

OBITUARY

OLAV BJÅLAND, who died in Morgedal, Norway, in May 1961 at the age of seventy-nine, was the last surviving member of Amundsen's sledging party which, on 14 December 1911, were the first to attain the South Pole. He was a carpenter by trade and a noted ski-er and sportsman. He met Amundsen in Hamburg while on the way to a ski-contest in France and was engaged to be in charge of ski and sleigh equipment on Amundsen's forthcoming expedition to the North Pole.

After the return of the expedition, Bjåland lived on his farm in Morgedal until his death.

JAMES EDWARD CHURCH was born in Michigan in 1869, and died in Nevada on 5 August 1959. In 1892 he graduated from the University of Michigan, and, in 1901, obtained his Ph.D. in archaeology at the University of Munich. He taught in a number of schools in Michigan, and eventually became Professor of Classics at the University of Nevada.

His wide interests are reflected in the societies to which he belonged, and in which he held office; they included the British Glaciological Society, the American Meteorological Society, the American Academy of Arts and Science, and the American Geophysical Union of whose Committee on Snow he was Chairman and of whose Section of Hydrology he was President. He was also President of the Commission on Snow of the International Association of Scientific Hydrology in the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. He achieved notable results in connexion with the study of snow surveying and run-off.

WILLIAM VAUGHAN LEWIS was killed in a motor accident in Iowa, USA, on 8 June 1961, while on a visit to North America lecturing and carrying out field work. He was born in Wales on 2 June 1907 and was educated at Pontypridd County Grammar School and Cambridge University. He graduated in 1929, reading first mathematics and then geography for his tripos, and was appointed a Student Demonstrator in the Geography Department. Later he became a University Lecturer in geography and, in 1949, was elected a Fellow of Trinity College. He was a Council member of the Royal Geographical Society, Chairman and Vice-President of the British Glaciological Society, and would have been the next President of the Institute of British Geographers. Vaughan Lewis's main interest, and most of his teaching, lay in the field of geomorphology, but his interests were wide. His first researches were in coastal evolution, an interest which he retained all his life. He was perhaps most generally known for his work in glaciology. In 1932 he went to Iceland and subsequent visits there and to Norway led him to write many papers on the physiography of glaciated regions. He also took part in expeditions to Swiss glaciers and organized student expeditions to Jotunheimen in Norway. The work of these Norwegian expeditions is summarized in the *Royal Geographical Society Research Series* of 1960, which he edited. He possessed to an enviable degree the faculty for communicating his enthusiasm, and a notable number of glaciologists received their first introduction to the subject during his expeditions to Norway. He was responsible for initiating many new approaches to glaciology. His persistence in trying to interest scientists from other disciplines in the properties of ice led to physicists, engineers and geophysicists applying their own particular knowledge to these problems, in the laboratory and in expeditions to Austerdalsbreen, Norway.

BURT M. McCONNELL died in Nantucket on 24 September 1960 at the age of 72. He was meteorologist of the Canadian Arctic Expedition, 1913–18, during the winter of 1913–14 and one of Stefansson's shore party. He later took part in the rescue of survivors of the *Karluk* from Ostrov Vrangelya. During the Second World War he was active in cold survival tests, the development of polar equipment and methods of avoiding frostbite and freezing.

MURRAY ROBB was killed in a motor accident near Rakaia, New Zealand, on 31 March 1961. He was educated at Farlie District High School and Timaru Technical College, and operated a carrying business of his own before going to the Antarctic with the New Zealand expedition which was at "Scott base" during 1958. In October 1959 he returned to Antarctica as leader of the Sno-cat team which formed part of the New Zealand Geological and Survey Expedition, 1959–60, becoming leader of the expedition after the death of Tom Couzins. After his return to New Zealand, in March 1960, he became part-owner of a Timaru fishing vessel.

NICHOLAS ALEXANDER TRANSEHE died in New Jersey on 27 December 1960; he was 74 years old. As a commander in the Imperial Russian Navy he commanded the icebreaker *Taymyr* for two Arctic expeditions between the years 1911 and 1915. He arrived in the United States in 1923 and served for five years as Arctic expert at the American Geographic Society. He was also associated with Bernt Balchen during the preparations for Byrd's trans-Arctic flight in 1929. He was one of the pioneers of sea ice studies.