



# THE ANTARCTIC SOCIETY

905 NORTH JACKSONVILLE STREET  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22205

HONORARY PRESIDENT — MRS. PAUL A. SIPLE

Vol. 91-92

January

No. 5

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Dr. Claude Lorius, 1986  
Dr. Louis J. Lanzerotti, 1987  
Mr. Peter J. Anderson, 1988  
Dr. Ted E. DeLaca, 1989  
Dr. Sayed Z. El-Sayed, 1990

!!! ANNOUNCING T H R E E MEETINGS! MARK YOUR CALENDAR !!!

BREAKING THE ICE  
Getting to Know the Southern  
Ocean

by  
James M. Gorman  
Free-lance Writer, Piermont, New York

ON

*Wednesday evening, 26 February, 8 PM*

National Science Foundation, 1800 G Street NW, Room 540

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Joint Dinner Meeting with The Explorers Club - Washington Group

THE ANTARCTIC  
Exploration is in the Eye of the Beholder  
by

Dr. Peter E. Wilkniss

Director, Division of Polar Programs  
National Science Foundation

on

*Saturday evening, 14 March*

Cash Bar - 6:00 PM      Dinner - 6:45 PM      Lecture - 8:00 PM

The Cosmos Club, 2121 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC  
(Powell Auditorium) (Free Parking for Attendees)

*Dinner reservations, \$28 per person, MUST be made by March 7th!*  
*Make checks payable to The Explorers Club - Washington Group.*  
*Mail to: Marcia Halliday, Explorers Club-Washington Group,*  
*P. O. Box 2321, Reston, Virginia 22090 (703-818-4667)*

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ARCHEOLOGICAL FINDS AT EAST BASE, ANTARCTICA  
by

Robert and Kathy Spude  
National Park Service, Denver  
on

*Thursday evening, 19 March 1992, 8 PM*

NSF Conference and Training Center, Room 500D 1110  
Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC (just south of Thomas Circle)

If you get this so-called Newsletter, it will be a miracle, as the odds are highly in favor of its being aborted. The writer's last two trips to Washington have resulted in his 96-year old mother, who lives next door with her 100-year old sister, going into the hospital – and this without her even reading the Newsletters! Since then her health has gone downhill from miserable to whatever it is near rock bottom. The end is imminent, and it behooves this intrepid soul to maintain a watchful eye over the home front, and attempt to write the Newsletter on the shores of Muscongus Bay in Maine. This is a possibility which we knew would eventually happen, so we now have fax machines.

**SOCIETY MEETING EXTRAVAGANZA PAR EXCELLENCE.** Our meeting of 21 January 1992 at which Dr. Laney Chouest spoke on the new Cajun icebreaker, the NATHANIEL B. PALMER, turned out to be the most spectacular regular meeting (non-Memorial Lecture) that we have ever had. Laney is evidently the last of the big spenders, and he felt as long as he had to come to Washington, he was going to turn our meeting into Mardi Gras time. So he picked up the and Marine Engineers, the Office of Naval Research, and the Division of Oceans Sciences' Advisory Committee to NSF, as well as staffers to the Senators from Louisiana, that he was going to tell all to the Antarctic Society about this great ship he had just built, and that he jolly well expected they would all show up to hear him. After that he called a caterer, telling them what he wanted for goodies and beverages, and then he added before he hung up, "Oh yes, I want a four-foot Emperor penguin with some chicks carved out of ice for the centerpiece!"

We understand that it was a real blast. It's too bad that our late founding father, Carl Eklund, and our late first Honorary President, Ambassador Paul Clement Daniels, could not have been there, as they would have thought for sure that the Antarctic Society had indeed become of age when they started popping the corks from the wine bottles. When there are spirits involved, you just had to know that both were there in spirit. It resulted in our largest-ever attended regular meeting, with Society members being outnumbered by more than three to one! And here I sat on the coast of Maine drafting this Newsletter!

There is a funny postmortem story on the carved ice penguin and chicks. Everyone eventually went home, and our president was left standing there with the four-foot Emperor with chicks. As he drives a motorcycle, he felt that he had absolutely no chance of eluding Washington's finest carrying a penguin in front of him on his bike while trying to maneuver out of the District. So he was left with no alternative but to place the carved ice penguins outside the front door of the National Science Foundation, hoping against wickedly impossible odds that it would not be liberated by some unsuspecting midnight traveler. What he should have done was lug the thing two blocks over to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, push the door bell, and when George came to the door, shove it into his arms and yell, "This is for Millie," and run like hell. The liberator(s) who took it did leave the base, so if you want to carve your own ice penguins, contact Guy Guthridge and maybe he'll let you have one slightly-used mount for an ice penguin.

**OUR UPCOMING SPEAKERS - GORMAN AND WILKNISS.** If you want variety, come to our meetings. The last one featured something new – our distinguished speaker, Dr. Chouest, called time, blowing an early whistle, and turned the rest of the evening into hosting a reception for all the attendees. It's impossible to beat that, but we will have a joint dinner meeting with the Washington Group of The Explorers Club at the prestigious Cosmos Club, former all-male bastion located on Embassy Row. It's the one place I know in Washington where a tried-and-true Antarctic, Larry Gould is hung in their Rogues' Gallery. They made him their Man-of-the-Year (or was it Person-of-the-Year?) back in 1981.

So if you go to the Cosmos Club on the evening of 14 March, Peter Wilkniss will be there to tell us all we ever wanted to know about Antarctica. Usually when the Director of the Division of Polar Programs addresses us, it is more like a State of the Union presentation, updating the administration's progress and crystal-balling the future, but from the title of his upcoming lecture, it looks like Peter may throw the script away and talk about exploration. Whatever Peter wants to talk about is okay with us. He has weathered some pretty stormy days with adventurers, environmentalists, tourists, lawyers - you name it - lining up to take pot shots at him over the past seven years. Peter has broad shoulders and seems to have survived all shootings. In fact, it seems to this innocent abroad that Peter has grown with the times, has changed when change seemed best, and history may show that Peter was one of the best-ever directors of the Division of Polar Programs. So come and hear whatever Peter is going to say!

We don't know as much about Jim Gorman as we do about Peter, but from his credentials Gorman doesn't have to take a back seat to anyone. This mid-forty Nutmegger from Hartford, Connecticut, who now lives outside New York City, has been a science writer since 1974. He has been on the staff of The Sciences, Natural History, and Discover, and his works have appeared in such publications as Sports Illustrated, The New Yorker, Audubon, Omni, The Atlantic, and Connaisseur, plus various newspapers, including the New York Times. Jim has also written several books, one entitled "First Aid for Hypochondriacs." Then there is one called "Digging Dinosaurs," another "A Dinosaur Grows Up," and "The Total Penguin." His "The Man With No Endorphins" was selected by the New York Times Book Review as one of the notable books of 1988, and by the Library Journal as one of the best scientific/technological books of 1988. "Digging Dinosaurs" also won honors for Jim. Not only was it a Book of the Month Club selection, it was chosen by the Library Journal as one of the best books of 1988, and won the New York Academy of Sciences' Children's Science Book Award in the category for older students (such as Norman Vaughan). "The Total Penguin" – wonder what this one is all about? – was a Book of the Month Club Award winner too. It looks to us like this guy is either one hell of a great writer, or he has a lot of relatives or good friends in influential places swinging votes.

Jim is currently working on a book about the Southern Ocean, and he will be telling us about a three-month trip to the Antarctic last year aboard a U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker which took him from Australia to McMurdo, to the Ross Sea, and on and on until he ended up in Chile. Besides talking about the trip, Gorman will also present his thoughts on conventional nature writing, and tell us why he is writing this book. Something besides money? He will read us a short section from this book. Jim sounds like a real winner, so don't miss him. Perhaps he, himself, is The Total Penguin. Come and find out on February 26th at our usual meeting place on the 5th floor at the National Science Foundation.

**EXPLORERS CLUB COSPONSORS LECTURES ON THE POLAR REGIONS.** The Explorers Club Washington Group, for the second year in a row, is cosponsoring with the Smithsonian Institutions' Resident Associate Program a Campus on the Mall course entitled

Pioneers of the Polar Regions: Exploring the Arctic and the Antarctic. By the time you get this, you will have missed Ted DeLaca's "Polar Exploration" on January 16th, and Alfred McLaren's "The Submarine in the Arctic: 300 Years of Exploration and Scientific Discovery." But hopefully you will get this in time to hear John Lynch lecture on "Ozone Depletion and Global Warming" on 30 January; Bill Sladen on "Polar Ornithology" on 6 February; Noel Brodbent on "Human Survival in the Arctic" on 13 February; Randall Updike on "Dynamic Earth Processes in the Arctic" on 20 February; Jack Talmadge on "Politics of the Polar Regions" and Jack Childs on "South American Antarctic Geopolitics: Conflicting Claims, Collective Concerns," both on 27 February. And it looks like a triple-header on 5 March with Polly Penhale talking on "Antarctic Ecosystems," Ann Hawthorne showing slides, and Donald Watkins on polar medicine. If you are a member of the Explorers Club, the eight-week session costs \$86, but if you aren't a card-carrying Explorer, you have to fork out \$126. We have no idea if you can buy your way in for single lectures, but Bill Littlewood (phone -301-493-4727) can tell you.

**U.S. ANTARCTIC CONNECTIONS AT WINTER OLYMPICS IN ALBERTVILLE.** Dorcas Womsavage, daughter of Steve Den Hartog, Little America V, 1958, has again made our women's cross-country ski team. Denny, who just came back from Antarctica where he was involved in surveying blue ice runways, will be following his daughter to Albertville. We remember in the last Olympics that Dorcas had a great run on her leg of a relay-team race, and had the U.S. in one of the top three places when she finished. Subsequent racers fared less well, and she never got a medal. But Dorcas did pick up a husband, Paul Womsavage, on 14 September 1991, getting married at McKinney Park on Clark Point overlooking Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire. The bride and groom live in Park City, Utah, which we presume must have snow at times. Dorcas is now 26, and we wondered if she would be over the hill at that age, but Denny assured me that cross-country skiers still have their wax well into their 30s, so go for it, Dorcas.

Another Antarctic, Norman Vaughan, age 86, is going to be in his second Olympics, his first since 1962. Sled dog racing was a demonstration sport at the 1962 Olympics at Lake Placid, and the late Admiral Byrd's old dog team driver was chosen. They couldn't have had a better man as Norman has been demonstrating ever since he came out of his mother's womb.

We don't know exactly what this is all about, but old Norman has been invited to the Winter Olympics in Albertville as the "guest of honor at the 'Grand Prix de Savoie'." It sounds to me that Norman is going to be the Grand Prize for contestants from the Savoy. Now, who would want an 86-year old musher who sleeps with dogs, who doesn't shave, who has a total knee replacement, and who is probably pretty well spent since he married that young chick from Atlanta a few winters ago? Norman is a nice guy, but is he really Grand Prize material? I hope old Norman never dies, as then I will have no one to kick around anymore.

**SICK BAY.** We talked to Gentleman Jim Zumberge on 18 January, and he was his usual affable self. At the time of the call, the Rutfords were visiting the Zumberges. It appears that Jim is making excellent progress recovering from his series of radiation treatments on his brain tumor.

Ed Todd wrote Ken Moulton that the operation for prostate cancer appears successful for the most part, saying there are no signs that cancer had spread to other organs. On the down side, Ed said the recovery period is longer and more complicated than he had been led to believe. The operation disrupted his internal plumbing, and it may take several months for him to regain full control. No one said life was a bed of roses

Al Fowler writes that he has recovered completely from the removal of the pituitary tumor, saying, "It's a miracle the way they do it without leaving a mark."

Rudi Honkala, multi-year Banana Belt Antarctic — Wllkes, Casey, Palmer — recently was perusing the Readers Digest December issue, when he decided to read the article about "Health Symptons You Must Not Ignore" in which there was a description of TIAs (transient ischemic attacks). As he read the article, he realized that what he was reading pertained to his wife Barbara. So he scheduled a physical for her two days later, when a CAT scan revealed a meningioma, a tumor on the brain midway between the left ear and the top of her head. Three days later she was admitted to the hospital, and after five hours of surgery a tumor, the size of a baseball, was removed and, fortunately, it was benign. Since then Barbara has been back in the hospital twice, once supposedly for a viral infection, the other supposedly for phlebitis. The prognosis is for a complete recovery. And all because Rudi read an article in Readers Digest!

Review and update on Mort Turner. As you may recall, when Mort was in the field last July a kidney stone lodged in his right ureter. Since there were other stones in the kidney, this one was pushed up, and they had to go to Denver for the Lithotripsy procedure to break them up small enough to pass. Mort, being ornery, failed to let one large piece succumb, and it got stuck. Finally an operation through the kidney removed all pieces of the stone, and that should have been the end of the ordeal. But he picked up a staphylococcus infection in the hospital, and it took ten days of high-powered antibiotics to get it under control. There is scar tissue in the ureter, which has now been treated twice. They won't know until sometime next month (February) if Mort will have to have another operation to remove it.

Roy Cameron also had surgery last November for a large bladder stone, and he conjecture that it may have been from too many cups of coffee when he was in the Antarctic. Roy has been spending more time in Eastern Europe. He was the Coordinator for a Water Quality Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe, and will be editing the Proceedings. Antarcticans pop up everywhere.

Meanwhile, Jerry Huffman has completed a year of experimental therapy for his Hepatitis C condition. Now he is going through a three-month period with no medication. In March they will do a liver biopsy, and that will tell if Jerry goes into remission or whether some more treatment will have to be considered. Probably the root of all of Jerry's problems is that he has eaten too many mud pies in his life.

Looking at who has been or is in Sick Bay, you thank God that you never worked in the Division of Polar Programs, as people struck down this past year look like a DPP roster of yesteryear (Todd, Fowler, Turner, Huffman). And it wasn't too long ago that Walt Seelig had some heart problems, and Ken Moulton had a hernia operation in 1991, and arthroscopic surgery on one of his knees.

**DEATH OF A FAMOUS POLYARNIK, PROFESSOR TRESHNIKOV.** One of the nicest members among many truly nice members in our Society is Anna Minevich, former translator at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in Leningrad. Anna spent part of last year in London enjoying newly-acquired grandmother duties. Her daughter gave birth last winter to a son, Edward-Alexander, who goes by the Russian diminutive, Sasha, and from all reports grandmother and grandfather enjoyed getting to know Sasha last summer when they were in London.

Anna sent us greetings recently, "Happy New Year! Best wishes from St. Petersburg, a city with a glorious name and deplorable present, but we are optimists and we hope that the coming year will be different and better." Anna included the obituary of Alexey Fedorovich Treshnikov from IZVESTIYA, No. 276, 21 November 1991, page 6.

On the 18th of November we learned of the death of one of the most famous polar explorers, Alexey Fedorovich Treshnikov, Academician, Laureate of the State Prize, Hero of Socialist Labour, President of the USSR Geographic Society.

He was born in Samara District to a peasant family almost 78 years ago. He achieved a lot, he greatly contributed to Soviet science. Treshnikov graduated from the Leningrad State University as a hydrologist meteorologist, and he devoted all his efforts to the exploration of the polar regions of the Earth. He travelled a lot, mostly to remote places. In the late 40s he participated in the Lomonosov Ridge discovery expedition in the Arctic Ocean. In the middle 50s he became the Head of the Arctic Drifting Station NORTH POLE-3, and immediately after that he headed the Il-d Soviet Antarctic Expedition; during that year Vostok Station was established. He was the author of numerous scientific and science-popular books. In his later years he had developed a great interest and concern in environmental issues.

Treshnikov had many followers and students in science and many friends in his life. His name has become a legend in itself. Many people will remember this remarkable person.

**IF YOU THINK YOU ARE CONFUSED, LOOK AT GREENPEACE.** The following form letter came out of Greenpeace USA on 13 December 1991. Having had a checkered thirty-five-odd-year career with the government bureaucracy, we thought we had read some pretty bad gobbledygook in that period. However, we think Greenpeace outdid themselves with this masterpiece of a letter which should win hands-down all awards of gobbledygookness in 1991!

We are currently reorganizing the legal structure of Greenpeace activities in the United States. In this process, a separate nonprofit corporation named Greenpeace Action will acquire most of the operations and activities previously owned by Greenpeace USA.

Also in this process, both corporations will be changing their names. On January 1, 1992, Greenpeace USA will change its name to Greenpeace Fund. At the same time, Greenpeace Action will start doing business under the name Greenpeace.

This change of name will not affect, in any manner, the financial or legal obligations of the corporation now known as Greenpeace USA. However, all correspondence, notices, bills, and other communications from "Greenpeace Fund" after January 1, 1992 will come from the entity now known as Greenpeace or Greenpeace USA. As of that date, the entity now known as Greenpeace USA will not be responsible for or bear any liability associated with activities of the organization doing business in the United States under the name of "Greenpeace." Similarly, all correspondence, notices, bills, and other communications to Greenpeace USA should be directed to "Greenpeace Fund", not to "Greenpeace."

If you have any questions or need any further information, please feel free to call Venita Pinkney-Boyd at (202) 319-2556.

**PROTOTYPE "TELESCOPE" UNDER ANTARCTIC ICE PROVIDES SCIENTISTS WITH NEW VIEWS** (NSF Press Release, 16 January 1992). An innovative prototype astronomical observatory located under Antarctic ice may provide a new window on the universe. The experimental observatory will detect ghostly particles called neutrinos, allowing scientists to obtain better views of such objects as supernovae and gravitationally collapsing stars.

Designed by National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded scientists at the University of Wisconsin, the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of California,

Irvine, the "telescope" consists of a string of photomultiplier tubes that captures and amplifies light flashes passing through transparent ice as the result of neutrino collisions.

Neutrinos are weakly interacting particles that are virtually unaffected by passing through matter or magnetic fields. As a result, these particles can travel through regions of the universe obscured by gas or dust and therefore unobservable by ordinary telescopes. "Unlike some other neutrino detectors, this one has a virtually unlimited potential for growth," says researcher Francis Halzen of the University of Wisconsin. "First results from this prototype indicate that ice is an excellent medium for the construction of a neutrino telescope."

The National Science Foundation's Division of Polar Programs provided a crew and hot-water drilling equipment to penetrate the Antarctic ice to a depth of one kilometer. Housed in high-strength glass vessels designed to withstand up to 500 atmospheres of pressure, a string of eight-inch photomultiplier tubes was lowered into the ice.

The "telescope" works by using these photomultiplier tubes to observe the light "footprints" of subatomic particles. Neutrinos reveal their presence when a small percentage of them collide with atoms in the ice and cause them to emit bursts of "Cherenko" light, "a radiation analog of a sonic boom that is produced when particles travel faster than the speed of light in an ice medium."

**LONG DURATION BALLOONS** (John Lynch). The second of two long duration balloons (LDB) is currently drifting slowly around the South Pole at an altitude of 130,000 feet, carrying a 3,500-pound solar gamma ray and x-ray spectrometer. The balloon was launched on January 10 from Willy Field, and it is expected that it will be cut-down by command on about January 23. The payload will then be recovered by aircraft, refurbished and launched again from Antarctica during the 1992-93 season. The original plan was for two circumnavigations, but a late launch due to weather delays will probably mandate the earlier cut-down. The experimenters are from the University of California, Berkeley, UC San Diego, and CESR, Toulouse, France.

The first LED experiment was launched December 16, went around the Pole almost 1 1/4 turns and cut-down on December 26 at 83.1°S, 104.4°E. There were some difficulties recovering the payload due to the high altitude of the plateau at the recovery site, and some very interesting stories about many takeoff attempts in an LC-130. Eventually VXE-6 gave up the recovery attempt, left the payload and some additional equipment which had been flown in on the LC-130. About January 9 one of the charter Twin Otters made two flights to the site and recovered the high-value equipment. The experiment was designed to measure the isotopic composition of cosmic rays with nuclear masses around that of iron (Fe, Co, Ni, etc). An unusual feature of the instrument is a superconducting magnet nearly one meter in diameter. The experimenters are from Utah University and Boston University.

Both of the projects were funded by NASA; balloon launch services were also provided by NASA through the National Scientific Ballooning Facility, and, of course, NSF/DPP provided logistic support and the facilities in Antarctica.

**ANTARCTIC BIOSPHERIAN YEARNS FOR MARS.** Abigail "Gaie" Ailing, whose credentials are impeccable, being a State of Mainer with Antarctic experience, is the bionaut in Biosphere II who is in charge of the ocean. She was quoted in an 18 December '91 press release as saying, "The ocean is seasonally green due to algae plankton and particulates, which are largely larvae of corals, sponges, and crustaceans. In normal reefs, the area is washed by the vast resources of the open ocean; hence you normally do not see such a rich micro-biotic community." So it is actually better than a normal coral reef.

As you followers of Biosphere II know, there are many, many problems with the experiments. Walter Adey, the Smithsonian Institution scientist who designed the ocean, said, "It was screwed up." According to Adey the project was rushed and the end result a great disappointment. The ocean he wanted, he says, "was a highly productive, highly diverse system. The one we got is low-productivity, low-diversity." Adey was quoted in the Washington Post of 8 January 1992 as being all torn up about Biosphere II, saying it is shaping up as a disaster.

But getting back to Gaie, a 32-year old youngster who has a young son - she says, "I'm really thrilled to be here. We are going to love where we live." Ailing said she hopes, when she gets out (of Biosphere II), to work on her ultimate goal of going to Mars. From what one reads in the referenced article in the Washington Post (by Joel Achenbach), anything to Mars should be an improvement on Biosphere II. A Californian by the name of Lou Hawthorne was hired by the University of Phoenix (in Greece?) to make an educational documentary on Biosphere II. He became disillusioned "Eighty percent of Biosphere 2 is beautiful, impressive, legitimate and exciting, and 20 percent is an outrageous, blatant hoax."

**TOURISM APPROACHING THE CROSSROADS?** Those of you who receive Ron Naveen's Oceanities newsletter "The Antarctic Century" saw in the December 1991 issue five pages of comments on Antarctic tourism. Now that there is a common meeting of minds on mining in Antarctica, it appears that the next hot issue is going to be how to handle tourism in the polar regions, especially Antarctica. There will be an international meeting in Alsace, France this coming April on tourism in the polar regions, sponsored by CIFFEN, a non-profit organization concerned with wild life in natural spaces.

Tourism in Antarctica this current austral summer has seen some ominous signs. Perhaps the biggest is that one of the very best, Society Expeditions, has run into financial problems and is "working on a solution to those problems." Society Expeditions has been charterer for voyages of the SOCIETY EXPLORER and the WORLD DISCOVERER, but after this season these two ships will no longer be operated by Society Expeditions. This is a major switcheroo, as they have been the big kid on the block since Lindblad went out of business several years ago. And they have enjoyed well-earned successes until beset last year with financial difficulties.

Clipper Adventure Cruises (7771 Bonhomme Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63105-1965) have chartered the WORLD DISCOVERER for the spring, summer, and fall of 1992, and so they will be taking her back to Antarctica. There have been so many rumors floating around that it has been difficult to separate facts from fictions, but in official communiques which we have received there has been no mention of the deployment of the SOCIETY EXPLORER next year. However, don't be surprised if she isn't back in Antarctic waters next year.

One of the big problems many of the Society Expeditions' faithful face is that they bought discounted coupons in past years for downstream cruises on their ships. Presumably some way has to be found to reimburse these people. One frequent traveler with Society Expeditions, hearing of their folding their tents after the current season, brought eighteen members of her family with her on an Antarctic cruise this past season! One passenger was only a year and a half old! Can you imagine having your whole clan with you aboard an Antarctic cruise ship?? And we understand that they ended up with everyone still talking to everyone!

One of the newest and best of the cruise ships, written about last year in this so-called Newsletter, sailed to Antarctica this season with only twenty-five passengers. Another ship, we understand, cancelled a whole cruise. Are these signs of the economy, or has tourism in Antarctica peaked?



And it's rather hard to tell the home team. Take the indefatigable twosome of Peter Harrison and Shirley Metz. We understand they are part of ZEGRAMS and that they are ECO. Also they have lectured for both Society Expeditions and Clipper this year. So even though you know the players, you don't know which T-shirt they are wearing (unless you undress them personally). One staffer at Society Expeditions sent out her farewell letter announcing her retirement, yet while the mailmen/mailwomen were delivering her letters, she was back working at her old desk in the Society Expedition off, but for Clipper! Sort of like the Marx Brothers and Who's on First.

If you know anything about Antarctic tourism, you know that ships to the Peninsula always go into Deception Island so the passengers can go for a swim in the thermally heated waters of Pendulum Cove. But seismologists started getting bad signals from that area, and so this month all cruise ships have been told that they must not stop at Deception. Let's have another blast!

**BERGY BITS.** Another five-decader is Ed Zeller, so where do we stand now? There is Charlie Bentley, Bob Rutford, George Denton, Dick Cameron, Gentleman Jim Zumberge, Mort Turner, and George Llano. Additional possibilities - Sayed El-Sayed and David Elliot. - There is a small technicality as to whether Charles Swithinbank is truly a six-decade Antarctic. For whatever it is worth, we have given him official credit, as he is such a nice guy, and he was so close to Antarctica on 31 December 1949 that it seems close enough. He was on the factory ship THORSHOVDI in the Scotia Sea, halfway between South Georgia and the South Orkneys, at 51° South, enroute to Maudheim where he was to winter over in 1950 and 1951. We always figured Charles was a dead cinch to make seven decades, and he may, but unlikely with the U.S., as he had some troubles with the doctors when he took his Antarctic physical last summer. The German-owned ICEBIRD got entrapped in an unseasonably thick ice pack in early January when it was returning from Scott Base. The ship was soon surrounded by Emperor penguins, who were contemplating whether they wanted to take possession of the ship as a derelict. Sixty-two bored people aboard the ICEBIRD were offering no resistance ..... Gentleman Jim has three sons who work in the physical sciences, and one, Mark Zumberge, is at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at San Diego. Evidently Mark is one of those Doubting Thomases - along with ten scientists and a support crew of a hundred, for the past three years they have been trying to find a kink in Isaac Newton's 300-year old law of gravity. The good news from all those scientists working for three years is that, yes, we do have gravity, and, no, you will not be falling off into space. If you want verification on this, look in the current issue of the Journal of the American Physical Society, under Physical Review Letters. This must have been funded by the government, and as a taxpayer, if you don't approve of such studies, perhaps you should contact his father. Sounds to me like there was a paternal flaw in bringing up the kid ..... Walter Froehlich died last November. He may not be a household name in your abode, but he was the Science Editor of the U.S. Information Agency, and operated International Science Writers. Once he accompanied an international delegation to Antarctica. He was only 69 years old at the time of his death, and lived in Chevy Chase, Maryland ..... Lisa Fetterolf is back on the ice at McMurdo for at least her third winter-over. When she joined our Society six years ago, our 500th member, she was a sweet young thing with a cameo complexion and aspiring hopes in journalism. She dreamed of Antarctica and had to get there, which she did in due course. But now she writes like an O.A.E., saying, "McMurdo doesn't seem to be the same place it was less than 5 years ago." She writes about how impersonal all things appear to be now, that rules have been made "seemingly for no reason." But she also admits some things are better, citing the food (but bemoaning the fact that food cannot be taken out of the galley); citing less duplication between contractor and the Navy, resulting in less animosity; citing a real effort to allow Space-A travel which is based on the number of months

spent on the ice. This has resulted in Lisa going on a turnaround flight to the South Pole, and flights to both Scott's quarters at Cape Evans and Shackleton's at Cape Royds, as well as another to Lake Bonney. She evidently spent two days in the Dry Valleys, as she wrote that she did a lot of hiking and climbing and picture taking, saying it was worth the four-year wait. Lisa is a good kid, and we're happy that she has finally gotten to see something besides downtown, metropolitan McMurdo.

.... Did you see where Diane Ackerman has a new book out - "The Moon by Whale Light" published by Random House late in 1991? Most of you no doubt remember her article on Antarctica which appeared in The New Yorker several years ago. Her new book consists of four essays - bats, crocodiles, penguins, and whales. Rick Bass's review of the book in the Washington Post of 28 November 1991 was sort of a mixed bag, writing, "I could never perceive a direction, intent, voice, or even tone. Rhythms - for me - also seemed absent. They would start, but then fall away. There was no deep weave." But he softened as the review unfolded, writing, "I'm being harsh. The best thing about 'The Moon by Whale Light' is its research, its rat-a-tat-tat listing - almost an enumeration - of interesting facts about whatever species is being investigated. I also found original turns of phrases, unusual perceptions, that stayed with me for days afterwards." Besides being a journalist, Diane is also a poet. Sounds to me like a book you'd want to borrow from the library, not purchase for your own library..... The other evening I put the video of the Memorial Service at the Cosmos Club for the late Bert Crary into the VCR and watched it. A copy of this should go to the Crary Science and Technology Center at McMurdo, as it tells a lot about Bert as both a polar scientist and as a man. Future Antarcticans who never knew Bert could then listen to the beautiful tributes by such people as Charlie Bentley, Frank Press, and Mort Rubin. What this country needs are more audio histories about our polar greats, and with Peter Anderson apparently delegated to the sidelines, where is there an interest? When is it too late in life to get into something new, as it seems like this could be a possibility for old fossils like Colin Bull, Jim Zumberge, Link Washburn, Dick Goldthwait, Ken Moulton, Walt Seelig, Ron McGregor, and others? ..... Barry Powell has announced that he will retire in November 1992 as Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). Anyone interested in applying for this position should get in contact with Ray Arnaudo in the State Department (phone 202-647-3262; fax 202-647-1106. There is some concern at the National Science Foundation, we understand, over a New Zealand proposal to put up an electronic radio receiver at Arrival Heights, which had been set aside as some sort of an electronic-free area. The U.S. blew up seventy-five pounds of decaying chemicals somewhere outside of McMurdo. This was in no way a violation of the Antarctic Treaty, as there are emergency exclusions to cover such needs. Steve Den Hartog wonders if there isn't overkill in the crevasse rescue course. Denny is an experienced mountaineer in his own right, but said that what he was subjected to this year was okay "for people attempting 8000-meter peaks, but simple ice exposure like climbing Mt. McKinley, or trying to do Antarctic research does not require the HI TECH." He went on to say, "A regular rope or two and double rope rescue techniques are simple and more likely to be used or remembered by field workers whose primary interest is not to survive where others fear to tread, but rather to accomplish a job." It appears that a wheeled runway at Mt. Howe (87°5'S, 150°W) may be unrealistic on account of the wind. A planned three-week study at the site was cut to six days by innumerable transportation delays. The wind blew constantly directly across the only possible runway heading at speeds of 10 to 35 knots during the entire stay. So using Mt. Howe as a possible site for transshipment of fuel and cargo to the South Pole may not be very feasible. The Mill Glacier site is twice as far from the Pole, but is much more usable. Investigators went on home to rework their figures to see how the added distances change the economics..... Bill Benninghoffs mother, Edith, recently celebrated her 102nd birthday, and got honorable mention on the Paul Harvey radio show. Her picture in the Coldwater, Michigan Reporter for 13 December showed her looking quite spry, as son Bill hovered nearby with a bandaid on his finger.