



THE ANTARCTIC SOCIETY

905 NORTH JACKSONVILLE STREET
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22205

HONORARY PRESIDENT — MRS. PAUL A. SIPLE

Vol. 89-90

September

No. 1

Presidents:

Dr. Carl R. Eklund, 1959-61
Dr. Paul A. Siple, 1961-62
Mr. Gordon D. Cartwright, 1962-63
RADM David M. Tyree (Ret.), 1963-64
Mr. George R. Toney, 1964-65
Mr. Morton J. Rubin, 1965-66
Dr. Albert P. Crary, 1966-68
Dr. Henry M. Dater, 1968-70
Mr. George A. Doumani, 1970-71
Dr. William J. L. Sladen, 1971-73
Mr. Peter F. Bermel, 1973-75
Dr. Kenneth J. Bertrand, 1975-77
Mrs. Paul A. Siple, 1977-78
Dr. Paul C. Dalrymple, 1978-80
Dr. Meredith F. Burrill, 1980-82
Dr. Mort D. Turner, 1982-84
Dr. Edward P. Todd, 1984-86
Mr. Robert H. T. Dodson, 1986-88
Dr. Robert H. Rutford, 1988-90

Honorary Members:

Ambassador Paul C. Daniels
Dr. Laurence McKinley Gould
Count Emilio Pucci
Sir Charles S. Wright
Mr. Hugh Blackwell Evans
Dr. Henry M. Dater
Mr. August Howard
Mr. Amory H. "Bud" Waite, Jr.

Paul C. Daniels

Memorial Lecturers:

Dr. William J. L. Sladen, 1964
RADM David M. Tyree (Ret.), 1965
Dr. Roger Tory Peterson, 1966
Dr. J. Campbell Craddock, 1967
Mr. James Pranke, 1968
Dr. Henry M. Dater, 1970
Sir Peter M. Scott, 1971
Dr. Frank Davies, 1972
Mr. Scott McVay, 1973
Mr. Joseph O. Fletcher, 1974
Mr. Herman R. Friis, 1975
Dr. Kenneth J. Bertrand, 1976
Dr. William J. L. Sladen, 1977
Dr. J. Murray Mitchell, Jr., 1978
Dr. Laurence McKinley Gould, 1979
Dr. Charles R. Bentley, 1980
Dr. Robert L. Nichols, 1981
Dr. Robert H. Rutford, 1982
Mr. R. Tucker Scully, 1983
Dr. Richard P. Goldthwait, 1984
Dr. Mark F. Meier, 1985
Dr. Claude Lorius, 1986
Dr. Louis J. Lanzerotti, 1987
Mr. Peter J. Anderson, 1988

- 24 September 1959 -.

!!! *HAPPY 30th ANNIVERSARY TO THE ANTARCTIC SOCIETY* !!!

THE SOUTHERN LIGHT PORTFOLIO: ANTARCTIC PHOTOGRAPHY

by

Neelon Crawford

A R T I S T

New York, New York

on

Wednesday evening, 1 November 1989

8 PM

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

Room 540

Light refreshments - strong coffee, Keebler cookies

Neelon is a 42-year old artist who participated in the NSF Antarctic Artists and Writers Program in Antarctica in January - February 1989. His great collection of Antarctic photographs will be exhibited by his New York City gallery - Jayne H. Baum Gallery - and then it will go on national tour sometime in 1991-92. So this evening will be a preview of a coining attraction. Neelon is well-known nationally, has made movies for the Museum of Modern Art, and is also hung in the Metropolitan Museum of Arts. He has done some sculpturing and has painted in oil. He has travelled extensively and worked in both South America and Asia, including three trips to China to photograph steam locomotives, and he has done a lot of photography on World War II aircraft. A more complete bio on Neelon will be in the next Newsletter. *Be sure to come and see his fabulous Antarctic pictures!!!*

1990 New Zealand Antarctic Calendars NOW available! See page 3.

Give a home to A Lonesome Penguin! See page 3.

Come cruising to the Antarctic with Ruth and Paul!! See page 7.

GROWLERS

Here we are again, back on the same old street corner for the 12th year, waiting impatiently for some young innocents who like to do volunteer work for a not-for-profit organization to surface and take over the Newsletters. This is the 68th Newsletter generated somehow by the team of Siple and Dalrymple. There has been some real good stuff written in the past dozen years, but unfortunately our Honorary President looks upon these sheets as family reading and censors out the best material. However, fortunately, in her naivety we do sneak some things through her censorship.

As it was in the beginning, and maybe shall ever be, these Newsletters do not constitute the official voice of our Society, being only a potpourri of some facts, some stories, some fabrications put together, hopefully, in a vein that will make you want to read these pages. You can help us out a lot by sending us material on your Antarctic interests/activities. We particularly want to hear personal thoughts from current Antarcticans, feeling that Antarcticans are a special breed of non-conformists whose very nature makes them interesting and good copy. HELP!

RAISING DUES???? We feel that our dues are ridiculously low, and only through the generosity of our Honorary President who does so many things at no cost to the Society, have we been able to get by for ten years with our current dues structure. Our costs have escalated in recent years, and this soul feels that we should have a flat rate of ten dollars per year for Americans and Canadians. However, our illustrious president, Bob Rutford, believes in democracy, and says that we should solicit you folks for your feelings before we raise them. So consider yourself solicited. Over half of you have already paid for this current year, and many of you have paid for additional years. If you want to beat the proposed increase, we'll give you a chance to renew/extend now for one or more years at the current rate. Make checks payable to the Antarctic Society.

Curren:

Propose:

Foreign	\$14	Foreign	\$15
Husband-Wife	\$10	Husband-Wife	\$12
Local (within 50 miles of B.C.)	\$ 7	US/Canada	\$10
Out-of-town	\$ 6	USAnt.Serv.Exped.	\$ 4
BAE I - BAE II - US Ant.Serv.Exped.	\$ 3	BAE I - BAE II	Free

MEMBERSHIP. We now total 636 members, including 78 husband-wife memberships. Last year was a particularly good year, as only two availed themselves of the opportunity of dying; 95% of our members renewed; and we picked up 72 new members. However, we feel we're not in the total number game as much as we are playing Marine Corps, looking for a few good men/women. We got raked over pretty good last year when we suggested that those who were lukewarm towards us might want to drop out. Those who criticized us probably never had to fold and stuff and seal over 600 Newsletters when they could have been having a good time climbing Old Rag Mountain in Virginia.

1990 ANTARCTIC CALENDARS. We have good news and bad news. We have 300 New Zealand Antarctic calendars in the Nerve Center, waiting for you good folks to buy for your Christmas gifts. We have zero USARP Antarctic calendars, because Max Hamilton never answered our pleading letter of 6 May, asking when they'd be publishing their calendar and its cost. At this late date it is doubtful we will buy any 1990 USARP calendars.

The New Zealand Antarctic calendars are for sale at the same price as last year, \$8.50., which includes mailing. However, if you buy at our next meeting in Washington, we'll sell there for \$7.50 (we save a buck on not having to mail). The New Zealand Antarctic calendars are quite good. To be truthful, we don't think this year's calendar is up to the very high standards of past years, as there are more people, a plane, and creatures this year than ever before. However, most will probably find this calendar has a wider appeal, as it has a good cross section of penguin and bird photographs, scenes from tourist ship stops, an adventure picture, several from subantarctic islands, and others from the interior of the continent, plus one from Cape Evans. The most spectacular picture is one of a climber standing atop Mt. Shinn, and there is an excellent one of the Beardmore Glacier. For the first time, they have a two-page centerfold of Adelies at Cape Royds with a grounded iceberg in the background. One Adelie's name is Gisela, the others we did not recognize. So order early, order multiple copies, as we want to unload and get out of the calendar business so we can relax over the holidays.

THE LONE EMPEROR IS FOR SALE. Our lecturer for the upcoming meeting is Neelon Crawford, and his photographs of the Antarctic are truly sensational — Eliot Porter, move aside. Neelon has taken the best of his collection and made Antarctic posters, and we have chosen one to test the waters to see how you folks respond. The one we are offering is called *The Lone Emperor*, and it's fantastic; one solitary Emperor standing all by himself near the water's edge, either admiring the spectacular scenery in the foreground or just daydreaming. Across the open water rides a heavily sculptured berg. The dark blue sky in the background is in stark contrast to the pure white snow surface in the foreground. This color lithograph is 18" x 24", and would be great framed. We will mail them first class in solid tubes, and, prayerfully, even the Postal Service won't be able to damage them. Cost per poster is \$8.00, which is a bargain — we bought in quantity. If we have a good sale, we might offer additional Neelon Crawford posters as they become available. There are two additional one out now which you can purchase directly from Neelon — one of *The Geographic South Pole* (showing the station billboard, "The Geographic South Pole. 9301' Elevation, Ave. Temp. -56°, Ice Thickness in excess of 9000 feet."), and one of *The Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station* (a beautiful panoramic view of the whole station, looking down from above). If these turn you on more than *The Lone Emperor*, contact Neelon Crawford at 10 East 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010 (tel.212-475-7808) and he will quote you costs.

THE NEW WALT SEELIG. There were many of us who felt that Walt Seelig would never relinquish his NSF chair in Christchurch. We figured he would die on the job, that they would bronze his body, and prop him up at the gate to the C-130 parking lot at Harewood. He was sort of an institution in Christchurch, returning each year like an Antarctic tern or penguin. But he finally retired on his own, and someone at NSF decided that this should be a full-time, year-round assignment. The position was then advertised. We don't know how many candidates there were, but it appears they have picked the perfect man — Dr. Charles "Chuck" Paul. Physically he sort of fits the mold of Ken Moulton, being over six feet tall and having a very distinguished appearance.

Chuck has an outstanding professional background, and one can't help wondering if he isn't overqualified for the position. He has a PhD in civil engineering from Cornell University, and has an extensive background in mapping, surveying, remote sensing, air photo-interpretation, plus a few dozen other categories. He has been in over 90 different countries, but unbelievably has not been to New Zealand, the creme-de-creme of countries. Chuck's research has extended from the deepest ocean trenches, such as the Marianas, to some of the furthest out planets, such as Jupiter. He has been involved in astronomical surveying of mountain peaks in the Rockies, and has also done surveying in the Arctic for the now defunct Coast and Geodetic Survey. In recent years he has been Deputy Director of A.I.D.'s Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources Office, where he fell victim to an hereditary government disease, whereby increased knowledge and smarts leads one away from science and into administration/management. A.I.D.'s loss has now become DPP's gain in New Zealand.

Dr. Paul leaves behind in A.I.D. 12 years of experience for development and support of the mapping sciences in economic development. He was responsible for leadership in the creation of three multi-donor funded regional remote sensing centers in the developing countries. He has personally designed and supported the development of nine national mapping centers to carry out natural resource surveys in developing countries, stretching from Peru to the Philippines. He has served on temporary duty to 26 US A.I.D. Missions for the design and implementation of projects using remote sensing and geographic information systems. In 1985 he chaired the first meeting of the Economic Summit states to address the coordination of remote sensing activities to derive food estimates for Africa, which laid the foundation for A.I.D.' ongoing Famine Early Warning System (FEWS). He has been recognized internationally for his commitment to economic development through the acquisition of data about natural resources, the environment, and agricultural development.

Chuck was born in Panama, son of an Air Force officer stationed there. His undergraduate degree was obtained at the University of New Mexico in civil engineering. He was in the Navy for a short period of time, and the aforementioned time with the Coast and Idiotic Survey, three years, saw him in Arctic waters on the SURVEYOR. He has also worked for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, and here in Washington at NASA's headquarters. Chuck has one wife, Carolyn, a Tar Heel from North Carolina, who will accompany him to Kiwiland and keep him out of trouble. The Pauls have one offspring, a son, who conducts biomedical research at Duke University. Chuck also has one sailboat, and professes a lust for sailing which he hopes to pursue on occasion in New Zealand. He enters his assignment in Christchurch with much anticipation, eagerly looking forward to the international aspects of his assignment. Chuck appears to be one nice guy, and we are sure he will do just fine. We wish the Pauls the very best.

DAVID ELLIOT'S REPLACEMENT FINALLY UNEARTHED. We never knew for certain whether Ohio State University was actually looking for a replacement for David Elliot or not as it seems their Search Committee has been kicking this around so long that they just didn't want to replace David. But at long last they have found their man in a mere youth, Dr. Kenneth C. Jezek, a geophysicist with the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) in Hanover, New Hampshire. We really don't have much information on Kenneth, as all we have at our disposal is the sterile press release from The Ohio State University of 23 August 1989 announcing his appointment. We called up Charlie Bentley, his mentor at the University of Wisconsin, to see what he could tell us about his protege, but both Charlie and Marybelle were away from the hearth for a week, so we found out nothing.

It appears that Kenneth received his doctoral degree in geophysics from the University of Wisconsin in 1980. It must have been a non-Antarctican type degree, as our

Antarctic listing from the Dissertation Abstract Center at the University of Michigan does not show Jezek. He worked as a postdoctoral at The Ohio State University's Institute of Polar Studies from 1980 to 1981. Then he went back to Madison for the next two years where he worked in the Geophysical and Polar Research Center. From 1985 to 1987, he was manager of the Polar Oceans and Ice Sheets Program for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. From there he must have gone to CRREL. While there he also served as an assistant professor in the Thayer School of Engineering in Dartmouth College. His appointment as Director of the Byrd Polar Research Center at The Ohio State University carries an asterisk aside his name - tie will be an associate professor of geology and mineralogy. This must be the reason Kenneth went to The Ohio State University; why else would a young, budding scientist want to get into the administration/management jungle at such a tender age?

SNOW EAGLES. If you are an Eagle Scout and want little male eaglets, don't go to Antarctica. There has not been a daughter born to an Antarctic Eagle Scout! The late Paul Siple had three daughters; Dick Chappell has two daughters; Mark Leinmiller has two daughters. Eagle No. 4, Douglas Barnhart, was recently married, and they can expect girls, too. Meanwhile, Eagle No. 5, the exuberant, popular Lou Sugarman, has indicated a desire to really become polarized, so he is applying for a one-year Rotary Club Fellowship to study at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. He will never have a son. Right now Lou is a senior at the University of Michigan, finishing an English degree with honors. He writes, "With another term or two of work, I will also be earning a. Biology degree." For recreation, he is going to learn Japanese this year.

Last summer Lou was on a literature study survey in England. Twice a day he attended class, reading "a tremendous amount: Thomas Harvey novels and poetry, Yeats plays and poetry, and James Joyce." What a terrible, frightening experience for such a young man. Better he than me! They moved to a new cottage or bed-and-breakfast every week or two, and saw all the cathedrals, castles, and ruins along the way. Someone should have told Lou that when you have seen one cathedral, you have seen them all; he would have saved a lot of time, and then he could have fully enjoyed the English countryside. But the summer wasn't a total waste, as the thirteen students were given a week without classes in London.

We met Eagle No. 6 this week - Robert Scot Duncan of Gulf Breeze, Florida. For those of you who may never have heard of Gulf Breeze, how about Pensacola? There were only 77 applicants this year, and Scot owes it all to his mother who found out about the opportunity by scanning through one of his Scouting magazines. When the late Paul Siple went as Eagle No. 1, there were literally thousands of applications which winnowed down to 88 candidates.

Scot is a 19-year old Eckerd College (St. Petersburg, Florida) sophomore who is multi talented with many interests. He just isn't certain what he wants to be, but he has a great interest in the physical sciences. He mentions geology as a possibility, something which he will be able to observe firsthand in Antarctica in a few short weeks. His application showed that he wanted to become an environmental journalist, although right now this 4.0 student is totally wrapped up in his forthcoming experiences where he will have the chance to work with half a dozen different investigators on various studies.

Scot is a member of the Sierra Club, the Florida Ornithological Society, the Florida Audubon Society and the Alabama Ornithological Society, so you can see he likes birds. He has a younger brother, 12 years old, who is also into Scouting, and who presumably will follow Scot's Antarctic activities with a great deal of brotherly admiration and pride. Scot's family is very much interested in his going to the ice, although the matriarch of the family wonders if he will fall into a crevasse. Mothers sure worry

about useless things, don't they?

Scot was in Washington for the first time in his life to attend the recent NSF Antarctic orientation. Before he went home he had nearly a full day to visit such places as the Capitol, the East Wing, the Mellon Gallery, the Air and Space Museum, and the Natural History Museum. At the end of the afternoon, a bit leg weary, he said he just had to sit down on a bench and look at all the tall buildings, and at people scurrying nowhere along the streets. He felt a long way from Gulf Breeze.

We who put this Newsletter together feel a special kinship to the Scouts. Ruth, of course, was married to the first one and raised their three daughters. I knew Paul professionally, and I wintered over with Eagle No. 2, Dick Chappell, at Little America V in 1957. Ruth and I knew all the finalists for Eagle No. 3, and got to know the winner, Mark Leinmiller, and a runner-up, Scott Miller, real well in ensuing years. We both met Doug Barnhart, but never got to know him. However, we did get to know Lou Sugarman, Eagle No. 5, real well. His Scout Leader, Hal Joerin, became a Society member and comes from Michigan to attend many of our local lectures.

There is a small-town charisma about Eagle No. 6. We are both certain that the Boy Scouts of America picked a most worthy young man, and are looking forward to following his career as we have the others. Incidentally, Eagle No. 2, Eagle No. 3, Eagle No. 4, and Eagle No. 5 were on the committee which picked Scot. Go for it, Scot. Enjoy every minute, and best wishes for the time of your life.

YOUTH WILL BE SERVED. One of the many good things about Antarctica is its openness, its equal opportunistic character. Women probably have as good a chance as men to make good in Antarctica. Parkas are great equalizers, and numbing cold sort of freezes out sexual fervor.

The latest group to gain entry into Antarctica are high school overachievers who qualify for candidacy through the National Science Foundation Science and Engineering Education Directorate's Young Scholars Program. It's designed to excite students entering grades 8-12 about science careers, and in 1989, 4,500 junior and senior high school students were involved in 136 Young Scholar projects. The U.S. Antarctic Program supports more than 90 research projects per year in atmospheric, oceanic, earth, and life sciences. Dr. Bassam Shakhshiri, Assistant Director for Science and Engineering Education at NSF said, "NSF has assumed a leadership role in national efforts to persuade best students to enter science research careers, and the Antarctic trip is just one example of its efforts to nurture the curiosity of our youth."

And the 1989-90 winners are....Kevin C. Engel of West Salem, Wisconsin and Catherine Ann Blish of Saratoga, California. Kevin will be working at the South Pole with the research team of Dr. Robert Morse of the University of Wisconsin studying gamma ray astronomy. Catherine will be working with Dr. Neil Sullivan's University of Southern California, Department of Biological Sciences team doing research on the photobiology of algae living in sea ice. Kevin has entered the University of Wisconsin at Madison and Catherine is a freshman at the University of California at Davis. Kevin was valedictorian of his high school class, and a member of their concert and jazz bands, as well as the Drama Club. Catherine was an honor student, and an athlete (track and field, plus volleyball).

There must be something magical about Saratoga, California, as Dr. Michele Raney, first woman to winter over at the South Pole, lives there, and last year's Antarctic Girl Scout, Julie Hagelin, comes from there. Michele, a chocoholic anesthesiologist, returned to the ice a couple of summers ago, and Julie wants to return some day as a biologist. Catherine had better watch out; she is working for a man who evidently has a life-time job in the laboratory at McMurdo, and she might catch the fever from Neil.

COME SOUTH WITH RUTH AND ME. That's enough about young kids, how about us old-timers? As some of you may have already heard from Society Expeditions Cruises, Ruth Siple, Boiling Byrd Clarke, Mort Turner, and I have been invited by them to lecture on an old explorers' nostalgic expedition cruise to Antarctica in February (Cruise WD2004, 10 February-4 March 1990). There will also be some younger lecturers, namely Peter Harrison, ornithologist from England; Stephen Leatherwood, biologist, from San Diego; and Shirley Metz, skiing adventurer extraordinaire, Santa Barbara. This is more than a dream come true for Ruth, Boiling, and me, as all three of us have always wanted to see the spectacular scenery of the Antarctic Peninsula. And this expedition cruise of some twenty-three days has a lot of great extras, as it visits the Falklands, South Georgia, South Orkneys, Elephant Island, the Antarctic Peninsula, and then many of the fiords of southern Chile, ending up in Puerto Montt on March 4th. The cruise should make Shackleton, Byrd, Siple and Wilkins converts out of those who believe only in penguins, seals, and whales. We are trying to collect a lot of the old films, have several on hand already, and are going to get more. This is the first time that a daughter of Admiral Byrd has gone to Antarctica, and having Boiling there with Ruth Siple will be a double-header victory for those travellers with a bent for U.S. Antarctic history. Siple remained a loyal supporter of Byrd throughout his lifetime, and Byrd reciprocated in his feelings towards Paul. I know we're going to have a great time on the WORLD DISCOVERER, and if any of you have the wherewithal and inclination, why don't you join us? Please! After all, nothing much happens anywhere in February, it's sort of an in-between month with lousy nondescript weather, so cash in your bonds, trade in your Jaguar for an Escort, cut off the kids' allowances, and come. You can't take your money with you, so why not enjoy it with an all-inclusive Antarctic trip on a real safe ship, one of the two with an ice-strengthened hull - the other one being the Society Expeditions' EXPLORER? For every Antarctic Society member who we can talk into coming, Society Expeditions will make a sizable donation to our treasury. If you want to find out more about the trip, you can contact either Ruth (905 N. Jacksonville St., Arlington, VA 22205), or me (Paul Dalrymple, P. O. Box 325, Port Clyde, ME 04855), or Society Expeditions Cruises, Inc. (Mrs. Susan Zehnder or Ms. Victoria Underwood: 3131 Elliott Avenue, Suite 700, Seattle, WA 98121).

SPLETT'S GETS MARRIED, OR IS HE MARRIED? Speaking of Society Expeditions, one of their key lecturers is old John Splettstoesser, veteran of eight austral summers on the ice, and lecturer on twenty Antarctic Expeditions Cruises. While lecturing on his first Antarctic cruise, he met this auduboning woman who lives about twenty miles from me in Rockland, Maine. Well, to make a long story somewhat shorter, Spletts married her one day last year when things were rather quiet and neither had anything special to do. Her name is Drake, they were in the Drake Passage, and the stars were in the right position, so they did it. That night Bezie probably said to John, "Are you sure we're married, John? After all, this ship is owned by one nation, foreign registry by another, the captain is from still another country, and we are out of American waters." And John probably answered, "For Heaven's sake, Bezie, will you stop worrying? I'll check with the captain first thing in the morning, or maybe day after tomorrow, or sometime before we get off the ship." Where John made his mistake was in not taking her name, as Drake is a much better name to have in Maine than Splettstoesser. We have allowed a few Finns to settle in that area, but Germans are strictly verboten.

If any of you are travelling to the Antarctic this austral summer on Society Expeditions' EXPLORER, you will be travelling with both John and Bezie, as John will be lecturing, and Bezie will be assistant cruise director on all six of their Antarctic cruises.

AILEEN LOTZ HAS IT MADE. Speaking of Antarctic expedition cruises and Beazie Drake-Splettstoesser's abiding interest in birds brings to mind a professional writer, Aileen Lotz, who went on two expedition cruises to Antarctica and became so enchanted with its bird life that it resulted in her undergoing a change in life. She confesses that going to Antarctica on cruise ships changed her whole life, with "good things have happened ever since ... What was better was finding another good life."

We have mentioned Aileen's Birding Round the World, which is now being offered in England. She has a new book due out this month, published by John Wiley & Sons - it's Birding Around the Year: When to Find Birds in North America. She is also the editor of a special issue of Birding Magazine devoted to world birding which is scheduled for completion in October.

This past summer Aileen went birding in Outer Mongolia and eastern Siberia, and wrote that it was a wonderful experience, camping for five days on the Gobi, seeing species few people have ever seen. The avian highlight was seeing the Relict Gull, only rediscovered in 1937. She also saw countable Swan Geese, the progenitors of all barnyard geese in the world. She is now in southern Africa seeing the Jackass penguin and a few hundred other birds.

I must confess that Aileen was not my biggest admirer by any means, and I called her "My Severest Critic." She keeps a "to do" file on me which includes underlined rash statements which she feels she should throw back or throw up on me at some future date. But we don't care; we are just happy as jay birds that she actually takes the time to read these things. I find her letters extremely interesting, and I am envious of her worldwide travelling. Would be nice to meet her.

MISSION CONTROL BIOSPHERER SURFACES AS AN ANTARCTIC SAILOR! While covering the theme of Antarctic cruises and people, we had a great letter from Abigail Ailing who, you may recall, was inside the 5-day test module experiment conducted by Space Biospheres Ventures, March 8-13 (see our Newsletter for April 1989). She is not a biospherian candidate, but she will be working in Mission Control during the 2-year closure of Biosphere II.

Two weeks prior to the March 1989 experiment she had just returned from an Antarctic expedition on a ferrocement, Chinese Junk design, 3-masted sailing ship, RV HERACLITUS. They left Ushuaia, Argentina on New Year's Day, 1989, crossed the Drake Passage, arriving at Deception Island on the 10th. On the 15th they moved south to the Gerlache and Bismark Straits to work with a population of humpback whales, and to do some polar diving. Their last port of call was Palmer, arriving there on January 27, one day before the BAHIA PARAISO went aground. Leaving Palmer they sailed back across the Drake Passage and went on to the Falkland Islands.

Abigail wrote that they were "not the first ferrocement vessel to enter Antarctic waters, but for sure it is the first Chinese Junk design!" They had a real international crew of fifteen persons (7 men and 8 women) representing the United States, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Belgium, Australia, Britain, and West Germany. Our Society sure has some interesting members, and Abigail is certainly one of the most interesting. When you read our incoming mail, you end up with a real inferiority complex, but we love to hear from such people so we can fantasize about their lives.

SIR PETER SCOTT DIES. Bill Sladen is the logical person to write the Society's official obituary on the late Sir Peter Scott, as they were very close friends and professional colleagues. However, Bill has so many irons in the fire, plus an upcoming trip to the Soviet Union on behalf of swans, that he cannot possibly do it for this issue. So we will just abstract from the Reuter obituary in the Washington

Post of 31 August 1989, and add a bit about his birth from his mother's autobiography, Sir Peter was the only offspring of the late Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Kathleen Scott, being born on 14 September 1909. He became one of the world's leading naturalists, and was hailed as one of the most versatile Britons of this century. He was an ecologist, painter, writer, ornithologist, glider, yachtsman, war hero, broadcaster, and television personality. Sir Peter was considered one of the finest painters of birds in this century. A founder in 1961 of the World Wildlife Fund, now known as the World Wide Fund for Nature, he devoted his life to protecting the earth from the ravages of the 20th century. He also founded the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. Naturalist Sir David Attenborough once described Sir Peter as the patron saint of wildlife, saying, "I think he has done more than anyone else to arouse the world ... to the fate which may overtake the natural world."

Sir Peter, who was knighted in 1973, built his home at Slimbridge on the Severn estuary in western England and set up the world's largest wildfowl sanctuary there. He inherited his artistic talent from his sculptor mother whose works of art stand in many prominent museums and halls throughout England. Scott married writer Elizabeth Jane Howard in 1942 and they had a daughter. A divorce followed in 1951. He later married Philippa Talbot-Ponsonby; they had a daughter and a son.

According to the obituary, Sir Peter never fulfilled one of his greatest ambitions: to convince the scientific world that the Loch Ness monster existed and that a family of relics from the dinosaur era lurked in the murky depths of the Scottish lake. He even painted pictures of the Loch Ness monster and invented the scientific name of "Nessiteras Rhombopteryx."

In Lady Rennet's (formerly Kathleen Scott) autobiography, *Self-Portrait of an Artist*, she wrote, "I used to say I wanted a baby but not a husband, and I've got it, but with a difference." And her entry after the birth of Peter, "I fell for the first time gloriously, passionately, wildly in love with my husband. I did not know I had not been so before, but I knew now." Peter's mother was most unusual, and she wrote her own epitaph for a tiny gravestone - "Kathleen. No happier woman ever lived." Historians will have a hard time deciding whether mother, father, or son was the greatest, but they won't have any trouble deciding who gave the most to the preservation of the environment.

Incidentally, Peter Scott gave the Antarctic Society's Memorial Lecture in 1971, addressing our group on 3 March 1971 on "Antarctica - Past, Present, and Future." He struck a chord for tourism that evening, saying, "But in the summertime it is a marvelous and beautiful place and this is the time when tourists should be able to go, as we went. More of them will go in the future, and some sort of code of conduct must be developed, particularly for example, when visiting penguin rookeries or seals." He was very far-sighted. Sir Peter died of a heart attack 29 August 1989 in Bristol, England at the age of 79.

JOE FLETCHER GOES TO THE BANK. On 13 September, Joe Fletcher, Director of NOAA's Environmental Research Laboratories, presented a paper at the Alaskan Science Conference on the role of the polar regions in global climate change. Forty years previously he had presented the same topic to the same conference. Hopefully, in forty years Joe had learned something, so he didn't just dust off the same old paper and re-present it! The White House believes in old Joe, as they had him in town the very next day to appear at the annual civil service award program in Constitution Hall. When Joe walked out the door, he was worth a lot more than when he walked in, as President Bush had given him a check for 20K for extended exceptional performance in the government. Joe was at one time the Director of the Division of Polar Program at NSF, and, if my memory is correct, Peter Wilkniss picked up one of those fat check last year. Must be something about that position which begets money.

SNOWFLAKES. There has been an Antarctic archaeological find of some probable significance. It seems that the late Dick Byrd had entered into some sort of an agreement with this person in Massachusetts to preserve/display, or whatever, some of the Admiral's memorabilia in a museum. No one knew anything about this until the fellow ran into hard times, and in the course of an investigation, the material was uncovered. Just how significant a find this is has not been ascertained at this time, but the whole collection is back in the hands of the Byrd family, and grandson Leverett is currently going through the material. Apparently the journals of REB are still missing, but one of Ed Moody, dog team driver on BAE II, was in the collection..... Records are made to be broken, and Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station had a new all-time maximum wind speed on 24 August of 55.3 miles per hour (48 knots). That must have kicked up a little snow Old Fred "Muckluck" Milan, physiologist at Little America V, suffered a stroke last year, but was not paralyzed. It has affected his speech somewhat, although he had sort of a mumbling way of talking anyway, so you don't notice it too much ... J. Murray Mitchell (1106 Dogwood Drive, McLean, VA 22101), climatologist par excellence, is in the hospital as we go to print with a gall bladder operation scheduled for 18 September. Murray had to have some additional chemo on his neck earlier this summer. He's one of the world's really nice guys, a sweetheart of a person. I've know him for forty years Mike Benkert, retired Coast Guard admiral who once commanded icebreakers in Antarctic waters, is battling cancer here in McLean, Virginia. When they made Mike, they threw away the mold. I've always said that I would go anywhere with Mike, as he was a two-fisted fighter and lover; he wanted to live to see the next day and somehow would bring you home. But this is the first time he has run into anything which intimidated him Ralph (BAE II) Smith, a pilot on the expedition who had sort of dropped out of sight, died this past summer at age 84 in Lake Wales, Florida. He was the first pilot to land a plane in Borneo; and in 1951, he won the North American Clay Target championship. He had the wisdom not to waste his joy years on marriage, postponing it until he was 61, so he never had to experience firsthand the pains of seeing kids go through their teens Vernon Houk, medical doctor at Amundsen-Scott in 1958, despite dire predictions by those of us who wintered over with him, has gone on to fame at the Center of Disease Control in Atlanta. This past summer, Science Magazine of 21 July 1989 had a picture of Vernon in an article on Agent Orange. A fellow winter-overer was shocked at how darn old he looks now, saying he would never have recognized him. Then he asked, "What about Kirby Hanson? Would I know him?" Well, the answer to that is that Kirby is very recognizable, as he has stayed in shape, does a lot of daily running, plays a fast game of tennis, and looks exactly the way he did thirty-one years ago. But old Houk sure looks terrible. Ho, ho, ho. . . . Alice Dater, beloved member of our Society and widow of Antarctic historian Harry Dater (past president of our Society and former editor of our newsletters), has moved to Billings, Montana (St. John's Lutheran Nursing Home, 3940 Rimrock Road, Billings 59102). She has a son in the local area who visits her daily. Alice, a real sweetheart of a woman, is not able to recognize people on the telephone, but does enjoy cards and photographs. . . . Kay rate of Bozeman, Montana recently joined our Society. She confesses to 49, and the highlight of last season was being hand-picked by old Charles Swithinbank to join his survey crew at the base of Mt. Howe on the Scott Glacier. When you're as old as Swithinbank, anyone 49 years old must look like a mere child. Kay has applied to go back to the Antarctic this year as either a bus driver, hovercraft operator, or cargo GFA. . . . Rudy Honkala, veteran of years at Wilkes, Casey, and Palmer, has seen the light and retired to Bethel, Maine. It is good to note that all kinds of Antarcticans are retiring to Maine; this is partly because New Hampshire is completely sold out, and Florida is for the - - - -!

Support our campaign to raise Society dues!! Order your 1990 Antarctic New Zealand calendar today - BUY!! Make a Lonesome Emperor happy in your home - BUY again!!