

Stardust

A Monthly Newsletter of the
Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Edmonton, Centre

MARCH, 1967

SEARCH FOR METEORITE CONTINUES



Dr. Lou Bayrock of the Research Council of Alberta left Edmonton March 5th in a new attempt to recover fragments of the fireball which blazed across the province Just before 7 PM on Sunday, February 5th.

As reported at the February meeting of the Centre, two tiny fragments of the meteorite were found north of Vilna, near Goodfish Lake. Dr. Bayrock estimates that these were blown a few miles south of the main impact point. He has determined that this is closer to the northeast corner of Whitefish Lake.

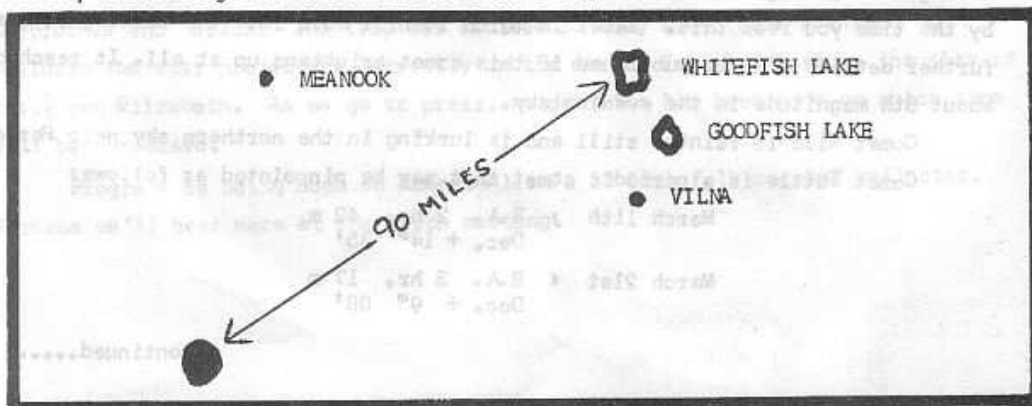
Dr. L. Bayrock

Tests on the fragments recovered so far have shown that the meteorite was a stony chondrite similar in structure to the Bruderheim meteorite which fell seven years ago this month.

John Howell of the Calgary Centre sent us a list of the people in that city and area who reported seeing the fireball. Almost without exception, they described it as travelling from southwest to northeast. This agrees with reports from the Edmonton area, including the siting by your editor who had a clear view of the spectacle from the back steps of the Planetarium. The only catch is WE ARE ALL WRONG ! The fireball was photographed by the all-sky camera at Meanook Observatory which showed it was clearly travelling from northwest to southeast.



John Howell



This month, our series on Edmonton observers and Observatories, presents the recently completed Centennial Observatory of Ralph Haeckel.

Ralph, who lives at 13323 140th street, was intrigued by the possibilities of amateur astronomy after seeing our last STAR NIGHT in 1965. He was a good friend of Angus Smith, whose observatory was featured last month. Since the two of them work together as well, it wasn't long until Angus's efforts to build his 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch telescope gave the spark of a similar idea to Ralph. The Centennial Observatory was completed just before New Years, 1966-67. It houses a six inch reflector beneath a manually-turned dome. As you can see, it's quite neat, easily accessible, and compact.



SIDERIUS NUNCIUS

A COVEY OF COMETS

After a cometary doldrum in the wake of Ikeya-Seki (1965) several new comets have been discovered in recent months. While none has reached naked eye brightness yet, perhaps we shall see one in the near future.

Comet Seki, the fourth one discovered by T. Seki of Japan, is currently moving through Pegasus and will probably be lost in the twilight glow of evening by the time you read this. Later in March it will move into the morning sky, and further details will be published if this comet brightens up at all. It reached about 8th magnitude in the evening sky.

Comet Wild is fainter still and is lurking in the northern sky near Perseus.

Comet Tuttle is a periodic comet that may be pinpointed as follows:

March 11th	:	R.A.	2 hr.	42 m
		Dec.	+ 14°	35'
March 21st	:	R.A.	3 hr.	17 m
		Dec.	+ 9°	08'

continued.....

PAGE THREE

If you want to hunt for comets, discovered or otherwise, low powers and wide fields are vital.

Incidentally, it was ten years ago this spring that dwellers in the Northern hemisphere were treated to the spectacle of Comet Arend-Roland.

Mars is prominent

Dont go rushing out expecting to see the canals with your three inch Tasco this Spring. On the other hand, if you have the opportunity dont pass up a visit to the Smith Observatory or the Planetarium during the few weeks this Spring that the red planet is in our sky.

With a three inch refractor or six inch reflector, the polar caps of Mars should be visible. If seeing is very good, you might also glimpse one or two of the most prominent surface areas such as the Syrtis Major or Atlantis.

If you plan to do your own observing of Mars, above all be patient. A few seconds of good seeing every fifteen or twenty minutes is well worth the wait.

Drawings or photos of Mars or Venus would be most welcome for use by STAR-DUST.

NEWS NOTES

Recent visitors to Edmonton include Ian McLennan, a former president of the Edmonton Centre and Planetarium Director, who sallied into town on his way from Cairo, Athens, Jena, Oberkochen, Rochester, Toronto and to Vancouver, Mexico City, Baton Rouge, and Rochester. Also visiting was Dr. Henry King, Curator of the McLaughlin Planetarium in Toronto.

Dave Rodger and Bill Cable are just back from a tour of planetariums in California and Nevada. The trip was devised so they would have a chance to evaluate the star projectors currently on the market for planetariums the size of the Queen Elizabeth. As we go to press, no decision has been made on which type will be purchased.

Progress is being made on Robert Allin's 10 inch folk mounted reflector. Perhaps we'll hear more at the March meeting.

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE EDMONTON CENTRE OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY MARCH 13th IN ROOM 262 OF THE CAMPUS TOWERS AT 8:15 PM.

THE SPEAKER WILL BE MR. ANGUS SMITH, WHO WILL DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF AN AMATEUR OBSERVATORY.

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME.

STARDUST IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT DURING THE SUMMER BY THE EDMONTON CENTRE, ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.

DAVE A. RODGER EDITOR
WALTER FRANIEL PUBLISHER