



Honorary President

Mrs. Paul A. Siple

### Presidents

Dr. Carl R. Eklund 1959-61  
Dr. Paul A. Siple 1961-62  
Mr. Gordon D. Cartwright 1962-63  
RADM David 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  
Mr. 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  
Dr. Edward P. Todd 1984-86  
Mr. Robert H. T. Dodson 1986-88  
Dr. Robert H. Rutherford 1988-90  
Mr. Guy G. Guthridge 1990-92  
Dr. Polly A. Penhale 1992-94  
Mr. Tony K. Meunier 1994-96  
Mr. RonNaveen 1996-98  
Dr. Paul C. Dalrymple 1998-00

### Honorary Members

Ambassador Paul C. Daniels  
Dr. Laurence McKinley Gould  
Count Emilio Pucci  
Sir Charles S. Wright  
Mr. Hugh Blackwell Evans  
Dr. Henry M. Dater  
Mr. August Howard  
Mr. Amory H. "Bud" Waite, Jr.  
Dr. Charles W. Swithinbank  
Dr. Paul C. Dalrymple

The Antarctic Society  
7338 Wayfarer Drive Fairfax  
Station, Virginia 22039

# The Antarctic Society

Vol. 00-01

March

No. 3

## Academies Polar Research Board Public Lecture

### Climate Change: From the Poles to the World

by Dr. Richard Alley

Pennsylvania State University

Thursday, March 22 - 6:00 p.m.

Room 104, Green Building  
2001 Wisconsin Avenue NW

The National Academies  
(Georgetown Campus)

Dr. Richard Alley is a glaciologist and a leader in the field of glacier dynamics and ice-core research on paleoclimates. He is especially interested in the two big questions of glaciology: What was the world like in the past? Will the ice sheets melt into the ocean and flood the coasts? He studies past climate change by analyzing ice cores from Greenland and Antarctica, and has demonstrated that exceptionally large climate changes have occurred in as little as a single year. His work seeks to understand the causes of such changes. Dr. Alley is Evan Pugh Professor of Geosciences at the Pennsylvania State University's Earth Systems Science Center. He is currently a member of the Polar Research Board and is chairing the

NRC's Committee on abrupt Climate Change.

Check the PRB's website at [www.national-academies.org/prb](http://www.national-academies.org/prb) for further information, or call (202) 334-3479.

## Brash Ice

This is the first newsletter put to bed outside of the Washington, DC Area, as it was put together on Midcoast Maine. Thanks to modern technology, we conscripted John Splettstoesser, Jerry Marty, Julie Palais, Polly Penhale and Steve Dibbern to send us material over the lines. We decided that we had better go ahead with this end-of-the-season newsletter without the usual inputs from our President, Kristin Larsen, whose Penguin Prattle column is not appearing as she is on the west coast studying for her bar exams.

Incidentally, dues are now do-able. If you owe, you should have received a notice in the mail. For another year, our dues for U.S. and Canada members remain ten (\$10) dollars per year. Remittance to the address on our letterhead.

This person has always taken a dim view of adventurers hitting orange golf balls off the top of some Antarctic mountain, but in the great proliferation of adventures that made Antarctica a continental highway this past austral summer; finally something really significant was accomplished. Two Norwegians, Erik Sonneland and Rolf Bae, successfully completed an

UNSUPPORTED crossing of Antarctica from Troll Station, Draining Maud Land, to Scott Base. A crossing of 2,900 km in 107 days. But they over calculated the ordeal, as they finished with three breakfasts, seven lunches, and fifteen days of fuel. They were hastened, perhaps, by using their sails on three days while crossing the Ross Ice Shelf, making a remarkable 210 km one day! Siberian ponies, eat your hearts out!!

We hope all of you in the Washington area will take advantage of the open door policy of the National Academies' Polar Research Board Public Lecture by Dr. Richard Alley of Penn State University on Thursday evening, March 24, 2001. Our society kicked in with a small contribution towards liquid libations and hors d'oeuvres, so enjoy before you hear one of this country's hottest items talk about climate change. We recently heard him speak at Bowdoin College, and if you want to know everything there is to be known about Ice Ages, be sure to be there. Even if you don't, come and socialize.

HOPE YOU ENJOY OUR FIRST-  
EVER COLORED PICTURES!

## Follow that Iceberg!

*(Julie Palais/NSF)*

In March of last year a large iceberg (295 km/180 mi. by 37 km/25 mi.) about twice the size of Delaware, broke off the front of the Ross Ice Shelf near Roosevelt Island and began drifting into the Ross Sea. The iceberg, designated B-15 (following the convention of the Joint Ice Center which tracks icebergs that are at least 10 nautical miles long. The letter refers to the quadrant of Antarctica and the number is for how many icebergs have been observed in that sector since the center first started tracking icebergs), subsequently broke in half, with one portion being

designated B-15B and drifting north and the other piece, called B-15A, drifting along the front of the Ross Ice Shelf toward Ross Island and McMurdo Station. Along the way it was moved by winds, tides and currents and from time to time was seen, with satellite imagery, to collide with the front of the Ross Ice Shelf, spawning new icebergs along the front of the ice shelf, in what have been called sympathetic calving events. One of the large icebergs that were formed in this process, C-16 then began drifting westward toward Ross Island in front of B-15 A.

During this past austral summer field season (2000-01) the National Science Foundation funded a group of researchers from the University of Chicago and the University of Wisconsin to instrument the B-15A iceberg with automatic weather stations (which are measuring wind velocity and direction, relative humidity, surface temperature and barometric pressure) and global positioning system (GPS) units which will track the exact position of the iceberg. The scientists, Douglas MacAyeal of Chicago, and Jonathan Thorn of Madison, Wisconsin were transported in late January from McMurdo Station on the U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker, Polar Sea to the iceberg and erected three stations on the ice surface, roughly 45 meters (150 feet) above the surface of the ocean. These instruments will allow scientists to track the progress of the icebergs more precisely than they were able to before with just the satellite images. Because storms and cloud cover often obscure the field of view, scientists sometimes lose track of the iceberg for days at a time. The new instruments will allow researchers to better understand what determines the motion of these icebergs and how they are affected by weather conditions and ocean currents. Several weeks of data from the sensors have already been collected by satellite.

MacAyeal said he expects soon to begin analyzing the iceberg's motion and the effects of collisions between the berg and the shoreline and ice at Cape Crozier in Antarctica. The weather stations, assembled at the University of Wisconsin, are equipped with batteries and solar panels. Based on their use elsewhere in Antarctica, they could be expected to operate for as many as five years.

Scientists do not really know what causes these icebergs to calve in the first place. Although in the Antarctic Peninsula a similar phenomenon can be convincingly attributed to local warming in the region, the reason that so many large icebergs calved off the front of the Ross Ice Shelf this last year remains unclear. Scientists speculate that the large rifts which cut through the ice shelf, and which propagate with time, weaken the ice on the ice shelf. This causes the large tabular icebergs to be generated once all of the rifts become interconnected. The actual calving event is probably triggered by a combination of tidal forcing and weather conditions. Future research may allow scientists to better understand these mechanisms and allow them to predict when the next major breakout will occur.

## The South Pole

*(Jerry Marty/NSF)*

Major construction projects in support of the National Science Foundation's Amundsen-Scott new South Pole scientific research station were completed this FY01 summer season despite extreme weather conditions in Antarctica that have hampered cargo flights. This FY01 season represents the fourth season of construction. During the past 4 years the following agencies have assisted NSF in meeting the project goals: Pacific Division Naval

Facilities Engineering Command (PACDIV) have assisted NSF in the design management. The Architect for the project is Ferraro Choi. US Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) has provided technical oversight.

The new power plant (NPP) which went on line January 20, 2001 will increase the station's peak generating capacity to one megawatt of electrical energy, while providing three levels of back-up redundancy. The completion of the NPP also completes the last of the three SPSE (South Pole Safety and Environmental) projects. The new Fuel Storage facility which converted the previous 9 each 25,000 gallon fuel bladders to 45 each 10,000 gallon storage tanks (with secondary containment, leak detection, and fire suppression) was completed January 1999. The new Garage/Shop facility was completed for occupancy December 1999. Both the Garage/Shop and NPP facilities included winter-over construction with crew sizes up to 20 persons (total station population being 50 with the added 20 support and 10 science, as an average).

The construction of a new satellite ground station, MARISAT/GOES and supporting RF building began during the month of November. The project was completed on January 18, with station personnel conducting a successful test of the ground station. The nine-meter satellite dish will connect the Pole with the commercial MARISAT-F2 and NSF's GOES-3 satellites. The system will transfer the large quantities of scientific data gathered each day in support of the year-around work at the South Pole, back to universities and laboratories in the U.S. for analysis. The new capability will supplement coverage provided by NASA and US Air Force satellites. Employees of Raytheon Polar

Services, NSF's logistical contractor in Antarctica, worked closely with a number of government agencies and sub-contractors to achieve the success.

The first major construction season for the elevated station (food service, housing, science, administration, medical, communication, work stations, emergency power facility, multipurpose area, and meteorological) began this summer season. The summer scope was to frame (structural steel) the exterior for wings A1 (50 person housing) and A2 (mechanical & electrical on the first floor and food service on the second floor), and enclose the wings in support of winter-over interior work. The connecting vertical tower was also part of the summer scope, which functions as the connector link between the surface elevated station (SPSM) and the sub-surface industrial facilities (SPSE). See **figures 1 and 2 in newsletter**. A 20 person construction crew is wintering and interior work is proceeding (again a 50 person station winter population, including 11 science and 19 support).

The water and sewer system design provides for "bulbs" to be located 1850 feet from the new station. For safety and ease of maintenance the utility lines will be placed in a tunnel (6 x 10 ft.) under the surface, which will allow for access year around. The tunnel work began last season and was completed on schedule this summer. The tunnel was constructed (machine design by CRREL) some 40 feet below the surface. Installation of the piping will be performed as part of the winter-over work this winter.

We asked Jerry Marty some specific questions about this whole project, as it is such a massive undertaking that us folks back in Peoria have a hard time getting a handle on what is going on and when. Us taxpayers are having our blood drawn out over a period of years

so that it won't hurt quite so much, just longer. The total cost is going to be \$152.9 million, with the station modernization cost \$127.9 million and the so-called safety and environmental upgrades a cool \$25 million. It will all be completed, hopefully, in the austral summer of 04-05, with dedication of the station sometime in January 2005. The first housing occupancy will be in the year 2003. All rooms will be the same although the design will have provisions to move walls to accommodate couples and separate male and female bathroom facilities. This is the third wintering over season representing full winter interior work. Eat your hearts out, Seabees!!

## Palmer Station

*(Polly Penhale/NSF)*

The 2000/2001 season at Palmer Season was highly successful on all fronts: science, operations, and public outreach. I spent a month on station (See **figure 3 in newsletter**) during January and February as the National Science Foundation Representative Antarctic Peninsula before joining the U.S. Antarctic Treaty Inspection Team for its work in the Antarctic Peninsula region. During the month, there were 37 people on station under the leadership of Station Manager Ron Nugent. Cara Sucher was the Laboratory Manager and Molly Hutsinpillar was the Physician.

The main science project conducted during my time on station was the Palmer Long Term Ecological Research Program (PAL-LTER) which is an interdisciplinary project focusing on the marine ecosystem in the Antarctic Peninsula region. The theme is the influence of the inter-annual variation in sea ice on the biological components of the ecosystem, with a focus on phytoplankton, krill and seabirds. The project consisted of both station research (under the leadership of Station Science Leader Bill Fraser, Montana State University) and a January research cruise (under the leadership of Chief

March 2001

Scientist Robin Ross, University of California, Santa Barbara).

The at-sea component was conducted on the *R/V Laurence M. Gould*, on a cruise track which reached from Palmer Station south to Rothera Station in Marguerite Bay. In the Palmer Station vicinity, January proved to be a poor month for krill, with Robin Ross finding few krill in the local area. At Rothera, scientists from the British Antarctic Survey joined the ship for some joint research activities as part of an ongoing cooperative project to link local coastal research with the broader marine ecosystem research of the LTER.

The on-station component focused on seabirds, with an emphasis on population biology and foraging ecology of Adelie penguins. The PAL-LTER seabird team under Bill Fraser saw the lack of local krill populations reflected in the diet samples of Adelie penguins. The state of digestion of krill indicated that the birds were foraging quite a long distance from the station. Utilizing satellite tags, new research on the foraging of giant petrels nests, indicating an interaction between the birds and commercial fishing activities.

A major accomplishment of the past year was the completion of the GWR (Garage, Warehouse, Recreation) building remodeling project, which was conducted by both summer and winter personnel. Both past (Antarctic Support Associates) and present (Raytheon Polar Support Company) contractors deserve congratulations for the project's completion. At one time, the space on the upper floor of WR (one of the two major buildings on station) consisted of berthing, the lounge, offices, storage rooms, the gym, the station store, the ham shack, and the laundry facility.

In the past few years, as the space on station has been consolidated, it became feasible to improve the quality of life and safety through renovation of living and recreation space. For example, all the bedrooms are doubles (no more four-person rooms!) and now the berthing and recreation are separated at opposite ends of the floor (much

quieter!). Fire sprinklers were installed in the building. The new medical facility on the first floor of GWR is a vast improvement over the cramped quarters, which were formerly located in BioLab (the other main building on station). There is now double-door access to the medical facility from the outside, a larger examination room/medical lab, and a separate storage closet for medications. The station store is also now located on the first floor of the GWR.

The station's public outreach program included a visit by Maria Stenzel, a photographer from the *National Geographic Magazine*. She joined the program in Punta Arenas for the cruise to station, where she spent a few days photographing seabird research conducted by Bill Fraser. Maria left on the *Golden Fleece*, a yacht operated by Antarctic veteran Jerome Poncet, for a month's trip of photography in the peninsula region. Prior to the Palmer Station visit, she spent six weeks at McMurdo Station and vicinity. A feature on the U.S. activities in Antarctica will be published by the *National Geographic* in the December 2001 issue.

Palmer Station also hosted twelve visits by tour ships and several visits by ships of various Antarctic Treaty nations during the summer season. Tour ship visits are scheduled through the coordination between the NSF and IAATO (the Antarctic tour operators organization) and provide a means for NSF to inform the public about the research conducted on station and in the Antarctic Peninsula region. A half-hour lecture with slides is presented on board ship, followed by a station tour and visit to Torgersen Island, home to 4,500 Adelie penguin pairs. On station, visitors can collect literature on the U.S. Antarctic Program and sample the famous Palmer Station brownies.

On the social front, Sunday became the day of gourmet food, as station personnel took turns cooking dinner on the "cook's day off". Station Manager Ron Nugent became known for his New Orleans style cooking and electrician Dan Weisblatt's specialty was hand-cut pasta. OAE Tony Amos, who came to Palmer Station to install a new tide gauge, prepared Shepherd's pie, made the traditional way from Tony's childhood in England. That is, there was a layer of baked beans in between the meat layer and the mashed potato layer on the top. It was just terrific! My contribution to dinner was an industrial size pan baklava. And the station continues its traditional end to the January LTER cruise with "cross-town pizza", where station and ship personnel join together for pizza cooked in the gallery and served in the GWR lounge.

Station personnel have a keen sense of history and a community project involved decorating the lounge with our historic collection of pennants and plaques from visiting ships and scientific expeditions. Plaques commemorated the visits of ships from other Antarctic Treaty nations, from the U.S. Coast Guard, and from tour ships. The earliest dated plaque is from 1969 and many date from the 1970's. Pennants also dated from the 1960's and commemorated various ships, other Antarctic stations, yachts, and universities. Memorabilia from the *R/V Hero*, a replica of the *R/V Polar Duke* and photos of the current USAP ships the *R/V Nathaniel B. Palmer* and the *R/V Laurence M. Gould* complete the historical collection.

# Ice Bound: A Doctor's Incredible Battle for Survival at the South Pole

by Jerri Nielsen, with Maryanne Vollers  
(John Spletstoeser/LAATO)

Anyone who has not heard this story did not have a TV set last year. The time was last winter at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, where 41 people were wintering over, an annual procedure for this U.S. station since its presence at 90S latitude in 1957-58. The population was a bit higher this winter than normal because of a construction crew who were in the stages of building a new facility. What makes this story different, and worthy of a book, is that shortly after the last LC-130 aircraft left for the season, thereby shutting down flights until the station reopened next spring, the station doctor, Jerri Nielsen, discovered a lump in her breast. In a standard summer season of operations, a quick flight from McMurdo Station would have gone to the Pole, picked her up, dropped off her replacement, and whisked her to New Zealand and the U.S. for evaluation. Not so this time. In winter, you might as well as be on the Moon, for no one is coming to get you because of what Antarctica is famous for in winter— total darkness, unusually low temperatures, storms, and just plain isolation. Because we know the outcome, the reason for reading this book is the suspense of events which ultimately resulted in an airdrop of medical supplies in the dead of winter, and a miraculous winter flight to the Pole to pick her up after it was determined by doctors in the U.S. who were in communication with the author that she did indeed have cancer. Not only that, the background of why this 46-year-old emergency room physician

chose to apply for the job, was quickly selected, and left for 'The Ice' shortly after is a vital part of the story. No surprises that a bitter divorce, resulting in her children having nothing to do with her, would drive a person to seek isolation and a totally different way of life in a place she was totally unfamiliar with, a not uncommon scenario for many who winter over in Antarctica. After a period of getting used to living and working with people who were mostly younger than her, some a bit eccentric as well, she adapted so well that becoming a 'Polie' was an essential part of the experience, and she never regretted it. The part that reappears in the story is that of her former husband and children who apparently ignored her, even with the news of her life-threatening condition. Why none of them even acknowledged her plight, and consistently did not respond to e-mail messages from her, is unknown. The author sets out some painful history of her marriage, and puts it in the context of a husband who was apparently unwilling to see her gain the fame and publicity of a stranded heroine at the Pole - after the Press media discovered who she was, reporters constantly hounded her parents and former husband about anything that would add to the story. According to the author, her former husband told reporters that it was just like her to fabricate the whole story in order to gain attention!!

Aside from all that intrigue, living and working at the Pole is a suspenseful part of the story as well. Occasional power outages, personalities interacting in a closed environment, friendships developed, and day-to-day living make good reading. Because she was the only doctor at the station, she had to instruct others to help her take a biopsy, for example. The book is not about science at the South Pole, although the individuals who work their way into the story are identified as technicians doing

their job on science projects. It is interesting that of the 41 people at the station, the individuals listed in the book, with their specialties, number only 34. The list is prefaced by the statement that '...some participants do not appear in the book, and others prefer not to be named.' That could be an interesting story by itself.

Anyway, get the book and read it. Its' jacket price is \$23.95, published by Hyperion Press, 77 W. 66<sup>th</sup> St., New York 10023, and was just published (2001, 362 p., 16 black-and-white photos, ISBN 0-7868-6684-5). The book appeared at about the time that Jerri appeared on national television talk shows, giving a perspective of the doctor as a person. It's worth having on your Polar bookshelf.

## A Lifetime Loving the Ice

This was the most suitable obituary headline in THE PRESS, published in Christchurch, on January 18, 2001, covering the passing of Jim Caffin. He was an international authority on the Antarctic, and amassed a huge collection of information about the continent. I had the honor of meeting Jim back in the 1980s, and was enthralled by his breadth of knowledge at what was going on at all of the Antarctic station. He was truly a gold mine of information on Antarctica. His interests in Antarctica were awakened when he interviewed Admiral Richard E. Byrd on his way to Antarctica on his 1933-35 Expedition.

He became editor of the ANTARCTIC, an excellent news bulletin published quarterly by the New Zealand Antarctic Society. First published in 1956, it was most unique, as it was the only privately published journal in the world specializing in international coverage of Antarctic affairs. Jim's service to

Antarctic journalism was recognized in 1983 when he was awarded the MBE. He retired as editor of the ANTARCTIC at the end of 1981.

He actually had a legitimate job outside of his Antarctic love, working as a journalist on the *Christchurch Star and Times*. He was a correspondent for United Press International and for the Sydney Daily Telegraph. He also contributed to the American news journals *Time* and *Life*. On the Press he worked as an aviation correspondent, as a Parliamentary reporter, as a leader writer, and as a theater critic. As chief reporter for the Press, he was known for his vast knowledge of local events and personalities, and for his insistence on brevity and accuracy in the work of his staff.

He was notable as an incessant talker, and his conversation often raced down several tracks at once. On social occasions in the presence of his wife, Carol, she could often be heard recalling him to his main theme, "Just the main river, Jim. Not the tributaries." She was a piece of art in herself. My visit coincided with the publishing of Elizabeth Chipman's *WOMEN ON THE ICE*. Carol hypothesized that a better title might have been *FRIGID WOMEN!*

We lost a real good one in Jim Caffin, dead at 88, predeceased by both his wife and their son.

## U.S. Antarctic Treaty Inspection

(by Polly Penhale/SNF)

A cornerstone of the Antarctic Treaty is its provision for the right of all parties to inspect any and all areas of Antarctica to ensure compliance with all aspects of the Treaty. This includes setting Antarctica aside exclusively for

peaceful purposes, including the prohibition of military activities, freedom of scientific research and protection of the environment, hi February 2001, the United States sent its eleventh U.S. Antarctic Treaty Inspection Team to the field, with a focus on stations in the Antarctic Peninsula region. The inspection coincided with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty.

The ten person U.S. Inspection team was led by Raymond Arnaudo, Department of State, with deputy team leaders Evan Bloom and Douglas Boerman (also from Department of State). Other members of the team were Katherine Biggs and David Lopez (EPA), Peter Ward (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), George Dupree (U.S. Coast Guard), Bernard Link (U.S. Embassy, Chile), Al Sutherland and Polly Penhale (both from the National Science Foundation).

The inspection was conducted from February 2-16, using the *R/V Laurence M. Gould*, NSF's research vessel in the peninsula, as transportation between stations. The stations visited during the inspection were Arctowski (Poland), Ferraz (Brazil), Vernadsky (Ukraine), Juan Carlos I (Spain), St. Kliment Ohridsky (Bulgaria), Frei (Chile), Artigas (Uruguay), Jubany (Argentina), Great Wall (China), Bellingshausen (Russia), and King Sejong (South Korea).

Using the Inspection Checklist developed by the Antarctic Treaty parties as a guideline, me team collected information on the following characteristics of each station: its history and physical description, personnel, scientific research program, station facilities (fuel storage/usage, water system, power generation, medical, hazardous chemical storage), firearms/explosives, military support activities, emergency response

capability, environmental impact assessment, waste management, conservation of flora and fauna, management of protected areas, understanding of Antarctic Treaty provisions and tourist and non-governmental activities. Discussions with station personnel were followed by a walk-through of the station facilities.

The team was cordially welcomed at each station and station personnel were genuinely interested in providing an open inspection. Station personnel viewed the inspection process as a positive tool to help improve their ability to adhere to the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty. There was a high degree of environmental awareness at all stations and cooperation in many areas, including scientific research and logistics, was in evidence. While the overall findings were quite positive, improvements in areas such as fuel management and emergency preparedness would be a worthy goal for the future. A complete report of the Inspection will be produced by the Department of State for circulation to Antarctic Treaty parties.

## Three Diaries

(by Steve Dibbern/OAE)

Diaries are a favorite medium for understanding what happened on a particular expedition. For the last two Christmases my daughter has managed to find two jewels, and I've added a third to round out the review. ***THE QUIET LAND - THE ANTARCTIC DIARIES OF FRANK DEBENHAM***, edited by June Debenham Back, Bluntisham Books, 1992 is the first and the second is ***WITH SCOTT THE SILVER LINING*** by Griffith Taylor, Bluntisham Books, 1997 (originally published by Smith, Elder & Co., 1916) More about the third later.

Both Debenham and Taylor loom large in the history of scientific exploration during the Heroic era of Antarctic

exploration. They were not after the Pole, although Taylor had hoped to be part of the Southern Party to explore the mountains in the area of the Beardmore Glacier. Both men ended up doing the pioneering exploration of the Dry Valleys and spent two summers as the "Western Parry". Taylor's famous narrative has been reprinted, and Debenham's daughter has recently published her father's diaries from the Scott expedition.

Both diaries are fascinating reading. Together they give insights into what went on that would be missing from a single narrative. Taylor was the leader of both trips, which was a disappointment to Debenham who had hoped to lead the second trip. That both trips were as harmonious as they were speaks volumes to the character of the two Australians.

What adds immeasurably to both books is that both men were turn of the century geographers, and as such had been taught to sketch both the terrain around them and details that photography was not yet adept at recording. These details were not limited to geographical subjects but to wonderful details of their equipment as well as themselves. The drawings, maps and sketches are visit personal views of their two western trips. To me the best parts are the exploration of the

dry valley now called Taylor Valley. This was an area that could not be traversed in the normal fashion with a sled as there was no snow. They were ill equipped for backpacking but were so fascinated with the terrain and its formation processes that they left their sled and explored for a number of days with only what they could carry. The dry valley is also the subject of a number of their best drawings.

Taylor's book is a longer and more complete narrative. He is clear, funny at times and easy to read. Other than Cherry-Garrard's wonderful book, I believe Taylor's diary is easily the best book to have emerged from the last Scott expedition; it deals not in hardship and tragedy but in science, unique field work and human relationships.

Debenham's diary was not written for publication so it is not as complete as Taylor's but it makes up for it in great sketches and maps, and it also can be used to see a second perspective on the same situations. Read them together and you won't be sorry.

The third and last diary for this review is *MY SEASON WITH PENGUINS - AN ANTARCTIC JOURNAL* by Sophie Webb, Houghton, Mifflin Co., 2000. Ms. Webb's book is a thin tome purported to be for those "age 10 and up" and I can heartily recommend it for the standpoint of the "and up" crowd! It

is a beautifully illustrated diary of a summer (one of three we are told) spent at Cape Royds observing, tagging, ways, and many other activities with the Adelic penguins in the world's southernmost rookery. She describes the life at a modern biological field camp. Her water colors are the main feature of the book and are delightful. They illustrate more about penguin behavior in a few pages than many more academic books do in the hundreds. I could be accused here of being a bit over the top here, but I DO believe that a picture IS worth a thousand words and that a painted one is even better to emphasize detail. And they are Charming! As is the text. Buy it for yourself; buy it for your grandchildren, but buy it! It'll be the best \$ 15 bucks you've spent this year.

The theme that binds these three books together is they are all three interestingly illustrated diaries. Taylor's is the most historically significant while Debenham's lends a human touch and detail to the story. But Ms. Webb's is the most pleasing to the eye and to the soul. And in the end of all three diarists crossed paths in the McMurdo Sound.

*Our Society wishes to thank Tami Crane of TLC Creations in Port Clyde, Maine, for doing this beautiful newsletter.*



**Figure 1 (above) & Figure 2 (above-right):**

**South Pole Modernization Station (photo by John Rand, NSF, on Feb. 3, 2001)**



**Figure 3: Palmer Station (above)**

**(photo by Polly Penhale on January 26, 2001)**