



ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
 NIAGARA FALLS CENTRE

April 30, 1962

James W. A. Low,
 411 Briston Ave.,
 St. Lambert, P.Q.

Dear Sir,-

Since my last letter to you on Nov. 23, 1961, (is it that long ago!), our section has acquired one new member. His name is Mr. Grayson C. Gardner, 488 Philip St., Niagara Falls, Ont. His areas will be: 91, 96, 257, 277. My areas are 1, 99, 215, 384. So far we have had little opportunity to study & learn our areas - due to much cloudy weather last winter & this spring. If there are any other areas you would prefer us to take, we would be willing to do so. It is surprising how few members of our Centre have binoculars.

Following receipt of the ephemeris of Comet Seki-Lines which you sent to me March 9th the undersigned attempted vainly to spot it on several

✓ evenings - using 7x50 Binoculars.

We had a little better luck with your announcement #3 of Mar. 23, 1962. The first sighting was on April 6th 1962 at 8:00 PM E.S.T. through a thin spot in the clouds. No estimate of magnitude, position or size could be made, although the fact that it could be seen in such unfavorable conditions indicated a brightness at least as great as the estimate for that date.

On April 8th. conditions were a bit better, and the comet was seen 4° South & 1° East of α . Arietes. This presented a good view of the tail which seemed about 3° long. The nucleus was bright & starlike, although a tendency to elongation was suspected. Time of this observation was 8:00 PM E.S.T. Estimated magnitude just under 2.0.

Position: RA - 2h 20m DEC. $+21^{\circ}$ - used 7x50 Binoculars, 8" f 8 Reflector, and 4" f 5 reflector.

Best views were with the binoculars, although the 8" showed motion with respect to faint stars after an hour or so. Easily seen with naked eye.

On April 10th 1962 the comet was observed by Mr. G.C. Gardner & myself using 7x50 & 20x50 Binoculars, and 8" f 8 reflector. Again thin streaky clouds formed

3 at dusk, hindering the view. A fairly brisk wind did nothing for our comfort. Estimated position: a. 2h-40m; δ - $+24^\circ$ - Brightness 4^m.0. The comet could be seen quite readily with the naked eye.

April 16, 1962 - Comet was seen from St. Cath. by the undesignated -3° North of Pleiades. The tail seemed about 1° long. The comet could not be seen with the eye alone, about 6^m.0 - Tail quite broad & faint.

The scarcity of observing opportunities has been very disappointing - not only for Comet 1942 e, but also for ordinary viewing all during last winter.

Good Friday (April 20th) was a lovely sunny day and in the morning, Mr. Gardner visited me at my home in St. Catharines. We looked for sunspots on old Sol, through my 4" f 5 using an aperture of $1\frac{1}{4}$ " covered with #12 weldless glass. After a bit of a visit he went back to Niagara Falls and about an hour later he phoned me to say he had arranged for a number of the members of the Niagara Falls Club to meet that night at a spot about half way between the Falls and St. Catharines - He had arranged for as many telescopes as possible to be brought there and all he asked of me was to locate the comet. This was a

simple task as your announcement #3 and recent
observations made an estimate of its position
an easy task. We had a very good turnout to this
affair - about 30 people, 18 of whom were
members. I am enclosing a snapshot taken by
Mr. G. C. Gardner (he also printed this enlargement), of some
of the members, and the sign which he made and posted.

It gave us of the Comet & Nova Section a
great deal of pleasure to locate & show the comet
to our center members. While the observations
probably have no scientific value, they have
helped to further interest in amateur astronomy -
see clipping enclosed.

Several attempts were made to photograph
Comet Seki-Lines on April 8th, 10th, 16th, 23rd,
using small cameras strapped to tube of 8" f8
which was used for guiding. These films have not yet
been developed.

On April 25th the comet was not visible in 7x50's
but was picked up with the 4" f5.5 reflector. It was a very
poor night with mist & clouds. I could not estimate
position or magnitude, and no tail was visible. It was approx.
3 1/2° South of C Aurigae. (10TX)

3 I would like to mention here that at our Star
& Comet night we had 3 refractors (Bushnell, Union
& Swift) 4 reflectors - 4", 2-6", 8" (homemade) and
one Qvistar.

That is about all I have to report. None of
the positions or magnitudes are very accurate as our
experience in this type of work is almost non-existent.

Hoping our next report will not be so
long delayed,

Cordially Yours,

Hugh M. A. Maclean.

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