

Wednesday, 8th. November.

The weather can't hold for much longer. Another beautiful, cloudless day with temperatures soaring to  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The usual start at around noon saw us heading for Cape Barne. At 9am. we had been rudely awakened by a chopper arriving. "Jumper" & "Butch" from Scott Base were left here to put in a few language plaques in front of Scott's Hut. This is just a tiny part of the frenzy of work being done before the Antarctic Treaty delegates arrive at Scott Base.

Slen & Slorry accompanied us on their toboggan which was packed ~~along~~ along with the Snot at Cape Barne. We then headed towards Cape Royds on foot. Slen & Slorry were collecting more wind deposited salts. Slorry kept dropping to the ground at regular intervals in order to lick for a taste of salt. A weird type ritual indeed! About  $\frac{1}{2}$  way to Royds, Dave found some untagged juvenile seals but was unable to tag them because of the anchor ice at the sea edge being unstable. We then returned to the Snot. Isolated animals were then worked on the way back to camp.

With the rest of his gear having been brought by Jumper & Butch we now were able to measure the length &  $\frac{1}{2}$  girth of animals. A finger nail was also pulled in order to age the beast. These are quickly regrown.

Based at Cape Evans. - Sent Island.

Friday, 10th. Nov.

Overcast with a southerly. Less wind than yesterday but fresh snow falling with wind latter half of day. Visibility sometimes down to 50ft + less.

At 1.30pm. Dave & I found conditions good enough to work Sent Island. The ice on the west side was shattered & broken with many wide cracks. Its quite an experience to be working amongst ice that is heaving up & down & backwards & forwards with the ocean swell. At first I thought it was my vision playing tricks on me. There were not as many seals as expected & we soon finished.

Conditions were rough getting back. We went around in one or two circles trying to find a way past the icebergs at the tip of Cape Evans. Visibility almost nil with the wind driven snow caking our goggles. However we could just make out Inaccessible Island at times & used this for our bearings. Finally reached hut at 7.30pm. Slorry & Slen, who ~~were~~ wisely declined it a bit long, were showing some concern for us. Snow continued to fall.

If it had not been for Dave's great knowledge of the area we would not have ventured from the hut.

✓  
Scott Base.

Wednesday, 15th. November.

Easterly wind + light showers of snow. No field work today. The treaty delegates flew to the Admussdon-Scott Station at the South Pole ( $-44^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) but were unable to fly the Hercules to the U.S.S.R.'s Vostock Station (temp  $-66^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) because of the danger of their fuel going slushy with the cold.

The Saylor Valley boys could not wait any longer for chopper weather so they set out across the sea ice with the two VW Snow Trocs. Two base staff went along to drive the vehicles back from the mouth of the Saylor Valley.

Malcom Laird + Co had a permanent set-back. For the 2nd year in a row their 6 week Bowers Mtns geological trip has been called off because the Hercules now will not land at an unformed snow strip.

A 6 course dinner with all the trimmings was held in the evening for the delegates + others at the base. A really good do with some smooth service. There were 2 white jacketed waiters on the job. Guess who was one of them.

Scott Base - Hut Point Peninsula - Castle  
Rock 413m.

Friday, 17th. November.

Scott Base Ski Club

A beautiful, mild day. Its about time we had some good weather.

Harry Keys + I left in the morning on a motor toboggan to work the Hut Point Peninsula for wind blown salt ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ,  $\text{NaCl}$ ,  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  etc.) deposits. We collected over 20 samples from places such as the volcanic plugs + cinder cones above Slutton Cliffs, Ford Rock (251m) (basaltic plug + scoria), Cone Hill (clay-like ash + breccia with soft scree slopes), Castle Rock (413m), which is a spectacular volcanic neck with sheer cliffs on 3 sides + an area called "The Cinder Cones" just north of Danger Slopes. Naturally we climbed everything we collected on. Castle rock being scrambled up by the north ridge. South of Castle Rk. we took the toboggan down steep, fairly icy slopes to the area known to some as "The Cinder Cones". Collected salts from the major cinder + spatter cones. Just north of Danger Slopes we found a route down onto the sea ice. I was checking across a possible cornice on the slope to gain the sea ice when a series of THUDS startled me. Cracks appeared 75 feet either side of me as well as 15 feet in front + behind