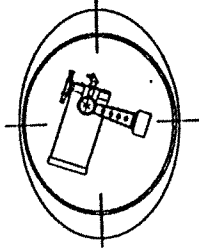
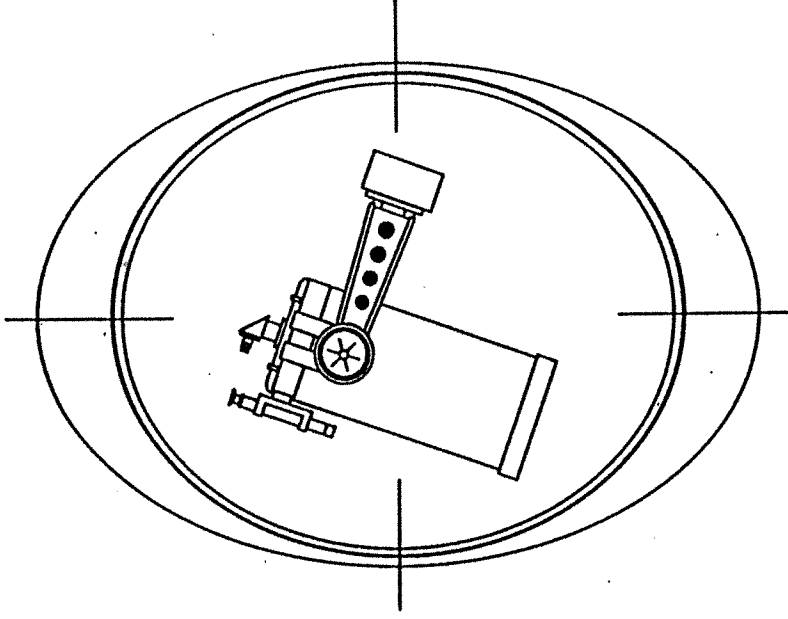


# The WINNICENTRICS

A Publication of  
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
Winnipeg Centre



Winnipeg Centre, R.A.S.C.  
P.O. Box 215 St. James P.O.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3J 3R4

r. Chris Rutkowski  
.O. Box 1918  
innipeg , MB  
3C 3R2  
B



# Shooting Stars



## 1987/88 COUNCIL

- President - Mr. John Haines
- 1st Vice-President - Mr. Lorence Mlodzinski
- 2nd Vice-President - Mr. Chris Rutkowski
- Treasurer - Mr. Chris Brown
- Secretary - Mrs. Myra Rutkowski

- Councillors - Mr. Len Gamache
- Mr. Gord Mathews
- Mr. Andrew Lawless
- Mr. Paul Paradis
- Mr. Stan Runge
- Mr. Bud Fairley

\*\*\*\*\*

### Appointed Positions

- Librarian Mr. Chris Rutkowski (475-4181)
- National Rep. Mr. Lorence Mlodzinski
- Observatory Director Mr. Lorence Mlodzinski (668-3974)
- Winnicentrics Editor Mrs. Myra Rutkowski (475-4181)

\* Please send Winnicentrics articles to:  
 P.O. Box 1918, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3R2



The Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature is having its annual open house on September 25 (Sunday). This is a great opportunity for us as a centre to let the public know about our group. If you can volunteer to man (person) the displays for a few hours, or have equipment or photographs for display, etc., please call Myra Rutkowski at 475-4181 or Chris Brown at 775-6392.

The Planetarium has invited us to contribute to a 5-10 minute show on amateur astronomers. Anyone who has astronomy related photographs or an interest in the production of the show should contact Chris Brown at 775-6392.

### \*\*\*MARS WATCH\*\*\*

The Centre will be offering a public Mars Watch in September 16, at City Park. We should have as many scopes as possible so that all people who attend will have a good opportunity for viewing. If you can bring one call Chris Rutkowski at 475-4181 or Chris Brown at 775-6392.



Take note of the Astronomy Classes being held at the University of Manitoba starting in October. If you want to know more about Astronomy and Space Exploration, this is the course for you! (See the ad in this newsletter)

Thanks to all who submitted articles and info for this issue of WINNICENTRICS!! Your help is greatly appreciated!





## ASTRONOMY AND SPACE EXPLORATION

DATE: 7 Wednesdays: October 5 - November 16, 1988

TIME: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

LOCATION: 385 University College

FEE: \$62.00 by September 15, 1988 (Early registration)  
\$72.00 by September 22, 1988 (Registration closes)

Since the later 1950s, mankind has taken the first few steps towards exploring the Solar neighborhood. We have walked upon the surface of the nearest celestial body, the Moon, and are now contemplating the next step in our quest for our origin and ultimate destiny. With the advent of the Space Shuttle, we have an increased ability to send people and materials into space, but at what expense? How will politics and international relations affect our efforts? What have we found out about our universe so far? What can we expect to discover as we reach further into Space? This course will examine these and other questions as we are now twelve years away from that fateful year: 2000.

- \* Early flight, rockets, Sputnik, pioneer astronauts
- \* "To the Moon, Alice": Apollo series, Tranquility base, Skylab
- \* The message of Moon rocks: origin of solar system, planets, Earth and Moon, Life
- \* The expanding universe, unmanned exploration
- \* Incidents: Cosmos 954, Skylab's fall, Apollo 13, Space Shuttle, "Star Wars"
- \* Onward and Upward: Canada and international co-operation
- \* Out There: some speculations.

Weather permitting, the course may include a visit to the Glenlea Astronomical Observatory.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Chris Rutkowski, B.Sc. (Astronomy) is vice-president of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Winnipeg Centre.

**REGISTRATION:** Limited enrollment. Registrants should come to the first meeting of the class unless notified otherwise. Written requests for withdrawals involving tuition refund (subject to a \$10 administration fee) will be accepted before the SECOND meeting of the class. No refunds will be made after that date. The University reserves the right to cancel any course and refund full fee, and to reschedule classes cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

**INQUIRIES:** Dr. James B. Hartman or Claire Bartmanovich  
Program Co-ordinator Program Secretary  
Continuing Education Division  
Telephone 474-9928

## SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

The ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY of Canada, Winnipeg Centre, and St. PAUL'S COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY of MANITOBA, are pleased to sponsor a Public Meeting at which there will be a Chaired Discussion on:

### FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Representatives of the Provincial Government and the Opposition Parties have been invited to address the problem of funding projects in Science and Technology. Specifically, the fields of PHYSICS, ASTRONOMY, OPTICS, ENGINEERING and SPACE SCIENCE will be addressed.

Tentatively confirmed are the following:

The Honourable Mr. Jim Ernst, Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism for the Province of Manitoba;

Mr. John Angus, Science Critic for the Liberal Party of Manitoba;

Mr. Harold Kelly, Researcher for the New Democratic Party of Manitoba;

The Chairman for the Discussion will be:

Dr. David Lawless, Rector of St. Paul's College, University of Manitoba

The Discussion will be followed by a Question and Answer Period.

.....

This event will be held as part of the regular Monthly Meeting of the ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY of CANADA, WINNIPEG CENTRE, in:

THEATRE 100  
ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE,  
UNIVERSITY of MANITOBA

The Meeting will take place on:

FRIDAY, September 9, 1988  
8:00 pm

The Public is Invited to Attend and ask the Invited Guests about any of their concerns in the fields of Science and Technology.

For further information, please contact the Winnipeg Centre at: 475-4181 or St. Paul's College at 474-8582.

R.A.S.C. WINNIPEG CENTRE  
EXECUTIVE & COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

The Annual Election for positions on the Executive and Council for the Winnipeg Centre will be held at the October General Meeting, October 14, 1988.

The following list represented the Council as it now stands. Positions in the Executive are elected annually and held for a maximum of only 2 years. Councillors are elected for 3 year terms.

EXECUTIVE

President	- Mr. John Haines	2 years*
1st Vice-President	- Mr. Lorence Mlodzinski	1 year
2nd Vice-President	- Mr. Chris Rutkowski	1 year
Treasurer	- Mr. Chris Brown	1 year
Secretary	- Mrs. Myra Rutkowski	1 year

COUNCILLORS

Mr. Bud Fairley	3 years**
Mr. Len Gamache	3 years**
Mr. Andrew Lawless	2 years
Mr. Gord Mathews	1 year
Mr. Stan Runge	2 years
Mr. Paul Paradis	1 year

\* indicates positions where the person cannot be re-elected.

\*\* indicates positions where the councillors has completed his 3 year term.

The observatory and warm room would not have to elaborate structures at first, but sleeping over might be a necessity. Because this is a long term plan, it's not necessary to discuss fine details at this time. These facilities would not be intended to replace our Glenlea site. In my opinion the Glenlea site should always come first. I consider Glenlea an important learning centre, close enough to Winnipeg for easy access yet far enough to get a reasonably dark sky. There are numerous other reasons that make the Glenlea site so important.

I have presented you with a general outline of my desire to start the planning and funding for a dark sky site. It's my hope that it becomes your desire as well. I respect your opinions and need your input. This big idea is not original but perhaps its time has come. This long term plan has not been formally discussed at a council meeting for many years. In fact, I can't remember if it was ever discussed at a meeting that I attended.

Our executive and council have been very busy with all of the activities that have been taking place in the last few years so it's no wonder they haven't had time to consider long term planning. Should we as a centre be planning for a dark sky site? Should it be left up to the individuals to acquire a dark site for themselves? I hope we can discuss this subject at the next meeting in September. Please try to attend.

## A TRUE DARK SITE

By Len Gamache, Winnipeg Centre

Some of us would give up part of our anatomy to have access to a fully equipped true dark site (at least a fingernail). Waiting to win a lottery isn't going to get us a dark site in this lifetime. I would like you to consider the following proposal. The R.A.S.C. Winnipeg Centre could start a dark sky fund. The funds would come from donations and would not be taken from your membership dues. The goals which I will outline are long term projections of the future. I'm talking about years into the future. I think that we've made excellent progress in the last few years with respect to building up and maintaining the hardware (dome, accessories, etc.) and software such as the relationships between us and the University of Manitoba (especially Dr. Bochonko), the Planetarium and groups such as the Girl Guides, etc.

Some of us may not be around for one reason or another when the dark site becomes a reality (I hope it becomes a reality). I hope that our centre has an identity that goes beyond our immediate needs and considers other amateurs who might not even be born yet. Planning for the future is an important part of any society if its health continuation or growth is desired. Obviously a dark sky site should only be a part of the big picture. Keeping this in mind, I propose the following goals for the dark sky fund:

Acquisition and maintenance of:

- land
- an observatory
- a warm room

The land might be bought, leased or rented. It might be donated or only permission to use it might be necessary. The site would have to undergo lots of testing before being declared suitable, within the limits of our northern environment.

The following person(s) have been nominated for positions on the Executive or Council:

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| President          | - Chris Rutkowski |
| 2nd Vice-President | - Len Gamache     |
| Councillors        | - Dave Trimble    |
|                    | - not filled      |

Please come to the October Meeting prepared to vote for those you wish to see on the Council for the upcoming year. If a position becomes available because an officer has been elected to a new position, nominations will be taken from the floor for the vacated position.

# OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Friday, October 14, 1988, 8:00 p.m.

Ian Cameron is the producer at the Lockhart Planetarium at the University of Manitoba, and is involved with the Manitoba Astronomy Club. He is the Observatory Supervisor at the Glenlea Astronomical Observatory, and is the teaching assistant for the Department of Math and Astronomy under Dr. Richard Bochonko.

Mr. Cameron's topic will be announced at the September Meeting, but he assures us that his illustrated talk will be topical and fun.

LATE  
BREAKING  
NEWS !!

**KODAK ABANDONS ASTROFILM** types 103a-E and 103a-F in 35mm size. Kodak has announced that because of declining sales the manufacture of a number of spectroscopic films is no longer practicable, and will be discontinued. Kodak states that there are also new or alternative film emulsions which will do equally well or better in a given imaging situation. Kodak's suggested replacement is Kodak T-Max 100 and 400 for 103a-E and 103a-F. Tri-X film is the recommended replacement for Kodak 103a-G which is also discontinued. Several months ago we noticed a stick-on label on a box of Kodak autoscreen ortho film. The label read Kodak's conversion means quality products for quality images. See inside for details or ask your dealer. The inside told us that the film was being discontinued and gave us the name of the replacement film. When we called Kodak about the replacement film we found that the replacement film did not have a screen in it and could not be used like the old film. So much for truth in Kodak's news. Kodak Tri-X and T-Max film cannot replace the spectroscopic films, especially 103a-E which has a red response that Tri-X and T-Max cannot come close to matching.

I'M AN ASTRONOMY WIDOW  
by Stacy Landers, Edmonton Centre

When I first met Tom and he told me he was an amateur astronomer, warning bells should have gone off in my head. They didn't. I envisioned walks under a starry sky and occasional looks through a telescope at something interesting, like Saturn (you know - sort of a never-ending planetarium star night). When he talked about Messier and NGC objects I nodded and smiled indulgently, and when he asked if I'd like to go observing I was thrilled. That night was great; the Orion Nebula, Jupiter, and clusters of galaxies. When he warned me that deep sky observing would bore me, I invited myself along anyway.

Well, after a few months, I began to catch on. First, have you ever tried to load a 10" Newtonian into a Reliant "K" car? It can be done, but you have to drive with the door open. Then there's Murphy's Law which states that the clarity of the sky is inversely proportional to the temperature of the night. Besides, most deep sky objects look like dim, fuzzy blobs, and I figure once you've seen one dim, fuzzy blob you've about covered it. Last, but not least, I'd get a quick peek and then watch him standing there for an hour drawing and writing. Finally, he convinced me to bring along a small scope of my own. It took me hours of practice to get the hand of "upside-down-and-backwards" and when I returned to my tripod after a short break, I discovered the true value of equatorial mounts.

Anyway, that experiment lasted all of a night, so I now send him off with cookies and a thermos of coffee while I curl up with a good book. Still, it has changed my life. Dinner invitations are answered by "sure... if it's cloudy", and I've found myself shopping for Naglers and H-Beta filters. Now I just have to re-educate the rest of the world. Woe be to my next friend who says "He's an astronomer, huh? Say, I'm a Sagittarius..."

- R.L. Bishop Black Holes or Crescent Moons?
- J.H. Lutz CCD Images of Southern Hemisphere Planetary Nebulae with Binary Nuclei
- H. Roser Optical Synchrotron Radiation from Radio Hotspots
- J.M. Nemec Period-Luminosity Relationships for Anomalous Cepheids
- W. Morley Astronomy Education in Lunenburg County Schools and Throughout Nova Scotia
- L. Kellerman How Teachers Perceive the Teaching of Astronomy and Space Science in the 7th and 8th Grade. Results of a Study
- D.W. Hladiuk Public Education Programs in Astronomy
- HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY - Contributed Papers
- T.A. Hockey Planetary Photospheres: The Story of A "Misdiscovery"
- W.J.S. Unrah Through the Looking Glass
- G. Reeves To Determine the Moon's Libration from a Photograph or Drawing
- T.S. Tenn William H. Wright: The Man Who Declined the Bruce Medal
- F.K. Edmondson Contributions of the Ford Foundation to Astronomy in the Southern Hemisphere

## The 1988 Victoria G.A.

The 1988 General Assembly in Victoria was the largest one ever held. The combining of our annual Assembly with those of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and the Western Amateur Astronomers, lead to a whopping attendance of over 600 people from Canada and the US. From our Centre Lorence Mlodzinski, Chris Brown, Pat O'Conner, Tom Cairns, Martain Clutton-Brock and myself attended.

The G.A. was part of a week long event held at the University of Victoria which also featured a Extragalactic Distance Scale Symposium and a Teaching Astronomy Session.

For myself, the events started on Wednesday June 29th, with the evening tour of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory (DAO), which houses the 1.85 m telescope with it's recently replaced mirror. In addition the Victoria Centre members provide several telescopes for our viewing pleasure. One very interesting setup was an 8" Celestron setup with a computerized digital imaging system (CCD) from Photometrics Inc. mounted at the back.

On the following morning, the most impressive three days of paper sessions began. As a benefit of having such a large gathering, the sessions featured no less than twelve invited speakers, giving lectures on everything from a Historical summary of the DAO to a mind boggling presentation on the effects of Supercomputers on Astronomy. In addition, there were 17 contributed papers, including our own Chris Brown. He gave a very good presentation named 'Photometry for the Beginner'. A full listing of the impressive paper sessions is at the end of this article. The group photograph was taken as well.

That evening the Helen Sawyer Hogg Lecture, a public presentaion co-hosted by the RASC and CAS, was held. The guest Speaker H. Reeves gave a presentation called 'The Early Moments of the Universe' in which he attempted to explain what occurred in layman's terms. The hall which apparently sat about 700 people, had few seats available for this lecture. A most promising indicator of the success of the Lecture series, was a show of hands which identified that half of this large crowd was from the general public. The talk was well presented and received.

After the Lecture the membership returned to our regular Papers theatre for the Murphy's Slide Contest and Reception, which featured the annual Song Contest. This event, held in the evening, allowed the various groups to meet and mingle. After a few drinks the crowd settled into the theatre for the start of the slide show. It began with two excellent presentations on the Total Solar Eclipse in Indonesia. Then several other respectable slide collections were displayed before the Murphy's Law slides began. It once again proved that all astronomers are capable of producing a wide range of results.

The song contest featured several well orchestrated presentations, and then Lorence, Chris and myself stood up to sing Chris Rutkowski's "To the Dome Again". I suppose it was either our vibrant manor or the tape of deluxe background music with Myra's piano playing that caused the judges to choose us as winners for the third consecutive year. In all, it was a very good time.

*We  
Won!*

## CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| S. Dobson    | Filming Astronomers in Action<br>Canada's Stargazers, from<br>Louisbourg to Supernova |
| R.D. Lewis   | Light Pollution - What Can We<br>Do?  |
| C.F. Brown   | Photometry for the Beginner   |
| A. Ling      | De-fuzzing the Fuzzy Deep Sky<br>Objects  |
| J. Anderson  | Chasing Eclipses: Weather<br>Prospects for 1990, 1991 and<br>Beyond                   |
| R. Attwood   | The March 18 Total Solar<br>Eclipse   |
| I. Halliday  | A Study of 44 Meteorite<br>Dropping Fireballs in Western<br>Canada                    |
| D. Pyper     | Time Sharing on an Automatic<br>Telescope   |
| T.J. Hewitt  | The Mars Hoax: Can We Turn<br>the Tide of Planetary<br>Pseudoscience in 1988?         |
| R.S. Iyengar | A Quantatative Analysis of<br>The Energy Processes in<br>Auroral Turbulence           |
| L. Doyle     | Photometric Constraints on<br>the Age of Saturn's Rings                               |
| F. Pinto     | Globular Clusters: A<br>Laboratory in Space and Time                                  |
| F.J. Howell  | Observing the Moons of Mars<br>with a Small Telescope                                 |



## LISTING OF PAPERS PRESENTED

### INVITED PAPERS

- A.G. Fraknoi Telescopes versus Horoscopes  
A Skeptic's Guide to Answer  
Questions about Astrology
- F. Drake The Search for  
Extraterrestrial Intelligence
- M. Schmidt Quasars: A 25th Anniversary  
Report
- J.B. Newton Astrophotography: A Colour  
Portrait of the Universe
- J.H. Wujek An Amateur Astronomer's Look  
at the Very Large Array (VLA)
- D. Levy Some Thoughts About Searching  
for Comets
- W.J. Kaufmann From the Moon's Creation to  
the Structure of Quasars:  
Supercomputing in Astronomy
- S. Edberg Research Opportunities for  
Amateur Astronomers
- J.E. Gunn Large-Scale Structure of the  
Universe
- J. Kormendy Central Monsters in Galaxies

### HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY - INVITED PAPERS

- A.H. Batten Glimpses of the First 70  
Years of the Dominion  
Astrophysical Observatory
- D.E. Osterbrock Lick Observatory: The  
First Century

The following morning and afternoon the papers continued. For those who did not wish to take in the papers, a very large Exhibit was on hand. It featured numerous Poster Board exhibits, an display method used by the American Clubs to promote serious amateur participation in astronomy. As well, there were several Commercial displays where organizations such as Sky Publishing, Astro Media Corp., Apple Computers and Eastman Kodak exhibited their books, equipment and software. They provided free information on their products and services. A vast volume of books on all the different aspects of astronomy was on hand.

In the evening, the Annual Awards banquet was held. An interesting aspect was having members from the RASC winning awards from the other organizations. After the meal and the presentations, a Giant Prize Draw was held. Besides the numerous books which were awarded, several Large prizes were given. These included an Astroscan Telescope and a Apple Computer. The crowd then dissipated with several of our members looking for a party.

The following day the final session of papers was held. This was followed in the afternoon with the RASC Annual Meeting. At the meeting, all members have an opportunity to see the National Council in action and to participate in the discussion of the various issues. All centre members will see a copy of the minutes in an upcoming newsletter.

This had wrapped up the formal events of the General Assembly for all those not involved on National Council. The membership then had time to prepare for the Sooke Barbecue, an evening of fine dining with the local lumberjacks performing. I didn't attend but Chris Brown informed me that it was very entertaining.

On the Sunday, several other tours were available to the participants. These included a Gulf Island Tour and the Butchart Gardens Tour. Both events provided an opportunity to visit the beautiful Vancouver Island.

At this point I wanted to mention a few other reasons why people should attend General Assemblies. They offer the chance to meet with members from other cities and to discuss issues relevant to running a Centre. Or just to discuss observing techniques or equipment. At the planned events, and at the evening parties, they offer the chance to establish long term friendships and to see old friends, as we met with Frank Shinn and Jack Newton (former Winnipeg members). You also meet with some of the most successful amateur and professional astronomers such as David Levy, Steven Edberg or even Helen Sawyer Hogg. A G.A. is a weekend dedicated to the hobby of Astronomy, as is as valuable for an armchair astronomer as it is to the dedicated Observer.

The next G.A. will be held in Sydney, Nova Scotia from June 30th to July 3rd. Anyone planning a vacation should consider taking it into their plans.

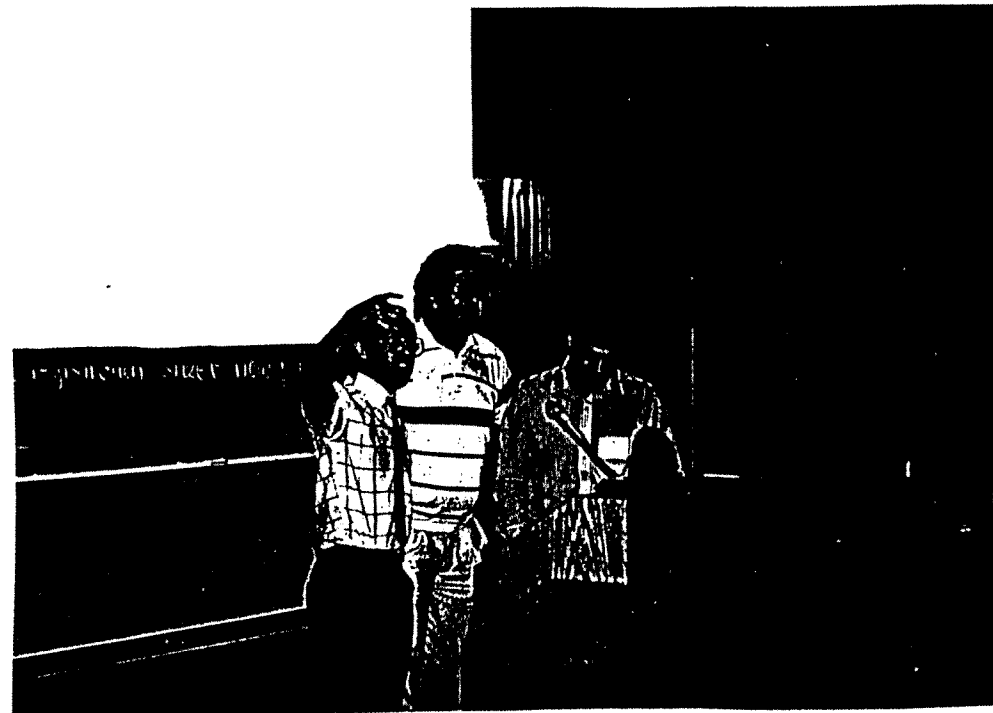
For myself, I attended this years G.A. as a representative to our National Council. Although it meant about 8 hours of meeting, some interfering with the paper session, it gives a good insight into the operation of our prestigious organization.

To the Victoria Centre members, I give my commendation for the organization of such a monumental event. Well Done.

Stan Runge  
Alternative National Rep.  
Winnipeg Centre



Group Photo of Winnipeg Members



The Winning Song Contest Trio