



THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

905 NORTH JACKSONVILLE STREET
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22205

HONORARY PRESIDENT — MRS. PAUL A. SIPLE

Vol. 94-95

September

No. 1

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Dr. J. Campbell Craddock, 1967
Mr. James Pranke, 1968
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Dr. Sayed Z. El-Saved, 1990
Dr. Charles W. Swithinbank, 1991
Dr. Susan Solomon, 1992
Dr. Michele E. Raney, 1993

"GOING TO EXTREMES"

McMurdo Station to the Antarctic Peninsula
Cruise 94.02 of the NATHANIEL B. PALMER

A Visual Presentation in Slides and Paintings featuring

*THE ROSS ICE SHELF, CAPE COLBECK, MT. SIPLE, PINE
ISLAND BAY, THE AMUNDSEN AND BELLINGSHAUSEN SEAS,
MARGUERITE BAY, THE LEMAIRE CHANNEL AND GERLACHE STRAIT*

by

Alan Campbell
Athens, Georgia

NSF Antarctic Artists and Writers Program

on

Thursday evening, October 20, 1994

8 PM

National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington

Room 375

(Entrance at back of building on the
corner of 9th St. N. & N. Stuart St.
One-half block from Metro Ballston Station)

Alan Campbell is the Gainsborough of the Antarctic. This graduate of the University of Georgia received his Master of Fine Arts in 1975. Further studies were completed at the University of California at Berkeley, and with Georgia's Foreign Studies Program in Cortona, Italy. Besides painting in Antarctica, he has wetted his brushes in Kenya, the Gala pagos, Montana, and even North Haven Island, Penobscot Bay, Maine.
Don't miss Alan!!

A man of great stature, Tony Meunier, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia, is our Society's new president. Tony wintered over at the South Pole in 1974, helping close down the original IGY Siple-Tuck-built station. Later he returned to the ice as a meteorite seeker in 1981-82. Polly Penhale, who served so admirably as our past president, has consented to serve as Tony's Vice President.

So another year is upon us. For Ruth and me, it marks the beginning of our 17th year of putting together this misnomer which we masquerade as a newsletter. This is our 97th, and we hope we survive through 100.

We are certainly in an age of transition, and it was never made more clear than visiting the Office of Polar Programs and seeing how e-mail has changed the modus operandi of passing information. Have we reached the state where we either conform or cease to exist? It's scary for those of us with a mentality like Forrest Gump's.

Our membership has dropped off by about twenty members, but we still have close to 600 faithful. The bills are in the mail, and if you have any concern for Ruth's health and welfare, to say nothing of her happiness, renew for multiple years, and reduce her work load as she is carrying this all by herself.

Again your newsletter continues to be the sole voice of an irresponsible person who will not let the truth get in the way of a good story. Our tongue-in-cheek style of writing can be injurious to the health of those of you who take yourself and the world seriously, so you shouldn't read these things. Our aim is only to write something which those of you who can read will want to read. Period.

1995 NEW ZEALAND (MONTEATH) CALENDARS ARE TRULY GREAT. We have received the Hedgehog House's 1995 Antarctic calendar, and it's another beauty. This is the calendar which sells Antarctica for its environment and indigenous populations, and some of the photographs, such as Colin's reflections at the southern end of the Lemaire Channel, and another of his showing hitchhiking Adelies atop a small iceberg off the Mackellar Islands, are just superb.

The good news for you folks is that we are selling these calendars at the same price as last year, even though we had to pay an additional fifty cents each this year. If you bought directly from Hedgehog, you would have to pay \$16.50 each, but we're selling them to you for only \$10, including postage and mailing. If you live in the Washington area, you can pick them up at 905, and we'll charge you only \$9.00. What a bargain!! We have only 175, so if you want some, order NOW. We will NOT be re-ordering.

NORMAN VAUGHAN IS STILL ALIVE AND DOING WELL. At this time of the year one always wonders what Norman Vaughan is up to, and whether Christmas will be cancelled, as Santa could go on strike. The answer to the first wonderment was answered by a telephone call to Eagle River, Alaska, where a strong and booming voice assured us not only was Norman still alive, but that he was still planning on climbing Mt. Vaughan on his 89th birthday this coming December. It seems he has the full support of Anne Kershaw in getting himself and Carolyn to Patriot Hills in late November, then over to Mt. Vaughan where the assault team will hit the slopes. Norman does not know the word "defeat", and this physical marvel is going to give it every ounce of his strength and energy. We wish Norman only the very, very best, as Norman is truly a nice guy.

BILL FIELD (30 January 1904-16 June 1994) (by A.L. "Link" Washburn). William Osgood Field, known as "Bill" to colleagues and other friends around the world, was educated at Hotchkiss School and Harvard University. He became a major contributor to the field

of glaciology in the United States and internationally over a lifetime of research devoted to advancing the discipline.

Bill's contributions were manifold. They included many seasons of fieldwork, especially in southeastern Alaska (Glacier Bay) and neighboring Canada. He also worked in Greenland, the Andes, and during the International Geophysical Year (1957-58) in the Antarctic. His carefully indexed photographic records and studies of Alaska's and Canada's glaciers constitute a baseline and national resource that contribute significantly to the study of local and regional climatic change as interpreted by variations in glacier position and volume. His "Mountain Glaciers of the Northern Hemisphere" was published in 1975 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory.

Starting as a Research Associate with the American Geographical Society in 1940 he subsequently became Director of its Department of Field Exploration and Research. In the 1950's he was responsible for the World Data Center A for Glaciology. He was elected to the Society's Council in 1970 and served on it until his death.

Bill is survived by his wife, Mary Losey Mapes, whom he married in 1963 following the death of his first wife, Alice Withero in 1960. In addition, he is survived by a son, a daughter, a brother, two sisters, and two stepsons.

Bill was a quiet, modest, unassuming, and warm person. His dedication and research won him wide recognition, including the Charles P. Daly Medal of the American Geographical Society, the Busk Medal of the Royal Geographical Society, the Explorer's Medal of the Explorers Club, and the Seligman Crystal, the premier award of the International Glaciological Society. But perhaps the greatest honor bestowed on him was the esteem in which he was universally held by his colleagues and friends the world over.

MORE ON BILL FIELD. Every time an IGY VIP dies, we turn to Link Washburn for his obituary, as he knew them all, and he knew them well. Most of those people, like the late Dick Goldthwait and now Bill Field, were just as nice as Link. There was a lot of class in those IGY glaciologists. They wore the mantle of being nice guys very well, I knew Bill somewhat, as I was contract officer to the American Geographical Society for the above referred Glacial Atlas of the Northern Hemisphere. Incidentally, there was also a companion atlas on the Glaciers of the Southern Hemisphere. So I knew Bill professionally quite well. He had a young upstart working for him by the name of George Denton. I wonder whatever happened to George. Probably driving a cab somewhere, or perhaps he's a fisherman on the Grand Banks.

Bill was a man of considerable means, never had to worry about where his next meal was going to come from. His last name might give you a clue to his lineage. But one would never know of his wealth, as he was a most common man, loved and respected by all, never had an enemy. He lost his first wife, remarried, and took his bride to a symposium that the National Academy had at UCLA on the Results of the IGY. The penalty of being a bride to Bill Field!

FROM THE e-MAIL SCREEN OF GUY GUTHRIDGE. President Clinton sent a midwinter message to Antarctic stations, with copies to Antarctic Programs and U.S. ambassadors in the Antarctic Treaty nations, saying, in part, "Humanity looks upon the distant continent of Antarctica as unsullied wilderness, a last refuge of nature, and a wellspring of scientific discovery. All of you are helping to turn the continent's promise into a reality that benefits the entire world."

Thomas N. Taylor, Ohio State University paleobotanist, has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Taylor, a professor of plant biology and geology and a researcher with the Byrd Polar Research Center, has worked in Antarctica for several years. In

1992, Taylor, his wife Edith Taylor, also a researcher from Ohio State, and co-worker N. R. Cuneo reported in SCIENCE that they had evidence of a forest more than 200 million years ago in Antarctica at 84°S. This is the highest-latitude forest, living or fossilized, ever recorded.

Four polar books are on the National Science Teachers Association list of 69 outstanding children's science trade books published in 1993: "Here is the Arctic Winter," "Land of Dark, Land of Light: The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," "Penguins at Home: Gentoos of Antarctica," and "Investigating the Ozone Hole." The last, by Rebecca Johnson, resulted from NSF's Antarctic Artists & Writers Program and is one of just 17 of the 69 that the NSTA is publicizing as Selectors' Choices – "books that panel members responded to with particular enthusiasm."

Six polar books (for grownups) are reviewed in the 13 May SCIENCE: "Archaeology of the Frobisher Voyages," "The Meta Incognita Project," "Before the Heroes Came: Antarctica in the 1890s," and three books about Antarctic fish history, biology, and fisheries.

Eight thousand thirty-four tourists from 42 countries visited Antarctica on 64 cruises by 10 ships in the 1993-1994 season. There were 514 landings at 85 or more sites; Port Lockroy, the most popular spot, got 4,274 visitors in 30 events. Palmer Station had 1,185 visitors in 10 events. At least 42 percent of the tourists were American; 17 percent, German; and 9 percent, British.

The Falkland Islands shelf may have substantial hydrocarbon reserves, preliminary seismic surveys suggest. Licensing for offshore exploration and drilling rights is to start this month under the auspices of the United Kingdom.

A U.S. Air Force C-141 made the first of two midwinter airdrops of mail, fresh food, and other cargo to McMurdo (26,679 lbs.) and flew on to make this winter's one drop of 8,664 lbs. to South Pole. An accompanying KC-10 tanker (a modified DC-10) refueled the C-141 in midair during the flight of 5,520 nautical miles. The length of these remarkable missions is the same as if you were to leave Dulles Airport to overfly Yellowstone (Northwest Territories) and Fairbanks (Alaska) before returning to Dulles to land. NSF has supported the drops to maintain readiness for a winter emergency and to provide material to winterers midway through their 6- to 8-month isolations.

A cover story on Antarctic air operations in the 16 May AIR FORCE TIMES says, "The Navy wants out, the Air Guard wants in, and the Air Force appears ambivalent. The [National Science] Foundation just wants to make sure it ends up with someone it can rely on."

Senator Kennedy sent a 22 June letter to the Director, Defense Research & Engineering, DoD, to "urge the Department of Defense to maintain at least the air operations support for the NSF Antarctic Programs."

Another meteorite from the Moon has been announced. The specimen, collected in 1993 in the Queen Alexandra Range, Antarctica, is sure to provide important new insights on lunar science, says the Meteorite Working Group.

Over 400 scientists and students attended the Sixth SCAR Biology Symposium in Venice, Italy. The theme, "Antarctic Communities: Species, Structure and Survival," featured sessions on environmental change and human impact. Invited keynote talks were presented by Neal Sullivan (satellite oceanography) and Polly Penhale (the Bahia Paraiso).

At the meeting, Bill Fraser's talk on Adelie penguin population trends near Palmer Station drew attention. Trends show an overall decrease over the past two decades, with a 13-percent decrease at Torgersen Island (site of scientific and tourist activity) and a 56-percent decrease at SPA Litchfield Island (rarely visited). Data presented show differences in snow-cover history and rookery locale relative to side of island for the two sites. Fraser concluded that the potentially adverse effects of tourism and research may be negligible relative to the effects imposed by long-term environmental changes.

The \$12.5-million Kelly Tarlton Antarctic Center opened in Auckland, New Zealand. It has an 8-minute ride in a Sno Cat through a simulated whiteout. A life-size plastic orca attacks a seal, throwing the riders into a near panic. Superb lighting simulates conditions at Scott's hut and the surrounding landscape. Antarctic dawn is created with mercury, metal halides, and halogen luminaries. "Professionally presented and exciting," says an ASA staffer who went. No live penguins yet: a plan to import some from San Diego and Antarctica is at the center of a well publicized international dispute,

"Images of a Frozen Continent," a photographic exhibition by Stuart Klipper (USAP artist), is showing at the McDougall Art Gallery in Christchurch and has received a fair amount of attention. "Stuart's photo of the tons of snow deposited on the South Pole dome illustrates the engineering structural problems in ways that a report never could," says one observer.

Tasmania held an Antarctic exhibition at its Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery. Two huskies from Australia's Mawson station, brought in for formal festivities, promptly peed on a sledge on display and then attacked and damaged two stuffed dogs.

"It is probably more important for Australians to do science in Antarctica on global change than it is to study Australia," Pat Quilty, Antarctic Division, said during a national review after a \$100-million rebuilding of stations. Funding is down, but Australia has new direction in Antarctica: understanding global change, protecting the environment, maintaining and influencing the Antarctic Treaty, and obtaining information of practical importance. "Science is the currency of authority in Antarctica," said Barry Jones, former Minister of Science.

There is no credible evidence for a 1958 Antarctic ozone hole, writes Goddard Space Flight Center's Paul A. Newman in the 22 April SCIENCE. A 1990 French paper had said spectrographic plates of the sky, the moon, and two stars taken at Dumont d'Urville, the French Antarctic station, suggest ozone values were low in 1958, well before significant CFC emissions. Newman says the plate data reflect "a large instrumental bias" and are inconsistent with a number of other observations.

Winds on Antarctica's Adelie Coast may be among the strongest observed anywhere, but USAP's automated weather stations on a line from that coast into the interior have found even higher wind speeds some distance inland.

A cold snap at the South Pole set daily record lows 15-19 May. For example, -103.5°F on 19 May retired the 1966 record low for that day of -98.0°F.

ANTARCTIC TRASH. Newspapers near Port Hadlock, Washington, where the ship GREEN WAVE unloaded 450 containers of Antarctic trash in March, gave positive coverage to the event. The Island Independent reported that Washington's Department of Ecology "was favorably impressed after an onsite inspection at Indian Island."

Toxic metals in ambient air at McMurdo during the 1992-1993 austral summer were well below (better than) U.S. air quality standards, according to an April 1994 report published by Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL), which did the monitoring.

INEL also published a report that summarizes all recent wastewater impact assessments at McMurdo - as done by Antarctic Support Associates, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, Montana State University, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, and INEL.

Antarctic marine ecosystems are six times less contaminated than in the North Sea, according to Belgian scientists who gathered data on heavy metals and organochlorides. At higher trophic levels, fish receive much of their low levels of contamination from the water rather than up through the food chain.

TWO MORE DEATHS. Not everyone is made for Antarctica, and the doctor who wintered over at the South Pole in 1958, Vernon Houk, certainly was one of that kind of strange people. But he went on to become a very illustrious doctor of national repute with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, associating himself with some very important national concerns. But one he could not lick, and the Big C claimed this sixty-four-year-old on 11 September 1994.

Vernon came from a well-to-do California family, and why he gravitated to the South Pole remained an unsolved mystery to those who wintered over with him. But he served his time, spending the year wearing clean mukluks, sitting at the head of the dining room table drinking endless cups of coffee. And when he left the ice, that closed that chapter and book. He never answered letters from Antarcticans, never returned calls from Antarcticans, but was apprehended by a fellow Antarcticman who ended up with him on a plane flying to Africa.

But let's give the Devil his due rights - - he did amount to something after all. In the 1970's he helped direct studies that showed the health threats posed by lead in paints and gasoline. In the 1980's he directed publicly-linked radiation from the U.S. nuclear weapons industry to increased cancer rates among those exposed. And in recent years he had become embroiled in the debate surrounding dioxin, which was contained in Agent Orange. He doubted the toxic effects of dioxin were as great as originally believed. He sure fooled a lot of us!!

Another man in his sixties who succumbed was Lars-Eric Lindblad, 67, whose name is synonymous with opening up Antarctica and other exotic places to well-heeled, sprightly, adventurous tourists. In a way, he was sort of a cult leader, and even though there were other tour ships going to Antarctica, veteran travellers like our beloved whale spotteress, Dotte Larsen, wouldn't think of going south with anyone else but Lindblad. He offered cruises to Antarctica as early as 1966, and his company stayed in business until 1989 when he violated U.S. trade embargoes against Vietnam and Cambodia by offering tours to those countries, getting penalized some 75K. Lars looked upon travel as a birthright, and "to embargo travel was like burning books or imprisoning journalists." He evidently had an easily-won reputation with the fair sex, and if you want an hilarious shower story about a feminine scalding accident, ask John Spletts about it. Lindblad lived in Wilton, Connecticut, but died from a heart attack while vacationing in Stockholm

ANTARCTIC IGY OFFICIALLY ENDS 3 OCTOBER 1994. So you thought the IGY was over and done with years and years ago, but the last remaining Washington staff member that we are aware of, Alison Wilson, retires from the National Archives on 3 October 1994. Now that is the end of a real era, she outlasted all. Not only that, but she is the last polar connection in the National Archives who personally knew the players. At one time the indefatigable polar enthusiast, Gerry Pagano, the well-known geographer, Herman Friis, and Alison constituted a very active three-person polar office in the National Archives, and soon they will all be gone from their hallowed halls. In fact, within six months all of the polar material will be shipped to their new center on the University of Maryland's campus.

Alison started her IGY back in 1955, when she went to work for John Hanessian (later killed in an European plane crash, flight from Paris to London, I believe) and Hugh Odishaw, who was Mr. IGY in the U.S. And somewhere in there, she switched over to work for Bert Crary and Dick Hubble in the polar office. Later on, the young country beauty called "Yum Yum" by one and all joined the staff, and to this day is still reverently remembered by all who passed through those portals back in 1956. However, Alison has outlasted all of them as a loyal, devoted government worker, and when she walks out that door for the last time on the third of October, it is truly going to be the end of an era. The best of luck, good health, and have a great time, Alison.

CREVASSE SMITH CROSSES ANOTHER CREVASSE. Phil Smith, who can be described in various terms, has finalized a most distinguished government career by sort of retiring from the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council, effective the end of June this past summer. On paper he is retired, although he is still associated with a major study of the Academy's Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy on the future of graduate education. And he plans on remaining active in science and technology policy, do some consulting, and may spend some time in one or two private-sector ventures. Old spelunkers just don't drop dead, you know, they just disappear very gradually. But to find him you may have to go to the Southwest, as he writes that "my house in Santa Fe beckons." For the time being, though his primary address is 464 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20024, where you can reach him by phone 202/554-5715, or at <psmith@nas.edu by internet.

Phil came onto the polar scene as a young lieutenant in the Transportation Corps, serving first in Greenland, and then coming onto the Antarctic scene during the IGY. Because of his propensity for wanting to know what was in crevasses - he never saw one he didn't want to explore - he was called Crevasse Smith by one and all. And he got along just great with the media, was a traveling companion of Bill Hartigan and Pat Trese, and, if my memory is correct, may have been one of the composers of a humorous song, "Oh Odisahw." After the IGY, now a civilian, he took a position with Bert Crary and Tom Jones in the polar office at the National Science Foundation. And his career was off and running at breakneck speed, knowing no bounds. The world was waiting for Phil to conquer it, and he did. From the National Science Foundation he went to the White House where he worked as a staff member on the President's Science Advisory Committee. And from there he went to the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council where he was in the Executive Office as first hanzo to Frank Press. And through all this, he remained a firm and true bachelor. How could he possibly have accomplished so much without a woman telling him what to do and when to do it? A miracle man!

ARTISTS AND WRITERS IN THE U.S. ANTARCTIC PROGRAM.

Arthur Beaumont. Painter. 1958. Paintings of Antarctic military, historical, and other subjects.

Emil Schulthess. Photographer. 1959. Book: Antarctica, a Photographic Survey (198 p., Simon & Schuster, 1960). A classic, depicting both Antarctic scenes and human activities there.

Kenneth Bertrand. Historian. 1961. Book: Americans in Antarctica, 1775-1948 (554 p., American Geographical Society, 1971). The definitive history of U.S. involvement in the Antarctic.

Donald Finkel. Poet. 1968. Book-length poems: Adequate Earth (Atheneum, 1972), Endurance (Atheneum, 1978). Poet Emeritus, Washington University.

Charles Neider. Writer. 1969, 1970, 1977. Books: Edge of the World: Ross Island, Antarctica (461 p., Doubleday, 1974), Beyond Cape Horn: Travels in the Antarctic (387 p., Sierra Club Books, 1980).

Louis J. Halle. Writer. 1969. Book: The Sea and the Ice, a Naturalist in Antarctica (286 p. Houghton Mifflin, 1973; paperback reprint by Cornell University Press, 1989).

Daniel Lang. Painter. 1975. Paintings at galleries and museums in USA and Europe. Traveling exhibition.

Eliot Porter. Photographer. 1975. Photographs, traveling exhibition, and book: Antarctica (169 p. E.P. Dutton, 1978).

James Westwater. Photographer. 1977. Photographs and multimedia presentation (symphony orchestras with 3-screen slide' show).

Stephen J. Pyne. Historian. 1982. Book: *The Ice: A Journey to Antarctica* (448 p., University of Iowa Press, 1987). Reprinted 1988 by Ballantine Books. Praised by the New York Times Book Review (one of the 16 best books of 1987), Scientific American, and others.

Michael Parfit. Writer. 1984. Book: *South Light, a Journey to the Last Continent* (306 p., Macmillan, 1986; paperback, 1987; U.K. edition, 1988). Articles in Smithsonian, National Geographic, and others.

Lucia deLeiris. Painter. 1985. Book (with author Sanford Moss): *Natural History of the Antarctic Peninsula* (Columbia University Press, 1988); watercolors and drawings shown at museums and galleries.

Jennifer Dewey. Painter, writer. 1985 Drawings and two illustrated children's books (*The Adelie Penguin* and *The Wandering Albatross*, Little, Brown, 1989) in her *Birds of Antarctica* series. A third book, *On the Edge*, is planned.

Barry Lopez. Writer. 1987, 1989, 1991, 1992. Articles for Harper's and Washington Post Outlook. Future book. Mr. Lopez is the award-winning author of *Arctic Dreams* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1987).

Rachel Weiss. Sculptor, arts administrator. Conceived and produced the arts and sciences exhibition *Imagining Antarctica*, displayed in several cities in 1986 and 1987. A book of that title was published.

Alan Campbell. Painter. 1988, 1989, 1994. Traveling exhibitions at galleries and museums in Australia, New Zealand, and in the United States, sponsored by the U.S. Information Service, Mobil, and Lockheed Aeronautical Systems. Exhibition catalogs. Public television biography.

Neelon Crawford. Photographer. 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993. Exhibitions at galleries in New York, Baltimore, Washington. *Southern Lights Portfolio* (photogravures).

Stuart Klipper. Photographer. 1989, 1992, 1993. Exhibitions at Museum of Modern Art and other locations. Two Guggenheim fellowships. Future book of high latitude photographs.

Elizabeth Arthur. Writer. 1990. Knopf will publish her novel *Antarctic Navigation* in January 1994.

Ann Parks Hawthorne. Photographer. 1990. Numerous credits in magazines. Represented by Black Star.

Nena Allen. 1991. Shows at galleries in southeastern United States.

Rebecca Johnson. Writer. 1991. Lerner will publish two books for young adults: *Investigating the Ozone Hole* in 1993 and a book about antarctic scientists in 1994.

James Gorman. Writer. 1991. Book, *The Southern Ocean*, to be published by HarperCollins in 1994.

William Stout. Painter and writer. 1992-1993. Exhibition and book, *Lost World: Pre-historic and Modern Life in Antarctica*.

Galen Rowell. Photographer and writer. 1992. With. Barbara Rowell, an illustrated book about Antarctica. Also: "A most unearthly place," March 1993 *Life*.

Jody Forster. Photographer. 1992. Exhibitions in galleries in the American Southwest and elsewhere.

ANNUAL NSF ANTARCTIC ORIENTATION CONFERENCE MAY BE A THING OF THE PAST. For the past thirty-nine years, there has been a gathering in mid-September, or thereabouts, of Antarcticans going to the ice. In a way it has become the Annual Murray Hamlet Show of Frozen Extremities, although, to the best of my knowledge, in some thirty-seven years no

one as yet has frozen any appendages. However, with modern electronic technology there may not be a necessity henceforth to bring fresh spirited young Antarctic aspirants and grizzly old Antarctic hands together to fortify each other for the coming summer season on the ice.

From time to time, I have had the pleasure of attending these orientations, dating back to the very first one in Davisville in mid-October 1956. Dennis Peacock thought it would be a good idea if I wrote something about that first orientation.

According to THE POLAR TIMES, seventy scientists gathered at the United States Navy Construction Battalion Center in Davisville, Rhode Island for a week-long program of orientation. Back in those halcyon days, there was no support contractor, as it was rumored that our support was going to be willingly provided by an eager group of "Swabees", so it was just an encampment for the so-called scientists. And, naturally, being 1956, there was no need for women, as we men were going to do it all in our own way. So there.

Where there were few Antarctic experts in those days, we were sort of a motley crew of people brought up in the Byrd era who had been patiently awaiting an opportunity to leave home ... and go to the Antarctic. Sir Hubert Wilkins, the first man to fly in Antarctica and the first to take a submarine under polar ice, was there; Carl Eklund, a sledding partner of Finn Ronne's on the U.S. Antarctic Service Expedition, was also there. And maybe Finn was there, although I don't think so. Paul Siple definitely was not there, as he left for the Antarctic on 4 October. So there weren't too many OAE's. But there were some IGY biggies, including the illustrious physicist, Dr. Arthur Kaplan of UCLA, who was the Chairman of the U.S. National Committee for the IGY.

Unlike the most recent orientation conference, at a spacious conference center with a park-like atmosphere of lawns, trees, and deer aplenty, we were in very spartan military barracks, with military police at the gates. There was one watering hole in the area, the Kingston Inn, and that was our nightly escape. I remember one evening when Eklund left his ID badge back in his room, he borrowed Sir Hubert's and as he went out the gate he proclaimed, "I'm Sir Hubert, and I will make out tonight!"

I don't seem to recall anything about any lectures, but there were talks on clothing and equipment and survival. We were all issued what we were to wear in Antarctica. Basically it was Quartermaster issue from my old laboratory at Natick, Massachusetts.

A funny thing happened at the very end as we were breaking up. Someone remembered that Sir Hubert had never been invited to say a word, and as a farewell gesture turned to him and said, "Sir Hubert, would you like to say a final word to all these people before they go to Antarctica?" And he replied, "Yes, as a matter of fact I would - please don't p -- in all the crevasses." And so was issued probably the first environmental impact statement ever given to Americans going to the Antarctic.

The week was over, and we were riding back to Natick with Sir Hubert and some of the clothing experts who had come down to distribute the clothing. The radio was on, so no one was saying much as we were all tired and just wanted to get home. Suddenly the program on the radio was interrupted with a news bulletin - a Navy plane flying into McMurdo had crashed, killing three, one more was subsequently to die. The reality of where I was going was very suddenly upon me, and here I was with the man who introduced flying to Antarctica. I took solace in knowing that I, like all except Paul Siple, would be going to Antarctica by ship, the last time that U.S. scientists were to go by ship.

In retrospect, orientation was most enjoyable, as it gave all of us an opportunity to . meet our fellow scientists from the other stations, and more or less establish a camaraderie among those in Antarctica for the IGY stations (Byrd, Little America V, Amundsen Scott, Ellsworth, Wilkes, McMurdo^ and shared Hallett with the Kiwis). Many of you know some of the men who wintered over that first year, as they are well-known names in

science, such as Charlie Bentley, John Behrendt, Ned Ostenso, and others. But, professionally, probably the best known internationally is our ex-Boy Scout, Dick Chappell, who has truly made a name for himself.

LECTURERS ON ANTARCTIC CRUISE SHIPS. Although there is no master list available on lecturers who have appeared on the various cruise ships going to Antarctica, we do know that a goodly number of them are members of our Society. Once upon a time it was relatively easy to keep track of the Antarctic cruise ships, but nowadays one company may have as many as four different ships going to the ice throughout the whole austral summer. It is really big business, and such authorities as John Splettstoesser, Frank Todd, Peter Harrison, Charles Swithinbank, Ron Naveen, Barrel Schoeling, and a few others can practically write their own tickets, choosing those ships and cruises on which they wish to go. But after the first-tier lecturers, the rest are pulled from the rank and file, depending on their specialities.

George Llano was our first member who established himself as a bona fide Antarctic lecturer, and he was Mr. U.S. Antarctic lecturer for many many years. Now Llano has been supplanted by John Splettstoesser, who goes back to the ice each and every austral summer (as well as to the Arctic during the summer), with well over forty Antarctic cruises to his credit. John is the closest thing to being a professional full-time polar lecturer there is on this globe. Frank Todd calls his own shots, too, and we doubt if there is a single penguin in Antarctica who is not on a first-name basis with Frank. That ageless wonder, Charles Swithinbank, goes when the spirit moves him, which is every year! Being on board with Charles must be like being with a talking Antarctic encyclopedia, as what he does not know is certainly not worthy. Ron Naveen, the former lawyer who has gone straight, who has seen the light, is a naturalist with camera who is most highly regarded. Barrel Schoeling is another one of the permanent brigade of high repute.

The British ornithologist Peter Harrison, who now claims Port Townsend as his domicile, amounts to a cult leader. His faithful followers would no doubt even follow him on a downtown tour of the Bronx. Peter is a rare breed himself, being part ornithologist, part artist, part actor. And he is accompanied by a companion act, as his bride of a few years is none other than the indestructible Shirley Metz who skied her way to the South Pole back in 1989, then stripped to her undies for a cool photo for LIFE! But Peter can outdo Shirley. He convinces every tourist on their very first night aboard that their upcoming trip to Antarctica will be the greatest thing to happen to them since they discovered sliced bread, and then he proceeds to even exceed those limits.

Then there are the fill-ins, and they are a virtual potpourri of who's who in Antarctica. Our Honorary President, Ruth Siple; a daughter of the late Admiral Byrd, Boiling Clarke; and one of the first two women to winter over in Antarctica, Jackie Ronne, all brought famous names with them. And, as time allowed, Hugh BeWitt lectured through his Antarctic-honeymoon with Jane Siple. Past members of the Office of Polar Programs include Bob Rutford, Bwayne Anderson, Peter Anderson, Gunter Weller, and Mort Turner (as well as the aforementioned George Llano). They even took college deans several times, the irascible Colin Bull, and that Austrian wine connoisseur, Mike Kuhn. Gerry Webers of Pensacola Mountain fame also served, as did Bob Bodson of the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition; Brian Shoemaker who flew planes before flying the flagship of the American Polar Society; plus yours truly. We forgot Dick Cameron and Bill Sladen!!!! Sorry!

That comes out to twenty-five members of our Society, although we are sure there are others. Among the deceased', Gentleman Jim Zumberge and Bill Benninghoff both lectured. And among the front offices sending tourists to Antarctica, we have the well-respected Werner and Susan Zehnder, and Victoria Underwood as members.

Remember to pay your dues!

Remember to buy your calendars NOW!