



THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

905 NORTH JACKSONVILLE STREET
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22205

HONORARY PRESIDENT — MRS. PAUL A. SIPLE

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September

No. 2

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Mr. James Pranke, 1968
Dr. Henry M. Dater, 1970
Sir Peter M. Scott, 1971
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Mr. Scott McVay, 1973
Mr. Joseph O. Fletcher, 1974
Mr. Herman R. Friis, 1975
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Dr. William J. L. Sladen, 1977
Dr. J. Murray Mitchell, Jr., 1978
Dr. Laurence McKinley Gould, 1979
Dr. Charles R. Bentley, 1980
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Mr. Peter J. Anderson, 1988
Dr. Ted E. DeLaca, 1989
Dr. Sayed Z. El-Sayed, 1990

1991 Paul C. Daniels Memorial Lecture

Antarctica, 1950-1990

The Changing Scene

by

Dr. Charles W. Swithinbank
Antarctic Superstar
Cambridge, England

on

Tuesday evening, 22 October 1991

7:30 PM

The National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C.

Reception in the Great Hall at 5:45 PM

Dinner in the Great Hall at 6:30 PM

The National Research Council's Polar Research Board and the Antarctic Society are combining forces to bring you the renowned Dr. Charles Swithinbank as our annual Memorial Lecturer for 1991. This former Head of the Earth Sciences Division, British Antarctic Survey, Scott Polar Research Institute, is the only scientist to have worked in Antarctica for six decades. He is still active, working on interpretation of satellite photography for Antarctica, and is an expert on landing sites (blue ice runways) all over the continent. *Don't miss Charles, as he is truly outstanding!*

This is our 10th Memorial Lecture gala at the National Academy of Sciences. The cost this year is \$35 per person. Shere Abbott takes reservations from Board members - Ruth Siple from Society members. Please send checks, made out to Antarctic Society, to Ruth (905 N. Jacksonville St., Arlington, VA 22205).

1992 Antarctic Calendars (New Zealand variety) SOON TO BE ON SALE (see page 10)

The team of Siple and Dalrymple are now into their 14th year of Antarctic Society dictatorship, and this is our 80th Newsletter (the Society's 99th). We also do miscellaneous and sundry other things, such as communicating with a lot of OAE's (old Antarctic explorers), answering all kinds of mail, selling down through the years calendars, cachets, scarves, belt buckles, postcards, posters, books and mugs. Ruth is the workhorse of the Society, and does all the leg work graciously without fanfare or compensation. She also is the lightning rod for yours truly. There is a certain amount of enjoyment in being able to write tongue-in-cheek anything you want about Antarcticans without censorship or reprimand. We have not seen any loaded pistol in recent years, so we must be softening. However, as long as we are writing these things, don't put too much stock in their authenticity, as our motto will always remain "Don't let the truth get in the way of a good story." Happy reading!

GOOD NEWS - BAD NEWS. Our membership is down (31 members) to 610, which is encouraging news when one has to fold and stuff envelopes. The real good part of it all is that our membership has a higher proportion of old Antarcticans who once served on the ice, who are now looking for anything about the land of snow and ice that they once called their own. We still would like to have more of the current crowd, but perhaps they are so involved with their own Antarctic activities that they don't need a fix from some Newsletter.

Our dues notices were mailed on 9 September, and we hope that those who receive them will renew for multiple years as it materially helps us in the Nerve Center if we don't have to send out six hundred notices every year. Dues remain the same - single - \$10, husband/wife - \$12, foreign (except Canada) - \$15. It helps, too, if those of you who got bills pay up front at an early time, so we don't have to send out second and final notices. There was a time when we used to keep after delinquents, but no more. It has been our experience that when people don't reply to second notices, they just are not going to renew. So we will no longer badger delinquents. And one other reminder - if you move, PLEASE let us have your new address, as bulk mail is NOT forwarded.

BAD TIMES BESET GENTLEMAN JIM. It was devastating to all Antarcticans around the world to hear that Gentleman Jim Zumberge has a brain tumor which was diagnosed originally as being terminal. A biopsy was performed on 21 August, the results of which showed a low grade tumor. Jim has to go through six weeks of five-a-week radiation treatment, and completed the first two weeks on 6 September. We talked to him on the 7th, and Jim's spirits are very high and he remains cautiously optimistic. His home address is: 3201 La Encina Way, Pasadena, California 91107.

They don't make nicer guys than Gentleman Jim. Since Day One we have always called him Gentleman Jim, and he certainly merits the nickname. Anyone who ever came in touch with Jim was enriched by the occurrence. We met him early on in his Antarctic days, when he came to Little America V in October of 1957, prior to setting up his field study program at Roosevelt Island. It was obvious to those of us who labored throughout the winter, without getting too much support from Navy personnel, that we weren't using the right bait, because when Zumberge hit the camp, my diary shows that he brought a footlocker full of booze to bribe the Navy. He had them in his hip

pocket for the rest of the summer! And what an entertainer! He made our Occasional Saturday Night party into a memorable event which lasted interminably, and then a few short hours later was finally making music flow from the Wurlitzer organ in the Chapel. Prior to Zumberge's arrival, Boy Scout Dick Chappell had tried to get hymns out of that same organ, but it wasn't until Jim got there that we actually found out that the instrument could really make music.

We have been after Gentleman Jim for a Memorial Lecture for many years, and he always had a valid excuse, like the Olympics being held in Los Angeles to fund-raising for the University of Southern California, but upon his retirement as President of the University, we finally had him where we wanted him, and he had agreed to be our Memorial Lecturer on 22 October of this year. Now he has been waylaid on the road to the forum, so we will have to wait for another year to hear Jim, but he's worth waiting for. In the meantime Jim, keep up the fight; our thoughts and prayers will be with you.

PETER ANDERSON, NOTED ANTARCTIC HISTORIAN, IS HOSPITALIZED. All polar people were saddened to hear the news in mid-July that Peter Anderson of the Byrd Polar Research Center at The Ohio State University suffered an aneurysm on 20 July, and is in pretty bad shape in the Riverside Methodist Hospital (3535 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, Ohio 43214). As we draft this Newsletter on 8 September, Peter has recently spoken a few words and is now able to recognize people. The prognosis is that he will remain in this hospital into December when he will be transferred to another hospital. His right side was affected more than his left side, and it is our belief that Peter was in a coma for some time. It seems that he was at home on 20 July, did not feel well, went to the hospital, and they operated on him the following Monday.

When something happens to a person like Peter, it only points up the fact that this country is woefully weak on true Antarctic historians. They are just not out there. We don't truly know of a bona fide U.S. Antarctic historian outside of Peter. He certainly is this country's foremost authority on the late Admiral Richard E. Byrd, as well as on polar aviation and polar fliers.

The Polar Times temporarily folded their tent when the Editor, August Howard, died three years ago, and Peter was the heir apparent to keep the semi-annual publication alive. The Byrd Polar Center and Peter took it over, and it was our understanding from talking to Peter this past spring that he was going to put out the first issue since December 1985 sometime this summer. So with Peter's hospitalization, the Polar Times goes on hold, as well as Peter's biography on Byrd. ... All of us send very best wishes to Peter for continued recovery in the weeks and months ahead.

MALCOLM MELLOR, POLAR AUTHORITY, SUCCUMBS AT TENDER AGE OF 58. Malcolm Mellor has been kicking around polar regions for years, and was a veritable gold mine of information on various polar things, but his career and life came to an abrupt halt when he suffered a heart attack on 24 August. His first trip to Antarctica was with the Aussies back in 1957, and his most recent trip to the ice was last year when he was fighting the good fight trying to make an air strip at McMurdo which would sustain wheeled landings of aircraft.

Malcolm was polarwise, and never was a shrinking violet when it came to expressing himself. In a letter to us of 3 April 1991, he wrote:

So far the runway experiments have had limited resources: Budget, \$15.95 plus tax; Equipment, Swiss Army knife; Work Force, not to exceed two, including minorities and handicapped. Now it looks as though Peter might buy us some toys.

We do realize that if God had meant real aeroplanes to go to Antarctica

in February, he'd have made the sea ice last longer. And if he meant there to be progress in Antarctic aviation, he wouldn't have invented VXE-6.

Incidentally, he ended that letter with a P.S. "The creep tried to get rid of me this year - heart disease - but I finally got a waiver."

We understand that when Malcolm took his Antarctic physical last year the physician found that several of his arteries were being clogged - one as much as 30%. Malcolm was an active man, and thought that if he ran more, rowed more, exercised more, ate a better diet, all could be remedied. This past August he took another Antarctic physical, and found that things had become considerably worse. Malcolm became very despondent, and in typical Mellor fashion started studying everything he could get his hands on relative to his condition. He made the decision that he should undergo heart surgery, and he knew if all went well, which he truly expected, that in five weeks time he would be in good enough health to go back to Antarctica with the Russians this austral summer. So he scheduled himself for surgery on Tuesday, August 27th. Saturday, the 24th, after mowing his lawn, he dropped dead.

A memorial service was held in Hanover on 10 September. People who may want to contribute to his favorite charity should send donations to the Howe Library in Hanover.

IMMORTALITY KNOCKS. Certain editions of Sports Illustrated on 12 August 1991 carried an account of a softball game played at Little America V on 25 August 1957 when the Navy Seabees upset the IGY scientists in a Return-of-the-Sun game played at -41° . Jay Feldman, a free-lance writer for Sports Illustrated found out about the game through a contact with Blackie Bennett, erstwhile professor at Michigan State who left a lot to be desired as a softball player. I was the camp resident sports nut, organized the game, painted the softball international orange, and was the genius manager of the scientists' team - at least for one inning. Jay contacted me about the game about nine months ago. I told him that an account of the game had been forwarded to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, and that it was on file there. Jay contacted Cooperstown, they provided him with a copy of that account, and so eventually his article appeared on the pages of Sports Illustrated. Of all the unlikely guys to see the article, Phil "Crevasse" Smith, Executive Officer at the National Academy of Sciences, waylaid in a plane with mechanical trouble, picked up the magazine for want of any others, and found the article, and then forwarded a copy to me. Here is the article as it appeared in some issues of Sports Illustrated:

EVERY HIT WAS A FROZEN ROPE

The crucial stat was on the thermometer—41 below—during an Antarctic ballgame.

In August of 1957, when a portion of the sun finally appeared above the northern horizon after four months, a festive mood overtook the men at the Little America Station in Antarctica. Little America, at $78^{\circ}11'$ south latitude and $162^{\circ}11'$ west longitude, was one of seven Antarctic bases the U.S. staffed in conjunction with the International Geophysical Year (IGY), a multinational research project.

To IGY micrometeorologist Paul Dalrymple, the arrival of "spring" meant one thing—baseball. Dalrymple was the resident sports nut. Each day he posted the baseball scores he got on his shortwave radio. He also wrote a sports column in the base newspaper, The Penguin Post, under the byline Scroungy Redbeard.

To celebrate the return of the sun, Dalrymple organized a softball game between the two groups stationed at Little America, the IGY scientists

and the Navy men. "Of the 109 people at Little America, only 23 of us were scientists," says geophysicist Hugh Bennett, now a professor at Michigan State. "The Seabees were there to support us, so from their viewpoint, we were pampered. There was a bit of friction. They used to refer to us scientists as Sandcrabs."

On the afternoon of Sunday, Aug. 25, with a black bat, a ball painted international orange and trail markers for bases, the Sandcrab Tigers and Navy Seabees took the field at Seal Stadium, a firm expanse of snow near the base. The weather was clear and calm—and -41°. The intrepid few who started off wearing baseball gloves quickly discarded them for heavy horsehair work mittens.

At 2 p.m., IGY weather technician Sam Wilson stepped into the batter's box. Because of the frost on his glasses, when Seabee pitcher Eugene Black peered in for the sign from his catcher, Hector Lett, he could barely see his receiver, let alone decipher a signal. A brief conference ensued, and the Navy battery decided to stick with fastballs. Wilson went down swinging.

Later in that inning, physiologist Fred Milan took a mighty cut-at the ball, which came to rest two inches outside the batter's box. Starting for first, Milan slipped on the snow and fell. Lett, attempting to field the ball, fell on top of him. Milan struggled to his feet but was bowled over by Black, who came barreling in after the ball. Sensing the futility of trying to get up, Milan—to the delight of the 12 or so spectators—scrambled to first base on his hands and knees, just beating the throw. At the end of their half of the inning, the scientists had a 3-0 lead.

Pitching for the scientists, Dalrymple struck out two, and at the end of one inning the score was 3-1. Bert Crary, the IGY's chief scientist in Antarctica, announced, "O.K., we quit." Dalrymple wouldn't hear of it, and the game went on.

The Tigers scored three more in the top of the second and appeared to be headed for the Antarctic championship. But when Dalrymple went out for the bottom of the inning, he had nothing left. After Scroungy Redbeard had been driven from the mound, weather observer Gene Harter took over, but he was unable to put out the fire. "One of their most effective hits was a short fly," remembers Tiger shortstop Dick Chappell, now a biology professor at Hunter College in New York City. "The fielders had trouble running in the snow to get to the ball, and then we had to dig to find it. As much time was spent digging for the ball as throwing it."

In centerfield, Bennett's glasses had frosted over, and when Seabee first baseman Red Grain smashed a deep fly his way, Bennett couldn't find the ball, and Grain circled the bases. Dalrymple summoned meteorological observer Ben Remington to take over as Tiger pitcher. Capping the Navy comeback, leftfielder John Hriscina, a muscular 19-year-old, greeted Remington with a shot to right center, which the hapless Bennett again lost in the frost. By the time Bennett ran the ball down, it had rolled to the edge of Crevasse Valley, a steep drop-off of several hundred feet, and Hriscina had an easy home run.

When the inning ended at 2:45 p.m., Navy was ahead 11-6, and the game was called on account of darkness and frostbite. "At minus 40, it doesn't take much to produce frostbite on any exposed skin," says the now-retired Dalrymple. "I never saw so many frostbites at one time."

Nevertheless, the participants greed the game had been fun. "It was extremely cold," says Bennett, "but we were very happy to be out there acting foolish."

ANTARCTICA COMES TO IMAX. If you live near any of the fortyish IMAX theaters in

this country, seventyish internationally, be on the lookout for the film ANTARCTICA being presented on their immense screens. The Air and Space Museum in Washington will start showing ANTARCTICA in the 6 PM time slot beginning 2 October. The Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago (Henry Cross Space Theatre, 57th and Lake Shore Drive) will offer it for the first time on 18 October, and it will run there through the middle of 1992. If it's an IMAX film and Antarctica, you can't go wrong. It should be super superlative.

It's a Heliograph Production co-produced by John Weiley and David Flatman. Quoting from our Newsletter of last December, the 38-minute film, being shown on a 76-foot diameter screen, will give you the mostest of Antarctica. Filmmaker John Weiley said, "Because it is ten times bigger than an average movie, you're getting as much shoved into your eyes as if you were watching a 380-minute movie." It cost three and a half million dollars to be produced by the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, with some financial support being provided by the Australian Film Finance Corporation.

ANTARCTIC PHOTOGRAPHERS AND ARTISTS. Neelon Crawford, 44 year-old artist who participated in the NSF Antarctic Artists and Writers Program in Antarctica in January-February 1989, returned to the ice on a WINFLY flight in mid-August in time to be at McMurdo for the full moon on 25 August. Neelon is a multi-media artist who has made movies, sculptured, and painted oils, but is probably best known for his photography. He was looking forward to doing landscape photography as the sun returns above the horizon at McMurdo. Neelon has a contract pending for a book, although as we go to press, it is not confirmed.

Another artist returning to Antarctica is Stuart Klipper, Antarctic Class of 1989, who will be working with field parties in the Dry Valleys in January. Last February The Museum of Modern Art in New York City had an exhibit of some of his photographs. Stuart also participated in an independent sailing expedition to the ice back in 1987, so he has seen Antarctica from both the adventuring side as well as the scientific side. And he is about to publish a book on photographs from the high latitudes.

Jody Forster of Santa Fe, New Mexico, is going to be shooting some large format photographs around Palmer this austral summer. Our illustrious president says Jody shoots "stunningly detailed landscapes," so we'll be looking forward to his 8"x10" prints later next year.

Rebecca Johnson, personable, lissome blonde from South Dakota, a writer of children's books, will be going to the ice under the aegis of the National Science Foundation. Rebecca is also part artist, if an illustrator can be considered an artist, as she illustrates some of her own books. She recently authored The Greenhouse Effect by Lerner Publications which has a picture of one of Tony Gow's cross sections of ice. She is going to tell the kiddies of this country all they should know about the ozone hole and Antarctic scientists. But how in the world will Rebecca ever be able to explain Art DeVries to kids???

SO YOU DON'T LIKE THE STATION AT MCMURDO. Well, if you are a student in "a post-secondary institution" - presumably this means Alcatraz, Leavenworth, or their equivalent - and call yourself a student of science, architecture, engineering, or "planning and allied disciplines," time has come for you to put your thoughts and ideas onto paper relative to an idealized McMurdo. Registration opened on 6 September 1991 and closes on 29 May 1992 for Environment 2, whereby one can submit a design for a "New Town of Science" at McMurdo which hopefully will have an umbilical cord to the pristine character of the Antarctic continent. The stated objectives are, 1) to minimize the environmental impact upon the vast polar region, 2) to meet the research needs of the scientific community and maximize their comfort, and 3) to utilize

state-of-the-art technologies and capabilities.

If the above is true, as put forth on a large poster calling for designs, it would seem that all a student would have to do to win would be to submit a cover sheet with name, address, and telephone number (so they would be able to contact you when you won the first prize of \$1,000) plus three enclosures: the first, a plain white sheet with nothing on it, showing the original pristine character of the Antarctic at McMurdo, maximizing the minimizing of environmental impact; page two, a picture of Marble Point with a superimposed all-seasonal runway; page three, a picture of the inside of some Beltway Bandit facility around Washington, Silicone Valley, or Route 128.

However, you also have to submit research papers up to 35 double-spaced pages on: 1) habitat construction, 2) communication, power and energy systems, 3) waste control, 4) environmental/life support, and 5) human behavioral factors. You know this sounds as if the Division of Polar Programs has to come up with a viable environmental protection plan for the future, and rather than put this requirement on their high-paid bureaucrats, they are farming it out to fresh young minds not already confused by seeing McMurdo. A "jury" will select the winners. Doesn't a jury consist of a group of people with no preconceived opinions? So won't it be the blind judging the blind?

There are various awards: First place is worth \$1,000, plus a trip to McMurdo; second place, \$750, plus two trips to McMurdo - no, not really, only the winner gets a trip to Antarctica; third place is \$500. And "\$250 go to winners in each research paper category."

If you really want information, contact the American Institute of Architectural Students, 1735 New York Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20006. Telephone-202-626-7455. Fax-202-626-7421.

INTERNATIONAL ANTARCTIC CENTRE IN CHRISTCHURCH BOTH GLAMOROUS AND FUNCTIONAL. The International Antarctic Centre located at Christchurch International Airport is fast becoming an important adjunct to nations participating in the Ross Sea Sector of Antarctica. It not only serves as a logistical and operations center, but in the future will act as a hub for an Antarctic environmental and research data base system, and have a visitor information and exhibit center. Stage One was completed in September 1990, and provides administration and communication facilities, cargo and cold weather clothing storage, and a departure terminal area.

In March 1991, the Board of Directors of the Christchurch International Airport Ltd. gave approval to proceed with the second stage which will involve an expenditure in excess of six million dollars to provide a public area and a visitor center. The top floor will consist of an appropriate foyer, an exhibition area, a theme restaurant/cafe/cafeteria, and a retail outlet specializing in Antarctic related merchandise - sort of an L.L. Bean South. An important component will be a teaching laboratory - an educational resource for school teachers and kids. Construction will begin in November of this year, with public opening next September. They are anticipating 180,000 visitors a year, which comes out to about 500 per day. Admission will be charged. The only way they will get 180,000 visitors a year will be if they open the doors to sheep.

Science and Environmental Minister, Simon Upton, and Minister of Conservation and DSIR, Denis Marshall, jointly announced in April of this year that the New Zealand government will provide financial support for the establishment of an International Environmental and Information System (IEIS) at the International Antarctic Centre. The ministers said that IEIS will feature an Antarctic research data base, a geographic information system, an environmental data base, and an international geosphere-biosphere program data base. The IEIS will be on the cutting edge of data handling and geographic information technology so as to assist the scientific community and other potential

users in making the best use of environmental information. This all sounds like the consolidation of all the World Data Centers that were formed for handling data from the IGY. And can't you see caveats attached to contract grantees that P.I.'s have to submit their data to IEIS in order to get final payments on contracts! Exciting things are happening at old Harewood.

MIDWINTER RESCUE OF 172 CREW MEMBERS FROM SOVIET ICEBOUND RESEARCH SHIP. The research ship, MIKHAIL SOMOV, got stuck in the ice in July, some thirty-five miles from the base of Molodezhnaya, and things got a bit sticky all around. Seems there were 222 Soviet scientists and technicians aboard the ship, and they could not be returned to the station, as it was already filled to capacity. One of our informants told us the Soviet economy was in such disarray that a bunch of old Antarcticans had to come to the rescue and come up with rubles to get a plane to fly to the ice. Even then, they had to make it a cargo flight to Cape Town to pay for that part of the flight. Be that as it may, the long-range Ilyushin-76 flew to the ice where technicians at Molodezhnaya had built a landing strip. Helicopters had taken most of the crew members off the MIKHAIL SOMOV, although fifty remained on the ship. The 172 taken to Cape Town were going to be put onto ships bound for the Soviet Union.

DSIR IS NO MORE, CROWN INSTITUTE IS IN. The long-standing Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) in New Zealand has been replaced by something called the Crown Institute. Peter Wilkniss described the Crown Institute as sort of an autonomous thing, and said that at this time there was no one administering it. As most of you know, DSIR was responsible for the Kiwi Antarctic operations. Hugh Logan, Superintendent, Antarctic Division, has left his position with them, and Dave Geddes, a former Kiwi navigator, is now serving as sort of a logistical manager.

HEATHER BOWEN OF SAN DIEGO 1991 ANTARCTIC GIRL SCOUT. Heather Bowen, a real redhead from San Diego, was selected from forty finalists from 22 states to be the 1991 Antarctic Girl Scout, and, again, they have come up with a real winner. Heather, seventeen years old at the time of selection, is a senior at James Madison High School in San Diego. Last year Heather won the Sweepstakes Award at the Greater San Diego Science Fair, and was a winner at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She was a semi-finalist in the Fiftieth Annual Science Talent Search for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships. Her science project entitled "Fiber Optic Heart/Respiration Wave Form Monitor," was voted the best one in the state of California. Heather was a Bausch & Lomb School Science Winner, and has also received a host of other awards in science and engineering. Plus, she is her class valedictorian, and plays on the girls' tennis team and badminton team. She has done canoeing, backpacking, outdoor survival, horse riding, and other activities.

While a senior in high school, Heather elected to take additional chemistry and calculus courses at the University of California, San Diego. She is also in the process of developing a project to introduce concepts in physics to younger Girl Scouts for her Girl Scout Gold Award. Seems like the only unanswered question is whether Heather has time to help her mother do the dishes, or whether she can bake a cake from scratch.

Heather will be on the ice from mid-October to mid-December, and will be quartered at McMurdo. However, she will get to spend several days at the South Pole Station, so she will see some white snow while in Antarctica, and, perhaps, some real Antarctic temperatures. Heather is the second consecutive Antarctic Girl Scout from the state of California, being preceded by Julie Hagelin of Saratoga and Pomona College in Claremont.

LETTER FROM MARION E. "MOE" MORRIS, FORMER VXE-6 PILOT AND COMMANDING OFFICER, DEEPFREEZE '64,'65,'66. It is very kind of you to inquire about the movie status of The Last Kamikaze. The production company renewed the option so they are still serious. The last time I talked with them, they were in a search for the screen-writer. Apparently, they want one of about a dozen prominent ones who do that sort of story. By contract, I am a technical consultant on the film, and I have been working on a screenplay to submit.

So, we'll see. It took four years for Flight of the Intruder to make it to the screen; several scripts were turned down by the Navy before they would cooperate—my story, however, requires only minimum Navy input. We need a couple Japanese Zeros, of course, and there are two flying in the states. Also, I correspond with a gentleman in Tokyo who is restoring one. He just sent me a picture and it is all done except for finding an engine. Also, I received info that Mitsubishi, who built the original aircraft, are building two brand new ones from WWII plans. Thus, things are proceeding and I would be really pleased if it comes off. I do know a major studio had expressed strong interest, their caveat being it has to be a big budget picture with name-draw stars. They say that if they can get the people they want, the money will be no problem.

Tempering all of the above is the realization that among all the Hollywood wheat, there is a lot of chaff!

If they drop the option, I've asked my agent to go after a Japanese film company. Japan has bought translation rights to the book and is quite enthused about it. A bit of trivia: Hungary and Poland have also bought translation rights—maybe, I'll be big in the former Soviet bloc!

NEWS FROM BRIAN SHOEMAKER ON HERO FOUNDATION, REEDSPORT, OREGON. August 2nd was a big day for the HERO Foundation - together with the City of Reedsport they were awarded \$639,000 in grants. The money is to be used to build the first Antarctic Science and Exploration Exhibit Center just ashore from the Antarctic Research Vessel HERO in Reedsport, Oregon.

The center will be constructed in Reedsport on the shore of the beautiful Umpqua River where the ARV HERO is permanently moored. There will be 7,000 square feet of exhibit space and a viewing tower from which visitors can look down on the HERO. Exhibits are to feature field research projects in Antarctica with emphasis on current research. The theme is to emphasize the here-and-now as well as future field projects.

Construction is to begin in early 1992 and the building and exhibits will be open to the public late summer 1992. The HERO, however, is already on display, and tours are conducted daily during the summer from 10 AM to 4 PM. The orange sails are up all of the time - literally glowing in the sunlight.

Now that we have your attention we want to squelch the rumor that we have rented out the HERO to the Oregon Department of Corrections. There are 10 prisoners aboard during the day - all skilled artisans renovating the ship and turning it into scientific display vessel - capturing the essence of the work that was accomplished aboard ship in the Antarctic.

HERO has needed an interior overhaul for a long time. These men are very capable mechanics, carpenters, cabinet makers, woodworkers, etc. They work 7 hours a day fixing up the ship, and on occasion have filled in as tour guides when traffic flow was heavy. At night they go back to Shutter Creek Correctional Facility. Labor cost runs at \$1.75 per day each - so the price is right.

We are very proud of this dedicated work gang. They have literally transformed the HERO. They view the ship as "our ship", and we consider them part of the HERO crew.

MEMBERSHIP APPEAL - BRIAN SHOEMAKER. We want to thank all Antarcticans who have joined the HERO Foundation to support the development of the National Antarctic Center. We invite those of you who have not yet joined to do so. The larger and more active our membership, the better chance we have for success. The obvious support of a nationwide group of Antarcticans does more than anything to help raise funds and secure donations of material. You are also the best informed group of people in the nation on Antarctic affairs - historic, scientific and political. We need your expertise, your ideas and your labor. Join us, bring Antarctica to America.

Ed. note. Twenty-five to five hundred dollars will make you an Emperor Penguin member. Five dollars to twenty-five dollars will make you an Adelie member. If you don't renew, a leopard seal will gobble you up. Send checks to HERO Foundation, Box 73, Reedsport, Oregon 97467. Phone (503) 271-2605/3603. Fax (503) 271-4704.

U.S. SUPPOSEDLY WILL SIGN PROTOCOL ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN MADRID ON 4 OCTOBER. It took Mt. Rushmore and the Fourth of July for President Bush to see the light at the end of the Antarctic tunnel. He finally came around to a decision that it was better to join the 38 nations that had earlier approved the accord than to buck the tide. But as that great American philosopher, Lawrence Berra, was prone to say, "It ain't over until it's over," so we won't celebrate until we hear that all nations have signed the accord. Restrictions on mining is just one of many items addressed in the comprehensive measures accord. Other items being covered are waste disposal and management, open burning phaseouts, new standards for marine pollution, environmental impact procedures, establishment of a committee on environmental protection, conservation act on both fauna and flora, and the power of one nation to take another nation to court over some violation.

If this all passes, one of the more visual changes will be the banning of dogs from Antarctica. The Brits are married to dogs in Antarctica. Without dogs, they may have to open up their wintering-over stations to women! And it will kill Norman Vaughan's dream of driving a team of dogs to the base of Mt. Vaughan when he reaches age 90 in a few more years! One of the bad aspects of no more dogs in Antarctica will be that the last chapter will be Will Steger's dog sledging journey across Antarctica. Can you imagine a whole continent without a single animal? What would Scott and Amundsen and Mawson say - a continent with no dogs, no Siberian ponies, no cattle, but hundreds and hundreds of women? Time marches on, progress is served.

ANTARCTIC VANITY PLATES. We have wondered what Antarctic vanity plates were on our national highways. One of the best has to be Jerry Huffman's, former Station Projects Manager, Division of Polar Programs, who now lives in Waynesboro, Virginia (in the famous Shenandoah Valley). His plate is RET OAE, which naturally stands for Retired Old Antarctic Explorer. There is sort of a Huffman sequel - once he put on his car one of Max Hamilton's ANTARCTICA SP 90° plates, and stuck on the upper corners fabricated decals for both the year and the month. He got picked up for speeding in some foreign country like Montana or North Dakota. The arresting officer never questioned the plate, and wrote him up for a speeding violation! Dotte Larsen, whale spotteress supremest, drives behind a New York plate FLUKE which is most befitting. Send us your vanity plate names, and we will publish a complete list.

1992 ANTARCTIC CALENDARS ABE \$10 EACH. As we go to press, we have not yet received our April-ordered and paid-for two hundred Antarctic calendars from Betty and Colin Monteath, but we expect them momentarily. The price is up slightly from last year, but it's still a good buy at \$10. Order early, checks payable to Antarctic Society, at 905 N. Jacksonville Street, Arlington, Virginia 22205.