

Climbs and Expeditions

UNITED STATES

Alaska

Mount McKinley. North America's highest peak was climbed by a number of different expeditions. Most of them ascended the mountain via the West Buttress and visited only the main (south) summit. Those that reached the top successfully by this route were as follows: Michel Darbellay and Dino Piazza, members of a nine-man Swiss-Italian group, on May 28; Gilbert Blinn, Stanley Engle, Larry Heggerness, Paul Haertel, Ronald Beck, John Dalle-Molle and James Henriot on May 29; Robert Watkins, Henry Noldan, Arthur Agatsuma and Walter Vennum on June 17 (One member of this six-man group died from pulmonary edema.); Clarence Serfoss, Robert Taylor, John Lawrence and Brian Bartlett, members of Institute of Arctic Biology project, all climbed the main summit and all but Bartlett the north summit from June 23 to 30; David Troe, Bradley Snyder, Dorene and Thomas Frost, Joan and Edward Nester on June 28, and Tom Frost and Snyder accompanied John Waterman to the top on July 2; Rex Post, Thomas Cagwin, Allen Patten, Arvo Koppel, Jeb Schenk, Una Kratz and Raymond Genet on July 11; Gentaro Sakae, Yasushi Nishimaki, Hidenobu Tezuka and Takashi Nakajima, Japanese, on July 12; Reed and Penny Markley, Frank Zahar, Julius Bede and Donald Wallace on July 15. Those making ascents by other routes are given below.

Mount McKinley, Second Ascent of Western Rim of South Face. Seiwa Asanome and Kazuo Yanamoto made this climb in only three days. From the foot of the great couloir, the two climbers began their climb by rush tactics on June 26. The couloir rises for 2000 feet to the crest of the western rim at an average of 50°. After twenty pitches of ice and snow, which made their ankles very painful, they camped at 14,750 feet. On the 27th they climbed the rim on rock and snow to camp at 17,000 feet.

Note: All dates in this section refer to 1969 unless otherwise noted.

From there they could escape to the West-Buttress route, if necessary. From 14,750 feet they felt the effect of the altitude and had headaches, difficult breathing and sluggish movement. It took one hour to set up their tent. On June 28 they left unnecessary equipment in the tent and started for the summit. Half the route was along the rock ridge, until they reached the foot of the snow wall. Conquering severe headaches and fatigue with willpower, they climbed the 2500-foot wall. They felt their toes were getting frostbitten gradually. At 19,350 feet on the main ridge, they were exhausted and felt the 1000 feet to the summit very far away. Step by step they trudged up the vast, wide snowfield. They had to rest for three hours before climbing the last 600 feet. They forced their bodies with last energy, nausea and extreme fatigue at 6:45 onto the summit of North America's highest peak. (First ascent by Buckingham, Breitenbach, Corbet, Sinclair, June 19, 1959. See *A.A.J.*, 1960, 12:1, pp 1-9.)

ICHIRO YOSHIKAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club and A.A.C.*

Mount McKinley, Attempt on South Buttress. Our expedition was made up of John Link, Filip Sokol, James Sharp, Al Gunter, Francis Raley, Nels Niemi and me. We landed in early May on the Kahiltna Glacier, walked and packed loads in eight days to the col at 12,500 feet on the southeast side of the South Buttress. Then we spent two days on the ice slope trying to get up without fixed ropes before we gave it up. We descended to the Kahiltna, crossed Kahiltna Pass, went down the Peters Glacier, crossed over to Clear Creek and eventually walked out to Wonder Lake.

STEPHEN POMERANCE, *Harvard Mountaineering Club*

Mount Foraker. A Japanese expedition which climbed Mount McKinley sent two members, Gentaro Sakae and Hidenobu Tezuka, to the summit of Foraker. It is not known by which route.

Mount Foraker. The expedition of the Academic Research Team of Tokushima University was led by Takashi Watanabe. We made Base Camp on the Kahiltna Glacier on June 26. Camp I was placed at the foot of the icefall on June 28 and Camp II at 8500 on July 2. Yasuyuki Toda, Michitaka Nagai, Kenichi Yamashita and I climbed to the peak of Foraker (17,400 feet) via the northeast ridge on July 5 in a 30-hour time, which included a long rest of eight hours. Other members of the expedition were Hideo Oshima, Shoji Tomino, Yasushi Shimatomi, Keiji Miki and Susumu Nagae.

YASUHISA FUKUNAGA, *Yokushima University*

Mount Hunter, Attempt on South Face. (The author of this note was a recipient of a grant from the American Alpine Club's Boyd N. Everett Jr. Climbing Fellowship Fund. — *Editor.*) Bill St. Lawrence, another companion and I attempted the south face of Mount Hunter. We reached approximately the same point as Biven and Smythe in 1968 (*A.A.J.*, 1969, 16:2, p. 372). Our snow conditions were very similar. We had considerable danger from slough avalanches in the icefall that bars the cirque of the South Peak from the main Tokositna Glacier. The upper icefall (before one reaches the "airdrop col" at the foot of the south face) was more stable. Although forced to climb through an avalanche track in the upper icefall, we felt the main objective danger was the softening snow and ice in the lower icefall. During the 2-1/2 weeks (mid-June to early July) that we were on the mountain, the sound of falling water replaced the frozen silence. I agree with Biven and Smythe that the climb should be attempted early in the season. Warm air masses moved northward from the plain and butted against Hunter. We had low clouds or haze almost continually. Storms brought rain, not snow. St. Lawrence had talked to Biven and Smythe in Talkeetna in 1968. On their advice we came prepared to climb the rock on the right of the face above the col and had nearly 60 rock pitons for pitches of direct aid. But our hurriedly added third man prevented further climbing above the col by refusing to continue or to wait for Bill and me. And so we had to return to Base Camp. Softening snow convinced us two not to go back up.

DEAN RAU, *Harvard Mountaineering Club*

Bavarian Expedition to Brooks Range. Reiner Neuger, E. Griesl, George Gruber, G. Mändl and W. Münster flew to Peters Lake by float plane. There they made their Base Camp for their climbs in the Franklin and Romanzof Mountains of the Brooks Range. On July 12 they made the third ascent of Mount Chamberlin (9020 feet) via the west face. They then explored Carnivore Creek and its tributaries in poor weather and climbed one or two peaks. Neuger and Gruber next set out on a giant circuit, which taxed their endurance to the breaking point. They crossed from the head of Carnivore Creek into the Hulahula basin and thence into the Okpitok drainage area. Ascents of Mounts Michelson and Isto were impossible because of the nearly continuous bad weather. After a hike of hundreds of miles, they finally accepted a helicopter ride back to their Base Camp, as supplies had run low and feet were sore. In the meantime, the others in the Carnivore basin had made as their main first ascents P 7702, P 8300 and P 8000.

GRACE HOEMAN

Mount Sergeant Robinson, Chugach Range. In April, 1968 Bob Spurr and others attempted this mountain via Gravel Creek and Assassination Glacier. They failed when an icefall on the glacier proved insurmountable. In August, 1969, the Germans Georg Gruber, W. Münster and G. Mändl chose the same route. It was impossible to cross the Matanuska River on foot and they had to use the only bridge, which is below the Matanuska Glacier snout; this added miles of bushwhacking before Gravel Creek was reached. The Assassination Glacier icefalls were climbed with moderate difficulty. The summit was reached by the southeast ridge. The mountain was named for Sergeant George F. Robinson, who in 1865 saved Secretary of State William H. Seward from assassination.

GRACE HOEMAN

Mount Wickersham, Bard Peak and Others, Chugach Range. It is amazing that Mount Wickersham (7415 feet), located south of the end portion of the Matanuska Glacier, escaped a first ascent until 1969. Possibly it was because of its believed inaccessibility. Serious attempts were made this spring by H. and W. Bludworth but they were driven back by lack of time and avalanche danger. In May F. Cady, H. Bludworth and I tried the Matanuska Glacier route which Vin had recommended. We gave up 100 feet below the summit because of technical difficulties. On our retreat, we were avalanched off and lost equipment. On July 4 I went back for yet another try, solo, again on the Matanuska route. A high valley east of the mountain led me to the base of the east face. I used a short rope and two pitons for protection on the face, but this was more from a desire to get close to some fine plant specimens than from the difficulty on the face *per se.* (F6). Bard Peak (3850 feet), southwest of Whittier, has been admired by scores of people, winter and summer, but had never been climbed. It shows in most Portage Glacier postcards as a tilted pyramid. (It was mislabeled as Broad Peak in *A.A.J.*, 1969 on Plate 38.) During the winter the frozen lake permits easier access, but several attempts in February were thwarted by weather and short daylight hours. This led me to climb it in August. Cliffs along the south shore of the lake made alternate gain and loss of altitude unavoidable, but after I reached Portage Glacier the route to Bard's west face, west-northwest ridge and summit was rather clear cut. The only climbing puzzle was presented by a deep earthquake-created gash in the summit ridge, but a steep bypass solved the problem. (The epicenter of the 1964 earthquake was near Portage.) The highpoint of the Thunderbird Creek drainage, Thunderbird Peak (6575 feet) was climbed by L. Kramer and me in May. We reached the southeast ridge from a high valley opening into the upper Eklutna River valley. In

the triangle created by the confluence of the Knik and Matanuska rivers there remains much unexplored territory. In May W. Babcock and K. Courtright made the first ascent of P 6201, which lies 7-1/2 miles east of the old Palmer road. At the head of the east fork of the upper Eklutna River lies "Bounty Peak" (6810 feet), which challenged J. Samuelson, C. Pease, A. Allen, N. Lewis, G. Finger, H. Van der Laan and me to a first ascent in September. We used a circuitous route via the Eklutna and Whiteout Glaciers. The west ridge brought us to our target with only minor technical difficulties. Hurdygurdy Mountain (5965 feet) gets its name from its crank-shaped summit ridge. In November A. Allen, N. Lewis and I camped at the head of the lake in Eagle River's south fork. A directissima of Hurdygurdy's south face completed the climb.

GRACE HOEMAN

Talkeetna Mountains. In March my husband Vin and I left the Glenn Highway at Mile 123 near Tahnetta Lake. We motormushed and skijored north up Crooked Creek into South Creek, above which we made the first ascent of Table Mountain. A few weeks later we again ascended Crooked Creek, this time to Albert Creek. Turned back by deep snow on Belanger Pass, we returned to South Creek, crossed South Lake and went up to a pass that led into the Albert Creek watershed. We skied to Alfred Creek, ascended a north fork of it and made the first ascent of the highest Horn Mountain, "Big Horn" (6418 feet). This shows how far one can go in a single day with snowmobiles, but these vehicles must be used judiciously. In June C. McLaughlin and R. Spurr made the first ascent of P 5530, 1 1/4 miles north of Fern Mine. McLaughlin and W. Gehman attempted P 6693, one of the "Three Bell Spires", west of the Mint Glacier. Cloud and wet rock prevented their climbing the main peak, but they did reach the top of one of the lower spires (6550 feet), south of the highest spire (F7). A few weeks later McLaughlin soloed "Trouble Mint Spire" (6850 feet), south-east of Mint Glacier. He climbed the southwest face of this peak, one of many fine granite spires in the region. F. Cady, C. Patterson, D. Albert and K. Hammond in August made the first ascent of P 6875, which lies 2 1/2 miles north of Anthracite Ridge.

GRACE HOEMAN

Paradise Peak, Kenai Peninsula. Although my husband Vin had been attracted by Paradise Peak as early as 1961, it remained virgin until June. F. Cady, D. and H. Blutworth, D. Johnston, D. Hodaway, H. Van der Laan and I committed ourselves to the swirling waters of the Snow River. Then a ferocious alder jungle, laced with devils clubs, taxed us to the limit,

but finally we got to the glacier west of the peak. I spent the night without food or shelter 1000 feet above the others. Early in the morning, encouraged by an army of mosquitoes, I fled up the ridge — my little tormentors made even an F7 vertical step look easy — and reached the summit without delay. The others followed later that day.

GRACE HOEMAN

“Trident Peak”, Kenai. After packing up Falls Creek late the previous day, Chuck McLaughlin and I made the first ascent on July 1 of this massive, glacier-hung, gendarme-studded mountain, which lies in the Snow River-Paradise Lake area five miles east of Ptarmigan Lake. We climbed its northeast glacier and short north face to the junction of the east and south ridges, thence north along the ridge to the central and highest of the three gendarmes competing for the summit.

ROBERT SPURR, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Bona and Tressider. Our party included several from the Mount Logan Project: Tom Lyman, Jenny Cook, A.J. LaFleur and me. Coming from the East to join us were Stu and Gail Ashley, Rick Wilcox, Fred Bragdon, Jeff Black, Howard and Sue Stidham and Steve Rosenberg. We had weather problems and it was not until August 20 that we could all be flown to the Klutlan Glacier, east of Mount Bona. We spent the rest of the day looking over the routes we had previously outlined on aerial photos. We awoke next morning to a total whiteout with snow, but we started for Bona anyway, since we now had the route well in mind and could follow it even in poor visibility. About a mile out Jenny Cook's knee forced her to quit; Tom Lyman stayed back with her. The rest of the ascent to our high camp at 14,300 feet was mainly a problem of route finding through intersecting crevasse systems in the whiteout, with almost continual snowfall, which never let up for three days. On August 24 we left Camp III with light packs and headed upward, still in total whiteout. Shortly we reached a minor summit. Luckily as we stood there, the weather broke slightly, and the summits of Bona and Churchill emerged; we were atop a knob between the two, just under 15,000 feet. LaFleur, Wilcox, Bragdon, Rosenberg, Gail Ashley and I headed for the 16,420-foot summit of Bona as the weather closed in again. The rest of the ascent, the seventh, though easy, was made blind, with only fleeting moments when we could see a hundred yards or so. Stu Ashley and Sue Stidham, who had headed for Churchill from the knob, made the south summit of that peak, about 15,300 feet, and decided against going on in the bad weather and at the late hour. We

all got back to Base Camp the next afternoon in gorgeous weather. Next day we slept late before some of us snowshoed to Klutlan Col, between Mounts Bona and Tressider, an unclimbed 13,315-foot peak to the east, named by the 1951 Bona expedition. The west ridge of Tressider looked feasible and interesting. On the way to the col we had also seen a route on the northeast face, which appeared easier than the ridge. We decided on a simultaneous ascent by these two routes on the morrow. A.J. LaFleur, Rick Wilcox and I set out ahead for the west ridge, while Tom Lyman, Sue Stidham, Stu Ashley, Jenny Cook, Fred Bragdon and Steve Rosenberg would try the northeast face. When we three were directly below the face, several thousand tons of ice avalanched from its upper part and fell 3000 feet straight at us. A.J., who was first in line, ran out from the face, across the glacier. I ran back along our snowshoe track toward Rick, who was far enough back to be safe. It was a close one! We outran the blocks but the wind, choked with ice crystals, covered us with snow. Half an hour later, we were in Klutlan Col. Because of the difficult ice on the west ridge we should have to climb slowly, Rick, in single-layer boots, decided against chancing frostbite and returned to camp. A.J. and I continued up the ridge with ice between 60° and 85° and snow up to 75°. The weather remained perfect throughout the day. We reached the summit at eight P.M. The northeast-face party had already reached the top; we descended by their fine route.

JOSEPH C. LABELLE

Mount Fairweather, Attempt. The Chukyo (another name for Nagoya) Alpine Club sent Susumu Kosaka, leader, Yoshikazu Sakai, Kunio Kanno, Shuji Fukamizu and Kenji Nishi to Alaska. They were flown to Lituya Bay from Juneau on June 6. Two of the party continued flying to make an aerial reconnaissance and an airdrop. A preliminary camp was set up that day on the coast of the Pacific, another the next day at Cape Fairweather and a third at the end of the moraine on June 8. On June 9 they got through the lower crevassed area in three hours and met with the demon Desolation Valley. The first icefall, which embarrassed the Canadian party in 1958, appeared and they camped at the end of the rock ridge on the south side. On the 10th Base Camp was established at the northern end of a ridge that descends from "Mount Sabine". They collected the airdrop there. On the 13th they found the second icefall impossible and so they climbed along the end of the north ridge. They found the Canadian Base Camp and established their Camp I. On June 14 they gave up the south ridge, because the lowest end was a nest of avalanches. They determined to follow the Canadian route. (See *A.A.J.*, 1959, 11:2, pp. 297-8.) After

climbing séracs, bergschrunds and rock slabs on the 16th, it began to rain at 7000 feet and they pitched Camp II. Kanno, Sakai and Fukamizu left on June 18 on a summit attempt, which would involve several bivouacs. On the afternoon of the 20th they descended into the col between the southeast shoulder and the main peak. For a while gentle climbing continued but suddenly at 14,300 feet a perpendicular ice wall appeared and they tried to turn it on the left. This wall was covered by thumb-sized ice crystals. When a climber broke out of his steps, they gave up and returned to the col where they passed the night, sleepless, in extreme cold. With one more bivouac they returned in bad weather to Camp II on June 22. From Base Camp on June 27 Fukamizu and Nishi started for the west peak of "Mount Sabine". They reached in two hours the bottom of a couloir, which extended to the west ridge. From 3500 to 6000 feet they climbed pleasant hard snow. From there they climbed the rotten-rock ridge to bivouac at 8500 feet. The next morning they climbed both on the north and south sides of the ridge to reach the west peak at 8:05. It was 9800 feet by their altimeter.

ICHIRO YOSHIKAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club and A.A.C.*

Mount Pullen (Boundary Peak 104), Meade Glacier, British Columbia-Alaskan Frontier. After being landed by plane on a tributary of the Meade Glacier near the international boundary, our party of six moved 2½ miles southwest to establish Base Camp two miles east of Mount Pullen. We had set our hearts on this mountain chiefly because it was unclimbed in the string of climbed peaks: Boundary Peaks 101, 102 (Poletica), 103, and 105 (Canning). We believe that Pullen (6816 feet) has been named for "Ma" Pullen of Skagway, of gold-rush fame. On May 24 our whole party, Bob Mooers, Ted Lewis, Joe Logan, Mike Lorton, Tom Harman and I, made its first ascent, climbing it from the southeast side. On May 26 from Base Camp Mooers, Logan, Harman and I climbed P 6100, which lies 5 miles southeast of Pullen and 2½ miles northeast of Boundary Peak 103. Back at the Landing Strip Camp Logan, Lorton and I on May 28 climbed P6200, 5 miles east of Pullen. The next day, May 29, Mooers, Lorton, Logan, Lewis and I climbed P6600, 5½ miles northeast of Pullen, 5 miles east of Canning. Though not difficult, all were first ascents. We were on the glacier 12 days.

WILFRED R. BENDY, *Appalachian Mountain Club*

Juneau Icefield. The Juneau Icefield Research Program carried out its 24th year of field research in alpine and arctic geology in the Northern

Boundary Range. In late July Dr. Wayne M. Smith, Harte Bressler, Louis Miller and John Schutt made the second ascent of Mount Bressler (c. 8000 feet). The first ascent of Gorgon Spire (c. 7200 feet), the dominant peak at the head of the unnamed southeast tributary to the Gilkey Glacier, was made by Dr. Alfred Pichak, William Lokey and Andy Miller.

MAYNARD M. MILLER

Washington – Cascade Mountains

Mount Rainier, Willis Wall, Winter Ascent. After years of trying, the north face of Mount Rainier has finally been climbed in the winter. In mid-February, 1970 Jim Wickwire and I made the third ascent of the 4000-foot Willis Wall via the newest and hardest route on the mountain. We are calling it the “Brumal Buttress”. The climb took five days.

ALEX BERTULIS

Middle Chief, Main South Peak. Located south of Dutch Miller Gap between Summit Chief and Little Big Chief, the true summit of this peak is about 2 feet higher and 75 feet south of the normally accepted summit. It is virtually unattainable except by the connecting ridge. On August 13 Ron Miller, Frank Dallman and I made the exposed traverse using two slings and four nuts.

KENN CARPENTER

The Boxtop, East Face. The east face of this interesting tower in the Cashmere Crags was first climbed on July 6 by Tom Oas and me. It is a two-hour, strenuous route on superb rock. One first scrambles to the top of the Mount Temple ridge east of the peak from either the north or the south via easy ledges. There, from the right-hand base of the face, layback and jam a steep crack and block system leading up and left 50 feet to a wide mantle shelf, and climb over an awkward bulge above a sharp-edged block at the left-hand edge of the shelf. An easy jam-crack above leads 25 feet to a large platform. Use a shoulder-stand (may go free, but difficult to protect and scary) to enter the right-hand of two overhanging jam-cracks at the inside corner of the platform, then stem a wide chimney for 30 feet to the summit. A horn at the west end of the summit can be used for a 150-ft. rappel to the bottom of the north face. About five angles up to 1½” plus several nuts will be useful. After the climb, an additional

entertainment option is to leave the area by trailless Rat Creek; allow an extra 7 hours. NCCS II, F8.

MIKE HEATH

Vesper Peak, North Face. Although this face has some of the finest granite in Washington, it will never light anyone's fire. Broken by a large ledge system two-thirds of the way up, this 1200-foot face lacks any "classic" lines. Between the Vesper Glacier below and this ledge are many equally good routes waiting to be done. Above the ledge are two slabs, the east one rising at an angle of 65° or more to the summit, and a lower-angle one to the west. Here the future will be determined by ethics, since cracks are rare. On August 3, Mike Heath, B. J. Heath, Tom Oas and I left the glacier between Vesper and Big Four Mountain near the lowest point of the face and climbed up for four leads (F5 to F8). We scrambled several hundred feet and belayed one lead (F6) to the scrub tree at the lower right-hand corner of the high-angle slab. Next we climbed a small overhang (F4) and up and right along a heather ledge to its end. We ascended up and right to the edge of the slab on broken blocks (F7). The next two leads are the crux of the climb. The first goes up with poor protection to a belay bolt (F7). The next lead is about 70 feet with weak protection (F8) and generally follows the west edge of the slab to the summit. Jim Langdon, who we later discovered had traversed out onto this upper slab in 1968, climbed further to the left and encountered similar problems on these last two leads. Our approach to the peak was via the Sunshine Mine trail and over Headlee Pass, and then over the north ridge of Vesper to the glacier. Ascent from the glacier took 6 hours and required about 20 pitons and several nuts. NCCS II or III, F8.

BILL SUMNER, *unaffiliated*

Witch Doctor Wall. Aerial photography has illuminated the few remaining "secrets" of the North Cascades, but a newly cut logging road south of Darrington led to the 'discovery' of a marvelous 75° granite wall, which rises 1100-feet. It can be seen from the summit of Jumbo. The wall forms the east flank of a northwest spur of Helena Peak, the spur peak simply marked 4235 on the topographic map. It is as well hidden as a face can be, for flanking summits and crooked valley patterns keep it well out of view. Interestingly enough, the low summit point of this spur had likely never been reached before 1969, and is quite possibly the most difficult 4000-foot summit in the state; we are not certain what the easiest route to its top would be, but nothing simple has been apparent to date.

An exploration in the fall of 1968 led to the discovery of a simple route to the base, as well as the seemingly classic route near the center of the wall. Weather was disagreeable, and after doing two pitches we decided dry rock was essential. David Wagner, Thom Nephew, and I made the climb on July 17 and 18. We repeated the "running leap", downward from a dead-end ledge to a groove. From there on, the route nearly alternates pitches: an aid pitch followed by a free one. The discovery of a solitary, very thin face crack up what looked like a certain blank wall allowed us to keep the bolt bag in the rucksack for the entire climb. Loose blocks on the fifth pitch almost caused a "let's go down" vote, but fortunately the rock above suddenly improved. A vertical wall festooned with cedars required some interesting techniques with tie-off loops; somehow, the growth seemed more permanent than the blocks. An entire pitch of exposed nailing was followed by the alternating free pitch; this one included another "leap", but this time from tree to tree. Above here the rock became more massive with very little growth. Jam-cracks, friction, and confident nailing concluded the difficulties. We scrambled south to the point of 4235, and there encountered mild panic attempting to traverse the narrow teeth leading toward Helena. Racing a rapidly descending sun, we gave up on that and made a series of fast rappels down the western slabs. NCCS V, F7, A3.

FRED BECKEY

Liberty Mountain, North Ridge. For years we had looked at this steep ridge from a distance, always fearing the horrible brush fight that separated it from the distant access roads. On June 1 Ron Miller and I made the first ascent of the ridge by working our way up from the logging roads on the north side of Green Mountain; spur roads now reach the headwaters of Canyon Creek. We left them where the Windy Pass drainage enters Canyon Creek. The expected brush was there, almost all the way to Windy Pass. From our high camp at the pass we headed south on the divide and soon reached the mountain. The north ridge starts immediately up from the divide crest. The first 200 feet is Class-IV heather, brush, mixed rock, and trees, and then a level 20-foot rock bench on the ridge crest affords an excellent place to observe and plan the remainder. The next lead is 100 feet of class V rotten rock, 20 feet of which is absolutely vertical. The lead from here is 100 feet of Class IV from a worthless belay and with 500 feet of exposure below. The North Peak is soon easily reached, and we found no cairn present anywhere. We continued the ridge to the main summit on Class-IV rock, again quite rotten, and about 300

feet away. Descent was back to the North Peak and then down by the northwest ridge and a traverse back to Windy Pass.

KENN CARPENTER

Devil's Peak, new routes. A popular spring climb, this peak lies at the headwaters of Coal Creek east of Silverton. In 1962 the *North Face* was climbed by Al Clairmont and Ray Pruiett via a large 100-foot chimney and steep moss-covered friable rock which is unsuitable for pitons. The 300-foot direct *East Face* was climbed in 1963 by Dick Nelson, Mike Killien, and Dallas Kloke. Five pitons were required for protection on the four leads of Class IV-V rock.

Buckeye Mountain. This small peak lies on the south-southeast ridge from Whitehorse Mountain, about a half mile distant. Rich Carlstad and I made its first ascent on August 9, as a prelude to our fifth ascent of Mount Bullon the following day. From Darrington, we used the Squire Creek approach, reaching a high camp above timber line about a mile south of the peak, and a quarter of a mile below the 5200-foot notch on the ridge crest that gives access to the Bullon region. From camp we traversed north past the 1956 jet crash, keeping on the east slopes of the divide, and climbed to the peak's east ridge, gaining the ridge about 100 feet from the top via a short Class-IV chimney. This is a distinctive pinnacle when viewed from Whitehorse, Bullon, and Jumbo.

KENN CARPENTER

"The Bat", "The Cocyx", "Perdition Peak". These previously unnamed and unclimbed peaks on the Newhalem-Marble Creek and McAllister-Marble Creek divides were topped by Phil Dahl and me in August 1967. From the end of the overgrown logging road up Newhalem Creek we first climbed southeasterly to Stout Lake, then crossed south over a ridge to what we call Purgatory Pond about one mile away. Angling southwest we climbed the east ridge (Class III) of a low but impressive looking double-summited peak (6475 feet and 6417 feet) which we named "The Bat" for its distinctive shape. On the McAllister-Marble Creek divide we climbed the 7280-foot tail-end peak and dubbed it "The Cocyx"; ascent was via the north ridge. About a mile and a half southeast of "The Cocyx" is the highest peak in this group, 7675-foot "Perdition Peak", which we ascended via the exposed and serrated Class-IV west ridge.

Unfortunately Phil had a leg cramp on the arête and was unable to reach the final summit.

JOHN ROPER, *North Cascades Peak Baggers*

Ragged Ridge. Contrary to what the *Climber's Guide* might indicate, Ragged Ridge is not just a pile of loose rocks. My wife Chris and I enjoyed a wet trip here in August, 1968, camping in the plush Fisher Creek Basin meadows after an 18-mile trek from Diablo Lake. The 8795-foot high point on the ridge was first climbed in 1966 by the Fireys and Meulemans, who named it "Panther Peak". Ours was a new route and second ascent via a winding couloir on the west ridge. A half-mile west we climbed the second highest point (8680 feet) via its east ridge. A half-mile and a mile east of "Panther Peak" we made the first ascents of 7985 and 8003-foot peaks. We also made the first ascent of a 7945-foot peak, three quarters of a mile north of Mount Arriva, which we felt resembled strikingly Johannesburg near Cascade Pass. We ascended Fisher Creek Basin, angling back to the west after bypassing face cliffs, to a 7200-foot col on the main ridge a half-mile southeast of the summit. Then we followed Class-III rock on the south side to the summit.

JOHN ROPER, *North Cascades Peak Baggers*

Inspiration Peak, South Face. This impressive 1000-foot face in the Southern Picket Range was climbed for the first time on June 18 by Bill Sumner and me. Barraged by my admonitions that we were about to waste a good day on a bad climb, Bill pulled his hat over his ears and started up the lower left corner of the face where a rock buttress meets the glacier. One F7 lead followed by several hundred feet of scrambling let us reach a diagonal ramp system that from below appears as just a crack cutting across the center of the south face. We followed this for three leads to where the ramp branches into an upper and lower system. About 50 feet beyond the fork, the great jagged gash that is plainly visible from the east side of Terror Basin, meets the upper ramp and ascends the vertical face for 400 feet to the skyline just west of the summit. After some simple debate over whether the safer-appearing but increasingly more unpleasant ramp was esthetic or not, we entered the gash by climbing past its start along the ramp for 40 feet, and doubling back up and around an F6 corner. Three leads of inside face climbing and chimneying (F8 maximum) did not end in the trap I had predicted, but brought us out under a chockstone just below the easy summit pitch. We used about 20 pitons

and nuts; the climb and return to camp took 12 hours. The combination of excellent rock, continuous exposure, and challenging but never severe climbing should make this route a classic in this increasingly popular alpine area. NCCS III, F8.

MIKE HEATH

"Little Mac Spire". On June 19, naively contemplating a one-day east-west traverse of all the McMillan Spires, Bill Sumner and I made the first ascent of this unnamed pinnacle immediately east of East McMillan Spire in the Southern Pickets, via a "spaghetti" route on its 500-foot south face. We climbed broken rock and ledges from the glacier at the bottom of the face to the steep central section. A large heather and rock ledge was followed left for about 100 feet, and then the route went up steep cracks and projections to a belay on the top of a large pedestal. A short, thin traverse to the right and a vertical crack led to a belay where the angle eased temporarily. A traverse across steep, slabby rock brought us to a good ledge on the upper face 200 feet below the summit. With F8 climbing over steep and somewhat loose rock, followed by a short lead around a block and up a narrow chimney, we reached the top. We rappelled into the notch west of the summit and then climbed the upper 400 feet of the east face of East McMillan Spire to allow a descent by the steep couloir between East and West McMillan Spires. About 20 pitons and nuts were needed, with 6 hours required for the ascent and another 4 hours for the rather complicated descent route. NCCS III, F8.

MIKE HEATH

California-Sierra Nevada

Mount Powell, East Face. Mount Powell (13,360 feet) raises its turret-like summit from the crest of the Sierra near Bishop. Unlike most Sierra peaks, Mount Powell is composed of slabby monolithic granite, more like that of Yosemite than the usual Sierra "pile of bricks". Early one morning in June, Fred Beckey, Dan McHale, and I crossed the glacier from our camp to the base of Powell's east face. Soon we were swinging leads up the sweeping cracks formed by the intersection of huge monolithic blocks on the face. An ice-filled squeeze chimney was avoided by climbing an overhanging direct-aid crack. Pitch after pitch of steep clean face climbing put us on the summit in the late afternoon. NCCS III or IV, F7, A2.

GALEN ROWELL

Castle Rock Spire, West Face. Fred Beckey, Mort Hempel, Ben Borson, and I feared the rugged nine-hour approach to Castle Rock Spire deserved a higher rating than the beautiful plumb-like crack system we had spotted from the roadhead. Our fears were unfounded. Closer inspection revealed that the cracks started a full 250 feet above the ground. After seven hours of bolting, penduluming, and nailing overhangs we finally set up a belay in slings from a bolt a scant 100 feet up the wall. On the next pitch I was confronted by an overhang of downward hanging rotten flakes. A piton under a flake, a tied-off loose chockstone, a bolt placed in a one-inch hole drilled completely through one of the flakes, and a shaky piton got me past the crux and into the crack system. My lack of seniority gave me the next lead, which began in a nice easy crack, but soon led to an overhanging, rotten, crackless manzanita field. The field was negotiated by testing the brittle bushes and tying them off for direct aid. I tried to shut out the recurring mental image of a climber hanging in space, spinning in circles after a fall, with bunches of silly bushes tied to the rope at regular intervals above him. As the sun set I reached the top of the manzanita overhang and belayed Fred up. We were only a few hundred feet off the ground, so we rappelled and got a good night's sleep. Fred and I prussiked back up the next morning. We found the upper wall to be made up of clean hard rock with continuous cracks all the way to the summit. The first pitch of the day overhung in one spot and widened out into a jam-crack for about twenty feet. A ledge at the end of the jam was welcomed with mixed emotion since its very presence on the otherwise vertical wall was made possible by a rather mean-looking overhang above it. The overhang was split by a single two-inch crack with rough edges. As I attempted to do the crack free, Fred nervously and repeatedly voiced the merits of aid climbing in situations like mine. After a brief rest on a piton, I finished the crack in good alpine but rather poor Yosemite style. The final pitch was a serene finish. After nailing a short overhang, we found a single crack splitting the smooth 70° headwall leading to the summit. We dispensed with pitons and threaded the crack with jam nuts for its entire length. For three days the walls of the canyon and the spire had hidden the view of the Sierra. We were rewarded with an exquisite view of the peaks of the Great Western Divide as we mantled onto the summit ridge. By evening we had rappelled, packed up, hiked out, and blended into the faceless crowd and the never ending procession of tourists. NCCS IV, F9, A4.

GALEN ROWELL

Mount Morrison, North Buttress Direct. On January 5, Les Wilson,

George Bloom, Ray Jewell, and I completed the first winter ascent of the direct north buttress on Mount Morrison. The first day's climbing, mostly F7, was the most challenging. The holds were small, the cracks few, the rock rotten, and the rockfall frequent. Hardhats are recommended. Soft iron pitons seemed to secure better in the brittle rock than the chromemolly pitons. Nightfall the first day found us on top of the crux of the climb, the headwall, a 60-foot overhanging wall. The lead ropes were used by Les Wilson to lead this A3 pitch up the two brittle cracks. We spent the night in belay seats, slings, and tied to small steps. The second day, above the wall we climbed toward the obvious rusty chimney. After ascending the chimney, we rappelled down the other side into a couloir, climbed up to the ridge and along the ridge to the summit. Cold clear weather was enjoyed on the two-day climb. NCCS IV, F7, A3.

TED HAMM, JR., *Unaffiliated*

Stonehouse Pinnacle, Stonehouse Peak, Trinity Alps. During the late spring, Frank Yager, Bill Griffin, and I hiked seven miles up to Lower Canyon Creek Lake in the Trinity Alps to climb a 1000-foot pinnacle on Stonehouse Peak. Our route followed the most prominent dihedral for eight pitches of mixed climbing and required a bivouac. We found the granite almost as good as Yosemite's and we recommend the Trinity Alps for enjoyable rock climbing. NCCS III, F7, A2.

BRUCE PRICE, *Unaffiliated*

"White Elephant", Southwest Face, Joshua Tree National Monument. With some probing we found a long face, almost four pitches, in a large formation east of the main campground, which we dubbed the "White Elephant". The ascent was made on February 7 by Brian Gochoel and me. The entire ascent was free and on good rock with a maximum of F8 on the last pitch to the summit.

FRED BECKEY

California-Yosemite

The Prow, Washington Column. Call me Glen Denny. In June, I was near Dinner Ledge on the Washington Column. All day I had been watching Robbins and Mike Covington chipping away at Royal's latest pipe-dream: a new route up the smooth face between the south and east faces of the column. They had started the previous afternoon, climbing 300 feet to reach a ledge for the night. Someone had placed a bomb in

Cuv's mind and after he had placed 11 bolts late the second day, it went off, blowing to the winds any ambitions to whittle away at the slowly yielding wall. So Mike came down, and I, being handy, went up. We slept on the same 300-foot ledge and during the next three days swung leads up the center of the elegant fin. The wall is narrow, only 200 feet across. And it's *thin*, too. Expanding flakes, rarp cracks — that sort of thing. The smoothest wall, says Robbins, that he's ever been on. Still, we used only 38 bolts. 1300 feet. A fine, interesting, *different* route. It starts at the rope-up place for Dinner Ledge, goes up an easy dihedral on the right, up a creased face on the right, up a thin corner, left around an overhang (loose here), and up to a good ledge via a terrifying sky-hook move (Robbins was scared); then follow bolts and cracks for four pitches to the top of a strange dihedral (Strange Dihedral); a zig right, a zag left, up to Tapir Terrace, then into the big corner leading to the summit, where after two pitches it zags left to a long platform and up the crack above to the rotten top. For a better way: at the long platform, try dipping around the corner to a chimney behind a 300-foot flake. This may provide an avenue through the summit crud. NCCS VI, F7, A4.

ROYAL ROBBINS

It is also regretted that *Tuolumne* was misspelled throughout the *A.A.J.*, 1969.

Sentinel Rock, North Face. On July 5 and 6, Chuck Pratt and I established the seventh, though probably not the last, route on the narrow, vertically fractured north face of Sentinel Rock. We began in a jam-crack (about halfway between the beginnings of the Frost-Robbins and Herbert-Chouinard routes) which ended beneath some blocky overhangs. An aid pitch led around these on the right to two parallel vertical cracks. Three pitches of easy, enjoyable aid up the right-hand crack brought us to more dubious climbing. Hooks, an occasional free move, and more nailing brought us up and slightly right. Then we climbed intricate aid upward, tension-traversed left, and gained a new crack system just at nightfall. After stringing hammocks from bolts which were too close together, we both spent an uncomfortable night though we had plenty to eat and drink. The next morning we climbed two pitches up the "crack system" which was in reality a shallow groove, often dirt-filled with little or no real crack. We used rurps and bongs primarily in that section. When the grooves ended, three bolts and a liberal number of hooks, rurps, and knifeblades,

interspersed with more normal pins, brought us over a blankish, overhanging section and up to cracks which led to the summit which we reached at dusk. NCCS V, F7, A4. UIAA V+, A4.

KENNETH BOCHE

Commissioner Buttress. Ranger Rock, or Manure Pile Buttress as it is more commonly known, is frequented for its fine low-angle face climbs such as After Six and Nutcracker Sweet. In March, Joe Faint and I climbed a steep buttress about 500 feet to the right of Nutcracker Sweet, almost entirely in jam-cracks and chimneys. The first pitch follows an easy chimney to the bottom of a short but difficult overhang (F9). Above, a longer but easier section (F8) leads to the base of a series of flakes which are followed (F6) to the base of twin cracks in the back of a wide chimney. This exhilarating pitch is continuous F7 on clean rock broken only by the two cracks. From the top of the buttress, two pitches of easier climbing lead to the top of the rock. NCCS III, F9.

GALEN ROWELL

North Peak, North Face. Although a route existed up a gully on the north side of the 12,242-foot peak, Barry Hagen and I were quite surprised to find that the steep 800-foot north face proper was untouched. In July we began our route from the north glacier, almost directly beneath the summit. The first three pitches were rather sustained fifth class, tapering to easier fifth and fourth class on the low-angle upper face. NCCS III, F8.

GALEN ROWELL

Mount Conness, North Ridge. The north ridge of Mount Conness (12,590 feet) is a mile long cleaver dropping vertically on the east to the Conness Glacier and falling away at 70° for thousands of feet on the west. Barry Hagen and I apparently completed a new route in July when we found no record in either the summit register or the climbing guides. The climbing varies from walking on a level crest to exposed small-hold face climbing on the summit ridge. The granite is among the firmest in the Sierra, making the ascent both safe and pleasurable. NCCS II, F6.

GALEN ROWELL

East Tooth, East Face. The Three Teeth of Sawtooth Ridge offer an impressive view from the west, but from the east they are even sheerer and less recognizable. The east faces of the Middle Tooth and East Tooth merge into one imposing 700-foot wall. In June, Fred Beckey, Jim Jones, and I made the first ascent of this face in a half day. The climbing is all

fifth class, moderately sustained, and very enjoyable in the alpine surroundings. The route is in the center of the face up an obvious crack system that works left. NCCS III, F7.

GALEN ROWELL

West Quarter Dome, North Face. The Quarter Domes have two summits. Chouinard and Frost did an excellent route on the higher of these in 1962. The remaining face was climbed by Dave Goettel and me last fall. We followed a prominent left-facing flake system leading directly to the summit. The climb is ten pitches long, evenly divided between free and aid on clean low-angle granite. There are no good ledges, but a fine campsite at the base allows the climb to be done in one day. No bongs are necessary. NCCS IV, F8, A3.

PHILIP KOCH, *Unaffiliated*

Wapama Rock, South Face, Hetch Hetchy Valley. Hetch Hetchy Valley lies a scant 15 air miles from Yosemite Valley, still within the confines of the park, but until April, Hetch Hetchy had never heard the blow of a piton hammer. Both climbers and hikers have scorned it because it is inundated by a reservoir constructed by the city of San Francisco some fifty years ago. I had heard legends of half submerged walls rising out of the water, accessible only by boat. Boats are not allowed on the reservoir and swimming is difficult when carrying pounds of hardware. John Muir's 19th-century description enchanted me: "The correspondence between Hetch Hetchy walls . . . and those of Yosemite . . . has excited every observer. . . there is a counterpart of El Capitan that rises sheer and plain to a height of 1800 feet." (*The Yosemite*, pages 193-5). Joe Faint and I visited Hetch Hetchy and what we found exceeded our expectations. Muir's "El Capitan" was there, rising not out of the water but from a level rock bench about 100 yards wide, which continued from the base of the cliff almost all the way to the dam. At dawn on April 5 we shouldered packs and headed along the glacier-polished granite bench for the wall, prepared for two bivouacs if necessary. Soon we were roping up and climbing a fourth-class section to the base of the smooth face. Free climbing gave way to easy aid as I led a pitch ending on a fine ledge. While waiting for Joe to clean the pitch on Jūmars, I examined the wall above. We had grave doubts about one blank-looking section near the top and from observation earlier in the year, much of the upper wall stayed dry in a rain storm. I yelled down to Joe, "Where's the bolt kit? In the day pack or in the hauling bag?" Joe shouted back, "I didn't pack it. I thought you did." I hadn't! We discussed the merits of going down but decided not to

become another statistic on Chuck Pratt's ignoble list of reasons why climbers back off walls. Joe led a mixed pitch up to a ledge at the base of a grim jam-crack, where he smiled wryly, knowing the problem was mine. As it turned out, a small crack on the outside wall afforded protection most of the way, but the upper part was still F9 in difficulty. Later in the day I watched Joe go over a small overhang toward a large alcove, apparently the only bivouac site. We had no hammocks and the alcove proved to be a steep ramp between two walls, not a ledge. It was after sunset when I hurried, cleaning the pitch, up to Joe and led frantically on above. A worn photograph in my back pocket seemed to show a faint traverse line around a corner to my left. Joe lowered me and I pendulumed 30 feet to the left. Peering around the corner, I saw a ledge only five feet higher. Soon I was there and Joe was prusiking in the near darkness. In the pre-dawn glow I felt I was above Yosemite. Then I had a realization. Peering downward I saw no roads, gas stations, buildings or campfire smoke. I heard no motors, shouts or horns. There lay a dark pool of water, rippling quietly. This was Hetch Hetchy, which had been "ruined", while Yosemite had been "saved". The yellow glow of the morning light crept down the walls and formed rainbows in the spray of Wapama Falls. I led up from the ledge, nailing a single crack up the slightly overhanging wall. Joe climbed a fifth-class section which ended on a 100-foot-long ledge. The final headwall bulged ominously overhead. From the end of the ledge I began climbing free up a difficult overhang, surmounting it only to find hard aid climbing above. Wishing for a bolt, I made several free moves above a row of mediocre pitons all driven behind the same flake. Another circuitous aid pitch brought us to the top of a small buttress, isolated in the center of the blank section. Above, a small bottoming crack wormed up the wall out of sight. I gained 30 feet on tied-off pins before I lost half the gain in a flash; a sawed-off angle piton in a bottoming hole held. This was a fine place for another pendulum. After several tries I reached a crack far to my left. Nailing this up an overhanging corner, I finally reached a ledge at the base of a crack system leading unbroken to the summit. Several classic jams and laybacks put us on the summit just before the end of the second day. Hetch Hetchy proved to be a pleasant and surprisingly isolated place to climb. It was spoiled only by the discouraging realization that an area "ruined for posterity" 50 years ago seems relatively remote and untrodden in the context of wilderness today. NCCS V, F9, A4.

GALEN ROWELL

Utah

"Mystery Towers" and The Hindu. These "Mystery Towers", hidden in a wild maze of red sandstone, are 3/4 mile east of the Fisher Towers, 20

miles northeast of Moab. George Hurley had seen one of them from the summit of the Titan. George and I returned to the "Mystery Towers" in April and climbed the most symmetrical of the three, which we named the "Doric Column". Layton Kor and party had attempted to climb the 300-foot fluted tower but had been turned back by blankness after gaining 100 feet in two leads. They had followed incipient cracks on the east face that led to a vertical dirt-filled chimney. We followed those two short, difficult leads to the rappel bolts at the base of the crackless flute. Our third lead (55 feet) was on virgin rock; we used bat hooks, then a bolt, and so on. Occasionally we tied off a fold of the mud curtain that coated the sides of the rotten chimney. The fourth lead (100 feet) was fantastic; we found a crack! And there were even some free moves scattered here and there. This long lead got us out of the mud and onto the solid rock cap. Once on better rock, we had 50 feet of free climbing to the summit. The ascent took a day and a half. NCCS IV, F7, A4.

In October I returned to the "Mystery Towers" with Don Briggs. Our objective was the Citadel: the most imposing of the three towers. On our May reconnaissance of that splendid 400-foot spire we had climbed 120 feet up a system of incipient cracks on the southeast face. On that probe the use of knifeblades forced along quartz veins, bat hooks, and pitons driven tent-stake-style into the dirt let us limit our bolt placements to three. We knew we could climb the tower without resorting to bolt ladders. The first pitch starts 35 feet north of the southeast corner. Climb up and right to a small overhang. Nail over the overhang to a dirt ramp and traverse left to a belay bolt. Then climb up and right into a vertical flute, using pins in dirt holes. Use bat hooks, three bolts and an occasional piton to ascend 70 feet to bolts for a hanging belay. Follow a bad crack up and left to two bolts at the corner. Climb up and left, then up and right on bat hooks, bolts, etc. to a stance at the Dragon's Head, a large sandstone gargoyle. Shiny along the Dragon's Tail to the southeast arête and climb 90 feet up this terribly exposed and narrow vertical edge via bat hooks, shaky pins and bolts to a mantle onto the dirt-caked, one-foot-wide horizontal stance. From there climb up a dirt-filled crack and bat hook up and right to the wonderfully solid capstone and ten feet of splendid free climbing to the summit. We spent the better part of four days pushing to the summit of this beautifully sculptured, rotten spire. NCCS V, F7, A4.

The Hindu, a slender 250-foot spike of good red sandstone, became a "must" climb when Don Briggs and I first caught sight of it in March on our approach to the "Mystery Towers" via the Onion Creek road. It had first been climbed by Harvey Carter and Steve Miller by its south face, but it had a fine crack system on its virgin north side. In April, on our second

trip to the towers, we stopped to try that north face. From the south shoulder we traversed to the northwest corner along a narrow ledge. From the corner we climbed up and left, mixed free and aid climbing, on fairly good rock for three exciting pitches. At the end of the third pitch our route joined the line of the first ascent at a stance on the northwest corner. The final lead followed a difficult crack to the summit. NCCS III, F8, A2.

WILLIAM FORREST, *Unaffiliated*

Arizona

Christianity Tower, Church Towers. The Church Towers are a group of four striking red-sandstone monoliths south of Sedona in the Oak Creek Canyon area. The largest and highest had not been scaled when Joe Brown, Dan McHale and I arrived on April 5. The interesting and exposed climb was a mixture of direct-aid and free climbing (including an unprotectable section above a cactus plant). A minimum of bolts was placed on a blank section. The four leads lay east of the south corner. NCCS II, F7, A2.

FRED BECKEY

New Mexico

Shiprock, East Face, Secret Passage Route. In September Harvey T. Carter and I climbed a new route on the east face of Shiprock beginning at an improbable, thin crack about 200 feet south of Honeycomb Gully. We ascended two steep pitches to the "Captain's Quarters", a spacious ledge at the foot of the Secret Passage chimney system. The next four pitches followed chimneys that actually led through the wall, which enabled us to avoid a horrible overhanging arch. From above the chimneys we climbed, mostly free, four leads up steep but enjoyable gullies to our second bivouac ledge at the back of a down-sloping ramp. Then two pitches, mostly up and right on moderate terrain, led to a vertical 150-foot crack. We nailed this to a stance and then traversed south along the easy ridge to a down-sloping ramp that led to the summit bowl. We scrambled to a bivouac cave at the base of the Horn. We nailed the first vertical crack to the right of the cave to the ramp above the Horn, scrambled up and right to a ledge on the northeast corner of the summit block and traversed right to the base of a short red dihedral, which we climbed free into the summit block. NCCS VI, F8, A3.

WILLIAM FORREST, *Unaffiliated*

Idaho

Thompson Peak, Northeast Face, Sawtooths. On September 3, 1968 John Kahm and I climbed a new route on Thompson's northeast face. The face is split by a large couloir. After ascending the short snowfield below, we began the climb on the right side of the couloir. Several leads (UIAA IV to IV+) led us into a large rotten chimney with little piton protection. From an alcove halfway up the chimney, we turned right and followed a crack system. Moderate to difficult fifth class led us to the crest of the north ridge, which we followed to the summit.

TED GATHE, *Claremont Outing Club*

Montana

Lone Mountain. On December 12, Jerry Kanzler, Ray Martin, Clare Pogreba, Peter Lev and I climbed the north face of Lone Mountain, a graceful peak near Bozeman, which stands aloof like an Oregon volcano. The main weakness in the 1100-foot face of steep rotten rock is a dog-leg couloir which leads to a point 300 feet below the summit on the northwest ridge. At the knee a smaller couloir continues directly toward the summit but ends in a rotten headwall. Luckily the couloir had avalanched since the last snowstorm. We first attempted the direct route, but slim protection on the mud-like rock turned us to the northwest ridge via the main couloir. This fine winter climb on a beautiful mountain was probably the first ascent in any season.

PATRIK CALLIS

Mount Wood, North Face, Beartooth Mountains. On August 31 Robert Miller and I climbed the north face of Mount Wood, second highest peak in Montana (12,661 feet). We reached the Stillwater Plateau from the Ben Bow Mine road, crossed five miles of boulder-fields to the saddle at the base of Wood's northwest ridge, and then went down to the snout of the miniglacier, where we camped. The face consists of about 1500 feet of glacier and 500 feet of summit rock. The lower glacier was easy cramponing up 30° snow for 600 feet, but above this was 45° ice which we avoided by traversing left to an easy Class-III scramble up a rock island. A final 200 feet of 40° snow led to a partly snow-and-ice-filled couloir six leads from the summit. Occasional pitons were required for leader protection and belay anchors. Fifty feet from its end, the couloir narrowed and was completely blocked by a large, overhanging chockstone which required direct aid. The summit is 80 feet east and marked by a

cairn with a Prince Albert tin with a note from James Lakey of Terry, Montana. Retreat was made via the east ridge to the plateau, circling back up the moraine to camp. We believe this to be the first ascent of the face.

WARREN BOWMAN, *unattached*

Wyoming-Tetons

Grand Teton, North Face of Enclosure. On August 22 the most recent and most difficult route on the Grand Teton was established by Mike Lowe and me. This excellent climb, rated IV, F9, A2, ascends the most obvious and direct line leading from Valhalla Canyon to the summit of the Enclosure. The initial portion of this route was worked out earlier, on August 6, by Jack Turner, Leigh Ortenburger and me. Directly to the north of and below the summit of the Enclosure is a massive buttress composed of the best kind of yellow Teton rock. Few fractures of any kind are to be found on this buttress, but no route which completely avoids it can be called direct. From a distance the two chimneys on the west face of this buttress appear to offer the best route so Mike and I selected them. The approach to this climb was made in different ways by both parties. On the unsuccessful attempt, we proceeded from Valhalla Canyon as if approaching the Black Ice Couloir. We had some moderate ice climbing to pass the icefield below the wall which protects the upper section of the couloir. Another ice pitch along the edge of this icefield led to two or three rope-lengths of scrambling on rock and occasional ice on the left (east) side of the northwest ice couloir. Well past the lateral entrance to the Black Ice Couloir, we found a chimney system leading upward toward the beginning of the main vertical, blackish chimney in the vertical buttress. One or two leads up these short but difficult (F7) chimneys led to a good ledge, just under an overhang to the right of the chimney system.

The successful summit party bivouacked on this ledge after approaching via the Lower Saddle and the Valhalla Traverse ledge. The next three leads were the crux of the climb, all involving very strenuous climbing. The first starts with a short F8 climb to an overhang, where mixed climbing (F8, A2) leads left over the roof, then up and left into the chimney which in this section is but a wide jam-crack. On our ascent this leftish traverse was impeded by a very large loose flake perched on a 3-inch ledge. This was pushed off to simplify the route. Once the chimney is reached, strenuous F8 work is required to ascend to a comfortable belay from the top of a chock stone. The chimney above begins to be wet and icy, conditions which do not make the climbing easy or pleasant. Free climbing up to a

flake is followed by about four direct-aid pitons on the left wall. (This could be climbed free with a large bong for protection.) These permit access into the upper section of the chimney where the F9 chimneying or jam-cracking begins. This is a very long (150 feet) pitch requiring great strength and technique to reach the belay on a sloping shelf out to the left of the chimney. This was the high point of the first attempt which ended here late in the afternoon ill-prepared for a night. The next pitch, up a second nearly vertical and wet section, proved no easier, requiring F9 climbing to reach the top of a pillar to the right of the chimney. The angle first started to ease at the end of the next pitch (F7) where we reached a broad, sloping ledge. From this ledge, on the 12th pitch, we passed some loose rock and came out on top of the first main buttress which was described at the beginning.

The wall protecting the final icefield and summit chimneys was set back from the top of the buttress by a small talus slope. The prow of this wall was climbed using an F8 flake and steep chimney. Then we scrambled up and right 500 feet along the edge of the icefield, which had never before been visited, and ultimately crossed the ice and passed behind a large detached flake. Next we climbed a series of difficult chimneys (F7) straight up to the ledge running along the base of the three summit chimneys. The left (east) chimney was selected for climbing and it proved to be an easy tunnel to the very summit.

This superb climb has enough difficulties to satisfy almost anyone, and its mixed character, requiring genuine ice climbing, places it in a rather select group of difficult American climbs requiring skill in both rock and ice technique. The grand old mountain yielded her 23rd distinct route, but not without extracting great effort from those who succeeded. Those who follow are not likely to find it much easier.

GEORGE LOWE

Grand Teton, ex-Stettner Couloir. Even as other cloddish guidebook writers have capitalized on their own blunders (See *A.A.J.*, 1969, 16:2, p. 412), so it was with the first ascent *on rock* of the so-called Stettner Couloir on the Grand Teton, made on August 17 by Jennifer Ronsiek and me. This couloir separates the Petzoldt ridge from the Underhill ridge on the south side of the mountain and was previously thought to have been ascended on August 31, 1941, by Joseph and Paul Stettner. Through the valiant efforts of Jack Fralick, a review of the evidence, including a movie made by the Stettners during their climb, seems to lead to the conclusion that the Stettner climb was in fact the first ascent of the couloir which separates the Petzoldt ridge from the Exum ridge, the so-called Beckey

Couloir. This couloir should now correctly be known as the Stettner Couloir since the climb of Beckey, Matthews, and Widrig did not take place until eight years after the pioneer Stettner climb. This regrettable switch left the old Stettner couloir without a name and without a first ascent. Surprisingly the latter appears not to have been made until June 30, 1964, by a Seattle party of Mark Fielding, Curtis Stout, and Charles and Robert Schaeffer. At such an early season the couloir was filled with snow and was climbed in a straightforward way with crampons and axes to the bowl at the upper end. At this point the top of the Underhill ridge is directly to the east, the tower of the Petzoldt ridge is to the west, and the near vertical beginnings of a secondary ridge are just above. From this bowl the 1964 party cut left on some F6 rock to reach the notch behind the Petzoldt ridge tower and then continued up the Ford couloir to the summit. On August 17, when the climb was made last summer, the snow was almost entirely gone, leaving nothing but a steep, smooth, wet-walled waterfall in the bottom of the couloir, which drains the entire south side of the mountain. Upon reaching the start of the steep section from the Black Dike, we found that unless one wanted to attempt the waterfall, which would have been most unpleasant as well as difficult, one of the two sidewalls of the couloir would have to be climbed. The left (west) wall consists of very steep, massive rocks, smooth and often water-polished with very few cracks. Thus the right wall which did contain a single crack system was selected. Four good leads up these cracks and some small chimneys from the alcove at their beginning brought us to the crux pitch, a 70-foot jam crack. This difficult crack was ascended by a mixture of free and aid climbing, using aid on the wall to the right just below the exit to gain an uncomfortable belay stance out to the left. There appears to be no alternative to this pitch, making the entire route one of the most interesting on the peak. From this belay we moved left directly into the couloir for the first time since starting from the initial alcove. This brought us into the bowl with its choice of moving left to the Petzoldt ridge notch, or right to the Underhill ridge notch. Selecting the latter, in three leads we were under the largest of the three huge chockstones which cap this branch of the couloir. From under the lowest, a rope-length led to a room under the uppermost, and astonishingly a very small tunnel was found permitting exit from the room onto the short slope leading to the Underhill notch. The summit was then reached by the usual route. In all, this proved to be an excellent climb, one of the more difficult but short routes on the peak. The danger of rockfall seems to be less than was expected. NCCS II, F7, A2.

LEIGH N. ORTENBURGER

McCain's Pillar. For nearly a generation climbers have known of the sharp, block-shaped pinnacle lurking near the base of the north ridge, or more precisely, the Crescent Arête of Mount Owen. But it was not until September 3 that it was climbed by Rick Reese and John Whitesel. The Owen-Teewinot cirque served as the approach to the ridge north of the pillar. The ascent was via the furrows and cracks in the east face to a slanting shelf below the final vertical 70-foot south face. Thirty feet of free climbing, with a bolt for protection, permitted the climbers to reach an aid crack which was ascended to a small ledge via tied-off pitons. A final free overhanging face took them to the summit. Was this the last of the Teton pinnacles to be climbed? Has Ellingwood's 'inexhaustible studio' been exhausted? NCCS I, F7, A3.

Sentinel Turret, South Face, variation. A direct variation of the Chouinard route, beginning directly below the prominent open book on the face, was made on August 16, 1967, by Jim Erickson and Sheldon Smith. The ledge below this dihedral was reached after two or three pitches. A very difficult (F9) black wall led to the start of the dihedral which was then nailed (A2). After a few more pitches this variation then connected with the ramp on the Chouinard route. NCCS III, F9, A2.

Granite Canyon Pinnacles. On August 23 Philip S. Peterson, T. Keith Liggett, and C. E. Buchwald climbed three easy pinnacles on the south side of the canyon.

Fairshare Tower, The Corkscrew. A second route on the south side of this tower was made on July 25 by Steve Wunsch and Diana Hunter. The narrow, high-angle arête to the left of the steep couloir which divides the south face of Fairshare Tower was climbed in five moderate pitches by angling up and left. NCCS I, F5.

LEIGH N. ORTENBURGER

Bivouac Peak, South Face. In September Juris Christiansen and I climbed a new route on the south face of Bivouac Peak. The route begins under a large gray overhang capping an alcove just to the left of the huge pedestal in the center of the face and generally trends leftward, ending just to the right of the eastern summit. The route is mostly superb yellow rock. If the peak were not so isolated it would provide routes as popular as those on Symmetry Spire, although longer and more difficult. NCCS III, F7 or F8.

GEORGE LOWE

Mount Moran, Direct North Face. Because of a lack of equipment, the party which made the first ascent of the north face of Mount Moran in 1962 avoided the chimneys which lead directly to the north summit and form the most obvious line on the face. In July Peter Habeler and I followed them to the summit, starting from the middle of the left triple glacier. Although the climb is situated in beautifully alpine surroundings and is on a very steep wall, it cannot be recommended due to the loose nature of the rock. NCCS III or IV, F8.

GEORGE LOWE

Wyoming - Wind River Range

Ellingwood, North Face; Fremont, West Face; Sacajawea, West Face; Arrowhead, South Face; Raid Peak, East Face; Peak 365, East Face. Fred Beckey and I completed four new routes in the impressive Fremont Peak area. On August 25 we climbed the north face of Ellingwood Peak. This attractive route is most obvious when viewed from the northwest in late afternoon as it follows the arête which divides the sunlight from shadow on the right side of the face. The arête is most easily gained from a hollowed-out area just right of it and a few hundred feet above the bottom of the face. A ramp from the lower part of the hollow leads onto the arête, which we followed for several interesting pitches on good rock to an easy slope just below the summit. (NCCS III, F6.) The next day we climbed the massive west face of Fremont Peak, a half-mile-wide array of buttresses, towers, chimneys and faces. The southernmost buttress of significance is a steep, pedestal-like formation. We traversed beneath the pedestal from the col southwest of Fremont's summit, staying as high as possible. After some scrambling and a fifth-class pitch our route crossed into the gully left of the pedestal and followed chimneys to the notch behind the pedestal. Here we crossed to the right side of the ridge and scrambled a few hundred feet to gain the ridge crest by which we got to the summit with only two more technical pitches. (NCCS III, F7.) We moved camp farther north into the Titcomb Lakes basin. Cool, unstable weather caused us to continue to seek out one-day climbs. On August 30 we settled on the west face of the south peak of Sacajawea. This face is characterized by a steep "wishbone" arête, the blank nature of which discouraged a direct ascent at that time. Fred exhibited his mastery of route finding by ferreting out a route which cleverly avoided all but the most minor difficulties. The route began in the stream bed coming from the giant cleft between Sacajawea and its south peak. After following the stream a few hundred feet, we diagonaled up and right, crossing the main west ridge at a point 200 to 300 feet above a

north-facing pocket which held a snow patch. After a couple of pitches on a minor ridge south of the main one, we crossed back and finished with several on the north side of the main ridge. The route is marked with cairns at key points. We descended by traversing the east side to the Helen-Sacajawea col. (NCCS III, F5.) Finally we moved to a camp above Upper Jean Lake at the base of Mount Arrowhead. The south face is fluted with several chimneys, most of which should make interesting routes. On September 1 we picked the central one, which ends a few feet west of the summit. The first two pitches were the most challenging with the second containing the crux: an F8-move up a jam-crack after we left the main dihedral via a friction traverse to the left. (NCCS IV, F8.) Joined by Gordon McFeters, we did two new routes in the Mount Bonneville area. On September 6 we walked two miles up the scenic, lake-filled basin to the east face of Raid Peak. A direct route on the face would have required a fiercer effort than we were willing to put forth that day. Thus we decided on a ramp-like groove which diagonaled up and left from the base towards the notch south of the summit. After several leads of easy climbing on loose rock we met the crux: a 130-foot overhang-studded dihedral which offered superb free climbing and required some 20 pitons and nuts. Two easier pitches led to the notch, where the problems ended. (NCCS III, F7.) The most spectacular face visible in the basin is the east face of Peak 365 (Bonney), which rises 2000 feet above a small lake between Mount Geikie and Raid Peak. On the left edge was a chimney-gully system, the remnant of a dike, which led to low-angle broken rock on the upper south face. A 130-foot vertical chimney appeared to be the major obstacle. On September 7 we started up. The chimney was an enjoyable F7 and well protected; the rest was much easier, except for hauling a heavy bag, which slowed us so much that a bivouac was required. (NCCS III, F7.)

PATRICK CALLIS

Southern Wind River Range, New Routes. The Iowa Mountaineers held a mountain camp for 58 members, based at a large meadow beside Clear Lake, in the southern Wind Rivers from August 11 to 22. Eight major peaks were ascended; a number of new routes were made. Harvey Carter, Thomas O'Brien and I climbed a new route around the inverted-S on the east face of Schiestler Peak, which in 12 leads and 1500 feet required two pitons and four slings. (NCCS F6.) Carter and I made the first direct ascent up the highest arching overhanging roof on the direct west face of Haystack. It involved ten leads and the use of four pitons, six slings and a bolt. (NCCS F8.) Carter and I also placed a new route up the 2000-foot-

high northwest buttress of Temple Peak in 13 long leads. We used four pitons and twelve slings. (NCCS F8.)

JAMES EBERT, *Iowa Mountaineers*

South Face of Chimney Rock Ridge. From our campsite directly below Indian Pass on the north fork of Bull Lake Creek, Martin Epp, Ernst von Allmen, and I climbed the obvious skyline route on the south face of the ridge formed by Chimney rock. The route consisted of about ten leads of continuous F6 climbing. A large ledge half way up the face provided a convenient lunch ledge. This whole wall will offer many fine climbs of about F6 for some future energetic climbers.

JAMES HALFPENNY, *University of Wyoming Outing Club*

Two Pinnacles, Brown Cliffs Region. On July 4 we climbed two pinnacles we believe to be first ascents. Bob Smith, Ben Franklin, Chris Haig and I climbed the snow gullies to the ridge containing Bonney's Peak 234 to 236 above the Brown Cliff lakes. From the base of the gullies we scrambled to the base of the northernmost pinnacle. The ascent (F7, A1) ascended the southeast face into a chimney halfway up the face and continued from there to the top. We four, plus B. Pease, L. Wareham and C. Westburg and led by Sharon Pyle, climbed a second pinnacle, which is bisected by a gigantic rotten crack and lies 100 yards to the southeast. We climbed this fourth-class pinnacle by entering the crack from the northern side, climbing through to the southern side and thence to the top.

JAMES HALFPENNY, *University of Wyoming Outing Club*

Wyoming - Black Hills

Devils Tower. On July 23 Dave Lunn, Bruce Morris and I put up a new route on the long north side of the Devils Tower. The *Route of All Evil* ascended directly a crack to the left of a prominent fracture in a column which forms a ledge about 170 feet above the start of the climb. The first lead passed a small overhang on the right and a face 30 feet higher by means of difficult free and moderate aid climbing. Then followed 200 feet of aid, mostly on tied-off knifeblades. A final lead at the top was F7. The route required a full day of climbing and had three hanging belays. NCCS III, F8, A3.

JOHN LUZ, *Unaffiliated*

New Hampshire

Cannon Mountain, Direct start to VMC Direct. This variation was first made by Steve Arsenault and me on June 7 and 8. We made a hammock bivouac after four pitches where the route merged with the normal VMC Direct. The route starts 30 feet north of the Triple S Buttress on an inside corner facing right. The first four pitches have not only an elegance of line but also no pendulums, rurps, loose rock or awkward downhill nailing. The crux is on the fourth pitch in graceful free climbing on exposed flakes.

SAM (THEODORE P.) STREIBERT

Mount Washington, Pinnacle Gully. On February 1, 1970 a most beautiful winter day, I was privileged to partake of what most climbers, thirty years ago, would have declared impossible, and what even today is improbable. Jim McCarthy, with myself as second, and in the reassuring company of Rob Wallace, led the entire Pinnacle Gully without cutting a single step. The climb was well secured with ice screws and various pitons; but the application of new techniques and equipment, plus a favorable build-up of ice was all that was necessary. The elapsed time was appropriately reduced as well, and we were back at the car at Pinkham Notch well before sundown.

WILLIAM LOWELL PUTNAM

Virginia

Tunstall's Tooth. This pinnacle is about 20 miles from Lynchburg and 2½ miles north of Big Island on U.S. Highway 501. Although across the James River, there is a bridge two miles farther north. Tunstall's Tooth is of hard limestone and from its base rises 225 feet. It offers good aid climbing on the river and land sides, as well as moderate free climbing on the down-river and up-river sides. James H. Scott and I made the first direct ascent of the river side on March 2 (A2).

FRED D. LANG, *Unaffiliated*

CANADA**Yukon Territory**

King Peak, South Ridge. King Peak (16,971 feet) was first climbed in 1952 by Elton Thayer's party, which traversed the north slope from King