

Approach of Spring Hastens Research by U.S. in Antarctic

Washington — Spring is coming to the world's coldest laboratory — Antarctica. The sun's return quickens scientific activity.

Though the International Geophysical Year has passed, exploration of the bleak, frigid continent goes on. The United States Navy operates four stations on a year-round basis, and during the 1959-60 season will mount its fifth consecutive Operation Deep Freeze in support of American research. The National Science Foundation, which administers the U.S. Antarctic Research Program, will emphasize geology, cartography, and biology during the coming summer.

Pending projects include a study of the Adelle penguin, one of two species that inhabit the edge of the continent, and an expedition into the little-known waters of the Bellingshausen and Amundsen Seas.

No Place More Hostile

Little by little, adventurous scientists and technicians are unlocking the secrets of a vast land nearly twice the size of the United States. Only penguins, seals, sea birds, small lichens, mosses, and algae live there by choice. No other region on earth is colder or more hostile to man.

At the Soviet Union's Vostok IGY station, scientists have recorded the planet's lowest temperature — 126.9 degrees. Antarctica stays at some places it is 14,000 feet thick.

In winter the entire continent feels the lash of wind. The world's breeziest spot is Commonwealth Bay, where cold air from the ice plateau strikes with a screaming, tearing force of 200 miles an hour.

The Antarctic is not without surprises and paradoxes. Little snow seems to fall now except in warmer areas on the coast. During the winter that Antarctic veteran Paul A. Siple and 17 other Americans manned an IGY station at the South Pole, they measured only six inches of new fall.

In midsummer the Pole receives more sunlight than any place on earth. About 95 percent is reflected, however, so the bottom of the world remains exceedingly icy.

This was not always the

case. Some 300 miles from the Pole, an exploratory party has found petrified trees, leaf fossils, seashells, and coal beds — sure signs that Antarctica was once a lush, green continent.

An active volcano, 13,200-foot Mount Erebus, overlooks the waters of McMurdo Sound where the Navy maintains an important air facility. In a section of Marie Byrd Land, the ice sheet is strewn with volcanic rocks, but there are no other signs of recent volcanic activity.

Continued Depressed by Snow

Though the tremendous burden of ice and snow has depressed the continent, the average elevation is more than a mile above sea level — the highest in the world. The South Pole station rests upon 3,300 feet of snow and 900 feet of solid rock.

Much of Antarctica is a featureless waste of snow and ice, fissured and splitting into glacial tongues at the edges. Some glacial tongues were formed thousands of years ago, but they are held to the parent glacier by hingelike ice formations that crack and freeze over and over again. An ice prison several hundred miles wide forms about the continent in winter. When summer returns the ice breaks up, leaving areas of open water on Antarctica's edge.

At present the Antarctic remains a man's world. Several women have visited the frozen continent, but none has ever set foot on the South Pole.

Food Preserved by Radiation Eaten

Washington (Science Service) — Thirteen people ate food preserved by radiation sterilization for 15 days with no ill effects, the U.S. Army Medical Nutrition Laboratory has reported here.

In fact, the subjects said everything but the orange juice and the string beans tasted as good as food preserved by freezing. Irradiation produced few caloric and nutrient changes in the foods, which included meats, vegetables, fruits and a cereal. A copy of the full 28-page report, PB 151152, on the food study can be obtained for 75 cents from the Office of Technical Services, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D.C.



FRIGHTENED—Apparently a little frightened by all the confusion after arriving on the *Liner Berlin* at New York, Robert Sarmany, 16 months old, stared into the muzzle of a blue-black automatic aimed directly at her.

Seattle Housewife Uses Iron To Chase Intruder

Seattle—Mrs. Dorothy E. McKenzie looked up from her ironing Tuesday night and stared into the muzzle of a blue-black automatic aimed directly at her.

"Hold it. Stay right there," said the man leveling the weapon, his head covered by a stocking.

Squeezes the Trigger

For a minute or so, he stood there, unmoving, saying nothing. Then he squeezed the trigger. There was a click. Another click.

Mrs. McKenzie reacted then. She hurled the only weapon she had, the iron. It struck the intruder in his rib section. Turning to escape, the hooded man slipped on a scatter rug, got up, made the door fall again as he leaped down the stairs to the back yard.

The 27-year-old woman, mother of four children who were asleep in an upstairs bedroom, telephoned the King county sheriff's office. She repeated her night-marish yarn to them.

Assailant Not Known

Mrs. McKenzie said she knows of no one who disliked her, or her hospitalized husband, enough to threaten her. Shortly after the deputies left, the telephone rang. Mrs. McKenzie picked it up.

"Well, well," a man's voice said. Then he hung up.

Outstanding Effects Resulted From Yellowstone Area Quake

San Francisco, (Science Service)—A survey of the region of the earthquake that struck southern Montana west of Yellowstone National Park on Aug. 17, has been made by Dr. Karl V. Steinbrugge, San Francisco seismologist. It shows that the effects it produced were outstanding. Most spectacular was one of the largest landslides in the United States ever to have accompanied a historic shock. Dr. Steinbrugge found

Campers Killed

The slide, composed of an estimated 35,000,000 to 50,000,000 cubic yards of rock, killed perhaps 20 people who were camping in the Madison River valley below. This mile-long rock slide effectively dammed the Madison river, and a new lake rose behind it. Nature apparently did a good job in compacting the fill which makes up the new dam. The Army Engineers completed a spillway across it so that the water can discharge over the top without destroying the "quake dam."

The earthquake has been assigned the tentative magnitude of 7.1 by an authority and 7.8 by another.

Wall Settled Little

The man-made Heben dam, located about five miles upstream from "quake dam," is composed of an earth and rock fill, except that it has a full height concrete wall running along its main axis or core wall. The concrete core wall settled very little, but the earth and rock around it settled up to six feet and contained fissures. Subsequent examination showed that, while damaged, the dam was still adequately safe.

Other effects, not so spectacular, are of considerable scientific interest. About 15 miles of continuous ground breakage north of Heben lake clearly implied vertical faulting, with the north shore of Heben lake dropping with respect to the mountains nearby. South of the lake a small amount of vertical faulting was also noted. In all, there were many breaks, and the detailed pattern is complex. Some of the surface breaks formed cliffs which have been measured at 20 feet in height; these heights were considerably exaggerated by surface effects and should not be considered the amount of fault movement in the rock below.

The over-all effect of the faulting was to "tilt" the land block on which Heben lake sits. The south shore went up

eight feet or more, leaving docks out of water. Conversely, the north shore bank perhaps up to the same amount. This sudden tilting of the lake bottom caused a water wave which conservatively has been reliably measured at three feet high in one place and undoubtedly was much higher in others. No doubt the waters of the lake "thrashed about" as was described by some.

Building damage was re-

Ashland Zoning Ordinance Passed

Ashland—The revised city-wide zoning ordinance for Ashland has been passed by the city council and signed into law by Mayor Richard L. Neill.

The council also approved the appointment of Robert Piercy as city street superintendent, replacing Howard Oden.

The approval of the ordinance, which comprises previously existing regulations with revisions and amendments, followed a public hearing. City Superintendent E. C. Biegel reported there was no opposition at the hearing. Piercy was formerly employed by Chert Brothers, Sanday and Birch, a contractor on the Talent Irrigation project. Oden, Biegel reported, left the city of Ashland to become a caretaker for the Talent Irrigation district.

Dr. Taylor to Speak At Klamath Falls

Ashland—("The Fourth Applegate" is the title of an address to be presented by Dr. S. Taylor, chairman of the Southern Oregon college social science division, at the Eighth Annual Symposium of Historical Societies of Northern California and southern Oregon in Klamath Falls, which begins Friday, Oct. 2.

Dr. Taylor will be accompanied by Dr. Frank D. Haines Jr., and Dr. W. M. McKinney, members of the social science teaching staff, and will present his address at 10:15 a.m. Saturday in the banquet room of the Willard hotel.

According to Ken McLeod, program chairman, the three-day symposium will conclude Sunday morning with a number of field trips to historical sites in the Klamath basin.

Mined-Out Areas For Underground Shelters Seen

Bedford Springs, Pa. — (Science Service)—Conversion of mined-out areas to underground shelters for industrial plants and living accommodations for employees and their families was urged here today. This would not only serve as a major protection against fallout in the event of a nuclear attack, but might even deter an enemy from making such an attack, an industrialist told the Society of Mining Engineers of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers.

Achievements Told

Russell W. Hunt, president of the Southwest Lime Company, described his company's achievements at its Neosho, Mo., mine, where a two-year reconstruction job has made 600,000 square feet available as a strategic storage center.

The work was planned, he said, to provide emergency shelter for the employees and their families, as well as most of the community. Humidity control, exhaust fans, and a reservoir and deep well water have been provided at Neosho. Eight-inch reinforced concrete division walls are equipped with approved doors. Walls and ceiling are white to give maximum lighting and to improve appearance.

Commenting on his company's cooperation with the Defense Department, Hunt said preliminary investigations indicate that a small subsidy of the mining industry would make it possible to have underground space created "very cheaply."

The subsidy might be the additional cost per square foot of underground mining over open quarry mining, he suggested. This should be sufficient to change 20 per cent to 30 per cent of open quarrying to underground operations.

In any event, he said, the

Graduate Work in Plastics Offered

Princeton, N. J. (Science Service)—A unique program of graduate work in plastics is being offered at Princeton University here.

Instruction covers basic theory and properties, evaluation, production, fabrication, design and application of materials, as well as the chemistry of plastics. The program, which includes lecture and laboratory classes and contact with industrial plastics plants, leads to the degree of Master of Science in Engineering. Fellowships with stipends of from \$1,500 to \$2,100 plus tuition and fees are available.

Company Develops Stronger Firebrick

New York (Science Service) — A stronger and improved insulating firebrick said to be lighter and lower in thermal conductivity than any other available firebrick has been developed by the Babcock & Wilcox Company here. The firebrick meets the rugged requirements of furnace builders and operators in the metals, structural clay, petroleum, chemical and glass industries. Its clean surface affords a good bond when laid up in a wall because the mortar holds tightly. The brick can be tailor-cut, drilled or shaped as desired, eliminating the need for costly special shapes and delays involved in obtaining them.

maximum probable cost involved in starting a program of underground facilities is small and "it is important to get a feel, as soon as possible, to see how successful a large program might be."

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