

88 Lorne Ave.

St. Catharines, Ont.

Thursday April 4, 1963.

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

Dear Sir, -

Your card re Comet Alcock 1963b arrived yesterday morning amid showers. Just after midnight it cleared enough for me to try a couple of search areas. There was quite a bit of cloud blowing around but I managed to check two areas. The gibbous moon did not make matters any better!

There was no sign of the new comet in the 7x50's, or in my $4\frac{1}{4}$ " f 11.3 Reflector which I later dug out of the basement. Finally I brought out just the tube to the 8" reflector, and leaning it against a chair I managed to glimpse the comet - pin point it so that I could see it in the $4\frac{1}{4}$ ". I still could not see it in the binoculars although stars of $7\frac{1}{2}$ magnitude were faintly visible. In the 8" no tail was visible & no pronounced stellar nucleus. This first sighting was at 0115 EST. APRIL 4, 1963. Later I tried a couple of exposures, which I developed tonight. They are poor ones, & I was not able to find the comet on them which they were set. Thank you very much for the information - this comet is in a good high position, although the bright moon will make observations difficult.

I haven't yet listed all the searches for March - a couple of dozen, I think. They will be sent in a few days.

None of the pictures of Comet Ikeya were suitable for making up a display (I'm referring to my own efforts). It did not get high enough above the horizon.

Here's hoping for some better weather soon!

Hugh W. A. Mackay,
Niagara Falls Centre.