

J. Howell  
185 Fairview Drive. S.E.-27.  
Calgary Alta

Sunday Jan 28<sup>th</sup> '68

Dear Jim,

Sorry to be so long between letters, and reports.

The Comet and Nova Search section in Calgary is not thriving as I had hoped. In April last (1967) when I first tried to organise it, some dozen offers were made and I eventually allocated 9 Nova Search areas. The next obstacle was lack of Star Maps, so we collected fees and ordered some 20 Nortons and odd other maps and distributed them to the subscribers in August.

I used a lot of maps from my old Sky & Telescopes but sad to relate none of the recipients have volunteered one negative search report. At different observing nights I could not generate any enthusiasm either for members to search their areas - a general preference for Messier objects and the planets etc. being shown. Similarly Nova Delphin generated a lot excitement and was located by some 4 or 5 members on their own from a map I supplied them with from the star list supplied by you. In Sept. a group of some 10 observers all located it one evening but altho they all tried magnitude estimates verbally, none volunteered to give me a written report or estimate.

I have narrowed down our observers now to 3 others besides myself who I hope eventually will do some reporting.

The four of us are very keen on "lunar occultations" and I see by "SKYWARD" Montreal are showing the way, having "timed" over 100 occultations as a very excellent Centennial project. I commenced occultation work in October and have 10 successes reported for 1967 - and 2 so far for this January, one at 3<sup>55</sup> a.m. (M.S.T.) 15° below zero!

My magnitude estimates for Nova Delphine are a <sup>3</sup> new venture  
(from your list)  
for me. I used a 4.8 magnitude star RA 20hrs 36' - 17" Dec. 21° 01.5'  
(E1950)  
as a comparison standard. It was the only one I could find  
in the same field of view in my M17 "finder" scope - 5° field of  
view.

### Comet Search.

I have spent some 60 hours "comet hunting,"  
10 hours, naked eye searching, generally at work on the "night  
shift till 8<sup>00</sup> a.m.

• A further 28 hours (at work!) with 12x 60 mm binoculars.

8 hours with 10" reflector at 50x, and 15 hours with  
a 5" F5 refractor at 18x (3° field of view) just right for  
good sweeping - but I need a "star diagonal" to make  
searching more comfortable! Amateurs always need something  
don't we?; we are never happy unless trying to improve things.

Results? As you know - one false but "honest" new object!

Do you plan to attend the General Assembly  
in Calgary this year? If so I will certainly look  
forward to meeting you Jim and showing you my  
"observatory" - I'm still searching for a name for it by  
the way - any suggestions? Till next time,

Yours sincerely

J. Hewell

P.S. Jim - note the postal zone number 27 on my address. It is a new  
system started this year and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class mail will be speeded up (so  
they say!) if it is used.