

## THE BULL'S EYE BULL - E - TIN

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June, 1994

D. T. Berk, Editor

### HIGHLAND GAMES

June 18 - ILLINOIS ST. ANDREW HIGHLAND GAMES, Oak Brook Polo Grounds, Oak Brook, Illinois. Host: Dottie Turnbull Berk. There is no report. Tent host and Editor was called to California at the death of her brother, Norman B. Turnbull.

A report received from the Clan Tent Committee stated that it was a broiling hot day. There was a fantastic turnout of 44 clans and societies which helped immeasurably in the success of the games.

### TURNBULL POINT - D'URVILLE ISLAND ANTARCTICA

Jim Turnbull of Wheaton, Illinois is sharing some correspondence written by his son, Bill, to other family members. I asked Jim to clarify some data in the letters, here is his reply:

"From your map you came close to Turnbull Point. You asked some questions which I will try to answer.

You asked for permission to print Bill's letter and maps in the newsletter. I talked with him and he has no objections to this being done.

NOAA stands for NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION. NOAA is a part of the Department of Commerce and has a civilian group and an officer group. Bill is in the officer group. The officers have the same ranks, pay, privileges as Naval officers.

RHIB means RIGID HULL INFLATEABLE BOAT. It is used to get into areas where you couldn't go otherwise and get closer to the sealife inhabitants without disturbing them.

When Bill was in the Antarctic, the purpose of NOAA was to understand the ecosystem and use that understanding to develop the United States position for the Antarctic Treaty.

You asked about Bill's work in Antarctic. In brief, they carry scientists who study the habits, travels, life style of seals, whales and penguins. They tag some of them to follow their comings and goings. Also, they investigate how well the ocean conducts electricity to

figure out how salty a particular part of the ocean is. They determine the availability of food-amphipods and krill."

February 19 (This letter was written in 1990)

Today was windier than yesterday so we didn't go out in the RHIB boat, but the scientists went out to look for seals. While we stayed on the ship, I had the officers practice "docking" on ice floes. That gives them a chance to learn without damaging anything if they make a mistake. At the end of the day we left Prince Gustav Channel.

February 20

X In the early hours of the morning the ship went past TURNBULL POINT. I wonder if the person was a relative of ours. May be he was on a ship that first explored this area. That would have been neat. TURNBULL POINT is on D'Urville Island on the east side of

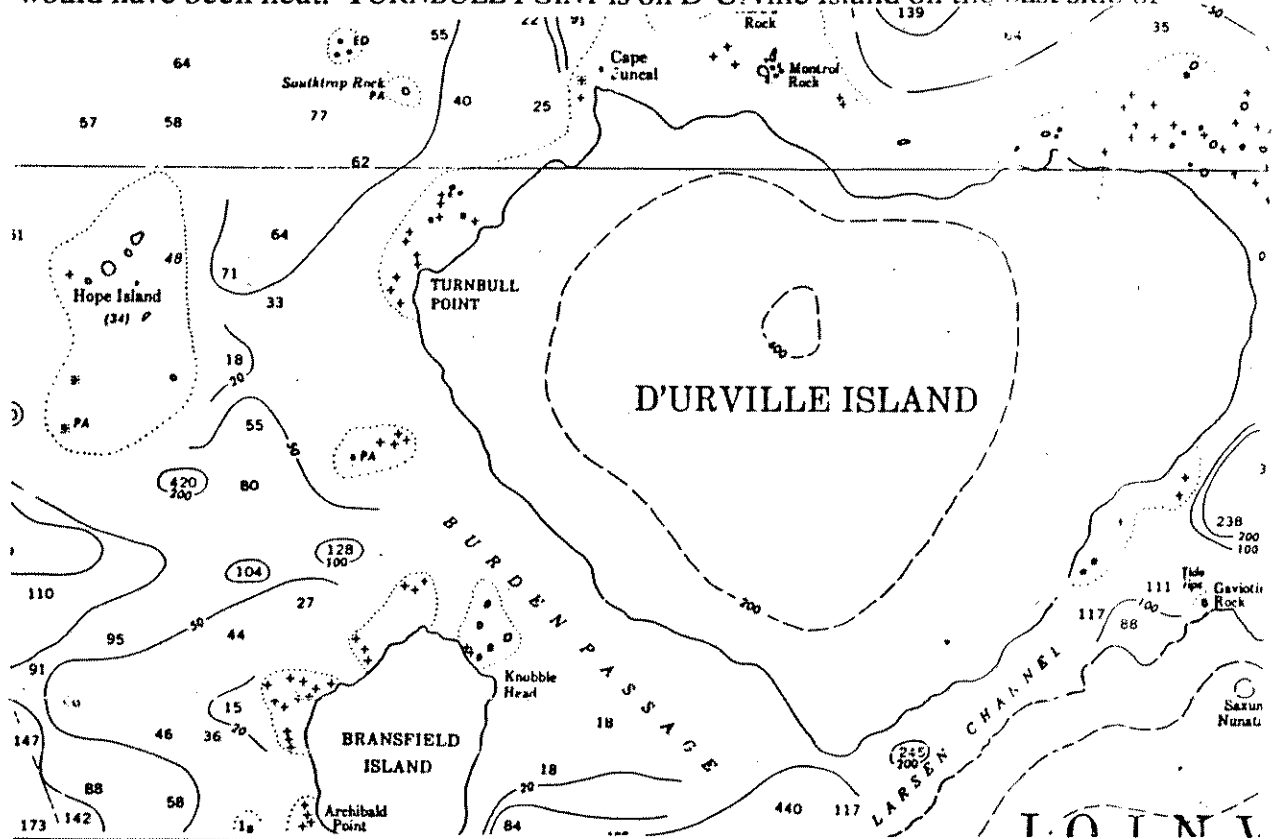


Figure 2 TURNBULL POINT on D'Urville Island

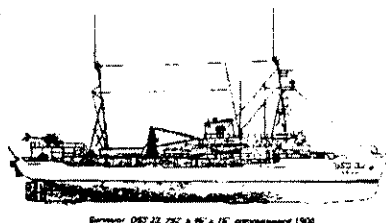
Antarctic Strait. There was a lot of ice in the Strait. We also saw the British ice breaker Endurance and an Argentinian ship too. In the morning we passed five ships that were fishing. Three were from Japan, one from Korea, and one from Chile. After several days of not seeing any other ships, all of a sudden we saw 7 in less than 12 hours. This place is almost crowded! Later in the day we arrived at Seal Island to return the scientists who got aboard last week and to pick up their garbage. It is important to leave these islands as clean as we find them. Then we left to start the final CTD/bongo/V-fin grid.



For dinner we had prime rib and chocolate sundaes for desert! Yum!



William T. Turnbull  
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January 18, 1991

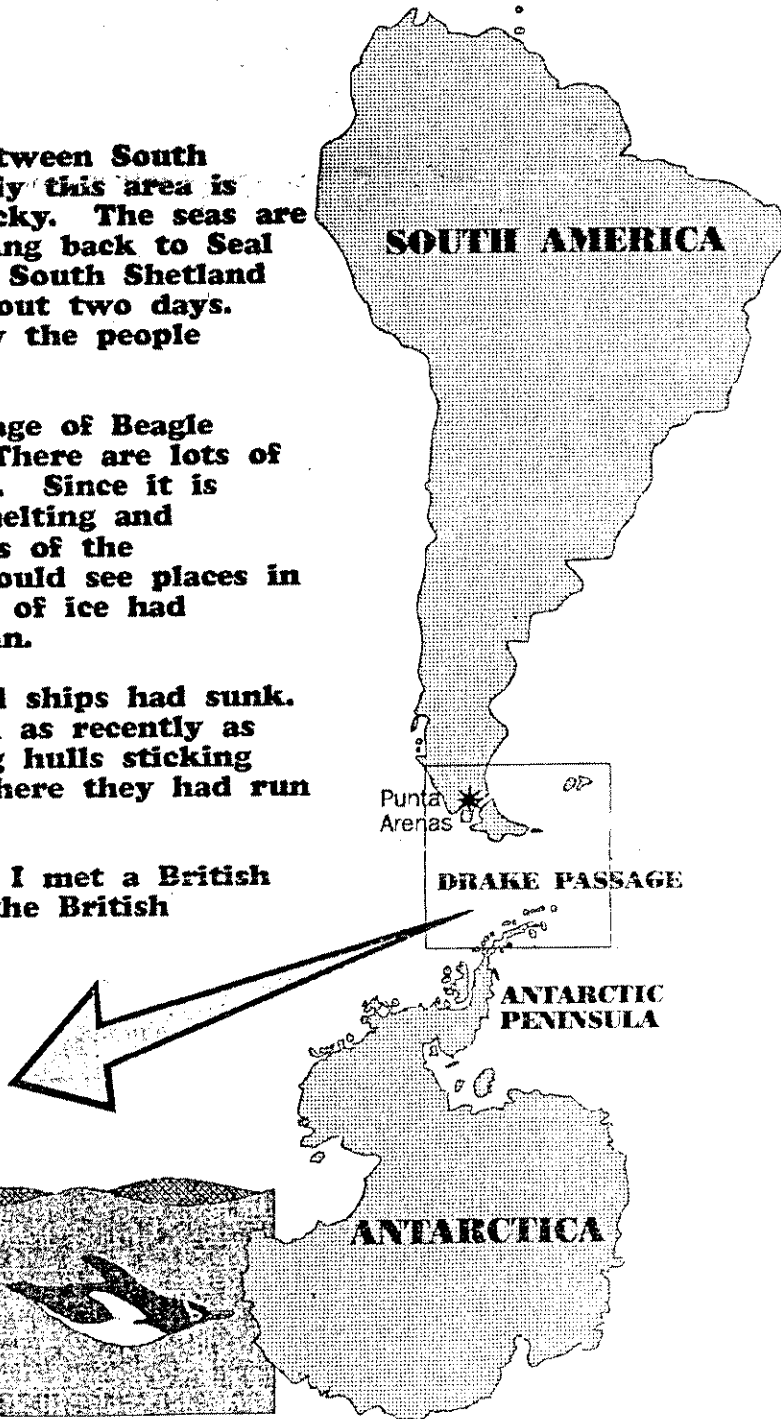
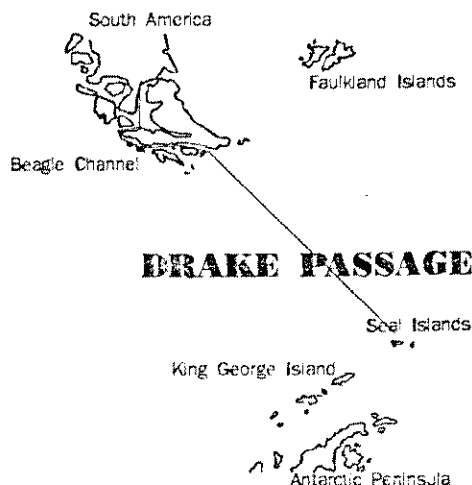
**DEAR ERIC,**

We are now in Drake Passage between South America and Antarctica. Normally this area is very rough, but today we are lucky. The seas are smooth and glassy. We are heading back to Seal Island off Elephant Island in the South Shetland Islands. We will get there in about two days. Once we arrive, we will resupply the people staying on the island.

The trip through the inside passage of Beagle Channel was pretty, as usual. There are lots of glaciers along the mountain sides. Since it is summer down here, they were melting and sending waterfalls down the sides of the mountains. In some places we could see places in the glaciers where large chunks of ice had recently fallen down the mountain.

There were also places where old ships had sunk. In one place two had gone down as recently as 1964. We could see their rusting hulls sticking above the water on the rocks where they had run aground.

While we were in Punta Arenas, I met a British scientist who was on a ship of the British



Antarctic Survey in 1964. His captain was also a Turnbull. He is the person for whom Turnbull Point was named! What a surprise. As you know, Grandma and Grandpa are interested in genealogy, the history of our family. Maybe, if you asked them, they would write the the British Antarctic Survey and ask for more information. What do you think? Would you like to know more?

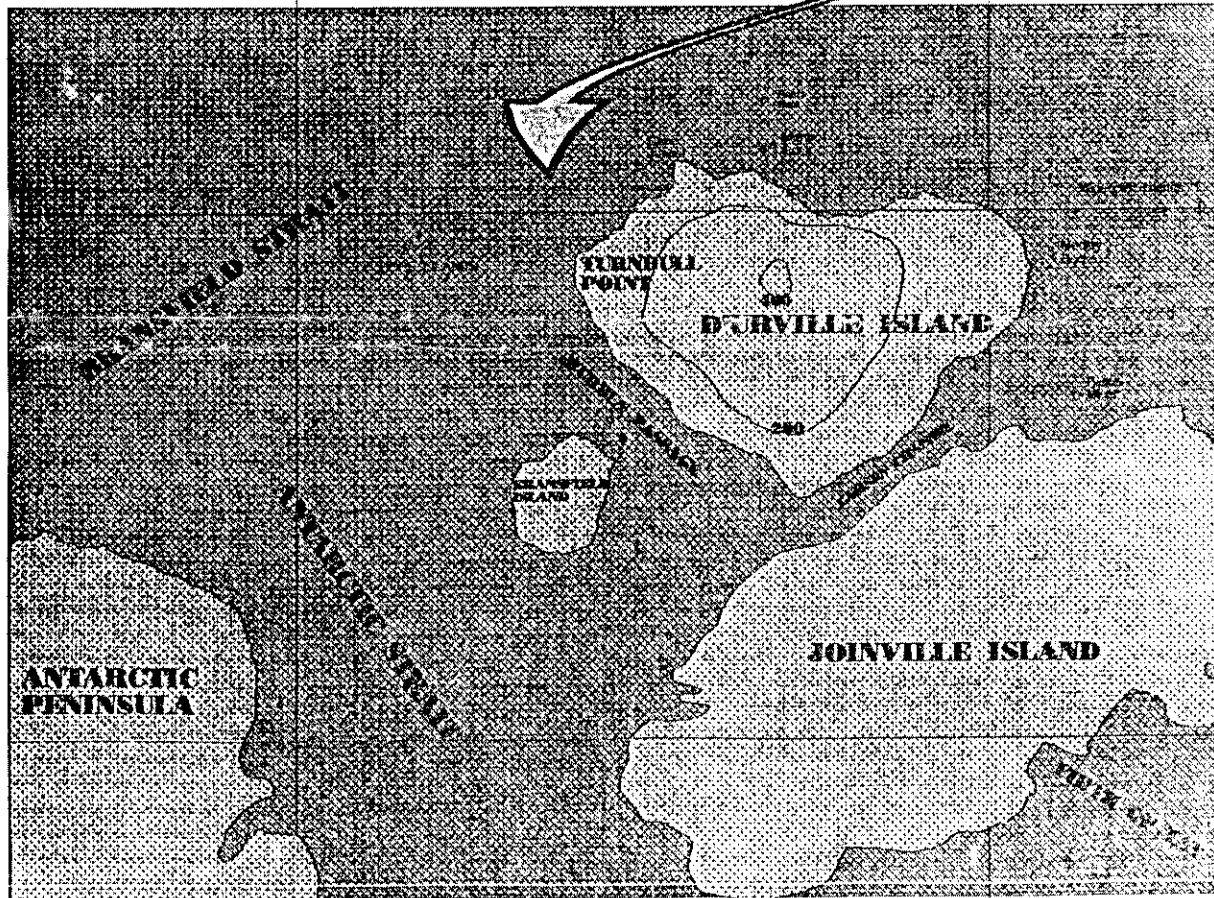
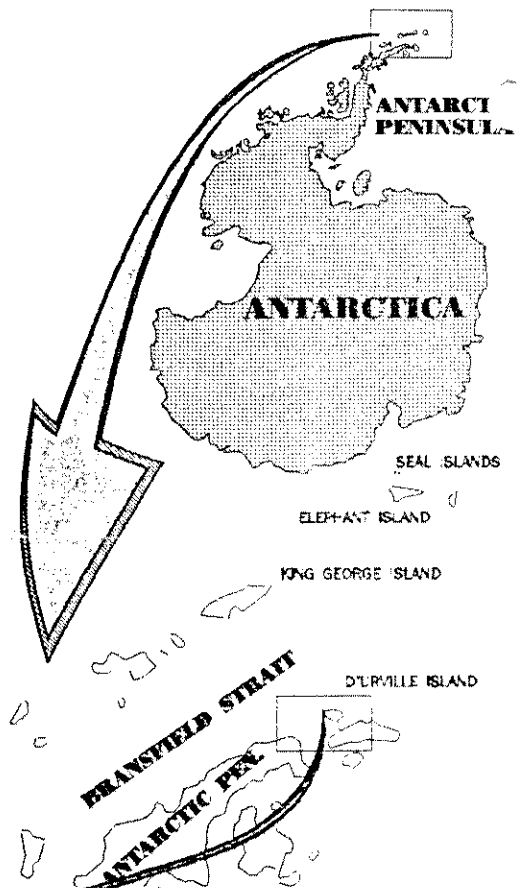
Now we know how the point was named. I wonder how many Captain Turnbuls there have been. It is surprising to find two in the Antarctic. I bet there haven't been all that many ships through that area, but two of them have been commanded by Turnbuls! Turnbuls show up in the most interesting places.

January 19, 4:00AM

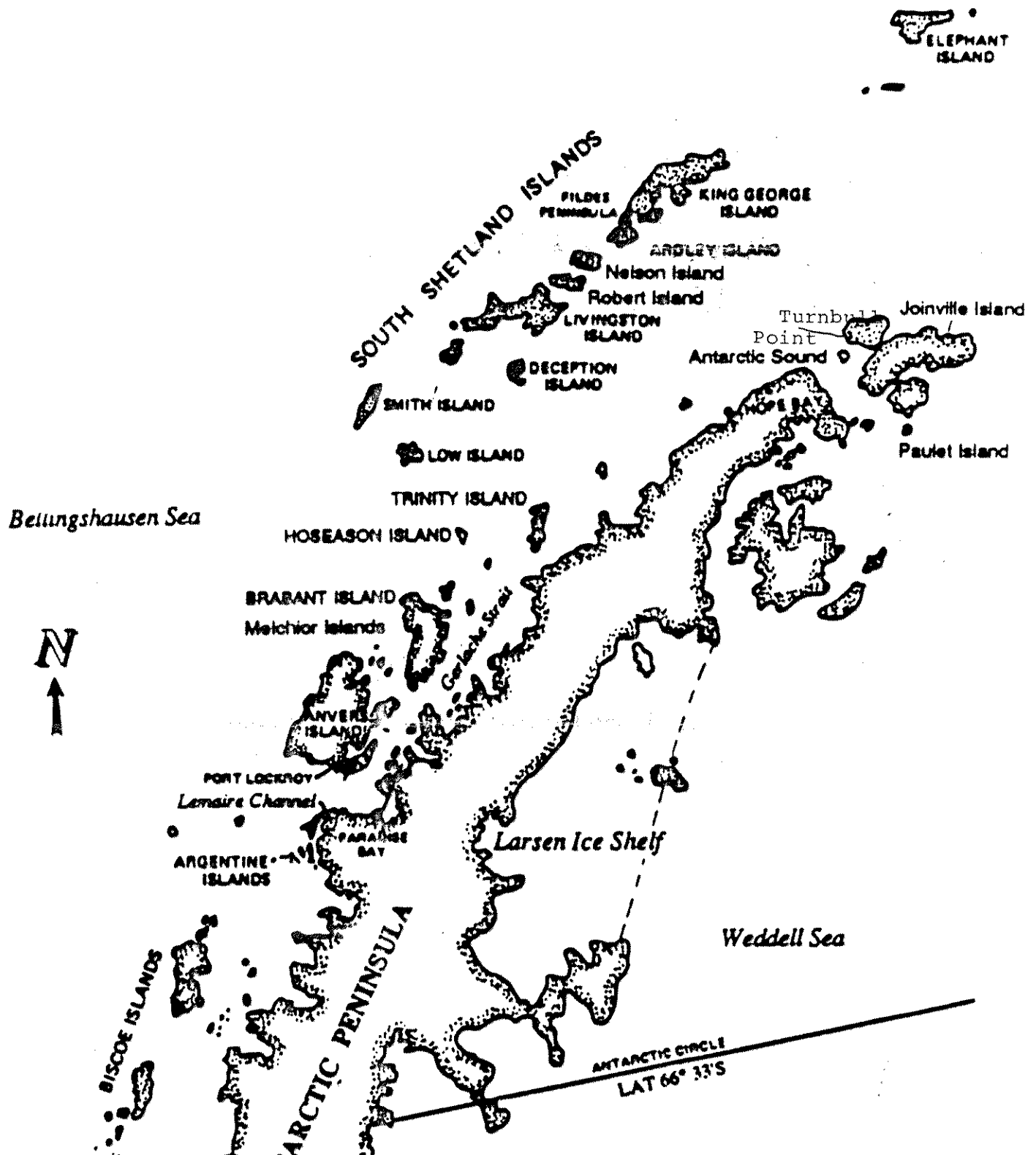
We are now approaching Seal Island for the first time this year. As I mentioned last year, about 5 people stay on the island for three months from early December through early March. They come on another ship, then we resupply them in January and February. In early March we take them off the island. This time we are doing the major resupply.

This gets tricky. The approach is narrow and we have to make several turns as we approach. The sun rises early in the day. Today it rose at 4:10 AM. We are going in at sunrise so I had to get up at 3:30 in the morning. Since I have been here before, I know what to expect. This makes it easier, but still we must be vigilant and careful.

The weather is good. We can see the island and so it is easier to tell where we are. As we approach the



# E. ANTARCTIC PENINSULA



A letter was sent off to the British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, England. A request was made for more information about the expedition and permission to reprint in our newsletter was also requested.

D'Urville Island, site of Turnbull Point, is named after the French explorer, Dumont d'Urville. He named the Adelie penguin after his wife.

#### FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

California members will be saddened to learn of the death of Norman B. Turnbull. Norman, and his late wife Donna, hosted the Costa Mesa, Chino and San Diego Games tent for a number of years. The couple actively supported many of the Scottish activities in the area. Norman was a Past Exalted Ruler of the Elks, Bellflower Lodge who conducted the service. Norman is survived by a step-son, Robert Estebrook, brothers Robert and George, sisters Sharon Turnbull Bennett and Dottie Turnbull Berk, your Editor. He was an active, contributing member and will be sorely missed.

#### CROSSING THE BAR

Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me,  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I pass out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When they which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark.

For tho' from out our bourne of time and place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crossed the bar.

Alfred Tennyson

Sara Vial's poem from the monument on Cape Horn:  
I am the albatross that waits for you at the end of the earth.  
I am the forgotten soul of the dead sailors who crossed Cape Horn  
from all the seas of the world.  
But they did not die in the furious waves.  
Today they fly in my wings to eternity in the last trough  
of the Antarctic winds.

Translation from Spanish inscription by Pete Oxford.