



The Antarctic Society

"By and For All Antarcticans"

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NO. 3

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BRASH ICE. It has been a long, long time since our last Newsletter. Has global warming or the health care reform bill held us up? We actually look for a top line story to highlight our Newsletter, and we have had two on the burner since late fall, but were told along the road by Washington to avoid writing about them at this time. One was a scheduled announcement on the award of the next Antarctic contractor, which was supposed to have been last fall. We still don't have the green light on that one, but now we find others are going ahead and putting it onto their web site. So why not us? It seems that the powers-to-be requested additional information, and this has all taken time. Now it appears that the selection will not be made until some time this coming fall.

The other item that they were holding off on was the final disposition of the dome at South Pole Station. How could this be considered a secret when personnel were on site dismantling the dome, packing it up, and sending it off to the States? And recently this news has been shown on various web sites, as well as the Antarctic Sun.

However, your Society has not been exactly underground for the past few months. Our web site, under the guidance of our hard-working webmaster, Tom Henderson, never takes a holiday. You should access our web site on a continuous basis, as Tom is always adding new items. We are so proud of what Tom has done, and he is bringing in all kinds of accolades for what he has and is doing. Meanwhile, our ever-working president, Charles Lagerbom, continues on a non-reimbursable basis the scanning of your polar pictures. What a team, be sure and read their columns in this Newsletter.

Recently there was a most outstanding publication from the International Polar Year, 2007-2008, published by SCAR, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, entitled ANTARCTIC CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. John Spletstoesser offered to review this publication after he received a complimentary copy from the SCAR office, but whereas I was involved in a companion publication on climate change, CLIMATE CHANGE TO THE YEAR 2000, published by the National Defense University in---get this---1978, I preempted John's offer. Both

of these publications had similarities, although they are highly different. The biggest similarity being that both were the products of a team of experts, SCAR's publication is the end result of a hundred scientists, from many disciplines, from all over the world and pooling their expertise. The one I was associated with employed only climatologists, twenty in number, including the distinguished Hubert H. Lamb, Helmut Landsberg, J. Murray Mitchell, Reid Bryson, Hermann Flohn, Will Kellogg, and Steve Schneider. We even used climatologists known to polar people, like Wally Broecker, Willi Dansgaard, Roger Barry, Harry Van Loon, Jerome Namias, and Joseph Smagorinsky. Our study was initiated by the Department of Agriculture, who was concerned with northward movement of crops with global warming. As I look back at our work, done 40 years ago, we were looking as far downstream as the year 2000! And as we look at the names of our experts, only a few are still alive. Life is precarious, we are mere mortals.

Climate is the tale that has wagged the dog named Antarctica, going back to and including the Byrd expeditions. Probably the best known of all Antarctic climatologists, certainly in the States, came out of Byrd's First Antarctic Expedition, from Erie, Pennsylvania, Explorer Scout Paul Allman Siple, our Society's 2nd president. From that same expedition, Henry Harrison, meteorologist, became the very first certified Consulting Meteorologist of the American Meteorological Society. One could argue that Mort Rubin, Harry Wexler's right hand during the IGY, was as much climatologist as meteorologist. Joe Fletcher of Fletcher's Ice Island, T-3, was an Antarctic climatologist of note. J. Murray Mitchell may have been the first pure climatologist that was ever sent by NSF to the South Pole. Bill Spriggs of the National Climate Program Office followed Murray to the Pole, going there several years later.

John Roscoe, one of our Ancients and Honorables, has died, although we were

remiss in the earlier announcement. John was involved in both Operation High Jump and Operation Windmill back in the 1940s. He was born March 23, 1919, in Syracuse NY, and died 23 Feb. 2007, short of his 88th birthday. He was a very well known geographer, and one of his claims to fame was a large publication that does not even bear his name, an extensive bibliography of 147 pages on Antarctica that he produced when he worked for the U. S. Navy. It seems the Navy had a policy then that author's names could not be shown on the cover, so you won't find John's name on the cover. But John, being a wise man, beat the Navy at its own game; inside the bibliography he lists the publication and its author, John Roscoe! It seems that John was a bad pack rat, and his poor widow has been engulfed with his memorabilia, and she has come to our Society for help. Our Society president has a most extensive polar library of his own, and as we go to press it could be that he will come to her rescue.

Another one of the good old boys, American toponymist Fred G. Alberts, Secretary, Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names, 1949-1980, passed away on March 3, 2010, at the age of 88. Pete Bermel described Fred as "one of the nicest and gentlest men that I have ever known". Pete went on to say "the Antarctic community has lost the single-most knowledgeable person in the field of Antarctic toponymy. Guy Guthridge wrote that Fred "continued to provide indispensable scholarly service to the US-ACAN. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names and worldwide users of the Antarctic Gazetteer owe him a large debt for the integrity and wisdom of his guidance and for the unassailable administrative record he created during his tenure as secretary. He was central to the development of international practices for resolving names decisions, earning admiration for the United States throughout the Antarctic Treaty System."

The New Zealand Geographic Board named Mount Alberts at 73°02'S, 167°52'E after

him, and the UK-APC named Alberts Glacier, 66°52'S, 64°53'W after Fred. He made summer visits in 1962-63 to Byrd Station, the South Pole, Hallett Station, and McMurdo Station. He compiled and edited GEOGRAPHIC NAMES OF THE ANTARCTIC, United States Board on Geographic Names, 2nd Edition, 1995.

Fred had an abdominal aortic aneurysm that he had known about for a year or more. It seems that Fred's brother had the same issue a few years ago, had an operation, but lived for only nine more months. Fred decided that he would not go through with the operation, although it evidently weighed heavily on his mind. When he did not feel well on March 2nd, he committed himself to the hospital the following morning. It was determined that the aneurysm was bleeding and emergency surgery was performed. When they tried to restart Fred's heart, it was too weak to handle the blood and restart. He had a talk with his wife, Marilyn, before going into surgery and "he gave her that little look."

If any of you folks are vacationing along coastal Maine this summer, let us know, and we will try to meet you and share a lobster roll.

MEMBERSHIP -- GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS. Eighty-seven per cent of our members have paid up for this year, but there are still forty-one delinquent members. However, there is a welcome number of multi-year renewals this year, seventy per cent, which we dearly appreciate as it cuts down on our paper work. We had to drop ten members last year who went delinquent on us, and another ten passed away. We only picked up nine new members, so we show a negative gain for the year, leaving us with only 339 total members (when the current delinquents renew!).

We are also most pleased to announce that a goodly number of you (Joe Dukert, Art Ford, Al Fowler, Ann Gallager, Guy Guthridge, Jennie Harter, Austin Hogan,

Garry McKenzie, Ken Moulton, Sy Roman, Bob Rutford, Kirk Spelman, Don Wiesnet, and Rich Wilson) have added contributions onto their checks for the Ruth J. Siple Memorial Library Fund. The Fund is doing quite well, and we hope/anticipate that we will be able to continue to make annual book selections and shipments to the South Pole Station.

Valmar Kurol, our Antarctic musical specialist from Montreal, has come up with ten additional Antarctic CDs which will be shipped off to the Ruth J. Siple Memorial Library.
SINFONIA
ANTARTICA/SHACKLETON/KIRBY/CARR
SONIC ANTARCTICA by Andrea Poli
SHACKLETON VOYAGE by Eureka
ANTARCTIC BALLADS by Cliff Wedgbury
ANTARCTICA by KevOz
T & T REAL TRAVELS IN
ANTARCTICA by Thomas Downie
ANTARCTIC SYMPHONY (Compilation)
ANTARCTICA by Mr. I
ICELIGHT by Michelle Ende
WHITEOUT (Motion Picture Soundtrack)

OUR PRESIDENT SPEAKS (Charles Lagerbom) The Antarctic Society is working diligently to preserve the history of our involvement with the Antarctic Continent. Everyone needs to check out the new and interesting material being posted on our society's web page. We have added photos, documents, audio and digital footage of a lot of our members and their Antarctic experiences. This will only increase in time. The scanning service is also helping preserve thousands of images by putting them into a modern digital format. We hope to see more people take advantage of this service. If you have any questions or would like to participate, please contact us.

There are also some interesting developments in efforts to try and save the South Pole Station Dome, which was taken down this past austral summer. Plans for its

eventual destination, whether it be by shredder for a landfill or safely re-erected in part or totally and preserved, are still up in the air. See our Society webmaster Tom Henderson's report to learn more.

The Society is also working to preserve the collections of materials, memorabilia and other artifacts from members who would like to see them taken care of, appreciated and/or stored in some suitable arrangement. Other polar organizations are in the same boat with older members who might not want to see their materials wind up in the dumpster after they are gone or to have their kids put their things up for auction on Ebay. People have asked me what should they do with their loved one's slides or momentos or other materials (including one who asked me about his grandfather's waffle-weave long underwear!) It is a difficult conundrum and one in which an increasing number of members seem to find themselves thinking about. As Antarctic Society president, I would like to offer the Society's help to anyone in this situation. We can offer to have materials cataloged, archived, digitized and/or possibly stored. The connection and appreciation of our polar past is what makes this society a venerable institution. It is only fitting that we stay active in trying to preserve the legacy and heritage of the members who came before us. If there is some way we can help, please let us know. My new work email address is: clagerbom@rsu20.org or I can be always reached at icechip@bluestreakme.com.

WEBSITE UPDATE (by Tom Henderson).

The restructuring of the database behind Time Trek is nearing completion. The most obvious way the user will see this change is on the popup windows that appear when an event, station, or feature is selected. There will now be tabs at the top of the popup window that, when clicked, will show the user what related information is available. The tabs are for Stations, Events, Images, Features and Links. By default, the category of the original popup is shown first. For example, if I select "McMurdo Station" the

popup will show the description of the station under the "Station" tab. The other tabs may then be clicked to reveal what else in the database may be of interest related to McMurdo. "Links" contain links to any documents, video, audio, websites or other supplementary information that is pertinent. The new structure provides a more organized way of cataloging and making accessible the wealth of historical information that is gradually accumulating in Time Trek. We hope you will find it helpful.

There will be new photos from our slide-scanning project posted in Time Trek on a regular basis. The backlog continues to grow. If you want to know what has been added, click on "Time Trek Content Changes" on the "Time Trek" page.

Other new material that will be posted soon includes an extensive video interview with Jules Madey and a fine video production by Society members Dr. Ed Robinson and Ed Williams, M.D. The former was perhaps the most well-known amateur (ham) radio operator during the IGY and for a number of years following. Jules was only 16 when he first began phone patching for the IGY Antarcticans, but soon developed a reputation as a very reliable and mature operator. He made over 10,000 patches to the Ice. The latter is a documentary of traverses that were undertaken between 1959 and 1961 using the huge Tucker Sno-Cats, including one from McMurdo to the South Pole. Ed Robinson was a scientist on these traverses, but fortunately also acted as filmmaker when time permitted. These are excellent glimpses into traverse life and conditions in those days.

A longer-term project now underway is the audio narration of the extensive photo collection of Dr. Charles Swithinbank by Charles himself, a long-time Society member. He has graciously consented to non-exclusive use of his photos on our website. His collection covers all seven decades of his long experience in Antarctica.

A number of the photos have appeared in his various books, but others will be publicly seen for the first time on our website. His personal audio narration adds a different dimension to the historical aspects of the photos as opposed to just a written description. These will be worth waiting for!

BILL SLADEN, 7-DECADE

ANTARCTICAN. William J.L Sladen and Charles Swithinbank had planned to celebrate their 7th decade as Antarcticans on a cruise in November to Antarctica to include South Georgia, Antarctic Peninsula, and South Orkney Islands. However, Bill has recently fallen upon some tough days. He was recently hospitalized for a minor stroke, but is now home. Because he is in his 90th year and Swithinbank getting along, they have both put this off, at least for 2010. They still might make it! We will keep you posted on the web site. Right now Bill reports a miserable lumbar vertebral collapse, with pain. Incidentally, Bill founded NSF's USARP Bio-Medical Program in 1957, was one of our Society's earliest presidents, and is the only scientist to have presented three of our Memorial Lectures. Please note, this is NOT an obituary, not even a "Swan SONG", just an announcement of the slowing down of one of our most respected and beloved Bio-Medicos (OR maybe better termed Penguinologists!).

It should be mentioned that Bill Sladen introduced Sir Peter Scott and Roger Tory Peterson to their first Antarctic penguins at Cape Crozier in the 1960s. Sir Peter was only two years old when his father, Captain Robert Scott, died on his return from the South Pole in 1912. Later, Scott and Peterson were, with Lars-Eric Lindblad, responsible for bringing women (their own wives) to Antarctica, and thus providing encouragement later for national organizers for the first time to encourage women scientists there. Scott and Peterson each gave one of our Memorial Lectures at the National Academy of Sciences, and helped

much in promoting Antarctic wildlife conservation.

Peter Scott was co-founder of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and created its original Panda Logo. However, the Europeans later changed the title to "World Wildlife Fund for Nature" and redrew the Panda Logo. However, under Russ Train's leadership the American branch of WWF insisted in keeping the original title and Scott's Panda Logo. By the way, the American branch is still the largest and most successful branch of WWF worldwide and Peter always stayed with the Trains when in USA and working with Sladen's swans.

DOMED AWAY FROM HOME (from NSF press release of March 9, 2010 with additional information provided by John Perry, Lee Mattis, and Jerry Marty) After more than three decades of service to researchers and staff stationed at the bottom of the world, the dome at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station was deconstructed this austral summer. Pieces of the structure are now headed back to the United States for a new duty – a museum exhibit at the new U.S. Navy Seabees museum in Port Hueneme, California.

Designed by TEMCOR of Torrance, CA and constructed by the Seabees in the early 1970s, the dome's geodesic design provided a unique solution to the challenges posed to engineers trying to build structures at the South Pole. The dome was sufficiently strong enough to withstand the weight of snow that would blow onto it, and its round shape helped deflect the fierce winds that blow almost constantly at the site. Because the dome needed no internal columns, it provided a wide and flexible space inside, where it protected buildings housing researchers and support staff, as well as laboratories, supplies, and other necessities from the harsh polar environment outside.

The dome provided a platform for countless scientific discoveries in astronomy, physics, climatology, and other fields, and it also

provided a home away from home for the station's 'winter over' crew during 8 months at the station during the austral winter, much of the time in darkness. The dome could no longer accommodate the demands of research activities taking place there, however, and each year the structure sank deeper into the ice it was built on. The blowing snow that collected on top of the dome and around it had to be removed and hauled away each year, burning up precious fuel and crew time during the short austral summer. The international treaty that governs human activities in Antarctica requires that obsolete buildings and equipment be removed and the site remediated whenever possible, necessitating the dome's deconstruction and removal.

The dome was also designed to be flown to the South Pole with relative ease in small pieces and then assembled using a system of struts, bolts and gusset plates. While construction at the South Pole is never easy, this simplicity in design helped the Seabees tremendously while they built the dome and aided in the disassembly of the dome over the past few months. Another factor aiding in the deconstruction is the fact that some individuals involved in the dome's disassembly team, had years of polar experience working on the new station that replaced the dome. An estimated 90% of the dome's components were successfully deconstructed and can possibly be reassembled in the future.

After so many years of service to science in the harshest place on Earth, part of the dome will enjoy retirement in southern California. The top sections of the dome are headed to the new U.S. Navy Seabees museum in Port Hueneme, where they will be reassembled and suspended above a larger exhibit on the Seabees work in Antarctica.

John Perry, USN CDR (retired) was the Officer in Charge (OIC) during construction of the dome. Lee Mattis was the TEMCOR engineer of record and was on site during construction of the dome. Jerry Marty was

Holmes and Narver Assistant Construction Manager at South Pole Station in 1975 and NSF Construction and Operations & Maintenance Manager for the new South Pole Station that has replaced the dome.

ANTARCTIC CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT, A

Contribution to the International Polar Year, 2007-2008. Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. A review. This telephone-directory-sized book had a limited publication in hard copy form, only 500, so you won't find it at your favorite corner bookstore. But you can access it electronically at

<http://www.scar.org/publications/occasional/s/acce.html>,

complete with original figures in color. However, I don't think it is a book that many of you will want, as basically it is a high reference type tome. I doubt if anyone will ever read every word in this book, certainly not this reviewer. Even one of the prime nine editors admitted to me that he had not read the whole book. So take it from there. It is not that the book could be injurious to your health, or conversely be a health stimulant, it is, well, just too much.

Besides the nine editors -- three from the U.K., two from the U.S., two from Germany, one from Italy, one from SCAR -- there are a hundred scientists who contributed to the book. There are 1829, yes, 1829, references at the end. There are seven major headings. If your time were valuable, I would recommend that you just read the Executive Summary and the Recommendations. Even these can get to be a bit overbearing, as there are 80 highlights shown in the Executive Summary and 32 Recommendations. Wow!

We like the way the chapters are organized, starting out with The Antarctic Environment and the Global System. It's not too long, being only 32 pages, but it is a good introduction. Chapter two is on Observations, Data Accuracy, and Tools. A total of authors fill up 82 pages. Ozone

observations only rate a single page. The third chapter is on Antarctic Climate and Environment History in the Pre-Instrumental Period, some 68 pages. The fourth chapter was the most interesting one to me. It was The Instrumental Period, a team high of 64 authors filled over a hundred pages (116). However, it is the only chapter in the whole book where the figures are not numbered. The fifth chapter was on The Next Hundred Years.

I was as much surprised as to who/what was excluded as to who were selected. Of all those 1829 references, Susan Solomon only shows up once, as a co-author. And this is a book on climate change? There is only a single reference to Wally Broecker. And how about Bob Rutford, Gunter Weller, Uwe Radok, Harry Wexler, Mort Rubin, Bert Crary, Joe Fletcher, and Heinz Lettau? They must have done something that would put them in the everlasting list of references

Isn't ozone a big player in the Antarctic climate, but it appears to be well camouflaged in this large volume? Although the next century (Chapter 5) will no doubt include studies of subglacial lakes in Antarctica, only one reference refers to the subject.

On the plus side there are heavy contributions from Paul Mayewski, Robert Bindshadler, Richard Alley, David Bromwich, Jay Zwally, George Denton, and my old South Pole roommate, Mario Giovinetto. There is another American shown in the references, a man who worked for me, but his name is misspelled!.

Oh, go ahead and look at it electronically. You might even like it if you are scholarly.

SOUTHERNMOST WIND FARM OPENED (Margaret Lanyon from Christchurch Press). Three turbines installed at Scott Base by Meridian Energy started supplying electricity to a new shared power grid that connects the New Zealand research station to its U.S. neighbor at

McMurdo Station on January 16, 2010. The turbines will cut the need for diesel to run both bases by 11 per cent. A stage two with a dozen more turbines is being considered, and could eventually supply more than half of the energy needs at the two stations. The wind farm is part of a longer-term commitment to reduce carbon footprints at the two stations, and is part of New Zealand's contribution to the joint logistics pool. Other recent changes at Scott Base include quadruple-glazed windows, "waterless" urinals, and a new helicopter that uses 40 per cent less fuel.

**ANTARCTICA—FIRST JOURNEY:
The Traveller's Resource Guide.**

Geoffrey Carpentier, Hidden Brook Press, 2009, 359 p. ISBN-978-1-897475-36-2. \$33.50.

The author is a Canadian who has worked in Antarctica on expedition tour ships as staff, and his experience shows in the content of this book. The sub-title of the book implies another version of a Lonely Planet edition of Antarctica, but the content is different in many ways, and so is the author's style of presentation in the text. One way to review the content is to summarize briefly some of the 9 chapters, which include considerable details on preparation for departure (do's and don'ts), how to conduct oneself while in Antarctica, summaries of wildlife, with an index at the end of scientific names for wildlife, numerous locations that tour ships visit, and a timeline of expeditions with brief annotations. Another way to review it is to paraphrase the statement on the cover of the book. *"There are many books about Antarctic wildlife and how to identify virtually everything that lives there, visits by cruise vessels, preparations and planning before the big event occurs, but this book concentrates on many things others do not, mainly for first-time visitors., the author anticipates the issues that might at first seem perplexing to anyone planning to visit Antarctica, and covers them in detail. It is a worthwhile purchase in order to*

prepare for a visit, as well as to have on hand while there. Recommended for all first-time travelers, as well as veterans to read what you have been missing.”

Regrettably, the book does not have an index included, a factor of publisher's budget, so the author has provided one at his website www.avocetnatureservices.com. (JFS)

ANTARCTIC TREATY MEETINGS.

Polly Penhale, Environmental Officer at the NSF Office of Polar Programs, has passed along interesting information on upcoming meetings. The Antarctic Treaty Meeting of Experts (ATME) at the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting XXXII in Baltimore (2009) agreed to convene a Meeting of Experts with the aim of discussing relevant matters related to implications of climate change for management and governance of the Antarctic region. The ATME was held in Svolvær, Norway, 6-9 April 2010. The following topics were discussed relevant to climate change in Antarctica:

- Key scientific aspects of climate change and consequences of such change to the Antarctic terrestrial and marine environment,
- Implications of climate change to management of Antarctic activities,
- The need for monitoring, scenario planning and risk assessments,
- Outcomes of the Copenhagen negotiations relevant for the Antarctic,
- The need for further consideration of any of the above issues and manners in which this can be achieved.

Results of the ATME will be reported to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting XXXIII in Punta del Este, Uruguay, 3-14 May 2010.

NSF POLAR PROGRAMS 2010-2011

BUDGET. The initial announcement of the 2011 budget request (all figures in millions of dollars) for NSF/OPP stated \$528 (rounded), with a few subheadings that show

an increase for Arctic Sciences of \$106.31 in 2010 to \$111.36 in 2011. Antarctic Science budget was \$71.08 (2010) to \$75.18 (2011), and Antarctic Infrastructure & Logistics from \$266.76 (2010) to \$280.18 (2011).

U.S. Coast Guard is in the listings, with \$54 for 2011. The good news is that the figures are on the upward side, but whether inflationary factors are in effect might have a different meaning to the 2011 requests. A later Newsletter might have final figures, along with priorities and targets for budget detail.

SOUTH KOREA – NEW STATION IN ROSS SEA.

(modified, from Margaret Lanyon) South Korea has expanded its sphere of activities in Antarctica by locating a place for a new station in the western Ross Sea in the Terra Nova Bay region (approx. 74°S, 164°E), on the basis of a survey from its first icebreaker, *Araon*. South Korea's first station, Sejong, is located in Maxwell Bay, King George Island, and was built in 1988. The Ross Sea area will provide additional opportunities to conduct new types of research in the interior of Antarctica, and will be aided in that location by the proximity of other bases for cooperative efforts. Currently, McMurdo (U.S.), Scott Base (New Zealand), Zucchelli (Italy) and Gondwana (Germany) operate in the Ross Sea region. South Korea's new station is estimated to cost about \$88 million, will be completed by 2014, and will consist of five buildings and accommodate 60 scientists. The plan for the station will be submitted to the next Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM XXXIII) in Punta del Este, Uruguay, 3-14 May 2010.

NSF POLAR PROGRAMS

ANTARCTIC LOGISTICS

CONTRACTOR UPDATE. In the 1960s and later, the contractor support was simply called 'Logistics,' but modern terminology has included 'Infrastructure,' a sign of the times and the growing needs of supporting U.S. science in Antarctica. Another sign of the times regarding the contractor support is when Arctic Institute of North America

contracted with NSF to provide clothing and field items such as tents and other things for field parties. An issued parka in 1960 thus paid no attention to what had been learned over the years by Eskimos and others about how to design clothing to keep warm. Times have changed, so have the parkas, and so have the contractors. The NSF Chalet building at McMurdo was constructed by Holmes and Narver (H & N) in 1969-70, completed in that one season with the help of the Seabees. Since then, the most visible and current name in the contractor scene for OPP has been Raytheon, although there have been others, but since a solicitation for bidding was issued by NSF for the future, more names and acronyms have entered the picture. In August 2009, NSF advised the seven major bidding teams that everything was off, and a revised schedule and solicitation was forthcoming. Final turnover to the new contractor is estimated to be 1 April 2011, and the new names in the forefront include the major company TransPolar, with corporate partners AECOM (successor to H & N) and Raytheon, with key subcontractors SAIC, NCSA, Chenega Corporation, and Shaw. Space limitations prevent the meaning of all that alphabet soup, but if you click on Bill Spindler's website at <http://www.southpolestation.com/trivia/ncs/ncs.html>, you will be enlightened. There appears to be no relation of one of those corporate institutions to the name of a former Vice-President.

CONTRACT UPDATE ON ABOVE – A press release issued in early April informed us that Raytheon Company's "Raytheon Polar Services" has been awarded a one-year extension to its contract to March 31, 2011. Raytheon Company's headquarters in Waltham, Mass. employs 75,000 people worldwide. Raytheon Polar Services employs about 350 full-time staff and 1,400 contract employees from its offices in Centennial, Colorado. Its Program Director, Sam Feola, said the company appreciates the opportunity to continue support for the valuable scientific research underway in

Antarctica. This is a keystone program for the company.

ANTARCTIC MARATHONS (from Margaret Lanyon, expanded from *Christchurch Press*, 18 January 2010) **McMurdo Marathon**. This event attracted about 50 runners from McMurdo and Scott Base, plus a few cross-country skiers, who raced across the Ross Ice Shelf this month. The route formerly (1970s) included a run between Scott Base and Scott's 1901 hut at McMurdo, but this one was a loop connecting two airfields, Williams Field and Pegasus. Footwear for some included plastic clip-on running-shoe crampons because of the terrain. The winner was technician Curtis Moore from South Pole station, in a time of three hours and seven minutes. The Kiwis might have finished after the fact, but continued their unbroken win record in the inter-base rugby match held two weeks previously. The Ice Blacks trounced McMurdo's Mount Terror Rugby Club 23-0. No one ever said that rugby was an American super-sport.

Antarctic Marathon on King George Island. For those who are interested in commercially-operated marathons in Antarctica, the 12th Antarctic Marathon is scheduled for February 2011, with the usual route at Maxwell Bay, King George Island, passing amongst roads and paths between the so-called 'United Nations' stations located there – Great Wall (China), Marsh/Frei (Chile), Bellingshausen (Russia), and Artigas (Uruguay).

Runners have a choice of a full marathon or a half-marathon, depending on stamina or other factors. Because of its longevity and popularity over the years it has attracted the attention of those who oversee tourism in Antarctica, the Antarctic Treaty Parties and the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO), to the extent that IAATO has issued "Draft Guidelines for Organising Marathons or Running Events." Consistent with IAATO Bylaws, no more than 100 people are allowed ashore at any one time, the event requires a permit applied

for by the operator, an observer must be on hand to oversee the event, and whatever is brought ashore must be returned to the offshore tour vessel that brought the runners there. The event is sponsored and managed by a IAATO-member ship-borne operator, with staff ashore to ensure a problem-free event. The popularity of the event is apparent when looking at the waiting list for the following years. It is sold out for 2011, 2012, and 2013, with a waiting list for others.

Antarctic Ice Marathon. If you are interested in something a bit more ‘polar’, sign up for this marathon, operating out of the Patriot Hills camp, Ellsworth Mountains, at 80°S latitude. Don’t expect to see wildlife, because penguins don’t appear that far south, but choices include a 26.2-mile run or the 100-k ultra race. The camp is operated by another IAATO member, Adventure Network International/Antarctic Logistics and Expeditions, but a commercial company advertises the event for its own clients. Its popularity is shown by some who are members of a Seven Continents Club (marathons on each continent), and nearby mountains add an additional challenge to climb Vinson Massif, the highest peak in Antarctica, for those who belong to the Seven Summits group (climbing the highest mountain on each continent). For a little extra cash, ANI/ALE will also take you to the South Pole for those who are bi-polar (and many are). So what will the Ice Marathon itself set you back? How about 9,900 euros (about \$13,000 USD)? However, the adventure of the location might be the attraction, and odds are that none of your neighbors has ever done it, or is interested. Check the website for these marathons for further details.

BEFORE



Deconstruction of the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station Dome (December, 2009 – March, 2010)

AFTER

