

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 1976

AUGUST ON MARION ISLAND WAS A MONTH OF SNOW, RAIN, AND WIND WITH VERY LITTLE SUNSHINE. RATHER MISERABLE. THE DAYS ARE GETTING NOTICEABLY LONGER, HOWEVER, AND THE BREEDING SEASON FOR SEALS AND BIRDS IS NEAR. THE GENTOO PENGUINS HAVE NEWLY HATCHED CHICKS AND NORTHERN GIANT PETRELS ARE LAYING EGGS. BIG MALE ELEPHANT SEALS HAVE ARRIVED ON THE BEACHES, ALL FATTENED UP FOR THE MONTHS OF FIGHTING RIVAL MALES AND IMPREGNATING COWS.

TONY HAS MOVED TO HIS HUT AT ARCHWAY BAY TO BE NEARER TO THE AVIAN ACTION. HIS COMPANIONS NOW ARE SEVERAL THOUSAND KING PENGUINS. HE RETURNS TO BASE EVERY WEEKEND TO STOCK UP ON FOOD AND KEEP HIS WEIGHT UP.

THE MARION WINTER OLYMPICS ARE OVER. JOHN RILEY AND JOHANN WON THE SNOOKER COMPETITION WHILE DUDLEY IS CURRENTLY THE LOCAL PING-PONG WIZARD. BENS KARATE EXHIBITION WAS RUDELY INTERRUPTED WHEN HIPPIE ACCIDENTALLY GOT IN THE WAY OF BENS FIST. WITH PAINFUL RESULTS.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE SPORT WAS THE TOBOGGANING. EVERYONE RISKED LIFE AND LIMB TO HURTLE DOWN THE SNOW COVERED SLOPES. HIPPIE WAS DETERMINED NOT TO DISAPPOINT THE BLOODTHIRSTY CROWDS, BUT ONLY MANAGED TO SPRAIN SOME LEG LIGAMENTS, WHICH PUT HIM ON CRUTCHES FOR A FEW DAYS. UNFORTUNATELY WE CANNOT REPORT ANY INJURY TO ROYS POWERFUL VOCAL CORDS. HIS ONE-MAN LAUGH SHOW, ENTITLED "DEEP THROAT" DISRUPTS EVERY MOVIE SHOW.

YS AND ALAN OPENED THE MOUNTAINEERING SEASON. ON ONE OF THE RARE CLEAR DAYS THEY VENTURED INLAND TO KATEDRAL KRAANZ AND NEDS KOP.

JOHN STONE AND MARTHAN ARE BOTH FEELING OLDER THIS MONTH AND AN EXCELLENT PARTY WAS HELD TO CELEBRATE THEIR BIRTHDAYS. WITH TO THE TUNE OF AUSTRALIAN FOLK MUSIC, EVERYONE SIMULTANEOUSLY RENDERED THEIR VERSIONS OF HIGHLAND FLINGS, TIKKIEDRAAI ETC. THE NEXT MORNING MANY PEOPLE HAD BUMPS AND BRUISES THEY COULDN'T ACCOUNT FOR.....OTHERS MERELY HAD SORE HEADS.

MEANWHILE THE WORK CONTINUES. GRANT HAS GOOD SUCCESS CATCHING CATS BUT THE CATS DO NOT CO-OPERATE AND DIE AT THE SAME RATE AS THEY ARE CAUGHT. THE GALLANT METEOROLOGISTS ARE FIGHTING WINDS AND INSTRUMENT MALFUNCTION TO GET THEIR BALLOONS IN THE AIR.

AND SO AS THE SNOW RATTLES THE WINDOWS, WE SEND GREETINGS FROM OUR ISLAND HOME.

THIS MONTH HERALDED THE RETURN OF SOCIAL ORDER TO THE ISLAND AND THE INITIAL FERVOUR WITH WHICH ONE AND ALL TACKLED THEIR PROGRAMMES HAVE EASED INTO THE PHENOMENON CALLED ROUTINE. NOT THAT EVERYTHING RUNS SMOOTHLY ALL THE TIME. FOR EXAMPLE:-- ETIENNE IS CONSTANTLY FERRETING AROUND FOR A TOOL (ANY HEAVY ONE WILL DO) TO 'FIX' THE UPPER AIR EQUIPMENT ONCE AND FOR ALL WITHOUT JOHN RILEY'S ASSISTANCE. THE LATTER IS USUALLY FOUND PICKING AWAY AT 'DUELLING BANJOS' WITH ONE GUITAR ONLY. DUDLEY IS A SELF-CONTAINED SHOE MANUFACTURING UNIT INTENT ON REPLACING METKASSIE FOOTWEAR THAT HAVE BEEN WORN IN THEIR EFFORTS TO CONTROL NET. BALLOONS IN SIXTY KNOT WINDS. CHRIS (OUR TYPIST WITH THE WRONG THINGS IN THE RIGHT PLACES) RIPPED A CATWALK WITH HIS LEG IN HIS HASTE TO BEAT SUPERSTITION, WHILE ROY IS FEARED BY US ALL SINCE HIS REVERBERATING LAUGH DURING COMEDY TIME HAS ALREADY SHATTERED AN EARDRUM OR TWO.

THIS BRINGS US TO THAT REMARKABLE ORNITHOLOGICAL MARVEL, THE PADDY (IT MUST BE RELATED TO A CHICKEN), WHO KEEPS ALAN (COLLECTING INFORMATION) AND NARTHAN AND GRANT (ANNIHILATING) BUSY FULL TIME. THE FORMER TRIES TO TRAP THEM (UNSUCCESSFULLY) WHILST THE LATTER ENDEAVOURS TO KEEP THEM OUT OF THEIR CAT TRAPS (THE SAME EFFECT). SO FAR ONLY ONE (BIRD THAT IS) HAS SUCCEEDED IN THE STRUGGLE. TONY OCCUPIES HIMSELF WITH HIS NEXT BOOK (THE FIRST ONE CAME ALONG CRATED AS PART OF TOILET EQUIPMENT), 'CHASING BIRDS AROUND THE WORLD' IN WHICH, STRANGELY ENOUGH, THE KING PENGUIN DOES NOT FEATURE AT ALL. JOHN STONE (WHOSE NOSE INCIDENTLY IS VERY SENSITIVE TO CAT EXCRETA) RELENTLESSLY SHUTTLES TO AND FROM THE DIESEL SHACK (GIVING THE CATTERY A WIDE BIRTH) FROM NOON TO NIGHT WHILST JOHAN AND BENNIE ARE BUSY CONJURING UP THE MOST EXTRA ORDINARY REASONS FOR HAVING A PARTY, ESPECIALLY AFTER THEIR VISIT TO KILDALKEY IN INCLEMENT WEATHER.

FINALLY, THE PICTURE OF THE MONT;-- PADDIES WEIGHED DOWN BY RINGS BACKDROPPED BY A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SUN.

GREETINGS FROM THIS OVERCAST ISLAND OF OURS.
MARION 33.

NNNN

DIRK HIER IS DIE AFRIKAANSE EEN VERTAAL
DANKIE