

OBITUARY

JOHNNY BERENS, the famous Mackenzie River pilot, died at Fort Smith on 25 March 1954 at the age of eighty-two. He was born at Fort Simpson and started work with the Hudson's Bay Company at the age of fifteen, first as a carpenter's mate and then as a cook. It was in 1900 that Berens became a pilot on the Mackenzie River. The knowledge he acquired of the changing currents and his uncanny ability to detect shifting shoals, sandbars, and underwater obstacles proved to be of immense service to the Company's shipping.

FRANCIS H. BICKERTON was born in Oxford in 1889 and died on 21 August 1954. He was a member of the Australian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-14, when he was in charge of the air-tractor sledge, and was one of the main base party at Cape Denison, King George Land, for two years. He led the western sledging party which traversed the inland ice sheet of Terre Adélie. After serving throughout the 1914-18 War he was occupied with various ventures in North America and Africa, and latterly lived in England.

ARCHIBALD WILLIAM ("BILL") BOLLAND died on 6 February 1954 at the age of sixty-one. He was born in Cardiff and emigrated to Canada when he was nineteen. Between 1920 and 1933 he was engaged in prospecting in the Great Bear Lake area of the Northwest Territories, and in 1925 organized the first freight service on Bear River. It was Bolland who, in 1929, staked the first mining claims on the shores of the Great Bear Lake. He was also one of the first prospectors to recognize the importance of uranium and became an authority on the recognition of deposits of that ore. Bolland later made important discoveries in the Lac la Ronge district of northern Saskatchewan and, at the time of his death, was general manager of Pioneer Contractors Ltd., which has large holdings in that area.

BORIS NIKOLAYEVICH GORODKOV, a leading arctic botanist and geographer, died on 25 May 1953. He was born in Tobol'sk in 1890, and first visited the north in 1910. For the next forty years he worked in almost all parts of the Soviet Arctic, and became an authority on tundra vegetation. His *Rastitel'nost' tundrovoy zony SSSR* (*Vegetation of the tundra zone of the U.S.S.R.*) (Moscow, Leningrad, 1935) was characterized by L. S. Berg as "marking an epoch in the study of the tundra".

His published work dealt with such problems as the classification of types of tundra vegetation, and their origin, change and development; the difference between tundra vegetation on the one hand and alpine and steppe vegetation on the other; and the soil and climate of the tundra with special reference to permafrost. Gorodkov also wrote a number of taxonomic studies of Soviet arctic plants. He was interested in the potentialities of the far north for grazing cattle and made a detailed study of reindeer pastures.

From 1920 to 1953 he was working in botanical institutions forming part of the Academy of Sciences [Akademiya Nauk SSSR] and during this period also did some teaching. He was for many years a member of the Scientific Council [Uchenyy Sovet] of the Arctic Institute [Arkticheskiy Nauchno-Issledovatel'skiy Institut] and of the Research Institute of Polar Agriculture, Stock raising, and Hunting [Nauchno-Issledovatel'skiy Institut Polyarnogo Zemledeliya, Zhivotnovodstva i Promyslovogo Khozyaystva].

Contr' ammiraglio MARINO JANNUCCI died on 15 November 1953 at Genova, where he directed the Istituto Idrografico della Marina. As a young officer Jannucci took part in Umberto Nobile's ill-fated Italian airship expedition of 1928, serving on board the naval depot ship *Città di Milano*. He later published, in co-operation with Ernesto Pellegrine, the scientific results of the expedition in *Annali Idrografici* (Geneva), Vol. 12, 1929.

NATHAN KRESGE, the Alaskan sourdough, died in November 1953 at the age of ninety-five. He first went to the Klondike in 1897 and, together with Nels Peterson, made what then appeared to other prospectors to be the elementary error of digging for gold on the hill-sides, rather than in the valleys where all the gold had hitherto been discovered. Despite gloomy prognostications, Kresge and Peterson made a rich strike at Skookum Gulch on 5 September 1897, and started the memorable stampede. Kresge later became custodian of the Washington State Museum in Seattle, a post he held until his retirement in 1948.

ERIK LJUNGNER was born on 21 May 1892 and died on 14 March 1954. He studied at Göteborgs Högskola and at Uppsala Universitet. In 1939, after having worked for a time in South America, he joined the Boliden mining company in northern Scandinavia. He made geotechnical, glaciological, geological and cartographical investigations in the mountains of Piteå Lappmark, and journeyed over practically the whole of Lapland and the mountains of northern Scandinavia. In 1948 he became professor of geography at Lund, a post he held until his death.

JOHN GILL MCCALL died suddenly of poliomyelitis on 5 November 1954 at the age of thirty-one. McCall, who was a first-class ski-er and mountaineer, graduated in engineering at the University of Alaska in 1950 and then went to Cambridge to investigate glacier structure and cirque erosion, a field in which his knowledge of engineering was especially valuable. During 1951 and 1952 he was joint leader of four Cambridge expeditions to Vesl-Skautbreen, a cirque glacier in Jotunheimen, Norway. He returned to the University of Alaska in 1953 as a member of the teaching staff. In May 1954 he led a rescue party up to a height of 11,000 ft. on Mount McKinley to bring back an injured climber.

HUGO NIKOLAUS ("NILS") PALLIN was born on 5 April 1880 and died on 18 September 1953. Pallin, who was a professional engineer, was a keen alpinist and traveller. He achieved the first winter ascent of Kebnekaise (2123 m.), Sweden's highest mountain, in 1908, of Sarektjåkko in 1916, and of Kaskasatjåkko in 1920. He also climbed several other 2000 m. peaks in Swedish Lapland. He described some of his adventures in *Kebnekaise. Färder och äventyr i Lappland* (Stockholm, 1927). In 1920-21 he accompanied Otto Nordenskiöld's expedition to West Patagonia as cartographer, and himself led geographical parties to Spitsbergen in 1922, 1923, and 1928, to Iceland in 1935, and to West Greenland in 1936. In 1937 he published a work entitled *Mountains and glaciers in West Greenland*. He also wrote a book about the Swedish balloonist S. A. Andrée entitled *Andréegåten* (Uppsala, 1934).

VLADIMIR YUL'YEVICH VIZE (sometimes spelt "Wiese" in transliteration), a leading figure in Soviet arctic studies between the two World Wars, died in Leningrad on 19 February 1954. He was born in St Petersburg on 5 March 1888 and studied chemistry at the universities of Göttingen and Halle. He afterwards worked for a time in Germany and then returned to Russia in 1910 to study physics at St Petersburg.

During the summers of 1910 and 1911 he worked among the Lapps, studying particularly their music—for he was a talented musician himself. In 1912–14 he took part as a geographer in G. Ya Sedov's attempt to reach the North Pole from Zemlya Frantsa-Iosifa. After the end of the First World War Vize devoted himself almost exclusively to arctic problems. He specialized in oceanography and meteorology, and this led him to a detailed study of sea ice movements and the problems of sea ice forecasting. He published much on this subject, in which he was a pioneer, and in 1946 was awarded a Stalin prize for his monograph *Osnovy dolgosrochnykh ledovykh prognozov dlya arkticheskikh morey* [*Principles of long-term ice forecasting for arctic seas*]. It is largely due to Vize's efforts that the U.S.S.R. is to-day ahead of the rest of the world in this field. In addition to several major regional studies of climate and many other purely meteorological and hydrological papers, he wrote widely on the history of exploration. As a young man he had spent some time in Holland studying Barents and the early Russian voyages. His best known work in this field was *Morya sovetskoy arktiki* [*Seas of the Soviet Arctic*], an excellent popular history of exploration which was first published in 1936 and reached its third edition in 1948. His output was very large, totalling over 400 books, papers and articles.

Vize participated in many expeditions. He was aboard the *Malygin* in 1928 during the search for survivors from the *Italia*, the *Sedov* in 1929 and 1930, the *Sibiriyakov* in 1932, when she made the first traverse of the North-East Passage in one season, the *Liitke* in 1934, when she made the same voyage for the first time in the opposite direction, and the *Sadko* in 1936 and 1937. On all these voyages he was either leader or deputy leader in charge of scientific work. He was closely concerned in the organization of the Soviet North Polar Drifting Expedition of 1937–38, and would, it is said, have been leader had illness not prevented him. In all he took part in fourteen arctic expeditions between 1910 and 1937.

From 1930 until he retired he was Deputy director of the Arctic Institute [Vsesoyuznyy Arkticheskiy Institut, later Arkticheskiy Nauchno-Issledovatel'skiy Institut]. He also occupied for a period the chair of oceanography at Leningrad. His influence was strongly felt, probably more than that of any one other person, in the great surge of scientific endeavour in the Soviet Arctic between the wars. He became a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences [Chlen Korrespondent Akademii Nauk] in 1933 and was twice a gold medallist of the All-Union Geographical Society [Vsesoyuznoye Geograficheskoye Obshchestvo]. He was also awarded many governmental honours.

T.E.A.