

When I was a young kid the family lived on a farm in the central part of Texas, not far from the small town of Belton.

The summers were very hot and many nights we would sleep out side to take advantage of ~~out~~ the cool breezes if there were any.

The nights were generally clear and very dark. The stars seemed to be very close. This is what was intriguing to me and was the basis of many question that come to my mind. My Grand father visited us quite frequently and was a source of information for me. He was a man who never failed to answer a question regardless of the subject.

It was not ~~very~~ long after I began watching the stars - moon etc. that it appeared that some of the answers that I had got did not fit the observations very well.

Now things were getting more mysterious and the answers more mysterious.

I was now about 8 years old. And Halley's Comet came along and really fouled things up good.

I was now in school and began bombarding the teacher with a lot of question that he did not even try to answer.

So I was now out on a limb and no where to go.

We moved to a different community and school district. The school employed the teachers, so I started to bombard them with a collection of questions that they thought could not have any answer.

There was a storage room with a locked door that apparently few go in.

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One day I noticed the door was open so I went over to take a look. Much to my surprise there was a man in there looking through a bunch of boxes etc. I could see some very interesting things on a shelf in the back.

The man let me come in and have a look. Believe it or not the interesting little gadget was an ORRERY. A wall chart near by explained the workings of the stars. I began to ~~realize~~ know few of the previous answer that I had collected was correct. I mean got to see in the room again. As the years passed I gradually picked bits of information that begin to fit together and make sense.

It was after I had grown up and was on my own that I met a man that had studied astronomy at ~~Howard~~ Howard.

He and I eventually became good friends. He had an Observatory but in the County South of Ft. Worth Texas at his summer home.

I visited him several times and learned of several other amateur astronomers in the Central Texas area.

The telescope that was in his Observatory was a 5" Brashear refractor loaned to him by Howard.

I had not come in contact with the reflector telescope yet.

After quite a long time I heard of an elderly Preacher who had built several reflecting telescopes. After many tries I was able to contact him and finally went to visit him.

He had built three reflecting telescopes
a 6 in 8" and a 10". Their quality
in general was very poor as
compared to the 5" refractor from Harvard.
I was not yet able to find any
information as to how to grind and polish
a lens or mirror.

The optical people that I had contacted
were extremely reluctant to divulge any
information on how to make lenses &
etc.

Amateur telescope makers were far and
few between.

I was finally able to borrow an old
book from a friend that was sort of
a history of some of the old telecopes
and lens makers.

This book was quite a revelation to me
because it discussed the different methods
used by some of the more successful
ones.

After studying their methods I decided
that I would give it a try.

I managed to get hold of a 6" dish and
the necessary abrasives etc.

After many months of experimenting I
began to see some results. After a
few more months I had found a
way to test a mirror. This enabled
me to make a 6" F10 mirror that appeared
to be fairly good.

After I had mounted it in a tube and
made a tripod for same I would take
it out on the side walk to try it.

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one evening a car drove by and suddenly stopped and backed up. A middle aged man got out of the car and came walking over. As he approached he asked if I affected to him looking at my telescope.

I told him that I did not affect. As the conversation continued I found out that he had made a 6" reflector telescope also but its performance was rather poor poor as compared to a refractor.

After looking through reflector it became almost impossible to get him away from it.

Finally he said - That is the best reflecting telescope that I have ever seen. It rivals a refractor in some respects. He said.

The result ended up by me having to make him one.

From then on for several years I found my self practically in the telescope business.

I became listed as a professional in 1946 and operated the Astro Telescope Co. in Glendale Calif for several years.

I quit when it dawned on me that all work & no play was making me a dull boy.

NOTE The books on telescope making came into existence about the time I made my first one.

Hope you can read this

George

PULL ME
FOR MORE
IF NEEDED
GEORGE