



The Antarctic Society

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No. 1

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IF YOU'LL LISTEN, I'LL TELL YOU A STORY

Did you notice that there was no July newsletter? Issues normally are published quarterly, but we skipped that one. My regret: no one complained.

My wife Lynn Teo Simarski and I had a column in *Bay Weekly*, a free newspaper in the Chesapeake area. Sandra Olivetti Martin, the paper's editor then and now, welcomed our plan to write about Bay-area science on one condition: the title must not contain the word science. "No one will read it," she said. So we called it "Voyages of Discovery" and turned out 16 columns in 2007-2008.

The Antarctic Society newsletters are a lot about . . . science.

In her "from the Editor" column in the 23 October 2019 *Bay Weekly* (with the above headline), Sandra writes that few writers have Emily Dickinson's supposed contentment in simply writing her poems, audience or not. For the rest of us writers and editors, she says, "we can't feel a well-made story is complete until it finds its reader."

Lynn and I found our *Bay Weekly* reader one afternoon: a waterman who was hand tonging for oysters in the tidal Patuxent River, a Chesapeake tributary. "Oh yeah," he said. "You're the ones who provide the facts and force us make up our own minds." Whether or not he intended the comment as a compliment, for me the encounter was reward enough for all 16 columns.

I'd like to hear from you: with ideas or better yet a story (keep it under a thousand words) or a comment: Do you read the newsletters? Are we writing too much of something and not enough of another? With Paul Dalrymple's magical voice mostly missing from these pages, has the newsletter's time passed?

A story in this issue needs a decision by you: the Antarctic Society Gathering in Mystic, Connecticut, is on! The dates are changed from what you read (or didn't) in the January issue. The Antarctic Society Gathering in Mystic, Connecticut, will be 4-6 June 2021. Read – on the next page – how to join in.

And keep in touch. If you'll listen, I'll tell you a story.

Guy Guthridge

Antarctic Gathering in Connecticut: Friday-Sunday, 4-6 June 2021



Mystic Seaport Museum Main Building

If you plan to attend the Society's Antarctic Gathering in Mystic, Connecticut, 4-6 June 2021, please read this article and take the actions indicated!

Mystic Seaport Museum is producing a major exhibition, *Discovering Antarctica 1820-2020*, to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the 1820s-era first sightings of Antarctica by, among others, Nathaniel Palmer of nearby Stonington, Connecticut.

Our Society will hold an Antarctic Gathering on the Museum premises for Society members and their families and friends over the weekend of Friday through Sunday, 4-6 June 2021. This date is changed from the date in the January 2019 newsletter.

Here are treats in store just for us, all included in the \$130 per person fee, which you pay in advance (more on that below):

- Friday-Sunday: Campus-wide admission throughout the weekend to Mystic Seaport Museum, established in 1929. This fabulous facility is "America's Museum of the Sea," the Nation's largest maritime museum. It gets a quarter-million visitors a year. Its fleet includes four vessels designated as National Historic Landmarks of which one, the *Charles W. Morgan*, built in 1841, is America's only surviving wooden whaler. The *Morgan* is in the

water and operable. And you will see the major Antarctica exhibition. See the Museum's web site for more:

<https://www.mysticseaport.org>

- Friday evening, 5:30 pm: A 2-hour tour on the scenic Mystic River aboard *Sabino*, a Museum vessel and the Nation's oldest wooden, coal-fired steamboat in regular operation. An on-board catering staff will provide cocktails and heavy appetizers. Only the first 72 people to sign up will be able to go; the ship cannot take more.
- Saturday morning: Continental breakfast and coffee service in the Tom Claggett Boat Shed. The boat shed with tables and chairs will be our very own designated headquarters for the entire weekend.
- Saturday morning (time to be announced): An explication by museum staff, just for us, of the Antarctic exhibition in the Thompson Exhibition Building.
- Saturday evening: A banquet just for us in the boat shed, followed by an Antarctic speaker (to be announced).
- Sunday morning: A tour of the Nathaniel Palmer House and Museum in Stonington, 3 miles from Mystic.

What to do now:

- Sign up at <https://www.antarctican.org>. Pay online there, or by mailing a check (payable to Antarctic Society) to Tom Henderson at his address shown on page 1:
 - \$130 for all the above-listed events, Friday-Sunday. Or,
 - \$85 for the Saturday and Sunday events, but not the Friday evening boat trip. Or,
 - \$80 for just the Saturday events.
- Reserve your accommodations in the Mystic area (a list of hotels is on our web

site or available from the Editor, address on page 1). You are on your own for this.

- Arrange your transportation from your home to Mystic and back.
- Be prepared to handle your local transportation in the Mystic and Stonington area.
- At Mystic, you'll be on your own for Saturday lunch and Sunday breakfast. The Museum campus has, on site, the Galley (for the quick and casual bite), Schaefer's Spouter Tavern (riverside lunch), and the Cake & Bake Shop.



Mystic Seaport

The \$130 price is a bargain. It includes \$23.95 per person for all three days (Friday-Sunday) admission to Mystic Seaport Museum. (The normal admission rate to the Museum for individuals is \$28.95 per day or \$26.95 per day for seniors over 65!). If you were to go on your own to the Mystic Seaport Museum and spend three days there, you'd spend \$86.85 (\$80.85 if a senior) just to get in.

With the Antarctic Society group, for \$130 you'll get the three days of admission plus the Friday evening boat ride with heavy hors d'ouvres plus breakfast and banquet dinner Saturday plus a group introduction to the Antarctic exhibition plus half-price entry to the Palmer House (\$5 vs. \$10) plus being with Antarctic Society colleagues.

- Sign up early. The *Sabino* steamboat capacity is 72 people. If you are not among the first 72 to sign up for that, you will not be able to go on the Friday evening boat ride on the historic Mystic River, you will be on your own for Friday supper, and you will receive a refund of \$45 if you signed up for the boat ride.

The Museum has reserved the weekend for us. We have to do our part by showing them our members will be there! Sign up soon, but not later than 1 June 2020. Be especially quick if you want to join the limited-capacity boat ride on the Mystic River on Friday evening, 4 June 2021.

The Mystic event is a new opportunity for Antarctic Society members. Tell your polar friends: if not members already, for \$13 they can join and get all advantages *and* be able to sign up for the great Mystic gathering!

How does a Florida girl end up in polar science? TEA!

by Louise T. Huffman

As a native-born Floridian, my favorite place to be is walking barefooted on a white sand beach, boating on clear blue oceans, and fishing. When "thinking south," how did a warm-blooded beachcomber like me skip all the way to the Antarctic?

It's not often we can point to a moment that changed our lives and sent us down undreamed pathways. But I had two, both involving Antarctica.

The first happened in 1989 at a teacher conference in my school district in Naperville, Illinois. By chance, I chose a session where polar explorer Will Steger spoke of his plan to traverse the continent by dogsled.

I knew little more about Antarctica than its location on the bottom of maps, but Steger's stories of the harsh climate and the challenges his team would face were intriguing. He was enlisting teachers to raise

people's awareness about the fragile continent and the need for continuation of the Antarctic Treaty to protect it. My life took an abrupt turn down a new path learning and teaching about polar science and global change.

I began developing curriculum, teaching about Antarctica, and making connections with polar science organizations. I wanted to go south to experience the Ice for myself. I suggested to my husband that we vacation there, but he refused. When I saw a solicitation for applications to Teachers Experiencing Antarctica and the Arctic (TEA), funded by NSF, I applied and was selected.

The NSF manager told me that this experience would change my life. Being extremely happy, I didn't think I needed or wanted change, but it turned out to be inevitable and amazing.

Opening a door. TEA opened the door to the second moment when my life's path changed dramatically and completely.

I spent three months in the Dry Valleys of Antarctica on the "Stream Team." I had pictured living in a dorm at McMurdo or in a berth on a ship. I could count my camping experiences on one hand, so being assigned to camp in a tent in the coldest place on the planet had not crossed my mind. Another shock came when I was told that the lead scientist had family issues that made it impossible for her to go to Antarctica, so the team would be led by one of her graduate students. I was being sent to the middle of nowhere with five people young enough to be my children, and none of us had ever been to Antarctica. The first night, the temperature was 40 below zero. I shivered all night and questioned my sanity for *asking* to be there.

My experience on the Stream Team was one of intense learning and growing. I learned the science of hydrology in the stream system of the Dry Valleys, how scientists collect measurements and samples, and about the nature of science. I interviewed and, through the internet, shared what I was

learning about different science disciplines as well as the support staff that makes the science happen. These experiences enhanced my science teaching when I re-entered the classroom, and they enriched the learning experiences of my students.



Louise Huffman in the Field. Full gear on!

I learned about myself. In Antarctica, I never heard anyone say "can't," even though we faced seemingly insurmountable problems. In a minor ATV accident involving a lake hole, I broke my wrist and had to walk two miles back to our camp. In my head, I whined to myself that if I stepped into another hole and got wet or twisted an ankle, I'd lie down and die. In reality, I learned that I would not have given up. I surprised myself to learn that

my limits were self-imposed. I wish I had known that when I was younger.



Louise Surveying in the Dry Valleys

Beyond TEA. The polar science world is small and interconnected, so my TEA experience enabled me to join continuing polar activities. Before the TEA trip, I had worked with the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry to create the teacher guide for the Antarctica iMax movie. After my TEA experience, I led teacher workshops at MSI and, with another TEA, presented NSF-funded teacher workshops on polar science.

Each new polar activity seemed to lead to another. While teaching, I was invited to join the International Program Office Committee for the International Polar Year. When I retired from teaching in 2007, I took the job as coordinator of education and outreach for the ANTarctic geological DRILLing project and worked with ANDRILL scientists and NSF until 2013 while continuing with the IPY. With ANDRILL, I was able to return to Antarctica for another three-month research season – this time to live in the dorms at McMurdo.

I served on the IPY committee until after the last (2012) IPY conference (in Montreal) and helped write the *Polar Science and Global Change* resource book for the Polar Research Board. After Montreal, I worked with an international group to organize Polar Educators International to

continue the educational and science momentum gained during the IPY. I have served on PEI's Executive Committee and as the organization's president. Currently, I chair a PRB revision committee made up of representatives from the International Arctic Science Committee, SCAR, the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists, and PEI to update the resource book.

In 2013, my husband and I retired back to Florida to fish and boat, which we are happily doing. But, in 2014, I was encouraged to apply for the opening as the director of education and outreach for the U.S. Ice Drilling Program. With the urgency of climate change, and the opportunity to stay involved with polar science, the decision to go back to work was easy. As long as I go fishing with my husband each week, we can live happily ever after with one foot in Florida and one in the polar world.

Louise T. Huffman is director of education and public outreach at the NSF-funded Ice Drilling Program Office, Dartmouth College. She kindly contributed this solicited article.

A little pre-Treaty history

Back up seven decades. It's 1950. The International Geophysical Year and the Antarctic Treaty lie years in the future, as do all of the continuously active national Antarctic programs that characterize the region today.

Several nations nevertheless are attentive to the Antarctic. Those with historic ties also perk up their interests.

New Zealand sets up an Antarctic Society, predating ours by almost a decade. In August 1950, the society publishes its first *Antarctic News Bulletin*, two typed pages. The Norwegian-Swedish-British expedition, with its base Maudheim in Queen Maud Land, gets five paragraphs. Six nations are whaling, the bulletin reports.

Five countries get their own paragraphs: English, Argentine, French, American, and Russian. From Deception Island, the British finally manage to reach Stonington Island, where “the five men who had been in the Antarctic for three years were all successfully rescued by plane.” Argentina has “without permission and in spite of two written protests, established itself on Deception Island.” A new French base “now established is about 50 K.m. East of Dumont D’Urville’s landfall in 1840.” In October 1949, “a group of scientists left Odessa to engage in unspecified work.” The Russians also are whaling again, “and the presence of helicopters on board suggests that whaling is not the sole aim of the expedition.”

As for us, “The projected American Expedition, under Admiral Byrd, comprising eight ships and some 3,500 men, was called off in August 1949 ‘for compelling reasons of economy.’ On March 20th last it was reported that Admiral Byrd might lead a party of 4,000 men to Little America, due South of New Zealand, next October, ‘for training in polar warfare’ and to survey the area for minerals.”

Jump ahead 2 years to the April 1952 issue (No. 5), accessible online if you’re a member of the New Zealand Antarctic Society (like ours at <https://www.antarctican.org>). By now the *Antarctic News Bulletin* has a spiffy logo at the top instead of the plain typing on the first issue, and the editor is identified: L.B. Quartermain.

New Zealanders, some of them anyway, seem to feel left out of the Antarctic. The top of page 1 has an underlined quotation: “We can’t afford to ignore the great frozen continent at our back door. If we as a Nation haven’t the energy to develop its great potentialities, there is little doubt there are men of other nations who have – and will.”

An editorial comment follows this unattributed quote: “This was said of Australia. It is true also of New Zealand.”

This issue of the newsletter has six pages, and it ends with two paragraphs under the heading, “Another U.S. expedition?”:

“Commander Finn Ronne, veteran of Byrd’s 1933-5 and 1939-41 expeditions, and leader of an outstanding 15-month exploring project in Graham Land in 1946-48, is completing plans for yet another sortie into the Antarctic. Mrs. Ronne, the first woman Antarctic explorer, does not intend to go again.

“A resolution is now pending before the United States Foreign Affairs Committee, by which the United States would declare its sovereignty over the area between 90°W and 150°W (i.e., James W. Ellsworth Land and Marie Byrd Land) and would receive rights based on discoveries and exploration in other areas.”

What a different scene from today! International tension seems between the lines of nearly all the early issues of this informed and perceptive publication.

These historic news items remind us of something uncomfortable: the Antarctic Treaty, seemingly inevitable when viewed from the perspective of today, could, along with the continent of Antarctica, have had a different fate. U.S. researchers, if there at all, might be confined to that 60-degree wedge of the continent we then called ours.

Argentina, Chile, and the United Kingdom might still be squabbling over their overlapping territorial claims. The big spending in Antarctica might be on fortifications rather than the international programs of science and preservation that define the region now.

Twenty-one letters

A visit to our Society’s Treasurer Paul Dalrymple at home usually is educational. This one was no exception.

Charles J.V. Murphy was a key participant in his friend Richard E. Byrd’s

second Antarctic expedition (1933-1935). Years later, Murphy and Paul C. Dalrymple, our Society's treasurer, struck up a friendship and carried on a lively correspondence. This was a time when letters were typed on paper and got mailed by the Post Office. Paul saved the letters, 21 of them, in a notebook. Your editor, during an August 2019 visit to Paul's seaside home in Port Clyde, Maine, had a chance to look at them.



Murphy (R) and Byrd at Little America II

Murphy, who lived from 1904 to 1987, was a journalist and an author. He coordinated Byrd's live CBS radio broadcasts from Little America II, having already helped to write the book *Little America*, the 1930 book about the first expedition. He also was heavily involved in Byrd's other two Antarctic books, *Discovery* and *Alone*. Some say he flat-out wrote them; Murphy puts it this way in an 18 January [no year given, probably 1981] letter to Paul: "Let me say, my friend, I helped Byrd with that book [*Alone*], as I also did with *Little America* and *Discovery*. Little America was a close collaboration [Murphy's underline]." He went on to a career with Time, Life, and Fortune magazines, writing a bestselling book about the Duke of Windsor along the way.

"Please withdraw your resignation," Murphy wrote Paul on 16 July 1981 when he heard Paul was going to stop doing the newsletters, "and return to your task of

keeping the rest of us amused and informed." Paul continued to write and edit the Society's newsletters until 2014.

Informing Paul that he would attend the Society's next meeting in Washington, D.C., Murphy wrote on 17 March 1982 that his guests would be James Angleton, "the formidable former counterintelligence chief of the Central Intelligence Agency," and Colonel Vincent T. Ford, a retired Air Force officer.

On 2 August 1980, having moved to Grafton, Vermont, he wrote, "So I find myself, at 75, a stranger in a small village, in a house meant for my wife, who died before it was ready for her."

The longest letter, three pages of single-space typing with plenty of inked annotations, is dated 31 October 1980. "The Winter Party of the 2nd Byrd Antarctic Expedition were a marvelously mixed lot – louts and scholars, scientists and artisans, drifters and family men. Byrd's absence at Advance Base gave rise to a moral issue unique in the annals of the Antarctic," Murphy wrote. Hal Vogel, in 1980, had "come upon our shameful secret: the philatelic business of our expedition was disgracefully bungled." Philatelic mail was an important part of Byrd's public relations program. Some months after the last ship of the season left Little America, philatelists across America began to howl. The letter describes how a shirker had hidden sacks of philatelic mail, "all still sealed," under a mound of hay where the expedition's three cows were kept. In particular, a patron had donated \$5,000 expressly expecting covers to be serviced and returned. During the winter Murphy instructed Byrd's office to return the \$5,000. "I rather flattered myself on being able to rid the expedition of an embarrassing obligation," he wrote Paul. But Byrd, when he got back to Little America from Advance Base, told Murphy, "Good God. I had to pay the fellow who got the donation a fee of \$1,500. We've ended up at the short end of the stick." Murphy's letter concludes, "My prayer now is

that the relentless Dr. Vogel will remember that the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition was only incidentally an honorary fraction of the United States Post Office, and the pity is that the cows did not swallow the evidence.”

Less than a month later, on 22 November, Murphy wrote Paul that the above-referenced letter “was surely a light-hearted one,” but he said one collector “seems to have taken me seriously. He has responded with the solemnity that marks all philatelists, where their passion is concerned.”

Byrd – no surprise – was the subject of many of the letters. The following might apply to the philatelic snafu: “Whatever else might be said of Byrd, he was never flamboyant. On the contrary, he was a soft-spoken, quite gentle and generous soul who, had the Naval Academy given him a broader education, could have been a first-class teacher.

“My only quarrel with him – and I was profoundly in the wrong – had to do with my irritation over his insistence at saying nice things in his book about the shirkers and malcontents in his ranks. His justification was a simple one: they had served, most of them, without pay; that service will be the most dramatic interval in their lives: the least I can do for them is to take note of their presence in print.”

Murphy’s last letter to Paul, dated 17 March 1987, says this, in part: “Old men of the ice never die; they only fade away – sinking with the pale March sun below the graying horizon.”

Nine months later Charles J.V. Murphy, far and away the most important chronicler of Richard E. Byrd’s first two Antarctic expeditions and, arguably, the person who made Antarctica, in the public mind, peculiarly American, died of lung cancer at his home in Grafton, Vermont.

IPCC report on ocean and cryosphere

A 25 September 2019 Special Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change, *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, sums up projections of change in the Antarctic, the Arctic, other cold places, and the oceans.

It was a big job. A hundred authors from 36 countries assessed 7,000 publications, and the 195 IPCC member governments approved it.



Third Lead Author Meeting for Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (Lanzhou, China)

The IPCC is not shy in underscoring the importance of the report. Frozen parts of the planet have a critical role for life on Earth, it states. Ko Barrett, vice chair, writes, “The world’s ocean and cryosphere have been ‘taking the heat’ from climate change for decades, and consequences for nature and humanity are sweeping and severe.”

The report revises upwards the projected contribution of the Antarctic ice sheet to sea level rise by 2100 in the case of high emissions of greenhouse gases. The range of sea level projections “is related to how ice sheets will react to warming, especially in Antarctica, with major uncertainties still remaining.”

A graph plots the four projected contributions to sea level rise compared to the level in the period 1986-2005. By 2100, thermal expansion of the ocean along with ice loss from nonpolar glaciers, Greenland, and Antarctica, will add a meter or more to sea level. Going out to 2300, sea level could rise as much as 5 meters. The contribution from nonpolar glaciers stops because they all melt,

but Greenland and Antarctica keep on giving – and at accelerated rates.

The new report covers lots more than sea level rise, and more about the Antarctic. Read it for free at <https://www.ipcc.ch>.

The IPCC is known mainly for its periodic Assessment Reports. AR5, for example, is shorthand for Assessment Report Number Five, issued in 2014. This continuing worldwide series of evaluations of our planet’s changing climate and what to do about it is seen as the authoritative assembly of information. Each AR contains volumes on such topics as impacts or mitigation, but the volumes of direct relevance to Antarcticans are called *The Physical Science Basis*. The first in the series, a volume of AR1, came out in 1990. The next one, to be one of the volumes in AR6, is to come out in April 2021.

But lots of science gets done between assessment reports, so sometimes the IPCC puts out Special Reports like the one here.

Richard L. Cameron, 1930-2019

Dr. Richard “Dick” L. Cameron, age 89, of Collinsville, Illinois, born 11 July 1930 in Laconia, New Hampshire, passed away on 21 July 2019 during a flight home after visiting his friend Walter Boyd in Seattle.

Dick is survived by his wife Sarah “Sally” A. Barnett, daughter Sarah Cameron, son Andrew Cameron, and Sandie, his faithful canine companion. Per his wishes, his ashes were returned to family. He wanted no memorial, no services, no church stuff, no flowers; his request was “for everyone to read a poem to someone you love.”

Dick Cameron earned a Bachelor of Science degree in geology at the University of New Hampshire. He completed his graduate studies in glaciology and Quaternary studies at the University of Stockholm and obtained his PhD in geology from Ohio State University.

His Antarctic career began in 1956. He spent the 1957 winter at Wilkes Station, one of seven Antarctic stations the United States had just established for the International Geophysical Year. Dick, still with Ohio State, was chief glaciologist. His teammates were Olav H. Løken, glaciologist, University of Oslo, Norway, and John R. T. Molholm, a glaciologist from Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts.



Dick and Charlie Bentley after Antarctic Traverse

These were formative years for glaciology and other systematic sciences in the Antarctic, and Dick was there from the start. They studied accumulation, ablation, and movement of glaciers. They dug a pit, 2 meters square and 35 meters deep with a 27-meter bore hole at the bottom, made a horizontal deformation tunnel at the 30-meter level. Accumulation stakes were set out, and this system was triangulated to determine relative movement. Ice temperatures at different levels, along with air temperatures, were recorded once a week. Chatter marks, erratics, and elevated beaches were found. Samples of bedrock and lichens were collected. All this by three men in less than a year. Dick was lead author of an Ohio State monograph detailing the results; the paper is one of 11 Antarctic studies of which he was sole or lead author over the years.

Other professional positions included appointments as chief of the Geotechnics Branch, Terrestrial Sciences Laboratory, Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories; assistant to the director, Institute of Polar Studies, Ohio State University, as well as assistant dean of University College and assistant dean for international programs; program manager for international organizations, and then program manager for glaciology (1975-1985) for the Division of Polar Programs of the National Science Foundation.

“My cousin gave me a copy of *The Royal Road to Romance* by Richard Halliburton, which piqued my interest in seeing the world,” Dick told *Le Cercle Polaire* in December 2014. “In 1953, between my junior and senior years at college, I attended the University of Oslo Summer School and then worked with the Norwegian Polar Institute on glaciers in Norway. I knew then what I would be doing for my life’s work: Greenland 1954; Sweden 1955; Antarctica 1956-1958; and so on studying glaciers.”

When Dick was at the National Science Foundation, he was on a committee studying the possibility of towing icebergs as a source of water for Saudi Arabia. Prince Mohamed al Faisal al Saud was funding the project. Dick received a call that a meeting was to be held the following week in Paris. He said he was particularly busy and probably could not make it. They said, “Take the Concorde.” Dick said, “I’m coming.” It took three and a half hours to get there from Washington, D.C.

During the austral season 1964-1965, he participated in the Queen Maud Land Traverse from the geographical South Pole to the Pole of Relative Inaccessibility in the middle of East Antarctica. “Charlie Bentley led the first half of the traverse and yours truly the second. Going from 2,820 m (9,250 ft) elevation at the South Pole to 3,657 m (12,000 ft) at Inaccessibility, we traveled 1,200 km

(750 miles) at the breakneck speed of 8 km/h (5 miles per hour).”

Undertaking a series of studies en route, the traverse took two months. “It was exciting to be crossing a part of the Earth where no man had been before.”

“A great moment for me was standing at the geographical South Pole with my son Andy in November of 1979.” Andy was just finishing his year at the Pole, and Dick had just arrived to be the NSF Representative at the Pole for the summer.

“Antarctica is a special place - as I consider it the epitome of the way the rest of the world could one day be. The IGY was the prime example of cooperation on the Ice when their respective countries were at odds with one another.”



Dick Cameron and Claude Lorius

Dick's favorite statement was this: “Antarctica is a special place. It is a place where men and women of all nations and ethnic backgrounds can live and work in harmony.”

Dick Cameron was an active member of our Society, a friend of all and at the center of many Antarctic Gatherings over the years.



Dick Cameron at Port Clyde, July 2018

Grace S. Machemer (1926 - 2019)

Grace S. Machemer, 93, Paul C. Dalrymple's close companion and a beloved and important member of the Antarctic Society, died the morning of 8 October 2019 at Woodlands Senior Living Center in Waterville, Maine. She had moved there from her longtime home in Port Clyde, Maine, in August 2019 following a stroke.

Grace was born in 1926 to Robert Bruce and Florence A. Skinner in Brooklyn, New York. In training and spirit, she was a lifelong academic. She graduated from Ridgewood High School in New Jersey and Smith College in Massachusetts. Grace received the Master of Science in biology from Plymouth State College and later taught science at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital

School of Nursing in Hanover, New Hampshire.

In 1948 Grace married John Douglas Page and settled in Laconia, New Hampshire, where she taught high school biology. Following a divorce, Grace married Paul E. Machemer in 1969 and moved to Belgrade, Maine, where she taught biology at Thomas College in nearby Waterville for 14 years. In 1984, she and Paul retired to Port Clyde, Maine. Working alongside her sons Thomas and David, they actively participated in the design and construction of their new home. Grace and Paul loved the coast of Maine, spending their days boating and sailing.

Years later, on a summer day in 2016, when she was 90, your editor took Gracie on his boat from the Port Clyde harbor out past Marshall Point Light, beyond Gunning Rocks and Mosquito Ledge, past Mosquito Island, and back again. I need not have taken a chart. Gracie knew every ledge, shoal, island, and navigational aid, learned many years before.

During our afternoon ride she told me about going aground once near Vinalhaven Island, Maine, in her Cheoy Lee 38-foot all-teak sailboat. A man came out in a skiff to help Gracie and her husband Paul get the boat off the rocks. She offered to pay the man for his trouble and received the following reply: "No need. I'm happy to help. My name is David Rockefeller."

In Port Clyde, Gracie volunteered for the Penbay Women's Auxiliary, the Jackson Memorial Library, and the Marshall Point Lighthouse. She was an accomplished rug maker, was an avid birder and reader, and enjoyed traveling the world.

Gracie had a strong interest in the history of map making. Her paper, "Headquartered at Piscataqua: Samuel Holland's coastal and inland surveys, 1770-1774," was published in 2002 in *Historical New Hampshire*, volume 57, nos. 1 and 2, pages 4-25. The paper is cited in several scholarly publications concerning

geographical and historical aspects of the Portsmouth, New Hampshire, area.



Gracie and Paul at 2016 Port Clyde Gathering

This article draws from an obituary published 16 October 2019 in the *Portland Press Herald - Maine Sunday Telegram*. See <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/mainetoday-pressherald/obituary.aspx?pid=194172417>

‘Til death do us part

by Dr. Paul C. Dalrymple

For the past forty-plus years, I have been on the sidelines of the passing away of many great Antarcticans: Richard E. Byrd, Laurence McKinley Gould, Gentleman Jim Zumberge, Ambassador Paul Clement Daniels, Mary Alice McWhinnie, Paul and Ruth Siple, Charles Swithinbank, and many others.

Perhaps none of them touched my heart and soul more deeply than the passing of Gracie Macheimer of the State of Maine. For the past twenty years, I have lived with Gracie at her home here in Port Clyde, Maine, twenty peaceful years full of love and happiness and understanding.

She made two trips to Antarctica and became a dear friend of many of my countless Antarctic friends. Even in death, several of my

Antarctic buddies from far away came to my threshold to honor her presence.

Society member Polly Penhale writes, “You and Gracie were the best couple ever . . . meeting as you did and then going on for a wonderful 20 years. Gracie made all Antarcticans feel at home, and we loved the gatherings which you two held in Port Clyde.”

Port Clyde commemorations, 2020

by Dr. Paul C. Dalrymple

We may pay tribute to Gracie Macheimer and Dick Cameron this coming summer. If we get a large enough response, we will plan for a gathering honoring Gracie and Dick at my place in coastal Maine on 18-19 July 2020. If you are interested in attending, please let us know as soon as you can. You can contact me directly by telephone, email, or post as shown on the masthead of this newsletter.

I have called most of Gracie’s friends, and their responses have been most touching and we wish to thank each and every one for their kind words.

I would like to tell how two great Antarcticans, Dr. Chester Pierce and Dr. Ed Williams, loved Gracie Macheimer. As I often talked to both, each at the end of our conversations asked to talk to Gracie. What an appeal Gracie had for many of her Antarctic friends.

My plan is to have my ashes placed next to some of Gracie’s ashes in our backyard among the trees overlooking our beloved coastal Maine.

For me, she was the greatest, the sweetest. How I miss her! May God bless her eternally.