

THE MERRY-GO-ROUND OBSERVATORY

PAA Monthly Presentation

Rick Stankiewicz

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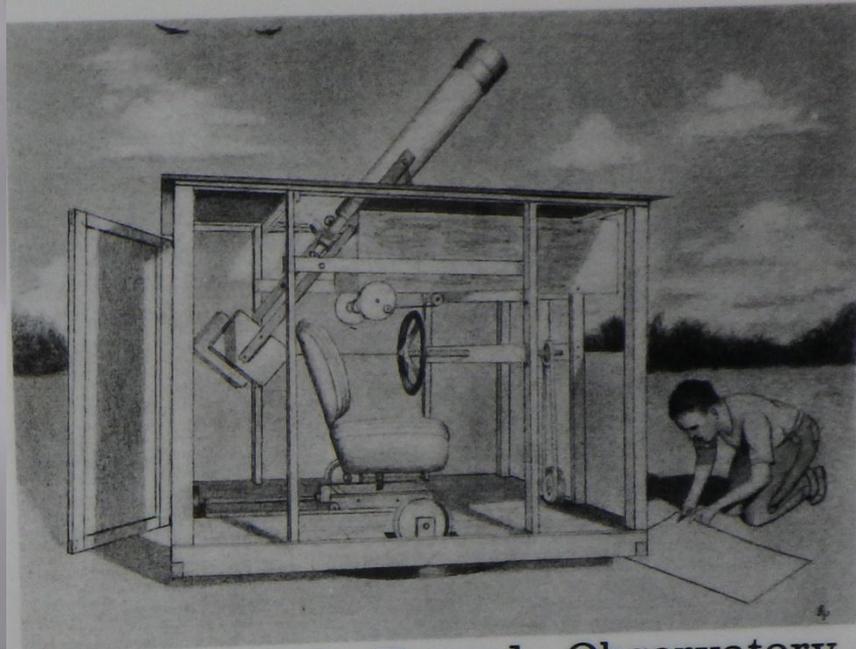


The Ideal Personal Observatory

- ▣ Small/Compact
- ▣ Versatile
- ▣ Comfortable
- ▣ Easy to use/operate
- ▣ Efficient and effective
- ▣ Portability
- ▣ Cost effective

What is a Merry-Go-Round Observatory?





The Merry-Go-Round Observatory





He swung open the door. On hot summer nights it is held ajar by the pressure of a down-bent portion of the edge of the metal roof; in winter weather it is kept shut by means of a simple hook and eye. Everything about the observatory is unpretentious, often improvised. The “dew shield” at the end of the telescope is merely a sheet of corrugated cardboard held loosely around the barrel by a strand of wire. It can be slipped out of the way when the telescope is lowered into the box observatory and the opening in the roof is closed to make the interior watertight.



George Lindbloom AAVSO

I peered inside. Just within the door one half of the front seat of a junkyard automobile had been mounted behind the eyepiece of the telescope. I eased myself into this seat and looked around the crowded interior. The counterweights on the telescope were pieces of lead from a discarded battery. Just in front of my knees there rose a steering wheel salvaged from another junked automobile. I turned it and the whole box of the observatory began rotating on small flanged wheels that followed the circle of a single rail mounted on the concrete foundation. Above my right hand a disk of wood carried a knob at its edge. Winding this disk elevated or depressed the end of the telescope. Elbow-high on my right, a shelf held a loose-leaf book of star maps and jottings on the backs of envelopes beneath a ten-watt photographic safelight in a crook-necked lamp. This faint illumination is all that is needed for making notes, and it does not affect Peltier’s eyes sufficiently to upset his judgment of the comparative brilliance of distant stars. I slid out of the seat and walked back to the house. That evening, as soon



Where is it now?





*1960s Leslie and his Merry-Go-Round observatory
at Brookhaven Delphos, Ohio*



Leslie Peltier's Accomplishments

- ▣ Creator of the Merry-Go-Round Observatory
- ▣ Author of an autobiography "Starlight Nights"
- ▣ Discoverer of
 - 6 novae
 - 12 comets (2 co-discovered)
 - 132,123 variable star observations(mostly using his Merry-Go-Round Observatory)

The world's greatest (non-professional) astronomer!