

MHCC planetarium popular

Sky business booming

You can't schedule the sky. Still, even when clouds cover the penetrating gaze of the telescope at the new Mt. Hood Community College observatory, there's plenty to do around campus, star-wise.

Skylab's going for another record. The Comet Kohoutek is coming and Pioneer 10 just finished taking some close up shots of Jupiter.

With all this going on, Planetarium Director Bob Anderson finds interest in the heavenly bodies booming.

There may be some people who don't realize that there is a planetarium at Mt. Hood Community College.

It's not noticeable from the exterior, but once inside visitors can be transported to the clouds, stars, planets—the list is almost endless.

There are public showings each Thursday beginning 12:15 p.m. Showings will be interrupted temporarily, until winter term begins and the next scheduled show is Jan. 3.

In addition, groups interested in a planetarium show can contact Anderson and set up a time. Some of his most avid fans are grade school groups.

In the darkened planetarium, Anderson can rotate the projection of the bright night stars on the dome.

"It's interesting how the kids will react," he said last week. "Some will swear that the floor turned and the other half think the sky was turning."

If that sounds funny, don't laugh until you've tried figuring it yourself.

Anderson divides his time at Mt. Hood. He's hired as a teacher for half time and as planetarium director the other half.

The school's astronomy program expanded further last spring with the completion of the observatory.

Anderson's interest in astronomy is infectious. He wears a button inscribed with "by Jupiter" on his lapel, a memento of man's first close look at Jupiter.

He was attending an educator's conference Nov. 30 in Mt. View Calif., near San Jose, where NASA's Ames Research Center is located.

That was the precise time that Pioneer 10 was getting its closest look at Jupiter.

An old classmate of Anderson's, Jim Thissell, was the man responsible for the delicate last minute commands.

"They sent 8,000 commands to Pioneer 10 the last day," Anderson pointed out.

Considering it takes roughly an hour and a half to send and receive confirmation of a command over that distance, it was a hectic day indeed.

"It was the neatest experience I've ever had," Anderson said. "I could not give in 10 minutes sufficient superlatives describing the experience."

Among the souvenirs Anderson brought back from the trip was a packet of dazzling color and black and white photos of Jupiter.

To be a good planetarium director, according to Anderson, one needs a "gift for gab, a little imagination and some technical know-how."

He finds there is more interest in the planetarium shows during nice weather, "probably because people don't mind driving over here."

With school groups, he will tailor the show to the teachers' needs.

At this moment, he is trying to find out if there's enough interest locally in an astronomy club for high school students, freshmen through seniors.

"We would like to know if students would be interested in exploring the field of astronomy. We're asking because we have some astronomy equipment here that we'd be interested in sharing."

The program would probably meet once a week for an hour or two. Anderson is asking students interested to write him, in care of the Science Division at Mt. Hood Community College.

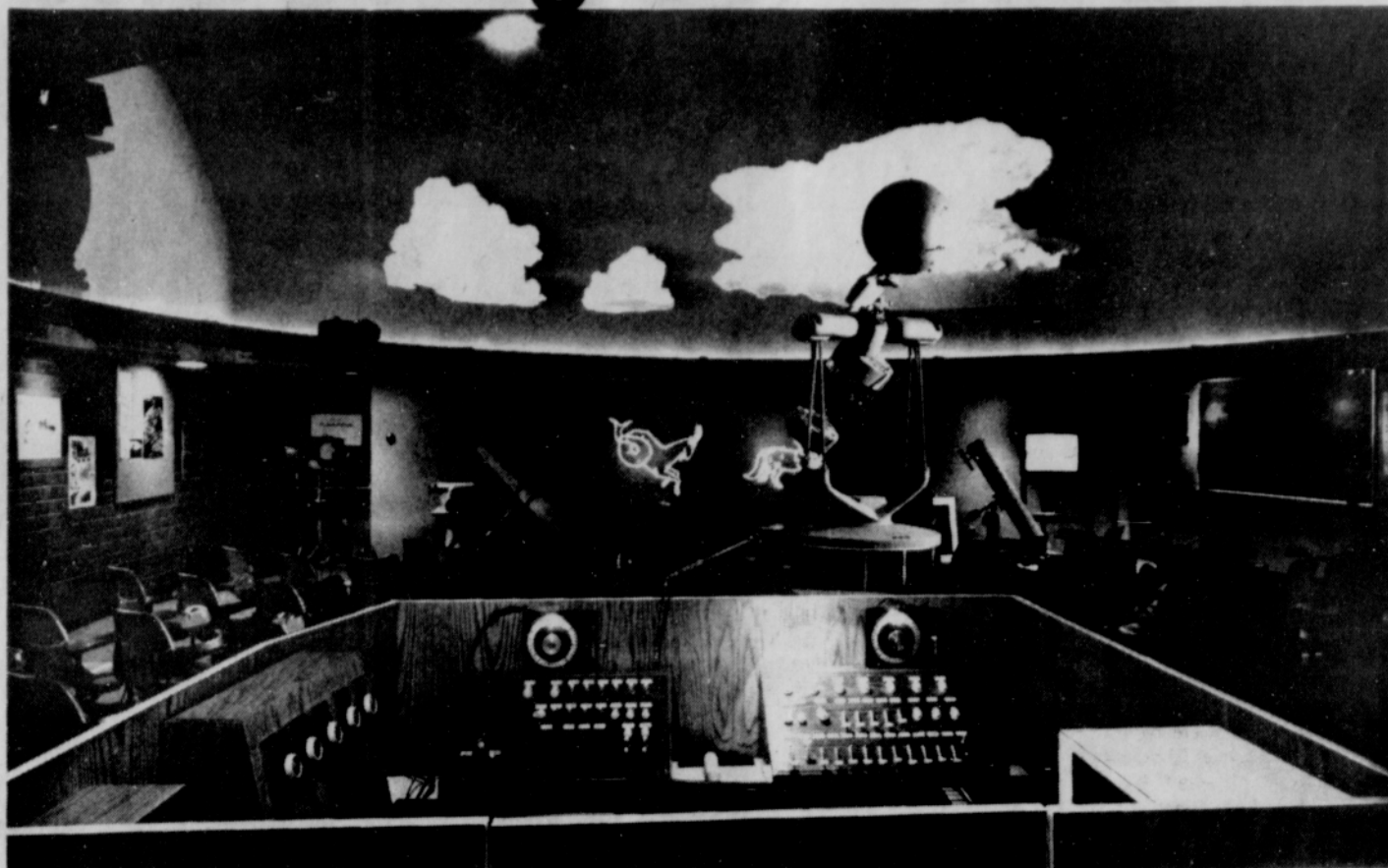
A planetarium is not that common among community colleges in Oregon, Anderson said, though such a facility is more common nationwide.

Bob Dressler, one of the members of the original Mt. Hood Community College board, is an avid astronomy fan and played a big part in getting a planetarium on campus.

Also instrumental was Dr. Jay Bapst, Dean of Community Education.

"In a manner of speaking, he was the resident astronomer on campus before I got here," Anderson explained.

Del Wiseman, a talented



PLANETARIUM AT Mt. Hood Community College takes on a surrealistic appearance when various images are projected on its dome. Globe in center has been drilled

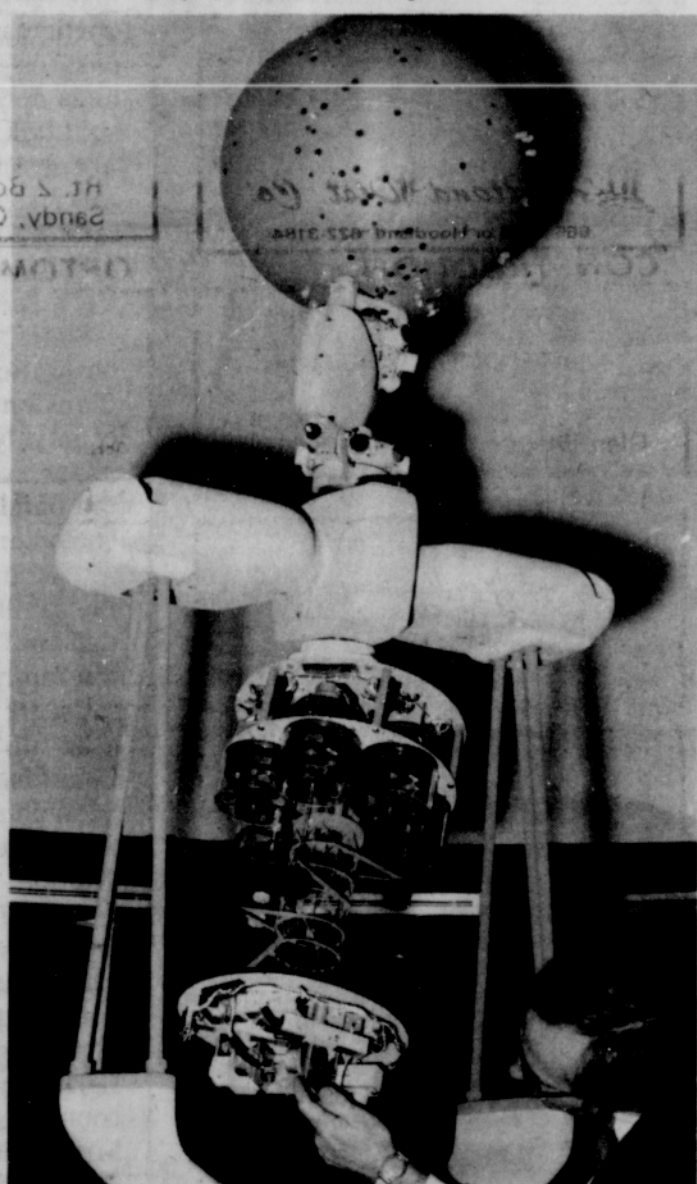
with thousands of tiny holes and projects the night sky in the planetarium. Motto of Planetarium Director Bob Anderson is: "Have astronomy, will share."

amateur astronomer from Portland, built the telescope at the new observatory for a fraction of what it would have cost had it been purchased outright, Anderson said.

Anderson himself majored in mathematics and physics with a minor in chemistry and earned his masters in physics at Minnesota in 1963.

He has worked in astronomy almost ever since and spent four years developing a planetarium in Brockport, N. Y.

He joined the Mt. Hood staff in 1971, about eight months after the planetarium was completed.



DELICATE INSTRUMENT used to simulate stars and planets on MHCC's planetarium dome gets close scrutiny from Bob Anderson, planetarium director. Planetarium shows are arranged for any-and-all groups interested in the stars.

Peach sprays due

Get the jump on the new year by spraying that sickly peach tree now advises OSU horticulturists.

It isn't a matter of choice but a necessity to prevent peach leaf curl, the fungus disease noted for killing peach trees by destroying the leaves new par.

Wilbur W. Burkhardt, area extension agent says leaf curl infections start sometime during the month of December or January depending on weather conditions, when millions of tiny spores sticking to buds are spurred into action by the same factors causing peach buds to swell and burst the coverings.

Once the bud covers are broken, spores grow just enough to gain a foothold in the tissue destined to become the leaves next spring.

Following the normal blossoming leaves appear only briefly before taking on a thick distorted shape characteristic of peach leaf curl.

At the onset of the visible effects, the date is too late to

halt the infection with any action.

Recommended sprays for prevention of peach leaf curl must be applied Dec. 15 and repeated again on Jan. 15 to halt the infections and save the tree.

All peaches are susceptible and require spray to remain healthy.

Spray materials currently approved include lime sulfur, polysulfide, fixed coppers and bordeaux.

Details for timing, mixing sprays and other essentials necessary to keep the home orchard healthy are available in bulletin form according to Burkhardt.

Copies are obtained by writing to "Sprays," Box 1261, Portland, 97207.

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