



#### PROFESSOR GADS TO ADDRESS OCTOBER BANQUET MEETING

The 1961-62 season for the Edmonton Centre will officially get under way on Thursday, October 12th, at our annual banquet meeting to be held in the Corona Hotel. The meeting will feature a talk by Professor L. E. Gads of the U of A Department of Engineering. Professor Gads, always a popular speaker, will talk about his travels throughout Europe during the past year. Expected to be included in his speech, will be descriptions of his visits to various astronomical institutions in Great Britain, and on the Continent. We welcome Professor Gads back to Edmonton, and all look forward to seeing him at the banquet meeting.

Time: 6:30 pm;  
Date: Thursday, October 12th;  
Place: The Corona Hotel -- 10625 Jasper Avenue;  
Price: \$2.00 per person.

Please make an effort to attend this banquet, and if possible, bring a guest. This meeting is a very important one, and marks the beginning of what will be a very active year for the Edmonton Centre. Election of the incoming executive and council, discussions relating to the new observatory, and plans for the RASC General Assembly will highlight the business sessions. See you at the banquet!

#### PERSEID METEORS OBSERVED AGAIN BY EDMONTON CENTRE

On the evening of Saturday, August 12th, the following RASC members proceeded to the farm of Walter and Nora Scheurman, 21 miles east of Ponoka, to observe the Perseid Meteor Shower: Bill Gable, Dr. D.R. Crosby, Gerd Goselwitz, H. Johnston, R. Johnston, Ricky Salmon, Franklin Loehde, Ian and Adrienne McLennan, and George Williams.

After all the above members had arrived, strategy was mapped out for the evening. Walter had thoughtfully prepared a location ideal for observing on the top of a small hill, about two miles east of the farm. While the group waited for darkness to descend, a very tasty lunch was graciously served by Mrs. Nora Scheurman, who, with her husband, took an active part in the meteor observing program. After a few minor delays, notably with the inability of Franklin Loehde's car to ascend a gradual incline, the group assembled at the pre-determined observing spot.

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Conditions were ideal for observing, with the exception of a slight haze coming from the west, as a result of the B.C. forest fires. There was no moon, and the temperature was quite comfortable, with no wind present.

With Franklin acting as our official recorder, observing commenced at 10 pm. The meteors varied greatly in magnitude, and were distributed quite evenly in all areas of the sky. Almost all the meteors recorded were Perseids. By 11 pm, a total of 81 meteors were recorded -- 31 above the normal, single observer/hourly rate. Bill Cable attempted to record meteor trails on film, but was unsuccessful this time round.

All in all, results of the evening were most gratifying. It is hoped that more members will be able to share in the fun and friendship of such future evenings. Our sincere thanks to the Scheuermans, for being the perfect hosts they were, and contributing to the success of our first out-of-town observing party.

-- George Williams.

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EDMONTON CENTRE HOLDS ANOTHER STAR NIGHT

As a result of the resounding success of our first two Star Nights held last May at the Planetarium, it was felt that the public wanted more of the heavenly affairs. A "Space-conscious" Edmonton, several appreciative comments about our first events, and the financial burden which will be imposed on our Centre by the General Assembly next May, prompted members of the Edmonton Centre to stage another public star party. A glance through the Observers' Handbook indicated that on the evening of August 25th, a near total eclipse of the moon would occur.

Here in Edmonton, the moon was eclipsed, all right -- but only by clouds as far as we could see. However, hundreds of Edmontonians turned out just the same, and all enjoyed the series of planetarium shows (which featured an artificial eclipse) as well as viewing the telescopes, displays depicting RASC activities, and, of course, Alex Stockwell's popular outdoor movies.

We express our thanks to all those who participated in the event. The following stout-hearted fellows and gal gave their much-needed time and assistance: Bill Cable, Stuart Coupland, Don Dykeman, Prof. L.E. Gads, Gerd Goselwitz, Fred Jensen, Franklin Loehde, Ian and Adrienne McLennan, Dwight Thomas, Alex Stockwell, Walter Scheuerman, H.J. Montgomery, and Rickey Salmon. GOOD WORK TEAM!

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INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

The 11th meeting of the I.A.U. was held this year on the beautiful campus of the University of California, in Berkeley, a suburb of San Francisco. Delegates from nearly every country in the world attended the nine day meeting, from August 15th - 24th. Among the delegates, wandered Ian McLennan and Franklin Loehde, from the Edmonton Centre. The meeting of some of the world's greatest names in astronomy, the renewing of old acquaintances in the same field, and the liberal use of sign language with the Soviet delegates provided a most interesting time. One of the highlights was a tour of the Lick Observatory, near San Jose, where the delegates, 1,200 in all, watched impressive demonstrations with the 120 inch reflector, and the many additional precision instruments housed in the array of silvery domes that dot the peak of Mount Hamilton. An international astronomy display proved most interesting, as did the various technical sessions and assemblies. The meeting gave Ian and Franklin an ideal opportunity to meet with some of the Canadian delegates, most of whom they had met before. Preliminary plans for the forthcoming General Assembly of the RASC in Edmonton next May were discussed.

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RASC TO SPONSOR ASTRONOMY LECTURE SERIES:

Members of the Edmonton Centre early in the New Year, will present a series of lectures dealing with all phases of astronomy on a popular level. The series of six lectures will begin on Thursday, January 11th, and will continue each Thursday evening thereafter until February 15th. Although designed primarily to introduce astronomy to the general public, members of the RASC will be most welcome to attend, in order to brush-up on those facts and figures which always seem to escape one's memory. Anyone desiring to take in these lectures, which will be held in the planetarium lecture room, or anyone having ideas to contribute in regard to the proposed series, please see Bill Cable at the October banquet meeting, on Thursday, October 12th.

Tentatively, the lectures will include descriptions of: Ancient Astronomy, the Sun, the Earth, the Moon, the Solar System, and the Galaxies, including, of course, our own Milky Way.

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER SHOWS AT THE PLANETARIUM

Above the make-believe skylines of Ancient Athens, and the Pyramids of Egypt, the sky will unfold as civilizations saw it thousands of years ago. From man's earliest days on the earth, he has looked up into the dark, mysterious vault of the night sky, and wondered at the beauty of the glittering stars, and the intricate movements of the wandering planets. Patterns of stars in the shapes of Gods and heroes, animals and sacred birds, found their way into the firmament as ancient man pictured the heavens. A tribute to these ancient concepts of astronomy will be presented throughout the month of November at the Planetarium. The series will likely start in the third week of October. I hope you will be able to attend one of these presentations.

Ian McLennan.

THE NEW OBSERVATORY

Throughout the summer months, members of the Edmonton Centre have been exploring every possible means by which the City of Edmonton can once again boast about an observatory to house the fine astronomical telescopes that were left without a home when the old University building was torn down due to campus expansion.

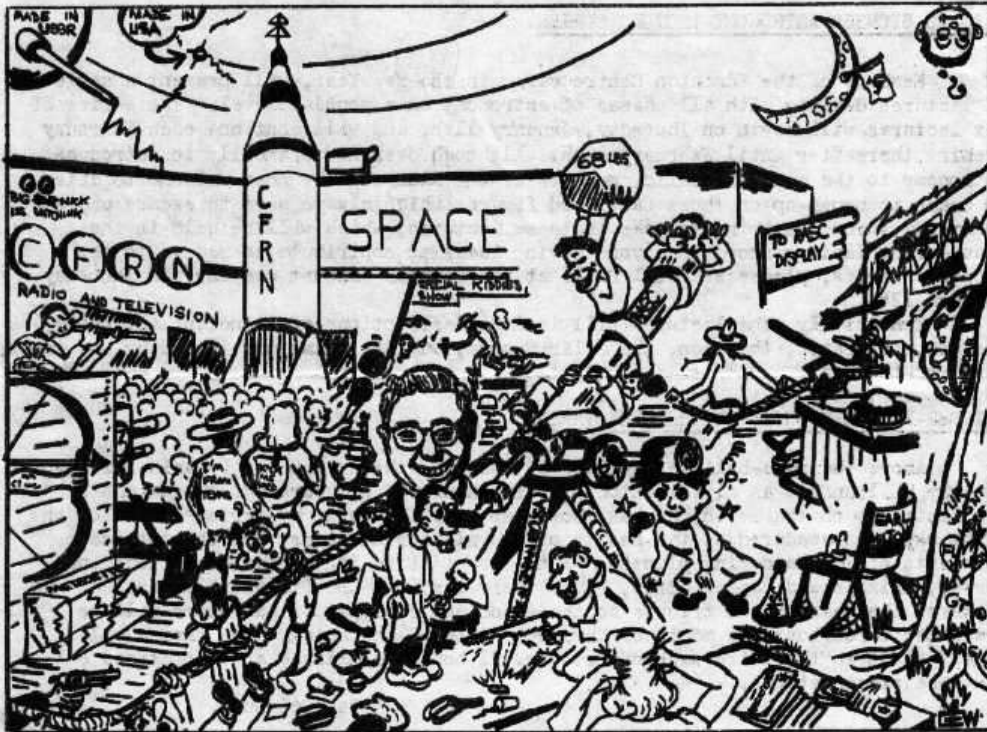
Naturally, it is too early yet to foresee what fortune will shine down on our attempts to relocate these instruments in another building, perhaps outside the City. Despite this, however, much ground-work has to be done in order to make specific proposals regarding the financing of such a project. With this in mind, Franklin Loehde has scouted far and wide in search for a good location for the new observatory. Up to the present time, the choicest piece of land has been about two miles north of the town of Spruce Grove. Seeing conditions are believed to be ideal from this spot, and it's about a twenty minute drive on four-lane highway from the outskirts of Edmonton.

Preliminary estimates for the cost of an observatory range as high as \$20,000., and this is not easy to come by. However, with public support, and with a sensible program of public observing, perhaps in conjunction with the planetarium, it may not be an insurmountable task to raise this amount of money.

A further thought: It would be very appropriate to have the observatory built in time to stage the official opening and dedication in conjunction with the General Assembly here in Edmonton, May 19-21st, 1962.



THE R.A.S.C. GOES TO THE "EX."



The Edmonton Exhibition has come and gone; but not too soon, as far as a few RASC members are concerned. The Edmonton Centre and CFRN Radio-TV embarked on a very interesting experiment during this year's fair, capitalizing on the recent upsurge of interest in space research. The theme behind CFRN's programming centered around their "Space Station." Nearby, the RASC was given an area in which to display some of our activities.

The highlite of our contribution came on Saturday evening, when literally hundreds of people were given a view of the moon through the 4" refractor. Amid the fragrant aromas of candy fluff, foot-long hot-dogs, candied apples, pineapple whip, corn-on-the-cob, and cheeseburgers, a staunch group from the Edmonton Centre displayed the wonders of the Universe. Several of the younger set in attendance at this elite affair seemed to have knives, and didn't know what to do with them --- pictures in our display area fell prey to this group.

However, deep down inside, we have a feeling of pride and accomplishment, when we realize that hundreds of Edmonton's citizens were given a great understanding and appreciation of our Universe. One woman and her children came up to our display, and looked over all the exhibits very carefully. Her children seemed quite interested in the model of the moon which we had tacked up on a tree at the center of our display area. (It looked more like a growth on the tree than a lunar model!) Her children asked her what this masterpiece was. She answered, "That's the Bruderheim Meteorite, stupid!"