



THE ANTARCTIC SOCIETY

905 NORTH JACKSONVILLE STREET
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22205

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Vol. 88-89 November No. 2

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A MOST TIMELY PRESENTATION BY PROMINENT INVESTIGATOR

Securing Environmental Protection in Antarctica

by

Dr. Bruce S. Manheim, Jr.
Attorney and Scientist
Environmental Defense Fund
Washington, D.C.

on

Monday evening, 28 November 1988

8 PM

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

Room 543

Light refreshments - coffee and cookies

A lively evening is in store for attendees, as our eminently qualified speaker has been an outspoken critic of some U.S. activities in Antarctica (August 1988 report, *On Thin Ice, The Failure of the National Science Foundation to Protect Antarctica*, published by the Environmental Defense Fund). Dr. Manheim¹ s presentation on the 28th will cover three topics of great interest to all Antarcticans: Commercial Exploitation Activities

Focus on Environmental Impacts from Human Activities
Threat of Ozone Depletion and of Global Climate Change

Dr. Manheim is a member of the Antarctic Section of the Department of State's Advisory Committee on Oceans and International Environmental Scientific Affairs. For the past five years he has served as the only non-governmental representative on the U.S. delegation to the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. He also served as the only non-governmental representative on the U.S. delegation to the first meeting of the Conservation of Antarctic Seals in September 1988.

!Rescue the Nerve Center! Please buy Antarctic calendars (see page 2)

G R O W L E R S

We are back on the same old street corner, although somewhat reluctantly, as we are still fighting the battle of putting up a house in Maine, and moaning and groaning about an aching knee which still refuses to let me drive. These Newsletters will appear more irregularly, as we have to get that house up while I am still alive, but there will be something out for each meeting. This one follows close upon the last one, as we moved Dr. Bruce Manheim up to late November in order to attract a larger audience. There will be no December meeting, and, in all likelihood, none until late January.

Where the last Newsletter ran four extra pages, where we are hard put for time, where my place in the Blue Ridge Mountains was just broken into, and where departure for Columbus is only a couple of days away, this will be a real quickie. BE PATIENT. RENEW MEMBERSHIPS. RETURN FORMS. STAY LOOSE.

CALENDARS. Each year we get carried away with our own enthusiasm for Antarctic calendars, and order a few more based on last year's sales, not taking into consideration that we always end up pleading that you buy more. This year looks real critical, as some big spenders of the past are going conservative. We can attest to the beauty of the New Zealand Antarctic calendars as they are very nice. As we go to press we have sold about 120 out of our stock of 250. We are hoping to unload a bunch at Columbus and at our November Washington meeting. The Navy/USARP calendars are still an unknown to us. We have not heard word one from Max Hamilton since we sent him a check for "as many as it covers". We have heard that he is back in New Zealand after an overseas trip, and that the calendars are out on the streets in Christchurch. Selling calendars is our only fund raiser, although we feel guilty calling the sale of the New Zealand calendar a fund raiser - all we do on that one is break even. However, if we don't sell out, then we're conducting a deficit fund raiser. Ruth is mailing out the orders for just New Zealand calendars. If you order both calendars, she is holding off for awhile mailing the New Zealand ones, hoping that the USARP ones will arrive soon and she can send them out in one parcel. This used to be sort of a combined Siple/Dalrymple effort, but with me building in Maine, the whole burden has fallen on Ruth's slim shoulders. Please don't bug her. Be patient. And if you haven't ordered your calendars yet, PLEASE help us out - buy NOW. (New Zealand Antarctic calendars - \$8.50 each - NAVY/USARP \$7.00 each)

COLUMBUS MEETING. This Newsletter is being sent out prior to the Columbus meeting, because with Dr. Manheim's presentation being advanced to November, we have to get it out in a hurry. There is both good news and bad news about Columbus. The bad news is that we thought there would be more attendees from the 1933-35 Byrd Antarctic Expedition; the good news is that there will be good representation from the Byrd family, and a good cross-section of people from all of Byrd's expeditions. One surprise was hearing that Norman Vaughan, of the 1928-30 Byrd Antarctic Expedition, will be there, along with his bride (who, incidentally, is moving from Atlanta to Alaska). As we go to press, it appears that Al Lindsey, Bill McCormick, Joe Hill, and Ervin Bramhall from BAE II will be there, along with Murray Wiener and Charlie Passel from the U.S. Antarctic Service Expedition. There will even be a crew member from the famous old BEAR OF OAKLAND, Gordon Fountain. Needless to say Ruth Siple will be there, and we hope Jackie Ronne will represent Finn's clan.

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING. We are hoping that all of you will make an extra special effort to attend this meeting which we anticipate will be of widespread interest. Down through the years the Society has tried to present as many speakers as possible on policies in Antarctica. We have had Jim Barnes, Bob Hofman, Lee Kimball, Lisle Rose, R. Tucker Scully, Charles Swithinbank, Ed Todd, and Peter Wilkniss in the 1980's, but all of them were pretty well-known to Antarcticans in Washington. Dr. Manheim is known through his works, but it seems that people at NSF do not know him personally, so the evening could be a "shoot out" at the old corral. It will be one of the very few meetings we have ever had where someone has not shown a slide of the ubiquitous penguin, Gondwana, or a Here. And, don't come expecting slides of the McMurdo dump, as there will be none of them, either.

It should be a scholarly, serious presentation by a cum laude biology graduate of Pomona College (which sends to Antarctica this austral summer, Julie Hagelin, the 1988-89 Antarctic Girl Scout). Dr. Manheim's other academic stopovers were at Claremont Graduate School (M.A. in ecology), Vermont Law School (M.S.L. in environmental law), and Georgetown University Law Center (J.D.). How did Vermont creep in there among those other prestigious schools?

WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND REPORT. Although the issuance of the Environmental Defense Fund's *On Thin Ice, The Failure of the National Science Foundation to Protect Antarctica* got nationwide publicity last August, we are going to reprint what the Washington Post ran on it in its 18 August 1988 issue. The purpose of including it in the Newsletter is to refresh your memory about the report, and to fire you all up to attend our next meeting.

National Science Foundation bases in Antarctica are polluting the pristine polar environment in violation of U.S. laws and international agreements, according to the Environmental Defense Fund.

"The environmental practices of the NSF—the federal agency responsible for U.S. scientific research in Antarctica—would not be permitted anywhere in the United States," the group said in a report issued Tuesday.

The findings by the organization, which frequently sues polluters in this country, include disposal of untreated sewage in Antarctic waters, open burning and ocean dumping of other wastes and lack of emission controls on diesel power generators.

The report said McMurdo Sound, adjacent to the largest U.S. installation, is more polluted than virtually any U.S. waterway and that highly toxic polychlorinated biphenyls and heavy metals are being found in the tissues of penguins and seals.

"It is incredible that these practices are observed by the U.S. government in the most pristine environment in the world," said Bruce Manheim, the report's author and an EOF attorney and scientist. "Rather than addressing environmental threats in Antarctica, NSF has ignored them."

Jack Talmadge, head of NSF's polar coordination and information section, said that many of the report's findings are true, but he said the scientific agency is taking steps to improve its environmental practices at its four bases.

The report said the United States is not the only polluter among the 18 nations with bases in Antarctica. It noted, however, that Australia and Japan remove wastes from the continent, and that Poland and New Zealand treat sewage and control incinerator emissions.

The report said that if the United States did a better environmental job in

Antarctica, it would be in a much stronger position to press for more comprehensive pollution control by less-responsible nations."

EDF said the NSF operations, which include '1,000 people at McMurdo during the Antarctic summer months, violate U.S. laws regulating ocean dumping and land disposal of waste materials.

The landfill at McMurdo does not comply with the international Code of Conduct on Waste Disposal adopted in 1975, according to the report, which said NSF officials told a Senate panel last year that it was "in full compliance" with the code.

"We comply with most of the code except that provision," Talmadge said. "As far as we know, we are in compliance" with U.S. laws, he said.

The report said that the NSF, despite a 1978 directive from Congress, has failed to assess the environmental impacts of its activities, including dynamite blasting and construction near Antarctic wildlife colonies.

"In 1980 ... NSF promised to issue pollution control regulations and to mitigate environmental impacts, but neither of these actions has ever been taken," the report said.

Talmadge said the scientific agency, which gets \$125 million a year for its Antarctic activities, is in the process of adopting an environmental protection plan and may ask Congress for cleanup money.

Talmadge said that this year NSF shipped out of Antarctica 160 tons of scrap metal and more than 500 drums of waste oil. He said these materials are no longer dumped into Antarctic waters.

He said the agency is reviewing a recommendation by an internal safety panel that it stop using hazardous materials to ignite wastes in open-air burning pits. He said raw sewage is dumped into Antarctic waters because officials believe it is less harmful than the chemicals that would be used to treat it.

"Nobody here wants to rape Antarctica," Talmadge said. "We want to preserve it.

ADMIRAL BYRD'S SON SUCCUMBS MOST INGLORIOUSLY. As members of the late Admiral Richard E. Byrd's family gathered in Washington on 14 September to celebrate the first day issuance of a commemorative stamp honoring Byrd, it was obvious that his only son was not in attendance. People in attendance did not think too much of his absence, as stories about young Dick's life seemed to indicate that he was finding being son of a legend a heavy burden. But the family knew that he was supposed to have been at the National Geographic Society for the ceremonies, as he had been put on the Washington-bound train in Boston the previous night, 13 September. Subsequently a missing person report was filed with the Boston police, but nothing turned up. Finally, on October 8th, the police in Baltimore identified the body of a man found by a custodian in an old mill-district warehouse on October 3rd as that of the Admiral's son.

As we go to press, there remains a near vacuum of information on what happened to Byrd from the time he was put on the train in Boston by his son Leverett until his body was discovered. It is known that he apparently never occupied his bed on the overnight sleeper to Washington, as the bed was not used. His luggage has not been found; neither has his billfold. The clothes he was wearing when he died were not his own, being green workman's clothes. His travel clothes were missing. But he was seen on 27 September by the custodian who later was to discover his body, as on that date the custodian shooed away Byrd and another man from the warehouse. Burt W. Gayleard, the on-site manager for Time Realty, owner of the Hampden

property at 1760 Union Avenue where young Dick was found, was quoted in the Baltimore Sun as saying that Byrd asked, 'Somebody take me to Baltimore, I want to go to Baltimore.' He was trying to sleep when I found him. He didn't have any teeth and he spoke like a vagrant, but he pronounced 'Baltimore' correctly, not like someone who lived here. You know what I mean?" A detective reported that when Byrd was first seen with another person, "they had booze with them in a paper bag." Byrd was finally identified by a Boston Transit Authority ID card which had been pinned to his undershorts.

What a terrible ending for anyone, let alone someone who was born of aristocracy, went to prestigious Milton Academy and graduated from august Harvard, married a Saltonstall (which in Boston is almost as good as marrying a Cabot or a Lodge), fathered four sons, and was The Great Protector of his illustrious father. The elitist New York Times sort of put it all into perspective in the first sentence of Byrd's obituary (9 October 1988) when they wrote, "Richard E. Byrd, Jr., a man who lived his life in the shadow of his father, the admiral and Arctic explorer, was found dead Monday in the darkness of an abandoned warehouse in Baltimore, his emaciated body clad in dirt-blackened clothes, and one scuffed shoe, the police said."

Byrd's marriage ended in divorce, and there were rumblings that he was not close to many members of his family, although, supposedly, he called one or more of his sons every day. He lived alone in a Boston apartment.

His lifelong burden was being the son of the Admiral, and a large part of his life was devoted to furthering his father's accomplishments. Leverett said of his father, "He had all of my grandfather's papers, all of the manuscripts." However, when The Ohio State University took over possession of the Byrd papers, it soon became evident that the detailed journals which the Admiral was known to have kept were missing. Polar archivists around the world are now wondering if they were destroyed, or hidden some place away from investigative historians like Roland Huntford who could make Jesus look like Satan. Young Byrd could have been clever like a fox and destroyed them. Only time will tell.

Presumably young Byrd has found peace and happiness in the family grave in Arlington Cemetery, where he was laid to rest in a very private ceremony on 14 October, attended by his two sisters, four sons, three daughters-in-law, grandchildren, Senator Harry Byrd, Jr. and two of his brothers. The minister, an Episcopal priest, said that the one positive thing which remained consistent throughout his lifetime was his love affair with the internal combustion engine. He was known to have owned and cherished over a dozen old cars. If young Byrd had had his own druthers, he would have probably preferred being the son of Barney Oldfield rather than of the Admiral of the Poles. We all should probably be more careful of those who sired us. Those of you who are still making children, take heed of this.

NOTHING IS SACRED, EVERYTHING HAS ITS PRICE. Money can buy everything except happiness and good health, so if you wanted Byrd memorabilia all you had to do was show up at the Colonial Country Club in Lynnfield, Massachusetts — that's Carl Yastremski country — with your wallet on 23 October and you could have picked up some authentic Byrd items. It seems that Massachusetts' law requires that any and all items not specifically bequested in a will have to be converted to cash before the estate can be settled. Byrd had the reputation as a very generous man, and according to Henry Harrison, BAE I meteorologist, gave each member of the wintering-over party a souvenir of his flight over the South Pole. Henry got his wrist watch. So, presumably, Byrd may have given away the most historic items in his own lifetime, and the auction may not have been too great.

According to the 9 October 1988 Boston Globe, the Admiral's medals are to be auctioned off by Sotheby's in London on 10 November. The collection comprises his

Medal of Honor, along with more than a hundred other medals. The article said, "The medals, along with related items, such as scientific instruments and uniforms used by Adm. Byrd will be sold separately in about 80 lots. The collection, which is expected to bring about \$90,000, is being sold by order of the estate of the admiral's widow, Marie A. Byrd." Peter Anderson estimates that the items in the Sotheby's auction will bring somewhere between \$200,000 and \$250,000.

WATER-FILLED HOLES IN ANTARCTIC ICE ABOUND WITH LIFE. (Washington Post, 10 October 1988) Marine biologists have discovered that the vast sheets of sea ice surrounding Antarctica are filled with chambers and channels that are teeming with plant and animal life. The water-filled holes constitute a habitat with its own ecosystem that had never before been recognized.

The discovery, just announced by the National Science Foundation, was made last summer, in what is the height of winter in the southern hemisphere, during an expedition in which 47 researchers collaborated aboard an NSF-sponsored research ship, POLAR DUKE. The ship explored the ice roughly between the tip of South America and the Antarctic mainland.

At its maximum, the ice surrounding Antarctica covers an area of about 11 million square miles, roughly three times that of the United States. Its thickness varies from three to six feet. Every summer about 80 percent of the area melts, but is replaced each winter.

Cornelius Sullivan, an expedition coleader who is director of marine biological research at the University of Southern California, said divers found the ice was shot through with cavities ranging in size from microscopic to several inches across. Some were enclosed by ice but others were linked by channels, including passages to the open ocean.

The holes appear to have been created when microscopic cells of algae became trapped in the freezing water. Being dark-colored, they absorbed sunlight and heat, melting a tiny cavity around them. As the algae reproduced by cell division, the hole enlarged. Despite the near-freezing water temperature, the algae, specialized over millions of years of evolution, carry out photosynthesis at nearly normal rates.

Sullivan said biologists also found other life forms thriving, such as diatoms, bacteria and protozoans—including algae-eating amoebas.

If several holes melt together and open a channel to the sea, they are quickly colonized by larval forms of krill, a small, shrimplike crustacean. Krill graze on the algae, scraping them from the solid surfaces of the ice. Fish with a natural form of antifreeze in their blood also live in the icy habitat.

When the ice melts each spring, the young krill are released from the safety of their icy nursery to live in the open ocean where baleen whales, seals and penguins feed heavily on them.

CRREL-DPP, A GOOD MARRIAGE. It has always amazed us that there didn't seem to be a closer relationship between the Division of Polar Programs at NSF and the Corp; of Engineer's Cold Regions Research Engineering Laboratory (CRREL). Scientists like Chet Langway, Tony Gow, Steve Ackley, and a few others at CRREL have made a good living out of working in Antarctica, but it appeared to outsiders like myself that DPP wasn't really maximizing the polar expertise that exists at Hanover. However, we were mistaken, as CRREL does supply technical support to DPP in several areas, with a dozen projects identified for the 1988-89 season. Granted some are so old that they predate Scott and Amundsen - drifting snow; another predates the IGY -

the proposed runway at Marble Point; but some are very visionary - such as solar and wind energy at the South Pole. It's good to see old Malcolm Mellor involved, as he knows a lot for a Brit. Also good to see Steve Den Hartog going back to the ice, as he has been cooped up in his laboratory for far too many years. Wayne Tobiasson has spent a lot of time in Antarctica. In fact, he spends a lot of time everywhere except at home. Fred Crory and Sherwood Reed are other CRRELites going to the ice this summer.

The identified projects where CRREL will supposedly help out are 1) solar and wind energy at the South Pole, 2) runway at Marble Point, 3) runway on Ross Ice Shelf, 4) location of blue ice runways, 5) survey of blue ice runways, 6) engineering survey of Palmer, 7) wastewater pits at South Pole and Williams Field, 8) waste management at Palmer, 9) surface vehicles (Caterpillar Challenger 65 and 1.5 ton ACV [air-cushioned vehicle]), 10) deformation of South Pole Dome and its base ring, 11) new concept designs for South Pole and Williams Field, and 12) snow drifting at the South Pole.

The one which excites us the most is the proposal for developing a runway at Marble Point. It seems to this uninformed that McMurdo should have originally been built across the Sound, and that it is inevitable that eventually there must be an all-seasonal air strip on Marble Point. They are going to look into 1) permafrost conditions, 2) sources of rock fill and gravel, 3) ripping and quarrying operations, 4) cut and fill options, 5) site drainage, and 6) location of parking apron and other facilities. Construction plans and schedules will be made for a phased construction program. The first phase would include the construction of a limited length, gravel-surface runway. This limited effort would extend over a two-to-three year period, presuming only four months of work can be done each summer. The second phase would include lengthening of the runway and the construction of other auxiliary facilities. The third and final phase would concentrate on the paving of the runway, taxiway and parking apron, with a low-temperature asphalt. A report covering all three phases will be furnished NSF by next June.

Photovoltaic systems are going to be reviewed, and their performance characteristics compiled relative to possible usage at the South Pole. Wind generators will be reviewed, with particular emphasis on vertical axis and other turbines suitable for a cold climate. The economics of conventional energy-generation at the South Pole will be considered, together with a study of use patterns and energy losses. This study should be of particular interest to Ron Thoreson of the National Parks Service, as after his days with Holmes and Narver McMurdo, one of his duty stations with the National Parks Service was at one of their sites where they had an extensive photovoltaic system.

The South Pole concept design studies are interesting in several aspects. First, the station must remain the Crown Jewel of U.S. Antarctic stations; second, it has to maintain its profile as one of the most unique scientific laboratories in the world. Where else do you have a one-day, one-night year with near perfect weather, with no camp intruders for three-fourths of the year? Nowhere! It's going to be hard to find a better design than the current geodesic dome. Right now they are planning on the current station being useful through the mid-1990's. One of the concepts mentioned as a possibility is of several well-insulated, two-story steel-frame buildings elevated above a platform of compacted snow, which would be raised by a jacking mechanism or by being moved with tracked transporters. As one who lived for several winter months in one of those buildings (Dye II, Greenland), I hope that this suggestion meets an untimely early death before too much money is wasted. It's a lousy way to live. People become elevated moles, never going outside.

YOU, THE READERS, SPEAK. As we put this one together, we have about 150 forms

back. We haven't catalogued them yet, but it looks like less than ten percent are unhappy with the format. The biggest complaint is that we are too personal, not enough science. Our answer to that is, if you want science, get it from scientific journals. We feel people make the news, and that Antarcticans are real characters, or else they would be back home in Peoria taking care of crabgrass in their front yard, and working an eight-to-five job at Caterpillar Bill *Westermeyer* says it's "too long and too chatty, and who cares about such things as dedication ceremonies at Chinook Kennels? .. far, far too much emphasis on obituaries." Answer: don't knock huskies, as the Japanese found out when they left dogs over winter in the Antarctic, bringing down the wrath of the whole country upon their necks. Real Antarcticans love dogs and ships! As for obits, we can't help it if people die. Our Society includes members from all expeditions - BAE I to date - and in keeping with our policy that people make Antarctica, their deaths are noteworthy Alan *Cockrell* writes that the Newsletter "reads like a Moose Lodge newsletter." I really cannot answer that one, as I'm not a Moose Lodger, nor have I seen one of their newsletters Leonard *Yarbrough* recommended that we "tone down the male chauvinism - my daughters and wife read it too." Leonard is number three in our lifetime to hit our male chauvinism, joining John Behrendt and Anne Cope. Really there is no hope for me, Leonard; you just can't change the spots on a leopard. Probably you should read your copy, then burn it The best one from our stand point is a product of the pen of old *Ron McGregor*, one-time Naval commander in Antarctica, one-time big wig at the Office of Naval Research, and currently gainfully employed polar privateer in the consulting game. We won't quote all, but he did write "there are times when I hate it, times when I love it, but always it is newsy, interesting and the greatest ... You are acknowledging the greatness of the past, the efforts of the present, and the dreams of the future." I don't mind if people hate it, just as long as they read it! If we are really paying homage to the past, present, and future, then we are achieving our personal aims. We have strived to get inputs from current Antarctic investigators, as we do want more on today's Antarctic world. That is our number one goal, to make it more responsive to the present. Those of you who are present-day Antarcticans, please send us material. . . . We'll leave the last word to Admiral *Kelly Welch* who wrote, "All of us need to hear from an iconoclastic curmudgeon, especially with regard to Antarctica."

SNOWFLAKES. Ill times have beset the Antarctic Hostess with the Mostest, *Harriet Eklund*, beloved widow of our founding president. She was never at a party she didn't love, and now, bless her heart, she suffered some nerve damage while on the operating table having a bone transplant. However, even though she is down, she is not out, and remains her indomitable, fun-loving self Another one of our favorites, *Teddy Daniels*, widow of our first Honorary President (Ambassador Paul C. Daniels), also has some health problems which they have not exactly diagnosed, and she told Ruth she won't be able to return to her Connecticut home anymore, and will have to live out her life in Cajun country A real nice person is *Anna Minevich*, who formerly was translator at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in Leningrad. She has taken an early retirement, although plans on translating English books of interest into Russian. We wish her well, and will miss her, although we will still send her Newsletters just to confuse her English! Happy Birthday to *Howard Mason*, BAE I, who was 87 on October 29th. He's the only person I know who went north with Sir Hubert Wilkins and south with Admiral Byrd Our prayers are with the young woman scientist from NCAR, *Sherry Stevens*, who had a tragic automobile accident in Tasmania, when vacationing after giving a presentation at the recent SCAR meeting in Hobart. She was evacuated to California in a MAC (Military Airlift Command) medical plane. She was in a coma for some time, but is apparently going to make it OK. . . . Real great news is a decision by the *National Science Board* at their most recent meeting to go ahead and ask OMB for additional funds to help clean up the Antarctic environment and advance safety technology!!! Happy Thanksgiving to all!