



Stardust

Monthly Newsletter
of

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
OF CANADA

Edmonton Centre

September, 1964

MEETING NOTICE:

The regular monthly meeting of the Edmonton Centre, R.A.S.C., will be held Thursday evening, September 10th at 8:15 pm, in the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium.

As there will be many decisions regarding STAR NIGHT, September 18th and 19th, involving the general membership, there will be no guest speaker. There will, however, be a film screening, giving members an opportunity to preview one or two of the excellent documentaries the Centre has acquired for STAR NIGHT showings.

In addition, there will be a featurette presented by Mr. David Rogers of the Saskatoon Astronomical Society (now living in Edmonton) of this summer's remarkable displays of noctilucent clouds. The talk will be devoted to a review of the Saskatoon group's methods of observing the unusual night-time clouds, and will be illustrated by a number of slides taken by professional photographers during the displays.

President Jensen is asking that all members who can possibly attend this important meeting do so - as it will be the last gathering of the membership before the opening of STAR NIGHT. Duties will be assigned to those members wishing to participate in STAR NIGHT activities.



STAR NIGHT, 1964, is the most ambitious project to be undertaken by the Edmonton Centre to date.

Plans for the extravaganza are now in their final stages - with displays from several parts of the world now en route to Edmonton for the space-age showing. Most notable among the contributors to STAR NIGHT are the N.A.S.A., Washington, the McDonnell Aircraft Company, St. Louis, and various departments of the Government of Canada - particularly those responsible for the administration of the major observatories of this country.

The STAR NIGHT committee is now working on publicity for the event; posters and leaflets are being distributed to various parts of the city, and tickets have been mailed to a number of R.A.S.C. members in the hope they can be sold prior to STAR NIGHT's opening, September 18th.

Members and friends of the R.A.S.C. are urgently requested to volunteer their services - either for assistance in the final planning stages, or in the active participation of the two-night show.

Franklin Loehde is the 1964 STAR NIGHT chairman.



INCORPORATION: At the August meeting of the Edmonton Centre, a quorum of members voted on, and accepted, the proposed changes in the Centre's constitution after extensive revision of the existing documents by the vice president, Dr. H.W. Taylor, and past president Franklin C. Loehde.

The adoption of the new constitution was of paramount importance due to the considerable financial involvement of the STAR NIGHT programme. A copy of the new constitution has now been forwarded to the Society's national office for approval by the Centre's parent body.

MRS. J.W. CAMPBELL: On the occasion of her seventy-fifth birthday, a number of members of the Edmonton Centre recently gathered at Molson's Edmonton House to pay tribute to this very dear friend of our Society.

Mrs. Campbell's interests in the R.A.S.C. date back many years to the time when her late husband, Professor J.W. Campbell was one of the guiding lights of the Edmonton group. In recent years, members of the Centre have come to regard Ruby Campbell as an exceptionally warm and friendly personality, and as a person keenly interested in the world surrounding her.

Following the presentation of an inscribed silver tray, Mrs. Campbell addressed the intimate gathering, and passed on a few tips on how to stay young. It SOUNDED easy, but



EDMONTON CENTRE ANNUAL MEETING: We are pleased to announce that arrangements for a speaker for the Centre's annual banquet meeting in October have now been completed.

The speaker on that occasion will be Professor Henry E. Elder, director of the School of Architecture, University of British Columbia, who will address our group on "the Influence of the Cosmos on Architectural Expression Through the Ages". It promises to be one of the most stimulating topics discussed in recent years in our Centre - not only from the point of view of the subject material, but also from the quality of our speaker: Professor Elder is renowned as a speech-maker.

The executive and council of the Edmonton Centre have extended an invitation to members of the architectural profession in Edmonton to join us on that occasion. The president of the Edmonton chapter of the A.A.A., Mr. Lord, has indicated that the response to this proposal should be quite considerable. Letters have been sent to various banquet halls and restaurants in Edmonton requesting quotations on dinner menu and meeting facilities. Answers to these letters will be discussed at the September meeting.

The banquet meeting will be held on Thursday evening, October 22nd.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Deliberations are now underway by the Centre's nominating committee, concerning a proposed slate of officers for the 1964-65 term of office; the members of the special committee are F. Jensen (ex-officio); E.S. Keeping; D.R. Crosby; and F.C. Loehde. Members will have the opportunity of nominating individuals from the floor at the banquet meeting. (It's never happened before, but there's a first time for everything!)

The death of a long-standing member of the Edmonton Centre, Mr. Henry Dykesly, is recorded. Mr. Dykesly was born in 1913, and spent many years in Edmonton as a blacksmith. Although not active in the routine affairs of the Edmonton Centre, Mr. Dykesly would often attend some of the Society's special functions.

He was particularly interested in the Centre's search for a meteorite which was believed to have landed in Lake Wabamun about ten years ago.



Wright

McLennan

Beck

At the August meeting of the Edmonton Centre, Ian McLennan described a number of impressions of a recent whirlwind tour of European observatories, planetariums and planetarium manufacturing plants. One of the two observatories visited in East Germany, was the Karl Schwarzschild Observatory - located in the Thuringian Forest near the 1,000 year old town of Tautenburg, 14 miles north of Jena. Here, the world's largest Schmidt telescope is housed.

Mr. McLennan was accompanied on the tour by Jim Wright of the Calgary Centre, pictured at the far left, with Dr. Hans Beck of Carl Zeiss, Jena, manufacturers of the impressive telescope, (right.)

Other points of astronomical interest inspected on the tour were planetariums at London, Paris, Jena, Oberkochen, Nurnberg, Munich and the Hague.

Messrs. Wright and McLennan were responsible for conducting a careful inspection of planetarium projectors for the proposed Calgary Planetarium. The Zeiss/Jena projector was chosen.

A complete write-up on the Tautenburg Observatory appears in SKY AND TELESCOPE, May 1964.

CENTENNIAL NEWS: Members of the R.A.S.C. across Canada will welcome the announcement of Premier Robarts of Ontario regarding his province's Centennial project: It will be a five million dollar science and technology centre, to be built in the Don Mills area of Toronto.

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING: The next National Council meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada will be held in Toronto, September 19th. Members wishing to bring special business to the attention of the Society are requested to contact Ian McLennan.

I.A.U.: Several Canadian astronomers are winging their way home this week following the meetings in Hamburg, Germany, of the International Astronomical Union. Among several Canadian delegates were president Dr. K.O. Wright and immediate past president, Miss Ruth J. Northcott.

OBSERVATORY PROJECT: Representatives of the Edmonton Centre are to meet with a civic group at the end of September regarding possible financial assistance of the Centre's observatory project. It is hoped that a favourable announcement can be made in October - although our project is but one of several competing proposals under consideration by the directors of the fund in question.

SPACE-AGE TRAILER: With the current up-surge of interest in space-age activities, it is not surprising to witness many adaptations of rocket and satellite designs in some of our every-day conveniences. Be that as it may, it was still rather amusing to see this creation parked outside the planetarium one day this summer. Franklin Loehde (third from left) inspects the unique trailer - which features, among other things air conditioning, refrigerator, beds, electric lights, and water tanks located inside the rear fins. Where else?



SUMMER OBSERVATIONS: With the extended hours of twilight during the summer months, not to mention rotten weather, observations of sky phenomenae have been reduced to a depressing low. However, a number of notable observations were made in certain specific fields: The Perseid Meteor shower in mid-August proved to be one of the best in years with nearly 200 separate sightings recorded in slightly over an hour - west of Edmonton. A number of observers, looking for an elusive comet, made a possible sighting of a decaying satellite streaking across Edmonton skies. (Eldon Rogers is still attempting to determine the actual identity of the satellite.) Fred Tauber recorded a meteor flash on photographic film. A considerable number of Draconid meteors was observed by Bill Cable. Noctilucent clouds were observed on two occasions. Ian McLennan observed a rare phenomenon known as the green flash - while on a polar flight from Amsterdam to Edmonton, August 3rd - perhaps the first time the flash has been recorded by an airborne observer. And Susan McLennan, at the age of 22 months, recognized the moon!

STARDUST MAILING LIST: Due to excessive costs entailed in the production of your monthly newsletter, the Edmonton Centre Council has decided to strike from the mailing list, the names of those persons who have not paid their fees for the current year. Regrettably, this will be the last issue mailed to outstanding members.

Early risers toward the middle of September will be interested in observing the elusive planet Mercury, which will make a favourable appearance at about 18 degrees above the eastern horizon at dawn - with greatest elongation scheduled for the 18th.

For some weeks, the planet Venus has already been a spectacular object in the early light of dawn, rising about three hours before the sun.

For a breeze of morning moves,
And the planet of Love is on high,
Beginning to faint in the light that she loves,
On a bed of daffodil sky.

- Tennyson,
(1809 - 1892)

S T A R D U S T -

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On a bed of daisies sky.

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