

Sputnik Three Rocket Carrier Sighted

by Keith D. Baker, Weyburn



Photo by K. D. Baker

The above, 72 second, time exposure of the Sputnik III rocket carrier was taken at f4.5 on Kodak RoyalXPan sheet film, Graphic '23', on the night of August 12, 1958, at Weyburn. I was directing a meteor observation group here, under the direction and encouragement of John Hodges and the Regina Astronomical Society. We were fortunate enough to see the sputnik carrier several times and I was able to take the above photograph which was published by the *Weyburn Review*

The satellite carrier was seen August 12 for several minutes starting at 10.46 p.m.; August 13, 10.35 to 10.41 p.m. and again shortly after midnight; August 14, from 10.22 to 10.31 p.m.

The satellite carrier appeared as an intermittent pulsing light about 8 seconds on and 8 seconds off. The light on each pulse came on slowly, peaked to full brilliance and then gradually faded. The light could be seen again sooner if one was using binoculars and the light could be seen longer and the dark period was shorter when the carrier was directly overhead. The light is due to the sunlight reflected from the shiny surface of the carrier as it tumbled over and over.

John Hodges tells us that the carrier was somewhat ahead of the satellite which it had put into orbit. The satellite could not be seen with the unaided eye but could be made out with binoculars. The satellite weighed 2,925 pounds and had an orbit varying from 150 to 1,170 miles from the earth's surface. It may stay in orbit for about six months.

What Can The Astronomer and Archaeologist Tell Us About Climate?

by John Hodges, Regina

Archaeology and astronomy are both contributing information about the earth's climate. This is part of the story of how that interesting and important relationship developed. It could possibly affect you and it does most likely affect the abundance of wildlife.

Some of this story was written as early as 1923 by Dr. A. E. Douglass, who was an astronomer. He was then director of Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, and yet he was invited to study trees. Dr. Douglass received this unusual invitation not because he wanted to be a biologist but because he was the world's