

**ANTARCTICA:
A NEW LOOK
VOL. 2**

ANTARCTICA

A NEW LOOK



*Donated to the
Seabee Museum
P.O. Hueneville CA
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William Bushall Jr
CE - from the
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WINTER — OVER PROGRAM



DETACHMENT ALFA is comprised of the four United States Antarctic Stations conducting an Antarctic winter-over program. These are: McMurdo Station on Ross Island, the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station at the geographic pole, Palmer Station on the Antarctic peninsula, and Siple Station located roughly in the center of a triangle formed by the other three.

The Commanding Officer of DETACHMENT ALFA, CDR. George R. Blessing, at McMurdo Station, is tasked with the coordination of the winter program on the Antarctic continent and preparations for the expanded program of the Antarctic summer.

All of these stations are physically isolated during the winter season except for Palmer Station where an occasional ship or small aircraft from one of the other national programs may drop in when ice and weather conditions permit. The stations are bound together by radio communication and receive overall guidance from the Commander, Naval Support Force, Antarctica, Davisville, R. I.

Each station has civilian scientists who conduct a variety of scientific projects. Their activities are coordinated by a senior science leader at each station, a senior science representative at McMurdo Station, and overall direction from the Office of Polar Projects, National Science Foundation, Washington, D. C.





McMURDO STATION



LATITUDE : 77° 51' S
LONGITUDE : 166° 37' E
ELEVATION : SEA LEVEL



Another winter begins at McMurdo

Of the four Antarctic stations, McMurdo is the largest. It includes facilities to support a population of over a thousand persons during the busy summer season. During the winter, however, the population dwindles, this year to 152 Navy men, 7 civilian scientists and one Soviet exchange scientist.

The weather at McMurdo Station is almost an average between the bitter cold at Pole Station, and the relatively mild weather at Palmer Station. The minimum temperature this winter was 39 degrees below zero while the mean was minus 7 degrees. The sun set for the winter on 24 April, and didn't rise again until 20 August, leaving McMurdo in the dark for most of the winter. There were no really serious storms, and the total snowfall was only a few inches.

The Naval contingent at McMurdo, led by Cdr. G. R. Blessing, Officer-In-Charge of the station, provides heat, light, electricity, water and whatever else may be needed to support

the scientific projects involved. At the same time it is Navy responsibility to prepare the station in every conceivable way for the expanded summer operating season.

Along with their duties of support and summer preparation, there was a considerable amount of Navy project work done at McMurdo.

In addition to these special projects, the routine overhaul of machinery, equipment and vehicles consumed hundreds of man-hours. The sorting and careful storage of tons of supplies arriving late last summer required hundreds more. All the elements of a small city were furnished as well. Such things as a post office, radio-telephone service to the United States, a pay office, ship's store, a newspaper, a movie theater, The Chapel of the Snows and many recreational activities were provided.

To sum it all up, it has been a winter of great accomplishment at McMurdo Station.



CAPTAIN EUGENE VAN REETH, National Science Foundation Representative, bids a final farewell to Commander George Blessing, then boards the last aircraft leaving the ice, on 28 February 1973 -- thus we begin our winter on the ice as Detachment ALFA, U.S. Naval Support Force, Antarctica. Then (BELOW) "Three-Two-Zero" dips its wings as it leaves Williams Field, saying goodbye to the men of the winter-over party at McMurdo Station.



The sun sets on McMurdo



AS SHADOWS LENGTHEN with the setting sun, the Huskies and the Sled become present-day monuments to Antarctic exploration.



THE VIEW OF McMurdo Station from Transmitter Hill (ABOVE) shows clearly that as sunlight begins to wane, sea ice is already beginning to accumulate. Later, McMurdo Sound will be completely frozen over.

THE LIGHTED TOWER of the Chapel of the Snows serves as a guiding light to travelers around McMurdo during the long winter night, and as a source of inspiration to those who use the Chapel for their regular place of worship.





“Seabee Queen” selected in tough competition

REIGNING IN ALL "HER" Beauty as "Seabee Queen", Construction Mechanic second class Bud Swank is escorted by Construction Mechanic second class Ken Searfoss. Equipment Operator Robert Wilson (BELOW) says hello to the "Seabee Queen" and seems to be getting more than he bargained for.



WHEN THE KIWIS AND Americans get together, one is in store for many spoofs. Construction Mechanic Chief Quentin Wilson (LEFT) supervises the preparation of food and drink, while Construction Electrician second class Bill Bushall and Construction Electrician first class Barney Baker combine their talents to do a skit for the gracious hosts of Scott Base.



Quentin Wilson

Winter work begins at McMurdo



OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF the PM-3A Nuclear Power Plant, Jerry Schlordet, (ABOVE LEFT) waits for the go-no-go signal from the radiation hands and foot monitor, while Radiation Health Physics Supervisor, Chief Hospital Corpsman John Orr (ABOVE RIGHT) watches the results of the Mohr test for chlorides.



INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN, Joe Marquez, performs preventative maintenance on the heart of a seventy-four point temperature scan (ABOVE) This is referred to by PM-3A as "open heart surgery". (AT

RIGHT) Construction Electrician first class, Barney Baker performs the hourly equipment check of a water distillation unit. This unit produces 10 fresh gallons of water per minute from the sea.



LTJG LEROY SAUERWINE DIRECTS activity (ABOVE) as Builder third class William Nixon and Builder first class Paul Renaud prepare to close the entrance to one of the Williams Field buildings.





UTILITIESMAN FIRST CLASS John Cantu (BELOW) checks the refrigeration plant in the galley to assure proper functioning. (BELOW RIGHT) Watch supervisor, Les Strawbridge, makes an entry in the operations log at the nuclear power plant.



THE ELECTRONICS MONITOR, Hayden M. Mercer, Hospital Corpsman first class, is assisted by a member of Public Works, Equipment Operator second class Donald J. Hudlemeyer, in preparing (FAR LEFT) a spent core shipping cask for 30,000 curies of radioactive material. Meanwhile, (LEFT) Dudley Wells, Specialist 6th class, U.S. Army, double checks the pressure of the main turbine lube oil system at the nuclear power plant. The three Holmes and Narver employees, (BELOW) Jim Prill, Fred Dotterer, and Pat Arendt battle a bulky torque wrench as they conduct equipment maintenance.



Constructing the "world's largest icecube"



Two of the biggest projects this winter were the construction of the ice wharf, as pictured here, and the Marble Point Logistics effort. The latter involved the prepositioning of fifty thousand gallons of fuel, plus considerable supplies at Marble Point (about fifty miles from McMurdo) for the Dry Valley Drilling Project. This effort will save about two hundred helicopter trips. The ice wharf should save the many man-hours of struggle devoted last year to preparation of the pier area for offloading ships.



BEFORE THE WHARF can be flooded, pump houses must be constructed (ABOVE). Storekeeper second class Art Huntington and Utilitiesman second class Dennis Larochelle finish up the snow wall forms, (LEFT). After the forms are filled with snow and water and frozen, Builder first class Bob Singer takes them apart (BELOW).





Great food provided at modern mess

GOOD FOOD IS definitely a morale factor in Antarctica. ABOVE, Hull Technician second class Dave Curtis and USARP Don Baker ogle the fine fare of the "Emperor's Palace." By contrast, the old cooking stove remains intact at Scott's Hut (BELOW). Two of the pans still hold pieces of seal meat cooked by Scott's party in 1910.



STOREKEEPER SECOND CLASS Art Huntington (TOP) takes an order at the "Emperor's Palace" restaurant-style mess hall as Ships Servicemen second class Mike Bryant and Joe Noel look on. ABOVE, Utilitiesman second class Carl Pierce adds the finishing touch to a floral arrangement for the "Palace". Commisaryman first class Andrew Toms cuts individual portions for the men lined up for a noon meal (LEFT).

Antarctica offers unique opportunity for oath-taking

THE UNIQUENESS OF Antarctica offers many opportunities to "be different" when it comes to shipping over. At Scott Base, (RIGHT) LCDR Cecil Harper Jr., winter over chaplain, gives the oath to three men, Radioman Chief Charles Powers, Yeoman second class Charles D. Connelly, and Radioman second class Ronald M. Neff.



COMMANDING OFFICER, CDR George Blessing gives the oath (ABOVE) to Utilitiesman first class James W. Turnbull who chose the world's largest man-made iceberg as his location to go for another six years. Traveling to Castle Rock, a party of nine watched as LCDR Earl Fisher, the winter over dentist gives the oath to Builder first class Donald Penner (ABOVE RIGHT). Storekeeper second class John Williams (RIGHT) takes the oath inside the phone booth at Scott Base while his wife 2350 miles north in Christchurch, listens. Construction Electrician third class Michael Delves (BELOW RIGHT) gets things back to normal as he receives the oath in the office of the commanding officer.



The men handle their jobs with competence

TELETYPE TAPES COVER the decks of the communications office after a busy day (LEFT). Radiomen second class James Longstreth and Vito Mazzeo tidy up a bit after a heavy load of traffic was transmitted to Christchurch. BELOW, Ships Serviceman second class Mike Bryant makes another sale at the very popular package store.



HERE STOREKEEPERS third class Charles March and Murray Brillante and Construction Mechanic second class Lewis Swank place new material into the complex supply system (ABOVE). Electronics Technician third class Ron Shelton is taken care of by Supply Officer Dewey Painter, Disbursing Clerk Bob Connor, and Chief Commissaryman, Albert "Red" Benoit (LEFT).

Mike Bryant

On March 22, the flag is lowered . . . for five months

CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN second class Bill Bushall blows "Retreat" as the flag is lowered (RIGHT) at the sunset ceremony. It would be raised again on August 20.



USARPS AND NAVY PERSONNEL from McMurdo Station join the men of Scott Base in their Sunset Flag Lowering, and in celebration of ANZAC Day. Lowering the flag, under the direction of Major Peter Frazer, are John "Jumper" Bitters and John "Butch" Halewood.





Sunset Party provides relaxation for all

RADIOMEN FIRST CLASS Erskine Gillespie and Mel Pennington team up (LEFT). CDR Blessing sees the humor in Commissaryman first class Andrew Toms' speech as runner-up in the ping pong tournament (LOWER LEFT).



ANTARCTIC BELLY DANCING is demonstrated (ABOVE) by the crew of the Nuclear Power Unit. Carl Edson's "Boot Chief Initiation" (ABOVE RIGHT) lasted one long day!

ONE OF THE MOST popular skits at the Sunset Party was the re-creation of a 1950's rock and roll group by (L TO R) USARP's Don Baker and Kent Mize, Radioman second class Jim Longstreth, and Station's Scientific Leader Fred Dotterrer.

McMurdo's aerographers study the weather

ONE OF MCMURDO STATION'S most important scientific studies during the winter is the Antarctic weather. A balloon carrying a radiosonde was released and electronically tracked every day.



WEATHER IS ALWAYS important in Antarctica. Aerographers Mate second class Curtis Ford (BELOW) plots information received from satellite signals.



ABOVE, AEROGRAPHERS Mates second class Jeff Williams and Curtis Ford track the balloon to keep a check on upper atmospheric conditions, while (BELOW) Aerographers Mates Ronald Meek and Gary Cleek forecast Antarctic winds.



McMurdo men keep in shape during long months



RADIOMAN FIRST CLASS Wayne Klutz shows off his bowling form at the Bowling Alley. The bowling alley was a great morale booster for the winter over personnel.



McMURDO STATION BILLIARDS champ, Ken Searfoss (ABOVE RIGHT). LTJG Leroy Sauerwine (BELOW LEFT), spikes one to spur the Officers-USARPS team on in Antarctic volleyball league.

BASKETBALL HELPED to keep off the extra pounds for many. Hull Technician second class Dave Curtis (BELOW) makes it look easy as Personnelman first class Bob Craig and Station Science Leader Fred Dotterrer make their next move.



The Scott Base crew put in long hours at work . . .

SCOTT BASE LEADER Major Peter Frazer briefs his staff before a trip across the ice to Cape Evans and Cape Royds (RIGHT). The long Antarctic winters are hard on the historic huts located at these places, and thus require considerable maintenance.



SCOTT BASE RADIO operator Neville Copeland (ABOVE) provides communications between Antarctica and Wellington, N.Z. Scott Base engineer John Houssaux and mechanic George Turner make adjustments (RIGHT) on the diesel engine of their power generator. Scott Base radio mechanic Allan Dawrant repairs equipment (LOWER RIGHT) used by summer field parties.





... and
play

A WELL DESERVED moment of rest after a long working day for the Scott Base crew-- a close-knit group of individuals (BELOW).

THE "KIWI'S" AT SCOTT BASE are always glad when their American friends from McMurdo come visiting. Hosting another get-together at the New Zealand Base (ABOVE) are John Halewood and John Bitters.

THE COMMON BONDS OF MUSIC bring the crew at Scott Base together (BELOW) after a long day's work.



GOOD TIMES AT Scott Base! Even though there are no girls present, there is dancing anyway. In the line-up (LEFT), are USARP James Prill, Disbursing Clerk first class Bob Connor, John Halewood, John Bitters, and Allan Dawrant.

Joe O'Connell Ed
 Ted Givanni →

Men of varied skills form McMurdo's backbone

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR second class Donald Hudlemeyer learns that the volcanic rock so prominent around McMurdo is pretty hard stuff (RIGHT).



THE ENDLESS TASK of keeping house requires several to take turns as mess cooks and compartment cleaners. (LEFT) Our master-at-arms, Electronics Technician first class James Gunn assists compartment cleaners Hospital Corpsman second class Mike Thompson and Construction Electrician third class Gene Mills in folding fresh linen.



MACHINERY REPAIRMAN Chief Joe Martin (ABOVE) manufactures parts needed to get a piece of equipment back on the line. Steelworker first class James Affeldt (ABOVE RIGHT) shows his skill on a welding job. Engineering Aid second class Godofredo Tuzon reviews blueprints (RIGHT) of McMurdo in locating trouble areas.

Joe Martin
 Ed
 Max Fla.





Half-way point is celebrated at party

AT THE MID-WINTER DAY party on 22 June 73, the Scott Base Kiwis have a great act to offer (LEFT). Peter Frazer (CENTER) just can't seem to finish his speech with John Housiaux (L), and Butch Halewood (R) constantly interrupting him.



CROWD LAUGHS IT up (ABOVE), while Construction Electrician second class Newton "Pappy" Coughenour (ABOVE LEFT) gives them his one-man comedy routine. The "Commanding Officer for a Day" competition brought the party to a climax. The USARPS paraded their entry Pat "The Trog" Arendt through the messdeck on his throne (LOWER LEFT). All the candidates (BELOW), James Tinsley, Larry Korkowski, Pat Arendt, and Ken Craddock participate in the cake cutting ceremony.



Tinsley serves as "C.O. for a Day"

COMMISARYMAN FIRST CLASS James Tinsley emerged from the Mid-Winter Party as winner of the "C.O. for a Day" competition. When "Commander" Tinsley is given weekly reports (RIGHT) by Storekeeper first class Dave DuBois, he soon finds that there is more to being C.O. than meets the eye.



WHEN JAMES TINSLEY was elected, it meant that the Commanding Officer was to take Tinsley's place as cook for the day (ABOVE). Commissaryman first class Andrew Toms adds a little humor as he instructs the Commander in the more subtle culinary intricacies. Me a nwhile, Tinsley assists LCDR Mario Costaldi in pinning new bars to the uniform of Hull Technician Dave Curtis on the occasion of his advancement to second class.





Parties provide needed breaks in the long winter

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR CHIEF Dave Delong shows his knowledge of American Indian customs (LEFT) with a traditional dance. John Housiaux seems to have solved the party's cooling system problem (BELOW).



ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN first class John Crawford devised the drift meter, for measuring the curious Antarctic Drift Rate so indigenous to the winter-over crew (BELOW), and Utilities Constructionman Ron Sandhagen "breaks" the meter. The Mc Murdo Country Sounds (RIGHT) were always on hand to provide musical entertainment. It consisted of (L TO R) Bud Swank, Rick Henline, Norm Rodrigue, and Ed Anderson.

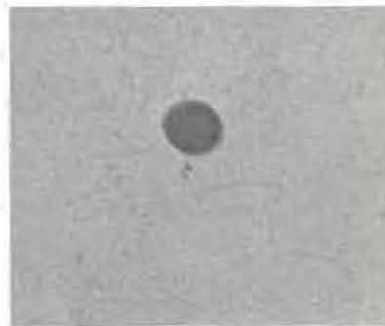


The mid-winter mail drop provides tremendous boost to McMurdo morale

"ANTARCTIC MOM" for years has been a pen pal to the men on the ice. (RIGHT) She writes hundreds of letters to men in Antarctica every year.



THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND Air Force patrol plane shown below drops the first of six one hundred and fifty pound sacks of mail for the men at McMurdo and Scott Bases, while the communicators on the ground below chatter with the aircraft by means of a temporary radio set up at the drop zone.



LATER, THE NINE HUNDRED pounds of mail is sorted by Postal Officer, Chaplain Cecil Harper, and Postal Clerk third class Gerald Aten (BELOW), while Radioman second class William Mathews helps distribute the precious cargo (RIGHT).





W-A-S-A DISC JOCKEY Utilities Constructionman Ron Nein selects the next tune from the files during a live broadcast (ABOVE). A survey showed that the factor leading most to good morale, was the HAM Shack. Getting a "Green Light" on a phone patch, is Radioman first class Mel Pennington (RIGHT) full-time operator of the shack.

Slack time filled for the men educationally



Ron H



*and I taught
government.
George Kain XO*

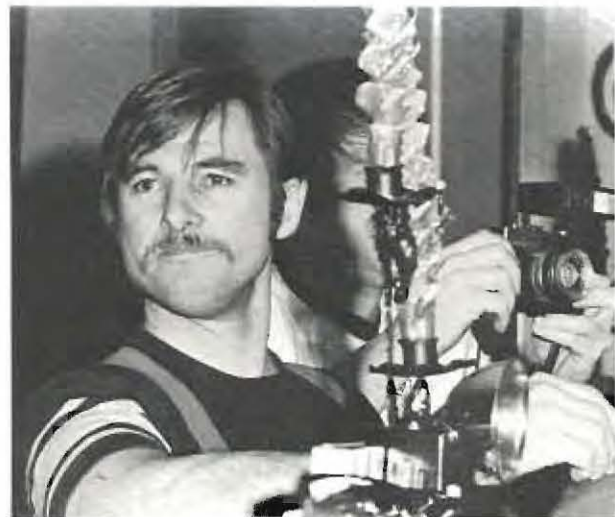
P.A.C.E. COURSES OFFERED an outstanding educational opportunity for everyone. LT Ronald Hudson taught the Finite Math course (ABOVE LEFT), while LCDR Cecil Harper instructed in Sociology and Psychology (LEFT).

Sunrise celebrated with biggest, best festivities

THE SUNRISE FESTIVITIES began as Hospital Corpsman Chief Frank Miller, the oldest man on the ice, follows tradition and assists Commanding Officer George Blessing in preparing the colors for their first flight of the new season (BELOW).



BUILDER FIRST CLASS Bob Singer received the award from Chaplain Harper, party MC, for having the most enhancing moustache (BELOW), while the winning skit, a take-off on the W-A-S-A "Hot-Line" show, was presented by Carl Brian and Gene Mills (BELOW RIGHT).



DR EARL FISHER, Dental Officer, helps with planning of the decorations (TOP). The grand finale, a rousing pantomime presented by a group of men calling themselves "The Whipping Post", brought down the house (ABOVE). Pat Arendt is out in front of the group, and really got the show swinging.

Carl Brian



Communications . . . keeps us in touch and informed



ELECTRICIANS MATE first class William Long (ABOVE) served as petty officer in charge of special services activities. Personnelman first class Robert Craig (ABOVE RIGHT) scans the morning messages. The tedious job of keeping personnel records up to date was solely his during the winter. Yeoman second class Charles Connelly (BELOW) concentrated his winter activities around huge loads of paper work coming through the administration office.

Chuck Connelly



TELEPHONES ARE A MUST when weather prohibits any other type of communication. Construction Electrician first class John McMahan (ABOVE) trouble-shoots the relay banks at "Penguin Bell". The Plan of the Day and other clerical assistance in the administration office fell to Yeoman striker Stephen Sliss (BELOW).



Engineers keep the base running smoothly

ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN first class Charles Moore and Electronics Technician second class David Kling, along with Radioman first class Jim Whetzel (KNEELING) troubleshoot a transmitter (RIGHT).



KEEPING THE EQUIPMENT IN top condition at the firehouse (ABOVE) requires frequent checks. Checking out equipment are Hull Technician third class Ron Randall, Fireman Pedro Chavez, and Hull Technician third class Lemar May.



KEEPING MACHINERY IN operational condition is a constant battle in the Antarctic. Construction Mechanic third class Donald Pierce (ABOVE RIGHT) does his part in keeping this "big one" going. Electronic Technicians second class Roger Abel and Richard Petryl and Electronics Technician first class John Crawford check out equipment at the ET Shop (RIGHT).





DELICATE EQUIPMENT REQUIRES constant maintenance to keep it in operating condition. USARP technician Kent Mize works with Electronics Technician first class John Crawford, Chief Electronics Technician Thomas Bryan and USARP Technician Don Baker to make proper adjustments on the instruments used at the Auroral Radar site (LEFT).

RADIOMAN CHIEF Charles Powers and Lt George Kain, our executive officer, in the MAC center (BELOW LEFT) keeping track of a plane conducting a magnetic flight over the South Pole. BELOW, Engineering Aid first class Edward Chopping studies blueprints in preparation for another public works project.



UTILITIESMAN FIRST CLASS William Perkins (BELOW) keeps busy in the UT Shop, while Builder first class Frank Acs puts the right angle to a piece of timber as he completes another project in the Carpenter Shop (RIGHT).



Frank Acs

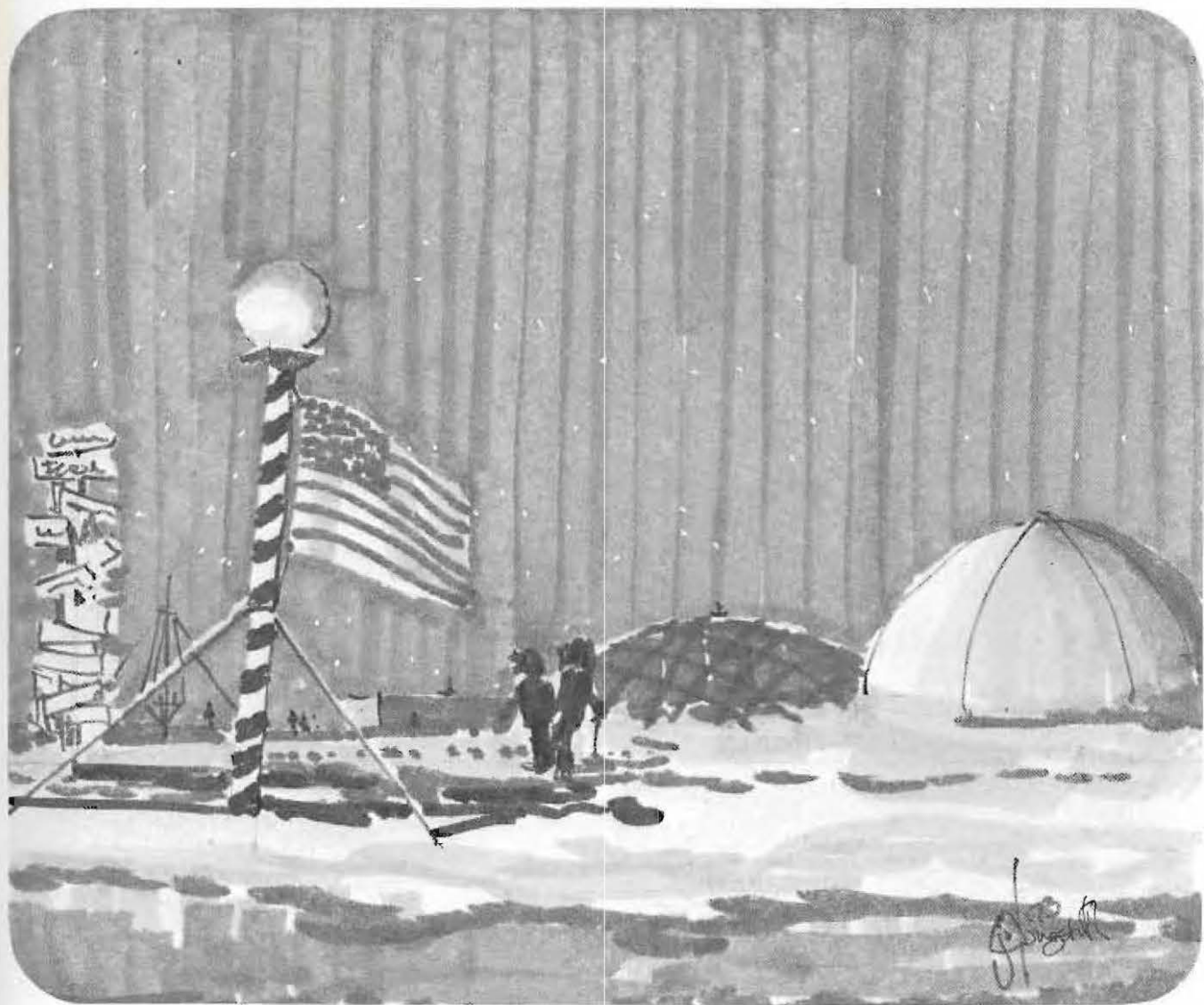


Antarctic is host to strange natural beauty



CASTLE ROCK (TOP) is an example of Antarctic terrain at its best. The Aurora Australis is a beautiful phenomena to those on the ice (ABOVE), McMurdo's "Main Street", with Observation Hill behind is seen during mid-winter (ABOVE RIGHT). Overlooking McMurdo, this Memorial Shrine serves as an inspiration point (RIGHT) to those who visit. It was built in honor of Richard T. Williams, killed in an accident in 1956 during Deep Freeze ONE.





SOUTH POLE STATION

LATITUDE: 90°S
LONGITUDE: ALL
ELEVATION: 9,184'

The men at the Pole never forget how to relax

SHUFFLEBOARD WAS VERY popular. Construction Electrician first class Charles Hopkins (RIGHT) is warming up for a game. The renovated galley (BELOW) is the main collecting point at the station. Here Construction Electrician second class Daniel Tripp, Commissaryman second class Charles Butler, Bruce Webster, Jim Craig, and Marvin Kempton (SEATED) are getting dinner.



CARD PLAYING IS A major pastime at the Station. The galley area proves ideal for card players (BELOW) Electronics Technician (N) second class Steven Ramella, Utilitiesman first class Kenneth Saxman, and Storekeeper second class George Gugert.



AT ONE OF THE "Meal of the Month" dinners, Robin Worcester was presented a SPAS (South Pole Art Society) certificate by Dave Bennett (UPPER LEFT). Steve Ramella was the MC for the event. Birthdays are celebrated each month, usually during the "meal of the Month" (LEFT). Commissaryman second class Charles Butler, Radioman first class Hugh Huffman, and Construction Electrician second class Daniel Tripp prepare to blow out the candles.



AT THE SMALL POST OFFICE during the winter, Hospital Corpsman Chief Roy Kline cancels all philatelic mail, about 6,000 letters, for collectors around the world who want stamps cancelled "South Pole Station". Russell Wertz is getting a package processed for shipment out on the first flight (LEFT). Robin Worcester and Gary Adair (ABOVE) are getting ready to view some slides in the USARP lounge.



AS IS CUSTOMARY WITH each winter-over crew, a picture board is assembled and installed along the passageway leading into the club. Builder Chief Perry Harris and Lieutenant F. Perry Wolcott (ABOVE) are putting the finishing touches on the board.



CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN SECOND CLASS DANIEL TRIPP LOOKS on as Charles Klinger, the senior science leader processes some film (ABOVE). During the winter, over 8,000 slides were processed. At the last station party, a time capsule was prepared for the DF 74 crew to open on Mid-Winter's Day. Each man placed a gift in the box for his relief. Howard Singer and Russell Wertz provided the songs for the event (LEFT), and Dave Bennett was the MC.



Winter at the South Pole is a cold, white wonderland



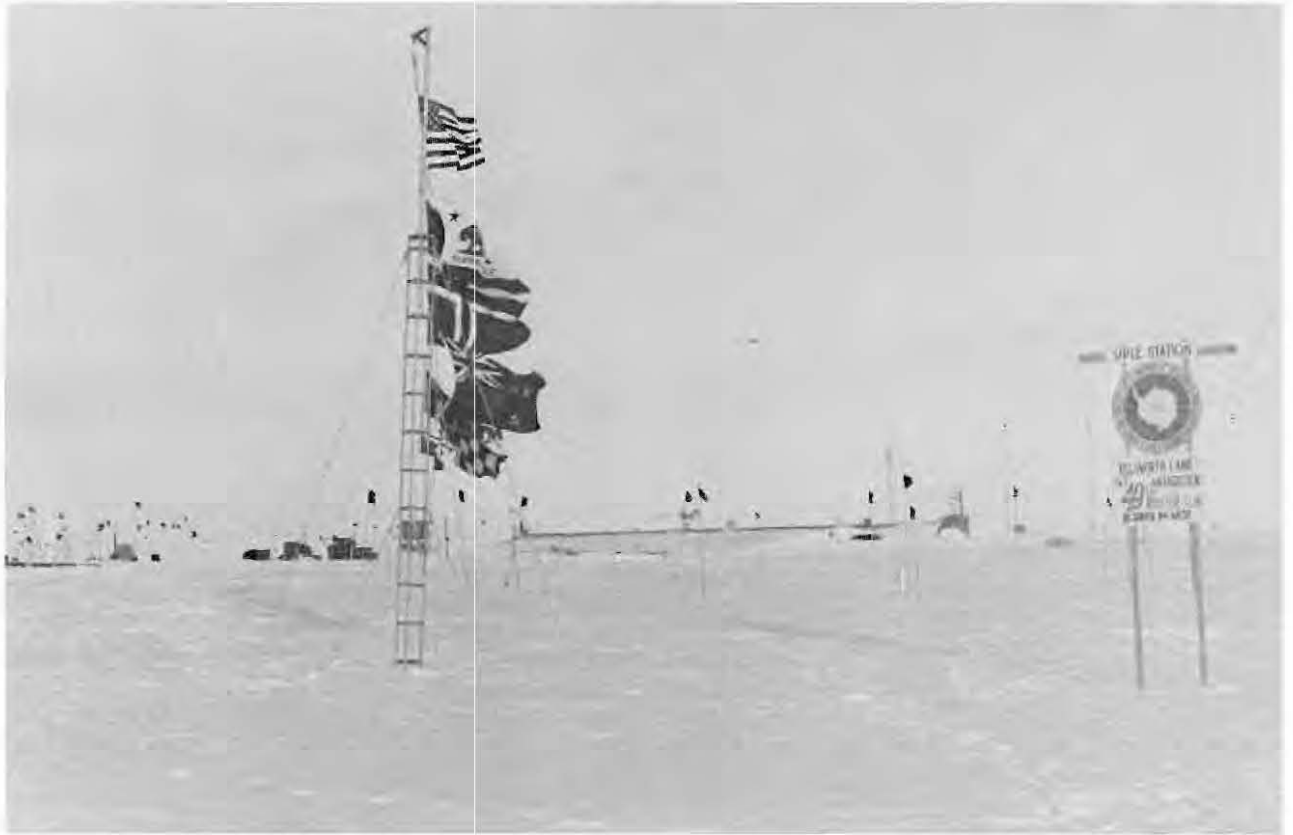
DUE TO THE MOISTURE that is a combustion product of the fuel, a hood develops over most of the furnace exhaust stacks (ABOVE LEFT). The hoods develop best at temperatures of around -75 degrees F., and are removed weekly to prevent stack problems. One of the "working parties" (ABOVE) clears out the doors of the emergency camp, which is ready for occupancy, should the need arise. On the Navy's Birthday, 13 Oct, a softball game was held (LEFT). The temperature was -62F, so the game only lasted one hour. BELOW, the American flag is raised in observance of sunrise on 23 September. The National Science Foundation flag is flown adjacent to the American flag.





LATITUDE: $75^{\circ}55' S$
LONGITUDE: $83^{\circ}55' W$
ELEVATION: 3000'

SIPLE STATION



Siple Station is located in Ellsworth Land approximately 1300 Nautical miles northeast of McMurdo Station. Temperatures vary from a high of plus 31 degrees to a low of minus 60 degrees F. Precipitation in the form of snow is approximately five feet each year. This station consists of a combination of living and working buildings sheltered by a single wonder arch. An emergency station consisting of two jameways, food and fuel caches, is located about 1500 feet from the station.

The four civilian scientists who have wintered-over at Siple have been a busy group indeed. During the winter, they have undertaken the following scientific projects: (1) Multidiscipline Magnetospheric and Ionospheric investigations which concentrate on the Plasma Pause region, utilizing Whistler (UFL) antenna and also a dipole

antenna suspended in mid air (2) Fluxgate Magnetometer studies (3) Energetic Electron Precipitation (4) Micropulsation observations.

The continuing struggle to keep equipment operational, mechanical failures in their vehicles, small medical problems, isolation, hard work, the adjustment to living under isolated conditions where with only four persons comradeship is almost necessary--all these and many other challenges have been met with success. Siple Station's only contact with other stations has been by radio. During the winter, communications were sometimes impossible and for days no word would be heard from Siple Station. Then the airways would buzz again with the enthusiastic reports from Siple radio assuring all was well and work continuing on schedule.



THE U.S. NAVY'S LC-130 Hercules lands at 0040, 1 December 1973 to begin the season. Two other Navy Hercules planes landed at Siple that day to put the station into full scale operations for the summer (ABOVE). The handy little motor toboggans (BELOW) provided the easiest and quickest transportation on the barren snow covered plain leading to the Ellsworth Mountains. The visiting press corp were shown around the station in early December.

Newest station is run by four men

STATION LEADER FOR THE 74 season, Jack Bowers, briefs the press visitors shortly after their arrival at Siple Station (BELOW).



The Seabees create the Siple "Wonder Arch"



SEABEES OF THE NAVY'S Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-ONE put up the wonder arch back in the summer of 1972 that was to become Siple Station -- the National Science Foundation's first civilian manned scientific research station in the 7,000,000 square mile continent of ice and snow.



RADIO IS THE ONLY CONTACT for the crew at Siple from mid-February until the Navy planes are able to return, usually in mid-November. The station conducts studies dealing with the science of the atmospheres.





“Isolated existence” is an understatement here

THE NAVY HERCULES PLANE OF Antarctica Development Squadron SIX (VXE-6) brought Siple around 50,000 gallons of fuel for the Antarctic Winter (LEFT).



STORAGE SPACE WAS AT A premium for materials and foodstuffs (ABOVE) needed during the long winter months.



MANY TONS OF SNOW WERE shovelled into the snow melter (LEFT) through this chute leading to the surface outside the arch which has almost become covered by blowing snows.



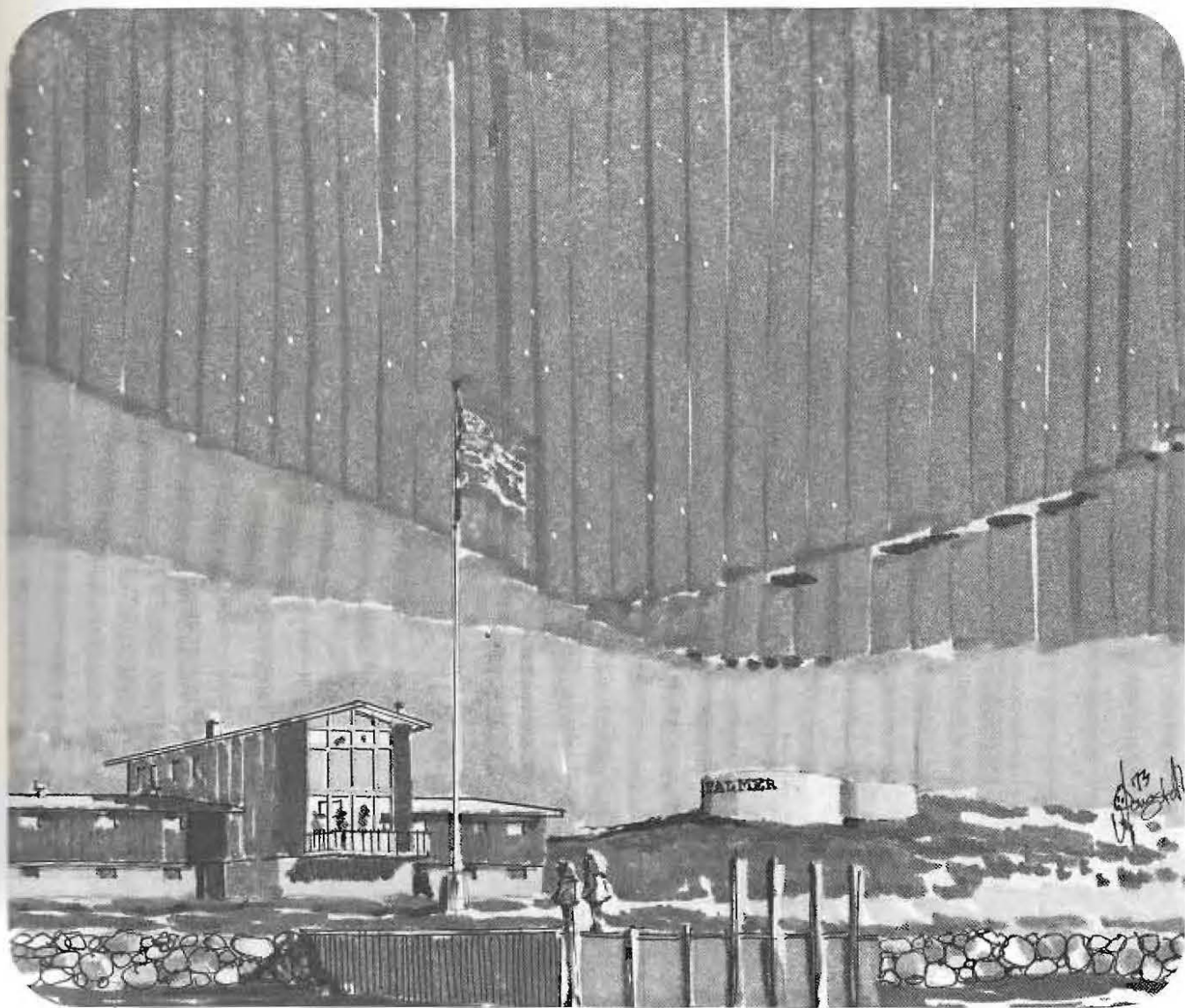
LATITUDE $75^{\circ} 55''S$ - LONGITUDE $83^{\circ} 55''W$. All Science programs operated well throughout the winter at Siple. The last month of the winter-over period was spent doing odds and ends and unfinished small projects. Organizing the materials inside the arch and the food service storage areas were tops on the list. A movie screen was built and installed, the mezzanine finished, an air compressor installed, the ski doors serviced, Herman Nelson heaters repaired, and the camp in general prepared for occupancy by summer support personnel that would soon be arriving.



POPULATION FOUR. This totally civilian manned scientific station is operated under the management control of the Office of Polar Program, National Science Foundation.

LATITUDE: 64° 30' S
LONGITUDE: 64° 10' W
ELEVATION: SEALEVEL

PALMER STATION



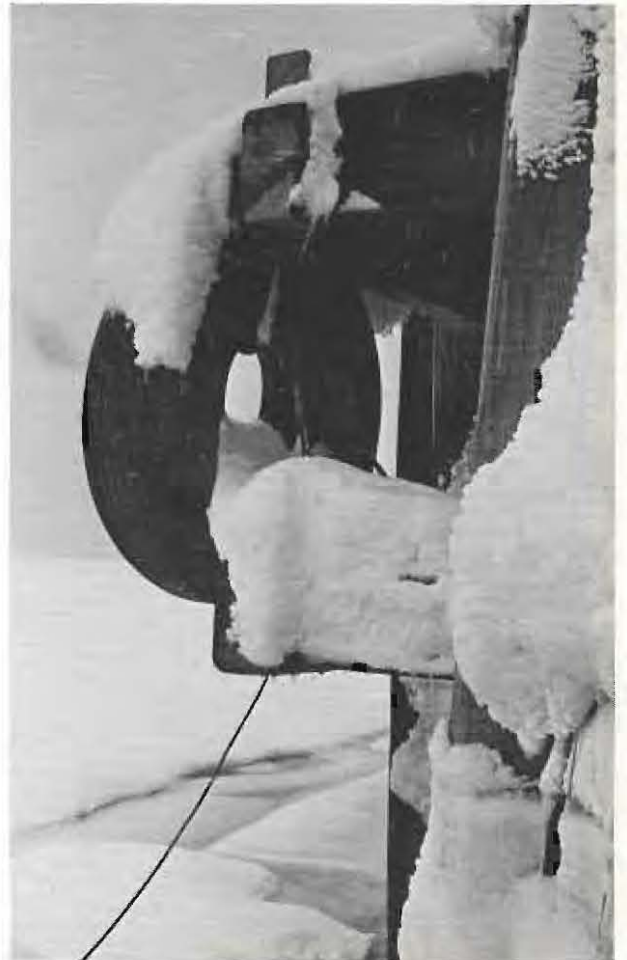


Palmer Station is the northernmost U.S. station in Antarctica. Located 64 degrees 45 mins south latitude, on Anvers Island, the station enjoys the warmest weather of all U.S. stations. In summer, the temperatures are often found in the plus 40 degree F. range, and in winter the temperature may only drop as low as minus 10 degrees F.

Several projects sponsored by the National Science Foundation were conducted at Palmer, with several universities and research groups participating.

In the spirit of international cooperation, four scientists from the Argentine Institute of Antarctic Research worked at Palmer Station for one month during the summer. They conducted a productive program of Neurophysiological research on ice fish and Antarctic birds.

During the winter, many construction and maintenance projects were completed by the station crew. The installation of a chill box for fresh fruits and vegetables, the overhaul of both salt water evaporators, and the removal of an inoperative standby generator were among the accomplished projects. Starting with Deep Freeze 74, the operation of Palmer Station will be the responsibility of a civilian contractor under the direction of the National Science Foundation.



Palmer Station: The "Banana Belt" of the Antarctic



THE PALMER CREW RELAXES after a hard days work at the station (ABOVE). Lieutenant Lloyd Jukkola (LEFT) spends a few moments on the "beach" while Antarctic friends look on. Although thousands of miles away from home, the Palmer crew manages to enjoy a warm, relaxed Christmas in the station (BELOW).



Palmer Crew welcomes visitors: expected & unexpected



PALMER CREW EXTENDS welcome to Argentine Air Force plane crew (ABOVE RIGHT), Palmer Station and Arthur Harbor can be seen in the background as Argentine crew trek up the hill (ABOVE).



ON THE MORNING OF January 29, 1973, Dr. David Lewis berthed his sloop Ice Bird alongside R/V Calypso at Palmer Station. Dr. Lewis, the most unique of all visitors, arrived at Palmer more than two months and 2500 miles from where his yacht was swamped, dismantled and capsized in a hurricane force gale. During the ordeal, Dr. Lewis, suffering from frostbite, constructed a makeshift mast and valiantly continued eastward on his intended circumnavigation of Antarctica. At Palmer, Dr. Lewis' yacht was restored by the station crew, as seen here. He was exceedingly pleased to be able to converse with the men of the station and they, in turn, were fascinated by his tales of survival.





Men at
Palmer
Station are
continuously
busy



R/V HERO IS SEEN ARRIVING from her winter quarters in Ushuaia, Argentina (TOP). Primary buildings can be seen in the background (LEFT) as cargo is off loaded. Builder first class Melvin Williamson and Construction Mechanic first class Jimmie Evans repair the salt water intake (ABOVE), with which all fresh water is distilled.

Winter "swim" is valuable in gathering info



AS THE PENGUINS LOOK ON, Phil Haley and Al Giannini prepare to dive (TOP), then, as they submerge, the icy water closes over them.

