

# NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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Please submit all material and all communications to the address below:

The Editor, Newsletter, McLaughlin Planetarium, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario

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## The Skies Down Here

I have been at Las Campanas Observatory in Chile since early July. In the 60 or so nights that I have been on the mountain there have been only three cloudy ones, which is quite good since the winter weather down here is generally inferior to that of summer.

Several events that are somewhat difficult to observe around Toronto are very obvious and quite frequent here. For example, I have seen the green flash at sunset only once in Canada, yet here it is easily seen three or four times a week. The Zodiacal Light is very bright and is evident even two or three hours after sunset or before sunrise.

On occasion I have time to make a quick variable star estimate, which also allows for a fairly accurate estimate of the limiting magnitude. With  $7 \times 50$  binoculars, stars of 10.2 are the limit, while 7.2 is the limit for the naked eye.

The star clouds of Scorpius and Sagittarius pass overhead, which allows for a tremendous view of such Toronto "horizon runners" as the Lagoon Nebula (M8) and the Trifid Nebula (both of which are easy naked eye objects).

No description of the southern sky would be complete without comment about the Magellanic Clouds, and the Eta Carinae complex. I am at a loss to do these justice however, so you will just have to see my photographs on my return to Canada.

I would be happy to correspond with any members. They may write to me c/o Las Campanas, Carnegie Southern Observatory, Casilla 61-D, La Serena, Chile.

CHRIS SMITH,  
Toronto Centre  
- from 'Scope'

## How to Store Large Maps and Charts

If you have charts like the Lunar LAC series  $29 \times 22''$  or the Sky & Telescope Maps  $23 \times 27''$  you may wonder how and where to store them. You do not have a chart room, pigeon holes are nice but take up space and are expensive, cases hard to find, and mailing tubes will only hold so many maps with the consequences of curls. Ever trying reading a curled chart, without a set of paper weights or a third hand? As well, laying maps flat takes up room and collects dust.

Most people have a clothes closet with a coat hanger rod, and a couple of unused wire coat hangers. Take a coat hanger and cut the horizontal portion out about  $1\frac{1}{2}''$  from each end of the curved portion. Bend the open ends back towards the curved ends to form a hook. Lay your charts flat. Most charts have a blank margin  $1''$  or  $2''$  wide along the side. In this margin punch two holes, separated by about 12 to 14" and equally spaced from the centre point. Obtain two  $2''$  diameter loose leaf rings from a stationery store, for about 25 cents a piece. Insert the rings in the maps. The hooked ends of the modified coat hanger will fit into the rings and the maps may now be hung in the closet vertically using a minimum of space and will always be flat! Some bending of the hooked ends may be required for the desired effect and gummed reinforcement rings may have to be used on the maps. This map hanger will hold 64 maps, easily weighing 5 pounds.

From 'Winnicentrics'  
- Winnipeg Centre

## Notes from Newfoundland

“The yellow fog comes  
on little cat feet.  
It sits looking  
over harbour and city  
on silent haunches  
and then moves on.”

This is as good an excuse as any to explain why we had so few observing sessions this summer. Although, to be truthful, it wasn't so often fog as it was the usual cloudy skies.

We hope for clearer weather, so that we may put our latest telescope to use. Jack Woods, one of our charter members, has donated a splendid six-inch home-built telescope, a most dependable instrument.

The CN strike, a cruel one if ever there was one, not only left stranded thousands of tourists and homecomers, but left us with shortages from which we continue to suffer. One of these was the paper for the printing of the Provincial Parks pamphlet, “The Newfoundland Skies in Summer”, which we have only now received. We plan to distribute a number of these at our annual showing of The Star of Bethlehem in our little planetarium.

To go back into our last several meetings, a fascinating talk was given by member Dr. Peter Lockwood, who drew on radio astronomy for unusual and interesting facts and theories. June's meeting was given over to summer plans and a talk on variables by Dora Russell. Ken O'Brien, member of our Centre and also member of the Irish Astronomical Society, spoke to us of the differences between that Society's operation and our own. October saw our annual meeting, and on November, we devoted the meeting to Comet Kohoutek. In this respect, we discovered mines of information in some of the Centre newsletters. Thank you, Centres.

DORA RUSSELL,  
St. John's Centre

## An Observatory for the Hamilton Centre

The Hamilton Centre of the R.A.S.C. has initiated many important projects over the long years since inception. Now a major objective has been set by this Centre; to have a large telescope in a well-equipped, modern observatory. An anonymous donor has promised to provide a 30-inch reflecting telescope with only one condition – that the Centre build and maintain an adequate observatory for such a large instrument. All members of the Centre are keyed-up to the challenge. Already a site of nearly six acres has been acquired outside the city and detailed plans have been prepared for a building which will include domes for smaller instruments, a dark-room for astrophotography, a library and adequate space for several members to observe and work at one time. Further details of this ambitious undertaking will be announced in future issues of the National Newsletter.

### R. S. Evans

It is with regret that we record the death of Mr. R. S. Evans, a member of the Victoria Centre for more than a quarter century. Mr. Evans served his centre in many ways and was President from 1953 to 1954. He was awarded the Membership Certificate in 1968.

**WINNIPEG CENTRE**

*Invites you to come to the*  
**ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA**  
**1974 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*To be held jointly with the*  
**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VARIABLE STAR OBSERVERS**

*at*  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA**

*on*  
**JUNE 28, 29, 30, JULY 1, 1974**

To assist in planning for events and accommodations, as well as to receive registration forms, please fill out this form and send to: D. RICHARD BOCHONKO, Registration, 1974 RASC-AAVSO Joint Assembly, Astronomy, University College, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2M8.

- I plan to attend  
 I may attend  
 Number in my party .....
- I desire the Local Planning Committee to make arrangements for me.  
 Accommodation desired  on campus  
                                    hotel  
                                    motel
- I will make my own arrangements.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

**LE CENTRE DE WINNIPEG**

*vous invite à*  
**L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE 1974**

*Tenue conjointement avec la*  
**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VARIABLE STAR OBSERVERS**

*à*  
**L'UNIVERSITÉ du MANITOBA**  
**les 28, 29, 30 JUIN et 1er JUILLET, 1974**

Pour nous aider à organiser les logements et le programme, veuillez remplir ce formulaire et le renvoyer à l'adresse suivante : D. RICHARD BOCHONKO, Inscriptions, Assemblée Conjointe RASC-AAVSO 1974, Ddpartement d'Astronomie, University College, Université du Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2M8.

- Je serai présent à l'Assemblée de 1974  
 Il est possible que j'assiste à l'Assemblée  
 Nombre de personnes qui m'accompagneront .....
- Veuillez me retenir un logement dans
- les résidents de l'étudiant  
 un hôtel  
 un motel
- Je m'occuperai moi-même du logement.

NOM .....

ADRESSE .....

## News from the National Library

### *Missing Slides*

A recent inventory of the National Library's slide collection has revealed that a sizable number of slides are missing from the collection. Anyone having any of the Library's slides is asked please to return them to the National Office as soon as possible, at 252 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5T 1R7.

### *New Film*

Bell Canada has provided our library, at no cost, a copy of their excellent 58-minute, 16 mm film *About Time*. This documentary discusses various aspects of time and time-keeping, including biological clocks, the development of mechanical clocks, astronomical aspects of timekeeping, and includes a brief section on "The twin paradox". Centres wishing to show the film may do so through the National Office. However, the film may not be shown outside Canada, nor may it be shown where there is an admission fee being charged in connection with the programme.

The Society is indebted to Bell Canada for providing us with this fine addition to our film library. The assistance of a member of the Library Committee, Dr. Helen Hogg, is gratefully acknowledged.

### *Supplement Issued to Library Catalogue*

About 160 books have been added to the National Library since the Catalogue was prepared in 1970. A supplementary list of these books is now available to all members who write to the executive secretary,

Ms. Rosemary Freeman,  
R.A.S.C.  
252 College Street,  
Toronto, Ontario.  
M5T 1R7

### *Publications for Sale*

The National library is endeavouring to sell the following three complete sets of periodicals. They are all in mint condition, unbound.

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society Vol. 105 (1945) – Vol. 159 (1972). Offers over \$270 will be considered for this complete set.

The Journal of the Franklin Institute. July, 1965 to the present. Offers over \$90 will be considered for this complete set.

Referativnii Zhurnal. 1960 to present. Offers over \$20 for this Russian abstracting journal will be considered.

Please address enquiries to the Executive Secretary at the above address.