

### SANAE, 1st March, 1965:

Usually when a new expedition takes over from an old one it is a surge of frantic activity until the ship has left. The SANAE VI takeover from SANAE V was no exception. Despite the rush the offloading of stores and supplies, including two new Muskies and a new caboose, was accomplished without hitches, in perfect weather. After the departure of the RSA all were anxious to get organised as regards base work and scientific programmes. Very soon all food supplies, new scientific apparatus, etc., were safe and sound within the base. In the record time of three days 800 drums of diesel were transported from Tottanbukta to SANAE.

The past month has been an extremely busy one for all. Many programmes have been provided with additional new apparatus. The meteorological team installed a new radio-theodolite which is now working satisfactorily, providing upper wind speeds and directions. Hennie Joubert, Pottie Potgieter and in particular Dries Steyn, as well as surveyor Johnnie Strydom, who supervised the orientation of the antennae, and radio technician Smittie Smit are to be congratulated on this fine piece of work.

In addition to his normal duties Smittie runs the seismograph programme. Johnnie, ably supported by Doc. Jan de Wit, is often out in the field surveying an ice strain network.

It has been a busy time for the geophysicists. Ionosphericist Derek Sharwood has installed and is at present testing a new air-glow apparatus. Geomagnetist Zac Ezekowitz is testing the all-sky camera in preparation for the winter auroral programme. A Flux Gate magnetometer has been successfully installed and final alignments will soon be completed. Cosmic ray physicist Danie Joubert is preparing electronic apparatus for a balloon flight to be done simultaneously with a flight by other members of the Potchefstroom University research team during the Marion Island relief. The geological field party, consisting of leader Sewes van Wyk, deputy leader and senior mechanic John Joubert, geologist Dr. Wolf Pollake and Smittie Smit left mid-February for the mountains. However, after a harrowing experience between Dassiekop en Marsteinen, in which Muskeg and fuel sledge fell sideways into a five foot wide crevasse, necessitating the hasty departure of a rescue team consisting of Wilfred Hodson and Zac Ezekowitz, they were forced to return to base, the Muskeg and sledge with fuel having been successfully rescued. A reconnaissance of the region ahead revealed that it was insurpassable, particularly to a heavy vehicle. Radio operator Roy Statt is hard busy erecting a cubical quad antenna for his new self-constructed single sideband transceiver. This is sure to liven the interest in radio hamming.

### SANAE, 1e Maart:

Harde werk en min slaap was die eerste ontmoeting van die SANAE IV span met Antarktika. Deur samewerking en inspanning is die RSA van 150 ton voorrade ontlast en op Sondag 24 Januarie het Skroef van Zyl en sy manne ons met 'n mengsel van blydschap en weemoed tótsiens gewuif. Ons aan wal het die RSA in stilte gevolg totdat dit as 'n stippeltjie op die horison verdwyn het. Eers op daardie oomblik is SANAE IV as span saamgesnoer want ons was nou alleen.

Jan Dokter het reeds met die aankoms sy messe geslyp en met Tollie Traut se hulp is Ray Statt verlos van 'n wond wat nie wou genees nie. Sy vinnige herstel is moontlik te danke aan die koppie warm koffie waarmee die weerkundiges hom elke oggend wek.

As ons eerste kok het Danie Joubert se eerste baksel brood tot ver onder die pan se bodem gerys. Johnnie Strydom was verplig om weens beperkte kantoorryimte sy intrek in die "Paleis van Justisie"

te neem. Daar het hy slegs gekla oor temperature onder vriespunt en te veel besoekers. Selfs Pottie Potgieter het sy stilte versteur met sy kitaar oefening in die nabyheid.

In lieflike sonnige weer het 800 dromme brandstof in netjiese rye tussen merkepale verskyn aan die westekant van die basis. Ook die sneeugang is skoongemaak en die voedselkassies netjies opmekaar in numeriese volgorde in die gang gepak.

Op Donderdag 11 Februarie het die eerste veldskpedisie na die berge vertrek. Alles het vlot verloop totdat die skeurgebied bereik is. Skielik sak die trekker na links in 'n 6-voet breë skeur — dit nadat die beste roete per voet bepaal is en nadat selfs breër skeure reeds oorbrug is. Hulp is per radio ontbied. Bewerig het Smittie gesê:

„Laat ek jou vertel, hierdie wêreld is voos van die karwatse!”

(Deur „karwatse” het hy natuurlik „crevasses” bedoel).

Danksy die spoedige optrede van Ezekowitz en Hodson is die toerusting in ere herstel, maar vordering is pas daarna deur 'n spinnerak van skeure beëindig.

Met die manne gaan dit almal goed. Baarde en hare raak weelderiger en die minder bedeelde skeer selfs. Smittie se baard ruk egter handuit en daar word gereken dat hy eersdaags 'n merkepaal sal moet gebruik om vir die vure die rigting na sy mond aan te dui.

### SANAE, 30th March, 1965:

The registration of a minimum temperature of minus 35 degrees Celsius must surely be an ominous sign that winter is rapidly approaching. During the past month the summer lull was broken by frequent storms, though as yet no storms have reached true Antarctic proportions. At present it is day and night as we know it in the Republic but this is rapidly changing to a predominance of night.

Some dazzling mirages in which the whole surrounding coastline and nearby icebergs are revealed, show that there is much beauty and many breathtaking spectacles in this white continent.

We have all now settled into the routine of life at an Antarctic base. The fellows are all in good health, so that after attending to minor complaints Doc. Jan de Wit, is able to devote his free time to studying and “gardening”. Many interesting growths have already blossomed in the garden and it is rumoured that greens may be available by midwinter.

The met. team, Hennie Joubert, Pottie Potgieter and Dries Steyn have had extremely successful balloon flights recently and the average maximum height reached during March should be very close to a record for SANAE. Surveyor Johnnie Strydom has been most fortunate in his search for supposedly lost beacons in the SANAE region and he is now surveying the network.

Geologist Wolf Pollake and geomagnetist Zac Ezekowitz recently undertook a field trip which took them to the sub-station, Pingvin Base, and along the northeast coast to the last ice rise before the Trolltunga. Magnetic and gravity determinations were made, as well as some glaciological observations. Geophysicist Danie Joubert recently launched a partially successful cosmic ray balloon. He was given valuable assistance by the met. team who inflated the balloon. Nico Smit operated the antenna tracking system. Ionosphere expert Derek Sharwood, besides keeping his beast, the ionosonde, in check, is on night duty for the airglow programme. Radio operator Ray Statt has obtained very promising results with his single sideband radio equipment. Smittie has constructed a field strength meter enabling the cubical quad antenna to be properly tuned. Leader Sewes van Wyk gave useful assistance to the Diesel mechanics, Johan Joubert and Wilfie Hodson, who completed a long needed overhaul of the snow melter and a Diesel engine.

## NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION

After the summer “hibernation” period, which lasted for three months, the Association held its first meeting of the year on 22nd February. Unfortunately Mr. W. van Zyl, leader of SANAE V, who had been invited to address the meeting on the activities and programmes carried out at the station during 1964, could not attend and Dr. J. J. Taljaard consented to show his colour slides and a fifteen minute cine film on the expedition to Bouvet, Gough and

Tristan da Cunha Islands during March, April and May, 1964. The substance of his talk is contained in the report on the expedition published in “Antarktiese Bulletin” No. 4 of July, 1964.

The Award Committee for the South African Antarctic Medal decided to award the Medal this year to Victor von Brunn, geologist/glaciologist/geomagnetist of SANAE I. Details of the motivation will be published in the May issue of the *Bulletin*.