

S T A R D U S T

A monthly publication of the
EDMONTON CENTRE, ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

MEETING: Monday, May 12, 1969

Room V 107
Math-Physics Building
University of Alberta

SPEAKER Mr. J. Grant

Meanook Meteor Observing

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On April 25th and 26th our Centre put on an excellent "STARNIGHT" at the Planetarium and the Woodcroft Community Center. The four inches of snow that we had on Friday evening seriously hit the attendance but the people that took in the show were very much impressed with what they saw.

I would like to thank all the members of the Observers group for the great displays and the talks they gave to the public. Had it not been for them this show would not have been possible. The members who were unable to take in the show definitely missed out on a highlight of the present season. I will have more to say about this at the next meeting.

At present heading for the Assembly in Toronto are Mr. and Mrs. Loehde, Ralph and myself and if any more are interested, come along--the more the merrier!!!

OBSERVER'S GROUP

"STARNIGHT" is now history and all we can do in that direction is a post mortum. What went wrong, why and should we try again?

The young people in the Observer's group did an excellent job of setting up interesting displays and in presenting them to the public. The choice of movies was good, the Planetarium show and the displays were of fine caliber and the advertising was thorough. So the weatherman pitched us a foul ball and it appears we lost two shirts on the deal. Now what do we do? Cry the blues or get busy and try something else. Let us get together and have some group fun if nothing else; a telescope night for the public or something like that.

Our thanks and appreciation should go to the young Observer's group for a very fine effort. If all members contributed as much, this would be a real 'fire-ball' club.

Dave Bruner.

AURORA REPORT

Dr. Wilson has asked us to really get to work. In the past month the number of Auroras has increased greatly. Brian Martin, in Penhold, has seen five Auroras in March. So let us knuckle down, Observers!

March, Edmonton, Auroras observed 5; Clear nights without Aurora, 12; Cloudy nights without Aurora, 16.

Chris. Gainor.

PLANETARIUM NOTES:

At the present time the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium is presenting the "CHANGING POLE". The program begins with Vega as the Pole Star and we look into the 'future' by discussing manned Space Flight. Precession is then discussed and we move to the present and Polaris occupies the Pole Position.

The Algonquin Radio Telescope display has now moved to Vancouver to the MacMillan Planetarium. To replace this the Tracking Station at CFB Cold Lake have left their Satellite Tracking display.

SPACE NOTES:

The famous X-15 will make its final flight in May. The plane that contributed much to high altitude flight research will make its last flight on board a cargo jet. It will be taken to the Smithsonian Institute to be permanently displayed with other famous aircraft.

With the Apollo shots and Mariner fly-pasts the space activities are going to be very interesting to follow during the summer. Plans are also progressing for the future. J.P.L. now has an office for the Viking Orbiter program. This program is set for 1973 when two orbiters and landing capsules will be sent to Mars.

MAY SKY:

Mercury is in the West at sunset. The highest point of 19° above the horizon was reached on the 5th. Jupiter is well placed for observing, high in the east. Both Venus and Saturn are in the morning sky.

We are coming to the season to start looking for Noctilucent Clouds as twilight hours are becoming longer. We have never seen these clouds before mid-June so let us see if we can make an earlier observation this year.