From the Bering Sea we penetrated through open water up to the edge of the Pack. Hoping to find that we could make a straight shot across here -- (indicating) -- we found that due to a stiff northerly wind, the ice had been setting down somewhat further to the south than we had anticipated and into shallow water.

Looking back on it, we possibly could have gotten through on that route. However, on this first occasion, we wanted to find the best highway we could. We went from the vicinity due north of the Bering Strait on over to the coast of Northern Alaska to Point Barrow, exploring the lead that normally develops there during this time of year. We found that that lead was open, leading us directly in open water into a very deep sea channel, the Barrow Sea Valley, a very deep canyon that starts a very few miles off Point Barrow.

Q: How deep is it?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: It initially starts off about 300 feet deep, then working progressively deeper into the point where it's 1200 feet deep, sir.

Once in this sea valley, where we were, so to speak, in our true element, able to cruise fast and deep, we were on our way.

Q: Are you telling us you submerged at that point?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: Yes sir.

Q: Can you point that out, sir?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: I beg your pardon?

Q: Can you point that out, sir, on the map for us?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: Yes. Virtually all of this trip was made submerged, except for some work along the ice edge up in this vicinity which we did on the surface -- (indicating). But going down deep for this penetration through the sea valley was accomplished at about this point right there -- (indicating).

Q: Is that sea valley a geographic name or just your description of something?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: The sea valley is a feature which oceanographers have known about for a considerable amount of time, and it is noted on the charts.

Q: It's near Point Barrow is it?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: That's right, sir. It commences about 15 to 20 miles off Point Barrow.

Q: How wide is it?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: Quite narrow, initially. Only four to five miles wide, and quite restrictive.

Q: Which direction were you going, sir?

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