

# Stardust

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

January, 1968

An Edmonton Centre History- Thursday, January 11th Two of our most esteemed members Professor E.S. Keeping and Dr. D.R. Crosby will delve deeply into the dark(night of course) history of our Edmonton Centre. In the more than 35 years the Edmonton Centre has established a solid reputation for venturing into unknown and uncharted seas. Yes, seas! That was Operation W.H.A.M. back in the '50's. Not only was the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium, Canada's first public sky theatre, an idea fostered by the Edmonton Centre but so were many other equally successful projects such as North America's most extensive amateur observational program for the study of northern lights.

Messrs. Keeping and Crosby have been active members of the Society for virtually the entire span of the Centre's existence and know it well. They plan to illustrate their talk with color slides, photographs and reproductions of past work much of which has been invaluable to professional astronomers.



Observers' Group Meeting  
1955

Out of them 8 university degrees, a planetarium directorship and lifelong companionship.

### Visit with President Thompson

The highlight of the 1967 season for the Edmonton Centre was the visit of R.A.S.C. President Malcolm M. Thompson in December. Mr. Thompson easily captured the attention of the largest turnout for the year with interesting commentary and excellent colour slides depicting the time service of Canada. Liberally spiced with humorous anecdotes his address revealed how Canada and the Dominion Observatory has been in the forefront with advances in the very important science of timekeeping.

Of special interest to our members was the fact that the President had attended school in the Queen Alex area of Edmonton's South Side some 35 years ago where his father served as minister to the old Allendale Baptist Church. Conversations Mr. Thompson and our members recalled many old friendships and acquaintances. A thoroughly enjoyable meeting was the consensus of everyone.



Occultation Section The year 1967 was a most successful one for our occultation observers. Despite the usual problems with last-minute clouds our three regulars were able to secure no less than 37 separate timings. They all look forward to many more successes in 1968 and welcome fellow Centre members, who have telescopes, to join them and the Royal Greenwich Observatory in this important scientific work.

STARDUST Mailing List and Membership Fees This issue of our regular monthly newsletter will be the last received by those who have not paid the \$1.00 supplement for it. This and the regular dues are now payable to our Treasurer Don Cornborough at 9430-66 Avenue or at the January meeting. Student fees are \$3.50 and adult fees \$7.50.

R.A.S.C. General Assembly Calgary It's not too soon to remind members that our national convention will be held this coming May in Calgary. As Calgarians have always been excellent hosts we suggest that our Edmonton Centre members make plans to go to Calgary during the May long weekend. More news later.

OBSERVING NOTES by David Roles Alas, our latest observing party at the Devon Observing Site was about as successful as our previous one. Shortly after the telescopes were operational, the clouds came rolling in, thus putting an end to what might have been a promising evening. Clouds and cold weather seem to be the only real problems fouling up the observing parties. Let's hope that clear skies won't be too long in coming this year. Before those clouds came I did manage to spot a satellite fairly close to the horizon. Ralph tried to convince everyone that it was an aeroplane. I also managed to get an excellent view of the gas clouds around the stars of the Pleiades through Robert Allin's ten inch scope which was set for wide field viewing. The nebulosity veiling the stars of the "Seven Sisters" is sometimes observed, under ideal transparency, through binoculars but usually a telescope is required.

The Quadrantid Meteor Shower, the second most spectacular of the year, will be seen on the 3rd of the month emanating from between Bootis and the head of Draco. The Great Nebula in the Sword of Orion continues to be an outstanding feature of the winter skies.

For those interested in planetary observing, Jupiter rises late in the evening and remains visible all night. Planetary "bugs" might also be interested in the article on the planet Mars in the December National Geographic.

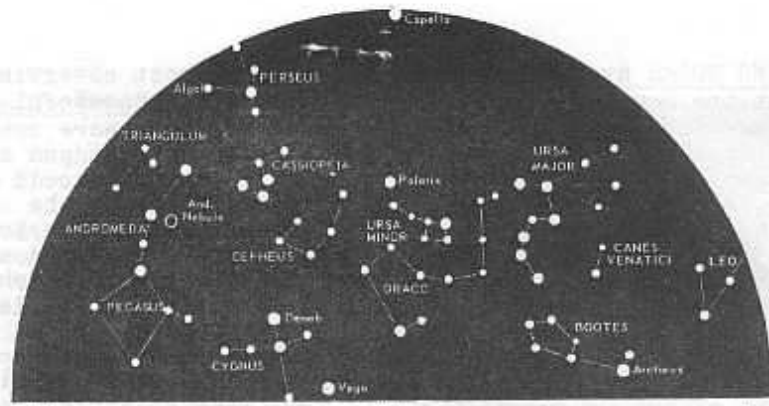
Let's hope that 1968 will be a rewarding and productive year as far as observing goes. Remember that observing success is generally a product of persistent and diligent observers. Observing reports, drawings and photographs sent to me will be mentioned at the monthly meetings and/or be included in STARDUST. Please remember to include the necessary facts such as date, time of observation and observer's name and address. My mailing address is 13807- 101st Street. Hope you all have a Happy New Year.

#### SKY CALENDER for January, 1968

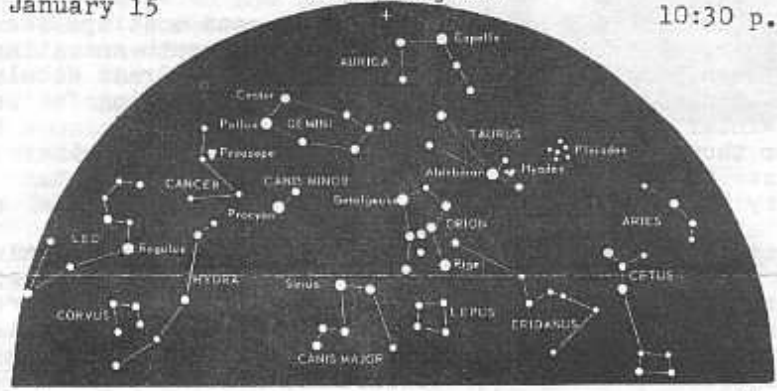
Wed	3rd	Quadrantid Meteor Shower	
Sun	7th	Moon First Quarter	
Fri	12th	Observing Party- Devon	19:00
Mon	15th	Moon Full	
Thur	18th	Jupiter 3° South of Moon	
Mon	22nd	Moon Last Quarter	
Fri	26th	Venus 6° North of Moon	
Mon	29th	Moon New	
Tues	30th	Mercury Evening Star	

Occultations listed in HANDBOOK

Planets:	Mercury-	In SW after sunset on 30th
	Venus-	In SE in morning sky
	Mars-	At sunset in SW
	Jupiter-	Rises before midnight
	Saturn-	Due south at sunset



W N E  
 January 15 Observer facing North 10:30 p.m.



E S W  
 Observer facing South

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TO:

Meeting  
 Thursday, Jan 11th  
 Rm. V107 Physics Bldg  
 University of Alberta