



THE ANTARCTIC SOCIETY

c/o R. J. Siple
905 North Jacksonville Street
Arlington, Virginia 22205

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Dr. Meredith F. Burrill, 1980-82

Vol. 81-82 December No. 3

FIRST INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR, 1882-83

SECOND INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR, 1932-33

INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR, 1957-58

THINK REUNION, MAY 1983

* * * * *

Our next meeting will present ...

Dr. Stephen Ackley
US Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory
Hanover, New Hampshire

Honorary Members:

Ambassador Paul C. Daniels
Dr. Laurence McKinley Gould
Count Emilio Pucci
Sir Charles S. Wright
Mr. Hugh Blackwell Evans
Dr. Henry M. Dater
Mr. August Howard

giving an illustrated lecture on ...

ANTARCTIC SEA ICE: SOME RESULTS FROM THE
JOINT US-USSR WEDDELL SEA EXPERIMENT, 1981.

at ...

National Science Foundation
Room 540
18th and G Streets N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Memorial Lecturers:

Dr. William J. L. Sladen, 1964
RADM David M. Tyree (Ret.), 1965
Dr. Roger Tory Peterson, 1966
Dr. J. Campbell Cradock, 1967
Mr. James Pranke, 1968
Dr. Henry M. Dater, 1970
Mr. Peter M. Scott, 1971
Dr. Frank T. Davies, 1972
Mr. Scott McVay, 1973
Mr. Joseph O. Fletcher, 1974
Mr. Herman R. Friis, 1975
Dr. Kenneth J. Bertrand, 1976
Dr. William J. L. Sladen, 1977
Dr. J. Murray Mitchell, Jr., 1978
Dr. Laurence McKinley Gould, 1979
Dr. Charles R. Bentley, 1980

On ...

Tuesday, January 19, 1982 8 p.m.

Light refreshments

with ...

Steve is just back from a scientific cruise on the Russian ice-breaker SOMOV whose mission was to seek, find, and study the polynya within the Weddell Sea. Come find out what a shipload of scientists do when they find there was no polynya.

See you all there! Bring a friend or relative!

SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY'S LECTURE SERIES PROGRAM - EXCELLENT SPEAKERS ON TIMELY SUBJECTS

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CALENDARS

CALENDARS

CALENDARS

CALENDARS

CALENDARS

Yes, we have the new 1982 USARP-Operation Deep Freeze Antarctic calendars. We think we have enough for everyone, but order early in case sales exceed expectations. They are \$6.00 by mail (PLEASE send your mailing address with your check) or \$5.00 if you pick them up at Ruth Siple's (905 N. Jacksonville, Arlington). This calendar is the best one in several years, and is a real beauty with 8 1/2" x 12" monthly colored photos. There is also a lot of additional almanac-type information. You'll love it!

Caution! This column may be detrimental to your health, so sensitive people should use it judiciously, taking it in small doses early in the morning, never before retiring at night. It has been said to include offensive material and, Heaven forbid, sexist rhetoric, so you are hereby forewarned. To the offended, there is good news. It would be much, much worse were it not for the cutting knife of your censor and our Society's doer, Ruth Siple. But Bergy Bits is not, never has been, and never will be the Voice of the Society, and is nothing more than what one member feels constitutes interesting items for our broad Society membership. When a new person surfaces who wants to take this over, it is all theirs. In the interim I am prone to say that a tiger does not change its spots overnight and that the style of Bergy Bits will remain essentially as it has been the past four years.

REQUIRED READING. As this is being written in mid-December, we have membership returns from about half of you, and have collected this year's dues from over 300 members. A second notice is going out with this Newsletter to those who have not replied, both for the dues and for the membership information data bank. Unlike previous years, we are not going to carry delinquents through the year, so if your form has a "Second Notice - Dues Not Paid", please pay or let us know that you are dropping out of the Society. The cost of running off Newsletters and mailing them prohibits us from keeping delinquents on our rolls. And, please, if you move or have a new zip code (which many of you in the Washington area have), will you advise the Society because no bulk mailings are forwarded and you will never get the Newsletters.

SOCIETY CHANGES. First, you will notice that we are using subject headings for the first time. This was a suggestion of the old biomasser, Sayed El-Sayed, seconded by Gordon Cartwright, and a compromise to those members who say the Newsletters are too long. This way they can pick and choose their reading material and have a Newsletter of their own choice in length. We categorically rejected as an awful time-wasting endeavor Hal Vogel's annual request for an index. The Newsletter results from two persons (Paul Dalrymple, the writer, and Ruth Siple, the typist) taking their own personal time putting it together, including labeling envelopes, stuffing envelopes, sorting by zip codes, and mailing. Any free time left over is spent answering Society mail which at times is appreciable. Indexing, nyet. We are introducing with this issue a classified section, which we plan to keep small and interesting. We hope that it will be popular.

FISCAL CHANGES. We have divorced ourselves from Riggs National Bank as they initiated all kinds of service charges which were detrimental to a Society like ours which handles about five hundred small checks a year. Our checking account is now with the Metropolitan Federal Savings and Loan in Bethesda where we not only get interest on our holdings but where we do not get stuck with service charges. And it's much more delightful dealing with personable comely lassies than with those three-piece-suited preppy types at the other place. Our non-operating holdings are in a money market fund (First Variable Rate) in Washington which deals primarily with U.S. Treasury Notes and Bills. Now this may sound like we're going big time, but we aren't. We are, hopefully, going to better manage your Society's meager holdings and hope that our interest gains will keep up with inflation and thus keep us from raising membership dues.

SUGGESTION FOLLOW-UP. Albert Armstrong, an old Navy type from Bureau of Yards and Docks who evidently was in on the design and construction of many of our

buildings in Antarctica, bemoans the lack of information in Bergy Bits on the physical picture of Antarctica from the viewpoint of "an engineer and/or architect". I brought this up with our Program. Chairman, Mort Turner, who has been involved with Antarctic matters- since time immemorial, and he suggested that the Society might be able to go through NST slide files and select outstanding shots, have transparency sets made up on different subjects, such as camp buildings; penguins, seals, skuas; shipboard scenes, aircraft operations; scientists at work; Erebus and other scenic wonders; and offer them for sale to our members. What do you folks think about this? Let us know, pro or con, as we don't want to develop this idea until we get a strong pulse reading from you all.

AUTHOR OF BERGY BITS. First, several have asked who in Heaven's name was writing Bergy Bits. The answer to that is quite simple, as I believe I do know my own name, Paul Dalrymple. My Antarctic connection is rather ancient and corroded by time, as I am an employee of the Corps of Engineers and regretfully am not involved now in any Antarctic activity. I was in Antarctica during the IGY, and if I achieved any notoriety at all it was the fact that I was the only married man to spend both IGY years on the ice (Bert was between marriages, Charlie was still single and had not yet met Marybelle, and the other "two-time loser", Mario, was still actively pursuing - with quite a bit of success - all the women in Latin America with marriage never entering his head). I was involved in the micrometeorological program at Plateau in the late 1960's, but my men went there while I wintered over in Natick, Massachusetts. So I have to rely on my old contacts plus people like Guy Guthridge and Tim Hushen to provide me with items for Bergy Bits.

MEMBERS CLAMOR FOR SCIENCE NEWS. This is prelude to the biggest demand of you folks, more science news. Again, the Division of Polar Programs at NSF puts out the Antarctic Journal which is the official organ for Antarctic science. We can't compete with it and we don't intend to, but it is available for those who want to subscribe to it (\$7.50 per year for five issues, one of which is a giant annual review of several hundred pages reviewing progress on all Antarctic research). If you want more information on it, contact Guy Guthridge in the Division of Polar Programs at NSF, Washington, DC 20550, or telephone him at 202-357-7817. I have thought of asking Dr. Todd if perhaps someone like Guy could write a couple of pages on late science news for each Newsletter, but maybe it's better to stick with free-lancing of information as it gives more journalistic freedom of the press! If you want more information on foreign activities, there is nothing finer than the news bulletin of the New Zealand Antarctic Society, Antarctic. Jim Caffin does a truly fantastic job. The overseas rate to us is NZ\$8.00 (Secretary, NZAS, P.O. Box 1223, Christchurch, New Zealand).

SCIENCE IS BLONDE AND IS SPELLED GISELA. We had a near capacity crowd for Gisela Dreschhoff's lecture on "A Tale of Two Projects: Radioactivity and Solar Activity" on November 12th, but it took strong support from scientists in town attending the Polar Research Board's fall meeting to fill up the room. For the second meeting in a row, Bill Benninghoff of the University of Michigan was in attendance. Others from the Polar Research Board were Vera Alexander, Director of the Institute of Marine Sciences at the University of Alaska, Art Lachenbruch of the USGS in Menlo Park, E. Fred Roots of the Department of Fisheries and Environment in Ottawa, Bob Rutford who is still Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies at the University of Nebraska, and J. Murray Mitchell of NOAA's Laboratory for Environmental Data Research. That good looking young girl with Murray was his athletic daughter, Kathy, from the Cathedral School in Washington. Fortunately for her, Kathy inherited both her mother's good looks and her athletic talents. The eminent American glaciologist, Mark Meier of the USGS in Tacoma, also attending the Polar Research Board meeting, came to our meeting. Kay Sterrett, Acting Director

of the Army's Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory at Hanover, New Hampshire, and Ed Todd, Director of the Division of Polar Programs at NSF, helped to swell the ranks with more notoriety. The recently retired Executive Secretary of the National Science Board, Vernice Anderson, was also there. We certainly appreciate the attendance of out-of-town polar scientists as we strive to build our Society. We are justly proud of our strong lecture program, which we feel is just outstanding and on the very frontier edge of what is going on in Antarctica. Our aim is to make the lecture program most responsive to today's Antarctic science and to slant our Newsletters toward the happenings of the men and women who have made and are making science news in Antarctica. Our meeting attendance leaves something to be desired, so I hope you locals will make more effort to get out to hear the great speakers which are on our program. Gisela was certainly most outstanding, and a real pro in her delivery. I was amazed that this Little Woman (actually a good-looking doll) had done so much in Antarctica, as I doubt if she could push the Fairbanks above 125 pounds, even wearing full polar garb. Good things come in small packages.

LARRY GOULD, HOW DO YOU STAY SO YOUNG! The Immortal-In-His-Own-Time Larry Gould was in town for the recent Polar Research Board meeting. He is still drinking from that Fountain of Eternal Youth, and gets his daily exercise early each morning when his miniature schnauzer, Gray, comes around and puts a leash on Larry and takes him for a two- or three-mile walk out into the desert. Larry enjoys being taken for a walk by Gray, and presumably Gray enjoys having Larry along. Both are trained to stay out of neighbors' yards, but Gray has a hard time restraining from chasing wildlife in the desert. It's always great sport getting together with Larry, and how I love to hear him talk about the men and ships of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition of 1928-30. He talks about that expedition as if it just ended last week - he's been on an emotional high from it for over fifty years. He never had a need for drugs, as the Antarctic, plus his bride of fifty years - Peg, turn him on full power. We almost pulled off a coup of major proportions when we had that great Antarctic reporter-science writer-historian from the New York Times, Walter Sullivan, all lined up to videotape an interview with Larry for posterity, but alas, Walter was held up at Edwards AFB awaiting the delayed shuttle flight landing and couldn't get back to Washington while Larry was here. We live by propositioning people (some times you even make out), and when we propositioned Walter to tape Larry, Walter came back with an affirmative. So we called Larry and he said, "Let the cameras roll." Well, he didn't exactly use those words, but he was enthusiastic about his good friend Walter sitting down and taping him. For one week it was pretty exciting talking with Tim Hushen, and Pembroke Hart, who in turn was talking with Hugh Odishaw who in turn was talking with WQED. We even talked with WETA and also a private producer, and then NSF surfaced with a great offer to do it all for us - free! Everything was looking too great to be true, and it turned out that way when those darn NASA people never changed their Fram filter, and we American taxpayers ended up paying over another million for the delayed space shuttle, which cost us Walter who had to remain in California for the eventual landing. Damn, damn, damn. We have hopes that this has just been delayed, put on temporary hold, and that Walter and Larry can soon sit down together and do the taping. If you ever heard the Canadian Film Board tapes (five in number) where Trevor Lloyd, the eminent Canadian geographer who once taught at Carleton College (where have I heard of that place before?), interviewed the Friendly Arctican, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, you know how great it will be when Walter does sit down and wrap up Larry in video tape.

AND THERE WAS A WEDDING, WITH ANTARCTICA RIGHT BEHIND. Ruth Siple is a woman of many loves (a collector of bells, friends, and casserole recipes, but not

necessarily in that order), and she also loves her college sorority, so it was no surprise last spring when she turned her back on our Society Memorial Lecture and high-tailed it back to Allegheny College "to go to her 100th anniversary. This created a mini-crisis as there's always money to be collected at the door, name tags to be handed out, plus last minute walk-ins who upset the whole apple cart. But she has a daughter Jane in town, and she agreed to fill in, although the night before she threatened to cancel out because she felt ill. Meantime I tried half a dozen times the afternoon of the lecture to reach old Hugh DeWitt at the Smithsonian because he had indicated previously that he wanted to come and we hadn't received his reservation nor his MONEY! He finally completed his noon-time jogging about 3:30 that afternoon and indeed did want to come to the Lecture but didn't have a car. I told him I had a beautiful 1962 Fairlane that rode like a charm and had room for another passenger. So Hugh met Jane, Jane met Hugh, and neither one of them remembered the next day who the speaker was the previous evening. To make a long story short, there were wedding bells in Washington in mid-November, and they walked out of the church, grabbed their sea bags, hopped onto a plane to Rio de Janeiro where Hugh literally carried Jane across the gangplank of the WORLD DISCOVERER as the ship pulled out for its first winter cruise to the Antarctic. Hugh was one of the lecturers on the cruise, and I guess you'd have to say it was Jane's maiden cruise as she had never been on anything bigger than a Potomac cruise boat. Needless to say, a fine time was had by all, the honeymooners as well as the honeymoon watchers. They returned from South America to Washington in mid-December, and Hugh immediately came down with a severe attack of Montezuma's Revenge. You see, his new mother-in-law forgot to tell him "don't drink the water" when he got to Arlington. However, he recovered in due time and they were off almost immediately for a big snowstorm in Orono, Maine where Hugh is a professor in the Zoology Department of the University of Maine. Naturally Hugh spoke ahead of time to Ruth about how honorable his intentions were with Jane, at which time I tried unsuccessfully to get Ruth to run a security check on his background. I was somewhat suspicious as I knew he was one of those Southern Ocean biomassers, but that he was different than the rest of that cult, because he was hosting his workshop this summer at Orono in the height of the black fly season. Not only are all the other biomass workshops in exotic foreign cities, they are also in their best seasons. But Ruth liked Hugh from the very beginning because he always came to her house with a lumberman's appetite, and she thought it was just great that Jane had found a man of such fine tastes. Bob Nichols, were you waxing romantic words in your Memorial Lecture?

RONNE EXPEDITION MEMBERS REUNIONIZE.

Almost a third of the still-living members of the 1947-48 Ronne Expedition assembled in a simulated Antarctic setting in an old raftered barn in Wilton, Connecticut in late October. The hosts were Bob and Robbie Dodson, and answering the roll call around a crackling fire in an immense fireplace were the old professor Bob Nichols, Walt Smith, Art Owen, Nelson McClary, Larry Fiske, and Richard Butson, a British renegade from their nearby base on Stonington Island. They evidently had one heck of a good time, one that was described as a "warmly evocative event for all present." They departed with pledges to meet again next year in the spring of 1983 at the Middleburg, Virginia home of Nelson McClary, whose spouse is authoress Jane McIlvaine McClary. Dodson, Nichols and Fiske (a Navy man) made a 90-day geological sledging trip by dog team along the coast of Marguerite Bay and the approaches to George VI Sound back in 1947. Nichols hasn't been the same since then, as this Scott-like man is never happier than when he is miserable on the trail. Smith and Owen constituted half of the four-man joint U.S.-British main southern sledge party that penetrated by dog team into previously unexplored territory on the lower east coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. Butson is a medical doctor and was also a "dogsbody" in the British

11-man Falkland Islands Dependency Survey camp. He played an important part in the mid-winter rescue of Pete Peterson from one of the deepest crevasse falls on record. I didn't realize it, but these two camps in each other's back yards were the only camps occupied in Antarctica during the southern winter of 1947-48.

ANTARCTIC LOVER HAS BOOK SHOP. Jay Platt, a naval architect turned antiquarian, runs a used and rare book shop in Ann Arbor, Michigan, specializing in Antarctic books. Ron Taylor, who found him when he was on one of his frequent book-hunting sojourns, told me about him. I recently bought half a dozen Antarctic books from him, and not only were they in excellent shape, but his prices were reasonable. He caught the Antarctic bug when he read Lansing's *Endurance*, although he says the closest he has come to Antarctica is Texas. I thought many of you might be interested in contacting him about some particular book or perhaps in getting his list of books. His address is West Side Book Shop, 113 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 (313-995-1891). Incidentally, he recently became our 415th member, so Welcome Aboard, Jay.

DRUGS IN ANTARCTICA, SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW? I suppose most of you have heard one way or another about those dogs in New Zealand sniffing out drugs bound for the Antarctic. Robert Reinhold of the New York Times had an article in the November 30th edition, and we will quote from his article rather than from numerous ones published in Christchurch newspapers this summer. For the first time ever, New Zealand custom officials have interdicted, opened, and confiscated quantities of U.S. mail bound for the ice. Sniffer dogs had detected "26 parcels containing marijuana and other illicit drugs" by late November. It's hard to tell just what will happen now, but presumably New Zealand officials want to interview the addressees when they return from the continent, with a view to prosecuting them. And it appears from Reinhold's column that the Americans involved will have no rights under law to refuse to answer questions. Penalties upon conviction will vary depending upon the amounts; importation of large quantities of illegal drugs for distribution can bring up to ten year's imprisonment. Looks like some people could miss being home for Christmas in the 1980's! It looked like a bad summer all around, because about the same time the Navy garage at McMurdo burned down flat one evening. And guess what vehicle was caught inside and totally extinguished? You're right, a fire engine.

TO BE LOVED IS TO BE CHINESE. Dr. Chang-Hua Tsao became the first person from the People's Republic of China (PRC) to work with a USARP at the South Pole. He has been there this summer working with Marty Pomerantz of the Bartol Research Foundation on solar studies. The PRC, according to a 12 October text issued by the official Xinhua Agency, "is planning on sending a scientific expedition to the South Pole (sic) and wishes to establish a permanent base in the Antarctic as soon as possible." Move over, penguins, the Chinese are coming!

ANTARCTIC DEGREES, THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY. I have often wondered how many degrees have come out of the Antarctic, feeling that hundreds of PhDs must have been spawned there in the past quarter century. It has been a true bonanza for many a graduate student, with NSF helping to finance most of them. These degrees should be asterisked, indicating "This degree was obtained through the courtesy of the National Science Foundation which had both the great wisdom and the far-end-of-the-tunnel foresight to sponsor my Antarctic field work and analyses." I thought we'd kick off this college report with a list of those Ohio State University students who have obtained degrees since the inception of the Institute of Polar Studies. Thanks go to Peter Anderson for providing us with this listing.

ANTARCTIC PH.D'S ---- OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

1963. Parker E. Calkin. 'Geomorphology and Glacial Geology of the Victoria Valley System, Southern Victoria Land, Antarctica,' (Goldthwait, advisor, Geology)
1963. Richard L. Cameron, 'Glaciological Studies at Uilkes Station. Budd Coast. Antarctica,' (Goldthwait, advisor, Geology)
1964. William R. Long. 'Stratigraphy of the Ohio Range. Horlick Mountains. Antarctica,' (Goldthwait, advisor, Geology)
1967. Velon H. Hinshaw. 'Geology of the Scott Glacier and Wisconsin Range Areas, Central Transantarctic Mountains, Antarctica,' (Summerson, advisor, Geology)
1968. Caspar Cronk, 'Glaciological Investigations Near the Ice Sheet Margin, Wilkes Station, Antarctica,' (Bull, advisor, Geology)
1968. Peter J. Barrett, 'The Post-Glacial Permian and Triassic Beacon Rocks in the Beardmore Glacier Area, Central Transantarctic Mountains, Antarctica,' (Summerson, advisor, Geology)
1968. John F. Lindsay, 'Stratigraphy and Sedimentation of Lower Beacon Rocks of the Queen Alexandra, Queen Elizabeth, and Holland Ranges, Antarctica, with Emphasis on Paleozoic Glaciation,' (Summerson, advisor, Geology)
1969. Gerald Holdsworth, 'Mode of Flow of Meserve Glacier, Wright Valley, Antarctica,' (Bull, advisor, Geology)
1969. Lois M. Jones. 'The Application of Strontium Isotopes as Natural Tracers: The Origin of the Salts in Lakes and the Soils of Southern Victoria Land, Antarctica,' (Faure, advisor, Geology)
1969. Wayne L. Hamilton, 'Microparticle Deposition on Polar Ice Sheets,' (Bull, advisor, Geology)
1970. R. Eastin. 'Geochronology of the Basement Rocks of the Central Transantarctic Mountains, Antarctica,' (Faure, advisor, Geology)
1971. Robert E. Behling, 'Pedological Development on Moraines of the Meserve Glacier, Antarctica,' (Goldthwait, advisor, Geology)
1971. John D. Gunner, 'Age and Origin of the Nimrod Group and the Granite Harbour Intrusives, Beardmore Glacier Region, Antarctica,' (Faure, advisor, Geology)
1972. Olav Orheim, 'A 200-Year Record of Glacier Mass Balance at Deception Island, Southwest Atlantic Ocean, and its Bearing on Models of Global Climatic Change,' (Bull, advisor, Geology)
1972. Edmund A. Schofield, 'Field and Laboratory Studies on the Ecology and Physiology of Selected Algae, Mosses, and Lichens from Antarctica,' (Rudolph, advisor, Botany)
1973. Paul Mayewski, 'Glacial Geology in the Late Cenozoic History of the Transantarctic Mountains, Antarctica,' (Goldthwait, advisor, Geology)
1975. Ian M. Whillans. 'Mass Balance in Ice Flow Along the Byrd Station Strain Network, Antarctica,' (Bull, advisor, Geology)
1976. Lennie G. Thompson, 'Microparticles, Ice Sheets and Climate,' (Bull, advisor, Geology)
1976. Edmund Stump, 'On the Late Precambrian-Early Paleozoic Metavolcanic and Metasedimentary Rocks of the Queen Maud Mountains, Antarctica, and a Comparison with Rocks of a Similar Age from Southern Africa,' (Corbato, advisor, Geology)
1978. Claire L. Parkenson, 'A Numerical Simulation of the Annual Cycle of Sea Ice in the Arctic and Antarctic,' (Rayner, advisor, Geography)
1979. Ellen Mosley-Thompson, '911 Years of Microparticle Deposition at the South Pole—A Climatic Interpretation,' (Rayner, advisor, Geography)

Peter writes that there are currently two fledglings working on PhDs from Antarctic field work - Julie Plais in glaciology and Chuck Vavra in geology. Julie came to Columbus via the University of New Hampshire. Next issue, the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

LARRY GOULD AND HENRY HARRISON WRITE ABOUT TAFFY DAVIES AND QUIN BLACKBURN. Two of the stalwarts of the first Byrd Antarctic Expedition, 1928-30, died during the past year, and we thought Society members would like to read the words of two of their closest comrades on the expedition, Larry Gould and Henry Harrison. As Larry was second-in-command to the late Admiral we will start off with his comments.

"Within the past weeks my Antarctic world has grown smaller as the number of survivors from the first Byrd Antarctic Expedition, who wintered over in Little America, has shrunk from 42 to 7 with the deaths of Quin Blackburn and Taffy Davies.

Due to the failure of our good ship Eleanor Boiling to get through the pack ice on a second trip from New Zealand to Little America with additional housing 42 men lived in quarters designed for 25. Under such 'contagious' conditions it is not the big things but little ones such as the way a man butters his bread or parts his hair or eats his soup that drives his companions up the wall.

It is a core of men of great strength and integrity who keep things in balance. Quin and Taffy were a part of that core. Quin for his quiet infflappable way and concern for others. Quin built an igloo where he slept to ease the crowding. Nobody was more beloved than Taffy with his bonhomie, his buoyant and infectious good humor and his delightful Welsh accent."

Now let's hear from Henry Harrison, meteorologist and the unofficial official historian/chronicler for BAE I. First, about Quin Blackburn.

"Quin A. Blackburn [age 81] died at Boise, Idaho on February 8, 1981, leaving wife Jessie and sons Tom and Bob. Quin was one of a select group that served under Admiral Richard E. Byrd on both BAE I and BAE II. In August 1928 Quin signed on board the Bark "City of New York" and served as a seaman-before-the mast on the Bark from Hoboken to Little America and back. As a member of the ice party at Little America he was assigned variously as dogteam driver and topographer; also came to be known as something of a recluse when he carved out his own private house out of the ice next to the radio shack. Quin lived alone through the winter. On BAE II Quin distinguished himself by leading a three-man field party on a 1,500 mile geologic and geographic trek by dog sled. This feat drew world-wide attention. On his retirement from the Bureau of Land Management on June 30, 1969 Quin received one of the highest awards issued by the Department of the Interior, the Meritorious Service Award for excellent service rendered during his 35 years as a government employee. In addition, Quin was cited by Interior Secretary Walter Hickel for his expert dealing with mineral reserves.

Blackburn was noted for his literal speech. At Christmas 1973 he wrote, "Mainly because of my adverse physical status, I am currently beset with inertia in respect to the prospect of journeying relatively far from home." Translated, Quin was saying, "I can't travel." Mt. Blackburn at 86°17'S and 147°16'W was discovered by Quin in December 1934."

Henry wrote that Taffy was a prolific letter writer and that a book could be written from the letters which he had received from him over the past 18 years and which he recently returned to his widow Nell with the suggestion that they be passed along to the Center for Polar and Scientific Archives at the National Archives.

We are drawing upon material from Henry as well as an obituary written by Jeff (Maudheim) Hattersley-Smith which appeared in the 14 October 1981 London Times for a resume of Taffy's illustrious career. He was born 77 years ago in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales, and he graduated from the University College of Aberystwyth (lo-

cated on Cardigan Bay in Wales). He then became a lecturer in physics at the University of Saskatchewan, and later on moved to McGill University, which he left to join the first Byrd Antarctic Expedition, being the only British member of the wintering-over party. He worked his way to the Antarctic as a seaman on the Bark CITY OF NEW YORK. (Incidentally, only Eddie Roos in Cocoa Beach and Henry Harrison in Asheville remain as survivors of the crew that sailed out of Hoboken on August 25, 1928.) Taffy's specialized work at Little America was in geomagnetism. His genial personality, keen sense of humor and great physical strength made him not only a valuable camp asset but one of its most popular men. Upon his return from the south, he joined the Carnegie Institute in Washington where he continued his research in geomagnetism, which led to his becoming the Director of the Carnegie Geophysical Observatory in Huancayo, Peru from 1936 to 1939. While with the Carnegie, he took leave in 1932 to lead the Canadian Arctic Expedition to Chesterfield, NWT during the Second Polar Year, 1932-34. World War II saw him return from Peru to Canada where he served in naval intelligence in both South America and in Ottawa and, in a series of senior appointments, played an important part in fostering Arctic research, making many short trips to the Canadian Arctic in the 40's, 50's, and 60's to such places as North Ellesmere, North Greenland, Baffin Island, and Alaska. He was instrumental in the engineering of the highly successful Alouette satellite in 1962 (the only non-US-USSR satellite in orbit at the time). Taffy built and operated the Defence Research Telecommunications Establishment, from which he retired as Director-General in 1969. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and a charter member and past president of the Arctic Circle Club of Ottawa. He also was a member of our Society and presented the Memorial Lecture in 1972. The U.S. Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names named an ice-covered cape at the NE end of Hughes Peninsula, Thurston Island, Cape Davies (71°46'S, 100°23'W). Following a severe and paralyzing stroke in 1980, he fought on for another year before he died on September 23, 1981. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Nell, and their two daughters, Jane and Marian.

JACK DYMAND, CREWMAN ON JACOB RUPPERT, 1933-35, DIES IN NEW ZEALAND. Jack Dymand, who signed on with the JACOB RUPPERT on the second Byrd Antarctic Expedition as a cook and as a dog handler, died in Christchurch on September 22, 1981. Jack, whose first name was actually Percy, was born in Seattle but settled in Dunedin, New Zealand where he got into the restaurant business. He moved on to Christchurch 12 years ago, and probably a lot of you Antarcticans are familiar with the Dymand Steak House on Colombo Street. His American heritage showed up in his being a founding member of the Otago Softball Association in the 1930's, and his adaptability to local games resulted in his becoming Secretary of the New Zealand Darts Council. Now anyone who cooks steaks, handles dogs, plays darts, and loves Softball must have been a good guy. He also was a member of our Society. Jack was seriously injured in an automobile accident five years ago, and his wife Eila wrote that he never really recovered from that accident. He developed cancer of the lung about a year ago, but "thanks to our wonderful doctor, he had a very peaceful death. He had no pain, but developed pneumonia." Our sympathies go out to the family.

HARRY VON ZELL DIES. There must be some people out there besides Larry Gould and Henry Harrison who remember the old radio announcer, Harry Von Zell, who recently passed away. I can remember him on the George Burns and Gracie Allen Show, but I didn't realize that he got his first big break when he anchored the "March of Time" program during which he delivered the commentary of Admiral Byrd's broadcasts from Little America.

RECENT RETIREES. Good luck to Milton Johnson, John "Lefty" Mirabito, and Jim O'Neal who took the plunge and left the Federal bureaucracy.

GERMAN SHIP GOTLUND II ALLES KAPUT. The West German Antarctic Research Expedition, GANOVEX, suffered a crippling blow in mid-December when its chartered ship, GOTLUND II, a 93-meter, 4400-ton, ice-strengthened hull, challenged the sea ice off Yule Bay near Cape Adare and came out a real loser, in fact, they were "overcome." It all began on December 17th when the ice-beset ship started taking on water and began listing. The U.S. flew out a C-130 from McMurdo and two pumps were dropped to aid in the pumping. But it soon appeared that all was going to be in vain, so at 0230 hours on the 18th, the captain ordered the remaining four members aboard to abandon ship. Later that day she went to Davey Jones' locker at approximately 70°21'S, 167°31'E. GOTLUND II had five choppers aboard, and they were able to get all 41 crewmen and scientists to an emergency shore station, from which they were flown to the U.S. camp site for the North Victoria Land summer field program. As this is being typed on December 22nd, some of the men have already been evacuated to McMurdo Sound, whence they will be flown to Christchurch, New Zealand.

AUSTRALIA, UK, AND INDIA THINKING ANTARCTICA. Australia's Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works says the country's three largest Antarctic stations must be rebuilt immediately at a cost of \$58M if Australia is to continue scientific research and maintain an effective presence on the continent. This year's budget contains \$1M to start the work. The report also recommends a fourth station, an airstrip, and a new research/cargo ship. A Sydney newspaper reported in September that "Australian Antarctic scientists believe the nation will lose much of its Antarctic territory to the Russians if it does not spend more than \$100M as soon as possible to reaffirm its claim." Dr. Pat Quilty, Deputy Director of the Antarctic Division, said "it is scientific performance which counts. That's where we're being swamped by the Russians. They're doing good work and a lot of it, and they are getting it all published." Meanwhile the British have announced that they will relocate Halley Bay (the station, that is) in 1983 at a cost of 1M pounds. The station, located on the Brunt Ice Shelf off Coates Land, has been an active year-round station since 1956 and has "sunk" 10 meters into the ice. Another 3M pounds will be spent for new buildings over the next three years. Bids have been solicited for a new polar research ship to cost an estimated 4M pounds. India has leased Norway's M/V POLARSIRKEL for an Antarctic cruise that hopefully will reach the coast.

CLASSIFIED:

Wanted. Mawson's Home of the Blizzard and first edition of Ponting's Great White South. Ned Ostenso, 2871 Audubon Terrace N.W., Washington, DC 20008.

Wanted. U.S. edition of Huntford's Scott & Amundsen, G. P. Putnam's Sons. Constance Swan, 11 Granite St., Rockport, MA 01966. (Her copy was stolen!)

Wanted. Larry Gould's Cold. Guy Guthridge, 6519 Hitt Ave., McLean, VA 22101.

Wanted. Chances for travel and adventure - non-military. Mark Leinmiller, 1383 Shadowood Drive N.E., Marietta, GA 30066. (Mark is the 50th Siple Anniversary Eagle Scout to Antarctica, 1978-79. Experience includes baptism by Denton at Darwin Glacier. Current Yellowjacket at Georgia Tech mastering mechanical engineering with yearn to climb Mt. McKinley.)

Wanted. Just one more chance to go to the Antarctic by former Antarctic Treaty desk officer in the Department of State. Call collect! Robert D. Yoder, RFD 1, Box 533, Springfield, VT 05156.