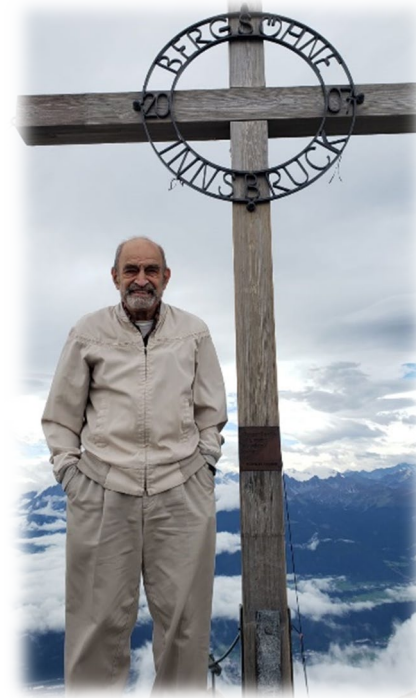


# Remembering Henry



**Friday November 15, 2024**

**11:30 am**

**Byrd Polar & Climate Research Center**



**Sam Passmore's wedding, June 2022**





**Sam Passmore's wedding, June 2022**

Henry was my late older brother's roommate in high school. My family folded him into ours and he became like a second older brother. When he started traveling to Antarctica, he was my bragging point. "My friend who works in Antarctica!" Reflected glory indeed.

One year, I baked a batch of chocolate chip cookies and sent them off hoping they would make the last supply plane before the dark Antarctic winter. I was too late and the cookies waited in Christ Church, New Zealand for six months before they were delivered. Undoubtedly they were stale and a bit worse for their long transit. Henry wrote me that they were gone in less than an hour! Probably the best home baking the crew had seen in a long time.

Henry and my brother remained friends until my brother's death three years ago.

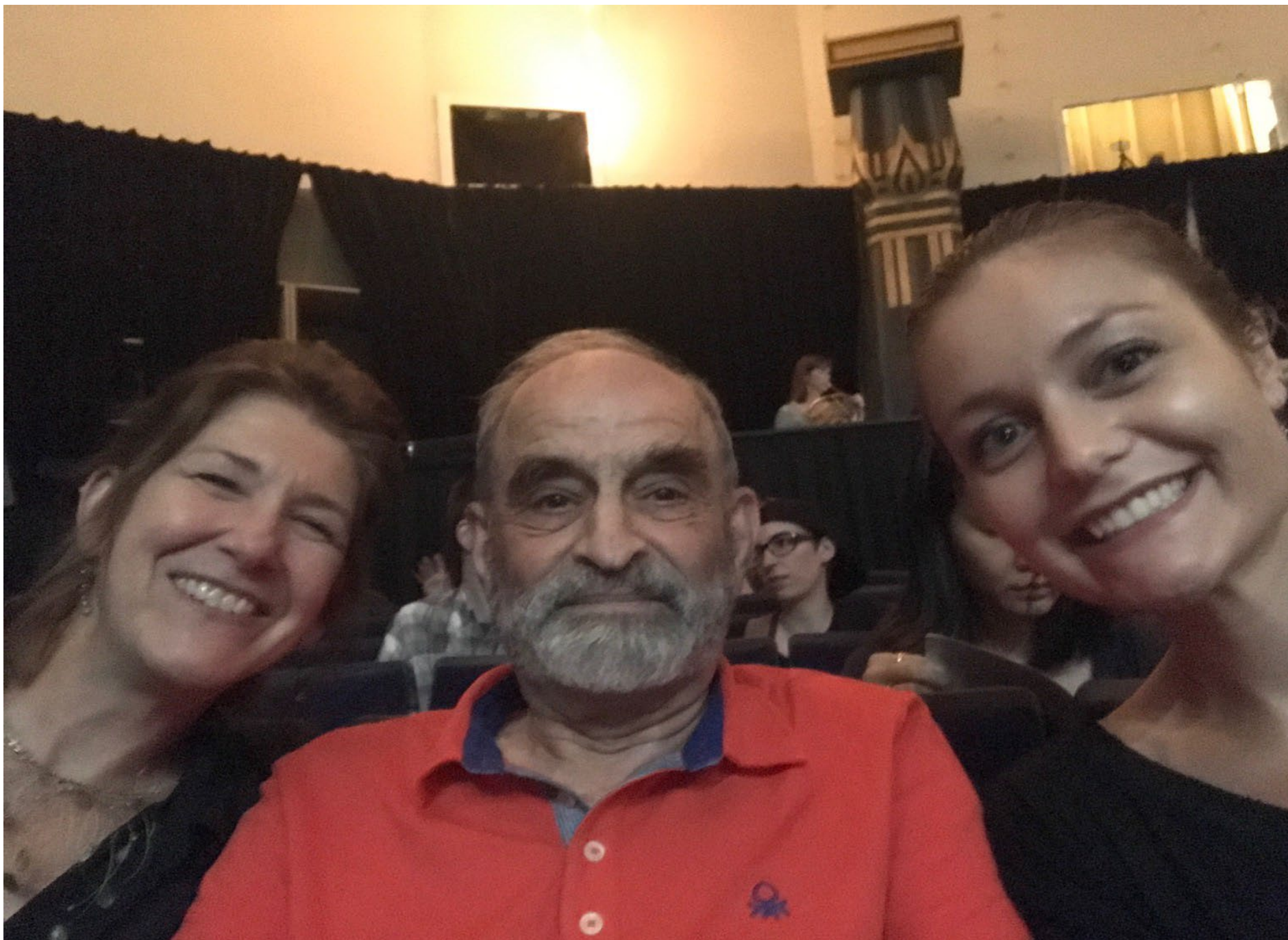
**Shared by Gertrude Kappel**





**Henry, 1960, Byrd Station, Antarctica**





**Henry, Sherrie  
Hawk and  
Margaret  
Wunderlich in  
2017**

**Henry's 85<sup>th</sup>  
bday!**



**Greenland**

**1993**

**Camp  
Manager**





## 1960-61 Antarctic traverse team



Front row, left to right:  
Medlin, driver/mechanic;  
Douglas, driver/mechanic;  
Beverly (Frank) Mahan, radio man (winter at Byrd);  
Cunningham, driver/mechanic;  
Henry Brecher, glaciologist (winter at Byrd).

Back row, left to right:  
Forrest Dowling, geophysicist, U Wisconsin;  
Meredith (Jack) Radford, cook (winter at Byrd);  
Walter Davis, chief mechanic (winter at Byrd);  
Antero Havola, leader;  
George Fowler, navigator;  
Edward Martens, radio man (winter at Byrd).



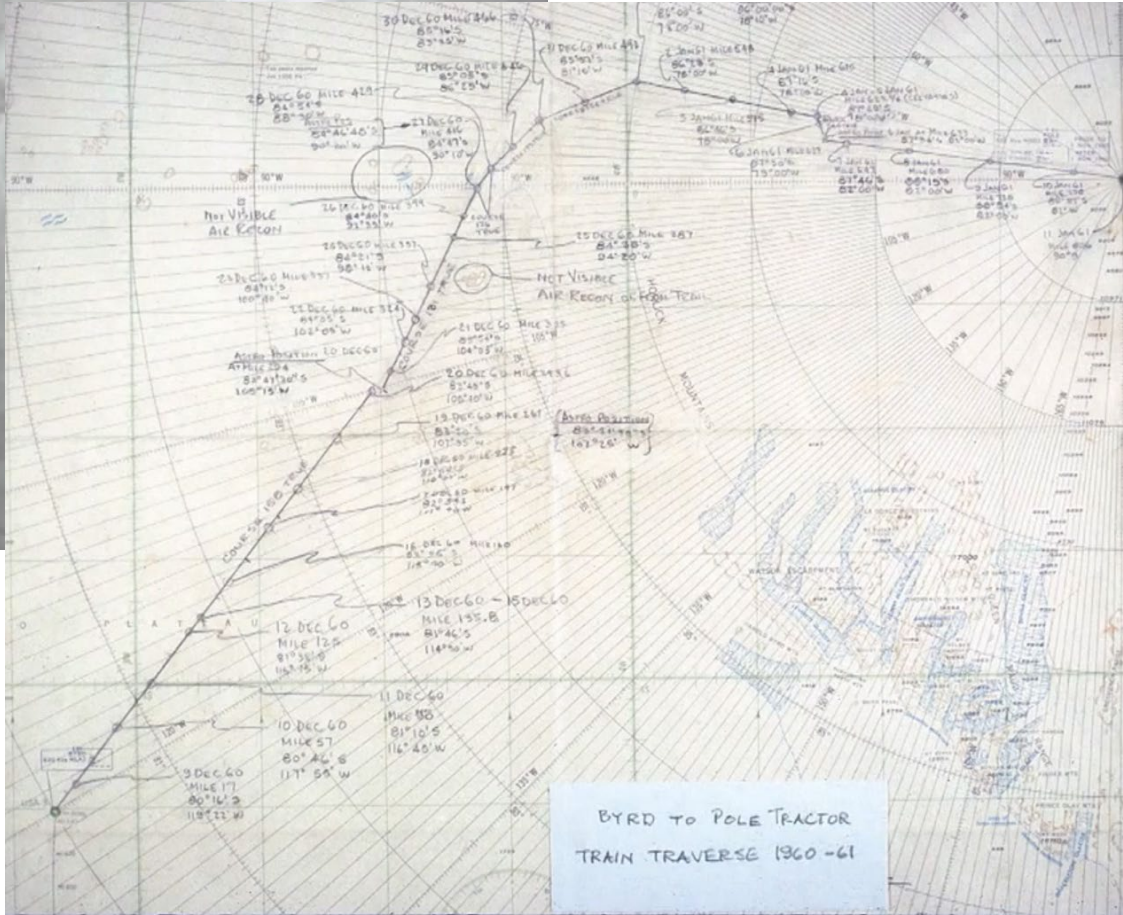
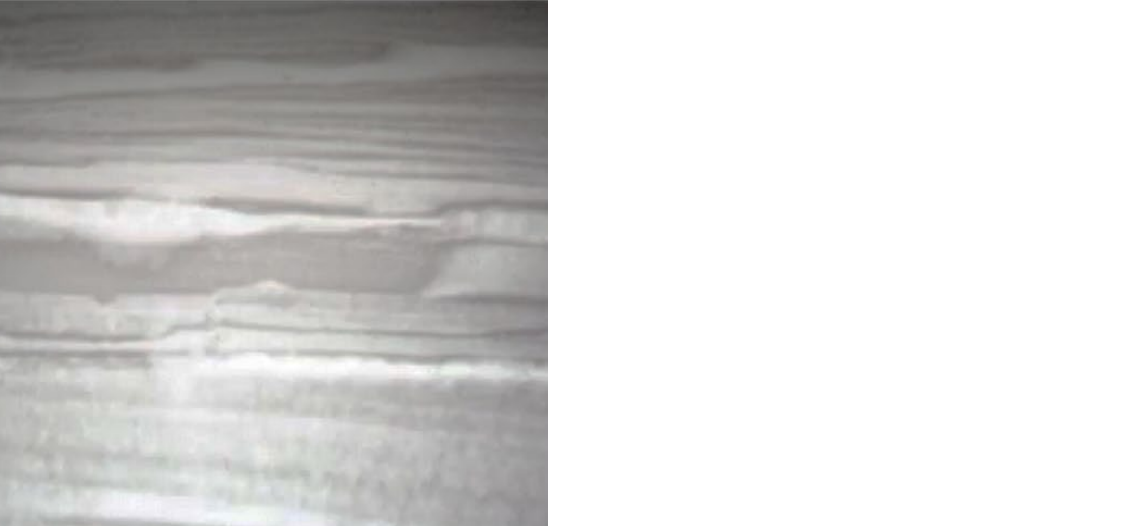


**Henry (above and right – standing with glasses) along with 1960-61 Byrd to Pole traverse team, with team leader Antero Havala with kitten (upper right)**





Byrd to Pole Tractor Train, 1960 - 1961 by Henry Brecher



Richard P. Goldthwait (above) shows Henry Byrd to Pole traverse; Henry dug 25 of these in 34 days, along route pictured in his map (right)



**Austria, 2013-2014, with Lolly Merell's family\***



*\*background edits!*



# Henry Brecher Memorial Pickle Ball Tournament

Saturday, November 16, 3:30 – 6 pm

All are welcome!

Contact Fazlul Haq for details:  
[haq.47@osu.edu](mailto:haq.47@osu.edu)



**Henry walking on west campus at Ohio State.**







## **Henry (left) and Manfred (Freddy) Rosenthal, Graz, 1936**

Manfred was the son of the family with whom Henry lived after being shipped from household to household in Yugoslavia. Frau Rosenthal pretended he was her son so that she could bring him with her two children on the ship to U.S. with 1000 token Jews to the camp in Oswego in 1943. He had to pretend for years to be two years younger than he was because Freddy was the same age and it would have been biologically impossible.



**Colin Bull (left) and Henry in the Yukon, 1964**

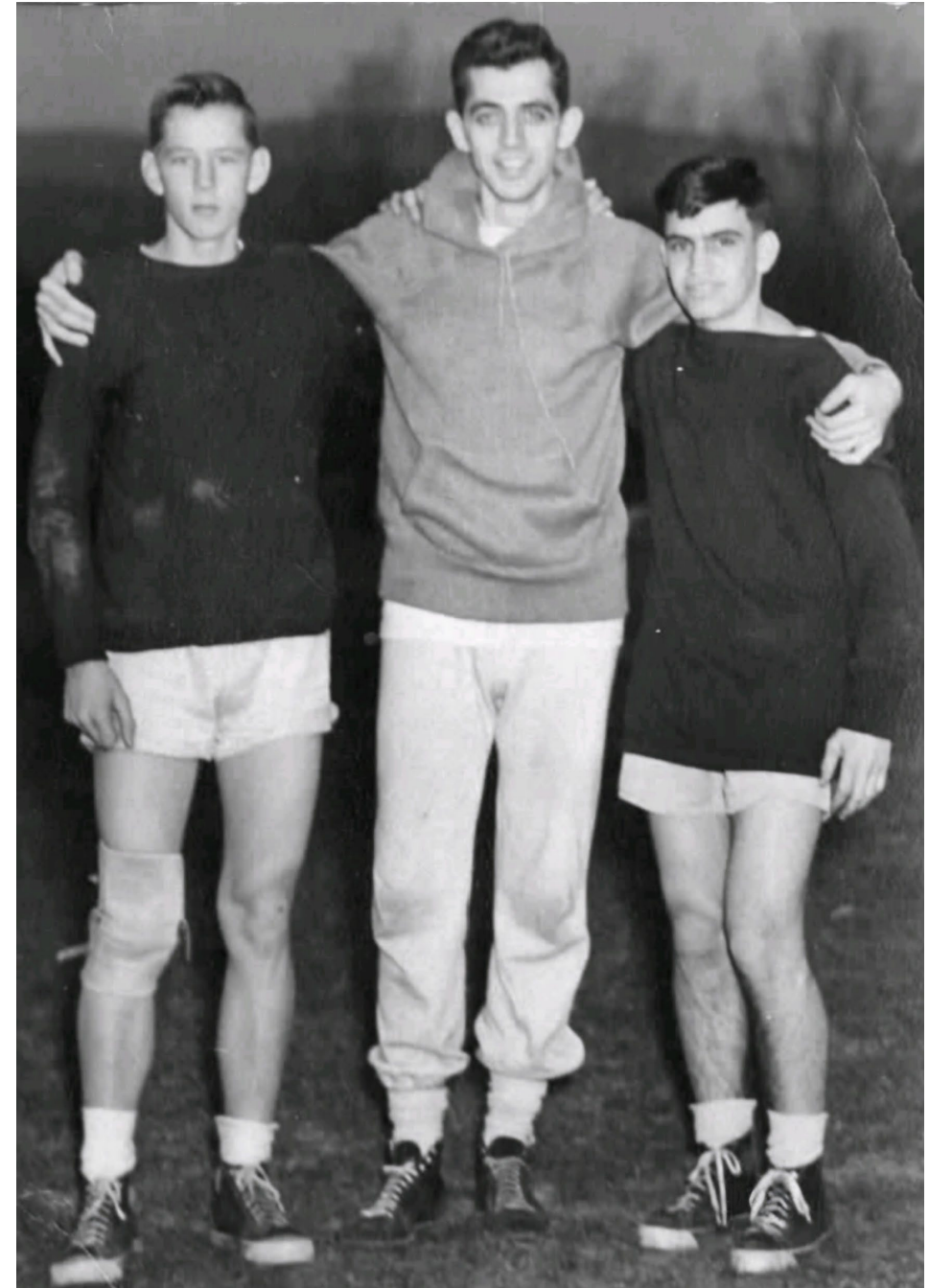






The black and white shows Henry Brecher on right, Henry Passmore, in the middle as coach, and a fellow soccer team member on left Circa **1950**.

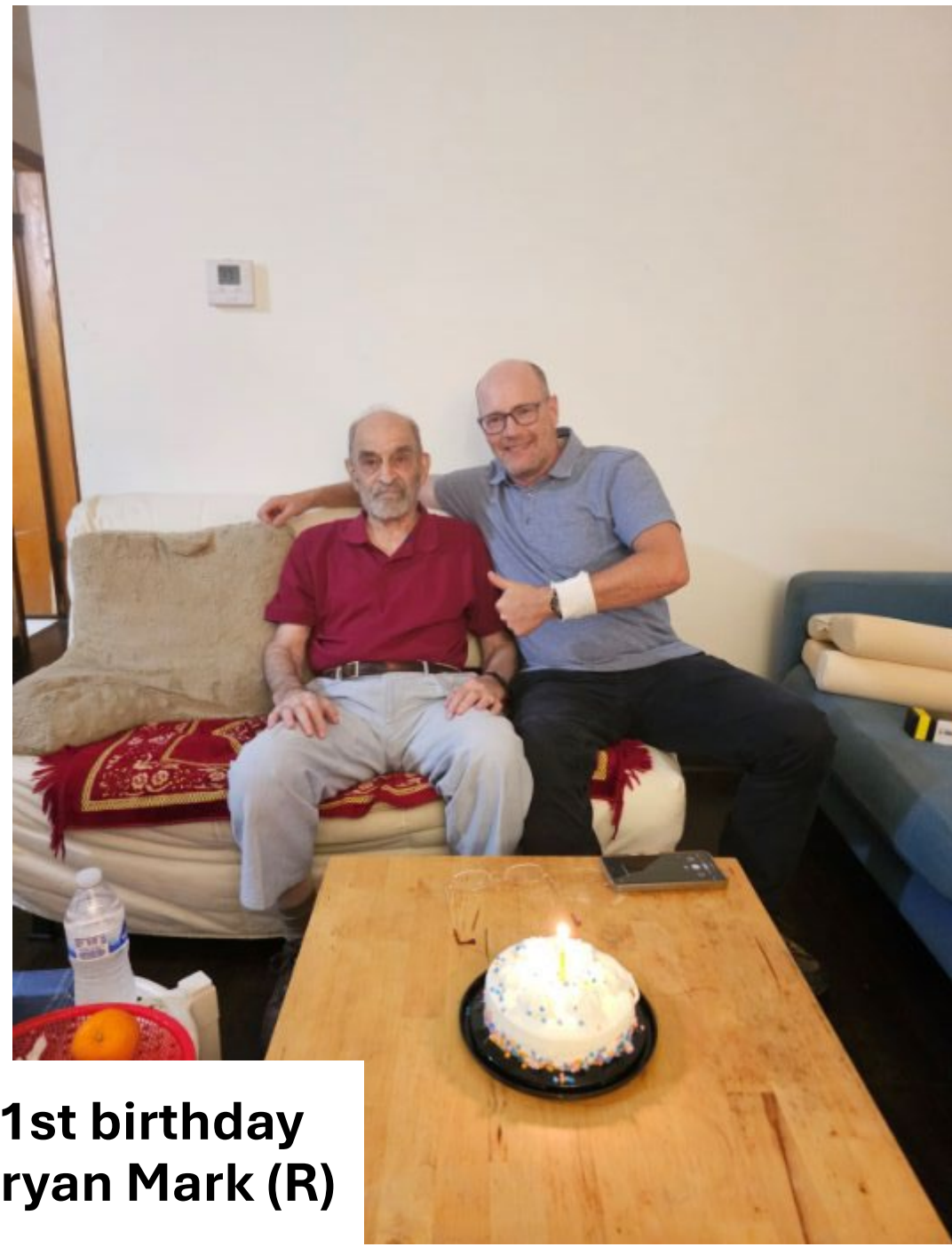
The color photo shows Henry Brecher on right, Barbara and Henry Passmore on left, and family friend. Circa **1980**.







**Henry celebrating his 91st birthday with Fazlul Haq (L) and Bryan Mark (R)**







KILIMANJARO OCTOBER 2007



**Whatever Women do  
they must do  
twice as well as men  
to be thought half as good**

**luckily this is not difficult!**

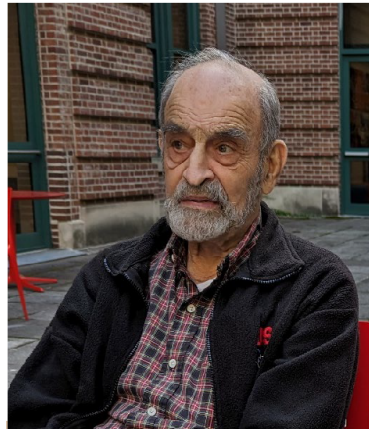
**From Henry's office bulletin board**



# The HHB Memorial Pickleball Games

Join us for a tribute to Henry Brecher

*Henry H. Brecher*



**Saturday, November 16, 2024**

4-6 pm; Check-in time 3:30 pm

Super Games Pickleball

6580 Huntley Rd., Cols. OH 43229

<https://super-pickle.org/>

Adult doubles pickleball, two courts.  
Preregistered intermediate and beginners.

Two weeks before he passed Henry took pickleball lessons and vowed to play the game when he returned to Columbus. These games serve as a tribute to HHB's love of court sports, athleticism despite physical challenges, and keenness to learn new skills.

IT'S A  
**GOOD DAY**  
TO PLAY  
**PICKLEBALL**

A graphic featuring two yellow pickleball paddles and a yellow pickleball. The text "IT'S A GOOD DAY TO PLAY PICKLEBALL" is written in white and yellow on a black background.

## Organizers:

**Fazlul Haq/Fez:** +1614-641-8821 for information and registration

**Debra Paros:** Concept, instructions and tips

Supported by **Bryan Mark**



**Henry's presence at the Byrd Center will be greatly missed. He was a wonderful source of inspiration and knowledge and his absence will leave a hole in our Byrd Center family.**

Dr. Anne Grunow

<https://prr.osu.edu/>

Director Polar Rock Repository

Senior Research Scientist

Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center

Ohio State University



**From Henry's  
office bulletin board**





## From Henry's office bulletin board

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

Albert Einstein



## 2024 McKenzie & Brecher Undergraduate Scholarship Awardees

Congratulations to the 2024 recipients of the G. McKenzie & H. Brecher Undergraduate Scholarship Fund! These exceptional students are making strides in earth and environmental sciences, and we are proud to recognize their achievements:

- **Geoffrey Brown (Geography)** - Conducting Baseline Water Chemistry and Ecological Assessments within Quarry Trails Metro Park
- **Harrison Frenken (Engineering)** - Integrating Aviation and Environmental Studies: The Role of Drone Technology In Scientific Research
- **Melody Green (School of Earth Sciences)** - The impact of climate change on scenic rivers in Ohio
- **John Scholl (History)** - Heat, Smoke, and Disease: Athletics in a Changing Ecology

**We encourage the community to continue supporting this meaningful fund, established in 2018. Each contribution helps empower undergraduate students to further their research.**



## From Henry's office bulletin board

Something besides courage and determination is needed to climb a mountain like this. Forgive me, if I call it intelligence.

(p.168)

Noble apology for adventuring, this science!

(p.178)

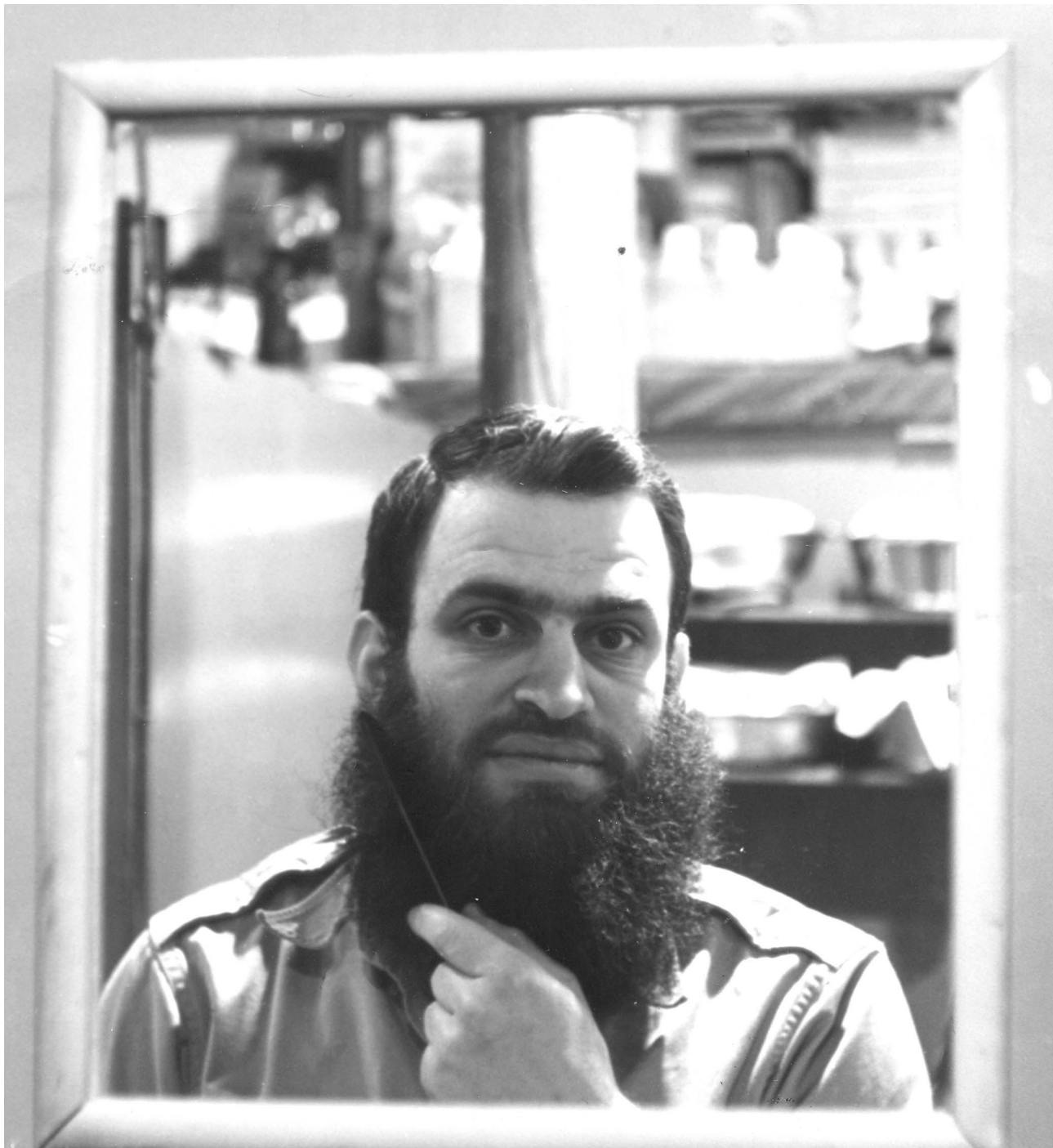
The Shameless Diary of an Explorer

Robert Dunn, 1907





**USAF flying school, Arizona, 1957**



**Henry after a winter at  
Byrd Station, Antarctica,  
1960  
*(Che or Fidel?)***





**Henry gives  
keynote  
address at  
IMC,  
Innsbruck,  
Austria**

**Sept 2022**

**IMC** Innsbruck 2022  
International Mountain Conference





Jan 4th 2022, Washington DC: National Postal Museum & Air and Space Museum with Amanda Jordan





**April 8th, 2024: Solar eclipse at Byrd Polar with Amanda Jordan**



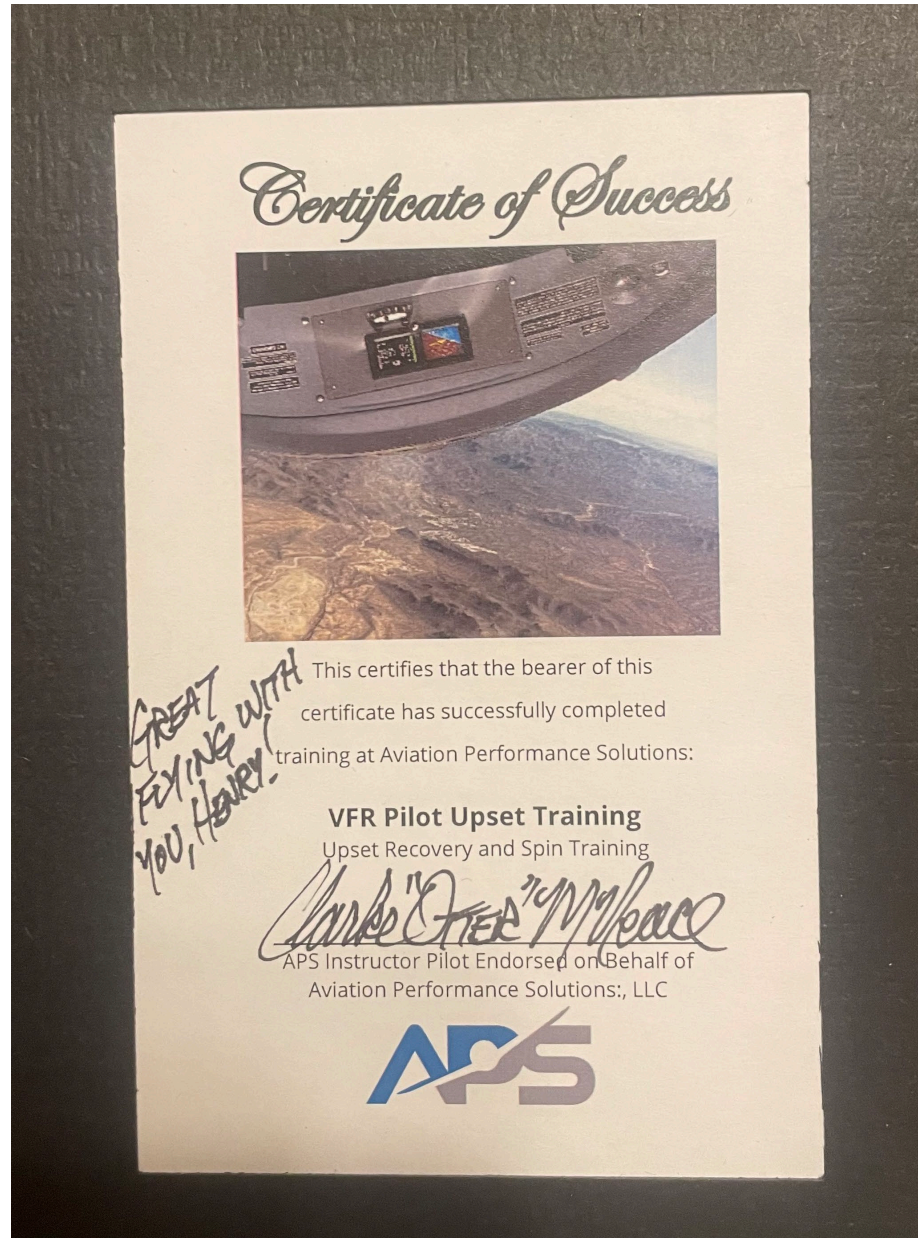


**Henry dining out, May 10th 2024, *guten Appetit!***

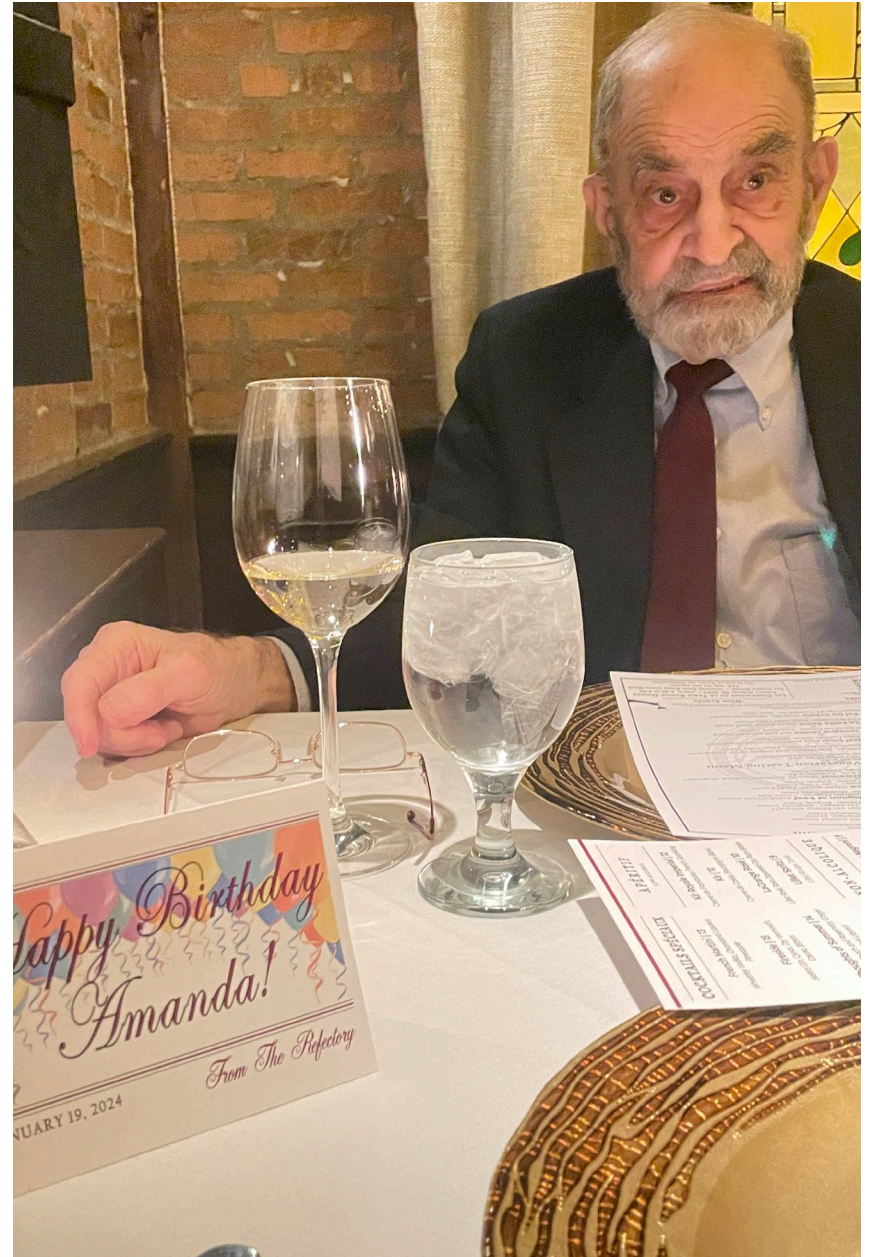


**Henry upside  
down flying in  
AZ**

**Jan 24, 2024**







**Dressed up for a happy birthday dinner with Amanda Jordan, Jan 19, 2023**

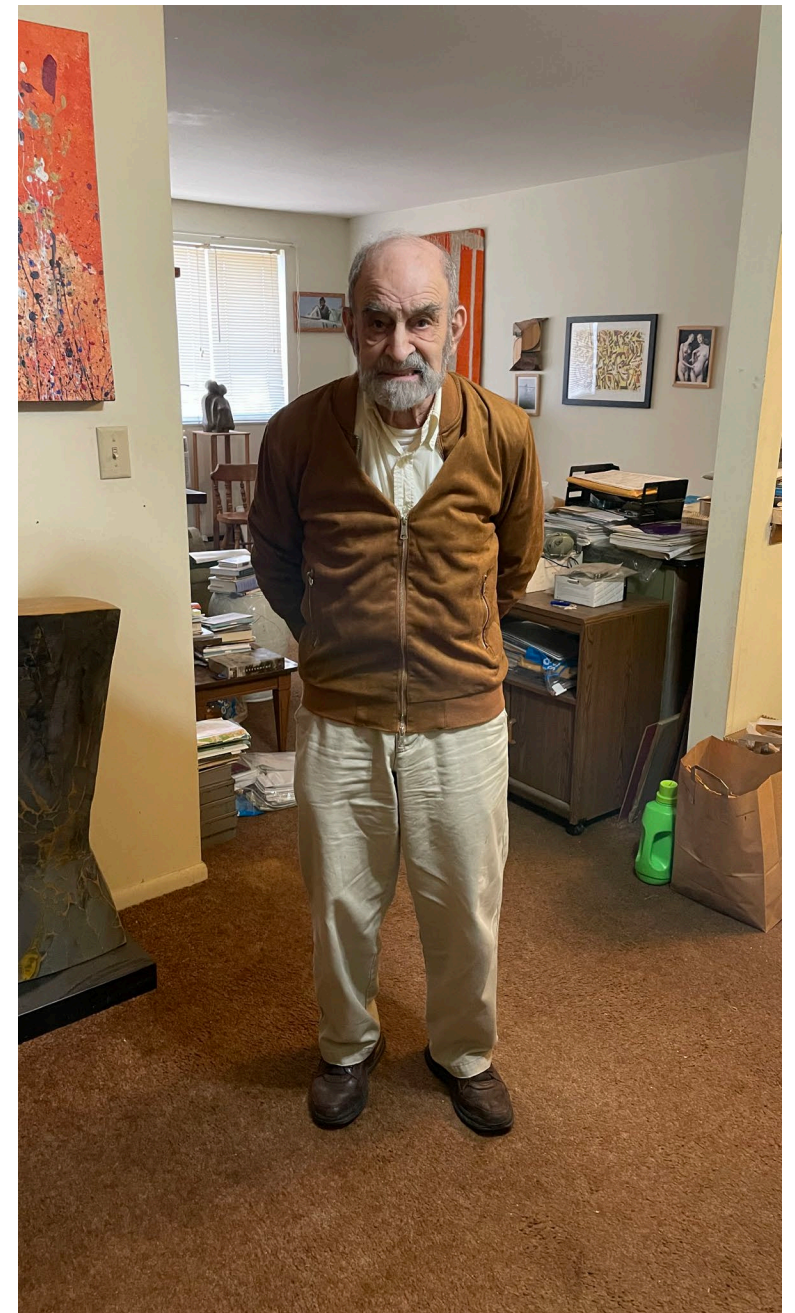


**Happy 91st  
Birthday!**

**August 29,  
2023**







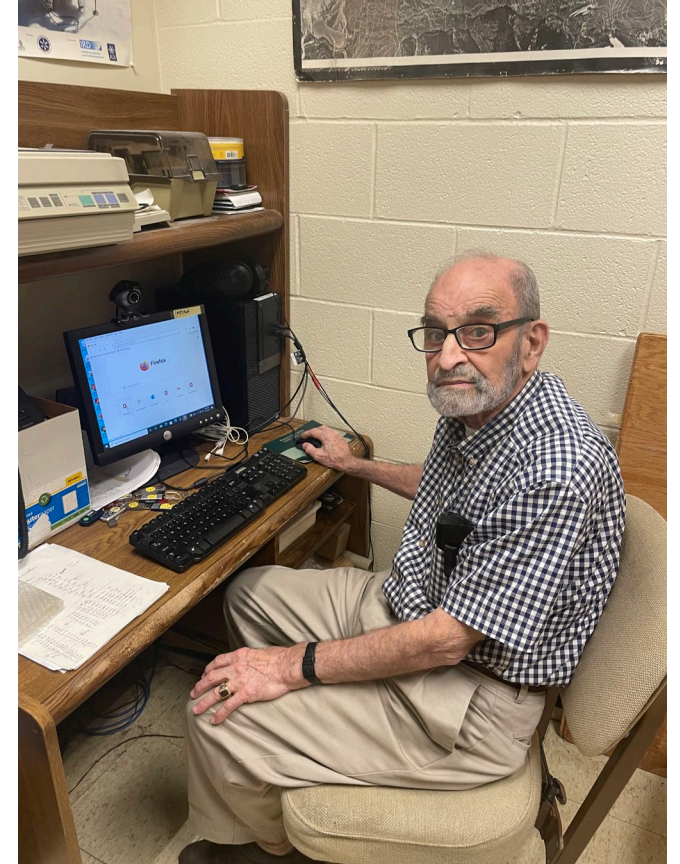
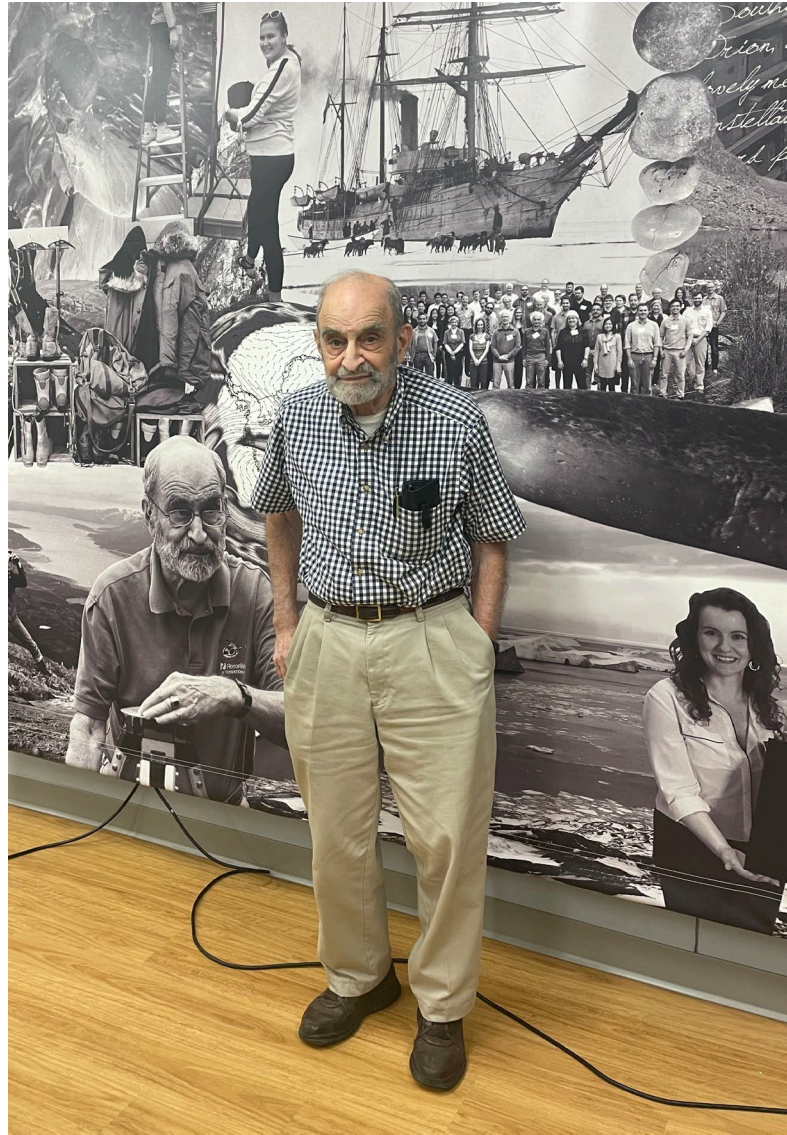
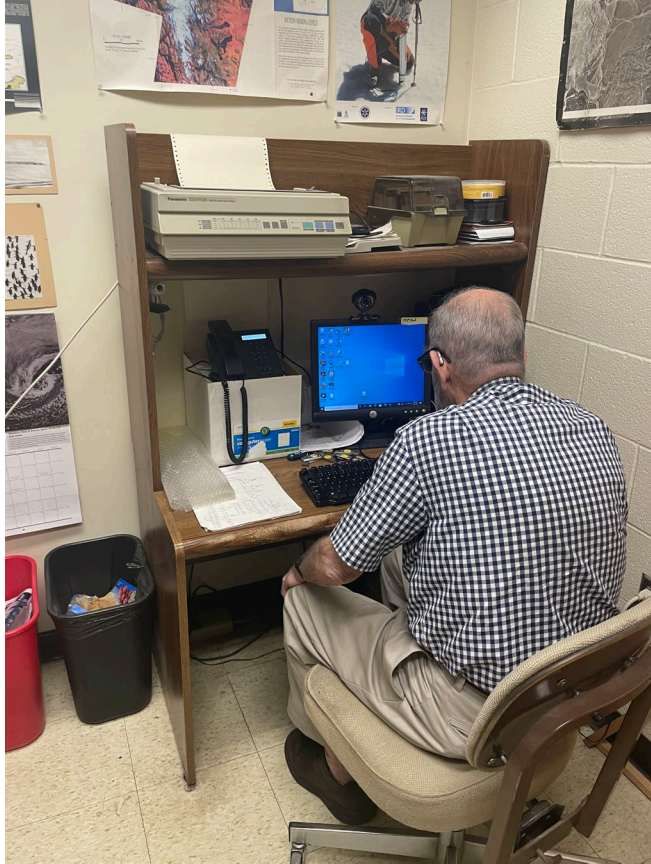
**Henry dressing in his apartment to dine at *Figlio*, his favorite, March 6, 2022**





**Epic cake for epic (90th) birthday, with Suzann Mark, Aug 29, 2022**





**Henry at Byrd Polar, May 31, 2022**





**A wonderful gift, March 22, 2022**



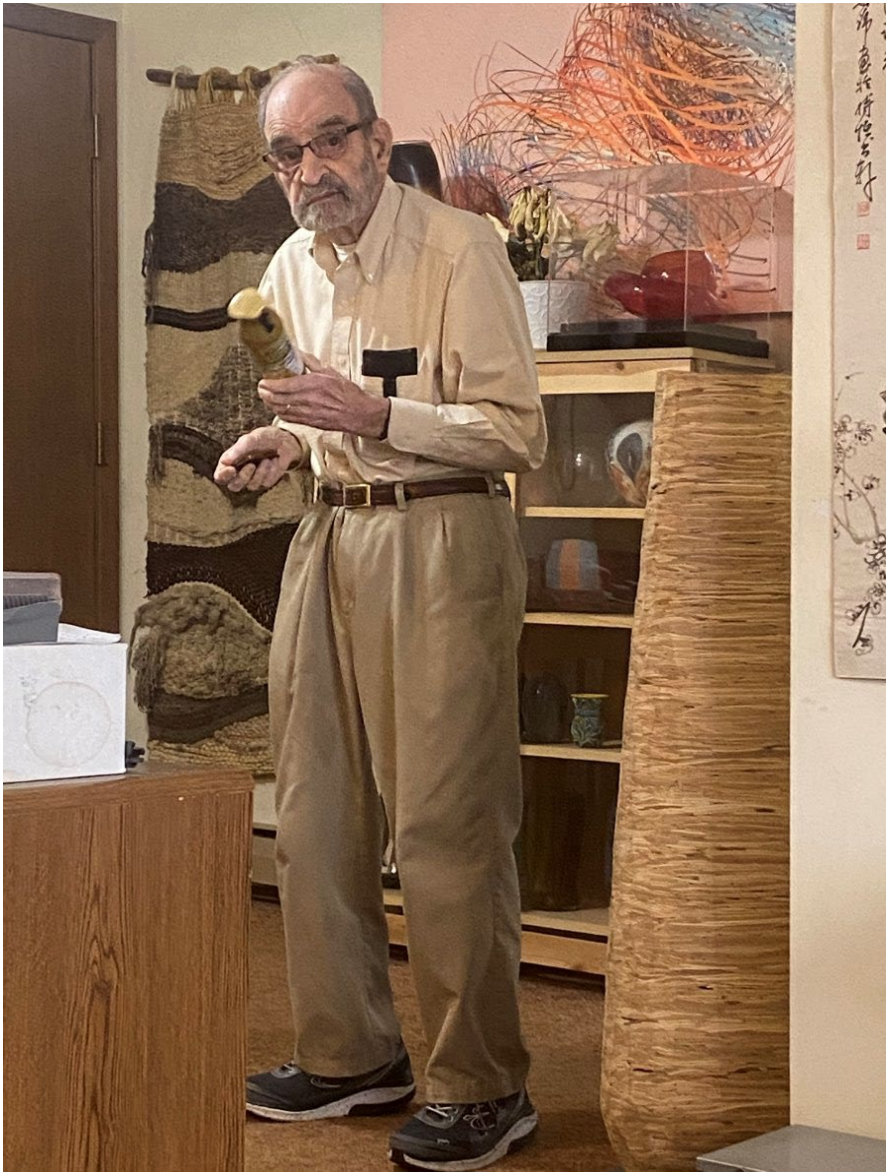


**Changing the oil, March 10, 2021**





**Henry at  
home with  
some art  
2001**



**Feb 20**



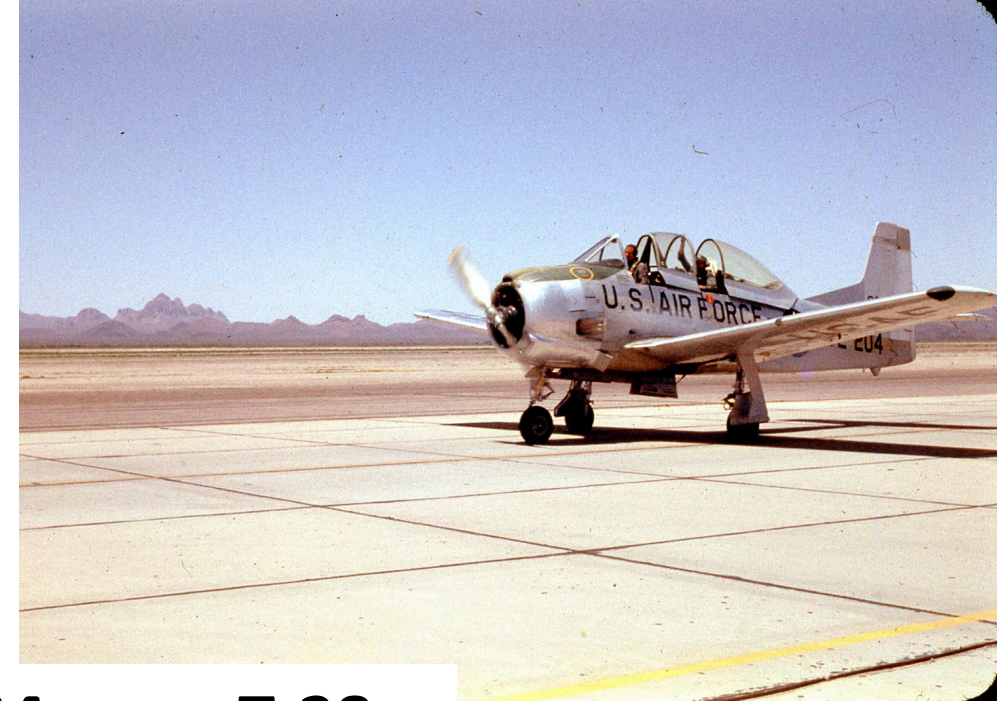
**Sep 30**





**The photogrammetrist at home office, May 12, 2021**





**Henry piloting Marana T-28**







# Helicopter crashes in field; two men aboard are injured

By Laura Arenschield • THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

**R**ICHWOOD, Ohio — At first, John Van Gundy didn't pay much attention to the helicopter flying above his farm yesterday afternoon. Van Gundy said he sees helicopters all the time over this rural part of Ohio, along the Delaware-Union county line west of Delaware. "People like to watch the cows," he said with a shrug. • But this helicopter started sputtering, and the noise made him look up.

"It just didn't sound quite right," Van Gundy said.

As Van Gundy watched, the helicopter headed toward the cornfield behind the barn where he keeps his cows and sheep.

Then it angled sharply and dived toward the ground.

Van Gundy, a former semi-pro football player, shouted for help and made a beeline for the field. When he got there, he found two men on the ground and the helicopter on fire.

The State Highway Patrol identified the men as 81-year-old Henry Brecher of Columbus and 50-year-old Todd Cramer of Dublin.

Both were conscious. They were stunned by the crash, Van Gundy said, but they talked to him and didn't seem to be burned.

One of the men looked frantically for his glasses. The other said his legs hurt.

Van Gundy helped the men move away from the wreckage. The wind picked up, and the fire started spreading, burning



The State Highway Patrol is investigating the crash, which ignited a fire that burned the helicopter and the farm field.

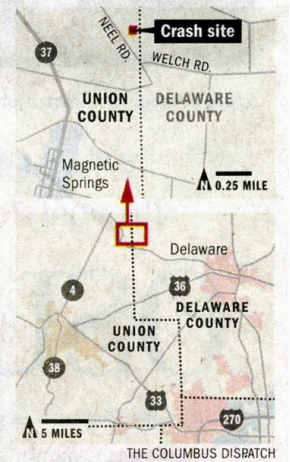
through dried cornstalk remnants and sending black smoke into the air. It took firefighters about 20 minutes to put out the fire in the field; by the time they arrived, the helicopter was almost gone.

Another helicopter came and took Brecher and Cramer to Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center. They still were being evaluated last night to determine whether

they would be kept in the hospital. Their injuries weren't life-threatening, officials said.

Federal Aviation Administration records show that Brecher registered a helicopter in 2006. His helicopter is a RotorWay Exec 162F, which comes as a kit for aviators to build themselves. Cramer also has an airplane, those records show.

Investigators said yesterday



## More online

► Hear John Van Gundy's 911 call and see images from the crash scene at [Dispatch.com/videos](http://Dispatch.com/videos).

they didn't know what caused the helicopter to crash.

Van Gundy said he didn't know, either. He said he tried to keep the men calm while they waited for medics, and he didn't ask many questions.

"They were banged up, but they seemed like they would be all right," he said. "I told them if they were out (of the hospital) by Sunday, they should probably go to church."

[larenschield@dispatch.com](mailto:larenschield@dispatch.com)  
@larenschield

Henry built, flew and survived a crash in this RotorWay helicopter, 2013





**Henry flying a T-34 in Houston, 2001**





**Henry the pilot with L-39  
Albatros jet trainer, Santa Fe,  
2004**





Jennifer Kashani Motlagh, Byrd admin. staff member, enjoyed speaking German with Henry. Here is a quote from Jennifer in honor of Henry. First in German, and the English translation below.

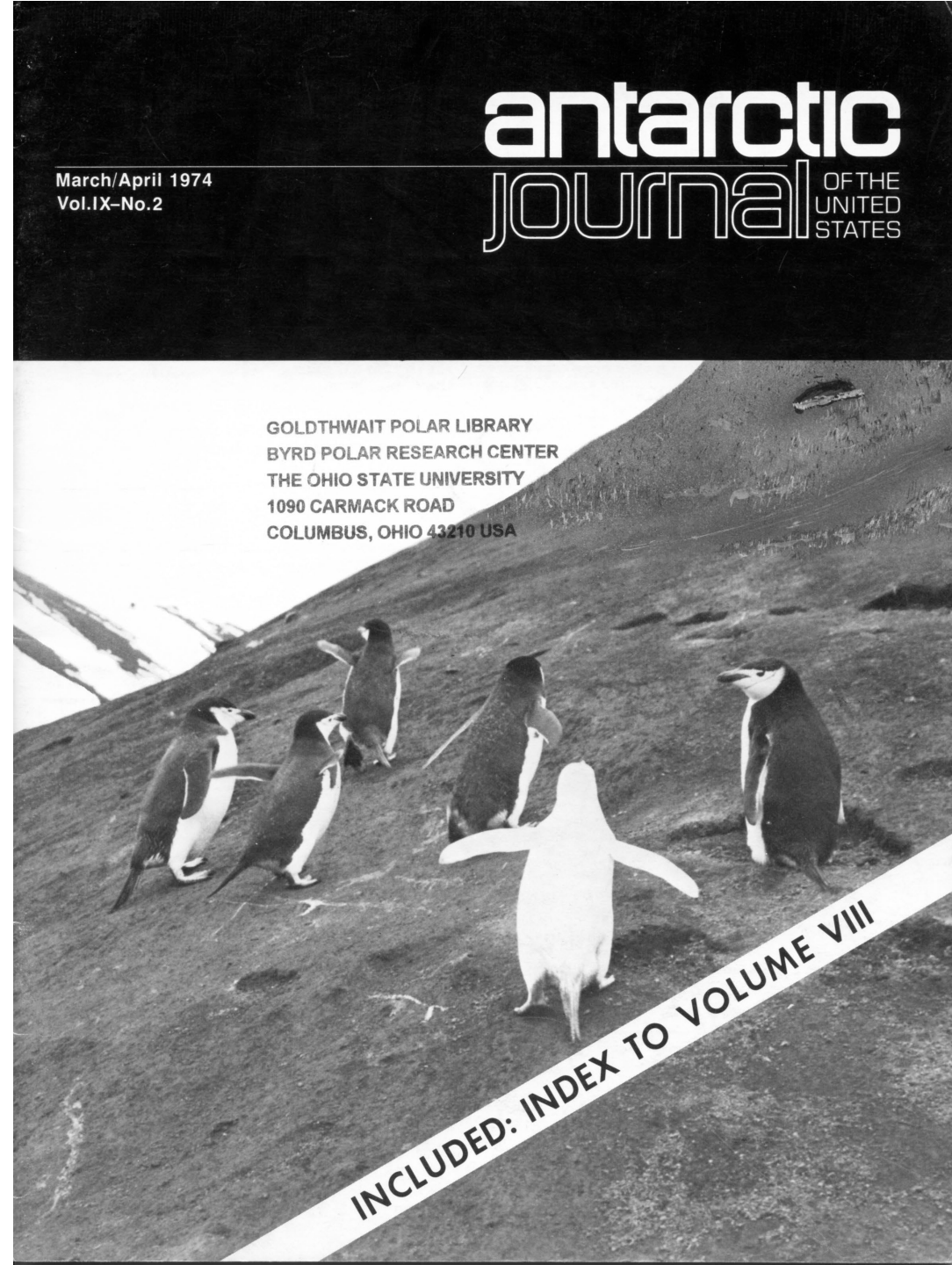
Mit Dankbarkeit für die Spuren, die Henry in unserem Leben und unserer Arbeit hinterlassen hat.

*With gratitude for the marks Henry has left on our lives and work.*



**Henry's photo of  
albino penguin,  
Deception  
Island,  
Antarctica, 1974**

**(cover of  
*Antarctic  
Journal*)**







**Icefield Ranges Research Project, Yukon, 1967.** The plane Henry flew (he was hired as a pilot) The plane was a Helio Courier. Its engine stopped over the Kaskawulsh glacier, and he had to make forced landing on the glacier. *Charmed life, our Henry!*





**Henry's mother, Klara Taussig Brecher  
(portrait mid 1930's, with Heinz, 1933)**



**Father Ernst Brecher with  
dogs, mid 1930s**





**Henry's favorite  
photo of his mother:  
Close-up portrait of  
Klara Taussig wearing  
a clown costume,  
1920s.**

**Photo credit: United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum,  
courtesy of Henry H. Brecher**





**Portrait of part of  
the Brecher  
family taken soon  
after the  
Anschluss.**

**None of them  
survived the  
Holocaust.**

**Pictured front row:  
Norbert Brecher and  
Ernst Brecher. Back:  
Sidonie Brecher,  
Rudolfine  
Rosenbaum Brecher,  
Klara Taussig  
Brecher and Leopold  
Blau (a cousin).**



Photo credit: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Henry H. Brecher



**Young Henry with parents and dogs and sledding, Graz, Austria, 1930s.**

**Photo credit: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Henry H. Brecher**







**Group portrait of the Ft. Ontario refugee children of the fourth grade class at the Campus School of Oswego State Teachers College, 1944.**

**Henry Brecher is standing on the far left. Walter Greenberg is in the center, and Ivo Hirschler is to his right.**

**Photo credit: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Henry H. Brecher**



**Unveiling gravestone  
of his cousin  
Peter Rendi, Vienna,  
2015.**

**Henry was really close to  
Peter. He had lived with  
the Rendi family in  
Yugoslavia for three years  
after the German  
Anschluss of Austria,  
1938. Henry's parents  
were taken by Nazis and  
died in the Holocaust.**







**Henry, Jennifer  
Mayer and  
brother Jeffrey  
Mayer, and  
Mischa  
(Michael) Rendi  
in right  
foreground.**

**New York, April  
2024**





**Henry enjoying cake for his 84th birthday, Elliot home, August 2016**

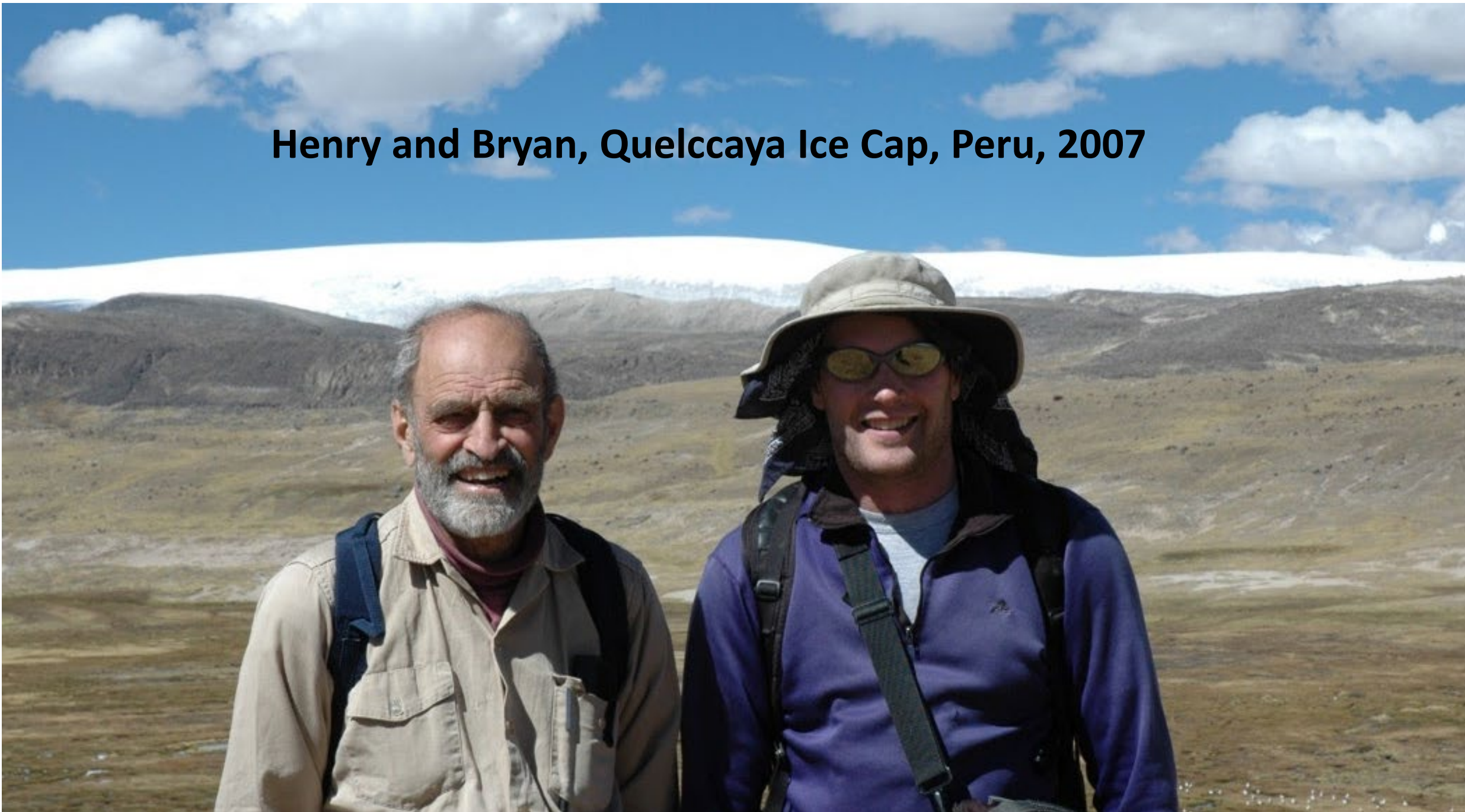




**German Village with Marsha, Bryan, Suzann, Iris (up), Nathan, Natascia & Viola, 2008**



**Henry and Bryan, Quelccaya Ice Cap, Peru, 2007**







Henry in Cordillera  
Vilcanota and Quelccaya  
Ice Cap, Peru, 2007





Quelccaya 1978  
(Lonnie above)



# Camp life, Quelccaya, Peru - 1978





MEASUREMENT OF THE RETREAT OF QORI KALIS GLACIER IN THE TROPICAL ANDES OF PERU BY TERRESTRIAL PHOTOGRAMMETRY

Henry H. Brecher and Lonnie G. Thompson  
Byrd Polar Research Center, The Ohio State University  
125 South Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210

ABSTRACT

The extent and volume of the largest outlet glacier from the Quelccaya Ice Cap (14°S, 71°W, 5200 m a.s.l.) has been measured four times between 1963 and 1991, once by aerial and three times by terrestrial photogrammetry. Drastic and accelerating retreat of the terminus and decrease of ice volume have been documented. The rate of retreat was nearly three times as fast between 1983 and 1991 as between 1963 and 1978 and the rate of volume loss was about eight times as great. These results are consistent with the behavior of tropical glaciers in the Cordillera Blanca in Peru and in the Ruwenzori Mountains and on Mount Kenya in East Africa.

INTRODUCTION

The Byrd Polar Research Center has been carrying out glaciological studies for reconstructing a climatic history for tropical South America on the Quelccaya Ice Cap in the Andes of Peru since 1974 (Thompson 1991, 1992; Thompson et al. 1982, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1991). As part of these studies the extent and volume of its largest outlet glacier, the Qori Kalis (Figure 1), has been mapped four times and changes in its extent and volume have been determined.

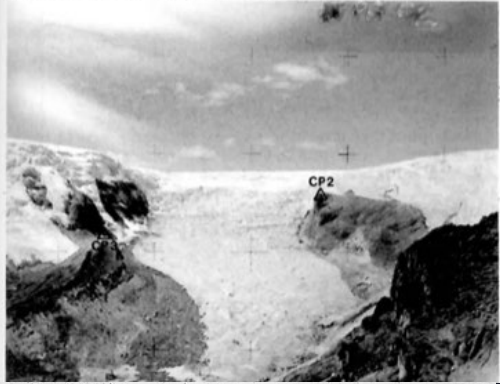
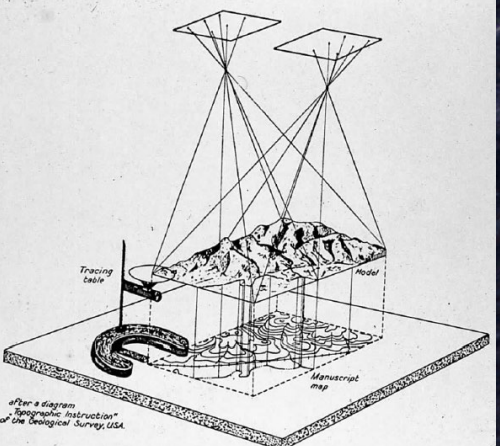


Figure 1  
1983  
Hasselblad  
photograph  
of Qori  
Kalis from  
station PS  
showing  
intersected  
control  
points



Qori Kalis, 1983



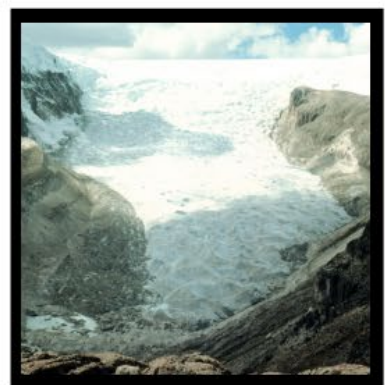
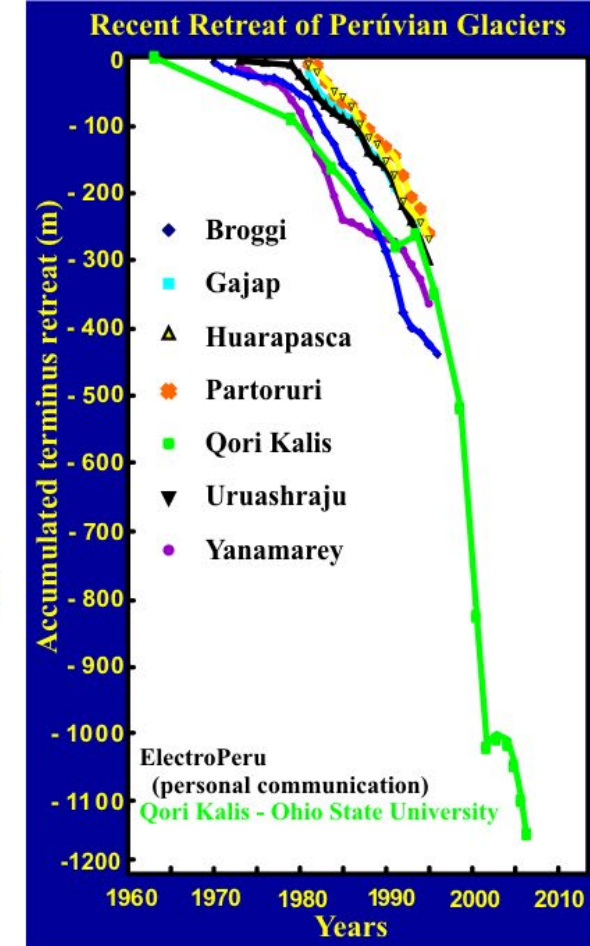
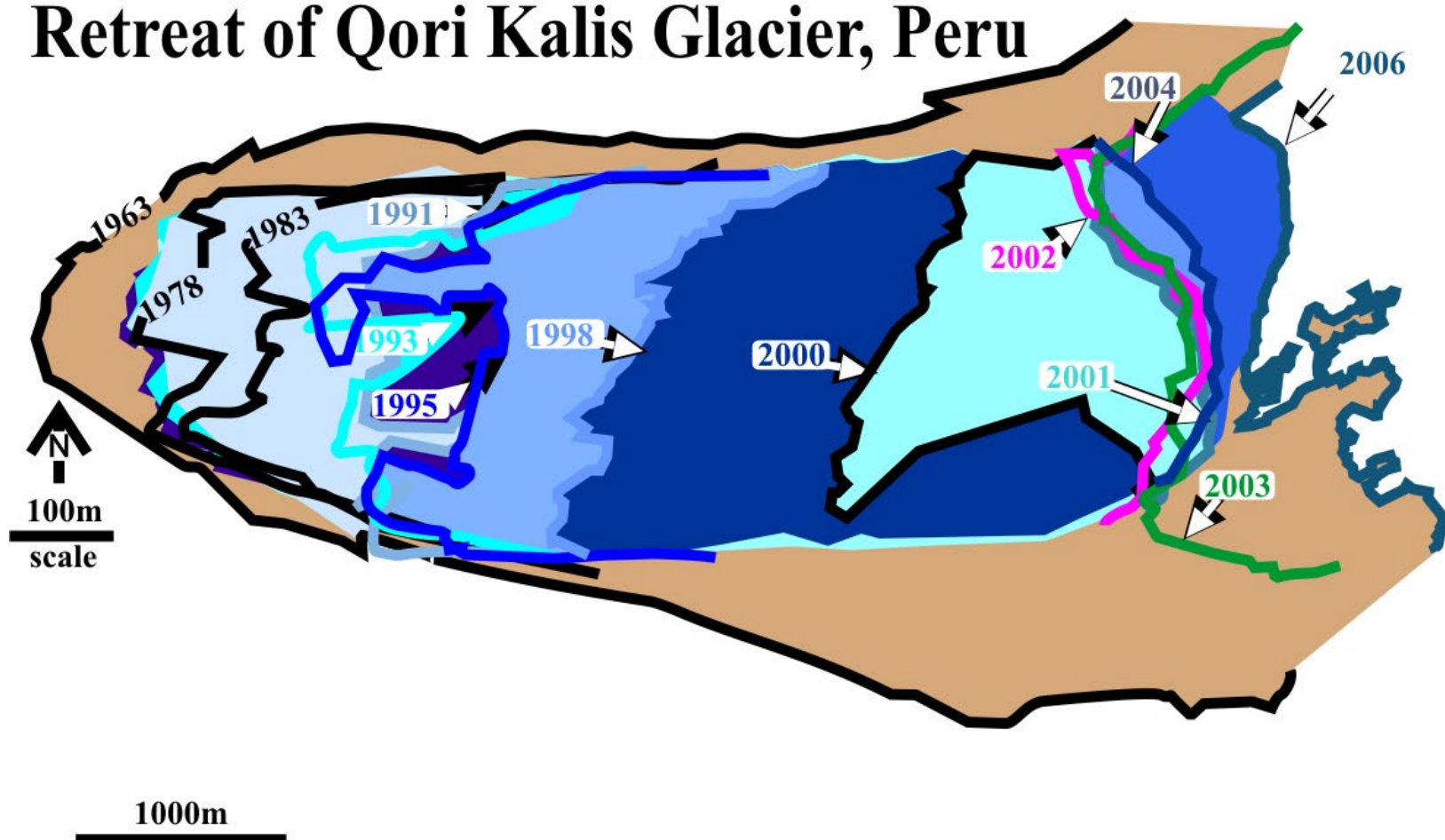




**Bryan follows Henry's guidance for 1998 photos of Qori Kalis outlet glacier, Quelccaya Ice Cap, Peru**



# Retreat of Qori Kalis Glacier, Peru



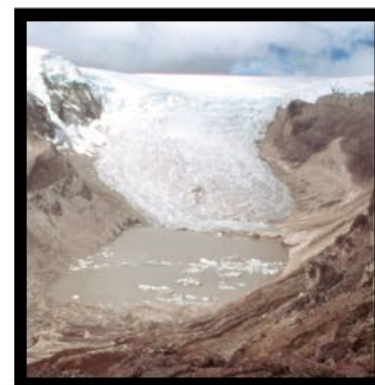
1978



1991



1998



2000



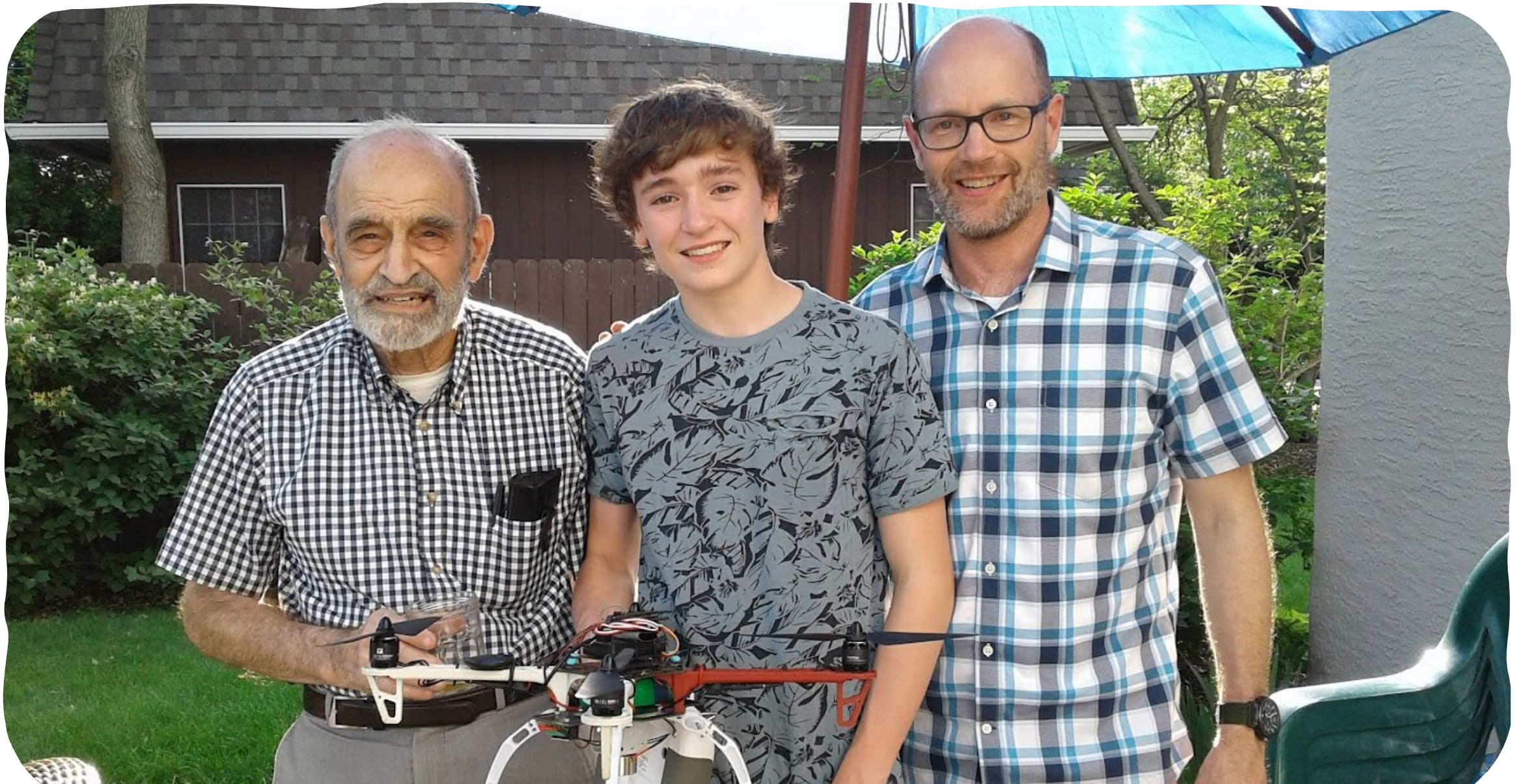
2006





**Henry showing his newly constructed helicopter to Bryan & Nathan (6),  
Delaware, OH, 2010**





**Nathan (15) showing his newly constructed quad-copter drone to Henry, Columbus, OH, 2019**





**Henry springs for a dessert at Figlio -- good to the last lick for Libby!  
June 2019**





## HYPERNOVA LIT

A Stellar Flare of Young Adult Writing and Visual Art

### The Boy Who Lived



BY IRIS MARK

#### Information

This entry was posted on February 13, 2021 by Bryan Lindsey in Creative Nonfiction and tagged family, immigration, loss, relationships, Religion.

#### Shortlink

<https://wp.me/p5ThOA-Ec>

#### Navigation

[Previous post](#)  
[Next post](#)

#### CONNECT



**Iris Mark interviewing Henry for her first online publication, "The Boy Who Lived."  
(Hypernova Lit, 2020)**





**Bryan, Paolo and Henry celebrate Henry's 90th Birthday at Byrd  
(one of many parties!)**





**Celebrating Henry's 90th Birthday at Figlio (of course!!): Libby, Iris, David, Ann, Amanda, HB, Suzann and Bryan (2022)**





**Henry with Byrd faculty, former fellows, grad students and friends at the International Mountain Conference (IMC), Innsbruck, Austria, Sept 2022**





**Henry with Oakwood School students, back in the day (left) and in a contemporary reconstruction (right). Henry is standing in front row; on his left (right in photo) is longtime friend Barbara Passmore.**





**Henry visiting Passmores in California for memorial service for Barbara**



**Henry and Mark family at Bethel  
Presbyterian, Easter 2024 (L) and at the  
Beth Jacob Synagogue, May 2024 (R)**



**Libby earned honorable mention for her artistic  
contribution to the Dayton Holocaust Resource  
Center student art and writing competition.**





**Henry playing chess with Libby (L) and fixing Iris' typewriter (R), 2023  
Yes, he even found the golden Easter egg!**





**Bryan, Stas, Paolo and Henry help Paolo move – and get rewarded with homemade pizza and beer, June 2023**









**Emily, Henry and Gabo pose at the top of the Innsbrucker Nordkettenbahnen cable car ride above Innsbruck, Sep 2022**











**Obligatory visit to Scott  
statue, Christchurch,  
NZ, Nov. 1959**

**Henry on far right**





**Byrd to South Pole traverse team Dec. 1960-January 1961**

**Henry standing (L)**





**Henry digging glaciology pit in Antarctica**





**Henry (right) with Edie and Fredy Rosenthal, Oswego  
refugee camp, Safe Haven, 1944**





**Henry (right) with Edie and Fredy Rosenthal, Oswego  
refugee camp, Safe Haven, 2004**





**Henry (right) with Edie and Fredy Rosenthal, Oswego refugee camp, Safe Haven, on left in 1944, and again, 60 years later, on right in 2004.**





**3 bearded musketeers: Dick Cameron, Colin Bull and Henry Brecher, ~1970**



## **Tribute – Part 1 of 2**

The first time I heard about Henry, like so many other people, I was utterly amazed to think that someone could be so dedicated and love what he did so much that he would continue to come to work after being retired for so many years. That said a lot about Henry and the Byrd Center.

In September 2022 when I had the opportunity to sit down and talk to him at one of our social events, I decided to speak German to him, knowing that he was from Austria. At the time, I didn't think he liked speaking German to me, and I thought maybe I overstepped , but shortly after the event, one day when I came to work, Henry had left a record behind my office door. We had briefly spoken about Vienna and opera at the event and so he had brought me one of his opera records to listen to, Johann Strauss' Die Fledermaus, a love story and comedy. Needless to say, I was grateful that he shared such a gift with me, and I was relieved to know that he appreciated our conversation.

Later on, when we reported on a story about the original Byrd Center flag in our September 2022 newsletter, Henry shared the following:

“You might perhaps be interested to know that I was (minimally) involved in the "creation" of the Byrd Center flag. Emanuel Rudolph, the Director at the time, asked me to take the design and have it made into the (cloth) flag; i.e. I was the errand boy or messenger for the job. I wonder whether the original had survived.”

*Continued on next slide...*



## **Tribute – Part 2 of 2**

I started bringing in candy and filling the candy jar in the front office when I noticed that Henry would stop to take candy some days when he came in to pick up his mail. That brought me so much joy that I decided to continue to fill the candy jar. I continued to do this even after he was gone, in his memory.

Throughout the time I knew Henry he was quite open about when he was not feeling well and was unhappy, but I can say that during the last month of his life any time I saw him in the office and had a conversation with him, however brief, he was smiling and was happy and that is what I will remember when I think of Henry.

I was honored to meet and work with Henry. His legacy will live on at the Byrd Center.

Mit Dankbarkeit für die Spuren, die Henry in unserem Leben und unserer Arbeit hinterlassen hat.

“With gratitude for the marks Henry has left on our lives and work.”

*Jennifer Kashani Motlagh*

*Byrd Center*

*Webmaster and Communications Specialist*



Henry was such a fixation at BPCRC that it is very difficult to think of the Center without him. He will be remembered for many things, but a few that I can attest to were his loyalty and dedication to the scientific goals of the Center, his very strong work ethic and his steadfastness in attending every seminar, every lecture opportunity that came to Scott Hall. He was truly a 'life-long learner' in every sense. His dedication to his work should be one of legend, as he made important contributions into his 90s. The establishment of the McKenzie-Brecher Scholarship has benefited a large number of enthusiastic undergraduates doing a wide range of research activities. I am sure this pleased him greatly, and it will serve as one of his many legacies to BPCRC.

*W. Berry Lyons*

*SES Professor and former Byrd Director*



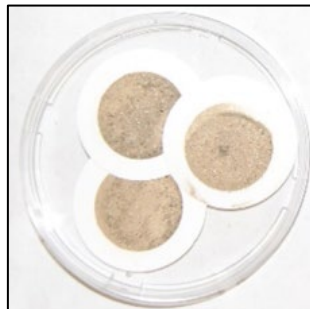
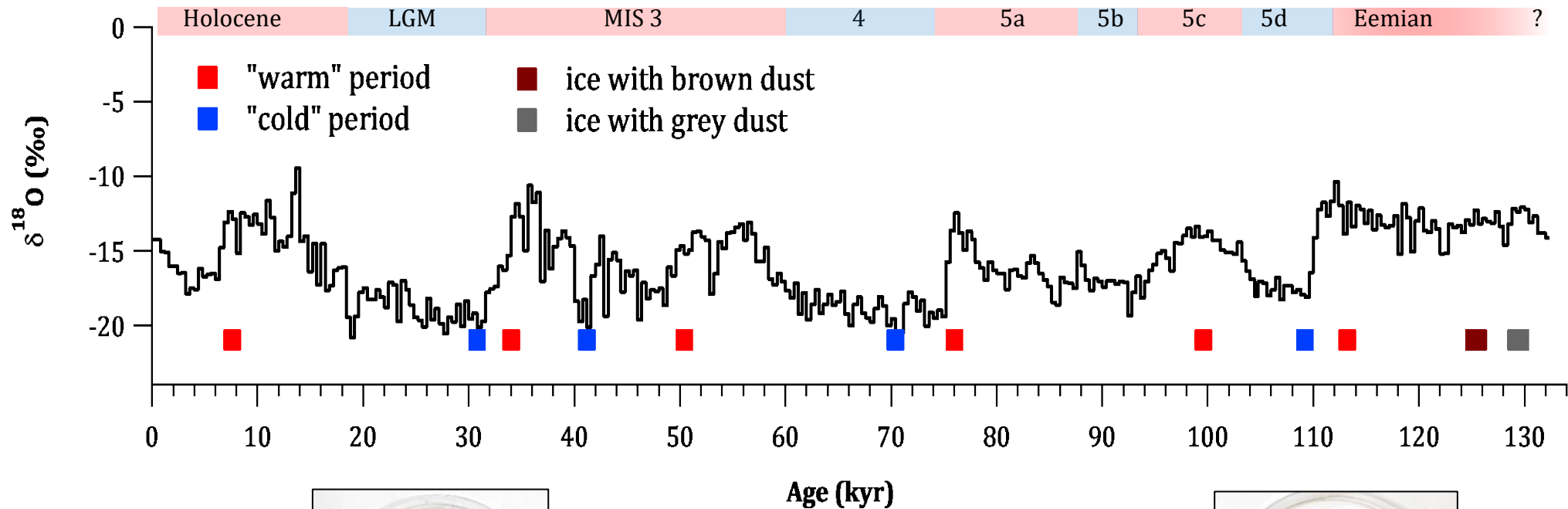
On November 13<sup>th</sup> 2020, I gave a virtual seminar talk, presenting my research on the Guliya dust.

Throughout my presentation, I talk about brown and grey dust collected on filters.

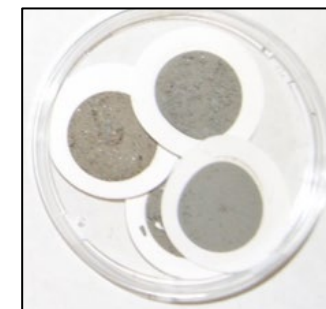
Next is a slide from my presentation, showing how these dust filters look like...



# Sampling approach: dust color



Diffuse brown layers

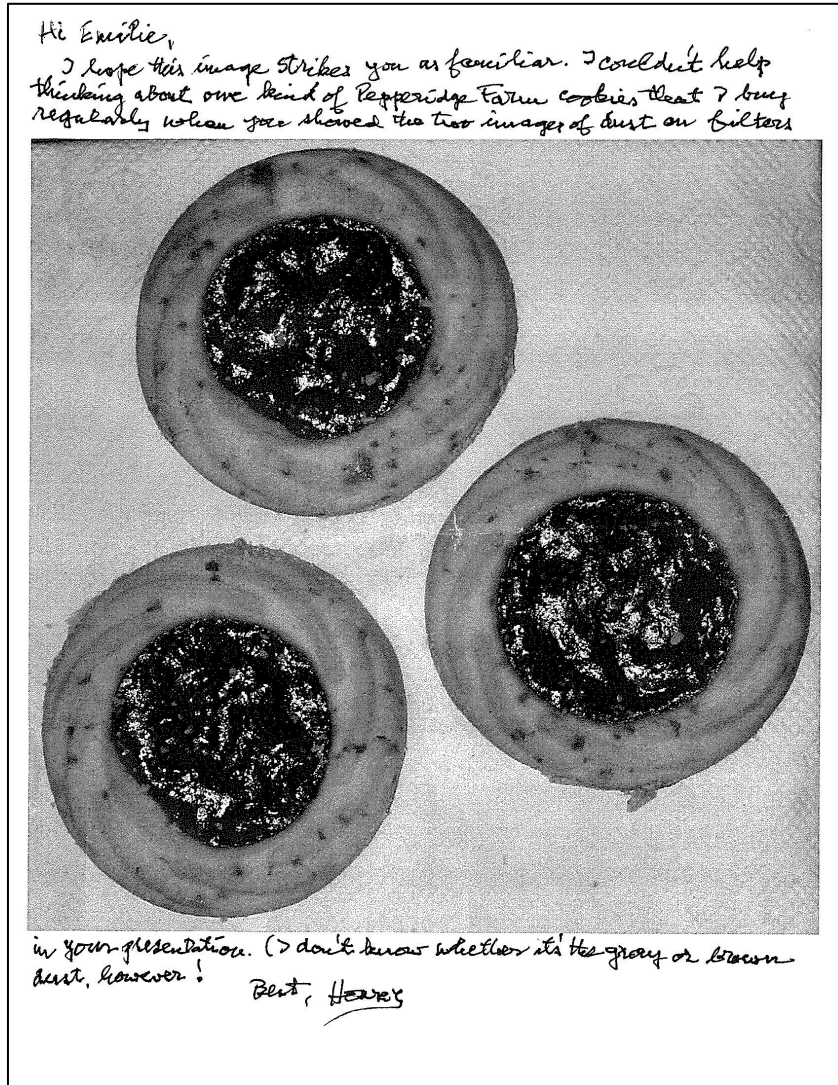


Grey dust nodules





A few days following my Zoom presentation, this is what I found in my mailbox ... Henry's sweet mind!



**Hi Emilie,**

**I hope this image strikes you as familiar. I couldn't help thinking about one kind of Pepperidge Farm cookies that I buy regularly when you showed the two images of dust on filters in your presentation. (I don't know whether it's the grey or brown dust, however!**



**Emilie Beaudon**

**SES Professor and Byrd Ice Core Paleoclimatology  
Group Member**





**Henry in red during  
Byrd covid BBQ,  
Summer 2020**



**The following slides  
were added after our  
event on  
Friday, Nov. 15, 2024**





**Over 60 people attended Henry's celebration event on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024**





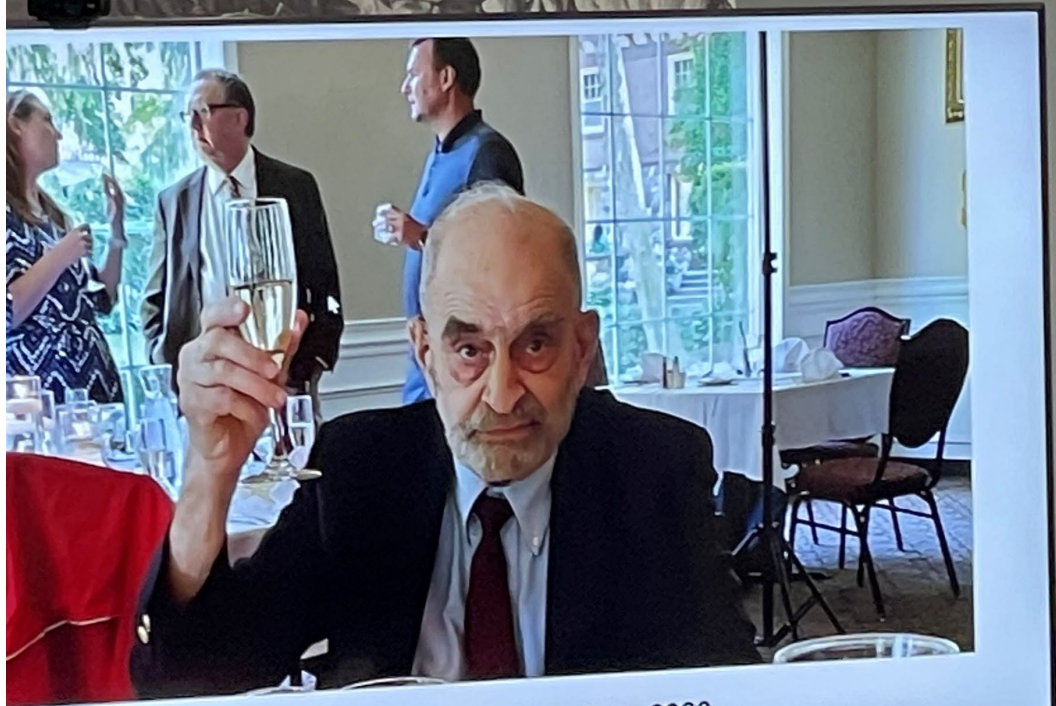
**Diane Pina**



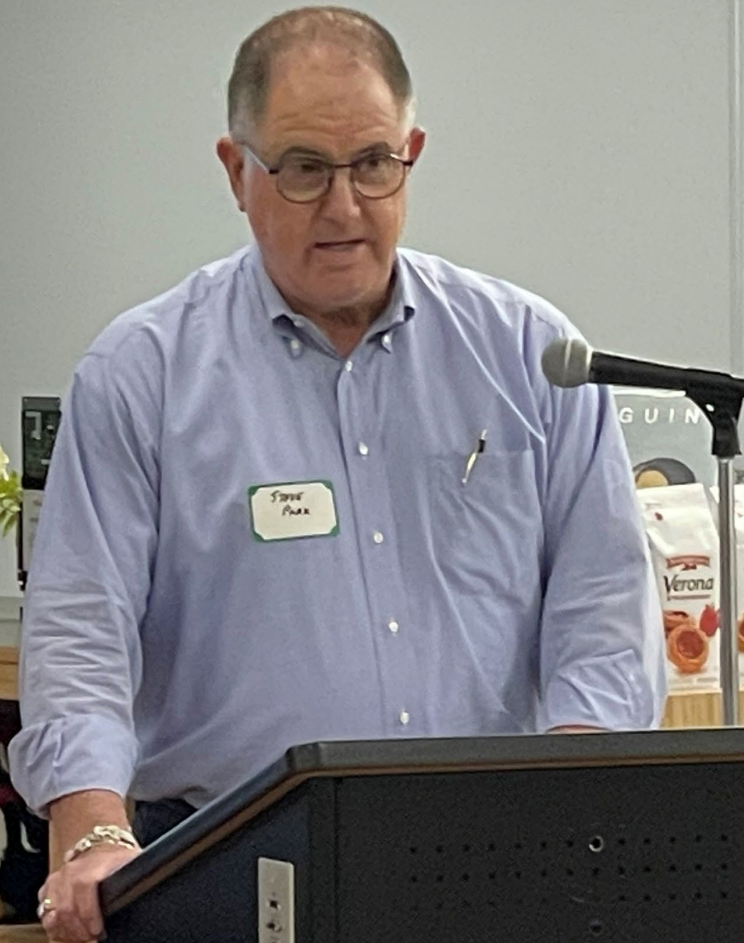


**Chad Cianfrani,  
Oakwood Friends  
School**





Sam Passmore's wedding, June 2022



**Steve Park**





**Lonnie Thompson**





**Bryan Mark**



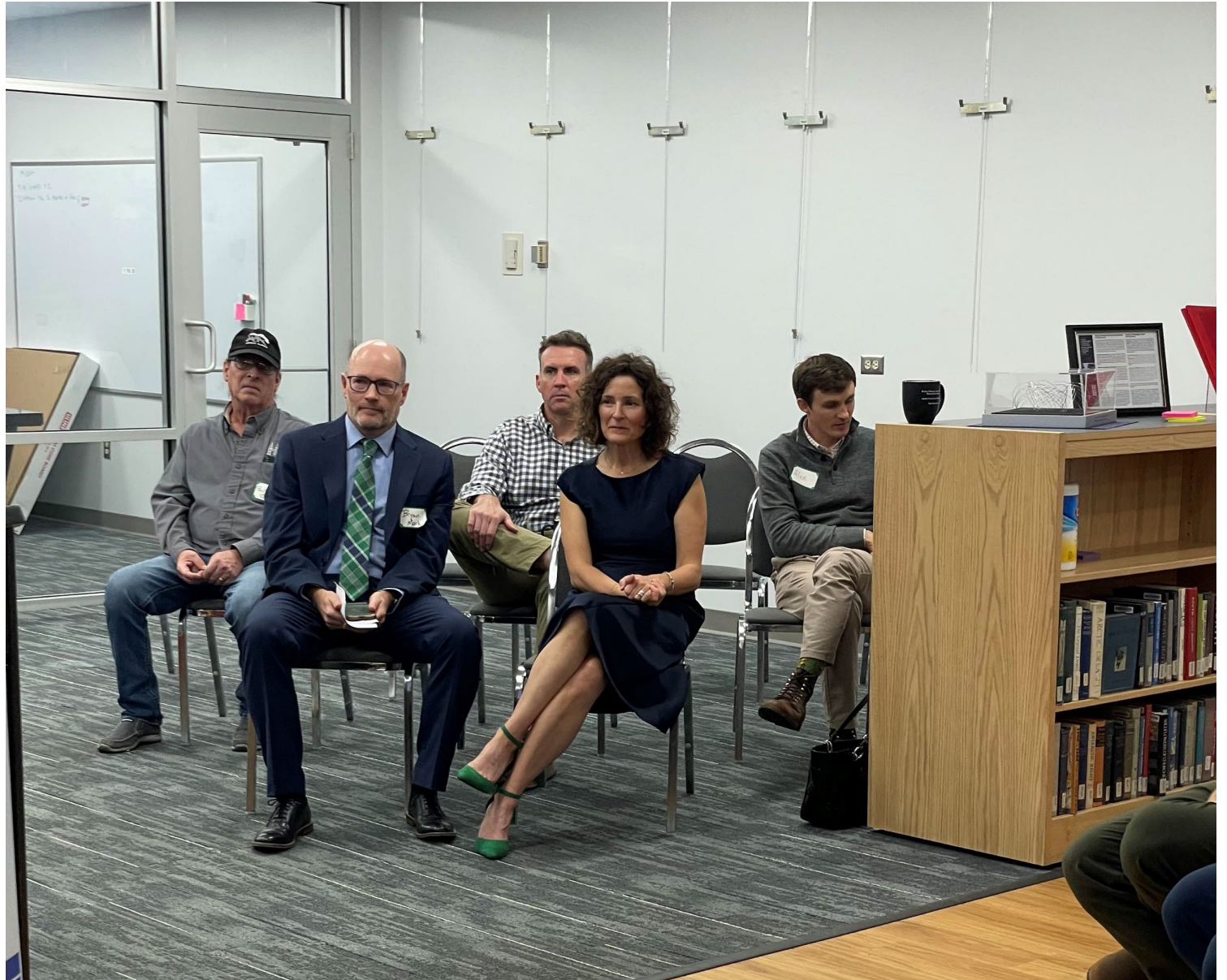


**Amanda Jordan**





**Ann Elliot**



**More attendees (overflow) 😊**





**Debra Paros (Paris)**





**Emilie Beaudon**



**Michele Cook**





**Aaron Wilson**





**Tal Shutkin**





**Margaret (Charles) Wunderlich**





**3 of the 4 McKenzie Brecher 2024 scholarship recipients. Geoffrey Brown (L), John Scholl (M); Harrison Frenken (R)**

<https://byrd.osu.edu/awards/mckenzie-brecher>





**Ann Elliot**



**David Elliot**





**Henry's plaque  
and flight suit in  
the Innovation  
Room at Byrd  
Center.**

**November 20, 2024**

**View 1 of 2**





**Henry's plaque  
and flight suit in  
the Innovation  
Room at Byrd  
Center.**

**November 20, 2024**

**View 2 of 2**



# **More on Henry Brecher**

History Corner – Byrd:

<https://byrd.osu.edu/history-corner/who-henry-brecher>

**Thanks for coming! Please stay in touch!**

**Byrd Polar & Climate Research Center**

<https://byrd.osu.edu/>