



Published Monthly
by the Edmonton Centre of the
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

Vol. 7, No. 2

November, 1960

NOVEMBER MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE PLANETARIUM

The first meeting of the Centre in its new headquarters will take place on November 10th, at 8.15 p.m., in the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium. This will afford an opportunity for those of our members who have not yet visited the Planetarium to get a look at the building as well as to enjoy a demonstration at the close of the regular session.

We expect to have a good representation of members from the Calgary Centre present, and would like now to assure them of a warm welcome by their Edmonton friends. In the regular meeting, a brief address will be given by Ian McLennan, who will afterwards give the planetarium lecture. Let us turn out in good numbers for this very special occasion.

Refreshments will be served as usual at the close.

ANNUAL MEETING On October 13 the members of the Edmonton Centre met for their annual meeting and banquet in the Corona Hotel. Reports showed that considerable progress had been made during the year, although our cash balance was down considerably from the previous year, due to unusual non-routine expenditure. At the meeting the offer of the City Parks Department to make its headquarters in the Planetarium was accepted, though it was understood this did not necessarily imply that all meetings would be held there. The guest speaker of the evening was Dr. D. B. Scott of the University of Alberta, who held the interest of his audience with a lucid and imaginative account of developments in the realm of space travel. The following officers and council were elected:

EXECUTIVE:

Hon. Pres. - E. S. Keeping
Pres. - Franklin Loehde
Vice-Pres. - Ian McLennan
Secretary - D. R. Crosby
Asst. Sec. and Editor - S. F. Page
Treasurer - H. A. McGregor
Librarian - Fred Jensen

NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATE:

Earl Milton

COUNCIL:

J. Harrington (Past Pres.)
Dave Merven (Observers' Group)
Carla Zowtiak (Social Convenor)
Lewis Smith
Walter Nacuk

MEMBERS OF SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

Mrs. J. W. Campbell, Mrs. S. F. Page
Miss Laurie Sterling

Victoria Centre The National Observing Committee, recently established to study the possibility of co-ordinating the observing activities of the various centres of the F.A.S.C., has seen considerable headway made this summer with the inclusion of the Victoria Centre in one major field of amateur astronomy -- meteor observation. With the very able assistance of the Victoria Centre members, Colin Wyatt and Winston Jackson, this writer was able to garner a sizable portion of the amateur astronomer populace in Victoria to observe and record the Perseid meteor shower last August. All told, some 30 enthusiasts, including about a dozen amateurs of the town of Duncan, under the guidance of Mr. Stanley Jones, turned out on a total of three nights to tally an impressive count both in hours observed and meteors recorded. In addition to the regular meteor count, which, incidentally, received considerable attention in the press, an attempt was made to capture a few via the photographic plate.

The group is to be heartily congratulated for its fine efforts, and I only hope that similar parties will spring up in the many other centres across our wide Dominion. The Victoria Centre and any other which endeavors to establish an observing program, whether it be large or small, will soon find that much valuable work in the sciences may be attempted by Amateur Astronomers to help fill in those information blanks of the professional.

--Franklin Loehde

Wanted: A Communications System Those of us who attempted to phone members with regard to attendance at the Annual Banquet found ourselves repeating the all-too-familiar experience of being unable to make more than one contact for every four phone calls placed. Even after a number of calls we still found it impossible to get in touch with some members. This points to the need of establishing a TC (telephoning committee) so that the entire membership may be notified quickly of any forthcoming activity. We feel that the organization of such a committee would be better made on a social rather than a geographical basis. First of all, the members of the committee should be a group who can readily get in touch with each other. Each member should then be assigned about half a dozen to ten other members whom he knows well and can readily find when required. In this way it should be possible to get any urgent message to our entire membership in the course of a day, or even a few hours. Incidentally, there is also need for a careful revision of the addresses and phone numbers of all members. This will avoid useless calls, as well as the return of a few copies of STARDUST marked "Unknown at this address". Perhaps the Executive could work on such a system at their next meeting.

Here and There Life Magazine for October 24 contains an article on Project Ozma, or "Life in Other Worlds". The probabilities are dealt with in a popular and readable style.

Owing to the amount of business and the time taken for publicity at our Annual Meeting, we fear that a good many of our members failed to see the excellent photographs brought by Mrs. Campbell of the beginnings of the Astronomical Society. We hope that Mrs. Campbell will be able to bring these photographs along again at some time when we shall all have more leisure to examine them more closely.

Address all communications to:
S. Frank Page, Editor, STARDUST, 8444 - 117 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.