

AURORA

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ANARE CLUB



NOVEMBER, 1963

A U R O R A

NOVEMBER

1963

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COVER : The new "Going Away" uniform modelled by Club Treasurer,
Dudley Twiss.

- EDITORIAL -

In past years Expedition Men have been issued with a "Working Suit" which was designed for use as a uniform for official "Going Away" ceremonies, as Dress Wear for use on the ships, for Mess and formal occasions at stations, and as an everyday "Indoor" working suit at Stations. The suit comprised trousers and jacket of grey-green Venetian Cloth, the jacket being a four-pocket, belted garment of raglan cut.

However, its use in practice generally has proved to be restricted to the first three of these functions.

The men have, therefore, made a request for a more conventional and more dressy suit.

After a great deal of discussion and investigation it has been decided to change from the "Working Suit" to a "Going Away" uniform consisting of a Navy Blue Reefer Jacket of Hopsac Worsted Cloth, bearing on the pocket the ANARE Emblem, the main feature being a Leopard Seal, which is common to all ANARE Stations. The Seal surmounts the letters ANARE, and the motif is supported by a Golden Boomerang.

A pair of grey Venetian, tailored trousers styled in the current cuffless tapered look completes the uniform.

The materials and design have been most carefully selected to produce quality garments of fine appearance which Expedition Men will be proud to wear whether in Australia or Antarctica.

EDITORS

V A L E

Robert Frederick White first came to the Antarctic Division early in December 1962 as a vacation student during the long vacation.

He quickly added his own enthusiasm and energy to the yearly task of getting all necessary things complete and ready prior to the sailing of the ships.

Having studied electronics at Melbourne University he was able to help Don Creighton and Gordon Smith with the building and testing of a number of electronic appliances which were, with his help, thus ready on time, and in doing this job he acquired a useful knowledge of the characteristics of the electronic equipment to be used at Mawson during 1963.

It was at the morning tea break on the morning of 16th January 1963 when discussion centred on how a replacement could be obtained at short notice to replace Gordon Smith who, with appendicitis, was to be put off the boat at Albany, Western Australia, that the quiet, firm voice tinged with deference yet with purpose volunteered, "If they'd let me go, I'm sure I could do the job."

This was the signal for "Action Stations". With the help of the wisdom and understanding of his very courageous Mother, the machinery of the Division worked never more smoothly, and Bob White boarded the Nella Dan at Albany the next day.

We learn from the Mawson News Letters that during February Bob White had been installing auroral equipment. March showed he had a flair for cooking. In April he acted as the projectionist for the film shows. In the month during which Mandy produced her litter of pups, Bob took part in the routine glaciological survey by Snowtrac and Volkswagen to Masson Range.

In the July, with Dr. Lippett and Bob Watson, Bob White experienced a severe ordeal on a man-hauled sledge trip to one of the emperor penguin rookeries some distance over sea ice from Mawson.

They set out on Thursday the 18th July.

On the 23rd, radio communication failed.

They reached the rookery on 29th July.

Following a bad blizzard on the next day, taking into consideration the elapsed time since the last radio contact and the search party which would be setting out, they decided to return to Mawson.

They started the return journey on 31st July. On 1st August, while camped, they were completely buried by snow and were forced to cut their way out of the top of the tent when snow threatened to flatten it.

Finally, after a gruelling 15-hour trip, the party reached Mawson at 3 a.m. on 4th August. All were suffering from frost bite to hands and feet, but by the end of the month Bob White was fully recovered and was helping in the sick bay.

In September Bob acted as the station draughtsman preparing drawings for various projects and installations.

We were all shocked to hear that, on 18th October, Bob White collapsed and died suddenly. Our hearts immediately warmed towards his brave mother.

To his parents, we can offer this simple, sincere consolation. All who have known Robert White, at school, at university, in the Citizen Military Forces, and with ANARE, for all his tender 20 years can say "This was a man."

ART IN ANTARCTICA

On Midwinter Day in freezing Melbourne several leading citizens were asked to comment upon the effect the severe winter was having upon the size and shape of their mornings and their work. The Lord High Patoodalum was quite morbid in his reply, stating that it was his worst winter for thirty-four years; another dignitary had forfeited his second egg for an extra five minutes in bed; an ANARE member, unnamed, I'm afraid, had cut down to three his fifteen mile trot (pre-breakfast), because of the extra weight of icicles; but a Russian violinist unsmilingly said, "Weather makes no difference". This seemed amazing and I noted with regret that a painter had not been questioned, and in a hedge-hopping sort of way I pondered upon the properties of catgut and horsehair, or whatever violins and violinists are made of, contrasting them with the makeup of painters and their materials, of any nationality and their behaviour in extreme climates. I would have thought that weather was of just as much importance to the behaviour of a violin as it is to that of painting materials.

For this discussion we are not concerned with the caking, cracking, moulding and sweating that affects paint and painters in tropical places, though it is quite a story, because we are southward bound with the object of recording icy subjects in icy atmospheres.

The air temperatures in Antarctica never attempt to rise above freezing even in mid-summer, so the chief enemy of the painter is cold. The cold is dry cold, dehydrating, penetrating, and as exacting and unrelenting as a mother-in-law. Gloves must be worn for much of the time but one does become acclimatised, to a certain extent. I found it very thwarting to attempt an accurate detailed sketch in bulging triple-knits and usually ripped them off, worked like fury, then plunged back into their comfort for a brief time before another bout of work. Quite often, I found mittens very satisfactory, as they gave finger freedom while still protecting the hands. Soon I hope someone will invent a hand cover which will combine constant warmth with unrestricted movement.

Wind is the arch-fiend which confounds the painter every bit as much as the cold does. Any attempt at a piece 'en plein air' begun in still, vault-like cold is reduced to shreds in seconds, and is whipped into eternity like so many pieces of Melbourne laundry to join the white ghosts of the lost ones.

I recall with a wry smile my first attempt at an oil painting of a landing operation at Hurd Point, Macquarie Island. It was very early morning, still and cold, and the wing of the bridge seemed perfect for viewing the landing, the beach and the jagged reefs and rocks that constitute most landing places on Macquarie. A plentiful supply of Boy Scouts and hands from the bridge helped set up the easel, the canvas, the oils, the lot. The first swift lines had been brushed in when, with a tearing shoosh, the wind swooped like a skua and the battle was on. The team was swift in diving upon all the impedimenta and I proceeded to look and dab, look and dab, in the best studio manner, but with ebbing enthusiasm, as, one by one, things and scouts swayed and slipped and fell all over the deck. But our plight was of no consequence whatever compared with that of the landing party whose peril and discomfort provided a morning of suspense and drama equal to any saga of the Antarctic.

After a few more messy experiences with oils and easel, I decided that they were best left back at base, and so will you. A light sketching easel or something similar run up at home is necessary for oils, plus a simple palette for mixing colours and a tiny tin for turps and linseed oil mixed in proportion two drops to five.

In good weather, I found that a quick water colour sketch registered sufficient detail and accurate colour for later working up in any medium. Some of my favourite penguin sketches were done in water colour and spit, pardon ! saliva (but I don't tell people this) because my water was always freezing solid (and it is generally hazardous to mention this, too). On board ship and near base it was easy as I used to begin with a jug of hot water and have the picture done before things began to jell. At first it's rather fun to have the brush freeze to the paper every few seconds, but it gets tedious and the results are somewhat jazzy. When I bought my painting supplies the salesman, who kept wondering what I would find of interest to paint in a freezing-works, recommended a few drops of ox-gall in the water as an anti-freeze measure. There is no need to be nervous about ox-gall as it is colourless and odourless. I used it as directed, with good results, but I have still to find anyone who knows what ox-gall actually is and what its freezing point might be. Water colour is a most satisfactory medium. It is cheap, diverse, and easily managed, and I recommend it especially for Antarctic scenes.

For border-line and bad conditions I found coloured pencils, crayons, pastel-crayons were ideal, as they carried easily and their colours were very satisfactory. There is an ever-increasing variety of these, and they are good because they are strong, they don't crumble and they have a very wide colour range. With these I used a pull-off sketching block, fairly small, so that all could be stowed in a large pocket, leaving hands free to negotiate Jacob's ladders, bucking launches, crampons, snow-tracs, helicopters and Antarctic emergencies. I used some dozens of lead pencils and found 3B a good average sketching type.

Melbourne has several good art supply centres which bulge with tempting materials and whose staff-members are helpful and very well informed; also, art supplies are well labelled, sizes, numbers of sheets in a sketch-block, colours, qualities (students or artists) are clearly stated, so no difficulty should present itself to the new-comer. But perhaps a list of basic materials may be useful :-

For Oils

A light easel, bristle brushes, minimum number, six, sizes Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12.

Oil, pure linseed, 1/4 pint should be plenty.

Turpentine, mineral turps, should be available at your station.

Oil colours. Take plenty of white, obviously, several blues, black and the primaries, plus turquoise and mauve.

If still keen, splurge on a small palette knife for mixing colours. A piece of masonite does well as a palette.

Oil board is sold in several sizes and qualities, all quite expensive, but ready to paint on, unlike wood or masonite, etc., which need sealing and facing before the masterpiece is begun.

For Water colours

A box of about ten colours for field-work, plus tubes of basic colours and perhaps a set of poster colours for a full-bodied effect at odd times.

A good brush or two, preferably sable, is essential.

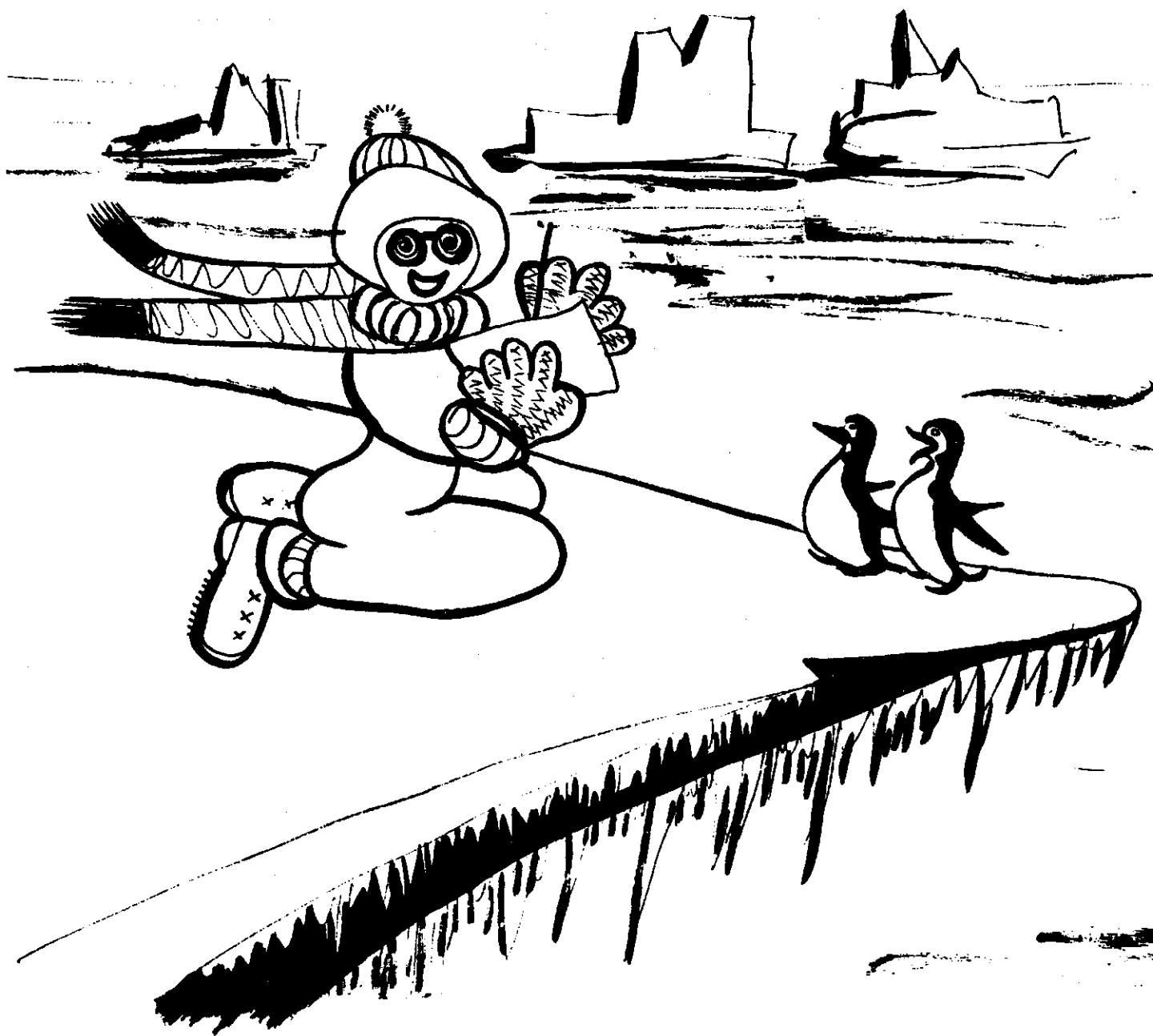
Loads of lead-pencils. 1 bottle ox-gall.

Pastels, etc.

There are so many of these and their cousins, uncles and aunts to choose from that the best thing to do is to see them all and then appeal for help. This applies, too, to coloured pencils, inks etc., etc.

Finally, I wish you "good luck" and I hope you have the fun I had in the great battle of trying to record some of the wonder and beauty of The South.

Mrs. P. G. (Nell) Law.



STATION O.I.Cs. FOR 1964.

O.I.C., MACQUARIE ISLAND STATION :

Mr. Robert O. Nunn, of 66 Hinkler Road, Glen Waverley, Victoria. Mr. Nunn is a technical officer at the Commonwealth X-ray and Radium Laboratory, Melbourne. Aged 35, he is best known for his activities as umpire for the Victorian Football League.

O.I.C. WILKES STATION:

Mr. Raymond A. O'Leary, 58 Beach Road, Mentone, Victoria. Aged 37, he is actively interested in ocean yacht racing and skin diving. Mr. O'Leary holds the rank of Captain in the Commonwealth Military Forces.

O.I.C. DAVIS STATION:

Mr. Norman E. Trott, of Traralgon, Victoria. Mr. Trott is aged 29 and holds the Diploma of Mechanical Engineering. He is a technical school teacher who has already spent a year at Davis as meteorological observer in 1962.

O.I.C. MAWSON STATION :

Mr. Peter James Martin of Wellington New Zealand, Mr. Martin is 36 and was Senior Scientific Officer during 1961 at the joint United States-New Zealand Hallett Station. Mr. Martin served for Eight years in Royal New Zealand Navy and was later a Radar Specialist in the New Zealand Civil Aviation Administration.

A NEW CARAVAN FOR MAWSON.

This year the Division, with the assistance of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, designed a fibreglass caravan. R.M.I.T. through Mr. G. Hutchison indicated that they would like to carry out some project for ANARE in the new Fibreglass Department of the Plastic School.

As a result of initial discussions it was decided to build a 'Pid' type caravan based on the design originally made by the Gordon Institute of Technology of Geelong, Victoria.

The original caravans were of bondwood construction and are well known to all Mawson inmates since 1957. They were light but strongly built; shaped in such a manner to glide through sastrugi ridges, with walls sloped to reduce wind effect and drift accumulation on the lee side.

The new type is of similar design, but has smooth lines and radiused corners. It has a fibreglass external skin; insulation is polyurethane sprayed in-situ and trimmed to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " thickness. Internal finish is a skin of fibreglass which completes the sandwich type construction.

A bright orange external finishing colour was introduced into the final coat of resin which produces an almost permanent finish. Natural light is obtained by fitting a double skin blown perspex observation dome mounted in the roof. All internal fittings for bunks, benches etc. have been integrally formed into the walls. Four bunks and a cooking and storage cupboard unit have been fitted in.

B.P. are co-operating in design of a special heating device (to burn B.P. kero of course) which is expected to give greater comfort and safety than the simple heaters previously used.

Provision is made for fitting the caravan on a Norwegian type sledge. At the time of going to press, the weight of the caravan is unknown but accent has been on lightness.

While writing this last paragraph, I can almost hear the 'Old Sweats' muttering to themselves and saying, "Its not like the old days", and "the new lot get it easy." If this is so, then we, the head office 'explorers' are pleased, for now we are settled in our new home we are able to do those things that were once but a frustrated hope!

Frank Smith and Alan Brown.

EXPLORERS AT LARGE

Pancho Evans has again returned to Hong Kong, and as far as we know he is living aboard Sampan No. 153. Pancho will be our roving reporter for that area, so we hope he does not take up the Chinese language.

There is no prize for guessing who is going back again to the enchanting South. But this time he will need the cunning of a fox to get through Yass. It seems that his V.W. became soft in the mouth and headed for the lush green pastures in that area.

Hear that Dr. Fred Jacka's Russian is rather atrocious. We understand that he solicited the abilities of an attractive young European lass to help him pass an elementary standard exam. in Russian.

Morrie "Waterpipe" Hickey draws two comments this time -- firstly it appears he's been doing a spot of plumbing for a character named 'Cyclops'; secondly he has been giving a plumbing convention in Brisbane -- the benefit of his sojourn in Antarctica.

Wilkes '61 explorers will be pleased to know that John 'Haggis' McGhee returned to Melbourne, complete with Australian wife Mary and wee daughter Fiona. They arrived in Melbourne on 26th October in the 'Fairsky'. Few of the local lads planned a liquid reception for them.

Good old Lofty ('Don't call be Bubbles') Maines, is another stalwart explorer to fall prey to the charms of womanhood, and was last seen leaving the church with bridge, Falcon, and T.V. set in tow. We hope he is not rude to his new bride at mealtimes, as he was to his victims at Wilkes ! We all wish Lofty and his wife the best of everything.

RUMDOODLING BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN.

by Geoff. Smith.

Most Antarcticans know Russ Pardoe either personally or by repute. Russ, who was M.O. at Mawson in 1961 did a hot drop of cranial surgery on a fellow explorer who is now as good as new.

Those of us who were South with Russ will remember his stories of the hilarious adventures of his friend John Huxtable who is well known to most expedition doctors. Wherever M.O.'s and other con. men foregather the names of Pardoe and "Hux" invariably come up for discussion.

This pair, once more reunited after Russ's visit to New Zealand and Hux's to South America are currently nearing the end of one of the most sumptuous travel-feasts ever enjoyed.

After visiting Japan they crossed to Vladivostok via the Trans-Siberian Railway. All doors (and iron curtains) were opened to them - and hospitality followed the Mirny pattern. They visited Moscow and were given several useful introductions by the British Consul. Meandering down through the Southern Soviet Republics and spending one or two days at the principal towns they reached Tashkent and Samarkand. North again to Leningrad where, armed with introductions they received a cordial welcome at the Polar Institute. Somewhat regretfully, they moved out of the U.S.S.R. and across to Helsinki. A bus journey North through Finland brought them to Hammerfest at the Nord Kapp, the most northerly point of the Norwegian Coastline. There, they took ship intending to reach Spitzbergen. Unfortunately ice forced the ship to return to Hammerfest so they travelled south by train through the Scandinavian Peninsular with an enjoyable stay at Oslo. Crossing to Denmark, Copenhagen delighted them so much that they spent much more time there than they had intended. Their last communique was sent from Hamburg. They reported that their funds were lasting much better

than anticipated so they intend to stay on the Continent for a while longer, arriving in London about the end of October. They are licking their lips over a projected five day stay in Paris. (to visit the Louvre no doubt).

They sum up the whole trip in the one word "YIKLA".

A COLD ROOM FOR ANARE

A cold room for the study of materials and equipments intended for use in the Antarctic has been installed in the scientific section laboratory of head office.

The room was built by Ex-Plastics on a similar pattern to the huts at Mawson and Davis, but with approximately double the thickness of insulation. It has a work space of 7' x 7' x 6' and a small entry porch.

The cooling plant supplied by Philips Electrical Industries uses hydrogen at a working pressure of 25 atmospheres as the refrigerant. The equipment includes a recording thermometer and temperature controller which maintains the room temperature within - one centigrade degree about any desired temperature down to minus 100°C.

To date, tests have been carried out on materials for clothing, sleeping bags, tents, ground sheets, electrical insulation and lubrication, and plans are in hand for intense study of a full range of materials and equipment prior to acceptance for use in Antarctica.

Peter Trost

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ed.,

In the hope of being constructive, I could not leave unchallenged the statement made in your column "Cold Science" to the effect that "the common cold, 'flu, etc. are virtually unknown in the Antarctic."

In 1962-63 at Mawson, 22 different cases of Upper Respiratory Tract Infection reported for attention with symptoms severe enough to request treatment. These occurred at both changeovers and 10-14 days after the Russian visit in summer. In addition, throughout the year there were small waves of Upper Respiratory Tract Infection of viral origins do occur both at changeover and visits, but also throughout the year.

The attenuated nature of the symptoms may well be due to a generally high resistance to the limited number of local viral strains, and this attenuation of symptoms no doubt explains why U.R.T.I's are "virtually unknown". Could I

suggest that if a careful search is made for the mild infections, the prevalence of the wily virus will be found to be equal to, if not greater than, back in Australia as a result of the close communal living at the bases.

Your informative article by Mr. A. Campbell-Drury was something I wished I had read before going to Mawson. Could I add to the list of 8m.m. Cine cameras - Kodak Brownie - cost £15 approximately. For the complete novice, as I was, I was pleasantly surprised with the performance and results of mine. Being made of bent tin only, it worked well - scarcely affected by cold even at - 35°F. at which, although it slowed down a bit, still produced some quite presentable film. Some more refined models gave trouble at temperatures much higher than this.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID WIGG, M.O. Mawson, 1962.

NEW BALLOON RELEASE FACILITIES FOR WILKES

BY Geoff. Smith.

A severe blizzard at Wilkes in 1962 destroyed a new Balloon Inflation building which had been supplied by the U.S. Weather Bureau. This had been designed for the inflation of the large balloons which are used at Wilkes.A.N.A.R.E. will replace this building in 1964.

Some radical changes in design have been made in order to overcome the geographical and mechanical problems which are peculiar to Wilkes. The accumulation of drift is especially severe at this station and a building with its floor at ground level soon gathers a healthy mountain of snow on the lee side. As Balloon Release doors are, of necessity, on the lee side, the disadvantages are obvious. Wilkes has very few bare windswept areas such as those at Mawson and Davis.

To overcome the drift problem the building will be mounted on a pipe-scaffold foundation at a minimum height of four feet above ground level. This will allow the wind to pass beneath the building and clear away the snow which would otherwise be deposited against the lee side.

The solution of one Antarctic problem invariably produces another and this case is no exception. The height of the doorway above ground would create several interesting possibilities when the Observer attempted to run out with his balloon.

- (a) He falls on the balloon which explodes.
- (b) He lets go of the balloon, shouting "Pewjack".
- (c) He gets carried away.

To overcome this problem a thirty feet square Launching Platform will be built immediately in front of the Balloon Doors. This platform will have a

braced pipe-scaffold foundation with steel channel bearers supporting an open mesh steel deck. This mesh deck will allow the snow to fall through and prevent drift accumulation on the platform. A six feet section of decking around the edge of the platform will be sloped upward in order to slow the Operator and prevent him falling over the edges which will be about eleven feet above ground level. Should this fail to do so a safety net will catch him as he falls - and why we go to all this trouble for met. men I'll never know !

The building itself consists of a Balloon Inflation Room, 15 feet by 14 feet and a Hydrogen Generating Room 15 feet by 12 feet. The Balloon Inflation Room will have a ceiling height of 16 feet and a door height of 13 feet 6 inches. The doors consist of four leaves, two folding inwards on each side of the doorway. The meeting leaves run on specially designed swivel bogies on a steel track. The tops are tethered by rollers running in guide rails. A special quick-release fastening system will allow the Observer to open the doors and release the balloon without assistance. Special sealing gaskets will exclude drift when the doors are closed.

The Generating Room will house the standard Ferror-Silicon System as used at the other stations. The Baker Hydronal Ammonia System which is already in use at Wilkes will be moved with its building and connected to the new building. The Baker building, together with the new building will be erected on an elevated platform.

The method of construction of the new building will follow the standard A.N.A.R.E. hut panel method of assembly including tie rods. Externally the building will be clad in waterproof plywood and lined internally with a non-combustible, flexible, asbestos and cellulose fibred cement sheet. This material has been recently developed and combines the best qualities of hardboard and asbestos cement and has less likelihood of exploding in a fire than A.C.

The building will be finished externally in a tasteful shade of flame orange and in its location on the promontory tip will stand out like the proverbial dog's eyes providing a homing mark for both sea-ice explorers and relief ships.

ANNUAL ANARE CLUB CABARET

SEND-OFF TO 1964 EXPEDITIONS.

Calling all twisters, stompers and exponents of the Madison - no matter if you can't dance a step, you are invited to attend the Annual Cabaret which is timed to provide an opportunity for everybody to get to know everybody else. This is the chance of a lifetime to enjoy yourself, so bring your wife or lady friend.

Dress is informal, but gay !

Price per person is £2. 0. 0. Excellent Supper All Refreshments Provided.

Dancing 8.30 p.m. to 1 a.m. The date - Friday, 22nd November.

Venue is once again at -

THE NEW ALEXANDRA
Alexandra Street,
St. Kilda.

For obvious reasons, we would appreciate your remittance in advance.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS NOW with Doug. Twigg or Eric Macklin at Head Office.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

This year the ANARE Club has excelled itself in producing a very fine Christmas card in colour. At the time of going to press 1,200 cards have been ordered, sight unseen ! We have not as yet sold a single card to the departing expeditioners who normally constitute the bulk of our sales, therefore we cannot guarantee that supplies will last and advise all members to place their orders immediately.

Price per card, complete with envelope, is 1/3d. from your Secretary, ANARE Club, 568 St. Kilda Road.

GENTLEMEN YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS PLEASE !

Aurora in its present form is far more expensive to produce than the style issued last year. Subscriptions do NOT cover the cost of the magazine. The improved format has been made possible only because your Committee has ploughed all profits from Xmas Cards, ties etc., back into "Aurora".

In the past we have forwarded the magazine to many unfinancial members but increased costs have made it quite obvious that the Club cannot afford to continue this policy.

Our aim is to continue to improve "Aurora". The final issue for the current year (Midwinter 1964) promises to be something spectacular and of great interest to all members.

Tear off and return to :

Secretary,
ANARE Club,
C/- 568 St. Kilda Road,
MELBOURNE. S.C. 3. VIC.

Subscriptions for year commencing 1/7/63 - £1.

Also available from your Secretary :-

Sharp ANARE ties	25/-
Club badges	7/6d.
Xmas Cards	1/3d.
Post Cards	1/-

Enclosed is my Cheque/MO/Cash for being :-

SUBS, TIES....., BADGES, XMAS CARDS,
POST CARDS

Name

Address.....
.....

Two interesting letters were received from Matt Pryor and Burt Goldenburg in the States. Both Matt and Burt wish to be remembered to their many friends. Matt has just returned from a conference in France. Whilst there he took the opportunity of visiting T.A.A.F. Headquarters in Paris where he met Paul Teyssier who is going South with the French Expedition to Dumont d'Urville.

Burt Goldenburg writes, "As you can see by my return address I'm now working with the Canadians at the Joint Arctic Weather Station, Resolute Bay, NWT. It's a little bigger than Wilkes, with about 200 people this time of year, but otherwise much the same.

Danny Foster, after returning from his round the world trip, is also working up here in the Canadian Arctic at Alert Station, the world's most northern settlement. I haven't seen him yet, but I expect to go up to Alert for a visit within the next few weeks.

The last I heard Marvin Haunn was collecting unemployment insurance in Pittsburgh, and Steve Bone was supposed to go into the Navy."

POST CARDS

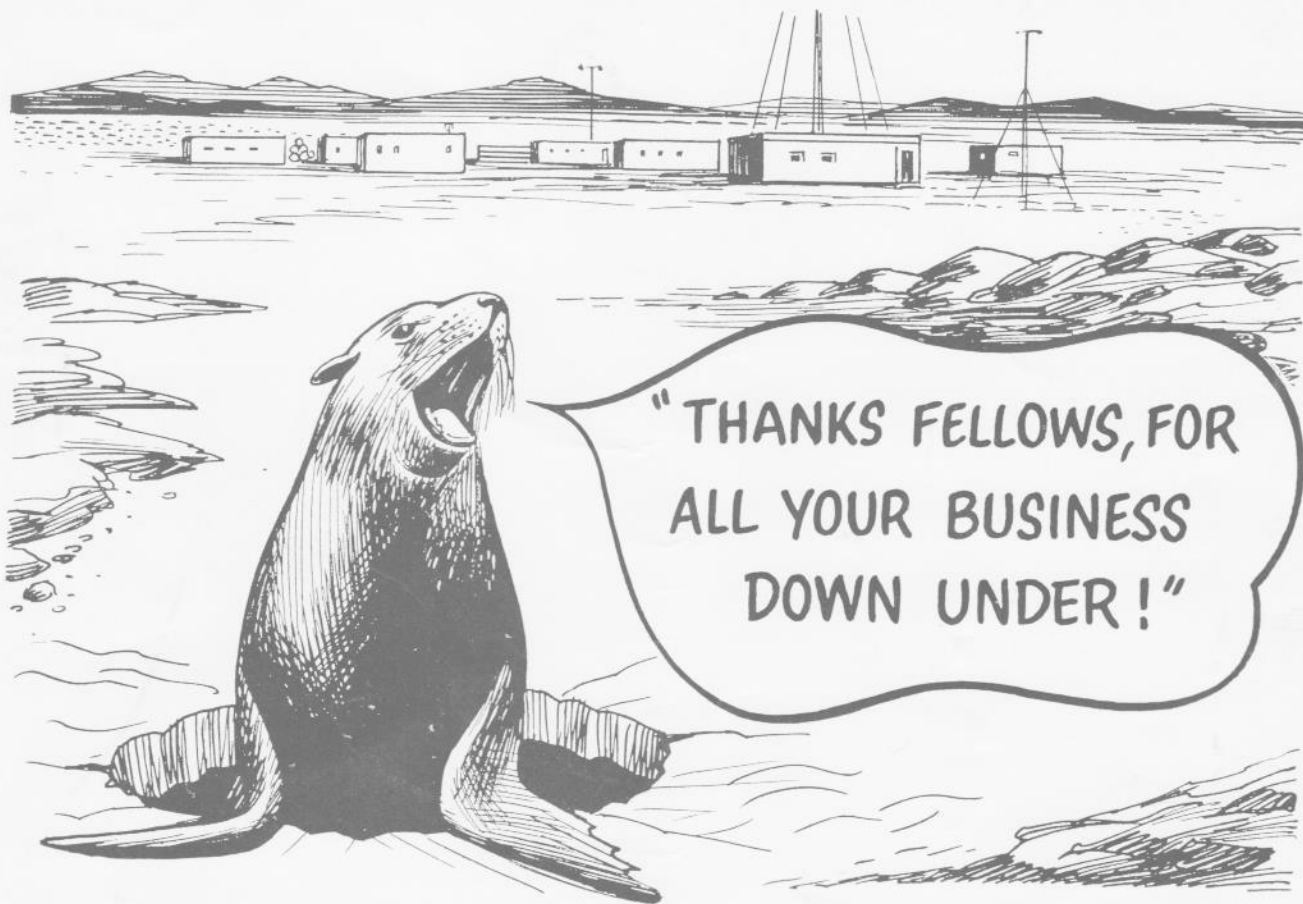
The Club has produced a small quantity of postcards which will be sold to expeditioners on the relief ship.

The coloured blocks used on the Club Xmas cards have been utilised for this purpose.

These cards may prove interesting to members especially those interested in Antarctic postmarks and are available from the Secretary at 1/- each.



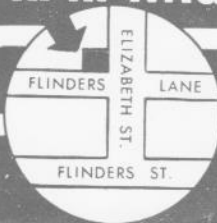
By courtesy of the "Herald".



Yours

Sincerely

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