



*The Caterpillar in crevasse trouble.*

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Oorweging word geskenk aan 'n veerpyltjie wedstryd teen Signy Eiland.

Net om Antarktika, Antarktika te hou, het 'n storm op die 30e en 31e ons kom herinner dat luike te alle tye in 'n goeie werkende toestand moet wees. Nie soos die een naaste aan die met. gebou waar sneeu tydens die storm tot teen die dak ingewaai het nie.

#### August, 1972

After experiencing a record monthly mean temperature of  $-36^{\circ}\text{C}$ . during July, August's warm weather ( $-22,4^{\circ}\text{C}$ .) was enjoyed by everyone.

On the whole, the month's weather was calm and only two storms occurred. On the morning of the 12th a sudden wind storm came up reaching its peak only six hours later, with a mean hourly wind of 78 knots and a maximum gust of 100 knots. To everyone's surprise the wind became almost calm only fifteen hours later.

On the 13th a party of eight members left in Vallie and the FM, two of our muskegs, on a visit to the Buktas, only to be caught in yet another storm. It was eight very relieved faces which returned to the base after being cramped in the back of Vallie for three days.

On the following day the rest of the team left for a visit to the Buktas, not seen by the previous party, this included all surrounding buktas. The last party, however, experienced sunny days and had much to tell on their return.

Shortly after this, dog and four team members left for Marsteinen on a supply trip. After the first few days of poor visibility and minor mechanical delay, they made good progress and were last reported to be in the hinge area where the route is reported to be rather indistinct, since the last party passed through it in late March.

*(Die Nuusbriewe is goedgegunstelik deur Die Departement van Vervoer aan die Bulletin voorsien.)*

## NEW PROGRAMMES ON MARION ISLAND

During the I.G.Y. (1957/58) the National Institute for Telecommunications Research of the C.S.I.R. operated an ionospheric station on Marion Island. The equipment used for this purpose was transferred to Sanae in 1962.

In recent years it has become clear that additional ionospheric information in the area between South Africa and Antarctica - South America and Australia was highly desirable for improving predictions for radio communications networks.

The possibility of re-opening the station on Marion Island was therefore examined and it was decided to re-establish the ionospheric station on the island during 1972.

In addition to the need for more data to improve communications predictions mentioned above the decision was strongly influenced by the potential value of the station for scientific research.

Marion Island is very nearly conjugate to an ionospheric station operated by the Max Planck Institute in Germany, i.e. these areas lie on nearly the same magnetic field lines and phenomena occurring in one hemisphere can influence ionospheric conditions in the other. Marion Island should also prove of tremendous value in studying the effects of the South Atlantic Radiation Anomaly, where electrons trapped in the outer Van Allen belt penetrate deep into the atmosphere. Analysis of some of the 1957/58 Marion Island data has shown that anomalous conditions exist there during the winter.

In addition to the gathering of ionospheric data the station will also concern itself with gathering magnetic data for the Hermanus Geomagnetic Observatory. Suitable equipment for this purpose is being installed at the same time as the ionospheric equipment.