

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

A Change of Management

Since its inception, the Newsletter has been ably compiled and edited by Dr. John Percy. Recently Dr. Percy tendered his resignation and the Council has now appointed a committee of three to continue the responsibility for the Newsletter. The members of this committee are Dr. Ernest Seaquest, Mr. Harlan Creighton and the Rev. Norman Green, who will act as Chairman. These three will, of course, act under the guidance of the Editing Committee of the Society. All news items should continue to be sent to the National Office.

Toronto's loss, Calgary's gain!

How sad it often is to say 'good-bye' and yet, in this case, there is a happy sequel. Mrs. Marie Fidler, the genial and so-very-efficient Executive Secretary of the R.A.S.C. for the last fourteen years will leave her position at National Office in April, soon thereafter to journey westward as Mrs. Sam Litchinsky of Calgary. So although we say good-bye in the east, it is welcome, for the west. Words fail us when we try to sum up all that Marie Fidler has meant to the R.A.S.C. Of all National officials she certainly is the indispensable one and the Council will find it most difficult to replace her, but who can gainsay Cupid's approach? It is interesting to know that Marie and Sam learned that their casual friendship had deepened into mutual affection while attending the General Assembly in Hamilton last May. We hardly think any astrologers had found their way into the General Assembly, but certainly the stars were propitious on this occasion and the houses of Aquarius and Capricorn were apparently in the ascendancy.

Sam and Marie, the warm good wishes of a great galaxy of friends shower down upon you.

I.U.A.A. General Assembly

Arrangements are well advanced for the 1972 General Assembly of the International Union of Amateur Astronomers. This year the gathering will be in Malmö, Sweden from July 31st to August 5th. Reports, scientific papers, discussions, excursions and social events will round out the busy week of events. Trips are planned to the site of

L10

Tycho Brahe's renowned astronomical community on the island of Hven, and also to the famed observatory at Lund. Further information regarding travel details or program can be obtained from Mr. Ken Chilton, 93 Currie St., Hamilton, Ontario.

Quo Dvcit Marie

This variation from the Qvo Dvcit Vrania on our Society's insignia was inscribed on the cake that was cut and served to members of the Toronto Centre at an informal going-away party which followed the meeting on 17 March. A few minutes earlier, as the Centre's meeting neared its close, Mrs. Marie Fidler was presented with a gift by President Harlan Creighton in appreciation of her many services to the Centre and its members during her 14 years as executive secretary at the Society's National Office. Mr. Creighton noted that the Society's membership had increased from 1700 to 2500 since 1959 and was sure some part of this was due to Marie Fidler's salesmanship. Although employed by the National Society, many of the services she provided during the years had been for members of the Toronto Centre who, because of their proximity, made greater use of the telephone for inquiries, and of the Library, than members attached to other Centres. Despite the fact her duties involved thousands of pieces of correspondence each year with members around the world, and the many details involved in publication of the JOURNAL and the OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK, "Marie always tried to find time to help the Toronto Centre when we needed assistance," Mr. Creighton said. As he offered the Centre's best wishes in her new "job" as Mrs. Sam Litchinsky of Calgary, the members rose and sang "For she's a jolly good fellow." In reply, Mrs. Fidler said that working with the Society and its members "has widened my own personal horizons. During the years I've met so many charming people."

Observatory for Montreal Centre

From an editorial in 'Skyward', the Montreal Centre news sheet, we learn that construction of their 20-inch Buchroeder telescope is under way. The land for the observatory has been purchased and details of the building are being worked out. Incidentally, the 'Skyward' is now entering the twenty-fourth year of publication – Congratulations on all counts.

Astronomy on Television

Ken Chilton of the Hamilton Centre is one of our most versatile members. In March of last year, Ken began a television program over Cable 8 in the Hamilton area. This

bi-weekly program entitled 'The Sky Tonight' soon became a weekly feature. After a full year, and some 38 programs later, Ken is still going strong and the T.V. coverage has now spread to Toronto. If you are in the area, you can view this popular program on Cable 8, Hamilton, on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m., or on Keeble Cable, Toronto, on Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 9:00 p.m.

More Eclipse News

The enthusiasm is building up for the July 10th eclipse. The Hamilton Centre is planning a large 'expedition' to Cap Chat on the north shore of the Gaspé Peninsula. The McLaughlin Planetarium has arranged for a smaller group to observe at Bonaventure on the south shore. The Toronto Centre also has plans well advanced for a large contingent of observers to journey to Bonaventure. The Toronto Centre has openings for others who are still interested in making the trip east. The eclipse party will leave Toronto by bus about noon on July 8th, returning on July 11th, and shared accommodation is available at the motel in Bonaventure. The inclusive cost is \$55.00 to \$60.00. Further information can be obtained by contacting Mr. Harlan Creighton at the McLaughlin Planetarium (928-8547).

Astronomy Educational Material

Commission 46 (Teaching of Astronomy) of the International Astronomical Union has prepared a listing of available material useful for Astronomy education – books, films, slides, magazines, etc., in English, French, and several other languages. Originally distributed in 1970, it has been learned that additional copies may still be obtained from the editor, Prof. Edith A. Muller, if sufficient interest is shown. This publication should be of particular value to planetaria and to small university and college Physics or Mathematics departments which offer instruction in astronomy but do not, as yet, have an extensive collection of astronomical books and visual aids. Mimeographed copies will cost approximately \$6 (including postage and handling), and interested persons are invited to write to:

Dr. E. A. Müller
 Observatoire de Genève
 1290 Sauverny (GE)
 Switzerland

Dr. H. R. Kingston Memorial Lecture

Last March, Dr. John Percy delivered the Kingston Memorial Lecture before the members and friends of the London Centre. Unfortunately poor weather and other

L12

factors kept attendance to a minimum, but those who were present were enthused by Dr. Percy's discussion of "Stellar Magnetism." This lecture series is in honour and commemoration of Dr. H. R. Kingston a remarkable teacher astronomer and multi-talented gentleman who died some years ago but whose influence thus lives on.

News and Views

It is the prime intention of the Newsletter Committee to use these pages for news items from Centres and individuals which will be of interest to a nation-wide audience. However, the Committee can only include such items as gleanings from the Centre publications or specific articles sent to them.

It is an old story that no news can be circulated that we know nothing about. So let us hear from you about individual 'doings', Centre activities and hopes, plans, ideas, thoughts, purposes, fancies or fantasies, likes or dislikes or etcetera!