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NEWSLETTER

"BY AND FOR ALL ANTARCTICANS"



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THE END OF AN ERA NORMAN DIES

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BRASH ICE. Norman Vaughan is DEAD... well, not exactly, but sort of, as the papers have carried his obituaries and we have attended a Memorial Service for him in Hamilton, Massachusetts. However, Norman is going to live on perpetually, as his personality and character will perservere forever more. The Memorial Service which I went to was one of great celebrations of his life, stories galore, much laughter. No sadness, no tears, just a good old fun time. Norman, even though the record books will describe him as a dog team driver, came from Boston aristocracy, and both the church and the Myopia Hunt Club were filled with dowagers and handsome old men dressed to the gills. I was the sole male there who did not have on a tie and a sports jacket, but I wanted Norman to be able to recognize me if he should drop down to see how things were going.

Norman was the son of a wealthy leather tanner and shoe manufacturer, and lived a truly exciting life. I never met a man like him, and the reason was simple, when they made Norman they threw away the mold. He lived a hundred years without swearing, without smoking, without beer or alcohol. That is until his hundredth birthday when he had a sip of champagne, only to exclaim that it was awful tasting. His idea of a real celebration was to have something with an ice cream base. His life was sort of an open book, as not only did he write two books about his life, but the media made a folk hero out of him in his later years. One thing that I did learn from his obituaries was that he went to Iran as manager and coach of the U.S. Polo Team in 1972, a celebration of their 2500th anniversary of monarchy. And he refcreed the games, in which Iran won three, the US two. Only Norman could referee games against his own team and come out on the short end! His life changed dramatically when he moved to Alaska in 1973, but the best thing which ever happened to Norman was his fourth marriage , eighteen years ago, to Carolyn

life style. Norman once was exclaiming to me about the glories of climbing 10,320 feet Mt. Vaughan in the Antarctic, but I had to interrupt him by saying, "Norman, that wasn't such a great feat climbing your own mountain, but what was it after you did it, you got to sleep with Carolyn on the summit (as she, too, had summited Vaughan).

Let's take a look at where Norman has been, in chronological order Guatemala, Newfoundland, Labrador, Little America, and Greenland. Baffin Island, Iceland, England, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, India, Thailand, Philippines, Egypt, Jerusalem, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, West Indies, Japan, Pakistan, Greece, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Algeria, Azores, and Bermuda. He holds the record for the longest single trip in a snowmobile, from Fort Yukon, Alaska, to Boston, a distance of 5,700 miles, covered in 40 days and nights. He was also involved in 1990, at age 85, in going down a 266 foot shaft into the Greenland Ice Sheet to retrieve a P-38 fighter which had bailed in during World War II, a plane in which he had rescued its crew back in World War I! He participated in 13 Iditarods, running his first one at age 72, his last one at age 84.

Some people at NSF never got to know or understand Norman. They looked at him as a pure adventurer who could cause them problems. But he was much more in real life, although adventure is what fed him and drove him on to so many great deeds. Some were slightly offbeat, like dog sledging the Pope and breaking into a presidential inaugural parade - he was the official State of Alaska invitee to one. One bureaucrat who took the time to get to know Norman was Ray Arnaudo of the State Department, who gave Norman a stuffed husky for the top of his back pack which he carried to the top of Mt. Vaughan. There is going to be at least one more gala Memorial Service honoring Norman, this one in Alaska on March 3rd at the start of this year's Iditarod race. Norman never won an Iditarod, but he never lost any of them either...time just ran out on him, as it did on December 23, 2005 He dreamed big, and he wasn't afraid to fail.

George W. Gibbs, Jr., died on November 7th, 2005. His name probably does not mean anything to most of you, but he was the first African-American to visit Antarctica. He was a member of the Antarctic Service Expedition in 1939. He was one of 40 Navy men selected from 2000 applicants to go south on the BEAR, and went on three cruises to the Antarctic. Following Navy duty in the Pacific during World War II, he graduated from the Univ. of Minnesota and moved to Rochester, NY where he worked for IBM. The first African American to winter over at a US station was a meteorologist at Byrd Station by the name of Johns, who left the station at the

end of 1957 to go to an arctic station desperately in need of a meteorologist. Shortly after getting there, he came down with pneumonia and died, being the first IGY Antarctic scientist to die.

Some people appall me, simply amaze me, and one such person was an unknown member (to me) of our Society for the past eighteen years by the name of Alan D. Stone. He recently sent me a copy of a biography of Larry Gould, which he had put together for friends in Washington, D.C; it seemed it all started when he sent his friends a copy of one of our Newsletters. Then the husband wrote back that he had gone to Carleton College when Larry Gould was its president and that he considered Larry as his mentor. Alan wrote that our Newsletters had resulted in him (Alan) knowing of Larry's significance and achievements, so he decided to do this historical review of Larry's life. Well, the resulting biography of Larry is something else, truly amazing. There are two hundred and fifty pictures of Larry, although most are poor reproductions. Then there are short paragraphs describing what is depicted. Most of the material was gleaned from the archives of Carleton College. I have never seen anything exactly like it, and it's fascinating stuff and most interesting. You did one heck of a good job, Alan, and we thank you for the biographical copy about the Silver Tongued Orator. We will treasure it.

We have again lost another prominent Antarctic scientist, Sayed El-Sayed. Sayed and I had a common interest in tennis. He was Boris, and I was Pete, as in Becker and Sampras. In his last letter to us, on October 3, 2005, he expressed his appreciation for the kind words that we had written in behalf of the late Peter Wilkniss, in which he wrote that he found Peter "to be charming, engaging, and likable, and at times humorous. At any rate, I am glad you showed us the other side (Dr. Jackyl!) of him."

Had a letter the other day from John Roscoe, one of the older Antarcticans now at age 87. He was a photogrammetrist on Operation High Jump in 1946-47 and then on Operation Windmill in 1947-48. Afterwards he was scientific advisor to the director of the United States Antarctic Program. But he became infamous for producing a publication, which showed no authorship. It seems back in 1951 he was working for the U.S. Navy, and he produced the first and most complete bibliography ever done in this country on the Antarctic. At the time, the Navy had a policy of not showing its authors, and so ANTARCTIC BIBLIOGRAPHY went to press. But John circumvented the Navy and its policy, by showing the publication in the

bibliography, and listing himself as its author! John, you were a clever rascal.

Big John sent along a reminiscence which is too good to leave out, but where it involves a relative of one of our members; we are leaving out the name of the person to protect the family heritage. It seems that this well known Antarctic at West Base in 1939-41, and his comrades stopped off at a South American port on their way home for a little R&R, but let's let John tell the rest of the story, "The men rushed off the ship to find women. In those days the only available ones were in the houses of ill repute. (John Doe) walked off the ship, took his time, and bought a small house of ill repute, lock, stock, and barrel -owner, wife (madam), four daughters (the girls), bar, etc. I think he recovered his investments by entertaining the other crew members in succeeding days." Sort of reminiscent of a lecture given our Society by my very good and most special friend, the late Admiral Mike Benkert, U.S. Coast Guard, in which the city of Valparaiso made him their Honorary Mayor after an extended visit on their way back from the ice.

Also in a recent Mail Bag came a copy of an oral history on **Charlie Bentley** conducted by one of his colleagues, Katrina Dean of the University of Bristol. This history is entitled Seismic and Radar Soundings of Antarctica, 1956-1980, but in actuality it is far more extending time wise. We have seen half a century of research since the IGY, and as far as I am concerned, Charlie amounts to Mister Antarctica for this time period. If you took the number of working trips to Antarctica, the number of days working in the field (ice), the significance of his findings, his impact on Antarctic science, there can't be another who can hold a candle to Charlie. So it was a great revelation to read this oral history, especially having known him personally over many of his years. In an innocent sort of way, I feel sort of a kinship to Charlie, as he and I, plus Bert Crary and Mario Giovinetto, were the only four Americans to spend both IGY years on the ice. Plus I am indebted to him for proposing my name for a majestic Antarctic feature! So I have to elevate Charlie to the highest!

Once upon a time, our Society used to have some great lectures in Washington, D.C., with some of our presentations being in the main auditorium of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. Charlie gave a wonderful presentation there, and he had the audience in an uproar with his light humor about life on the ice. I am sure one of his stories involved the nude picture in the galley of the girl friend of the cook at Byrd station in 1957. This comes up in the oral history, although not under seismology. Back in those days, atmospheric allowing, communication with the home front was by single side band,

finding an amateur radio operator near your family. One day they established contact with a ham operator near where the cook's so-called girl friend lived. And the cook got all excited about his upcoming conversation with his beloved, and heard the operator on the other end dial her up, ask her if she would accept a collect call from the Antarctic. Her reply was "How much will it cost me?" And the ham replied "Fifteen cents." Her answer was "No." Charlie's comment in the oral history was to the effect that the cook was a sour person ordinarily, but after that he was practically unlivable. A book, which will never be published, is Fone Patches from the Antarctic.

It is pretty common knowledge how the United States ended up at the South Pole, The Chairman of the Secretary-General of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, Colonel Georges Lacleve, declared at their international assembly at the Paris Observatory in July 1955, that the United States was going to the South Pole. No discussion, evidently, that was it. Charlie Bentley said something interesting about the South Pole station in his talk with Katrina. He said when Bert Crary was Chief Scientist in the Office of Polar Programs that he took a good hard look at the science being done at the station and then realized that there wasn't much. Bert said something to the effect that the U.S. wasn't getting their dollar's worth out of the station, and that it should be closed down. Word of this got around and the Soviets said okay, go right ahead, we'll take it over from you. And that killed it, as the United States was not about to yield the station to the Soviet Union. Friendly as things were in the Antarctic, they weren't that friendly geopolitically. And so, all during the Cold War, there was a strong political reason for being in the Antarctic

In closing this runaway Brash Ice, we did find out from Charlie's oral history something that we had long suspected, that we weren't really of library quality. CRB is Charlie, KD is Katrina. CRB: Same outfit as Paul Dalrymple. If you want more information, you should talk to him. Is he on your list? KD No, I don't know him. CRB: Oh boy (laughs). He is the biggest Antarctic enthusiast you will ever run into in your life. He knows everything about anybody who ever been down in the U.S. KD: Good. CRB: He puts out the Antarctic Society Newsletter. Have you ever seen that? KD: I haven't, no, this is a U.S. publication like a club kind of thing? CRB: I am sure there are people across the ocean that are subscribers. KD: Yes, I'm sure. They have it at the Scott Polar Research Institute in the library, there I'd say. CRB: It's probably not considered library quality. KD: Oh okay, No, but I think. CRB: But some individuals will certainly have it. KD: Yes, I think Scott Polar has a lot of

little stuff like that. CRB: They might have it" How about that, not really of library quality. However, this does not shock me at all. As all I am concerned with is making it interesting for all members of a family who may have gone or are there. I want it read, not archived in the stacks gathering dust. This has been my labor of love, but now I want to play.

MEMBERSHIP: Mailings went out just prior to the Lincoln Birthday Northeast, so those of you who owe for the current year should have your bill. We really made another mistake by not raising our dues, as not only did we have a raise in postage in January, but the Postal Service is going to push it up another notch with another raise within a year. If anyone who did not get a bill, and may want to extend, *our* current dues are \$12.00 for singles, \$15.00 for couples, and \$20.00 for overseas members. We treat Canadians like Americans, as we are hockey fans. We encourage all to renew for multiple years as the Antarctic Society is basically a one-person shop where membership, treasury, putting together Newsletters, stuffing envelopes, mailing Newsletters, selling calendars, answering mail et cetera are all done here on midcoast Maine. So you can help us out, by renewing for multiple years.

SAVED EL-SAYED (1926 - 2005) SCAR NEWS. With the death of Sayed El-Sayed, Antarctic oceanography has lost one of its pioneers, and most enthusiastic supporters. Sayed was born and educated in Egypt, graduating in Zoology and Geology from the University of Alexandria in 1949, where he was also awarded an MSc in Oceanography in 1951. In 1953 he moved to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the leading oceanographic institution in the US, as a biologist in the Marine Life Programme, USA. His work on the English Sole populations of Saratoga Passage, Holmes Harbour and Penn Cove gained him a PhD from the University of Washington in 1959. He joined the staff of the Oceanography Department at College Station, Texas A & M University in 1963, and remained there until his retirement in 1997, on which he was awarded Emeritus status.

Early on in his time at Scripps, Sayed became interested in the ecology of marine phytoplankton and Antarctic marine ecosystems. From 1962 to 1967 Sayed participated in nine Argentinean cruises in the Atlantic sector of the Southern Ocean, and nine American cruises in the Pacific sector. He presented a synopsis of this work at the Second SCAR Biology Symposium held in Cambridge UK in July 1968.

A significant outcome of this SCAR meeting was the recognition of our lack of knowledge of the fundamental ecology and dynamics of the entire Antarctic marine ecosystem. Coupled with the rapidly developing Antarctic

fisheries for fin-fish and krill, this gave rise to great concern. Following a series of international meetings, in 1976 the BIOMASS (Biological Investigation Of Marine Antarctic Systems and Stocks) Programme was formulated under the aegis of the newly formed SCAR Group of Specialists on Southern Ocean Ecosystems and their Living Resources, with support from other international bodies including SCOR, IABO and ACMRR. The main object of the BIOMASS Programme was to *gain a deeper understanding of the structure and dynamic functioning of the Antarctic marine ecosystem as a basis for the future management of potential living resources*. It was a highly ambitious program requiring the co-operation of 11 nations, standardization of methodology and techniques, and pooling of results. To be successful it would require strong and dynamic leadership. That task was given to Sayed El-Sayed, aided by the BIOMASS Executive.

Over a ten-year period there were two multiship, multinational cruises (1981 and 1984-85) leading to 32 international workshops. The research produced an impressive number of publications in scientific journals. In addition there were 68 reports in the BIOMASS Report Series, 23 BIOMASS Handbooks, 10 volumes in the BIOMASS Scientific Series and 25 BIOMASS Newsletters. This represents an enormous scientific legacy, but arguably an even more important outcome from the BIOMASS program was the establishment of the Commission on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources that now controls the developing fisheries in the Southern Ocean.

That BIOMASS was so very successful owes much to the unremitting hard work of Sayed El-Sayed. His leadership was exemplary. His enthusiasm never wavered and he was ever generous with his time and support, especially to the many young scientists who were just starting their careers in oceanography. His charm and cheerfulness ensured that co-operation between scientists and nations was always total. In spite of this heavy workload Sayed maintained his own research output.

Sayed was awarded the National Science Foundation Antarctic Service Medal, and the 1985 Distinguished Service Award by the American Institute of Biological Sciences. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names named El-Sayed Glacier in recognition of his work in Antarctica. He will be remembered with great warmth and affection by all who knew and worked with him.

SOME PERSONAL REMINISCENCES OF EL-SAYED
(Andrew Clarke) The start of my own research career in

Antarctica, working on krill from both shore stations and the RRS *John Biscoe*, coincided with the BIOMASS programme. Whilst the scientific shape of the programme was set by Dick Laws in the UK and Gotthilf Hempel in Germany, it was Sayed who drove the programme forward with his dynamic running of the BIOMASS Secretariat at Texas A&M University. Infectious in his enthusiasm, it was impossible to refuse him when approached for an article in the BIOMASS Newsletter, or a talk at a meeting. The enormous success of the BIOMASS programme was due in no small way to Sayed's charismatic and charming leadership. It was testament to the enormous affection in which Sayed was held that when he presented his final talk at a SCAR Antarctic Biology Symposium, the lecture hall was filled to capacity. And Sayed did not disappoint; pacing up and down energetically, waving his arms, and with a characteristic disregard for the passage of time, he described his most recent work on the effect of UV radiation on Antarctic phytoplankton and received a huge ovation at the end.

In the more personal surroundings of a smaller meeting in the mountain village of Ravello on the Amalfi coast of Italy, I learned more of Sayed's background and history (between his disappearances for games of tennis, a passion for all of his active life). With a typical Arab sense of hospitality and generosity, Sayed arrived with a small present for all the partners at the meeting, and presented these with style. Sayed was immensely proud of the work he had done in Antarctica, and also in the success of the BIOMASS Programme. However he also spent considerable time working in the Middle East, and he took enormous personal satisfaction in having received medals from both Egypt and Israel for his work furthering scientific cooperation across the religious divide in that troubled part of the world. I shall remember Sayed as a warm, generous character, who always had time for the younger generation of scientists, and who was one of the founder figures of Antarctic oceanography.

THERE'S A CRUISE SHIP FOR EVERYONE. We are into an era now when over twenty thousand tourists per year enter Antarctic waters. I often wonder what it would be like to go on one of the behemoths of the cruise ships, and that curiosity was recently fulfilled when I went on one of the largest, one of the most luxurious, one of the most glorious of all, Holland America's ROTTERDAM. Previously I had been on one at the opposite end of the scale, the DISKO. But I had also been on the well known WORLD DISCOVER, the excellent Russian ship, the IOFFE, and the ALLES TARASOVA. All I can say is that there is a ship out there, which will please everyone, that it is just a matter of finding the one, which fits your own personal profile.

There was a time, early on, when certain ships with a more or less permanent lecture staff, attracted the same tourists, time after time after time. I immediately think of the old EXPLORER, and our Whale Spotteress, Dotte Larsen, who made repetitive trips on the EXPLORER, as she was in love with the lecture staff, especially Keith Shackleton. But I don't think there is any one ship today, which has that kind of drawing power.

I always thought that there was one Pied Piper out there lecturing, Peter Harrison, the British born, Americanized ornithologist, who has a legion of supporters who follow him all over the world. Peter is the author-illustrator of that great book, SEA BIRDS, and he paints some bird, each and every day at sea which are auctioned off for some charity. Peter is also part actor, part raconteur, and he has the capacity to answer the same question time after time after time without blowing his top. And he goes the extra mile, and once upon a time never left the bar until the last questioner had called it quit. Maybe he still does, I do not know.

One of the very nicest persons lecturing in Antarctic waters is Yuriko Lindblad, widow of the gentleman who started all of this Antarctic cruise business many, many tears ago. I had the privilege of being with Yuriko several times, and once I asked her which was her favorite ship. Naturally I thought she would answer the EXPLORER, as her husband had had the ship built for something like three or four million. Her answer was the ALLES TARASOVA, now the CLIPPER ADVENTURER. So we all have our favorites.

I think the biggest problem with tourists is that they do not do their homework, do not know what their options are in ships, in itineraries, in lecturers. They have no idea at all when penguin chicks will be hatching, when they will be fledging, when the channels may be blocked by ice, when the weather may be stormy. They find a hole in their home schedule, and then book what is available.

If you really want to get completely immersed in Antarctica, go on one of the smaller ships, as smaller can very often be better, you get to know both the staff and fellow passengers on a more intimate basis. Plus the bridge is open to you. And if Antarctica is your only interest, you get to find that it is the only game on the smaller ships, there are no other distractions. On the debit side, smaller ships, especially the older ones, may not offer the stability of larger ships. But the Drake Passage is not interminable. There is a beginning and an end, and once in Antarctic waters, chances are that you will survive.

Now for ships like the ROTTERDAM. Dollar wise they may be cheaper per hour at sea than the smaller ships, but the big drawback for the pure Antarcticans is that you never get any closer to the Antarctic penguins (emperor, Adelie, gentoo, and chinstrap). than the end of your binoculars.. There are opportunities to see up close some of the sub-Antarctic penguins when you are in the Falklands and places like Punta Arenas..

If you are an Antarctic purist, maybe you should think twice before your booking, weighing your priorities. But if you are a bon vivant, who lives a life style befitting Las Vegas, but without nudity, by all means sign up with a ship like the ROTTERDAM. If you are handicapped, by all means sign up with a large ship which offers more of the amenities for the handicapped. . A ship like the ROTTERDAM has the works for all ages, all sizes and shapes, and is a grand hotel on water. There's shuffleboard, there's a complete fitness center, there's a very modern skin care center, there's a basketball court, two swimming pools (one fresh water, one salt water), there's a casino as well as a library, and, oh yes, a very large computer facility for those who need dot.com to exist. Then you have stores galore, even an art gallery. I don't know of anything missing, as they have lounges for those who just want to sit. There's lectures followed by bingo, and evenings come alive with music of all kinds, many dance halls, then stage shows, movies every night, a string trio, a piano soloist. It's hard, if not impossible, to find something you like which isn't part of the daily routine. But most Antarcticans that we know are more naturalists than Off-Broadway, and they may find the frequent formal dinings a bit too dressy. It is hard for me to believe that there are people who actually like to get dressed up, wear gowns, wear tuxedos. The ship even has formal dress rentals!! LL Bean clothes are strictly atypical, but they do have an excellent informal cafeteria dining room, with the same elegant food, overlooking the sea near the stern which is duly a great place to eat. So there is something for everyone, even if you want to see and hear a little bit about the Seventh Continent

SOUTH POLE TRAVERSE ARRIVES DECEMBER 23. (Peter Rejcek, *The Antarctic Sun*, 01/01/06)

The mission is nearly over, but the journey is only half done. On Dec. 23 at 2:56 p.m., John Wright parked the last tractor of the South Pole Traverse on a hard-packed snow area near the South Pole Station. He wearily climbed out of his Caterpillar 95 Challenger, exchanged a few hugs and kisses with a Polie greeting party, and told his crew to form camp and ensure all the vehicles were plugged into electric outlets to keep them warm in the freezing temperatures. "Let's plug 'em in and shut 'em down," he said. After 43 days and some 1,600 kilometers,

the South Pole Traverse had done its job — proving that an overland snow route between McMurdo Station and South Pole Station is feasible. The arrival of Wright and his seven-member crew is the culmination of a four-year field project.

After taking a couple of days rest at the Pole (though still using the two berthing modules they towed there), the team left South Pole on Dec. 28 shortly after 8 a.m. for the return trip to McMurdo. It followed its flagged route all the way back to Ross Island with three tractors, a PistenBully, its support modules and fuel tanks.

Over the three previous seasons, the traverse field team has crossed the Ross Ice Shelf, climbed the Leverett Glacier through the Transantarctic Mountains, and made it to the polar plateau just past 86 degrees south. Each excursion from McMurdo Station went farther than the previous year, with the traverse returning to Ross Island at the end of each foray. The first field season for the traverse was the 2002-03 austral summer. It covered the least amount of real estate over the four seasons, about 200 kilometers, but successfully crossed a 5.5-kilometer area called the shear zone. This stretch of the route, not far from McMurdo Station on the Ross Ice Shelf, was Swiss-cheesed with 32 crevasses, Wright said. Much of that season was spent identifying crevasses in the shear zone and plugging them up with snow — a job much harder than it sounds.

"Finding snow in Antarctica is not a difficult proposition," Wright noted, "but finding snow in a crevasse field that you can maneuver to the brink of the crevasse you want to fill, is." The next season, soft snow and flaws in sled design slowed the traverse, though it blazed an additional 475 kilometers despite less-than-ideal conditions. Last season, the traverse did a blitzkrieg past its farthest south point and then up the Leverett Glacier, even while encountering another major crevasse field. After gaining a foothold on the polar plateau, about 1,180 kilometers from McMurdo, and farther than its original goal for that field season, the team safely returned to McMurdo. Wright said the route is now safe and repeatable, a criteria of proving the route. Only a few months ago, that was still in doubt. "It was a question back in October," he said. "It is a question no more. We are here."

"IPY ON LINE" (Katy Jensen) On January 17th, the National Science Foundation launched an Internet "portal" Web site (<http://www.us-ipv.org>) to support U.S. participation in the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008. The White House's Office of Science and Technology chose NSF as the lead U.S. agency for the event, which was

co-founded by the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Primary goals of the IPY 2007-2008 are to quantify the earth's "environmental status," improve our understanding of global climate systems and circumpolar societies, and ignite a renewed passion for science, math, and global issues. Researchers from more than 100 countries are preparing for this largest-ever, multi-disciplinary data collection campaign, which will actually take place between March 1, 2007, and March 1, 2009.

The first IPY (1882-1883) was the brainchild of Bavarian Georg von Neumayer and Austro-Hungarian Karl Weyprecht. During their stellar careers as polar explorers, these two men recognized a need for international scientific collaboration, and they co-chaired the International Polar Commission in 1879. Primary interests at the time were weather patterns, magnetism, and other polar phenomena. Twelve countries participated in the first IPY, with twelve expeditions to the Arctic and three to the Antarctic.

The second IPY (1932-1933) occurred 50 years later, with 44 nations participating. The primary goal was to improve weather forecasts and radio communications for ships and aircraft, but scientists also began to recognize the advantages of interdisciplinary cooperation. For perhaps the first time, the Polar Regions weren't regarded as separate, remote entities, but as essential components in a complex network of earth processes. By studying the atmosphere, ice, and sediments of the higher latitudes, researchers discovered evidence of our planet's history and clues about our future.

So when American physicist Lloyd Berkner proposed a third EPY in the 1950's, the International Council of Scientific Unions decided to expand the research goals to include additional terrestrial and solar research, resulting in the International Geophysical Year of 1957-1958. Sixty-seven nations and countless individuals collected data all over the world—from the bottom of the ocean to the middle of Antarctica.

The IGY also launched science off the face of the planet. The U.S. announced its development of an impressive satellite program, but it was the Soviet Union who stunned the world by launching Sputnik I in October 1957 and Sputnik n (and its canine cosmonaut, Laika) a month later. After a few successes of its own, the U.S. passed the Space Act in July, and NASA was created before the end of the IGY. In 1992, an "International Space Year" commemorated the 35th anniversary

of the IGY and the 500^m anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the New World.

The success of previous International Years and continuing support for forums such as the Arctic Council and the Antarctic Treaty have proven that international cooperation can exist among seemingly incompatible cultures. Today, signatory nations for the Antarctic Treaty represent 80% of the world's population. Let's use the upcoming IPY to reach the other 1,299,221,800 people!

LIFE ON THE ICE - No One Goes There Alone
(by Raff Smith 2005. National Geographic) Reviewed by G. Machemer. Perhaps only a trained journalist, who writes sparingly and with clarity, can pack into 208 pages an overall physical description of the Antarctic continent, complete with its historic past of those who discovered, explored, and settled scientific bases there. So it was for Roff Smith, born in New Hampshire, and emigrated to Australia when he was 23. Under the Australian Artists and Writers Program, he first sampled the awe of the Antarctic at Davis and Mawson bases. Enthralled with that experience, he then covered the white continent for Time Magazine, and followed as a writer for the NSF Program. He was accorded every opportunity to explore all aspects of scientific research at the various stations. NOAA and the National Geographic found him a ride on a Russian icebreaker from Punta Arenas, south to King George Island where the Golden Fleece, a 70 foot steel-hulled yacht gave him a fantastic five-week tour of the Antarctic Peninsula all the way south to Marguerite Bay. His journal was filled with anecdotes of the famous explorers such a Charcot and Nordenskjold. RofP's reflections are forthright yet beautifully written, great for a review by experienced Antarcticans and just the best homework for those anticipating a trip to the Ice.

CARGO, FUEL SAFELY UNLOADED AT ANTARCTIC RESEARCH STATION

(February 10, 2006) Overcoming challenging ice conditions, a ship has safely delivered cargo needed to supply National Science Foundation research stations in Antarctica through the coming austral winter and into the next research season. Fuel required to heat the stations and power aircraft and other vehicles is currently being transferred from a tanker into storage tanks on land.

The cargo vessel American Tern arrived at McMurdo Station's ice pier on Feb.2. With its cargo safely offloaded, and with recyclable materials and other goods stowed aboard, the Tern was escorted out of McMurdo Sound by the Russian icebreaker Krasin. The cargo ship has steamed

safely beyond the ice-clogged region and is now headed north.

NSF chartered the Krasin to cut and maintain a channel through the thick, multiyear ice covering the Ross Sea and the sound into McMurdo Station. Meanwhile, the tanker Lawrence H. Gianella offloaded fuel and completed its operations on Feb. 11.

THINGS THAT YOU ALL SHOULD KNOW.. There are over 140 lakes buried beneath varying thickness of Antarctic ice, but most of them are small and shallow. The largest of them all is Lake Vostok, about the size of Connecticut, which holds 5,400 cubic kilometers of water, enough to fill Lake Michigan. There are two other subglacial lakes near Lake Vostok, one is called 90 Degrees East (as it stretches along that longitude) is the second largest subglacial lake in Antarctica, holds about 1,800 cubic kilometers of water, enough to fill Lake Ontario. The other major sub glacial lake is Sovetskaya, and that covers 1,600 square kilometers..... The ozone hole may not recover until the year 2065. At its yearly peak in early October, the ozone hole covered about 24.3 million square kilometers, an area about the size of North America. That's down from the hole's largest extent of 26.2 million square kilometers in 1998. The atmospheric data gathered over the United States and Canada now suggest a 15-year delay in recovery..... Using data gathered by a satellite (ICESat) launched almost 3 years ago, scientists have assembled the most comprehensive high-resolution map of Antarctica that's ever been made. ICESat collects elevation data down to latitude 86° S, a mere 450 kilometers from the South Pole. Previous maps of Antarctica covered areas only down to 81.5° S The new map of Antarctica will soon be made available to the public at <http://www.nside.org> the Web site of the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, CO.

THINGS THAT YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF. There is a new book out by Mariiana Gosnell entitled ICE, The Nature, the History, and the Uses of an Astonishing Substance. It's published by Knopf, and it sells for thirty dollars. You will find the names of many of our Society's members who have made a well-worthwhile living studying something which is more brittle than glass, at times stronger than steel, other times flows like molasses, covers 10 percent of the earth's land and 7 percent of the ocean. Buy it, you can't help but like it.

THINGS YOU POSSIBLY MIGHT WISH TO KNOW. The largest snowplough ever sent to the Antarctic departed Hobart, Tasmania on a Russian freighter in January, bound for Casey Station. It is hoped that ideal conditions will allow the plough to be put into position before winter sets in so that it can be used to construct a 4000-meter blue-ice runway. The strip will be placed on giant slides and dragged 60 kilometers

by tractor to an m land site where the ice is crevasse- free, at least 500 meters thick, and less exposed to the fierce winds and snow storms that lash the perimeter of the continent. It will take until the summer of 2007 to have the strip ready. The runway is going to be named the Wilkins Blue Ice Runway and scientists will transfer directly to small ski-equipped turbo propped aircraft to be taken direct to field camps, or to helicopters or passenger carrying tractors to reach Casey. The strip will be capable of taking Boeing 747 freighter and even the larger Airbus A380 freighter due in service from 2008. If Sir Hubert's ashes were not at the bottom of a sea, I am sure he would appreciate a ride to or from his runway. Remember how at McMurdo in 1957, he would hang around Willy Field just hoping to catch a flight to anywhere!!!.....An ailing crewman on a fishing vessel, presumably an Uruguay boat, was picked up by a New Zealand helicopter stationed at Hallett, then flown by an Italian twin otter at Terra Nova to McMurdo, where an American plane took him to Christchurch and hence to a hospital. He evidently wasn't too badly off, as while at McMurdo he was reportedly in stable condition, conscious, and watching a movie Thousands of everyday articles left in explorer Ernest Shackleton's hut at Cape Royds will be preserved over the next three years. A conservation laboratory, in two containers, was shipped from Lyttleton in mid-January to Antarctica. This will allow conservators to work in relays, winter and summer on 3500 artifacts. Three conservators, trained in Australia and Europe, would stay at Scott Base this winter and work in the laboratory..... A lot of the real good stuff which you find in these Newsletters is here only because of the kindness and generosity of a person deeply respected and loved by many American Antarcticans, Margaret Lanyon.

MOUNT TERROR RUGBY CLUB SETTLES FOR SILVER, LOSES 5-0. In the almost annual World's Southernmost Rugby Championship, the elite Scott Base Rugby Club defended their World Cup gold, by edging the highly conditioned young American club from McMurdo, winning 5-0. The game played on natural turf, a 300 metre ice shelf, was made more exciting as winds registered 80 kilometers per hour. In a way, it was somewhat of a moral victory for the layered Mount Terror team who played with great gusto, as two years ago they had lost to the veteran Scott Base team by a score of 27-0.. The Americans were lead by Keith DePew, who once upon a distant past played rugby in college. However, we thinketh it is quite evident that Raytheon must recruit some offensive power, as if you can't score, you sure can't win.