

S T A R D U S T

A monthly publication of the
EDMONTON CENTRE, ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
and the
QUEEN ELIZABETH PLANETARIUM

The next General Meeting of the Centre will be held in Room V 107,
Math.-Physics Building, University of Alberta at 8:15 pm on Monday,
November 18, 1968.

This meeting is delayed one week due to the November 11th long
weekend.

Guest speaker will be Mr. Scott Reid and his topic will be the
"Planet Earth".

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a great honor for me to serve as President of the Edmonton Centre for the coming year and I hope that I will be able to do as great a job as the Presidents have done in the past.

One of our new programs directly connected with the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium was launched on November 1st and it is off to a roaring start, details of which can be found in another part of this issue.

As Stardust will be available to many prospective new members who may be contemplating a telescope I urge you to consider building your own and you can be assured that the necessary technical information is available from us to complete your telescope.

I feel that I should remind you that Christmas is just around the corner and now is the time to order your gifts for your favorite Amateur Astronomer.

I hope to see many old and new faces at the November meeting.

Angus Smith.

ANNUAL BANQUET

The 1968 Annual Banquet was held on October 18th at the Bonaventure Hotel with 39 members and guests present. All enjoyed a fine smorgasbord dinner.

Dr. George Cummings introduced the guest speaker, Dr. J.A. Jacobs. Dr. Jacobs spoke on Geomagnetism, Gondwanaland and Genetics. His topic concerned the magnetic field surrounding the Earth, its origin in the Earth and the variations in its strength over various parts of the globe. Dr. Jacobs also discussed and illustrated with slides, they have discovered by studying rock core samples that the polarity of the field has changed at various times and for varying periods in the history of the Earth. Following his address Dr. Jacobs answered questions asked by those in attendance.

Annual Awards were presented for the first time to members of the Centre who did outstanding work in the fields of Messier Objects and Astro-photography.

McBain Camera Specialty Company have donated an annual award for Astro-photography. Mr. I. Millar, representing McBain's presented the award to David Roles for the excellent exposure sequence of the Total Eclipse of the Moon on April 12/13, 1968. Congratulations to Dave!!

Honourary mention was given to Brenden Veilleux for his photographs of Saturn taken with a telescope that he built.

The Messier award was given to Brenden for his fine drawings and description of these nebulous objects.

1968-1969 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Prof. E.S. Keeping headed the annual nominating committee of three and placed before the members a slate of proposed officers for the next year. The proposed slate was approved by the members and are as follows:

Hon. President	E.S. Keeping
Immediate Past President	R. Allin
President	A. Smith
Vice-President	D. Crosby
Secretary	R. Haeckel
Treasurer	B. Veilleux
Librarian	J. Hault
Editor of Stardust	W. Cable
Educational Activities	G. Cummings
Observers Representative	D. Bruner
Member at Large	Mrs. J. Rusch

OBSERVER GROUP Mr. D. Brunner

While activities for the new season are being planned and other programs continued, it has been agreed by several in the group that Friday night become "Telescope Night" at the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium.

Following the public program at the Planetarium the 10-inch reflector and other telescopes will be in position on the patio for those interested to view the many objects of interest. Naturally this is governed by weather conditions. However, once the program has been established a member of this group will be at the Planetarium regardless of the weather to discuss the methods and problems arising in telescope building, the care and maintenance of instruments with those wishing this information. We have several members who have constructed exceptionally fine instruments of their own and their knowledge will be valuable in assisting others.

AURORA OBSERVATIONS--Chris Gainor

Month	Nights of Aurorae	Clear without Aurorae	Cloudy without Aurorae
October	4	8	19

Observers: Chris Gainor and Brian Dowling

Within a few months, the Sun will reach maximum activity which means that Aurorae will likely reach maximum activity. This was demonstrated to our group of Planetarium observers November 1st, when a display stretched to all ends of the sky. If you wish to help us, phone me at 484-4980, or see me at the meeting. We need your help NOW!!

NOVEMBER SKY

The most attractive aspect of the heavens is that the Planets are becoming more prominent in the evening and morning skies. Mars and Jupiter are both prominent in the morning, rising about four hours before the Sun. Mars is moving into the Constellation Virgo and next month both Planets will be prominent in this Constellation.

Venus is once again a very majestic feature in the evening sky. The Planet is low in the southwest at sunset and because of its brilliance is an unmistakable object. The Planet Saturn is well placed for observing above the eastern horizon at sunset and is visible all night.

SPACE NOTES Prepared by the staff at the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium

The United States resumed their "man in space" program with the launching of Apollo 7 on October 11, 1968. Apollo 7 was under the command of Walter Schirra with Donn F. Eisele and Walter Cunningham as crew members. The 11-day orbital mission went well even though the crew suffered from colds. During the flight we had our first live look via television of an American space team at work. As a result of this success we could see Apollo 8 launched during December and carry the team to the Moon and back. However, a definite decision should be made by the 14th of November. All aspects of Apollo 7 are being studied to insure the safest program for Apollo 8 and could mean that we will see another Earth orbit mission.

N.A.S.A. will be launching an Orbiting Astronomical Observatory (OAO) around November 17th. This will be the heaviest and most automated Satellite developed by the U.S. to date. The Satellite will be ten feet tall, twenty-one feet wide and weigh 4,400 pounds. It will have 238,000 parts including eleven telescopes to study the ultraviolet region of the spectrum, clouds of gas and dust and several Planets. Young stars

will be studied in our Galaxy and some in the Andromeda Galaxy and Magellanic clouds may also be observed. To give you an idea of the capabilities of the Satellite it took 15 years and 40 sounding rocket flights to gather roughly 3 hours of ultraviolet data from 150 stars. OAO-A2 will gather twice as much data in 2 days and from much fainter stars. It will be interesting to see the results if the launch is successful.

PLANETARIUM

The Queen Elizabeth Planetarium is currently presenting the "Solar Winds" and it is a timely topic as we have on several occasions had an Aurora display in progress when the patrons are leaving the Planetarium.

Starting November 26th we will once again present the annual Christmas program "The Star of Christmas".

P L E A S E

If you wish to contribute an article or an observation report to Stardust, please have it in the hands of the editor no later than the 20th of the month if it is to be published in the next issue of Stardust.

William Cable,
Stardust Editor.