

could be studied in greater detail. In the short time spent on ice crystals at S.A.N.A.E. Base during the course of 1960, various types were encountered and photographed. These included hydrometeorites (stellar/star crystals, trigonal crystals, prisms, bullets, composite bullets, capped columns, needles, plates, etc.), drift snow, firn (granular snow), condensation and hoar frost crystals. Experiments carried out on the possibility of "preserving" the numerous ice crystal forms by photographic means, were purely

experimental and not much time was available for modifying the primitive but effective "contraption".

Apart from building up a labelled collection of photomicrographs of ice crystals for the meteorological office at SANAE, a systematic and routine study of ice crystals together with the associated meteorological conditions, could certainly be an asset to the South African research programme in the Antarctic.

## NEWS FROM SANAE AND THE ISLANDS

### SANAE, 28th September, 1965:

Everybody is fervently active here at present. For those concerned with the forthcoming field expedition this is understandable, but for the others it is possibly the appointment of the 1966 team which has brought the realization home that our term is rapidly approaching its end.

Although September is supposed to be a spring month it brought several weeks of bitter cold. At times the temperature remained consistently below minus 40°C. Brilliant mirages of the buktas and icebergs as well as of columns of sea mist were regular features of the sunny days. Auroral displays were particularly frequent and were seen to extend north of our zenith.

The expedition to the mountains at the beginning of September was postponed and the geological, geophysical and field surveys will all be combined into one expedition due to depart early in October. The two Muskegs and one dog sled team will participate. One Muskeg will return to base after completing the Dassiokop-Marsteinen tellurometer survey. The sledge party will provisionally consist of Wolfgang Pollak and Zac Ezekowitz. The support and depot-laying Muskeg party will consist of leader Sewes van Wyk, Wilfred Hodson and Nico Smit. The survey Muskeg party will be surveyor Johnny Strydom supported by Dries Steyn. With half the team away on field programmes for various periods the chaps at the Base will really have their hands full to maintain the "home" programmes.

### SANAE, 12e Oktober, 1965:

Hier by die basis moet sewe man nou veertien se plekke volstaan en bowendien het Moeder Natuur dinge ongemaklik gemaak deur kwaai sneustorms en winde te stuur wat tot oor die 100 knope gestoot het. Die kerele wat berge-toe vertrek het, het eers alles terdê omgekrap en toe met groot gebrul en gemaal van sneeu weggejaag. Wolfgang en Zac het stil-stil oor die horison verdwyn met die hondspan nadat hulle so byna die dinamietstelsel omgeroep het. Die trekkers het aanvanklik na verskillende punte vertrek vir die telluometertrekkers. Alles het voor die wind verloop tensypte van die traagheid van die telluometers om reg warm te word.

Arme ou Pottie dra nog steeds 13 instelle van 6 koppies koffie in die oggend rond om daarmee ook die leë beddens wakker te maak. Hy kla net vreeslik oor sy kliënte wat die dorp verlaat het sonder om eers hulle rekenings te vereffen. Danie meen dat kook- en skiewiebeurte mekaar nou te snel opvolg. Krugerdag is op tradisionele wyse met rooiwyn en skyfskiel gevier. Jan Dok met sy kontaklense was die enigste wat die skyf op 100 treë kon sien en tref.

Met die temperatuur wat nou uiteindelik begin styg kla die tradisionele klaagpotte dat Antarktika vir hulle nou te warm begin word—die temperatuur het een dag tot minus 3°C gestyg!

### SANAE, 29th October, 1965:

October started with the worst snowstorm of the year and the maximum gusts could not be recorded. But snow petrels showed up after the storm—a sure sign of warmer weather. While the Republic experienced unseasonal cold weather a "heat wave" hit SANAE and the temperature soared to minus 3°C!

After many unforeseen delays the field expedition is making slow but steady progress. Only three days after departure Sewes returned with Wilfred who was suffering from acute appendicitis, but he has recovered since. Johan replaced Wilfred but the Muskeg had to return to base on two more occasions.

Johnny and Dries have been very successful with the tellurometer survey and they will return to Base early next month. Zac and Wolfgang report that the dogs are behaving excellently despite the short time that was available for training them. Every day an amusing account of the days events in the field is received from Smittie.

Meanwhile the indoor explorers have been very busy keeping programmes going at Base. Willie, assisted by Pottie, is trying to get Bernadine roadworthy again. The fresh air has bitten Ray to

such an extent that he now spends most of his time outside erecting a new antenna system which he hopes will greatly improve communications. Danie is preparing another cosmic ray balloon instrument for a flight early in November. Derek had everybody up in arms when he ran his noisy ionosonde once every minute to cover the ionospheric effects produced by the comet as it approached the sun. Hennie no longer needs a torch to take the midnight "met" readings.

The number of engagements announced from down here this year has now increased to four. We extend our heartiest congratulations to Nico Smit and Johan Joubert and the lucky girls Cecilia and Gerda.

### MARION, 2e November 1965:

Hier op Marion is ons vas oortuig dat Oktober wel die mooiste maand is want ons het seker die lekkerste sonskyn suid van die 45e breedtegraad geniet. As die sonnetjie dan so lekker skyn is daar ook sommer 'n groter lus om bedrywig te raak. Kameras kom tevoorskyn en die basis word dan ook sommer eenzaam as die mense in alle rigtings verdwyn om hulle fotografiese kuns te gaan beoefen. Ander weer verkies om tuis te bly en so 'n bietjie gemmerbier te maak. Wat egter verbasend is, is om te sien watter verskillende bestanddele in daardie bierkannetjie beland. Na 'n week word die prop voor die bek van die kan verwyder. Eddie was die ongelukkige persoon wat deur die halfduim straal bier getref is, maar Grietjie, die pappegaai, het ook nie ongesonde daarvan afgekem nie selfs al het sy die straal probeer ontwyk deur bo van haar dwarsbalk af te tuimel. Grietjie wou eers niks van die tuisgemaakte brousel weet nie maar na 'n paar dae se vere skoonmaak het sy 'n liefhebber van die gemmerbier geword.

Die weerkundige personeel het 'n tydskromme om dop te hou vir die waarneming van liggewende wolke. Ongelukkig is die kritieke punt nou so by 2.30 vm. en is daar besluit dat die "kurwe" nou nie juis een van die interessantstes is om dop te hou nie.

Die klein see-olifantjies lyk nou al soos trommeltjies en die koeie begin reeds geleidelik terugkeer seewaarts. Met die koms van die rokkopper pikkewyne begin ons ook al voel dat die einde nou in sig is wat betref ons verblyf hier, want as die broeikringloop voltooi is sal ons ook huiswaarts keer.

### MARION, 27th November, 1965:

Apart from a few snowfalls we had exceptionally fine weather during November. The biologists welcomed the good weather as it was possible for them to do fieldwork most of the time.

### GOUGH, 21e Oktober 1965:

As daar ooit eendag 'n toeristeverkeer na Gough mag ontstaan dan sal een van die advertensiespreuke seker so lees: "As u Gough-eiland op sy beste wil sien, kom dan in Oktober". Die plantegroei is al die skakerings van groen en die varings en struik staan kniediep sover as wat die oog kan sien.

Ons het so byna 'n droogte gehad toe dit vir 8 dae nie 'n druppel gereën het nie, want al die riviertjies en bergstrome dreineer vinnig na die see. Ons hoenderboerdery het die afgelope paar maande mooi gevorder. Die battery met ongeveer 30 hennelower gemiddeld twee dosyn eiers per dag. Verskeie hennelower battery het begin broeis raak en twee dae gelede het die eerste kuikens dan ook verskyn.

Die belangrikste gebeurtenis hierdie tyd van die jaar is die aankoms van die Tristania. Vier dae gelede het hulle ons skielik laat weet dat hulle van Tristan vertrek en die volgende dag 10 vm. hier sou arriveer. Ons was egter skaars klaar met ontbyt die oggend toe die skeepshoring hier vlak by ons blaas en die radio-operateur so ewe droeg vra: "Did we give you a fright?" Die weer was egter so sleg dat hulle nie kon affaai nie en ons moes maar tevrede wees om 'n paar dae te wag.

Ons laaste 6 maande op die eiland het nou aangebreek en indien dit netso vinnig sal verbygaan as die eerste 6 dan is ons sommer een van die dae terug in die Republiek.