

addressed envelope, for a list of what is available. (Source: Librarian, Institute of Oceanographic Sciences, Deacon Laboratory, Wormley.)

EXPEDITION ADVISORY CENTRE. The Expedition Advisory Centre of the Royal Geographical Society, funded by Shell International Petroleum Company, provides training and information for those, especially young people, who are planning expeditions overseas. It serves scientific expeditions at undergraduate level, school and youth expeditions, and adventurous activities abroad including mountaineering, caving, canoeing and underwater expeditions. Publications include *The Expedition planner's handbook and directory*, *Fund-raising for expeditions*, *Sources of information for independent and overland travellers*, and *Country factsheets* on foreign countries for expedition leaders. Educational activities include an annual seminar on planning small expeditions, tutorials and a mobile roadshow that visits centres outside London. For further information contact the Centre at the

Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR. (Source: EAC literature.)

INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SOCIAL SCIENCES ASSOCIATION (IASSA). Formed in August 1990, the Association has the objectives of stimulating international cooperation, increasing the participation of social scientists in national and international Arctic research, increasing public awareness of circumpolar issues and research results, promoting research and educational partnerships with the peoples of the north, and adopting a statement of ethical principles for the conduct of research in Arctic regions. The first International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences and the Second General Assembly of IASSA will be held concurrently with the Eighth Inuit Studies Conference at Université Laval in Québec City in October 1992. For further information contact Dr Ludger Muller-Wille, IASSA, Department of Geography, McGill University, 805, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, Montréal, Québec, H3A 2K6 Canada. (Source: L. Muller-Wille.)

Obituary

Rear Adml SIR EDMUND IRVING KBE CB, Hydrographer of the Navy 1960–66, died on 1 October 1990 aged 80. Joining the Royal Navy as a cadet in 1927, he opted for the hydrographic service in 1931 and spent many years at sea before and during World War II. After distinguished wartime service in the Mediterranean and European theatres he was instrumental in introducing electronic techniques into naval surveying. As Hydrographer he oversaw the movement of the chart compilation office to Taunton, and persuaded Admiralty to commission specially-built survey ships. After retiring in 1966 he joined Decca and promoted their survey systems widely. He was president of the Royal Geographical Society 1969–71, and in 1976 was awarded the RGS Patron's Medal for encouragement of exploration. Sir Edmund, widely known as 'Egg', was a regular and lively attender of Antarctic Club dinners, where he made himself widely known to young members and was always keen to hear of recent development.

TED PEDERSEN, one of the last of the commercial Arctic whalers, died on 15 August 1990 in Homer, Alaska, aged 85. He was born in 1905 on Samalgo, Aleutian Islands, to an Aleut mother who died in childbirth within a year. Raised in the Dutch Harbour orphanage, Ted went to sea in 1916, aged 11, with his father, Capt. C. T. Pedersen, carrying cargo between San Francisco and Arctic waters and whaling during the season. He formed part of the crew of *Herman*, a whaling ship skippered by his father, which in 1912 harpooned off Alaska the last commercially-caught Arctic bowhead whale. Ted was later in the lighthouse service, and navigated and piloted mailboats, cargo ships and tankers, mainly in Alaskan waters. In his early 80s he built *White whale*, a replica of a New Bedford whale boat, and sailed her 200 miles from Anchorage to his homestead in Bear Cove, Kachemak Bay. He retired from the sea in 1988.

Hal Vogel