THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

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HONORARY PRESIDENT — MRS. PAUL A. SIPLE

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Everything Comes Around - Greenpeace Invited To Talk!

Greenpeace On The Ice

by

Susan Sabella Antarctic
Campaigner for Greenpeace,
USA
1436 U Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

on

Thursday evening, 11 April 1991

8 PM

National Science Foundation
1800 G Street N.W.

Room 540

Susan Sabella graduated with honors from Boston College in 1984. obtaining her Bachelor of Arts degree in French. She began working for Greenpeace USA in 1986, and has been a member of Greenpeace's Antarctica campaign team for the last three years.

In the austral summer of 1985-86, Greenpeace International undertook its first annual expedition to the Antarctic. The following year, Greenpeace established World Park base, a small year-round facility at Cape Evans, Ross Island. World Park bas< and the annual Expedition have been essential to the success of Greenpeace's Antarctic campaign. Greenpeace Expeditions have visited some 30 Antarctic installations, many several times, as part of a program to document environmental conditions and impacts on the continent. The Expedition has also engaged in protests against Japanese whaling in the Southern Ocean and the construction of a hard-rock airstrip at the French station Dumont d'Urville, and has documented the operations of fishing vessels around South Georgia Island.

Susan's talk will focus on Greenpeace activities in Antarctica. She will acquaint you with World Park base, and share with you some of the experiences of Greenpeace's Antarctic Expedition.

Light refreshments - strong coffee, cookies

If you move, please let us know, as bulk mailings are not forwarded!!!

This column remains bits and pieces of information about Antarctica and its people which appeal to the writer, and, hopefully, which may also appeal to you. We strive to write the truth, but when the truth gets in the way of a good story, out the window goes truthfulness. After all, our only objective is to get you to read these things. We continue to live in luxury in the quiet solitude and beauty of coastal Maine, just coming to the shores of the Potomac to attend our meetings and write these newsletters.

MEMBERSHIP. We have lost a lot of members this year, but, fortunately, nearly all of the practicing Antarcticans have renewed. We can live without the marginally interested members, as we have a good hard core of six hundred and would like to keep it around that figure. Sure, we would like to keep people like Jay Shurley, Eric Siefka, and Peter Webb, but we have to expect a few losses of good people, too. We used to keep delinquents onboard longer than we do now, but with the increased cost of mailing newsletters, we close the doors after three notices. What we would like to do would be to recruit more of the young Antarcticans. And what would really make us smile would be to have inputs from them for our newsletters. Our Society is only as good as you members make it.

AN EDITORIAL. Hardly a month goes by without someone contacting us for our opinion of where they should bequeath their Antarctic diaries, papers, clothing, paraphernalia, even Antarctic medals. Once upon a time we could recommend, with a clear conscience, that journals should probably go to the National Archives, and that museum-type items should go to The Ohio State University. But now we find ourselves in a quandary, as the National Archives is trying to discourage private polar donations. This comes directly from Marjorie Ciarlante, professional archivist who has the responsibility for polar papers at the National Archives. And Ohio State evidently has little or no interest in polar memorabilia. Recently they turned down what probably amounts to the best private polar collection in existence from the Byrd expeditions, that belonging to Supply Officer Steve Corey of the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition.

It is most unfortunate that there is no Antarctic center somewhere here in the United States. A small country like New Zealand has a wonderful Antarctic wing in their Canterbury Museum in Christchurch, along with a splendid polar library, but our country does not even have the proverbial pot .... The best laid plans always seem to go asunder in a hurry. One of the reasons the Corps of Engineers transferred from Wilmette, Illinois to Hanover, New Hampshire was *to* be near the famed Stefansson Collections in the Dartmouth College Library. They moved, all right, but the Stefansson Collections did not survive!

Everything looked and smelled like roses at Columbus with the establishment of the Byrd Polar Research Center at The Ohio State University, as they had obtained the Byrd Papers from the family, had picked up Sir Hubert Wilkins* papers, medals, and memorabilia from Lanny Ross. But the roses actually turned out to be buffalo chips, and the smell was more like guano for those of us interested in the preservation of all things Antarctican. The new director who came onboard (at the Byrd Polar Research Center) was more interested in academia and research, not in history. So polar people getting ready to die, who want to bequeath whatever they may have to

someone besides their son-in-law, have a real problem.

Brian Shoemaker is trying to establish a National Antarctic Center in Reedsport, Oregon, and he just might win by default, as there is evidently no one on the horizon who wants to contest it. We have been to Reedsport — it's a quiet, sleepy, little port. It's not a very exciting place, but it has a small cadre of dedicated, hard working people who have taken the HERO to their bosom, and now want to bed the GLACIER. Brian is willing to put on dark glasses and sit cross-legged on a street corner in Portland with a tin cup, selling pencils, to pick up funding for his proposed National Antarctic Center, and he might make it, too. We know of one Antarctican, Al Lindsey, the erudite Purdue professor who was on the Second Byrd Expedition, who has already given Brian much of his private collection.

There is a great Arctic museum on the Atlantic, although it is still a pretty well-kept secret — the Peary-MacMillan Museum on the campus of Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. Both of those admirals went to this elite private college with high academic requirements and even higher tuition fees. The Peary-MacMillan Museum is located in one of the many beautiful stone buildings at the end of a verdant grassed quadrangle lined with towering elms. Brunswick is *a* class town, with a wonderful doughnut shop run by a bunch of religious freaks, as least one respectable restaurant, and it's The Gateway to some of the most picturesque Maine coastal scenery to be seen. The Peary-MacMillan Museum fits right into this college atmosphere as if the school was built around it. We need an Antarctic counterpart.

If you have any aims on being an Antarctic historian, you should seriously consider shooting yourself in the foot (or somewhat higher), as it could save you a lot of grief. Tom Jones and the late Bert Crary were given a small stipend to write something about the history of the Antarctic IGY, and it turned out to be fraught with difficulties. The papers of the Chief Scientist, Harry Wexler, are in the Library of Congress; the papers of the admiral in charge of Deep Freeze at the time, George Dufek, are at Syracuse University; and Bert Crary, Deputy Chief Scientist, had deposited his in the National Archives. Unfortunately, this is what any Antarctic investigator is going to be confronted with, multiple resting places for Antarctic papers. If Antarctica is worth researching, then shouldn't the papers and journals and memorabilia of scientists and administrators be preserved in some central depository?

In many ways it is a pity there isn't a sense of feeling for Antarctic history at the Byrd Polar Research Center at The Ohio State University, as the horses are all in place for it to become such a center. We send artists, photographers, poets, and writers to Antarctica, so why couldn't the National Endowment for the Arts or the Humanities fund a bona fide Antarctic historian or archivist for a real polar museum at Columbus? It would seem that something like this would be an attraction for holding polar seminars in Columbus, bringing dollar bills into the city and state.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SOCIETY. Down through the years our Society has tried to present lectures that cover all aspects of Antarctica — science, adventure, management, conservation, tourism, philately, et cetera. Our upcoming Greenpeace lecture will present still another viewpoint of Antarctica. We have had Jim Barnes, and we have had Bruce Manheim, and now with Susan Sabella, we must be almost ready for Jacques Cousteau! We thought you people might be interested in seeing the list of lecturers and lectures relative to the Antarctic Treaty and the preservation of the continent in, sic, its pristine state. So here they are:

2 Oct. 1963	Honorable Paul C. Daniels	Antarctic Treaty
15 Mar. 1966	Roger Tory Peterson	Impression of Antarctic Wildlife and Conservation *

11 Oct. 1966	Honorable Paul C. Daniels Sir	Does Science Contribute to World Peace?
3 Mar. 1971	Peter M. Scott	Antarctica, Past, Present, and Future *
9 Feb. 1972	Frank Mahncke	Antarctic Treaty Inspection Visit
8 Dec. 1972	Robert E. Benoit	Environmental Monitoring and Conservation in Antarctica
2 Feb. 1978	Norman Wulf	The Antarctic Treaty and Antarctic Resources
1 Apr. 1982	Robert H. Rutford	Antarctica in the National and Internationa] Context *
31 Aug. 1982	Charles Swithinbank	Nationalism and Internationalism in the Antarctic: One Man's Perspective
L2 Oct. 1983	R. Tucker Scully	Future of the Antarctic Treaty System *
L6 Nov. 1983	Albert S. Chapman	1983 Antarctic Treaty Observer Mission
24 Jan. 1984	James N. Barnes	Full Protection for the Antarctic: A Viable Option
19 Mar. 1985	Lee Kimball	We Have Met the Enemy and They Are Us
		Diplomats Meet Scientists at the South Pole
		The Antarctic Treaty System Meets the United Nations
28 Nov.1988	Bruce Manheim	Securing Environmental Protection in Antarctica
31 Jan. 1991	R. Tucker Scully	Protecting Antarctica: Progress in Chile
11 Apr. 1991	Susan Sabella	Greenpeace on the Ice

***Memorial Lectures**

BILL SLADEN TO BE ANOINTED. William J.L. Sladen, a five-decade Antarctican who surely will become a six-decade Antarctican, will have received The Explorers Club Medal for 1991 by the time you receive this newsletter, as the highest award bestowed by the Explorers Club is to be given Bill on 23 March 1991. The letter from the president of the Explorers Club, Nicholas Sullivan, said they were honoring Bill for "your many, many years of research and exploration in the Antarctic." Sullivan's letter ended with "I am personally delighted that your long year of ornithological and geological research in Antarctica will receive the recognition it so richly deserves." I wonder which long year he was writing about. We went through ten pages of Bill's publications and found out that he had published in ornithology, general ecology or behavior, botany, physiology, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, and nutrition. But nary an article on geology! Do you think the Explorers Club really got the man they wanted to honor?

Bill is one of our ex-presidents, and our only double-header Memorial Lecturer. He has been pretty well acclaimed by his homeland, as King George VI presented him with an MBE (Member British Empire), and Queen Elizabeth II gave him the Polar Medal. And there is a Mount Sladen on Coronation Island in the South Orkneys. As mountains go, it isn't very high, only 890 meters, but due to its location this pyramid-shaped mountain is quite conspicuous.

Bill wintered over at Hope Bay in 1948, and, as many of you know, he came back to camp from studying penguins at a rookery to find a building a burning inferno, with several people trapped inside with no hope at all of getting out. Bill also wintered over at Signy Island a year or so later. Following a summer season on the icebreaker STATEN ISLAND in 1958-59, Bill became a principal investigator for the United States Antarctic Research Program, studying penguins in the austral summers of 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1968, and 1970. His film, "Adelie Penguins of the Antarctic", shot in 1955, was one of the very first color movie films outlining the life history of a bird species.

In 1948 Bill started the first organized, addressed bird-banding program for Antarctica. He was the first to design and use the flipper band (1952), now used in all penguin research. He also started the USARP Bird Banding Program with U.S. Fish and Wildlife bands involving 13 new band designs from albatrosses, Wilson petrels to penguins (1968). In 1961 he did physiological research on temperature regulation in penguins. He was the second to use the new technique of radio-telemetry for physiological work on Adelie and Emperor penguins at Cape Crozier (1971). He was the very first to report DDT in Antarctic penguins and seals (1966), thus proving global pollution by this much-used insecticide. He and his Johns Hopkins University graduate students banded over 40,000 Adelie penguin chicks at Cape Crozier between 1962 and 1970. That's like banding everyone in Madison Square Garden twice.

We would be remiss if we didn't recognize Bill's research in the Arctic, as he is sort of Mr. Snow Goose for all of his research with the Russians on Wrangel Island, NE Siberia. And he has made 13 trips to Alaska to study the tundra swan. Enough of this stuff. Let's just end it by saying that old Bill is just blatantly over-qualified as a polar scientist. Disgustingly so!

Bill has been married several times, and, as a matter of fact, is sort of a newly-wed again. He married Jocelyn Anne Arundel Alexander on the 22nd of December 1990 at "Wairunga" in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand. Only Bill Sladen would get married in Hawke's Bay. But I think the interesting thing is that he apparently got married on a stud farm, a sheep stud farm, of an old Antarctic associate, Tony Parker. There is sort of a famous or infamous statement which Tony made to Bill back in the 60's when Bill wondered if it was all right for him to leave his farm in Hawke's Bay to work with Bill on Cape Crozier banding birds. Tony replied, "Don't worry, Bill, my Rams will go on Ramming regardless." Could this have had an influence on Bill selecting that site for his marriage and honeymoon?

It has been quite a few years since the Explorers Club has recognized any Antarctican. There have been many bi-polar people honored, such as Lincoln Ellsworth, Richard E. Byrd, Sir Hubert Wilkins, Bernt Balchen, and Wally Herbert. Larry Gould is bi-polar, although we feel he was honored for his Antarctic connection. Finn Ronne was certain! a tried and true Antarctican. The Explorers Club has even awarded medals to expeditions - the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition and Transglobe. A medal for Transglobe? Holy Cow! You really don't find many bona fide scientists among the Explorers Club medalists. The only true Antarctic scientist honored before Bill Sladen was Larry Gould, and his field work was limited to one expedition. So Bill represents sort of a breakthrough, a scientist who actually worked in Antarctica for five consecutive decades. I think both the Explorers Club and Bill Sladen are to be congratulated. Now if Bill could only find a way to keep the same wife for a couple of consecutive decades, that would be a real accomplishment!

PORK BARREL BATTLE SENDS THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION TO ARLINGTON. The Division of Polar Programs is moving west, about four miles west from 18th and G Streets N.W. to what is referred to as the Ballston section of Arlington. A decade ago Ballston was absolutely nothing, just an aging department store jammed into a small triangle between Glebe Road and Wilson Boulevard. A place to avoid. Then they put in a subway stop, and as soon as that happened, along came bulldozers and cranes, and mammoth buildings started replacing small nondescript stores. A building-in-waiting — Stafford Place — will start going up this spring, and NSF with its 1,450 employees will occupy approximately 400,000 square feet, sometime in 1993.

Whenever any government office moves, it moves only after a political tug-of-war between power giants on Capitol Hill. Senator Charles Robb of Virginia described it

as "heavy-duty politics." The battle lines were drawn up with Robb and Senator John Warner fighting for Virginia, and Barbara Mikulski holding out for Maryland. There were some extenuating circumstances insofar as NSF was concerned, as Mikulski heads the Senate Appropriation subcommittee that reviews its budget, and agency officials were reluctant to offend her. And if you have seen Mikulski on television, you know that she is one tough cookie.

Stafford Place is actually quite well located, being only a mile from our Society's Nerve Center! However, much better facilities will be available to NSF visitors in a 200-room Ramada Renaissance Hotel adjacent to Stafford Place, so don't come here! The building will be hexagonal, with a central atrium that rises twelve stories and admits natural light to the interior of all floors. The exterior of the building includes a precast and glass facade that has a granite base on the first and second levels. There are two main lobbies on opposite ends of the building, and these interior lobbies will have hard finishes, such as granite, marble, or brick.

There will be a 3,000 square foot exercise facility on the second floor so NSFers can either build up a head of steam or cool off hot heads, depending on how they got out of bed that day. There will also be a 12,000 square foot Data Center on the third floor, which must mean that good data is four times better than having a good body. Stafford Place is designed as an "intelligent building with state-of-the-art equipment and systems designed to meet NSF's technological needs, both now and in the future."

A centralized lunch room/vending area will seat about 200. And there will be 600 secured-parking spaces in an underground garage. One saving grace is that 1-66, a multi-passenger expressway from Washington to Dulles has an entrance/exit within a couple of blocks of Ballston, so between the subway and 1-66 commuting might almost become tolerable.

If you like figures, Stafford Place will cost tax payers $31.98 per square foot average over 20 years. Occupancy is scheduled to begin in January of 1993, and be completed not later than 26 July 1993. On the down side, it cost area residents Eskimo Nell, a polar restaurant polynya in Arlington which was famous for its Key Lime pie. Everything comes at a cost, there are no free lunches.

DRAFT OF SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT STATEMENT FOR USAP (U.S. ANTARCTIC PROGRAM)

Sidney Draggan of DPP has a draft environmental impact statement of considerable size (1" thick, 2.1 pounds, 378 pages) out on the street for review. Basically it is a Game Book for the continued operation of the U.S. Antarctic Program in Antarctica. A lot of time and effort must have gone into this most comprehensive document. There are six chapters: Purpose and Need; Description of Current USAP Facilities and Operations; Alternatives, including the Proposed Action; Affected Environment; Environmental Consequences; and Preferred Alternative, Mitigation, and Monitoring. As this publication is of some merit, let's not confuse anything with personal comments, but go directly to the published abstract.

> Four alternatives are evaluated for continued operation of the United States Antarctic Program (USAP). Each alternative involves actions to improve USAP activities and facilities with respect to safety, and environmental and human health protection. The National Science Foundation proposes to implement the third alternative that involves completing an ongoing, five-year Safety, Environment and Health initiative. In addition, that alternative involves streamlining USAP operations by reducing the number of support personnel and by consolidating facilities and activities, in particular at McMurdo Station. Implementation of this alternative includes completing an ongoing materials and waste (solid and hazardous) management study and imple-

menting the study's recommendations where appropriate and feasible. The alternative's source reduction program coupled with a decrease in support personnel would reduce and limit the amounts of material taken to Antarctica in support of scientific research. Also, increased emphasis would be placed on retrograding (removing) wastes from all coastal stations and inland stations and sites, including Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. Impacts to air and water quality associated with current operations would be reduced under the proposed alternative. Modifications to wastewater discharges would be completed, and wastewater discharges (and surface water runoff, if any) and their effects would be measured and studied. Land-use plans for USAP facilities would be evaluated and updated on a regular basis, following formalized guidelines. USAP would continue to review its policies and procedures related to antarctic tourism and update them as the need arises. Systematic investigation of deactivated stations and other former sites of United States antarctic activity would be undertaken. The results of these investigations would be used to prioritize remedial actions and to implement cleanups at those sites where the costs and the risks are fully justified.

DENNIS S. PEACOCK BECOMES NEW HEAD, POLAR SCIENCE SECTION, DPP, NSF. Dr. Peter Wilkniss didn't have to look very far to find a new Polar Science Section head; he found his man down at the other end of the 6th floor corridor at NSF in Atmospheric Sciences — Dr. Dennis S. Peacock. Dennis, a cosmic ray scientist, was Head of the Upper Atmosphere Research Section in the National Science Foundation, and was responsible for the programs in aeronomy, magnetospheric physics, and polar terrestrial research.

Dennis was born in London, England back in June 1941, which would have made him a wax baby about the time of Mrs. Miniver. His mother sure picked a hell of a time to brin him into the world, particularly considering that they lived near the docks, an area heavily hit for months on end. Dennis's father was in the British army in Burma. His Bachelor of Science was obtained with 1st Class Honors in the Physics Department of Imperial College of Science and Technology in London in 1963. Dennis's resume also showed a degree from the Royal College of Science in 1963, and a Diploma from Imperial College in 1968. That was also the year he obtained his PhD from London University. He must have gone to the Antarctic shortly thereafter, as there is a study by Peacock, Csoeke-Poeckh, Gold, and White on "Solar and Magnetospheric Studies at Byrd Station, Summer 1970-1971." So he had some exposure to Antarctica in, what shall we say, his late, late formative years. He came to the National Science Foundation in April 1975, becoming director of its Solar Terrestrial Research programs.

Dennis doesn't really look like most of the young males Wilkniss has been hiring of late. First, he is blond; second, he is clean-shaven; third, he is relatively tall. We doubt if Peter ever hires anyone taller than himself, although Dennis is certainly a six-footer. He looks more like a hard-up college professor - which he has been from time to time since 1964 - than a top level government senior scientist. In other words, Dennis does not strike one exactly as a clothes rack. He appears to be a real human being, one who would probably enjoy coming to your backyard barbecue and eating plain old hamburgers, and quaffing down a cold beer. However, he is not entirely normal, as he is also into collecting antique furniture, which is sort of off-the-wall, right? For sports, the word is out that tennis is his game, but there hasn't been a great English male tennis player since Fred Perry, so we wouldn't worry too much if we ever saw him across the net.

COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TO MCMURDO?????? Late on the afternoon of 11 March, Peter Wilkniss, talking before the National Science Foundation's Advisory Committee for

Polar Programs, said, "I fully expect that within two years commercial flights will be landing at McMurdo." This seemed so far-fetched to me that I had to hang around and ask Peter if I had heard what I thought I had heard, and he told me that indeed I had heard him correctly.

Wilkniss's premise is based on his belief that blue ice runways will be used in the near future at McMurdo. But if the present is a prelude to the future, there is many an engineering problem to be solved before blue ice runways become safe runways. We tried to contact Malcolm Mellor, an aged cohort from decades ago, to see if he would give us his expert opinion on the problems, but he is on vacation - probably sailing in the Aegean Sea as is his bent from time to time.

Tourism is here to stay in Antarctica, and the FRONTIER SPIRIT more or less left an indicator of how things could be in the future when they established their own base on land at McMurdo, and left a small expeditionary force there with a helicopter. It is only a short step now for ships with helicopter capabilities, like the FRONTIER SPIRIT, to be spiriting tourists in helicopters into the Dry Valleys. Nothing henceforth will be totally sacred for the scientists.

This is all rather mind-boggling. Evidently there are no restrictions whatsoever on what tour companies can do as long as they are self-supportive. Thousands of tourists have seen the splendors of the Antarctic Peninsula, hundreds of adventurers have climbed the highest mountains in Antarctica, tens of adventurers have crossed the continent, and now sights seen only by field scientists will be seen by people from Peoria and International Falls. It is all rather scary when one thinks of flying tourists into the Dry Valleys in helicopters, as one learned Antarctican told me that the rule of thumb is something like 15 hours of maintenance for every hour of flying. I think I would rather take my chances in a school of piranhas.

It was only a couple of years ago that adventurers were screaming about not being given an opportunity to do things in Antarctica, when actually there was no one to stop them, just that Uncle Sam wasn't promising to rescue them from some idiotic adventure. If Antarctica is open to commercial flights and helicopter flights, can't we expect some real bad accidents?

What's the value of a life, anyway? The U.S. has always put a very high priority on the lives of its scientists and support personnel on the ice, and our track record in Antarctica is very, very good. Other nations have not been as protective of their people as we have, but we think the overall safety record of all countries in Antarctica has been quite good. Has anyone written or seen any articles on total fatalities in Antarctica? Because of the DC-10 crash on Mt. Erebus, tourism deaths must exceed those of science and science support.

Talking about commercial flights into McMurdo brings back memories of an aged Maine Congressman by the name of Robert Hale who came to Antarctica with the first group of Congressmen to visit Antarctica back in November 1957. As Hale came from my home state, Maine, I was more or less interested in what he had to say about Antarctica. After seeing McMurdo, he gave an interview in which he said something to the effect that he could foresee the day when there would be a hotel at McMurdo to handle tourists who would want to visit the area. We all wondered just what Hale had been smoking, but he was just ahead of his time.

All of this talk about exploitation of minerals, which are still to be found in worth while quality or quantities, may be inconsequential to the problems associated with tourists walking everywhere in Antarctica. Greenpeace, Environmental Defense Fund, Antarctica Project, Cousteau Society, and the rest, may have a new whipping post. Wouldn't it be hysterical if the National Science Foundation came out as a Knight on a Flying White Horse!

SOCIETY EXPEDITIONS RUNS UPON HARD TIMES. Society Expeditions, the premier Antarctic tour company, had more than its share of bad luck in the past austral summer. First the WORLD DISCOVERER actually discovered something, an uncharted rock off Cape Evans. It made a lasting impression on the ship, cutting a couple of short gashes into its hull, one of six inches, one of twelve inches. The ship was never in jeopardy, but when they encountered severe icing conditions in Commonwealth Bay, they decided that digression was the better part of valor and retreated to Port Lyttleton, where the ship entered drydock for repairs. As the cruise was curtailed four days early, they took the passengers on a four-day tour of South Island, seeing Arthur's Pass, Queenstown, and Milford Sound. Then they were given the option of accepting 12 1/2 percent of the cost of the cruise or 25 percent off on any Society Expeditions cruise within the next two years. So the passengers were very well treated. They had a fantastic visit at the Italian base at Terra Nova where they feasted on pizza, wine, and cookies, though not necessarily in that order. One passenger told me the highlight of the cruise for her was being at Cape Hallett with its majestic mountainous backdrop scenery.

Shortly thereafter a Society Expeditions' LAN Chile chartered flight with some 72 people aboard skidded off the runway in the rain at Puerto Williams on Navarino Island, resulting in the death of twenty passengers, seventeen of whom were Americans. The plane had taken off from Punta Arenas, 300 miles to the north, and was delivering a second load of passengers for the Society's EXPLORER. One of our original planks in this Society, Bill Littlewood, and his wife Bente, had just come off the EXPLORER, and had just flown into Punta Arenas on the preceding flight.

One of the victims was a former NOAA employee who got interested in the Antarctic when she processed Weather Bureau employees going to Antarctica for the Internationa] Geophysical Year (IGY). Some people say this woman, Pearl Kamber, was actually the secretary of Harry Wexler, Chief Scientist for the Antarctic during the IGY. Pearl had saved up her money to go on the trip, was scheduled to go next year, then got a call from Society Expeditions saying they had room on the EXPLORER in late February, and unfortunately she switched reservations.

The runway at Puerto Williams is 3,500 feet long which was described as adequate for the British-made BAE-146 aircraft which went off the end of the runway. But by U.S. standards it is a short runway, where 6,000 feet runways are typical for commuter strips. A Chilean LAN airline spokesman told an Atlanta Journal staff writer that the strip at Puerto Williams "is not unsafe. Thousands of flights go in and out of there every year."

Lynwood Hall, 38, an artist from Moultrie, Georgia, described the crash in a conversation with Lyle V. Harris of the Atlanta Journal. "There was a real shrill noise and a series of jolts and one big bounce and the plane stopped. I looked out the window and the water was rising up to the windows. With the jolt being so severe, I did not realize we had overshot the runway. We went over a cliff.

"The next thing we knew water was coming into the plane. The plane was tilted down towards the nose and started to sink. They opened the doors and the water just gushed in. One of the flight attendants opened the door and just froze. A couple pushed her out instinctively.

"There were people in their 60s and 70s and they did not know how to respond or react (Ed note. Watch it there, buddy, you're treading on thin ice!). It was a process of climbing and swimming over the backs of the seats to get out of the doors on either side of the fuselage. Freezing water was gushing in. Your survival instincts kicked in and you just wanted to live. Some of the stuff in the overhead compartments was floating, and it was difficult to get out.

"The plane filled up in a minute or less. Once you got out you had to swim to

either wing and you had to swim through this messy fuel to get to the wing. I was the last passenger on the wing.

"I was waiting on the wing and the plane was sinking fast. The water was over my knees, and at that point I was really freezing. I was shivering and cold. I just had on a pair of cord pants and a cotton sweater and a shirt. It was the most frightening moment of my life. We were seconds away from death. It was your worst nightmare come true."

Hall was the only survivor of the crash who opted to continue on the cruise. He said it was a tough decision to make, but as an artist he wanted to do a series of paintings on the trip, so decided to go ahead. Incidentally, all seven Chilean crew members survived the crash and lived through it all.

STUMBLING INTO HISTORY. David Elliot, geologist at Ohio State, trying to investigate ancient volcanism in Antarctica, was rudely interrupted in his field investigations this past austral summer when he stumbled. Evidently David is not too well coordinated, but all turned out well. The Washington Post for 14 March 1991 quoted David as saying, "You don't stumble on dinosaurs every day, especially in Antarctica. It was quite unexpected. Our minds were on volcanic rocks and not on vertebrates. When we saw the bone, it took a moment or so to realize what we were looking at." Two heads are better than one, especially when the other head happens to rest on the shoulders of William Hammer, a paleontologist, who just happened to be down the street or over the ridge or down the valley, or whatever, fifteen miles away. He was contacted, and quickly confirmed that the remains were dinosaurs, and began digging the bones out of the side of the mountain. David described the working conditions on the 12,500-foot slope of Mount Kirkpatrick as "really quite pleasant, except there was no oxygen." So there are 4,000 pounds of fossil bones and rocks slowly steaming across the Pacific headed towards Hammer's laboratory. Hammer isn't sure what kind of dinosaurs he has, but until a better name comes along, how about Elliotstumblinsaurus, and we can call them ESSes.

Hammer and Company think they have found the remains of at least two different dinosaurs, and said the fossils may be a snapshot of a drama of death played out 200 million years ago, when Antarctica was warm, mild, and part of the southern supercontinent known as Gondwanaland. One fossil appears to belong to a large plant-eater about twenty-five feet long, complete with skull, shoulder, ribs, blade and limbs. In other words, this dinosaur was about the size of an average modern-day NBA basketball player! The other fossil is believed to be a carnivore. All they have is a single canine tooth, which the dinosaur might have lost while attacking or feeding upon its plant-eating victim.

It seems that Elliot and Hammer were surprised to find dinosaurs in Antarctica because there is so little rock exposed from the age when dinosaurs cavorted — dinosaurs do cavort, don't they? The article said that it was relatively easy to find 220 million-year old mammals like reptiles that predate the dinosaurs, but finding the dinosaurs themselves had been impossible until now. Hammer said, "Finding rocks of just the right age in Antarctica was almost more of a surprise than finding the dinosaurs."

The Golden Voice of Antarctica, Larry Gould, ended his book "Cold" with, "And I had rather go back to the Antarctic and find a fossil marsupial than three gold mines." Marsupials, yes, but dinosaurs, never. You were sure lucky, Larry, that you and your dog teams never ran into one of those dinosaurs out there in the Queen Maud Mountains, as they surely would have spooked your teams!

(John Noble Wilford also wrote about the dinosaur finding in the New York Times, 13 March 1991.)