Provide for his family after his father's murder, 15 year old Lester Liptak forged his baptismal certificate in order to enlist in the Navy during 1947. The many sacrifices and challenges Lester endured are chronicled in this short film.

Lester’s untold story, along with those of many other underage children who enlisted in armed services, inspired Ryan Allsop (Lester’s nephew) to write and direct *Mount Liptak*.

Later in life, Lester was a Plane Captain during Operation Deep Freeze, which was a mission to scientifically explore Antarctica.

Mount Liptak was named for Lester Liptak, as he was the crew chief on these first reconnaissance flights to the area in January 1958.

Mount Liptak, 10,013 ft. high, was first mapped by United States Geological Survey and U.S. Navy air photos from 1957–59.

*Continued on page 4*
TO ALL OAEs—By now, I hope you all have received the reunion Gazette, and are making your plans for May. San Antonio is a great place for our OAEA reunion, and reunion planner John West has a great program in line. I strongly encourage you to get your registrations in soon; lack of firm numbers makes it extremely difficult for the planners to finalize with the host venue.

Things going on in the Association behind the scenes…working on bylaws changes, a scholarship fund drive (matching funds donated from the chairman matching first $1000.00 donated by the membership, through 1 July 2018); also from the scholarship chairman, a new “generic” scholarship assistance application on the OAEA web site available for download. I had time to review a neat book, written up elsewhere in this Gazette issue. Many of you responded a few months ago to an Antarctic experience survey administered by OAEA Life Member Ms. Samantha Blight from University of Tasmania. I received feedback and thanks from her; she was gratified by the assistance of the OAEA members who responded; she will provide something in the way of results in a future Gazette. Our Webmaster Bob Gaboury has also posted an updated list of donors to the OAEA, along with the donor levels they have achieved.

Back to bylaws changes as mentioned in the previous paragraph…one of the biggest things is the change in the OAEA election cycle, to once every four years. This will provide a significant cost savings, literally cutting our election cycle costs in half. Good stuff, and well done to Marty Diller and Bob Gaboury who spearheaded this.

I mentioned I reviewed a book for this issue of Gazette. I read a lot, enjoy it and find time every day to sit down with a book…my tastes run to historical military fiction, contemporary military fiction, and “techno-thrillers”; in the last few weeks, two books I have read (one of them the book I reviewed in this issue, and the other contemporary Navy fiction by author David Poyer) have acknowledged OAEA Life Member Lisle Rose (his dozen published books include several Navy historical works and a book about Admiral Byrd) as source for some of the material presented in the books. It is always a charge to me to see and recognize Association names “out there”. Besides, I am jealous and a frustrated writer with two unfinished “manuscripts” in my resume.

Besides OAEA Chapters in New England and Gulf Coast, we have a couple of “unofficial” Old Antarctic Explorer regional social groups; one here in the Tidewater region of Virginia and the other is in Southern California. If anyone is interested in starting a regional social group, I can provide initial assistance by sending out a regional notification with contact information for a designated “pivot person” who is willing to head things up. It is a way to network and keep in touch; and our social groups have been the backbone for three reunions (one in Tidewater and two in southern Cal). We also have a Chapter Coordinator (Life Member Dick Spaulding) who can be contacted if you are interested in forming a regional chapter.

You all take care, catch you down the road.

Ed Hamblin
A WORK IN PROGRESS

Deep Freeze II
Gooney Birds

By Ronald Stephano

Most of the photographs in Ron’s book are by CDR James Waldron. Jim wintered-over at Little America V during DF-II. All aircraft drawings and other graphics are by Ron.

As soon as he could hold a pencil, Ron has been drawing almost every technical subject onto every available surface. His passion has always been drawing. Ron almost exclusively draws with pencil, china ink, and colored pencils. Adjusting to the modern world of multimedia, he refines his drawings by enhancing them on his personal computer. Ron specializes in caricatures and technical drawings of Antarctic subjects.

From Ron’s Introduction: The pictures in the July 1957 copy of the National Geographic Magazine (NGM) were fascinating. This otherworldly place in white snow, with orange tractors and houses, beautiful silver airplanes with bright orange/red wings and tails! This all looked so hi-tech and state-of-the-art, a world that seemed to have all the thrills a young boy could dream of—a fantastic world! These were the early 60s and I was then about seven years old.

In later years, when I had picked up model building, I found it annoying that so little information was available on the original R4Ds that participated in Operation Deep Freeze II (by now I knew what the article in the 1957 NGM was about), making it difficult, if not impossible, to produce a good model with all the necessary conversions for correct detailing. But besides this July 1957 issue of the NGM, very little or nothing-worth mentioning existed on this subject.

I am grateful that my R4D drawing could be put to good use to raise funds for Ice Eagles, an important documentary film on US involvement on Antarctic flying, but it also allowed me to produce my first essay on a subject that has been neglected until now. Ron can be reached by email at ronalds@pt.lu.
Mount Liptak (78°45′S 84°54′W) is a mountain, 3,052 meters (10,013 ft) high with twin summits, located 7 nautical miles (13 km) southeast of Mount Craddock in the Sentinel Range of the Ellsworth Mountains. It surmounts Bolgrad Glacier to the west and Kornicker Glacier to the east. It was first mapped by the United States Geological Survey from surveys and U.S. Navy air photos from 1957–59, and was named by the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names for L.H. Liptak, an aviation machinist mate in the U.S. Navy who served as plane captain on the first reconnaissance flights to this vicinity in January 1958. See red circle in photo below.

Mount Liptak was first successfully climbed on 28 December 2012.

Mount Liptak Short Film Explores Underage World War II Enlistment

By Audrey Nowakowski

Ever been to Antarctica? Maybe not, but if you find yourself there, make note of a peak known as Mount Liptak. When Milwaukee filmmaker Ryan Allsop found out that that very mountain is named after his uncle, Navy veteran Lester Liptak, — he knew he had a story to share.

“When I heard the final story about how he had a mountain named after him in Antarctica, being a filmmaker and one who tells a lot of stories and loves writing - it just clicked,” says Allsop. “It was just the final thing, ‘this is a movie right here, this is incredible.’”

Before Lester Liptak’s Navy career lead him to the position of crew chief on exploratory missions in Antarctica, he began his career by enlisting at the age of 15 during World War II.

Allsop’s short film, Mount Liptak, is a glimpse into what circumstances led his uncle to drop out of school and become the sole provider for his family, through military service.

While Liptak’s story is unique, he was one of an estimated 200,000 underage soldiers in the war. Underage enlistment was not an easy thing to accomplish, however Allsop explains that it was more common than he realized.

Fueled by his passion for the story, Allsop wrote the script and wrapped production within just six months after first learning about Mt. Liptak during a family Christmas gathering. Since the short film is set in the 1940s, having authentic sets was extremely important to Allsop.

The planes were crucial to Mount Liptak, especially since Lester Liptak originally wanted to become a Navy pilot. Allsop says that thanks to personal connections and the generosity of the Commemorative Air Force Wing of Wisconsin, five vintage World War II era planes were used for filming.

“It just so happened that one of the businesses on the Waukesha County Airport had a World War II Jeep with a turret,” Allsop adds. “So it was a lot of just luck and the universe telling us here’s a bunch of fun things to help really sell the aspect of the film being in the 1940s.”

The entire film was shot and produced in the greater Milwaukee area, including the Liptak house scenes on Timborn Farm in Greendale and a cemetery and old metal factory near Miller Park.

On set. Ryan Allsop, Chase Pollock, and David Sapiro
Lester Liptak at age 15.

“It was a lot of searching all around Milwaukee,” Allsop recalls. “Because that was the biggest thing about shooting this is having the sets look real, having the locations look real, having everything be authentic.”

Allsop says Mount Liptak will be submitted and shown in as many film festivals as possible in the coming months. His larger goal is to use his uncle’s story as a springboard for other families to share similar experiences. Whether more short films can be made or if he can make Lester Liptak’s life into a feature, Allsop says that telling these lesser-known stories is crucial.

“Lester’s story is one of thousands. This is just a single thread of a tapestry of so many stories of people that have enlisted underage. I wanted to use his story to tell a much broader story,” he says.

Lester Liptak currently lives in Florida, and Allsop says that after so many interviews with his uncle and countless hours of research, the final product made Liptak proud.

“If there was one critic out there, I wanted him to be happy and proud of it,” he says. “I didn’t want to have the film portray him in a light that wasn’t accurate. So I showed it to him, and he said he cried throughout the film and was very honored. I feel incredibly honored to have him as an uncle and that I’m able to tell his story.”

Allsop, whose mom is the sister of Liptak’s wife, Cindy, grew up hearing stories of his uncle’s exploits.

“I visited him countless times in Pensacola, and we went to the aviation museum, where he would show us the plane he flew into Antarctica,” said Allsop. “And then last Christmas, my mom told me that he had a mountain named after him. That blew my mind. Right then, all the stories I heard of him enlisting underage and ending with this mountain, I knew this story needed to be told.”

So Allsop returned to his job as a videographer at an advertising agency in Milwaukee and started logging the second shift in a coffee shop every night from 5 to 10 p.m.

“I just started writing, researching and interviewing my uncle,” he said. “He sent me tons of books and photos. And then I started writing the script.”

Shooting began last summer and final editing was completed in mid-October. The World War II film is set in the 1940s with the tagline, “A Little Lie in a Big War.” The lie was that Liptak forged papers to enter the Navy at 15.

And although Liptak enlisted in 1947, the military was still involved in post-World War II missions. For example, Liptak flew in the Berlin Air Lift.

The project has an online presence at mount liptak.com and a Facebook page. Allsop has started submitting the project to film festivals, including the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City and SXSW in Austin, Texas.

“I like the idea of using Uncle Lester’s story to tell this broader story, the bigger story about the thousands of men and women who enlisted underage, that is the centerpiece,” he said. “I’m overwhelmed with how well it turned out and I’m anxious to share it.”

Chase Pollock as Lester Liptak, left, has a talk with David Sapiro who plays Officer Johnson.

One of the vintage airplanes used in the movie.

**WWII Veteran and Underage Enlistee Subject of New Short Film**

*By Mardi Suhs Cadillac News*

10 Nov 2017

Ryan Allsop, a 27-year-old filmmaker with ties to Cadillac, Michigan, has just finished writing and directing a short film titled: *Mount Liptak*.

The film is based on the life of Lester Harry Liptak Jr., known as “Uncle Harry” to his Cadillac relatives. The Antarctic explorer left Cadillac at 15 to join the Navy and was one of the first to fly over uncharted areas of Antarctica.
The five Liptak children as portrayed by actors in the film. When their mom Anne was widowed, the family moved to Cadillac. The two oldest children in the back row would be Lester and Mary Ann. The three younger children represent Richard, Steve, and Paul.

The five children of Anne Liptak were photographed in 1946, shortly after their father died and they moved to Cadillac. Left to right, back row: Harry (Les), 14; Mary Ann, 10; Richard, 9. Front row, Steve, 4; and Paul, 2.

Allsop would love to tell an expanded version of his uncle’s life and hopes to attract a sponsor to fund a feature film.

The website invites readers to contact Allsop if they know of veterans that enlisted underage. There is also a donation link to help the filmmakers raise the funds needed to submit the project to multiple film festivals.

**Family members react to the film project**

Four years ago, Joy VanDrie invited me to meet her Uncle Lester Harry Liptak, who was flying into Cadillac for a rare visit. He was 81 at the time and a colorful family legend.

“When Uncle Lester visits, it’s a family event,” VanDrie said.

The Cadillac News printed that story in 2013, sharing the highlights of his life.

Dick Liptak, VanDrie’s father, is Lester’s younger brother. The family moved to Cadillac in the 1940s after their father was found murdered after crossing a picket line at a steel mill in Pennsylvania. That’s the part of the story that Dick is uncomfortable with.

“I don’t want to go digging back into the past,” he said from his daughter’s office at the Cadillac Area Visitor’s Bureau. The crime went unsolved for years.

Lester Liptak, “Uncle Harry,” is portrayed in the film by actor Chase Pollock
Young Lester Liptak in front of a plane during the shooting of the film.

A much younger Lester Liptak in front of another plane. Liptak earned a student pilot license at 14 at the Wexford County Airport.

“I was 8 when my father was killed,” said Dick’s sister, Mary Ann Yonkman of Manistee. “We moved to Cadillac to get a new start. Mom worked very hard to give us what we needed. Our tiny house on Chestnut Street was filled with love. And the neighbors and everybody helped each other.”

Although Lester’s life story is the most acclaimed, all the siblings have been successful.

“I hope what people take away from this story is how you deal with life and walk forward,” said VanDrie. “It’s up to you. This family, it could have gone really bad. The perseverance of Grandma Anne, she never gave up. It’s a tribute to her.”

Lester, 13, was the oldest of five children when they moved. He was up every morning at 5 a.m. to help his mom at the cafe where she worked. Then he came home and got his siblings ready for school. After that, he headed to the airport, where he did chores in exchange for flight time. By 14, he had a student pilot’s license.

Anne, who sometimes juggled two jobs, couldn’t get Lester to go to school. It weighed on her mind until he came up with a solution. If she would forge his birth certificate so he could join the Navy, he would send home part of his pay every month. At 15, he graduated third in aviation machinists school and by 17, he qualified as a crew chief on five multi-engine aircraft.

Liptak served as a plane captain during Operation Deep Freeze, a mission to explore Antarctica. Mount Liptak was named for Lester Liptak, whose plane went down in a “heavy landing” while flying over uncharted territory.

“Ryan is my nephew, and I’ve watched him from the day he was born,” said Liptak in a phone interview. “All of the sudden, he’s working for an advertising agency and the next thing you know, he’s pursuing this. It started out as a dream of his. And then I realized, this kid, he’s not going to let it go. He had never heard about the underage veterans, and that amazed him. I’ve seen the trailer and my, that thing is pretty well put together.”

Lester Liptak recalled memories of Cadillac during a stop at the Wexford County Airport in 2013. Although Lester lives in Pensacola Florida. However extended family members still live in Cadillac.
In July 2013, Joy VanDrie met with her Uncle Harry, Lester Liptak, at the Wexford County Airport.

Writer, director Ryan Allsop, left, shown here with Chase Pollock, who portrays his Uncle Lester Liptak in the film.

Actors portraying the Liptak Family in their home.
SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship program is funded solely by donations from our membership. Total award amounts are based upon a percentage of the scholarship fund plus interest earnings.

Four individuals applied for Old Antarctic Explorers Association scholarship awards, and two were awarded this year. Serena Burke sponsored by her grandfather, James Burke, received a $1000 check. Alexis Wright sponsored by Linda Hamblin received a $1500 award.

Serena Burke is an incoming freshman at University of Massachusetts Amherst and plans to study business with an emphasis on marketing. Alexis Wright will be starting her senior year at Washington State University, majoring in chemical engineering.

As one scholarship committee member wrote in sending his rankings of the applicants, “…they all display a high degree of commitment to community service which heaven knows is badly needed these days. All possess impressive work credentials, acceptable grades and (more or less) write well, a critical factor for me in view of the overall erosion of communications skills …. So, it hasn't been easy…. “ The latter was said in regards to ranking individuals.

Another committee member commented, “I was disappointed in the … applications. There was no letter from their sponsor …I feel that sponsor should be chastised for this omission.” Unfortunately this happens much too often. A required item (or items) is missing, and results in a lower ranking. It is the OAEA sponsor’s duty to write a supporting statement stating why the sponsor believes the applicant should receive an award.

Watch for information on next year’s scholarship award in future issues of the Gazette.

The following are thank you letters from the awardees:

Dear Old Antarctic Explorers Association:

I am writing to thank you for your generous $1000 Scholarship from the Old Antarctic Explorers Association Committee. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. My grandfather James Burke has fond memories of his time in the Antarctic.

This scholarship means so much to me as I begin my college career at the Eisenberg Business program at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst this fall 2017. I am going to study business in college and I have a particular interest in Marketing. I plan on studying abroad one semester and I hope to one day run my own business.

By awarding me this Scholarship you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Again, Mrs. Linda Hamblin and associated members of the scholarship committee thank you for your award. I hope one day to help others, as you have helped me when I needed your financial support.

Warmly,
Serena Leah Burke:

Dear Old Antarctic Explorers Association,

I wanted to express my deepest gratitude for this contribution toward my education. It is an honor to have been chosen and I strive to make myself worth your consideration.

I am proud to announce I have acquired a position in the chemical engineering research department on campus for the year. We are studying the Haber Bosch process for the production of ammonia. Currently, gases are run alongside an iron catalyst and products leave the metal after reacting. We are testing the viability of running gases through a thin film of catalyst to increase production time. As the second most used man made chemical, especially in fertilizers, ammonia is highly important.

It is because of this scholarship that I have more time to devote to research and building my skills in industrial practices for after graduation. Financial instability will be a burden that weighs on me much less.

This generous donation is greatly appreciated and has changed the way my time is spent for the better. Thank you for believing in my abilities and my future.

Sincerely,
Alexis Wright
SCHOLARSHIP DONATION CHALLENGE

Many thanks to those who recently donated to the scholarship fund challenge to help meet the $1,000.00 matching challenge goal from the chairman. Those who donated toward the challenge: Brad Miller, Howard Wick, Timothy Fogler, Joseph Angerome, Kenneth Henry, Victor Pesce, Phil Holloway, David Northrup, Laura Snow, Michael Walsh, Diane Hallett, Jerry & Karen Gustin, Ronald Rooks, Robert McCabe & family, Johnnie & Marilyn Draughon, Warren Gould, and John & Dawn Dever.

We endeavor to continue building the fund; a larger fund means the more potential for mutual fund earnings that in turn translates to larger/more awards. OAEA scholarship donations may be used toward tax deductions. Send donations to OAEA Scholarship Fund; 3104 Deepspring Dr.; Chesapeake VA 23321. Checks should be made payable to OAEA; please mention on check or by note that money is for scholarship fund. Or use the below form.

![OAEA Donation Form](image)

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THE POTENTIALLY TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF CARELESSLY DISCARDING A HALLOWEEN MASK....
Feedback & Letters To the Editor

Via the OAEA web site:

Kudos and a big 4.0 to Gabby on this most inclusive and quality Deep Freeze web site (OAEA). It should pass the test of time as a living memorial.

While in high school I was exposed to Deep Freeze in the mid 50s while reading the adventures of Buz Sawyer in the comics. I then went right over to NAS South Weymouth and signed up. The rest is most interesting history.

Thanks for keeping us all alive and together...

Dave Riley
dave.riley3@verizon.net

Via the OAEA web site:

G’day Billy-Ace,

When you asked for a photo or two of me to go with the review of Ice Eagles, I had no idea you were going to make such a feature of the reviewer! I feel a bit embarrassed about my exposure; I was not the story. I would not like my Antarctic friends to think I was on an ego-trip and sent you this additional piece, even though you list it as from the ANARE website. I do appreciate you making such a feature of the review; hopefully it helps sales of the video. I’ll wear the personal feedback I get.

Cheers,

Bill Burch
burches@optusnet.com.au

Billy-Ace:

Sally found this photo of California wildfire survivors.

Richard Seabold 83 & bride Yvonne 91 in a shelter somewhere. NOTE Richard's hat:

Aloha

Bruce DeWald
Bdewald63@gmail.com

Editor’s Note: The entire Buz Sawyer Deep Freeze comic strip series can be seen on Dave’s web site at: http://www.radiocom.net/vx6/

Ventura, Calif., Dec 8 (Reuters) - California wildfire evacuee Richard Seabold once spent a month in the South Pole, so he knows something about surviving in tough conditions.

Life in an emergency shelter, however, has been particularly hard, the 83-year-old said on Friday as he gripped a Styrofoam cup of coffee and sat next to his cot in a warehouse in Ventura.

“I used to live and work at the South Pole, and it was much nicer than here,” the military veteran said with a smile, wearing a cap that read “Navy Support Force Antarctica.”

Seabold and his 91-year-old wife, Yvonne, are among more than 200 people staying at the shelter at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. They were forced to evacuate on Monday by the Thomas Fire, which has burned more than 141,000 acres (57,000 hectares) in Ventura County, making it the most destructive blaze, by far, among the six major fires in Southern California this week.

By Alex Dobuzinski
B-A,
I noted that the BM1 Northey entry on page 26 of the Jul-Sep Gazette marked him with the "^" symbol. What is the significance of that?
Also, with his death occurring in 1989, what happened to bring him to your attention this year?
By the way, that is another perfectly excellent issue of the Gazette—glad to see you aren’t slowing down as the years go on!
Marty Diller  
mgdiller@comcast.net

Editor’s Note: That symbol was caused by a garble due to atmospherics. Northey’s death was pointed out by a member of the Tidewater group and I was able to find his obit online.

Via the OAEA web site
Great newsletter as always! I print out pages and share them with my family and also friends who are interested in the news and stories you include each quarter. Really enjoy catching up on the happenings.
Also want to send congrats on the changes to the website. Nice updates to what has always been a well-built site for the organization. The OAEA gets better and better each year!
Susan Hartman  
susanhartman113@gmail.com

Via the OAEA web site
Thought I would say hello to all the members and say that I enjoy reading the newsletters. It is a long way to you over there from here, but it is quicker for me to reach Antarctica from my house here in Melbourne!
I’m working towards another trip to the Ice, this time from Ushuaia, so I can spin on the OTHER side of the continent, at Shackleton’s hut.
Anyone want to join me?
Marion Wheatland  
marion@spinningayarn.com.au

Hi:
My novel Deception Island, a suspense novel set in Antarctica (and reviewed by Billy-Ace in the Oct-Dec 2012 Gazette) just won an award for best suspense novels from Romance Writers of America if you’d like to announce that in an upcoming Gazette. It is also available now as an e-book at:
https://www.amazon.com/Deception-Island-Judith-Boss-book/dp/B00TZ9O1HK

Judy Boss  
www.judyboss.com

Via the OAEA web site
Billy-ACE:
I have retyped, in MS-Word, the info I previously sent and added a couple of extra comments. It is included as an attachment to this e-mail. Also found a couple of before and after photos that I will attempt to send separately. I also scanned picture of our VX-6 wintering over detachment as contained in our cruise book. You will notice that Don "Squatty Root" Richards was in our detachment. This was his second wintering over with VX-6 and I understand that he did a third wintering over a few years later. I was sad to hear of his passing. Of interest, three of our planned winter over party were killed in the crash of the LC-47 in February 1966 during one of the last flights of the Summer season: Officer in Charge LT Morris, Assistant Officer in Charge LT Fordell and ADJ3 Kelly. They were all popular with the VX-6 crew and there was standing room only, and not a dry eye visible, at their memorial service held in the Chapel of the Snows. Certainly feel free to use, add/delete, wordsmith any of my reminiscing you see fit.
I was finally able to view the OAEA roster and e-mail listings—thanks for your assistance. I assume that my name and e-mail address will be added soon. I have also been busy reading, with much interest, copies of the Gazette from 2001 on—am up to year 2015. I have also been saddened to read the names of those VX-6 members who have passed on, most of which I was not aware of. This has to be a labor of love for you as I am well aware of the time and effort it takes to publish these. Please add me to the list of those receiving the Gazette by e-mail and to those who very much appreciate your efforts. Good Lord willing I am going to try to make it to the next reunion.
Ralph Reed VX-6 WO-65/66  
1RGR@comcast.net
Editor’s Note: Don “Squatty Root” Richards did in fact winter-over three times; DF-61, DF-64, and DF-66. The OAEA 2006 Reunion Memory Book was dedicated to Squatty Root. Ralph Reed is listed in the New Member column of this issue of the Gazette. There were six VX-6 members killed in the LC-47 crash on 2 February 1966. Those names and all the names of personnel who were killed or died on the ice are part of the Memorial Service at each of our reunions.

PR2 Don “Squatty Root” Richards, in the Christchurch paraloft, keeps the survival equipment in good working order. It may, one day, save a life.

Dear Billy,

Thanks for forwarding the application for membership in the Old Antarctic Explorers Association. I apologize for taking so long to respond but golf and house mouse chores got in the way.

I am very interested in the next reunion in San Antonio and look forward to receiving more information, as the date gets closer. I am also excited to receive a list of OAEA members along with email list, mailing addresses, etc.

It is indeed a small world we live in and one that has grown even smaller with the advance of the Internet. I found out about the OAEA by chance — I was playing golf with some people in the golf club I belong to and we were discussing our lives before retirement. When they learned that I was retired Navy they wanted to know where I had served. When I mentioned that I had been stationed in Antarctica as part of Operation Deep Freeze, one of the gents said he had a cousin who had done something with the Navy in Antarctica. He gave me the phone number of his cousin and I gave him a call. It turned out he was in the 22 man VX-6 wintering over detachment with me. His name, Gary Watkins, who I had not seen nor talked to after we departed Antarctica in October 1966. Gary informed me about the OAEA.

From the VX-6 DF-66 Cruise Book

ATN2 Gary Watkins

Ralph Reed before and after photos

I served 33 years in the Navy having enlisted as a Seaman Recruit in 1958 at the ripe old age of 18. I attended boot camp at Great Lakes and my first duty station was the USS Forrestal (CVA-59). The Forrestal was deployed to the Med and I spent the better part of two months on board the USS Everglades (AD-24) in transient and finally caught up with the Forrestal in Naples, Italy on Christmas eve 1958. Bob hope was on board and put on a great show for the crew. By chance the Personnel Office was looking to increase their staff and when they reviewed my service record and saw that I could type I was assigned to the
Personnel Office. I was transferred from the Forrestal in 1961 from the same place I first reported on board – Naples, Italy. I had advanced to PN2 and received orders to Navy Auxiliary Air Station, Meridian, Mississippi. I was single at the time and found out that Meridian had very little to offer a single, 22 year old. I had a three-year tour and was ready to move on after two years and started to look for a way out. I had been advanced to PN1 when an ALNAV came out requesting volunteers for Viet Nam. I volunteered not knowing much about what was going on there and was accepted with a catch — I had to complete my tour in Meridian. I then called a fellow PN who I had served with on the Forrestal and who was now in the PN assignment section in the Bureau of Naval Personnel. I pleaded with him to get me transferred. He said it was my lucky day as a PN1 who had been selected for Operation Deep Freeze had flunked his physical. So I received orders to VX-6 home ported in Quonset Point, Rhode Island and reported on board in March 1964. I spent most of the 1964 deployment in Christchurch, but did spend December of that year in McMurdo. The following year I volunteered to winter over and arrived in McMurdo in October 1965 and departed in October 1966.

I took the E-7 exam while wintering over and was advanced to PNC in November 1966 at my new duty station, NATTC Memphis, Tennessee. I got married, took the E-8 exam, applied for the Associate Degree Completion Program (ADCOP) and the Warrant Officer program. Made PNCs, attended Pensacola Junior College and was selected for Warrant W-1. While serving as the Assistant Flag Secretary for Commander Sixth Fleet, I was selected for the LDO program as a LTJG and advanced from there to Commander. At the time of my retirement on 1 July 1991, I was the Commanding Officer of the Headquarters Flag Unit and Administrative Officer for the Chief of Naval Education and Training at Pensacola, Florida.

Following retirement I worked with the Royal Saudi Naval Forces in Saudi Arabia for ten years as an employee of Booz Allen & Hamilton.

I am sure I have bored you with more information than you ever wanted, but you know how we old sailors like to reminisce.

CDR Ralph Reed, USN (Ret)
1RGR@comcast.net
Hungarians In Antarctica

A little known fact about Antarctica has just emerged from the Hungarian Antarctic Research Expeditions (HARE) files, thanks to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) passed there last year.

It seems that the Special Hungarian Ice Team (SHIT) was an elite unit sent to Antarctica in 1989 to clean up penguin droppings around Pest Base (PB). The five virile members of the group had all been members of the Hungarian Army’s “Clean Russian Antarctic Posts” (CRAP) during the Soviet occupation, and so they knew their way around the heap pretty well. Harry Arce led the team for two winters until he was assassinated by the Number Two man, Antonio Dungy, third cousin of a once famous Florida NFL coach. The remaining three members lost their virility at this point and, passing through the Panama Canal and the Alimentary Canal, returned home to a hero’s welcome, emerging as better men. Antonio Dungy stayed on in Antarctica for a further 18 winters, and was last seen in 2015, struggling to write something for Billy-Ace Baker’s Oct-Dec column.

Hungarian Antarctic Stamps

First Hungarian To Ski To The South Pole

Veronika Wynne-Hughes, a Hungarian-English psychologist, plans to be the first Hungarian to ski from the edge of Antarctica to the South Pole, between November this year and January 2018.

The ambitious adventurer told the public news channel on Tuesday that she plans to cover around 1,140 kms solo, pulling her belongings on a sledge during the day and sleeping in a tent at night. She will be backed by a support team, including doctors stationed on Antarctica, and she will contact them every day to report her coordinates.

Wynne-Hughes, whose mother is a Hungarian married to a Briton, said she had finished preparatory training for the trip in Norway. Getting all the necessary permits for her Antarctica 30 million forint (EUR 100,000) expedition financed by sponsors was complicated because the continent is multi-jurisdictional and environmental permits are required.

Veronika said she had returned last December from a multi-year journey hitchhiking on boats around the world and she will resume that trip after the Antarctica expedition.
Edith Farkas

An Antarctic researcher, best known for being the first Hungarian woman and also the first New Zealand Met Service female staff member to set foot in Antarctica. In addition she conducted world-leading ozone monitoring research for over 30 years.

**Early life and education**—Farkas was born on 13 October 1921 in Gyula Hungary. She attended elementary and secondary schooling in Szentgotthard and Gyor Budapest. In 1939, Farkas entered university and graduated in 1944 with a degree as a mathematics and physics teacher from Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Budapest. She immigrated to New Zealand as a refugee in 1949, after the war, where she completed a MS Degree in Physics in 1952 at Victoria University of Wellington.

**Career and impact**—Farkas was a meteorologist, ozone researcher. She started working as a meteorologist in the Research Section of the New Zealand Meteorological Service in 1951 where she continued to do so for some 35 years.

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Details of Veronika’s trip

Antarctica

12-15 knots of headwind
-40 Celsius degrees
route: Hercules Inlet
to South Pole
starting latitude: 79°59’ South
distance to South Pole: 1,140km
altitudes of 3,350 m
in an estimated 57 days

3 resupplies
pulling a 60 kg sledge
8-12 hours of hauling / day
alone with no help
inspired by Shackleton

wide ranging, media coverage
a woman
start: Nov 2017

antarctrip@gmail.com

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**Career and impact**—Farkas was a meteorologist, ozone researcher. She started working as a meteorologist in the Research Section of the New Zealand Meteorological Service in 1951 where she continued to do so for some 35 years.
Farkas monitored ozone from the 1950s until her retirement in 1986, undertaking world-leading research in the field of ozone monitoring over more than three decades. During 1960s her work shifted increasingly to the study of atmospheric ozone including the measurement of total ozone with the Dobson ozone spectrophotometer. She became one of a small international group of atmospheric scientists dedicated to the study of atmospheric ozone-interest in which, in that era, was largely in use as a tracer to aid atmospheric circulation studies. Her work contributed substantially towards the discovery of the “hole in the ozone layer” which changed the world’s behavior towards pollution forever. Her interest in atmospheric ozone measurement led naturally to the application of her expertise to the monitoring of surface ozone as part of air pollution studies and also to the measurement of atmospheric turbidity.

At the 1963 International Symposium on Tropical Meteorology held in Rotorua, Edith was one of only two female attendees in a group of 76. She presented a paper on long-period fluctuations of upper-level winds and temperatures over the South Pacific.

Just over a decade later, in 1975, Edith’s research took her to Scott Base, Antarctica for ten days. While not the first woman to visit the ice she was the first woman from the NZMS. While there, she undertook surface ozone and turbidity measurements. Photographs from Edith’s trip show she seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and found it no hardship despite the conditions.

Death and legacy—Farkas was the first woman to be awarded the New Zealand Met Service Henry Hill Award in 1986, upon her retirement. She received special recognition at the Quadrennial Ozone Symposium in Germany in 1988 for her 30-year contribution to Ozone research. Edith donated a number of personal belongings and other objects connected to her career to the Museum, including some rock samples from Antarctica, photographs, publications, and the original copy of her novel on her stay in the southernmost continent. She fought a long battle with bone cancer, and died in Wellington on 3 February 1993.

In 1986 Edith became the first woman to be awarded the Henry Hill award—an internal NZMS award made “In honor of those who have demonstrated enthusiasm and dedication to weather and forecasting in the spirit of Henry Hill” (a former forecaster).

Sylvia Nichol, who was mentored by Edith, recalls that in 1988 Edith (along with 25 other ozone researchers) received special recognition at the Quadrennial Ozone Symposium, recognizing her contribution to ozone research over the preceding 30 years. Throughout her career Edith published regularly, either individually or with international colleagues. Her last paper was published post-retirement.

Despite Edith’s achievements and international recognition, working for some parts of the NZMS still remained challenging for a woman.

Farkas was the first Hungarian woman and also the first female New Zealand Met Service staff member to set foot in Antarctica in 1975. Her World War II diaries form the basis of a book titled *The Farkas Files*.

**WOMEN IN WEATHER**

In 1953 Edith Farkas, was recruited into the Research Section of the NZMS head office in Kelburn. Having arrived in New Zealand after the war as a refugee from Hungary, Edith was to go on to undertake world-leading research in the field of ozone monitoring over more than three decades.
RUBIK’S CUBE ON ICE

Ice Cube Rubik’s Cube

The Creation of The Rubik’s Cube

Ernő Rubik, a professor from Budapest in Hungary, wanted to help his students understand three-dimensional problems. His solution? The Rubik’s Cube!

His solid cube did things that the world hadn’t seen before. It twisted and turned yet it didn’t break. Adding 54 colorful stickers to the six sides gave this amazing puzzle its iconic look. When Ernő Rubik built his first Cube, it took him over a month to solve it.

At that time, he didn’t know that his “Magic Cube”, “Buvos Kocka” in Hungarian, would take the world by storm.

Ice Rubik’s Cube Gives a Whole New Meaning to ‘Brain Freeze’

Everybody knows that boredom and cold don’t mix. If you’re stationed at a creepy Antarctic research station, for example, you can’t just stand around waiting for the Thing to do its thing. You need to keep your mind occupied, and diverted from the bitter chill around you as well as possible alien attacks. In other words, you need a Rubik’s Cube made almost entirely of ice. An ice cube, if you will.

The Rubik’s Cube made of ice (“real ice” too, none of that dry ice stuff), is the creation of YouTuber and “twisty puzzle” aficionado Tony Fisher. Fisher has been making twisty puzzles, which essentially seem to be variations on the Rubik’s Cube, since 1980. Over the course of his career, he’s been responsible for numerous whacky and geometrically intricate versions of the cube, including the world’s tiniest Rubik’s Cube, which fits on the tip of one’s finger.

This ice cube takes the twisty puzzle game to the next level however, by using a material that will literally melt in your hands if you don’t solve the puzzle fast enough. Unless, of course, you are actually stationed in the Antarctic, and are able to puzzle solve in freezing temperatures. Or if you’re just insanely fast.

What do you think about this Rubik’s Cube made of ice? Is there something deeply satisfying about blocks of ice sliding across one another as they ache and crack with cold? Or are you fine sticking with the good ol’ non-melting version of the already difficult puzzle game? Send your thoughts and comments to the Gazette editor at: upizauf@aol.com
OAE John Marshall Aaron, III, 81, died on 20 November 2017, in Reston, VA. John served as a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). In 1960–61 and 1961–62, he was a member of USGS field parties that surveyed the remote Thiel Mountain range in Antarctica. The Aaron Glacier is named in his honor.

*OAE John Ferguson Barell, 79, died on 17 November 2017, in New York City, NY. John served on the USS Glacier as a LT during DF-63 and 64. He wrote several books about Antarctica: Quest for Antarctica, Antarctic Adventure, and Surviving Erebus. The latter being a novel.

*OAE Peter F. Bermel, 89, died on 21 October 2017, in Great Falls, VA. Peter made two deployments to Antarctica with the USGS, during DF-61 and DF-62. The Bermel Escarpment and the Bermel Peninsula are named in his honor, with the latter honor being bestowed on him by the United Kingdom. Peter was also a member of the ADFA.

OAE Lynette Bishop Bobb-Koths, 94, died on 6 November 2017, in Storrs, CT. Lynette visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Bruce Borgeson, 91, died on 22 December 2017, in Wyckoff, NJ. Bruce visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE George Bouchard, 83, died on 9 October 2017, in Portland, MA. George was associated with Scripps Oceanographic Institute in San Diego, California. He traveled the world on scientific research ships, visiting Antarctica several times and discovering the Bouchard Seamount.

OAE QMCS Edwin “Bud” Boudreaux, Sr., USN (Ret), 92, died in October 2017, in Panama City Beach, FL. Bud served on the USS Atka during DF-60. He was a member of the OAEA GCG Chapter.

OAE Lenora Mann Byroade, 86, died on 17 October 2017, in Jacksonville, FL. Lenora visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Edward W. Calkins III, 83, died on 24 October 2017, at the Hancock Park Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Quincy. Edward served on the USS Atka. Years unknown.

OAE Richard E. Cannon, 83, died on 26 November 2017, in St. Charles, MO. Richard served as the ships doctor aboard the USS Staten Island during DF-63.

OAE CAPT Donald Elmore Carpenter, USAF (Ret), 93, died on 30 October 2017, in The Dalles, OR. Donald visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Alan Michael Carroll, 84, died on 30 September 2017, in the United Kingdom. Alan served as the base leader at the British Antarctic base Port Lockroy Station in 1955 and 1956.

*OAE YNC Robert “Bob” Lee Chaudoin, USN (Ret), 88, died in June 2017 in Venice, FL. This death has not been verified by a published obituary or notification from a family member. Bob served with MCB(Special) during DF-I through DF-IV (1954 through 1959). He was the first postmaster at South Pole Station. Mount Chaudoin was named in his honor. He was a member of the ADFA.

OAE Robert Citkovic, 49, died on 5 November 2017, in Lynbrook, TN. Robert visited Antarctica as a tourist.
*OAE Jack Edward Clark, 73, died on 31 August 2011. Jack served on the USS Burton Island and the USS Staten Island as an ET2 during DF-IV.

OAE Nancy Ann Cook, 70, died on 16 March 2017, San Francisco, CA. Nancy made three trips to Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Lydia Forsythe Corser, 54, died on 20 October 2017, in Santa Cruz, CA. Lydia visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Carol Anne Woodburn Cockrum, 79, died on 12 November 2017, in San Francisco, CA. Anne visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Philip Robinson "Phil" Compton, 97, died on 21 November 2017, in Front Royal, VA. Phil visited Antarctica as a tourist.

*OAE Dr. Richard "Rich" T. Crane, MD, 63, died on 18 April 2015, in Rochester, MN. Rich served as the winter-over medical officer at McMurdo during DF-80. During DF-82 (January through March) he was assigned to the NSF Antarctic search for meteorites (ANSMET) field party to the Thiel Mts. Region (37 days, traversing 250 miles by snowmobile and sledge.

*OAE Edmund Vincent "Ed" Davern, 79, died on 28 March 2017, in Mapleton Australia. Ed wintered-over at Wilkes Station with the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition during 1963 and 1967. He was also a member of the ANARE Club.

OAE Julie A. Dellger, 59, died on 6 December 2017, in Portland, ME. Julie served in Antarctica with Raytheon contractor. Station and year unknown.

OAE Robert de Zafra, 85, died on 10 October 2017, in Stony Brook, NY. Robert served in Antarctica in 1986 as a physicist who helped confirm that the chemicals in some aerosols and refrigerants were responsible for the expanding ozone hole over Antarctica. De Zafra Ridge is named in his honor.

OAE David H. Eldred, USCGC (Ret), 83, died on 10 November 2017, at the Vermont Veterans' Home, in Bennington, VT. David made two deployments to Antarctica on the USCGC Eastwind. Years unknown.

OAE Denwood “Denny” L. Fairley, Sr., 78, died on 25 November 2017, in Baldwin, AL. Denny made two deployments to Antarctica with the Seabees. Unit and years unknown.

OAE Sammie Jean Faust, 95, died on 29 November 2017, in Santa Clara, CA. Jean visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Doris Joan Fessler, 90, died on 17 December 2017, in Creve Couer, MO. Doris visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Catherine "Kay" Bennett Fisk, 95, died on 22 October 2017, in Mount Dora, FL. Kay visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Gretchen M. Fort, died on 13 December 2017, in Newark, DE. Gretchen visited Antarctica with her husband where they went swimming in a volcanic caldera.

OAE Libby Friedman, died on 19 November 2017, in Scottsdale, AZ. Libby visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Thomas “Tom” Caswell Grave, 74, died on 4 October 2017, in Merced, CA. Tom visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE David Walden Greenlee, 83, died on 4 November 2017, in Buda, TX. David deployed to Antarctica during DF-63 with the NSF Texas Tech field party. Mount Greenlee was named in his honor.

OAE Roy Gerald Grigg, 75 died on 11 October 2017. Roy deployed to Antarctica with the USCG. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE Norbert Donald Haecherl, 82, died on 13 December 2017, in Charlotte, NC. Norbert served in Antarctica with the Seabees. Unit and years unknown.

OAE John A. Hamilton, 81, died on 5 December 2017, in Groveport, John served in Antarctica with the USN. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE Norman Hardie, 92, died on 1 November 2017, in Christchurch, NZ. Norman was a peer of Sir Edmund Hillary's, joining him on several expeditions, including one to Antarctica to make the first ascent of Mt Herschel. Hardie also spent five months as leader of Scott Base. Year unknown.


Irvin Paul Harter, USN (Ret), 80, died on 23 December 2017, at the Nurse Maude Hospice in Christchurch, New Zealand. Irvin served as a boatswain mate in Cargo Handling Batallion-1 at Port Lyttleton, NZ during DF-65 and 66
OAE Walter Gene Hilsabeck, USN (Ret), 86, died on 17 December 2017, in Springfield, VA. Walter wintered-over at McMurdo with the PM-3A Crew I (DF-63) as a CMCS. He also was in DF-68 and 69 as a CWO2.

OAE Eugene “Gene” Hinman, died on 29 December 2017 at Cottage Grove Place, IO. Gene visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE William R. Hipkins, 78, died on 10 December 2017, at St. Clare's Hospital in Bridgewood, NJ. William served in Antarctica with the US Navy. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE Janice Boylan Hope, 89, died on 24 October 2017, in Ojai, CA. Janice visited Antarctica as a tourist.

*OAE Rex Allan Hoover, died on 31 October 2017, in Summerduck, VA. Rex served with PM3A in the Crew V (DF-66) winter-over party as a CE1.

OAE Robert Paul "Bob" Horne, 78, died on 21 October 2017, in Jamestown, RI. Bob served an an LC-130 pilot with VXE-6 during DF-68 and 69. Horne Glacier is named in his honor.

OAE David "Dave" F. Huxtable, 80, died on 24 October 2017, in Millers Mills (West Winfield), NY. Dave visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Patricia B. Jacobs, 70, died on 26 November 2017, in Mt. Lebanon, PA. Patricia visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Milo Johnson, 81, died on 18 December 2017. Milo served with the National Science Foundation in Christchurch, NZ and Antarctica. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Shirley Demke Jones, 82, died on 12 October 2017, in Salt Lake City. ID. Shirley visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Raymond Lee Jones, 90, died on 17 November 2017, at Trinity Ridge in Hickory, NC. Raymond served in Antarctica while in the USMC. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE Bernard “Bud.” L. Kelly Jr., USN (Ret), 80, died on 3 December 2017, in Oakley, CA. Bud served in Antarctica with the Seabees. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE Richard L. "Dick" Kinder, 86, died on 8 December 2017, in Topeka, KS. Dick served in Antarctica with the USAF as a C-124 pilot. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE James “Jim” Edward Kramer Jr., 99, died on 12 November 2017, in Lynden, WA. Jim served as a radarman on the USS Philippine Sea during Highjump.

OAE Karl Church Kuivinen, 69, died on 10 October, in Lincoln, NB. Karl made 15 deployments to Antarctica as a research scientist from 1974 though 1989 serving as field operations manager for the Ross Ice Shelf Project Kuivinen Ridge was named in his honor.

OAE Lawrence Layden, 90, died on 27 December 2017, in Greenwood, SC. Lawrence visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Jane Oliver Lindsey, 93, died on 12 October 2017, in Fort Worth, TX. Jane visited Antarctica as a tourist in 2004.


OAE Valeria "Val" Ann Martin, 89, died on 30 November 2017, at Holy Cross Village, Notre Dame, IN. Val visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Cheryl Marie Matchett, 57, died on 26 October 2017, in Henderson, CO. Cheryl visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE John William Maurer, 76, died on 5 November 2017, in Hilliard, OH. John Visited Antarctica as a tourist.

*OAE CEC Leonard George, “Mac,” McGregor, USN (Ret), 82, died on 1 October 2017, in Oak Harbor, WA. Mac served at McMurdo Station. Assigned to the PM-3A Nuclear Power Plant at McMurdo for five continuous summer support seasons (DF-64 through DF-68), and then wintered over during DF-72. He was the shift supervisor on duty in September when PM-3A was shut down for the last time. In his spare time he worked with USARP members and in particular Dr. DeVries in his search for the anti-freeze protein in fish.

OAE Robert Emmet McNulty, 77 died on 20 April 2017, in Houston, TX. Robert served as a surface warfare officer aboard the USS Calcaterra. Year(s) unknown.

OAE William Edward McTigue 90, died on 29 November 2017, in Ft. Washington, MD. Bill also took part in the mapping of part of Antarctica, where he has a mountain named after him. He always dismissed this saying: It was just a small mountain—more like a big hill, because it was largely covered in ice.
*OAE LCDR Robert E. Morgan, USN (Ret), 79, died on 31 October 2014, in Ormond Beach, FL. Robert served in Antarctica with NSFA during DF-74 and 75 as the air operation officer.

OAE Jack Howard Munsee, 83, died on 16 December 2017. Jack visited Antarctica as a tourist.

*OAE LTCOL. Thomas F. Noel, USAF (Ret), 75, died on 3 May 2017, in Burnt Hilla, NY. Tom served with the USAF NYANG as an LC-130 pilot for ten seasons (1987–98). He was also a member of the ADFA and the OAEA New England Chapter.

OAE Mary Jo Ohlemeier, 89, died on 16 October 2017, in Wichita, KS. Mary visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Winston Henry Payne Sr., died on 8 November 2017, in Acworth, GA. Winston visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE COL Peter B. Petersen, USA (Ret), 84, died on 18 October 2017, in Vero Beach, FL. Peter visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Laurene Niermann-Quateman, 100, died on 24 November 2017, in Cleveland Heights, OH. Laurene visited Antarctica as a tourist. Editor’s note: I think Laurene is one of the oldest persons that I have listed in the obits, Another interesting thing is that she was in a convent to be a Nun and when Pearl Harbor happened she dropped out of the convent and joined the Marine Corps.

OAE Kathleen Bette Quackenbush Sasso, 65, died on 21 October 2017, in Santa Fe, NM. Bette visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE EMC Frederick “Fred” Schmidt, USN (Ret), 80, died on 24 November 2017. Fred served as an electrician on the USS Wyandot during DF-I.

OAE Jean Sydney Shirlaw, 85, died on 22 October 2017, in Edmonton Alberta, Canada. Jean visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Peter J. Staab, 57, died on 25 November 2017, in Two Rivers, WI. Peter served in Antarctica as a pipefitter. Unit and Year(s) unknown.

OAE Robert "Beamer" Stancavage, died on 13 November 2017, in Gloucester City, NJ. Beamer worked for several seasons at McMurdo Station. Unit and years unknown.

OAE Richard H. Stanley, 85, died on 17 November 2017, in Muscatine, IO. Richard visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Corinne A. Storm, 85, died on 18 December 2017, in Spokane, WA Corinne visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Joe Donald Swenson, 73, died on 12 November 2017, in Houston, TX. Joe served at McMurdo as a Seabee. Year(s) unknown.

*OAE COL. Harry Wallace Taylor, USMC (Ret.), 97, died on 25 November 2017, in Hillsborough, NC. Harry made three trips to Antarctica. His last trip there, while he was in his 70s, included the South Pole

OAE Florence Anna Trelford, 92 died on 14 October 2017, in Stockton, CA. Florence visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Daniel Edward Underwood, USN (Ret), 81, died on 22 October 2017, at Wake Medical Center in Raleigh. Daniel served as an AE1 in VXE-6 during DF-69,

OAE LTCOL John A Veylupek, USAF (Ret), 85, died on 16 December 2017, in Post Falls, ID. From 1956 through 1959, his squadron made the first deliveries of materials to build South Pole Station and other Antarctic stations in preparation for the International Geophysical Year.

*Lille West, 85, died on 7 November 2017, in Las Vegas NV. Lille was the wife of OAEA Life Member Sedge West.

OAE Thomas Henry "Tim" West, 91, died on 15 October 2017, in the Fox Hill Village in Westwood, MA. In 1994 Tim and his son Chris sailed their 50-foot sloop on a two-year circumnavigation of South America, with a visit to Antarctica.

OAE Richard LeRoy Wilson, 90, died on 31 December 2017, at the Frene Valley Assisted Living Facility in Owensville, MO. Richard deployed to Antarctic while in the US Navy during Highjump.

OAE Roger A. Wissman, 78), died on 8 October 2017, in Fort Wayne, IN. Roger served in Antarctica observing whales with the Oregon State University Marine Mammal Biology team. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Allen August Yurek, 96, died on 15 October 2017, in Fairfax, VA. Allen served in Antarctic during the IGY.

OAE Stephen Zadravec, died on 11 October 2017, in Maine. Stephen served in Antarctica at McMurdo Station with the Seabees. Unit and year(s) unknown.
Chaplain’s Corner
Johnnie Draughon—OAEA Chaplain

“This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19 And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”

20 “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. (Luke 12: 18-19 NIV)

Throughout my Navy career, and particularly during my days with DEEP FREEZE, contingency plans were a major part of every evolution. It seems that as soon as a deployment or major operation began the OPORDER began to fall apart. Since nothing every really went the way we thought it would it was critical to have backup plans in place — just in case. My life’s journey has been pretty much the same way. I have enjoyed a truly remarkable life — and it really does just keep getting better. But, it has rarely gone according to my plans. It was not until I began to take my spiritual life seriously that I was able to adapt to life’s little side trips with the assurance that it will all work out for my benefit in the end. I don’t know what’s next, but I can’t wait. My prayer for each of you is that you have a solid contingency plan in place — or better yet, that you tap into an OPORDER that will never go wrong. Just something to think about.

May the blessings be!

Johnnie Draughon

PENGUIN CHICK IT’S A BOY!

Kansas City Zoo reveals gender of the first King penguin hatched there

By Tammy Ljungblad & Matt Campbell

The color of the inside of the penguin cake at the Kansas City Zoo on Thursday was ... blue.

The gender of the first king penguin to be hatched at the zoo was revealed to cheers and applause among the zookeeper staff. It’s a boy.

You can’t tell by looking at a penguin chick because there are no external body parts. It requires a blood test to determine the sex. Even the keepers didn’t know until the cake was sliced.

The chick hatched on 8 November and is being hand-fed by zoo staffers because its parents are at the Saint Louis Zoo. That zoo had a surplus egg and provided it to Kansas City, where it was incubated. It will not join the 15 adult king penguins on display here for several months.

Kings are the second largest penguin species after emperors. This male will grow to be about 33 pounds and as tall as a yardstick.
Tidewater had their quarterly lunch get together back in early October at our regular place, Terri’s on Military Highway in Norfolk. We didn’t quite make our dozen, and there were no “new” faces this time. We stayed with our no business agenda and kept the time just for socializing. Of interest, Donald “Tim” Timmerman brought and shared some stuff from the earlier days of Deep Freeze; he was a Navy Photographer’s Mate in the days of DF I-IV covering operations from 1955–1959. Other than that, the closest we came to business was some discussion about the San Antonio reunion and intentions to attend by a few.

Those present were Wayne Rogers, Bill Raymus, Brad Miller, Diane Hallett, Jerry & Karen Gustin, Donald “Tim” Timmerman, Herb Schaefer, Robert Kello, and Ed & Linda Hamblin.

By the time you read this, our January lunch will be history, and our next meet-up will be Saturday 7 April at Terri’s Breakfast and Lunch, 3320 Military Highway, time about 1130. If you aren’t receiving notifications about the lunches and would like to be added to the list, contact Ed Hamblin, ehamblin74@verizon.net, phone 757-405-3362 and leave a message. “Walk-ins” welcome.

Guess what? They never built the base here!

Photo of Timmerman at the 2006 OAEA reunion. For more information about Tim see the below article
In Ed’s Tidewater article he mentioned Tim Timmerman’s Antarctica experience, so I checked his bonafides in the OAEA roster. Ed pointed out that Tim had been attached to Deep Freeze during DF-I through DF-IV. However, Tim went back to the ICE.

Tim’s Bio:

From Tim’s OAEA Membership application: Photographer with Task Force 43, motion picture and still. CONAVSUPFOR staff beginning with Deep Freeze I in 1955 continuous duty until early 1959. On the ice for DF I, II, III, IV and returned again in 1968. I was aboard USS Wyandot, Arneb, Westwind, and Glacier for various special details. Stations-McMurdo, Hallett, South Pole, Byrd, Little America, and Wilkes. While assigned to CHINFO, led documentary film crew to produce film Flight to the South Pole, the story of VX-6s role in Antarctica.

The film

When I saw the mention of Tim’s participating in the filming of Flight to the South Pole I decided to look on the Internet to see if I could find any information and I came up with the following:

The film is available for viewing on the following website: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mokekPCVdug. It is about 30 minutes in length.

This 1968 US Navy documentary covers aerial operations in Antarctica during Operation Deep Freeze. The film focuses primarily on LC-130 flights on the continent, but also covers Rear Admiral Byrd’s first flight to the South Pole.
Byrd's aircraft taking off for first flight to the South Pole

Sign on the VX-6 enlisted hut at McMurdo

BUNO 320 taking off

BUNO 320 en route to the South Pole

Que Sera Sera snowed in

Homecoming
A NEW MAN’S EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURE TO ANTARCTICA

Compiled and Edited by Billy-Ace

BOOK REVIEW


REVIEW

By Ed Hamblin

Who doesn’t love an underdog? A brand-new entry into the Antarctic biographical genre that reads like an adventure, Laurie Gwen Shapiro’s The Stowaway: A Young Man’s Extraordinary Adventure To Antarctica is a fascinating look at a slice of 20th century Antarctic lore about someone fated to be a nobody, and that by his own sheer will lifts himself up to become somebody, and as Ms. Shapiro makes clear, someone worth writing about. This book has to be the ultimate in the old “running away to join the circus” fantasy that many of us harbored, and provides a perfect blueprint on how to attain the seemingly unattainable! Rich in detail and well documented with an extensive bibliography and notes, Ms. Shapiro’s book brings to life William “Billy” Gawronski, who through his own drive to become someone special beats the odds to become an unheralded member of Byrd’s first Antarctic expedition.

Ms. Shapiro’s biography about this son of a Polish immigrant opens in 1907 New York with the arrival of Billy’s father to Ellis Island, and lays excellent groundwork so one understands Billy’s roots and explores the reason for his motivation to escape the gritty New York of the 1920s. Lured by the fanfare of Byrd’s upcoming expedition to Antarctica, Billy undertakes what seems to be an impossible campaign to join up with Byrd.

Three-Year-old Billy in his sailor suit. When anyone asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up, his mother would answer for him: “He wants to be a sailor.”

Rudy, Francesca, and Billy Gawronski enjoy Coney Island circa 1920. The beach outings were a treat for this Polish immigrant family seeking escape from the lower east side.

In the chapters leading up to the departure of Byrd’s expedition flagship City of New York, Ms. Shapiro delves into not only Billy’s challenges to attach himself to the expedition, but brings to light and details some of the politics and logistics problems faced by Byrd in outfitting his expedition. Along the way, she brings to life an inner city New York neighborhood that is the backdrop for that part of the book. In the rest of the book, Billy is in the forefront, and we get to follow him from New York to Norfolk, Virginia; through the Panama Canal to Tahiti; to New Zealand; and eventually to the Bay of Whales at the edge of the Ross Sea.

Two young soon-to-be rivals side-by-side on the cover of the Times: Paul Siple looking every bit the dutiful son kisses his mother, and Billy Gawronski looking rumpled and disappointed.
She writes with some humor. One fine example is her account of one incident where three stowaways with the same idea confront each other in the same small hideaway space on the ship.

There is a single chapter dedicated to Billy’s time at Bay of Whales and Little America with Byrd. Not selected by Byrd to become part of the winter over group, the book explores his disappointment and eventual return to a changed America where he is re-introduced to a country locked in The Great Depression. Still frustrated by his “failure”, he finds himself somewhat of a celebrity thanks to his proud parents “feeding the press” and is able to capitalize on that with a lecture tour following his return to the states. Ms. Shapiro makes it evident that Billy’s outlook on the world has changed drastically, and focuses on Billy’s desire to attain a future that means something.

The story continues to follow Billy through the Great Depression, where one feels his ache to return to the Antarctic (which is never realized); and the final chapter deals with Billy and his Merchant Marine career during WW-II, and wraps up with a short but comprehensive epilogue.

I found the book hard to put down once I started it, and found it refreshing to read an Antarctic biography about “someone new”. Read it!

**FROM THE DUST JACKET**

The spectacular, true story of a scrappy teenager from New York’s Lower East Side who stowed away on the Roaring Twenties’ most remarkable feat of science and daring: an expedition to Antarctica.

It was 1928: a time of illicit booze, of Gatsby and Babe Ruth, of freewheeling fun. The Great War was over and American optimism was higher than the stock market. What better moment to launch an expedition to Antarctica, the planet’s final frontier? This was the moon landing before the 1960s. Everyone wanted to join the adventure. Rockefellers and Vanderbilts begged to be taken along as mess boys, and newspapers across the globe covered the planning’s every stage.

The night before the expedition’s flagship launched, Billy Gawronski—a skinny, first generation New York City high schooler desperate to escape a dreary future in the family upholstery business—jumped into the Hudson River and snuck aboard.

Could he get away with it?

From the grimy streets of New York’s Lower East Side to the rowdy dance halls of sultry Francophone Tahiti, all the way to Antarctica’s blinding white and deadly freeze, Laurie Gwen Shapiro’s *The Stowaway* takes you on the unforgettable voyage of a gutsy young stowaway who became an international celebrity, a mascot for an up-by-your-bootstraps age.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Lauri Gwen Shapiro is a native of New York City’s Lower East Side, where she still lives with her Aussie husband, fifteen-year-old daughter, and elderly father. She has most recently written articles for publications including *New York*, *Slate*, *Aeon*, and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and has her own history column focusing on unsung heroes for *The Forward*. Shapiro is also a documentary filmmaker who won an Independent Spirit Award for directing IFC’s *Keep The River on Your Right: A Modern Cannibal Tale* and an Emmy nomination for producing HBOs *Finishing Heaven*. *The Stowaway* is her first nonfiction book.
Telegram from Billy to his parents

PHOTO CREDITS

Page 27 Three-Year Old Billy: Gizela Gawronski, & Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America
Page 27 The Family Trio: Gizela Gawronski, & Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America
Page 27 Billy In Suit: The New York Times
Page 28 Billy In Uniforms: Gizela Gawronski, & Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America
New England Chapter Fall 2017 Meeting

By Marty Diller, New England Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

The Chapter was back at the Bull N’Claw restaurant in Wells, Maine, on 14 October, with 50 members and guests in attendance. As usual, I ordered their “Puckered Penguin” cocktail that was created by their head bartender, Robin, for our 2014 Fall meeting. The drink was named at that meeting by Chapter President Nick Pellegrino (VXE-6, 1970–72), and originally consisted of a mix of apple vodka, peach liqueur, and cranberry juice. However, Robin said she had recently “improved” the drink and it now is a mix of Crown Royal, peach schnapps, Chambord liqueur, and cranberry juice. It still tastes great and we are pleased that it is associated with the Puckered Penguins.

Chapter Business

After an excellent meal, member Charlie ‘CB’ Bevilacqua (WO McMurdo, DF-I; DF-II at South Pole) led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to open the business meeting. Routine reports by the Secretary/Treasurer were heard, as well as committee reports. In other routine business, Peter Kearney (ASA, WO McMurdo DF-71) requested, and was accepted, as an ‘At-Large’ Chapter member. Pete lives in Staten Island, NY.

Chapter member Tom Henderson (Surveyor, USGS; DF-80, 81, 82, 98, and DF-82 WO South Pole) was on hand to provide a final update on his Ice Eagles project—a video documentary on the history of Antarctic aviation. The project has been completed; the film—a set of two 1-hour DVDs—has been produced and is available for purchase (www.gwillow.com). Tom hopes to have Ice Eagles picked up for airing by PBS, and intends to send the DVD set to PBS affiliates in cities with large US naval aviation populations, such as Jacksonville, Norfolk/Virginia Beach, Pensacola, and San Diego. He added that the Explorers Club in NYC has asked him to submit the DVD set as a contender for their annual Polar Award category.

Editor’s Note: See page 9 of this issue for letters from the OAEA Scholarship awardees.
Fundraising

The 50–50 raffle drawing winner ($104) was John Clough (USARP; Queen Mary Land Traverse-2 and 3 and Byrd Station/Ross Ice Shelf Project (RISP)—nine seasons during 1965–78). John donated $50 of that amount to the Chapter, who forwarded it to the OAEA Scholarship Program in John’s name. (Belatedly, I learned that John’s annual dues were not up to date, but with some coordination between John, the OAEA Treasurer, Scholarship Committee and Membership Committee, a portion of the $50 was diverted to upgrade John’s member status to OAEA Life member.)

Attendees were asked to pose for a group photo after the meeting adjourned.

The winner of this meeting’s big door prize (free meal at a future meeting) was Associate member Carolyn Brown of E.Greenwich, RI. For this meeting, Associate member Sarah Gillens (author, Plainfield, NH) donated a Russian doll set of Antarctic animals and members Billie & Larry Hunter (VXE-6, DF-70, 71, and 73) donated a stuffed toy penguin for fundraising purposes. So in additional drawings, Bob Berube (CBU-201 DF-68, and 69) and Joe Gonzalez (VX-6, DF-65, and 66) were awarded those door prizes.

Meeting Schedule

The next OAEA-NE Chapter meeting is scheduled for 1pm on Saturday, 24 March 2018, at Quonset O Club restaurant in North Kingstown, RI.
NEW OAEA MEMBERS

The below listed personnel have joined the OAEA since the previous issue of the Gazette.

Thanks to Bob McCauley, FRA Magazine, American Legion Magazine, OAEA Web Site, Gary Watkins, Black Jack Stewart, Obit Messenger, GCG Meeting Notice, I’ve Been To Antarctica Facebook Page, Marty Diller, and Tom Regina for recruiting new members or for providing names and contact info for prospective members.

If you know of any OAE, or anyone interested in Antarctica, who is not a member of the OAEA please send their contact info to the OAEA Membership Chairman at upizauf@aol.com or 850 456 3556

*Denotes Associate Member
§Denotes Upgrade to Life or Renewal of Annual Member
ΦDenotes Upgrade to Regular Member

Bamford, Toni NOK Life DAU of Dan Sliwinski
Clough, John CIV §Life USARP 1965-78
Handyside, Tracy RM2 Life CBU-201 1967-68
Hubbard, Charles UT2 Life MV Seabourn Quest
Jackson, J. CIV Life USAP Artists and Writers Program/ MV Lindblad 2007 & 2013
Larson, Edward CIV Annual USAP Contractor
Oxton, Alfred CIV Life USAP Contractor
Reed Ralph, PN1 Life USAP South Pole 2016-17
White, Wayne CIV Life

BRONZE STATUE OF PENGUIN VANDALIZED ON AUCKLAND’S NORTH SHORE

Kashka Tunstall

Two of the six bronze penguin sculptures that can be found in Campbells Bay.

The vandalism of a bronze penguin sculpture at a beach on Auckland’s North Shore has forced a community group to remove it for repairs.

The penguin, which usually stands on a rock beside a playground at Campbells Bay beach, was attacked around 15 October with someone trying to hacksaw the penguin from its perch.

The theft attempt was abandoned but, when the statue was found the next day, one of its three bolts had been severed and a foot had broken off the figure.

“Whoever thought they were going to whip in and steal it found it harder than they thought,” Campbells Bay Community Association chairman Max Thomson said.

The theft attempt was abandoned but, when the statue was found the next day, one of its three bolts had been severed and a foot had broken off the figure.

The theft attempt was abandoned but, when the statue was found the next day, one of its three bolts had been severed and a foot had broken off the figure.

After assessing the damage to the sculpture, the association decided to remove the penguin. It took an hour to saw through the remaining bolts. “We’re in the process of getting it repaired and removing the likelihood of it happening again,” Thomson said.

REUNION & MEETING INFORMATION

Send reunion notices to Billy-Ace Baker at 850 456 3556 or upizauf@aol.com for publication in the Gazette


USS Sennet (SS-408): Myrtle Beach, SC, 1–4 October 2017. POC Ralph Luther, PO Box 864, Summerville, SC 29484-0864, or rluther107@gmail.com. The Sennet served during Highjump.

OAEA: San Antonio, TX, 9-11 May 2018. POC John Lamont West: at 15838 Beaufort Blvd, Selma TX 78154-3839, or OAE2018Reunion@aol.com, or 210 651 3650.

OAE LOCATOR

Send locator information to the editor by email at upizauf@aol.com, or by snail mail to 10819 Berryhill Road, Pensacola FL 32506, or by phone at 850 456 3556.

- Mike White is looking for a DF-87 winter-over cruise book. Mike is also looking for UT1 John Kafton who also wintered-over during DF-87. Mike can be reached by phone at: 805-302-5375, or by email at: mwhite49@reagan.com.

Editor's Note: I have a copy of subject cruise book, but only one copy.

- Earl Griffith “Griff” started out in the firehouse at McMurdo, summer 70; made AG3 and off to McGregor camp for Nov 70; back to Det Charlie at McMurdo for Christmas and New Year’s, and finally a trip to Hallett on the Burton Island where he would be for the next two seasons until Hallett Station was closed on 19 February 1973. Griff would like to make contact with anyone from Hallett or Det “C” who served with him. Griff can be contacted by email at: egriffithgec@gmail.com, or by cell phone at: 406-459-4830.

- Eugene Herrman served as a cook with the DF-70 winter-over crew, at McMurdo. He would like to hear from other crew members from 69–70. It will be 50 years shortly since my time there, but reminisce about it all the time. Eugene can be contacted by phone at: 269-465-2406, or by email at: geneherrman@gmail.com.

- David A. Hoff served as an EN2 on the USCGC Eastwind during DF-I. He would like to hear from any of his shipmates. David can be reached at: dmhoff@chibardun.net, or by phone at: 715-637-3431.

- Phil Spessard is looking for UH1D crewmembers that deployed to Antarctica. Captain Gary Skaar need not reply. Phil can be reached by email at: RA5Vigilante@msn.com, or by phone at: 503-538-5168.

- Daniel Ney is looking for any DF-76 winter-over crew. Daniel worked and lived in the WD plant with Jack Kernanen and Donald Rohleder. Dan can be reached by email at: dan.ney53@gmail.com, or by phone at: 801 200 6894.
Saturday 17 October 2017

Meeting—With Hurricane Nate lurking in the Gulf of Mexico there were only 12 members and guest at the meeting and when the last two members arrived the early arrivals had already finished eating. We were told by our hostess that the restaurant was going to batten down the hatches so they could close at 3 p.m. so there was no time for us to dilly dally.

Due to the low attendance we did not have a 50/50 raffle or a door prize drawing. I made an announcement about the availability of Tom Henderson’s *Ice Pirates* DVDs and handed out order blanks to those interested. I also asked Lennie if he would like to speak about the recent VX/VXE-6 reunion in Las Vegas, but he declined.

At the September meeting a penguin cookie jar was the featured door prize. When someone else won the cookie jar Lennie said that he did not have a penguin cookie jar and was hoping that he would have won the prize. When I got home I looked around and found that I had two identical penguin cookie jars, so I presented one to Lennie at today’s meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. So everyone could get out of Dodge. The next meeting will be on 5 November at the Rico Mexican. Thanks to Lennie for taking the photos, and thanks to the hearty souls who ventured out on a dark and stormy day.

*Gus making his move on Helen, or is she making a move on him?*

In the foreground we have Marsha Vatne and her guest Sharon Conn. In the background we have Gus Shinn lurking over the Baker table.

*The cookie jar that I presented to Lennie because he didn’t have one to call his own.*

Sean Baker, Danny Thompson-Baker (or is it Baker-Thompson?), and Billy-Ace enjoy their meal.
Saturday 4 November 2017 Meeting—25 members and guests were in attendance. The only first time attendee was Tom Hoskin and I failed to get all of his bona-fides.

Larry Preston, Jack McLendon, Unknown (I think it might be Tom Hoskin, Mary & Bill Fazio

We did not have a guest speaker, but we did have a guest of honor—namely, Gus’s dog Bradley—actually Bradley is Ken Pye’s service dog.

Guest of Honor. Where is Ken?

In addition to the 50/50 raffle, we had a raffle for a coupon book that was won by the Preston’s. The 50/50 drawing was won by Billy-Blackwelder who donated his share to the GCG chapter kitty. Brian Hoffmaster won the penguin cookie jar door prize.

Ashlee and Tracey Baker

Left to right: Rainie Talbert, Jeanie Dumestre, Gus, Ella, Brian, & John Perry Blackwelder. The coupon book is in the foreground on the edge of the table

Ella showing Gus something on her smart phone.

Following the drawings the meeting was adjourned. We will not be having a meeting in December, so the next meeting will be at the Rico Mexican Restaurante on 8 January. Thanks to Sharon Preston for taking photos of the attendees.
OAEA FY2017 ACCOUNTING STATEMENT

I certify that the following report is a true accounting of financial transactions conducted by the Old Antarctic Explorers Association during the FY 2017 (1 October 2016 through 30 September 2017) as of 30 September 2017.

### FY 2017 ACCOUNTING STATEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSE</th>
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**Dues**  

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**TOTAL INCOME**  

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**GAIN**  

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### FINANCIAL STATUS OF OLD ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
**AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2017**

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### MEMBERSHIP STATUS OF OLD ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
**AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2017**

| Total Membership all categories: 1657 |
| Membership Change – 3 |
| Memorial Members – 68 |
| Commemorative Members – 66 |
| Annual Members – 18 |
| Lifetime Members – 1505 |
| Deceased Members – 360 |

/s/ W. W. Rouzer  
OAEA Treasurer  12/27/2017