

5162 Belmont Ave.  
Montreal 29, Que.  
August 4, 1961.

Dear Jim,

You must be feeling rather out of touch with things due to my delay in answering your <sup>previous</sup> letters. Your letter of July 30th arrived yesterday and I shall try to bring you up to date.

There has been considerable delay in launching the national observation programme. Vern Ramsay, National Chairman, first was involved in selling his home, buying a new one, and moving. Then his father had three strokes in rapid succession, which left Vern with no time for other matters. However, things are beginning to move now. Since mid-summer isn't a good time for contacting people, we are aiming at September 1st. Vern's first circular should go out then. It will be sent to the President and Secretary of each centre and also to the Director of Observations if the centre has one. Members of the National Executive, our committee and the National co-ordinators who have been appointed, <sup>will receive copies, too.</sup> With your copy you will receive copy of the list to whom Vern's circular was sent. You can then send out your initial letter as soon as you want to, using the same mailing list until you build up your own "contacts". (Once you get a contact in a centre, you would write only to that contact, removing the President and Secretary from your mailing list.) The system will probably be for you to send a copy of your draft and your mailing list to the National office, preferably through Vern Ramsay, I should think, and then Mrs. Fidler at the National office can ~~have~~ <sup>run</sup> your circular off on a duplicating machine and mail it out. This would take care of the incidental expenses <sup>re.</sup> paper, envelopes and postage. Each time you sent a circular to Mrs. Fidler, though, you would have to send a mailing list too because it would be difficult for her to keep mailing lists for eleven co-ordinators up to date. (Mrs. Fidler would only handle

circulans, though? The co-ordinator would handle individual letters to his contacts, writing directly to them.)

As I say, the above system will probably be followed, but Geoffrey and I thought that, since we have the facilities, we would run off your first communication and his, just to relieve Vern of some of the details at this stage of the game. So you can get everything all lined up and as soon as you receive Vern's first circular you can send us your material. Do you plan to send the nova and comet search instructions and report forms and the nova and comet observation forms out at the same time? If so, you will need to make minor changes in the "search" forms, I think. We decided, didn't we, that the area chart would only be sent to centres <sup>who</sup> ~~you~~ decide to participate. (Incidentally, I think that by cutting the chart in half I can have it reproduced alright. I'll tackle that problem next week and will write you again.) You will need to know exactly what Vern says in his first circular before you can decide what to put in your own. Give the centres a bit of a pep talk, though, won't you? Something about 16 centres each with 5 observers each with 4 sections - then we could hardly avoid discovering any comet or nova that was bright enough!

Regarding the Harvard Announcement cards, it is Mr. W. H. Gilbert that gets them. He sends copies now to Dr. Morris and I know he would be happy to send them to you, too. When you write to him, though, emphasize the importance of getting them promptly, especially as your own mail service isn't too frequent. His address is 4888 Welton Ave., Montreal 28. By the way, there is a 3rd magnitude comet in the morning sky now, in the constellation

of Gemini but none of us have seen it. To date the Harvard cards have given only one fix and that was on July 24th. So we don't know its direction or speed. Several of us have set the alarm clock to get up early but on such mornings it has always been cloudy. It was cloudy in that area when we made our all-night observations of the Delta Aquaris, too.

Regarding VEZRAM, you probably noted from "Skyward" that David Sands is out of town for the summer. (He is taking summer courses at Harvard.) So I shall show your letter to Bryan Rawlings and I'm sure he will arrange a contact without delay. He has had trouble with our transmitter but he has his own equipment at home anyway.

We plan to observe the lunar eclipse although we haven't got organized yet. (Vacations can make things very difficult! Next Friday we go out of town to observe the Perseids. When that is over we'll concentrate on the eclipse.) You will be observing it, won't you? I shall be looking forward to your reports. Since you have interested several people up there in astronomy, perhaps you could persuade them to take part.

Echo I is back with us again and several of us have made a number of sightings. We had trouble at first in lining up its schedule but are now right on the beam. I clocked a meridian crossing last night at 23h 6m. 28s. E.D.T. which is a little later than your predicted time of 22h. 57m. Vic is back in town and I'll let him give you all the information in this connection.

I am glad that you have been able to get some observing

in. on what dates did you see auroa? There was a brilliant display here on August 1/2. Also three displays in July. So things are looking up in that department too.

I have just realized that you probably wrote your letter before you received your July "Skyward". I got back from vacation on July 22nd and it was an awful scramble getting it out before the end of the month!

All revoir for the present. I'll be writing you again shortly about the nova search area chart.

Best regards.

Isabel Williamson

P.S. I have just had a phone call from Geoffrey who was up this morning at 3.30 o'clock to look for the comet but although the sky was good he couldn't see a thing and finally gave up at 5 o'clock. So I guess it was rather short-lived and we have missed out on it.