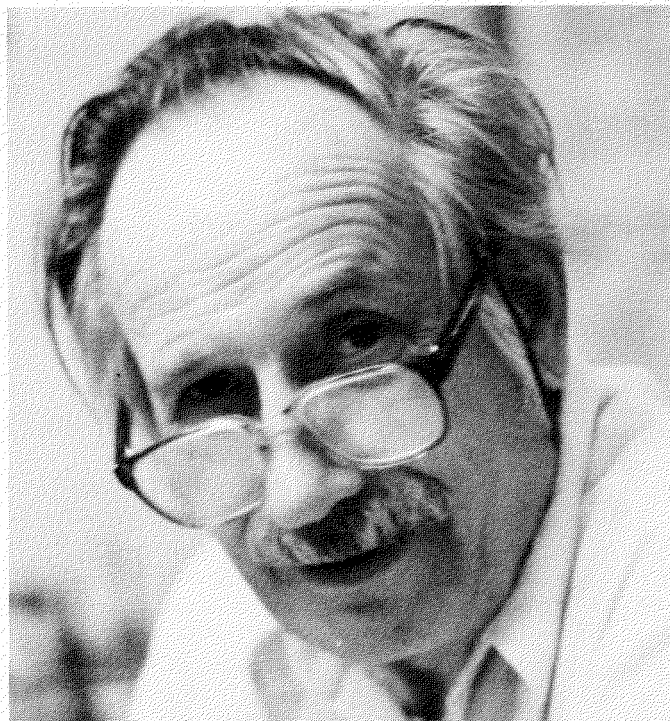


ALBERT PADDOCK CRARY
1911-1987

Noted exploration geophysicist Albert P. Crary died in Washington, D.C., Thursday afternoon, October 29, 1987, of complications following spinal tumor surgery. Known as the "father" of the American Antarctic science program and, earlier, a leading researcher in the Arctic, Crary conducted a broad range of scientific observations in Polar regions, incidentally becoming the first person to have set foot on both North and South Poles.



Albert Crary in recent years. (Photo by Frank Crary.)

Reached by telephone with news of Crary's death, Gordon Robin, former director of the Scott Polar Research Institute of Cambridge University, England, described Crary as "the leading light in glaciology in Antarctica during the IGY. In the post-IGY era, as chief scientist of the U.S. Antarctic Research Program at the National Science Foundation, he provided vigorous national and international leadership, including support for the U.S.-U.K. programs . . . in Antarctica. He was an outstanding scientist and a great friend."

Frank Press, president of the National Academy of Sciences and former science advisor to the president, said, "This is the end of an era."

Dr. Laurence M. Gould said, "If I have ever known an indispensable man, it was Bert Crary. When I was helping to organize the IGY expedition to Antarctica, Bert Crary was the first man I picked." Gould is former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and scientific leader of the first Byrd Antarctic Expedition (1928-30).

Dr. James H. Zumberge, president of the University of Southern California and past president of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, paid tribute to Crary as "an

exceptional man because of his ability to combine his genius as a scientific explorer with his qualities as a human being. For this he will be remembered by those of us who were his compatriots in science and friends in life."

"Bert Crary, perhaps more than any other person, brought modern geophysics to the study of ice and the land in the polar regions," said Dr. Mark F. Meier, director of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado.

Science editor of *The New York Times*, Walter S. Sullivan, Jr., said, "To me, Bert Crary represented the finest in polar explorers and scientists. In contrast to so many, he was not driven by vanity or ego but by the advancement of knowledge. And he was a wonderful human being."

Other colleagues reacted similarly to news of his death. Dr. William O. Field, Jr., former head of the Department of Exploration and Field Research of the American Geographical Society, found him "a great scientist, a great companion, and a great friend. I'm proud to have been associated with him." Dr. Richard P. Goldthwait, founder and first director of the Institute of Polar Studies, The Ohio State University, said, "He was a great man at the end of an era of getting into the Antarctic and learning about it. We mourn the loss of a great friend, a friend who would listen to everybody."

The regents of the University of Wisconsin recently established the Albert P. Crary Professorship of Geophysics "in honor of one of the outstanding pioneers in polar geophysics and glaciology." Dr. Charles R. Bentley, who now holds this chair, said, "Bert Crary was the man who, more than any other, was responsible for the introduction of solid geophysical techniques into both north and south polar studies. Both by his leadership and by his personality, he was an inspiration to two generations of polar scientists."

Crary was born to Frank J. and Ella Paddock Crary in Pierrepont, N.Y., on July 25, 1911, the second son in a family with seven children. He graduated magna cum laude from St. Lawrence University (B.S. in chemistry) in 1931 and received an M.S. in physics from Lehigh University in 1933. That same year, he began geophysical research with Maurice Ewing, with whom he published papers on various topics in seismology, electrical resistivity of rocks, and submarine geophysics, including the first of the landmark series of papers on "Geological investigations in the emerged and submerged Atlantic coastal plain."

From 1935 to 1946 Crary worked on geophysical oil-prospecting in Texas, Louisiana, Colombia, Venezuela, and England, with interruptions for antisubmarine research during 1941-42 at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and for six months in 1948-49 he conducted oil exploration on Bahrein Island in the Persian Gulf. His research on upper air acoustics for the U.S. Air Force (1946-52) resulted in a series of papers on upper atmosphere winds and temperatures at various latitudes (Panama Canal Zone, Florida, Bermuda, Hawaii, Alaska, and White Sands, New Mexico) and seasons.

Following up his earlier seismic studies in lake ice, Crary made contact with polar glaciology, his primary concern for the next 25 years, in 1951. From 1951 to 1955 he worked on an assortment of problems dealing with sea ice, ice islands, and the ocean. When floating ice island T-3 ("Fletcher's Ice Island") in the Arctic Ocean was occupied in 1952, Crary became chief



The first landing of an airplane on an ice floe at the North Pole, 3 May 1952 — Albert Crary, chief scientist, is fourth from left. (Photo credit: National Air and Space Museum/U.S. Air Force [NASM/USAF photo].)

scientist for Air Force work on the island. It was while working on T-3 that he discovered and explained "Crary waves," an unusual type of guided, elastic-plate wave. He was chief scientist of a party that made the first airplane landing on ice at the North Pole May 3, 1952. In 1954 he worked on the Ward Hunt Ice Shelf in a party of two Canadians, two U.S. scientists, and two Eskimos and dog teams.

In 1955 he set up the Glaciological Headquarters for the U.S. National Committee for the International Geophysical Year and organized the U.S. Antarctic work in glaciology, including oversnow traverses. In 1957 he went to Antarctica as deputy leader of the U.S. Antarctic scientific efforts, acting as chief scientist in the Antarctic and scientific leader at the Little America Station. He remained in Antarctica until 1959, leading the summer traverses on the Ross Ice Shelf and Victoria Land. In 1960-61 he returned to lead the McMurdo-South Pole scientific traverse. When the party arrived at the South Pole February 12, 1961, he then became the first person to set foot on both Poles. In 1966 he returned to Antarctica again aboard the research vessel *Eltanin*.

Although he ceased active work in Antarctica thereafter, he continued to play a vital role in the organization, direction, and support of Antarctic research through his successive positions in the National Science Foundation as chief scientist of the U.S. Antarctic Research Program and deputy director and then director of the Division of Environmental Sciences. At the same time, he continued to publish the results and analyses of his own Antarctic work.

Retiring from NSF in 1976, he held a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Institute for preparation of historical material on the U.S. Antarctic program. He also completed an historic account of his scientific work in the Arctic and Antarctic.

His output of research work is as versatile as it is large, and he is regarded as one of the outstanding scientists in his field. Recognition of his work has come in the form of many awards: the U.S. Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the Cullum Geographical Medal of the American Geographical Society, the Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society, the U.S. Department of Navy Distinguished Public Service Award, the Vega Medal of the Swedish Society of Anthropology and Geography, a medal from the Soviet Academy of Sciences commemorating 100 years of international geophysics, and an Honorary D.Sc. degree from St. Lawrence University. The Crary Mountains and the Crary Ice Rise in Antarctica are named for him.

Crary was past president of the Antarctic Society and an honorary member of the International Glaciological Society. He served on the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science representing the Society of Exploration Geophysicists and on the Polar Research Board of the National Research Council. He was a fellow of the Arctic Institute of North America, a member of the AAAS, American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society, American Geographical Society, Seismological Society of America, Society of Exploration Geophysicists, Phi Beta Kappa, New Zealand Antarctic Society, Sigma Xi, and the Cosmos Club.

He retired in 1976. He is survived by his wife, Mildred Rodgers Crary, of Bethesda, Maryland; his son, Frank J. Crary III, a freshman at the University of California at Berkeley; his sister, Marion Flagg, of Oakford, Pennsylvania; his sister and brother-in-law, Dorothy and J. Lamar Worzel, of Southport, North Carolina; two sisters-in-law, Esther Crary, of Lacona, New York, and Patricia Crary, of Lafayette, Louisiana; and 15 nephews and nieces.