



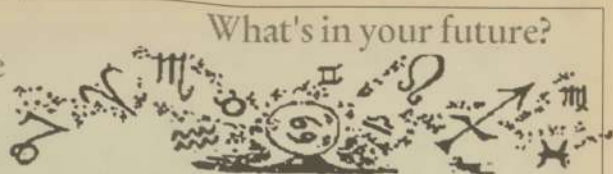
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Amateur miniature horse champion

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THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

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Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Clackamas Community College

Oregon City, Oregon

Volume XXXIV, Issue 2

Haggart Observatory: one step closer to completion

CORINNE RUPP
Staff Writer

A new deck was placed on the Haggart Astronomical Observatory last week, bringing it one step closer to re-opening.

About 15 people watched as a 50-ton crane began to hoist the steel structure into position. It took ten hours altogether to move the 16,000-pound deck. The new deck will provide a solid base for the warming hut and dome that, along with a 24-inch f/4.8 Newtonian reflector telescope, make up the rest of the observatory.

Harold Haggart built the observatory in 1948 on his property in Redland, Ore. His widow, Darcy Haggart, donated the dome, which is 16 feet in diameter, to the John Inskip Environmental Learning Center (ELC). Since its opening in 1989, the Haggart Observatory has been the only public observatory in the Portland metropolitan area. Over the years, thousands of people have come through its doors to take a closer look at our universe.

The observatory has been closed to the public for almost two years while much-needed renovations of the structure were completed.

Placing the new deck on the observatory makes possible the last remaining steps in the rebuilding process. Still to come is building the new warming hut, placing the dome back on top, and training volunteers to educate visitors about meteors, comets, moons,

planets and stars.

New technology will be introduced, with computers, to the old structure. Soon, the observatory will be connected to the information superhighway. The ELC is hoping to add a camera to the telescope, creating the ability to download pictures of the sky on the Internet.

"This also means that in times of bad weather here, we can look at the sky in, say, Sunriver and still be able to educate people coming in," said Dawn Todd of the ELC. "There are so many opportunities with technology that we are able to use now. The only thing restricting us is money."

The rebuilding of the observatory has been a completely volunteer effort. Coast Crane – the same company that brought the dome to Clackamas ten years ago – donated their services for Tuesday's event. And they are not the only company that has volunteered time, money or effort to this project. Andersen Construction has been supervising the project every step of the way, keeping the rebuilding efforts up to code.

Many others have donated products and services to the demolition and rebuilding of the observatory. More than \$70,000 has already been raised from the community to cover the cost of this massive renovation, but the project is far from over. Donations to cover the remaining \$15,000 are still being accepted by the ELC,



MIKE POLLOCK / Clackamas Print

The steel platform took about ten hours to be lifted onto the observatory structure last week. Work on the observatory should be completed for re-opening in mid-November.

and are tax-deductible.

Many environmentally sensitive products were used in the restructuring of the nearly 50 year old

structure, from post-consumer milled steel to recycled plastic products. With good luck, the observatory will re-open in mid-November.

Anyone interested in more information or becoming a volunteer may contact Todd at the ELC, 503-657-6958, ext. 2633.

\$47 million bond would improve outdated, over crowded facilities

STEVE NIELSEN
News Editor

The \$47 million Clackamas Community College bond will be on the Nov. 7 ballot again after failing to pass last May.

This bond, Measure 3-97, would go to improve technology, add classrooms and upgrade aging facilities at the college, and would cost taxpayers only 20 cents for every \$1000 of assessed property value.

Clackamas' last bond was approved in 1989 and went to build the Streeter, Dye and Gregory buildings, and the building in Wilsonville. After 11 years, the college now desperately needs money to add facilities and fix the existing ones to meet the rapid growth the college is experiencing.

"The bond would give the college flexibility to build classrooms, correct aging buildings and keep up with technology," said college President John Keyser. "This would give us the only source of money we have to address the building concerns."

In the last six years, Clackamas enrollment has grown 30 percent, and enrollment is expected to exceed original projections of another 30 percent, accord-

ing to Keyser. This kind of growth has pushed classes and faculty into every available space.

The Bill Brod Community Center, which used to be entirely used by students for study and social activities, is now filled to capacity with offices and student services.

The areas that are now registration and financial aid were formerly used to host billiard exhibitions, movies and concerts. If the bond passes, the school will add a whole second level to the community center.

Several programs must occupy spaces in multiple buildings, often in places not equipped for those programs.

"Facilities aren't designed for what they're being used for," said Gary Nelson, chair of Clackamas' music department. He sits in an office jammed with paperwork and music equipment. The office was originally intended as a wrestling

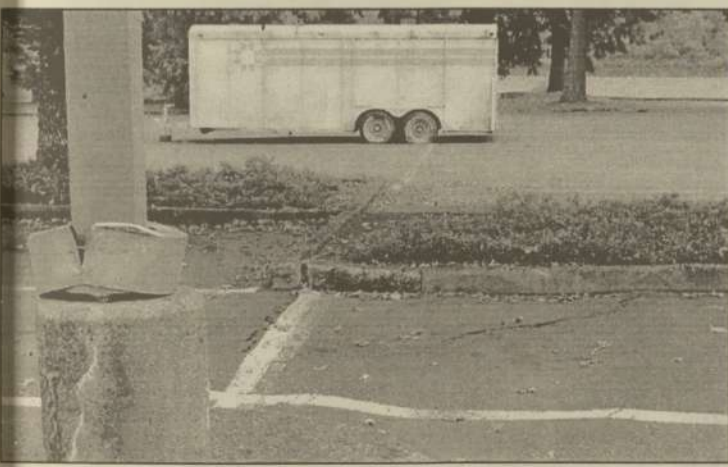
room. Randall Hall, intended to be a physical education facility, also has four classrooms in a space designed to be handball courts, and a music classroom that doubles as a hallway.

Nelson's office contains a rare bit of history. Most of one wall is covered with cassette tapes of the Ed Beach Jazz Collection. Ed Beach, a New York disc jockey, kept recordings of all the Jazz musicians who appeared on his show. One copy of his collection is in Nelson's office; the other is in the Smithsonian.

The music department's cramped conditions also make it hard to recruit new talent.

"It's hard to recruit people because all the high schools have better facilities," said Nelson. "Other [colleges] have much better facilities, so that's where the new recruits go."

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STEVE NIELSEN / Clackamas Print

Facility repairs are a major element in CCC's bond measure.