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REDAKSIONEEL — EDITORIAL

Die Suid-Afrikaanse Antarktiese Vereniging verwelkom Mnr. D.J. Joubert, Sekretaris van Vervoer, wat ingestem het om medebeskermheer van die Vereniging saam met Prof. S.P. Jackson en Dr. S. Meiring Naudé te word.

Daniël Jacobus Joubert is gebore op 8 Februarie 1909 in die distrik Dundee, Natal, waar hy ook sy Laer- en Hoërskoolopleiding ontvang het. Gedurende die periode 1929 tot 1933 het Mnr. Joubert aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch studeer en die graad B.A. en LL.B. behaal. Na sy universiteitsopleiding was hy vir 'n paar jaar klerk van die destydse Regter-President van die Transvaal.

Gedurende 1936 is Mnr. Joubert egter aangestel as Assistent-sekretaris van die destydse Sentrale Padvervoerraad vanwaar hy gevorder het tot Sekretaris van Vervoer in 1957. Mnr. Joubert is ook Voorsitter van die Raad vir Uitvoer van Bederfbare Produkte, van die Nasionale Vervoerkommissie, van die Raad van Trustees van die Sportstigting van Suid-Afrika. Verder is Mnr. Joubert ook President van die Federasie vir Jeug en Sport, asook 'n lid van die Wetenskaplike Adviesraad van die Eerste Minister.

Mnr. Joubert is nog steeds die houer van verskeie skool-, interskool-, universiteits-, Dalrymple en Provinsiale rekords. Was sedert 1931 die houer van die Suid-Afrikaanse 100 tree rekord, naamlik 9.4 sekondes, maar hierdie rekord is onlangs deur Paul Nash verbeter. Die wêreldrekord wat hy in 1931 opgestel het, is eers in 1951 deur Mel Patton verbeter. Mnr. Joubert het in 1931 sowel as 1932 Springbokkleure verwerf. Tans speel Mnr. Joubert graag 'n putjie golf maar weens 'n baie druk program, kry hy maar selde die geleentheid daarvoor.

Mnr. Joubert het 'n intense belangstelling in boerdery en bring graag 'n besoekie aan sy plaas in die distrik van Warmbad, waar hy hoofsaaklik met beeste boer.

Hy is getroud met Adeline du Toit en het drie kinders. Die twee oudstes, Danie en Liliette het die grade B.A. LL.B. en B.A. onderskeidelik aan die Universiteit van Pretoria verwerf en albei is reeds getroud. Die jongste, Mareliese, is egter nog op skool aan die Hoër-Meisieskool, Pretoria.

SESDE JAARLIKSE DINEE VAN DIE VERENIGING

Die sesde jaarlikse dinee van die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging is in die Constantiaklub, Pretoria, gehou op Saterdagaand, 20 Julie 1968. Die W.K. Groblersaal was gevul met 80 gaste.

Die eregaste aanwesig was Prof. S.P. Jackson, Dr. en Mev. S.M. Naudé, Dr. en Mev. F.J. Hewitt, Mnr. en Mev. D. Neethling, Mnr. en Mev. K.A. Lee en Mnr. en Mev. O.E.F. Baker. Mnre. Lee en Baker is ampsdraers van B P Suidelike Afrika, skenker van die Suid-Afrikaanse Antarktiese Medalje.

Verskonings is ontvang van Dr. Edna Plumstead van die Universiteit van die Witwatersrand en Prof. E.M. van Zinderen Bakker van die Universiteit van die Oranje Vrystaat. Ander vername persone wat die funksie bygewoon het was Prof. P. Stoker van die Universiteit van Potchefstroom en Mnr. D. Kingwill van die W.N.N.R. Dr. Charles Lautenbach het as seremoniemeester opgetree, 'n taak wat hy op besonder luimige wyse vervul het.

In sy openingswoorde het Mnr. D. Neethling, voorsitter van die Vereniging, 'n spesiale woord van verwelkoming ge-

rig aan Mnr. Joubert wat ingestem het om mede-beskermheer van die Vereniging te word saam met Prof. Jackson en Dr. Naudé. Ongelukkig was dit nie moontlik vir Mnr. Joubert op die geleentheid aanwesig te wees nie en hy het sy verskonings aan die Vereniging oorgedra.

Die seremoniemeester het die volgende boodskap van Mnr. Danie Joubert, leier van SANAE 9 gelees: ‚By geleentheid van midwinter 1968, dra die lede van negende Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Antarktiese Ekspedisie hulle beste wense oor aan die bestuur en lede van die S.A.A.V.'

Afgesien van die uitstekende ete wat voorgesit is, was die hoogtepunt van die aand die geleentheidstoespraak deur Dr. Hewitt en die oorhandiging van die S.A. Antarktiese Medalje aan Mnr. Dirk Neethling. Dr. D. Torr, wat voorsitter van die Medalje-komitee was, het die motivering vir die toekenning van die medalje aan Mnr. Neethling voorgelees, waarna Mnr. Baker die medalje oorhandig het.

Dr. André van der Merwe het die geleentheid afgerond deur Dr. Hewitt te bedank vir sy interessante en leersame toespraak, en die ander persone wat behulpsaam was met die organisasie van die dinee geluk te wens met die uitstekende sukses van die geleentheid. Hy het verwys na die belangrike aanmoediging wat BP maak vir Antarktiese Navorsing deur 'n medalje beskikbaar te stel.

SITAAT: ANTARKTIKAMEDALJE

Mnr. O. Baker, Streeksbestuurder van BP Suidelike Afrika oorhandig die Antarktiese medalje aan Mnr. Dirk Neethling. Regs is Mev. Baker.

Foto: R. van Heerden

Die sitaat vir die toekenning van die medalje deur Dr. D.G. Torr, Voorsitter van die medaljekomitee van hierdie vereniging, was as volg :

‚Mnr. D.C. Neethling het die B.Sc. en B.Sc-Honneurs grade in Geologie aan die Universiteite van Stellenbosch (1954) en Pretoria (1966) behaal. Tans is hy ingeskryf vir die Doktors-graad aan die Universiteit van Natal. Sy proefskrif handel oor die Geologiese en Gletserkundige navorsing van die Suid-Afrikaanse Ekspedisies in Antarktika.

Voor sy vertrek in 1962 saam met die derde Ekspedisie na Antarktika was Mnr. Neethling reeds 'n erkende geoloog met wye ondervinding in Suid-Afrika en Noord en Suid-Rhodesië. Gedurende sy oorwintering te SANAE was hy verantwoordelik vir die uitvoering van die geologiese, gletserkundige en veldgeofisiese programme. 'n Taak wat hy met groot ywer en inisiatief aangepak en tot uitvoering gebring het. Die huidige langtermyn gletserkundige program te SANAE is hoofsaaklik aansy toedoen te danke.

Na sy terugkeer vanaf Antarktika is hy in 1963 aangestel as koördinerende geoloog vir Antarktiese Navorsing aan die Geologiese Opname. Tans is hy hoofgeoloog en programdirekteur en verantwoordelik vir die beplanning bestuur en koördinasie van die geologiese en verwante programme in Antarktika.

Hy het reeds Suid-Afrika op verskillende internasionale simposia oor Antarktiese navorsing verteenwoordig. In 1965 is hy aangestel as Suid-Afrikaanse lid van die Werkgroep vir Gletserkunde van SCAR en by die veertiende Algemene vergadering van die Internasionale Unie vir Geodesie en Geofisika wat in 1967 in Switserland gehou is, is hy aangestel as sameroeper-sekretaris van 'n spesiale subkomitee van SCAR vir ysbankstudies.

Sy menige publikasies sluit o.a. bydraes in oor die geologie van die Ahlmannberge in westelike Koningin Maudland en 'n oorsig oor die Suid-Afrikaanse Gletserkundige navorsing op die Fimbulysbank. Van hierdie referate is o.a. voorgedra by internasionale simposia oor Antarktiese navorsing in Suid-Afrika, Suid-Amerika en die Verenigde State van Amerika.

In 1965 was hy Suid-Afrikaanse waarnemer en uitruilwetenskaplike op die V.S.A. 'Deep Freeze' Ekspedisie. Daarbenewens was hy op twee verkenningekspedisies na Bouveteiland en leier van die Suid-Afrikaanse gedeelte van die S.A.-Belgiese somerekspedisie van 1968.

Mnr. Neethling het nie net 'n intense belangstelling in sy vak en navorsingsrigting nie, maar was ook by verskeie geleenthede lid van die komitees van die Suid-Afrikaanse Antarktiese Vereniging en die Suid-Afrikaanse Antarktiese Klub. Vanjaar is hy nie net alleen verkies as Voorsitter van die vereniging nie maar tree ook as mede-redakteur van die Antarktiese Bulletin op.

Tydens sy oorwintering in 1962 het hy durf en leierskap aan die dag gelê, sy lojaliteit was onverdeeld en sy aangename persoonlikheid het baie daartoe bygedra om die moraal van die ekspedisie hoog te hou.'

BEDANKING VAN MNR. D. NEETHLING OP OORHANDIGING VAN MEDALJE

,Dit is vir my 'n besondere eer om vanaand hierdie medalje van die Suid-Afrikaanse Antarktiese Vereniging in ontvangs te kan neem. Dankie vir die mooi woorde, Dr. Torr as voorsitter van die medaljekomitee en Mnr. Baker as offisiële verteenwoordiger van B.P. Suidelike Afrika.

Daar is baie wat deel in hierdie medalje, graag wil ek hulle uitsonder. My vrou Marie, want sonder haar volgehoue ondersteuning van wat vir my belangrik was sou ek sekerlik nie vanaand die voorreg gehad het om hierdie bedanking te kon doen en ons medalje in ontvangs te kon neem nie. My innige dank ook aan my Vader en Moeder en aan Hom vir die voorreg om hulle albei vanaand hier by ons te kan hê.

En dan die derde Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Antarktiese Ekspedisie - Marten du Preez en ons dertien daar saam in die koue en in die wit en sneeu van daardie land wat ons almal hier vanaand in 'n gemeensame band snoer. My dank aan die Geologiese Opname en die Departement van Mynwese, in besonder aan Dr. O.R. van Eeden, die huidige direkteur, en die nou-afgestorwe Dr. F.C. Truter, vir die ondersteuning en vertroue wat hulle in my en in die toekoms van ons program in Antarktika gestel het. Aan die geoloë van die ekspedisies, Victor von Brunn, Barry Butt, Otto Langenegger, André du Plessis, Wolfgang Pollak, Eddie de Ridder, Horst Bastin, Charles Kingsley, Kobus Retief, Brian Watters en Anton Aucamp - aan hulle almal, baie dankie want sonder hulle belangstelling en geesdrif sou ons geen program gehad het nie.

I am also grateful to the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research, in particular to the secretary of SASCAR for the close and friendly relationship maintained during the past six years. I am indebted to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research for the most generous sponsorship of my participation in international SCAR Working Group Meetings, participation in the U.S. Deep Freeze Expedition 64/65, XIVth General Assembly of the International Union for Geodesy and Geophysics 1967 and the forthcoming Symposium on Antarctic Glaciology to be held in the United States during December of this year. These Symposia and visits to foreign antarctic institutes have provided me with a most useful background in Antarctic Science and exploration for which I am most grateful.

My sincere appreciation to the Department of Transport which has provided the logistic support both in funds and personnel so vital for the execution of our field programme in Antarctica. The willing and friendly co-operation of the secretariat and officials of this department is gratefully acknowledged.

In conclusion, I would like to wish the South African Antarctic Association everything of the best for the future. We are indeed fortunate to be members of an association which has set itself the task of bringing Antarctica to the nation and we are even more fortunate to bear witness in our age of this fascinating exploration of the last unknown continent on planet earth, a continent of which that famous navigator Captain Cook many years ago said that : 'it is condemned to everlasting rigidity . . . . . for whose wild and desolate spirit I have no words . . . . . and I make bold to declare the world shall derive no benefit from it'.

We know that Cook was wrong, at least in the sense that we know so much more now and in that we sincerely believe in a vital role for Antarctica in the future existence of man on earth, however, we must associate ourselves too with the words of another famour Antarctic explorer Admiral Richard E. Byrd who proclaimed that : 'Antarctica will never be conquered. At best we will tear aside a little of the veil which conceals its secrets'.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR. F.J. HEWITT AT THE SIXTH ANNUAL DINNER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ANTARCTIC ASSOCIATION

Dr. F.J. Hewitt, Vise-President van die WNNR, gas spreker by die dinee die aand van die Antarktiese Vereniging. Aan sy regterkant Mev. Hewitt en aan sy linkerkant Mev. O. Baker.

Foto : R. van Heerden

I am greatly honoured, Mr. President, to have been invited to speak on the occasion of this the Sixth annual banquet of the South African Antarctic Association. It is an honour which should surely be bestowed on someone who is himself more closely associated with the Antarctic than I am, someone who has been actively engaged in exploring the Antarctic continent or the sub-Antarctic Islands, whereas my association has only been from the comparative comfort of the committee room chair, in an atmosphere which expedition members probably feel is not conducive to clear thinking or rapid action. This derogatory impression of the office bound administrator or manager is not however peculiar to expedition members. It reminds me of the story of the civil servant who was sitting at his breakfast table reading his newspaper. Somewhat absentmindedly he pushed out his now empty cup and said, 'Another cup of coffee, please.' His wife dutifully refilled his cup and looking at the clock said, 'You must hurry up George, or you will be late for the office'. 'Oh, my dear,' said the civil servant, 'Am I still at home? I thought I was at the office.'

What I would like to try to do tonight is to examine the changing pattern of our South African programme for Antarctic research and look of our programme in relation to international research programmes and their development over the years.

We, in South Africa, are now in our second five-year period of serious Antarctic scientific activity. After our initial rather hastily prepared programme which was very broad in relation to our resources of manpower and money the situation is clarifying and our programme and methods of programme management are being modified in the light of experience. When I first wrote these notes I was going to say also in the light of the changing pattern of international science but, much to my surprise, I find that it is rather the scale than the principles of international scientific endeavour that has changed so remarkably in the last 10 years.

It is interesting for us here, at a function of the Antarctic Association, that the concept of international co-operation in geophysics originated in relation to Polar exploration. This occurred at a time when Arctic exploration subsisted on the hope of discovering new lands and on the emotional desire to reach the north pole. It was an Austro-Hungarian naval officer, Karl Weyprecht who in 1875 described previous Arctic expeditions as 'constituting an international steeplechase to the North Pole, a system opposed to true scientific discoveries.' He maintained that the Polar regions offered greater advantages than any other part of the globe for observations of such phenomena as magnetism, meteorology, aurorae, geology, zoology and botany.

Obviously he would have included the ionosphere and cosmic rays if these phenomena had been known at the time! Weyprecht died before the International Polar Conference was convened in 1879, to deliberate on his plan for orderly and scientific examination of the polar regions; but this conference in fact set out the goals not only of the First International Polar Year of 1882/83 but also, unwittingly, of the second Polar Year of 1932/22 and even of the I.G.Y. - to the very great credit of the naval officer in question and the scientists attending the conference.

Remembering that this conference met over the years 1879/81 it is perhaps permissable for me to read the precedents then established.

These precedents were :

(a) The principle of international collaboration and co-operation in geophysics.
(b) An emphasis on geophysical studies in both polar regions combined with strong support in temperate zones.
(c) The hope for a continued existence of some of the stations expressly established for the International Polar Year.
(d) The adoption of the principle of strong support by military and naval forces of participating countries.
(e) The use by co-operating nations of both governmental and private funds to finance International Year operations.
(f) A study of the planet in as many geophysical fields as technology and interest permit.
(g) The principle of standardised instruments, common techniques and synoptic observations, where necessary.
(h) The definition of intensified periods of observations i.e. 'term days, international days', etc.
(i) The extensions of observations to mobile craft (e.g. merchant and naval vessels).
(j) The principle of common interchange of data.
(k) The principle of publication of results within reasonable time periods after the conclusion of the International Year.

It is amusing to note that the authorities even then had difficulty in persuading participants to work up their results for publication - as we still have today; but is it not remarkable that in the 1880's, bearing in mind the problems of transport and telecommunications, these precedents, which are so apt even today, should have been drawn up even before the first international programme had taken place.

Although the First Polar Year is generally associated with the Arctic, of the fifteen expeditions inspired by it, three were intended for the Antarctic.

The Second Polar Year of 1932/33 was broadened by the advance in knowledge over the intervening half century and was more critical and more scientific. Apart from collecting data it was also more concerned with describing the physics of the events observed. It was the intension that special attention should be paid to work in the Southern Hemisphere, though the originally intended effort in Antarctica did not materialise through fund limitations. (Another precedent which still seems applicable today!) It is interesting to note that some stations were proposed not solely for observing and studying Polar phenomena but primarily to allow an integrated examination of polar and global processes - a considerable step forward from the First Polar Year.

During the Second Polar Year 22 nations despatched expeditions or implemented studies beyond their borders, data were collected in equatorial regions for use in studies of the general atmosphere circulation and various Southern Hemisphere stations were instituted. The Magnetic Observatory at Hermanus dates from this period. In all, 44 countries participated.

The I.G.Y. itself is, I am sure, more familiar to you all. It set the pattern for international science on a scale never realised or perhaps even envisaged before. Not only did active participation by South Africa in the I.G.Y. pave the way to South Africa being invited by I.C.S.U. to become one of the permanent members of SCAR, but the theme of international co-operation had a significant impact on our programme and has certainly been one of the reasons for increased emphasis on those activities, such as upper atmospheric physics which may be regarded as part of a world-wide synoptic programme. The I.G.Y. was remarkable, specifically for the scale of international endeavour with 66 nations taking part involving some 4,000 professional observing stations and some 30,000 scientists and engineers. The similarity in nature, if not in size, between the I.G.Y. and the two Polar Years is quite remarkable in view of the tremendous strides made by technology even between the second Polar Year and the I.G.Y. Developments in electronics had made possible radio astronomy, radio meteorology and radar auroral studies. Rocket developments had made possible direct observation of the upper atmosphere, and during the I.G.Y. were to introduce the artificial earth satellite - the most international observing station of them all, circumnavigating the world in some 90 minutes. Quite apart from measuring techniques, the supporting sciences of physical and tele-communications, both now looked upon as so essential to international programmes, were revolutionised between these two events.

If we now look at the way the South African Scientific programme has crystallised in the course of the first five years, we find that from initial emphasis on programmes in the main restricted to the Antarctic base proper with some emphasis on the study of transient phenomena, but otherwise a rather wider coverage than perhaps was desirable in view of limitations of resources, the Scientific Committee has now for the recent five-year programme recognised five core programmes, namely :

Geology, Glaciology and Seismology
Cartography and Geodesy
Geomagnetism and Aurora
Cosmic Rays
and the Ionosphere.

These fall broadly into two classes, the first two programmes being exploratory in nature and by no means restricted to the base, whilst the last three reveal the increased recognition that is being given to those programmes which contribute to the 'integrated examination of polar and global processes' - to use the phrase coined some thirty-five years ago.

These research programmes relate of course to the Antarctic proper. The question of biological studies of the sub-Antarctic Islands, possible oceanographic studies in the southern oceans and the possibility of a co-ordinated meteorological research effort are under consideration or have been proposed by the Scientific Committee in addition, and of course it must not be forgotton that it is the meteorological observing functions of the base that provides the backbone of the South African expeditions.

I would also like to make a few remarks on managerial aspects,

(Continued on page 41)

(Continued from page 39)

but, before I do so, could I recall the story of the fashionable young lady who attended a function such as this though her interest in coming was more to show off her new clothes than in what the speaker had to say. After the function was over she managed to get an introduction to the speaker. 'Oh', she said, 'What a wonderful talk you gave. I think it was absolutely superfluous. I do hope it will be published.' The speaker was a little taken aback but recovered quickly and said 'Thank you, my dear, if its published at all, it will be posthumously.' 'Oh good', she replied, 'I do hope thats soon'.

To return to management aspects I should emphasize first that the call for a South African scientific effort in Antarctic has come at a time when South African science is already hard pressed. Quite apart from a general shortage of scientifically trained and experienced personnel, the general increase in international scientific activity has already placed on our shoulders considerably increased responsibility. South Africa, surrounded on three sides by ocean and by large developing (to use the presently accepted phraseology) areas to the north, provides the only land mass for scientific observations representative of a portion of the earth's surface totally out of proportion to our scientific manpower - and yet, for the study of many transient features of our environment, it is an area from which data must be available for the proper understanding of the phenomena on a global scale. Our magnetic conjugacy with Europe has accentuated this problem. During the past years greatly increased burdens have as a result been placed on the Government Departments involved in the disciplines concerned, e.g. those responsible for the Weather Bureau, the Magnetic Observatory, etc. on the Universities and on the CSIR. Thus, whatever effort is diverted to Antarctic research must be particularly appropriately and well applied.

The South African Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research now recognises various criteria for Antarctic programmes. In particular it is considered most desirable that any programme conducted in Antarctica should be conducted by an organisation that is itself conducting an effective and substantial programme of a closely related nature in South Africa. Secondly, to make optimum use of limited resources, mutually interdependent programmes would appear to be desirable, the upper atmosphere physics programme embracing at least three disciplines is a good example; and finally, the Committee is endeavouring to secure some degree of stability and continuity in the various programmes by seeking for each programme a University, Government department or research organisation with an existing research activity or at least a capacity for such an activity, with whom some formal long-term basis of collaboration can be established.

We hope to alleviate the heavy load at present placed on programme co-ordinators, or directors as we n
themselves have other prior fulltime duties to
appointment of fulltime assistants to the progr
in the various disciplines. Here we are faced with t
continuity of appointment in the light of the pres
whereby the Antarctic programme is financed on a five
One possibility which is being examined is that an i
University actively participating in Antarctic research shou
accept the long-term responsibility for such an appointment,
recognising that expenses incurred during the period for w
Antarctic funds are available would in fact be met by the fun
In one particular case negotiations are already in an advanced
stage. We hope to extend the principle to other disciplines. We
recognise fully the important role of the programme directors in the
formulation and supervision of their programmes and we hope
that by this means their continued participation in Antarctic
research will be possible and much of the tedium removed.

We have also endeavoured to ease the lot of the Universities Departments in particular, who are participating in Antarctic research by simplifying certain managerial aspects. It is proposed for example, that funds will be provided, in lump sums biannually, thereby simplifying financial procedures. The Universities themselves will be responsible for the finding of their expedition personnel and their remuneration, though obviously the Department of Transport must be responsible for final testing and acceptance of expedition members, and for uniformity, for the determination of salary. In this latter regard, basic salaries, the principle of three year appointments, where necessary, for expedition members, and leave arrangements on return have been agreed.

En nou - ons hartlike gelukwense aan almal wat die ekspedisies meegemaak het. Die lede van die ekspedisie het, danksy hulle avontuurgees, die ongerief en gevare verbonde aan verblyf in Antarktika op die koop toe aanvaar, en die wetenskaplikes moes die frustrasie verduur wat onvermydelik daarmee gepaard gaan wanneer waarnemings onder uiters moeilike omstandighede gemaak moet word. Iedereen wat in die bevordering van Antarktiese navorsing belang stel, het die hoogste agting vir die bydrae wat hierdie betrekklike klein groepie manne gelewer het.

U Antarktiese Vereniging, meneer die President, moet ook geluk gewens word. Dit is 'n verfrissende gedagte dat so 'n organisasie op vrywillige grondslag gestig is deur mense wat in Antarktika en Antarktiese navorsing belang stel is 'n tyd dat aktiewe deelname aan die bedrywighede van geleerde genootskappe nie altyd met die groei van die wetenskaplike en tegniese gemeenskap tred hou nie en likmaatskap van sulke genootskappe dikwels meer op persoonlike voordeel as op die ontwikkeling van die wetenskap en die tegnologie toegespits is. Daarom is dit vir my 'n besondere voorreg om vanaand juis die gas van u Vereniging te kan wees.

Opmerking :

Die Suid-Afrikaanse Antarktiese Vereniging is in 1961 gestig om die nasionale poging in Antarktika deur ons eie Suid-Afrikaanse ekspedisies te bevorder en onder die aandag van die algemene publiek te bring. Dit geskied hoofsaaklik deur openbare lesings, filmvertonings en die 'Antarktiese Bulletin'. Lg. publikasie word nie net aan lede en biblioteke voorsien nie, maar het ook 'n oorsese distribusielys. Beskermhere van die vereniging is Dr. S.M. Naudé, President van die W.N.N.R., Prof. Stanley Jackson, vise-kanselier Universiteit Witwatersrand en Mnr. Danie Joubert, Sekretaris, Departement Vervoer.

(Die medalje word deur die petrolmaatskappy B P Suidelike Afrika geborg).

– **TEAM MEMBERS**

vsicist; **W. Hodsdon, (Mountain Base)** *Senior Diesel Mechanic;*
Aucamp (Mountain Base) and L.G. Wolmarans (Mountain Base),
Ionosphericist; **A.G. Grobler,** *Medical Doctor;* **P.C. Steyn,**
eorologists; **A.J. Niemandt (Mountain base) and C.B. Muir,**
Johnston, *Radio Technician.*

BOEKOORSIG

LE R. VAN DER MERWE

gewers Human en Rousseau, Kaapstad).

. Merwe. Dit is geen van der Merwe-
.an der Merwe HET suid gegaan en hier in
. boek, die eerste boek in Afrikaans oor Ant-
vertel Dr. André van der Merwe van die dierlewe op
.laatys, van die fantastiese ysformasies en die lewe van
en groepie mense oor 'n tydperk van 'n jaar onder naby
die suidpool en dit alles in die Afrikaanse idioom. Die
skrywer beskik oor die gawe om 'n paadjie te baan tussen
die streng wetenskaplike en die alledaagse gebeure wat
hulle op Antarktika ondervind het.

Vanaf 1774 toe Kapt. James Cook vir die eerste keer 'n
menseblik op Antarktika gewerp het, tot vandag toe, bly
daardie wêreld in mistiek gehul. Ons gedagtes vloei oor
die baanbrekerswerk van Palmer, Weddell, Ross, Belling-
hausen, Wilkes, Byrd en Fuchs, en die bekendste van almal,
Robert Falcon Scott en Shackleton. Pioniers, almal van
hulle en nou by hierdie lys kan ons ons eie Suid-Afrikaanse
medeburgers se name noem, waaronder die skrywer resor-
teer. Weliswaar, toestande is heelwat meer beskaafd as aan
die begin van die eeu toe Scott so tragies sy lewe verloor
het, maar dit verg moed en durf om by so 'n ekspedisie aan
te sluit, nie so seer alleenlik om fisieke redes nie, maar om
geestelike en sielkundige oorwegings ook. Soos die tele-
gram van die Sekretaris van Vervoer na die terugkeer van
die eerste Suid-Afrikaanse hondeslee-ekspedisie gelui het,
‚Dit is weer 'n bewys dat Boer se kind hom in alle om-
standighede kan aanpas', bevestig dit die feit dat wat ander
nasies kan doen, ons ook kan doen.

Vir iemand wat inligting oor Antarktika soek met die
gedagte om 'n jaar by ons SANAE-basis te gaan deurbring,
is hierdie boek natuurlik ideaal, want hier kry ons 'n insig
in die wel en wee van die tien mans wat die eerste Suid-
Afrikaanse span na Antarktika gevorm het. Wie was hulle?
Wat het hulle daaronder in die suide uitgerig? Is dit baie
koud in Antarktika? Wat doen mens die ganske dag van
elke week, van elke maand, van een hele volle jaar? Hoe
lyk die huise of onderdak van hierdie mense? Al hierdie
vrae en nog baie meer word in hierdie boek beantwoord.

Mense wat reisverhale geniet, en in besonder oor Antark-
tika, sal hierdie boek uiters interessant vind. Die seereis
op die klein Noorse boot, die Polarbjorn, word noukeurig
beskryf. Tragies die dood van twee bemanningslede. Soos
'n wonderwerk die verskyning van die Argentynse ysbreker,
die San Martin, wat hulle na 'n volle week van vassit in die
ys, verlos het, en 'n hele vier-en-twintig uur deur die dik ys
geleide gedoen het. Die San Martin ‚het ons in die berghoë
ys gekry toe ons moed in ons mukluks gesink het . . . Net
die sien van ander gesigte het ons opgebeur, selfs al sou
hulle ons nie kon gehelp het nie. Net die aanblik van 'n
ander lewe as die lewe om ons, was 'n opbeuring. Slegs
daarop sou ons vir 'n baie lang ruk kon teer en genoeg hê
om oor te gesels.'

Aan humor ontbreek dit in hierdie boek nie veral in die
beskrywing van die mense self. Dick, die Hollander, was
die outoriteit op die gebied van die biefstuk. ‚Terwyl Dick
die laaste krieseltjie in jou bord uitgekrap het, het hy ter
aanmoediging vir die maagsappe gesê : ‚Lekker, né! " Van
dieselfde Dick kry ons teen die end van die boek hierdie
verdere beskrywing : ‚Dick was baie hees geskree agter die
honde. Hy het sy eie Hollands-Engelse basterterme vir
aansporing en bevele ontwerp, aangesien hulle nie na die
gewone terme uit 'n nuwe keel wou luister nie. 'Come on,
boys! ' en ‚Trek, you vreksels! ' Hierdie ekshortasies het
vuur in hul bloed geblaas.'

Van die heenreis toe hulle so vassit in die ys, kry ons
hierdie penskets : ‚Chappie en Kosie het vir hulle 'n
skryftafeltjie van appelkissies in hulle kajuit gemaak. Toe
Tallie hulle vra wat hulle bedoeling is, het die gemoedelike
Chappie geantwoord : ‚Ons rig ons in om soos Shackleton
van ouds op die boot te oorwinter. Ons gaan lank hier sit.'
En toe hy merk dat Tallie se gesig sak, voeg hy by : ‚Dit
was ys soos hierdie waarin Shackleton se boot papgedruk
is."

Hierdie boek met sy 36 foto's op glanspapier gedruk, en
'n unieke kleurfoto op die stofomslag, is vir oud en jonk
bedoel, vir alle jeugdiges van hart wat avontuur geniet.

D. BOTHA