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**Technical Papers of the Arctic Institute**

No. 4 of this series, *THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE PEARY AND BARREN GROUND CARIBOU*. By T. H. Manning, 52 pages, 9 diagrams and 25 tables, has appeared. Copies can be obtained from the Montreal Office at the price of \$1.00 to members, \$2.00 to non-members.

**REVIEW****ANTARCTIC SCOUT**

By RICHARD LEE CHAPPELL. *New York: Dodd, Mead and Company. 5½ x 8¼ inches. xviii + 205 pages, frontispiece map, and numerous illustrations. \$4.00.*

In 1956, obviously with the successful precedent that had happened 30 years earlier in mind, the U.S. National Committee for the International Geophysical Year, in close cooperation with the Council of the Boy Scouts of America, signed on a Boy Scout, chosen from among many candidates, for the first year of its coordinated attack on scientific problems of the Antarctic. Dick Chappell was this Boy Scout, and 'Antarctic Scout' is the story of his experiences during a year that started in late 1956, continued through the

antarctic winter of 1957 and ended in 1958. At the time of his departure for Antarctica, Dick was 18 years of age, had only recently graduated from high school, and for the opportunity had forgone college work for two years.

After due consideration, Dick was assigned to the Little America Station, much as he would have preferred the less populated and more romantic inland stations at the South Pole or in Byrd Land. As the Scientific Leader of the Station at Little America, the honour of having a young scientific aide fell on me, though in late 1956, deeply involved in preparations, I can truthfully say that I felt no particular elation over this additional burden. To assist in administrative duties of the overall supervision of scientific work in Antarctica I had

also been assigned an administrative aide. However, before the winter closed in on us at Little America and the last ship had left, it became necessary to return the administrative aide for medical reasons. The duties of the Boy Scout were doubled. Throughout the year Dick served in two capacities. As administrative aide he was secretary, file clerk, custodian, messenger boy, and general handy man. As scientific aide he made routine observations at one time or another in nearly all the sciences; taking notes on the aurora, reading ice temperatures daily, plotting weather charts and many others.

Little America was the home of about 120 men during the 1957 winter, 24 of these were scientists, making it by far the largest and most varied of the U.S. antarctic scientific stations. The rest of the population were Navy men, mainly Seebees who worked as mechanics and as drivers of the tractor trains that carried supplies 650 miles inland to the Byrd Station, as radio operators, since this was the headquarters for the logistic and scientific control, and the weather central with its heavy demands on communications; also Navy pilots, airmen, and maintenance crews, since Little America was one of the main air bases in Antarctica. Many Navy men and scientists were hard-bitten oldsters; others were, like Dick, still in their teens.

Dick's short and easy-reading story relates the adventures that befell him; from the Pollywog initiation crossing the Equator, through the trials of the darkness of three months of night, to that most enjoyable part of the antarctic term: the final sunny summer months with varied tasks, opportunities to visit foreign bases, and the ever-

present feeling of a veteran with a home not too far away. There is no attempt in the book to enter into controversial problems, and this is admirable since Dick had a ringside seat at many decisions of the first year that were not easily nor unanimously made, and are now happily forgotten.

Dick had very badly wanted to go on the glaciological summer traverse in mid-October from Little America, but that party was limited and operations a bit dangerous. Furthermore, by this time Dick had made himself so useful at the base that he could not possibly have been spared. The book is outstanding in that Dick, though denied access to the Pole Station and the traverse operations, still had a kaleidoscopic variety of experiences. His work, unlike that of many others, was never routine or monotonous, and the evidence of his unflagging enthusiasm persists throughout the book.

Today, scientific work in Antarctica continues in ever-increasing breadth and depth. A major problem each year is to find the one hundred or so scientists. This book is written in just the right vein to arouse interest where interest is most important, in those of Dick's generation. However, it will have appeal to older people, to readers with other interests, the antarctic veterans and the stay-at-homes. The thirty-odd illustrations in themselves are a complete story of the moods and highlights of the Antarctic.

My own feelings about Dick are perhaps best described by a quotation from a radio message I sent back to Washington in answer to a query regarding required assistants for the second year: 'Send me another Boy Scout!'

A. P. CRARY