



Map showing areas and stations of the Jacobsen-McGill University Arctic Research Expedition.

JACOBSEN - MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCTIC RESEARCH EXPEDITION TO AXEL HEIBERG ISLAND, N.W.T.

A reconnaissance party visited Axel Heiberg Island in 1959 and decided on an area for concentrated research in various earth sciences (glaciology, including hydro-glaciology, meteorology, geophysics, surveying and mapping, geomorphology, geology, and botany). A party of 27 worked on the island in 1960 and one of 20 in 1961. More detailed reports of the activities of the expedition have been given in the *Polar Record* 10:45-6, 518-21.

The basic aim of the expedition was "to study the evolution of the mountainous and strongly glacierized and glaciated area of the central part of western Axel Heiberg Island". The second, but no less important, aim was concerned with education and provided a guiding principle in the selection of the field personnel. The team, wherever possible, was composed of about equal numbers of members falling into three categories:

- (a) Scientists of post-doctoral status with experience in primary research and university teaching, as group leaders;
- (b) graduate students who will use their field investigations as a basis for a Ph.D. or a Master's thesis; and
- (c) undergraduate students who act as assistants in the disciplines that

they intend to follow up in graduate work.

Gradually, as the work in the original expedition area (see map) progressed, activities were extended into adjacent regions, and two greater expedition areas were marked off for comparative studies. One covers the entire fiord region of western central Axel Heiberg Island, the other is located on the contrasting eastern side of the island and includes the Eureka area on Ellesmere Island. Some investigations were also made in the far northern and southern sections of the island to include the extremes of variations inherent in certain problems.

Field research, especially long-term measurements in glaciology, meteorology, geomorphology, and botany will be continued on a routine basis. A small party will return to the field in the summer of 1962.

The data collected so far are being processed at McGill University and various other research institutions to obtain an integrated picture of the evolution and present dynamics of the area.

The base camp is provided with two fibreglass houses (facilities for at least 6 scientists), radio transmitter, power plant, etc. This research station, at about 79°30'N. 90°W. will be available to any scientist wishing to carry out research in the High Arctic.

FRITZ MÜLLER

New film on the Northwest Territories

A colour film entitled "Top of a Continent" (16 mm., running time 38 minutes), of interest to northern specialists and the general public alike, was released in early 1962. It includes air and ground photography of the Queen Elizabeth Islands, the Mackenzie Delta, Inuvik, Yellowknife, and Resolute, and attempts to depict the vastness of the Northwest Territories, the variety of the forms of the land and the sea, the Eskimos and Indians, and the

recent search for and development of resources. The technical quality is excellent, the material skillfully handled, and the narration carefully edited. The coverage is necessarily uneven, as some compromise had to be made considering the size of the Territories and the length of the film. It was produced for Shell Oil Company of Canada by Crawley Films Limited of Ottawa, and is available on free loan from Shell Film Libraries in Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver.

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