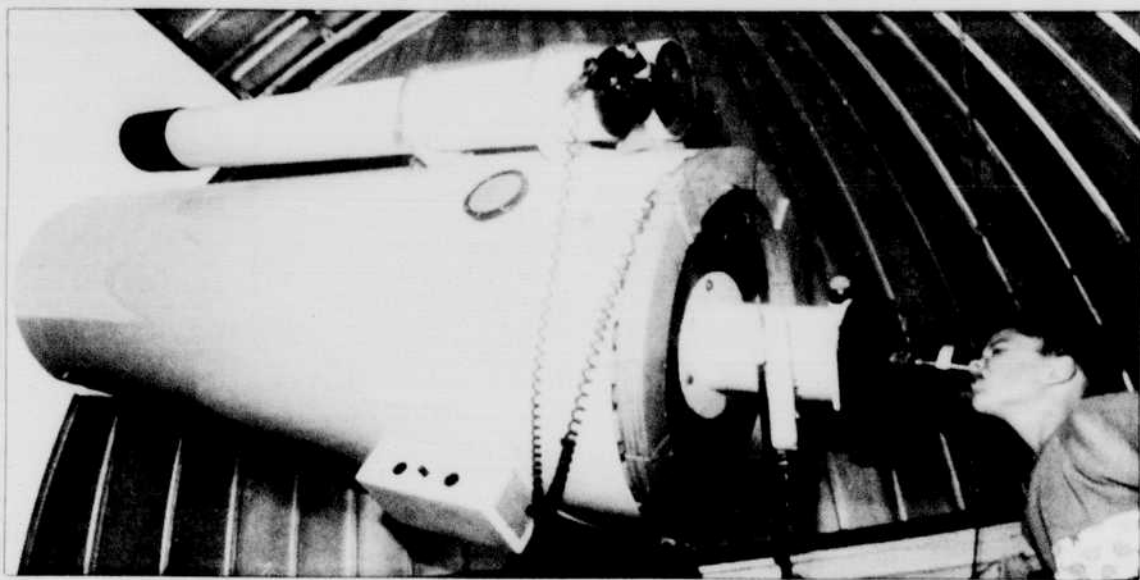
James Imamura were named co-directors after Kemp died in 1988, and they will conduct their own research beginning as soon as this summer.

Until then, Carroll said, the tours will be Pine Mountain's main focus. Tours for non-members are free, but a \$2 donation is encouraged.

The University provides a caretaker, maintenance supplies, and pays for utilities. Funding for research comes from grants from National Science Foundation, National Geographic Society and private donors.

The observatory provides a "dream job" for Mike Shannon, a University sophomore and cross-country runner who says he will probably go into physics. Shannon, who works at Pine Mountain as a tour guide, said he trains in the high altitude by day before his duties begin at sunset.

"I'm really interested in astronomy, but actually the rea-



Anthony Stinton, 7, of Beaverton, looks through Pine Mountain Observatory's 15-inch telescope at one of many celestial objects visible from the Eastern Oregon site.

Photo by Mark Ylen

son I came up here was for the high-altitude training," he said. "I wanted to find someplace high-altitude, and I remembered the University owns this place." A few conversations with professors later,

Shannon had the job.

"You can't do astronomy until night," he said. "You have the whole day, so I can spend it running and fishing and hiking ... I can't call this a job."

Shannon's encouragement to fellow students to sample the views through the telescopes is unbridled.

"The stuff that you'll see is just phenomenal; it's worth it,"

he said. "Even if you don't like astronomy, you have to see it. There's something about seeing a galaxy, billions of light years away. It's incredible."

Tours are given Thursday through Sunday nights, and begin at 9 p.m. with a slide show to preview that evening's viewing. As the sky darkens, visitors are led to one of the two operational telescopes.

The planets Jupiter, Venus and Mars are grouped closely together in the western sky at sunset and should remain visible through July. Also, the ringed planet Saturn is in the southern sky throughout the summer.

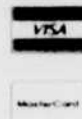
Because the nighttime temperature even in the summer can dip below freezing, the staff suggests dressing warmly.

To reach the observatory, travel east on Highway 126 to Bend, and follow Highway 20 east about 26 miles to the "town" of Millican (actually a general store and two gasoline pumps). From there, a gravel road takes you eight miles south to the observatory.

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