



Stardust

Monthly Newsletter
of

**THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
OF CANADA**
Edmonton Centre

Summer, 1965

MEETING NOTICE :

The August meeting of the Edmonton Centre, R.A.S.C. will be held at 8:15 pm, Thursday, August 26th, in the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium. Our guest speaker on this occasion will be Dr. Thomas Vrebalovich, Photoscience Group Supervisor at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. A team of scientists and engineers headed by Dr. Vrebalovich, designed and constructed the camera components for the RANGER flights to the moon. They now are working on the Surveyor programme. Dr. Vrebalovich, who addresses the Calgary Centre the night before the Edmonton meeting, will show films of RANGER NINE, MARINER FOUR and Major White's "Walk in Space". Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

OBSERVATORY NEWS :

The Edmonton Public Observatory project came a big step closer to reality this summer, with a pledge of \$10,000. offered the Edmonton Centre by the Winspear Foundation, whose president is a well known Edmonton businessman, Dr. Francis G. Winspear. The money, to be paid in several installments, is to be used to purchase a telescope for the proposed observatory.

The Centre hopes to raise approximately \$70,000.00 through similar contributions, after which an attempt will be made to obtain public funds to complete the project. A board of trustees including Dr. Elmer E. Roper, M.E. Wolfe, Prof. E.S. Keeping, Ian C. McLennan and Eldon Rogers has been appointed by the Centre to administer the fund.



Francis G. Winspear

DEPARTURES :

* IAN McLENNAN has been appointed director of the proposed Rochester, New York Planetarium and August 18th, submitted his resignation to the City of Edmonton as director of the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium. The Rochester Planetarium will be a major planetarium development with a dome diameter of 65 feet, seating for 300, (future capacity, 500), and completely unique optical auxiliary equipment to be designed by major photographic and optical companies in the area. The McLennans will probably depart Edmonton in early November.

* DON and LINDA TEPPER left Edmonton for parts unknown at the end of July after spending a year with members of the Edmonton Centre. When settled, somewhere, the Teppers say they will correspond with their many new friends in the Edmonton area. Their introduction to the R.A.S.C. was last year at the Calgary - Edmonton observing party, and by coincidence, their last R.A.S.C. function was the similar session held this year at Gull Lake.

* HARRY TAYLOR, the Centre's 1964-65 president left Edmonton in mid-July for Toronto, where he joined the University of Toronto (Erindale College) in the department of physics. Several members of the Centre gathered at a restaurant in Edmonton before his departure to say good-bye to the Taylors. A painting of the downtown skyline of Edmonton was presented to the Taylors.

R.A.S.C. Service Award: At the June 3rd meeting of the Edmonton Centre, the Centre's honorary president, Prof. E. S. Keeping was presented with the coveted R.A.S.C. Service Award, by Prof. Helen S. Hogg, astronomer at The David Dunlap Observatory in Toronto. Prof. Keeping was nominated for the Award last year by the Edmonton Centre, and the medal was officially presented to the Centre at the General Assembly last May, in Toronto. Following presentation of the award, Prof. Keeping chatted with Mrs. J. W. Campbell (centre) and Prof. Hogg, who was in Edmonton for the second lecture programme in the city to be held under the auspices of the Royal Canadian Institute of which she is president.



Prof.
Keeping

Mrs.
Campbell

Dr.
Hogg

To The Edmonton Centre of The R.A.S.C.

Yours is the Centre of latitude highest,
Where horizon is widest and stars seem brightest.
You're on the fringe of the cold northwest,
But harshness of climate has not dulled your zest
To study the stars and look beyond earth,
Attain a perspective on things of real worth.

For thirty-three years you've met to observe,
Wates, Campbell and Milton have added their verve,
Keeping and Taylor, McLennan and Loehde
Have helped you to grow, and many another.

You've opened your 'scopes when the weather was raw
And the wind from the Arctic cut like a saw.
You've counted the meteors crossing your sight,
Not just the Perseids on a warm August night,
But Geminids too in bitter December.
Those are the nights you'll always remember
As well as the June nights, sweet and pretty
When fragrance of poplar hangs over your city.

You've joined with your neighbours, the Calgary Centre
In meeting together in common endeavour.
You've watched the aurora, its flickering eerie,
And your observations may help with a theory.
Now clouds noctilucent are on your agenda -
They're right at your door, you'll not have to wander
To study their colours and forms as they soar,
Sights we can't see in latitudes lower.

Yours were the efforts that brought the desire
That your city be first to acquire
A large planetarium in our land,
For teaching the stars, an instrument grand,
In a beautiful park, with zodiacal signs
Carefully wrought in mosaic lines
And thousands on thousands can there learn the sky,
Knowledge to cherish as years go by.

With your youth and age, your zeal and zest,
Your pressing onward for the best
That nature offers, it seems to me
You are "The true north strong and free".

*Helen Sawyer Hogg
on occasion of visit
to Edmonton Centre
June 3, 1965*

P.Z.T. for Calgary: Malcolm M. Thompson, Chief of Positional Astronomy at the Dominion Observatory in Ottawa was in Calgary recently to announce the location near there of a small observatory to house a Photographic Zenith Telescope - a precise instrument that records the passage of selected stars over the precise zenith point of the observatory. Observations made with the Calgary P.Z.T. will be compared, time-wise, with those made using similar instruments at Greenwich, England, and Ottawa. Long-term comparisons may show time changes that could result in proof for the theory of continental drift. Adrienne McLennan is shown here in the building housing the P.Z.T. now located at the Dominion Observatory in Ottawa.



NEWS NOTES :

- * Mrs. J. W. Campbell, a long-time member of the Edmonton Centre has donated the sum of \$100.00 to be included in the Edmonton Public Observatory building fund.
 - * The Centre's president, William Cable, along with other members of the R.A.S.C including George Williams and Robert Allin, have presented a series of lectures to outdoor study groups and youth camps. All three, on occasion, have travelled to Lake Wabamun, 50 miles west of Edmonton, to talk astronomy with scout troops and high school nature study classes. Robert Allin spoke to children at the Avonmore Playground, August 18th. This is a valuable educational service that many members of the centre could perform.
 - * Dr. Ian Halliday of the Dominion Observatory has sent several hundred reprints of ASTRONOMY IN CANADA to the planetarium for distribution to interested persons. The article is part of the 1965 CANADA YEAR BOOK, which, every few years, presents a concise review of the Canadian astronomical scene. Anyone wishing to obtain a complimentary copy may do so at the August 26th meeting, or may send a card to the planetarium and a copy will be forwarded by mail.
 - * Dave Rodger's UNIVERSE program on CFRN-TV continues to maintain a high standard of production quality, although Dave is disappointed in the lack of comment (positive or negative) about the show. Have you seen it? Fridays- 6:10 p.m.
 - * Harry Taylor has sent us a reprint of an article on Minimum Satellite Detection (Radio) Equipment, which might be of interest to some of the Edmonton Centre observers. A copy of it is at the planetarium.
 - * Which reminds us: Harry's parting shot before leaving for Toronto was an observation on recent discoveries of "Quasi - Quasars" which now make the astonishing Quasars seem old hat. Said he, "Things are getting 'quasier' all the time". Amen
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And is there glory from the heavens departed?
- Oh! void unmarked! - thy sisters of the sky
Still hold their place on high,
Though from its rank thine orb so long hath started,
Thou, that no more art seen of mortal eye.
Mrs. Hemans' The lost Pleiad

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STARBUCK: A monthly publication of the Edmonton Centre, Society of Astronomers of Canada. Editor: Ian C. McLean. Production: Walter Stewart.

