

CLIVE PEARSON

Edited transcript of interview with Clive Pearson conducted by Chris Eldon Lee on 2nd May, 2012. BAS Archives AD_24_1_166_1. Transcribed by John Zerfahs on 11th May, 2018.

[Part 1 0:00:00] Lee: This is Clive Pearson interviewed by Chris Eldon Lee on the 2nd of May, 2012. Clive Pearson, Part 1.

Pearson: My name is Clive William Pearson, and I was born in Dartmouth in South Devon, on the 12th of March, 1935.

[Part 1 0:00:22] Lee: So how old are you now?

Pearson: 77.

[Part 1 0:00:26] Lee: And just to explain we're recording this in the same room as your marvellous machine that gives you enough air and oxygen to live by.

Pearson: That's correct unfortunately, yes.

[Part 1 0:00:36] Lee: So, you've not moved far in your life, have you?

Pearson: Well as far as time is concerned I've lived within a 100 yards of where I was born. I was born in one seven nine, I was brought up in one six nine which is five doors down, and I bought my present house, which is on the opposite side of the road but differently numbered, one three two, in 1974, and the whole lot is within a 100 yards radius of each [other], so as far as time is concerned I haven't really moved. [Laughter]

[Part 1 0:01:14] Lee: This is all in Victoria Road?

Pearson: All in Victoria Road.

[Part 1 0:01:17] Lee: In Dartmouth. Tell me about your parents, Clive.

Pearson: Well my father came to Dartmouth in 1916 with his father, who was a chef on the Great Western Railway, and they came here from Liverpool because they were paying a better rate of pay on the railway down here because they were running hospital trains, and the conditions apparently up where he had been left a lot to be desired, so he brought the whole family down from Liverpool, there were ten children and Grandma, and my mother was brought here under rather adverse circumstances her father was an ostler in London, and she was born in 1908, and in 1912 her mother had just had another child and she died of milk fever and in the meantime a horse rolled against her husband, that's right my mum's father, and broke his legs so the children were deemed as orphans, and they were sent to Dartmouth to be with outreach family members, and the tiny baby went with his grandmother on Grandad's side, and Mum went with her great aunt and the other sister she went with some family in Dittisham which is a little village three miles up the river, and they were never ever again until her brother and my mother was stood at the bottom of her bed just before she died

in Dartmouth Hospital many years later. It's quite sad really. But all us children, apart from myself, were all born at one six nine, and there were eight of us in my personal family. And, as I say, Dad was, for trade, he was a plumber, hot water fitter and sanitary engineer, and he learnt his trade locally with a local tradesman, and spent his working life on maintenance at Britannia Royal Naval College, except during the war where he went away doing sneaky beaky things, and then came back afterwards to clear up the mess that the Americans and the others had left behind when they left.

[Part 1 0:03:29] Lee: Tell me about your education, Clive.

Pearson: Went to infants' school, can remember first day at school, went in it would be about, very, very early 1940 because I was born in '35, started at five, first term after Easter, and when it came round to the mid-morning break when you had your milk, said my teacher, I can see it now as plain as anything, said 'You can go now', I came home. I didn't just go for a wee and a bottle of milk, I came home. I can't remember whether my mum walked me back again after lunch or not, anyway I went to infants' school for a couple of years, then I went to a school which was two hundred yards further up the road from where I've always lived, that was *the boys'* school, and we were there as *the boys'* school until the local infants' and girls' school was damaged by an enemy action, and then we did one week one mornings for the boys and one week afternoons with the girls until we took week about until the school was in a fit state to be used.

[Part 1 0:04:37] Pearson: And then shortly after that the whole lot became co-ed. I did that until I was 11 plus, passed me exams and went on to Dartmouth Grammar, and I was Dartmouth Grammar from the 11 plus to 15, and I went from there to South Devon Technical College. But in the meantime rather than take woodwork I took catering being the influence by my grandfather, and I went to cookery classes with the girls and one of the girls in the cookery classes was over happy with the domestic science teacher, so she did my place in the woodwork classes, and this came out on the national press because it was quite a novelty in the mid '40's, I should say the late '40's, and I came away from South Devon Tech in 1952 with City and Guilds in cooking, waiting and hotel management, worked in a holiday camp for a season, and worked in a small private hotel in Sidmouth.

[Part 1 0:05:42] Pearson: And then I was called up for the Services and I went in the Army because if you went in for three years you could go where you wished, but if you went in for two years with National Service you went where the Services wanted to put you. So I did three years in the catering corps, and because I had this working knowledge of the catering I used to sleep in at lectures and get me ankles tapped and told off, and when it came to the field cooking business, because I was so enthusiastic with Scouts as far as I was concerned it was just a big Scouts' camp. So I was quite easy with that, an' I also run foul of my instructors in that for being what they considered was a bit laid back because the thing is that I was conversant with what was happening whereas the other fellas who hadn't been in the Scouts or had any previous catering knowledge they were finding it hard working, and also the nature of the equipment we had to use.

[Part 1 0:06:34] Lee: Where do you think this interest in catering came from?

Pearson: Well my parents seemed to think that I had shown an interest as a youngster, and I'm not going to deny that I ever did not like cooking or getting involved in anything like that, but it wasn't until quite late on that I realised that it wasn't really my *forte*, but yet I'm still prepared to do it, but as I found out later on when I came back from FIDS, it wasn't really my *forte*, and then I decided that, not going to say I'm not going to have anything more to do with it, but not as an occupation.

[Part 1 0:07:21] Lee: What was your first brush with the Antarctic, when did you first begin to realise such a place existed?

Pearson: Well I think really, I knew of it, but I never put much emphasis on it, but I was a member of an organisation known as Toc-H, which is still flourishing today in some places but in a completely different guise than what it ever was back in the 1950's, and a gentleman who was a draughtsman in the local shipyard came to a meeting one evening and said 'How would you like a job in the Falkland Islands?', well to be quite honest I don't know where the Falkland Islands were.

[Part 1 0:07:58] Lee: A lot of people don't.

Pearson: Yeah, well don't even know that, yeah, and so anyway the next thing I know he came at us the next meeting or whether it was at that meeting he produced this little bit of paper about the size of a matchbox, and he gave it to me an' I read it through an' I can remember, my actual letter 'Dear Sir my name is Clive William Pearson, I've got City and Guilds in cooking, waiting and hotel management and I'd like to apply for the post of General Assistant Cook for whatever the case may be' you see, and in due course I got an invitation to go for the interview, at 4, Millbank, London. And I went up and went in for the interview, and there were about three, maybe four in front of me, and I duly went in to be meet by a sea of faces, which was all the fellas who'd recently come back from that year's trip. And there was Johnny Green, Ray Adie and one or two others there, and one of the first questions they was 'How do you get on with other people?', and I said 'Well, as far as I know fairly well'.

[Part 1 0:09:18] Pearson: So anyway they asked me other questions and I wasn't quite so glib at making facetious remarks in those days, whereas since then I've got this, well I have been known for making facetious remarks, but anyway, they heard me out and I went back out and sat down for a few minutes, and then a gentleman, I don't know who he was but, he came out and he asked me out into the passageway outside, and said 'If we can arrange a medical can you go now?', so I said 'Yes, sure, no problem, and I'll catch the half past five back I can catch the half past six', and he gave me half a crown for a taxi from Millbank to Harley Street. And I went up there and this sweet young thing in the office asked me details of who I was and what I was, and he did chest x-rays and one thing and another and I came back to Dartmouth and a couple of days later I got the letter of acceptance.

[Part 1 0:10:14] Pearson: And then I just waited me time and I was, bought what was recommended to buy, and disposed of what was recommended to dispose of, and due course went to Southampton on the Sunday, and I can remember the look on my father's face as I shook his hand and I got on the ferry to go from Dartmouth across to Kingswear to catch the train, and I said 'Well, all the best then Dad, see you for Dartmouth Regatta in 1960', well Dartmouth Regatta is the last Thursday, Friday and Saturday of August, and you could see this lump about as big as a grapefruit in his throat like, and he swallowed hard on it. So anyway I stayed the night in Southampton in Toc-H, which one could in those days, and got a taxi the next morning and went down, couldn't see the *Biscoe* because she's so physically small she was down under the wall all you could see was the tops of two masts and just a little bit of the funnel, and Captain Bill was doing his walk up and down the boat then...

[Part 1 0:11:20] Lee: Captain Johnston?

Pearson: Johnston, yeah, and I leaned over and passed the time of day, I got this wonderful Irish brogue back 'You're a Fid!', he said, 'You're a Fid! Send him back!' then I went back and this lovely little bouncy chap with long curly hair came up and said 'Are you Mr. Pearson?', 'Yes', anyway we went down then the rest of the lads duly turned up and we sailed about three o' clock.

[Part 1 0:11:46] Lee: I have here the advert you answered haven't I?

Pearson: Yeah.

[Part 1 0:11:49] Lee: In your collection, it is the size of a matchbox you're quite right. I've not seen it, may I read this out?

Pearson: By all means.

[Part 1 0:11:54] Lee: 'Expedition to Antarctica, general assistant - brackets cook - required by Falkland Island Dependencies Survey for service in the Antarctic for thirty months under conditions which are a test of character and resource. Commencing salary according to age on a scale of 330 rising to 420 pounds a year with all found including clothing and canteen stores. Free passages, liberal leave on full salary, candidates, preferably single, should have a good experience of cooking. The person selected will leave the U.K. in October.' I've never seen that before, that's quite remarkable. Did you have any training before you caught the boat?

Pearson: No.

[Part 1 0:12:38] Lee: Training.

Pearson: Training in respect of what?

[Part 1 0:12:40] Lee: Well, dealing with the Antarctic, crevasses...?

Pearson: No, no. Scientific base innit?

[Part 1 0:12:47] Lee: Yes, Argentine Islands you were going to.

Pearson: Yeah.

[Part 1 0:12:49] Lee: But it's still an alien environment wasn't it?

Pearson: Yeah well you see the thing was that my local doctor he had to take out a tooth because they recommended that you have your teeth seen to before you go down, and I'd had problems with mine and they'd filled it, and even out on the motorcycle I was getting problems with it, so I wanted it out, but the dentist wasn't very keen because he found he could save it. I said 'Well I can't afford to save it' I said, 'I want it out'. And the doc gave me a whiff of something and they whipped it out, and when I saw the doc before I left, he said 'Do you know what you're doing?' I said 'In respect of what?' He said 'Well, you're going away on this expedition and you've already shown signs of anxiety about having an anaesthetic'. I said 'Yes', so he said 'Well you're going away into back ???[incomprehensible]'. I said 'Yeah I know', I said 'But that's reality, I can cope with that. I don't know what reality is when you have anaesthetic' I said, 'I've never had anaesthetic before'. But apparently he turned out to be, he was one of a group of persons who assessed members of the armed services before they went on sneaky beaky commando raids, and to find out what their mental status was you see, and I don't know whether he was judging me on that or not, but anyway, as I say we went and we came back an' the gods smiled on us.

[Part 1 0:14:21] Lee: How was the voyage?

Pearson: Well, if you read the diary, we sailed from Southampton at about three in the afternoon, and because the *Biscoe's* the *Biscoe* she rolls on damp grass, I was seasick before we got to the Needles, and I stayed bows under until we got down the bottom of the Bay of Biscay – it's like two or three pages missing in the diary because of it. And then after that I think Doc Jones gave me a pill on a couple of occasions when it got really rough but other than that yeah life was good. We had to work an hour a day to earn our supernumerary crew money, because to transport men in those days we went down as supernumerary crew so you were paid a shilling a month so you had to work an hour a day, an' I used to go in the kitchen and do the bread, and the rolls for lunch, and on *Kista Dan* when I came home, I chipped paint and done other things like that. But, yeah it was good, life was good.

[Part 1 0:15:28] Lee: Before you set off did you know which base you were going to go to?

Pearson: I'm pretty sure I did, yeah want my own oven, yeah, probably see somewhere in the paperwork there, because that you see at the time 98, 98.999 per cent of the bases in those days were either outdoor activities or something like that and you did a man a week about, if you had a six man base you did every six weeks you were a cook, and if you were on a sledging base you rarely would have very many people on the base at any one time, they'd be out fending for themselves in the field. But F was regarded as a scientific base, so all your personnel were bows under with their own thing so you had a permanent cook. So really you only did cook's duties once every ten weeks, which was when it was your Sunday on, and I

used to have Sundays off, so every, a different chappie every Sunday for ten weeks and then it went round again. So it weren't too formidable.

[Part 1 0:16:29] Lee: Out of interest did you really get Sunday off or were you hanging around because you didn't know how good they cook?

Pearson: No, I used to stay in bed.

[Part 1 0:16:34] Lee: Oh really, ok. So you were off-limits were you, not available on Sunday?

Pearson: Oh no way, if anybody wanted anything or I fancied going somewhere, there was a rather splendid arched 'berg not very far off the base, and we walked up to that, which probably now you'd have to do a feasibility study, and a [overtalk], and you could hear this darned thing creaking and groaning and snicking and one thing and that.

[Part 1 0:17:02] Lee: How big was it?

Pearson: There's photographs of it here somewhere.

[Part 1 0:17:05] Lee: About the size of a house?

Pearson: Oh yeah, it was a lovely thing I reckon the arch must have measured 20 or 30 foot, or something like that, and you could hear in it the stress in it all the time. Yeah, it was quite a good 'un. And on another occasion we walked the whole of the width of Penola Strait and had a little scamp up Mount Tuxen, Cape Tuxen, and yours truly lost his footing and fell about 80 feet back down and stove m' ribs in an' bent me binoculars the wrong way and damaged me camera, and the lads realised that I wasn't dead and they waited till I recovered enough and we very slowly walked our way back. Fair old width Penola Strait, and Doc Jones patched me up – I think I missed a day, if you read in the diary perhaps. But, as I say, it was good, yeah.

[Part 1 0:18:03] Lee: So you're on the boat heading south, call in anywhere on the way south?

Pearson: Oh yeah, very much so, we called in at St. Helena and we unloaded some special cargo and we also unloaded a rather splendid very large box of matches, 'cos apparently they didn't have any matches, and there were one or two other things which they took advantage of us going that way. Whether we did take mail or not I'm not 100% sure, but I know that, vaguely remember someone saying something about matches. Anyway we went ashore quite late in the evening, and because the *Biscoe* it's only got boat's storage for water, she doesn't create any of her own, spent all of the night with a barge bringing out water for the *Biscoe*. We went ashore and had a scamp about as best we could, an' I got back on board in the early hours of the morning, and then went back ashore again later in the day, I'd say about eight o' clock-ish, half past eight, and had a look around at what they got in the way of shops and facilities and one thing and another.

[Part 1 0:19:07] Pearson: It was still relying on Union Castle Line and things like that in those days, and they did have some facilities but it was nothing apparently at all like what they have there now, and they're still hoping for even more. They had these, some fabulous motorbikes you'd give your eye teeth for, and they had a coach, it must have followed the Ark down the States it was that old it was really, really great to be there and see these items. And when the Union Castle boat came in we all had to be back on board because, although it's a mooring apparently it's not practical to have more than one boat there. So then the hydrographic survey party who were with us, who were also going to Base F, they took advantage of decent star fixes, or some fixes around St. Helena while we were there, and then we legged it off and then we went down to Tristan da Cunha, and went ashore, five of the chaps decided they would like to climb Tristan da Cunha, and I had a walk up and down the village and came back, took some photographs and went back on board, and it was just coming up to a healthy chop, and then they decided that it wasn't practical to work any more skids, so they tied up the motor boat and the scow and let them trail after the *Biscoe* and there was five chappies left on the island.

[Part 1 0:20:41] Pearson: And then later in the day they realised it wasn't going to be practical to stay where we were, but, beg your pardon, we stayed overnight, and it got so bad overnight that the motor boat and the scow broke free and were wrecked, and motorboat was destroyed completely, and the scow was folded in on itself. So we went to sea, and we headed into it for a day or a day and a half and you could stand on the after rail of the '*Biscuit*' and she would slide down and you could look over the ship and she'd bury her nose in and come up the other side, and Bill Johnston must have reckoned that every seventh wave's the biggest so he waited until she came up on the top of one and then he did two moves and turned her end for end, and I think she must have listed the some phenomenal list on these two lurches to get her round, and we went back and we hid behind the island for a day or so, at least one day maybe a bit more, and then we stuck our nose out around and it was quieter again.

[Part 1 0:21:53] Pearson: So went ashore in the lifeboat, put a tarpaulin over what's left of the scow and dragged it back towards the ship where they craned it on board. And the fellas that had been left ashore got their wrists slapped by the Governor, and they had to go in and sift through all these potatoes that had become all, were incestuous actually because they were all same stock, same stock, same stock, same stock, same stock, so they mutated, all the potatoes had mutated, so we'd taken down some new stock, and we had on board a new school lady, and a new Ministry of Agriculture and his wife and two small children.

[Part 1 0:22:34] Lee: For Tristan da Cunha.

Pearson: For Tristan da Cunha, and they were ashore and all their furniture and everything else went ashore, and they bagged up all these rough potatoes and loaded them onto us and we took them down eventually to South Georgia.

[Part 1 0:22:47] Lee: So you took the reject potatoes, did you?

Pearson: Took all the reject potatoes to make sure that they didn't continue this..

[Part 1 0:22:55] Lee: Inbreeding.

Pearson: ...inbreeding, yeah. And I take it that the new stock must have come down with us, or new stock was to be had to stop this mutation. And then, I say we came away from there, went down went into South Georgia, re-fuelled, watered, had a look around the whaling station, got lots of black and white photographs and that one thing and another, then we went into Stromness for a couple of hours, then we went to Falklands, went and tied up on Government jetty, went ashore and had a look round the shops and one thing and another, got an invite to Government House for a party, then we got a shout that the *Shackleton* had hit the iceberg. So it's everybody back on board, back to South Georgia, and they brought her in and they put her in the floating dock and the floating dock weren't quite man enough to lift her right out, but it got the hole out of the water.

[Part 1 0:23:58] Pearson: So the platers who were there in the dockyard, they measured it up and tack welded a plate over it, but of course she lost her licence so she weren't able to go back down in the ice for the second half of the season, so they swapped crews and swapped men and cargo and one thing and another, and I can't remember whether we went back to the Falklands then or whether we went straight on down into the ice, but from there on down it was base hopping and till we got to Base F very early in January '58.

[Part 1 0:24:38] Lee: Yeah. Did you have a piano on board this boat of yours?

Pearson: Yeah well the, that came about with Martin, now Martin was...

[Part 1 0:24:46] Lee: Martin?

Pearson: Martin Cyril Smith, M. C. Smith, and his relation was there used to be a rather splendid act on the radio called '*Duet for three hands*', and this was Mr. Smith and his wife who was Miss Sellick, Smith and Sellick, and apparently what happened was that they were on a flight between point A and point B and he had a – I think you call it an embolism – and he was partially paralysed, so after that he only used to play his half of the duet with one hand rather than two because of this business with his partial paralysis. Well Martin had this wonderful affliction known as perfect pitch, and he was also there as part of the radio sonde team, and the radio sonde team had this wonderful apparatus that could generate sounds, and the different metres of sounds, or the sound waves, were used for plotting the whatsaname, and Martin being a musician knew what the cycles were for various notes, and having brought the piano and got the engineer on the base, Keith Bell, to make him a suitable tool he was able to create a sound on the sonde machine and tune his piano. And he was great down there and then later on when the second year we were down there Harry Agger bought himself an accordion, and he used to go down and shut himself in the workshop and practise on that rather than annoy everybody up in the lounge.

[Part 1 0:26:30] Lee: But Martin Cyril Smith could only still play with one hand couldn't he?

Pearson: No, no, no, no. Martin with us no he was brilliant, it was his uncle.

[Part 1 0:26:40] Lee: Oh his uncle?

Pearson: His uncle, yes, yeah. Cyril Smith and Phyllis Sellick was the '*Duet for three hands*', and Martin Smith, M.C. Smith, who was with us, chappie on the end of the page, he was bright as a button he was, yeah. He was a chemist apparently, Martin was.

[Part 1 0:27:01] Lee: So where was this piano when you first saw it?

Pearson: In a cargo net on the end of the pier in Port Stanley.

[Part 1 0:27:09] Lee: And had it been in Stanley?

Pearson: Yeah Martin bought it from somebody in Port Stanley, having been in conversation with them probably at somebody's cocktail party, or somebody's banyan party.

[Part 1 0:27:18] Lee: So it was loaded onto the *Biscoe*.

Pearson: Onto the *Biscoe*, yeah, and brought ashore, yeah.

[Part 1 0:27:22] Lee: And taken to Argentine.

Pearson: Yeah.

[Part 1 0:27:24] Lee: This was an upright I presume, was it?

Pearson: Oh very much so, yes. In reasonable state for what I can remember of it too.

[Part 1 0:27:29] Lee: So was that a prompt for parties, singing round the piano and...?

Pearson: Oh no it just sat down in the workshop. I never, probably did at some time or another, actually go down there but most of the party music and that was J.B. Shaw, Jonathon Barry Shaw, Geoff Roe's opposite number, he was guitar man, so most of the music if anything at all would be J.B. Shaw on guitar and singing with that, and then they used to pinch one of my big pots, big saucepans and the colanders and all that, and get a bit of balloon material and stretch it over it and make drums and percussion instruments out of that.

[Part 1 0:28:14] Lee: Balloon skins on saucepans?

Pearson: Mmm?

[Part 1 0:28:16] Lee: Balloon skins on saucepans?

Pearson: Balloon skins on saucepans, yeah.

[Part 1 0:28:18] Lee: Wooden spoons?

Pearson: Wooden spoons, anything like that. Yeah it was all good, clean fun, yeah, but the unfortunate part about using balloon material for a skin you could never really get it tight because you've always got some resilience in it.

[Part 1 0:28:34] Lee: Did it sound alright?

Pearson: Oh yes, sounded right for what we wanted to do. You see the thing is that you had to have an excuse for a party. Well we were eleven persons on Base F, so you were told as soon as you got there that no-one has a birthday in June, because that's the Mid-Winter celebrations, so you were then told when you could have your birthday. What you did privately on your birthday was not important, but you then had eleven birthdays to celebrate. Well as the ration was one tin of beer a man a fortnight if you had a birthday a month you could have two tins of beer.

[Part 1 0:29:14] Lee: Laughs.

Pearson: But then you had your spirit ration as well, which was gin, whisky and rum, you see so by bulking that up with a wonderful mixture of what we used to call bergy bits, you could stretch your spirit measure out to go with your two tins of beer.

[Part 1 0:29:39] Lee: So effectively it was one party a month, was it?

Pearson: One party a month, yeah, and birthday cakes where appropriate, and you try and make a cake with a design on it or a something on it which was appropriate to the person's trade or profession.

[Part 1 0:29:54] Lee: And the birthday cake was your responsibility?

Pearson: Very much so, yes. And, then of course the mid-Winter one was quite an elaborate affair and some of them were very formal. One of them was in the form of an open book, and we also had, one of the lads was particularly good at art, I think it was J.B. Shaw, and he designed the mid-Winter's menu, and he also designed, that's right he did the mid-Winter menu and then as you opened it out he'd drawn caricatures of all the members on the base, and people had habits which you didn't put any emphasis on until you were actually shown you like you see. The thing is that when you saw them pointed out to you, you realised they'd all been living with that [laughter], and of course he exaggerated all people's different habits, for instance, as I said, if it was my Sunday off I used to stay in bed, so he depicted me as a bed with a bump in it, and a chef's hat perched on top of the bump – that was my Sunday off.

[Part 1 0:31:11] Lee: What else did you have time to do in Stanley, were you shopping for stores or ...?

Pearson: Only personal items, but there was this rather splendid emporium or establishment or one of these, by called Don Ross, and Don Ross was sort of like the official FIDS convener, and you would order stuff by the old morse through your radio operator to Don Ross, and he'd buy all this stuff in and it would come down on the boats as and when they were required, but the thing was that he'd go down to FIDS office and say 'How much credit has Pearson got or how much credit has Smith's got or how much credit has So-and-So's got?', and when he'd find it out well he'd buy that in and put your name and that would go in the drawer you see, and then but he wouldn't buy anything in your name unless he knew that you had credit in the bank, and then at the end of the month you'd get a bo[x], or whenever the ships came down you'd get your box from Don Ross with your records and your films,

and your slide projector or your cine camera or whatever the case may be – it was a good system.

[Part 1 0:32:25] Lee: Where was he getting his stuff from, from Argentine?

Pearson: Probably through the Argentines, 'course and then he'd have to rely on the *Fitzroy* which legged it up to Monte[video] or Punta Arenas or whatever the case may be. Yeah, 'cos the *Fitzroy* she was not a lot older than the *Biscoe* I don't think actually, or she was a comparatively new ship, the *Fitzroy*, yeah, 'cos it was only the second trip for the *Biscoe* ever that I went on, the first time of the *Biscoe* was in '56 when Prince Philip went down with the Royal Yacht, and there's some rather splendid pictures of the Royal Yacht, actually, a bit further down than anyone would even dream of letting her go in this day and age but, yeah it was great.

[Part 1 0:33:13] Lee: So, did you have about a week in Stanley?

Pearson: Well must have been apart from checking through the diary yeah we must have been there for quite a few days because we had lots and lots of sacks to fill with aggregate and sand and that from the quarries for the big programme at Base F, and there was other bits and pieces on other bases, and yeah we had all those bags to fill.

[Part 1 0:33:35] Lee: And you were being kitted out as well I guess?

Pearson: Yes, yes well very much, well anyway one man has to have, two pairs of trousers, two blouses, two jumpers, two something, and there was all these kitbags, and you went in and it's 'Oh your mister so-and-so, take this', it was very similar to when I joined the Services – great stuff. But most of it was ex-Service in any case.

[Part 1 0:33:56] Lee: Most of the chaps do you mean or most of the gear?

Pearson: Most of the gear, yeah you had BD [Note: Battle Dress] trousers and BD jackets, and of course all those lovely mukluks with the liners and these lovely little like velvet slippers that you could put on for inside your, and then you had those, what did they call them, vapour barrier wellingtons. Oh they were good for wet mornings certainly they were wonderful, it's like a wellington inside a wellington with a vapour barrier, and they were the most brilliant pieces of kit they were.

[Part 1 0:34:35] Lee: In what respect, they...

Pearson: They keep your feet warm, irrespective, yeah, and then you had your own ski boots in Monte, no - that's right, FIDS gave you ski boots, you bought your own skis from South Georgia.

[Part 1 0:34:53] Lee: Yeah.

Pearson: And FIDS gave you ski boots. Weird and wonderful things they were, I only got rid of mine about 12 months ago when a chappie came to do the roof insulation, and we had to pull all the stuff out the roof, he said 'Cor what's all them skis, mate?', I said 'Why?', he said

‘Well I collect them’, so he had the skis and I says ‘Do you want the boots to go with it?’ He was thrilled to bits, ‘cos he said they use it for window displays in shops and things like that.

[Part 1 0:35:22] Lee: And then you set sail further south was that still the *Biscoe* that was...?

Pearson: Oh very much so yeah, because the thing is that then we were *the* ship because *Shackleton* in the meantime needless to say was out of the running because of her bow damage.

[Part 1 0:35:35] Lee: She was heading back to South America wasn't she for repairs?

Pearson: I don't honestly know what happened to her. I know she had a short season because of this unfortunate damage, and as I say there was quite a bit of swapping of crews and men and one thing and another.

[Part 1 0:35:50] Lee: Did you go straight to Argentine Island?

Pearson: Oh good Lord no, no we went all around the ‘ouses – we went to Signy, and ‘O’ [Note: Danco Island], ‘A’ [Note: Port Lockroy], Deception and, oh yeah we ???[incomprehensible] South Orkney, South Shetland, worked our way all the way down through until we got to F, and if I remember rightly went to F, but I don't think I got off the first time we went in. I think we went down and done something else and came back and I got off. But, I don't think I stayed ashore the first time we went there, but it was only a day or so before I did actually go in and get me feet under the table.

[Part 1 0:36:43] Lee: What were your first impressions, Clive?

Pearson: Very impressed, very impressed, it was, I'd seen other bases further up the line, and seen what they were like, and I made comments about things, talking with other fellas who I was on the boat with, and they were saying ‘Oh this could have afforded to have been done,’ or ‘That could have been afforded to be done’, and he looked at it from a different angle than me ???[incomprehensible] ‘Floor leaves a bit to be desired’, something like that in the kitchen like, an’ he said to me ‘Yeah I know fine, I know what you're saying mate but with all this crowd traipsing in and out you can't blame ‘em for letting it go until we're all out the way and then I'll do it’, of course I appreciated it then from that angle, and experienced it meself when I got to where I was going to ???[incomprehensible].

[Part 1 0:37:33] Lee: So just describe the huts you went to live in Argentine Islands.

Pearson: Well, you come in on the jetty, and you went up the ramp, and it was a timber building covered with black roofing felt with a bit across the top, we used to call it the horse box I think, something like that, and in the middle of it there was another building at right angles across the building with a square roof as against the pitched roof, and this was the ozone laboratory. Downstairs if you went in from the jetty end, first on the right was the W.C., or whatever you want to call it, and then there was another doorway there which went into a small engine room where they had a small engine which supplied as best as could be 24

hours electric for some of the ongoing experiments with the magnetism. On the other side, coming up through was the engine room, with a workshop on the end of it.

[Part 1 0:38:41] Pearson: Then you had the bathroom on the right with a tank of water and the washing machine etc., etc., and on the left you had food store, or part of the food store; then you went up a bit further and on the left you had the surgery, where the doc lived, and he had his cabin in there, and on the right you had the sonde office, and there's a ladder outside the sonde office door that went up to the ozone laboratory over the top, which also went part of the way back in onto the roof on each side, but on the decks of the roof on each side were more food stores. Back down in the centre column the whole of the centre of the building was hollow, with a great long corridor all the way through it, with coconut matting on it. And then the next one on the left was the bedroom door, where you went in and you had down to the left you had three beds and four bunks in two pairs, that's one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, and on the right you had three beds which made the other ten, the ten of us all in the bedroom.

[Part 1 0:40:00] Pearson: On the right you had the lounge, next to that you had the weather office, next to that you had the radio office, and between the sonde office and the lounge was the sonde store, then the lounge, then the weather office, then the radio office, then the coal shed, and the kitchen on the left, which went back towards the bedroom, once you went through the kitchen door to the dining room, and then the kitchen was the area there. And outside on the landing you had another piece of apparatus where they could put the sondes, and they would turn and settle down the temperature elements, give them a chance to settle down rather than bring them out of the warm office, and take them out and expect them to settle, give them a chance to settle down outside.

[Part 1 0:40:58] Pearson: Then there was other buildings which weren't habited, and then there was the big magnetics laboratory which was as far away as was practical from the base because they reckon that when you went down there it was in scientific interest not to have metal buttons on your flies or anything on your body so everything was more magnetic, more anti-magnetic than magnetic, just to stop interfering with anything. I was fortunate Joe Farman took me down there one night, it was quite an experience actually, all these wonderful weight driven clocks and one thing and another, and we had some particularly violent earthquakes in other places in the world while we were down there, and the one at Agadir, must have been during 1958, it just knocked the pens off the chart even down there.

[Part 1 0:41:55] Lee: Really?

Pearson: Mmm. It was one hell of a thing that was, yeah.

[Part 1 0:42:00] Lee: Was the building in good condition or was it all a bit tatty?

Pearson: No, it was in very good state, very good state, yeah. The felt was in good state, well, there was a couple of little places, but nothing that was, to cause any concern, nothing at all, no.

[Part 1 0:42:19] Lee: Tell me about the kitchen and your facilities there.

Pearson: Well you went in and as I say it went back to the left as you came in the door, and you had a bench seat which was needless to say lockers with food etc. in, a centre table and the lads would sit around that, and that's just a dining room, and in the kitchen you went in the first thing that greeted you as you came in the door to the kitchen was this rather splendid copper tank which would be about two foot six square and about three maybe four feet high, on a stand, and Jerry Cutland, my predecessor there, I don't know what state it was in when he got there but he used to Brasso this thing and keep it in good state and I continued that as best I could, but people would come in just before it got warm and warm their hands on it, so you were forever fending off sort of sticky mitts. And then it went away to the right with a worktop, and a worktop all the way down on the right which overlooked the seal pile and the anemometer tower.

[Part 1 0:43:25] Pearson: Then you had a four leaf fold-up table on the bit that looked out over towards Indicator Island, and then the stove was on your immediate left which was Esse, Esse Fairy with two extra ovens which we needed for the bread etc., and that had a device on it, had a device on it to, if you get days of calm you could a bit of a forced draught by making a reduction in the flue, which used to help, and Jerry Cutland used to cheat this by putting a sheet of toilet paper over the reflux valve in the bottom, so it was always stayed shut, and it was drawing all the time actually.

[Part 1 0:44:09] Lee: So was it easy to control?

Pearson: Oh heavens yes, yes, yeah, you had to coax more heat out of it than what you had to suppress, but it was quite good for some, we only had a couple of mishaps ???[incomprehensible] I left the bread in on a couple of occasions when I went out in the afternoon and come back, sort of, very, well you had a loaf of toast instead of a loaf of bread, and if it was a bit late in the day you'd ask the lads whether they were prepared to sort of eat what came out or whether I should supply something else. But, 'cos they would eat nearly a loaf of toast in the evenings amongst them because we had fixed meal times, and they're not so bad as being on the boats, when you were on the boat you had your big meal at lunch time, and sort of just tea and stickies at five o'clock or whatever the case may be. Well we used to go down later in the evening looking for something to eat, and we got told off by Bill Shorey because we kept eating all the breakfast cereals you see, and we really hammered these breakfast cereals sometimes. Slapped wrist on that.

[Part 1 0:45:23] Lee: Well making bread wasn't a trial then, it was o.k. making bread?

Pearson: Oh heavens yes, oh yes, ???[incomprehensible].

[Part 1 0:45:28] Lee: You were taking over your kitchen from Jerry Cutland, did he pass any tips onto you?

Pearson: Yeah he stayed with me for a couple of days if I remember rightly, at least a couple of days because he stayed on with the working party that were building the new generator shed, because we, apart from Halley Bay, nobody had 24 hours' electrics, and because of the new scientific programme it was policy that we had 24 hour electrics so they were going to

build a new generator shed. And Jerry stayed over, sleeping rough in either one of the corridors or up in the roof space of Base F, and helped with the building party for the new generator shed, and also lay out the floor plan for the new store shed. And he would come down the galley and say 'If you're goin' to eat seal you'll find you do this, that, the other and something else, if you're goin' to have cormorant you'll find the best thing to do is just...'

[Part 1 0:46:32] Pearson: And give me quite a few wrinkles as far as that, told me what he found worked as far as making the bread was concerned, and for quantities, and also for the measuring out of dehydrated vegetables, and there was a measure on the containers that these things came in and you had, well pretty well anything that you can think of dehydrated you had two different sorts dehydrated potatoes that I remember, you had beans, cabbage, beetroot, rhubarb, an' you 'ad bundles of bananas in a tin which when you opened it looked like chopped firewood. And of course the thing is if you did it strictly as per the tin it was so many ounces this and so many ounces that, but after a bit you could work it out by so many British standard 'andfuls you see, so then you could just open the tin and grab out two, three or four 'andfuls of potato chips or one thing or another, requisite amount of water standing on the end of the stove etc., etc., etc.

[Part 1 0:47:47] Pearson: So Jerry taught me a few of those things, and then a lot of the stores supply were in various peoples' names, and when you opened a tin of sort of Fred Bloggs's steak and kidney pudding you could depend that it was more pudding than steak and kidney, so he showed me how to make it fairer tack by only using a percentage of the pastry bit that was in the tin and making it so's it was a bit easier to eat, because the thing is if you tried to eat what was in the tin you'd be all bulk and no quality, he give us more quality and less quantity, and he showed us quite a few wrinkles on that, and the main thing that he did show me about was the bread and the dehydrated vegetables and stuff.

[Part 1 0:48:49] Pearson: There wasn't really a lot he could tell me about the rest because, the rest were all insignificant to actually tell you, and we probably got on fairly well what I can remember of it, and then when he turned up as steward on the *Biscoe* on future occasions, I didn't realise that Bill Shorey was so near to retirement or ill 'ealth or whatever the case may be that he'd dropped out of the running, and I think Jerry stayed on as Chief Steward on there for several trips afterwards, I don't know honestly how long, but it was...

[Part 1 0:49:20] Lee: There's a measurement here called FGH, not BSH.

Pearson: Yeah. But FGH was a, I think, great handful.

[Part 1 0:49:28] Lee: So that's bigger than BSH was it?

Pearson: Oh yes, a BSH was a British Standard Handful, and that was a manspeak term that was created, or tried to be created seven years ago by one of the glossy mans' mags or something, about, so men could talk amongst themselves to give other fellas some idea how big their girlfriends' breasts were or something of that nature you see. You could say 'Well she's one or one and a half or two BSH, two British Standard Handfuls.' It was only a bit of fun items you see, helps to bind.

[Part 1 0:50:02] Lee: You weren't just catering for the ten Fids, or were you?

Pearson: Oh no, not during the overlap period. No we had the ones that were outgoing, the past members of F who were outgoing, and there were, I think it was about seven as who actually stayed behind on the overlap, Joe Farman, Dave Simmons, they stayed, and we brought in nine others, I didn't realise we'd brought in nine others. Anyhow, whatever, the outgoing crowd they stayed on for the building programme and Jerry stayed on with them so we had all them on the books.

[Part 1 0:50:47] Lee: Over the summer?

Pearson: Over the building period, or when they were there, and I don't think there was food on the *Biscoe* because the *Biscoe* would come in and drop materials and they'd leg it and visit another base or go further south or whatever the case may be, and then come back and pick them up, so they must have been periods there where I was catering for infinitely more than habitual base members, that is.

[Part 1 0:51:12] Lee: Did you have a signature dish?

Pearson: In what respect?

[Part 1 0:51:16] Lee: Well, one of your favourites dishes, one you were famous for?

Pearson: Not that I can remember. I just used to do what was ever practical with, which was, I can't honestly remember having something like 'I'll do that tonight because I'm happy doing that', I can't answer that. I know I used to make, you could virtually guarantee that short of anything really nasty happening whatever went on the table was eaten, which was quite comforting actually, and I don't think they did it out of desperation, I don't think they did it because they needed to, and if they wanted more I'm pretty sure they felt they could say 'Can you bulk it up a bit more?', or 'Can you make some extra sauce?', or 'Is there any chance a bit more meat in the meat pie?' sort of business. I'm pretty sure with what had happened over the previous years that there had been some accumulation that we could have ???[inaudible], but I can't ever remember this happening. And also the beauty of it is that on an overlap period you sometimes get a carcass of lamb come ashore as well, or they may have some fresh seal come in, so any meal is another meal that you don't have to use the rations for you see, which is great.

[Part 1 0:52:36] Lee: Were you providing purely what we would call British cuisine or was some foreign stuff creeping in?

Pearson: Can't remember anything like, you just made the best of what was available.

[Part 1 0:52:45] Lee: Would you have rice and pasta and curry?

Pearson: Where it was practical to do, yes, yeah.

[Part 1 0:52:51] Lee: So you had the spices to make curries?

Pearson: Well no you probably had curry powder down there as well. I can't remember doing a lot of that but I probably did somewhere.

[Part 1 0:53:01] Lee: But it was primarily British cuisine was it?

Pearson: Oh heavens, yeah.

[Part 1 0:53:03] Lee: Sunday lunch type stuff.

Pearson: Well as near as practical, yes.

[Part 1 0:53:07] Lee: Joe Farman was the base leader wasn't he, your first year? He became famous of course later, but what was he like as a base leader?

Pearson: Brilliant.

[Part 1 0:53:15] Lee: Was he?

Pearson: He was a very gentle man, and he treated men like he would like to be treated himself, and he trusted men implicitly, and if anything went wrong with him you could see it, he took it hard, and he was so dedicated to his work, he absolutely dedicated, he'd come back from working on his tide machine, when he was trying to prove these standing waves and so on, and he'd come back from that and he would tell you that he would be putting his hands in the sea to warm them up because the air temperature was so low while he was working on his apparatus, that's how dedicated he was. And he was a very devoted man, yeah.

[Part 1 0:54:15] Lee: Was he a democratic man?

Pearson: Oh good Lord no, nothing like it. As I say he trusted you implicitly, and anything that wanted to be done he'd let it be known if he wanted it be done, and people respected him and it was done. I don't think anybody really riled him, if they did it must have been in spite and I can't see that ever happening.

[Part 1 0:54:32] Lee: So there were no big base discussions then, what Joe said went?

Pearson: No, I don't think he'd ever even, not in my time there, the twelve months that I was there when Joe was only there the first year, I can't remember any altercations at all, not with Joe. I had a couple of raised eyebrows with his other physicist, Dave Simmons, and David bless his heart, he was a very quiet man David Simmons was, kept himself very much to himself, and he would be on dining room duties sort of business you see, and he'd quietly come in about ten minutes to twelve or ten minutes to one whatever lunch time was going to be, and he'd quietly slip in and he'd lay out the knives and forks and one thing and another, and he'd come up to me and he'd say 'How long?', and you look at what was on the stove and say 'Well give us a couple of minutes yet David'.

[Part 1 0:55:31] Pearson: And he must have stood outside the door and done this and he'd come back in and say 'You right?' so I'd say 'Why, what's up?', he'd say 'Well, you said a couple of minutes', and the thing is he meant it, you see. The vast majority of people a

couple of minutes would be, well, 'Give us a bit of slack', 'Give us a short period of time', and then there was another instance where he took me literally as he had this pair of trousers, army BD trousers and all the nap had gone off them, and he wore them and then they were not quite self parking, and he wanted to dispose of them, see, so me, as a wind-up says 'That's alright, Dave' I said, 'When you go' I said 'I'll give you 30 bob for 'em'. You see one pound ten shillings back then was a lot of money. The thing was that when he come the day before he went he brought these trousers back and honestly expected me to give him 30 bob for them. I said 'Don't you recognise a wind-up when you see it?' I think Davie was a bit choked on that.

[Part 1 0:56:37] Lee: Was there lots of winding-up going on on that base?

Pearson: Oh heavens yes. All right it was fun, it was fun, the biggest wind-up I don't know whether you have heard from anybody else, about the ongoing between J.B. Shaw and Geoff Roe.

[Part 1 0:56:54] Lee: Go on.

Pearson: Well Geoff had the last bunk, the last bed, on my side of the whatsaname, and J.B. Shaw had the top bunk, and J.B. used to snore, or snuffle or one thing and another, so there was 'Yeah, I know, I couldn't sleep last night with all that bloody snuffling', this is Geoffrey and Bob, they were bosom pals from school, they both came down from Glossop, and this whatsername, so he got this bamboo cane from somewhere and got it to rest up between the back of the bunks and down by his bed, and he sort of rattled this lot to disturb J.B. Shaw you see to get him to change his position and thus stop the snuffling from one thing and another.

[Part 1 0:57:52] Pearson: And this worked for a couple of occasions, and I don't know whether he actually touched him or caused him an injury or not, well Bob Shaw thought 'Well I'll get me own back on this', so he put either honey or jam on this bit of stick, 'course, unbeknown to himself he went to sleep, and needless to say during the course of his sleeping he either snuffled or snored again, Geoff grabs this bit of stick and he had a hand full of honey or jam which didn't go down well of course when he changed hands and that meant a bit of a strained relationship, but anyway they got over it. When we lost Geoffrey, he died in a motorcycle accident in Australia or New Zealand where he was living about two or three years ago, or in the fairly recent past, and J.B. Shaw brought over a fabulous write-up in our...

[Part 1 0:58:59] Lee: An Obit in the BAS magazine.

Pearson: And it's got all the saga of the old jam on a stick job in there, it really was quite something that was, yeah.

[Part 1 0:59:13] Lee: There's another saga concerning brown sauce and rice pudding.

Pearson: Yeah, well that was in the dining room one day, somebody put brown sauce in somebody's rice pudding, and that for some reason, that wasn't regarded as a funny either. I

never really knew what happened about that, but I know when it actually occurred it wasn't considered funny.

[Part 1 0:59:31] Lee: So some of the practical jokes would backfire would they?

Pearson: Well that was the only one I think that backfired, I don't know whether it led to a great period of not speaking to anybody or anything, but that was one of the occasions which was serious as you might say. The other one just remained as a tiff between Barry and between Bob Shaw and Geoffrey, but I think this other one did strike a little bit nearer home for whoever was concerned.

[Part 1 1:00:02] Lee: As the cook were you aware of the scientific work that was going on?

Pearson: Oh very much so, yes, trying to get involved if I could.

[Part 1 1:00:07] Lee: In what way?

Pearson: Well, when you were out they had all these instruments out and during certain types of weather you get frost flowers growing on their instruments, and if you're in that neck of the woods you could lean over and brush the frost flowers off, because they would increase the surface area over what they were trying to monitor, and that helped to keep the true picture of what was happening. And then they had another device which measured the amount of reflected radiation, and that had an accelerator on it so that it was always at a constant temp with this little fan at the back. The fan used to choke up because it used to accumulate rime ice and you could just go out if you were going out going past it you would waggle your ski gloves in front of it and knock off the frost which was, and little things like that, and you could do that, or you could give Joe a hand with his tide gauges because he was really heartfelt set.

[Part 1 1:01:14] Pearson: The actual tube that went down and moved up and down with the floats and that, that was filled with diesel oil or heavy oil, because that wouldn't freeze, whereas if the tide was in there it would be more sluggish because although the sea would freeze down there what, about minus four, minus five somat' like that, starting to get and it wouldn't give you a true reading because it was ???[incomprehensible] whereas if it was diesel it wouldn't coagulate to the same extent. And, yeah I helped, and I also used to help Keith, Keith Bell, with the engines as and when, and also Brian Giles, him and Keith, when Keith Bell became base leader in the second year he asked Brian Giles to be second dickie, and they'd been close since, well since we more or less since we got there those two was mates, and Geoffrey and Bob was mates, and I teamed up for the first twelve months with Malcom Hunt, who later went on to go on sledging and came away from met office, and I was very close with Martin, I was close with everybody one way or another, but you just seem to spend a bit more time with other people than the rest of them.

[Part 1 1:02:38] Lee: Was there much opportunity for sledging at Argentine?

Pearson: Who was it said he went, I think it was Keith Bell and Martin Smith went off for a couple of days out on Penola Strait, I don't know whether they had somewhere where they

actually intended to go, or whether they just went out to see what life was like living out of a sledge box in a tent sort of business. Probably got some record somewhere in the diary of it, but I know when they came back it looked like someone had hit the radio set they took with them, somebody had hit it with a hammer because it was rather strange plastic material, it had been on the leads etc. and they'd moved these at about minus Lord knows what else, and of course all this time something had shattered, and of course bringing it back into the base hut it...

[Part1 1:03:37] Lee: Why's that?

Pearson: yeah it was quite a different story, and they sledged up to the Argentinian base at the bottom of the Lemaire Channel on another occasion, and issued the protest note with one hand, and took the vino with the other hand, as one does.

[Part 1 1:03:55] Lee: Was this dog sledging or man-hauling?

Pearson: Man-hauling, yeah.

[Part 1 1:03:58] Lee: You did have a couple of dogs?

Pearson: We had...

[Part 1 1:04:01] Lee: Three.

Pearson: Three, four and we lost one. You see we had to keep the two bitches chained up because they would fight, but there were four one was chained up to start off with but when it come to the end and we lost one the other dog used to run free but he had arthritis and he wasn't much good to the girls unfortunately. And when *we* moved in, as we moved in so the last of the pups moved out that had been bred at F, Lomo and Nymph those two that went out, and we had Greta in, because she'd had it of course with an Argie dog in Hope Bay, and they didn't know if she had V.D. and they didn't want her to breed so they brought her down to us, and Malcom took her under his wing, and purged her and one thing and another, and she was quite some pet she was, and we used to give her a little sledge if we were working cargo, and you put a box about 60, 70 pounds on a little sledge and she'd steam off with this and run up with the lads, just haul it up the beach, or up to wherever we were going, and she got away from us and she was having a set-to with Jenny, and, I'm trying to break this up by bashing them with me ski gloves, so they stopped fighting, she turned round ,bit a lump out of the inside of me leg, and carried on with the fight, in other words 'Mind your own...'

Part 2

[Part 2 0:00:00] Lee: This is Clive Pearson interviewed by Chris Eldon Lee on the 2nd of May, 2012. Clive Pearson, part two.

[Part 2 0:00:12] Lee: Most of the scientific work was to do with the geophysical experimentation, wasn't it? So they were searching the skies were they, looking for...?

Pearson: Well the thing was they had this Dobson spectrophotometer up in the roof space, and they would set this up and plot their disc from the readings that they got, and I've reasons to believe, and I don't think I'm talking out the back of my head but Joe along with others were the first to more or less prove that there was a hole in the ozone layer.

[Part 2 0:00:54] Lee: That was 25 years later.

Pearson: Yeah, but the thing is they were showing that there were thin places in the ozone layer, because of the nature of the recordings that they were making.

[Part 2 0:01:08] Lee: Even in 1959, '58?

Pearson: '58, yeah.

[Part 2 0:01:12] Lee: So there were hints then were there that there was problems ahead?

Pearson: They knew that there was thin places in the ozone layer, because if they took readings under certain conditions, they didn't get x, y, and z, but if they took 'em under other conditions that they did show a major difference in what was happening.

[Part 2 00:01:32] Lee: Was this being discussed on the base at the time?

Pearson: Well it was known, but I wouldn't say it was discussed because the thing was that the work that Joe and David were doing was quite a bit removed from the weathermen you see, now the weathermen were principally interested in, there was four of them that was definitely sonde, and the other fellas was just weather, now Geoff Roe for instance he would only do weather, and he was a geologist but he did weather as well, whereas you 'ad Brian Giles and Martin Smith, and Bud [phonetic] Shaw, and whoever, who did sonde as well, and they would work get up at eight o' clock in the morning and eight o' clock at night whenever they did flights, and then if it was a clear day they would fly balloons to do winds etc. And, so they had their ???[incomprehensible], there probably was some discussion of each other's work, but I don't think there was any open discussion. If you asked questions everybody was prepared to answer 'em.

[Part 2 0:02:40] Lee: So when the news began to break in 1985 about the discovery of the ozone hole, it was no big surprise to you.

Pearson: Oh no, no, not to us no, certainly not to me anyway. You see I could have told you that before but, I'm not going to say not that I was allowed to or anything like that, so yeah well anyway, we 'ad reasons to believe this back then like.

[Part 2 0:03:03] Lee: Did you see phenomena like aurora australis?

Pearson: Aurora australis was rather splendid on one particular occasion. Mario Nantes, who was Uruguayan, who'd been posted down from Stanley met, and he did the year before me, came back to England my first year, and came back on the base for his second year when I was second year, and he could speak reasonable English, and he was on night met one particular occasion, and we're there, you know, tucked up and it was outside it's minus Lord

knows what, beautiful clear night, and he came in the bedroom all very anxious, says 'Brian', Brian was senior met, Brian Giles, 'Brian, Brian it's aurora, it's aurora!', he always said that, 'It's aurora!' Of course we all came out, trousers on, jackets on but yes it was quite something.

[Part 2 0:04:10] Lee: Can you describe it?

Pearson: Well it was pretty much like, you've been fortunate enough to see in a lot of documentaries of late, it's like beautiful green and purple and sort of plush red curtains that, it just sort of very gently move in the upper atmosphere, and it's quite thought provoking actually, it's quite beautiful, it makes you realise that there possibly is somebody else out there other than ourselves I think.

[Part 2 0:04:50] Lee: Were you religious at all when you went out there?

Pearson: Well I've been brought up in the Church, and I'd been an altar boy since I was nine, and I missed my church while I was out there although I used to say my prayers at night the same as possibly others did but religion as far as we're concerned is a rather private thing, not that you're afraid to admit it, and, yeah I do believe in things like that, very much so, yeah.

[Part 2 0:05:16] Lee: One or two Fids have said that they sense God much more closely in the Antarctic.

Pearson: Oh very much so, yes. When God created the world he created that first. [Lee laughter]. Yes, that's one of the things that I thought about especially when I've been down there by myself and looked out over the Sound, that it really is, you've actually got to go down there and experience it to realise.

[Part 2 0:05:38] Lee: Some of his better work, is it?

Pearson: Oh yes, phenomenal. It gets you, it gets you . . .

[Part 2 0:05:45] Lee: It gets you in the heart, yeah. Things have changed haven't they in, more recent years. Fids today, are they the same as you were in your days?

Pearson: I personally don't feel they are. I'm prepared to stand the wrath of what I'm going to say, but persons who go South now, go South with intentions of studying a particular line of business, be it upper atmosphere or ice or one thing and another, and fair enough they do go out on the ice, they've got these wonderful machines now where you can do more in an hour than we would do in a fortnight, and maybe even more, you can sort of get on a skidoo and do 40 mile and hour, and at the end of an hour it probably take you a week or maybe even more to do anything like that back with dogs and sledges etc., more power to their elbows as far as that's concerned.

[Part 2 0:06:46] Pearson: But I think that because they 'ave all these things and they haven't known any different their attitude towards South is infinitely different, and whereas we went down there with awe and wonder, and were mentally prepared, and physically prepared to take on what the Gods may throw at us, and respect it in the process, they go down there and

they do what they've got to do but the thing is that they're able to do what they need to do in infinitely shorter periods of time, because of what's available to them, and those that are down there to do specific scientific studies are able to do them in proper *bona fide* workshops, offices and stores which is really little more than working away from home, because now they got facilities to fly 'em down, and fly 'em back. So really, with due respects to people who are doing that sort of work, but I think that the original South side of things is a thing of the past.

[Part 2 0:08:13] Lee: Was that beginning to change in your time?

Pearson: Well I personally, well I notice when I say I went down there and I didn't know anything different, and I don't know what the attitude of the people from whom I took over, what their attitude was towards me, but I took it over in good faith, and I tried to replicate what I had been shown and found out had worked by my predecessors, and persons who came with me they only knew what I did, even though they perhaps have had a couple of days with someone else doing it for them, but they were prepared to accept that as a fact that we were in transit, and we had a rather splendid two year period together, and we all respected each other for what we did and how we did it, but when the people came in to take over from us, they came in and just took over, and we went away on the ship for a couple of days and came back and I went ashore and it was a completely different setup. They'd physically altered the kitchen, they'd done modifications in the kitchen, and they'd done things which we hadn't done because they were suffering from what we knew would happen had they done what they had done, and it would have been interesting to go down and find out how they overcame what the situation they'd been in.

[Part 2 0:09:35] Lee: You mean they were making basic mistakes?

Pearson: Yeah. They cut a hole in the floor and mounted a wash bowl over it with a waste fitting in it to do the washing up rather than carry it outside and pour it down the chute. Of course the thing was because it never had a trap on it the wind used to blow back up and it used to blow bubbles in the sink, because not all the space under the hut was all empty where the wind that blew in underneath could always leak away. So you only got a ???[incomprehensible] which was just like a hollow, and 'cos there was a great artificial hillside of tins of flour stacked up on one side of the hut, well that would trap the wind then, and this would cause a minor difference in air pressure.

[Part 2 0:10:27] Lee: But were there other subtle changes taking place that you thought you were at the very end of one era and another era was beginning under your noses so to speak?

Pearson: That was the, the main thing was that I noticed it, their way of, their whole way of working was infinitely different than ours.

[Part 2 0:10:46] Lee: Can you give another example of how different it was? Please.

Pearson: Not really because the thing was that I just sort of only focused in and around the galley, and they made changes there and that just stuck with me. I know, I found out since, that they later altered the bedroom and made it up into smaller rooms which were, whether

they was just not individual beds but they made it up infinitely different than a bunkhouse, they made it up into like two or three rooms, and also there were more fellas on the trip that we left, it was twelve as against eleven or there were even more. But as far as how they re-worked the rest of the hut, I can't honestly vouch for that.

[Part 2 0:11:36] Lee: But nevertheless you sensed you were the end of an era did you?

Pearson: Yes, I personally sensed this, yeah.

[Part 2 0:11:40] Lee: Did you feel connected to that Heroic Age, the Scott and Shackleton period?

Pearson: I feel that we were, the people who came up to the end of us, i.e. 1960, up to then, we were the last of the old school, this is what I personally feel, because after that then everything got so advanced so fast, as I said we still had the *Biscoe* and she went down and did whatever she did and whatever associate vessels went down with her, but also the attitude of the people was changing so quickly, and also the conditions under which they were working were changing as well as the nature of what they were doing was also different, and the equipment they had to work with was changing.

[Part 2 0:12:25] Lee: More sophisticated.

Pearson: More sophisticated, very much so, yeah. And then you got transistorised stuff coming in and when we got back to Montevideo everybody was on about 3-D, oh not 3-D, stereo sound and surround sound and all this but of course we'd never heard of this or knew anything about it, and there was things like that that were creeping in. And 'course this was vogue to the lads that were coming down and we just had to fight our way into that whereas they were taking this down with them.

[Part 2 0:13:02] Lee: It was the beginning of the swinging sixties wasn't it?

Pearson: Very much so, yeah.

[Part 2 0:13:07] Lee: And the other thing that was changing, was the ability to communicate.

Pearson: Well that was changing as well, we were still Morse, because I don't think that changed until, for quite some time, I can't vouch when it changed but it obviously did, but it was Morse under favourable conditions, because if you 'ad bad weather, you were in funny street until such times as the weather changed, and especially the period we were down there that was another interesting period you see, we were down there during the International Quiet Period, which ties up with the sunspots. That was part of the reason why IGY was established when it was, 'cos it was the bottom end of the eleven year cycle, and you get sunspot activities as they found out to their cost recently with all these solar flares and suchlike. You know you get something like that and it's, the old Morse key don't work with that sort of activity, well not to any great extent anyway.

[Part 2 0:14:10] Lee: Well I was thinking also the ability to communicate with headquarters, in your day you were left alone because you really couldn't consult headquarters.

Pearson: No, no, no, no.

[Part 2 0:14:22] Lee: The base leader was fairly autonomous wasn't he?

Pearson: Well that was yes, yeah, that was yeah.

[Part 2 0:14:28] Lee: But that was also beginning to change at the beginning of the '60's, surely?

Pearson: Well I can't vouch for that.

[Part 2 0:14:32] Lee: No, ok. That was all part of the process of modernisation, and...

Pearson: As I say I just knew Joe Farman for the first year and Keith Bell for the second year and we were a happy band of pilgrims.

[Part 2 0:14:52] Lee: You came back home on the *Kista Dan* didn't you?

Pearson: Yes.

[Part 2 0:14:55] Lee: Which had had an interesting voyage South hadn't it? [Overtalk]

Pearson: Well I was on it when that happened.

[Part 2 0:15:01] Lee: You were on it?

Pearson: Very much so.

[Part 2 0:15:04] Lee: That was when the plane was damaged wasn't it?

Pearson: Yeah.

[Part 2 0:15:07] Lee: What's your story?

Pearson: Well the plane was on *Kista Dan*, on the after deck, and the *Biscoe* and they were both in that Meek Channel, in Argentine Islands, and they were both swinging round because of the wind or because of the tide. But anyway the *Biscoe* got a bit close to the *Kista Dan* and just touched the end of the wing, did some minor damage. I think Mr. Bates who was one of the RAF chaps there, and he probably must have done something about it because later on when we did sail we still had the aircraft on board, and when we got out we were out to leave, and we were going to head South, and we'd got into some ice and we felt our way along it, felt our way along, felt our way along.

[Part 2 0:16:15] Pearson: And the beauty of *Kista Dan* was that you could drive the vessel from the crow's nest, and the skipper would be up there with his searchlight and his joystick, and he felt us along and felt us along and did what he could, and then he got to this part where there was a bit of open water. So he stopped the vessel and he lifted the aircraft of and put it in the water, and one of the RAF pilots taxied it out, took off, had a fly around, radioed back 'There's some good leads x, y, z' so on, so on, something else, and I can't honestly remember whether we brought the aircraft back on board and actually started

moving, or whether we stayed where we are, or whether, or what happened, but anyway we got the aircraft back on board alright, and the next thing we knew the wind had changed and we were back in the ice again.

[Part 2 0:17:22] Pearson: And I don't know whether it was on that occasion, or very shortly afterwards that the ice moved in and we were lifted up, like a cherry pip, and leaning to starboard, (that's right, leaning to starboard), such and such. If you look at the front of the *Illustrated London News*, (have you seen the *Illustrated London News*?), photograph on the front of it. Right, an' 'course that was great, so they dug a hole in an iceberg next to us, and put a hose into it to take water as it melted with the sun for the generator, and needless to say we was out on the ice doing our things, taking a photograph, standing by the ship, usual gubbins, and jolly parties evenings and one thing and another an' we 'ad Vivian Fuchs and Mr. Stevenson with us you see.

[Part 2 0:18:32] Pearson: And they'd been down base hopping and one thing and another, and we were just there for the sake of being there, and we'd been there a couple of da[ys], I think we were there for quite a few days, I'll look in the diary and check it up and let you, there for quite a few days anyway. Sir Vivian got a bit peed of with our late night activities, so he called us all to order and said 'Look, the novelty's worn off, can you sort of cool things down a bit?' So anyhow, we behaved ourselves that night, behaved ourselves for two nights, and then we must have slipped. So he came up and he admonished us again. Right, slapped wrist, so we ???[incomprehensible], but anyhow the next thing we knew was he closed the bar, so we thought. So anyway I don't know how long we suffered it because several of us had stashes disguised as ...

[Part 2 0:19:41] Lee: Private supplies?

Pearson: Yeah, well you got a lemonade bottle, with about half a teaspoonful of orange squash in it, plus part of a bottle of booze sort of business, and there was several of these about so anyway we couldn't stretch to any, we went cap in hand to Sir Vivian, but he wasn't Sir Vivian then he was just, you know, anyway we went cap in hand, he said 'Right, but behave yourselves', anyway in the meantime we were still up high and dry. So they put out a shout for the *San Martin* which was the Argie icebreaker, and they said 'No you can't have that because they're in the same state as you are'. So the biggest icebreaker ever was the *Lenin* and she's up in the Arctic, that was nuclear. So they went cap in hand to the Americans and the biggest in the free world was the *Glacier*.

[Part 2 0:20:36] Pearson: So they came down, and the first thing they did they went once around us to take the pressure off, and she had ten engines but she was only running on seven. And once they got the pressure off she streaked away hoping that we could follow, but the thrust of her screws was such that we was just going back with the brash. So she'd roar ahead for a bit and make a load of mush, and we'll feel our way up to it, and they couldn't tow us because we never had anything that was man enough for them to tow us, and the cable they had wouldn't go through our hawse pipe. So we said 'Well we'll put a turn round your mast'. So anyhow they mushed it up and we followed 'em and they mushed it up

and we followed until we got out to the border and then she just ‘Toot, toot’, and she legged it which you can’t blame the people for.

[Part 2 0:21:28] Pearson: And then we felt our way out of there and we went up to Deception, and any stores we had we unloaded in what was left of the whale station. And they cut the side out of one of the old storage tanks and we just stacked everything that we ‘ad on board in there, and they lifted off the aircraft and it had ski wheels on it and they dragged that up the beach, and then that spent its time there, with, they later built hangars on Deception. And then we, I don’t know whether we went to any other bases when we left there, but we ended up back in Stanley, and we had a little run around in Stanley whatever the case may be, and we went from Stanley up to Monte, and we had a day or so in Monte, and then we pottered on from there and got back about mid May I think it was, about the 8th or 9th of May something like that.

[Part 2 0:22:27] Lee: Were you sorry to leave the Antarctic?

Pearson: Oh, very much so, yeah.

[Part 2 0:22:30] Lee: But your two years were up were they?

Pearson: Oh, very much so, yeah. And I did apply, I applied, I can’t remember how, it was, twelve months or two years any[way], I asked if I could go back again, or applied for a job back down again, and for reasons best known they found it best not to re-employ me. I don’t know what the reasons were. I had all sorts of wonderful mental pictures of whether I’d done something wrong or said something out of place or something, or for reasons but there was no reason why, and yet some of the other fellas, they two or three trips or maybe even more. But I don’t know what the reason why they felt that they no longer wanted to employ me.

[Part 2 0:23:10] Lee: So you’re back in Dartmouth unemployed?

Pearson: Well I’m back in Dartmouth, yes, and I’d only been back a few days and they were just in the throes of finishing off building a ‘boatel’, which is the same as a motel but this is for boats, and this had been created during the whole of the time I had been away on the site which had once been Dartmouth Gas Light and Coke Company. And I’m out on the waterfront at Dartmouth with my father’s motorboat cutting in the boot topping, the coloured line around the waterline, and a young woman who was in school with me came up and said ‘Good afternoon, Clive’, and I said ‘Good afternoon’, so she said ‘We’ve just coming up to starting our new hotel’ she said, ‘We wondered if you’d like to come and work for us’, so I said ‘Well, I’ll come down and give it a look’.

[Part 2 0:24:28] Pearson: So I went down, and we went in and I met the management and he said ‘Would you be at all interested in being chef?’ So I said ‘Yes’ so he said ‘Right’ he said, ‘Wages’. So he picked up a copy of *Hotel and Caterer* and had a look in he said ‘Here we are, domestic staff so on, so on, so on, £8.12, see, £8.12, that was the rate. So quick as a flash he says ‘We’ll pay you £9’. Of course immediately you accept over the rate you’re at their beck and call you see, so I said ‘Yeah, fair enough then’, so right. So he said ‘Right you start x, y, z’ so on, so on, something like that. So that meant to say I had to be there for the

'Grande Opening Ceremony', so myself and another lady and a couple of others did this buffet for the opening, and because it was a boatel they decided to open it like they were launching a ship. Now the mayor at the time was going to open it and we thought 'Well how can we break a bottle of champagne over the front steps without making a mess? So somebody with a little bit of upstairs says 'We'll put the bottle in a sea boot sock'.

[Part 2 0:25:31] Pearson: So they put the bottle in a sea boot sock and hung it by a ribbon from the front of the hotel and the mayor says 'I now pronounce this place open'. Whop, and broke it on the front steps, and all fizzed out through the sock and ran down the steps, and just to prove it was champagne he went over and squeezed the toe of the damn thing and tasted it just to prove that it was champers and we hadn't put a bottle of fizzy water in it or something like that.

[Part 2 0:25:57] Pearson: Anyway we were away, and I did all the season in the boatel bit that's evening meals an' casual meals an' all the rest of it, and we come round the end of the season and they had two huge barges out on the river where you could pull your boat up, or moor it to and park up and you could come ashore either for hotel facilities or bed and breakfast facilities or just use the restaurant and bar. And come round the end of the season I didn't particularly fancy doing restaurant, so I said 'With due respects I think we'll call it square'. So he said 'Well we're sorry we'll lose you Clive', I said 'Well, much as I like you but don't fancy it' So he said 'Right, sorry.' So I packed in that. Much as I packed it in and I was pounced upon to go and work in a hotel in Torquay, because the chef had had a nasty accident and he was out the running so I went up there and got them out of trouble for, couple of weeks I think, something like that, and came back to Dartmouth and it was coming in to December then, so I got a job on the Post Office.

[Part 2 0:27:12] Pearson: And then very early in January, I'm walking out the prom, no, that's the second year, so I went out and I got a job with a firm that was building a boatel, and I went to work for them as a labourer, and they realised it was a bit more than sawdust upstairs, so they asked me, got lots of comments about 'Why are you on the buildings when you've had your footing in the catering?' like you see. So anyway, they gave me an excavator to drive, so I went taking out footings and one thing and another, and we did some roofing and one thing, anyway I got through all of 1961 with them, and they went bankrupt because wifie thought that if there's money in the till, 'I can spend it', and there wasn't any money in the till because they 'adn't paid the bills. So consequently they went bump.

[Part 2 0:28:15] Pearson: So I was out on me ear, and I registered out of work, and I'm walking out the prom just a[fter] I went on the Post Office for the Christmas which you could do five and sixpence an hour. An' I'm walking out the prom and I meet the man from the dole office, and he says 'Seen you before' or words to that effect, I said 'Yeah'. He says 'Have you made any attempt to find one?', I said 'Yes, I'm just going out to see about something now' May the Lord forgive me. So then there's only one place I could go if I kept walking and that was another building company. So I went out, and I went round to the office and said 'Are you taking on?', so he says 'What?', I says 'General Assistant', so he said 'Yes, start Monday, bottom of the road. So I said 'Right'.

[Part 2 0:29:11] Pearson: So anyhow I went with them and I did all of '62 with them, and into '63 and I got a job doing acoustic lagging, where you lag the walls, and the floors and stairs of blocks of flats so you don't get [knocks with knuckles] transmission of sound, doing that, doing that, an' I was getting on a treat with this, worked out a routine and life was good, and where there was passages in the floors you cover it with sand and put pitch on it, or some soluble material, and warm it in with a lamp, and then put the ???[incomprehensible] tiles on it. And the propane machine blew up and I went up with it. So, when I came out of hospital, I didn't fancy going back on the buildings, so I asked if I could go on the maintenance at the Naval college, where I'd been cook before I went South.

[Part 2 0:30:16] Pearson: And I went back on the maintenance up there, and that went round until '67, and I was in me element, absolutely in me element. And now any mechanics etc., etc. on building sites etc. is referred to as plant, and a notice had come up on the notice board, they wanted a static plant operator for Cyprus. So they said 'There's a notice ???[incomprehensible]', so I pencilled me name in the margin and carried on we were doing a job in the swimming pool. 'There's a telephone call for you up the office'. So I went up an' he says 'Office here Clive', I said 'Yeah', he says 'Would you like twelve months unaccompanied Ascension Island?'

[Part 2 0:31:15] Lee: But in fact you did three years there in the end, didn't you?

Pearson: In the end, yeah.

[Part 2 0:31:17] Lee: We can't go through your whole career, but the point I want to make is you did some, you've worked in some interesting places such as Ascension Island, and is it Ghana you went to ?

Pearson: No, G-A-N, Gan, it's the last island south of the Maldive chain, and it's 65 miles south of the equator.

[Part 2 0:31:39] Lee: Gosh. So you did some travelling in the island.

Pearson: Oh very much so.

[Part 2 0:31:44] Lee: In all that, how high does the Antarctic rate?

Pearson: Oh top of the list isn't it?

[Part 2 0:31:48] Lee: Is it?

Pearson: Oh yes, still very high on the list, yeah. Yeah as far as for, nearest and dearest, it was a very happy period of my life, which I shall cherish, but with no disrespects to South, but I had a truly wonderful time in Ascension as well, I was really, really at home there as well. And then I had that period out in Gan which was another, it's supposed to have been twelve months, got called up the office, got a slapped wrist, got told off and instead of only having five months to do they gave me a new contract so I ended up doing nineteen months instead of twelve.

[Part 2 0:32:30] Lee: You've been back to the Antarctic in [overtalk].

Pearson: I went down in 2005, and that was quite interesting that.

[Part 2 0:32:37] Lee: On a Marguerite Bay 2005 trip.

Pearson: Yes, yeah, very much so, yeah.

[Part 2 0:32:40] Lee: What differences did you spot?

Pearson: Well mainly some of which I have related in these ???[incomprehensible] the attitude of the few people that we met, in as much as they gave me the impression that they were there doing a job, and they didn't seem to have the same attitude towards it as what our lads seem to have had. They were there doing a job, and they were probably doing the job on a par, or probably even better with due respects to what our lads were doing.

[Part 2 0:33:12] Lee: I was thinking though about the environment and how the Antarctic had changed.

Pearson: Oh yes, it was tremendous, yeah, lots and lots of ice gone, especially when I went back to Base F, back to Argentine Island group we couldn't get in up through Meek Channel or any other way because of brash an' that, so they took us in through and dropped us off at Wordie, and we climbed up the back of Wordie and had a look over onto Winter Island, and it had physically changed in as much as the hut is gone and got a new plastic temple there now, and you got a bulk storage tank I think the only thing that I could remember was the balloon shed was still there and one or two other bits and pieces, which was quite – and also what had been an ice cliff opposite Wordie that was gone and now the angle of the back end of Winter Island was infinitely shallower and the area around the lead into Wordie House, that was infinitely wider, and what had been the ice cliff had all gone.

[Part 2 0:34:21] Lee: So you were seeing the consequences of your suspicions of 45 years previously weren't you?

Pearson: Yeah. All this wastage, tremendous, yeah. Of course the lads who were with us who'd been sledging further down, they said 'Good Lord yeah, this used to be from 'ere to there solid' sort of business, an' 'That used to be from X to X, it's half a day's march to get up there whereas now you can ???[incomprehensible].

[Part 2 0:34:45] Lee: So how did you feel about that trip in the end, were you glad you went or disappointed at how things changed?

Pearson: I was glad I went, but the thing was that I wasn't really at ease in my personal physical self, because some kind person, or persons unknown on the vessel that we were on had left a bug and a lot of us got this bug and we just lethargic which was most unfortunate, and also we 'ad some particularly grim weather going down the Southern Ocean as well, but that was by the board that. But, yeah, it was great in as much as I've been down there and 'ad another look, to put my mind at rest, but it was a disappointment in other ways. But I'd still

like to take the wife back down there just to, because it's her heart's desire to see penguins in the real.

[Part 2 0:35:45] Lee: Not Paignton zoo.

Pearson: No.

[Part 2 0:35:48] Lee: It's been a real pleasure talking to you Clive, thank you very much indeed for your time.

Possible extracts:

- Text of advertisement for Antarctic job. [Part 1 0:11:54]
- South via St. Helena and Tristan da Cunha. [Part 1 0:18:03]
- Loss of motor boat and scow at Tristan da Cunha. [Part 1 0:20:41]
- A piano arrives on base. [Part 1 0:24:46]
- Excuses for parties. [Part 1 0:28:37]
- First impressions of Argentine Islands base. [Part 1 0:36:43]
- Descriptions of food cook had to work with on base. [Part 1 0:46:32]
- The 'BSH' (British Standard Handful). [Part 1 0:49:20]
- How to deal with noisy sleeper (or maybe not!). [Part 1 0:56:54]
- Early indications of thinning ozone layer. [Part 1 1:00:12]
- *Kista Dan* – damaged 'plane, wild parties, beset in ice and subsequent rescue. [Part 1 1:15:07]
- Back home and work on a 'boatel'. [Part 2 0:23:10]
- Changing Antarctica as seen on a 2005 trip. [Part 2 0:32:30]