

BROKKIES EN GEBEURE

GROWLERS AND HOWLERS

GOUGH-EILAND:

Drie yslike snoeke deur Nico gevang—Septembermaand. In Oktober het die *Tristania* Gough bereik. Dadelik is die pos aan wal gebring en was almal net kliphard besig om briewe te lees en pakkies oop te maak. Daarna het die *Tristania* om die eiland geseil en kreef gevang. Om 'n skip so naby te hê, het ons sommer laat voel asof ons terug in die beskawing is.

Ons hoenders was aan want daar het 'n klompie kuikens uitgebroei wat die Ma-hen net kwaai beskerm. Anders sou hulle te gou kos vir die skuas word.

Novembermaand: die weer bly maar 'n bietjie onplesierig. Ons sien nogtans so af en toe die son en dan is die kreefnet in die see. Sulke bakke kreef wat op tafel verskyn vergoed darem so 'n bietjie vir die tekort aan vars vleis.

Deesdae begin ons al aan inpak dink. Kaste word aanmekaar getimmer en planke raak al hoe skaarser. Chris Human, ons skrynwerker, moet net raadgee en hand bysit. Chris het gekom om die gebou te verf en te herstel. Hy is 'n geharde eilandbewoner wat op Marion en Sanae al gewerk het.

SANAE VII:

September: In September the mountains are the dominant thought at SANAE. They lie 150 to 300 kilometers south of the base. Each rock outcrop projects through the polar icecap like an island in the ocean. Some rise to a height of 2,500 ft. Reaching them will be the fulfilment and justification of months of hard work and preparation by everyone, particularly the geologists who have gazed longingly at aerial photographs and distant mirages. They have planned every aspect of their work and prepared instruments for geological, geophysical and glaciological work among those distant peaks.

Since the return of daylight the dogs have been trained as often as possible. A few of them were new to the brace. Training a new dog is difficult but finding the correct place for him within the team is almost impossible! If he is not at least tolerated by his nearest teammates he will become the centre of a devastating half ton mound of furiously fighting husky vengeance.

Field radios and transmitters have been prepared and tested. The fieldmen have been trained to operate them and also to trace simple faults. The geomagnetist has learnt to receive and transmit morse. The doctor has

prepared a first aid box and everyone in the field party has been trained by him to know what to do in case of emergency. Food for 90 days has been split up into five boxes. A muskeg tractor will pull two sledges and the caboose. The weight on each sledge is limited to two tons. Sufficient fuel must be taken for field work and the return journey.

Most of this work has taken place in the newly constructed garage. The construction involved the whole team. The garage measures 30 by 16 by 20 feet deep with a 30 foot sloping ramp. A series of ice tunnels and a vertical shaft connect it to the power shack, enabling access independent of weather. Heating and electricity is provided. It contains a workshop with work bench and an overhead gantry for lifting an engine out of a muskeg and for sliding it onto the bench.

This was a most magnificent effort. Each man worked on a voluntary basis spending two hours every day for three weeks on the project. Over 100 tons of snow and nearly 150 sled loads of snow had to be sledged away. Now the garage is a hive of activity as the diesel mechanics prepare for the field. Thought has been given to the methods to be used to rescue men and machine from crevasses. Ropes and pulleys have been set aside for this purpose. We hope to leave the base before the end of September.

November: A fire at SANAE broke out on the night of Thursday the 9th of November in the sub-station near the base. Fortunately it was nothing serious and no injuries were sustained.

MARION-EILAND:

21/9/1966: Die see-olifante geniet hul lewe op die strande. Die wind en koue weer is vir hulle 'n grap want hulle lê so heerlik uitgestrek op die klippe asof hulle die wêreldse sonskyn geniet. Gister het Koos en Gert die blye tyding gebring dat daar 'n klein see-olifantjie gebore is. Ons het almal toe gaan kyk.

22/11/1966: Die afgelope drie weke hoor mens net die deuntjie: „Dit is weer lente” want die mooiweer het werklik gekom, mooi stil sonskyndae. Die manne het hulle al moeg gestap hier tussen die berge rond.

'n Paar dae gelede het ons hier 'n snoek gevind wat op die strand uitgespoel het—iets besonder, meen ons, want volgens waarnemers is hier nie ander vis as Koningklip.