

Vital Weather Records Lost In Antarctic Fire

Washington - (Science Service) - The fire at Mirny, the Russian scientific station in the Antarctic, which took the lives of eight scientists and demolished the meteorology building, also destroyed meteorological records vital to the study of weather conditions on the white continent.

Morton Rubin, U.S. Weather Bureau meteorologist who spent 15 months at the Russian station, said all the meteorological records compiled at Mirny since January of this year probably were destroyed. There were probably no duplicates or copies.

"I know that recently, at least, they were not micro-filming there," Rubin said. "Their policy was to keep the records until the end of an expedition and then ship them to the Soviet Union. From there they were released to other countries. It is winter in the Antarctic now and there is no shipping - no way of getting the records out."

The fire started during a storm on Aug. 2, during which wind gusts of 126 miles an hour occurred. Cause of the fire is undetermined, according to cables reports received here by the National Science Foundation from the U.S. Navy station at McMurdo Sound. A spokesman for NSF said there were about 40 buildings at the Mirny station, and reports indicated that only the meteorology building had been destroyed. Records in small satellite stations, all within about 40 miles of Mirny, are safe.

The scientists who perished included five Russian aerologists, a Russian meteorologist, a Czechoslovakian meteorologist and a German meteorologist. Rubin said, "It is a terrible thing. Eight irreplaceable scientists have been lost. I knew some of them personally. It is a great blow to the work we intended to do with their data. But it is heartening to know that the four men who survived will continue."

Ram Rams Reflection; Vehicle Owner To Sue

Frankfort, Tenn. - A ram named Arthur saw a hated rival and charged with the speed of an express train. There was a thundering crash and the rival - Herbert's reflection in the mirror-like side of George Myer's new automobile - disappeared. Myer said he would sue for damages.

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Monkeys Won't Be Rushed Into Orbit, Says ARDC

Washington - (Science Service) - Neither mice, monkeys nor men will be rushed into outer space by the United States.

An animal will not be launched in Discoverer XV, despite earlier reports that it would house a monkey, a spokesman for the Air Research and Development Command told Science Service.

The Russian dogs recovered from space need not expect U.S. animal fellow-travelers via Discoverer yet. Discoverer XV, like the Discoverer XIV launched Aug. 18, will contain only advanced engineering tests giving complete, recorded data on the pattern and behavior of its round-trip excursion into space and back.

U.S. Gen. Bernard Schriever has said that continued successes with the Discoverer series will probably be followed with an attempt at an orbital launch and recovery of a tiny spider monkey in the space capsule.

Didn't Come Home - Two small, long-gone black and brown mice were part of the first U.S. attempt to orbit and recover animals from outer space.

Cry For Help Involves Several - Greensboro, N.C. - Two painters worked themselves into a corner and called their office for help.

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