

S T A R D U S T

A monthly publication of the

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Edmonton Centre

MEETING:

Friday, June 20, 1969

Annual Picnic and Observing Session

Meet: Queen Elizabeth Planetarium at 7:30 pm.

Proceed to Devon Observing Sight.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 1969 General Assembly is now history and the Toronto Centre is to be congratulated for a job well done.

The registration which took place in the foyer of the beautiful McLaughlin Planetarium proved to be a good place for meeting old friends.

A National Council Meeting was held Friday afternoon in the lecture theatre at the Planetarium and this was followed by a Council dinner in Hart House at the University of Toronto. Friday evening the excellent displays at the Planetarium were open along with the displays by Centres and following the Planetarium Show "Mars, Planet of Mystery", a reception was held at the Planetarium.

Saturday morning the session for papers was held and as usual the subjects discussed were of excellent quality. Topics were "The Story of Stellafane"; "An Improved, Versatile, Inexpensive Astronomical and Chemical Spectrophotometer"; the "Planetary Nebula in M 15"; a "New Trick in Mirror Grinding"; the "Bologna, Italy Meeting of the I.U.A.A."; "Astronomical Manifestations in History and Scripture"; and "Solar Darkroom Techniques".

Saturday afternoon the annual meeting was held followed by the banquet in the Great Hall of Hart House and a tour of the Hart House collection of Canadian Art.

On Sunday afternoon we had a tour of Toronto and it would have been great if we could have shut off the light rain that was falling.

The Presidential address by Mr. Malcom Thomson, Past President was held at the McLennan Physical Laboratories on Sunday evening, followed by a reception and a tour of the Observatories on top of the Physical Laboratory. On Monday we had a bus trip to the David Dunlop Observatory, a box lunch and a trip to the McMichael Conservation Collection of Art.

To wrap things up, Monday evening there was a social hour and a buffet dinner at the Planetarium, followed by a Planetarium Show, "The Sun and Its Family."

As you can see it was a very busy time and we can all look forward to the 1970 General Assembly in Edmonton.

.....Angus Smith.

OBSERVER'S NOTES

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The Friday night meetings of the observer's group have been quite active since the Star Night.

An observing evening was held at Angus Smith's observatory with the weather clear and viewing good. The following Friday another one was held at Ralph Haeckel's observatory and I understand that about 9:15 pm the sky clouded over. However, both evenings were a success and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

The annual June observer's meeting and picnic will be held on June 20th. Bring your own refreshments. How about some parents coming along, we could well use your help with transportation. If you have a telescope by all means bring it. Please meet at the Planetarium at 7:30 pm. Phone Angus, Ralph or myself with reference to transportation. Hope to see you there.

.....Dave Bruner.

SPACE NOTES:

The flight of Apollo 10 was one of the most thrilling events we have followed in the space program. When Snoopy descended to within ten miles of the Moon you were able to feel the tension in all participating.

During the separation between the ascent and descent stage of the L. when the problem of giration began we saw the effect of the intensive training. There was no mistaking the tension in the voices of the Astronauts yet with this problem confronting them they still observed and returned information of Lunar features.

If we have felt that Apollo 8, 9 and 10 have had their tense moments for the astronauts think of Apollo 11. Try to imagin the feeling in the mind of Neil Armstrong when he sets foot on the Moon.

Mariner 6 and 7 are now over 20 million miles from the Earth. On the night of July 29th, thirty-three pictures will be transmitted of the Planets full disc. The two spacecraft will return 141 photos of Mars as they approach and 24 furface photos as they fly past.

PLANETARIUM NOTES

The Queen Elizabeth Planetarium is preparing for the summer program "Pathway to the Stars". This will be our annual 'space-age' show and will summarize progress in space since October, 1957.

Dave and John are working on a Lunar display and this will be featured during the summer.

If you have seen the current issue of the "Beautiful British Columbia" magazine you will agree that the Vancouver Planetarium is one of the finest, if not the finest structures to be found.

With summer a few weeks away we are all looking forward to the annual holiday when we leave the City for a couple of weeks and journey to the lake-side cottage, or travel farther afield, to see new places. While travelling you will find yourself in the country where the skies are clear and you will be able to enjoy a splendor not viewed in the City.

During July and August Jupiter will be low in the south-west at sunset and Mars will be found in the South. Saturn and Venus will be in the morning sky. Saturn rises around midnight.

Do not forget the annual sky spectacular, the PERSEID METEOR SHOWER. The peak this year is August 12th and the Moon is new.

On August 27th there is a Penumbral Eclipse of the Moon visible in North America but these are usually difficult to observe.

Happy Holidays!! We'll see you in September.

.....W.J. Cable