



# THE ANTARCTIC SOCIETY

905 NORTH JACKSONVILLE STREET  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22205

HONORARY PRESIDENT — AMBASSADOR PAUL C. DANIELS

Vol. 82-83

August

No. 1

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- Mr. Gordon D. Cartwright, 1962-3
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- Dr. Meredith F. Burrill, 1980-82
- Dr. Mort D. Turner, 1982-84

*COME YE! HEAR YE! A PREMIER SPEAKER LAUNCHES OUR 24th YEAR!*

## NATIONALISM AND INTERNATIONALISM IN THE ANTARCTIC

One man's perspective - 1949-82

by

Dr. Charles Swithinbank

Head of the Earth Sciences Division  
British Antarctic Survey Scott Polar  
Research Institute Cambridge, England

on

Tuesday, August 31st, 1982 8 p.m.

National Science Foundation  
18th and G Streets  
Room 540

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- Ambassador Paul C Daniels
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- Count Emilio Pucci
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- Dr. Frank T. Davies, 1972
- Mr. Scott McVay, 1973
- Mr. Joseph O. Fletcher, 1974
- Mr. Herman R. Friis, 1975-
- Dr. Kenneth J. Bertrand, 1976
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- Dr. J. Murray Mitchell, Jr., 1978
- Dr. Laurence McKinley Gould, 1979
- Dr. Charles R. Bentley, 1980
- Dr. Robert L. Nichols, 1981
- Dr. Robert H. Rutford, 1982

*Society Selling Outstanding Antarctic Book - see page 9*

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It's hard to believe, with 90° temperatures and 70% humidity, that the 1982-83 season is upon us, but the calendar shows that our first speaker will appear in a few short weeks! Bergy Bits will be essentially the same this year as in the past four years, although we hope to have more input from members of our Society. We trust that Guy Guthridge, Manager, Polar Information Program, Division of Polar Programs, NSF, will have something to say in each issue about the latest news from the ice. This edition has a timely write-up by our own Pete Barretta on "philatelling around the Falklands in the spring of 1982." Our outgoing president, Pete Burrill, writes of his two-year term. Our new president, Mort Turner, given the option of introducing himself in this column or leaving it to me, took the only wise choice - he wrote his own bio! We deeply appreciated both Charlie Murphy and Bob Rutford making available their talks before our Society last spring for publishing in separate issues of the Newsletters (April '82 and June '82). A most welcome change-of-pace in the Newsletters.

We try to tailor our inputs to cover all sectors of interests expressed by our members. However, this year's Newsletters will stress the historical as we are in the midst of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 1st Polar Year, the 50th anniversary of the 2nd Polar Year, and the 25th anniversary of the IGY. We are also driving towards some sort of a mass gathering of the clan next spring here in Washington, and, hopefully, Bergy Bits will be one of the organs stirring up interest and passing information to interested celebrants.

Bergy Bits is NOT the Voice of the Society. Take nothing in it too seriously. If anyone gets offended, that's the way the cookie crumbles at times.

**PETE BURRILL'S SWAN SONG.** Our outgoing President, Pete Burrill, had a most successful two-year term highlighted, presumably, by a most daring mood, getting married to another member of the Antarctic Society. Both his marriage and his presidency have been highly successful, although somewhat tiring, as much of his time in the past two years has been spent in the company of or acting out the part of a carpenter. Pete and Betty were back for the Mid-Winter picnic, returning from their Maine retreat where Pete re-shingled the family homestead at non-union wages. Betty, Maine, and hard work must agree with Pete, as he looked like a young colt. Pete wrote one last Growler for our last Newsletter, but we didn't have space for it, so with belated apologies, here's Pete's Growler #4.

As another Society year nears its close, our affairs are in excellent shape. The new officers and directors are fully prepared to join those whose terms are continuing. While many have contributed to this happy state of affairs, the principal credit must go to Paul, Ruth, and Mort. In my first Growler, July 1980, I announced those three as the starters. They have done most of the work. In this last one of my Growlers I congratulate them on their performances beyond the call of duty. All my fellow officers and directors have been conscientious, cooperative and wise (most of the time). The Society has pursued its course with a few adaptations to new opportunities and in response to suggestions from members. We face the new year with continued optimism.

**HERE'S MORT.** We are real happy to have Mort Turner sitting in the president's chair. Somehow or other he has hitherto sneaked by being a Society member with-

out serving as an officer or a member of our Board of Directors (his wife Joanne is now serving her second term on our Board!). Nearly everyone knows Mort, as no one, with the exception of Ken Moulton, has been on the job longer in the polar office at NSF than Mort. Unfortunately he will miss our first meeting as he will be participating in WINFLY, the first flight at the end of winter to Antarctica.

Mort D. Turner. Born 1920 in Greeley, Colorado, Mort received a B.S. degree in geological engineering at the University of California, Berkeley and studied metallurgical engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He spent three years in the Army during World War II, primarily operating high-speed movie cameras in rocket development. Mort married Laura Perez y Mendez of Puerto Rico and they had two girls and a boy. When the war was over they returned to California where Mort returned to his alma mater and earned an M.S. in geology. He was immediately hired by the California State Division of Mines and spent six years as an industrial-minerals specialist. Next followed an opportunity to set up a geological survey for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and to become its first State Geologist, a position he held for 5 years. It was an exciting experience to design this government agency, and satisfying to have the governor approve into law so many of his recommendations for Puerto Rican mineral development. His venture as an independent consultant in the West Indies was just starting when he was offered a position with the Office of Antarctic Programs at the National Science Foundation, as an assistant to Dr. T. O. Jones. This world of ice and snow promised new and interesting scientific challenges, and so he began work with the Antarctic and Arctic. While not an OAE, he- has been with the Antarctic Research Program since June 1959, shortly after the end of the IGY. He has been with the Antarctic Program through its evolution to the Office of Polar Programs and then the Division of Polar Programs, except for the years from 1961-1965 when he went to the University of Kansas to study for his doctorate in geology. While there, Laura (his wife) died in an auto accident. After Mort's return to Washington and NSF, he married Joanne C. Dort. With her son, the combined family now had 4 children and has since added 3 grandchildren. Mort continues to enjoy the constantly changing challenges of helping to put together the Arctic and Antarctic research programs at NSF. Keeping up with developments in economic and engineering geology is made more meaningful by the fact that he is a faculty member in the Geology Department at George Washington University and teaches one or more courses each year. He enjoys the contact with the students and finds it a good balance for his administrative work at the Foundation. Other interests include collecting maps, stamps, books on exploration, an abiding interest in science fiction, and occasional investigation into the evidence for early (pre-12,000 years BP) man in the Americas. Mort and Joanne enjoy travel, photography, anthropology, and folklore together. With the children grown and out on their own, these interests are satisfied by traveling to out-of-the way places whenever possible.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR - BILL FOLLOWS!** Yes, this is a new year, and this is the first issue of the Newsletter for the 1982-83 season. Usually we don't kick off the new season until the fall, but last year we got going in September and this year we're opening up with our first ever August meeting. When you catch a guy like Charles Swithinbank on this side of the Atlantic, you better take advantage of it and have a meeting even though it may still be hot and humid. The Society, in as good shape memberwise and financially as it has ever been, is starting off this season with 425 paid-up members; and our treasury is now in order with a small nest egg in a money market fund and our petty cash in a checking account paying

interest and not charging for services. Last year some people didn't recognize our bills as bills, but this year there will be no problem - it will say so right on top! About a third of our members have already paid for 1982-83; they will not get a bill. There is no increase in dues; we're staying at \$7 per year for all local members (within 50 miles of Washington) and \$6 for out-of-town members. Overseas members, exclusive of New Zealand which we recognize as a colony, will be charged \$10 because of the increased cost of overseas mailing. Initiation dues are being dropped, as most new members weren't reading the fine print, and it was too embarrassing trying to collect an extra two dollars. We no longer carry delinquents on our records beyond January, although we make every effort to keep all members active in our Society. Last year we dropped three members of the 1933-35 Byrd Antarctic Expedition, but only after repeated efforts to see if they enjoyed the Newsletters - never heard from any of them. All together, we dropped 15 last year. Our biggest problem is one of zip codes and changes in addresses. The military people are no problem, they always let us know changes in addresses, but I can't say as much for you roaming civilians. All of our stateside mailings are by bulk mail, and they can NOT be forwarded if you move, can NOT be delivered with no zip code, and are NOT returned to the Society. So if you move, PLEASE send your new address to Ruth. Also PLEASE check your zip code to be sure it's correct. Your Society isn't a profit-making outfit on dues; our Newsletters cost slightly over 60 cents an issue (with 7 or 8 published a year); and we have the cost of a bulk mailing permit plus charges for each mailing, refreshments at local meetings, stamps for first-class correspondence, annual donation to Stronghold (where we hold the annual Mid-Winter picnic in June or July), plus guest tickets for our Memorial Lecture dinner. We still plan to operate for several more years without raising dues. Our corporation memberships and our sales program both help our treasury, so support our sales of books and calendars.

**MID-WINTER PICNIC.** About 70 Antarcticans and would-be Antarcticans gathered under the oaks at Stronghold on July 10th for our annual Mid-Winter picnic. When it comes to a party, there are no better party boys than those geologists and mappers out at the USGS in Reston. Charlie Morrison and Mike Metzgar run the best darn bar in town. You can see they've had a lot of experience on both sides of a bar, and their untiring efforts to make our Mid-Winter picnic an unqualified success is greatly appreciated by all attendees. Comus Inn catered again, and they always do an excellent job. A popular innovation this year was an auction which preceded the meal. The day concluded with a showing of the famous Hillary-Tenzing film "The Conquest of Everest."

**TERRA NOVA, A SMASH HIT IN BALTIMORE.** Ted Tally's play, Terra Nova, had a real successful run this past spring at Baltimore's Center Stage where it played from March 19th through April 25th. They did an excellent job of promotion - at a press conference Bill Sladen was introduced as an Antarctic authority, and later a Baltimore paper interviewed Bert Crary. Bill almost became a cast member, going to the play frequently and becoming a close personal friend of members of the cast. Two of the Sunday matinees were followed by "post-game highlights" discussions from the stage. Bert Crary and I shared the platform with a drama professor and the moderator on Easter Sunday afternoon. The highlight of the question and answer period was the last question when some unsuspecting man asked of Bert, "We have just seen a play here on this stage where men found themselves in perilous situations from time to time. You must have been in some perilous situations yourself during some of the many traverses in Antarctica. Could you please tell us about one or two such instances?" Well, Bert mulled that over like he mulls over all

questions, and then said very dryly, "Yes, as a matter of fact, we did experience some real perilous situations- - they happened every time we ran low on beer." What a beautiful way to wrap up that session! The last matinee featured Guy Guthridge of NSF, Jackie Ronne, and Bill Sladen on the platform. Guy played the straight man, speaking first, then Jackie came on strong for Amundsen, and Bill wrapped it up with his unequivocal support of Capt. Scott. I was burning the highway from Maine to Virginia that day, so I missed what everyone said was a real great entertaining show. When it came Bill's turn to talk, he had a bag of goodies at his side, and as soon as Jackie got through, Bill reached into his bag, brought out a Union Jack, waved it at the crowd, and then put it in his lapel. A lot of our members took in the play (we were given a good discount), and they all thought it was most interesting; the only one who didn't like it was Ruth Siple. I think the amazing thing is how Antarcticans can love a play which plays so loosely with facts. Almost like say anything you want, but be sure to spell Scott and Amundsen's names correctly. What surprised me most was that the play was so much Huntsford. It made Teddy Evans a terrible burden to Scott's party long before they reached the South Pole, but Scott's journal shows that he pulled his load up until his last days on Beardmore. Scott's journal also shows that Birdie Bowers was ailing for a considerable period, yet the play has Birdie in relatively good shape. And as for the ending, I doubt if most historians would be as kind to Scott as Ted Tally was in the play. Many of us read the script and wondered how effective the play would actually be, but it came off amazingly well. If it ever plays in your area (it has already played in quite a few cities here, in England, and in New Zealand), you should take it in, particularly if it's a rainy afternoon.

**REORGANIZATION AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES.** I asked Dr. Franklin Burch of The National Archives if he would write a paragraph for Bergy Bits on the current status of what was once its Center for Polar Archives, which subsequently became the Center for Scientific and Polar Archives. He didn't wish to write about recent developments, although he graciously consented to answer questions about what has happened there in recent months. However, Dr. Burch wanted me to be aware that whatever happened to the old Center for Polar Archives had nothing to do with Reagonomics, that certain decisions had been made a long time ago, in fact, when Herman Friis retired. There has been a tightening up of the organization and many of the senior people who have retired have not been replaced. With reorganization at The National Archives, the Center for Scientific and Polar Archives has become the Scientific, Economic and Natural Resources Branch. Dr. Burch is in charge of this Branch, which has 25 people, including Alison Wilson who has been polarized for over 25 years, being a Bert Cray hire back in the Eisenhower administration. And with the purging of "polar" from the title of an individual unit, so has disappeared their ardent desires to actively pursue soliciting polar papers. Dr. Burch didn't say so, but I have the feeling that this probably happened when Gerry Pagano was called from Above. There are 3,000 cubic feet of polar papers in The National Archives, but this is small potatoes in the Scientific, Economic and Natural Resources Branch whose holdings total 130,000 cubic feet. I asked Dr. Burch how safe the polar holdings now resting there were. The answer was that any small holdings might be in jeopardy should a higher priority need for space arise within The National Archives. I sort of have a sickening feeling of insecurity about the polar holdings, but then I'm a worrier. This really points up to me the need for a national polar museum like the Kiwis have in Christchurch and the Soviets have in Leningrad. There is some good news - Dr. Burch has agreed to do all he can to help out in any anniversary celebrations relative to the polar years, and told me that he would be most happy to have old polar films shown during the reunion period in the theater at The National Archives.

**CIRCA ADMIRAL RICHARD E. BYRD.** There was a story in the Christian Science Monitor of April 13, 1982 about a cache of some 43 trunks and boxes of the late Admiral Richard E. Byrd's that were found when a demolition team was knocking down an old warehouse in one of Boston's ugliest suburbs, Somerville. However, the contents were mostly clothing and other odds and ends. There are "more than 50 four-drawer file cabinets bulging with memorabilia....stored at a regional center of The National Archives....in Waltham, Massachusetts," but they are not available at this time for polar historians and scholars to study. The Admiral's famous home (9 Brimmer Street) has been sold to a private individual, and the CSM's article said that the Foundation would use the proceeds of the sale "in part to acquire for public use certain of the Admiral's papers and other memorabilia now in private hands." I was under the impression that nearly all of the Admiral's papers were in the hands of the Byrd family, and that it was just a matter of their consenting to make these valuable papers available to the public. The article quoted James B. Ames, a trustee of the Admiral Richard E. Byrd Foundation, to the effect "if there are other valuable Byrd documents elsewhere (than in Waltham), the trustees would want to acquire those, too, so that all could be presented as a gift to some appropriate public library or government agency." Wouldn't it be just great if such could come about while some of the late Admiral's colleagues were still around to share in the rejoicing! To show you that things go wrong in even the best of families, the Christian Science Monitor published a picture of the late Admiral with the late Dr. Paul Siple, Murray Wiener, and Eddie Goodale taken at Little America in December 1955 with the caption "the Admiral himself at South Pole, 1929." How about that for a major guffaw! Although he flew over the South Pole several times, the late Admiral never lived to actually set foot on the South Pole. - - - We understand from a most impeccable source that a tremendous baby, 8 lbs. 13 oz. was born to Janice and Richard E. Byrd III on July 1, 1982. This early firecracker was named Lucy Bradley Byrd. There must be a very strong family desire to produce very healthy children, as Lucy's cousin Cameron checked in at 9 lbs. 4 1/2 oz. (see Bergy Bits for May 1980). Lucy's sister Alice was the very first great grandchild of the Admiral's. Now it's time for a Richard E. Byrd IV.

**REUNION - LET'S GO FOR IT.** We have heard from over 40 people relative to having a reunion. I was sure hoping for a much larger response. Our Honorary President, Ambassador Daniels votes for a two-day reunion, and that seems to be the preference. Both Dick Black and Bud Waite of BAE II said they would come, the Good Lord willing. Charles Adams and Bob Nichols of the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition are interested. The thespians from Little America V, 1957 (Wild Bill Cromie, Boy Scout Dick Chappell, and Gene Harter) are all anxious to put on another Happy Hour skit. Now the question is whether the rest of are ready for it. Cromie added a special request, "lots of beer - cold beer", showing that his likes haven't changed one iota in 25 years. Vern Anderson, Charlie Bentley, Dick Cameron, Bert Crary, Steve Fazekas, Ed Flowers, John Guerrero, Ned Ostenso, and myself are other IGYers looking forward to a reunion. Dick Goldthwait voted for a "Photographic Smorgasbord" where any participant could "show and tell" 10 to 20 slides. Marion Morris voted for a thorough briefing on Antarctica today. Hugh DeWitt said that he would very much enjoy a comparison of the objectives, equipment and success in achieving the goals of the Polar years and the polar aspects of the IGY. Dave Canham wanted many things, mostly of an audio-visual nature, but he asked specifically for "no pemmican hors d'oeuvres." Roy Shults wants a lecture or two followed by a cocktail party with dinner "with the usual wild speeches." Bert and Mildred Crary sort of cancelled one another out, showing they are a typical husband-wife team. Mildred voted for "slides, films, someone taking oral histories, address exchange, party, program for children." The other half wrote "I would not be particularly interested

either in long, serious professional talks, or endless amateurish slide shows or movies," although he added that "I would relax the rules for the older expeditions and let them talk a little longer." Bert added, "I would like to hear the IGYers give impressions of little-known IGY events - short and informal but by as many as have something special that most of us don't know about. I would like to hear the anecdotes of people like Wexler, Siple, Eklund, Dufek, Ronne, etc. by anyone who has something interesting to tell. These should not be detrimental but again should be short tales not commonly known." Herman Friis had a plethora of ideas; a session on the history of the Office of Polar Programs' contribution to science in the polar regions, international response to the call for the First Polar Year, US's scientific contribution to the First Polar Year, and a history of the first IGY as reflected in the resources in The National Archives. Doc Abbot and Tom Frostman, one an admiral, the other a USARP, want, and rightly so, Navy involvement. Jerry Huffman outlined a three-day program. Louie Quam suggested a symposium on the influence of the Polar Areas on World Climates, especially as recorded in ice sheet drilling. That master driller, B. Lyle Hansen, wants a picnic on one of the days where one can just circulate and visit informally. George Doumani wants no more cluster bombs dropped on Lebanon, and thinks the idea of a reunion is a "good idea." Paul Humphrey wants to do it all in one day, including a dinner with "outstanding speaker (brief)"! Ned Ostenso wants one day devoted to a special symposium of selected speakers summarizing what we know about Antarctic geology, glaciology, biology, meteorology/ climatology, etc., vs. what we knew in 1957, with Larry Gould or Walter Sullivan emceeding it. Bob Nichols had the best thought - "all my Antarctic friends present." I think there is probably enough interest to assure that some sort of a reunion will be held next spring at the time of our Memorial Lecture. I already have verbal assurance from Dr. Burch at. The National Archives they they would show old polar films on one of the days designated, as a reunion day, and we have high hopes that the US Geological Survey will come up with some sort of a polar cartographic historical display. And I think we can count on Iceberg #3 - The Paul A. Siple Chapter of the American Society of Polar Philatelists to come up with an outstanding exhibit of polar philately pertaining to the Polar years. If some of the rest of you meant to write us but didn't, why don't you get off your tail and send in your ideas? We need a show of hands if we're going to convince people that this idea is really worth pursuing. We know there are guys like Hugh Bennett who would rather shoot themselves in the foot than write, but perhaps those guys could get their wife, girl friend, or whatever, to do it.

**THE FALKLAND ISLANDS CRISIS - PHILATELICALLY.** Col. Peter Barretta (USAF Ret), a member of our Board of Directors and a long-standing member of the American Society of Polar Philatelists (ASPP) kindly consented to write a short article on the effects of the war in the Falklands on philatelists.

As a result of the recent Falklands crisis a side effect has been an upsurge in interest among philatelists for stamps and covers from the Falkland Islands. Stamp dealers and philatelic collectors began making the most of the political situation in the Islands. Rumors abounded among philatelists as to what actions the Argentinians would take with the Islands' stamps at Port Stanley or whether they would issue their own stamps. The latest Falklands stamps featuring the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana were declared invalid as one of the first actions of the Argentinian military governor. In addition, speculation started among collectors on the new Falklands stamp that was to be issued by Britain. There was information that the Royal Research Ship BRANSFIELD was carrying, in late March 1982, a few days before the April 2 invasion, the initial mint supplies of stamps and first day covers honoring the 21st birthday of the

Princess- of Wales which were being delivered to the various island stations in the Falklands, South Georgia and the British Antarctic Territory; and that the bulk supply of these stamps were immediately locked in the vaults at the post office in Stanley. Information now states that these stamps were issued on July 1, 1982, as planned, and that new Falkland Islands stamps will be issued with the date 1982 on them.

Through- the overwhelming coordinated efforts of a fellow Antarctic Society member and polar philatelic specialist, Lt. Col. Joe Hogan of Fort Hood, Texas, the names- of military and naval personnel, units, and both naval and civilian vessels forming the Falkland Islands Defence Fleet/Battle Group were researched through a number of sources. Covers to ships and units were sent to the British Fleet Post Office, the firms of the chartered and requisitioned civilian vessels (i.e., luxury liner CANBERRA), Her Majesty's Ships (HMS) and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA). Covers were also sent to reporters of the BBC, ITN, British newspapers, the Argentinian general and postmaster at Puerto Argentine (Port Stanley), and to several Argentinian naval vessels. From mailings to approximately 90 British naval ships and civilian vessels, covers have been returned from 39 ships as of July 17, 1982. The covers have the name or insignia of the ships as cachets (hand rubber stamps); and in some cases are autographed by the Master or Commanding Officer, including the flagship HMS HERMES, an aircraft carrier; and the commanding officer of a frigate forwarded a rather intense and patriotic letter stating the historical background of the Falkland Islands claim problem with Argentina. The letter, in part, states, "They may only be little islands but nobody has the right to simply walk in with a gun and explain that they are now colonized.... I do hope the world will understand our point of view and that of the unfortunate islanders. We do not intend to hand the people there over to gunmen and have a slightly stubborn streak on that point." A naval flight cover from the HMS INVINCIBLE, another carrier, relates the combat air patrol sortie of a Sea Harrier's engagement with an Argentinian Mirage III during which air missiles were fired but no kills were made as the Mirage retreated. The pilot notes that he was trained in the Harrier aircraft by the U.S. Marine Corps while on an exchange tour. A cover was received from the RFA SIR GALAHAD, an assault landing ship, and has an oval hand rubber stamp cachet from its Master dated April 28, 1982. At a beach-head at Fitzroy near Stanley on June 8, 1982, the SIR GALAHAD was sunk with a number of casualties. The HMS FEARLESS, an amphibious assault ship forwarded a cover that was cancelled at Stanley on June 23, 1982, about a week after the Argentinian surrender, probably among the first British postal cancellations at Stanley since the April 2, 1982 invasion. An interesting cover was received by Col. Hogan from the deputy Post-Master of the South Georgia Island, who apologized for the delay in transmission of the cover. It was carried in hand luggage while he was a prisoner of Argentina following the attack on the island on April 3, 1982, and later was repatriated to England. (The island was recaptured by the British on April 25, 1982). The Falkland Islands Dependencies stamp on the cover is cancelled by the signature of the deputy Post-Master. The envelope transmitting the cover is cancelled at Cambridge, England with a special penguin pictorial cancel of the British Antarctic Survey.

The Argentinian covers were obtained from a long-time hobby exchange correspondent in Buenos Aires. The extensive Argentina cover collection has many indications through the years that reflect their claim to the "Islas Malvinas," including map stamps that depict their claim over that part of Argentinian Antarctica that is also claimed by Britain,, From a map stamp issue in 1935 the



theme was endlessly repeated in other map stamps in 1954, 1960, and 1964 claiming not only the Falkland Islands, but also the British Antarctic Territory, the Falkland Islands Dependencies, South Georgia Island, South Shetland Island, South Orkney and the South Sandwich Islands, and often showed the Argentinian flag flying over the islands. Two large colorful souvenir sheets were issued in 1980 to reinforce its claim to the Falklands. As a result of the invasion of the Falklands, a 1700 peso stamp was overprinted "Las Malvinas son Argentinas." Covers were forwarded by my correspondent with printed cachets showing the three island groups, the Falklands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands as the national territory of Argentina. A special pictorial flag cancel also used the same slogan on the overprinted stamp. Argentina recently also has issued a new set of two 5000 peso stamps with one showing the creation of the Argentinian political and military command of the Falklands area starting in 1829 and the map stamp clearly shows the claims of Argentina, and the other stamp features the first commander of the Malvinas area. Because of the heightened interest, stamp dealers are offering the 1700 peso overprint and are taking orders for the new set of the 5000 peso stamps.

**MAWSON'S WILL - A TREMENDOUS BOOK, A GREAT BUY.** We were able to buy a hundred copies of Lennard Bickel's excellent book "Mawson's Will," from a book dealer at a most favorable price, and are offering them to Society members at approximately half the retail price. The books are all in mint condition. Ed Hillary wrote the foreword describing "probably the greatest story of lone survival in Polar exploration." You may think you have read it all in Mawson's "The Home of the Blizzard," but such is not the case. Mawson's account, hitherto the only writing on the epic (Mawson-Ninnis-Mertz) trek, was a "tightly controlled narrative that precluded heroics," written by a most modest man. Bickel, an Australian, did a lot of research uncovering evidence which brings fresher light on Mawson's ordeal on the ice. He found copies of the Swiss Dr. Mertz\* journal in German, and also found a lot of material in Mawson's sledging diary which had never before been printed. It's most unfortunate that today's culture precludes our youngsters having real heroes; if they have a hero, it's likely some punk rock musician strung out on drugs who doesn't have the common sense to get a decent haircut or buy a suit of clothes. Mawson would be hard to beat as a true Antarctic hero, ranking right up there with Shackleton. I have to confess to some prejudice, as I used to work with Sir Hubert Wilkins and was influenced by his great admiration for both Mawson and Shackleton. Mawson was a giant of a man, a rangy six-footer, who weighed about 210 pounds at the age of 30 when he led the Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-13. When he finally staggered back into his main camp at Commonwealth Bay in early February 1913 he was an "emaciated wretch" weighing about a hundred pounds, unrecognizable to his own men who greeted him with "My God, which one are you?" If this book doesn't touch the cockles of your heart, you are plain heartless. It would be a great book for either your own personal library or to give to a loved one or a friend. We are happy to offer this book to Society members at what we feel is an exceptionally good price. *The book will be for sale at Society meetings for \$5.00. If you are ordering by mail, it will be \$6.80. Please make your check payable to ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY, and send us the mailing address.* It's a great book - you'll like it!

**MID-WINTER AIRDROPS.** The mid-winter airdropping of 11 tons of material, including mail and fresh vegetables, went off without any real problems on June 22nd. Forty containers equipped with parachutes were dropped from the Starlifter over McMurdo in 8.5 seconds, surface temperature - minus 80°F! Then on to the Pole, where drops were made on three passes; surface temperature there was minus 112°F, ideal for airdropping! Polesters/Polesterettes reported that "it was a beautiful sight - the C141

backlighted by a brilliant aurora zooming over the dome." Six out of seven drops at the Pole were perfect, but a "few freshies were lost in the seventh - still, an unqualified success." They arrived back in Christchurch at 8:30 PM, some 15 1/2 hours after takeoff. Imagine sitting in a pub later that evening and having some bloke ask you what you did that day - you could answer blandly, "Not much, went for a little flight, refueled in mid-air, decided to fly by McMurdo and the South Pole to see how things were, and then came on home in time for some mutton stew before coming over here for a yard of ale."

**GENTLEMAN JIM PLAYS WELL IN LENINGRAD.** The XVII Meeting of SCAR (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research) met in Leningrad, USSR from 28 June through 11 July. Gentleman Jim Zumberge, President of the University of Southern California, was elected president of this august group, succeeding Professor G. A. Knox of New Zealand. Jim will no doubt find this presidency dealing with fourteen different nations (Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, and the USSR), a cakewalk after dealing with the law enforcement component of the NCAA which has imposed severe penalties on his university for a little harmless hanky-panky by overly zealous alumni who over the years have gotten used to seeing to it that their Trojans are one of the best college football teams that money can buy. I understand that Jim was an unqualified success in Leningrad (as he was in Moscow in 1958), and that he topped it all off by giving part of his acceptance speech in Russian. Is this what they mean by gamesmanship or is it one-upmanship? Quite a contingency represented the United States. Besides Gentleman Jim, there was Charlie Bentley, Bill Benninghoff, Cam Craddock, Colin Bull, Sayed El-Sayed, Al Fowler, Tim Hushen, Uwe Radok, Bob Rutherford, and Fred Williamson. With the exception of old Uwe and Williamson, all are Society members in excellent standing. Space and time and laziness on my part prohibit me from getting together any information as to what went on scientifically in Leningrad, assuming that something scientific must have happened in two weeks, especially with all those wheels there.

**SNOWFLAKES.** Records are made to be broken, and so it was at the South Pole on 23 June when a new all-time min was set for the station - minus 117.4°F (some four degrees lower than its previous min). The world's record min is minus 126.9°F set by the Russians at Vostok many years ago. -- Condolences to Bud and Betty Waite who lost their only son and two granddaughters in a terrible automobile accident near St. Louis in June. -- Condolences also to Brian Mason, meteorite at Smithsonian, who lost his college-age son last spring in a climbing accident out west. -- Apologies for leaving no room for Guy Guthridge, although he supplied facts (among the fiction) used in this Newsletter.

#### **SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS/SYMPOSIA.**

Fourth Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences, Adelaide, Australia, 16-20 August 1982.

Dr. Charles Swithinbank, SPRI, will address the Society, Room 540 - NSF, 8 PM, on August 31st (see cover sheet of Newsletter).

Dr. Philip Kyle, New Mexico Tech, will address the Society, "A Walk Around the Crater of Mt. Erebus," Room 338 - NSF, 8 PM, on September 15th.

Division of Polar Programs Annual USARP Orientation, Marriott Twin Bridges, 14-16 September, 1982.

Krill Biology Symposium, Institute for Marine Biomedical Research, University of North Carolina, Wilmington, North Carolina, 16-18 October 1982.