The Bolex Traveler

by Tad Sadow

From the Arctic to the Tropics This BOLEX Proved its Salt

The past year my Bolex H-16 Leader covered a 60,000 mile obstacle course from the bottom to the top of the world and kept running through climatic conditions that have stopped more expensive precision-built machinery. Sea, snow, sand storms, tropic heat and polar cold; dampness, humidity and salt air were some of the everyday shooting conditions.

I didn't buy a Bolex for testing purposes. Like anyone else, I just wanted to take movies and my job provides unique opportunity for footage. I'm a merchant seaman, and the far lands of this globe are familiar ports of call. A day before I signed on a transport for a Far East run I bought my Bolex with little thought of the dirty weather ahead.

My ship, a U.S. transport under UN charter picked up troops in Turkey to replace forces along the 38th Parallel in Korea. The 26,000 mile voyage included stops at Turkey, Arabia, Korea, Japan and return via the same route. There was international color in abundance parading before my lenses: Turks on deck praying to Mecca, Egyptian bumboats, white water over the bow, a sand storm in the Red Sea, seamen at work, the misty harbor of Inchon and the doll-like quality of Japan were a few of the subjects.

I had doubts about mastering what, at first, seemed to be a complicated array of buttons, levers and dials on the Bolex. The only guide aboard was the instruction booklet I received with the camera. It proved sufficient, and by following the manufacturer's instructions the mystery of movie taking cleared. The Bolex did the rest.

The hot weather ports and waters in between may make romantic viewing on the screen but Page 36 of the manual "For Perfect Pictures" warns "Certain precautions must be taken to protect both camera against heat and damp when travelling in tropical regions." I cleaned the camera after each 100 foot run, wiped the almost invisible, corrosive salt spray off the lenses and body and stowed the camera and film in a cool dry, place — with silica gel to absorb the moisture. At every port, the first mail ashore was my exposed film.

As a first-tripper, my Bolex proved a lucky shipmate; on the return leg through the Suez Canal we were on top of the stuff of which cine drama is made. Great Britain had just called a meeting of all maritime nations in London the day we made passage through the wat

Our ship, the only American vessel in conv followed by an armed jeep. Along the banks l built gun embankments, cruisers patrolled the en My Bolex was the only movie camera filming anxious days.

Sailors tend to get superstitious, and after rec an historic footnote, I wondered what would be

A week after arrival Stateside I had my answ freighter Antarctic bound for the International physical Year carrying supplies to build and equi bases to be built for the greatest scientific explo ever undertaken. I queried Paillard's technical d ment asking how long it would take to winterize return my camera. The answer was swift and to point: "Bolexes have been operated at temperatur degrees below zero."

The camera needed no mechanical pampering.

The Far East and the South Polar regions are summer and winter, worlds apart. Three months i tropics and a five month trip to the bottom of the would be like taking a camera from a smelter to a freezer.

In Panama, my first reels came back from the ran them through the viewer again and again, re those summer days in the Orient, but, more impor scanning them for errors in judgement and movi ing. The mistakes were minor — wrong exposure ning too swiftly, loading in direct light. Except fo few feet I got what I aimed for through the finde

So much for the Tropics.

From the first day inside the Antarctic Circle a climate began. Fog shrouded the waves as the rendezvoused. From there on, until the long winte began to fall, there was almost a daily change in mood. Driving winds, storms, intense glare were handicaps my Bolex faced.

Despite all the polar disadvantages, I caught crashing through pack ice, killer whales, scam penguins, cargo being unloaded, bases being est in short, a complete photographic log of my ship in the Antarctic operations.

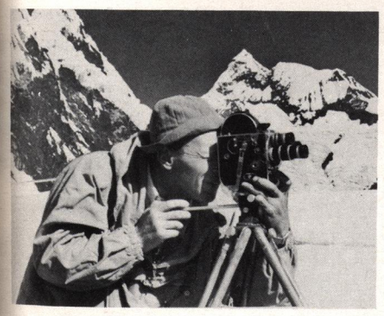
My camera had proved its salt.

Editor's Corner

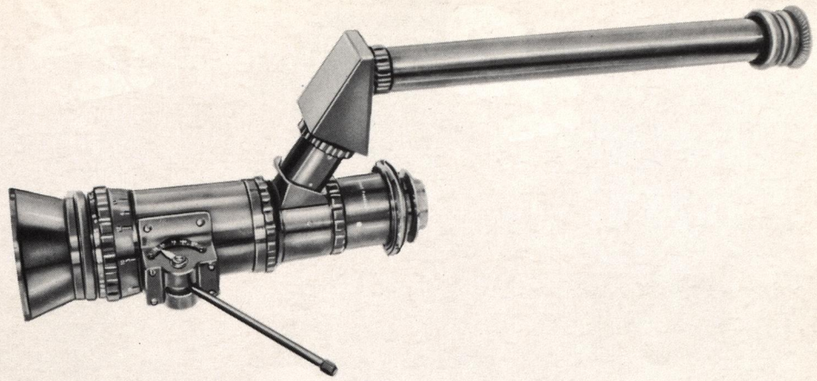
We were pleased to hear of an organization being formed by Bolex Movie Camera owners in the Baltimore, Maryland, area, who plan to get together to share ideas and interests in the making of motion pictures. Persons interested in becoming members of this club may write to the Bolex Club, 2815 Rose Avenue, Baltimore 22, Maryland.

Many interesting programs for movie makers have been arranged for the Annual Convention of the Photographic Society of America, which takes place from Wednesday, October 1st, to Saturday, October 4th, at the Bellevue-Strassord Hotel, South Broadstreet, Philadelphia.

Non-PSA-members are invited to attend. Further details are available from Ernst Wildi, 335 First St., Palisades Park, N. J.



For those of us reading this summer issue of the Bolex Reporter in typical summer weather conditions, we present this refreshing scene. Pictured is the well-known Swiss alpinist Raymond Lambert. The photograph was taken while he was filming an expedition in the Peruvian Andes.



The professional model of the Som Berthiot Pan Cinor lens system, Pan Cinor-B3 lens, designed for 35mm movie cameras, received an Academy Award in the Scientific or Technical Achievement Awards division at this year's Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences presentation.

The Pan Cinor-B3, also distributed in the United States by Paillard Incorporated, operates according to the same principles and construction as the Pan Cinor zoom lenses for 8 and 16mm movie cameras, available through Bolex Franchised Dealers.

The newest member of the Pan Cinor family is the Pan Cinor-30DV which is introduced on Page 7 of this issue of the Bolex Reporter.

Visiting from Sweden recently, Allan Gertvall, executive vice president of Victor Hasselblad AB, expressed delight with U.S. acceptance of the Swedish made 2¼" x 2¼" still camera system. He conferred with officials of Paillard Incorporated, U.S. distributors of the Hasselblad line. Left to right are Osten Wejerfelt, Hasselblad special representative in the U.S.; Mr. Gertvall; Hans Stauder, executive vice president of Paillard Incorporated, and Jerry Kovanda, sales manager.