



# THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

"BY AND FOR ALL ANTARCTICANS"

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### BRASH ICE

We are off to a most inauspicious start in a period of high-intensity-Antarctic-interest brought on by headline news about global warming and the interfacing with the new International Polar Year

*THE ECONOMIST* print edition of March 29, 2007, had an excellent five-page summary article about the status of research in Antarctica, one in which they covered the motives for doing science in Antarctica, but one sentence sort of kicked us right where it hurts, "Once, Antarctic science was strictly for eccentrics." I think the real problem is that the Mommy and Daddy involved picked out the wrong books for him/her to read when he/she was a kid. If they had been about Dr. Jean Baptiste Charcot, Dr. Otto Nordenskjold, Dr. Edward Wilson, Sir Raymond Priestley, or Sir Douglas Mawson, the kid would have realized that these persons were true scientists for any age, far from eccentrics. The writer must have confused Antarctic adventurers with bona fide scientists. Too bad, as the rest of the report is first class.

At seven thirty in the evening of the fifteenth of May, 2007, the USNS RICHARD E. BYRD (T-AKE-4) will be christened and launched by General Dynamics in San Diego. This ship is described as a new dry cargo/ammunition ship, and that is the only information we have on the ship at this time. One of Admiral Byrd's surviving daughters, Bolling Byrd Clarke, will be the ship's sponsor. Stand by for more information in the next Newsletter.

One thing bothered us about how one of our most highly respected Antarcticans was treated by a Republican member of a House committee on global warming. The Antarctic, Susan Solomon, appeared before this committee the week following the UN Conference in Paris. This all appeared on C-Span, and the Congressman was downright rude, and persistently so. Several days before the committee hearing, we had heard Susan read what amounted to the executive summary of the UN Conference on national television. So she was coming before this committee on a "high" and had to sit there and be humiliated by this political character (translate to "hack") that was trying to cut her up into small pieces.

The exploits of Father William J. Menster, a retired Dubuque archdiocesan priest and retired Navy chaplain who served as chaplain for a 1946-47 South Pole expedition, have been preserved on video. "South Pole Padre," features the priest's role in Operation Highjump, an expedition directed by Rear Adm. Richard Byrd, the most celebrated polar explorer in American history.

On the voyage, Father Menster oversaw religious services for 2,000 men of all faiths. He led what is believed to be one of the first worship services held in Antarctica, blessed the continent and dedicated it to peaceful purposes. He also helped to provide recreational opportunities for the crew.

"One of the reasons he did so well for the morale of his shipmates was because of his ability to sing and play the accordion and the guitar," said Msgr. Francis P. Fried], one of those interviewed in the 19-minute video.

**ABOUT MEMBERS.** We did pretty well on renewals, as 93% of you have already renewed. But the real good news for us is that over fifty percent of you answered our plea for multiple year memberships so that next year we will only have to go after about 45% of you. We received the biggest check we ever received when Jean Maurice Silagy of Israel sent in a check for \$400 for twenty years memberships. Wow! Wonder just who he is, do any of you know him? Another great surprise was a large check from Trim Baldwin, a former Naval officer in Antarctica, who was OIC of the 1990-1991 Wintering-Over Detachment McMurdo. Trina once told me at a gathering in Davisville, R.I., that she had aims of becoming an admiral before she retired, but, unfortunately, she had an accident, which for all purposes ended those dreams. Now she is retired, living in Central, S.C. Evidently she goes on the lecture circuit talking about Antarctica, and she was recently rewarded with a handsome honorarium for one talk in Illinois. And you know what, she cut the check in half and sent us half of it. All such donations help as we do send out quite a few Newsletters to widows of past members. If you are one of our eleven delinquents, you will be getting your final chance to renew with this issue, as we are running a tight ship and only will go forward with a full deck of paid-up members.

**CALENDARS.** It seems awfully early to be advertising calendars for next year, but in this economy driven society, you can introduce the holidays nine months ahead of time. We feel the New Zealand Antarctic calendars are the best Antarctic calendar on the market. Again we are offering Hedgehog House New Zealand Antarctic calendars at the same price as last year, \$14.00 each. If you want to order ten or more, the price is lowered to \$13.00 per (as we can get the supplier to mail directly to your home or business address). There seems to be several artistic photographs, but the one that captured our mind was a spectacular green aurora, no doubt shot by Robert Schwartz at the South Pole. But we regret to report that there is one shot of a skier. Our personal premise is that Antarctica speaks for itself, should be void of all personnel and machinery!

**INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR HAS ARRIVED.**  
We suppose most of you have already read what you

wanted to know about the IPY, but it behooves us as a so-called educational society to at least recognize its birth. We have chosen an announcement from the American Geophysical Union, forwarded to us by that illustrious Antarctic, Lou Lanzerotti of the National Science Board and mayor of Harding, New Jersey. So onward...

The International Polar Year (IPY) kick-off event was held at the National Academies on 26 February 2007. The International Polar "Year" officially extends for two years, from 1 March 2007 to 1 March 2009 to allow scientists time to conduct sufficient research in both the Arctic and the Antarctic despite nearly six-month periods of prohibitive weather and darkness. This IPY is occurring on the 125th anniversary of the first IPY that took place from 1882-1883 (with no one in Antarctica) and the 50th anniversary of the 1957-58 International Geophysical Year (when all The Innocents showed up). NSF has been designated as the lead agency to coordinate all US IPY activities.

There were many high-ranking officials from various government agencies and, of course, members of Congress who spoke at the event — too many to mention by names, really, and not really important in the overall picture. The Congressional members challenged the scientific community to draw public interest in the polar regions, which could be challenging since they noted that few Americans are familiar with the Arctic and Antarctic, and most will never visit those regions (but approximately 30,000 people do pay each year to visit Antarctica). Panelists also stressed that this is an opportunity to bring attention to the international nature of this endeavor. Several officials recalled that the 1957 International Geophysical Year was an event that captured their attention, and expressed their hopes that this IPY will have a similar effect on a new generation, especially on educators and students (and, hopefully, on some politicians).

The event also featured a panel of three scientists, Robin Bell of Columbia University, Robert Bindshadler of the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, and Konrad Steffen of the University of Colorado at Boulder. The Science panel focused on the research that still needs to be done in the Polar Regions, and was very enthusiastic about the studies slated to occur in the next two years as part of the IPY. The panel also acknowledged widespread alarm about potentially dire effects of expected changes, such as thinning ice sheets, retreating glaciers, and sea-level rise. They explained that this IPY would focus on measuring the

rate of change occurring in the Polar Regions. However, Konrad Steffen emphasized that, to cope with such changes, it is important to increase our understanding of the Polar Regions and to reduce the amount of uncertainty associated with some of the research conducted so far (wonder what is bugging this guy about our ongoing research?)

**ST. MICHAELS II.** Katy Jensen (Acting South Pole Station Operations Support Supervisor) Fifteen years ago, a diverse team of planners met in St. Michaels, Maryland, to determine the South Pole station's future. Their task was to determine what types of science programs would come to the Pole in the following 10-20 years... then use unlimited imagination and fresh thinking to figure out how to make it all work with limited resources and a tight budget. The discussions were mostly about "living within the station's means," with the Dome at the center of attention.

In what will be a reunion for many and a new opportunity for others, NSF is again sponsoring a conference in St. Michaels to review the station's current status and set goals for the next several years. The safety issues cited in 1992 have been addressed and the Dome has been replaced, but advanced technology and subsequent science requirements have exceeded all expectations, resulting in a renewed urgency to review priorities and decide between 1) living within our means or 2) somehow changing our means to fit the new requirements.

A lot has changed in the last 15 years. Some examples of topics that will be discussed at this month's conference: **POPULATION** -The Dome was originally designed and built for a winter population of 18 (men) and a summer population of 33. In 1992, the summer population of 140 was hard to manage, and the winter crew of 22 (Drew Logan among them) was one of the largest ever. The new station was designed for 150 summer/ 50 winter. This year's peak summer population was 266, with 54 winterovers on site now. (The largest-ever South Pole winter crew was 86 people in 2005.) **SCIENCE** -1992: PICO drilled four 820-meter holes in the ice for a project that would eventually become AMANDA, and the structural steel for the first Dark Sector building (ASTRO) was erected. Plans were in development for a new Clean Air Facility (ARO) and "big" telescopes like SPIREX and COBRA. 2006-2007: The IceCube team drilled and filled thirteen holes, and the 10-meter South Pole Telescope (SPT) was constructed and brought on-line. IPY grantees

are packing their bags and heading poleward, and it seems the whole world is talking about global warming and climate change. **IT-COMMS**-1992: Back then, less than 10 MB/day of data were stored and sent over a serial modem, and most e-mail messages were sent to Rick Johnson, who would print them and send them via U.S. mail ("Polarmail") to family members who didn't have e-mail. There was a weekly sign-up sheet for phone calls via HAM patch or ATS-3 satellite, and the computer inventory consisted of two DEC VAX systems for data analysis, a Sun UNIX workstation, and a handful of personal computers. 2006-2007: Individual e-mail messages can be up to 5 MB in size, and approximately 60 GB of data are transmitted between the South Pole and the U.S. each day. Anyone can call the South Pole from their home phone, and most bedrooms at the Pole are wired for computer and telephone access. And the computer lab! Maybe we should just keep its grandeur secret lest the other stations get jealous. **LOGISTICS**-The 1992 team recommended up to 10 (C-141) airdrop missions per summer to supplement 140 LC-130 flights. Station inventories were stored outside on snow "berms" or tucked away in any available space. In 2006-2007, South Pole received 359 LC-130 flights and the first-ever airdrop from a C-17 Globemaster III. And station inventories are... well... still stored outside on snow berms or tucked away in any available space.

The upcoming conference in St. Michaels is sure to be an enlightening experience for all concerned. As with most things, hindsight is 20/20 and guessing the future is a tricky business. Do any of you have connections with a reliable prognosticator who can tell us what technological advances will be take place in the next several years?

**POLAR SCIENCE AND THE IPY.** Review by John Splettstoesser. In the event that you had not already heard and read enough about 'Global Warming' to convince you (one way or the other), the recent issue of Science, v. 315, 16 March 2007, will probably sway your impression toward the statement given in the caption for the cover photo — "In both the Arctic and Antarctica, melting ice and disrupted ecosystems have sounded the alarm on global warming." To ring in the International Polar Year (IPY), 2007-2008, a special section on Polar Science plus various scattered articles in the issue revolve around much the same scene in more than 40 pages — retreating glaciers in Greenland and Antarctica, the Arctic's shrinking sea-ice cover, ice sheet melting and contribution to global sea level, and many other related subjects by mainly U.S. and U.K. researchers are the harbingers of a worldwide phenomenon which has become a buzzword/term for

journalists and the general public – Global Warming. Contributions from human activity cannot be ignored in the process, although those discussions are not part of the theme in this issue. I expect that many of our Society members have seen some of these features in the field, such as retreating glaciers over historic time (yes, many of us are old enough to claim those events).

Alan I. Leshner, Chief Executive Officer of AAAS and executive publisher of *Science*, introduces the subject of the coming IPY and some of the challenges and research topics to be addressed in it in the Editorial column of the issue, "Celebrating Polar Science." Articles that follow illustrate the major advantage of the technological age we are in, whereby monitoring of ice sheets and discovery of a subglacial water system in West Antarctica can now be accomplished with satellite imagery. Ice discharge from the Greenland Ice Sheet shows rapid changes of two major outlet glaciers as determined in only two years from observations by satellites. Some authors pointed out that major changes of this kind can occur more rapidly than previously thought, and with respect to the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and coastal Greenland, meltwater at the base can be responsible for short time scales.

I recommend the issue for readers who follow the subject and await the thrust of the IPY – orders can be placed at \$15 for a single copy with AAAS, P.O. Box 96178, Washington, D.C. 20090-6178.

**CLIMATE EXPERT TAKES POSITIVE VIEW** (By John Henzell, *Christchurch Press*, 28 March 2007, forwarded by loyalist Margaret Lanyon.) Professor Paul Mayewski, Director of the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine, told a lecture audience in Christchurch on 27 March that he was optimistic about the future. "I want to leave people with a very positive feeling that, yes, we're on our way to the cliff, but we know where the cliff is and we don't have to drive off the cliff. We need to reverse it, and it can be done."

Mayewski, a glaciologist, has been working in Antarctica since 1968 when the continent was thought to be unchanging and an isolated ice mass that was neither affected by nor an influence on world climate. Now, nearly forty years later, Paul is one of the world's foremost experts on analyzing data from ice cores in places as diverse as Antarctica, the Tasman Glacier near Mt. Cook, the Rongbuk Glacier near Mt. Everest, and the Greenland Ice Sheet. In that time, the ice cores have shown that instead of being a bit player in the global climate,

Antarctica is one of the driving forces and a place of abrupt changes. It is warming faster than almost anywhere else, with the Antarctic Peninsula, the Southern Ocean, and the mid-level of the atmosphere above the continent each getting hotter, and quicker than other similar bodies.

Paul said "Often climate change in Antarctica precipitates change in the southern hemisphere so, if that's true, once Antarctica starts going, we'll see things triggered through much of the world. We know enough now to know we're having a dramatic effect. We're realizing that, which is really critical because we now have the opportunity to do something about it. I have a very optimistic view of the future. We don't understand the whole system but we certainly understand the direction we're going in."

In the northern hemisphere particularly, the atmosphere had elevated levels of toxic heavy metals. Even in the southern hemisphere the lead levels in the atmosphere were high. Paul said the globe had shown a remarkable ability to bounce back. In the days after the September 11, 2001, attacks in the United States, when all civilian air traffic was grounded, the air quality improved quickly. Other factors such as greenhouse gases and the depleted ozone levels would take longer but would respond, he said.

**MAN OF THE YEAR, SORT OF.** This fellow Mayewski is a red-hot item, not only in the States but abroad. Ten days before he gave the above referenced lecture in Christchurch, he wowed some 1400 members and guests of the Explorers Club at their annual bash in the Ball Room of the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. His name is synonymous with Antarctica, and Antarctica is synonymous with global warming. They are talking about him in barbershops and in the foyers of post offices in Maine, and I assume so in other states. His facial growth makes him look like sort of an explorer, whatever explorers are supposed to look like. And he is old enough to make you think that he is old enough to know of what he speaketh. It looks to us from our vantage point (or disadvantaged point) location on shoreline property in Maine that, he has overhauled and supplanted Susan Solomon as Antarctica's Person of Nobility. But don't count Susan out, as she has an awful lot going for her, too.

**CLIMATE CRASH** *Abrupt Climate Change and What it Means for Our Future*, by John D. Cox (Joseph Henry Press, Washington, DC, 2005, ISBN 0-309-09312-0, 215 p., cloth, \$27.95). This excellent book honors one of the good old boys of the Polar Regions, Chester Langway, professor emeritus of geology. Chet is among the

principals involved in early deep ice core research, and his career is highlighted and discussed in this book. The book examines and analyzes, at a popular level, existing ice-core theories, as well as present knowledge of the global climate change controversy and the significant role that ice-core science plays in providing a detailed record of the Earth's paleoenvironmental history, especially regarding rapid change and variability in climate. Congratulations, Chet, on your contributions, and it is nice to see you remembered and honored while you are pretty much still alive. Much of Chet's academic and professional history is a bonus to reading a very interesting account of his life while with SIPRE and CRREL, and later as Professor of Geology at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

**PREMIO INTERNAZIONALE FELICE IPPOLITO AWARD RECIPIENT.** Probably no Antarctic has seen more people land and take-off from McMurdo than Art DeVries, professor of Animal Biology at the University of Illinois. He may also hold the world's record for spending the most months with more different wives at a single Antarctic station. These things did not bring him any awards, but his research did result in Art receiving an international prize awarded by the National Antarctic Programme and the Academia in Italy. The award is the Premio Internazionale "Felice Ippolito," and is in memory of Professor Felice Ippolito, former deputy chairman of the Italian Committee for Antarctic Research. It is given to an Italian or foreign scientist who has significantly contributed to Antarctic research. It recognizes his more than forty years of research in Antarctica and his discovery of antifreeze protein in Antarctic fish.

Art DeVries spent his first year (1961-62) at McMurdo Station as a research technician for Dr. Donald Wohlschlag of Stanford University conducting respiratory experiments on McMurdo Sound Notothenioid fishes. He arrived early October on a C-124 Globe Master (12 hour flight from Christchurch). He spent 14 months on the ice, returned October 1963 for a summer and again in 1964 for a year conducting his PhD thesis research on freezing avoidance in McMurdo Sound fishes. During that time he discovered that the fishes living in ice-laden seawater avoided freezing because they had evolved a unique antifreeze glycoprotein. He returned again to Antarctica in 1969 and worked with Antarctic Peninsula fish freezing avoidance aboard the USARP RV/Hero and at Palmer Station.

After taking a research position at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1971 funded by OPP NSF, he returned to McMurdo Station as a Principal Investigator conducting further research into the role of the antifreeze glycoproteins in freezing avoidance of the McMurdo Sound fishes. He spent 5 (6 month field seasons) continuing his studies. In 1976 he accepted an assistant professorship in the Department of Physiology at the University of Illinois.

He returned again in 1977 and continued his studies up until the present, missing 2 Antarctic field seasons (two were with other countries—the Danish Galathea 3 Expedition and a 6 week season with the Italians at Terra Nova Station). In all he believes he has made about 41 trips to the "ICE" for research. Art wrote that, "A substantial part of my life has been spent at McMurdo. For the most part it has been enjoyable with the continual support of OPP/NSF. Discussions with people of all walks of life have been fascinating and those who are not biologists have broadened my knowledge of science. Those with glacial geologists have been very useful in interpreting the origin and evolution of the antifreeze proteins in the Antarctic fishes. On a personal level I have enjoyed interacting with everyone I have met in the Antarctic. Presently my wife and I alternate time on the ice while managing to raise two children (one a sophomore in college and the other beginning college this fall).

Research in Antarctica is not without its frustrations that include the uncertainties of weather, ice conditions, finding able-bodied technicians, the end of a long supply line and personalities. The bottom line is, one has to really love one's science and the "place" to do excellent research on the Ice. As an aside I enjoy training graduate students and technicians of which most of the latter have gone back to graduate school or medical school and excelled. Some of the graduate students have taken jobs and began their own Antarctic Programs, which is a very rewarding experience for me.

Finally the discovery of the antifreeze as a graduate student and the continuing studies have not only started an important sub field in insect and fish biology, but the story of their evolution is being written up in many of the modern evolutionary biology textbooks as an example of evolution in an extreme environment. Again it is gratifying to see that one's work is recognized not only in the polar science but also by the non-polar

How many of you have enjoyed a cold beer in the middle of the night with Art at one of his fishing holes in the sea ice off McMurdo Station -- one of the sheer delights of being at McMurdo? Congratulations, Art, on a well-deserved award.

#### **AGELESS SLADEN IS A LONG-TERM**

**STUDENT.** Back in the early Pleistocene while a professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Bill Sladen and his team from Johns Hopkins went to Cape Crozier in Antarctica in 1960 to study a colony of 300,000 Adelie penguins, which involved banding virtually every penguin they could capture. Supported by NSF, it was the start of what is now one of the most important avian studies. One of Bill's students, Dr. David Ainsley, has been continuing the long-termed study, and NSF recently has funded a grant to work with well-known filmmaker Lloyd Fales to redo the film, PENGUIN CITY, which Bill Bishot in the 1960s. Towards that end, Bill joined David this past austral summer at Cape Crozier. He had not been there since 1970, but Bill is only 87 and has many more active years in his life than an Arctic tern. The new film is going to be called PENGUIN SCIENCE and will be for the International Polar Year.

While filming at Cape Royds they celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first scientific study of the Adelie by John Murray, Shackleton's biologist. Bill met a fellow octogenarian while at McMurdo Sound, a former New Zealand apiarist turned Antarctic farm tractor driver, whose name has sort of slipped our memory, but is remembered as someone who could well qualify as Mayor of Scott Base, and liked to climb high mountains in his earlier days, one of them with a Sherpa named Tenzing.

Bill wrote that an Adelie penguin colony quite closely replicates a human city, with "generally good behavior," but also shows inexperienced juvenile "teenage" behavior, divorce about the same as in America, nest stone stealing, predation by leopard seals and South Polar skuas, as well as catastrophic weather with hurricane-like katabatic winds. Bill hopes that PENGUIN SCIENCE will compete favorably with the French documentary THE MARCH OF THE PENGUINS with accurate long-term science and (of course) much laughter." Incidentally Bill is very proud of being a 7th decade Antarctic, and will be an 8th if he can survive another four years. And just where were you in January 1948 when Bill was counting penguins at Hope Bay?

**PENGUINS**, by Brutus Ostling and Susanne Akesson. An Imprint of Harper Collins Publishers. 2007 (Review by Grace S. Machemer.) On the subject of coffee-table books on Penguins, there is now a new one by a pair of Swedes, Brutus Ostling, the photographer, and Susanne Akesson, an animal ecologist and ornithologist. This one joins seven others on our table, and, might be thought of as "ho-hum!" or "do we really need another?"

To be fair in assessing this beautiful book, we decided to compare all seven on the following terms: a) quality of photographs, b) accuracy and completeness of the text, c) publishing considerations such as size, kind of paper and type used, and d) organization of material.

As for quality of the photographs (images), as sure as the sun rises tomorrow, there will be some improvement almost daily in cameras for resolution and clarity that was not available yesterday. But, everyone can push buttons and voila, a good picture! However, not everyone has the eye of the artist for composition and light, which makes a picture a true work of art. All seven books are good, but, to be special, the Frans Lanting book, PENGUIN, and this new Swedish one are indeed hard to beat.

It is always helpful to the reader to establish place, as with maps, to show migration routes, and locations of the various tribes of penguins. They are all Southern Hemisphere species, all the way from the Galapagos Islands to the fringes of the Antarctic continent, depending on the availability of food and reproductive habitat. Ostling and Akesson's book is the most sensitive book to the threat of over-fishing, tourism, and global warming on penguins, all of which may lead to eventual extinction. The text is excellent and the images are fabulous. Maybe it is time to make room on your tabletop for this newest PENGUIN book.

**USGS'S OPEN FILE REPORT 2006-1116, U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES IN THE EXPLORATION OF ANTARCTICA: 1946-2006 RECORD OF PERSONNEL IN ANTARCTICA AND THEIR POSTAL CACHETS.** Tony Meunier, who was in the last crew to occupy the original IGY station at South Pole in 1973-74, has gone into the files and tabulated the presence and activities of all USGS personnel in Antarctica from 1946 to 2006. It is sort of like a footnoted Manhattan Telephone Directory, telling what each and every soul did on the ice — at least what is fit to print!

During the past 60 years, the USGS, has sent 325 scientists to Antarctica to work on a wide range of projects. More than half were involved in aerial photography, surveying, and geodesy, primarily used for modern mapping of Antarctica. Slightly more than forty percent were involved in geophysical and geological studies, both onshore and offshore. A smaller number participated in projects in the Dry Valleys, and one came from the Director's Office.

Many of the USGS personnel became legendary. One was William R. MacDonald, who started in 1960-61 and supervised the acquisition of more than a million square miles of aerial photography of Antarctica. As a result, Bill probably flew more miles as a passenger on LC-130 flights in Antarctica than any other person. Both John Behrendt and Art Ford were piling up extensive careers on the ice for the USGS when the Survey pulled the rug out from under their Antarctic activities in the 1990s. However, both had established themselves by that time, and the result was just a blip in their careers, as they continued working in Antarctica.

There was a time in the 1970s and 1980s when USGS personnel were the backbone of our Society. They certainly were the halcyon days of our social life. Our Mid-Winter Day picnic at such places as Rippon Lodge and Stronghold were real celebrations when Charlie Morrison headed up a most able crew of USGS bartenders from Reston. Whenever any of the Antarcticans retired from the USGS, their retirement party was a don't-miss affair. At Mike Metzgar's retirement, all the waitresses came dressed as penguins, although they might have been real penguins that were trained as waitresses! A farmer from Pennsylvania named Jim Stoner went to the ice nearly every season and was a blessing for our Hedgehog calendar sales, as he would buy 40 each year! Boy, do we miss him! Every page of Tony's manuscript brings back many pleasant memories, even of the naked Bruce Molnia being, inducted into the Lake Vanda Swimming Club, as well

was Dr. Earl T. Apfel, of Operation Windmill, 1947-48, teaching me Geomorphology 101 in Graduate School at Syracuse. This is the best telephonic-type-directory that you will ever see. This open file report will soon be on-line.

#### **THE SIR ROBERT-ADMIRAL DUFEK FIASCO.**

Although you will not find this in Diane Belanger's book, DEEP FREEZE, what happened between the two of these persons was probably one of the biggest stories of the

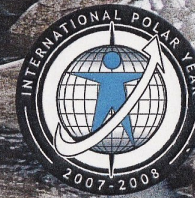
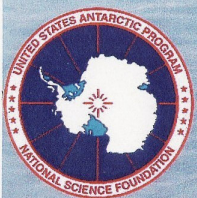
summer season, 1957-58, I happen to know quite a bit of what went on as not only was I on the ice at the time, Sir Hubert and I were co-workers at the Army laboratories at Natick, Massachusetts. In reality Sir Hubert was a very quiet individual, not a rabble-rouser at all, and he was truthful.

It all started when Sir Hubert arrived at McMurdo and where he was a polar figure of some magnitude, he was besieged upon by the press as to his opinions on how he found McMurdo. He started out by talking about the conditions at McMurdo, which were pretty much of a mess where they were still in the process of establishing themselves. He should have stopped there, but he went on to say that the morale at the station was far worse than anything experienced by either Scott or Shackleton. And he said something to the effect that drinking was a real problem, starting with the admiral and going all the way down through the ranks! And you can imagine what happened when his interviews were published back in the States and eventually got back to McMurdo. Something in four letters started to hit the fantail, and Sir Hubert was kicked out of the Admiral's quarters, ostracized to a Quonset where scientists going and coming were quartered. No big deal for Sir Hubert as he was a most common person, but what hurt was the fact that Admiral Defect, as he was universally called by the civilian scientists, grounded him from all South Pole flights. However, Sir Hubert had a way of hanging out at the airstrip, and hopping on lesser flights hither and yon!

So Sir Hubert lived out his stay, and left McMurdo on an icebreaker that took him over to Wilkes Station, commanded by his friend Carl Eklund, and then onto Australia, his homeland. Upon returning to the States, he had to file the obligatory trip report, which included what he had said to the reporters at McMurdo. The Admiral then asked our General for the opportunity to come to Natick to answer Sir Hubert's charges. They fell upon deaf ears. I really had nothing to do with it, as I was then at the South Pole, but I took great personal delight in seeing Admiral Defect rebuked by our General, whose wife's maiden name was the very same as my last name! But we were not related at all. I left the Pole in early December 1958, and upon arriving in Christchurch, read in the newspaper that evening that Sir Hubert had died in Framingham, Massachusetts. So I never had the fun of talking to Sir Hubert about it all, although in his life, I am sure it had no significance at all. And he did tell -it as it was. What more could one have expected from him?



# Palmer Station Dives into the IPY



Standing (L to R): Christina Hammock, Katie Haman, Peter Horne, Tristan Wohlford, Ken Keenan, Ben Buchwald, Jeff Otten, Brett Pickering, Phil Spindler, Chuck Kimball, Sam Hammond, Amanda Nohowec, Ryan Burner, Wendy Beeler, Alden Strong, Alex Lowe, Mike Elnitsky, Curt Smith, Zee Evans  
Sitting (L to R): Julie Schram, Tom Curran, Diane Curran, Andy Young, Steve Barten, Rebecca Shoop, Rachel Rogers, Kerry Kells, Ken Navarro, Ken Davis, Malcolm Arnold, Josh Benoit, Bob Devalentino, Jennifer Blum  
In Boat (L to R): Tim Kramer, Craig Aumack, Chuck Amsler, Maggie Amsler, Jim McClintock

Original photo by C. Hammock