



# THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

*"BY AND FOR ALL ANTARCTICANS"*

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### **Past Presidents**

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Mr. Gordon D. Cartwright 1962-63  
RADMDavid M. Tyree (Ret.) 1963-64  
Mr. George R. Toney 1964-65  
Mr. Morton J. Rubin 1965-66  
Dr. Albert P. Crary 1966-68  
Dr. Henry M. Dater 1968-70  
Dr. George A. Doumani 1970-71  
Dr. William J. L. Sladen 1971-73  
Mr. Peter F. Bermel 1973-75  
Dr. Kenneth J. Bertrand 1975-77  
Mrs. Paul A. Siple 1977-78  
Dr. Paul C. Dalrymple 1978-80  
Dr. Meredith F. Burrill 1980-82  
Dr. Mort D. Turner 1982-84  
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Mr. Robert H. T. Dodson 1986-88  
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Mr. Tony K. Meunier 1994-96  
Mr. Ron Naveen 1996-98  
Dr. Paul C. Dalrymple 1998-00  
Ms. Kristin Larson 2000-02  
Mr. John Spletstoesser 2002-04

**BRASH ICE** Here we go again, and when you start out you are never certain just what you are going to write, although you aim to keep it timely. We recently had a letter from Norbert Wu, author of the fantastic *UNDER THE ANTARCTIC ICE*, one of my most favorite coffee-table books. Norbert finds that our Newsletters are a bit heavy on the past, although he did give us good marks on the last issue where we had columns from several Polies who were at the station at the time.

About four years ago we sort of saw the handwriting on the wall, as more of our members were dying than we were adding (new young members). So we made a concerted effort to arouse interest in the young crowd on the ice, and towards that end we were introduced by Drew and Diana Logan to quite a few of the current crowd. And in the past few years you have read, we hope, contributions from Katy Jensen, Will Silva, Lynn Arnold, and several others. We were so impressed by Katy that we offered to turn the whole store over to her, but she politely declined. She is still contributing stories to our Newsletters, though, including another great one<sup>in</sup> this issue, written after recently returning from the ice. But Norbert, believe you me, we are conscious of what we are doing and we know where we should be heading! Or at least we think we do. You must remember that about half of our members are plank members from the old days, and we should try to appease those who have gotten us where we are today.

However, there is not only good news but great news for our future. We have several real dedicated members, and all you need area few such persons to make a go of it. Some of you may remember Tom Henderson, who spent several summers out in the field on the ice, as well as wintering over at the South Pole in the early 1980s. He is no longer with the U.S. Geological Survey, but his heart is still in the Antarctic. We have long had an interest in archiving our Newsletters, as we have quite a collection from our beginning. He has taken it upon himself to put all of our Newsletters onto CDs, and he has an abiding interest in us having a web site. Towards that product, he wants you to express your interests to him on the future of our Society. Be sure to read the section from Tom, which appears in this Newsletter, and act accordingly.

In the meantime, please have some indulgence with me while I write about a couple of my friends who have died. I want you ALL to read what I am writing about Kirby Hanson, the head meteorologist at the South Pole in 1958 and later in charge of NOAA's network of Clean Air facilities, including the one at the Pole. His life story is truly fantastic, from a cab driver to the top echelon of meteorologists in our country. And yesterday we heard that Gordon Cartwright had also died. He was the very first US Exchange Scientist on the ice, going to Mirny in 1957. He opened the door for many to follow. And afterwards he had one of the plushest jobs that a meteorologist could hope for, working in Geneva, Switzerland at the headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization. That was his official address when he wasn't sailing on Lake Geneva or attending the opera. He lived to be 97!

At age 83, I wonder if I may not be the senior living man who worked in Antarctic meteorology for the US. Just took at those who have passed along; the Chief Scientist for Antarctica during the ICY was Harry Wexler of the US Weather Bureau; his right hand man was Mort Rubin; the micrometeorologist who helped me so much in planning our program was Gosta Liljequist of Norway, my colleague at Little America V was Herfried Hoinkes of Innsbruck; my after ego in the Arctic was Dick Hubley of the University of Washington; my roommate at Little America V was Ron Taylor of NSF The head Navy meteorologist at McMurdo in. early Deep Freeze was John Mirabito; The meteorologist on the Transantarctic Expedition who I met at the South Pole was Hannes La Grange from Pretoria, South Africa.

And if you go back, Henry Harrison of the Byrd Antarctic expedition, 1928-30 and I had a particularly good relationship, as we both came from Worcester, Massachusetts, we both were very avid baseball fans, we both played bridge (he was Byrd's partner at Little America), we both loved the Antarctic and loved corresponding about it and its people. He was the historian for the Byrd Antarctic Expedition and published BAE I NEWS, and I sort of envisioned myself as a weak underling of Henry's.

Last summer we hosted a gathering of some ancient and honorable Antarcticans, as well as a dozen or more young of recent vintage. I invited a friend of mine whose hobby was videography to sit in and record the words of wisdom of some of the attendees. Some of the folks are quite well known in Antarctic circles, such as Charles Swithinbank. Tony Gow, Art Ford, George Doumani, Bob Dodson, Rob Flint, Bill Meserve, Jane Siple DeWitt, Lynn Arnold, Dick Chappell, and a few others. The DVD was produced by our friend, Dr Edwin L Witham of 4536 Greer Road, Roanoke, VA 24018, and it's yours if you send him a check for \$20.00. We think it is fantastic, but we are prejudiced. It runs for an hour and thirty-seven minutes, and there is some really great stuff in there by the speakers. We are using short excerpts from two of the speakers, Tony Gow and George Doumani, in this Newsletter. But members like Brooks Conrad and Tom Bayless should eat up this DVD, and people like Anne Benninghoff would also enjoy it.

**DUES NOTICES ARE IN THE MAIL.** Those of you who owe dues for the current year should have received your notices in the past few weeks. We deeply appreciate, if members send in renewals for SEVERAL YEARS.

That helps materially when it comes to book keeping: Eighty per cent of renewals to date have been multi-years. We thank you. One other thing, which would help us out in the Head Shed is to let us know when you move. You can't

believe how many of you folks who have chosen to live on move into assisted-living havens each year. I think our Society is an unlisted adjunct of AARP.

### **US INTERNATIONAL YEAR POLAR STAMPS**

The U.S. Postal Service will issue a souvenir sheet of two 84-cent international letter rate stamps to commemorate the International Polar Year 2007-2008. The stamps depict the aurora borealis (image #1) and the aurora australis (image #2) (see p 10) and are truly very beautiful, although I think the borealis actually outshines the australis. The first day of issuance will be February 21st, and the place will be Fairbanks, Alaska.. The souvenir sheet will be available online at <http://www.usps.com/shop> or by calling 1-800-STAMP 24. The souvenir sheet can be purchased by itself or as part of a booklet jointly issued by the US, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. Preorders were being accepted through the above phone number as of 1 February 2007. This souvenir sheet is the first US issuance to commemorate an International Polar Year. As we understand it, the same stamps will be issued later in the year, in panes of twenty stamps, 39-cent denominations. They will sure look great if you just happen to be one of the last of the surviving creatures who remember how to use snail mail

**CAMP TO PUT SIPLE ON A STAMP.** John Lenkey, a big-time business man and entrepreneur from the Commonwealth of Virginia is spearheading a letter drive to the U.S. Postal Service which, hopefully, will result in a Siple stamp. You can't discount John on anything, as it was he who in 1993 raised funds to rebuild the Admiral Byrd Memorial in Wellington, New Zealand and convinced the Kiwis to add a plaque describing Paul Siple's achievements.

John would like to have you write a letter to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, Stamp Development, US Postal Service, 1735 North Lynn Street, Room 5013, Arlington, VA 22209-6432, and tell them in your own words why you think this Eagle Scout explorer, scientist, government bureaucrat merits a stamp. After all, he was the very first station leader ever at the South Pole, and the only Antarctic non who ever graced the cover of TAM magazine. And without Siple, we probably would not have betel wind chill, and would have never known how badly we feel on a miserable wintry night. So we encourage you to support John's campaign to put Paul in that upper right hand corner of your envelopes. Do it NOW.

## **WEAVING A WEB SITE** (Tom Henderson)

When I first raised my virtual hand in cyberspace to volunteer to build a web site for the Society, it was with both enthusiasm and trepidation. As a long-time member, helping the Society take the necessary step to move into the age of the World Wide Web is exciting. Web development has interested me for a long time, partly because I work alongside some very competent web developers in my day job. I had planned to really pursue it seriously as an avocation in a few years when I reach retirement. This just seemed to be an opportunity that is the right fit at the right time.

As I cautioned Paul, the trepidation I have is that I am still a web rookie. I have had some training and will be getting more in the near future, but this would be my first real development project. The good news is that I learn quickly and I can turn to my colleagues for advice when needed. I also have an obvious deep interest in the subject matter I will be pleased to voluntarily support the site for as long as the Society is pleased to have me do it.

Paul has addressed the first critical steps earlier in this newsletter. As the Cheshire Cat famously opined <sup>in</sup> Alice in Wonderland, if you don't know where you are going, it doesn't matter which direction you go to get there. The foundation of the web site, if it is to be successful, has to be the purpose and goals of the Society. I strongly encourage all members to give your opinions on the direction of the Society and what would be of most benefit in a web site to support that direction. The technical part falls into place once the needs are articulated.

I can offer a few ideas for consideration. Commonly used elements of web sites include, <sup>in</sup> order of simple to more complex:

- "About Us" page
- News and information (events, people, activities, etc.)
- Book and media reviews
- Links to related sites
- Public pages and password-protected member pages
- Member lists
- Member profiles
- Photo gallery
- Downloads (such as newsletters)

- Member message board (interactive)
- Interactive searching of archives (such as past newsletters)
- Ordering and payment (CD's, calendars, etc.)

Give me your thoughts. I also encourage members to forward links to what you consider to be good examples of well-designed and easy-to-use web sites. I find the best way to learn is to look at what already works well. I will also be searching for good sites with similar purpose to emulate. This is your web site, and your time to have a say in how it should serve you. You may contact me at [hendeidson@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hendeidson@nycap.rr.com).

I plan to begin work in late Spring, so there is ample time for you to provide input. I expect to have an initial site available in the second half of this calendar year. It will be basic to start. As time goes on, there will be growth and change as your feedback and my skills accumulate. I really want to make this not only something useful, but also something that we can be proud of I hope 2007 will be an energizing and gratifying year for all of us in the Society.

## **EVOLUTION OF AN ATTITUDE** (by Katy Jensen)

"Been down to the Dome yet?" That's how people start their conversations with me. It has been four years since my last trip to the Pole, and walking down that familiar hill now is, well, nippy. I know it's just a THING, barely even a building, but the Dome has been a big part of my life. This is where I met my best friends, and now it's just a rime-encrusted shell, half-filled with boxes of food and unwanted items. It feels like a garage sale on a Sunday afternoon.

Life under the Dome, well it seemed pretty simple, even just four years ago. That probably sounds funny to the OAEs who still mourn the loss of the IGY station, but it's true: even after we got e-mail and wheeled vehicles and (gasp!) incoming telephone service, the station was still straightforward and approachable. Midwinter conversations were about how to keep the generators running... just in case "something happened" to all of your crewmates. And even the Dome slugs who never ventured up the hill had to scamper between buildings-, a frigid reminder that life was fragile, fuel was your friend, and this was not "just a job" after all.

Gracious. Have I become one of those history-obsessed whiners, unwilling to change with the times? Will I follow that box of aluminum triangles to California and become a

tour guide at the SeaBee museum, pointing with my cane and hollering "I remember when...?"

Nah. Even though the new station intimidates the hell out of me, I have to admit it's pretty cool. I like the expansive gym, the luxurious computer lab, and the VW-sized clothes dryers that transform waste heat into fluffy sweaters. I especially appreciate the Food Growth Chamber: a lush oasis bursting with more food than a winter crew can eat. And yes, I even like being able to pad barefoot from my bedroom to the bathroom instead of having to get dressed or pee in a coffee can.

But whether I like it or not, this place has become a complex beast, as foreign and fascinating as an aircraft carrier, and I have to look outside just to get my bearings. Look outside! What a concept! As a weather observer under the Dome, I had dreamed of building a periscope. Now I can sip coffee and gaze out across the plateau, all from the comfort of a dining room chair!

And whether you live under the snow or above it, whether you converse via HAM radio or VoIP telephone, it's still Antarctica out there: beautiful when your basic needs are met, but unforgiving when the power goes out. (Life is still fragile. Fuel is still your friend. And this is not "just a job" after all!) This place still requires swiss-army-knife people with common sense and cool enough heads to figure out the problem and get it fixed. And these are the people who have made this place special from the very beginning. In the, (new, brightly lit, modular-shelf-lined) station store, I notice the design of the embroidered patch has changed. The U.S. flag and the barber shop pole are still prominent, but the 2006 patch features a mostly-buried Dome, struggling to stay afloat in the surrounding snow. The 2007 patch reveals an elevated station stretching across the horizon, so tall and proud you can see the sky between its stilts.

A little piece of history. "Two patches, please."

**NICE GUY KIRBY HANSON FINALLY SUCCUMBS** After fighting Parkinson for twenty-six years, meteorologist Kirby Hanson checked out on November 21, 2006, at a still relatively young 77. His name will indelibly be associated with the South Pole, where he headed up the U.S. Weather Bureau crew at the station in 1958. Then from 1975-1984, he was the senior meteorologist of NOAA's clean air facilities, including the South Pole station.

One might say that Kirby took a cab to the South Pole, as his original interest in meteorology came about from the days when he was driving taxis in Nevada. After bringing fares to the airport, or when there picking up fares, he would frequent the met office and talk to the observers and forecasters on duty. And it was only natural when he went into the U.S. Air Force in 1947 that he became a weather observer. When the IGY came along, Kirby left his beautiful bride Lisa back home in the Washington, DC area while he vacationed at the South Pole, the southernmost resort area on the planet.

Kirby did so well there that the Weather Bureau decided that they had a good deal for him which was also a good deal for them. They would send him off to college, the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where they had several research contracts with their highly respected meteorology department Kirby would monitor these contracts, while at the same time he would be taking courses towards a bachelor degree. He did so well at Madison that he was extended into graduate school. To make the long story somewhat shorter, he stayed at Madison until he had completed his doctoral studies. Pretty good deal, huh?

And then Kirby was put in charge of all the clean air facilities which NOAA operated/maintained. So in a way, Kirby came back on home to the South Pole, and he held this position for ten years. He had the world in the palm of his hand, still married to the beautiful Lisa, and now they had three kids joining them for meals. But, then stuff hit the fan tail, so to speak Kirby was detected to have had Parkinson for several years, and then Lisa came down with a form of cancer. He was given a job as a senior research meteorologist in Miami until it became time for him to retire because of health. Lisa was able to beat cancer, but Kirby lived on with Parkinson for 22 years after it had been detected.

There is a certain mystic about having wintered over at the South Pole that sorts of makes you feel more important than you are in real life, and you end up wanting to hang on to those who shared your time. So we have seen Kirby and Lisa at several gatherings of Pole Station IGYers. The last was about seven years ago, and we met in Georgia so that Kirby and Lisa could drive up from their home in Ocala, Florida. It was a melodramatic gathering, as Kirby was only the shell of the man who we all had known and

loved. Another man from the same year at the South Pole, Inn Burnham, was also there, and he, too, had been inflicted with Parkinson.

No one at the station in 1958 was more highly respected than Kirby. Our so-called station leader that year left much to be desired, but a handful of good young guys like Kirby made it a most memorable year. Kirby, we are sure going to miss you.

**A MAN WHO LEAD A FULL LIFE, GORDON DAVID CARTWRIGHT .** (From the Washington Post, of January 19, 2007, written by staff writer Patricia Sullivan), Gordon David Cartwright, 97, a meteorologist for the U.S. Weather Bureau for 46 years who worked in the Arctic, the Antarctic and Hawaii, died Jan. 1 of congestive heart failure at Renton Villa assisted living center in Renton, Wash.

Mr. Cartwright was the only American scientist to work with 180 Russians at the Soviet Antarctic station Mirny during the International Geophysical Year of 1957-1958. A mountain in Antarctica's Hughes Range was named for him. He worked several tours in the Weather Bureau's Washington offices and spent 1965 to 1975 in Geneva as the liaison to the World Meteorological Organization. After retiring, he continued to travel worldwide and speak on meteorological and geophysical matters. Mr. Cartwright, who was born in New Castle, Pa., began working after high school in 1929 as a meteorological observer for the Weather Bureau in Pittsburgh. He worked in Dallas, opened the forecast center at LaGuardia Airport in New York and also received one of the first bachelor's degrees in meteorology from New York University. He became head of aviation weather forecasts in Washington about 1940, and during World War II, he organized from Washington a series of weather reporting stations along the Alaska-Canada Highway. In 1946, he was appointed to the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal. Working with the Canadian Weather Service in Montreal, he helped launch the Joint Arctic Weather Stations in the far north. He oversaw the observation stations for four years, according to an oral history interview he did in 2000 with Ohio State University's Byrd Polar Research Center Archival Program. His superiors, looking for a scientist to join the Russians for a year, suggested him. He responded, "Well, first of all, I don't know anything about the Antarctic. Secondly, I don't speak Russian." That's no problem, his boss replied, saving he could learn.

In the Antarctic, Mr. Cartwright took time-lapse photographs of clouds to study the atmosphere in the far south and made daily weather observations. He learned the Russian way of doing things: using the more dangerous hydrogen instead of helium in balloons, rebuilding when a fire driven by 30- to 40-knot winds demolished their living quarters, fishing men and equipment out of crevasses and improving on the endless vodka with prunes, apricots and jams. He regularly visited a rookery of 25,000 penguins a half hour from the Mirny station. "But what was most impressive was the sunrise over the pole because there it appeared when we didn't see it down on the ice," he said in the oral history interview. "And you could see this glow that looked like a lighted city. And it was the sun shining on the ice over the pole."

After his year in Antarctica, he spent a short time as chief meteorologist in Hawaii before being sent to Washington to head the Weather Bureau's international affairs office. From there, he went to Geneva, retiring in 1975. A fan of opera, he never failed to catch a performance when traveling, his children said. He also enjoyed sailing. Mr. Cartwright settled in San Rafael, Calif. in retirement, and later moved to an assisted living center in Renton.

**LARRY MIYODA DIES AT ONLY 59.** Although we never had the pleasure of knowing this lad, he had quite an Antarctic career, which included wintering over at Siple Station in 1974 and being the station manager at Palmer in 1976. Larry was a mechanical engineer, a graduate of Cal State at Fullerton. As a Holmes and Narver employee, his first Antarctic winter was as a member of the second winter-over crew at Siple Station. He was part of a four-man team that included a doctor and two Stanford researchers. Larry was the facility engineer of Crary Lab, McMurdo, for several seasons in the early 1990s. He died peacefully of a subdural hematoma, and his ashes were scattered over the Rocky Mountains. Miyoda Cliff, a rock cliff along the Bowman Coast, south of Palmer Station and east of Marguerite Bay was named after Larry.

**HAPPY FEET' IS WHERE IT'S AT!** (By John Spletstoesser) The movie 'Happy Feet' about singing and dancing penguins is mindful of a lengthy Vaudeville act with singing, but there is more to the entertainment than simply watching lots of Emperor Penguins experiencing internal strife in the colony because of a newly hatched misfit (known as 'Mumble' in the movie). Some pretty spiffy tap-dancing by Mumble and other penguins sounds like Fred Astaire if you closed your eyes, there is also a bit of penguin-romance, and the addition of

five Adelie penguins with Spanish accents into the story makes it work.

I saw the movie shortly after its debut in the U.S., at my home theater in Waconia, Minnesota, where senior discounts attract me to a selected few movies, but the \$5 for this one was worth it. The movie has an acceptable socio-environmental message, but you have to wait until almost the end to find out what it is..... so I won't reveal it here. The scenes with a marauding leopard seal and killer whales are heart-pounding. Aside from a few inaccuracies that can be accepted, the most notable thing I saw was that of the colony habitats, where the snowy ground cover is absolutely white and pristine. If you have ever been to an Emperor Penguin colony, you will know that is not so, as penguins do what birds do everywhere, and have no bathroom manners whatsoever.

Also stay through the bitter end to watch the credits roll by (about 10 minutes worth), as you will try to see a familiar name or two, to no avail, as hundreds of names related to the animation and musical aspects of the film are shown. Finally, at the very end, the names of some people who actually know something about penguins appear.... Greg Mortimer, Jonathan Chester, Gary Miller, to name a few, who advised for the content. Background scenery of Antarctica was presumably borrowed from one or more of them, because the film was done in Sydney.

**TONY GOW ON YESTERDAY AND TODAY** (from The Cool Gathering) Now to speak about the IGY. I was there, it was a very memorable occasion. We were sort of scurrying around on small projects. But now the projects have gotten so large that they have become very impersonal in my opinion. The bases have become large and impersonal, and so the attitude has changed completely. And the attitude towards science, I guess, changed a bit too.

This has to happen, because of the technological changes, computers, and it's completely out of the complexion of affairs in Antarctica. And so you have lost the more personal familiarity that you had with people, and I find that today even at the lab where I worked, CRREL, it's undergoing dramatic changes.

And so now we are having to realign our priorities even in cold regions. So what's happening is that lab facility is not used properly - they are going through this transition now. Things have changed, but I still value greatly the comradeship that I developed over the years.

**THE PRICE YOU PAY FOR GOING TO THE ICE** (by George Doumani, from The Cool Gathering) Other problems were after coming home. And I have that in my book (THE FRIGID MISTRESS, Life and Exploration in Antarctica) because it was the price you pay that nobody asks about, and that is the family.

You swear to God, "I'll never see that place again," and that the first thing you want is to acclimate at home and get along with the family, However, very soon you are writing another proposal because I missed that other mountain, and I got to go, and so on and so forth. And the result was the loss of the family.

Most of my colleagues, in fact, everyone who was with me, whom I knew is on his second wife, an exorbitant price to pay for our accomplishments. People say, "Oh, yes, George Doumani, oh, I know him, he's got two mountains named after him. And he did this – he reunited Gondwana, he did this and that." But nobody ever says what happened to his family, while he was doing this. And that is why I dedicated my book to this tug of war between that mysterious continent that needed to be explored beckoning you, and your duty to your family and settling down. It is a very, very exorbitant price to pay.

**ROBOT HEADING FOR ANTARCTIC DIVE** (by Rebecca Morelle, Science reporter, BBC)  
The mysteries of the Antarctic deep will be probed by a new vessel capable of plunging 6.5km (four miles) down.

Isis, the UK's first deep-diving remotely operated vehicle (ROV), will be combing the sea-bed in the region in its inaugural science mission. Researchers hope to uncover more about the effects of glaciers on the ocean floor, and also find out about the animals that inhabit these waters. The mission began in mid-January and will last for about three weeks. While the scientists and engineers began their long journey to the Antarctic at the start of January, Isis left the UK shores in November and has arrived at its destination. Once unpacked from its containers, the ROV was placed aboard the British Antarctic Survey's ship - the RSS James Clark Ross - ready to explore the Marguerite Bay area on the west side of the Antarctic Peninsula.

With Isis, scientists hope to bring the UK to the forefront of deep-sea research. The submersive vessel, which is based at the National Oceanography Centre (NOC), Southampton, was built in the US in collaboration with the

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). The project cost about £4.5m, and Isis is based on of WHOI's Jason II remotely operated vehicle.

UK marine scientists can book time on Isis to carry out their research into the deep. Isis was built to withstand enormous pressure, explained Peter Mason, the Isis project manager at NOC. It measures 2.7m (9ft) long, 2m (6.5ft) high and 1.5m (5ft) wide, and weighs about 3,000kg (6,600lb) in the air. Ten kilometres of cable connect it to its "mother ship", allowing scientists to control the vehicle and receive the data it collects in real-time. On the ROV, Mr Mason said, were lights, cameras to produce high-quality video and still pictures, sonars for acoustic navigation and imaging, and two remotely controlled manipulator arms to collect samples or place scientific instruments on the sea-bed. Isis, he added, also had extra capacity to carry a range of scientific tools, such as borers, nets etc, so that scientists could tailor the vehicle to their research needs.

Professor Julian Dowdeswell, director of the Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge, is the principal investigator on this three-week-long inaugural research cruise. He will be using Isis to investigate in fine detail the sea-floor sediments, which have been delivered to Marguerite Bay by the massive ice-sheets that covered the bay about 20,000 years ago. The ROV will be traversing the relatively shallow waters of the bay to the continental shelf edge and then down the steeper continental slope beyond. The environmental history of the Antarctic is held in these sediments," he said. "Using the ROV, we can look at the sea-floor and its sub-surface structure on a very detailed scale." This will help the researchers better understand the record of past glacial activity in the Antarctic.

Another project will also be running alongside. Professor Paul Tyler, a deep-sea biologist at NOC, will use Isis to survey the sea creatures of Marguerite Bay. I'm interested in the effects of glaciers on the sea-bed and how this affects the fauna - the animals I'm also interested in how the animal life in Antarctica changes as one goes deeper and deeper into the water," Professor Tyler said. "Using the real-time imagery from the ROV, we will be able to look at what is happening as it happens, helping us to answer questions such as why some creatures exist at one depth and not another.

"We are hoping to see a whole bunch of large creatures such as star fish, sea cucumbers, sea fans, sea pens, etc, that

inhabit the deep shelf slope and abyssal depths." He added. "Essentially no-one has explored Antarctica using a ROV at these depths."

**RUSSIAN'S HILLARY RETURNS TO THE SOUTH POLE** (from Margaret Lanyon, out of Christchurch Press, January 11, 2007). Artur Chilingarov, a renowned polar explorer in his Homeland, is considered by some as the Russian equivalent to Ed Hillary. He caused a diplomatic stir back in January 2002 when his plane broke down at the South Pole and had to be abandoned there. The US flew the Russian government members and their team to New Zealand for a reported NZ\$ 191,000. The seven tourists aboard had to pay US \$20,000 each on a chartered flight. Artur came back two years ago with the Head of Aeroflot and a dozen aeronautical engineers, repaired their biplane and flew it home.

But guess who showed up at the South Pole this summer? You are right, good old Artur, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Parliament and official Hero of the Soviet Union. He and his team came in two helicopters from the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB), the successor of the KGB). Part of his team included FSB director Nikolai Patrushev, Russian Service Border head Vladimir Pronichev, and the World Meteorological Organization head, Alexander Bednitsky. After flying all the way to the South Pole, what did they want? The only thing they asked for was a phone so they could call someone by the name of Vladimir Putin. Is this the first call ever from the South Pole to a president of a super power?

**FALKLAND ISLANDS AN UNSETTLED ISSUE.** By Monte Reel Washington Post Monday, January 8, 2007  
BUENOS AIRES — As they organize separate 25th anniversary ceremonies to remember their war over the Falkland Islands, Argentine and British officials have found that remembering is the easy part. Resolving, however, is a much trickier proposition. The windblown archipelago is once again claiming headlines here, climbing back near the top of Argentina's international agenda a quarter-century after its military surrendered the territory to Britain.

Last week Argentina aimed yet another rhetorical dart at Britain, publicly reasserting its claim to islands it says were stolen by the English in 1833. The British should be getting the message by now: President Nestor Kirchner's government in the past year has issued official complaints

concerning rights to the islands at a rate of more than one per month. Meanwhile, Argentina's legislature has convened a committee dedicated to bolstering its claim over the islands which sit about 350 miles off its coast and where sheep outnumber people by about 220 to 1. The Argentine government has pushed for, and has received, attention from the United Nations, which drafted a committee resolution last year recommending negotiations. Some political leaders in the region, including Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, have also publicly rallied around the cause.

No one believes the two countries are headed for another war: Even so, Britain maintains a defensive military presence of about 1,800 personnel on the island to protect a population that numbers only about 3,000. Residents of the barren islands have lived for years off agriculture and fishing. English is spoken, telephone booths are red and pubs have names such as the Globe Tavern. There are regular flights to London but none to Argentina, Kirchner banned charter flights shortly after taking office.

The Falklands also can boast natural resources, thanks mostly to the chilly South Atlantic waters that surround them. Since the war, squid fishing has boomed, and oil companies are hopeful that offshore drilling could prove lucrative. The islands' per capita income is higher than that of many South American nations.

The economic potential has played a big role in ratcheting up tensions. Argentina repeatedly has protested Britain's fishing and oil prospecting activities around the islands, and it sharply criticized the Falklands government when it extended local fishing permits to 25 years. With the anniversary approaching, Argentina is hoping that the rare spotlight on the islands will bolster support for its claim.

**EXPLORING POLAR FRONTIERS: A HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA. 2 VOLUMES;** William James Mills Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2003. ISBN 1-57607-422-6 (Reviewed by Charles Lagerbom) This two-volume work is a thorough compilation of the historical side of Arctic and Antarctic explorations. As well as being a nice introduction to polar history for newcomers to the topic, it is also a great reference tool, written in an engaging style peppered with many illustrations. I found it to be quite comprehensive and really liked the different entry listings. Listed by category as well as by alphabetical and chronological orders, the entries were concise yet still informative and contained referrals to other entries in the

encyclopedia as well as to outside references for further reading. This structure worked well as I could decide to read topics chronologically or by region or by sponsoring country, etc.

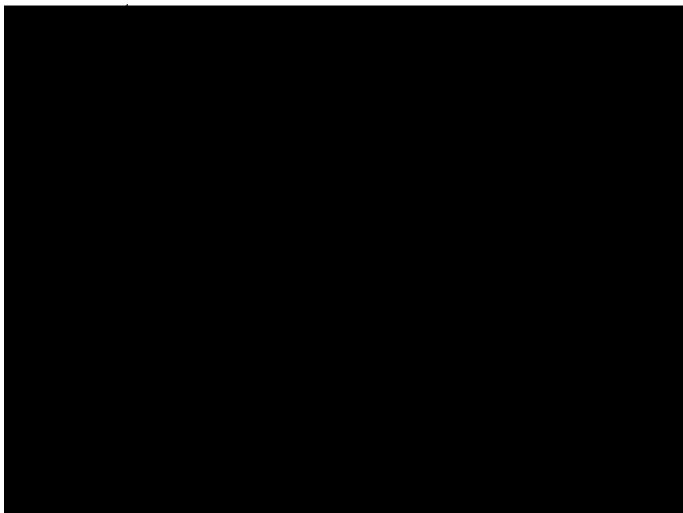
Volume 1 stretches 388 pages from Abruzzi (Duke of) to Lyon, George, and Volume 2 opens with MacRobertson Land and continues 346 pages further to Zavodovski Island. A nine-page polar timeline follows a detailed glossary. Another feature I found helpful is the 26-page selected bibliography followed by almost thirty pages of Index. The encyclopedia comes to life with biographical entries, encompassing a "who's who" of polar personalities from ancient to modern times. More than just a list of "who went where and when", Mills also reveals why they went, who persuaded them, the political implications, the costs and so on. This other half of the story helps to put the information in proper context. Not only do the entries cover people, expeditions and places, but diverse topics such as Airships, Drifting Ice Stations, International Polar Years, Man-hauling, Medals, Ponies, and Submarines also get their fair share of attention. Mills, the late librarian at the Scott Polar Research Institute, had access to one of the world's leading polar libraries and made use of it for this great encyclopedia. Published in 2003, William James Mills' final work is an excellent addition to any polar library, a valuable reference tool and a fitting testament to his own polar passion.

**NEWS ABREAKING.** (Associated Press, January 29, 2007) As we go to press in late January, climate scientists meeting in Paris are about to issue a dire forecast for the planet that warns of slowly rising sea levels and higher temps. Their calculations don't include the recent and dramatic melt-off of big ice sheets. Lonnie Thompson says, "They don't take into account the gorillas- Greenland and Antarctica. I think there are unpleasant surprises as we move into the 21st century-"

A report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, created by the United Nations in 1988, will issue their final report on February 2, 2007. The early version of the report predicts that by 2100, the sea level will rise anywhere between 5 and 23 inches. But some climate experts, including NASA's James Hansen, predict a sea level rise that can be measured by feet more than inches! Anyone want to buy a post and beam house on midcoastal Maine with a fantastic view of Penobscot Bay?



**2007 SOUTH POLE MARKER** (Clayton Correia, Electrician, South Pole Winter-over, 2006,2005 and 2004. Otherwise Salt Lake City, Utah). 2007 will mark the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year and the 50th year of continual scientific research and support at the South Pole. I wanted to submit a design reflecting the historic significance of the year and also recognize the special people who have made the research possible. The research done on this continent has helped humanity achieve a better understanding of our planet and universe. Thousands of people have come from all over the globe to help support this effort over the last 50 years. Many of them give up a year or more of their lives to support the research done in this remote and inhospitable location I wanted to recognize all these people and their contributions but especially the people who have chosen to be here this winter.



The dimples on each side of the design represent the 64 winter-overs at South Pole in 2006; there are 16 on each side. The words "50 years of Science" surround a raised centerpiece in the design, signifying the elevated status of South Pole Station's peaceful purpose and all research outposts in Antarctica. These dimples will catch the light as the sun rotates around the sky and will hopefully create some nice reflections in the brass. The geographic South Pole is the only place where every direction is north, this uniqueness is represented by the points around the circle. The continent design will be deeply etched into the center circle so snow will accumulate there and provide a contrast for pictures.

I am honored that my fellow winter-overs have chosen my design to represent the Geographic South Pole marker for the year 2007 and look forward to seeing the design take shape.

**XAVIER CORTADA, 2006-2007 NSF ANTARCTIC ARTISTS AND WRITERS PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENT** (pg. 10) Miami artist Xavier Cortada just returned from the South Pole where he worked with sound artist Juan Carlos Espinosa to complete a series of art **installations addressing environmental concerns**, see <http://www.cortada.com/antarctica/>. "Through this residency in Antarctica, stated Cortada, "I strive to create art that demonstrates how interconnected we as people are to each other and to our planet."

**HO HUM, THERE'S ANOTHER LEDGE** (Norwegian Coastal Voyage) A Norwegian cruise ship carrying nearly 300 passengers, including 119 Americans, ran aground near Deception Island and damaged its hull before getting free of rocks, officials said January 31. No one was injured. The 294 passengers were evacuated from the M/S Nordkapp to sister ship M/S Nordnorge as a precaution. "The transfer of all the passengers and eight of the crew was successfully completed. No one was harmed." The ship pulled off the rocks under its own power and anchored in the sheltered waters of Walker Bay for the passenger transfer. After the transfer, the ship carrying the passengers headed for Ushuaia, Argentina.

**WARMEST WELCOME IN COLDEST PLACE ON EARTH** (Bill McCormick, US. Ambassador to NZ – Forwarded by Margaret Lanyon) My recent trip to Antarctica in the company of Sir Edmund Hillary and Prime Minister Helen Clark brought home to me the, tremendous level of support offered to the United States Antarctic Program by New Zealanders in general and the city of Christchurch in particular.

The whole experience of visiting Antarctica was magnificent. Dr Arden Bement, director of the US National Science Foundation, had been to the ice before, but, like me, the other members of the US delegation, Claudia McMurray, Assistant secretary of State for Oceans, Environment and Science and Glyn Davies, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, were all nervous first-timers.

My trip to Antarctica was the sort of dream-come-true experience that you only have once in a lifetime. I am also aware of the continuing importance of the great southern continent. to New Zealanders. That is why the US was so keen to join the people of NZ in celebrating a significant milestone and to demonstrate the importance that we, too, attach to the 50 years of NZ's presence and NZ-US scientific cooperation on the ice.



#1



#2

In "The Longitudinal Installation", Cortada placed shoes in a circle along the longitudes as they converge at the South Pole conceptually diminishing the distance between them.