

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

COMET AND NOVA SECTION

Bulletin #3

June 18, 1962

One year ago, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada launched a national observing programme; Comets and Novae being one part of it. I am happy to say that this section has had an excellent start, and I will summarize what has been done to date.

During December, 1961, reports started coming in from a few centres. From these, I learned what different Centres were doing and how we could co-operate. By February, it was felt that the Comet and Nova section would have enough material to have one board in the display at the General Assembly in Edmonton on May 18-19. Then, with little warning, a bright comet appeared during April---- Comet Seki-Lines. By the end of the month, reports of the comet came in from Halifax, Hamilton, Montreal, Niagara Falls, and Winnipeg. When I came to prepare the display, I found that no less than seven boards could fully represent the Comet and Nova Section.

Comet and Nova Searches: From December to March, 13 observers made 328 observations of 24 areas. Names, with the number of searches each made are: Mrs C. L. Bridgen, 47; S. Buntain, 27; F. J. DeKinder, 34; D. Frappier, 5; G. Gaherty, Jr, 24; J. Low, 53; C. A. McDonald, 10; N. Seville, 13; N. Sylvester, 15; W. A. Warren, 8; V. Williams, 46; Miss I. K. Williamson, 19; Mrs K. Zorgo, 27. All reports were negative, and most covered stars down to about 6th magnitude. More search reports have been received since March, but have not been reported because not all have been received as yet.

Observations of Comets and Novae: Although several comets were visible this year, only one was bright enough to be widely observed from Canada--- Comet Seki-Lines. Many observations have been reported, and I understand more reports will be sent in. Seki-Lines was a bright object with a long tail early in April, and it could be seen with the naked eye.

No nova appeared during the past six months that was bright enough to observe.

Coming Events: Comet Humason, 1961e will be visible in binoculars during the next few months. It is hoped that all Centres will observe it whenever possible, and send in reports every few weeks. C & N Form #4 gives observing instructions which may be helpful as a guide. All Centres should have copies of this form. (See Announcement #4 for ephemeris of Comet Humason).

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