



EXPLORER'S GAZETTE

Published Quarterly in Pensacola, Florida USA for the Old Antarctic Explorers Association

Uniting All OAEs in Perpetuating the History of U.S. Navy Involvement in Antarctica

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MV American Term at McMurdo Ice Pier

2008 US Navy Cargo Handling Battalion One Deployment

Compiled by Billy-Ace Baker

Each year, a tanker and a container ship from the Navy's Military Sealift Command (MSC) make the difficult journey through icy waters to McMurdo. These ships carry 100 percent of the fuel and more than 70 percent of the food, scientific equipment, and other supplies that the station needs to operate. MSC has participated in Operation Deep Freeze every year since McMurdo was established in 1955.

According to Rick Appling, a spokesperson for the MSC: "We can get the cargo there, but without the Navy

Cargo Handling Battalion, it wouldn't get offloaded". "Those Sailors are absolutely essential in the operation."

Offloading these life-sustaining supplies to McMurdo Station is critical—and there is only a small window of time during Antarctica's round-the-clock sunlight to accomplish the mission. If it doesn't get done, the entire Antarctica mission would be forced to shut down.

The United States established its largest permanent station at McMurdo, which is a cluster of metal huts that [See: Cargo Handling Battalion on page 4.](#)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

John Lamont West—OAEA President

TO ALL OAEs—As we move into 2008 the Fourth OAEA Symposium/Reunion to be held in Pensacola, FL is fast approaching. Reunion Chairman Jim O'Connell and his committee are hard at work formulating plans to make it a reunion to remember.



Everyone is encouraged to make plans now to attend this gala event that will be conducted during 5-7 Nov 2008. There is a brief Reunion Update on page 16 of this issue.

The *Explorer's Gazette* Reunion Special Edition was mailed out to all members during the month of March. The special edition has been posted on the OAEA web site and can be downloaded by anyone interested in attending the reunion, but are not yet members of the OAEA. Copies will also be mailed to anyone who requests one from the POC in response to media notices.

The 2008 Election Committee Chairman Bob Gaboury prepared a self-nominating form for the election and it was mailed out to all members with the *Explorer's Gazette* Reunion Special Edition. Ballots will be mailed out in June and must be returned to the Election Committee by 15 September 2008.

In the Jul-Sep 2007 issue of the *Gazette* I announced that Valerie Johnston had been appointed to assume the duties of the OAEA Secretary when incumbent Jim O'Connell steps down in November 2008. Due to other commitments Valerie has rescinded her agreement to serve and the OAEA is again looking for someone to fill this very important position in the OAEA. If anyone is interested in this job and/or would like more information please contact me by email at westjl@aol.com or by telephone at: 956 568 3737.

Your recommendations and suggestions concerning those areas that you perceive as satisfactory, as well as in those areas where you feel that the OAEA could be improved, are solicited by me, your President of the Old Antarctic Explorers Association.

To all those who have lost a loved one, please accept my heartfelt sympathy and my condolences as you pass through these tough times. My prayers are with you. To those under the weather, I wish you a speedy recovery.

Until next time, take care



GROWLERS & BERGY BYTES

Feature Stories, Odds & Ends, Collected, Compiled & Written by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

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DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

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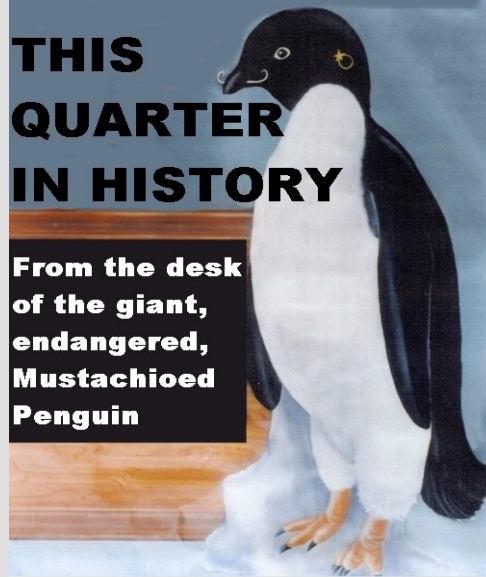
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THIS QUARTER IN HISTORY

From the desk of the giant, endangered, Mustachioed Penguin



January Events

16 Jan 1820 Edward Bransfield arrives at the South Shetlands for the purpose of charting the islands.

21 Jan 1821 Von Bellingshausen discovers Peter I Island, the first land within the Antarctic Circle.

7 Jan 1913 Xavier Mertz dies from vitamin A poisoning leaving Mawson alone.

3 Jan 1935 Lincoln Ellsworth and Bernt Balchen commence Ellsworth's second unsuccessful trans-antarctic flight.

31 Jan 1970 PM-3A scrambled due to plant malfunction.

February Events

10 Feb 1821 American sealing captain John Davis concludes his voyage of exploration.

14 Feb 1911 Roald Amundsen's depot-laying team reaches 80° S.

10 Feb 1947 Dufek unsuccessfully attempts a landing on Charcot Island.

25 Feb 1965 Palmer Station opened.

18 Feb 1986 Automatic Weather Station on Dollerman Island opened.

March Events

07 Mar 1821 American sealing schooner *Venus* wrecked hit a reef and sank in Esther Harbor. All hands rescued.

14 Mar 1899 The *Belgica* finally escapes the pack-ice

17 Mar 1912 Oates walks out of Scott's tent in a blizzard

05 Mar 1956 The USS *Glacier* runs aground on an uncharted shoal

03 Mar 1990 Will Steger, and his international team of six members complete the longest ever (3800 miles) non-mechanized trans-antarctic traverse using skis and dogsleds.

Cargo Handling Battalion From page 1

are dug into the volcanic rock, accessible by sea only for a brief period during the austral summer.

THE CARGO HANDLERS

Nearly 60 Sailors from Navy Cargo Handling Battalion One (NCHB-1) left Williamsburg, VA on 8 January for a unique mission. NCHB-1 is the only Navy unit still supporting the National Science Foundation (NSF) research in Antarctica.



EM2 Dyshawn Mitchell observes the cargo handling efforts of his shipmates as they unload cargo

The Navy cargo handlers arrived at McMurdo on 29 January to meet the *MV American Tern* and offload 20 million pounds of fresh supplies for the scientists, researchers, and support personnel. They were assisted by 47 Royal New Zealand Defense Force personnel. Working side-by-side the Navy and NZ cargo handlers toiled around the clock for 10 days in the continuous sunlight of the Antarctic summer. They worked 24 hours a day, divided into two 12-hour shifts, in temperatures, averaging minus 10 degrees. Station personnel also helped by offloading 162,000 barrels of fuel.

"Every cargo handler desires and dreams of making this mission, so we pick the best and the brightest," said LCDR. Paul Melvey, executive officer for NCHB-1. "We're honored to have had this opportunity for more than 50 years to support scientific research in Antarctica."

NCHB-1 was established 1 October 1949. Its organization was based on the World War II Construction Battalions that established forward area bases in the Pacific. Originally home-ported at Davisville, RI, NCHB-1 moved to



Joint Task Force-Support Forces Antarctica, visited USNS Lawrence H. Gianella on 31 January. From left to right are Chief Master Sgt. Todd Salzman, Col. Ron Smith, deputy commander, Lt. Gen Loyd "Chip" Utterback, and Robert Mills, Gianella ice pilot.

Cheatham Annex, Williamsburg, VA in 1953. On 1 December 1970 the unit's name was changed to Navy Cargo Handling and Port Group and then changed to Navy Cargo Handling Battalion One on 17 July 2003.

The cargo handlers are in Antarctica as part of Operation Deep Freeze 2008. They will unload roughly 650 pieces of cargo weighing close to 12 million pounds from the *MV American Tern* (TAK 4729). After the fresh supplies are offloaded, the previous year's trash and excess equipment weighing roughly eight million pounds will be hauled aboard the ships. By international agreement all waste must be removed to preserve the pristine environment.

Operation Deep Freeze, led by the Commander, Joint Task Force Support Forces Antarctica, provides the logistics support necessary to maintain U.S. presence on the world's least inhabited continent. While the NSF runs the United States Antarctic Program it has an agreement with DOD to handle the challenge of supplying the frozen continent.

Once the NCHB-1 Sailors got past the feeling of operating on a distant planet, life at McMurdo Station began to feel very normal, with the comforts of any small town. There is a church, a fire station, a library, a retail store, a barbershop, bowling alley, two gyms, a basketball court, two bars, and a coffee shop. There is even a "taxi" service to shuttle residents around the station. Antarctica is the coldest, windiest, driest, and most inhospitable continent on the planet. It takes men and women with a unique mindset to endure a climate better suited to penguins than Sailors.

THE SHIPS

The at-sea portion of Operation Deep Freeze takes place every year during the Antarctic summer months, when temperatures hover between zero and 20 degrees.

The ships arrive after icebreakers carve an 18-mile-long path in the ice to get them to the ice pier. Even then, the MSC vessels will rely on an icebreaker to get through to McMurdo Station.

This year, the MSC-owned tanker USNS *Lawrence H. Gianella* and MSC-chartered dry cargo ship MV *American Tern* made the journey. Like all ships that go to Polar Regions, *Gianella* and *American Tern* are modified with ice-strengthened hulls and machinery to withstand the unforgiving environment.



Sailors from NCHB-1 unload supplies

Normally, ice is not encountered until 10 miles, but this year the *American Tern* encountered ice 60 miles out and spent two days fighting through pack ice. *Gianella* also faced challenges. On her voyage down, the tanker was surrounded by pack ice and had to call on the icebreaker *Oden* to be cut free.

Gianella finally arrived at McMurdo on 28 January and departed on 3 February after discharging 6.8 million gallons of fuel that will keep McMurdo going for the entire year.

American Tern pulled up to the pier a week later carrying nearly 12 million pounds of cargo and departed on 12 February, after delivering a year's worth of equipment and stores.

THE FLASHBACK

During all the season that I was part of Deep Freeze the cargo handling detachment from Virginia came down to McMurdo to unload the annual resupply ships. However, they were not alone.

All departments of NSFA and tenant commands were required to send personnel to augment the Navy stevedores.

When the word came down that personnel were required for ship offloading I usually canvassed my watch section or division for volunteers. And from the volunteers I selected one or two for each shift.

There was nothing particularly noteworthy about ship offloading except



MV American Tern (AK-4729) leaves McMurdo Sound, 11 February 2008, escorted by the Swedish icebreaker Oden

for the extra workload involved. I can't remember the names of anyone I sent except for one year and I'm not even sure which year it was. I think it was DF-77 and the ship was the USNS *Bland*. RMSN Debbie Humphreys was one of the volunteers so I sent her.

Debbie was one of my best workers, so I believed that she wouldn't have any problems with this assignment and I wouldn't receive any negative feedback based on her performance. However, the day after offloading was completed a bad-ass looking guy in a hardhat, with a First Class Crow and NAVCHAPGRU stencil walked into my office and commenced to take off his gloves. Thoughts were going through my head that Debbie had screwed up big-time and I was about to receive a face-full of bad-mouth. However, he introduced himself as BM1 Joe Jones and pulled a fifth of Vodka from one of his parka pockets and plopped it on my desk.

Petty Officer Jones said that the vodka was in appreciation to me for sending RMSN Humphreys to him and that she had turned out to be the best stevedore who had ever worked for him.

After I had thanked him he left and that was the end of that. I never found out how he knew that I was a vodka drinker or how he had even gotten it because McMurdo was out of vodka. I suppose he pilfered it from one of the Secure Cargo CONEX boxes.

Even though I can't remember the names of anyone else I sent on ship offloading, who could forget a gift bottle of vodka received during hard times? I

don't think I ever told Debbie this story. When I last saw her at the 2005 OAEA reunion in California she had not pursued a career as a stevedore, but was driving an 18-wheeler.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it. According to Debbie: It was the summer of DF-77, and the ship was the *Maumee*—and it was the first use of the WO-76 ice pier.

Debbie said that she loaded radioactive material from the NNPU and strapped cargo down on trucks. She remembers driving a deuce+1/2 truck and refusing to accept the advice of the PO in charge—stay on the main road—got the truck stuck and had to be towed. After that, she mostly remembers being a coffee gopher.

I guess that's what over 30 years does to the memories of two people who are trying to recall the same event.



RMSN Debbie Humphreys

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Billy:

Thanks so much for the wonderful and extensive coverage of both Antarctic books in the Oct-Dec 2007 issue of the *Gazette*, and the book covers look terrific as well.

Surviving Erebus should be out soon. Best wishes.

John Barell

Billy-Ace,

Attached is a photo of a headstone in Arlington National Cemetery on a mass grave of four of the six crewmembers that perished in a plane crash in on 1 February 1966. These four were never recovered due to the explosion and fire. The remains of the other two crewmen, AD3 Charles Kelley and AD3 Wayne Shattuck were recovered and returned to their next of kin. A friend of mine took this photo while we visited Arlington National Cemetery for a memorial service.

Jim Eblen

Editor's Note: Wayne Shattuck is also buried in Arlington. Charles C. Kelley is not listed in the Nationwide Gravesite Locator. The book On The Ice by Peter Clark and Warren Krupshaw was dedicated to the LC-47 crew and to SK2 Andrew Moulder who was killed at South Pole Station a few days later on 7 February.

Dear Billy-Ace,

Having just printed out the Oct-Dec 2007 *Explorer's Gazette* and scanned it briefly as I assembled it, please let me take this opportunity to applaud your continuing accomplishment. Each *Gazette* I've read has been well written, well balanced, and especially informative. Each, in turn, surpasses the one before it...and the first one was excellent!

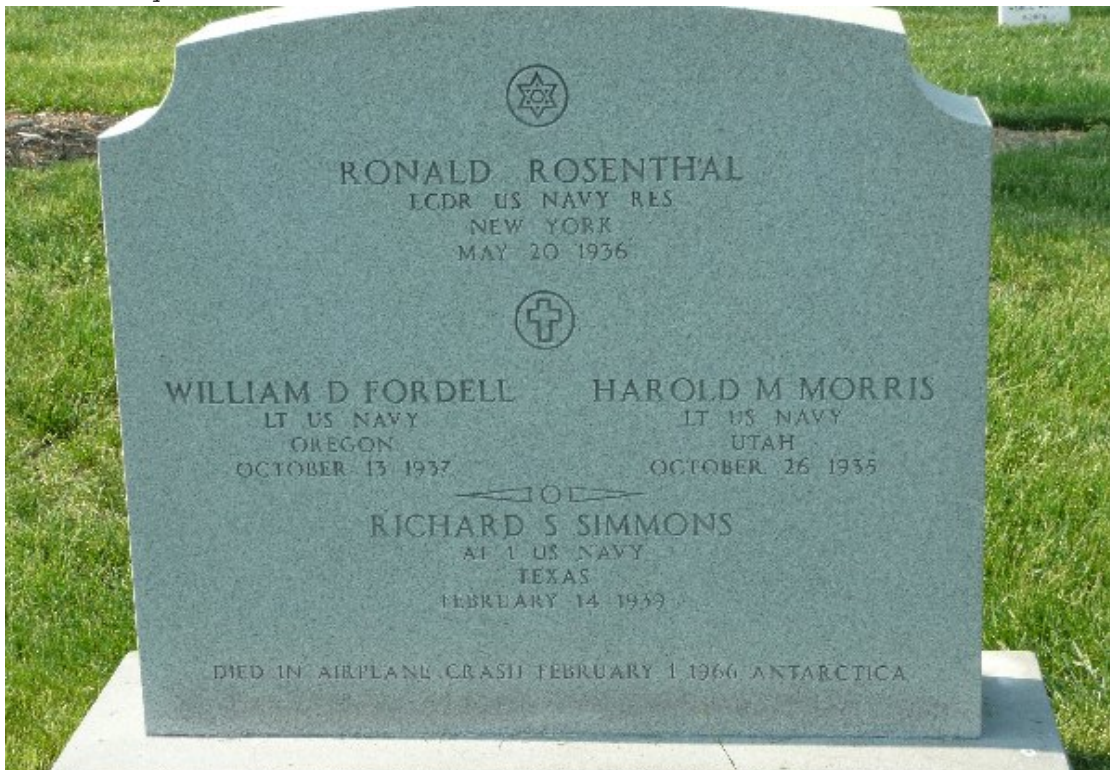
Without doubt, you have a dedicated staff of editorial assistants each of whom should be applauded as well. Seldom is there an oversight or any area in which a reader new to the OAEA would find what is read either ambiguous or contradictory.

As one who has written, I salute you... each and all!

Keep up the outstanding work!

Sam Dryfoose

Editor's Note: This is by far the best letter that has ever been printed in the Gazette, and I didn't have to write it! The staff also thanks you for your praise.



Arlington National Cemetery Mass grave headstone for Rosenthal, Fordell, Morris, and Simmons who were killed in LC-47J (BUNO 50832) crash on 2 February 1966

Billy:

I've just read the latest *Gazette* and wanted to send a note out to all of the members who served in Antarctica from 1958-1960 while I was the leading chief in VX-6. I am planning on attending the reunion (4-8 November) in Pensacola and wanted to encourage everyone from that time period to make an effort to attend, as I would sure like to see as many of you as I can. I am sitting here on my back porch in Kansas, reminiscing about our times in MucMud Hole.

I would appreciate hearing from any of you, so please drop me a line. My current address is: 1812 SE 23rd Terr., Topeka KS 66605-1838.

AMCS William Dempsey USN (Ret)

P.S. Please find enclosed a \$50 check as a donation to the OAEA.

Editor's Note: Bill's donation earned him a spot in the Little Blue Penguin Donor Club

Billy-Ace:

In the Jul-Sep 2007 issue of the *Gazette* you stated that RM1 Al Allison wintered at South Pole during DF-61. I was there in 61. Al was not there. Our RMs were RMC Joe Cornley and RM2 James B.B. Jones.

Bill Brown

Editor's Note: Bill is correct. Al wintered at South Pole during DF-60.

Dear Billy:

I sure enjoy the *Gazette* and all the articles you come up with. It's interesting reading and at times the articles remind me of some of the things I had to do on the ice. I made a total of three deployments to the ice. DF-IV winter-over was my first trip experience and then I made another trip for the summer and then I was transferred to NAS Glenview IL where I retired. I later went to work for Bell Helicopters in Hurst Texas (Dallas/Fort Worth area. My third trip to the ice was during DF-62. The US Army was sending a Helicopter Detachment to the ice so I went with them as a civilian tech rep.

Find enclosed a small donation to help out with expenses.

Dusty Dostal

Editor's Note: I'm sure that Dusty's experiences with the Army Helo Det would make a good story. His "small" donation earned him a spot in the Little Blue Penguin OAEA Donor Club.

Dear Editor:

Thanks again for the OAEA magazine and the pleasure it gives to me and doubtless everyone else who is lucky enough to be in our small fraternity. I have a memory teaser for you, but then maybe not, knowing the amount of research you have carried out and info gathered over the years. On my first trip to the ice, I recall a lecture given in one of the Jamesways at the strip by a Belgian professor, who was en route to or from one of the field projects. I was told that he had been through Willy before and had given the lecture previously thus was encouraged to attend. Among much other interesting yarns he told how he had been on a trip in the Belgian Congo when one of his students offended a passing elephant, at which time the jumbo turned his attention to the professor sitting innocently in a safari wagon and whisked him out through the roof. He had some footage on old black and white showing the incident and also some vivid scars fore and aft on his torso. Anyway thought that perhaps you might remember or could find out the old gent's name for me.

Jon Farrell

St Albans, England

Editor's Note: I have no idea who the Belgium professor was but see the Locator Column for details on how to contact Jon.

Dear Editor:

What a great informative newspaper and one that should never quit. Excellent job in your work. I read with interest the new OAEA members and one in particular Jerry W. King. I served with him and knew him very well, however after his winter over in 66 as PM-3A Assistant OIC I completely lost track of him. Is it possible you could send me his address or phone number so I can contact him? Does he have an email address?

I will send you some money for postage for the *Gazette*, but you can send it electronically at my email address; oae6mac@aol.com. Thank You Billy for your work.

Leonard McGregor

NNPU: SS DF-63 through 68

WO DF-72

Editor's Note: Jerry King's contact info was sent to Mac by separate correspondence along with a "thank you in advance" for the donation. And a thank you for opting out of Snail Mail receipt of the Gazette.



Dear Editor:

I just got up from my semi-comatose position in front of the TV to vent to you my displeasure with the latest Holiday feel-good ad from Coke-a-Cola! How long are we going to remain silent as we watch cuddly polar bear cubs sliding down snowy slopes to share a bottle of Coke with the cute little penguins? How long must we wait before the OAEA takes an official stand against these idiots that invade my home each day with their garbage? How long will we sit idle while the big business moguls pollute the minds of the young and uniformed with the notion that polar bears and penguins live in the same place? How long before you as an OAE are willing to stand up and toss all Coke products in the trashcan?

About twenty years ago several of us (including you) started a letter writing campaign against the Franklin Mint over their penguin/polar bear figurine set. It is time to once again get out our pens! I call upon every OAE to let Coke know that we will not purchase their products until they stop spewing such blatant lies in the name of profit!

Pig Pen Henry

Editor's Note: The above letter was received before the last issue of the Gazette was published and I didn't have room for it. I was going to put the letter in my OBE folder until I received the below correspondence from Captain Eugene Van Reeth.

Partial quote from Van Reeth letter:

" . . . I cringe when I see that TV commercial nowadays which shows penguins playing with polar bears. To the non-initiated--apparently including that MOAA "Encore" editor--Antarctica is just a cold place at the bottom (or top) of the Earth . . ."

Billy Ace

Great job on the latest *Gazette*. I edited a professional organization Newsletter for several years and know how much work it is.

Thanks!

ET2 S.G. "Skip" Johnson
Winter-Over McMurdo
DF-III 57-58

Morning Billy.

Just wondering if my name has been removed from the *Gazette* mailing list. I have not received my copy for months. I would appreciate if you could check.

Noel Gillespie

Editor's Note: According to the roster you receive your Gazette electronically by topica.com notification.

WHY WOULD ANYONE JOIN THE OAEA?

Editor's Note: I spend a lot of time trying to get OAEs to join the OAEA. Many do join, but some do not. However, I do not give up easily and, every now and then, I will do a follow-up. MSCS Don Tetley is one of the guys I have been trying to persuade to join since Day One. I recently received the below message from Don and I was wondering if some of our members would try to answer his questions because I am not getting through to him.

Billy:

Just got to know. What would anyone join the OAEA for?

If I had spent several tours in the Antarctic to the point that it was my second home, I would be far more inclined to join. BUT I only spent three years down there.

Don Tetley
NSFA SS



SKC Dave Shugart, MSC Don Tetley, & ABHC John Rowan

Hillary Honored at New South Pole Station

Compiled By Billy-Ace Baker

The new base at the geographic South Pole took 10 years and \$220 million to build but when the flag was hoisted at the official opening, it was raised only to half-mast—in memory of Sir Edmund Hillary.

New Zealanders and Americans came together to remember Sir Edmund Hillary at a memorial service in Antarctica. Father Tom O'Connor, of New Zealand, conducted the service at the Chapel of the Snows at McMurdo Station, on Sunday 13 January. Antarctica New Zealand representative Dean Peterson says it was a small ceremony attended by a handful of scientists at midday. He says a eulogy was held and those present reminisced about Sir Edmund's visits to Antarctica.

Sir Edmund died of a heart attack at Auckland City Hospital at 9am on Friday 10 January 2008 (NZT), aged 88. He had been ill for some time.

Sir Edmund Hillary, the New Zealand beekeeper-turned-mountaineer is best known for his conquest of Mount Everest. With his Sherpa guide on 29 May 1953, he became the first known man to climb the world's tallest peak.

The newly-crowned Queen Elizabeth II knighted Hillary. His triumph over Everest also came to symbolize for many Britons a postwar era of prosperity, even as its empire was shrinking.

Hillary went on to adventures in India and Antarctica and became a globetrotting advocate of environmentalism and conservationism.

On 21 January 1958, Sir Vivian Fuchs and Sir Edmund Hillary met at South Pole Station amid a worldwide blaze of controversy. It was the half-way point of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition's first successful crossing of the Frozen Continent—but Hillary's team made a "hell-bent dash to the Pole" beating Fuchs and his team by five weeks.

Sir Edmund called it "a jaunt" when recounting his decision to dash 400 miles, "hell-bent for the South Pole—God willing and crevasses permitting" rather than wait around, 9,400 feet up on the Polar Plateau for the British party led by Dr (later Sir) Vivian Fuchs.

Hillary's most shattering experience was the loss of his wife, Louise Rose Hillary, and their teenage daughter, Belinda, in a plane crash near Katmandu, Nepal, in 1975. They were flying to meet Hillary at a Nepalese outpost called Phaphlu, where he was helping build a hospital.

In 1989, Sir Ed married June Mulgrew, the widow of Hillary's climbing partner, Peter Mulgrew, who had died in a plane crash on Mount Erebus a decade earlier.

Hillary was also supposed to have been on the flight but canceled at the last minute.

Besides his second wife, survivors include two children from his first marriage, Peter and Sarah.

Hillary wrote many books about his travels, including *High Adventure* (1955), about the scaling of Everest, and *Nothing Venture, Nothing Win* (1975), a memoir.

Hillary's body was cremated at a private service and his ashes scattered at sea.

Dave Bresnahan long time NSF Representative Antarctica remembers hosting Sir Ed numerous times during his visits to McMurdo. Dave recalls the following story:

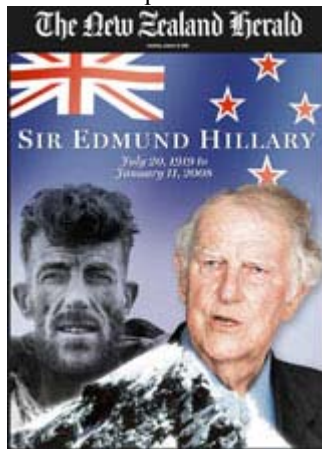
A couple years ago Sir Ed gave a talk at McMurdo. After he got through the canned remarks, he started telling stories and it was magic. At the end, he was getting up to leave, pulling on his coat he got this twinkle in his eye and shared one more. He was flying on a small RNZAF plane from Scott Base doing recon for his trip to Pole. On the way back he had to pee but the pilots were not allowed to land anywhere but the runway at McMurdo. But Ed was able to coerce the young pilot to land. They bumped across the snow and came to a stop next to a crevasse. They jumped out of the plane and, Ed explained to the crowd listening at McMurdo in his very formal and proper British English, "They relieved themselves". The audience took a few seconds to process Ed's words until an image of Sir Ed pissing into the crevasse formed in their minds-eye, and the entire crowd roared. It was a great Antarctic picture that we could all relate too.

OAEA Life Member Bill Sladen wrote about his encounters with Sir Ed: I met Sir Ed for the first time in the 1960s when he visited Cape Crozier, Ross Island, Antarctica where my Johns Hopkins University team was studying the Adelie Penguin.

The second visit was in March 1991 when I had the honor of sitting next to him in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York at the *Explorers Club* Annual Meeting when I received *The Explorers Medal* for research in Antarctica and the Arctic.

The third time was at a reception for him in 1999 in DC when he was a guest of the *Antarctic Society* and *Explorers Club, DC Group*. He was giving a lecture at the Smithsonian.

When I met him for the fourth time, just a year ago, almost to a day of his death, in January 2007 at McMurdo he was quite frail but in mind fantastically alert and full of fun. He was with his son Peter, and a host of US and NZ VIPs who were there celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of NZ's Scott Base—Sir Ed was the first OIC of Scott Base. At that time, I had just returned to



McMurdo from the Adelie Penguin colony at Cape Royds. Dr. Dave Ainley and film maker Lloyd Fales wanted shots of me for NSF's DVD *Penguin Science* that has now been distributed to over 1,000 schools.

Editor's Note: The video was shown on TV on the Animal Plant channel, with a new title: Return to Penguin City, on 23 March 2008.

In the Washington Post's obituary there is a reference to Ed's "friendly" competition with Bunny Fuchs (Sir Vivian) the leader of the *Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1955-58*. I knew Fuchs pretty well because he was our leader when I first sailed South as medical officer and biologist in 1947 with the *Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey* (now *British Antarctic Survey*). Like mine, it was Fuch's first Antarctic visit. I loudly cheered Sir Ed when he beat Fuchs to the pole by 15 days in January 1958 from the Ross Sea using a modified farm tractor, eating eggs and bacon while Fuchs from the Weddell Sea side of Antarctica was eating pemmican and traveling mostly by snow-cat as well as dog-sledge—the Scott/Shackleton way! Yes, they both had aircraft support. It was Ed Hillary, not Fuchs as planned, who was the first to reach the South Pole on land by a motorized vehicle.

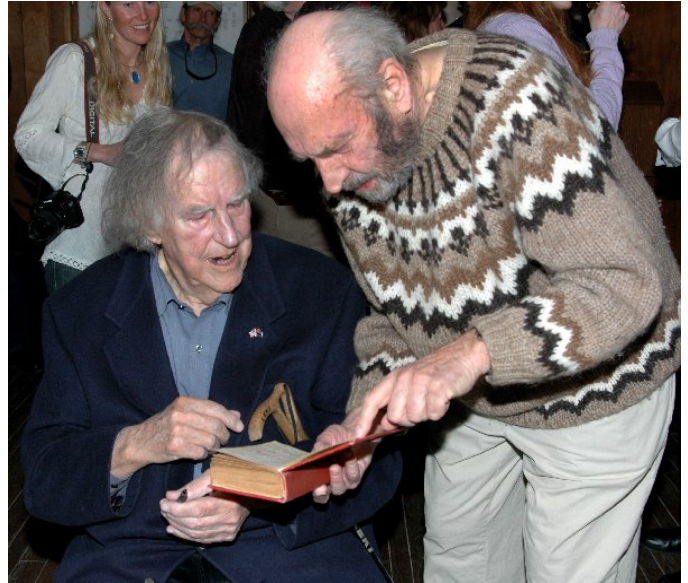
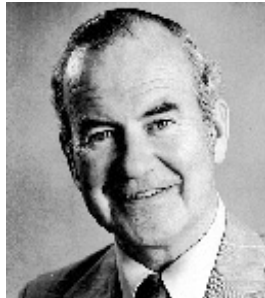


Photo by Peter Rejcek Antarctic Sun
Sir Ed, seated, looks on as Bill Sladen points out Ed's 1960 signature in his copy of Cherry Garrard's Worst Journey in the World about Edward Wilson's winter journey to Cape Crozier in 1912 to collect Emperor Penguin eggs for the London Natural History Museum.

OAEA Life Member Bob Thompson

Compiled by Billy-Ace Baker

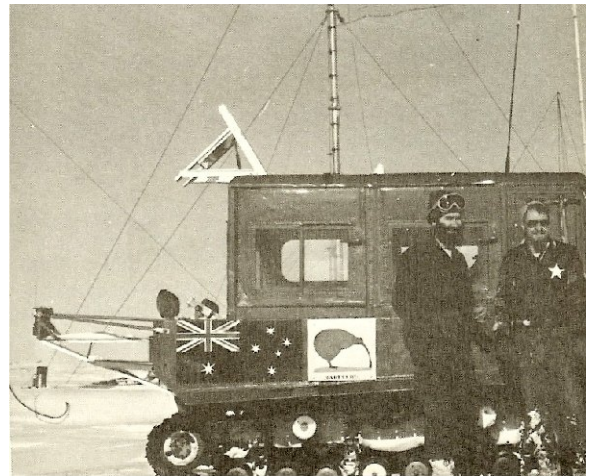
Robert Baden Thomson, 80, of Moneta, Virginia, died Thursday, 3 January 2008, at his residence. He was born 18 May 1927, in New Zealand. He moved to the United States in the early 1990s. Bob was a Life Member of the OAEA and a member of the New Zealand Antarctic Society.



He was a retired Director of the New Zealand Antarctic Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR). Bob began his long Antarctic career as an IGY radio operator and electronics technician on the sub-Antarctic Campbell Island. When he applied to be an upper atmosphere physicist at jointly run (US-NZ) Hallett Station, he was appointed scientific leader in 1960, followed by a summer as leader at New Zealand's Scott Base, and again in 1963 and 1964. He wintered over in 1962 as scientific leader of the joint Australian-United States Wilkes Station. He led the first successful uncharted 120-day, 900-mile Antarctic plateau over-snow expedition, traversing from Wilkes Station to Vostok Station and back. The traverse consisted of Bob, four Australians members, and one American. Navigating by sunshots plotted on graph paper, he arrived precisely on target without mishap, experiencing the coldest temperatures

that man has ever known. For that accomplishment, in June 1964, Bob was awarded the OBE by Queen Elizabeth II.

Editor's Note: According to his book, The Coldest Place on Earth, they used "smoke and mirrors" for navigation. See photo below.



Thomson and Foster after their return to Wilkes Station. Thomson's ingenious mirror navigational system is mounted above the cab

Bob was the Director of New Zealand's Antarctic Research Program from 1965 to 1988. In 1968, he established Vanda Station in the Dry Valleys. During that

time, he was a delegate to every international Antarctic Treaty meeting and in alternate years to the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), serving as secretary chairman of the logistics-working group.

He made 78 trips to Antarctic. Bob received numerous honors for his work, including the Antarctic Service Medal of the United States of America, in recognition of valuable contributions to exploration and scientific achievement under the U.S. Antarctic Research Program; the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays conferred by his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan; and the Antarctic Service Medallion for service with the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions on behalf of the Government of Australia.

Bob is survived by his wife of 37 years, Betty. Thomson; four children, and many friends and fellow International Antarctic personnel.



Photo courtesy of the Christchurch Press
Bob Thomson arriving on the Ice in connection with the ANZ Crash in 1979

Bob Thomson wrote a 100,000-word book on the 1979 Mount Erebus disaster only to see his bosses shelve it.

Last Flight to Antarctica might have been the most authoritative account of the Air New Zealand DC-10 aircraft's crash on the ice continent's only active volcano.

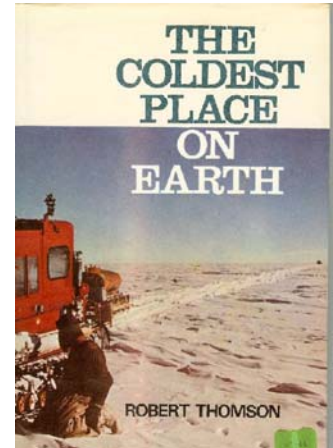
Thomson was closely associated with the airline's tourist flights to Antarctica as a consultant and tour guide. He was director of the Antarctic Division of the DSIR and deeply involved in the body recovery mission after the crash.

His book was to have been a personal account. However, DSIR heads intervened. They withheld it from publication in 1980 until at least the findings of the Court of Inquiry into the disaster were released.

Thomson wrote other books and articles, including several about the Antarctic. His association with the continent was almost unparalleled. In a career stretching 30 years from 1958, including 23 years as head of NZARP.

He set in motion the rebuilding of the 1957 base and lived just long enough to know of its completion last September. Thomson was held in the highest esteem by all connected with New Zealand's work in the Antarctic.

Thomson was awarded a second OBE, in the New Zealand honors, for his work in the aftermath of the Erebus disaster. He also received the New Zealand Polar Medal and was honored by Japan and the US.



Selected Entries From Bob's Legacy Guestbook

I met Bob in 1970 when I started working for the National Science Foundation as the NSF Representative, Antarctica. I had recently been married and wanted my wife to stay in Christchurch, NZ while I was deployed to the ice. She had never been to New Zealand so Bob was a contact she could rely on. I will always remember Bob for his friendly attitude and dedication to the advancement of Antarctic research. He will be missed. Good on ya my friend. Here's to you.

Donald "Chris" Shepherd (Longmont, CO)

I first met Bob when I was the VXE-6 "Helo King" in 1976. I worked with Bob and his staff at Scott Base in scheduling and flying him and his NZ field parties to the Dry Valleys, and in later years as the Director of Logistics for Antarctica Support Associates. Bob asked me for consultative advice on the crash of the DC-10, inviting me to his home in Christchurch. He was a true gentleman; always dignified, and respectful of others. Mother Antarctica will miss another of her great sons.

Sam Feola (Denver, CO)

I met Bob numerous times at McMurdo and at the New Zealand Station, Scott Base, during my years with the US Antarctic Program (1962-1980) He was a fellow Radioman and a great Old Antarctic Explorer.

Billy-Ace Baker (Pensacola, FL)

BOOK REVIEWS

Compiled by Billy-Ace Baker

ST LUNAIRE ANTARCTIC LEAD DOG. A story about brave dogs at the Bottom of the World. This little book by CDR Jack Bursey, was published in 1974 and has been out of print for a long time, but can still be found occasionally in used book stores or on Internet auctions.

The author was born on the island of Newfoundland many years ago when sailing ships were still a common sight on the oceans. As a boy he learned to fish on his father's schooner. He also learned to drive dog teams. As a young man Bursey came to the United States to become a member of the First Byrd Antarctic Expedition in 1928 as a dog driver.



Commander Jack Bursey, USCG

His lead dog on this famous expedition was St Lunaire, who many times saved the lives of Bursey and the other men while they were blazing trails in unexplored land on the vast frozen continent. The book was written in memory of this great dog.

The book is a mixture of fact and fiction about a boy, a young man, and their dog. St Lunaire was real. The long trip to blaze the trail for the geological party was real. However, the beginning and ending of the story is pure fiction, but it might have happened that way. There are many boys like Eric and many dogs like St Lunaire. In the book, the boy, Eric Gordon, from a poor family, must sell his dog to Admiral Byrd in

order to provide much needed income for his family. After the Antarctic Expedition, the hero, 21-year-old Jack Snow, takes St Lunaire back to Newfoundland to the boy named Eric, but in real life the real Jack Bursey took St Lunaire home to the Adirondack Mountains of New York. The book contains no photographs but is illustrated with several full-page pen-and-ink drawings



Dust Jacket of St Lunaire

ANTARCTIC NIGHT

Bursey also wrote *Antarctic Night. One Man's Story of 28,224 Hours at the Bottom of the World.* (1957).

As a boy of ten in northern Newfoundland, Jack Bursey fell in love with Antarctica. After reading about the Antarctic explorers, he dreamed of following in their footsteps. *Antarctic Night* is Bursey's personal account of how his dreams came true. First on the 1928-30 Byrd Antarctic Expedition, and again on the 1939-41 Antarctic Service Expedition, and finally on the 1955-57 Operation Deep Freeze.

In 1927, over 50,000 applicants applied for Byrd's expedition. Only 41 were selected and Bursey was not one of them. Bursey then went directly to Admiral Byrd who was so impressed by Bursey that at the last minute he signed Bursey on as one of nine dog drivers.

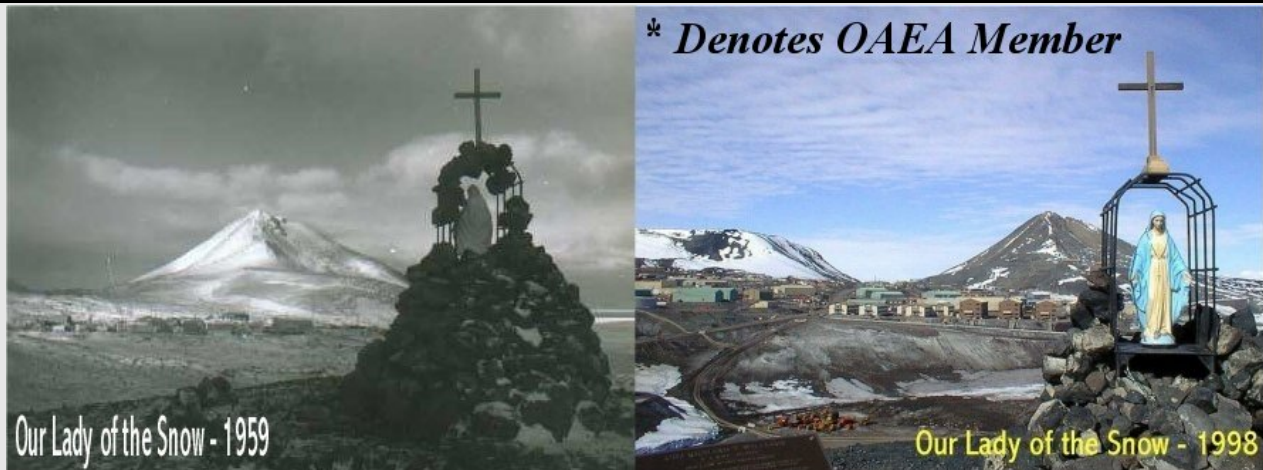
Nine years later, Bursey returned to the ice as a member of the United States Antarctic Service Expedition of 1939-1941 (commonly known as Byrd III) leaving behind a wife and child. This time he learned the full meaning of the long Antarctic Night and what it meant to men who were no longer young enough to be immune to the ties of home and family. On this expedition, he again served as a dog driver and with two companions made a 1220-mile journey of 83 days duration to the Hal Flood Range in Marie Byrd Land. In recognition for this achievement, Admiral Byrd named mountains after the three men.



Bursey and King, one of the great lead dogs of Antarctic Exploration

Bursey went back to the ice again in 1955 for the last time as a member of Deep Freeze I. During the winter, Bursey was the leader of a seven-man trail party, this time by snowmobile instead of dogs, 381 miles eastward from Little America V into the crevasse-ridden area of Maria Byrd Land. He was part of a new era in Antarctic Exploration—a completely mechanized exploration of the continent—a well-organized, all-out assault with tractors and weasels instead of dogs and man hauling. The adventurous era was ended. Civilization had invaded Antarctica and South Polar exploration would never be the same.

Editor's Note: Jack Bursey died on 23 March 1980, in Shelby, Michigan.



I N M E M O R Y

*OAE CAPT Albert L. Raithel, JR. USN (Ret), 78, died on 30 March 2008, in Fairfax, VA. Al served in VX-6 during DF-II. He was also a member of the Antarctic Deep Freeze Association (ADFA).

OAE George "Penny" Benjamin Noyes Trundy, 70, died on 19 March 2008, in Stonington, ME. Penny served on the RV *Hero* and the USNS *Eltanin*. Trundy Island is named in his honor.

*OAE Norvin "Kip" Smith, 61, died on 13 March 2008, in Warwick, RI. Kip served in ASA and wintered-over during DF-70 as an SK2.

OAE Jack L. Trice, 71, died on 8 March 2008, in Portland, ME. Jack served as a meteorologist at Byrd Station during DF-65. Trice Islands are named in his honor.

OAE Vernon P. Floyd, 79, died on 6 March 2008, in Kingwood, TX. Vernon participated in Highjump. Name of unit unknown.

OAE Brooks Conrad, 88, died 3 March 2008, in Winterhaven, FL. Brooks made four trips to Antarctica in a tourist capacity. He was a member of the Antarctic Society.

OAE CAPT Robert C. Newcomb, USN (Ret), 81, died on 29 February 2008, in Fairfax, VA. Bob served as the navigator on the USS *Glacier* as a LT during DF-I and II. Newcomb Bay is named in his honor.

OAE HMC Garland Francis Johnson, USN (Ret), died on 24 February 2008, in Hillsborough, NC. Garland served during Highjump. Name of unit unknown.

OAE CPO George Joseph Kelley Jr., USN (Ret), 85, died on 24 February, 2008, in Virginia Beach, VA. George served in CBU-201 at McMurdo and Palmer Stations during DF-67.

OAE Edward John Galla, 77, died on 20 February 2008, in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Edward served as the OIC and doctor at Byrd Station during DF-V. Mount Galla is named in his honor.

*OAE CS1 Robert G. Smart, USN (Ret), 77, died on 17 February 2008, in Green Cove Springs, FL. Bob was in ASA and served as the winter-over cook at Eights Station during DF-65. Mount Smart is named in his honor.

OAE Dr Gerald Frank Webers, PhD, 76, died on 14 February 2008, in Roseville, MN. Gerald made 14 trips to Antarctica; four as a graduate student; once as leader of his own team; and the rest as a lecturer on cruise ships. Webers Peaks is named in his honor.

OAE Ron Chippindale, 75, died on 12 February 2008, in Porirua, NZ. Ron was the chief investigator in the Air New Zealand flight TE-901 that crashed into the northern slopes of Mount Erebus on 29 November 1979. The crash killed all 237 passengers and a crew of 20. Ron visited Antarctica in that capacity.

Pembroke J. Hart, 79, died on 6 February 2008, in Arlington, VA. Pembroke served during the IGY as a member of the technical panel on seismology and gravity. Hart Hills is named in his honor.

OAE Bennie F. Barnes, USN (Ret) 82, died on 1 February 2008, in Panama City Beach, FL. Bennie served in Antarctica as a Seabee. Date(s) and unit unknown.

OAE Steve Malais, 45, died on 3 February 2008, in Anderson, CA. Steve served on the USCGC *Glacier* during DF-84

OAE Dale Samuel Millican, 60, died on 29 January 2008, in Puyallup, WA. Dale worked as a USAP contractor on the ice during the austral summer of 1986.

OAE CDR Wallace Dean Smith, USNR (Ret), died on 26 January 2008, in Manassas, VA. Wallace served during DF-71. Unit served with unknown.

OAE Michael Pavlak, died on 23 January 2008, in Reston VA. Mike served with the USAP contractor Holmes and Narver at McMurdo, South Pole, and Palmer Stations from 1976-80.

OAE Ivan Errol "Ike" Gray, USN (Ret), 78, died on 18 January 2008, in Christchurch, NZ. Ike served in VX-6 during DF-III.

OAE BGEN Stanley W. Hemstreet, USAF (Ret), died on 20 January 2008, in Scotia, NY. Gen Hemstreet was the CO of the NYANG 109th Airlift Wing and made one deployment to the ice before he retired.

OAE HMCS Frederick Bell, USN (Ret), 78, died on 15 January 2008 in Mulino, OR. Fred wintered-over at McMurdo with the PM-3A Crew III during DF-64.

OAE Sir Edmund Hillary, 88, died on 10 January 2008, in Auckland, NZ. Sir Ed visited Antarctica numerous times. Hillary Coast is named in his honor. See story on pages 9 and 10.

OAE Friedhelm "Fred" Farsch, 58 of Bellevue WA, died on 4 January 2008, in Ushuaia, Argentina while on an Antarctic cruise. Fred had visited Antarctica five times in a tourist capacity.

*OAE Sir Robert Baden Thomson, OBE, 80, died on 3 January 2008, in Moneta, VA. Bob was a native of New Zealand and made numerous trips to Antarctica including a winter at Hallett Station during DF-III. He was also a member of the OAEA Tidewater Group, the New Zealand Antarctic Society, the ADFA, the ANARE Club, and the American Polar Society (APS). Thomson Massif and Thomson Peak are named in his honor. See story on pages 10 and 11.

OAE Richard H. Banasiak, USN (Ret), 86, died on 18 January 2008, in Scotia, NY. Richard wintered-over at Little America Station V during DF-II. He was a member of the ADFA.

*OAE George Toney, 89, died on 17 January 2008, in Bethesda, MD. George served as the Station Scientific Leader at Byrd Station during DF-II. Toney Mountain is named in his honor. He was also a member of the ADFA, The Antarctic Society, and the APS.

*OAE Col Robert McLean Behr, USAF (Ret), 86, died on 27 December 2007, in Milton, FL. Robert was on the U.S. Antarctica Policy Board during the 1970-71. He was a member of the OAEA GCG. Behr Glacier is named in his honor.

OAE David H. Green, age 68, died on 26 December 2007, in Monterey, CA. David served with the USGS during DF-61. Green Valley is named in his honor.

OAEA SMC Jack Richard Wright, USAF (Ret), 79, died on 20 December 2007, in Seffner, FL. Unit served with and date(s) unknown.

OAE Garland E. Giles, USAF (Ret), 85, died on 17 December 2007, in Charleston, SC. Garland flew Antarctic re-supply missions. Unit and year(s) unknown.

*OAE Bernard E. "Gene" Brush, 66, died on 21 November 2007, Lafayette, CO. Gene wintered-over four times in both a military and civilian capacity. Brush Glacier is named in his honor.

OAE Capt Jackson Raymer, USN (Ret), 92, died on 19 October 2007, in Falls Church, VA. Jackson served on the USS *Edisto*. Year(s) unknown.

*OAE HMC Owen R. Lyon, USN, (RET), 79, died on 9 June 2007, in Lynden, WA. Owen wintered over at Eights Station during DF-65 as the CPOIC. Lyon Nunataks is named in his honor.

OAE Claude Stanley, 82, died on 6 May 2007, in Crossville, AL. Claude served in VX-6 in the early 60s as an LC-130 Flight Engineer.

*OAE John B. Brown, 80, died on 7 July 2006, in New Castle, DE. John wintered-over at Ellsworth Station during DF-II as an ionospheric scientist. He was also a member of the ADFA. Brown Nunataks are named in his honor.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Denis Casey—OAEA Chaplain

The sacred scriptures testify to a profound experience of God's creative power and guidance over our world.

Surely the psalmist was referring to Antarctica when he wrote in Psalm 8:

"When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,
The moon and the stars which you arranged".

Many who spend time there return changed. They now more often share a greater respect for nature and the Author of nature.



Reflecting on the White Continent, especially it's massive size, it's majestic beauty, and it's awesome weather, another psalm comes to mind.

"He hurls down rain stones like crumbs
The waters are frozen at His touch;
He sends forth His word and it melts them
At the breath of His mouth the waters flow".

Modern news reports have focused much attention on environment issues, global cooling or is it global warming, greenhouse gases, melting polar ice, and rising sea levels.

For many years Antarctica has become a model of environmental protection, international cooperation and scientific research.

And when the scientific research support by our efforts continues to provide valuable information many years later, there is great satisfaction in being an OAE.

OAEA Southwest Meeting

By Jim Maddox

The OAEA Southwest Group held its first official lunch meeting at the Sunrise Buffet in San Ysidro, CA on January 26th. We had a good turnout—12 members, a few spouses, and one guest for a total of 16 people. We all enjoyed a tasty lunch and social time to introduce ourselves and chat about what we did in the Antarctic when we were there. As it turned out, we had about an equal number of members from VX-6/VXE-6, Seabees, and ASA/NSFA.

If any OAEA members would like to join us at our next lunch meeting on 17 May, you can contact me at 661-945-0469 or Jmaddflyn@cs.com.



Group Photo OAEA Southwest Group

Members attending were Jim Maddox, Ken Rowe, Dick Masters, Jim & Ruth Eblen, Ken Stein, Hal McKoon, John & Consuelo Barnes, Cy & Mildred Buehler, Bob & Linda Gaboury, Val Johnston, Gus Hems, and John Wood (guest).

During the meeting, we discussed the official group name, by-laws, membership form, finance and dues, tax exemption status and next meeting location. Cy Buehler volunteered to find a location for our next gathering, which will be in the Laguna Hills/Orange County area in California on 17 May. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the date.



Above and below: Inside the Sunrise Buffet



OAEA Donor Awards

Submitted by Jim O'Connell

There are now 84 Little Blue Penguin, 41 Bronze Adelie, 2 Gold Adelie, 4 Silver Adelie, and 1 Emperor Club Members. Asterisks indicate new donors, or donors who have reached the next level.

BLUE Donations of \$50 (1st 100 only)
2006 OAEA Reunion Committee

Anderson, Stuart & Audrey
Baker, Ashlee F.
Baker, Billy-Ace
Baker, Jamie
Baker, Sean
Baker, Tracey
Biery, Roger W.
Blackwelder, Billy
Blewett, Thomas
Bolt, Ron L.
Boyer, Robert E.
Bracken, Harold
Buehler, Cyril
Cabrera, Quirino
Callender, Gordon W.
Capozzoli, Albert A.
Communicator Group Fund
Conklin, Harold
Cordes, Fauno
Damvelt, Karen
Debacker, Ann
DeLeon, Emilio
*Dempsey, William B.
Dieckhoff, Charlotte M.
Diller, Marty & Bev
Dostal, W (Dusty) A.
Dryfoose, Buz & Sam
DuBeau, Earl
Epperly, Robert M.
Eubanks, Paul
*Faulhaber, Robert J.
Gillich, Pete D.
Giro, John
*Giro, Mary V.
Gulf Coast Group
Hall, Richard M.
Halpern, Barry
Hartman, Susan M.
Helfrich, Carl & Barbara
Henley, Elizabeth
Henley, Joseph

Herman, Andrew "Tony"
Higdon, John C.
Hilt, John W.
Hutchinson-Sabbatini, Kristan
Jernigan, Laura
*Klinger, Gerald F.
Konrad, Bradley, N.C.
Konrad, Kerry
Konrad, Robert D.
Konrad, Robert K. A.
Landy, James
Landy Pam
*Lightsey, Elvin G.
Lippka, Ray E.
Loftus, Leo G.
Morris, Marion E.
Morton, John E.
Moulder, Evelyn
Munson, Evelyn
*Northrup, David A.
OAEA Gulf Coast Group
O'Neal, Jerry
Owler, Robert
Phillips, Elmer F.
Rubin, Harry
*Sheets, Martha
Spindler, Bill
Snow, Laura
Snyder, Mary Margaret
Spaulding, Richard
*Spencer, Erwin J.
Splain, Vincent F.
*Startz, Donna
Taylor, William C.
Toney, Phillip
Tri Star Engineering, Inc
VX/VXE-6 Para-Rescue Team
Werner, Alexander
West, John Lamont
Whitehead, Eugene
Wick Jr. Howard J.
Wilson, Gwendolyn
Wilson, John "Moon"
Yow, Maxine V.
BRONZE Donations of \$100
Baker, Ashlee F.
Baker, Jamie
Baker, Sean
Baker, Tracey
Biery, Roger W.
Bolt, Ron L.

Boyer, Robert E.
Bracken, Harold
Buehler, Cyril
Cabrera, Quirino
Capozzoli, Albert A.
Conklin, Harold
Diller, Marty & Bev
Dostal, W (Dusty) A.
Epperly, Robert M.
*Giro, John J.
*Giro, Mary V.
Hall, Richard M.
Halpern, Barry
Henley, Elizabeth
Henley, Joseph
Higdon, John C.
Jernigan, Laura
Konrad, Bradley, N.C.
Konrad, Kerry
Konrad, Robert D.
Konrad, Robert K. A.
Landy, James
Landy Pam
Morton, John E.
Munson, Evelyn
O'Neal, Jerry
Owler, Robert
Phillips, Elmer F.
Snow, Laura
Snyder, Mary Margaret
Spaulding, Richard
*Spencer, Erwin J.
Splain, Vincent F.
*Startz, Donna
Taylor, William C.
Toney, Phillip
Werner, Alexander
Whitehead, Eugene
Yow, Maxine
GOLD Donations of \$500
Cordes, Fauno
Herman, Andrew "Tony"
SILVER Donations of \$1,000
2006 OAEA Reunion Committee
Baker, Billy-Ace
Biery, Roger
VX/VXE-6 Para-Rescue Team
EMPEROR Donations of \$5,000
Communicator Group Fund

2008 Reunion Update

by Billy-Ace Baker

ANYONE PLANNING ON TRAVELING TO THE REUNION by air are urged to make their reservations as early as possible because there will be a reduction in airline service to and from the Pensacola Regional Airport due to cutbacks in flights and reductions in airline personnel. The

airport expects a 4 to 8 percent reduction in seat capacity. The full extent of the losses will not be known until this coming fall.

Airport officials are recommending that anyone planning to travel to Pensacola during the 2008 holiday season should consider buying their tickets as early as possible.



OAEA TIDEWATER GROUP MEETINGS & NEWS

by Ed Hamblin

Editor's Note: I misplaced Ed's submission for the Oct-Dec 2007 issue of the Gazette and for this I apologize. But better late than never.

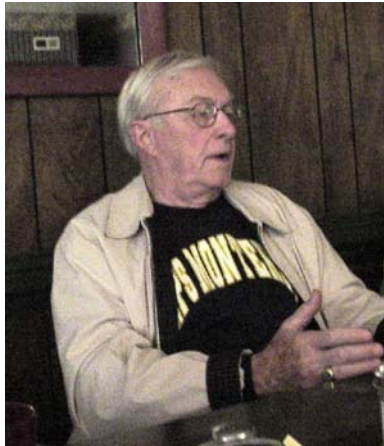
Just before Christmas, a few of the "more or less regulars" of the Tidewater, Virginia area Old Antarctic Explorers Association met for a couple of hours of socializing. Taking a break from Christmas shopping, NASCAR, endless rounds of college football games, and other holiday preparations, eight of the Tidewater few were able to enjoy each other's company and work on solving a few of the world problems.

The attendees at the December meeting were Jim Silverstorf, Ed Hamblin, Neil Sugermeyer, Wayne Rogers, Robert Cardona, Charlie Thompson, Bob Cantrell, and Brad Miller. The next get together will be in early March at a place and date yet to be determined.



German Bi-Plane

There is a fellow here with a "freelance" air museum, and I am going to suggest that the March Tidewater OAEA "outing" be held there, with a couple of our ex-VX6/VXE-6 guys as the resident experts. Bob Cantrell and Neil Sugermeyer were both pilots, and could probably provide a nice insight that a guy like me wouldn't normally get. The museum is private and quite extensive with a number of flying military aircraft.



Bob Cantrell at the December Meeting tells a big one.



Wayne Rogers Operation Highjump

Also, Wayne Rogers having been part of Highjump has taken an active part in the campaign effort to recover the bodies from the aircraft lost during Highjump that has been in the news. Wayne is very much a renaissance kind of guy; he joined the Navy well underage, and was discharged before his 17th birthday. He participated in Highjump and was one of the Sailors who rode in a small boat to break the water surface so the seaplanes could take off. They were out there doing that in very rudimentary clothing, with none of the survival gear we had available to us in later years on the ice. Later he went back in the Navy, eventually retiring as a Senior Chief. After retirement, he was in the school system, eventually becoming an administrator, and as he related to us, because of his leadership, was "drafted" into becoming a principal.

I am also including a few pictures taken at the December meeting. The dimmer ones are because I didn't plan ahead and showed up with half-assed, mostly discharged batteries, and no spares—the flash only hung on for a couple of shots—totally dead before I could get a group shot. Oh well, the quality of the hired help.



Robert Cardona, DF-80, at the December Gathering



**Bob Cantrell, Les Kunde and Bill Raymus
at the Air Museum**

On the 8th of March, a very small group of us—the only members who showed up, besides myself, were: Bob Cantrell, Bill Raymus, and Les Kunde. Identification shouldn't be too hard—got together for a walk through aviation history. Virginia Beach boasts a private collection of flyable WW-II and Korean War era warplanes, along with some other odds and ends including a very “cherry” Jaguar, a German 88MM field gun, a German staff car and motorcycle, Russian and other German aircraft, a British Spitfire, and other treats.



Brad Miller, NSFA DF-75, December get together

The US Navy “side” includes a PBY, Stearman Trainer, an Avenger, Corsair, and others. We spent a couple of hours at the site, with Bob Cantrell, a retired Marine Corps pilot providing the rest of us (Blackshoes and a Seabee) colorful commentary. The collection numbers about 40 different pieces. The collection is housed at the Virginia Beach Airport just south of beautiful downtown Pungo. If any of you find yourself in the area with time on your hands, the collection is well worth a visit. Paste this link (<http://www.fighterfactory.com/airport/pilotonline.php>) in your browser to read more about the collection. The price is right (free) and accessible seven days a week.

If you aren't already receiving email from Ed Hamblin with get-together details and would like to be added to the email distribution or receive a phone call about the next

Tidewater event contact Ed at email ehamblin@cox.net; or phone at 757 405 3362.

Ed Hamblin

Navy Cargo Handling Battalion One

In late January Ed contacted the Executive Officer, LCDR Paul Melvey, of NCHB-1 at the Cheatham Annex in Williamsburg with the following message:

I am the local “pivot man” for the Tidewater area Old Antarctic Explorers Association. I was one of the lucky Navy guys who wintered over in the early 70s, and I made subsequent summer deployments during the years 1975-78.

We have a small active social/networking group locally made up of mostly military retirees who spent time on the ice in various capacities while on active duty; some with Antarctic Development Squadron Six and with the exception of one gentleman who was with Operation Highjump in 1946-47, the rest of us were with the Naval Support Force Antarctica during the “Navy years”. We get together quarterly for lunch and to socialize for a couple of hours. Most of us are in our 60s or older now, and all of our “ice” material is dated. As you stated in the *Navy Times* article: “There are so few opportunities to go down to Antarctica for anyone”. We all felt lucky that we got to go, and the memories stick with us forever

I would like to extend an open invitation to any of your personnel to come to our get togethers, especially to share with us and bring us up to date with things from their perspective; we would like a sense of the “now”. The group would especially welcome photos from your last deployment. Our next “do” will be in June.

Additionally, your personnel who have deployed to the ice are eligible for membership in the Old Antarctic Explorers Association. Your personnel may not be aware such an organization exists. Our web site is located at: <http://www.oaea.net>. I have included this link to our web site so that they can check it out for themselves

I would appreciate it if you would distribute this email as you see fit; to anyone who would like to be included in my local email tree to be kept abreast of our get togethers. My home email is ehamblin@cox.net. Thank you for your time.

V/R Ed Hamblin

OAEA Scholarship Program

In the Oct-Dec 2007 issue of the *Explorer's Gazette*, Ed discussed the scholarship program in detail including the sources of funding and he outlined the requirements and the steps to be taken to apply for a grant.

Since Ed's article appeared in the *Gazette*, the Scholarship page on the OAEA website has been revised and the Scholarship Application for the 2008-2009 school year has been posted and is available for downloading. For OAEA members who are not Internet capable, a scholarship application form may be obtained by contacting Ed Hamblin at 757 405 3362.

NEW OAEA MEMBERS

The below listed personnel have joined the OAEA since the Oct-Dec 2007 issue of the *Gazette*.

Thanks to Gus Shinn, Bill Vogel, eBay, Ken "Pig Pen" Henry aka Big John, "CB" Bevilacqua, Jim Kanes, Hoot Hartman, Aaron Tanzabel, Billy Blackwelder, Charlie, Sweeney, Eliane Hood, Glen Kellerman, Gregg Landy, John Colson, John Barell, Marty Diller (10), Elizabeth Chipman, Glen Harris, and Les Liptak, for recruiting new members or for providing names and contact info for prospective members.

*Denotes Associate member

Asher, Bill E-8	Life	57-59, 66-67, 72-74
Barnett, Kerry HM1	Life	VXE-6 96-99
Beebe, Morton P. LTJG	Life	CTF-43 Staff DF-II-IV
Brown, Tony PNC	Life	VX/E-6 65-67, 70-71
Bruce, Beattie, CIV	*Annual	NE Chap Groupie
Calhoun, Tania CIV	Annual	Quark 07-08
Chelton, Ed CAPT	Life	Highjump
Chelton, Nellie CIV	*Life	Spouse GCG
Curtis "Crash" PH1/CDR	Commem	WO DF-67, SS DF-80
Davis, Michael CIV	*Life	Friend of IGY
Eaton, John PRC	Life	VX/E-6 67-70
Evans, Quinn SK3	Life	NSFA DF-83
Faulhaber, Robert CIV	Life	USAP Contractor 90-95
Hale, Irma CIV	Life	McMurdo DF-01
Harris, Virgil AVCM	Annual	VXE-6 70-74, 77-80
Hawtin, David R. LT	Life	NSFA DF-74-75
Helfrich, Nancy CIV	Life	NOK of Gene Brush
Henderson, Thomas CIV	Annual	79-82, 97-98
Homewood, Jeffrey AE2	Life	VX-6 68-70
Howell, John D. LCDR	Life	Highjump
Hudson, William AGCS	Life	NSFA 80-83
Koester, Thomas MCPO	Life	ASA DF-62
Kopplin, Richard RM1	Annual	ASA WO DF-71
Lee-Martin, Geoffrey CIV	Life	NZ TAE 56-58
Lightsey, Elvin CDR	Life	Det-1 OIC 68-71
Oates, Robert C. BUL3	Life	MCB-8 62-64
Pelegirino, Mary CIV	*Annual	NE Chap Spouse
Pool, Laurie PR1	Life	VXE-6 95-98
Richardson, C. CAPT	Life	NSFA DF-74
Rock, Chris Civ	Life	South Pole WO DF-00
Rodrigue, Normand EO1	Annual	WO McMurdo DF-74
Ronne, Edith CIV	Life	WO RARE 47-48
Schaefer, Herbert ATCS	Annual	VX-6 67-69
Spencer, Erwin LCDR	Life	Highjump
Spitovsky, Valerly SRLT	Life	USSR 63-64
Stuart, Alfred CIV	Life	Mirny & Vostok
Tamplet, Walter ABHC	Life	Scott Base 59-60
Tanzabel, Aaron AG2	Annual	VX/E-6 64-68, 70-72
Vaughn, Edward LTCOL	Life	NSFA 82-85
Vogel, William A. ABHC	Life	NYANG DF-93-01
Weihaupt, John CIV	Life	VXE-6 DF-75-78
Westhall, Christian CM3	Life	Traverse 59-63
Widdicombe, William IC3	Life	ASA DF-72
Wright, Norman CDR	Life	USS <i>Wyandot</i> 55-59
		NSF DF-04

REUNION INFORMATION

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

MCB-71: Washington, DC (Arlington, VA), 5–10 Aug 2008. POC Jerry Montecupo, jmontecupo@comcast.net, 412 373 3096, 2548 Pitcairn Rd, Monroeville, PA 15146.

USS Merrick (AKA-97): Portland, OR, 7–11 Sept 2008. POC Dick Bonn, 503 982 7117, dcbonn@wbccable.net. USS *Merrick* served during Highjump.

USS Currituck (AV-7): Location Portland OR, 4–7 Sept 2008. POC Robert Curtis, 360 433 9759, va52gunner@aol.com. USS *Currituck* served during Highjump.

USS Curtiss (AV-4): Branson, MO, 3–6 Sept 2008. POC John C. Ekstadt, jcekstadt@frontiernet.net, 952 891 5954. USS *Curtiss* served during DF-II

USS Wilhoite (DER-397): Branson, MO, 17–21 Sept 2008. POC John Mauldin, 405 354 9204, cporetrn@cox.net. USS *Wilhoite* served during DF-61

Det Alfa DF-73 Winter-Over: Seattle, WA 3–7 Sept 2008. POC Ron Hudson, 503 620 3515, cdrsalmdr@netscape.net, 16715 SW Cambridge Ln, Durham OR 97224

USS Pine Island (AV-12): Atlantic City, NJ, 14–16 Oct 2008. POC Susan Crotzer, 205 621 3106, reztor@bellsouth.net. USS *Pine Island* served during Highjump.

USS Hissem (DER-400): Port Canaveral, FL, 18–25 Oct 2008. POC Bob Morstadt, 631 981 2584, morstadt@optonline.net. USS *Hissem* served during DF-64

USS Yancey (AKA-93): Seattle, WA, 2–5 Oct 2008. POC George Clifton, 708 425 8531, clifs@ameritech.net. USS *Yancey* served during Highjump.

USCGC Southwind (WAGB-280): Charlestown, SC, 16–20 Oct 2008. POC Edward Clancy, 904 242 9070, clancyedward@bellsouth.net, 888 6th St N. Jacksonville Beach FL 32250. USCGC *Southwind* served during DF-68, 69, and 72.

Old Antarctic Explorers Association (OAEA): Pensacola Beach, FL, 5–7 Nov. 2008. POC Les Liptak, lcliptak@cox.net, 850 492 1666, 5220 Choctaw Avenue, Pensacola FL 32507.

Det Alfa DF-70 Winter-Over: Savannah, GA, Spring 2009. Dates and details to be published later.

ADFA: Madison, WI, Spring 2009. Dates and details to be published later.

OAE LOCATOR

- Jon Farrell is looking for a Belgium professor who was on the ice during DF-67. See Jon's letter in this issue. Anyone who know the name and/or location of the professor can contact Jon at jonbarakajak@btinternet.com or 17 Whitecroft, St Aldans, Hertz, AL11UU, England
- MRC Tim Pendergast, USN (Ret) is looking for MRI Mike Johnson who was in Deep Freeze from the late 70s through 1983. Tim can be reached at: tpendergas@state.pa.us, or 104 South Second Street, Wormleysburg, PA 17043, Phone: 717-763-6867
- Juliet Lamont is looking for anyone who knew her father James "Jim" Campbell Graham who served at Scott Base during 1978-79. Her Dad was one of the Happy Camper Survival Scholl Instructions. Juliet can be contacted at 86 Roberts Street, Camperdown, Sydney, NSW 2050 Australia or by email at: juliet_lamont@hotmail.com
- Don Moriarty is still looking for photos and information about the ONTOS Tank that was on the ice during DF-I. Don received one photo from Dave Grisez in connection with his previous Locator Column entry in the Jul-Sep 2006 Gazette. Don may be contacted at donmor3@yahoo.com or 401 W. Main Street, Vine Grove, KY 40175.
- Valeriy "Matt" Spitzkovsky is trying to locate a Seabee by the name of Ed Grove, or a name that sounds like Grove, who was at Vostok Station during the summer of DF-64. Matt does not remember if Grove was with the MCB-8 detachment or Antarctic Support Activities (ASA) Public Works. Matt was the only Russian at Vostok who could speak any English and he acted as a translator for the Seabees who were engaged in construction work at Vostok in connection with the USA Exchange Scientist who wintered-over at Vostok that year. Matt can be contacted at: 30 Washington St, #64, Brighton MA 02135, 613 232 4170, or mspitzkovsky@mos.org.
- Nancy Farrell is conducting a Seabee oral history project on behalf of the US Navy. She would like to interview anyone who was stationed on Guam in the Mariana Islands from 1944-1956. She can be reached at:

Nancy Farrell
Cultural Resource Management Services
829 Paso Robles Street
Paso Robles, California 93446
Phone: 805 237 3838 or 800 676 1630
Email: nancy@crms.com

- James Moore was involved with the recovery operations for 319 and 321 and he would like to contact or be contacted by anyone else who was involved. James can be reached at: jtm2@charter.net, or 51 N. Cedar St. Cloudland GA 30731.



Cartoon Contest: Write a caption and send it to the Editor. Best caption wins two OAEA window decals.

GLOSSARY OF SNOW AND ICE

Compiled and edited by Billy-Ace Baker



German Equivalent: *Fraulein on der Schneebrucke*

Avalanche — Mass of snow that becomes detached and slides down a slope, often acquiring great mass by fresh additions as it descends. Norwegian equivalent: *Snoskred*.

Brash Ice — Accumulation of floating ice made up of fragments not more than 2m across. Spanish equivalent: *Escombros de Hielo*.

Ice Canopy — Pack ice from the point of view of a submerged object such as a diver or a submarine. French equivalent: *Plafond de Glace*.

Powder Snow — A thin dry snow surface that is composed of loose, fresh ice crystals. Norwegian equivalent: *Pulversno*.

Snow Bridge — An arch formed by snow that has drifted over a crevasse, forming a cornice, and ultimately a covering that may completely obscure the opening. Russian equivalent: *Snezhnyy most*.