



Stardust

Monthly Newsletter
of

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
OF CANADA

Edmonton Centre

November, 1964



Harry Taylor
A spirited leader.

ELECTION OF 1964 - 65 OFFICERS:

At the Centre's annual banquet meeting October 22nd, a new slate of officers proposed by a past presidents' nominating committee was adopted by the membership.

Dr. H.W. Taylor, the Centre's 1963 - 64 vice president was elected president. He succeeds Fred Jensen, who, at the conclusion of his presidential report at the banquet meeting, turned the meeting over to Dr. Taylor. (A complete report on the banquet is presented on page two.)

The following is a complete list of the 1964 - 65 executive and council of the Edmonton Centre, R.A.S.C.:

Honorary president, Prof. E.S. Keeping,
President, Dr. H.W. Taylor,
Vice president, William Cable,
Past president, Fred Jensen,
Secretary, (Mrs.) Adrienne McLennan,
Treasurer, Edward Kenney,
Editor, Ian McLennan,
Dir., Educational Activities, Franklin Loehde,
* Associate Editor, Walter Franiel,
* Ass't., Educational Activities, Eldon Rogers,
* Observers' Representative, Gary Finley,
Social convenor, (Mrs.) Peggy Jensen,
Member-at-large, Dr. G. Cumming.

* - denotes unofficial members of council.

MEETING NOTICE: The regular monthly meeting of the Edmonton Centre, R.A.S.C. will be held Thursday, November 12th, 8:15 pm, at the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium. New members of the Centre's council will be introduced during the business portion of the meeting.

There are two interesting features slated for the November meeting: The first is an excellent color documentary film produced by the Douglas Aircraft Company, California, on the DC-8 jet flight over the North West Territories July 20th, 1963, on the occasion of the total solar eclipse. This famous airborne expedition was jointly sponsored by Douglas and the National Geographic Society. Following presentation of this film, Eldon Rogers will present a discussion on amateur satellite tracking. Among the features of his talk, will be a demonstration of special tracking computers - designed by Mr. Rogers when he was director of the Calgary Centre's MOONWATCH program.

A preview of the MARINER 4 spacecraft to Mars will be presented as a featurette.



Professor Henry Elder, speaker - supreme, director, School of Architecture, U.B.C., and technical adviser, Calgary Planetarium.

EDMONTON CENTRE BANQUET:

On Thursday, October 22nd, members and friends of the Edmonton Centre gathered at the Caravan Motor Hotel for the Society's 1964 banquet meeting. In addition to the astronomers present, a number of Edmonton and district architects and their wives were in attendance, due to their interest in the evening's guest speaker.

Professor Henry Elder, director of the School of Architecture, University of British Columbia, delivered an address on the "Influence of the Cosmos on Architecture through History".

Professor Elder's wit and humor added greatly to the enjoyment of his discourse on the possible subtle influences that universal concepts of the day may have had on architectural expression. With a number of excellent illustrations, he provided some thought-provoking examples of various architectural

forms and treatments - relating them to discoveries such as the Kepler laws of planetary ellipses. At times during his talk, one could scarcely believe that cosmic interpretations could possibly have caused striking experiments in, say, building layouts, and yet, the carefully selected slides supporting Professor Elder's observations were not to be denied. To say the least, it was an intriguing aspect of the histories of both astronomy and architecture. We hope more research on this subject will follow.

Professor Elder was introduced to his appreciative audience by Ian McLennan, and at the conclusion of his talk (after urging architects to become astronomers) was thanked on behalf of both groups present, by Mr. George Lord, chairman of the Edmonton Branch, Alberta Association of Architects.

THE EDMONTON OBSERVATORY:

Once again, the proposed Edmonton Public Observatory and Space Sciences Museum is in the news:

On Friday, November 20th, the Edmonton Centre, R.A.S.C. will present its brief to the Civic Employees' Welfare Chest Fund, urging that group to adopt the observatory as its Centennial project.

Directors of the Fund have indicated a possible expenditure of \$90,000. for a worthwhile project. Meanwhile, the Centre's new treasurer, Edward Kenney, a solicitor in the City of Edmonton Legal Department, has executed an application to the Department of Taxation, Ottawa, requesting that donations to the observatory project be tax deductible.

The Centre may request a grant for the observatory on the basis of a possible research program involving a new "moon-blink" scope, designed to detect color changes on the moon. As this possibility is only at the discussion stage, members are urged to submit their ideas.



Retiring president, Fred Jensen, in reviewing the year's activity, stressed the important role our group continues to play in encouraging wider appreciation of the wonders of space-age discoveries. STAR NIGHT is the most notable program of public education sponsored by the R.A.S.C.



Edward Kenney

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II OBSERVATORY



It is confidently expected that completion of the Queen Elizabeth II Observatory will mark the opening of a new era of achievement for Canadian astronomers and will ensure Canada a place in the van of nations during the period of great advance in the physical sciences.

Lester B Pearson

Lester B. Pearson

O T T A W A
1 9 6 4

Our October issue reported the preliminary announcement that Canada will construct a major astronomical observatory in the name of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, to honor her recent visit to Canada. Since that time, news of the observatory development has swept across the nation, and in fact around the world. We are pleasantly surprised at the overwhelming, enthusiastic response the announcement has raised from the general public; and although we expected our astronomer friends across Canada to be overjoyed with the success of their proposal, one can detect (in their correspondence) a new feeling of excitement, as Canada, once again, takes its place among the foremost nations contributing to man's understanding of the Universe.

Recently, the prime minister's office announced the findings of a group of astronomers who have spent two year's investigating possible locations for the observatory. The Queen Elizabeth II Observatory will be located at the top of a rugged, flat-topped mountain in south central British Columbia, about 25 miles south of Penticton. It is called Mount Kobau. Mount Kobau, 6,200 feet above sea level and more than 5,000 feet above the adjacent river valleys, is a huge plateau eight miles long and two miles wide.

The main instrument located in the observatory will be a \$9,671,000., 150 - inch telescope, sketched above. It will not be in use for six or seven years - the time estimated for completion of the mammoth construction job.

The land upon which the observatory will be built is owned by the Government of British Columbia, and has been made available for the observatory development at no cost. The choice of location was entirely technical: Factors involved in the decision included, absence of local dust, moderate extremes of temperature, little auroral activity, few moving weather fronts, generally clear skies and low rainfall.

Dr. Taylor, incoming president of the Edmonton Centre has suggested as a spring project for our members, a group visit to the proposed observatory site - complete with small telescopes - and a visit to the White Lake Radio Astrophysical Observatory near Penticton, pending arrangements to be made with the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.

Members wishing to discuss this proposal will be asked for suggestions at the November meeting of the Edmonton Centre, Thursday night.

- * Members of the Edmonton Centre are joining amateur astronomers all over North and South America in preparations to observe an eclipse of the moon, December 18th. Preliminary plans call for a public observing session at the planetarium, with R.A.S.C. members acting as hosts. This program will commence at 6:00 pm, and will be presented in conjunction with the planetarium's STAR OF CHRISTMAS show, in which a lunar eclipse helps determine the date of the first Christmas.
- * The STAR OF CHRISTMAS show is almost completely designed now, and will begin Dec. 1st. This popular presentation features an explanation of the various scientific theories regarding the appearance of the star of Bethlehem. Motion picture projection facilities are now being installed in the planetarium theatre, and will be used for the first time during the presentation of the Christmas show.
- * Dr. Richard Glover of the National Museum, Ottawa, recently was in Edmonton discussing plans for a National Planetarium in the capital city. The Edmonton Centre, earlier this year submitted a resolution to the Government of Canada urging the construction of a national planetarium.
- * BILL CABLE and IAN McLENNAN have both reported seeing bright fireballs during the current Taurid Meteor Shower. Mr. Cable's observations were made Nov. 5th and 8th; Mr. McLennan observed a spectacular (mag., -3) flaming red meteor at 7:25 pm, Sunday, Nov. 8th, moving from east to west across the southern sky. As George Williams says, "A torrid Taurid."
- * Congratulations are extended to MR. AND MRS. PAUL HOFER of the Edmonton Centre on the birth August 11th, of a 9 lb., 5 oz. baby boy, John Dee Darrell.
- * We have received a note from LYNNE TRAINOR, a past president of the Edmonton Centre, now associated with the University of Toronto. Lynne presented a paper this summer to the International Conference on Nuclear Structure in Paris, and spent some time in Britain and Copenhagen. He is now president of the Toronto Branch of Exchange of Political Ideas on Canada. Now there's a subject to talk about!
- * WALTER STILWELL of the Calgary Centre is currently on leave from his University post, and is serving as adviser to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago under Canada's external aid program to developing countries.
- * BRIAN WILSON, also of the Calgary Centre, has an article in the latest JOURNAL of the R.A.S.C. regarding the International Conference on Cosmic Rays, Jaipur, India, which he attended last December.
- * RON McLENNAN is now living under the southern cross, at Townsville, Australia. Before moving there, he visited a magnificent private observatory near Sydney, owned by Mr. R. Beames. He was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Mulvaney while in the Sydney area. Mr. Mulvaney was the architect who designed the Edmonton Planetarium.
- * Our Regina friend, JOHN HODGES, was one of several Canadian citizens honored in Ottawa recently by the Governor-General with the presentation of the Order of St. John. Our sincere congratulations.
- * ISABEL WILLIAMSON writes from Montreal that their banquet meeting was also highly successful. Featured at that meeting was the Edmonton Centre solar eclipse film.
- * GEORGE WILLIAMS is currently conducting a number of astronomy courses for girl guides. Other members of the R.A.S.C. wishing to assist in this program are encouraged to do so.
- * One of our newer members, GARY SHEARMAN, is an expert on flying saucers - having done research into the history of their sightings, and the subsequent theories. He has agreed to participate in a discussion on this topic at a future meeting of the Centre.

Wake! For the Sun beyond yon Eastern height,
Has chased the session of the stars from Night,
And to the field of Heaven, ascending, strikes
The Sultan's Turret with a shaft of Light.

- Rubáiyát,
Omar Khayyám.

STARDUST, published monthly by
the Edmonton Centre,
Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

Editor, Ian C. McLennan,
Production, Walter Franiel.

* Members of the Edmonton Centre are joining amateur astronomers all over North and South America in preparations to observe an eclipse of the moon, December 18th. Preliminary plans call for a public observing session at the planetarium, which R.A.S.C. members are acting as hosts. This program will commence at 6:00 pm, and will be presented in conjunction with the planetarium's STAR OF CHRISTMAS show, in which a lunar eclipse helps determine the date of the first Christmas.

* The STAR OF CHRISTMAS show is almost completely designed now, and will begin Dec. 1st. This popular presentation features an explanation of the various scientific theories regarding the appearance of the star of Bethlehem, motion picture projection facilities are now being installed in the planetarium theatre, and will be used for the first time during the presentation of the Christmas show.

* Dr. Richard Glover of the National Museum, Ottawa, recently was in Edmonton discussing plans for a national planetarium in the capital city. The Edmonton Centre, earlier this year submitted a proposal to the Government of Canada urging the construction of a national planetarium.

* BILL CABLE and JIM McLENNAN have both reported seeing bright fireballs during the current Taurid Meteor Shower. Mr. Cable's observations were made Nov. 24th and 25th; Mr. McLENNAN observed a spectacular (mag. -3) flaming red meteor at 7:25 pm, Sunday, Nov. 22nd, moving from east to west across the southern sky. As George Williams says, "A fourth Taurid."

* Congratulations are extended to MR. AND MRS. PAUL HOBER of the Edmonton Centre on the birth August 11th of a 9 lb., 5 oz. baby boy, John Des Garrel.

* We have received a note from LYNE TRAINOR, a past president of the Edmonton Centre, now associated with the University of Toronto. Lyne presented a paper this summer to the International Conference on Nuclear Structure in Paris, and spent some time in Britain and Copenhagen. He is now president of the Toronto Branch of Exchange of Political Ideas on Canada. Now there's a subject to talk about!

* WALTER STILLWELL of the Calgary Centre is currently on leave from his University post, and is serving as advisor to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago under Canada's external aid program to developing countries.

* BRIAN WILSON, also of the Calgary Centre, has an article in the latest JOURNAL of the R.A.S.C. regarding the International Conference on Cosmic Rays, Jaipur, India, which he attended last December.

* RON McLENNAN is now living under the southern cross, at Townsville, Australia. Before moving there, he visited a magnificent private observatory near Sydney, owned by Mr. R. Palmer. He was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Murney while in the Sydney area. Mr. Murney was the architect who designed the Edmonton Planetarium.

* Our friend, JOHN HODGES, was one of several Canadian citizens honored in Ottawa recently by the Governor-General with the presentation of the Order of St. John. Our sincere congratulations.

* ISABEL WILLIAMSON writes from Montreal that their bander meeting was also highly successful. Featured at that meeting was the Edmonton Centre solar eclipse film.

* GEORGE WILLIAMS is co-ordinator of the other members of the Edmonton Centre. One of our newer members has joined the research in the field of astronomy. He has agreed to participate in a discussion at our next meeting. He has agreed to participate in a discussion at our next meeting.

STARBUCK, published monthly by the Edmonton Centre, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. The Sultan's Palace with a... Wake! For the Sun beyond you Eastern herald. Has chased the session of the stars from night. And to the field of Heaven, ascending, strikes.