



The Antarctic Society

"By and For All Antarcticans"

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BRASH ICE. These are extremely hard times, although your Society is prevailing. We are running a bit late, as I have been victimized/slowed down by carpal tunnel syndrome. I like to look upon our Society as a Friendly Users Society. As you know from our cover page, we are “By and For Antarcticans”, and I think that is very true. Rather than just being a Society of subscribers, I like to think of us as a bunch of Commonly-Linked Participants. A lot of things have changed in the past three years, nearly all brought about by the active participation of one of our long term members, Tom Henderson. First, he brought us up-to-date historically by putting all of our Newsletters and documents from our beginning in 1959 to 2007 onto one CD. Almost a hundred of our members have bought these CDs which we sell for \$20.00 each. At about the same time, Tom initiated a reduced-fare membership for those who opted to receive their newsletter electronically, and to date thirty-five members get theirs this way for \$12.00 annually. Then he took on the role as our webmaster and established a very active website, featuring his own baby, Time Trek, whereby each and every one of us can, if we so wish, present our own bit of Antarctic history for posterity. His website never goes on holiday as Tom is continually updating it as events transpire. It is NOT a static website by any means, so use it and enjoy. In this same time period the Society initiated action to see if NSF would name the library at the new elevated South Pole Station after our late Honorary President, Ruth J. Siple. This was finally approved, and thanks to contributions of over \$5000 from you members, we made our first substantial shipment of books to the library during the past austral summer.

Recently our Society has produced through the clever expertise of our own videographer, Dr. Edwin Williams of Roanoke, an album of three lengthy DVDS of presentations by some thirty of our more illustrious members. And in recent months, Chips Lagerbom has started scanning pictures, film, and documents of historical interests of some of our members, many of which will soon find a home on Tom’s web-site. So we are getting more Up Front and Personal in recent years, and we want you all to take advantages of the many pluses which are available to you members through the efforts of a few of your dedicated co-members.

The above is all very positive and most forward looking, but our membership is in a dead-fall. Just in the past couple of years we have lost Bolling Clarke, Brooks Conrad, Bob DeViolini, Bulldog Drummond, Len Dykes, Bob Feeney, Orland French, Kirby Hanson, Janice Harvis, Rudi Honkala, Will Kellogg, Jim O'Neal, Mike Pavlak, Marty Pomerantz, Al Raithel, John Roscoe, Walter Smith, George Toney, Link Washburn, Gerry Webers, and Aileen Lotz plus some other lesser knowns. Obituaries of some of the above have already been published: Bolling Clarke, Kirby Hanson, Marty Pomerantz, and George Toney. We started this year with 314 members, and as we go to press close to ten per cent have not renewed, so we anticipate we will drop below 300 for the first time in fifty years. The hardest job in the Society is recruiting young members. Word of mouth is by far the best way. Contract personnel do not seem to buy into our Society the same way as Navy personnel used to, who considered Antarctica their fraternity. Is Antarctica becoming just another job, no longer the love of their life?

The DVDs which we are offering for sale are our Golden Anniversary present to ourselves. Thirty of some of our more prominent members agreed to come on camera to tell their own life stories of Antarctica. There are no stupid questions being asked, each presenter tells the camera what he or she wants to divulge. Like George Doumani, one of our past presidents, stops talking about his involvement with Gondwanaland long enough to tell all the price of being away from family. There are three DVDs, each of over two hours duration, but you can pick out the speaker you want to hear from the menu, so you don't have to get swamped unless you want to be inundated. Most presentations are about fifteen or twenty minutes. All of the IGY personnel are put onto one DVD.

Although basically it is a celebration of what has happened in the past fifty years, one DVD presents such modern stalwarts as Paul Mayewski, Mary Albert, Warren Zapol, George Denton, Lou Lanzerotti, and a few

others. If you like history, there's Bob Dodson of the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition and there is Charles Swithinbank of the Norwegian-British-Swedish Expedition of 1949-52. These DVDs have a wealth of archival information on the past fifty odd years, and they are all blended together with the artistry of Lucia deLeiris and the magical photography of Ann Hawthorne.

Most of the taping was done on my property in mid-coastal Maine which I bought back in 1949 from the widow of arctic explorer-scientist Russell Porter, who had gone north with both Peary and Cook. And the background live music was also polarized, as Steve Lindsay on the electric piano had a relative who lived with the Eskimos in the arctic and Renny Stackpole on bass is a distant relative of Roald Amundsen! So we had the proper setting, the right people, and one of our most honored guests was Bess Balchen Urbahn, widow of the very first pilot to ever fly over the Geographical South Pole.

Our own Dr. Ed Williams, a most talented videographer in his own right, a veteran Antarctic traveler, produced ANTARCTICA CALLING as a labor of love for us to sell to you at a most nominal price of \$50.00 each. BUT we, your Society, is subsidizing the cost to you of \$15.00 each, so you only have to pay \$35.00 for all three DVDs. We have already sold close to a hundred albums, so they are selling fast. You can get on the bandwagon, and have yourself a nice memento of the past fifty years of Antarctica by sending a check of \$35.00 to Dr. Edwin L. Williams, 4536 Greenlee Road, SW, Roanoke, VA 24018 and one will soon be on its way to you.

This is a big year for decision making in Antarctica for the USA, as it is getting close to the time when the National Science Foundation will select their next contractor for the ice. Requests for proposals were issued on October 10, 2008 and site visits to Antarctica were conducted from October to December 2008. Receipt of proposals were

welcomed in February of 2009, and currently evaluations and negotiations are going on. Someone in authority will make an announcement on October 1st of this year as to the winner. Some people are going to be real happy, others are going to be real sad, but that's life, is it not?

The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting will be held in Baltimore from April 6th thru April 17th. The sessions for club members are closed, although there are some sideline events open to the public (see this Newsletter or visit our website). Never having been privy to attend any of their meetings, one wonders just what goes on for those eleven days. Certainly there are no weapons of mass destruction on the ice, supposedly no rock hounds have ever been able to find mineral deposits of strategic importance. After an hour briefing on where to find the best crab cakes in Baltimore, what will they do the rest of the time during this period of global economic tightening?

WEBSITE UPDATES (by Tom Henderson)
If you haven't been to our website since the last newsletter, take another look. There have been some important changes. We are now truly multi-media with the addition of video and audio files on the site. Ralph Glasgal's excellent documentary, "The International Geophysical Year 1957" and a couple of historical audio segments are posted under Pack Ice and soon will be linked to Time Trek. Speaking of Time Trek, we have upgraded the application, the first since June 2008. The changes may appear modest, such as the addition of a browse button for events but our programmer, Amos Alubala, has made some important structural improvements in the background to prepare for the next upgrade. I will discuss that in a moment.

Another news item is not a website change, but it definitely will have a very positive impact on the website. I am speaking of the Society's new slide scanning service. Charles Lagerbom covers this exciting topic in another article in this newsletter. The service

is off to a flying start and there is now a good backlog of excellent digital images, many of which will appear as part of Time Trek. Look for the beginnings of that ongoing effort soon.

On the hardware front, the Society recently purchased a very portable, high-quality digital audio recorder that will be used for interviews with members and for narration of images and video that will be posted on the website.

More changes are on the way. The next upgrade of Time Trek is significant because it will make it possible for Macintosh computer users to access the Google Earth version of Time Trek for the first time. It will also include support for a photo gallery. The gallery will be an easy way for visitors to explore what will be a host of historical images in a more thorough way. You will be able to leverage the detailed catalogue that Charles Lagerbom is assembling as part of the slide scanning service to search for images by photographer, category (people, ships, scenic, etc.), date, or key word in the description. The photo gallery will have the same "look and feel" as Time Trek; in fact, the plan is to make it almost seamless with Time Trek so it will be easy switch back and forth between them.

You will also see a dramatic improvement in the content of Time Trek in the coming months. In addition to new imagery, the sparse number of events currently in the timeline will be gradually and steadily expanded. With the publication of Robert Headland's Second Edition of "A Chronology of Antarctic Exploration" (see review on page 6), we will have a wealth of updated material to reference. Dr. Headland has already granted us permission for the Society to excerpt from the book for use in Time Trek. As always, of course, we encourage all members to submit material on their own experiences in Antarctica to add to the timeline.

I mentioned a revised, more interactive members list in the last newsletter. I fully intended to have that on line by now, but some pesky database issues have set back the release date. It should be up before the next newsletter for sure. As I stated in December, my intent is to allow members' addresses to be shown unless they tell me otherwise. Again, this list is only viewable by members who have a username and password, not by the general public. **IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO HAVE YOUR ADDRESS SHOWN IN THE MEMBERS LIST, CONTACT ME (TOM HENDERSON) AT THE EMAIL OR ADDRESS ON THE COVER OF THE NEWSLETTER.** The new list will have a feature that allows logged in members to change their own settings to reveal only the information they choose to reveal. Members will also be able to update or correct their information directly on the web page. The latter will save Paul some time and effort in keeping his membership information current.

Finally, since we passed the first anniversary of the Society's website in February, I think it is time to get feedback from those who use the site. I have set up a short on line survey about the website, which you can access through a link on the website. Look under What's New to find the link. Your opinions and suggestions will be very valuable in guiding development going forward. Please take a few minutes to go on line and answer the ten questions that make up the survey. I will leave it available until we have a reasonable number of responses. By the way, non-members can take the survey as well. I will publish the results, probably in the next newsletter.

If you haven't yet been to the website, www.antarctican.org, I encourage you to do so. After all, it is your website, supported by your membership dues. If you haven't yet established a username and password to get to the members' area of the website, simply contact me at webmaster@antarctican.org and let me know what you want for both. Most of the website can be viewed without logging in, but there is a lot of interesting

material that is reserved only for our members. Enjoy it all!

NEW SLIDE SCANNING SERVICE FOR MEMBERS (by Charles Lagerbom)

In January 2009, the Antarctic Society initiated a very valuable service for its members. For the cost of certified shipping, members may now submit their film slides taken in Antarctica to the Society for conversion to digital images, free of charge! The scanning is done on a Nikon Super Coolscan 5000 ED, which is a high-quality, high-end scanner used by photographic professionals and serious digital photo enthusiasts. It has special software that removes the artifacts of most scratches and dust particles from the scanned image. The slides are scanned at a resolution of 4000 dpi, more than enough for producing sizeable photo print enlargements. Members retain their copyrights; the Society only asks that the contributor grant the Society non-exclusive use of the images for the Society website. To date, I have scanned and catalogued over 2,600 slides from our members.

As the actual scanner of the Antarctic Society's slide scanning service, I consider it a privilege and honor to work with these images of so many people who have visited, worked, researched and otherwise experienced the polar regions. These are their personal impressions of the place, most of them shot for their own use. They are important in that the photographer thought enough of the moment, place and subject to preserve the image of it. As far as I am concerned, every single image is important to preserve. It is not that we want or need every scanned image to go up on the website's Time Trek feature; rather, we want every image scanned for preservation sake and for getting these historically important visual images on a more modern medium. While it is the goal of the process to reproduce the image as near to real as possible, the more important consideration is that the image is digitized in a high quality format and therefore made available for further

processing with Photoshop or some other program at the owner's leisure.

The process is somewhat labor intensive, but well worth the preservation of these images, since many of these slides face deterioration in quality and color from poor storage, age or other elements. The best part of the scanning process is the creation of a database (in an Excel spreadsheet) of the images with a catalog number that corresponds to the scanned image's jpeg name. For instance, the first slide of Charles H. Lagerbom's slides is cataloged as CHL1 which is the name given the jpeg image on the CD. Other categories of the catalog include the slide's date (as specific as can be), the Time Trek date (only for the purpose of tying in the images chronologically that fits with the website feature), three columns of locations (each getting more specific: Antarctica, Ross Island, Hut Point), and finally a category for notes or other information providing more data about the place, people or image subject. These categories can be sorted using the electronic version of the catalog which is included on the final CD of images so that, for example, all slides from 1958 can be listed or identified, or all slides of the ship HERO, etc. A hard copy of the catalog is also sent back with the CDs and original slides so that one can sift through the images with the catalog as their guide. The aim is to make it user friendly and image accessible.

So if you have slides and have not converted them, please consider using the new service. Even if you have a set of photos digitized, I will be happy to catalog them and include them in our inventory for supporting Time Trek. See details of the service on the Society website at www.antarctican.org, or you may contact me at: 16 Peacedale Dr. Northport, ME 04849 clagerbom@sad34.net

32ND ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING. The United States will host the 32nd Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) in Baltimore, Maryland, April 6-17, 2009. The ATCM is

the major annual diplomatic event related to Antarctica, and will include the participation of nearly 400 diplomats, Antarctic program managers and logistics experts, and polar scientists from 47 countries, including 28 Consultative Parties with a scientific presence in Antarctica. Also attending will be representatives from other entities comprising the Antarctic Treaty system and observers from several non-governmental organizations. The Parties will discuss issues including environmental protection, the advancement of science, and the management of tourism.

The Baltimore ATCM occurs as the Antarctic Treaty marks its 50th anniversary. The Treaty, which was signed in Washington, promotes international and scientific cooperation. The 2009 Meeting coincides also with the conclusion of International Polar Year, the most ambitious multinational, interdisciplinary polar research effort ever undertaken. The Meeting thus offers a unique opportunity for Parties—and the public—to reflect on the theme of "Fifty Years of Peace and Science" in Antarctica. In addition to celebrating achievements under the Treaty, the 32nd ATCM will provide a forum for Parties to look ahead and discuss a future agenda for Antarctic collaboration.

MARYLAND SCIENCE CENTER. The Maryland Science Center in Baltimore will be the focal point of a range of public events April 4 and 5 that highlight federally funded Arctic and Antarctic research programs. The public events are being held in conjunction with the two-week-long Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), attended by delegates from more than 40 countries. The Science Center events will include an unprecedented exhibit of collected art, film, poetry and prose created by world-class artists to interpret the nation's Antarctic heritage, the public unveiling of a unique NASA film that shows the global importance of the world's Polar Regions to multimedia and hands-on demonstrations of polar science and cultures.

The exhibit of work by participants in the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists & Writers program and many of the related events are funded jointly by NSF's Office of Polar Programs (OPP) and its Education and Human Resources Directorate's Informal Science Education (ISE) program. Past participants whose work will be represented in Baltimore include internationally acclaimed director **Werner Herzog**, whose Antarctic documentary "Encounters at the End of the World," was nominated for a 2009 Academy Award; **Kim Stanley Robinson**, author of the science fiction work "Antarctica" and the Mars trilogy; installation artist **Lita Albuquerque**; and the late nature photographer **Galen Rowell**. The art exhibit is scheduled to run through Labor Day. For more information, http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=114340

A CHRONOLOGY OF ANTARCTIC EXPLORATION, by R.K. Headland.

Review by John Spletstoesser. While I was on a ship in Antarctica in February, I received an email message from my colleague, Bob Headland, who alerted me to expect a 2.2- kilogram package in my mail after I returned. I knew exactly what he meant, because the publisher of his Chronology of Antarctic Exploration, Bernard Quaritch, London, had earlier announced its publication. In fact, a formal reception was held in London at the New Zealand High Commission on 20 February to announce its publication.

I also was aware of the bulk of the hard-cover volume because I performed a voluntary editing adventure for Bob in 2008, when I read every word of it during several weeks. A few gremlins were encountered in the text, nothing unusual for a work of this nature, and the final touches on it were worked on by the author and the publication of 722 pages is now in print and available from Quaritch at a cost of £110 (about \$146, April conversion rates). The 722 pages include 40 plates, 27 maps, 21 histograms, a very thorough Index (p. 635 – 719), and an Introduction and other advance text from p. 9

to 72. Bob relied on some assistance to produce such a classic, and the pages of Acknowledgements include a list of 31 archives and libraries and 167 individuals. It is apparent, therefore, that much research has gone into this excellent piece of work, an updating of his earlier chronology on the subject in 1989, reprinted in 1993.

Having known Bob Headland for about two decades is enough to know that he is one of a few who would be capable of putting together this kind of information into a usable form, beginning with earliest historical records that postulated a land mass to the south. This edition has 4,865 entries, and the final one, dated 2009, is the citation for this book. The subtitle for the book is 'A Synopsis of Events and Activities From the Earliest Times Until the International Polar Years, 2007-09.' The basic forms of entry in the list are expeditions and events. Expeditions are followed by their years, country of origin, and purpose, followed by the name of the leader, captain, or other officers of the vessel involved. Brief annotations provide further information as to locations, operations, events, and some other details. Introductory pages include bonuses such as membership of SCAR and Antarctic Treaty signatories and lists of winter stations. All polar libraries will have this volume in its reference collections as a means for scholars and authors to look up anything related to its purpose. The price might dissuade some from purchasing it, but the long-term value is forever. It leaves a question, however, as to whether Bob or someone else with his enthusiasm and tenacity will continue the Chronology on a regular basis, perhaps issuing Supplements via the internet. Bob is still a young man, however, 10 years my junior, and I think his energy will persist. Purchase his book to keep him on cloud-nine.

For order information, contact Catherine Scheybeler at Quaritch, 8 Lower John Street, Golden Square, London W1F 9AU; tel +44 (0) 20 7734 2983; email c.scheybeler@quaritch.com. As I understand it, Catherine was the glue that kept Bob in

line while it was in process, including copy-editing and all the rest of the details required for its production.

“INNOCENTS IN THE DRY VALLEYS – AN ACCOUNT OF THE VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION, 1958-59”, by Colin Bull, Victoria University Press, Wellington, 2009, 90 figures, 4 maps, \$30 plus postage from Colin Bull Polar Books, 12818 Sunrise Drive, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110. Reviewed by Steve Dibbern.

The reviewer must first confess to an unrequited love affair with the Dry Valleys those unique geological/climatological oddities across McMurdo Sound from our main base and the sight of so much Antarctic history. I once saw into them from a helicopter but never got to go into them... a tease but no consummation!

With that admission out of the way I will begin by saying that Colin Bull's narrative is a fascinating look at how science was sometimes done 50 years ago particularly in the countries without big budgets for Antarctic research. Taylor and Debenham's accounts of their reconnaissance of the Taylor Valley during Scott's last expedition are, to me, classics of exploration and polar literature. Bull's book starts with a description of science on a shoestring. He and three others; Dick Barwick, Barrie McKelvey and Peter Webb got support in principle from the NZ science establishment but little financial aid. They caged transport from the Americans and equipment from their University and private suppliers.

Once in Antarctica they were landed in the previously unsurveyed Wright Valley north of Taylor and Debenham's work area and set about to **walk** the area. Split into two teams they did their science the old fashioned way... in detail and on foot. They hiked the length and breadth of the Wright Valley and walked north through Bull Pass into the

Victoria Valley as well as across the Wilson Piedmont Glacier to the Ross Sea.

Their accomplishments are too many to list here but suffice to say that the ratio of science to cost was extraordinary. Science to shoe leather was quite another thing as one of the photos and the narrative make clear! Bull drew from his own memory and heavily from diaries of his companions. The narrative is well written and frequently irreverent (in a Kiwi sort of way) and very funny. The color illustrations are both very nicely done and numerous. The maps are well done but the larger fold-out could have benefited by showing its relationship to the other (southern) dry valley.

This book is an exceptional addition to the narratives of the modern IGY inspired research in Antarctica. What sets it apart is how very exhaustive the process of gaining the knowledge was! After the helicopter left them you could imagine that they were simply the Taylor/Debenham "Northern Party" working in the next valleys up. This was "earned" science, modern in its data but "Heroic" in its winning. "**Innocents**" will sit comfortably along side Taylor, Debenham and Craig Potton's "**Improbable Eden**" in my library and anyone else's who love the Dry Valleys.

REFLECTIONS "IN ICE". (By Jerry Marty's Ghostwriter) Retirement is a word we've all talked about with comments like, "If I won the lottery, I'd call in to have my check mailed to me," or, "I wonder what it would be like to get up on a weekday morning and not have to go into the office." Usually it's something we all eagerly anticipate, not really knowing what to expect...and then, the day arrives. I have to be honest – it's not like that at all. I've had the privilege of being a member of a very elite and unique team over the years – from 1969 forward, working with scientists, Department of Defense, USARP, USAP, and all the support personnel who have the passion for Antarctica flowing in their bloodstream just as it does in mine. The

people I've had the honor to have worked with have exemplified excellence in work ethic, esprit de corps, passion, and dedication to a continent and project that has no equal. My "retirement" has a bittersweet tone. I have a sense of personal loss, a void in my life, and a sense that something has been taken away from me. I am having a difficult time with leaving – and there is an overwhelming awareness that I'm no longer a part of the magic that built the impossible.

Growing up on a farm in rural Wisconsin, I attended a one-room school which served grades one through eight. As one of thirteen students, I saw beyond the fertile farmland. The old-fashioned pull-down maps of the world sparked an interest and I realized I wanted to travel where few had gone before. I read the books of Admiral Byrd and began to focus on Antarctica and the South Pole. In high school I wrote letters to possible future employers asking what qualifications and experience would allow me to attain my goal. I thought, why not see the world and get paid to do it at the same time...plus there was a world of "women" out there just waiting for me. I attended the University of Wisconsin, Platteville and graduated with a degree in Construction Technology and Management, School of Industry. Two decades later I was honored by UWP as one of their distinguished alumnus, an honor I share with Jerry Huffman who also was part of the Antarctic program.

Forty years ago I interviewed with the first support contractor, Holmes & Narver, Inc. based out of Los Angeles, California. It was the summer of '69 and I was ecstatic to have been selected and assigned to Byrd Station as a General Field Assistant (all-around gofer). It was at Byrd Station that I became part of Antarctica, and it became part of me. From that point onward, I knew that this was where I wanted to devote myself; to be assigned to engineering & construction projects building scientific research facilities. I had become one of those "with ice in my veins". Looking back, it's coincidental that I finish my tenure almost to the month with the completion and

dedication of the new Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station (fourth station following the initial IGY station).

The adventure hasn't been without a few bumps in the road. Along the way, I won a different kind of lottery. In 1969, the government instituted the draft lottery and in 1970 I "won" a free trip with a very low number. As it were, I volunteered for the Army...

And so began the next chapter of my life. With only two days to go before basic training, I celebrated my impending departure at a Santa Monica watering hole called the Oar House. Three or four sheets to the wind, I saw with my own eyes, the loveliest creature on the planet earth emerge from the madding crowd. Yes, we met in a bar! My pick-up line was reduced to stutters, stammers, and slurs, but somehow she bought it. We went on our first date the day before I was to travel by bus to Fort Ord.

Elena and I wrote to each other during my tenures at Fort Ord, Fort Polk, Fort Benning, and just before I got orders to go to Southeast Asia, I took the plunge and asked her to marry me. Not knowing what "Uncle Sam" had in store for me, we decided that we would proceed with the ceremony if I got orders to someplace other than 'Nam. As it were, Korea was on the agenda. We married in September and after a one week honeymoon trip to Fort Ord to apply for my bride's military dependency card, I was unceremoniously shipped out.

For the first six months of our marriage, Elena and I wrote to each other...me huddled shivering and cold on the DMZ in Korea as an Imjin Scout (2nd Infantry Division). Having served time in a hostile fire zone, I returned to California, not only to my bride, but also to Holmes & Narver who had kept my position open for me while I served our country.

Once again, the circle came round. In 1974, H&N made an unprecedented decision to

send “women” to the ice. Elena jumped at the opportunity and was one of the first two women to be sent to Antarctica as part of the support effort. While on the ice, we spent time at McMurdo Station and at South Pole Station. Among her many diverse duties, Elena served as a logistics coordinator for construction materials. Even so, she didn’t flinch while at South Pole, when offered an opportunity to help move the Hercules aircraft 917 from the crash location to the end of the ice runway. She gamely drove a forklift through the side of the fuselage and paced the rest of the crew in its half-mile traverse.

That was then, and since that time, Antarctica has always had a fond place in our hearts. Following a few years wherein work took us to Micronesia (Palau, Truk, Guam, and Saipan), me to Saudi Arabia, Alaska, and other exciting locales, I was invited to return to my roots – working at the Office of Polar Programs at the National Science Foundation to be part of the South Pole Station Modernization Project. Over the past fifteen years, I’ve watched a dedicated team of Ph.D. scientists, support contractors, Navy, and Air Force (ANG) men and women give with their hearts and souls the life blood that grew the new elevated station. Without them, there would be no South Pole Station. My greatest experience in life has been the opportunity to work with people who worked around the clock, against deadlines, and in the harshest environment in the world to build a mega structure that is like no other.

Last November I knew I’d be faced with one of the best...and worst times of my life. There was great satisfaction in seeing a great monument built to further science and research at the South Pole, and at the same time, I dreaded saying goodbye to my “Polie” family. The praise and accolades have been hard for me to accept. I’m uncomfortable, finding I don’t do well on the receiving end of compliments and tributes. I’m overwhelmed with gratitude to the people who made this all happen, for they, in reality, deserve the respect, admiration, and

credit for making the impossible -- possible. Most recently I was honored by the ANG 109th, Schenectady, New York during a visit and presentation. Again, in the presence of those who made the project success possible, I felt humbled.

Contemplating the future, I flirt with following in the footsteps of Paul Siple by writing a story of the people, the real heroes who made this all a reality; a sequel to **90 South** that tells the human story of the challenges of building a testimonial to 21st century science.

I leave with mixed emotions. I’m proud to have known such classy people as the “Polies” who allowed me into their lives while we worked together to accomplish the impossible. Along the way, I salute my son, Jamie and his wife Tara, and my two adorable grandchildren, Troy and Reese; and my beautiful daughter Joanna who lived without her dad for fifteen annual four-month sojourns to “the ice.” I am indebted to them for their support for they, and my bride (and best friend) of 38 years, allowed me to live the dream.

I have now joined the Paul Dalrymple Club. In spirit and soul, I have never left 90 degrees south latitude (although cash donations for my \$300 per hour psychotherapy sessions to get through all this would be most appreciated).



Can you pick out Jerry?



Elena and Jerry, South Pole 1975



One of two reasons to retire.