

Stardust

A Monthly Newsletter of the
Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

Edmonton, Centre

September, 1968

SEPTEMBER 9th MEETING
V107 Physics Bldg.

Guest Speaker - Mr. John Hault, Director
of Educational Shows, Q.E.P.

McBain Astrophotography Trophy The deadline for entries in the competition for the McBain Trophy is September 30th so don't forget to have your astronomical slides and/or prints ready in time. There is still time to photograph some interesting star trails or the moon through your telescope or the northern lights or an artificial satellite or

Messier Contest ALL YOU ACTIVE OBSERVERS REMEMBER THE BIG SKY CONTEST ENDS ON SEPTEMBER 30th. so complete your list of Messier objects you have seen, together with a brief description or sketch of them. Vice-President Mr. Angus Smith (4908-116 St.) will accept lists at the meeting and throughout the month.

June Meanook Meteor Observatory Trip The traditional black cloud that hovers over astronomers did just that but only for 65 or the 85 miles to the Meanook Observatory. Nearly 75 members and friends of the Centre battled through two thunderstorms before finally breaking out into typically (?) warm and sunny Alberta weather. With such a large turnout it was gratifying to have such fine weather for touring the observatory grounds and the excellent meteor photographic equipment. As usual the Director of the Meteor Station, Jack Grant, was the perfect host carefully explaining the intricate function of the spectrographic cameras and the large Super-Schmidt photographic telescope. To top everything off he even supplied a round of refreshments, much to the delight of our ever-hungry student members.



Now to the Super-Schmidt



Mr. Jack Grant explaining the meteor spectrograph

Here and There In Astronomy

Edmonton- Visitors to the city last June were two 'old' friends of the Edmonton Centre, Jos. Matte of Quebec City and sparkling Heather McLennan of Rochester, New York.

Jos. was on another of his good-will tours of the West and as usual 'took-in' everything astronomical including the Smith and Haeckel observatories in town. We always enjoy our visits with Jos. and his gallic charm.

Heather, Ian McLennan's youngest daughter, was here with her sister Susan for a visit with relatives and friends. A big day is coming for her on the 14th of September when her father will proudly unwrap the Strassenburgh Planetarium in Rochester. Knowing how he developed a successful Q.E.P. we are certain he will do the same in Rochester. Best of everything from all the members of the Centre.



Heather and Jos.

Vancouver- Yet another Canadian planetarium will come into operation this year. Due to be opened soon will be Dave Rodger's McMillan Planetarium spectacularly located with a panoramic view of Vancouver and English Bay. Joining Dave's staff this summer as Scientific Officer was past president Robert Allin. The Chief Technician is another compatriot, Jim Wright, formerly of the Calgary Centre. Looks like an all-Alberta cast. Guaranteed to be a success!



McMillan Planetarium

Centre d'Astronomie de Montréal- Easily one of the most impressive displays of amateur astronomical work at the General Assembly in Calgary was that shown by the french-speaking members of the RASC in Montreal. Virtually every field of amateur work was represented and all of it of excellent quality. Our own Centre has much to learn from them.

Canada's National Observatory A major contribution to the field of astronomy will shortly be provided by Canada by the erection of what will be the third largest telescope in the world (after Russia's 6 m. reflector and the Mount Palomar 200 inch). Canada's 157 inch mirror blank, when funds are made available, will be ground to a very high precision.

The site for the observatory is atop 6,600 ft. Mount Kobau some 40 miles south of Penticton. The tests for seeing conditions indicate a very favourable location for a large telescope. To further guarantee excellent seeing conditions it is expected that the observatory will be located on stilts to avoid the air heated by the warm earth during the day.

The site is now serviced by an excellent gravel road from which it is possible to see in excess of 100 miles on a clear day.



Sight-testing 16" reflector on Mount Kobau, B.C.

Observing Notes by David Roles At our latest executive meeting Bill Cable (who was standing outside the planetarium at the time) surprised us all by pounding on the planetarium window and pointing out a glorious fireball. Chances are, however, that the "fireball" was nothing more than a magnesium flare released by an aeroplane seen in the vicinity.

Other observers with interesting reports and observations should let us know about them or bring them up at the meetings. We know for a fact that several observers are doing some promising work but not sharing their findings with anyone. Don't be afraid to stand up and sound your own horn. Let everyone know what you are up to so we can have some friendly competition.

I have heard that some observers armed with very substantial telescopes have been having problems regarding their use, particularly with finding the location of astronomical objects, and using and aligning finder 'scopes. Those who are having problems in these areas should call out for assistance. We can't help people with these or other problems if we don't know about them, so don't be shy- speak out. In conclusion remember that you can only get of something what you put into it.

Total Lunar Eclipse October 5-6

This eclipse is another in the series that began in 1967. All of you will undoubtedly remember last April's eclipse which occurred early in the evening under perfect sky conditions. On October 6 the eclipse will occur during the early morning hours and in our western skies. This Sunday eclipse will enable our photographers to perfect their technique of 'capturing' a difficult subject.

Moon enters penumbra	01:44 MST
Moon enters umbra	02:55 MST
Total eclipse begins	04:10 MST
Middle of the eclipse	04:42 MST
Total eclipse ends	05:14 MST
Moon leaves umbra	06:29 MST
Moon leaves penumbra	07:40 MST

Occultation of Jupiter October 19

Those early risers are again in for a treat when on October 19 the giant planet Jupiter will be occulted by the moon. The moon is expected to slide over the planet at 04:28.8 a.m. and continue to cover it until 05:19.1 a.m. With Jupiter shining at a magnitude of -1.3 and having four bright moons it should be a most interesting sight to see Jupiter disappear and leave behind some of these diamond-like moons.



Editor F.C. Loehde
8332 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

Meeting Monday, Sept. 9th
8:15 p.m. V107 Physics Bldg.
Speaker, John Hault of the
Queen Elizabeth Planetarium

STAR MAPS

FOR SEPTEMBER

