



THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 40122

Washington, D. C. 20016

Volume 2, Number 5

June, 1977

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

Stronghold, Sugar Loaf Mountain
Frederick County, Maryland

Sunday, June 19, 1977
2:00 p. m. to 10:00 p.m.

DINNER BUFFET
Beginning at 6:00 p.m.
Catered by Comus Inn

Followed by Selected Movies
On Antarctica

Price: \$10.00 per person

Cash Bar

Spend Father's Day and celebrate Antarctica's "Mid-winter Day" with fellow Ant-
arcticans. As for the past several years, Stronghold is being made available
exclusively for the Antarctic Society. Weather permitting, the party will be held in
the extensive gardens surrounding the residence. If it rains, the party will move into
the mansion. Informal or casual clothing is recommended, especially for those who may
wish to hike the short distance to the top of Sugar Loaf.

Nearby Comus Inn, the caterer, is noted for the quality of its food. Again this
year we have been unable to obtain a reduced rate for children. We certainly do not
want to exclude children, and we appreciate the problem that this my cause. Therefore,
we suggest that you consider bringing a basket of food for your children if you wish.
The Comus Inn people count the number of persons who go through the line at the buffet
table, and the Society is charged accordingly. Therefore, if you do not wish to pay for
a child, please do not let the child go through the line, even if he or she takes
nothing and merely accompanies you.

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Prepaid reservations are necessary. Please fill in the blank and send it to Mrs.
Sophie R. Dales, Treasurer, Antarctic Society, 4214 North Second Road, Arlington,
Virginia 22203, so as to arrive by Thursday, June 16. If you have any questions,
telephone Mrs. Dales (Office: 382-5820, Home: 524-1853), Bill Cooke (Office: 471-1650,
Home: 291-2555), or Charlie Morrison (Office: 860-6251, Home: 938-7194).

I WILL attend the Antarctic Society garden party at Stronghold with _____ guests.
Enclosed is my check for \$_____, payable to the Antarctic Society.

(Name)

If you have never visited Sugar Loaf Mountain, you owe it to yourself to do so now. Come early and socialize. The bar will be open early. Friends as well as members are welcome.

DIRECTIONS FOR REACHING STRONGHOLD

From the Beltway (I-495) take I-270 (formerly I-70S) northward, past Rockville, Shady Grove, Bureau of Standards, Gaithersburg, AEC, and Clarksburg exits. Turn off at Hyattstown-Comus Exit (16.3 miles from the Rockville exit). Circle under I-270 and follow route 109 for 3.3 miles to Comus. Turn right at Comus onto route 95 for 2.5 miles. Proceed straight across the paved intersection (Mountain Cross-Roads). Immediately on your left is a small lake. One-fourth mile beyond the intersection turn right onto mountain road through a gateway. Follow this for one-quarter mile. The first house on the right (4 white columns) is the Superintendent's house. Around the bend is the Strong mansion. The parking lot is on the near or lower side of it.

SOCIETY NEWS

At the annual business meeting, May 3, 1977, the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee and published in the last issue of the Newsletter was elected. The officers elected for one-year terms are: Mrs. Ruth J. Siple, President; Dr. Meredith F. Burrill, Vice President; Mr. Charles E. Morrison, Secretary/Historian; Mrs. Sophie R. Dales, Treasurer/Membership Secretary. Also elected to the 12-member Board of Directors for 3-year terms were Peter Barretta, Fred S. Brownworth, Paul C. Dalrymple, and Jerry W. Huffman.

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the new administration was held May 24. Kenneth J. Bertrand, immediate past president, was appointed to the Board to fill the remaining two years of the unexpired term of Mrs. Dales, newly elected Treasurer/Membership Secretary. The recommendation of the Nominating Committee that the offices of the Secretary/Historian and Treasurer/Membership Secretary be combined was discussed, but action was postponed until next fall. The Board approved the arrangement for the annual garden party which are in charge of a committee consisting of Robert J. Allen, William B. Cooke, Rudolf A. Honkala, and Charles E. Morrison.

Society Records to the Archives

Officers of the Antarctic Society have been concerned about the safety and preservation of the Society's records. As the records pass from one group of officers to another there is always a danger that some records will be lost, and this danger increases with time as the older records have little if any current use.

On November 27, following preliminary inquiries, the Board of Directors passed a motion, instructing President Bertrand to investigate the possibilities of the records

of the Society being accepted for deposit by the National Archives and Record Service. In a letter of January 5, 1977, Dr. James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the United States, replied to Bertrand's Inquiry that he would be pleased to accept the records of the Antarctic Society for deposit in the Center for Polar Archives. Discussion between Bertrand and Dr. Franklin W. Burch, Director of the Center for Polar Archives, led to a motion by the Board of Directors of the Society on January 18, authorizing Bertrand to sign an instrument of gift conveying the records earlier than 1975 to the National Archives and Record Service. It took some time to get the records collected and deposited in the Center for Polar Archives. They were then inventoried, and an instrument of gift was drawn up. This was signed by President Bertrand on May 3.

The National Archives is primarily a depository for records of the federal government and its agencies. However, the records and papers of individuals who have been engaged in government activities are felt to reflect on those activities and are therefore also accepted for deposit. Consequently, the personal papers of a number of persons recently active in Antarctic exploration, such as the late Paul A. Siple, and some of the older explorers are now in the Center. The papers of an explorer involved in a private expedition but who laid claims to territory in the name of the United States, such as Lincoln Ellsworth, are also at the Center.

Since many members of the Antarctic Society have been involved in the Antarctic programs of the United States and since many of the activities of the Society have a bearing on or relate to these programs, the records of the Society are considered acceptable for deposit in the Center for Polar Archives. No conditions are attached to the instrument of gift by the Society. That is, the records are open to anyone who has been granted the privilege of examining unrestricted records at the National Archives. Records, i.e., minutes and correspondence, from 1975 onward have been retained by the Society as current records, subject to deposit when no longer needed in the operations of the Society. The records on deposit are open for review by officers of the Society, and the staff of the Center for Polar Archives will make available to the officers of the Society, on request, a reasonable number of copies of any record of the Society. The staff will also supply on request specific information from a specified record to an officer of the Society. Not only are the records of the Society now safe, but any information contained in them is now more readily available, should it be needed by the officers of the Society, than it was until now.

CAPTAIN KESSLER MEMORIALIZED

Mrs. Juel Kessler, widow of the late Captain Charles L. Kessler (USNR, Ret.), at a special dinner in Richmond this past winter, was presented with a plaque honoring her husband by the national office of the American Legion and by Post 84 of Richmond. Captain Kessler, who was a member of the crew of the Eleanor Bolling on the First Byrd Antarctic Expedition, 1928-30, died on January 3, 1976. (See Antarctic Society Newsletter, Volume 1, No. 2, February 1976.) During World War II he was in charge of Navy recruiting and induction in Virginia. From 1960 until he retired he was head of the Virginia State draft board. As a member of the U.S. Marine Corps he served as a volunteer on then Commander Richard E. Byrd's expedition to Spitzbergen from where Byrd, with Floyd Bennett as pilot, flew to the North Pole, May 9, 1926.

According to unconfirmed information, a tree and stone marker were also to be designated as commemorating Captain Kessler in Richmond. If further information is available, it will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.

SCHEDULE FOR TRAVELLING EXHIBIT ON ANTARCTICA

Three earlier editions of the Newsletter have contained information about the exhibition ANTARCTICA which is distributed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. Briefly, in review, it consists of 45 full-color photographs by Elliot Porter and 14 paintings and two etchings by Daniel Lang. A 57-minute film, entitled Antarctica, accompanies the exhibit. It has been most favorably received wherever the exhibit has appeared. For the benefit of members living in those areas where the exhibit will appear and who may have mislaid earlier announcements, the schedule of the exhibit for the remainder of 1977 is as follows:

June 3 to July 2	School for the Arts, Boston University, 147 Bay State Road, Boston, Mass.
July 22 to August 20	Queen's Museum, New York City Building, Flushing Meadow Park, Flushing, New York.*
September 9 to October 8	Department of Geology, Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, Illinois.
October 28 to November 26	Department of Meteorology, Texas A and M University, College Station, Texas.
December 17 to January 15	Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch, New Zealand

* The booking at Queen's Museum replaced that at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, which was cancelled.

The exhibit will be closed January 9, 1979. There are still open dates for summer and fall, 1978. Anyone wishing further information should contact Ms. Deborah Dawson, Science Coordinator, Traveling Exhibition Service, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560, Telephone: (202) 381-6631.

BOOK REVIEW

Conly, Maurice, and Peat, Neville, Ice on My Palette, Whitcoulls Ltd., Christchurch, New Zealand, 1977. \$N.Z. 14.95. 64 pp. quarto.

Ice on My Palette is a collection of 52 drawings and paintings by New Zealand artist Maurice Conly with a text by Neville Peat, New Zealand writer who served as information officer at New Zealand's Scott Base, Antarctica, in 1975-76. The 23 paintings--oils, water colors, and acrylics-- are beautifully reproduced. They and the charcoal sketches are the result of two visits by Conly to Antarctica. The first was sponsored by the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Conly's second visit was made to provide the Antarctic Division of the New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research a pictorial record of Antarctic activities, both in the field and at the bases. Antarctic scenery, men, historic huts, birds, seals and killer whales are depicted in paintings and sketches. Publication of the book was timed to coincide with the March 4 opening of the centennial wing of the Canterbury Museum which houses the National Antarctic Center. While not an essential piece of Antarctic literature, it is a beautiful book which will appeal to anyone with an appreciation for Antarctica's scenic beauty. It will make an attractive conversation piece on anyone's desk or table.

Upon inquiry, Mr. Robert Houison, Export Manager of Whitcoulls, has written that payment in U. S. Dollars by check on any American bank will be acceptable. The price for Antarctic Society members, including postage for one copy is \$U.S. 15.10. For two copies the price is \$29.50. Books will be dispatched on the day of receipt of the order which should be addressed to Whitcoulls Ltd., Export Division, P.O. Box 5844, Auckland, New Zealand. Mr. Houison has thus made ordering as easy as if the book were published by an American firm. Allow several weeks for delivery, for shipment will be by surface mail.

K.J.B.

PALMER STATION: WHAT IT DOES AND WHY IT'S THERE

by Guy G. Guthridge

Palmer Station, at 64° 46' S., 64° 05' W., lies on Gamage Point adjacent to Arthur Harbor, which is on the southern side of Anvers Island (50 by 80 kilometers) off the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. It is the only U. S. Antarctic station north of the Antarctic Circle, and it is operated separately from the logistics complex that serves the other three U. S. stations.

The relatively mild, maritime climate (mean annual temperature -3° C; annual range +7° C to -26° C) supports a rich biota. Many species of birds nest on islands within 5 kilometers of the station. Lichens and mosses abound. Antarctica's two flowering plants can be seen near the station, as can the two land insects. Marine species, including mammals, are plentiful.

Man has known Anvers Island since 1831, when John Biscoe (Great Britain) probably landed. Biscoe thought the island was part of the mainland. DeGerlache (Belgium) in 1898 saw that the feature was an island and named it. Other explorers who saw Anvers Island were Nordenskjold (Sweden) in 1901-1903 and Charcot (France) in 1904 and in 1908-1910. In 1954-1955 Britain established Base N on the western side of Arthur Harbor and operated it through the International Geophysical Year.

Before 1965, the only U. S. station near Antarctic Peninsula was East Base of the U. S. Antarctic Service Expedition, 1939-1941, on Stonington Island (60° 11' S., 67° W.). It was re-occupied by the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition in 1947-1948.

The United States began to consider a permanent station on the Antarctic Peninsula in 1962. Biologists working at McMurdo (78° S.) needed to make comparative studies at lower latitudes, and productive research in other disciplines was likely.

The icebreaker Staten Island surveyed 33 prospective sites between 18 January and 5 March, 1963, spending more time (4 days) at Arthur Harbor than anywhere else. In April 1963 the National Science Foundation chose Arthur Harbor. The site had bare land in summer, shores suitable for a dock, a sheltered harbor, fresh water in melt-water ponds, a potential landing strip on the adjacent Marr Ice Piedmont, a varied biological environment, and places for satellite camps within 80 kilometers.

In January 1965 men from the icebreaker Edisto and the navy cargo ship Wyandot brought equipment and supplies and built an 11 by 25 meter prefabricated T-5 building on Norsel Point that was dedicated as a temporary Palmer Station on 25 February, 1965. Three glaciologists, two biologists, and four navy support men wintered the first year. The scientific work was mostly reconnaissance and included trips 50 to 60 kilometers from the station. Rain was recorded in every month. In the second year, eight people wintered.

Seabees built the permanent station (the present one) in four 3-month seasons, beginning in January 1967 and finishing in March 1970. The station first was occupied in 1968 with a winter population of nine. It is 2 kilometers from the original

* This is an abstract provided by Mr. Guthridge, Head, Polar Information Service, Division of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, of his talk presented to the Antarctic Society on 29 March, 1977, at the National Science Foundation. It was illustrated by many excellent Kodachrome slides. The briefings, via satellite, by station personnel, referred to in the last paragraph, are, of course, not included here.

building, which still stands and is used from time to time.

The new station consists of two buildings. The main building, a three-story, steel-frame structure with about 100 square meters of floor space, has a biological laboratory, storage areas and workshop, living quarters for 24, a dining and recreation room, a kitchen, a medical office, utilities, and a second-floor porch overlooking the sea. A second building, slightly smaller, contains quarters for 16, a garage, recreation rooms, storage space, and two 150-kilowatt diesel-driven generators. Also, there are two 475,000-liter fuel tanks, radio antennas, a helicopter pad, and a dock.

In October, 1966 the keel was laid for a 38-meter-long, sail-equipped, ice-strengthened research trawler (Hero) for use with the station. The wooden ship was launched in March 1968 and arrived at Palmer for the first time in December 1968. Overflights in September 1964 and August 1966 indicated that the small ship could operate near Palmer in winter, although this has never been done. The ship supports Palmer in summer, extending the range of researchers, and does research off Argentina and Chile in winter.

The navy operated Palmer until 11 December, 1973, when Holmes & Narver, Inc., a contractor to the National Science Foundation, took over. Holmes & Narver also operates Hero.

Science projects at Palmer have stressed assessment of a now undisturbed ecosystem that is threatened by possible large-scale exploitation. Most investigators have scrutinized particular aspects of the system - a species of bird or the intertidal fauna, for example. Work to date has produced an assessment of populations in the area, and investigators also have performed detailed anatomical and behavioral studies.

Other disciplines have included glaciology, meteorology, geophysics, oceanography, and upper atmosphere physics. Sophisticated equipment, such as meteorological radar, has been installed, and real-time voice and data communication via NASA's ATS-3 satellite was established in February, 1977. Using this system, the Palmer Station team on 29 March, 1977, briefed the Society on its science projects and responded to questions for 45 minutes.

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