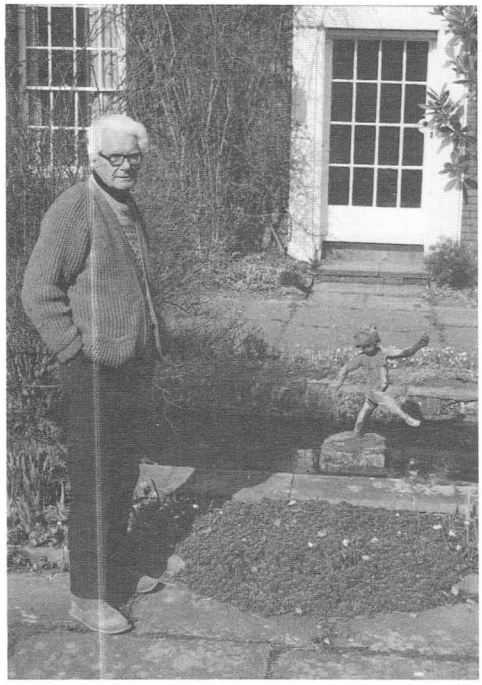
With no hope of saving the vessel, what remained to be done was to salvage the remaining records, equipment, and supplies and to post an around-the-clock guard. A comprehensive accident report was assembled, insurance claims were filed, and all property was inventoried. Although the vessel was insured, the final cost of buying a replacement suited for today's needs will be nearly twice that of the insured value of the *Beagle IV*. Finding an appropriate vessel, outfitting it to meet Galápagos needs, and transporting it to the islands will be a significant financial drain on both resources and personnel.

The *Beagle IV* arrived in Galápagos in August 1980 and served a large number of visiting researchers, Station staff, and Park personnel. Originally purchased as a utilitarian replacement for the *Beagle III*, the *Beagle IV* was faster, cheaper to operate, and better-suited for carrying personnel and research equipment than her predecessor. *Beagle IV* greatly facilitated research efforts in Galápagos, and she will be sorely missed.

Anyone wishing to contribute funds or guidance in securing a replacement vessel is encouraged to contact the President of the Charles Darwin Foundation, Craig MacFarland, Box 36, Arlee, Montana 59821, USA or the editor.

The *Beagle IV* on the coast of Santa Cruz where she went aground near Punta Nuñez on 30 August 1987 (photograph by P.R. Fritts). *Beagle IV* en la costa de Santa Cruz donde se varó cerca Punta Nuñez 30 de agosto de 1987.



Corley Smith at his home Greensted Hall in Ongar, England. Corley Smith en frente de su casa, Greensted Hall, Ongar, Inglatera.

RETIREMENT OF G.T. CORLEY SMITH AS EDITOR

By: Patricia R. Fritts and Thomas H. Fritts

The retirement of G.T. Corley Smith from the editorship of *Noticias de Galápagos* culminates his major 14 year contribution to the publication. Corley's editorship of *Noticias* began with Volume 22 published in 1974, but his contributions to the Charles Darwin Foundation began much earlier. His first association with Galápagos came in 1964 while serving as British Ambassador to Ecuador even before he became formally affiliated with the Foundation. He joined the Foundation's Executive Board after his retirement from the British Foreign Service, and by 1973, became the Board's primary administrator as Secretary General.

The first formal meeting of the Foundation that Corley attended was held at the home of Charles Darwin in England. Corley enjoys recounting the story of that first meeting. He was seated under a portrait of Thomas Huxley and several people present at that meeting commented that he bore a striking

resemblance to the painting of Huxley. With a wry smile, Corley says he has often pondered whether this resemblance to the famous evolutionist prompted his election to the Foundation Board! However, one only needs to know Corley for a short period of time to realize that the energy, style, dedication, and tenacity he evinces have been of far greater value to the Foundation than his distinguished resemblance to Huxley. Anyone not familiar with the depth of Corley's involvement with Galápagos is encouraged to consult the 1987, Volume 45 article in *Noticias* entitled "Looking Back."

Although less involved with *Noticias*, Corley still plans various activities related to Galápagos. He will continue to act as a representative of the Charles Darwin Foundation in England and to receive contributions from European supporters. He also plans to work on a history of Galápagos, and we sincerely hope that he will regularly contribute articles to *Noticias*. We wish him the best in all of his endeavors and wholeheartedly appreciate his unselfish contributions to the Foundation and to Galápagos over the years.

SANTA CRUZ FACT SHEET

Text By: Amrit Work Kendrick
Map By: Heidi M. Snell

Size.--Second largest of the Galápagos Islands, surface area of 986 km^2, nearly one third the size of Luxembourg, and nearly twice as large as Curaçao.

Elevation.--Highest point is Cerro Crocker at 864 m. Unlike some of the major islands and volcanoes in Galápagos, Santa Cruz lacks a central caldera.

Geographical and Geological Features.--This island occupies a central position in the Archipelago and from appropriate vantage points it is possible to see the islands of Santa Fe, Floreana, Pinzón, Santiago, Rábida, Isabela, Baltra, Seymour, Plaza Sur, and Plaza Norte. The oldest rocks of Santa Cruz were formed 0.98-1.03 million years before present.

Ecology.--Santa Cruz has a diverse flora with all six vegetation zones recognized in Galápagos occurring on the island. At low elevations are the Littoral, Arid, and Transition Zones. Moist winds from the south produce the *Scalesia* Zone at 200-500 m where rainfall and garúa are greatest. The *Scalesia* forests were devastated by the heavy rains of the 1982-83 El Niño, but are now recovering. Higher yet on the slopes of Santa Cruz are the slightly drier *Miconia* and Fern-Sedge Zones. The *Miconia* Zone is better developed on Santa Cruz than elsewhere in the islands. At the highest elevations, sedges and ferns are predominant because they tolerate the extremes of temperature and humidity found there. Low elevations and northern exposures that receive less moisture from the winds out of the south are driest with abundant cactuses, deciduous trees, and spiny shrubs. The fauna of Santa Cruz is rich and includes eight species of finches, a mockingbird, both vermilion and broad-billed flycatchers, yellow warblers, Galápagos hawks, two species of owls, and a variety of sea birds. The Santa Cruz tortoises are among the largest of the dome-shaped tortoises. The tortoises can be seen in their native habitats within the Tortoise Reserve and occasionally along roads in the colonized areas. Introduced predators such as pigs, dogs, and cats have created special conservation problems for tortoises, land iguanas, and dark-rumped petrels.

Human Population.--The largest concentration of Galápagos inhabitants is in Puerto Ayora, adjacent to Bahía Academy, and near the headquarters of the Galápagos National Park Service and the Charles Darwin Research Station. Several smaller villages exist in the humid climates of the agricultural zone further from the coast: Bella Vista, Santa Rosa, El Carmen, and El Cascajo. Coffee, papaya, avocados, and a variety of other fruits and vegetables are grown for local consumption. A significant cattle industry exists which depends in part on artificial insemination to avoid the importation of breeding stock which might carry diseases and parasites. Cattle are exported to other islands and to the mainland, but most of the beef and dairy products Santa Cruz produces are consumed on the island. The settlement of the island (primarily for agricultural purposes) began in the 1920s, but since the establishment of the Galápagos National Park in 1959, the principal industry has shifted to tourism and activities that support tourism.

Current Problems.--Santa Cruz is a major population center and the hub of most tourist traffic. Cargo brought by air (via Baltra airport) and by sea to Santa Cruz presents a continual danger of introducing plants and animals to the Galápagos ecosystem. Problems exist at present with the introduced fire ant which destroys native invertebrates; the smooth-billed ani which may impact native finches; and introduced plants including: *Lantana*, *Cinchona*, and *Psidium* (the guayaba), all of which are aggressive plants that have displaced native species.

Sites of Interest.--Bahía Tortuga - A 1 km beach of fine white sand reached from Puerto Ayora via an easy to navigate 5 km foot trail through a variety of Arid Zone vegetation and lava formations.

Bahía Academy - This picturesque anchorage which is home to many tourism boats was named in honor of *Academy*, the ship used by the California Academy of Sciences Expedition in 1905-06. Marine