

Society.

Knuth was proud of his ancient lineage but, to his friends, his kinship seemed to lie rather with the Inuit hunters whose ruins he studied. Much of his private means went into those studies, while he enjoyed the simplest lifestyle, preferring, as he said, his tent in Peary Land to, say, the comfort of an exclusive club. He was a fastidious camper, keeping his tent in neat order and serving two-course meals from a Primus stove with exquisite care. His astonishing physique — tall, lean, and loose-limbed — enabled him to carry on active fieldwork for decades after his contemporaries had taken permanently to their desks. On long walks in summer he would carry a pair of green wellies that were donned for crossing glacier streams half-naked.

Knuth was seen at his best in the close-knit community of a field camp or among a few friends with similar interests. He liked people but was never at ease in a large group, partly from shyness and partly from deafness, although he claimed that he could hear perfectly in an aircraft cruising at 20,000 feet. ('Don't shout — I'm up in the air,' he would say.) He will be remembered especially for his whimsical sense of humour expressed, for example, in a Christmas card of his design portraying his car on an open road in Denmark. The gap of sky between the trees formed a map of Greenland beckoning towards the next field season. It is hardly surprising that he never married.

Geoffrey Hattersley-Smith

The Rev Harold Duncan, former missionary at Pond Inlet, died on 30 November 1995, aged 92. Born in London on 17 November 1903, he won a scholarship to the King Edward VI School in Sheffield. After school he taught at Monkton Combe for five years.

In 1928, at the age of 25, Duncan left his teaching post to train at the Bible Churchman's Missionary Society College in Bristol. After having been ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Ontario in 1929, he accompanied Jack Turner (later Canon Turner) to Pond Inlet, where they became the first resident missionaries. In 1934 Duncan returned to England on furlough, and, due to ill health, did not return to the Arctic. He returned instead to his teaching career, and was headmaster of Cloverly Hall School in Shropshire for 18 years, following which he returned to the Church and undertook a variety of clerical posts.

During the time Duncan spent at Pond Inlet, he translated the Scripture Union Bible Reading Cards into Inuktitut and the Book of Isaiah from the dialect of the Labrador Inuit to the dialect of the Baffin Island Inuit. This was later printed by the British and Foreign Bible Society, and at present is on display at the Scott Polar Research Institute, along with many artifacts he kindly donated to the museum in 1990.

To this day, Duncan is still spoken of among the community at Pond Inlet with great respect and affection. His musical talent, in composing hymn tunes and accom-

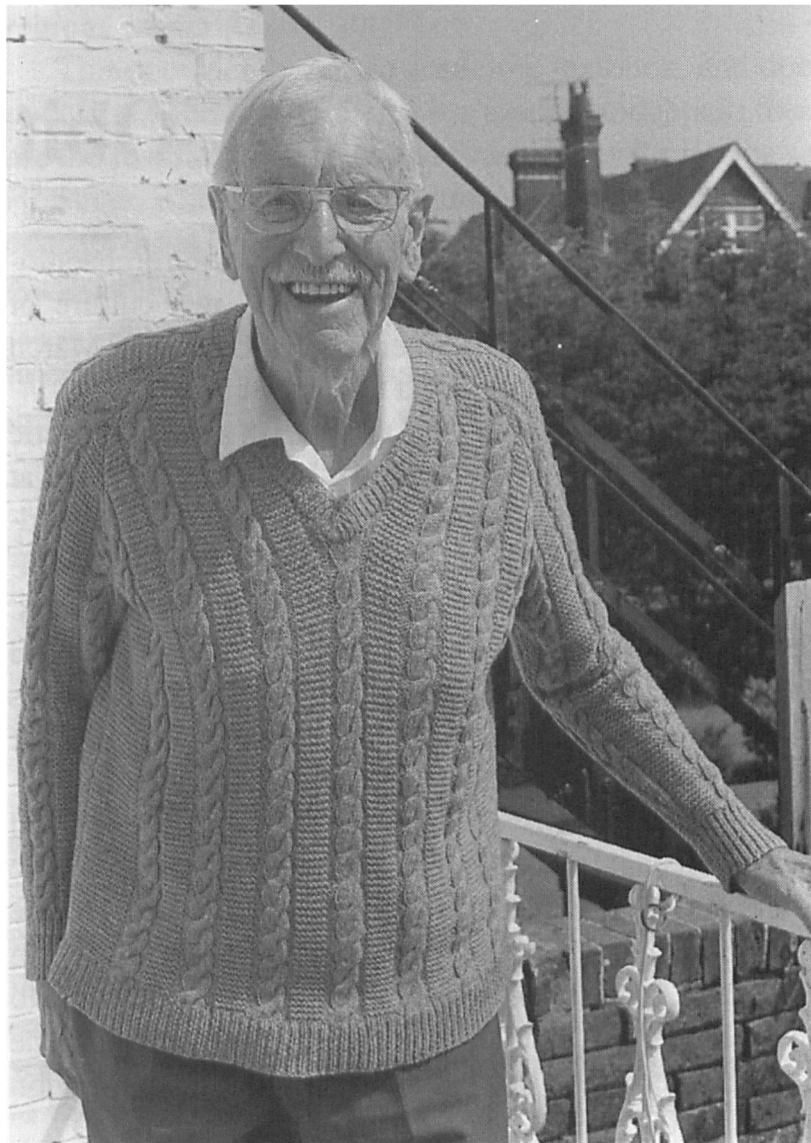


Fig. 1. The Reverend Harold Duncan in 1990.

panying the Church services on his accordion, is well-remembered, as is his dedication to pastoral care, which on one occasion involved carrying out an eight-hour operation on a young child who had been mauled by a husky. In 1992 Bishop Christopher Williams presented Duncan's private communion set to St Timothy's Church in Pond Inlet, a gift still treasured.

Shirley Sawtell

John Blyth, a member of Operation 'Tabarin,' died in Stanley, Falkland Islands, on 1 May 1995, aged 71. Blyth was born in Stanley, where he spent most of his childhood. In January 1944, as a member of the Falkland Islands Defence Force, he heard that a team of British scientists needed a cook for an Antarctic expedition. He immediately volunteered his services, as a relief from the sentry duty in which he was mainly engaged. On being accepted, he found himself a member of the then secret Royal Navy Operation 'Tabarin,' launched to safeguard British sovereignty in the Falkland Island Dependencies (now British Antarctic Territory) and commanded by Lieut Cdr J.W.S. Marr, RNVR.

Sailing from Stanley in HMS *William Scoresby* in March, Blyth joined Marr's nine-man party at Port Lockroy (Wiencke Island, Danco Coast), where they established a base known as Bransfield House. Although he had been engaged as cook, in fact he acted only as cook's assistant, for much of the cooking was taken over by the stores