



THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

905 NORTH JACKSONVILLE STREET

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22205

HONORARY PRESIDENT — MRS. PAUL A. SIPLE

Vol. 93-94

September

No. 1

Presidents:

Dr. Carl R. Eklund, 1959-61
Dr. Paul A. Siple, 1961-62
Mr. Gordon D. Cartwright, 1962-63
RADM David M. Tyree (Ret.), 1963-64
Mr. George R. Toney, 1964-65
Mr. Morton J. Rubin, 1965-66
Dr. Albert P. Crary, 1966-68
Dr. Henry M. Dater, 1968-70
Mr. George A. Doumani, 1970-71
Dr. William J. L. Sladen, 1971-73
Mr. Peter F. Bermel, 1973-75
Dr. Kenneth J. Bertrand, 1975-77
Mrs. Paul A. Siple, 1977-78
Dr. Paul C. Dalrymple, 1978-80
Dr. Meredith F. Burrill, 1980-82
Dr. Mort D. Turner, 1982-84
Dr. Edward P. Todd, 1984-86
Mr. Robert H. T. Dodson, 1986-88
Dr. Robert H. Rutford, 1988-90
Mr. Guy G. Guthridge, 1990-92
Dr. Polly A. Penhale, 1992-94

Honorary Members:

Ambassador Paul C. Daniels
Dr. Laurence McKinley Gould
Count Emilio Pucci
Sir Charles S. Wright
Mr. Hugh Blackwell Evans
Dr. Henry M. Dater
Mr. August Howard
Mr. Amory H. "Bud" Waite, Jr.

Paul C. Daniels

Memorial Lecturers:

Dr. William J. L. Sladen, 1964
RADM David M. Tyree (Ret.), 1965
Dr. Roger Tory Peterson, 1966
Dr. J. Campbell Craddock, 1967
Mr. James Pranke, 1968
Dr. Henry M. Dater, 1970
Sir Peter M. Scott, 1971
Dr. Frank Davies, 1972
Mr. Scott McVay, 1973
Mr. Joseph O. Fletcher, 1974
Mr. Herman R. Friis, 1975
Dr. Kenneth J. Bertrand, 1976
Dr. William J. L. Sladen, 1977
Dr. J. Murray Mitchell, Jr., 1978
Dr. Laurence McKinley Gould, 1979
Dr. Charles R. Bentley, 1980
Dr. Robert L. Nichols, 1981
Dr. Robert H. Rutford, 1982
Mr. R. Tucker Scully, 1983
Dr. Richard P. Goldthwait, 1984
Dr. Mark F. Meier, 1985
Dr. Claude Lorius, 1986
Dr. Louis J. Lanzerotti, 1987
Mr. Peter J. Anderson, 1988
Dr. Ted E. DeLaca, 1989
Dr. Sayed Z. El-Saycd, 1990
Dr. Charles W. Swithinbank, 1991
Dr. Susan Solomon, 1992

Belated birthday greetings to Larry Gould on his 97th!

Antarctic Operations: Challenges of the 90's

by

Erick Chiang

Manager of Polar Operations

Office of Polar Programs

National Science Foundation

on

Thursday evening, September 23, 1993

8 PM

National Science Foundation

1800 G Street N.W.

Room 540

Mr. Erick Chiang, as Manager of Polar Operations in the Office of Polar Programs at NSF, is responsible for budgeting, funding, and management of the operational and logistic resources needed to implement the U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP). Included in this management responsibility are Naval Support Force Antarctica, Antarctic Development Squadron Six, and Antarctic Support Associates.

Mr. Chiang received a B.S. degree from Rutgers University, and an M.S. in Earth Sciences from Adelphi University in 1975. Prior to joining NSF in 1979, he was Curator of the Ice Core Facility at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

---- *Light refreshments* ----

* * * * *

This could very well be our last meeting in the familiar haunts of 18th and G Streets, as the Office of Polar Programs will soon be moving to their new facility in Ballston.

Californians please note on page 2 that our 1993 Paul C. Daniels Memorial Lecture will be in Irvine, California on 4 November when we hopefully will have a dinner meeting with a very interesting speaker.

Well, here we, Ruth J. Siple and Paul C. Dalrymple, go again with another year on the same old street corner, turning out what we masquerade as Newsletters. This is the beginning of our 16th year; this is our 91st Newsletter (111 have been put out overall). They stack up to 2.25 inches, weigh 5 pounds, and total 982 pages.

There are two sides to writing these Newsletters. The up side is that we can write anything we want, as we aren't beholders to anyone, being a couple of real retirees, with no connections. So we have no party line to follow. A plus for us both is that this keeps us abreast of the doings of a lot of Antarcticans who write us news and letters, making us feel good. The bad side is that it involves a lot of dedication and work by Ruth, as her home is the headquarters of the Society, and it falls on her shoulders to run the whole show. There is no compensation beyond personal satisfaction. Occasionally this writer catches flak from someone at Columbus or Cambridge or the South Pole, which is always reassuring, as it is living proof that someone, members or non-members, actually reads these things.

As you know, we have been looking for someone more in tune with current times to take over. Both Ruth and I would like it to be Steve Dibbern, a very well-read Antarcticans who loves the ice, but he claims he's too busy at his office. However, we know better, as he's a government worker. Maybe there's a young Antarctic couple out there who could follow in our footsteps. The best way you folks can help make this Newsletter more in keeping with your wishes is to submit more news and ideas. Send it all to Ruth at the address on the letterhead.

MEMBERSHIP. We have leveled off in the past two years at around 600 members. The quality is real good, although there are a lot more independents (translates to having never set foot on the ice) who are interested in Antarctica strictly from the conservation of the environment side. These people, hopefully, are members of Jim Barnes' flock in The Antarctica Project. We like to think that our Society is basically a constituency of people who have worked there or are working there.

We will send dues' notices out early in September. Dues will stay at the same rate (Single - \$10; Husband/Wife - \$12; Foreign - \$15), as in the past few years. If you don't get a bill, you are already paid up for this year. Slightly over half have already paid for this year. If you do get a dues' notice, please consider paying for multiple years, as it cuts down the bookkeeping considerably,

PAUL C. DANIELS 1993 MEMORIAL LECTURE TO BE IN IRVINE, CALIFORNIA ON 4 NOVEMBER 1993. Occasionally The National Research Council's Polar Research Board does not have a spring meeting in Washington, and we have to go with their fall meeting for our annual cohosted Memorial Lecture.

This fall they are meeting at the Academy's conference center in Irvine, so we are tailhooking onto their meeting with an affair that evening in the Four Seasons Hotel, we think. As we go to press, we're in the process of contacting a very well-known Antarctic Californian to give the Memorial Lecture, so if you live within gun-

shot of Irvine, please circle the date on your calendar right now – Thursday, November 4th. This will be our third California meeting, our second Memorial Lecture out there.

THE POLAR TIMES. After a seven-year hiatus following the death of August Howard, The Polar Times has resurfaced as an organ of the National Antarctic Center in Reedsport, Oregon. It is basically following the same format of its predecessor, which was an extremely popular potpourri of newspaper clippings on all activities in both polar regions.

We understand that people have been slow in sending in their dues, and we ourselves are among the guilty ones. The dues are \$10 per year for stateside membership, \$12 for overseas. For this you get two issues a year. Many of us have been spoiled by Ron Naveen of Oceanites who dispenses The Antarctic Century through the courtesy of some benefactor whom Ron has run down in an effort to keep himself out of the poor-house. There really aren't many free lunches in this world, so if you want The Polar Times, send a check for \$10 or \$12, as the case may be, to The American Polar Society, P. O. Box 692, Reedsport, Oregon 97467.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES? Remember those famous words the sports announcer screamed at Lake Placid as our hockey team upset the Russians? Well, there has been another miracle, but of an even higher magnitude, if that's possible. The U.S. Navy is pulling out of Antarctica!!! A meeting was held at the U.S. Naval Observatory on 30-31 March 1993 to discuss the U.S. Navy Force withdrawal from the United States Antarctic Program (USAP). The review was forced by Navy end-strength reductions and a proposal to offer all Navy billets in support of the USAP as offsets to other program reductions of higher U.S. Navy priority.

A draft Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M) for a three-phase withdrawal by 1998 of all Navy personnel from the USAP was completed. The most problematic issue was the transfer to another government agency or commercial activity of LC-130 operations and associated safety-related functions. There is some speculation that the National Science Foundation will oppose the loss of Navy helicopters and Navy LC-130 maintenance support and safety-related functions. The full implementation of the draft POA&M will require national policy endorsement. Basically what they are thinking about is a five-year reduction plan, with the initial reductions being taken by February 1995, the final reductions by 1 October 1998.

It will certainly be the end of an era, which started with Lt. Charles Wilkes, reached its highest glories under the late Admiral Richard E. Byrd, and even survived the advent of military women to the ice. Jim Reedy, Doc Abbot, Kelly Welch, or someone from that admiral-era should write a book about Navy personnel in Antarctica. Someone could do a whole book on George Defect! A book on Finn Ronne could be a big seller! And let's not forget David Tyree, the scientists' admiral.

There must be a lot of chuckling going on among the IGY scientists, as the Navy wintering-over personnel supporting the scientists were anything but a happy brood. Antarctica in 1956-58 was sort of an unknown quantity to enlisted personnel in the Navy, and they didn't know what they were getting into, nor did the career Navy personnel relish supporting " ----- sandcrabs."

Sometimes the Navy had the last laugh, one of which sort of came at my expense. I had two people conducting the micrometeorological program at Plateau Station during each of its three years of existence; and the last year - 1968 - the station scientific leader, George Rubin de la Borbolla, was one of mine. He was a late hire when my selected man got washed out by the psychiatrists, so when the National Bureau of Standards told me about George, I grabbed him. George was a most unusual guy in

many ways, and it didn't take him long to ingrate some of the Navy personnel. And George swore that every time he got the micromet system set up and operating, the Navy would sabotage it through tricks with the generators. He demanded a hearing with personnel in the Office of Polar Programs at the National Science Foundation, and it was duly granted, with nearly all of the civilians at Plateau Station showing up to support poor George. It happened to be the one year that Louie Quam was the head of OPP, and he was shocked by it. I remember Phil Smith walking in and out. Of course, nothing happened, but at least we had the fun of protesting! It must have been the first small step towards civilian contract personnel in the interior.

AURORA AUSTRALIS PROVIDES BEAUTIFUL CANOPY ABOVE ADMIRAL BYRD IN WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND.

Through the personal concerns of a proud man of the Commonwealth of Virginia who was greatly disturbed to find the Byrd Memorial atop Mt. Victoria, high above Wellington Harbor in New Zealand, defaced and vandalized, there now sits a truly magnificent memorial to the Admiral of the Skies at the same site. This gentleman, John Lenkey III, a business man from Midlothian, Virginia, dedicated a lot of time, effort, and money over the past two years to see that one of his national heroes had a fitting and proper memorial. Although he never raised all the money he had hoped, he dug into his pockets and saw his wishes come true. The New Zealand contributions actually ended up exceeding those of this country, even with a sizable grant from the National Geographic Society.

The monument has been described in previous Newsletters. To refresh your memory, the restored monument features two large triangular tiled sides depicting the aurora australis in all its glories. There are some 2000 acrylic scratch-proof tiles which were painted to glow in the daylight. The designer is a Kiwi, Doreen Blumhardt. The original bust of Byrd and bronze plaques were left in place on the front facing Antarctica, but there was an addition to the site, a plaque at the base honoring the late Paul A. Siple, Byrd's staunchest supporter which reads: "Paul Siple accompanied Admiral Byrd to the Antarctic on three expeditions in 1928-30, 1933-35, and 1939-41. He later undertook three other Antarctic expeditions including the leadership of the scientific team at the United States South Pole Station in 1956-57. Dr. Siple became one of the foremost authorities on the geography of Antarctica, polar logistics and the principles governing the adaptation of humans to life in cold regions."

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Byrd's older living daughter, Bolling Clarke of Media, Pennsylvania; Ruth J. Siple, widow of Paul A. Siple; Jeffery Stachera, Eagle Scout from Siple's old Council in Erie, Pennsylvania, as well as a fellow student at Allegheny College; Harold Austen, Kiwi cabin boy who went south with Byrd; and, of course, the man responsible for the restored monument, the aforementioned John Lenkey III.

There were various dignitaries invited to the Rededication Ceremony on Mid-Winter Day, June 21st, including Dr. Cornelius Sullivan, new Director of the Office of Polar Programs at the National Science Foundation. Other guest speakers included the Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand - the Rt. Honorable Don McKinnon, and Her Worship the Honorable Fran Wilde, Mayor of Wellington, who gave the opening and closing remarks - a sign of the times, if not reality, with a woman getting in both the first and the last words! But I think the best was "Her Worship the Honorable"! Can you imagine the mayor of Boston, Detroit, Philadelphia, or Los Angeles being addressed in that vein!!!

Boiling and Ruth made the front page of the Wellington DOMINION the next morning, June 22, 1993. It was a great color picture, a four-column spread, with both standing beside the monument, with the wind blowing their hair north, northeast. Said photo moved a member of the ice party from one of Byrd's expedition, to send in his comments, which follow these words.

Ruth had a great time in Christchurch, and was royally treated by the Antarctic community there. The cordial Dr. Charles Paul was her Official Greeter. He saw to it that she saw everything she was supposed to see, like the fabulous new International Antarctic Centre; meet those people she was supposed to meet, like Margaret Lanyon; and protected her from the Far Side of Christchurch! Ruth had alerted the affable Max Hamilton; the Sage of the Antarctic - Jim Caffin; and the effervescent Canadian Kiwi - Betty Monteath; that she was coming, so they all met with her. She had a ball! Then she made a hit-and-run observation trip into the Mt. Cook area, although she goofed by not staying overnight at The Hermitage. There is only one trouble with New Zealand - no matter how much time you spend there, it's not enough! Bolling Clarke took an automobile trip around South Island after the ceremony in Wellington, and, surprisingly, actually came back to Pennsylvania. If she lived in Florida, she never would have returned!

UNSOLICITED, ANONYMOUS LETTER. "Here before me is a color photo that I find frustrating because I am not a poet in addition to being an old Bay of Whales overnighter There is the impressive, refurbished, angular memorial to Byrd and Siple, overlooking Wellington Harbor. This is the day of its long-awaited rededication. Only two people are shown, and they make this picture a truly remarkable classic of the long antarctic story. They stand together straight, strong, and handsome beside the gleaming monument, their evident love and pride bringing it fully to life and meaning. They are thinking of a Father and a Husband.

"Thus Bolling Byrd Clarke and Ruth Siple stand for the other half of the equation for historic antarctic expeditions - all the wives, daughters, and mothers who devoted long years not merely to waiting, but in unfailing support to their men, besides their tremendous day-to-day contributions to the overall human enterprise."

CAMPUS ON THE ICE (Polly Penhale). A four-week course will be offered at the Cray Science and Engineering Center at McMurdo Station during January 1994. The college-level course, supported by the Polar Biology and Medicine Program, OPP, is entitled "Biological Adaptations of Antarctic Organisms," and will be taught by course leader Dr. Donald Manahan, University of Southern California and Dr. Arthur DeVries, University of Illinois, and Dr. Linda Goff, University of California, Santa Cruz. The course will include lectures as well as field collections and laboratory experiments. The themes for this course, the first of its kind offered in Antarctica, are energy metabolism during larval development of marine invertebrates; temperature adaptations of fish; and molecular genetics of algae. Ten students will be selected from over 175 applicants from 39 countries.

2052 CUBIC FEET OF POLAR REGION MATERIALS TO GO TO ARCHIVES II. The National Archives building at College Park, Maryland, informally known as Archives II, will open in 1994. But the polar material will not be there until late April 1996. Probably Alison Wilson isn't included in the 2052 cubic feet of polar material, as she is 'contemplating retirement. She is about the only Antarctic remnant of the pre-IGY days who is still active in the Washington circles.

The 1.7 million-square-foot building at College Park will be the largest, most eclectically advanced archive in the world. It is situated on 33 acres of land on the University of Maryland campus. Among the advantages of the new facility are 1) a more spacious textual research room, 2) a microfilm research room, 3) a new library. 4) a classified records research room, 5) separate rooms for research in special media and non-textual holdings, such as still photographs, maps, electronic records, and motion picture and sound recordings, 6) meeting/training rooms and an auditorium, and 7) a spacious cafeteria. What about rest rooms?

ORAL HISTORIES. We feel that the most important thing we can attempt to get under-way this year is oral histories. When we brought up the subject last year, it created enough interest to merit some serious thought. And time is running out on getting oral histories from the Byrd men, as only Larry Gould, Norman Vaughan, and Howard Mason are alive from the First Byrd Expedition. We have lost so many important Ant-arcticans in the last ten years, people like Bert Crary, Jim Zumberge, Ambassador Paul Daniels, Admirals David Tyree and Dick Black, Charlie Murphy, Dick Goldthwait, Bill Benninghoff, Tom Jones, and on and on.

The door is wide open for doing oral histories, as there is no one place in this country which is really a natural repository for such things. And when there is no one prominent center, things are usually up for grabs. It takes someone with a lot of interest and drive, and we've not had that kind of a person since Gerry Pagano of the National Archives died a dozen years ago. He collected a lot of archival material from polar people, and did do some oral histories. But this country is sorely lacking pure Antarctic historians. When Peter Anderson had his health misfortunes several years ago, it left the polar community in this country without a bona fide polar historian.

We think the key to doing a good oral history is having the interviewer know the interviewee. The three hour-long interviews that Canadian geographer Trevor Lloyd did with Vilhjalmur Stefansson the month before he died are tremendous, really outstanding. Trevor knew Stef like he knew the back of his own hand, and the end results showed. We have people in our ranks like Bob Rutford, Colin Bull, John Splettstoesser Charles Swithinbank, and even Charlie Bentley, who would make excellent interviewers. We say "even Charlie Bentley," as it wasn't until he gave our annual Memorial Lecture in 1980 that many of us realized he actually had a good sense of humor.

The Society could attempt to make some oral histories if there was enough interest; at least, do some pilot studies. If they were successful, then perhaps a formalized program by some institution funded by NSF might be in order. If monies are available to fund artists, photographers, writers, basically self-serving, shouldn't monies be available somewhere to record the likes of Bill Cassidy, George Denton, Art DeVries, and others, which might help future Antarctic scientists?

Evaluating who should be interviewed would be like getting people into Cooperstown. You would have to have an Old Timers Nominating Committee for the Ancients and Honorables, and then you would have to have a Modern Day Committee for the Present-day Overachievers! We know our president, Polly Penhale, is interested, and we hope that something can be moved on it this year.

MAWSON'S COLLECTION IN LIMBO. We have been in communication with Antarctic Elizabeth Chipman, whose name should be familiar to you all as the author of *WOMEN ON THE ICE*, a book which one female wag referred to as *Frigid Women!* Elizabeth is now in the process of gathering material for a forthcoming biography on the late polar explorer, Sir Hubert Wilkins, who pretty much covered up his tracks, making her job most difficult. Although he was an Aussie, he spent most of his life away from his homeland.

Elizabeth is in the process, I think, of trying to get me to clean up my act. This has sort of caught me by surprise, as I thought I went clean about ten years ago! But Elizabeth's letters are interesting, and the last one enclosed an article "Frozen Assets" by Peter Ward in the February 13-14 issue of *The Australian* magazine. It's all about the collection of Sir Douglas Mawson's papers, photos, rare books, and equipment, and who has the legal rights for their possession. It really is a can of worms.

Until August 1992, the seven grandchildren of Sir Douglas thought they had legal rights, as trustees and beneficiaries under the terms of the Explorer-scientist's will. The Barr Smith Library at the University of Adelaide had been holding the huge collection in storage, and was slowly positioning itself to formally accept title from the trustees who had offered it as a gift, providing the University employ a full-time collection curator; make it accessible to scholars; maintain its integrity; and establish a Mawson Museum in memory of one of the University's most distinguished scholars and teachers. This collection had been valued to be in excess of two million dollars.

But in the process of offering some of the collection for sale to cover costs associated with the gift, a bomb was dropped by the redoubtable State Librarian of New South Wales, one Alison Crook, "Businesswoman of the Year" and famed public enterpriser. She brought to the attention of the trustees that Sir Douglas had entered into an agreement with the Premier of New South Wales in March 1920 concerning the records of the 1911-1914 Australian Antarctic Expedition (AAE).

The agreement was to the effect that, in return for the NSW Government Printer publishing the Expedition reports, records and objects from the Australian Antarctic Expedition and copyright in them would be transferred to the state of New South Wales. The terms of the agreement include "all reports and records of the Expedition whether in manuscript or print, including all log-books, diaries, photographs, negatives, plans and sketches, and also including those parts which have already been printed or published which are now in the possession, power, or control of the said Sir Douglas Mawson." Crook's letter "sounded like the crack of doom for the trustees' dream of settling the collection in Adelaide University where Mawson taught for 47 years, 31 as its Professor of Geology. Right now things are in a stalemate, although Crook has expressed a wish that it all be resolved amicably.

Until 1990, the collection had a settled home of sorts in the Mawson Institute for Antarctic Research, which had been established in 1959, the year after Sir Douglas died. The Institute had been launched with great academic pomp and political ceremony, and Lady Mawson made the occasion all the more notable by announcing she would give the Institute all of Sir Douglas's papers and his library. Several years later the Institute appointed a distinguished upper atmosphere physicist and Antarctic expeditioner, Dr. Fred Jacka, as its director. But the University's interest in the Institute waned; its headquarters building was never built; research funds dwindled; and then Dr. Jacka died in October 1992. But by then the University council had "dis-established" the Institute.

The above brings to mind that after Dr. Paul A. Siple died, Ruth offered all of his material to the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts where Paul had gotten his PhD. The Director of the Graduate School, Dr. Saul Cohen, a Middle East political geographer, who later became president of a large college in New York City, flatly declined the offer. Even though they had no use for Siple's papers, they are interested in the color of the money which he earned, and annually solicit Ruth for a donation. If I were Ruth, I would tell Clark to "shove it."

ALICE DATER SUCCUMBS FROM ALZHEIMER'S AT AGE 85. The Antarctic Society lost a dear friend when Alice Dater died in Billings, Montana on 11 May 1993. She was the widow of the well-known Antarctic historian, Harry Dater, who was one of our past presidents, and editor of our Newsletters for a number of years. Alice finally got to the Antarctic herself, going down on a cruise ship, making quite a splash for herself when she fell out of a zodiac in McMurdo Sound. This resulted in her getting a good feeling for the world of penguins, seals, and whales.

Alice, a retired sixth-grade teacher at Sidwell Friends School in the District of Columbia, was a real pistol. A recent issue of their Alumni Magazine referred to her as the "legendary" Alice Dater. I think you could also use the word "beloved" to describe Alice. She taught there for thirty-nine years, retiring in 1982, moving to Montana in 1987. Alice was a proud liberal, and missed school to participate in civil rights marches in the 1960's. Although she has been gone from the Washington scene for quite a few years, her many friends there and elsewhere will never forget her. Alice, you were something, and we sure had a good time at the Cosmos Club when they anointed Larry Gould.

A MID-SUMMER TREAT FROM DISCOVERY CHANNEL. Has there ever been such a splendid plethora of Antarctic films as Discovery Channel put on from 1 August through 8 August's And they ran each show at least twice, some three times, so one was bound to find time to see them. Most were recent films, and darn good ones, really capturing Antarctica as never seen before.

Of the ten full-length features shown, I gave five stars to ICEBIRD, which was essentially a film on the Adelies. Another great film was EMPERORS OF ANTARCTICA, a film which captured for the first time the return of Emperors to Cape Crozier, and their full life cycle. The Kiwi film makers couldn't resist dramatizing an excellent film with a walk through history with the exploits of Wilson, Bowers, and Cherry-Garrard, the original perpetrators of Cape Crozier. The film said the film crew were the first winter visitors to Cape Crozier since Scott's party, although I believe history will show that some of Hillary's men went there in 1957, as I have a tape of the late Peter Mulgrew talking about the feeling of their (Wilson, Bowers, Cherry-Garrard) presence when he was there. Regardless, a really fine film, just tremendous! Another five-star film in this writer's opinion was THE KRILL EQUATION.

I would give three stars to SOLID WATER, LIQUID ROCK, to THE LONGEST NIGHT, and to Jack Hanna's VOYAGE TO ANTARCTICA. They weren't as exciting as the three above, but each in its category was fine. SOLID WATER, LIQUID ROCK was the story of Mt. Erebus from McMurdo Sound to the summit, and it told all you ever wanted to know about Erebus, and probably more. THE LONGEST NIGHT was a film based on life at Scott Base, which left one with the impression that it wasn't really a long night, and that some people were having one hell of a good time. There certainly is no resemblance between wintering over in Antarctica today with what it was like before the advent of women and the skinny-dipping ritual. Jack Hanna's film was shot on the WORLD DISCOVERER on the fantastically beautiful Antarctic Peninsula, and had such grizzly Antarcticans as Colin Bull and Charles Swithinbank in it. Of course it would have been nicer if they had someone in the film who could speak English!

One star was given to PENGUIN SUMMER and ABOVE US, THE ICE, although both are great films. There are things in those two films you have never seen before in Antarctic films, like some fantastic underwater shots of a colony of Olympic-swimming penguins captured by cameras on a relatively new cruise ship with an underwater laboratory capability.

The other two films, one TREASURE AT THE SOUTH POLE, were just average, although it was great to see and hear my neighbor from Rockland, Maine, John Spletstoesser. The other, ANTARCTICA-THE FROZEN WASTE, was a Greenpeace overkill on the pollution of Antarctica. However, this much outdated film served its purpose just fine, as it impacted my nine-year old granddaughter to make a statement, "No one should be allowed to go to Antarctica."

HISTORY OF BYRD'S CITY OF NEW YORK (written over 40 years ago by Vincent Van Riper, National Association of Marine Surveyors - copy furnished by Gordon Fountain).

A once-proud vessel, perhaps the oldest on the high seas to carry an American Bureau of Shipping load line, met her end on the last day of 1952. She was the auxiliary three-masted schooner CITY OF NEW YORK registered out of Honduras and recently purchased by the Halifax firm of Shaw Steamship Company, Ltd.

Her 143-foot length was small, especially in these days of 600- and 700-foot tankers and 900-foot superliners, but she was strongly built. Her 10" x 11 1/2" frames were of the best oak, closely spaced with iron knees on every second deck beam, and natural crook double oak knees on every main deck beam. Her planking consisted of three 4" thicknesses of elm, greenheart and spruce with an interior ceiling of pine varying in thickness from 6 1/2" to 4". As the frames, especially up forward, were very closely spaced, the sides of the vessel were almost 2 1/2 feet thick. The keelsons, sister keelsons and rider keelsons were built into a solid block of oak 3 feet deep by 3 feet wide, on the outside of which was the 15" x 15" oak keel. It was truly a formidable vessel for its size.

Few ships have had a more colorful career than this vessel which sailed both the Arctic and Antarctic seas. She was built at Arendal, Norway, 67 years ago as a three-masted barque for sealing and exploring in the Arctic seas. After varied service she was purchased by Admiral Byrd in 1928, and refitted as a supply ship for his Antarctic expeditions. She performed in a praiseworthy manner on these particularly hazardous voyages. Upon completion of this service she was fitted out as a floating museum, visiting American coastal ports and also sailing to the Great Lakes where she was an attraction at the Chicago World's Fair.

Captain W_e Kennedy, a U.S. citizen residing in Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia, purchased the vessel in 1943 and rebuilt her into a trading schooner fitted with auxiliary diesel power. From 1944 until October 1952 Captain Kennedy owned and sailed the CITY OF NEW YORK on voyages to South America, the West Indies and to the new American bases in the far north. On many of the voyages the crew consisted of the owner, his wife, children and a handful of men. It was only by such economies in manpower that it was found profitable to run the vessel. The CITY OF NEW YORK was greatly admired by Nova Scotians, and especially by the hardy fishermen of Lunenburg. Many Lunenburgers had sailed in the CITY OF NEW YORK, and in their expert but taciturn opinion, flavored with a touch of the accent still retained from their Germanic origin, she was "a fine vessel."

The vessel was too strong for one casualty to bring its career to an end. It took several of them, happening almost simultaneously on a rocky, tide-ripped coast covered with fog, to toll the bell for this staunch ship. The first mishap occurred when the tailshaft broke; then while under tow off the mouth of the Bay of Fundy she grounded. After being refloated and the voyage resumed, the towline parted the same night, and she again grounded on a rocky ledge in bad weather. The heavy seas, shallow water and the darkness prevented the tug from pulling her off during the night. It was then that the final disaster struck - a fire under the quarter deck completely gutted the after end of the vessel, burning out the main deck and opening her to the sea.

WITH BYRD AT THE SOUTH POLE. John Lenkey was left with quite a few of the Byrd videos, "With Byrd at the South Pole." If you don't already have one, John is offering a closeout sale price of \$35 to Society members. Make checks payable to John Lenkey, and mail them to him at 2121 Castlebridge Road, Midlothian, VA 23113.

If anyone is interested in a memorial package of the Byrd Rededication and Siple Dedication at Wellington on Mid-Winter Day 1993, John is offering for \$10 four of the best color prints of the monument, copies of the Official Program, copies of two newspaper accounts, and an audio tape of the 25-minute program. Price includes shipping.

ARTIST ON THE ICE (Fredrica Wechsler). Neelon Crawford, the first photographer ever invited to winter-over on the ice by the National Science Foundation's Artists and Writers Program, will have the first showing of the soon-to-be-historic photographic products of that trip at the National Academy of Sciences—March through June 1994.

Crawford and the Academy have big plans for the exhibition, which the Academy sees as a way of increasing the science community's and the public's understanding of the Antarctic: a catalogue to include 30 of Crawford's new images, plus essays by Antarctic experts; a reception for the Polar community (to which all Antarctic Society members will most cordially be invited); and a tour for the show.

Neelon, a 46-year old artisan, is probably the American photographer most highly qualified to undertake this project, having already made three trips to the Antarctic prior to his current nine-month winter-over — all at the invitation of the NSF. His first stay was in the summer of 1988, when he photographed almost around the clock. During his second trip, from August to October 1991, Crawford photographed during the early light of the austral spring. His third journey, in August through September 1992, took him to the Weddell Sea on the new NSF research vessel, the NATHANIEL B. PALMER. Judging by photos from his earlier journeys, the new ones should be spectacular — even though he will shoot many of them at night. How do you photograph during the Antarctic night? According to Crawford, "Very loooooong exposures."

To realize these plans, they need financial support to the tune of \$67,000. Contributions to the Arts in the Academy program of the National Academy of Sciences are of course, tax deductible. All supporters will receive recognition in the exhibition, the catalogue, and any other printed material accompanying the show. If you would like further information, Fredrica Wechsler, Director of Arts in the Academy, will be pleased to supply it. You can reach her at 202/334-2439, or by Fax at 202/334-2158, or by letter at the Academy: 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20418.

LEE WINSLOW COURT RETROSPECTIVE. Ruby Court, a delightful, fun-loving Antarctic widow of a well-known American painter, Lee Winslow Court, tells us that there will be a retrospective showing of Lee's paintings, including many Antarctic ones, at the Copley Society, 158 Newbury Street, Boston, opening on 9 November, running for two weeks. Lee is probably the first American artist to ever have a one-person showing of all Antarctic paintings. The Guild of Boston Artists showcased it in October 1971.

Lee was a direct descendent of Governor Edward Winslow of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which almost made him eligible to be accepted by provincial New Englanders as a native son. Lee was an adventuresome soul, and flew across the Atlantic with Max Conrad in a tiny Piper Apache in 1956, which, according to Brad Washburn of the Boston Museum of Science, "heightened his understanding of the drama of the clouds and sky above the limitless expanse of the ocean." Lee traveled to Antarctica "in search of more of Nature's hidden treasures" which he always found in landscapes dominated by snow and ice. One of Nature's hidden treasures that he discovered in Antarctica was a rare speciwoman, Ruby Eyer. I don't know if he put tier on canvas or not, but he certainly put her on sheets as the new Mrs. Lee Winslow Court. If you are in Boston in November, drop around to The Copley and see Lee's Antarctic paintings, as well as a lot of others.

1994 ANTARCTIC CALENDARS. We are again offering to U.S. and Canadian addresses the fine Antarctic calendar produced by Kiwis Colin and Betty Monteath at the same attractive price of \$10 each, including mailing. Avoid the rush, place your order now! Checks payable to Antarctic Society, see address on letterhead.