

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

PLANETARY SECTION

Bulletin No 4

July 17, 1962.

PROGRESS The following additions and alterations have been made to the list of
REPORT planetary contacts since Bulletin No 3 was published:

<u>Centre</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Address</u>
Calgary	Jim Wright	218 Fourth Ave. N.E., Calgary, Alta
Edmonton	Rickey Salmon	10341 117 Ave., Edmonton, Alta
Montreal	Geoffrey Gaherty, Jr	2800 Hill Park Rd, Montreal 25, Que.
Ottawa	Bill Dey	2647 Ayers Ave., Ottawa 1, Ont.
Vancouver	Terry Taylor	3229 W. Third Ave., Vancouver 8, B.C.

Mr B. F. Drew of the Regina Astronomical Society has agreed to act as my contact with that group. Also, one of our unattached members in the U.S., Mr Rodger W. Gordon of Pen Argyl, Pa, has been submitting observations. The change in my own address indicated is effective immediately.

Enclosed are sample copies of Forms 1-J and 3, as well as a two-page sheet describing the use of Forms 2 and 3. As with the forms distributed earlier, additional copies are yours for the asking.

SATURN Due to personal circumstances, this Bulletin is being sent out rather later than I had hoped. Although the event is only a few days away, I would like to ask that a special effort be made to observe the occultation of the star B.D.-19^o5925 by Saturn on the night of July 22/23 predicted on p.60 of the Handbook. Notes should be made on the times of contact and on any fluctuations in the star's brightness during its passage behind the rings.

JUPITER Early observations indicate great changes in the giant planet's appearance since it was lost to sight last year. Both components of the SEB seem to have been rejuvenated while the NTB remains invisible. There is a striking contrast between the extreme duskiess of the EZ and the brilliance of the STRZ, the latter making the RS a most conspicuous object in small telescopes. With Jupiter moving into the evening sky, I look forward to receiving observational reports in increasing quantities.

VENUS Both Toronto and Montreal Centres are engaged in active Venus programs. I will endeavor to make any observations submitted to me available to Len Chester and Klaus Brasch who are co-ordinating these programs for their respective Centres. It is usually best to view Venus while the Sun is still above the horizon; against a dark sky the contrast of the brilliant planet will wash out any detail, which is very indefinite at best.

SUBMISSION OF Ideally, I would like to receive copies of all observations made by our
OBSERVATIONS members. This should pose no problems in the case of quantitative observations (transits, satellite phenomena, etc.) since carbon copies are more than adequate for my purpose. On the other hand there is no easy method of copying pencil drawings. The most common way is to make tracings of major detail with a light-box and then fill in the finer detail by hand; with care an almost identical copy can be produced. Photographic copies have also been suggested, and several Centres are experimenting along these lines. Since this is one of the most serious difficulties facing us at present, I would appreciate hearing any ideas which you might have on this subject.

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Planetary Section, Standing Committee on
Observational Activities.
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