

'The Bellingshausen-Amundsen Sea Venture' Expedition Leaves Antarctica for Rescue

Accomplishments Of Research Are Noted by Party

(Editor's note: This is another installment in Herb Grey's description of his trip to Antarctica with the USS Glacier earlier this year. Today's installment concerns whiteouts, accomplishments of the expedition before the research was interrupted for a rescue mission, and an incident with polar region residents.)

BY HERB GREY

Mail Tribune Advertising Manager

On the evening of Wednesday, February 24, the Navy-NSF Operation Deep Freeze 60 expedition was again stopped by heavy ice. Bad weather and whiteouts kept helicopters on the decks and leads through the pack ice could not be explored.

Whiteouts come frequently in this part of the world. They are caused by an atmospheric condition that occurs only in polar regions when snow and sky seem to blend and the horizon vanishes. Oldtimers described the sensation as "like being submerged in a bottle of milk." It's a good one.

Helicopters and planes cannot safely fly in whiteout conditions; wise Antarcticans never try to travel when they exist. They are frightening on the ground, much worse in the air. It is fortunate that, like many tropical storms, whiteouts can usually be seen approaching and seldom do they last long.

Much had been accomplished during the previous three days. The dangerous "Porter's Pinnacles" had been examined for geological structure and carefully charted, radar photos had made a profile of the shoreline 120 miles from the deepest point of penetration, oceanographic stations made and small boats and helicopters had transported scientists to prominent geologic and biologic points.

The day before, Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy had sighted a macaroni penguin, with distinguishing orange plumes on its head, which had apparently drifted south on an iceflow. It was the southern most point on record where this species had been found.

The Glacier's new "Ham Shack" located below the ship's bridge is popular with officers and crew. Harry Baublitz and Robert Henry, amateur radio operators, work late into the night to arrange 'phone patch contacts with mothers, wives and sweethearts and send Ham-Gram messages.

Until time for taps, the ship's public address system announces when various areas of the United States are contacted.

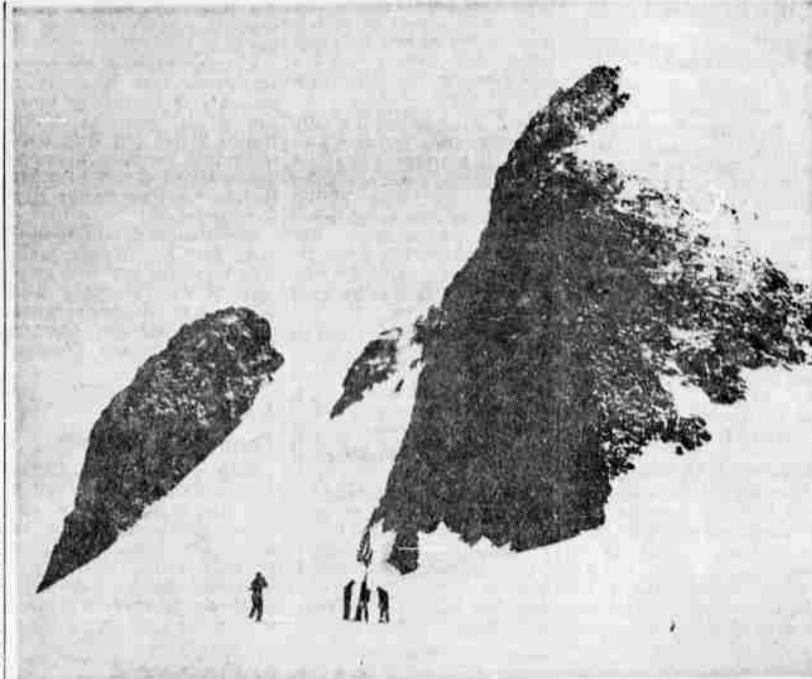
It was the evening of Feb. 24, when the fog's icy fingers gripped the two Task Force ships, the news came by wireless that the Argentine icebreaker General San Martin was caught in the icepack 67 degrees 28 minutes South, 69 degrees 43 minutes West in Marguerite bay off Palmer peninsula just south of Adelaide Island.

Heavy ice pressure was endangering her hull while seven men in the station nearby were running dangerously short of food. Two of them needed immediate medical care.

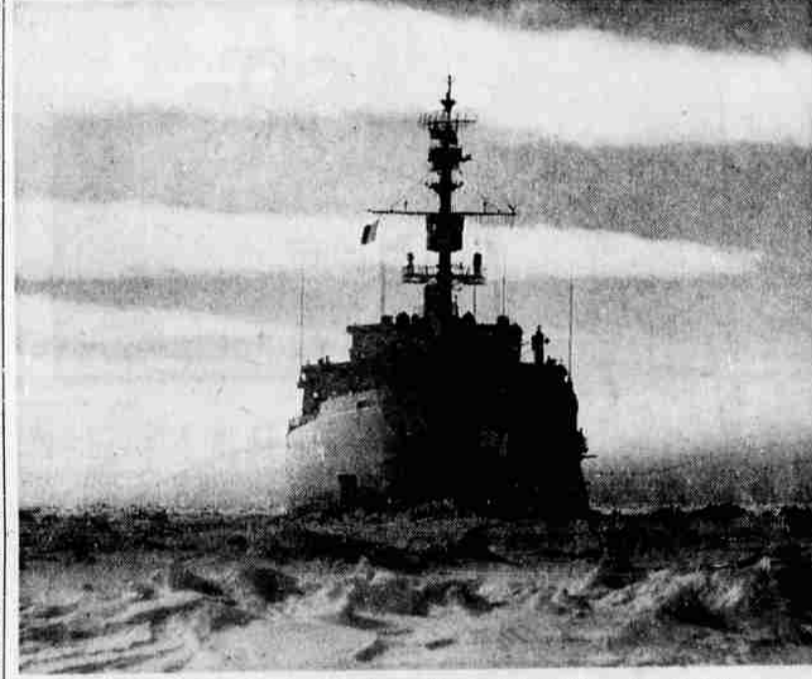
Unwritten Law
Rear Admiral David M. Tyree answered the unwritten law of the Antarctic, and ordered the Glacier to set aside her scientific exploration of the Amundsen sea coast and rush to the aid of the stricken vessel. The two icebreakers immediately moored for a conference.

Reluctantly, Commodore McDonald passed on the word that the estimated half-million dollar scientific work in the Bellingshausen-Amundsen sea area must be interrupted. Three more weeks of high-priority scientific work had been planned.

This was not Capt. Mc-



ERECT FLAGS — Members of the Bellingshausen sea expedition, Operation Deep Freeze 60, erect a flagpole for the American flag and the banner of the National Geographic Society near a temporary camp established by geologists examining a prominent rock outcrop on Cape Flying Fish, Antarctica. Scientists from both the USS Glacier and USS Burton Island studied this unusual coastline. (Official Navy Photo)



PACK ICE — The USS Glacier bull-dozes the ice. The ship's unique keel-less, spoon shape bottom enables her to crush ice over 15 feet thick. A heeling system also provides an artificial roll when stopped by ice. (Official Navy Photo)

Donald's first rescue mission in Antarctic waters. Only last year he led the Task Force to the aid of the British resupply ship John Briscoe in the same waters off the Palmer peninsula, when that vessel was beset in the ice while trying to replenish four United Kingdom bases.

Scientific Trips
Final and frantic last-minute scientific trips were made by expedition scientists while 200,000 gallons of diesel oil were pumped into the Glacier's tanks from the smaller Burton Island. Capt. McDonald headed a group which landed on Thurston Island by helicopter where the American National Geographic Society and Explorers' club flags were raised.

Our sea approach to the Eight's coast will be followed up this year with an over-ice expedition. In preparation for geophysical traverse programs during the 1960-61 field program, a grant of \$566,985 has been made to the University of Wisconsin.

It is anticipated that one traverse will depart Byrd Station in November, 1960, and proceed to the Bellingshausen sea coast. A second traverse will penetrate the high polar plateau in the area between McMurdo, the Russian Station Vostok, and the South Pole Station.

Washington Based
The Bremerton, Wash.-based Burton Island, commanded by Comdr. Griffith C. Evans of Honolulu, was scheduled to follow the Glacier out of the ice pack, cruise around Peter I Island for four days for scientific and oceanographic reconnaissance, then proceed home via Valparaiso, Chile.

From a scientific standpoint,

the expedition had been highly worth-while. Philip Smith, National Science Foundation representative told a quickly called ship-board symposium as departure neared.

He voiced the general regret that further exploration must be terminated much earlier than expected because of the plight of the Argentine icebreaker. Briefly he listed these findings and accomplishments:

- * The Bellingshausen sea had been penetrated to the coast for the first time.
- * Thurston Peninsula, discovered 20 years ago, is beyond doubt an island rather

than a peninsula — part of an archipelago extending east along the Eight's coast.

- * Noville Peninsula midway along Thurston Island may also be an island.
- * Fletcher Islands, shown on the map at the eastern end of Thurston Island, could not be located.

- * There is an apparent scarcity of mammal, bird and vertebrate sea life in this Bellingshausen-Amundsen sea area. In fact, according to Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, this portion of Antarctica is virtually a biological desert.
- * Only four species of birds were seen.

- * Weather information gathered indicates that this area lives up to its reputation as the birthplace of bad weather in the Southern Hemisphere.
- * Rocks gathered from many points and geological data assembled for further careful study. Three astronomical stations were established to take sun and star sights for charting and mapping.
- * Insects and lower plants such as algae, lichens, mosses and liverworts were gathered for scientific examination.
- * The "Grasshopper" automatic weather station was planted on land and is successfully broadcasting temperature, barometric pressure and wind velocity.
- * Several oceanographic stations were made to determine temperature, salinity and oxygen content of the water. The sea bottom was dragged so that cores and plankton samples might be taken for study.

In this work, NSF representative Phil Smith acknowledged the important contributions made by the Task Force 43 officers, Comdr. Joseph Morgan, oceanographer; Lt. Jg. Chester Frankfield, meteorologist; and Ensign Bernard Koether, navigator. Lt. Donald Edwards, navigator of the Burton Island was also cited for his assistance.

Turning toward open sea

ter, here in this lonely part of the world.

The time was 1900 to 2200 (7 to 10 p.m.); the place: 71 degrees 47 minutes South, 100 degrees West. Informal, of course, with polar "gear" and parkas in order. A few fires glowed on the ice and, with the mercury hovering near 33 degrees, the warmth was welcomed.

There was but one casualty. During a hastily organized football game, with seals, sailors and penguins on the sidelines, a curious penguin, undoubtedly feeling the urge of audience participation, charged into the scrimmage with an off-tackle buck. The traditional "stone wall" defense stopped him cold — quite cold.

An autopsy held on the stern of the Glacier the next day showed broken ribs and internal injuries.

A change in wind loosened the pack ice Feb. 27 and the two icebreakers zig-zagged their way through the floe with helicopters ranging ahead to point the way.

Low-Hanging Clouds

Dark, low-hanging clouds on the horizon indicating water sky, proved to be correct, and the two icebreakers emerged from the ice pack into open seas with seals and leopard seals lazily reclining on floating ice, whales playing in the waters with a backdrop of majestic icebergs. At night the Glacier's spotlights sent soft rainbow colors into the darkness when they lighted patches of floating brash ice.

Winter must be near at hand, here in Antarctica. We were well within the Antarctic Circle, yet the nights were pitch dark.

In earlier days of Antarctic exploration, names were affixed to "lands" and "coasts" at random. To add to the confusion, explorers and cartographers of several nations and languages were naming peaks and plateaus, cliffs and capes, ice shelves and islands without regard to the international usage of these names.

Problems Are Presented
The great size of the continent and marked similarity of many natural features present problems. Extraordinary hazards of travel and frequent poor visibility add to them.

Delineation of coastlines with their protruding ice shelves is another.

Chronometer errors in early day exploration resulted in mistakes in reported longitude, looming and mirages may have caused wide errors in latitude, accurate location from the air in more recent times is difficult in this white-shrouded land.

Within the last two decades order has come from chaos. Today other interested nations collaborate with the U. S. Board of Geographic Names, under the Department of Interior, in the nomenclature of Antarctica.

The board's new gazetteer of Geographic Names of An-

tarctica will undoubtedly include recommendations of the U. S. Navy and the National Science Foundation dealing with the previously unexplored Bellingshausen sea we had just left. One name, however, will probably not be included or even suggested. That is Huckleberry Hound Island.

Comical Cartoon Personality

Quite an honor for the comical little cartoon personality! It seems that the Glacier's storekeeper, Gerald Sweeney, and mess caterer, James Welch, wrote to Hollywood's Hanna-Barbera Productions before the ship left Boston.

Huckleberry Hound responded (in person) with a letter wishing the Glacier's crew

"bon voyage" and "good luck" from his little television colleagues, Yogi Bear, Boo Boo, Mr. Jinx, Pixie and Dixie. An appropriate cartoon accompanied the letter.

Those who might wish to visit Huckleberry Hound Island at some future date probably will not find it on an official map. It's likely they could not reach it, too, without a private icebreaker and then only during a highly favorable season.

Just the same, as far as the Glacier's crew is concerned, Huckleberry Hound Island is right there, just 73 miles from Cape Flying Fish at 71 degrees 40 minutes South, 98 degrees 19 minutes West!

Section B

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MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1960

Higher Education Board Gives OK to 1960-61 Budget

Portland—Final approval to a \$33 million 1960-61 budget has been given by the State Board of Higher Education. The budget calls for setting aside in contingency reserve about \$500,000 because of a forecast of enrollment reductions.

Part of the estimate half-million dollars will come from elimination of 30 of the 70 new academic positions contained in the budget. Twenty of these are at Oregon State and 10 are at Oregon.

Board members and the chancellor's office will discuss the eventual size of the reserve fund with state officials.

The budget proposes an increase in the average faculty salary to \$8,403 in 1960-61. It is \$8,085 this year.

In other action Tuesday, the Board: Approved changing the name of Oregon State College to Oregon State University.

The 1961 Legislature will have to OK it.

Named Dr. William C. Jones, senior administrative dean at the University of Oregon, as acting president effective June 20. The search continues for a permanent successor to Dr. O. Meredith Wilson who is leaving for Minnesota.

Named Dr. Jackson T. Crane to replace retiring Dr. Warren Hunter as chairman of the pathology department at the medical school July 1.

Classroom Plans Approved

Approved final plans for a classroom building at Portland State, an addition to the Physics-Chemistry building at OSC and allotted money for the first addition to the University of Oregon science building, which will cost \$2,110,000 in all. It also accepted final plans for dormitory No. 4 and authorized plans for dorm No. 5 at Oregon.

Gave favorable hearing

'Hams' Will Air Handicap Meeting

Washington—(UPI)—Two "Ham" radio operators confined to wheelchairs will broadcast an account of next week's meeting of the President's committee on employment of the physically handicapped.

They are Miss Margaret Cauffield, a secretary for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and Gordon Walter, an electronics engineer with the Navy department's bureau of ships.

President Eisenhower and other high government officials are expected to address the sessions here May 5 and 6.

"We are going to reach as far as we can," Miss Cauffield said. "We particularly hope to make contacts in Central and South America."

A local electronics firm will loan the equipment to set up a temporary 145-watt station in the Labor Department building downtown.

Miss Cauffield, who began amateur radio activities in 1953, now operates a 120-watt station from her apartment in Washington. Walter has been a "Ham" buff since 1931.

to an Oregon faculty resolution opposing the "repugnant" affidavit of the National Defense Education Act.

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