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1979 , May 21.

Mr. Peter Broughton, Archivist,
Royal Astronomical Society of Canada,
124 Merton Street,
Toronto M4S 2Z2.

Dear Mr. Broughton,

After I read your notice in the April National Newsletter, I meant to talk with you at the General Assembly, but there was so much activity that I failed to find the time to see you.

I have been a member of the R.A.S.C. since 1956, and am interested in the history of the Society. I presented a paper on the history at the 1965 General Assembly (RASC Jour., Vol. 59, No. 6, Dec 1965), and was, for a short time, unofficial archivist for the Montreal Centre about 1967. I have been a member of the Toronto Centre since 1968.

During the 1960's, there existed a Standing Committee for Observational Activities, and several observing sections were organized in an attempt to coordinate activities across Canada. I was the Coordinator of the "Comet and Nova Section". (Rasc Jour, Vol. 57, No. 4, Aug 1963). I collected many reports from observers over the years, and when the Committee was disbanded about 1971, no decision was made as to what should be done with the records.

I still have the reports of observations and correspondence related with the Comet and Nova Section. The negative search report forms, however, no longer exist. The records occupy a volume of about one cubic foot, and I am prepared to turn these over to the Society Archives, if it is felt they are of any value. I must add, that they have been stored in my basement for about seven years, and are a little musty and disorganized, but they could probably be cleaned up.

I do not know what happened to the records of the other coordinators, but it may be worthwhile to track them down, and see if they still have some records.

I have attended the majority of General Assemblies since the first one in 1960 (not 1962, as stated in London!), and have taken photographs and movies at several. However, all of my G.A. photo's are unorganized and it will take me some time to find them all.. When I can find time to search through my old photos, I'll make copies for the Society Archives. I suggest you may wish to track down other members who took photos at past G.A.'s.

Although I was once very active in the R.A.S.C., other responsibilities have limited my time during the past ten years. I maintain a keen interest in the Society, however, and would be willing to assist you, in a small way.

Yours truly,

Jim Low