



THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

905 NORTH JACKSONVILLE STREET

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22205

HONORARY PRESIDENT — AMBASSADOR PAUL C. DANIELS

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No. 2

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Dr. Meredith F. Burrill, 1980-82
Dr. Mort D. Turner, 1982-84

Let's take a trip

1983 ANTARCTIC TREATY OBSERVER MISSION

by

Albert S. Chapman
Polar Affairs Officer
Department of State

on

Wednesday, November 16, 1983 8 PM

National Science Foundation 18th
and G Streets N.W. Room 540

An illustrated lecture on the Antarctic circumnavigation cruise
of the US Coast Guard Cutter POLAR STAR in January-March 1983.
Details page 3. Light refreshments and coffee.

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*The 1984 USARP Antarctic calendar will be sold by the Society, but
only to those who order ahead and prepay. As in the past two years,
the local pickup price will be \$5 per calendar, \$6 per calendar if
mailed. We hope to have the calendars by mid-December. Those who
want a calendar(s) should get their order and check to the Society by
30 November!*

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Officers 1983-1984

President - Mort Turner Treasurer - Ruth Siple
Vice-President - Peter Barretta Secretary - Kendall Moulton

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Donald R. Wiesnet
Mary P. Goodwin

* * * * *

First ever West Coast Meeting! Charlie Bentley, Chairman, National Academy of
Sciences' Polar Research Board, will speak at Stanford University on December 8th.
Be there!

Bergy Bits is an assemblage of unrelated bits of information and trivia which may or may not be of interest to a small segment of the Society. It is NOT the official voice of the Society, which is speechless. Bergy Bits does, however, fill a requirement for printed material to go along with announcements of meetings. Its text may vary from issue to issue, e.g., the next Newsletter will contain a listing of doctoral dissertations obtained from Xerox University Microfilms in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS.

Listed at the bottom of the first page are the officers and Board members, including the newly elected. Mort Turner has another year to serve as President and he will be ably assisted this year by the indomitable Pete Barretta. Pete, a polar aircraft philatelist, is a dedicated Society member who never misses a meeting. Ruth Siple is back as treasurer, and where could we find a more honest person to handle our megabucks? Ken Moulton is moving in as secretary, which is sort of a titular position with no real responsibilities. Ken, an Antarctic veteran dating back decades, should do well in this position. On the Board of Directors for the next three years are Alice Dater, widow of the late Harry Dater, well-known Antarctic historian who served as the backbone of our Society throughout the 1960s; George Doumani, one of our ex-presidents, is Lebanese born who once received the Order of the Cedars from his native government; Jane Ferrigno, a young Antartican at the US Geological Survey who is working on their satellite image atlas of glaciers of the world; and Donald Weisnet, hydrologist and also a remote sensing specialist who discovered a self-fulfilling personal reward for his expertise in remote sensing when he found himself on a topless beach in Copenhagen this past summer while he was desperately trying to serve this country in a military manner as a high ranking Naval reserve officer on a two-week tour of duty at our embassy in Copenhagen. Our newest At-Large Board member will be our west coast archivist, Mary Goodwin of Los Angeles. Mary doesn't yet know she is on the Board; this position is sort of a self-volunteering job because we automatically put those who write us frequently on the Board! I think it is an outstanding group of distinguished people. Great to have them working for us.

GET THOSE MEMBERSHIP DUES IN, PLEASE!

We had a great first-time-around response to our first billing for 1983-84 membership dues, having 75 percent of our total membership (444) in the bank by the end of October. Those who haven't paid their dues will get a second notice with this Newsletter, and we hope this will move the rest to make it 100 percent. Those who don't pay by the end of this calendar year will be dropped from our 1984 mailings. We are playing hardball because we find that those who don't pay up by January usually don't pay later, so why carry them on the rolls, adding to the cost of printing and mailing Newsletters? We are VERY pleased that so many sent in multi-year dues; that surely helps with the bookkeeping and also financial planning. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

R. TUCKER SCULLY GIVES MEMORIAL LECTURE BEFORE LARGE AUDIENCE.

The 1983 Memorial Lecture was scheduled so that it would coincide with the fall meeting of the National Academy of Sciences' Polar Research Board and the US Geological Survey's Polar Symposium in hopes of attracting a large turnout. Then we signed up an expert on the Antarctic Treaty at the State Department, R. Tucker Scully, to speak on the Antarctic

Treaty System which was and is a subject of great interest to all polar people. With the support of the Academy through their Polar Research Board, it was all dressed up with an accompanying cocktail-dinner in the main building of the Academy. There were 133 for dinner, and presumably about 175 attended the lecture. It marked the fifth consecutive Memorial Lecture which has been held in the Main Auditorium of the National Academy of Sciences, all of which have been preceded by a dinner party. In addition, we held a regular cocktail-dinner-speaker program at the Academy last year when Walter Sullivan of the New York Times was our speaker on the polar centennials. The Society is deeply appreciative of the support given by the Polar Research Board, as it is only through them that we can take advantage of such beautiful surroundings. And the price is right, too!

AL CHAPMAN SEES ALL, TELLS ALL. There is no better way to visit multiple Antarctic stations than to be a member of the State Department's inspection team which periodically goes around the continent and drops in on those coastal stations which they can readily reach by helicopter. The inspection team sees more per unit time in Antarctica than any other group. Probably the luckiest member was a military officer who is a munitions expert - imagine being a munitions expert and being asked to go on a beautiful cruise where munitions have been banned by a treaty which has been in effect for over 20 years! I did something similar once - I was a cloud observer at an observatory sitting high on a mountain top which was always in the soup! Al Chapman headed up the corps of observers, and will come before us on November 16th to tell us about his visits to 14 stations, showing us pictures of those stations and some of their ongoing activities. It is most appropriate that Al speaks to us now, as not only was the cruise conducted this year, but his presentation follows our annual Memorial Lecture by R. Tucker Scully on the Antarctic Treaty System. As an appetizer to get people to attend the lecture, we are printing herein some of Al's notes on his cruise so that we all will be ready for his presentation. Come on out and hear Al - it will be our last Washington meeting for this calendar year!

ANTARCTIC OBSERVER MISSION.

Every couple of years or so, the United States Government sends a team of official observers to Antarctica. I was fortunate to lead the most recent U.S. Antarctic observer team. We circumnavigated two-thirds of Antarctica and visited fourteen foreign research stations—about twice as many as usual.

The "inspection," as it is sometimes called, derives from the Antarctic Treaty of 1959. Any of the Consultative Parties of the Treaty can appoint official observers, inform the other Parties, and send them south to look around and report on findings. Although some of the other Consultative Parties have from time to time done this, the United States has been most steadfast in exercising this right. We feel that conducting inspections in Antarctica is important both to us and to the Treaty system as a whole. The observers have access at any time to any place south of 60 degrees south latitude, the outer limit of the Treaty area. They are able to obtain first-hand evidence that all nations active in Antarctica are observing the provisions of the Treaty. Essentially, these provisions prohibit military activities, the explosion of nuclear devices, or the deposition of radioactive waste, and they encourage scientific cooperation on the continent. In addition, observers note whether measures to preserve the antarctic environment, which have been adopted subsequent to activation of the Treaty, are being implemented. Finally, such on-site inspections provide a useful precedent for peacekeeping agreements we may wish to promote elsewhere in the world.

Our observer team was composed of four U.S. Government officials chosen to provide expertise on a range of subjects including antarctic affairs, diplomatic usage, modern weaponry, high-latitude science, and the foreign languages of the stations we were planning to visit. Ronald A. Gaiduk and I were the Foreign Service officers. Ron is a language wizard whose fluent Russian, German, French, and Japanese were of incalculable value. Navy Commander Maria Kazanowska is an oceanographer of considerable polar experience, including service on a previous observer team, who has an expertise in Russian and Polish. Col. John A. Raymond, U.S. Army, was our weapons expert from the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

We flew by LC-130 from Christchurch to McMurdo Station on January 17, 1983. We were met by Dr. Ed Todd of NSF and Capt. Brian Shoemaker of the U.S. Naval Support Force Antarctica. They had arranged a three-day orientation which included a visit to Amundsen-Scott Station at the South Pole, a helicopter tour of the magnificently scenic Dry Valleys on the west side of McMurdo Sound, and briefings at McMurdo Station and New Zealand's Scott Base.

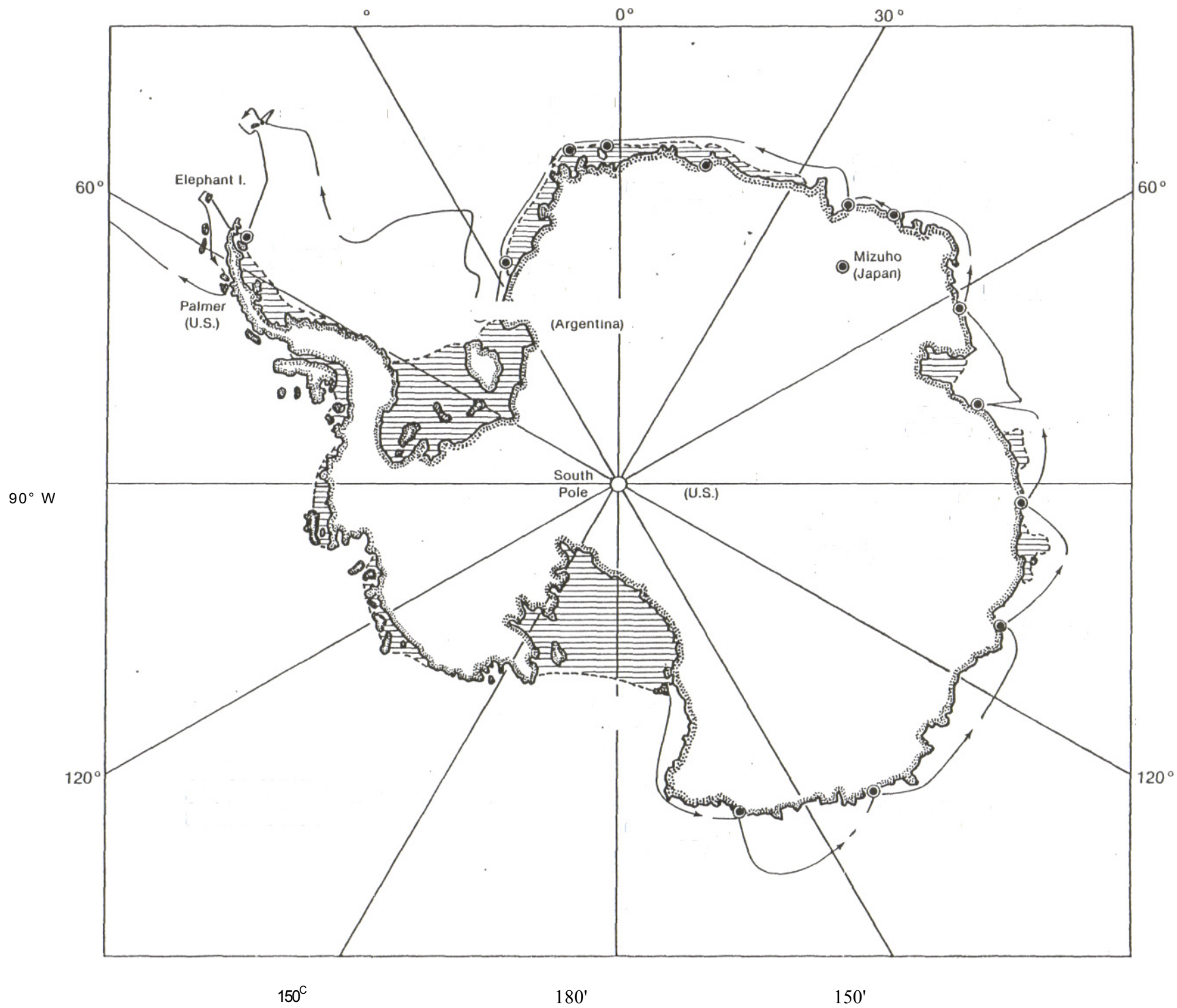
Our Antarctic circumnavigation got under way on January 21 when we boarded the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter POLAR STAR, one of our most powerful icebreakers, which had just completed the annual task of breaking the channel through the pack ice into McMurdo Station for U.S. Navy supply ships. For the remainder of its Antarctic tour, the POLAR STAR-400 feet long and weighing 13,000 tons- was dedicated to putting our observer team within helicopter distance of foreign research stations around the coast of Antarctica. Much of it had not been effectively visited by an observer team since 1967.

The thirteen USARP scientists aboard were restricted largely to work they could accomplish along the cruise track dictated by our mission. However, the circumnavigation westward from McMurdo to Palmer Station did provide an opportunity for them to make observations enroute and to take samples from offshore waters seldom visited by American scientists. I had the pleasure of sharing a cabin with Chief Scientist Ozzie Holm-Hansen of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, from whom I gained many knowledgeable insights into antarctic marine sciences.

Leningradskaya (USSR), January 25-Leningradskaya is a collection of a dozen or so buildings clinging to a crystalline outcrop several kilometers from the coast and completely surrounded by the great continental ice sheet. The Coast Guard pilots put two helicopters down in the only possible place, a sloping area of compacted snow recently scraped by a bulldozer. We later learned the Soviets were preparing for a visit by helicopters from their supply ship.

Our Soviet hosts, who had tumbled out of their quarters upon hearing the noise of our approach, greeted us affably and invited us inside. They were relieved to discover that two of our team could converse easily in Russian and charmed that one of these was an attractive woman, the first ever, they said, to visit the station.

Kazanowska explained that our visit was being made under Article VII of the Antarctic Treaty and that we would like to observe their station activities. She added that we would appreciate an explanation of their equipment and scientific program and a tour of the premises. The Soviet leader, Valeriy Sergeievich Ippolitov, an ice expert, seemed genuinely pleased to have us there and led us through practically every building and room at the station. In the 15-man complement were a physician, a surgeon, a meteorologist, an atmospheric physicist, a satellite engineer, a radio operator, plus support



personnel. They were busy with a variety of scientific observations of which meteorology seemed the most important. Each had his own tastefully decorated room in their dormitory.

At the close of the station tour we were treated to a light meal of various kinds of sardines, herring, olives, Russian rye bread, and home-grown (i.e., antarctic) cucumbers, accompanied by genuine Russian vodka. The inevitable toasts were exchanged, and we presented the commander with a handsome brass plaque for the station. Also, we presented the station personnel with special shoulder patches to commemorate our visit. After a picture-taking session outside, we departed amidst a rousing sendoff.

Dumont d'Urville (France), January 28—Situated on one of a series of rocky offshore islands, Dumont d'Urville shares its site with an Adelie penguin rookery. The odor was not as bad as one might think, and man and bird seemed to live agreeably together. Work had begun on levelling and joining a string of five nearby islands to create an all-year runway. This is intended to provide Dumont d'Urville with more reliable connections with the outside world. Environmentalists the world over are up in arms about the resulting displacement of penguins, and this illustrates the intense competition for the limited ice-free space on the continent.

Casey (Australia), January 31—This was the only station we approached close enough to reach by small boat rather than by helicopter. Like the other two Australian stations which we visited subsequently, Casey is in the midst of a major program of construction which will replace the original facilities with carefully planned new ones. The various types of buildings are of standard design and are color coded, but the layout of the three stations is different and suited to the specific site characteristics of each. The functional specialty of Casey is glaciological surveys using tractor trains which penetrate far into the interior of the continent, even in the dark of winter.

Mirniy (Soviet Union), February 2—Formerly the Soviet Antarctic headquarters, Mirniy still supports a big operation with important logistic functions, particularly with respect to Vostok Station, 1,420 kilometers to the south, which is supplied by sled train and by airplane. New buildings raised on steel struts above rock exposures to supposedly prevent snow drift and eventual burial, have been built at Mirniy. We covered the considerable distance between buildings in a noisy but serviceable tracked vehicle. The station leader, Valery Serdukov, proudly showed us the large gilt key, his symbol of office, which is ceremoniously passed from one leader to the next.

Davis (Australia), February 4—Davis is situated in the Vestfold Hills, one of the largest ice-free areas in Antarctica. It is also adjacent to Prydz Bay, a biologically rich region of offshore Antarctica. Biological studies carried out close offshore and in the many nearby saline lakes are a primary scientific activity at Davis. On the lighter side, we delighted in the opportunity to approach closely and photograph a group of huge, sleepy elephant seals lying on the beach. Gaiduk got close enough to one open-mouthed young male to testify that the great gaping beast had an incredible case of halitosis.

Mawson (Australia), February 7—The buildings of Mawson, Australia's oldest station, are clustered around the head of a small bay. When the new base is complete, all but the most historic old buildings will be removed. Like

many of the stations in Antarctica, Mawson has a strong upper atmospheric physics program, but its cosmic ray laboratory is, so far as I know, unique. Three of the latter's seven meson telescopes are situated at the bottom of a 40-foot pit blasted out of bedrock. Thus they are screened from all but the most energetic particles. Mawson is one of two Antarctic stations (New Zealand's Scott is the other) which retains dog teams for local transportation. The crew at Mawson states in their defense that, in contrast to snowmobiles, the dogs are dependable and require little fuel.

Molodezhnaya (Soviet Union), February 9—This is the McMurdo of the USSR and headquarters of the Soviet effort in Antarctica. Although less advantageously located in some respects, it does have the advantage of a much more open site than McMurdo. The many buildings are widely spread on a series of low, rocky ridges running at right angles to the nearby coast. Dr. Rurik M. Galkin, Chief of the 27th Soviet Antarctic Expedition Wintering Party, was in command at the time. He remembered fondly the winter he had spent a few years previously with the U.S. at the South Pole. We saw as much as we could of this large base in a full day ashore, including a computer center and a scientific rocket assembly and launching complex. Some of our party also went off to inspect a new snow/ice runway nearby on which Soviet IL-18s from Maputo in Africa are able to make wheeled landings during the austral spring and fall.

Showa (Japan), February 10—Dr. Shinji Mae and his wintering party of 35 men all turned out to greet us at Showa. We just missed the FUJI, their supply/research vessel, which had departed two days earlier for their return journey to Japan. The Japanese have a broad scientific program underway at Showa, and at a small year-round outpost for meteorological and glaciological research at Mizuho, 150 miles to the southeast and high up on the polar ice sheet. Several new laboratory buildings packed with the latest electronic gear have been added in recent years. Even in the Antarctic frontier the Japanese retain a unique cultural elegance which was evident in their courtly hospitality.

Novolazarevskaya (Soviet Union), February 13—The 55-mile flight south over the great ice shelf separating the Schirmacher Hills from the open sea stretched the capabilities of our helicopters to their limit. We knew that some East German scientists would be there, but we were surprised to discover that East Germany was operating an adjacent but separate base at Novolazarevskaya. The East Germans have their own quarters and laboratories and also their own scientific programs. The six-man East German team that normally winters over at Novolazarevskaya is, however, dependent upon the Soviets for logistical support, medical care, and one main meal per day. The normal Soviet wintering complement is 37. We noted that this was the only Antarctic station we visited that was making use of propeller-driven generators to capture the wind power of Antarctica. They said that three of these windmills provided enough electricity to heat the Soviet buildings during the winter. Novolazarevskaya, too, has a snow/ice airstrip where large aircraft can land on wheels in case the runway at Molodezhnaya is closed.

SANAE (South Africa), February 15—This was our first visit to a station built on an ice shelf, and we were surprised how little there was to see from the air, just a series of ventilator shafts spaced out over the flat snow surface and a few instrument shelters further removed in several directions. In fact, after we landed, we spent ten minutes or so looking for a place to enter.

Suddenly, several smiling heads popped out of a trap door on top of one of the shafts and we were invited into their snug quarters several flights down. There, a series of interconnected steel tubes shelter insulated quarters and laboratories. Arnold Vermooten, a young M.D., led the friendly group of scientists that greeted us. It was interesting to note that all fifteen young men shared equally the housekeeping duties (cooking, cleaning, and servicing the snow melter). Risk of fire, the nemesis of life in Antarctica, is minimized by an advanced system of warning and control.

Georg von Neumayer (West Germany), February 16—Georg von Neumayer was one of the smallest stations we visited—and one of the newest. With the Filchner Summer Station at the head of the Weddell Sea and the polar research vessel, POLARSTERN, it forms part of a remarkable antarctic research capability. We were impressed with the planning and foresight which had produced such progress in a few short years. Another ice shelf station, it is built in the form of an H. It has an ice-resistant oval outer shell which encloses boxy insulated living and working spaces. Halley Station of Great Britain introduced this concept in Antarctica, and it was further perfected by the South Africans at SANAE. The West Germans have installed state-of-the-art equipment and have emphasized energy-saving measures. Being a year or two younger than SANAE, the structure had accumulated less snow and was closer to the surface.

Halley (Great Britain), February 18—I have no intent to belittle British scientific activity at Halley, for there was ample evidence that serious work in meteorology and upper atmospheric physics was being done. However, what impressed our team was the effort which was being put into the new base to replace the old one, now near the end of its useful life. Halley, too, is an ice shelf station, far from any windswept rock to keep it above snow accumulation. Bearded "Big Al" Smith, designer and project superintendent of the new base, gave us an insightful tour of the large, H-shaped wooden structure, a further evolution of the insulated box-in-tube concept. Construction began on January 2, 1983, and it was anticipated that it would be sufficiently completed by February 27 to house a winter work force of twelve men, who would be able to finish the interior for an early 1984 occupancy. Such success, of course, was owing to highly organized planning and preparation, as well as exceptional good fortune with the weather.

General Belgrano II (Argentina), February 19—The site is rather awesome, a small, rounded outcrop of shattered, red rock terminated by a cliff on one side and by glacial icefalls on two others. Only inland can snowmobiles make their way out onto the polar icecap. We had not anticipated visiting any Spanish-speaking stations in Antarctica, so we borrowed Seaman Silva from the POLAR STAR crew to interpret for us. A high point of the visit was discovery of a beautiful chapel formed by one arm of the storage cave carved into a neighboring glacier. It is occupied only by a statue of the Virgin bathed in ethereal blue light.

Vicecomodoro Marambio (Argentina), March 3—Before visiting Marambio our ship made a detour around the South Orkney Islands for the benefit of our scientific colleagues. Thus, by the time we got back southwest to the vicinity of the Antarctic Peninsula, winter was on its way. We found Marambio to be an airstrip laid out on the flat top of Seymour Island with associated hangar and numerous red station buildings. A cold wind was blowing snow across the flat mountaintop, but the Argentine Air Force warmed us up with cups of coffee.

Marambio is the logistics center for extensive scientific work in the vicinity during the austral summer.

Miscellaneous Significant Events. Second Indian Antarctic Expedition, February 13—It was the Soviets at Novolazarevskaya who informed us that the Indians had established a base camp near the Soviet transshipment "port" for Novolazarevskaya. We found the small ship POLAR CIRCLE, leased by the Indians to transport their expedition, nosed into shorefast ice in a bay where an easy gradient led up onto the coastal ice shelf. Dr. R.K. Raina, several members of his group, and some of the ship's officers came aboard the POLAR STAR for a chat, and the seriousness of India's effort to establish a program of antarctic research was manifest.

POLARSTERN—Near the southern shore of the Weddell Sea, the German polar research vessel POLARSTERN rendezvoused with the POLAR STAR in mid-February in a thick ice floe, and personnel of the two ships exchanged visits across the ice. Our scientists were envious of their German colleagues, for the POLARSTERN represents the latest in the design and outfitting of a vessel for a wide variety of research in ice-covered waters. Although the POLAR STAR can crunch much thicker ice, little space or thought had evidently been given in its designing to optimize conditions for research. In all fairness, it must be admitted that from the outset the POLAR STAR and its -sister ship, the POLAR SEA, were primarily built for general rough duty in ice-infested waters.

Palmer (USA), March 6—Our last port of call was at Palmer Station. There we had an opportunity to compare a small American station with emphasis on biological research with the fourteen foreign stations we had visited over the preceding weeks. I am happy to say that Palmer stands up well in the comparison, both in equipment to carry out research, but more important, in the will to facilitate as far as possible each scientist's reasonable requirements for support. I am also happy to say that our tour convinced us that all of the foreign research stations we-visited exhibit compliance with the Antarctic Treaty. The "spirit of Antarctica" is a wonderful and salutatory cooperative product which should be carefully nurtured as an example of what is possible in this troubled world.

NEW ZEALAND ANTARCTIC SOCIETY CELEBRATES GOLDEN. Our brethren in Kiwiland, the New Zealand Antarctic Society, celebrated their 50th anniversary from 29 October through 5 November. Australia's most distinguished present-day Antarctic explorer and scientist, Dr. Phillip Law, was the principal speaker at the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of the New Zealand Antarctic Society in Christchurch. He gave an illustrated lecture in the Ngaio Marsh Theatre on November 2, the date on which the society was established in 1933, and also spoke at the official dinner on November 5. In addition to Dr. Law's visit, the Canterbury branch, which is now 28 years old, has organized an exhibition of Antarctic art since 1901. The exhibition includes the work of British, New Zealand, Australian, and American artists. One of the exhibitors is Mrs. Nel Law, who accompanied her husband on an expedition south in the summer of 1960-61. She spent three months in Antarctica and on Macquarie Island, and was the first British woman to visit the Antarctic, and the first of her sex to visit Adelie Land, the French sector of Antarctica. A painting by the Australian painter, Sidney Nolan, who is considered to be the most imaginative and eminent of all the artists who have been to Antarctica since Cook's day is also in the exhibition. (above copied in part from The Christchurch Press, October 11, 1983)

They celebrated with class by publishing "Looking South," an illustrated history of its activities since 1933, and by issuing a limited first-day cover which carries a

special New Zealand Post Office date stamp cancelled at Scott Base. One can order the book by sending NZ\$7.50 to Book Project, New Zealand Antarctic Society, P.O. Box 2110, Wellington, New Zealand. The first-day covers bearing an attractive color illustration were selling for NZ\$3.00. This price, incidentally, also included the six current Ross Dependency stamps issued on January 20, 1983. Whether any are still available, I do not know.

The New Zealand Antarctic Society has a long and distinguished history of doing things right, and I prize my near-complete collection of their "Antarctic" news bulletin (first issue was March 1956) which is just superb. I say near-complete as I'm missing one issue (Vol. 2, No. 6, June 1960) which somehow got lost and is not available through their Society. Anyone worth their salt as an Antarcticist should be a member of the New Zealand Antarctic Society - it is only NZ\$13.00, and you get four copies of "Antarctic" per year. It's the only Society organ I know which covers the Antarctic activities of all of the nations on the great white continent. Congratulations! May their future be as bright as their past!

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY POLAR RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM, 12-14 OCTOBER 1983. The U.S. Geological Survey held a three-day polar symposium at the National Academy of Sciences in mid-October in which members of the Survey spoke on their polar accomplishments. It was all in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the First International Polar Year, the 50th anniversary of the Second International Polar Year, and the 25th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year. There were fifty papers on the program, almost equally divided between the Arctic and the Antarctic, and in my humble opinion it was a mighty fine symposium. Frank Press, President of the National Academy of Sciences, a scientist who was intimately involved in the US Antarctic program during the IGY, set the tone for the meeting when he spoke in his introductory comments of the importance of the polar regions to this country. He was like Knute Rockne giving a half-time pep talk, although I think all in attendance had already gotten the message that polar research was well worth the inconveniences and hardships involved in working in a less-than-favorable environment. The US Geological Survey has certainly been a scientific power in the polar regions, and listening to John Reed speak on "The Geological Survey in Polar Perspective" I felt that he must have been sitting at the bargaining table when we bought Alaska from the Russians. If he wasn't there, he must have arrived on the next mule train, as he certainly has a wealth of knowledge on the earliest USGS involvement in Alaska. One of the things which impressed me most was the appearance of the geologists who now actually own and wear suits. This was unheard of in my college days, when only the foresters were more despicable in their dress. Geologists of today almost look like normal human beings. This is sort of scary when you get right down and think about it; you wonder if they are becoming desk-bound rather than men/women living by their geology hammers. Be that as it may, it was with pride that I listened to many of our Society members (Rupe Southard, Peter Rowley, John Behrendt, Richie Williams, Jane Ferrigno, Art Ford, Pete Bermel, Charlie Morrison, Tony Meunier, and Tom Henderson) presenting updates on their Antarctic activities. There were about 200 who signed the attendance sheet, but probably about 250 attended the symposium. The USGS is to be congratulated for pulling it off with class and distinction.

50th REUNION OF BYRD ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION II, 1933-35. October 22, 1983 was the 50th anniversary of the departure of the JACOB RUPPERT from Newport News for the Antarctic, and twelve members of the wintering-over party, three widows of wintering-over members, and two crewmen from a sister ship, the BEAR OF OAKLAND, gathered in Washington to commemorate the occasion. There was also an assorted number of wives who accompanied their husbands to town, as well as a son and a daughter or two. All in all, it was a very sober affair, especially in light of the tales of the expedition where one would

have thought that most of the men lived by the bottle, if not with a bottle — one has to remember that this expedition preceded the advent of women into Antarctica. But the thing which impressed me most about these fellows was that they looked so great. I thought they would come staggering into town with canes and crutches like troops from the Corregidor, but instead I saw a group of healthy looking, virile men whose ages did not befit their youthful bodies. Consequently, one can only assume that all the booze they drank at Little America II must have had a healthy body preservative in it which has stood them well in their three-quarter century lives.

They came from everywhere, but it pleases me personally that so many of them came from New England. Let's start there, as Stevenson Corey, the Admiral's supply man, the instigator (I believe) of the reunion, hails from Winchester, Massachusetts. He's as handsome as a short man can be, was dressed impeccably, spoke very fluently, has a quick smile, and a new Cadillac each year. John Dyer, an MIT man on the expedition, is Mr. Music in New Hampshire (makes harpsichords and is president of the New Hampshire Music Festival), is well over six feet, ramrod straight, and has a youthful-truthful looking face befitting a choir boy. John lives in Center Sandwich, New Hampshire. Ed Moody, one of the dog team drivers, hails from Rochester, New Hampshire, and still follows the dogs (as well as being a real artisan in making dog sleds) Ed has a well manicured, handlebar mustache, and must be one of the world's greatest handlers of women as well as of dogs. He is the only man I know who invited his redheaded New Zealand girl friend to come and live with him and his wife for a month, and lived to tell the story. Now that's some man! However, his wife, who made darn sure she came to Washington with Ed, said it was better that the Kiwi stay under the same roof where she could watch the two of them than to have her stay elsewhere. A very smart woman! Charles J.V. Murphy, well known to our Society members through his writings and speeches, was down from Grafton, Vermont. I love to hear old Charlie talk about Admiral Byrd, as he knew him very well, before, during, and after the expedition, and I like to think that all the good things Charlie says about the late Admiral are true. Charlie has eye problems (an unsuccessful implant on one eye and an errant contact in the other), but he is still writing his book on Forrestal, taking care of two dogs, and weakly fighting off old maids between sips of 100 proof bourbon. Another New Englander, a very quiet, soft-spoken man, is Walter Lewisohn, former cinematographer on the expedition, who lives in Dorset, Vermont. Someone said that Walter and Ike Schlossbach were both Jewish — I wonder if they were the first Jews to winter over in Antarctica? Walter showed his silent film shot on the expedition. I had never seen it before; it's an excellent film. I was amazed at how well the vehicles ran over the snow. Although he lives in Florida now, I'm including old Bud Waite as a New Englander, because one day his ashes will be strewn in North Brookfield, Massachusetts. Bud looks great, talks great, but he says it's all a facade, that they have cut him all up and he is on borrowed time. I try to reassure Bud, telling him that only the good die young, that he is destined for a much longer life in payment for all of the sins he has committed down through the years. More on Bud later. Olin Stancliff was there from Erie, Pennsylvania. He's in great shape, has an unbelievable crop of hair on top, and spent the reunion period listening to others talk, never saying a word. However, when it came his turn to go before the mike to say a few words to the folks, he came on full throttle, and, to me, was the hit of the whole evening. This quiet man is actually a barrel of laughs waiting to be opened. He just needs a mike and a captive audience to turn him on! Another man from the east coast was our very own Dick Black of Woodbridge, Virginia. Dick was the Washington action man for the reunion, and everything had his and Aviza's artistic touches from the laying of the wreath at the Byrd Monument near the entrance to Arlington Cemetery to corsages for the ladies to the fantastic spread at the sumptuous quarters of the Society of the Cincinnati, the Anderson House. Dick was upstaged by Aviza who came all decked out in a floor-length white gown covered with penguins,

prints of penguins, that is. Whenever one or more Antarcticans gather in the presence of Dick, it's time for the Poet Laureate of the Antarctic to recite his four Antarctic poems, and these were well received by the audience, many of whom asked for copies. From the midwest came Alton Lindsay, a retired zoology professor at Purdue University who still lives in West Lafayette, Indiana. He is a very distinguished looking man - one would never take him for a university professor! He came resplendent in a three-piece suit, his wife Elizabeth wore a very attractive red dress, and they looked like they belonged to one another. Alton and the late Paul Siple were fast friends and budding scientists at Allegheny College, whose careers continued with their selection to the second Byrd Antarctic Expedition. The other five attendees came from west of the Mississippi, which is not to be held against them. Two were from Arizona - Erwin Bramhall, a physicist on the expedition, who now lives in Sun City, and William McCormick, an aviator, who lives in Scottsdale. Bramhall looks like a physicist, one who has been eating quite well; he talks slowly and softly befitting a man of distinction. McCormick is a friendly, outgoing six-footer, and appears to be a man of many words. Out there in California in Canyon City lives Joe Hill, mechanic. Joe is a big fellow, around six feet, silver crowned, and good looking. The two members on the BEAR OF OAKLAND were Gordon Fountain of Oakland, California, who creeps into Bergy Bits from time to time, and Russell Robinson, a white-goateed, garrulous gentleman from Tucson, Arizona. The three widows were our own Ruth Siple, whose statistics will not be published, plus Jane Wade and Elizabeth Junes-Taylor. Jane is a cross between the effervescent Harriet Eklund and the ultra-conservative Ruth Siple, tilting a little bit more towards Harriet than towards Ruth.

The morning of the reunion was beautiful, a delightful fall day, and they all gathered at the monument for Admiral Byrd on the Avenue of the Heroes approaching Arlington Cemetery. Supposedly the figure on top of the monument is that of Byrd, but it could be anyone - it certainly doesn't look anything like him. A funny thing happened as they were posing for official photographs that were being taken. A medium-sized bird landed squarely on top of the bare head of Byrd, and sat there for several moments. The Byrd family did not officially participate in the reunion, although certain members of the family had been invited. Senator Harry F. Byrd did a nice thing for Bud Waite. The late Admiral had had a special photograph taken of himself for his mother, and Senator Byrd had this photograph blown up, mounted with a nice border, with an inscription of appreciation below signed by the Senator, two nephews, and a niece, and attractively framed. Bud, as most of you know, is the only living member of the rescue party which went out to Advance Base in the middle of the winter and brought the Admiral back from his ordeal. I didn't think anything could break up old Bud, but he was visibly moved and almost (but not quite) speechless upon receiving it from the Master of Ceremonies after dinner, Steve Corey. I was happy for Bud, as he and I date back to 1935 or 1936 when I heard him lecture on the Antarctic in a byway of America, Thomaston, Maine.

I think the less said about the article in the Washington Post about the reunion the better. They sent a "child" to cover the event, one who was fresh out of Yale (pardon to Ambassador Daniels and Walter Sullivan) and hadn't done her homework. But then again, that newspaper has never really been a friend of Antarctica in recent years. Bring back Christine Russell!

RONNE ANTARCTIC RESEARCH EXPEDITION REUNION, 10-11 SEPTEMBER 1983. The following eyewitness reports on the Ronne Expedition reunion were furnished - with a few exceptions - by Jackie Ronne and Bob Dodson, with editorializing by Bergy Bits who accepts all responsibility for inaccuracies therein. Members of the 1947-48 expedition gathered for a two-day celebration of their 36th anniversary, meeting one day at the home of Nelson and Jane McClary in Middleburg, Virginia, and the follow-

ing day at the home of Harry and Jennie Darlington in Marshall, Virginia. When you go to Middleburg and to Marshall, you're not only going to some beautiful country, you're in the midst of upper-crust Virginia aristocracy, about as far removed as one can possibly get from Stonington Island in Marguerite Bay. To refresh our memories, there were twenty-three members on the Ronne Expedition - three (Finn Ronne, Bill Latady, and Andrew Thompson) have died; three (George DiGiorgio, Lawrence Kelsey, and James Robertson) have sort of disappeared; four (Ike Schlossbach, Bob Nichols, Sig Gutenko, and Jim Lassiter) are physically ailing; four (Harry and Jennie Darlington - Jennie's mother was ill in Maine, Charles Hassage, and H.C. Peterson) could not attend, and nine showed up, plus two from the nearby British Base who were on Stonington Island at the same time. Long distance travelers included Brig. General Charles Adams (USAF Ret) and Captain Donald McLean (MC, USN Ret) from California; and Walter Smith and Ernest Wood from Florida; from the northeast came Art Owen, Captain Larry Fiske (USN Ret), and Bob Dodson; Jackie Ronne of Bethesda, Maryland and Nelson McClary were Washington area attendees. The British were Dr. Richard Butson from Canada and Kevin Walton from England. And there was one more Stonington Island inhabitant, Dick Black, who was commander of East Base on the U.S. Antarctic Service Expedition, 1939-41. And, indirectly, I guess one should include Cynthia Darlington, as Cynthia was conceived in Antarctica and, but for the might of the icebreakers BURTON ISLAND and EDISTO, would have been the first born-on-the-ice Antarctic. There have been quite a few children conceived on the ice in recent years, but what makes Cynthia unique is that both of her parents were married and married to one another. A bit old-fashioned, to be sure, but highly commendable... and truly acceptable in Marshall, Virginia. People who read every Antarctic book which they can get their hands on will recognize the names of Ronne, Walton, and Darlington as authors of three different books on Stonington Island, 1947-48. They have often been referred to as the Antarctic trilogy, and old-timers will find it hard to believe that a Ronne, a Walton, and a Darlington ever got together in peaceful harmony and had a great time together. I think all parties are to be congratulated for showing so much tact, tolerance, and hatchet burying, and I hope that other Antarticans will learn from it and follow suit. This wasn't the expedition's first reunion, as they met a couple of years ago in Connecticut; it won't be their last, as they are already planning their next one in Florida.

Jane and Nelson McClary treated the crowd to a grand banquet on the 10th, and Cynthia Darlington hosted a superb luncheon on the following day. Bob Dodson gave a summarization of the Ronne Expedition, which was followed by Dick Black reciting his four erudite poems describing the indescribable - i.e., the magnificent natural beauties of the earth's most pristine continent. Kevin Walton and Dick Butson both gave talks. There were cocktails, toasts, photographs, and good conversation throughout both days. A walk down nostalgia lane was relived the second day when Jackie showed the official Ronne Expedition movie film.

The following is presented without endorsement (as we haven't seen it), but the Walton family has published "a collection of fascinating and remarkable photographs which span fifty years of exploration and research in the Antarctic." It has 95 black and whites, and 90 colored shots in its 168 pages. It's a square hardback book, approximately 9" x 9". It's entitled "Portrait of Antarctica." The price is \$18 and can be obtained by sending a check for that amount to The Knell Press, 154 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, CT 06897.

One of the Ronneites put the following note on his Society form when he sent in his dues for this year: "Just returned from a reunion of R.A.R.E. and had myself a good time. I was surprised to see that everyone but myself had become old, fat, and ugly; but I enjoyed seeing them anyway." Priceless! Jackie Ronne wrote, "Thomas Wolfe was right - 'You can't go home again' - but it wasn't because we didn't try."

SNOW BALLS. There's-always good news and bad news. One bit of good news is that *Nolan Aughenbach* assumed a Deanship at the University of Alaska in mid-September. Way to go, Augie! He was at Ellsworth in 1957 . . . And for real bad news, *Jim Shear* died at age 64. Jim, a geographer, a bon vivant from daybreak to midnight, was Station Scientific Leader at Hallett in 1957 . . . Only *Big Bert Crary* and *George Toney* survive from the six U.S. station leaders at IGY stations, as *Carl Eklund*, *Paul Siple*, *Finn Ronne*, and now *Jim Shear* have gone on to meet their maker above . . . *Hugh Odishaw*, MR. IGY himself, has had a rough summer, and hopefully is making a strong comeback after chemotherapy for lung and liver cancer . . . *Peg Gould*, the better half of the team of *Larry* and *Peg Gould*, hasn't been up to her usual self of late, because she is suffering from a crushed veterbra since July. *Larry* has been forced into some of the domestic chores, and his cooking could just speed up *Peg's* recovery . . . *Mark Leinmiller*, the 50th anniversary Eagle Scout who had a short course in polar labor conducted by *George Denton* at the *Darwin Glacier*, is now in the chips, having accepted a job with *Frito-Lay* in Kentucky . . . Did you know that the wife of *Tom Poulter*, the scientific leader on the second *Byrd Antarctic Expedition*, and their three small boys were stowaways on the *JACOB RUPPERT* when she sailed for the Antarctic out of Norfolk? They never appeared on deck until after the pilot boat disappeared. How about that? Now if you knew that one, here is one I bet you didn't know. There was a young black Boy Scout who was a stowaway on one of *Byrd's* ships on the 1928-30 expedition. I came across this in reading some of *Paul Siple's* papers in the National Archives. He was found on board ship several days after departing New York City. Paul wrote that the Scout wanted to be the first black to go to Antarctica, but asked Paul not to expose him as a Boy Scout for fear of disciplinary actions. Paul honored his request, keeping his membership a secret, but the lad got into some kind of trouble and was put off the ship in the Canal Zone..... *Charles Passel*, the late *Paul Siple's* collaborator on the windchill experiments on the U.S. Antarctic Service Expedition, showed up in town (from Abilene, Texas) for the Memorial Lecture. He was regaling his table with how great seal meat became, after the meat was run through the washing machine ringers to get the blood out of it, when one of his tablemates excused herself to go to the ladies' room. I don't know whether she really had to go, or, because as a lover of whales, she was afraid that *Charlie's* next story might have to do with whale meat! Remember that young kid from Emmaus, Pennsylvania who joined the Society last year and wrote us, "I have always considered an Antarctic igloo as my dream house and have loved penguins since I was a young chick." Later he wrote, "I think the culture of penguins is misunderstood by myself and others. I wish to help them have more of an impact on society." This year he wrote, "I have really enjoyed the Newsletter. It has been my major source of Antarctic nutrition for my mind." *Jonathan Roland* is something else! One of the really nice guys in this Society, or any Society for that matter, is that ex-Crimson football star, *Chester Pierce*, who is on the faculty of the Harvard University Medical School. He's a very busy man, but you know, he took time out last year to write that kid. *Chester* is All American in my book . . . *Vostok* came up with a new absolute minimum temperature for the world when their thermometer recorded a -89.6°C (-129.2°F) on July 21st of this year. I think we could beat them if we wanted to reopen Plateau Station and keep it in operation with the "proper" kind of met observers. However, I doubt if the Russians would let any other outside record low stand very long in the books. Remember 1957, whenever the South Pole came up with a low temperature, the Russians subsequently came forth with a lower one! How about *Frank Twohy*, Assistant Curator of Birds at Sea World in San Diego, for Penguin Father of the Year? Loved ABC's segment on Frank and KAO on October 6th. KAO must be a pure delight! Californians, mark your calendar for Society lecture by *Charlie Bentley* at Ternan Auditorium at Stanford on 8 December at 8 PM, preceded by dinner in the Faculty Club. Details, including directions, in next Newsletter!