THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

905 NORTH JACKSONVILLE STREET
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22205

HONORARY PRESIDENT — MRS. PAUL A. SIPLE

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A Memorial Service for Dr. Benninghoff will be held at Arlington National Cemetery Tuesday, March 23, 1993 at 2 PM (Meet at the Administration Building at 1:30 PM)

Crustal Provinces and Tectonics in the Transantarctic Mountains: The View from a Field Geologist

by

Dr. Scott Borg Program
Manager Polar Earth Sciences
Office of Polar Programs, NSF

on

Monday evening, 29 March 1993

8 PM

National Science Foundation
1800 G Street N.W.

Room 540

Dr. Borg graduated from Pomona College in 1977 with a BA in geology. Attracted by possibilities of working in Antarctica, he attended Arizona State University, working with Ed Stump, earning his MS in geology in 1980 and his PhD in geology in 1984. He became a soft-money researcher at the University of California, first at Los Angeles, then at Berkeley, and continued to work mainly on problems in Antarctic basement geology, with greater emphasis on using isotopic techniques to characterize continental crustal blocks and terranes in addressing problems in Antarctic tectonics. He spent a short time working for the Department of Energy on the Yucca Mountain Project prior to going to NSF as Manager of Polar Earth Sciences. Scott is truly an Antarctic heavyweight, so be sure to come and hear the newest program manager in the Office of Polar Programs.

Chances are you won't get this in time, but if you do, Gary Kopff and Gary Ball will speak at the Cosmos Club (Powell Auditorium) on Sunday, 7 March at 3 PM on "Everest and Antarctica Past Age 45?" Naturally this doesn't apply to any of us, as we're all 39 or under, but you might want to know what's in your future.

We have been sort of dogging this Newsletter, waiting for the National Science Foundation to announce the new Director of the Office of Polar Programs. Finally, as February came to an end, it was announced that Neil Sullivan was the winner, or, at least, the next ascendant to the throne. I think the scientific community must really be rejoicing over the news, as Neil has been on the forefront of Antarctic science since graduate school days. And he is a nice guy who probably hasn't alienated any people along the way.

In a way it is sort of a waste of a top-notch scientist to put him into this administrative position, but, then again, it may give him the leverage to get some of the things done which he might not have been able to have gotten done otherwise. It had to be a two-sided coin, and we're sure it wasn't an easy decision for Neil to make. Outside of Bob Rutford, there hasn't been a tried and true Antarctic scientist in that position since its inception.

As soon as the warranty ran out on our fax machine, it broke down, so that was another excuse to delay this Newsletter. And, after three mild winters, the month of February was a throwback to what winter months are supposed to be, so we have been enjoying snow and cold, and not writing.

As you will see, this Newsletter is less taradiddling by yours truly and more inputting from you members. This issue would never sell at the checkout counter of your local supermarket, but, hopefully, you will like some truthfulness for a change of pace.

Our membership is down to 600, where we seem to have stabilized. Our aim is to make the Newsletter of interest to our members, so if you want something you're not getting, let the Nerve Center at 905 North Jacksonville Street know about it. We promise nothing, but at least we will entertain your suggestions. GOOD LUCK, NEIL!

NEIL SULLIVAN INCOMING DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF POLAR PROGRAMS. The National Science Foundation (NSF), announced on 25 February that Cornelius W. Sullivan, currently director of the Hancock Institute for Marine Studies and professor of biological sciences at the University of Southern California, will be the new Director of the Office of Polar Programs (OPP). Sullivan's appointment begins May 16, 1993, and tie will serve as a consultant to OPP until then. OPP is responsible for the United States' multidisciplinary research programs in both Antarctica and the Arctic, with a budget of more than $243 million for fiscal year 1993.

"Cornelius Sullivan is one of the world's leading polar scientists," said Walter Massey, outgoing Director of the National Science Foundation. "He has led many interagency and international expeditions to Antarctica, and has carried out research in the Arctic. As a former member of the National Academy of Sciences' Polar Research Board, he is also a leading voice in polar research policy circles."

Sullivan's achievements include chairing the steering committee of the Antarctic Marine Ecosystem Research at the Ice-Edge Zone (AMERIEZ) project, a pioneering multidisciplinary investigation of ecosystem processes affected by pack ice dynamic in the Southern Ocean. The research has made major contributions to confirming the ice edge's critical role in cycles of energy and materials.

The new director's own research has focused on microbial processes in the ice-edge

zone in both polar regions. He has been a recipient of NSF support since 1978 from both OPP and the Ocean Sciences Division. He is a member of the SCAR/SCOR Group of Specialists on Southern Ocean Ecology, which conducts long-range planning of research on the region's ecology. He also serves on the editorial boards of polar and microbiological journals.

Sullivan has taken an active part in NSF's Young Scholars Programs, which provides high school and college students with hands-on research experience. He supervised the first female participant, Catherine Blish, in the Young Scholars Program in Antarctica, as well as a second scholar who joined the U.S.-Russian Weddell Sea Ice Camp expedition in 1992.

The new OPP director graduated from Penn State University in 1965, and continued at Penn State through his master's. He received his PhD in marine biology from the University of California in San Diego in 1971, and then did a post-doctoral at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, 1971-1974. Since 1974 he has been on the faculty of the University of Southern California.

Incidentally, Neil Sullivan was our Society's first lecturer following Peter Wilkniss becoming Director of the Division of Polar Programs, on 17 September 1984. If tradition follows, it means Scott Borg will be Neil's replacement in 2002. Remember, you read it here first!

SIPLE RIDGE PUTS RUTH BACK ON THE ANTARCTIC MAP. When the late Paul Siple was on the U.S. Antarctic Service Expedition, he named several features after his family, a coastal mountain for his wife Ruth, something for his sister Carrol Kettering, and they were duly excited and pleased. But then in the late 60's or early 70's, someone in authority, using infinite wisdom, purged Antarctica of all female names not connected with the Byrd and Ronne families, so such features as Mt. Ruth Siple, Mt. Jane Wade, and others had the first names on the features eradicated.

We have just heard that the Board which approves the names of Antarctic features has named a ridge for Ruth. We grant you a ridge is no mountain, but at least it puts Ruth back on the Antarctic map. And it gives her bragging rights if she should ever find herself in a cocktail lounge where the subject is Antarctic geography. Congratulations to our Honorary President who does all the work that keeps this Society alive and active.

THE PROTOCOL'S "EASY" RATIFICATION GOES BUMP, BUMP, BUMP (Ron Naveen, Oceanites). As noted in the last Newsletter, the new Antarctic Environmental Protocol isn't in force because it still hasn't been ratified by the requisite number of Treaty Parties. All 26 Consultative Parties must deposit ratifications and, to date, only Spain and Ecuador have done so. France and Peru are rumored to be on the brink, and the hope is that the U.S. will soon be "on board." The U.S. Senate has given "advise and consent" to the Protocol, but no U.S. ratification will be deposited until legislation to implement the Protocol is signed into law by President Clinton. The new Clinton-Gore Administration was expected to be greatly interested in getting a bill through, so that the U.S. could pressure other Parties to ratify. Still, 40 days into the new Administration, there's still much doubt about the Protocol entering into force by the time of the 1994 Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.

As of this writing, what was expected to be a relatively "easy" ratification process in the U.S. seems stalled, and there has been no reconciliation of the two competing implementation bills introduced in the last session of Congress. On February 23, Cong. Boucher held a hearing on one of last year's bills, which favors NSF's continuing the bulk of its scientific and administrative functions in Antarctica. The new version of this bill also contained a provision establishing a Presidential

Commission to assess NSF's performance and to recommend changes, as deemed necessary. Many are opposed to this bill, favoring a new approach by which many of NSF's administrative, non-scientific functions are transferred to other federal agencies like NOAA and EPA.

An important new wrinkle is the decision favoring the Environmental Defense Fund in a lawsuit brought against NSF. The U.S. Court of Appeals for D.C. ruled in January that U.S. government agencies are not exempt from the requirement to perform impact studies on decisions affecting the Antarctic environment, simply because the impacts occur outside of the territorial U.S. The specific facts involved NSF's not preparing an impact statement regarding the incineration of food wastes at the McMurdo Station. In his decision, Judge Mikva emphasized NSF's decision-making, which took place in the U.S., and the fact that the alleged effects occur in an area without a sovereign, but over which the U.S. has considerable legislative control.

With the Protocol instituting a system of impact statements in the Antarctic arena — called initial and Comprehensive Environmental Evaluations, Judge Mikva's well-reasoned decision reinforces arguments for a greater scrutiny of NSF's operations and procedures that implement the Antarctic Treaty. More to come — for sure.

LATE NEWS ON THE PROTOCOL (Beth Marks, Antarctica Project). Also on February 23 Rep. Studds introduced a competing Antarctic bill - The Antarctic Environmental Protocol Act of 1993 HR1066. This is the same bill that was introduced by Rep. Jones in the last Congress, and seeks further oversight of NSF's activities on the ice. Hearings have not yet been scheduled.

THE POLAR TIMES RESURFACES (Brian Shoemaker, National Antarctic Center). The American Polar Society is alive and well, and once again will be publishing its newsletter, The Polar Times. The Society was established in 1934 by a distinguished group of polar explorers that included Richard E. Byrd and Paul Siple. The original Secretary of the Society at that time was Mr. August Howard. As part of this responsibility, August began to publish The Polar Times twice a year - a newsletter dedicated to keeping old Arctic and Antarctic explorers (OAEs) and others interested in the polar regions in touch and informed of activities there.

Over the years The Polar Times became the heart-and-soul of the Society. Presidents and Boards of Governors were changed periodically. However, August Howard stayed on as Secretary for over 50 years. During that time he edited and published 102 edition of The Polar Times, and his name became synonymous with the American Polar Society. His death in 1987 was dramatized to us all; publication of The Polar Times ceased - a void in all of our lives.

Peter Anderson became the Secretary of the Society in 1988, and planned to publish The Polar Times from the Byrd Polar Research Center at Ohio State. Unfortunately, Peter suffered a stroke before he could begin publication. Again the Times was in limbo.

Dick Chappell phoned me in May 1992 and asked if we could publish The Polar Times at the National Antarctic Center in Reedsport, Oregon. We were apprehensive at first, but after discussing the matter, our board of directors agreed.

We aspire to the standards set almost 60 years ago by August Howard; however, we all have other duties and responsibilities, and it became apparent that several people will have to become involved. For continuity and objectivity we have established an editorial staff of four, and we appeal to the American Polar Society membership to submit manuscripts and to clip articles from other publications. We have kept most of the format developed by August for the newsletter. I am sure that you will enjoy!

As before, publication of The Polar Times is dependent upon your membership donations. We are now asking $5 USA / $8 foreign a year for membership, but will be happy to accept more generous donations. We encourage your generous support. Please mail to the American Polar Society, Box 692, Reedsport, Oregon 87449. The first issue is to be published April 1993.

THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS - WILLIAM S. BENNINGHOFF (Tim Hushen, San Diego State University Foundation). Bill Benninghoff passed away on January 8, 1993, after a short illness. He remained the same thoughtful and selfless friend and colleague to the end. Bill said in a telephone conversation just before his death that "up until Christmas day, 1992, he considered himself to be in as good health as could be expected for a retired, but slightly over-committed, professor."

I first met Bill and his wife Anne as a graduate student at the University of Michigan in 1965. They have remained good friends since that time. Bill started his career as a botanist with the U.S. Geological Survey working extensively in Alaska and the Arctic after receiving his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1948. He did the early pioneering work on the effect of permafrost on vegetation. While at the Survey, he became the Chief of the Alaska Terrain and Permafrost Section. In 1957, Bill accepted a position at the University of Michigan from which he retired in 1988 as Professor of Botany and Director of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

Bill made four trips to Antarctica, 1968, 1976, 1977 and 1989. In 1977, Anne joined Bill to conduct a project studying the electrostatic field impact on the transportation of pollen and spores. They enjoyed their trip to the ice so much that Bill agreed to be a lecturer on one of the cruise ships in 1989 in order to visit the Peninsula region.

Bill was a member of the Polar Research Board of the National Research Council and chairman of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research Working Group on Biology. He had keen interest in polar biology, conservation and monitoring, and many of his farsighted proposals are now being implemented in the Antarctic. Bill was a very clear thinker who could reduce complex issues to important ingredients. Equally important, Bill is remembered by his many friends and associates as a very thoughtful and decent individual who always made time from his busy schedule to consult students and friends.

Just before his death, Bill spoke with family and friends to prepare them for his passage, reminding us that death is a natural part of life, and that room needs to be made on earth for our expanding population. Somehow, it just never seems right that the good people should be the ones making the room.

LASSITER OF THE RONNE ANTARCTIC RESEARCH EXPEDITION (1920-1992) (Robert Dodson, Department of State). Jim Lassiter was a competent, seasoned officer, a strikingly handsome fellow with an attractive military swagger, convivial with a good sense of humor. He had command presence, reinforced by an authoritative Texas twang. He was a neat, orderly person, usually - unlike most of us - cleanly dressed; he never grew a beard. He had a good sense of, and respect for, discipline, was frequently a moderating factor in arguments. Along with Chick Adams, Bill Latady, Ike Schlossbach (and some others), he was an "anchor to windward" in times of stress that threatened the cohesiveness of the expedition.

Jim was a terrific pilot. It was he who captained the Beechcraft on its long, risky flights into the unknown, discovering and mapping for the first time an area the size of Texas. Lassiter Coast, facing the Ronne Ice Shelf on the southeast base of the Antarctic Peninsula, is named for him. Perhaps his most notable exploit was his piloting of the Noorduyn in the rescue in September 1947 of the lost British

aviators who had crash-landed down the Peninsula. They had been foot-slogging for over a week, half-starved and tentless, through deep snow over sea ice with slush underfoot. Amid growlers and bergy bits protruding from the ice surface, with great skill he landed the plane beside the Britishers, swept them up and took off again - the latter probably more a feat than the landing, given his added load, the frozen-in ice obstacles, and the soft snow surface. He was uncanny as a pilot. He was one of those people who so blends with the machinery he operates that he seems to be heart and soul part of it.

He was also, like all of us, an adventurer, and very much so. Three years after our expedition, at a chance meeting in Washington, he told me that he had just signed on as pilot to the Maharaja of Darghangh. From that assignment, which I understand he had arranged on his own, he developed contacts that led to a career with the C.I.A. that included a number of overseas assignments, one of which took him back to Ant-arctica. On that occasion he very nearly lost his feet because he had declined mukluks in favor of ordinary boots so that he could better keep his feel of the foot controls; the plane was forced down and Jim spent some time in deep cold before rescue. An Argentine doctor was ready to amputate before Jim talked him out of it, but used anti-burn treatment instead to bring his feet back to life.

Jim retired to develop a U.H.F. electronic navigation system that operates for oil exploration, airborne magnetometer, photography, agricultural and forestry spraying worldwide at ranges up to 300 miles. He owned his own manufacturing company in Florida, with branches in Australia, India, Singapore, and London.

Jim died at age 72 on December 16, 1992 in Ocala, Florida, and is survived by his wife, Nicole, three sons, three grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and his mother. With Jim gone, twelve members of the Ronne Expedition (of a total of 23) remain living. Eight have died. Three (Jim Robertson, Lawrence Kelsen, Jorge DiGiorgio) are "missing." If anyone has news about any of them, please contact me.

TRAGIC AIR ACCIDENT CLAIMS EX-ANTARCTICAN. John Konecki, who wintered in Antarctica as manager of Palmer Station 1978-79, was killed last September 22, 1992, when his plane crashed on Lopez Island, San Juan County, Washington. He had received his MS in 1989 from the University of Washington School of Fisheries, and at the time of his death was concluding his doctoral research on the thermal ecology and physiology of Coho salmon populations. John's wife Susan and their friends, Sarah and Richard Hacker, were also killed in the tragic crash when John's single-engine Cessna 170A nosedived into the ground near the airport. The Third Annual Graduate Student Symposium on October 9, 1992 at the University of Washington was dedicated to the Koneckis. (Based on input from Laurie Connell)

HELICOPTERING ADDS NEW DIMENSION TO TOURISM. Beezie Splettstoesser, inveterate tourmeisteress of about thirty Antarctic cruises, has recently come back from one of her most exciting all-time cruises. She occasionally accompanies the other half of her family on John's worldwide cruise lecturing, and this past austral summer made two legs with him on the converted Russian icebreaker KAPITAN KHLEBNIKOV to the Far Side of Antarctica. The last cruise went into McMurdo Sound, and for the first time Beezie was able to get into the Dry Valleys and landed in Taylor Valley opposite the base of the Commonwealth Glacier. It was the most exciting thing to happen to her in years. Sort of like doing a post-doctoral cruise to Antarctica.

ANOTHER NORWEGIAN REACHES THE SOUTH POLE. Kent Wertime, business man in Hong Kong, grandson of Ruth Siple, sent the following (exclusive of last few words) from the International Herald Tribune, February 4, about a Norwegian lawyer who skied to

the South Pole during the past austral summer season. The good news is that here's one lawyer who wasn't gouging some innocent client for a three-month period. The Norwegian implied that his trip to the South Pole was boring and wondered how he could sell a book on the trip where there were no real dangers. So it looks like this guy is an honest adventurer. How did he ever get into law?

We noted that Ranulph Fiennes and Michael Stroud called it quits several hundred miles short of completing their trans-antarctic crossing, although we have heard that Ranulph has come up with some sort of an interpretation which gives him credit for doing it all! CNN certainly gave them a lot of publicity, and the international edition of TIME Magazine also gave them quite a writeup. However, the U.S. edition of TIME evidently didn't think it was newsworthy and didn't carry it. The adventurer completed 1,350 miles before they pooped out, victims of excessive weight loss, sever frostbites, and dwindling food supplies, being "more dead than alive." But a week later in London, in front of TV cameras, they looked very much alive. But back to the Norwegian:

> From a fog of swirling ice at the South Pole appeared Erling Kagge of Norway, smiling and waving, the first human to conquer it alone and unassisted. He arrived the afternoon of January 7, having walked or skied 10 hours a day in minus 15 to minus 35 degrees centigrade (5 to minus 31 Fahrenheit) temperatures for almost 50 days, dragging a heavy sled behind him — having neither shaved nor showered, nor even changed his underwear, since an airplane dropped him at the edge of Antarctica 1,310 kilometers (820 miles) away.
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> "How do you feel?" said a man approaching him. "Happy as a pig in mud," said Kagge, laughing. He felt and looked surprisingly good. His face, masked against the harsh headwinds, was surprisingly free of sores. Within two hours he had downed a coffee and a beer, and was describing his expedition to an audience of 100 at the South Pole science base. No emergency gear had been airdropped to him, no supply depots to meet him, not even contact by radio to cheer him along the way. He had carried everything he needed, plus a chocolate cake.
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> "I was stronger when I arrived than when I'd left," Kagge said last weekend from London, on his way home to Oslo. "As long as you don't fight nature, you're OK. I look at it that it's not all that special to ski for 50 days. I think this trip was the best ski trip I ever had."
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> Kagge, who turned 30 a week after his latest adventure, is a lawyer for the Norwegian oil company Norsk Hydro. Last July he was negotiating a sale of gas stations when the idea of skiing to the South Pole occurred to him no differently than a round of golf might occur to somebody else. Just like that, he said, he decided to do it. His company agreed to finance the trip at 1.4 million Norwegian kroner ($200,000) — easily the cheapest South Pole expedition ever. Within a week Kagge had begun training. He went for long walks wearing a backpack filled with up to 60 kilograms of rocks. On roller skis he would drag a pair of tractor tires for two hours on the outskirts of Oslo. Kagge, who is single, 6'2" tall and weighing 185 pounds, said he wasn't afraid last Nov. 18 as he unloaded his gear at Berkner Island just south of the 79th degree south latitude. With a wave goodbye to the airplane crew, he began skiing south across the hard white plain with no landmark in sight.
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> He planned to ski 10 hours a day for two months. He ended up averaging 26 kilometers a day. His 125-kilogram sled included just over a kilo of food a day, a stove and fuel, a two-person tent, sleeping bag, mattress, books, a Walkman, 11 cassettes, medicine and tools. To save weight he brought no change of clothes. Yet he refused to leave garbage behind; instead he packed it on his sled.

His days began at 7 AM. Within three hours he had melted snow, inspected and repaired his gear, packed his tent and other belongings on the sled, and eaten a breakfast of oatmeal with fat made from cocoa and soya, a recipe he repeated during three daily 50-minute breaks. He had been ingesting fat since the summer, conditioning his body to convert it instantly to energy. From his pocket as he skied, he snacked on chocolate and raw bacon. Dinner was always dried meats and mashed potatoes. "It tasted better every day," Kagge said.

Though he depended on a compass, he confirmed his position each night with a satellite transmitter that allowed friends in Norway to track his progress. The transmitter was capable of emitting preprogrammed messages from "Everything's O.K." to "Merry Christmas" to "SOS." "But the messages got to be too much back-and-forth between us, so I stopped using it," he said. "I'm a sociable kind of a guy. In Oslo in the evenings I like to go chasing girls, and sometimes also getting chased. But I wanted to do this alone. I wanted to experience how it is to be totally isolated."

At night he wrote in his diary, and read from Oscar Wilde, J.D. Salinger, Herman Hesse, Taoist literature. On the go he listened to cassettes ranging from Beethoven to Prince. He thought about beautiful women and good food. He prospered amid the incoherency of perpetual sunlight and boundless ice. When the wind blew freezing cold in his face, he couldn't move as quickly, yet he had to keep moving to stay warm. One night he was forced to ski for six hours until his hands grew warm enough to pitch the tent.

On Christmas Eve he stopped an hour early. For dessert he had brought an outlandish cake of chocolate and nuts. He ate half of it with a pot of hot chocolate while reading from the Bible about the birth of Jesus. The other half of the cake he finished on New Year's Eve. Kagge rested on two days — the first on Dec. 7, before climbing a glacier to reach the Polar Plateau. Twice while hiking he fell hip-deep into crevasses, extricating himself carefully so as not to slip completely through. One morning, as he chipped ice from his compass, he sliced a finger. Those were his only close calls.

"As I started closing in on the Pole, I let negative vibrations get into me," Kagge said. "But then I got out of that mood. Every other day I really enjoyed it. All in all, it was almost depressing how easy it was — depressing because I would like to write a book about it. I sort of was hoping more things would happen to me." On the 50th day Kagge made sight of the South Pole, marked by its half-globe science base. Just then a stormy fog surrounded him. He began skiing more slowly. As he emerged from the fog, the base appeared massive. "Then suddenly I was crossing the landing strip," he said. His hosts were surprised to see him. He had arrived 10 days early. (But he was 81 years and 24 days behind Roald.)

NORMAN VAUGHAN IS IN THE HEADLINES. It has been pretty hard to escape reading about Norman or seeing him on TV this winter, as he appears everywhere. As we go to press, Norman is about to appear on the CBS This Morning show with Harry Smith, who spent four days recently at Trapper Creek interviewing Norman and Carolyn on their forthcoming trip to Mt. Vaughan. He has his ascent team picked; he has almost enough money (within 200K); the only thing which seems to prevent him from keeping his appointed rounds for assaulting Mt. Vaughan on his 88th birthday next December is official permission to pick up some dogs-on-the-ice at a Brit station. It would seem to me that when you get to be 88, are still breathing, have a 50-year old wife, your main object in life should be to crawl out of bed in the morning to a hot cup of coffee. His idea of driving a dog team across the Ross Ice Shelf and then

climbing Mt. Vaughn for a birthday party on its summit is probably the most ridiculous thing anyone over 75 has ever cooked up. But Norman has no way out now, as he has gone so far that he can't turn back. He is sort of a Semi-God in many ways, pulling off both the atrocious and the impossible. I think every man worth his sail wishes that he could have lead the life of Norman Vaughan, as it has been full of interesting accomplishments, many of which border on the sublime. You wonder if Norman, this time, hasn't over-extended his own powers of fulfillment, although you realize that if Norman gives his life on the mountain, then he will die happy, and will really become a legend, but not in his own time!

STUART KLIPPER'S LETTER TO ATC (ALL THINGS CONSIDERED) IN RESPONSE TO "YET ANOTHER WILL STEGER INTERVIEW."

> Admittedly undertakings such as Steger's expedition warrant the mustering of heroic efforts in daunting conditions. But the questions that must be asked about such endeavors are those of motivation and results — why are they done; what has been accomplished; what purposes have been served. Mostly, under scrutiny they don't really wash. Not to deny those who succeed, or fail for that matter, the recognition that they've done something very tough, it seems that egos (very massive ones at that) and vicarious adventure are basically what those anachronistic and romantic antics are all about, highly commercialized and PR-biased ones to boot.
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> What hardly ever gets asked at all is who else does these sorts of things and why? They are scientists. An international community of whom have, since the International Geophysical Year in 1957-58, been doing Steger-style feats as a matter of course, year in and year out solely for the furthering of human knowledge. (Much of what has been so rigorously learned now has bearing on our newly-wrought awareness of the problems facing the global environment.)
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> Case in point: This past year Margaret Bradshaw of the Canterbury Museum of Christchurch, New Zealand has led one of the truly most formidable Antarctic expeditions in the history of human activity on that continent: a five-month 'traverse' of the Transantarctic Mountains. The sole reason for such an incredibly difficult, and perilous, enterprise was to gather paleontological and geological data that might crucially influence the status-present theories of planetary history — climatological and tectonic. She, alas, probably won't be doing a book tour.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF FLUKES OF HUMPBACK WHALES IN ANTARCTIC WATERS NEEDED. Dr. Steven K. Katona, Professor of Biology, College of the Atlantic, 105 Eden Street, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609-1198, has requested that you folks with photos of flukes of Humpback whales could assist his laboratory by making copies of your pictures available to him. His letter of 1 October 1991 to us said in part:

> Starting in 1985 we began sending research assistants to take such photographs in Antarctica, and we also began soliciting photos from other people or research groups. The primary goal is to locate winter-breeding places used by Humpback whales that feed during summer around Antarctica. For example, after comparing photographs from the Antarctic Peninsula with those taken by Lilian Florez Gonzalez along the coast of Colombia, three whales were found to have been photographed in both places. Those movements are the longest migrations ever documented for a non-human mammal. Our Antarctic photographs have also been compared with pictures taken by Salvatore Siciliano from waters along the Bahia coast of Brazil, but no matches have been found yet.

These photo-identification studies will improve the definition of population stocks as needed for better conservation management. We are also testing the possibility that Humpback whales may occasionally migrate between oceans via Antarctic waters.

Whales are among Antarctica's most visible wildlife citizens, and the results of this research dramatically show direct links between Antarctica and other countries. The emphasis on individual whales can also foster beneficial attitudes towards Antarctica. There are so few Humpback whales left in the Southern Ocean that the survival and experiences of each one are of great interest.

Back in 1986, a Humpback whale migrated from the Antarctic Peninsula region (64°20'S, 62°27'W) to Colombia (2°57'N, 78°12'W), the first known Humpback crossing of the equator. The shortest swimming distance between those two spots is more than 8,334 kilometers. Identification was by photographs of the distinctive ventral pigmentation on the tail flukes. The sighting in Antarctica was 19 April, in Colombia, 28 August. There is a catalogue of 32 Humpbacks identified from the Antarctic Peninsula, although we don't know the name of the catalogue.

SNOWFLAKES. The late Bill Benninghoff was recognized professionally with the Department of the Interior Meritorious Service Award, 1954; the Antarctic Service Medal, 1973; the Hiroshima University Commemorative Medal, 1974; founder and elected Honorary Life Member of the International Association for Aerobiology, 1982; Benninghoff Tract, the Nature Conservancy-Michigan Chapter, Upper Peninsula, 1990. And, there is a Mount Benninghoff in the Dry Valleys, being 1,964 meters high, located at 77°55'S, 161°19'E. That puts it in the Quartermain Mountains, overlooking the Ferrar Glacier. It will appear on the forthcoming U.S. Geological Survey's Knobhead Sheet ..... On the reverse side, the indefatigable Beezie Splettstoesser, who is one of a kind, paid a visit to Capt. Scott (that is, to his monument in Christchurch on 21 February), and was appalled to find Edward Adrien Wilson listed on the plaque as A.E. Wilson! How could the Kiwis have possibly reversed the initials of such a famous Antarctican? They should have another plaque made ..... Donald D. Blankenship of the University of Texas at Austin says that beneath the two-mile thick ice blanket covering West Antarctica are active volcanoes each pouring forth heat on a scale comparable to the hot springs and geysers of Yellowstone National Park. Supposedly the heat may help to keep that part of the ice sheet from breaking up and melting — an event that would raise sea level by 20 feet, and drown my newly-built post-and-beam on mid-coastal Maine. The volcanic heat melts just enough ice to make a watery rubble on which the ice can grind along. .... The Committee on Antarctic Policy and Science of the National Academy of Sciences' Polar Research Board, chaired by Dr. Louis Lanzerotti, held a successful second meeting and workshop on February 10-12, 1993. There were more than seventy in attendance each day — agency representatives, press personnel, and students, along with the committee members, to hear thirty-two invited speakers. Two more meetings will be held before a final report is published. Walter Smith of the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition, who chauffers old Bob Nichols to get his toenails clipped, says the old warrior would appreciate hearing from friends. His address is: Dr. Robert L. Nichols, Bayshore Heights, Apt. 1109, 4902 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, Florida 33611. We understand that Neelon Crawford, the celebrated New York City Antarctic photographer, is wintering over on the ice. Hmmm ..... There is a new book on the horizon, T.H. Baughman's "Before the Heroes Came: Antarctica in the 1890's." It sort of closes the door on an unsung decade of Antarctic exploration. Have any of you seen a guy wearing an old Eddie Bauer red vest, Art Jorgensen, South Pole '58? We want him.