

# LIFE



TELEVISION DISCOVERY

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**EXPLORERS THEN AND NOW** show how arctic fashions have changed within 40 years. In 1909 Peary's crew

(left) wore bulky fur suits because they had to follow dog sleds on foot across polar pack. Today's explorers (right)



wear light but windproof clothing and travel from ship to shore in the enclosed cabin of a helicopter (background).



**PEARY** wore this heavy fur suit when he walked across ice to Pole.

## PEARY'S CAIRN IS FOUND

**Helicopter-equipped task force locates 43-year-old record of his polar expedition**

In the early fall of 1905, Commander Robert Peary's ship *Roosevelt* nosed her way into Robeson Channel and hove to off Cape Sheridan, 550 miles south of the North Pole. Commander Peary was making an attempt to reach "90 North," geographical top of the earth. Landing on the rocky, lonely shore of Cape Sheridan, he discovered in a cairn the written record of a previous explorer, Britain's Sir George Nares. Peary took the original, left a copy with his own handwritten report in a new cairn. Three years later Peary returned to the Arctic, this time became the first man to reach the Pole.

In the late summer of this year a U.S.-Canadian task force nosed its three ships into the same waters off Cape Sheridan. The task force was on a mission to supply weather stations already there and to look for sites for new ones. But the officers knew of Peary's records and were on the lookout for his cairn. They were well equipped for exploring ashore. But landing

parties had their dangerous moments, especially when the ice-breakers had to dash for open water and leave crewmen ashore until helicopters could pick them up. With only two days left before oncoming winter weather would force the ships to leave for good, the discovery was made. All the stranded men had been flown from shore to ship except Charles Hubbard, a former Harvard football captain who is now chief of the Weather Bureau's arctic operations. As his helicopter started toward the ship, he spotted two tall cairns. Dropping beside them, he tore the rocks apart, found nothing. Then, in a smaller one nearby, he found an old Scotch whisky bottle. In it was the record Peary had left behind 43 years ago.

The documents were taken aboard ship and copied. Then the copies were flown ashore and put in a new stone cairn, there to wait through more arctic seasons until a new discoverer comes into Robeson Channel off Cape Sheridan's bleak coast.



**PEARY'S SHIP AND HELICOPTER** illustrate the modernization of exploration methods. Peary's expedi-

tion used the *Roosevelt* (left), a sailing ship with steam auxiliary. If any crewmen got stranded ashore they were



lucky to be found. Navy and Coast Guard darted ashore by helicopter (right) and easily communicated with land.





**STRANDED MEN**, left ashore at Dumb Bell Bay when shifting icebergs made the ships steam into safer waters,

are evacuated by helicopter. The men were taken out, one by one, as long as weather permitted. In this case helicop-

ter had to give up, leaving five men behind for two days. From rescue helicopter Hubbard spotted Peary's **cairn**.



**PEARY CAIRN**, made of rocks that littered the landscape, is marked with an R for the ship *Roosevelt*. In right background is the helicopter from which men spotted the **cairn**.

Cape Sheridan, Sept. 5th, 1915

The Peary Arctic Club's ship "Roosevelt" arrived here from New York at 7 A.M. and made fast to the ice foot under the point of the cape awaiting the turn of the tide to proceed to Cape Hecla.

The Roosevelt left New York July 16th, Sidney, Cape Breton, July 26th, arrived Cape York Aug. 7th., and left Etah Aug. 17th. Her last stopping place was the ice-foot south of Cape Union which she left at 3.30 this morning.

Personally visited the Aleut's Cairn at Floberg Beach and took therefrom Aleut's Record, copy of which accompanies this. Roster of the Roosevelt's Company is also enclosed.

*R. E. Peary, U.S.N.*  
Commanding the Expedition.

**PEARY'S RECORD**, with signature Hubbard spied through the whisky bottle, gives by its date proof that **Peary** was here before heading north on his 1905-06 expedition.



**FRIGHTENED MUSK OX** lumber about in a confused circle as the helicopter hovers over them. The crewmen of

the expedition saw white wolves, one of which kept ahead of a helicopter for an hour at 45 mph. They also saw arctic

rabbits that, when frightened, raced ahead for a while on all fours and then got up on their hind legs and really ran.