

Fourth comet discovered by Ottawa engineer

Rolf Meier, an amateur astronomer from Bells Corners, Ontario, has discovered a new comet against the backdrop of stars in the evening sky.

Comet Meier 1984o, as it's now known, is the fourth new comet the Mitel engineer has spotted. He made his first official comet discovery in 1978, followed by two more in 1979 and 1980.

For the past four years, despite hours spent at the Royal Astronomical Society's Indian River observation site near Almonte, Ontario, Mr. Meier hadn't found another.

Using a 40-centimetre telescope owned by the Society, Mr. Meier discovered the

nebulous object in the northwest sky near a constellation known as Serpens Caput on September 19.

"It was just a fuzzy object, a little smudge," said his wife Linda.

Comets are made of frozen gases and dirt and resemble a dirty snowball in the sky, sometimes with a tail of the luminous material streaking behind them.

Meier 1984o is relatively faint, less than a tenth the brightness of Halley's comet.

The find has been verified by the Smithsonian Institute in Washington and a confirming telegram has already appeared on the screen of Mr. Meier's home-made computer.

Canadian Pacific Rail extends into United States

Canadian Pacific Limited (CP) of Montreal, through its Soo Line Railroad Company subsidiary based in Minneapolis, is extending its rail network into the heartland of the United States.

The railway's \$570-million (US) bid to acquire the bankrupt Milwaukee Road of Chicago was approved by the US Interstate Commerce Commission on October 26.

With the court's favourable decision, the Soo Line extends its trackage of 7 080 kilometres by another 4 990 kilometres including branch lines, giving it access to Kansas City, the rail transportation hub of middle America.

The Kansas City gateway in turn gives it connections with five US railways (to the south and southwest and to the west coast), allowing the Soo Line to break out of the pocket of its operations in northern Michigan, Wisconsin and North Dakota.

The Soo Line has long been CP Rail-

way's main US vehicle for the movement of two-way container traffic between Canada and the United States. It interconnects with CP Rail at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, on long-haul container trains that originate in Montreal, Quebec City and Maritime ports.

A major portion of this freight volume is international — containers off ships from Europe en route to US points through Canada and those on the way to Europe through Canadian ports from the United States.

Acquiring the Milwaukee Road permits longer hauls and more single-carrier direct service for such traffic to and from the United States interior.

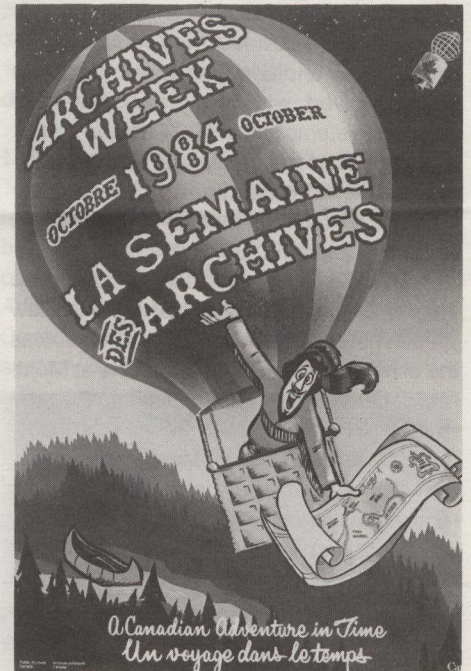
"Carrying CP Rail traffic to and from Canada is a major part of revenue," said a Soo Line spokesman. "With the Milwaukee Road, we are able to keep this traffic on our lines longer and under our (and CP Rail's) control. In addition, it also gives us a better traffic mix," he said.



Soo Line takes over Milwaukee Line.

Open house at Public Archives

As part of the celebrations for international archives weeks, October 12 to 26, the Public Archives of Canada hosted an open house to illustrate not only the collections and services offered by the Archives, but also the work it performs in records management and in the selection, preservation and diffusion of Canada's heritage.



Poster welcoming visitors to open house at the Public Archives.

The open house was designed to take visitors on a "Canadian Adventure in Time". Exquisite, prestigious and rare documents in the display, included photographs, paintings, maps, books, manuscripts, federal records, and films.

In addition, visitors were able to see the Archives at work transforming lights into photographs, restoring works of art and adding centuries to the life of irreplaceable documents. Computers demonstrated the role they play in preserving Canada's heritage.

Exhibitions remain open

Two major exhibitions mounted for the celebration remained open to the public following the open house. *The Painted Past*, closed on October 26, and *A Canadian Adventure in Time*, remains open until January 31, 1985.

International archives weeks was declared by the International Council on Archives, an association formed to foster global co-operation and study in the archival field. The declaration only arises every five years.