

The weather at the South Pole is that unforgiving today.

The first American to flight over the South Pole was Richard E Byrd in A Ford Tri-Motor piloted by Brent Balchen. in May 1926. The flight from a base camp "Little America" on the Ross Ice Shelf, lasted 18 hours and 41 minutes. Base camps were established and exploration continue to this day.

Through the years the U.S.Navy has maintained exploration interest at the South Pole. Personnel and provisions are provided by Ship in winter, and carefully scheduled long range cargo aircraft flying from New Zealand.

Not much land can be seen in Antartica. The fifth largest Continent, its 54 million square miles surface is twice the size of Australia. It is covered by ice to a average depth on 1.2 miles. It is the coldest, driest, windiest place on earth, has the highest average elevation. Classified as dessert, less than 8 inch of rain a year at the ocean, less inland.

The limited snowfall not blowing into the Ocean, forms a thin ice layer yearly. It is this addition of thin layers that make possible a peek into the past, determine what the earth "looked like" long past ages. How the earth changed through a study of it water. So with year-round exploration drilling core samples produce that picture.

In 1962 a friend was chosen to accompany Scientists visiting the south pole. From the core samples, they were asked to choose a segment of the past to recall, in the form of a small enclosed vial of melted ice. He chose ice from the time Christ walked in the Holy Land. His snow-fall, worth remembering.

Other. Snow falls as a snowflake. The chicken comes from the egg. Thus that eternal conundrum, Which came First.

Remember these first three lines, second paragraph,
"In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776 the unanimous Declaration
of the thirteen united States of America."

"We hold These Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,
that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable Rights,
that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. "

Following considerable debate, this all male gathering, proclaimed forever their belief in those words. And further, as representative, these entities representing a State each claiming their authority and power came from a unspecified creator.

Theoretically, ending forever the debate which came first, chicken or egg, snow or water. If it helps, I've asked my children; they, who know everything, don't know.

Snow

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States and Sun date 33227

Snow is a topic often suggested for Writers, at the onset of winter. The thought of snows' inherent beauty is miraculous, angelic, pure, floating lightly, enough to be the nexus for subsequent articles written anywhere, every week.

For Windsor Garden Writers, one member suggested a list of topics for consideration in future articles. I have maintained a list of one hundred stories I wish to tell, knowing time, talent, industry, may not allow all be written. So today here's an adventure involving both.

The earth, a good size round spinning blob, is dependent on the sun for the life it nourishes. Everywhere there is water, there is life. So here we are. Science, an experiment in a nutshell. Earth and sun; a living example, our perpetual motion machine.

Earth's soil, to be productive, needs pure water. Voila, rain, its companion, snow. This latter providing moisture summer months.

The sun heating earth causes evaporation of water. These vapors, rise with air currents, eventually coalescing around an impurity, a particle of dirt or ice, continue to grow, eventually returning to earth haphazardly, everywhere, as moisture, in the form of rain, snow or ice.

In modern times emissions from the auto has added "dirt" in the air aloft. One result, increased moisture falling down-wind from these great population centers.

In the exploration of the South Pole, that land a Continent, Antarctica, claimed by six nations, Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, United Kingdom; your will observe, nation above the equator are reluctant to claims sovereignty.

In the lull beginning in the Eisenhower administration, nations began pouring talent and money into exploring every empty land. That left the sea and the South Pole. And it would be safer to search where the weather was chilly; none caring to take off their gloves and fight. The Arctic, no land, warmer, near the USSR; how about the Antarctic.

In fact exploration had begun early in the Twentieth Century. The Pole was first reached by the Norwegian Roald Amundsen. A team led by Robert Scott reached the South Pole January 12 1914, unaware that it had been reached thirty-four days earlier by Amundsen. The entire Scott expedition died on the return journey.