

Re: Quick cup o joe w John Dobson

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On Tue, 28 Nov 2006 01:45:37 -0800, in sci.astro.amateur you wrote:

Being the "Astronomer of Fairfax" has its moments. This afternoon, John Dobson, returning from a day trip to a Nicasio, CA school passed through town and joined me for a cup of tea.

I can say he is looking fit and fine at 91, quick to crack a joke, unrecanting in his opposition to the big bang, and full of tales from his recent first trip to Germania.

During his travel in Europe, he left Germany briefly while driving through a corner of France, then re-entered Germany. He told everyone thereafter that this was "my second trip to Germany".

On the language:

"Everyone spoke English to me. But I remember a little German I picked up about 75 years ago."

On telescopes:

"We built a 25" telescope and hauled it up to Ukiah. One fellow who was to care for it left it out in the rain. It didn't do too well. He turned it into one of those truss-type scopes. I don't know where it is now...People said the dobsonians don't have good optics, and I reminded them that dobsonian is the mount. It doesn't have optics."

As the sun dipped below the Fairfax ridgeline, he said "It's going to be dark soon. I have to get out to 9th and Irving (in San Francisco). There's a nice first quarter moon I can show people." Then he was off to San Francisco, where the temp is getting very chilly these evenings, to do four or five hours of sidewalk astronomy. At 91, that's one hard-core sidewalk astronomer.

Bravo!! Another person in their 90's still working and pursuing their dreams. Of note, Daniel Shorr recently turned 90 and is still active. . . contributing almost daily at NPR.

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Martin R. Howell
Worldwide Amateur Astronomers

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