



THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

905 NORTH JACKSONVILLE STREET
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22205

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Vol. 93-94

October

No. 2

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Our 1993 Paul C. Daniels Memorial Lecture

AN INSIDER'S VIEW OF THE OUTPOST OF MEDICINE AND SOCIETY

by

Michele E. Raney, M.D.
Anesthesiologist-At-Large
Saratoga, California

on

Thursday evening, November 4,
1993

Four Seasons Hotel
690 Newport Center Drive
Newport Beach, California

6 PM - Dinner : 7:30 PM - Lecture

The National Research Council's Polar Research Board and The Antarctic Society are combining forces to bring you the indomitable Michele Raney, eminent polar biomedical authority, organizer of the informal Society of Antarctic Medicine. Michele was the straw that broke the camel's back, being the first woman ever to winter over at the South Pole, in 1979. Her interest in polar medicine continued with her serving on the Polar Research Board's Ad Hoc Committee on Polar Biomedical Research. She returned to the ice in 1987 as a consultant to the Force Medical Officer, Operation Deep Freeze of the United States Antarctic Research Program, revisiting McMurdo and the South Pole and inspecting their anesthesia and critical care equipment. While there she had some hands-on experience when a fatal plane crash occurred. This native Californian has just returned from an international symposium in Hobart on Women in Antarctica. *You Californians come see/hear Michele!*

Dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel in Newport Beach will be eating in style. The entree is marinated London Broil with crispy Maui onions. The total cost of the dinner for Society members is \$55 - a steal! - which includes wine.

Please make your check payable to the Antarctic Society, and mail it to J. Michael Metzgar, Jr., 3253 Colorado Lane, Costa Mesa. CA 92626.

B R A S H I C E

This Newsletter is mostly about people, some alive, one dead, and one a great adventurer, plus excerpts from Neal Sullivan's Orientation speech to Antarcticans going to the ice this year. This is a very interesting period in Antarctica, as things are changing. In the last Newsletter we wrote about how the Navy wants to pull out of Antarctica in real time. And Neal spoke about how the power base of the National Science Foundation in Antarctica will, in all likelihood, have to be shared with other government agencies who have vested interests in polar policy decisions. Probably these are the best things which could ever happen.

For the past thirty odd years NSF has played God in Antarctica without much opposition, although occasionally they took direct hits midship from people in the Environmental Defense Fund; were harassed at times by Greenpeace; were questioned by Philip W. Quegg in his A POLE APART; but on the whole have had good sailing in calm waters. They have had a long Antarctic honeymoon.

Our only concern is to make these things readable, something which anyone, Antarctic or not, can pick up and hopefully enjoy. The obituary on Mary Goodwin, God rest her soul, should be of interest to everyone, as she was such an interesting person.

The 1994 New Zealand-produced Antarctic calendar is the best one we have ever offered. It truly is fantastic, featuring, again, the photographic creativity of Colin Monteath. And the cover shot of chinstrap penguins on an iceberg by Frank Todd is The Ultimate, alone worth the price of the calendar. We have only a limited number this year, less than 200, and will not be reordering, so if you want one or more, you better get your checks in now to the Antarctic Society at 905 North Jacksonville Street, Arlington, VA 22205. They are only ten dollars each, which includes mailing. A steal!

As this Newsletter follows one recently sent out, and will be followed by another one shortly, we are not including follow-up billings in this issue for those of you who haven't paid your dues for this year. But you know who you are, your check book will tell you if you are delinquent. So if you are one of those, how about sitting down and sending off a check to the Nerve Center, and make it easier for Ruth by making out your check for multiple years.

EXCERPTS FROM NEAL SULLIVAN'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS, "ANTARCTIC TRANSITIONS". TO THE 1993 NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION'S ANTARCTIC ORIENTATION, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, 7 SEPTEMBER.

The report, "Science and Stewardship in the Antarctic", released by the National Academy of Sciences in July 1993, addresses the relationship between antarctic research and the new environmental protocol to the Antarctic Treaty. It is the result of the efforts of a committee of 12 science, policy, and environmental experts. After reviewing the available information and hearing testimony from the research, policy, and environmental communities, the panel concluded that careful implementation of the protocol should result not only in greater protection for the environment but also in better science. While they emphasize that the existing management relationship between NSF and the research community should remain unchanged, the panel urges NSF to involve other Federal agencies in decisions for

which they have relevant technical expertise, or for which they would have normally been responsible in the United States. The panel also stresses that as the protocol is implemented, international collaboration among scientists and consultation among programs should be increased to help foster cooperative, non-duplicative, and mutually supportive research programs.

I intend to retain U.S. leadership in antarctic science, and I seek your maximum effort toward that goal. Through all the transitions of the past 12 months, our strategic vision is unwavering – provide to the nation and mankind the best possible scientific research. As changes unfold and decisions are made at all levels, this vision will guide me, and I urge each of you to adopt it also.

The strategy for NSF as a whole is (1) to enable the Nation's fundamental science and engineering capability, (2) to invest in people, and (3) to address national research priorities. In fiscal 1994 there are five special NSF research initiatives: high performance computing and communications, manufacturing, materials, global change, and biotechnology. These initiatives are set in the context of balanced funding for curiosity-driven research in the disciplines and in the cross-disciplinary problem areas.

Antarctic science is important for as many reasons as there are investigators in this room. For much of the public, Antarctica's importance is linked to its contribution to increasing our understanding of global processes and change. Other uses of Antarctica include its understand Antarctica's physical processes and ecology, as well as how they influence and are influenced by processes at lower latitudes.

Continuing studies of changes in the west antarctic ice sheet, the largest remaining marine-based ice sheet on earth, are helping us to understand the response of ice sheets to global climate change. Over the last decade we have learned that the stability of this ice sheet depends on the behavior of the fast-moving ice streams that flow from the interior of the continent. We have also learned that factors other than climate change have the potential to affect the ice sheet's stability. Recently reported geophysical studies show that heat generated by subglacial volcanoes strongly influences the behavior of the ice streams, and suggest that geology of the region may contribute as much as climate to the ice sheet's stability.

Recent discoveries by U.S. geologists demonstrate that Antarctica's rich fossil record describes not only the continent's history but also provides insight into changes in the global environment. Last year three finds brought attention to this. In the central Transantarctic Mountains about 600 kilometers from the South Pole, Ohio State paleobotanists discovered the remains of a 260-million-year-old deciduous forest. This discovery suggests that between 250 and 280 million years ago this region of Antarctica enjoyed a climate similar to Alaska's today. At the edge of the Ross Ice Shelf, a University of Nebraska field team discovered remnants of strikingly well-preserved wood and a mixture of microscopic marine organisms, which are about 35 to 55 million years old. The geologists believe that these fossils may ultimately shed light on Antarctica's link to world climate and help predict future climate change. Finally, on the opposite side of the continent, on Vega Island near the Antarctic Peninsula, U.S. and Argentine geologists found fossils of a unique bird, described as having the body of a shorebird and the head of a duck. These fossils, the first antarctic land bird fossils ever found, may illuminate how birds were evolving about 65 to 70 million years ago. They also add to the debate about mass extinctions of plants and animals during the Cretaceous and Tertiary (K/T) geological period.

In two separate studies U.S. biologists, examining ecosystem interactions, have found significant effects on biota resulting from enhanced exposure to changed levels of

ultraviolet radiation caused by the antarctic ozone hole. One team, working in the Bellingshausen Sea, measured a 6- to 12-percent reduction in marine primary production directly related to the effects of the ozone hole. The second team, using data from an experiment near McMurdo, has developed a model showing that the ozone hole might reduce near-surface photosynthesis by 12 to 15 percent.

At all three U.S. stations UV radiation is being measured, and our instruments and data distribution methods are serving as models for the development of a worldwide network. Also, our UV monitor at Ushuaia, Argentina is providing for the first time, hard data in a land area outside of Antarctica to which the ozone hole extended last austral spring in full force.

The ozone hole itself is the subject of continued study. When the hole was first discovered, it was a surprise. We need to be as ready as we can be to respond intelligently to the next surprise. And, while earlier work at McMurdo and elsewhere established chlorofluorocarbons as the cause of the hole, continued study is essential. For example, as a result of last year's investigations, researchers now have hard evidence that natural factors—like volcanic eruptions—can also exacerbate the negative effects of the depletion processes.

Studies of air, sea, and sea-ice circulation are helping us to complete global models of climate change. Last year U.S. and Russian marine scientists completed a major investigation of the Weddell Sea, which up until then had been a data-sparse region. Among the initial discoveries, the investigators found multiple sources of antarctic bottom water, with subtle differences in salinity and temperature, along the sea ice drift track of the research camp. Only farther north, through vigorous mixing, was it found that these waters become the characteristic antarctic bottom water that spreads out globally. Findings such as these are changing our understanding of ocean circulation and its relationship to global climate and of the role of the Antarctic in this process.

Because of its location and climate, Antarctica is a superb base from which to study the earth's magnetosphere, sun-earth relationships, and astrophysics. Astrophysicists have found the South Pole to be an excellent location for astrophysics because of its cold and dry and thus transparent atmosphere. For this reason and others we are establishing the Center for Antarctic Astrophysical Research. Our investment is already proving its worth. In June 1993, researchers announced that as a result of their antarctic work they had discovered evidence of cosmic structures that formed just one million years after the universe began. Using highly sensitive telescopes designed specifically for antarctic research, these astrophysicists were able to confirm measurements made by the Cosmic Background Explorer and provide greater detail to describe how structure formed in the universe. This project, as well as the others supported through CARA, shows the distinct advantages not only of working in a Science and Technology Center where collaborative efforts are possible, but also the opportunities that Antarctica offers as a research platform.

For a moment, let us step back from science and consider the political environment and transitions that are affecting Antarctica. Science is surpassing geopolitics as the prime motivator for the United States' presence in Antarctica. Today, collaboration rather than competition among Antarctic Treaty parties is one of the primary forces in support and science activities. For example, to ensure that Vostok Station and the deep ice core drilling continue to operate, we are pleased to be cooperating with Russia by annually providing an airlift from McMurdo. The transition is as symbolic as any of the acceleration of international cooperation in antarctic science.

As if in anticipation of the transition from geopolitics to science as the driver of U.S. antarctic policy, we have dramatically improved our ability to support research in the last few years. The magnitude of these programmatic changes is comparable to

those carried out for the 1957-1958 International Geophysical Year. Here are a few examples: The ice-strengthened research ship POLAR DUKE, 219 ft long, replaced the 125 ft HERO in 1984. The 308 ft research icebreaker NATHANIEL B. PALMER was added to the antarctic fleet in 1992. The new 46,000-square-foot Albert P. Crary Science and Engineering Center at McMurdo replaces and improves on structures that had been there as early as 1959. New dormitories and other structures have helped to improve McMurdo generally, although we still have a long way to go to make McMurdo an efficient town. Both South Pole and Palmer stations have undergone or are in the midst of substantial improvements and, in the case of South Pole, renewal.

Two new ski-equipped C-130 Hercules airplanes destined for USAP are taking shape on the factory floor in Georgia. We have developed a new runway on glacier ice at McMurdo, the Pegasus site, for expanded operations by wheeled airplanes—including winter flights. A five-year initiative in safety, environment, and health, concluding over the coming year, has enabled us to come to terms with the new standards for waste management that now apply to all antarctic operations and science.

Science in Antarctica is also providing us with educational opportunities that will improve public understanding of antarctic research and science generally. Between 1989 and 1992, Office of Polar Programs and NSF's Education and Human Resources Directorate jointly sponsored a program through which talented young scholars from high schools around the United States were able to work directly with scientists in their laboratories and in the field. In 1992, the program also offered science teachers the opportunity to travel and work with science field teams. Both of these experiences are important, if we are to improve the public's perception of science, and provide society with our successors in research. Consequently, I am pleased to announce that NSF will again support a similar program for students and teachers. The program, the Polar Research Experience (including the Arctic and the Antarctic), will begin during 1994 with field participation for the students and teachers planned for the 1994-95 austral summer. Five students and five teachers, selected by NSF, will be able to participate. I know firsthand that this is a rewarding experience. I urge each senior principal investigator to consider volunteering to participate. (To be continued)

ANTARCTIC BIBLIOPHILE OF NOTE SUCCUMBS. Mary Pearson Goodwin is dead, having died suddenly in her hilltop home in the Westwood section of Los Angeles on September 13, 1993. Mary had corresponded with the Nerve Center for years, but it wasn't until this past summer that this writer was privileged to meet her and her husband, and to see her fantastic polar library. A couple of weeks ago we had a card from Mary, and she noted that she had been ill, but didn't state the cause.

A lot of our members, such as George Llano, Colin Bull, Dick Conger, and John Millard, among others, have great polar libraries, but I doubt if any of theirs could hold a candle to Mary's. She had a tremendous collection of first editions of all of the great Antarctic classics, including even a bona fide copy of AURORA AUSTRALIS, which Shackleton published (limited edition) while on the ice at McMurdo. She had to hock the family jewels to be able to afford it, but she had per priorities straight, and ended up getting the elusive volume from a New Zealand source.

Mary loved the Antarctic, she loved Antarcticans. She was on the first tour ship to ever visit Antarctica, and subsequently made two more trips to Antarctica. She visited the major sites of Antarctic holdings, and spent much time at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge doing her own research. And she published, too — see TERRA, Vol.18, No. 3, which is the organ of the Natural History Museum Alliance at Los Angeles County.

But this woman was not just another Antarctic freak, as she had her own professional

career. Her husband, who is in poor health, was the first professor of urology that UCLA ever hired, and Mary was his illustrator. She evidently was quite good at what she did, as the obituary in the Los Angeles Times of 19 September 1993 said she "was a prolific and award-winning medical illustrator."

There is a funny story of sorts connected with her professional career as an illustrator and her Antarctic library. John Splettstoesser once wrote a couple of very serious articles for an offbeat magazine about forms that freeze in the snow when one relieves oneself in the fields of endeavor. This was based, I'm sure, on some very intensive micro-stratigraphic analyses of infinite numbers of samples gathered through many Antarctic field seasons. Knowing of Mary's library, I just couldn't resist the temptation to send her these gems. Fortunately, she didn't have them in her library, was ecstatic to receive them, and wrote back that they were particularly dear to her, for in her lifetime she had drawn countless numbers of penises, probably holding the world's record! This summer she requested additional personally signed copies of those articles from John, and he duly complied.

The Goodwins also had a retreat in Snowmass, Colorado, and were ardent mountaineers. But sadness struck the Goodwins in the mountains when one of their offspring, a son, fell to his death while climbing in the Rockies. The Goodwins were close friends of the Robert McNamaras, he of Washington fame, and they climbed in the Himalayas together. Mary wrote a book about the climb with the McNamaras, a book which was dedicated to her late son.

Don't burden the family with inquiries about her library, as provisions had been taken in her will to leave it to the UCLA Library. She died much too young, and the Antarctic has lost a very good friend. She must have been a real fun person, as she was a member of a beach club in Santa Monica affectionately called "The Dirty Thirties," which also includes in its membership Robert Byrd Breyer, grandson of the late Admiral, who, himself, was a builder of the current South Pole Station.

NORMAN VAUGHAN GETS TO TAKE DOGS TO HIS MOUNTAIN. We can't believe it! Old Norman Vaughan, 87 years young, finally got permission to take his dogs to Antarctica this austral summer so he can climb his mountain on his 88th birthday on 19 December 1993. The odds on this getting approved were about 1000 to 1, until NSF felt the hot breath of Senator Ted Stevens who was looking over their shoulder.

I ran into Neal Sullivan on 8 September at an evening session of the Antarctic Orientation, and asked him what was going to happen to Norman's request to take dogs to Antarctica, as this had been on the back burner for some time, and it appeared that NSF was just stonewalling old Norman. Neal's reply was, "That is a loaded question." I pointed out that Norman was actually a nice guy, and I thought he deserved the courtesy of an early-on reject, if he was going to be turned down, so that he could seek alternative methods, namely, snowmobiles. Neal then said that Norman had been advised to seek other means than dogs. But hope springs eternal in all great adventurers, and as Norman had not officially been turned down for dogs, he was more or less left dangling with a noose around his neck, until Senator Stevens rose up off the tundra with a harpoon aimed at 18th and G Streets. Norman Vaughan did a lot for our country during World War II; he did it with dogs, and I think we owed him this one. And there is no skin off anyone's nose at NSF; the common sense thing was done; and everyone finally came up smelling like roses.

The press release of Senator Stevens of 13 September, which follows, is a beaut, one that anyone who is not a bureaucrat will revel in its contents. After all these months, it all occurred in one day after Stevens announced his intention of addressing the issue at a debate on the NSF budget! There's no difference between a twelve-year old kid and NSF; if you want their attention, just threaten their allowance.

It was good to see a common man win out over a government office which really had no intention whatsoever of giving Norman a permit until an influential senator spoke in language which even they could understand.

SENATOR TED STEVENS' NEWS RELEASE ABOUT NORMAN VAUGHAN. Col. Norman Vaughan's dream may soon be a reality. After months of bureaucratic delay, Vaughan has been issued a permit to lead his sled dog team across Antarctica.

According to Senator Ted Stevens, the National Science Foundation (NSF) approved Vaughan's application late Friday (September 10) afternoon. The agency's decision came a day after Stevens expressed his displeasure, in a Senate hearing, with NSF's handling of Vaughan's request.

"I think it's great Col. Vaughan will finally get a chance to pursue his dream," Stevens said. "Sometimes the bureaucracy in Washington needs a little prodding to recognize the importance of unique requests like Norman's. Having played such a vital role in the history of Antarctica, it's only fitting he should be the last American to drive sled dogs across that continent."

Col. Vaughan, 87, is planning a 500-mile journey by dog team across Antarctica to Mount Vaughan, a 10,302-foot peak, named in his honor by Admiral Richard E. Byrd. Vaughan was Byrd's chief dog driver on a 1929 geological party which determined that Antarctica was a continent. Col. Vaughan is raising funds to undertake his expedition which he hopes will take place between November and December of this year. According to Vaughan, a National Geographic television crew is slated to accompany him on his journey.

At a meeting of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday, September 9, Stevens announced his intention to address this issue on the Senate floor during upcoming debate on the NSF budget. Stevens also indicated he was considering calling for a General Accounting Office investigation of NSF's handling of Vaughan's case and the agency's overall management of Antarctic policy.

Last fall, Stevens threatened to block Senate consideration of amendments to the Antarctic Treaty, a 41-nation agreement governing the administration of Antarctica, unless Col. Vaughan received his permit. At that time, NSF officials assured Stevens that the agency would work with Vaughan to resolve the matter.

NSF had resisted issuing the permit because of environmental and foreign policy concerns. Fears had been raised that Vaughan's dogs might transmit distemper to seals inhabiting Antarctica. In response, Vaughan offered to triple-inoculate the dogs from the disease, a measure which NSF found acceptable.

In addition, the Antarctic Treaty's new amendments prohibit the introduction of dogs into Antarctica. While not yet binding, the NSF was concerned that Vaughan's trek might violate the spirit of the new agreements. At Stevens' request, the State Department consulted its Treaty partners and determined that there were no significant objections to the permit being issued.

THIRTY-FIVE YEAR OLD PROFILE OF CIVILIANS AT SOUTH POLE STATION IN 1958. As we go to press, most of us who wintered over as scientists during the International Geophysical Year (IGY) at the South Pole are going to hold a short two-day reunion to catch up on old times and new times. This is our first gathering as a group since we departed the Pole in November 1958. One member said to restrict it to one day, so we wouldn't end up in fights and would live to want to have another, but we are living dangerously, making it a two-day affair.

The year 1958 at the South Pole was an interesting time to be at the station. Paul

Siple's group had built the station the previous year, and much of the mystic associated with what wintertime conditions were really like in the interior of Antarctica had been discovered that year. And shortly after most of us got there, who appeared in our front yard but The Conqueror of Everest, Sir Edmund Hillary himself, with his traverse party laying out support depots for Bunny Fuchs, then crossing Antarctica with the British Commonwealth Transantarctic Expedition. A month or so later Fuchs' party showed up, looking very much like intrepid explorers after several months on the trail. Pretty exciting stuff having the likes of Ed Hillary, Peter Mulgrew, 'Murray Ellis, Bunny Fuchs, Ralph Lenton, and George Lowe in your galley drinking coffee beside you.

But what were we really like? There were ten of us, eight of us born in the United States, two born in a foreign country, with one of the Americans having a foreign-born wife, and one of the foreign-born being married to his first cousin. Naturally, as it was 1958, it was an all-male encampment, and it just happened that it was all white. In fact, blacks were few and far between in the Antarctic in those days. Only one scientist who wintered over in Antarctica in 1957 was black. Half of us were married, and one had a pregnant woman at home. One of us was close to 50; one of us was in his mid-thirties; and the rest of us were young kids in our early twenties, still wet behind our ears.

But what set the group apart from most others was education. At least eight were collegians, perhaps nine, possibly all ten. They came from all walks of life; one was an ex-taxi cab driver; one was a mountaineer; one was a merchant mariner; three were geographers; and so it went. One was an MIT graduate; one was an alumnus from a prestigious Ivy League university, Brown. In that group of ten, five ended up with PhD degrees. Did a year at the South Pole leave a message that they had better get more education so they wouldn't have to end up in a place like that again?

Many must have enjoyed that year immensely, as one went back for yet another year at the South Pole; another got himself onto the first American oversnow traverse to the South Pole; another became the national leader of this country's network of stations studying climate change, and made frequent trips to the South Pole; another became program manager for the micrometeorological program at Plateau Station, a rural substation somewhere to the right of the South Pole; and still another got involved in outfitting people going to Antarctica. So at least four of us got back to the South Pole, possibly five. Another one of us got bitten by the polar world, but somehow lost his orientation, and ended up spending the rest of his life in the Arctic listening to sounds of whales. So six out of ten maintained some sort of a liaison with the cold regions.

What are we like now? Well, one of us is legally dead, the so-called station scientific leader, who was really neither scientific nor leader, but that's the way it went occasionally in those days. Three of us got divorced, which puts us right in the midstream of American society. One of us got into a little bit of trouble with the law. One of us, the most unlikely of all, ended up as a religious freak. Two of us have Parkinson's, and three of the wives had cancer. We are basically an ocean-oriented group, with only two living in the interior of the country. Two of us have large yachts, with one of us running a large marina on Hilton Head Island. One of us runs three pawn shops, and another has Morgan horses on his spread in Connecticut. One of us met his second wife skydiving, and evidently took a real dive. Another is in his third career, being deep into emergency research work. When not sailing, tennis seems to be the game of the Class of 58, although one couple bicycles for two all over the world. They are still in tandem after all these years! Insofar as this soul knows, no one has ever been into drugs, no one is a gay, and no one has AIDS. Be it that way evermore.

Comments are those of the writer's, and do not constitute the voice of the Society which remains mute, sees no evil, hears no evil, writes no evil.