



# STARDUST

Published Monthly  
by the Edmonton Centre of the  
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

Vol. 7, No. 8

May, 1961

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May promises to be an eventful month for our Edmonton Centre. Not only will it bring to an end our first and most successful season associated with the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium; but it will also see our first attempt at a large public star night. Why a star night? It seems our treasury has seen better days, and since there is a distinct possibility of our being host to the 1962 Convention of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, (incidentally the first time in the west) we may need to tax our financial resources in order to stage the biggest and best convention the R.A.S.C. has ever seen. We know we can do it, but we feel the "STAR NITE" will materially help our cause.

The month of May will see two meetings of the Centre - both important and unique. Our regular meeting on May 11th, Thursday, will be turned into an R.A.S.C. Workshop, for the purpose of organizing and finalizing plans for our "STAR NITE". At our last meeting in April, group chairmen were chosen to handle specific areas of the program of events. With their astute leadership and your co-operation next Thursday, it can only mean money in the bank. Our bank!

To top off an exciting month, Dr. R. M. Petrie, Dominion Astrophysicist and director of the D. A. O. in Victoria, will deliver a lecture on some of the far-reaching aspects of the work done at this large and modern observatory. Many of our members will remember his visit to our city in 1956. Dr. Petrie will be accompanied by his wife, the former Dr. Jean MacDonald of Edmonton.

## THIS UNIVERSE OF SPACE

by Dr. Peter M. Millman

Just a reminder that the fourth talk in this series will be broadcast Monday evening, May 8th at 10:30 p.m. on CBX or CBX-A. Don't miss this talk on "The Sun". The physical structure of our sun, its relation to, and effect upon the earth is discussed. (These lectures have not been affected by Daylight Saving Time)

#### NATIONAL PRESIDENT TO VISIT

The Edmonton Centre will be host to the Dominion Royal Astronomical Society President, Dr. R. M. Petrie, who is the Dominion Astrophysicist, and the director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria.

The highlight of Dr. Petrie's stay will be a lecture, Saturday, May 27th, at 8:00 p.m. in the Planetarium. His topic will be: The Astronomical Distance Scale, and all members are urged to attend. The lecture is being opened to the general public, but priority is being given to R.A.S.C. members.

#### THE CALGARY CENTRE

On a recent trip to Calgary, Earl Milton met with Bruce Bohannon, Sam Litchinsky, Bob Nelson and Jim Wright of the Calgary Centre. They discussed current observations in Calgary and in Edmonton; Radio Communications between our two centres; and of course, "STAR NITE". Since the meeting, there have been attempts nightly to make contact on Amateur Radio, in hopes of establishing permanent communication between Edmonton and Calgary. Fred Jensen and a non-member, Ted Hart, have put a great deal of time into this project here in Edmonton, and we'll be waiting for news of their success.

A number of the Calgary members will be on hand May 19th and 20th to give their much-needed assistance on "STAR NITE". Final arrangements with the Calgary centre will be made when Earl, Franklin Loehde and Ian McLennan attend their next meeting, Wednesday, May 10th. Anyone wishing to join the group journeying to Calgary is more than welcome. Contact Ian at the Planetarium - G15-0119.

#### BON VOYAGE

One of the pillars of the R.A.S.C., Mr. S. F. Page, retiring Assistant Secretary, is about to embark on a well-deserved holiday abroad. He will journey throughout Israel, then be joined by Mrs. Page in Germany, to travel throughout Europe. The services of both Mr. and Mrs. Page will be sorely missed in the Centre during their travels, but we will be anticipating their return, in hopes of perhaps some news of astronomical activities in the various countries.

#### NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The time has come to select a new executive for the forthcoming year, and a Nominating Committee was chosen at the last meeting. The Committee is comprised of Dr. D. R. Crosby, Professor E. S. Keeping, Mr. Bill Cable, and Mr. Jim Harrington. The first meeting will take place immediately before the general meeting and workshop, Thursday, May 11th.

STAR NITE - May 19th & 20th

Plans for Edmonton's first "STAR NITE" have begun taking shape, with six meetings on committee levels held up to the present time. Most of these meetings have dealt with final details on the program of events, although a very important feature of the entire program will concern displays set up outside the Planetarium, where "STAR NITE" is being held.

Any members of the Edmonton Centre who have pictures, models, or any other kinds of display material that might be useful during "STAR NITE" are asked to contact either Fred Jensen, G14-3427, or George Williams at the Planetarium, G15-0119.

As you probably have heard by now, the regular May meeting of the Edmonton Centre will be devoted entirely to formulating final plans for "STAR NITE". Anyone interested in working on this project is urged to attend. In addition, volunteers will be asked to act as guides, and to help out in other respects, on the two "STAR NITES".

At the last meeting held April 13th, the following members assumed duties in these fields:

Procuring telescopes:	Robert Allin	Planetarium:	Ian McLennan
Drafting program:	Bill Cable	Projectors:	Alex Stockwell
Displays:	Fred Jensen George Williams	Telephoneing:	Peggy Jensen Adrienne McLennan
Troubleshooter:	Bill Cable	Promotion:	Ian McLennan

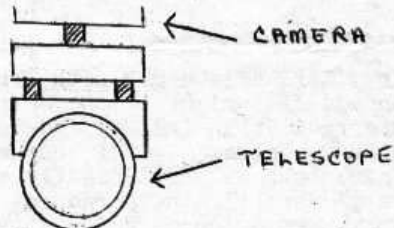
As we said, plans are shaping up nicely, however, much work remains to be done, in order to make "STAR NITE" a complete success. If all goes well weather-wise, this project should earn a considerable amount of money for us, not to mention the prospects of stimulating wider interest in astronomy, and bringing the R.A.S.C. into the public eye on a much greater level than ever before attempted.

I. C. McLennan

ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY - Bill Cable

Last month, I listed four ways of making photographs with your telescope. Let us deal with the last method - attaching your camera to the telescope tube.

The diagram is a very simple mount and will, I hope, serve to start your own ideas. The curve matches your tube and should have a rubber lining to prevent slipping; it is held on by rubber bands or light springs, and a deck is glued to the top



that your camera is tied to, or a bolt is counter sunk through the deck and fits the tripod socket of your camera. Set the camera at infinity and on time exposure and guide. This is best done by using your highest power and setting your guide star out of focus, so that it is a large but distorted image in the field and therefore, much easier to keep centered.

Practice guiding to become familiar with the motion, then try your camera.

Do not try exposures over 5 minutes. This should be long enough to record the major stars in the constellations.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Despite the fact we have no Observatory, many of our members are carrying on the tradition of old. Our two Walters, Macuk and Scheurman have been doing admirable work all winter in the regular observing of the Aurora Borealis.

As a matter for the record, Walter Scheurman, on his farm east of Ponoka, has actually recorded more shimmering displays this winter than our so-called "veteran" Aurora observers. May they long continue in their fine work.

F. C. Loehde



A.A.V.S.O. SPRING MEETING

The 50th American Association of Variable Star Observers Spring Meeting will be held at the National Research Council in Ottawa, May 26th to 28th, 1961.

Anyone wishing to attend, must have their registration card in to the Secretary of the Ottawa R.A.S.C., Mr. A. A. Griffin, c/O The Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, before May 22nd.

DELINQUENT FEES !!

Anyone who has not yet payed their Membership Fees, is urged to do so at the Workshop Meeting, Thursday, May 11th. Let's bring our records up to date!

STARDUST ARTICLES

Do you have a "beef" or "bouquet"? A few suggestions?? A timely article or two?? Features may be submitted for "Stardust" up to the first of each month, at the Planetarium. Why not bring items for the next issue, to the forth-coming meeting!