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# Telescope used for total eclipse

**United Press International**  
GOLDENDALE, Wash. — Goldendale, a farming town, population 2,500, just east of the Cascade Mountains, looks like an unlikely spot for an observatory that draws astronomers from all over the world.

But because its telescope is one of the largest in the world available for use by amateurs, the observatory has members from throughout the Northwest, including Canada, and is frequently visited by amateur astronomers from elsewhere, including Europe.

"They read about us in astronomy publications and some who have the money have come here just to use the telescope," said Terry Tolan, assistant director of the observatory.

Most amateurs, he said, have telescopes of only four to 10 inches. Any others, 18 to 20 inches or larger, are owned by universities or research institutes and are not available for amateur use.

Goldendale is on U.S. Highway 97, a two-lane route, 30 miles off Interstate Highway 80N, which runs along the south bank of the Columbia River in Oregon. Despite being off the major tourist routes the observatory will have an estimated 13,000 to 14,000 visitors this year.

A good share of the observatory's 300 members plus amateur astronomers from throughout the world are expected to crowd into the observatory and its grounds Feb. 26 for the last total eclipse of the sun to be visible in the United States this century. A few professional astronomers, including some from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, also will be there because the Goldendale Observatory is dead center in the path of the eclipse.

Tolan said about 1,200 persons are expected to view the eclipse from the observatory and its grounds. In addition to the big telescope, the observatory's 10 smaller portable telescopes will be available for use by visitors and an additional 20 to 30 small telescopes will be supplied by Brad Myers, of Issaquah, Wash., a major maker of telescopes.

The crowd also will include people taking advantage of observatory-arranged bus tours from Portland 100 miles southeast of

Goldendale.  
The Goldendale Observatory's 24½-inch telescope was built by amateurs and was put in Goldendale almost by accident.

The builders were four retired residents of Vancouver, Wash. W.K. McConnell, now 79, one of the four, said they began work in 1963 with the idea of presenting the telescope to Clark Community College at Vancouver. All had mechanical backgrounds and an interest in astronomy.

"We got no encouragement at all from the experts," McConnell recalled.

Tolan said when the men got the instrument built seven years later Clark College found it couldn't afford to build the facility needed to house it. So McConnell and his partners — John Marshall, now 74, Don Connor, now 74, and O.W. VanderVelden, now deceased, began looking for a home for their prize.

They went east of the Cascades because there are more clear nights there than west of the mountains. "When we came to Goldendale we stopped for lunch," McConnell said.

They told a waitress in the cafe what they were looking for and she told her husband, a member of the City Council. He arrived to see the telescope to Goldendale.

The city put in \$25,000, corporate donors provided \$25,000 and the Economic Development Administration put up \$156,000 to build the observatory. The observatory was completed in 1973 and the city said Tolan, it sat unused for three years for lack of operating funds.

Opened in the summer of 1976, it has an annual budget of \$25,000 all raised through memberships, admission and use charges and donations, Tolan said. Director William Yantis, who has degrees in astronomy and physics from the University of Washington, is the permanent employee.

Tolan, whose degree is in geology from Portland State University, joined the staff about a year ago and is scheduled to remain until the eclipse. In the summer, when the number of visitors increases the staff grows to three or four and one more will be added for the eclipse period.

Tolan said the observatory staff isn't worried about having 2,000 people on the grounds for the eclipse. "We figure we could handle 2,000," he said.

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## 'Thin life' frightening for overweight people

**United Press International**  
TORONTO, Canada — Studies by a New York psychologist suggest seriously overweight people may find a life of thinness frightening — so much so that many who shed excess pounds later gain weight for a more comfortable life.

Dr. Sandra Haber says her studies showed people who lose great amounts of weight experience anxiety about their relations with members of the opposite sex, with their spouses, with their friends and even with their own image of themselves.

She says her findings came as a surprise. "Subjects felt that when they were heavy, they knew exactly what choices they could make and the few options that were open to them were clear," Ms. Haber said in a paper presented at the American Psychological Association.

"As they became thin, many new possibilities appeared, from physical activities to new interpersonal relationships. Subjects felt torn between the different choices that were suddenly available and they often found themselves wrestling with decisions that never needed to be considered before."

Obesity is a health epidemic, with 80 million overweight people in the United States alone, Ms. Haber said.

She said for most overweight people obesity remains a condition resistant to treatment, subject to relapse "despite attention from doctors, psychologists and others."

Ms. Haber's studies focus on people who lost a minimum of 100 pounds each in a medically supervised weight program.

"These subjects showed a tendency to have been obese in childhood and were chronically obese by adulthood. The obesity often occurred in conjunction with problems in adjustment," she said.

"More surprising, however, that subjects expressed feelings about their weight. While they reported feeling content and rebirth, they expressed anxiety about the possibilities that being thin sent."

Many subjects expressed over their new, slimmer selves, Ms. Haber said.

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