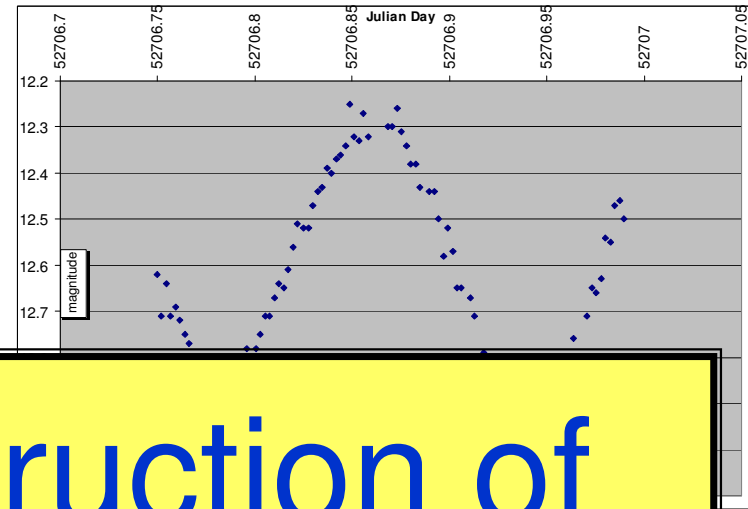
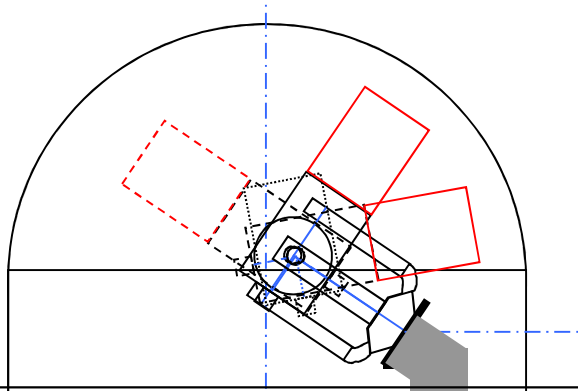
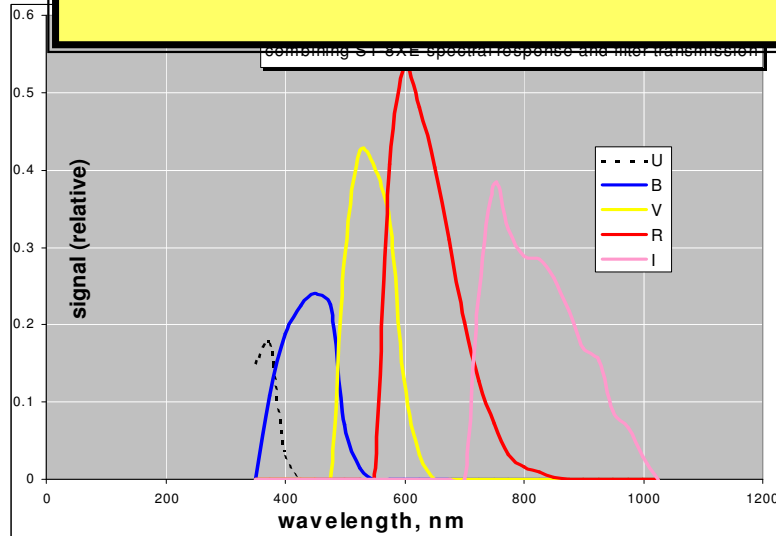
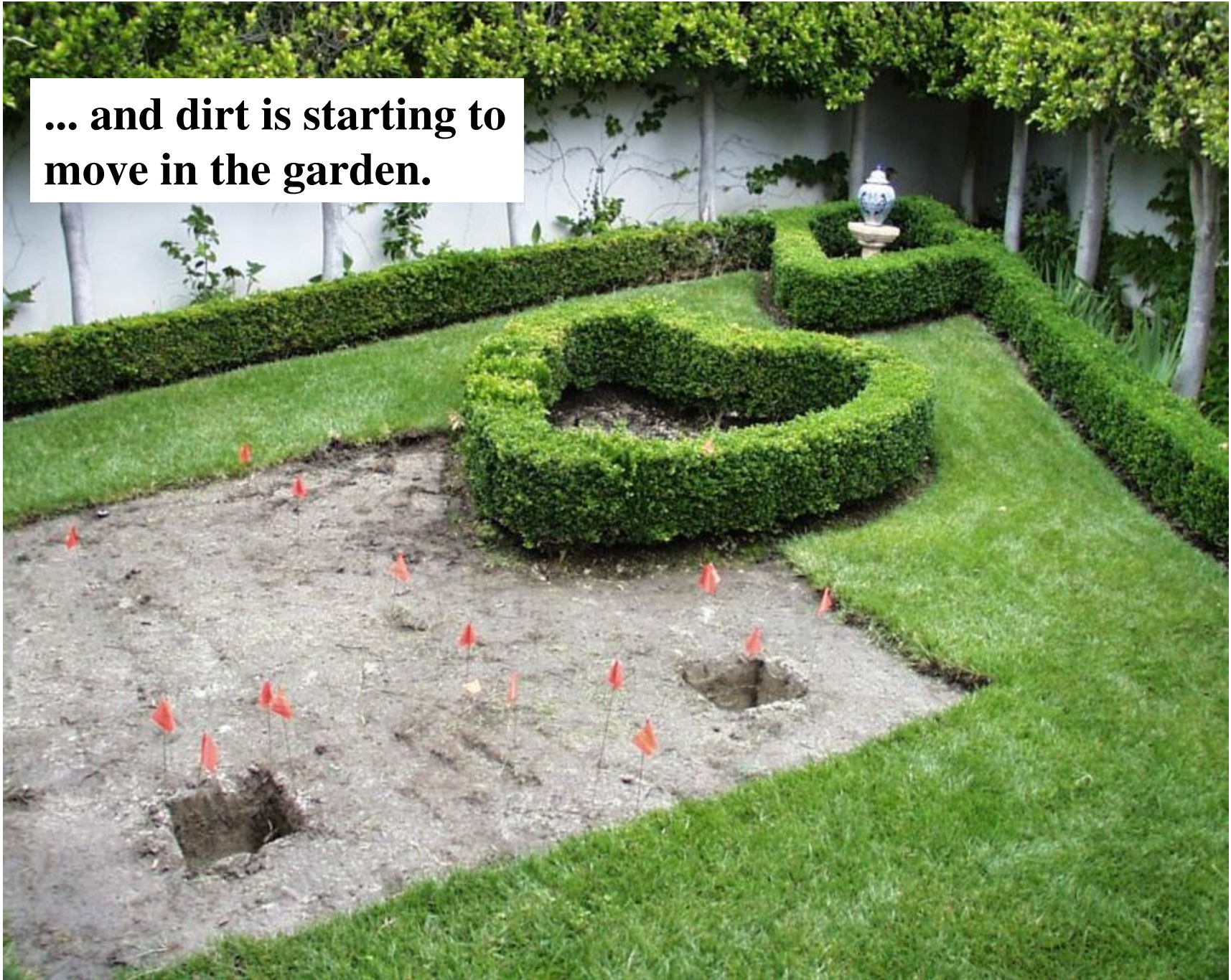




The Construction of Altimira Observatory



**... and dirt is starting to
move in the garden.**



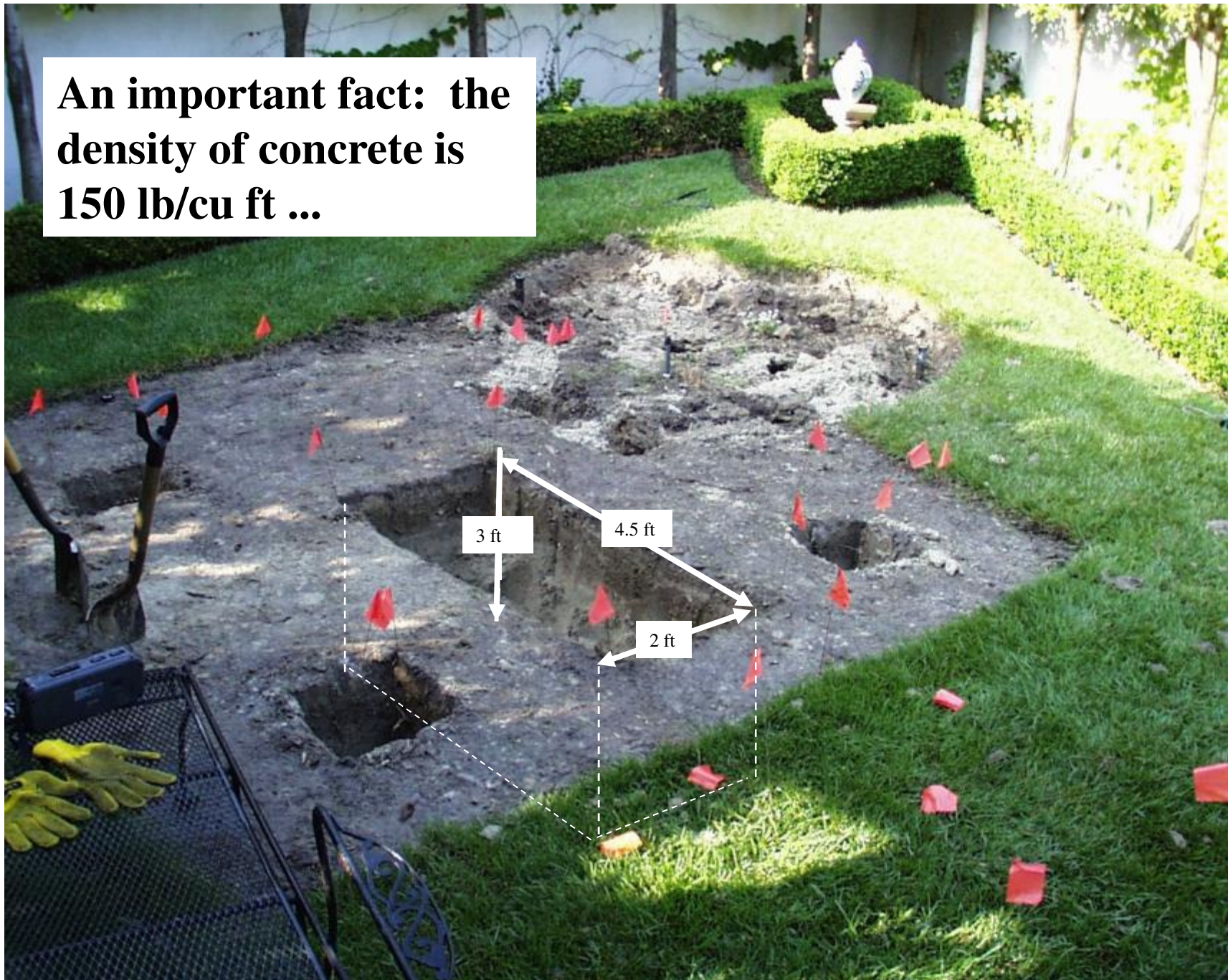
**Shall we name it the
“Broken-Heart
Observatory” ?**



**If the Iraqis strike
back, I'll jump into my
fighting hole...**



**An important fact: the
density of concrete is
150 lb/cu ft ...**



Concrete Day (June 26th 2003)

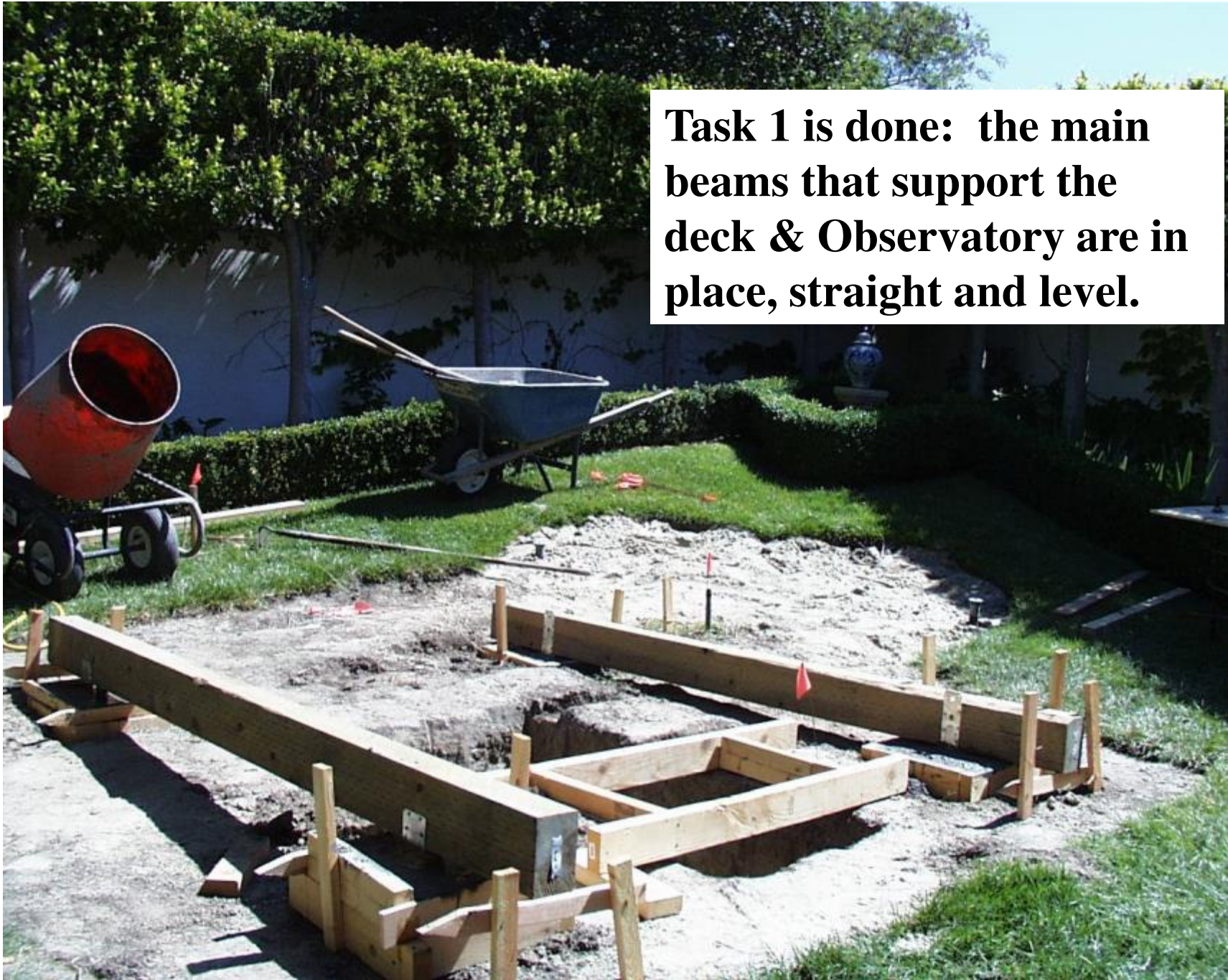
The framing is in place,



and Jason prepares
for the first bag.



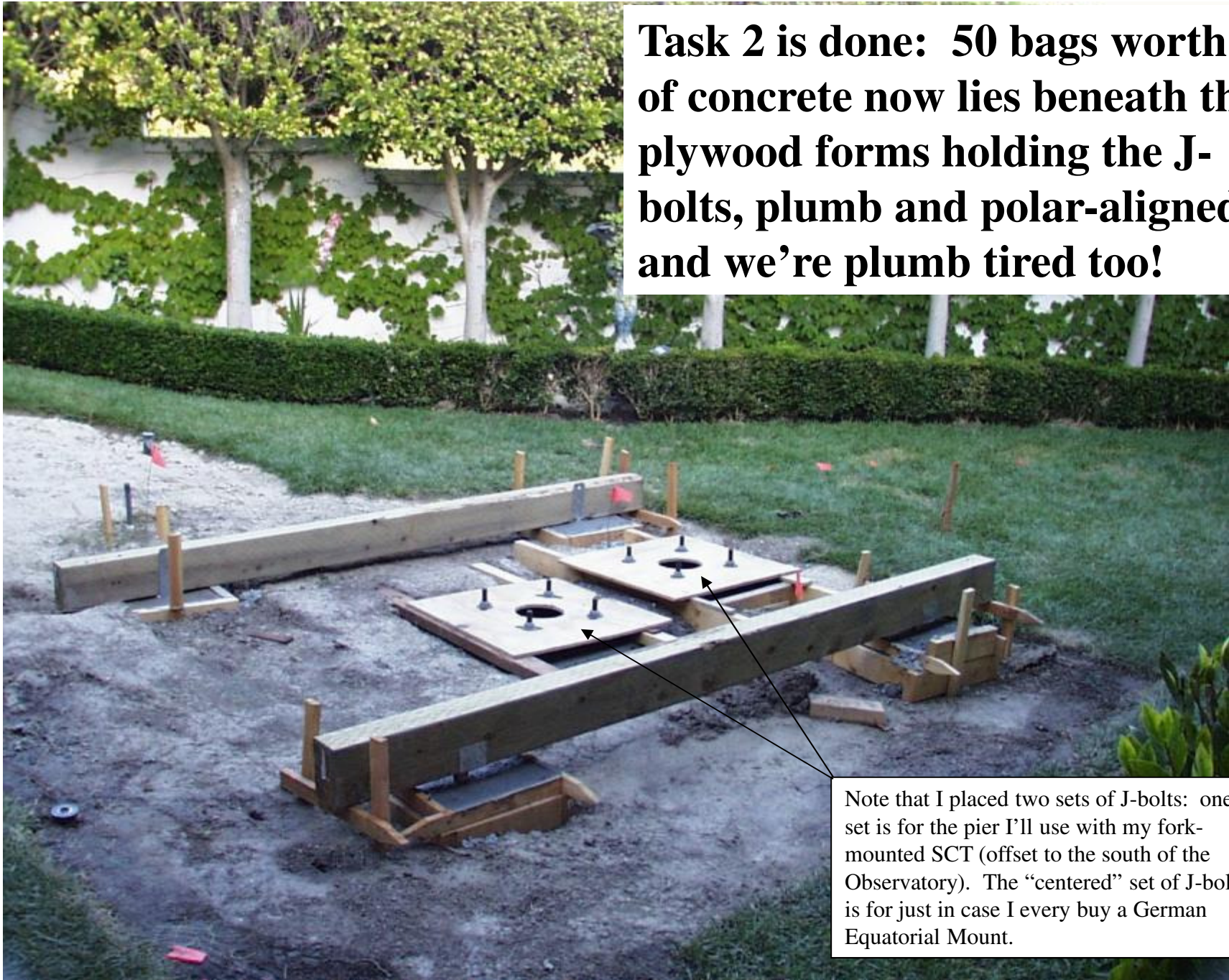
Task 1 is done: the main beams that support the deck & Observatory are in place, straight and level.



**A couple of hours later,
Jason is still smiling
(but there are still 50
bags to go)**



Task 2 is done: 50 bags worth of concrete now lies beneath the plywood forms holding the J-bolts, plumb and polar-aligned; and we're plumb tired too!



Note that I placed two sets of J-bolts: one set is for the pier I'll use with my fork-mounted SCT (offset to the south of the Observatory). The "centered" set of J-bolts is for just in case I every buy a German Equatorial Mount.

**Gary Schones has
completed the (very
heavy!) pier**



The pier is erected!



**My neighbor says we
should name it
“Steamboat Willy”**



Finished!



Oh, Eileen decided that she liked a slate-color stain. Now it's *really* finished, and awaiting the dome.

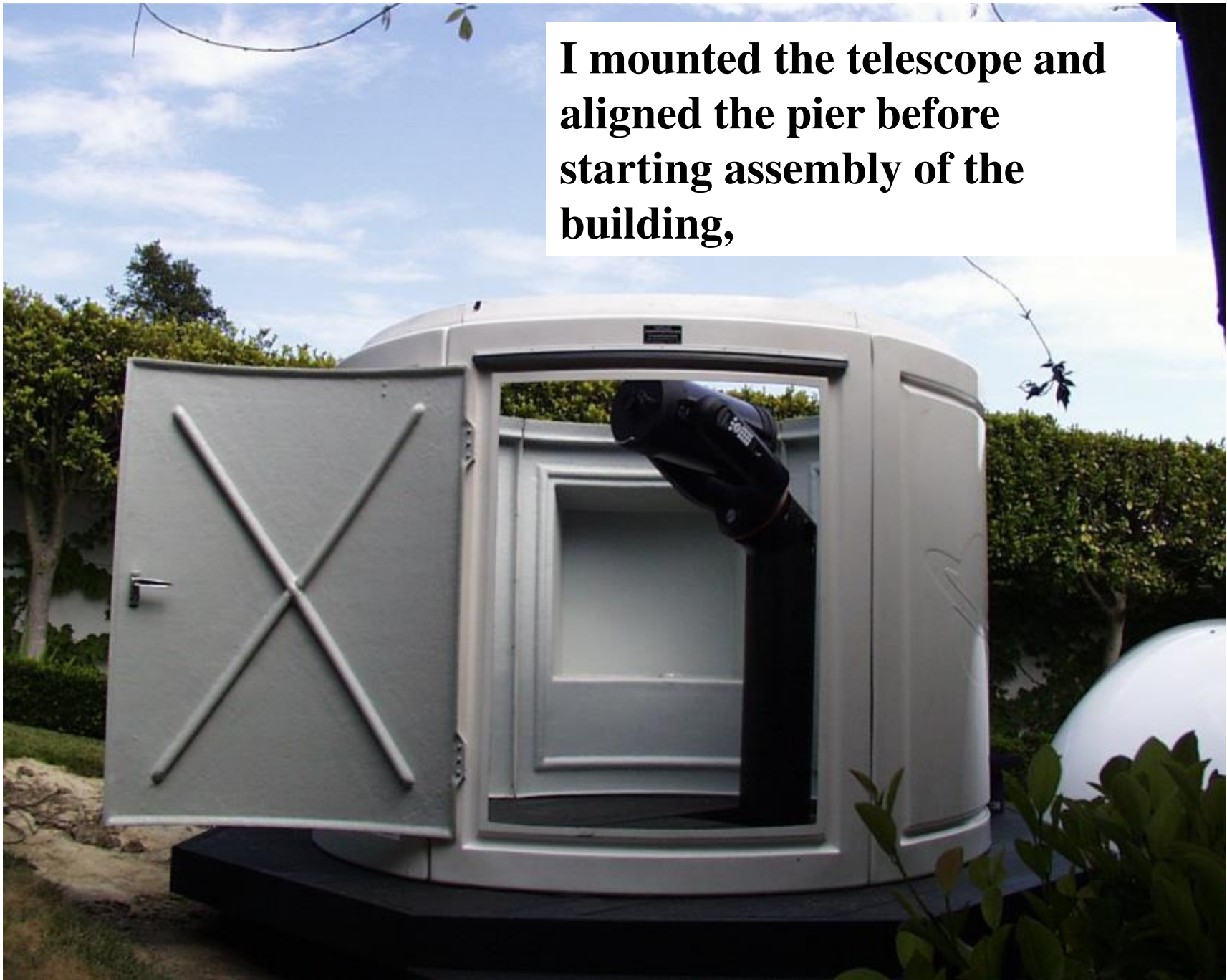


You can (almost) see the trap-door that can be removed if I ever swap for a centered pier and a GEM.

**And, hard as it is to believe
from this view, it really is
level!**



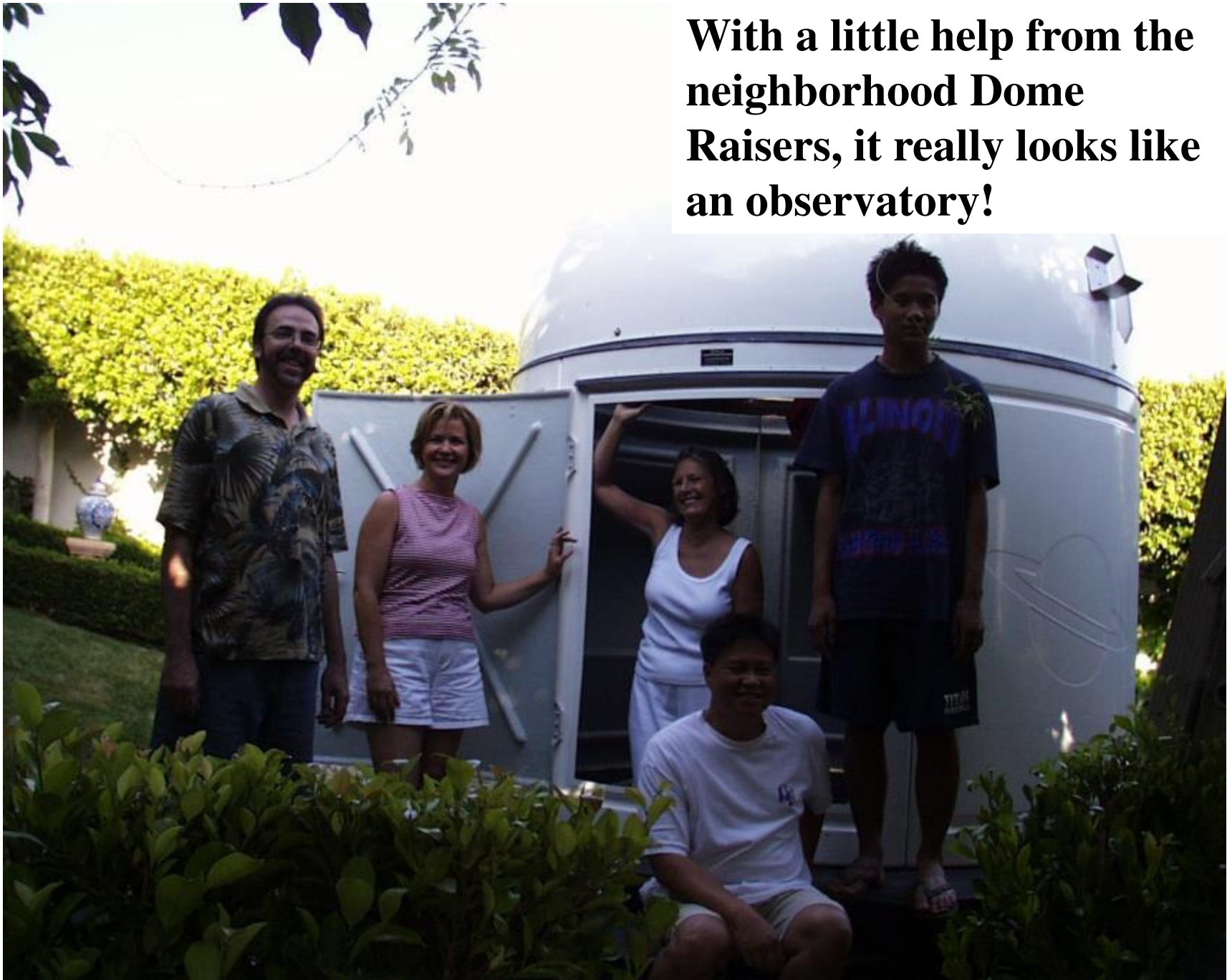
**I mounted the telescope and
aligned the pier before
starting assembly of the
building,**



Assembling the two halves of the dome turned out to be very simple.



**With a little help from the
neighborhood Dome
Raisers, it really looks like
an observatory!**



**A beautiful addition to
Eileen's garden!**





**The interior
decorating is still a
“work in progress”.**

**It has comfortably
accommodated 3-4
visitors at a time
for visual
observing.**



Special Thanks to:

- Eileen Buchheim

OCA Members:

- Russ Sipe
- John Hoot
- Barbara Toy
- Greg Pyros
- Gary Schones
- Michael Schwartz
(Tenagra Observatory)
- Doug McClintock
(Sirius Observatories)
- “The Altimira Dome-
Raisers”

Now it's time to
start observing!



**This is how the weather patterns are altered,
after you've built your new observatory!**

