

# 'The Bellingshausen-Amundsen Sea Venture'

# Invitation to Polar Experience Accepted

## Highly Important Voyage Noted by Captain McDonald

Herb Grey, advertising manager of the Mail Tribune, recently returned from a trip to Antarctica as an observer in Operation Deep Freeze 1960, an expedition by the Navy in cooperation with the National Science Foundation.

The expedition, aboard the USS Glacier and USS Burton Island, both icebreakers, went into the Bellingshausen-Amundsen Sea area. It was the first time the Bellingshausen Sea had been penetrated by land or sea.

Grey's account of the expedition, from the time he was invited to the time he returned, will appear in a continued series of articles, occasionally illustrated, in the Mail Tribune.

Following is the first installment of the account of the expedition by Grey. It will continue daily.

BY HERB GREY  
Mail Tribune Advertising Manager

"That's the way Capt. Edwin A. McDonald, in a letter last September, described an expedition planned by the U.S. Navy and the National Science Foundation in the Antarctic during February and March, 1960. The Navy, with long experience in Polar operations, would provide the logistical support. The NSF would supply the scientists.

Captain McDonald is deputy commander and aide to Rear Admiral David M. Tyree, Commander U. S. Naval Support Forces, Antarctica, and is also in command of Task Group 43.1. He has had much experience in this sort of thing, with six Arctic and five Antarctic expeditions to his record. He has flown over both Poles, certainly a good man with whom to sail.

"This will be a highly important and historical voyage we will make to unexplored and virgin land," he continued. "No one has ever set foot on this coast and the area is unclaimed by a nation. I hope that you can make arrangements to join us."

Of course, I wanted to go! If successful, this expedition would rank with some of the most dramatic events in south Polar history.

Antarctica has, after all, the last great unexplored areas on earth. It is the last frontier!

Dr. Alan T. Waterman, director of the National Science Foundation, made this statement concerning the projected scientific expedition to the Bellingshausen sea:

"If the penetration of these uncertain waters by the U. S. Navy icebreakers is successful, the scientific party will gather valuable data in a region never before explored."

I wanted to witness the piercing of this great ice pack which, like a giant curtain of ice, has kept hidden secrets of this vast continent.

After arrangements had been completed with the Navy department in Washington and proper accreditation secured from the department of defense, I arrived at Travis Air Force base near San Francisco, Calif., my arms looking like pin cushions and throbbing from required inoculations.

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Cheap Evaporators  
The process, which has been tested over the last two years in a pilot plant in North Carolina, uses the cheapest evaporators and materials, made possible by special techniques that combat corrosion and the build-up of scale.

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That the blood picture of the anemic mice improved immediately and soon became normal.

In addition, skin grafts later transplanted from the normal mice to their formerly anemic cousins were permanently accepted.

Marrow Transplanted  
Dr. Elizabeth S. Russell of the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine, showed this could be done with anemic mice. She transplanted bone marrow from normal mice to their anemic "cousins." She found



COMMANDS EXPEDITION - Capt. Edwin A. McDonald, formerly of Medford was commodore for the Navy-National Science Foundation's Operation Deep Freeze 60 expedition into the Bellingshausen Sea off Antarctica. A graduate of Medford High school, Captain McDonald is aide to Rear Admiral David Tyree and commander of Task Group 43.1. He is considered an expert in polar exploration. (Official Navy Photo)

terminal, how nice it would be to circle over beautiful Suisun Bay, over Benicia and the Berkeley hills, then Oakland and San Francisco with her two giant bridges, Alcatraz and the Marin slopes, on out over the gleaming Pacific.

But delays held the big Navy R7V Super Constellation on the Travis ramp until midnight. When the "load up" plane was given, I was seated away from small portholes with no possible chance to see outside. Just after the big plane roared down the run-

way and into the blackness, instructions were given as to procedure in case of emergency, the location of escape hatches and the use of life jackets. I was relieved, naturally, to note that equipment included shark chaser and eye marker.

In Expedition  
Some of our party I met at the protocol office at Travis base. Here were the men who would join the Antarctic expedition:

Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, one of the world's leading ornithologists and representative of the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

Warren Borgeson, topographic engineer, U. S. Geological Survey.

Harold Hubbard, geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey.

Philip Smith, representative of the National Science Foundation whose job it would be to coordinate the scientific phase of the expedition.

Li. Col. Herbert Nichols, observer for the U. S. department of the Army, who would serve as PIO for the expedition as well as write articles for the Navy and the Christian Science Monitor.

Robert C. Miller, correspondent for United Press International.

Grant Powers, representative for "Navy Times."

Colombia Representative  
Also on board were a colorful and charming representative for the Republic of Colombia, Col. Treves Cervera Valdera, and Lieut. Comdr. John Ploetz meteorologist.

Both were headed for McMurdo base in Antarctica. The big R7V was also ferrying some Navy personnel along with a cargo of mail for polar bases and an airplane engine.

Later we would be joined by Robert Starr, oceanographer with the U. S. Navy Hydrographic office; Dr. Campbell Craddock, a geologist from the University of Minnesota; Robin Leech, entomologist of Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii; and Ray Butler, operations analyst and map curator, who was a member of the U. S. Antarctic Service expedition of 1939-41 and author of a history of exploration in the Bellingshausen and Amundsen sea area.

Amory H. Waite, U. S. Army Signal Research Development Laboratory, now on his eight expedition to polar regions, would join us at Wellington.

Times Correspondent  
The last member of our group would be Phil Benjamin, New York Times, J. Q. Tierney and R. Evans, oceanographers, were travelling southward on the icebreaker, USS Burton Island from the west coast of South America.

It was morning when we arrived at Hickam field on Oahu Island, Hawaii, and, as Comdr. Jack Pillsbury whisked our party off to the hospitality of the BOQ, we could see grim reminders of one Sunday morning Dec. 7 18 years ago.

A different kind of a pall hung over the beautiful island this Sunday morning, January 25, 1960.

A blue sulphurous haze from erupting Kilauea Ihi over at Kapoia on the island of Hawaii enveloped Oahu. According to the "Honolulu

Advertiser" persons in downtown Honolulu reported they could taste the Puna volcanic gas which clogged the atmosphere to 5,000 feet.

Visits Ramsey  
Here I had a brief visit with Rear Admiral Paul H. Ramsey, chief of staff and aide to Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood, Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet at headquarters overlooking Pearl Harbor. Our fleet here is the world's largest Naval command and probably history's most powerful.

With evening departure time approaching, we made a fast tour of Honolulu's fast growing business and hotel area, topping off with a few cool and soothing Chi Chi beverages at the Tahitian Laina.

Winging southward at 12,000 feet, from a vantage point of one of the R7V's small ports, I could enjoy a scene of quiet peacefulness, with a big moon off the port side. I could not help but recall that the area quite some distance off the starboard was reserved by the Russians for their current ICBM tests and hoped that their trajectory calculations were, at the moment, reasonably correct.

Tropical Storm  
At sunset the early rays shot colorful shafts through high-piled angry tropical storm clouds below. Never will I forget the grandeur of that scene!

Years before I had swabbed decks and chipped paint for seven long days to cover the distance the giant U. S. Navy plane flew in just 12 hours that night.

At Travis Air Force base I had met a young Hindu lad, Kanchan Lodhia, who had enlisted in the U. S. Air Force at the age of 19 and had been stationed at Hamilton field near San Rafael, Calif. Kanchan was returning to his home at Nandi, Fiji Islands.

As we flew along the sun drenched tropical shore of Viti Lavu, his delight in seeing his homeland after five years absence was only slightly dampened by an attack of air sickness.

Homeland Beautiful  
Kanchan's homeland is, indeed, beautiful. I had expected it to be, recalling my visit to Suva years ago.

At the Nandi airport and at nearby Mocombo Hotel, dusky Fijians with gleaming white teeth, mops of fuzzy hair and happy smiles were scurrying about like characters from a Herman Melville novel. Once

again, as before, I found it difficult to realize that these friendly, good humored Melanesians sprang from savage

ancestors and this lovely tropical paradise was once a "cannibal isle."

Here Bob Miller of UPI recalled a visit with a native of nearby Mbengga, the island of firewalkers, and I resolved to come again to Fiji some day and see the mysterious spectacle of Mbengga tribesmen, a veritable ceremonial "hotfoot."

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## Smog Said To Render Flu Virus Impotent

Chicago—(Science Service)—Somebody has something good to say about smog, for a change.

The good word comes from two scientists who live in Los Angeles, considered by many to be the most smog-smitten city in the U.S.

They found that smog affects influenza viruses in such a way that they are unable to infect. Here is what Drs. Robert D. Boche and James J. Quilligan of the College of Medical Evangelists did:

Mice Exposed  
They exposed black mice to high concentrations of synthetic smog for two months. These mice were then more resistant to influenza virus infection than their corresponding controls if, after virus inoculation, they were again allowed to reside in smog.

This led the researchers to the conclusion that smog destroys the virus in the infected animals. To test this explanation, they bubbled various quantities of smog-like gases through suspensions of viruses. Repeated studies showed that the synthetic smog destroyed the ability of the virus to infect, the scientists reported to the meeting here of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

Another group of mice, located in a spot in the U. S. that is diagonally opposite Los Angeles, have produced evidence that humans may someday be able to supply each other with blood-building tissue as easily as a blood transfusion.

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## Fresh Water From Sea Now Becomes Cheaper

Cleveland—(Science Service)—A simple evaporation system is the basis of a new million-gallon-a-day plant to make drinking water from the sea, soon to built at Freeport, Texas.

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