

New Zealand

✓ date?

My shoulder healed satisfactorily and by spring I had recovered nearly the full use of my arm. The National Science Foundation ~~had~~ offered to send me to the American ~~Mc~~Murdo Sound base on Ross Island during the next austral summer. Because the mishap on Deception Island had cut short my first trip, I was eager to return to visit those other parts of the Antarctic Peninsula, its islands, and its straits which had been denied me the year before. So that I could accomplish all this in one season, the National Science Foundation had also made arrangements for me to sail in January on the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Glacier from McMurdo to Palmer Sttion, a distance of 2400 miles circling the Antarctic Continent. At Palmer Station I was to join the research vessel Hero for her last few polar cruises of the summer. During my stay in Antarctica, from the 5th of December until the 15th of March, I would be able to visit the dry valleys of the Antarctic Range, the South Pole, and the southern islands and bays of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Every person who goes to Antarctica under the auspices of the NSF is required to attend an indoctrination meeting at which lectures are given on Antarctica's vagaries of weather, environmental hazards, and rules for survival (in case of mishap or) under extreme conditions of physical stress and cold. The purpose for and correct use of the clothing issued by the NSF were also presented at the meeting I attended in September.

McMurdo was most expeditiously reached by air from California via New Zealand. I thus had an opportunity on my way to Antarctica to see something of a country renowned for its spectacular scenery. ^{so that I could} ^{I arranged to spend a few weeks in New Zealand on my way to Antarctica}

On November 12 I boarded a Military Air Command plane at California's Point Mugu Air Force Base for a ^{sixteen} ~~16~~ hour through flight to Christchurch, New Zealand, with stops of ^{three} ~~3~~ hours in Honolulu and ^{two} ~~2~~ hours in Pango Pango, American Samoa. The MAC flight plane was a C 141 four ^{engine} ~~motor~~ cargo jet. Its uninsulated interior was a great barn-like cavity large enough to accommodate tanks which could be driven in through a wide ^{tail} ~~loading~~ port. The after three-quarters of this space contained a large rectangular assembly of cartons and crates held together by a mesh of straps attached to the deck but which left clear on either side along the fuselage a narrow passage for access to the rear. The forward quarter was the passenger section in which 36 seats were arranged in ^{two} ~~two~~ rows of threes as in a Boeing 707. The seats were narrower than in the coach section of a commercial passenger plane and more confining. ~~They~~ ~~and~~ ~~fixed~~ ~~fixed~~ faced backwards, a military requirements that assured a greater chance of survival in case of a crash. We were served ^{the hot} two meals on the trip and during ^a rainy night stop in Pango Pango were able to stretch our legs and to buy coffee and snacks from friendly Polynesian waitresses in the airport canteen.

waitresses

that lost a day in crossing the International Date line and

We landed at 10:30 a.m. on November 14th at the Christchurch International Airport, 21 hours after taking off from Point Mugu. ~~We had~~ ~~lost a day in crossing the International Date~~ ~~Line~~. Clearing customs was a perfunctory operation, fortunately for me because of my large amount of photographic equipment.

~~The~~

The first order of business for all travelers to Antarctica is to try on the specially designed cold weather clothing issued by the National Science Foundation's polar program. Since all persons going to Antarctica are perforce official, their safety while there and their safe return are the responsibility of the government departments financing the sojourn. The provision of adequate and necessary equipment and clothing cannot be left to the individual and has become standardized and perfected from the experience of previous expeditions. The fit of all garments from thermal underwear to down-lined and fur-hooded parka, and ~~the~~ of the three types of footwear, leather boots, mukluks, and insulated white rubber bunny boots, has to be assured before one departs from New Zealand. ^{Only} ~~After~~ ^{After} I had been fitted and my clothing stowed away ^{until my departure} ~~for when I would leave~~, I could I ~~now~~ start my New Zealand travels. I was advised, however, to keep in touch with the polar program office in case of changes in schedule.