

# Stardust

A Monthly Newsletter of the

Edmonton Astronomical Society of Canada

Edmonton, Centre

June, 1968

**Meanook Observatory Trip - Sunday June 9th** The expedition to the Meanook Observatory will highlight views of one of the world's 'fastest' meteor cameras, spectrographic equipment, auroral all-sky cameras, magnetic storm detection devices and much more. Mr. Jack Grant, director of the observatory, has given our Centre permission to tour its fine facilities and hopes that our members will better understand the work of Canadian astronomers as a result.

The Centre's caravan of cars will begin at the **Queen Elizabeth Planetarium at 1:00 p.m. Sunday May 9th.** The 85 mile journey, excellent pavement but for 5 miles, is along highway #2 north to a point some 15 miles south of the town of Athabasca. The observatory is located approximately 5 miles west of highway #2.

If the weatherman is cooperative we should literally have a picnic. Each person is requested to bring along a box lunch with "summer vittles" and suitable cool drinks.

Our junior members are requested to encourage their parents to come along with them on this interesting and informative trip.

Members are asked to call **President Allin at 434-7185** indicating that they plan to come, how many are there in their party and how they plan to go. Members without transportation are also asked to call **Robert Allin** so that rides can be arranged.



**NORTHWARD HO!**



**Above-** At our regular May meeting the Centre revisited the old headquarters of the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium and its new Goto-Venus projector. **Direct.** Bill Cable is here seen at the console with vice-president Angus Smith looking on.

**Below-** Rick Salmon from the Edmonton Centre but now of the Ottawa Centre presented a most interesting paper at the General Assembly on "An Amateur's Solar Spectrograph".

Rick's spectrograph won a 2nd prize at the Canada-Wide Science Fair and the RASC award as well.



**ASTROPHYSICIST HENRY & X-RAY DETECTOR**  
Only 70 billion years to go.

TIME, MAY 3, 1968

**Above-** Former Observers' Group Member Dick Henry featured in Time. More Universe expansion and then contraction according to his investigations.

OUR JUNE MEETING WILL BE OUR LAST UNTIL SEPT. HAVE A GOOD OBSERVING SUMMER!

Observing Notes by David Roles Space is limited in my column this month so I'll try to make everything brief and to the point.

Jenny Rusch and yours truly have added objects to the Messier tally while Brian Martin of Penhold came up with not only an impressive list of objects but also some magnificent artwork to back them up. Brian has shown quite dramatically that even if you lack equipment for astrophotography it is still possible to make concrete contributions to observing. To help keep track of the Messier Club contest I have made up a tally board with room for the observer's name and the objects he or she has seen. If you've seen any objects from the Messier List please feel free to add your John Henry to the Board.

The full moon will interfere with the peak of the Perseid Meteor Shower on August 11th but don't let that discourage you from observing the event.

To aid in the Edmonton Centre observing program we are pleased to announce the appointments of the following chairmen to handle specific observing disciplines:

Meteor Section- Harvey Nelson Lunar and Planetary Section- A. Smith  
Deep-Sky Section- Jenny Rusch Aurora Section- Chris Gainer

If you have any problems in these areas or would like to do some serious observing please call them. With their help you can make a very important contribution to astronomy and certainly learn a great deal more about this exciting universe we live in. A good start would certainly be the Perseid Meteors in August. Don't forget the summer skies are filled with some very beautiful Messier objects.



Brian Martin's sketch of the Orion Nebula



RECENT CRATER is identifiable by the freshness of the material around it. Boulders as small as one yard in diameter can be seen in the pattern of rays. Sliding of the material inside the crater has caused the double-wall appearance. The crater, which is in Oceanus Procellarum, is about 165 yards wide. The third Orbiter made photograph at 31 mile altitude.

Calgary-Edmonton Observing Party

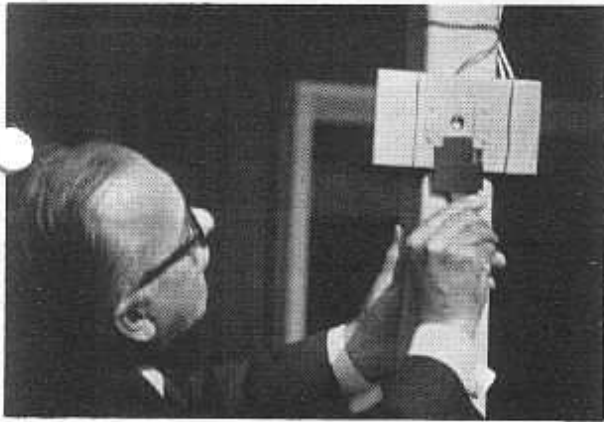
Every year in the month of August our two Centres get together at some convenient lake in Central Alberta for a good old-fashioned observing party. This year we plan another one so look to the mails in August for the final briefing.

The Northern Lights With sunspot maximum coming this winter we can expect some pretty spectacular displays this fall. Dr. Milton of the University of Lethbridge has sent us an ample supply of report forms and instruction sheets on how to observe. See Chris for details.

The Lunar Orbiter Photographs

The May issue of the Scientific American contains a most excellent article on the photographs taken by the Lunar Orbiter. One of the photographs taken showed the shadow of the Surveyor running over the lunar surface. Photographs of the far side of the moon are also clearly shown.

The 1968 General Assembly  
Calgary



Dr. John H. Hodgson, Director of Observatories Branch, removing cover from photocell and causing observatory roof to open, officially opens the new PZT at Priddis, Alberta.

Certainly a success by the number of members registered from all over Canada but also a success from the goodwill generated and new friends made.

With excellent weather throughout the weekend the many functions were carried off as scheduled. One of these was the official opening of Canada's newest Photographic Zenith Tube (PZT) which will be used to accurately record the motion of the earth's rotation. One off-shoot of the program will be the possibility of discovering that the continents are drifting apart.

The Paper Session saw many fine papers presented from amateur and professional astronomers alike. They ranged from Trailer-mounted telescopes to Spectrographic super-synthesis Radio telescopes.

The Province of Alberta were the hosts to an excellent meal at the Palliser Hotel at which time all delegates became official Calgary "White Hatters".



Dr. Hodgson and Dr. A. Hunter of the Royal Greenwich Observatory examining the PZT

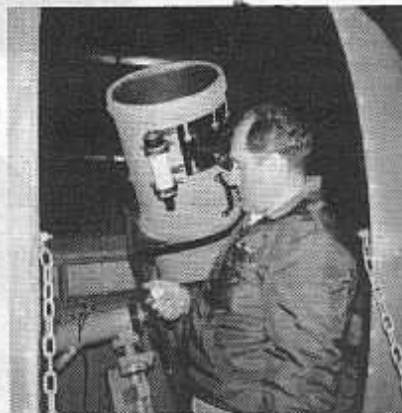
Centennial Occultation Observers

Our three Edmonton occultation observers had an excellent year despite those frequent cloudy spells and that persistent fog-about-the-eyepiece problem

Here is how the year looked:

Observer	Telescope	Attempts	Success
Ralph Haeckle	6" refl.	32	8
Franklin Loehde	9" refl.	52	10
Angus Smith	12½" refl.	52	16

Right- Ralph Haeckel ready to time another occultation.



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To

Meeting Sunday, June 9  
1:00 p.m. at Q.E. Planetarium  
"TRIP TO MEANCOOK OBSERVATORY"

