



This is the last, we trust, hit-and-run Newsletter, as, hopefully, The House will be completed by the holidays. We dash down from Maine, type out some wild words, and then rush right back the same week. This trip is no exception, although we hope not so many errors sneaked through as they did in our last Newsletter. For the newcomers, this so-called Newsletter is the voice of only one member, not the Voice of the Society. We aim for some degree of authenticity, but we don't let it get in the way of a good story. Please send us items for future newsletters, and, if you move, please send us your new address right away. Bulk mail such as ours is not forwarded. Enjoy this turkey!

**MEMBERSHIP AND NEW DUES.** Our Society keeps growing, and we now total some 650-odd members. We seem to gain about 45 new members each year in spite of an attrition rate of about 5%. The good news about our increases is that more and more are coming from the ranks of people on the ice. There was a time when we had only a scattering of members from Antarctic support personnel, but things have changed.

As indicated in our last Newsletter, we were anxious to get your feelings relative to raising dues. A dozen concurred, no one opposed, so we are raising them a very modest amount to cover increases in administrative costs. At least one of us has high hopes of going computerized and of reducing some bookkeeping on memberships and dues, but changes do not come easily sometimes. Our new streamlined dues eliminate the differential between local and out-of-town, and provide free rides for members of the ice parties of the first and second Byrd Antarctic Expeditions, as well as the U.S. Antarctic Service Expedition. People who are in some sort of physical trouble, like old Bob Nichols and Alice Dater, have been put on our complimentary membership list. Our new dues are \$10 for individual members, \$12 if you come in as husband/wife, and \$15 if you live outside the U.S. or in Canada.

People keep asking if their dues are paid up. If you DO NOT get a bill from us, you are paid up. No one slips through on us - there are no free lunches. We appreciate members renewing for multiple years, as that cuts our work load in the Nerve Center. We entered this coming year with money in the till from 55% of our members. Great!

**CALENDARS.** Last year we sold 250 New Zealand Antarctic calendars and 200 USARP Antarctic calendars, and we sweated out getting rid of them, but we did, thanks to your fine support. This year we ordered 300 New Zealand Antarctic calendars, and held off on the USARP Antarctic calendars until we could see one. Ruth was not impressed at all when the sample of the USARP one finally came, but she asked Ken Moulton to come over to the Nerve Center to give her a second opinion. After that both John Splettstoesser and I saw the calendar. The unanimous feeling was that we shouldn't buy any USARP ones this year as the pictures weren't so hot - no pun intended - and some of the verbage wasn't so great either. We regret disappointing those of you who always buy USARP calendars, but on the other hand we didn't want to sell what we felt was an inferior calendar.

In the meantime, we do have a good supply of the 1990 New Zealand Antarctic calendars. As we go to press, we have sold about 150, so have another 150 waiting to be ordered. One nice feature of the New Zealand calendars is that they allow the environment to sell itself, and anyone who likes beauty can enjoy them. They are also clean-cut, with dates uncluttered with extraneous information, such as when

Lower Slobodia acceded to the Treaty. If you want to help us out and buy some more for your Christmas mailings, we would appreciate your business. Our price is a good one, practically what we pay for them. Ruth feels pressured by the calendar business - preparing them for mailing and taking them to the post office. If she had her way, she would close up our Ship's Store. Buy her out so she can get on with Christmas!

**HERMAN FRIIS, POLAR ARCHIVIST, VICTIM OF PARKINSON'S** (obit by Walt Seelig). It is with sorrow that we announce the passing of Herman R. Friis who died on 23 September 1989 at the age of 83. Herman, warm and friendly, will be remembered by Antarcticans, mainly in the final segment of his career, as the Director of the Center for Polar Archives at The National Archives. He assumed the position in 1967 and held it until his retirement in 1975, when he was presented an Exceptional Service Award by the Archives. In that same year he gave the Antarctic Society Memorial Lecture. Friis Hills in the Dry Valley region of Antarctica were named in his honor.

His interests in the polar regions, which led him to become a specialist in Antarctica was an outgrowth of his studies at the University of California where he earned his degrees in geography; B.A. at UCLA and M.A. at the University of California at Berkeley. He then held teaching and research fellowships at the University of Wisconsin, followed by a year as an Assistant Professor at the University of Southern Illinois.

His work at The National Archives began in 1938, when he came to Washington as Assistant Chief, Division of Maps. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942 and served in the China-Burma-Indian theater, earning the Bronze Medal. He went in as a lieutenant, was discharged in 1946 as a major. Among the many papers and slides that he presented to The National Archives upon his retirement, there is a vivid account of those years when he served with the Office of Strategic Services in China. Returning to the Map Division of The National Archives in 1946, he also lectured in the Department of Geography at Catholic University from 1947 to 1952, and was a guest lecturer at American University. In 1962 he became Chief Archivist in the Technical Records Division, and then Director, Center for Polar Archives in 1967. He visited Antarctica twice: as a guest of Naval Support Force, Antarctica, November-December 1960, and as an exchange scientist with the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition II, 1969-70. On the return trip the Japanese icebreaker was beset, and all hands were put onto reduced rations until the vessel finally broke (Friis) free.

Herman was the author of a number of papers which dealt mainly with historical geography and exploration, mapping, and surveying. After retirement, he continued to research and write on these subjects. Herman was a member of the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names. He was a member of a number of societies: Association of American Geographers, American Polar Society, American Society of Surveying and Mapping, Society of American Archivists, the Explorers Club, and the Cosmos Club. Herman leaves three children - Cynthia Friis, Patricia Radley, and Eileen Zarefoss; two grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

(Ed. note. Herman was blessed when he was Director of the Center for Polar Archives by having two loyal subordinates, the late Gerry Pagano, and Alison Wilson, working for him. Gerry was directly responsible for a lot of the leg work in getting polar acquisitions from OAEs into the Center. Although the Center is no longer in existence, Alison remains the sole polar contact at the Archives. However, she is contemplating retirement in a few years, which will extinguish the polar torch which Herman lit at The National Archives.)

**FIRST CO OF VX-6 DIES.** Gordon Ebbe, first commanding officer of VX-6 during Deep Freeze I in 1955, died at age 73 in a nursing center in Colorado Springs on 2 August 1989. Gordon was in the Navy from 1938 until 1966, and retired as a commander. He flew extensively in the Arctic, particularly in the Point Barrow area, and was a

logical choice to be the first head of the Antarctic Development Squadron during Deep Freeze. According to Moe Morris, VX-6 pilot in the early 60's, Gordon "was the most experienced cold weather aviator" we had when Deep Freeze came along.

Gordon was born smack in the middle of Wisconsin, in a berg named Marshfield. He got his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at the University of North Dakota, and was accepted into Navy flight training, receiving his commission in 1938. He served in the Pacific in the war that ended all wars, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross with gold star, and the Air Medal. In 1950, Gordon was married to Tony Snyder in the Naval Hospital Chapel in Oakland.

Gordon maintained a strong interest in both the Navy and the Antarctic while retired in Colorado Springs. He was very active in the Navy League and a frequent lecturer on the early days of Deep Freeze. He was a very accomplished photographer, and had an excellent Antarctic slide collection. He also was a clipper, clipping everything on Antarctica that he came across, so Tony has a huge Antarctic scrapbook. She does not know exactly where it should repose, but wherever it ends up, it will make a valuable archival addition. Moe wrote he was "a picture of health before he had his stroke and then the big one, .... was certainly a proud supporter of anything Antarctic." Gordon is survived by his widow, a son Thomas, and a daughter Kristin, plus three grandchildren.

**THE DECIMATION OF MEN OF EARLY DEEP FREEZE AND THE IGY.** You know, there are still some hale and hearty survivors of BAE I (Larry Gould, Henry Harrison, Howard Mason and Norman Vaughan), and quite a few from BAE II (Clay Bailey, Dick Black, Ervin Bramhall, Steve Corey, Joe Hill, Al Lindsey, Whirlybird McCormick, Ed Moody, Olin Stancliff, and a few others), but those in power positions in early Deep Freeze and the IGY have succumbed very, very early. In the preceding section we read of Gordon Ebbe's recent death. The Navy men of note in those days, Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Admiral George Dufek, and Admiral David Tyree all checked out many years ago. Ed MacDonald, the old icebreaker captain, joined them last year, as did John Mirabito, head Naval meteorologist at McMurdo. Dave Canham, senior Navy man at McMurdo the year they built the station, succumbed several years ago. A young ensign on Canham's staff, Jack Tuck, who was Naval leader at the South Pole during its first year, is also gone. Then there was the wearer of two hats, Finn Ronne, who died about eight years ago.

However, it wasn't just the Navy men who have bit the dust. The Antarctic Chief Scientist for the IGY, Harry Wexler, died in his early 50's; Hugh Odishaw, who wintered over in Washington, went about five years ago; the senior scientist on the ice during the IGY, Bert Crary passed away two years ago. The first scientific leader of a U.S. IGY Antarctic station to go was Willis Tressler, followed shortly thereafter by our Society patron saint, Carl Eklund. Then in 1968, the builder of the South Pole, Paul Siple, died. Another IGY station scientific leader to go early was Jim Shear. Who would have thought that easy-going Jim would die young, as he never worked hard, never worried about anything. The only station scientific leader from 1957 who is still alive is George Toney. Has he survived because he got out of polar operations and into law? It looks thataway.

It seems that the guys who lived through it all are those who experienced it from behind their stateside desks, serving on various USNC-IGY panels. It's not that those like Alan Shapley, Dick Goldthwait, Bill Field, Line Washburn, and Frank Press, are so darn young, as they aren't, but it seems to me that the Antarctic has taken a deeper toll of those who had weighty responsibilities during early Deep Freeze and the IGY. The only Ancient and Honorable who seems to be hale and hearty is Larry Gould, but he is sort of a Super Human anyway.

That brings up the paralyzing thought - who is ever going to write about these guys?

One big plus is that Bert Crary had his manuscript on his polar experiences ready for press when he died, and his writings on the IGY should be the definitive word on the Antarctic and its people. One might say, "Straight from the horse's mouth." The Ohio State University Press will eventually publish Bert's memoirs, although they have apparently lost some staff because of reduction of funds, and have fallen behind the projected publishing target date. So Bert's book is probably at least a year away.

Only the Lord knows when Peter Anderson will publish his biography on Admiral Byrd. Then Peter, supposedly, will publish something on polar aviation. What Peter needs is winning one of those multimillion dollar lottery tickets so he can retire and just concentrate on his books. Otherwise, he will probably take a lot of drafts with him to his grave.

**THE LATEST ON OLD HARRY SWINBURNE.** The last time we checked in with Harry Swinburne his dear Christchurch wife had deserted him, running off with some active commercial airline pilot. No doubt United. Harry was distraught because she still had some good years left and he loved her, but he also had spent a considerable amount of money setting her up in a travel agency and that went down the drain. In case you may not recall just who Harry is, he was the first Naval captain permanently assigned as Commander, U.S. Naval Support Force, Antarctica (when the billet was downgraded to Captain in 1972).

Well, it seems that after his wife ran away, the Lord gave Harry something much worse to occupy his mind -- declining health. He wasn't prepared for what happened to him, as this 66-year old man, who was sort of a lumberjack, hadn't been sick a day in over 45 years. About nine months ago he came down with a sore throat, then began to lose weight, and you can guess the rest. On 29 June the doctors told him he had the Big C Ten days later he had a full biopsy. They recommended surgery, followed by radiation therapy with a 10% to 30% chance with both, and about half with just radiation therapy.

When he first found out that he had cancer of the tongue, throat, larynx, and lymph glands, old Harry was ready to cash in the chips right then and there. However, this wasn't like the real Harry who had been a World War II fighter ace, and was the first pilot in the world to fly a helicopter in actual combat during the Korean conflict (132 missions over or behind enemy lines). He wrote us on 3 October 1989:

Surgery was totally unacceptable to me. I've lived the most exciting and rewarding life of anyone I know, and I wasn't going to end it as a pitiful shell of a man. They planned to remove my right jugular vein, part of my jaw, my tongue, my larynx and part of my throat, plus the lymph glands. NO WAY! (I like to eat and talk.)

Well, I've completed my radiation treatments, which included 12 treatments with neutrons, 20 with photons, and 14 with beta rays (electrons). The good news is that I've had my first checkup and they say "All is progressing according to plan." Some of what took place is both bad and good. I certainly looked like a well-done Maine lobster on the outside (all now healed), and raw hamburger on the inside (all healed except for a little sore throat). I lost all taste and all saliva. The taste is definitely returning, and I believe I sometimes have a little saliva. I'm learning to eat without it, but it will definitely return in part.

So, if your wife or husband runs off with some pilot, don't think that things can't get worse, as they sure did with Harry. Murphy's Law caught up with him. Our hearts and prayers go out to Harry in these troubled times, and if anyone can lick the odds, he appears to be that person. He has a great spirit, is putting up a tremendous fight. Give it hell, Harry. For those of you who may have lost his address, it's 4969 North Cascade Place, Oak Harbor, Washington 98277.

**SWINTHINBANK'S SECOND LAW.** In our last Newsletter we commented on Antarctic Eagle Scouts begetting daughters, and one of the members of our Board of Directors, Charles Swithinbank, replied that he wasn't surprised at all, citing his infamous Second Law, "All Antarcticans who reproduce within twelve months of returning home get girls." He said that this became very obvious to him within a year of returning from the Norwegian-British-Swedish Expedition of 1949-52. He claims he was more or less celibate until 1962, when his daughter was born within twelve months of returning from a summer with USARP. Charles said that after he fathered a girl he started "tracking the reproductive activities of Antarctic colleagues." I don't think he was keeping a running tally on at bats, hits, runs, home runs, and things of that nature, but he was noting the end results, and they "served to reinforce my hypothesis." From here on let's turn it all over to Charles's letter of 23 September so we won't lose track of anything.

Being a scientist, one must question why. Two well-known facts put me on the right track: (1) White males are often sterile for the first few months after returning from the Persian Gulf; (2) Human male genitalia are located externally (i.e., outside the abdominal cavity).

Our Creator generally had good reasons for his architecture. In the case discussed above, it is because in order to function properly, male productive cells must be maintained at a temperature of at least 1°C below that of the abdominal cavity (a fact that any physiologist will confirm).

Arabs have known about this for about a million years; hence they wear air-conditioned garments. White men frustrate the Will of Allah by wearing trousers, i.e., their genitalia get hot. The disfunction persists for a considerable time after returning to milder climates.

It was Vilhjalmur Stefansson who pointed out that, far from living in a cold environment, most polar explorers maintain a tropical environment inside their pants because they can't risk lowering their core temperature.

Now you see what lateral thinking will do. But how do you explain it all? Really it is very simple. On returning home we are often randy but almost always sterile. It is well-known that male reproductive cells which carry female chromosomes are tougher than the rest; they recover more quickly from environmental abuse. Hence the firstborn are girls.

Among the many advocates of Swithinbank's Second Law is Valter Schytt who was with Charles at Maudheim on the Norwegian-British-Swedish Expedition. He fathered three girls and no sons.

Charles feels that there must be some graduate student out there in the cold, cruel world who would like to study this question. But for him, he ended, "After a lifetime spent trying to answer silly questions like 'Why is there ice in Antarctica?', it is wonderful to be able to take up research of real importance to human condition.'

Hey, Muckluck Milan up there in Fairbanks, you were head of the U.S. Program on Circumpolar People for quite a few years. You must have some thoughts on all this. What do you say? I would hate to ask Murray Hamlet about it, as Lord only knows how he might reply!

Those of you who fathered something within a year after returning from twelve months on the ice, why don't you send us your end results, so we can substantiate or refute Swithinbank's Second Law?

**HOLMES AND NARVER RETURN TO THE ICE, BRINGING EG&G WITH THEM.** The National Science Foundation announced on the morning of 3 October 1989 that the new contract for operational support in Antarctica has been awarded to the Antarctic Support Associates (AS2)

created by the marriage of Holmes and Narver of Orange, California to EG&G in Wellesley Massachusetts. My first reaction was one of sorrow for losing Bob Becker, because if he is as nice and as efficient as he has always appeared to be, he will be sorely missed. I never could figure out how a guy in his position with all his responsibilities could smile so much and act like he was having a ball.

The American system only looks at the bottom line, who can do the job at the best price and that's the way it should be. The contract amounts to about \$250 million dollars for six years. Then there is something like a pro-baseball option clause; if NSF is satisfied with the performances of the player, they can extend the contract for two 2-year additional terms. ASA is going to establish headquarters in Denver, and they will take over support services on April Fool's Day 1990. Let's hope no one gets fooled. We still have some old Holmes and Narver members - Mike Pavlak and Dick Wolal immediately come to mind. Maybe some old hands will be returning to the ice. Who knows? We'll just wait and see.

**15TH ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING, PARIS, 9-21 OCTOBER 1989.** This meeting seemed to have created a lot more ink than its predecessors. We understand that one writer who was covering the meeting misunderstood something at the beginning, and never straightened him/herself out for the rest of the session. Cousteau certainly made his presence known, both here in Washington prior to the meeting and then in Paris during the meeting. It is strange how a few short years can change one's stripes. We understand that when Cousteau originally came into Palmer he dumped everything overboard. Representatives from NSF went to the CALYPSO and explained that this was a violation, a no-no. However, he supposedly kept on doing it. Now look who is the knight on the shining white horse trying to save Antarctica!

The item which created the greatest interest was the one on a comprehensive approach to environmental measures. Australia called for a new Antarctic environment agreement and the French wanted to declare Antarctica a nature reserve. The Australian-French efforts for a comprehensive convention designating Antarctica as a "natural science, land of science" was viewed as prejudicial by the majority of the ATCPs who support the Antarctic Mineral Convention (the Wellington Convention). A compromise package emerged which calls for a special Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in 1990 to explore all proposals for protection of the environment and another calling on governments to convene a meeting in 1990 to explore and discuss all proposals relating to CRAMRA (Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resources Activities). It is expected that both meetings will be convened in Chile in June 1990, and that they will be back-to-back.

Tourism and non-governmental expeditions were another agenda item, and several nations circulated working papers. The Federal Republic of Germany's paper stressed the importance of liability of tourist operators. Chile made four recommendations dealing with increased authority for tourist agencies, liability, insurance, and timing of tourist visits to avoid interference with scientific research activities. Argentina wanted stricter regulations of non-governmental expeditions than of commercial tourism. The next result was sort of predictable, that a comprehensive review of the issue was necessary, and that such a review would most appropriately take place in the context of a review of comprehensive measures to protect the Antarctic environment!

It must be frustrating to attend meetings where twenty-three consultative parties sit around and try to reach unanimous decisions on touchy subjects. In retrospect, the most amazing thing about all this may be how quickly the Antarctic Treaty came into force almost thirty years ago; the disheartening thing must be the lack of unanimity when the Treaty works so well. It purrs like a Rolls Royce, but it's treated like an Edsel.

**EAST BASE BECOMES SACRED TERRITORY.** One of the things which transpired at the recent 15th Antarctic Treaty Consultative meeting in Paris was the endorsement of East Base, Stonington Island, as an historic site. The camp was the eastern half of the U.S. Antarctic Service Expedition, 1939-41, and was led by Dick Black. Finn Ronne and Carl Eklund were two of the better known Antarcticans at the station. Finn was to bring his own expedition back to Stonington Island in 1947-48, and they reoccupied the facilities. With Finn on his expedition was Harry Darlington, another veteran of East Base.

Probably future visitors to the station will only associate it with the fact that here trod the feet of the first two women to ever winter over in Antarctica - Jackie and Jennie. Enough has been written on that year - three separate books - to fodder the continuation of the saga of the expedition forever and ever. Wonder if the bed where Jackie slept is still intact? Should that be considered a national monument? As everything in camp is frozen in perpetuity, it will be preserved if it is still there. Only the memories and tales will change, enhanced by time, enriched by the imagination of those who visit there. I'm glad of one thing, that both Jackie and Jennie were good-looking young chicks. It would have been awful if the first two women to winter over on the ice had been ugly old hags!

**ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE OF ANTARCTICA.** Martha Muse, President of the Tinker Foundation, has assembled an all-star array of protagonists and antagonists on the Antarctic environment to discuss problems and issues. With Bob Rutford and Bruce Manheim sharing the same dias, they better have the cops right outside the front door. Lee Kimball, our Society's Man of the Year in 1987, is on the program, as is that tennis imposter, Sayed El-Sayed, penguinologist Frank Todd, travel administrator Werner Zehnder, and several others whom we aren't certain about. I presume if one showed up at the French Institute, 222 East 60th Street, New York, and went to the Edward Larocque Tinker Auditorium at 9 AM on 10 November, you could gain admittance. It's to be an all-day session, supposedly lasting until 4:30. Sure would be fun to be there, also interesting and enlightening.

**BIG BIRD IN ANTARCTICA.** A C-5B Galaxy has made its presence known in Antarctica, and things will never be the same again. One took off in late September from Point Mugu with 100,000 pounds, including 75 passengers and four fully assembled helicopters, destination Christchurch. Then in early October, specifically the 4th and the 6th, it made two round trips to McMurdo, carrying 150,000 pounds on each trip. The point of doing this was to get those helicopters and people there fully assembled, starting operations much sooner in the season than they could have otherwise. The plane landed on a 78" thick sea ice surface, which bent but never broke. The ice deflected downwards two to three inches, but after the plane took off the ice returned to its former height!

People at NSF are pretty excited about all this, as it could mean that this old bird could be taught to fly large loads onto blue ice runways, thinking particularly how nice it would be if they could land on the blue ice near Mt. Howe. This site is only 165 miles from the South Pole, and if they could land there with materiel for the new South Pole Station, it would certainly expedite getting materiel there. If you are as ignorant as I am about planes, here are some stats for you to mull over: it's 247.8' long, has a 222.8' wing span, has a fuel capacity of 332,500 pounds (weight counts, not gallons!), carries a payload of 261,000 pounds, and has a maximum landing weight of 635,850 pounds. Trigger Hawkes, eat your heart out!

**THERE'S A HOLE IN THE BUCKET, DEAR LIZA, DEAR LIZA.** There have been a couple of fuel leaks, one at the South Pole, another at McMurdo, but things are great at de-



activated Siple! At Amundsen-Scott, personnel noticed a discrepancy between normal usage and measured depletions of stored fuel. On 21 August they discovered and repaired a significant but apparently intermittent leak in a pipe joint that had been inspected many times previously. The surface did not show any evidence of long-duration leakage or of a large quantity of fuel dripping onto it. They estimated loss of about 44,000 gallons of diesel fuel. A press release out of NSF on 28 September said they felt the fuel would move downward to about a depth of 50 meters. That seems awfully deep to this innocent, considering the very high density of the firn and ice at relatively shallow depths at the station.

Personnel at McMurdo discovered on 11 October that there had been leakage from several large flexible fuel tanks (bladders) at Willy Field. A preliminary assessment was that 50,000 gallons of aircraft jet fuel, diesel fuel, and automotive gasoline may have escaped. They had an unusual high amount of snow at McMurdo during the past winter, and it is projected that the excessive weight of snow and ice on the tanks may have caused the leakage. An ironic aspect is that these flexible tanks were being phased out, and NSF had already ordered seven 20,000-gallon steel tanks to replace the flexible ones. These new tanks will arrive aboard the annual supply ship in February 1990. When the NSF press release of 12 October 1989 came out, they wrote that the leaked fuel is contained within an area about 180 feet by 60 feet, and that they were cleaning it up. The pooled fuel was being pumped out, and the remaining snow-ice-fuel mixture was being pumped into a fuel tanker sled for a yet-to-be determined disposition. The environmental impact at both the South Pole and McMurdo is expected to be minimal.

**HEALTHY, WEALTHY AND WISE.** Congress is looking very favorably upon Antarctica as a great place, and towards that end have sent a bill to President Bush that will enable NSF to launch a hundred million dollar five-year initiative aimed at improving health, care, and safety for U.S. scientists and support personnel, as well as lessening the environmental impact of programs. This new U.S. Antarctic Program initiative is part of Veterans Administration, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act cleared by the Congress on 31 October 1989. More than half of the \$10 million (included in the NSF FY90 budget) and \$30 million of the total will be for environmental activities. It is our understanding that they are going to start trying to clean up McMurdo from the sins of the past thirty-odd years. When they get through, it will look just like La Jolla, or maybe even Carmel.

They are also going to improve medical facilities and provide field parties with safety experts who have medical training. Does that mean there will be a Michele Raney running shotgun on the back of a Bill Cassidy's snowmobile? Maybe the key to getting to Antarctica will be EMT (Emergency Medical Treatment).

**BELATED BIO ON ANTARCTIC ARTIST NEELON CRAWFORD.** Unfortunately, but characteristically, our infamous Postal Service found a way to deliver Neelon Crawford's bio to the wrong address, so our September Newsletter went out with relatively little information on him. Neelon spent his early childhood in New York City, pour soul, but, fortunately, he traveled extensively with his father, Ralson Crawford, an artist. It was somewhat natural for him to pursue the arts when it came time for college, and he became an art major at Antioch College, studying photography, drawing, oil painting, sculpture, and stained glass window fabrication.

Neelon graduated from Antioch in 1969 and moved to San Francisco, where he made film and screened them at museums and universities. By the time of his first Cineprobe at the Museum of Modern Art in 1973, he had completed more than fifteen films. Then he picked up a passport and took off for South America, photographing and filming in

Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia. Neelon returned to New York City where he supported himself as a freelance sound recording engineer for motion pictures and television. In 1976 he returned to Ecuador for eight weeks. The Museum of Modern Art presented in 1977 a second Cineprobe selected from more than forty of his completed films.

During 1980-81, he traveled to Egypt, Isle of Man, South Africa, People's Republic of China, Thailand, and India. This travelling was a strong catalyst for expanding the content of his photography. In the People's Republic of China he photographed ancient Buddhist sculpture and modern steam locomotives. In 1981 he began making photogravure etchings. Two years later he made a three-month trip through New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Burma, India, and Pakistan which yielded a whole new body of work.

1984 and 1985 brought his second and third trips to the People's Republic of China. Neelon received special support from the Chinese government's Xinhua News Service for his photographing the production and operation of steam locomotives. In 1985 the influence of computer image manipulation entered into his work. He developed a system for making 4x5 computer-generated paper negatives from which he made silver prints. The resulting photographs led to both photogravure etchings and paintings.

After all this apprenticeship, he was deemed worthy by the powers-that-be to go to the Antarctic, and that is where he went in January 1989. He worked in and around McMurdo, was at the South Pole, and also traveled by icebreaker along the coast to Cape Hallett.

Neelon is fast at work in his studio in New York City (10 East 23rd Street, NY 10010, telephone 212-475-7808) preparing The Southern Light portfolio for exhibit at the Baum Gallery. Then the exhibit of photogravure etchings of the Antarctic will be exhibited internationally. We hope to be able to keep you posted where and when.

**NEELON'S THE LONE EMPEROR.** As you may recall, we have advertised the availability of Neelon Crawford's The Lone Emperor poster. A clutch of Emperors arrived at Union Station in Washington on 1 November, and they were put in the basement of the Nerve Center. Mailing tubes will arrive in mid-November, and then they will be shipped out.

If any of you have not ordered your penguin for Thanksgiving, send us a check and we'll mail one on ice. This is truly a fantastic poster, one of great beauty. We bought 100 Emperors, so we have a good supply of them. We also have a few posters of the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, but their price is higher because we bought only a few. The Lone Emperor poster is \$8. Amundsen-Scott South Pole poster is \$9.

**TRANS-ANTARCTICA.** We weren't going to mention this endeavor, as they are big-time highly-funded, highly-visible, and have their own 800 number, but we just could not let this one pass by - they flew 15 dogs back to Chile for R&R! How times have changed! I wintered over two consecutive years, and while transporting my program from Little America V to the South Pole, I requested several days in Christchurch for a tune-up for my chassis. You would have thought I asked for the moon. It only goes to show I was born 32 years too soon, and I should have been born a dog.

**BLIND SIDED.** We were appalled when we saw the cover of Ice Cap News for Sept.-Oct 1989 and found that they were informing their legions that they could purchase a 1989 New Zealand Antarctic calendar from us for \$8.50. Russ Ott, how could you do that to us without asking? We only order what we think we can sell to our own members - no more, no less. The only saving grace is that they showed 1989 instead of 1990. Too bad we don't have a lot of old ones left over we could unload on them!

*COME SAIL WITH US TO ANTARCTICA ON THE WORLD DISCOVERER NEXT FEBRUARY-MARCH 1990!*