

Climbs and Expeditions

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UNITED STATES

Alaska

Mount McKinley. Aside from ascents mentioned elsewhere in this *Journal*, Mount McKinley was ascended by climbers on three different routes. None reached the North Peak. On April 28 Jerrold R. Smith, John Luz, Stephen R. Wennstrom and Steve Schaefer climbed to the summit, having ascended the western rim of the South Face. The first two were killed on the descent. On July 1 Daniel L. Osborne, Stephen F. O'Brien, Edward O. Minot, Richard Jablonowski and Mike Salee reached the summit via Karstens Ridge. The following groups all climbed the mountain via the West Buttress: May 24, Richard Sylvester; May 26, Lito Tejada-Flores, Joey Cabell, Juris Krisjansons; May 26, James R. Mitchell, Larry T. Clark, Kenneth Varcoe, N. Michael Hansen; June 5, Ray Genet, Richard L. Doege, Eberhard Hansch, Craig L. Henderson; June 26, Gary Colliver, Nelson Max, Kenneth E. Hawker, Arnold McMillan, Randy Renner; July 1, Kazuo Hoshikawa (also July 5), Masao Date, Hyogo Takada, Mitch Michaud; July 5, Tsuyoshi Ueki, Etsuo Akutsu, Takashi Kawahara; July 6, Michael S. Bialos, James A. Prichard, Stuart Ferguson, Jan Anthony, Steve T. Sickles, Steven M. Hodge; July 13, Ray Genet, Jeb Schenck, Janis M. Niedra, Walter Jungen, Larry Fialkow, Mia Engi, Charles Rice, Reinhold Ullrich, John W. Stark, Hansueli Brunner, Arlette Brunner, Hannes Schierle, Jon Reed, Pat Pyne; July 20, Horton P. Johnson, Ronald M. Smith, George S. McHenry, Theodore E. Calleton, Pritchard H. White; July 31, Franz M.G. Konrad, Marek Glogocwski; August 26, Naomi Uemura (solo); August 31, Ray Genet, Barbara Britsh, James Steele, Raymond Nesbett, William Weiland.

Note: All dates in this section refer to 1970 unless stated otherwise.

Mount McKinley, the First All-Female Ascent. Twelve guides accompanied her . . . Porters carried entire calves, 24 chickens, 20 bottles and a keg of wine, ropes and ladders. . . Then Henriette d'Angeville saw her dream of decades come true as she reached the summit and was raised on the shoulders of her guides. . . The year was 1838. . . The peak Mont Blanc. . . It had taken Henriette years to organize this endeavor, against the wishes of her close associates. . . One would assume, that now, more than a hundred years later, women's participation in expeditions would be easier, but this is not so. Often women are actively barred from climbs and expeditions. Utterances like: "if . . . thinks she is going too, she is suffering from illusions of grandeur", or: "this peak is not for your wife", are only too real. Reasons why women should not participate are given by the dozens: the easy "masculine" camaraderie is disturbed when women are along, the non-climbing wives are jealous, body waste elimination situations are embarrassing, women cannot carry a thing, etc., etc. The quotation "this peak is not for your wife" of course can be easily explained, since the significance of a fine climb is automatically reduced if a woman is "in" on it.

Fortunately there are now many modern men, who expect their wives and girl friends to share their work and leisure experiences to the fullest with them, who do not agree with the reasons for barring women from adventures, who seek to analyze the true reasons for this forbidding attitude. My husband, a few weeks before his death, wrote: ". . . don't want a woman sharing what they consider a man's adventure, such climbers are the ones who truly suffer illusions of grandeur". A few weeks later this prophecy became a tragic reality. Continued unjustified discrimination against women in some endeavors of society led to the formation of "Women's Liberation" groups, which have gone to the extreme of demanding total equality – something obviously impossible, since woman is so different from man. These groups, provocative and almost militant at times, have done little to place the problem in its true perspective.

Our first all-female international McKinley expedition, then, was by many earmarked as a "Women's Liberation" project. "Liberation" was not what we six had in mind at all when we organized the trip. We were not out to prove that we could do the same as men. We had no plans whatsoever to carry the same loads up the mountain as men are able to do. No, we envisioned an opportunity to an experience, to climb a mountain. Being intelligent, curious human beings, we wanted to utilize that opportunity, and we did. I probably was the only one who had some demonstration motives because of a recent tragedy. I considered it a possible added benefit, if, through our expedition, the doors towards

participation in mountaineering endeavors could be cracked ajar for deserving women in the future.

Our McKinley trip was a routine West Buttress ascent. More technical routes I did not seriously scrutinize, since I felt, and all expedition members agreed, that the West Buttress route was enough challenge for us and would offer the best chance for success. We left Talkeetna June 23 and were flown up to the southeast fork of the Kahiltna Glacier, from where we started to move equipment and food up the Kahiltna Glacier in several relays. On the 4th of July we had advanced to 17,000 feet via the West Buttress and had enough stores with us to be in a position to try for the summit. On July 6 we struck out from our inhospitable snow cave and all — Faye Kerr, Australia; Margaret Clark, New Zealand; Margaret Young, Palo Alto; Arlene Blum, Berkeley; Dana Isherwood, Belmont; and I — reached the summit late in the afternoon. For me this summit day resulted, on the descent, in far more than anticipated sickness, frustrating me and demanding extreme efforts from my expedition members and help from a nearby party. Fortunately I recovered quickly. Our descent was greatly slowed by a typical Alaskan storm, which kept us immobilized at Kahiltna Pass for several days. Not until July 15 could we be flown out from our Base Camp.

GRACE HOEMAN, M.D.

Mount Hunter, Attempt on South Face. After our arrival in Talkeetna, the weather continued poor until June 20 when clearing enabled Don Sheldon to fly Dean Rau, Duane Soper, Paul Harrison and me to the south side of Mount Hunter. An airdrop had been made at 8000 feet between the two icefalls which had to be crossed. Due to heavy snows the previous winter the crevasses were well covered but we had to minimize avalanche danger by climbing through these areas at night. We used 600 feet of fixed line in each icefall. On the 27th we established a high camp at 10,000 feet at the foot of the south face. Since this was to be our siege camp, we dug a fairly comfortable snow cave and spent the next few days hauling gear. On July 1 the weather broke and for the next three days we put in a route to a col 700 feet up on the east side of the wall. This col joined a ridge which continued several hundred feet up the wall. The climbing was on fairly steep mixed snow and rock with an occasional moderate 5th-class move between steep snow and easier rock. We had established the route 500 feet up the ridge when the weather turned bad, forcing a retreat to the snow cave. After four days of storm, on the 7th we set off for the summit attempt in somewhat improved weather. We had succeeded in climbing

some 400 feet farther up the ridge when the weather again forced a retreat to the comfort of the snow cave. We waited out a storm for the next five days before heading down to Base Camp on July 13 when food ran out. The descent was difficult in two feet of new snow and with a critical shortage of fixed line and pitons. On the 16th Sheldon flew Rau and Soper out. On the 17th Harrison and I climbed a rock pinnacle which was 1500 feet up a rock and snow wall above Base Camp. We had 14 pitches of moderately difficult rock climbing (F5 at most), although one of the last pitches below the base of the pinnacle had some F7 in an overhang and corner. The final pitch of the pinnacle, which overhung spectacularly, was hard. The six-rappel, stormy descent took an hour longer than the ascent. (21 hours; NCCS III, F8, A1.) It was a poor year to attempt the south face of Hunter. We needed a stronger party. The climb is long, with technical difficulties, but is by no means impossible.

JOHN WATERMAN, *Dartmouth Mountaineering Club*

Cathedral Spires. Hank Abrons and I took off on a whim in June for the Cathedral Spires. Hank had only three weeks, and we knew June was the wrong month, but greed at the prospect of Middle Triple Peak, second highest of the Spires and a splendid prize, interfered with our judgement. Don Sheldon got us onto the Shadows Glacier the evening of June 8. Our plan was to ferry all our gear over the pass between Gurney Peak and Kichatna Spire, set up Base Camp on the southern glacier ("Pass A" and "Glacier No. 1," respectively, in my June, 1968 *Summit* article), and bag Middle Triple from there. We got stuck on the pass in a fearsome blizzard for four days. Getting the last load up nearly became a disaster, when we had to paw through more than a foot of new snow on an avalanche slope, feeling for the previous day's footsteps. After the storm, we staggered on snowshoes down to a moraine boulder at 4700 feet and set up Base Camp. The rest of the trip was a porridge of white-out, drizzling snow, and insincere patches of blue sky. We called our home "Sunshine Glacier," counting on future climbers to share in the irony (Pass A, by the logic of our experience, became "Credibility Gap"). We made first a half-, then a ¾-hearted attempt on Peak 6885, the easiest thing in reach; slabs covered with dump-truck loads of new snow stopped us cold. At the end of the expedition we went all-out for Peak 7295, circling it on the south side in order to sneak up on a western weakness. Just as we were congratulating ourselves, we ran into a typical Spires knife-edged ridge and had to quit 400 feet below the top. In twenty days we never set foot or

piton on Middle Triple Peak. The snow conditions were consistently hideous, but probably typical for June. On the hike-out to Rainy Pass Lodge we were stopped by Morris Creek, an ankle-deep trifle in October, 1966. It took a detour nearly to the creek's headwaters, an exhausting day's march down Threemile Creek, and a truly hairy crossing of the Happy River at the only possible ford to restore us to our civilized responsibilities.

DAVID ROBERTS

Mount Dall Attempt, Alaska Range. In 1902 after a spectacular expedition up the Yentna River, during which he sighted the 8756-foot peak, Alfred Hulse Brooks named Mount Dall in honor of Henry Healy Dall (1845-1927): "one of the foremost students, explorers, writers and authorities on Alaskan matters." Dall can be seen from Anchorage on an infrequent day when it is clear near the peak, the mountain being situated close to appropriately named Rainy Pass. In March, 1966, during one of those rare spells, an Anchorage party consisting of P. and D. Crews, R. Wilson, Lowell Thomas, Jr. and G. Wichman flew to an unnamed glacier east of Mount Dall and set up Base Camp at 5000 feet. In excellent weather they moved up the southeast ridge but retreated from unstable snow conditions. For years Vin and I had eyed the peak in our bold ambition to climb every named peak in south-central Alaska. In April, 1970 Steve Hackett, Ned Lewis and I flew in under the Weather Bureau's promise of prolonged good weather. None of the first-attempt party could join us. Don Sheldon flew us to the 1966 landing site. That same day, April 25, we advanced to 6500 feet, put up camp and reconnoitered the southeast ridge. In retrospect we should have kept on going that night, but we did not start in earnest till the next morning when ominous clouds commenced to hang around. What had been described in 1966 as incredibly rotten rock proved to be conglomerate with treacherous pebbles baked in loosely. We advanced up the ridge and reached a vertical rotten section, which gave us a choice of the south face or a chute on the east. The chute had no promise of reliable anchor points and so we committed ourselves to the south face, on which Steve did magnificent leads, finding in the mess good cracks and niches to hold pitons. After another hour's advance — to 8000 feet — the weather deteriorated so much that we abandoned our efforts and descended in a hurry. We reached Base Camp in a total white-out, lucky to find food and equipment before it got irretrievably buried. In this damned spot we sat for days, our tents turning into subterranean dwellings. After five days Sheldon managed to get in and out with difficulty. We

planned to go back as soon as all three would be free, but publicity got others interested before we could arrange another assault.

GRACE HOEMAN, M.D.

Mount Dall and Peak 7102, Alaska Range. After three days of rainy weather obscuring the mountains, we stuffed our gear into Bob Smith's station wagon and drove to Talkeetna to find the weather clear over the Alaska Range. On July 24, Cliff Hudson landed our group of six climbers at 5500 feet on the northeast glacier of Mount Dall (8756 feet), one of the last named, unclimbed peaks in the Alaska Range. The next morning was cloudy, but we decided at least to start the route on the southeast ridge. As we climbed, the weather improved, so we put on crampons and Charles "Scooter" Hildebolt led the first rope of Art Ward and me up a steep snow face below the ridge. We were carrying about 25 pounds of technical rock equipment which we intended to use on the ridge route. When we reached the rock, we found a crumbling conglomerate that would never hold a piton; "Portable handholds," Art mused. The only choice was the partially snow-covered east face. Scooter led across the ridge and onto the face. About 1000 feet higher we were below a short ice gully and just at the upper ceiling of the clouds. Scooter led up the gully and then belayed the rest. Scrambling out of the gully on front points, we had climbed above the clouds and could now look across the Alaska Range at Russell, Foraker, and McKinley. Art led the next 1000 feet, putting us in a snow notch about 75 feet below the summit. Reaching the summit required traversing three knife ridges separated by two gendarmes. The east ridge fell over 2000 feet and the west ridge almost 4000 feet to glaciers below. Belayed from the gendarmes, Art gingerly balanced his way across the ridges and onto the summit at 1:30 P.M. The rest of our rope took individual turns standing on the small snow summit, then returned to the notch to allow the second rope (John Bridge, Wendell Oderkirk, Bob Smith) the pleasure of the ridge traverse and summit view. The weather cleared completely, and we waited at the notch for shadows to cover the east face and diminish avalanche danger. Using ice pickets, we fixed 600 feet of polypropylene and 540 feet of climbing rope and rappelled to just below the ice gully, pulling the rope after us through a pulley. Two more pickets were placed in shallow, rotten snow for another 1000 feet of hand lines. We were back in camp by ten P.M., hovering over our cooking stoves. During the nights of the next three days (it was never dark), an ascent was made of Peak 7102, bordering the northeast glacier of Dall. Typical of the

1970 Alaska summer, the clear weather was short-lived, and the next six days were spent in a persistent snow storm. Bob and Wendell stayed in the new Bishop tent, but the rest retreated to the cool comfort of a large, two-vaulted snow cave. Cliff Hudson arrived six days later to fly us out to Talkeetna.

PATRICK C. FREENEY, M. D., *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Mount Skarland, Hayes Group, Alaska Range. Early in April, Ed Johann, Terry Simonitch, Price Zimmermann and I were flown onto the upper portion of the Hayes Glacier from Delta Junction. Our pilot, Mike Stone of Wilson Air Service, did an excellent job, requiring only three trips to transport our party along with five weeks' food and equipment to our Base Camp at 6800 feet. Our objective was Mount Hayes by way of the west ridge, and the nature of the route, as well as the terrain surrounding Base Camp, dictated an early attempt. The first few days were spent in organizing Base Camp and establishing a route up through the cirque formed by the west ridge and the west face of Hayes toward our proposed Camp I at 9500 feet. Further progress in establishing Camp I was prevented by an unseasonable storm of such severity that both Base Camp tents were destroyed in winds in excess of 90 knots. As is typical with Alaskan weather, it was not until ten days later that we were able to dig ourselves out. Unsettled conditions prevented the immediate continuation of the route, and our attention turned to Mount Skarland (10,315 feet), 5½ miles northwest of Mount Hayes. The peak, named after Doctor Ivar Skarland of the University of Alaska, appeared to be an easy one-day climb and a means of regaining our physical condition. Our approach was via the western arm of the Hayes Glacier and thence climbing northward, gaining the northeast ridge at about 9500 feet. The final ridge to the summit provided us with an excellent view of Hess and Deborah to the west. Late the afternoon of April 19 found all four of us on the summit, where a new storm system was visible to the west. The next several days were again spent storm-bound in Base Camp. On April 23, a temporary break in the weather enabled us to fly out. Our decision to do so was aided by the forecast of further storms in the Gulf of Alaska.

THEODORE NICOLAI

Peak 9300 ("Double Exposure"), Eastern Alaska Range. One-and-a-half day's travel brought Tom Kensler and me to the foot of the O'Brien

Icefall, which separates the Canwell Glacier from the Old Snowy branch of the Gerstle Glacier in the Delta Mountains. July's lack of snow bridges made for much extraneous meandering during our approach to the pass. For two days it rained and/or snowed, but on the 22nd it cleared enough to climb. From camp between Old Snowy and Peak 9300 on the Old Snowy Glacier, it was a few miles of easy walking to a col at 8000 feet on the ridge that formed our objective. Rotten gendarmes along the ridge forced us onto the snow, which was at the balling stage. The exciting thing of this ridge was that it plunged 4500 feet on the west and a more comforting 2000 feet on the east. The ridge continued for a mile, sometimes flat, sometimes steep, but always with an unhealthy cornice. The summit was in clouds and offered not a single picnic spot. It was seven P.M. with lots of Alaskan summer sun. On the way down I took pictures and thought the name "Double Exposure" described this mountain and the two ridges.

DANIEL OSBORNE, *Alaska Alpine Club*

Mount Hajdukovich, Delta Mountains, Alaska Range. On March 18 we drove from Fairbanks to Mile 1388 on the Alaska Highway and lurched five miles further to our first camp at the end of an old 4-wheel-drive road along the east bank of the Little Gerstle River. Besides Guy Tarnstrom who organized and led the effort, we were Sid Whaley, Don Willis, my wife Ellen and I. The next two days of cramponing up blue river ice, fighting dense willow with skis and boulder climbing over moraines brought us 16 miles up the Little Gerstle River and onto the glacier which flows northeast from Hajdukovich. Had we taken the central channel where the river enters the wider north-trending valley, we would have avoided bushwhacking. Camp was a half-mile up from the terminus of the glacier at 5600 feet. Despite clouds, on March 21 we got up at five o'clock and Whaley, Wallis and I roped up and set off on crampons by 7:15. Ellen and Guy Tarnstrom remained in camp to cool blisters. The route up the glacier to Hajdukovich was straight-forward, passing to the left of the prominent nunatak. Since the snow cover was very light even high on the glacier, the few crevasses were no problem. We trudged up between the ridges running northwest from the twin 9600-foot summits while the weather gradually improved until we were in pale sunshine. We headed toward the easier, more easterly summit as we were suffering from cold feet and smoker's fatigue. Alas, when we finally stood on top at 11:15, we found the other summit, a half-mile to the southwest was 30 to 50 feet higher. The temperature stood at 3° F. Leaving the other summit for future parties, we

dropped back to camp in a couple of hours, gathered the rest and headed down the river on crampons. A day and a half of ski-skating and cramponing brought us back to the Land Rover for the long drive to Fairbanks.

DOUGLAS K. BINGHAM

Mount Gakona, Eastern Alaska Range. March found Steve O'Brien, Mark Hottman, Toby Wheeler and me planning the first and the first winter ascent of Mount Gakona (9850 feet) in the Delta Mountains. Gakona has two peaks a mile apart along a hairy knife-edged ridge. We had to go up the correct peak the first time since our leave from the University of Alaska did not allow time to move to the other side of the mountain. We skied in from the Richardson Highway 25 miles over the Canwell and West Gakona glaciers to get to the Gakona Glacier basin with sub-zero climbing gear and two weeks of food for our one-week excursion. (Later five days of storm made us consume all of our food.) From the Gakona basin our route was up an icefall to the southwest of the main peak (the southwest peak as it luckily turned out). We navigated the icefall in a whiteout in avalanche-prone snow. The whiteout made it easier to poo poo the icefall's problems but hardly helped us with our fears of avalanches. When we were above the worst of the icefall, the air cleared and we saw we were not far off route. After my ropemate took a fall on an icy spot, we switched from skis to crampons. Our last camp was pitched amid crevasses above the icefall at 9000 feet, an easy run to the summit. On summit day, March 24, Steve fell 30 feet into a crevasse just as we were leaving camp. It gave us a weird feeling to do a rescue standing next to our tent. After this, the summit seemed anticlimactic. It took us two days to ski out to the road. It turned out to be a 12-day "one-week" climb.

DANIEL OSBORNE, *Alaska Alpine Club*

Mount Sanford, Wrangell Mountains. Mount Sanford was climbed twice by the standard route. On July 15 Barbara Lilley, Richard Gnagy, J. Ohrenschall, T. Wheeler and A. McDermott made the sixth ascent. On July 24 O. Inoue, K. Yamaguchi and S. Uesugi made the seventh.

P6620, "Lava Mountain," Talkeetna Mountains. This nondescript peak, located northeast of Granite Peak in the Matanuska Valley, was one of those ever scarcer virgin mountains close to the highway on which a weekend assault can be planned. Vin Hoeman's *Alaska Mountain Guide* draft recommends the southwest ridge as a reasonable route and I decided to check this out. During three weekends in March and April I labored up this ridge, after an approach through enchanting Granite Creek Valley, getting farther up each time. On the last attempt, assuming that I had the summit in the bag after I climbed a steep wall, I was stopped by an interminable series of horrible sharktooth gendarmes, which were too much for a woman solo climber without large amounts of aid. It was necessary to look for another route. Encouraged by map contours I selected to try Lava Mountain's southeast face and approached from the east on a later weekend, backpacking along King Creek and Young Creek. I reached the summit on May 10 after a strenuous but not very technical climb. The avalanche activity that day was extremely high.

GRACE HOEMAN, M.D.

Mount Palmer, Chugach Mountains. Named after one of the early traders in the Knik River area, George Palmer, this is one of the cirque peaks of the Hunter Creek Glacier, located roughly 35 miles east of Anchorage and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile southwest of where the Knik River issues from the Knik Glacier. A weekend climb of it was only a remote possibility; I and others tried it unsuccessfully several times. Finally a plane-owning acquaintance took pity and flew me in with his supercub float plane on October 3. We landed on upper Lake George, now only a small silt puddle. The east ridge was mostly a fierce brush battle and not difficult above the brush. On October 4 I completed this first ascent (6940 feet), and enjoyed a most fantastic view of the main Chugach peaks, dominated by Mount Marcus Baker, the range's highpoint. My acquaintance, returning from his hunting trip to Montague Island, picked me up later that day and we flew out again from upper Lake George.

GRACE HOEMAN, M. D.

Hunters Peak and Troublesome Peak, Chugach Mountains. This fall as my brother Jim and I started winding our way up Bountiful Creek through frustrating alders, our goal was to explore a previously unvisited section of

the Chugach Mountains. During the week of October 3 to 11 we traversed 33 miles, ascending and descending 10,000 feet through three cols, from Lake Eklutna to the Knik River via Hunters Creek Glacier. In a lull between snowstorms we made the first ascent of the two highest peaks in the Hunters Creek Glacier cirque: Hunters Peak (7549 feet) and Troublesome Peak (7465 feet). It took us two long days to walk out the 13 miles from the headwall of the cirque over recently snow-covered crevasses and sections of unbelievable Alaskan alders along Hunters Creek.

STEVEN W. HACKETT, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Marcus Baker, Chugach Mountains. On June 6 Wendell Oderkirk, Bob Smith and Patrick Freney were airlifted to 8500 feet on the Knik Glacier. They spent the rest of the day moving 1½ miles closer to the peak, but camping at more or less the same altitude. On June 7 they wound their way through crevasses to 10,000 feet, where Freney stopped. They continued on up until after twelve hours of climbing they completed the fourth ascent of the 13,176-foot peak. In July a Japanese party made the fifth ascent, but details are lacking.

"Alabaster", Northwestern Chugach. After rendezvousing about mile 94 on the Glenn Highway on July 2, Bob Pelz, Royce Purinton and I camped on north gravel bars beside a roaring Matanuska River. Next morning, convinced our one-man kayak was a less than adequate craft in which to shuttle across rain-swollen channels, we turned up a local pilot who landed us on south bars of the river. The rest of the day and next were spent packing nine miles over moose and bear trails, threading the alder thickets of Monument Creek's west benches and up the pocket glacier flowing off the northeast face of "Alabaster" (8065 feet), central peak of three sentinel eight-thousand footers containing the glacier. Next day from camp at 6000 feet we beat a lowering whiteout to the virgin summit, previously attempted in April, 1969, by its east ridge; due to poor snow conditions, our route followed the north ridge after bypassing the face in favor of a northeast chute to the ridge.

ROBERT SPURR

Peaks Above Harding Icefield, Kenai Mountains. Months of planning for Peru and everything begins to go wrong. Eventually comes the blow which really shakes us up. May 31 is a quiet Sunday until the news of the earthquake. Now it is impossible. Pouring over old *American Alpine Journals*, Dick Webster runs across an article by Vin Hoeman about the glories of the Harding Icefield. Why not drive up there to go for some of its unclimbed peaks? While descending into Anchorage in a driving rain, we (Webster, Bobbie Day, Woody Stark and I) pick up a broadcast. Grace Hoeman and her party are caught in a snowstorm after their successful ascent of Mount McKinley. Our expected contact is incommunicado; we will commit ourselves to the Kenai peninsula without knowing if the peaks we want are still unclimbed. Undaunted, we arrange to fly across Tustumena Lake to the toe of the Tustumena Glacier and have an airdrop in the Base Camp area. Amid persistent foul weather we try for an aerial reconnaissance but get nowhere. Impatiently we take off the next day for our airdrop. Flying to what we think is the Base Camp area, we push out four duffels of food and gear but see nothing of our peaks in the mist. Do they exist? By July 13 we take a float plane across the lake and are committed for 16 days. Midnight finds us floundering a half-mile up the Tustumena Glacier in an impassable morass of crevasses with 70-pound Kelties. We return to a pristine wilderness cabin with our rapidly dwindling two-day supply of food. Again we head for our airdrop, this time cross-country, and learn what alders are! Two days of walking through and under slippery alders in the rain put us in position to cross the glacier higher up opposite our airdrop. But where is it? With luck we spot it after we have gone nearly a mile above it, a speck of orange tape, only three miles farther down the glacier than we wanted. After a well deserved day of rest, we try on July 20 the peak nearest to Base Camp, P 6025, later called "Kidjakatsik" in honor of the porcupines found in its shadow. It is at the head of the south fork of Indian Canyon. After an easy walk-up, the full panorama of the Harding Icefield opens, the smooth, ill-defined icefield like a mist with the fluted teeth of the nunatak peaks and the blue Pacific beyond. It is only noon. We finally decide to head for the next nearest peak, P6200+, north along the same ridge at the head of Indian Canyon, adhering to Vin Hoeman's 1000-foot criterion. Another easy bag before we plod for hours along the icefield in soft snow, quietly cursing the impatience which led to the error in the airdrop and glowing over two firsts in one long day. Back at Base the wind comes up and we spend a day holding the tent together. The following day, July 22, we set off in a whiteout to P 6200+, a nunatak 5½ miles east of P 6025. The route runs north of the peak to an enormous bergschrund, eerie in the gloom, around it and to the summit with absolutely no view. Naturally it clears five

minutes off the summit. And so we head south toward P 6200+ on the connecting ridge to P 6197. Around nine P.M. we find ourselves under an enormous cornice on unconsolidated snow that won't even hold a step. Back we go to Base with one peak for a very long day's effort. It's time for a rest day. We build a snow cave and dry out wet gear. Then on July 24 Stark Webster and I head to the "Grand Tustumena", P 6400+, on the east end of the ridge running along the north side of the glacier. Its similarity to the Grand Teton suggested the name. The route is up a steep snow chute to the ridge, whence it goes along incredibly messy rock, up a double-corniced ridge to a fourth-class scramble on the summit block. Only Webster and I have the energy the next afternoon to take a go at the P 6200+ which turned us back before. We had seen a new route from the Tustumena ridge up the west side. Again the horribly long slog up the icefield where you move but never seem to progress, points of reference being so far away. Finally we climb the course of a slab avalanche to the summit. We have found peace and serenity for a moment. A successful expedition!

WILLIAM BRIGGS

Kilbuck Mountains, Western Alaska. During the course of an 18-day kayak trip on the Tikchik Lakes in July, my wife Sharon and I caught glimpses of an intriguing range of mountains, one which, it is safe to say, no mountaineer has yet explored. Less than ten miles northwest of the head of Lake Chauekuktuli lies a string of glaciated 5000-foot peaks, some of which are clearly rugged, although possibly of bad rock. Just southwest of the head of Nuyakuk Lake there is another group of peaks, not quite so high or so glaciated, but easier to get to and apparently of good rock. The weather in this part of Alaska is better than that found in the Alaska Range, but not as good as the Brooks Range's. The greatest obstacle to exploring the mountains is a cover of horribly thick brush, ubiquitous to 1500 feet. Best approach would be via float plane from Dillingham. The area has the distinction of being Alaska's poorest-mapped: the mountains, on Goodnews and Bethel quads, are shown only in 1000-foot contours, the glaciers are vague circles, and even the rivers are somewhat misdrawn.

DAVID ROBERTS

Mount Chamberlin, Brooks Range. In the *A.A.J.*, 1970 a Bavarian expedition was given credit for the third ascent of Mount Chamberlin. Apparently the third ascent was made on July 5, 1969 by a party from the Seattle Mountaineers led by Sean Rice and composed of Harry Burlingame, G.K. Davis, J.E. Harlin, Jr., Larry Peterson, Jay Snodderly and John B. Walker.

Western Brooks Range. On July 27 Gene Warren, my wife Sharon, and I made the first ascent of Mount Oyukak (7310 feet), a broad dome overlooking the Noatak River, twenty miles northwest of Igikpak. The mountain's name refers to the curious icecap (which groaned crankily under our footsteps) that covers the summit. The tiring hike took 14 hours out of a camp on Lake Omelaktavik. Gene, well into his sixth decade, ploughed on to the summit with all the pertinacity of a Denali sourdough.

DAVID ROBERTS

McCall Glacier, Romanzof Mountains. In the spring of 1969 personnel from the Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska reoccupied McCall Glacier to continue the glacial and meteorological research begun in 1957-58 during IGY by the Arctic Institute of North America. During the summer of 1970 members of the rotating teams staffing McCall found time from their daily research duties to visit most of the summits in the immediate area, apparently untried for more than a decade. Between May 29 and June 3 C. Fahl, A. Snyder and I took advantage of our circuitous line of ablation stakes to make ascents of "Ahab" (8760 feet) by a south gully, "Ishmael" (8615 feet) via the hanging glacier "Moby Dick" and southwest exposure, and "Suki" (8250 feet) from the upper cirque. On June 21 D. Trabant, with a companion halfway, climbed "Mount McCall" (8270 feet) by its east face. Some of these shorter climbs were repeated during the summer, but not until August 14 was the summit of Mount Hubley (8915 feet) reached, highest of the six sentinel peaks flanking the glacier. During a marathon 15-hour day, T. Wheeler and Fahl made the top, climbing a variant of its west ridge from "Bravo Pass".

ROBERT SPURR

Mount Hubbard, Attempt on West Ridge. A five-man Italian expedition unsuccessfully attempted to climb the west ridge of Mount Hubbard,

which rises almost 8000 feet to the summit of the peak. After being delayed by weather, they were flown from Gulkana to May Creek. On June 28 Pierluigi Bermasconi, leader, Ettore Villa and Pierluigi Airoldi were flown to the Alverstone Glacier at 7125 feet. It was not until July 1 that the weather settled enough to allow Guido Della Torre and Giuseppe Crippa to join them. In doubtful weather they immediately started for the ridge, which forks in two near its base. After a five-hour walk to reach the foot of the ridge, where they were slowed by hidden crevasses, deep snow and poor visibility, they discovered that the left fork was guarded by icefalls. They started up the right spur, climbing a steep snow slope above the bergschrund. They continued up a series of steep couloirs to the crest of the spur and then along the top of the ridge, turning gendarmes and climbing very steep snow and rock. They returned for several days, each time pushing the route higher before returning to Base Camp. After they had reached a small col some 2600 feet above the base of the ridge, they pitched a small tent, which Bermasconi and Crippa occupied on July 7. The other three joined them the next day and all climbed 1000 feet higher. During this time the weather had been poor but it now threatened to get worse and they retreated to Base Camp. A storm hit them on the 9th but they started off again on the 10th in new snow. When they reached the tent site, they found that the tent had been carried away in the wind with 100 pounds of food and supplies. They descended to Base Camp to await a plane scheduled to arrive on the 12th; in that way they could call for more food to replace what had been lost. The plane was unable because of bad weather to arrive until July 19. Having been on short rations for a week, they decided to give up the attempt.

Devil's Thumb and Kate's Needle, Stikine Icecap, Northern Coast Range. The British Columbia Mountaineering Club camp in the Stikine Icecap climbed ten new summits in the region between the Devil's Thumb and Kate's Needle and put up new routes on both these peaks. Fred Douglas, Paul Starr and I followed the direct east ridge of the Devil's Thumb, some 16 leads of which 12 were class 5 on rock and/or ice which took 40 hours of climbing. The saner approach used by Beckey's party on the Thumb's previous ascent was not safe because of avalanche hazard, and snow conditions on our ridge were very poor. The rock was steep, but holds were plentiful. There is a lot of climbing left to be done on that peak and its satellites. Kate's Needle was ascended by Rob Taylor, Mike Feller and Martin and Esther Kafer by the south ridge of its west summit from a high col to the south. They also climbed the c. 8800-foot summit south of the col on the steep snow of the south ridge and P 6222 which rises west of the north arm of Shakes Glacier by its southwest face. Douglas, Starr and

I did P 7200, a sharp rock peak west of the head of LeConte Glacier, from the north. We also climbed a peak marked 7100 feet on the map but actually higher, 4½ miles west of Mount Pratt, which we named "Pardoe Peak" after a climber who was to have been with us but died in a fall two weeks before we left. We ascended bad snow on the west ridge, the upper part of which was steep. We also climbed the easy peak 2½ miles southwest of "Pardoe" from the southeast. The Kafers climbed P 7268, 3 miles northwest of Pratt, via the south ridge and southwest face in deep snow until they scrambled on rock at the top and P 8307, 6 miles southwest of Kate's Needle, skiing to the summit. Taylor and Feller ascended P 7200, 1½ miles north of Pratt. They came from the south but difficulties prevented their getting to higher summits farther north. Starr and Douglas started from the north-pointing arm of Shakes Glacier and ascended the long and somewhat difficult 3000-foot face leading to the 5400-foot peak on the south end of the ridge. After bypassing the next two summits to the east, they climbed 1200 feet up a sporting class-5 rock arête to the northwest ridge of Castle Mountain and on to the summit (7329 feet). We approached by air to Shakes Lake, ascended the north-pointing arm of Shakes Glacier and when blocked by an icefall at 3000 feet, crossed the snowfield to the rim of the great LeConte Glacier. We continued on to the Devil's Thumb by the LeConte, a three-day, 30-mile trip, and to Kate's Needle by a parallel glacier to the east, both groups mainly on skis.

RICHARD R. CULBERT

Washington — Cascade Mountains

Mount Rainier, North Mowich Face. On June 25, Rob Schaller and I completed a new route on the eastern edge of the Mowich Face. From a high camp on a rock island in the North Mowich Glacier (9000 feet), we approached the steep icefall which is a prominent feature of the Mowich Face when viewed from the northwest. A delicate traverse on black ice above the bergschrund brought us to the base of the icefall where sustained rockfall was encountered. While climbing an exposed ice pitch in the lower icefall, Rob was hit by two fairly large rocks, receiving a minor arm injury. About 600 feet above the schrund, we left the ice to climb three rock pitches on surprisingly sound rock. Emerging from the icefall just above the "hourglass" on Dan Davis' 1968 North Mowich Face route, we paralleled that route for 300 feet before angling left through the upper

icefall toward the uppermost rock cliffs of Ptarmigan Ridge. The 45° ice slope was then climbed to a cleft in the cliff where a final hard verglased rock pitch was surmounted to the gentle snowfields leading to Liberty Cap. High winds and poor visibility from the cloud masses boiling through the saddle between Liberty Cap and the main summit hampered our descent. Racing down the Tahoma Glacier Sickle and on around and over the two St. Andrews rocks, we reached the standard campsite on Puyallup Cleaver in darkness.

JAMES F. WICKWIRE

Mount Stuart, North Buttress Variation. Completed by Jay Ossiander and me in July 1970. Starting from the very lowest point on the north buttress, 100 feet of third class leads to a broken ledge crossing the bottom of the buttress. We then started to the left of some trees, climbing to a prominent right-leaning six-inch crack. Six fifth-class leads (two were F9) followed and it went then third class to the bivouac point on the regular north ridge route.

MEAD HARGIS, *unaffiliated*

Mount Colchuck, North Side Routes. Several routes have been done on this increasingly popular peak. In September 1969, Manuel Gonzalez and Don Williamson followed a prominent ledge system diagonaling up the face of the eastern side of the northeast buttress. The climb included 16 leads of class 4 and 5 with occasional pitons required for aid. The granitic rock was very sound on some leads but piles of debris on the ledges made rockfall a hazard in many places. After a bivouac near the summit, they made a long detour around Dragontail Peak back to their camp at Colchuck Lake. NCCS III, F8, A1.

In June 1970 Julie Brugger and Mark Weigelt climbed the northeast buttress. The hardest section was getting started off the glacier. One can go through a pinkish, rotten band or go 100 feet farther up the glacier and climb a shallow F8 chimney. Off a boxcar ledge, go tight one pitch to the base of a dihedral. Go up to a pine tree and up the face to a ledge. Go left on the ledge 160 feet and then up two parallel cracks (F8). The rest of the climb is up gullies to the huge summit plateau. There are several hidden catwalks around corners. The climb is 18 pitches long. NCCS IV, F8.

Several other north side routes have been done, including the complete north ridge (NCCS II, Class 4) which lies mostly on the west side of the

ridge crest and at least one other route between the northeast buttress and the north ridge.

Dragontail, Backbone Ridge. John Bonneville and I did this ridge to the left of the white slabs on the northwest face in August. We started at the lowest point on the ridge and after two leads traversed right 150 feet. Go up a layback (F9) to a shallow chimney which gives way to easier ground. After working up and right third class for 500 feet, one gets to a fifth-class dihedral. Proceed to the base of the crux pitch, a 70-foot six-inch crack (F9). The protection on this pitch is questionable (chockstones). Go right and up to a belay on a ledge with a fixed pin. Traverse left (F9) and then up. Two fifth-class pitches take one to the Ball Bearing Amphitheater. One can get water here year around. Continue up the easy ridge for several hundred feet to the next steep section. Go left (unprotected F8) to a belay around the corner. Go up and into a gully (F9). Head up to the ridge and go right to the summit. The climb was 21 pitches long. NCCS IV, F9.

MARK WEIGELT, *unaffiliated*

Snow Creek Wall, Outer Space. This winter ascent was completed on January 1 by Ron Burgner, Mark Weigelt, and me. We encountered 12 inches of snow plastered on ice over the whole 800-foot wall. Approximately two-fifths was fifth class climbing and the rest direct aid. Time: 2¼ days.

MEAD HARGIS, *unaffiliated*

Vesper Peak, North Face. Two new routes on this face were climbed during 1970. Beginning high on the glacier, Mark Weigelt, Julie Brugger, John Bonneville, and Earl Hamilton went up a broken gully to a ledge belay. Four pitches were climbed to the dihedral formed by the intersection of the 60° and 45° slabs. The dihedral was followed to the summit (F9). NCCS II, F9. The second climb was done by Don Williamson and Mac Harnois. On September 27 they left their camp at Copper Lake and cramponed up the small but heavily crevassed glacier to the base of the 1200-foot rock face. They climbed a steep buttress in three leads to the major ledge system bisecting the face. The route continued directly above for six more leads, mostly on 45° slabs, to the ridge crest where a short scramble eastward brought them to the summit. On the last

two of these leads they were about 50 feet west of and parallel to the dihedral. These vast, clean, granite slabs are well protected, in contrast to the 60° slab (See *A.A.J.*, 1970, 17:1, p. 118). NCCS II, F6.

Silverton and Monte Cristo Area. This area contains many minor summits with routes of moderate difficulty which provide enjoyable early season climbing. "Sawhorse Peak" (6880 feet) is located at the intersection of the ridge running east from East Wilmon Peak and the ridge extending north from Columbia Peak. On June 8, Terry Stoupa and I made the first ascent via the southwest face in four leads of F3-F4 rock. Several other route possibilities exist, the easiest being a short climb of the southeast corner which can be reached by a snow gully. Just west of "Sawhorse Peak" is a short rock tower named "Independence Tower" (6500 feet). Scott Masonholder and I on July 5, 1969 climbed the vertical south face using aid on the first pitch. A short rib on the north side probably offers an easier route to the summit. East of Long Mountain are two rock summits named the "West and East Viking Horns" (4800 feet). These two summits can be easily approached by using the Deer Creek road. The first recorded ascents were made in May of 1969 by following the ridge from Long Mountain. On June 13, Scott Masonholder and I climbed the 300-foot north side of the "East Viking Horn" in four leads of F2-F4 rock, which is quite rotten in places.

East of Devils Thumb a sharp-ridged peak can be seen which on the Silverton Quadrangle is marked as peak 5445 feet. On June 20, Dave Dixon and I climbed this peak from Independence Lake, starting with an 800-foot buttress east of the lake (F2-F4) and continued up an easy wooded ridge to the west side of the peak. Ascending a dike gully for about 150 feet, we followed the west ridge (F2) to the summit. (The first ascent was made by C. Pera, A. Miller, and K. Carpenter in 1963 from the southeast side. — *Editor.*) To approach Independence Peak, road 3006 is taken from near Big Four Campground.

Mount Dickerman has an easy 5-mile trail to its summit. However, the north peak has sheer rock walls and buttresses on its north side. On August 21, Dave Seman and I ascended a north side route to the 5600-foot north peak. From Perry Creek trail at 3200 feet, brush and talus are ascended to the base of a snow gully. This gully is climbed for about 1000 feet and averages 35°. At 4600 feet, the gully ends and entrance is made into a rock gully where one short F3 pitch is encountered. Above, a vertical wall blocks further progress in the gully, so a broad ledge on the right is taken to easier rock. About 500 feet of easy climbing leads to the northwest

ridge. This ridge (F2-F3) is followed to the pointed summit.

On July 19, 1969, Scott Masonholder and I made the first ascent of the 1800-foot north face of Wilmon Peak. The climb begins at a rock finger projecting from the base of the face. About 250 feet up, a brushy, vertical pitch and right-hand traverse (F5) is made to easier rock above. From a large ledge, an ascending traverse left is made for 100 feet and then directly up over easy rock and heather to a snow patch. The key to the ascent is a 800-foot narrow rock gully which begins above the snow patch. The rock in the gully is quite solid and ranges up to F5 in difficulty. Above the gully about 500 feet of F2 to F3 rock are climbed on the northwest side of the summit pyramid. From a ledge about 120 feet below the top, a climb on well-broken F4 rock leads to the summit.

DALLAS KLOKE

Silver Tip, West Ridge. Follow the Weden Creek road past the mine to where it begins to drop. About 30 feet lower and to the left is a miners' trail. This well-marked trail leads directly to the base of the ridge (and a red tower). From here the route is long (11 hours from the car) and rotten in places, but straightforward. Nuts and slings were used. The climb was done August 22 by Ben Guydelkon and me.

RON MILLER, *The Mountaineers*

Whitehorse, East Ridge. This ascent was made on June 2 by Ben Guydelkon and me. Take an old logging road that starts on the west side of Squire Creek until it can no longer be travelled by car (c. 4 miles). Continue up the road to the logged-off area. This road is sometimes hard to follow because of a large stream running down it. Climb up the logged-off area to a wooded ridge. Continue up this ridge to get into the brushy basin on the left (east). From the basin ascend the gully to the start of the east ridge. Follow the ridge up brush and snow slopes to the base of the long rock ridge. Class three and four to the top of the ridge. Drop to the summit snowfield and continue south to the summit. Time: 11 hours. NCCS II, F3.

RON MILLER, *The Mountaineers*

White Chuck Mountain, East Face. On September 10 Ben Guydelkon and I climbed the east face via the narrow couloir that splits the face from right to left. Ten leads of about 140 feet each got us to the summit ridge and two minutes later we stood on top. Every lead had some difficult pitches and protection is poor as the rock is almost crackless. A hauling line, pitons, and hard hat are necessary. Hardest move is F8. The approach was made from Rat Trap Pass through timbered slopes, brush, cliffs, open meadows and finally a steep snow slope that leads to the base of the couloir.

RON MILLER, *The Mountaineers*

Darrington Walls. Although the Washington Cascades are not exactly known for having an oversupply of good granite, it was not until two years ago that climbers became aware of the beautiful and challenging walls and outcrops along the waters of Squire and Clear Creeks near Darrington, only a short 1½-hours' drive from Seattle. In the summer of 1969, F. Beckey, T. Nephew, and D. Wagner climbed what is probably the most impressive wall of the lot, the Witch Doctor, on the flanks of Helena Peak (*A.A.J.*, 1970, 17:1, p.118). During the spring and summer of 1970 three new routes were added in the area. Tom Oas and I climbed the low-angle slabs on Helena Peak which form the back side of Witch Doctor. The route, rated NCCS II, F8, begins about ¾ of a mile past the junction of Forest Service roads #3210 and #3210A, where a creek bed and almost flat slabs lead to the climb proper, directly beneath the prominent saddle on the ridge crest. One bolt was placed to anchor a belay. Across the valley from the above climb, one sees a pair of adjacent buttresses 700 to 800 feet high. On the left-hand one, two new routes have now been established. They both ascend more or less the center of the 45° to 50° face, are separated by about 200 feet, and join at a prominent tree five leads up where they continue together for two more leads to easier ground. Hans Fraunfelder and I attempted the left-hand one, but were forced to retreat by an unexpected thunderstorm. Later in the summer Don Williamson and I completed this very enjoyable route which we rated NCCS II, F7, A1, the aid consisting of a few isolated moves. The right-hand route was climbed by Jim Friar and Don Williamson, and it was rated NCCS II, F7. One bolt was placed on each of the routes to anchor belays. Climbing is generally on low-angle water polished slabs, and while cracks are not abundant, and when present often dirt-filled, the soundness of the

rock and its proximity to Seattle should contribute to the future popularity of the area.

MANUEL A. GONZÁLEZ, *unaffiliated*

Bonanza Peak, Western Summit, Great North Couloir. On May 31 Mark Fielding and I climbed this 50° 2200-foot-high couloir to the 9400-foot summit. Recent snowfall allowed for good step-kicking, except for a few ice patches, where anchored belays were required. We barely avoided occasional small avalanches. Grade IV.

ALEX BERTULIS

Dome Peak, Southwest Face. A thousand feet southwest of Northeast Dome Peak is a 2000-foot granite face which Manuel González and I climbed in a round-about manner. Hoping to ascend the central buttress on this face, we approached the face from the summit of the northeast peak by down-climbing and rappelling the east ridge towards Sinister Peak. A short way down the ridge, we entered a chimney and ledge system on the southwest face, which led to its base (NCCS II, Class 4). After a few leads of sometimes excellent, sometimes rotten rock on the buttress, we rappelled back down (dumping rocks on our heads) and reascended the face by our approach route. This face is ugly, but will yield several grade IV's to those so inclined.

WILLIAM SUMNER

Hurry Up Peak, Northeast Glacier. On June 16, 1969, Don Turnbull and I left Cascade Pass and descended into the Pelton Creek Basin. We ascended 1800 feet up the small glacier to the Pelton-Magic Col. A descent of 1000 feet was made to reach the glacier below on the northeast side of Hurry Up Peak at 5600 feet. Climbing up easy snow slopes, we bypassed a bergschrund at 6600 feet by climbing F3 rock for 100 feet on the right side. Continuing up rotten rock and steep heather, we reached the upper part of the glacier near the base of the summit. From there it was a short scramble up the south side to the top.

DALLAS KLOKE

Eldorado, West Arête. On August 24, 1969, Richard Emerson and I made the first ascent of the 2800-foot arête that leads directly up the west face to the summit of Eldorado. (Pete Schoening's 1951 route is to the right (south) of this climb – *Editor*). We camped just southwest of the notch between the Triad and Eldorado. On the day of the climb we crossed through the notch, dropped down 1000 feet and traversed under the west face to the arête. By eight A.M. we were roped up and climbing. Shortly thereafter we were enveloped by fog. The arête, although nowhere really difficult, required constant attention. There are few route-finding problems, however, as one is generally forced to stay on the crest. The first tower was passed high on the left, the others were either climbed or passed high on the right. A short rappel was made in getting off the last tower. As one nears the summit, the ridge eases off to class-three climbing. Three pitons and a number of slings were used for protection. We reached the summit at six P.M., just as the fog lifted and shortly before it started to rain. This climb compares extremely favorably with such classic climbs as the north ridge of Mount Stuart and the northwest arête of Forbidden.

WALTER R. GOVE

Mount Torment, North Ridge. Jim Pritchard and I made this fairly easy but very enjoyable alpine climb in mid-July, 1969. Camp was made in Boston Basin. To get to the north ridge we crossed over the south ridge and the west ridge of Torment. We then dropped 1000 feet and traversed across the northwest glacier to the foot of the north ridge. The ridge crest was gained from the left via a narrow and fairly steep snow finger which ended in a short class-four rock pitch. Once on the ridge crest, the route was mostly class three.

WALTER R. GOVE

Picket Range, Carpetbaggers Traverse. During July, Joan and Carla Firey, Dave Knudson and I made an eleven-day high circuit of the Goodell Creek Drainage in the Pickets. We entered the group from the south following Ed Cooper's approach to a campsite below Pinnacle Peak (See Cooper, *A.A.J.*, 1962 for route and for peak names.) We made a new crossing of the Southern Pickets by the Himmelgeister-Otto Horn Col and found a pleasant new route to Picket Pass along the McMillan-Goodell Creek Divide north of Frenzel Spitz. From Picket Pass to the

Picket-Goodell Creek Divide and south to Jasper Pass, we roughly followed Tabor and Crowder's *Routes and Rocks in the Mt. Challenger Quadrangle*. Our exit was by a traverse of the glacier on the east side of Despair at about 6000 feet and then out via Triumph Pass and Thornton Lakes. A first ascent was made on Ghost, a peak about 8000-feet-high between Crooked Thumb and Phantom. The route was from the notch south of the peak which was gained from the west. We stayed on the south and west sides of the mountain following obvious weaknesses. A new route was made on Pinnacle Peak by its north ridge. Both of these climbs involved easy to moderate fifth-class pitches. The entire party completed each of these as well as other climbs. This fair-weather backpack required roping down, cramponing and other technical maneuvers.

PETER RENZ

Little Mac Spire, Southwest Arête. On our third day in the Southern Pickets, Art Huffman and I were looking for a route that did not involve scrambling up some rotten gully to get to solid rock. On August 15, after a two-hour approach from a camp east of Terror Basin, we stepped off a snowfield onto some very solid granite. This was the base of the southwest arête of the easternmost of the McMillan Spires, which was first climbed via its south face in 1969 and named Little Mac Spire (See *A.A.J.*, 1970, 17:1, p.122). On the western side of the arête is the gully separating East McMillan and Little Mac Spires, while on the other side is the steep 500-foot south face. The rock on the crest remained solid, although not always granitic, for eight enjoyable leads of class four and five, and led directly to the summit. The average angle is perhaps 50° to 60°, broken by three nearly vertical steps along the way. Descent was by rappel down the upper arête and lower south face. NCCS II, F4.

DON WILLIAMSON, *unaffiliated*

Twin Sisters, "Skookum Peak." The Twin Sisters Range has a number of peaks ranging between 5600 and 6700 feet which are worthwhile climbs on solid granite rock. On May 31, 1969, Dave Dixon and I made a first ascent of this 6500-foot peak located about 2/5 of a mile south of the South Twin Sister. We ascended the 450-foot northeast ridge in four leads with the last section of the ridge being F4 to F5 in difficulty. The peak was named after Skookum Creek which originates in the vicinity.

DALLAS KLOKE

Mount Baker – Park Glacier Headwall. On July 4-5 Norm Bodine, Jim Friar and I completed a new variation of the Cockscomb Route on the northeast face of Mount Baker, the Park Glacier Headwall. One of the standard variations of this route ascends the rightmost part of the face near the Cockscomb (a large rock outcropping) where the slope is short, uncorniced and not too steep; the other avoids the face entirely by traversing left under it. Our route ascends the headwall directly up the middle, starting at a large schrund and passing near the left edge of a group of rocks in midface. This schrund splits the entire face and is 30 to 50 feet high and overhanging. Access across the schrund was gained by means of a steep ramp of snow and ice (approximately 60° at top) which led to within 10 feet of the top edge of the schrund. A traverse on a narrow snow ledge, step chopping, and several difficult moves to turn the lip put us on the upper face. Three and a half leads later on the 60° face, the 8-foot cornice was turned and the summit plateau was reached. Snow and ice conditions were generally bad, and the protection was less than desirable.

TIM KELIHER, *unaffiliated*

The Snout, The Golden Ramp Route. After the rain made it impossible for Jay Ossiander and me to do the east face of Liberty Bell, we started to look around for something short to climb. Hiking south of the Cutthroat Lake trail, a half-mile from Cutthroat Horse Camp we found a rock buttress we named the Snout. Go south, staying on the west side of a gully until above a cliff band. Traverse below gorp to the base of the climb. The route is the best free climb in Washington. Start in a dihedral with a small roof. After one pitch, go up and left and walk to a pine tree. Continue up a dihedral to a roof and then up a ramp to a ledge. Do a hard F9 traverse right off the ledge and then go up to a short dihedral. The next pitch is up a two-inch crack (short) and right on a ledge. The next pitch (some hard F9 face climbing) ends in a chimney. One is now at the base of the hardest pitch. Go up a dihedral in a two-inch jam-crack. There is only one F10 section and the rest is quite enjoyable. The final pitch is a F7 chimney. A small selection of pins is needed, as most of the F9 pitches are unprotected. NCCS III, F9 or 10, A1.

MARK WEIGELT, *unaffiliated*

Oregon

Mount Jefferson, East Face Direct, Oregon Cascades. An ascent of the east face direct via the Warm Springs Couloir was first made by Price Zimmermann and me on May 31, 1969. Seven hours after abandoning our pick-up in a snow bank, we arrived at the base of the couloir, which rises 2000 feet from the floor of the White Water Glacier forming a direct line to the summit. At this time of the year, the couloir is completely filled with snow and ice, and the last three pitches on the upper section were fifth class on 50° slopes of ice. The summit was reached early that evening and our descent via the west face was hampered by severe ice conditions, requiring more than 27 hours to complete the climb.

THEODORE NICOLAI

California-Sierra Nevada

Tehipite Dome, Southwest Face. In July, Norm Weeden, Curt Chadwick, and I climbed the 2500-foot face of Tehipite Dome. We started several hundred feet below and left of Fred Beckey's route on the Dome. Three hot days of mixed free and aid climbing took us to a prominent ledge two-thirds of the way up. The fourth day we joined Beckey's route and climbed to the summit for a final bivouac. The upper part of the dome consists of fun free climbing on rounded solution pockets. NCCS VI, F9, A4.

CHARLES KROGER

Lone Pine Peak, Direct South Face. Early in May, Fred Beckey and I established ourselves in an abandoned stone house an hour from the south face of Lone Pine Peak (12,951 feet). Expecting the worst, we ferried heavy packs to a point directly beneath the most direct line to the summit of this gigantic wall. The climb involved 3500 feet of mixed free and aid climbing on one of the longest walls in the Sierra Nevada. The summit was reached on May 4 after three days of enjoyable high-angle climbing. NCCS V, F7, A2.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

North Palisade, North Face. Lee Panza and I did a new route on the Sierra's third highest peak on July 12. We ascended the broad right-hand buttress of the three between the U-notch and Clyde couloirs. We climbed 300 feet, using some aid to pass loose blocks, to a small ledge below a prominent overhang, which we climbed by means of a strenuous chimney. The next pitch (F8) brought us to easier climbing below the summit snowfield. NCCS III, F8, A2 .

KENNETH BOCHE

The Dragtooth, West Chimney and West Ridge. Mary Bomba and I made this first ascent on July 26. We climbed from the Dragtooth Glacier to Polemonium Pass. From 100 feet northeast of the pass, we ascended cracks and chimneys up and left to a large broken area and on to a large chimney, which we followed to its top on the west ridge. We continued up the south side of the ridge to the summit. III, F8.

KENNETH BOCHE

Charlotte Dome, East Face. This superb dome is situated on the west side of Charlotte Creek, some two miles above the junction with Bubbs Creek. Fred Beckey, Galen Rowell and I had only a weekend in mid-October to make the climb, and the closer we came to the east face, the more it looked as if we would have to settle for an easier route on one side or another. The real problem was the smooth 1200-foot central wall; but it appeared so blank and slippery that we expected to have to return in the spring equipped for a hammering affair. The following morning we selected a route that might ease our conscience. It began on the face in a deep recess, but then it degenerated into a leftward bypass. However, while looking for something even easier on the ridges it appeared that our direct start might connect to a dihedral on the upper wall. So, believing it better to retreat off a good climb than to succeed on an indifferent one, we pressed on up the grooves. We were rewarded by some of the finest climbing we had ever done anywhere, all free and on wonderful rock, mostly face climbing on chicken heads with some good cracks thrown in. Every pitch was excellent, none easy, all interesting. In Yosemite the climb would be recognized as one of the best in the Valley. In the backcountry it will probably remain unknown. NCC IV, F8.

CHRISTOPHER A. G. JONES

Peak 11,598, East Face and Peak 11,830, East Ridge. There was a definite allure about the sound of Big Bird Lake; we might be carried off by a pterodactyl, and besides there were supposed to be some good climbs in the area. Greg Henzie, Galen Rowell and I hiked in from Pear Lake to the Big Bird Lake region in late September. Our first climb was on Peak 11,598, which was an attractive 800-foot east face, with a large dihedral system left of center. The lower third of the wall had easier climbing leading to the foot of the dihedral, which then was continuously interesting to the top of the climb. NCCS III, F8. From the top of Peak 11,598 the east ridge of Peak 11,830 looked inviting, rising like a ship's prow. Galen persuaded us that it was really close, so against our better judgement we hiked over to it, and once there we were soon talked up it. After a straightforward initial pitch, three tricky leads right on the prow took us to the summit block. NCCS III, F8.

CHRISTOPHER A. G. JONES

Hamilton Lakes Region. We had three days of vacation left, and the fine pinnacles and domes in the region of Hamilton Lake persuaded us to leave by way of that area. The ridge between Hamilton Lake and Eagle Scout Creek has some ten pinnacles on it, the finest being the beautifully shaped dome, Peak 9770. From camp at Hamilton Lake we climbed the third pinnacle from the west by its east ridge, an apparent first ascent. NCCS II, F8. We also climbed Peak 9770 by a gully to the east, the easiest route, to find it had been climbed, but left unrecorded, the previous year by Kurt Chadwick and Chuck Kroger. NCCS II, F6.

CHRISTOPHER A. G. JONES

Pinnacles in Little Slide Canyon. In July, Joe Kiskis and I trudged to the head of Little Slide Canyon from Twin Lakes. Originally interested in something of greater magnitude, we were diverted by the lure of the beautiful pinnacles sprouting from the canyon wall. One spire, Regge Pole, named after a theory of elementary particles, resembled a 600-foot pole. We began our vacation in an open-book on Regge Pole's south flank. Four leads later, we ran out of dièdre to climb in, but a chimney fortunately split the back side of the spire and we clambered on. Night found us on the ground, having left a small hasty cairn on the summit. NCCS III, F7, A2. The next day we climbed the spire just south of Regge Pole, which we

called "The Duck", apropos of nothing. II,F5. The Turret, the highest of the four spires, was climbed solo by Joe Kiskis later in the season. II, F3.

GREG DONALDSON, *Stanford Alpine Club*

The Incredible Hulk, West Face. Joe Kiskis, Bob Grow, and I converged once again on Twin Lakes to approach a climb at the head of Little Slide Canyon opposite the pinnacles that had diverted us on our first trip. We approached the Incredible Hulk over talus and began the first lead up the side of a 200-foot triangle until we arrived at the first ledges. Above us, but 80 feet away, yawned a left leaning, overhanging slot guarded by loose overhangs. We climbed straight up 70 feet, tensioned across, then the long chimney led to good bivouac ledges. Above, many leads away, was another series of roofs, the apparent crux, which we had visions of turning the following day. The next morning a bit of nailing led to a hanging flake in the book beneath the ceilings. Nuts and fright put me atop the flake quickly. A short stretch of good crack led up until the corner could be turned and then there was nothing but a 100-foot seam. I came down to allow Bob to tension out to the right, away from the horror above. When the hassle was over, we had come to a ledge in the middle of the face, out from beneath the overhang, but with blankness above, and blankness below. It was not long, however, before a thin line put us some 100 feet to the right and about 50 feet higher. Still with no good way up, another traverse landed me on the buttress bounding the right side of the wall, where I built a place to sleep while Joe and Bob fought with the cleaning job below. Bob, the third man on a two-man ledge, left early in the morning to finish the chores below, while Joe started chipping away at the distance remaining to the top of the wall. Frequently clinging against the force of the wind, he took out a full rope up the buttress, as the going got easier and the ledges more frequent. Another lead and then third class until we reached the top. There was no way off, but for the way we had come, so 10 rappels later we reached the ground. Now it has been climbed, although if you think of it as a mountain, we did not go to the summit. It might be one of the hardest summits in California; 1300 feet in front, probably 1000 feet on each side, and even the ridge connecting the summit to the massif behind looks like about a quarter-mile of 4th and 5th class, well guarded with many spikes and pinnacles. So the summit is still waiting along with a thousand other possibilities. NCCS V, F8, A2.

GREG DONALDSON, *Stanford Alpine Club*

The Needles, Southern Sierra Nevada. This very accessible, technical rock-climbing area in the Sequoia National Forest north of Kernedale remained essentially unknown until "discovered" several years ago by Dan McHale of Los Angeles. McHale, Fred Beckey, myself and several others have recently established a number of Grade II to IV routes, and have named and cairned most of the spire-like summits. The rock is an unglaciated granitic very similar to that of Tahquitz in quality, with fine crack systems and excellent friction on steep faces 400 to almost 1000 feet high. Many fine route possibilities remain, and although the elevation is 8000 feet, the southern exposure permits climbing in the early spring and late fall when most Sierra areas are closed. The following three first ascents were made in early April by my wife, B.J., and me. *Wizard Needle.* The bottle-shaped spire near the north end of the central group of Needles. First ascent, April 11, via the northwest face. From the couloir on the north side traverse west (mixed aid and free) into the deep chimney on the northwest face. Stem and struggle 50 feet to a broad, bushy platform; above, an 80-foot curving dihedral (A1, blades and small angles) leads to a small, horizontal ledge at the neck of the Wizard. Traverse right to the southwest corner and climb the head on easy nubbins. NCCS II, F7, A1.

Sorcerer Needle. The higher, sharp spire immediately east of the Wizard. First ascent, April 11, via the west face above the Wizard-Sorcerer notch. Rappel 75 feet from the summit of the Wizard into the high, western notch; two leads over steep, broken rock and up an easy chimney (F4) gain the summit. A 150-foot rappel at the north of the summit reaches the notch separating the Sorcerer from the Charlatan, a smaller needle to the north. Combined with the traverse of the Wizard, NCCS III, F7, A1. (There appear to be no possible routes on either the Wizard or Sorcerer that do not involve moderately difficult free climbing with mixed aid.)

Warlock Needle. The southernmost and highest of the central Needle group; Voodoo Dome is to the immediate south. New route via the east face, and first ascent of the final summit block, April 12. This needle was climbed one week earlier by Beckey, McHale and me via the left edge of the south face to the lower, southern summit block. An old cairn on this block indicates an earlier summit attempt by unknown climbers, probably by a fifth-class traverse across the east face from the high Warlock-Witch notch to the north. East face route: From the base of the face, climb to a large ledge with big pines via either a slanting ramp or a shorter wall and crack system just to the north. At the south edge of this ledge move up 40 feet over steep blocks to a broad platform. Step across to the main wall and using a thin, wandering crack system and solution pockets with good

holds (F6) climb up 120 feet to a short aid crack (A1, 2 pitons) just below a prominent belay ledge. Follow the ramp above this ledge, then go left up giant steps via a steep jam-crack to a large platform below the summit. A vertical crack with several chockstones (F7) leads to the chimney-like notch separating the south (false) summit from the large, smooth summit bulge to the north. 3 bolts were placed above the notch to reach small nubbins leading to the top. NCCS II, F7, A1.

MICHAEL HEATH

Warlock Needle, South Face. Almost a classic combination of a smooth dome and a pointed spire, the magnificent upthrust in the central portion of the Needles was certainly image-evoking. On my first climbing venture to the attractive group of “new” climbing problems, it was apparent they were not only a physical but an aesthetic playground. It was early April. Surely the three of us, Mike Heath, Dan McHale, and I, had a self-righteous feeling about the region. Among other pleasures, we had the freedom of choice: what to climb? It took little discussion: a continuing crack system seemed to lead up the sunny face of the magnificent central spire. The name, Warlock, came later, when we conspired to adopt names to the various summits. Climbing unroped, we frictioned and squirmed up a gully that bit into the south face, near the lowest rock on the spire. It was apparent that we had to go where the cracks led. With a deceptive start, a chute bore right, to end the lead at a large pine. We continued up a gully, then traversed right to a hard jam-crack; this was ascended to a ledge. Then a right-facing open-book led to the top of a pedestal. The route dropped left, then came a struggle and squirm up a deep chimney. Now the massive upper wall towered above a lofty platform; a recess near the southeast corner provided a spacious belay. The following lead worked up and right on a slab, then into good but awkward nailing. Exciting, exposed free climbing up a long chimney ended at a belay position deep in a cave. A new lead continued up the chimney with some tricky moves, until it was possible to traverse right onto the face-margin; cracks showed the way to a widening gully/trough. Following an awkward stemming start, the gully provided the answer to the slabs under the summit blocks. Here a meandering down-traverse-up method across the upper east face led to a prominent jam-crack that split into the notch between the summit blocks. A struggle with a block that capped its top brought us to the notch. We slabbed up to the south summit block to find an earlier cairn. Approaching darkness did not allow the climb of the higher north block on this venture.

It was time to rappel, for the forest beneath was becoming murkey. NCCS III (possibly approaching IV), F8, A2.

FRED BECKEY

Sorcerer Needle, East Face. In The Needles, there are a number of interesting crack systems. Seen from a distant perspective, the break in the wall on the east face of the Wizard-Sorcerer massif, appears as a "natural". Jim Stoddard and I packed to its base on May 9, then spent several hours discovering that while the rock was superb, the crack system had not been designed by the Creator for easy climbing. Jamming and stemming brought us to a tiny platform; aid up a thin, resisting crack brought us to the crux: above an awkward hanging belay the crack veered out, overhanging. In the morning, this proved to be a technique demander, with little good protection and many qualms; at one point a bolt was placed, for the exposure was considerable and the protection non-existent. Once above this strenuous section, the system had adequate ledges to break the still-demanding crack climbing. It also had a few overly adequate bushes that provided a chorus of cursing. The climbing on to the Wizard-Sorcerer notch was continuously interesting, mostly free but with a final short aid problem. An icy, unseasonably cold wind made us hurry up the final pitches to the once-visited summit of Sorcerer. Shivering hard, we made the steep rappel to the upper notch. The climb would be rated as NCCS III, F7 or F8, A2.

FRED BECKEY

Hermit Spire, South Face. An interesting edifice of nature highlights the rolling subalpine hills west of the Little Kern River, closely north of Lloyd Meadows (several miles north of The Needles). Its base is shaped like a typical Sierra dome, but about 600 feet higher its walls slenderize to form a crest-like spire. Dan McHale and I spent Nov. 29 and 30, 1969 climbing the south face, which had to be reached by some cross-country effort. The climbing was spectacular but with a rough (unglaciated) surface of minute horns, hollows, knobs, and spikes. We began up a chimney and jam-crack system that brought some early strenuous moves to the climb. After three pitches and some awkward moments, the route eased through some zigzag ledges to the base of the face's principal feature: a great dihedral system that carried up to a platform just east of the thin summit crown. First there was delightful face climbing to its right, then a full pitch — mostly a dog-leg crack — hanging onto the dihedral. A pitch of semi-overhanging bonging provided some workmanlike aid maneuvers.

From the platform a smooth face on the left (very small holds) went to the crest of the south arête. In a biting wind and approaching darkness we climbed an awkward aid route on the frontal-right corner of the summit tower. There was no sign of an earlier visit, and the rappel down the "back" led us to believe Hermit had not been climbed before our visit. NCCS IV, F8, A3.

FRED BECKEY

Mount Clarence King, Southeast Face. This 12,909-foot mountain dominates the upper watershed of the Kings Canyon region although it is surrounded by higher peaks. On the southeast side of the beautiful horn-shaped mountain is a steep 800-foot face which Greg Henzie and I climbed in August. We found the climbing to be varied and interesting on the clean white High Sierra granite. Two F8 cracks proved to be the principle obstacles on our route which is directly in line with the main summit of the mountain. NCCS III, F8.

GALEN ROWELL

Mount Humphreys, Northeast Face. In May Joe Faint and I climbed the 1600-foot face in superb alpine conditions. Our route on this 13,986-foot mountain begins near the center of the face and ends forty feet to the left of the summit. Entries in the register indicate that other routes have been made on the left side of the face, ending on the east ridge of the mountain. About 30% of our climbing was cramponing on steep frozen snow, while moderately difficult rock climbing accounted for the remainder. The climb took eight hours and is rated NCCS III, F7.

GALEN ROWELL

The Watchtower, Northeast Arête, Tokopah Valley. Hidden in a small dead-end valley, this huge granite prow has escaped the notice of most California climbers. It rises in a spire-like blade about 1000 feet high and only 75 feet wide. Greg Henzie and I spent two days on the smooth and virtually ledgeless face on Labor Day weekend. Much of the climbing was intricate direct aid up discontinuous cracks, although as we neared the summit the last pitches were entirely free. Our route is near the left edge of the prow and did not require a single bolt. The most elegant line on the prow is parallel and only fifty feet right of ours. However, it will entail liberal use of a bolt kit in several places. NCCS V, F8, A4.

GALEN ROWELL

Kearsarge Pinnacle No. 6, West Face. On July 4, Liesl Day and I climbed what we believe to be a first ascent of the west face of Kearsarge Pinnacle No. 6. From the notch between Pinnacle No. 6 and No. 7 traverse east into a gully and climb over an overhang. Ledges and short cracks lead to the beginning of a prominent open-book. Climb halfway up the book and traverse on a tiny ledge to the right until a higher ledge can be reached by a fingertip traverse, to a large shoulder south of the summit. Steep excellent rock leads from here directly to the summit pinnacle. NCCS I, F4.

RICHARD HECHTEL

California – Yosemite

Arcturus, Northwest Face of Half Dome. Late in the afternoon of July 18, Dick Dorworth and I arrived at the base of the northwest face of Half Dome. It was like a furnace there. The spring, as we had feared, was dry, but luckily we discovered a trickle elsewhere which saved us a 1000-foot descent through thick brush for water. We started about 80 feet right of the normal route, and climbed a little over a pitch that day, bivouacking on the wall. In the morning we continued straight up via rotten, dirty climbing to a bivouac a rope-length apart just below the great traverse of the regular route. I was mucking about in the darkness, trying to get the hauling bag up to a better ledge and using two Jūmars to protect myself while climbing around on broken ledges and thinking I should use only one Jūmar – it's so much simpler – when the Jūmar holding my weight came off and there I was hanging by the other, wondering once again if I have been lucky or smart to be alive after twenty years of climbing.

The next day we followed the regular route across the traverse, and then up the dihedral at the end of it. But instead of moving right into the flake system that the standard route follows, we continued straight up. We suffered greatly from the heat and thought about Charles Ostin and Rick Sylvester, who were trying the Integral route on the face of El Capitan. "Boy." I told Dick, "that wall is almost 3000 feet lower than us, and looks directly at the sun. Those poor bastards must be frying. They don't have a chance." The upper part of this route is much more elegant than the lower half, but there are two dangerous pitches where loose blocks threaten both the climber and belayer. One is a 15-foot pillar fractured by an almost imperceptible horizontal crack about halfway up its length. The wrong use of even a nut might bring it down. At the other place, an aid crack meets a chimney, the mouth of which is choked with blocks. Lassoing a block further back helps reduce the danger of disturbing those

in front. We got through the night by rappelling onto the regular route about 100 feet above the Undercling. The ferocious heat continued the next day and sapped our strength. We ate almost nothing the whole time we were on the wall and were surprised to find ourselves feeling better on top than we had at the bottom. On this last day we found some artificial climbing of the best sort, that is to say, continuously challenging and varied and requiring a different solution to the problems presented by each move upward. In other words, it was climbing where one could make use of the skill so laboriously acquired through the years.

We reached the top late in the afternoon of July 21. The ascent had its Eiger-like qualities; for three days we received rockfall from hikers tossing granite from the summit. Had we been on the Direct route the chances of our getting killed would have been excellent. As more and more of our less thoughtful brethren venture into the mountains, it becomes more and more necessary to make the obvious explicit. Perhaps a sign enjoining the throwing of rocks at those who cannot throw back would be well placed at the beginning of the cable on the Dome. We returned to the torrid Valley happy with ourselves and confident that Ostin and Sylvester could never have made it. They had. A normal big wall piton selection is adequate. We placed a few bolts, but I cannot remember how many.

ROYAL ROBBINS

In Cold Blood, West Face of Sentinel Rock. The renowned American authority on mountaineering, Curtis W. Casewit, says, "Solo climbing is insanity." And Mr. Casewit, of course, is an honorable man. I love to read such fatuous remarks, coming as they invariably do, from the ignorant. It brings back the good old days when climbers were pariahs, when climbing was not "in", when there was no room in the game for parasites of Mr. Casewit's stamp. But now the enemy is within the gates. I confess to lunacy according to Mr. Casewit's ah... "standards". I soloed a new route on the west face of Sentinel last May, a route with some intriguing sections, a bit easier than the Frost-Chouinard line. I started from the Valley early in the morning of May 26 and returned there after dark the next day. The ascent involved two tension traverses, 8 bolts, a few rursps, and the following bongs: 2 2-inch, 2 2½-inch, and a 3-inch. One third of the placements were chocks. These are critical in a couple of sections of shaky rock. It was a surprise to find the upper wall split by a thin crack (Rageous Fortune Crack) which took wired chocks as if it had been made for them. An unprotected jam-crack left me a little shaky but led nicely to a chimney and an easy way out. The route starts up a dihedral 75 feet south of the regular west-face route and needs little description, but go left

at the top of Rageous Fortune Crack. At one point in the middle of the route, some fine rope work is useful in passing over the coarse granite. In October Egon and Johanna Marte and I made the second ascent.

ROYAL ROBBINS

El Capitan, Wall of Morning Light. On October 23 Warren Harding and Dean Caldwell started up the Wall of Morning Light on what may have been the most difficult rock climb yet accomplished. The climb, which lies between the Nose and the North America Wall, was completed 27 days later in a blare of newspaper, magazine and television publicity. The *American Alpine Journal* was promised an article, but as we go to print, it has unfortunately still not materialized. Therefore we can merely give a few details gathered from the press. The pair set off with 300 pounds of food, water and gear, enough for 20 days. They rejected the line farther left, nearer the Nose, used on previous attempts, as not sufficiently direct. This doubtless led to the use of many more bolts (some 300 are reported to have been used), bat hooks and rivets than might otherwise have been the case. For this they have been criticized, but it enabled them to keep a more direct line. It was twelve days before they were as high as the other previous attempts. There they were trapped in the "bat tents" by a four-day rainstorm. The next section was the very smooth "blank dihedral", which was slow work and where they gained only 100 feet a day. On November 11 the National Park Service decided they needed to be rescued but two days later it was called off when Caldwell shouted, "A rescue is unwarranted, unwanted and will not be accepted." They were now two-thirds of the way up the wall. Finally on May 18 they climbed over the edge at the top for a champagne lunch. The editors very much regret that their article did not arrive, for they could best have presented their own case in the controversy which has sprung up about the ethics of the climb. We point out Royal Robbins' defense of their tactics in *Summit* of December. We also present here without comment TM Herbert's remarks.

Wall of the Morning Light, El Capitan. On February 4, 1971, Royal Robbins and I completed the second ascent of the Wall of the Morning Light. Short days, cold nights, and hot tea characterized the six-day ascent. (The Editor calls attention to this most remarkable ascent so modestly summarized by the Assistant Editor for California.)

DON LAURIA

Comment on the Two Ascents of the Wall of Morning Light. After 14 years of rock climbing, I have finally been moved to written comment. What prompted this? One of the most important events I have witnessed during my years of climbing, an event which was completed on February 4, 1971, when Royal Robbins and Don Lauria without fanfare made the second ascent in 5½ days. What now could be more important than raising American rock-climbing standards? What about the fine first ascents by Robbins, Frost, Kor, Chouinard, Pratt and others of the golden generation in an age when new lines fell one after another? I often wonder if anything anywhere in the world could ever top the solo ascent of the Muir Wall. I have seen fine free and artificial climbers pushing themselves to their limit using runners, nuts, pitons, and a rare bolt occasionally for protection. Many of my companions have risked nasty falls, even their lives, trying first ascents without placing a single bolt. In the 2000 feet on the west face of El Capitan, Robbins and I kept the bolts down to one.

In November, amidst helicopters, reporters, rangers and tourists, two climbers came bolting, bat hooking and aluminum riveting over the summit of this mountain of rock which in the past has given me the finest climbing experiences of my life. It seemed to me that everyone I met, climber or not, was talking about the two on El Cap. I felt like screaming, "But they bolted the damned thing, and then they sold it to millions on television!" I wonder if the British and American teams waiting to get onto Cerro Torre felt like this when the summit was reached recently by an obsessed man with a mechanical bolt-gun who used something like 1000 bolts to bag the top. There are no laws against drilling a few holes in the rock, or even 550 holes at five-foot intervals, to eliminate all the nasty pitons and put in a *super* direct (not just a *direct*) route on El Capitan. There are dozens of new routes to be done, and on many of them we could avoid using any devious zig-zaggy cracks.

What was this most important event I witnessed in February? It was not a climb which raised American climbing standards, but rather it was the elimination of a climb which had lowered the standards. This winter Royal Robbins and Don Lauria chopped the first 300 feet of bolts out of the bolt-ladder route on El Capitan, while completing the second ascent in five-and-a-half days.

TM HERBERT

BHOS Dome, Tenaya Canyon. If you know where to look and you really care, BHOS Dome is visible from the Mirror Lake parking area. Last spring, Dennis Hennek, TM Herbert, Doug Scott, and I climbed the south

face — or the Mugwump Wall — in 1½ days. The route stays in a very distinct dihedral system for the first three pitches and then veers left to a wide crack system leading to the summit. The crux of the climb was trying to sleep through a Herbert tirade on the bivouac. It began about midnight during some snow flurries. “Wake up, hey you guys, wake up. Hennek, kick that damn limey. Is everybody awake? I’ve actually been sleeping. This is the first time I’ve ever slept on a bivouac. Damn it, wake up and listen to me. I’ve been sleeping. This is incredible. Hennek, is Lauria still sleeping? Wake him up. Scott, wake up. I’ve actually been sleeping. Hennek, kick that rotten limey. Damn it, Scott, you don’t seem to realize. . .” NCCS III, F7, A3.

DON LAURIA

Half Dome, Northwest Buttress. In September 1969, Bob Jensen and I climbed the northwest buttress of Half Dome. The route starts several hundred feet north of the regular northwest-face route at the left edge of an arch about 450 feet high. Mixed climbing leads up the arch, following detached slabs and recesses past several ledges for three pitches. From a position about 50 feet under the top of the arch, on a group of small ledges, hard nailing leads up and to the right, following the juncture of the arch and the smooth face beside it. Reaching a tiny ledge, one completes the pitch by following a horizontal row of bolts (some hangers removed) 70 feet to the right. From there, one can pendulum to a crack system, regain lost altitude, and pendulum again to get out from behind a long expanding flake. A ledge 140 feet above the end of the bolts offers a good bivouac site, after nailing first in a dihedral, then up a poor thin crack. On the next pitch, ending in a wide down-sloping ledge 150 feet up, occasional aid pins were used to ascend a deep dihedral, then pass a triangular roof on the right. The short final free pitch traverses left and then up, avoiding the summit overhangs. NCCS IV, F7, A3.

ANDREW EMBICK

Center Route on Absolutely Free Pinnacle: Shark’s Back. On August 7, Mark Klemens, Sheldon Smith, and I put up this route located on the Lower Brother. The climbing was marked by a little of everything, but mainly some very hard jam-cracks. A few days later, Klemens and I added a direct start. There were five pitches. NCCS III, F9.

RICK SYLVESTER

Via Sin Aqua, the Upper Yosemite Falls Traverse. The Falls were completely dry and both Bugs McKeith of Edinburgh and I had noticed the same possible route. In September, 1970 we followed Muir's footsteps to the western terminus of the ledge leading directly under where Upper Yosemite Falls usually descends. From here we climbed four pitches up a flake system in line with the Fall's scar. A five-pitch traverse, the "Sidewalk" (some of it is), leads to a final four-pitch dihedral, including the nefarious "Bird Urine Corner". This unique route is reserved for only the driest of autumns. One-day ascents may be a possibility by exceptionally fast parties. NCCS V, F7, A2.

RICK SYLVESTER

Arches Terrace Direct. On October 6 Bob Grow, Kelly Minnick, and I succeeded at a line Bob first tried four years before. All pitches included sections of F8 severity. Some very classic jam-cracks and two short but delicate face-climbing sections were encountered. A half pitch of aid mars this otherwise all free route. Although the rock is not exceptionally steep, the unusual location of the main crack 4 to 5 feet from the sharp edge of the buttress gives a sense of impending exposure. The route is approached via a third-class trough a few feet right of where the descent from the regular Arches Terrace route ends. NCCS III, F8, A2.

RICK SYLVESTER

Nevada Flake, The Slot Machine. In September, 1969, Scott Baxter and I did an enjoyable route located about 30 feet left of the center route. Starting in a small black dihedral, ascend via mixed free and aid to a belay in slings. Continued mixed climbing leads to a bushy belay just below an impressive left-leaning slot. Ascend this slot (F7) to a ledge from which easy cracks lead to the summit. When completely dry, the route could possibly be done entirely free. NCCS II, F7, A2.

LEE DEXTER, *Unaffiliated*

Mount Clark, Southwest Face. This long face was first climbed by Joe McKeown and me on August 19. We began just left of the single chimney system and climbed some 200 feet to loose blocks where we traversed into the chimney and ascended to an alcove. We continued up and left, nailed a

short crack, then traversed right into the chimney again and climbed about 200 feet (with a belay in slings) to a ledge where we placed a bolt. From the ledge, a 30-foot pendulum brought us to a small dihedral, and mixed climbing led to its top at a ramp. We followed the ramp up and right, across the chimney, to the south ridge. Staying on the east side of the ridge, we climbed mixed and free up and right for a pitch. Easier climbing led up for three pitches to the summit. NCCS IV, F8, A2.

KENNETH BOCHE

Lembert Dome, Lunar Leap. This short climb, first done by Russ McLean, Mike Cohen and me in July, 1969, lies just left of the Water Cracks. We climbed directly up to a ledge between the first and second of three arches, traversed left beneath the second arch and ascended a steep face between the second and third arches. NCCS II, F9.

KENNETH BOCHE

Mount Starr King, West and Northwest Faces. On May 30, Lee Panza and I began at a bent lodgepole pine at the base of the west face. We climbed up and right for three enjoyable pitches and continued straight up flakes, cracks and overhangs for another three pitches to the summit slabs (NCCS III, F8). On September 5, Mary Bomba and I made the first ascent of the northwest face. Beginning near green lichen-covered overhangs, we followed a crack for two pitches, passing the overhangs on the left. From the crack's end, we diagonaled right on flakes and friction for 200 feet (F9). We then climbed straight up for three pitches also of F9 to the summit. NCCS III, F9.

KENNETH BOCHE

Columbia Finger, Southeast Face. On September 13, Jan Mostowski and I did what we believe to be a first ascent of the southeast face of Columbia Finger. From the base of the south buttress about 150 feet to the right of the beginning of a prominent open-book with a crack. Follow the crack, which turns right (north) after 140 feet, for two rope-lengths to a little platform. Soon afterwards the crack becomes overhanging. Beyond the overhang a series of small ledges is reached. Follow the highest ledge to

its northern end and climb through a short open-book and a chimney up to the south ridge. Climb over the ridge without difficulty to the top. This was an enjoyable climb on excellent rock. NCCS II, F5.

RICHARD HECHTEL

Hetch Hetchy Dome, South Face. It was no ordinary ledge on which we were bivouacked, — over 100 feet wide, 400 feet long, and inaccessible except by roped climbing. So far our route had seemed difficult and yet in some ways, tame. Even though we had climbed five pitches on our first day over F8 difficulty, and twice resorted to skyhooks, bolts and Bat hooks, the ledge was so commodious that the climb seemed to have lost some of the seriousness we had experienced several hours earlier when the sun was setting as we drilled bolt holes 200 feet below the ledge. The last of us reached the ledge in total darkness, but now we sat around a campfire eating steaks and drinking hot tea. Nearby a trickle oozed from a natural spring in a crack, giving us an adequate supply of drinking water. We were used to the Yosemite facts of life, where the big walls are vertical deserts and only the barest essentials are crammed into one's hauling bag. Here we had a fire, hot food and drinks, and a level place to sleep. Above us the final 700 feet of the dome rose in a single vertical sweep. The entire dome seemed to be composed of smooth granite armor plate with no possible route except for a single, too-good-to-be-true, straight-in crack system directly in the center of the wall. Was it just my eyes, or did the system seem to end before it reached the summit?

In the morning, Chris Jones, Joe Faint and I awoke in a cloud. Gray masses of vapor were moving over and through us with great speed. Below, the view of the reservoir flickered on and off as we built a fire and discussed the merits of continuing the climb. Our decision was made by the silent advent of a few snowflakes sifting noiselessly down from the sky. By the time we had our gear packed, the air was white and an inch of snow had fallen. Having had previous bad experience with rappelling in such conditions without fixed ropes, I convinced Joe and Chris that we should traverse off the ledge to the right and ascend a gully to the rim of the valley, from where we could walk back the five miles to our car. The traverse was partly fifth class and quite engaging in the existing conditions. After a long trudge we reached the rim. Six inches of snow had fallen and visibility was about a hundred feet. Napoleon's retreat from Moscow was hardly accomplished with more style and finesse than our stumble in the fog back to the car.

The next weekend found Joe unavailable, so Chris and I returned alone. We found the bottom pitches to be just as hard as the week before. One is a F9 crack which is possibly the most formidable free climbing I have encountered on a big wall. Again it took us almost a full day to reach the big ledge, where we were able to fix one pitch above before dark. We spent a restful night except for occasional forages by a ring-tailed cat who had a strange appetite for the Juicy Fruit lying in a package near my head. Morning dawned brilliant and clear, but all was not well. Chris was sick, with all the symptoms of a bad case of flu. He did not know if he could continue, but finally he decided to go on if he would not have to lead. As I write this account, I am home with the flu and I can't imagine myself prusiking up a wall and cleaning seven pitches of mostly direct aid. Of course I can't imagine myself making a dozen rappels right now either, which was his only alternative. For several leads the climbing went well. Small bursts of free climbing were interspersed with long sections of aid up steep well defined cracks. A pendulum was required when a crack ended, but as we had seen from below, a new crack began just twenty feet to the right. One pitch higher we reached a dilemma. Our crack continued above us but blended into a water streak before it reached a ledge near the summit. To our right was a tempting 50° ramp-ledge which led 75 feet to what appeared to be a better crack system. I chose the ramp and used delicate friction and a bolt for protection to reach its end, where the crack didn't begin until ten feet above me. Two Bat hooks brought me to a thin crack, but after two more pin placements a flake broke off and I was suddenly dangling just above the end of the ramp again. Behind the flake was a better placement and soon I reached a ledge at the end of the lead with nothing more than a skinned elbow and a bruised ego. Above the ledge, but invisible from below, was another short blank section. While Chris cleaned the awkward traverse using two ropes, I placed a couple of strategic bolts above the ledge which later enabled me to safely free climb the last few feet to the blank area. I reached a small dihedral which led 120 feet to a huge ledge very near the top. Another short F7 pitch led us to third-class climbing on the summit slabs. NCCS VI, F9, A4.

GALEN ROWELL

The Crack of Destiny. In March Joe Faint and I climbed a continuation of the Crack of Doom route which ends at the summit of Elephant Rock, instead of in the middle. Although three different routes go to the midpoint of the rock, a blank-appearing section had stopped efforts beyond, especially since there seems to be an unwritten taboo against aid climbing on Elephant Rock. The Crack of Doom proved a difficult start

for what turned out to be easier climbing above. After a difficult move off the main ledge we soon reached the base of the blank section, which although as crackless as it had appeared from below, was knobby and relatively low angle. Surprisingly the climbing here never exceeded F6, although we placed a protection bolt fifty feet out on the exposed slab. Higher, we encountered a short F8 crack, but by sunset we were standing on the top of the rock only a short walk from our car which we had optimistically left above us on the Glacier Point Road. NCCS IV, F10.

GALEN ROWELL

Utah

Three Gossips, Arches National Monument. In the Park Avenue section of the monument are several impressive formations, few of which have been climbed. Many have blank, rotten sections at their bases. We chose the northern summit of the Three Gossips in October, since it appeared that good cracks existed. There were cracks, but they were not good. It was Allen Steck's first desert climb and so he got the first lead. He would yell down, "Do you think this one's OK?" "Hell, yes, Steck. Didn't you hear it ring?" Meanwhile I got ready for a fall. But Steck did beautifully and naively pranced up a 100-foot ladder of pins which was removed in minutes. A few hours later we reached the summit. The upper part was mostly free; a hidden four-foot-wide chimney splits the summit block. The route lies on the side opposite the road. NCCS II, F7, A3.

STEVEN ROPER

Gothic Nightmare. The Gothic Nightmare was the last of the three Mystery Towers to be climbed. It lies 34 miles east of the Fisher Towers and 20 miles east of Moab. Don Briggs, George Hurley, and I had teamed up in 1969 for first ascents of the Doric Column and the Citadel. The rotten rock techniques we learned on those ascents enabled Don and me to reach the summit of the Gothic Nightmare on April 20. On reconnaissance probes Hurley, Jon Hough and I had nailed the first pitches up a rotten crack on the north side. This reconnaissance indicated that the 300-foot crack could be climbed to the summit ridge. The major problem was traversing west along and around the many stone gargoyles that were perched along the knife-edged ridge. Briggs and I spent half a day completing the rotten crack to the summit ridge, and a day and a half

weaving our way to the top of the summit block. We named our winding route along the summit arête "The Traverse of the Goblins." It is mainly on the south side of the tower, and is the most spectacular traverse I've seen in the desert. NCCS IV, F7, A3.

WILLIAM FORREST

Zeus Tower, Moab. Last September, after an aerial reconnaissance and a spectacular dune-buggy ride, Fred Beckey and I arrived at our newly discovered desert spire. The climb of the thin 200-foot needle took two days, a few pitons between free moves and 35 bolts. NCCS III, F5, A2.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

The Lighthouse. Located ten miles east of Moab, the Lighthouse is a prominent sandstone spire rising above the south rim of the Colorado River canyon. On June 1 Harvey Carter, Tom Merrill, and I reached the overhanging summit by an east-face route that I had started the previous fall with Ian Wade. The route starts on the southeast corner and follows an obvious crack system for two leads, one free, and one aid, to the large ledge on the east face. A strenuous chimney and a delicate ridge pitch lead to a second ledge below the summit, a large, ball-shaped block of sandstone perched on a narrow base. The summit was surmounted by casting a rope over the top and jümaring up. The climb required two bolts. NCCS III, F8, A3.

GARY ZIEGLER

Castleton Tower, North Chimney. Castleton Tower, 20 miles east of Moab in Castle Valley, was first climbed by Layton Kor in 1962 up its southeast side. On the north side the natural break that splits the rock starts out as two narrow cracks in the corner of a dihedral. 150 feet above the base, the break becomes a chimney that widens as it goes higher. Allen Erickson and I climbed this new route on April 2 in five hours. A shoulder-stand gets the climber started. Ten feet higher, he passes an overhang on the left, using cracks in the slightly overhanging wall. Above a small ledge 50 feet up this pitch, the climbing becomes more difficult and is very sustained. The wall is vertical to overhanging and is climbed with jams and laybacks. The crux of this pitch is the bulge 130 feet up. Two pitons will be found ten feet above the bulge for belay anchors. These mark the beginning of the chimney. The first 30 feet consist of a difficult

smooth-walled dihedral that has bulges on the left wall. In the corner is a constricting crack that narrows from a foot to two inches, the only weakness, which must be climbed using jams, with little protection except in the corner crack. Above this smooth, bulgy section the climbing eases somewhat as it ascends a moderate chimney with a few difficult chockstones. This pitch ends 135 feet above the belayer at a flake at the back of the chimney. Here light shines through the crack from the south side of the rock. The third pitch reaches the top of the chimney and continues up into the notch between the main and secondary towers, which are divided by the crack. The fourth pitch leads out of the notch and traverses the face to reach Kor's route 30 feet below the summit platform. On this interesting 450-foot high-angle sandstone tower, the first 200 feet are very sustained with few places to rest. There is a dislodgement rockfall danger for climbers below the leader especially on the second and third pitches. Very large nuts or angles are useful since many of the cracks are one to four inches wide. We climbed it all free, using 21 nuts and eight pitons. NCCS F8.

DANIEL BURGETTE, *Purdue Outing Club*

Arizona

Eagle Rock Spire, Monument Valley. It had been a number of years since Fred Beckey and I had together accepted the challenge of sandstone climbing. This year our efforts were directed toward Eagle Rock Mesa and the 450-foot leaning needle to the west. In stirrups we reached the col between the spire and the mesa. Here we outlined our attack, acquainted ourselves with the density of the rock and rappelled into the night. Three days passed before the morning sky gave promise of another acceptable day. Apprehensively we regained our wind-battered lines. From our high point Fred led across giant loose blocks of cemented sand. Up the underbelly of bulging sandstone, he placed an upside-down line of bolts, a lead that would have taxed the endurance of any other climber. Exhausted from watching and encouraging, I followed on Jümars. From Fred's hanging belay, I led up a rotten diagonal catwalk overhanging the citadel below. Rockfall was a constant threat. I was shaken to discover that the hand-jams I was using to secure my way were disjoining my airy perch from the wall. Moving out on the shifting traverse I worked around the southwest edge of Eagle Rock. The precarious lead was secured with a double-bolt anchor on a comfortable belay stance. Across the vastness of

the great Colorado plateau I could see the San Juan Mountains saturated in sunlight. Rock wrens darted about the mesa above, and far below a Navajo herded sheep toward a waterhole. The Indian's eyes were to follow us with great curiosity throughout the climb. As I brought Fred up and across the belay rope carved a four-inch groove in the soft sandstone as it dragged around the edge: an omen of what awaited above. Disheartened, we rappelled into the shadows below. April snow fell in the Navajo Mountains to the west and brought winter's last winds across the valley. At length the squalls diminished. Sunrise over the cold, rain-swept sand was overwhelming! Determined but cautious, we moved up our wind-battered ropes. One perlon was whipped beyond recognition, another stripped of its protective sheath in a number of places. In the morning our cold, gloved hands moved slowly. The afternoon sun parched our skin until it threatened to blister and our shaded eyes shed tears from the glare. Exchanging leads, we worked our way up the upper reaches of the formidable leaning spire, placing 3/8-inch bolts in 5/16-inch holes. Sixteen days of waiting and work, 50 bolts, 50 pitons, and the climb was over. NCCS IV.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

Portal to Paradise Pinnacle, White Mesa. Among the many fine photographs included in C. Gregory Crampton's book *Standing Up Country* is one of a slender spire tritely named "The Monolith". In the fall of 1967 Scott Baxter, Jim Whitfield and I ascended this small spire which we renamed Portal to Paradise Pinnacle from an inscription at the base dated 1927. Starting on the south side we climbed to a ledge (cunningly hidden in the photograph), traversed (F7) to the north side and ascended via aid to the summit. A single rappel brings one to the ground, NCCS I, F7, A2.

LEE DEXTER, *Unaffiliated*

Bill Williams Mountain, Bill Williams Monument. This remnant of a volcanic dike is just visible above the right shoulder of Bill Williams Mountain when viewed from Interstate 40 between Ash Fork and Williams. The summit was first reached by Mark Powell, Jerry Gallwas and Don Wilson in early September of 1956 via the north face. In early 1967 Scott Baxter and Bill Stockmar and another separate party made free ascents of the north face, which Scott rated F8. The following spring Scott

Baxter, along with Mike Kuntzelman, climbed the longer south face free, the second pitch involving an F9 crack to the summit blocks. North face (from notch) NCCS I, F8; south face NCCS I, F9.

LEE DEXTER, *Unaffiliated*

Idaho

Elephant's Perch or Sawtooth Dome, West Face, Sawtooth Range. On July 18 to 20 Dick Forster and I completed a new route on the west face of this peak, 1¾ miles southwest of Redfish Lake. Our route lies 500 feet to the left of Beckey's. We approached up a series of ledges and a ramp slanting left and climbed the small right-facing dihedral in the vertical to slightly overhanging wall above. *Pitch 1:* Nail up the dihedral, using short thins and many knifeblades. Steep with consistently difficult nailing. 140 feet, A4, belay in slings. *Pitch 2:* Continue up the corner on aid with somewhat easier pin placement but with slight overhang for most of the lead. 130 feet, A3, belay on a good ledge. *Pitch 3:* Climb the short dihedral above the ledge to another ledge, step left and climb a second short dihedral to a long narrow ledge. Traverse 25 feet left and nail up the open face above. 140 feet, F7 A2, belay in slings. *Pitch 4:* Climb cracks in the wall, aiming slightly right for a large left-facing dihedral. 100 feet, A2, belay on a large ledge. *Pitch 5:* Enter the corner and nail and free climb. 130 feet, F6, A2, belay on a narrow exposed ledge. *Pitch 6:* Free climb up the corner for 40 feet and continue with aid to an overhang, which is passed via a crack on the wall to the left. Reenter the main crack and using bong-bongs, climb 60 feet up and right, then 15 feet down and right. 150 feet, F8, A3, belay on 2-foot ledge. (We placed a bolt here to secure our bivouac.) *Pitch 7:* Return to corner and nail 50 feet to a small pine. Scramble up ledges to the right to another tree. 150 feet, F5, A2, large ledge and tree for belay. *Pitch 8:* Scramble up and right along ledges for 80 feet. Class 4, belay on large ledges. *Pitch 9:* Climb a short chimney for 20 feet and nail directly up to the large tree. 130 feet, F8, A2, belay at the tree. *Pitch 10:* Scramble up and left along ledges. At the seeming dead end, step around the corner to the left and climb an 8-foot crack to a ledge. 150 feet, F5, belay on ledge. *Pitch 11:* Climb the obvious crack above the ledge up moderately strenuous jam-cracks and over loose boulders. 150 feet, F7, A1, belay on narrow, exposed ledge. *Pitch 12:* Climb jam-cracks for 30 feet and then scramble as angle eases. 150 feet, F6, belay on smooth slabs below summit overhangs. *Pitch 13:* Traverse left 110 feet and

climb up 30 feet to the notch. 140 feet, belay in the notch. The summit is reached from there by a short scramble up the north ridge. We descended the first couloir on the southeast side, making two short rappels near the bottom. NCCS V, F8, A4, 14 hours.

RUSSELL OBERG, *Unaffiliated*

Wyoming – Tetons

Grand Teton, Second Tower, South Ridge. This difficult route was first climbed on August 2 by David Ingalls and Scott Brun. After a start in the couloir between the Second Tower and the summit of the Grand, the party ascended a red dihedral in eight pitches (III, F8, A1).

Mount Moran, South Buttress Right, variation. On July 13, 1969, Juris Krisjansons and Peter Habeler made a significant new variation of this massive buttress by climbing the rock between the Black Fin and the South Buttress Right route. Six leads in this section of broken rock went generally straight up, involving F6 and occasionally F7 pitches. The variation ends with a pendulum to the left (west) to join the normal South Buttress Right at the east end of the Great Traverse. This fine variation (F7, A1) is more direct than the normal route, but it has the defect of missing the Great Traverse pitch which is one of the main attractions of the normal route.

Bivouac Peak, Direct South Face. The third route on this face was established on July 24 by Yvon Chouinard and Juris Krisjansons. The route begins, after F3 and F4 scrambling up toward the obvious black water marks which form a prominent feature of the face, at a cairn below the steep and at times slightly overhanging face just left of these water marks. The first seven leads consist of superb and sustained F7 climbing on excellent high-angle rock with adequate protection and belay ledges. In this section the line of least resistance is followed by climbing a bit to the right or left to avoid the larger overhangs. A huge ledge, reached at the end of the seventh lead, was followed easily to the left to enter a chimney behind the right (east) edge of the central buttress in the face. The remaining upper eight pitches are on easier ground but also proved to be very enjoyable climbing, hence this route (IV, F7) is to be recommended. Descent was made via the large southeast couloir.

Storm Point, Trinity Buttress. This series of three buttresses, one above the other, lies directly to the left of the southwest ridge. Yvon Chouinard and TM Herbert on August 1 made the first ascent of this route (III, F8) by keeping more or less to the crest of these buttresses. The first involved a thin crack and finished with an F7 layback and jamcrack. The second buttress was climbed first up to a pine in an upward traverse to the right until the final 150-foot F8 face was climbed. The last buttress finished with two easy pitches after a difficult crack on the left side was ascended. Descent was made via a ledge system to the east. This climb has excellent rock and one of the shortest approaches in the Tetons.

Nez Perce, Lemon Crack. This new route (III, F9, A3), climbed on August 1, 1969, by Peter Cleveland and Michael Yokell, is on the same cliff as the "Big Bluff" route which was established some ten years ago. The route starts in a cave below a white face containing a large, lemon-shaped block; this face lies directly above and south of the Platforms in Garnet Canyon. The first pitch involves A3 nailing up over the roof and onto the 'lemon', then up 30 feet more (F8) to a good ledge with grass. The next F9 lead first drops down to the right and around a corner to a ledge and then diagonals up and right past the tip of a large pine tree (which grows from the ground at the start) to a ledge. Easier ledges then allowed a traverse to the right and up to the base of an open-book. This book was avoided by traversing again to the right and up 30 feet to a large sloping ledge below a second overhanging open-book which diagonals up to the left. This was climbed using aid (A2). Above, a very difficult tension traverse to the right permitted an exit onto a good ledge. After belaying from further around the corner to the right, they continued up on difficult (F7) rock, bypassing overhangs on the left. The seventh lead was up easy rock to the top. The climb was continuously interesting, containing a surprising amount of free climbing for a face which overhangs slightly from bottom to top.

Nez Perce, South-southwest Ridge. This ridge lies immediately west of the direct south ridge and leads to the subsummit about a hundred feet west of the true summit of Nez Perce. It was first climbed on August 13 by Leigh and Irene Ortenburger and David Coward after approaching from the Platforms in Garnet Canyon. From the higher col separating Shadow Peak from Nez Perce a traverse west led past the vertical beginning of the south-southwest ridge, which was avoided in favor of a large obvious chimney on the west flank of the ridge. After three straightforward pitches

the chimney culminated in an overhang which was passed by an awkward pitch (F6) on the left (west) side. The next pitch led first up a narrow chimney and then out on an exposed face to the right onto the crest of the ridge. From this point the remainder of the ridge was ascended via F3 and F4 rock just east of the crest, although it could have been attacked directly up to the subsummit.

Death Canyon. Three more difficult rock climbs have been made on the readily accessible cliffs on the north side of the canyon entrance. The first was made by Michael and Jane Yokell on July 20, 1969, on the south face of Sentinel Turret. A total of eight pitches, including two rated F8, were climbed up a crack system which apparently crossed the line of a previous ascent since a one-inch angle piton was found. The second route, Doomsday Dihedral, was climbed on July 11 by Dave and Jim Erickson. This dihedral in white rock begins about 400 feet up near the left edge of the south face of Sentinel Turret and was reached on the sixth pitch. The route started with a 150-foot chimney followed by face climbing to the right of the dihedral to two cracks diagonally left. The third lead (F7) went up the left crack to a ledge from which two more pitches (F9 and F6) led to a stance 30 feet to the right of the dihedral. The dihedral itself was climbed in two rotten F9 leads, exiting over a roof and up to a ledge. The final four pitches were on the southwest ridge to the summit. The route is rated as IV, F9, but cannot be recommended because of excessive danger from the rotten rock.

Grand Teton, Northeast Buttress variation. On the north flank of the east ridge of the Grand Teton, the substantial expanse of rock lying between the northeast couloir and the north face is divided into two separate buttresses by a nearly vertical gash or couloir. On August 24-25 Paul Myhre and Dale Sommers made a new variation, climbing the left (eastern) buttress from the Teton Glacier to the point where this buttress intersects the northeast couloir route; on the second day of climbing this route was then used to reach the summit. The buttress was approached from the glacier, the rock being reached by crossing an ice bridge below the northeast couloir. A wide ledge system was climbed diagonally out to the right until it ended about 30 feet short of the right couloir, where a large F7 flake system led in 75 feet up to a narrow ledge. The next pitch up and right (F8, A2) led to a small ramp leading diagonally right up to a good belay ledge. The five- to eight-foot ceiling above was passed by some very difficult nailing (A4) in poor cracks which diagonalled right through the ceiling in poor quality rock. The party continued on aid above the

ceiling to the right on broken, vertical blocks to a wide high angle ramp that goes free (F8) through a small overhang to the bottom of the prominent chimney visible from the glacier. At this point a bivouac was made and the remainder of the climb was done the second day. The chimney was readily climbed in two pitches to a very slick wall. This was avoided by scrambling right into the right couloir and then back left (F8) and up a short wall to return to the buttress face. One F6 pitch then led to the top of the buttress where the northeast couloir route was joined. This climb was rated as IV, F8, A4, making it one of the more severe routes on the peak. An adequate selection of hardware seems advisable with two- to three-inch bongs being useful for the nailing of the ceiling.

LEIGH N. ORTENBURGER

Wyoming – Wind River Range

Bollinger, East Face, Cirque of the Towers, Wind River Range. Dave Goeddel and I completed an exhilarating new route on the vertical east face of Bollinger. The route follows a prominent diagonal crack system for four leads before zigzagging to the summit ridge. When seen from below, it appears that there would be considerable nailing, but almost all went free. Our first attempt was interrupted by bad weather after we had climbed five and a half pitches. On August 22 we climbed ropes left on the last two pitches and finished in a long day. We started at the top of blocks below the summit. After climbing an easy slab and a bench, we diagonalized right along a crack, using a couple of aid pins before gaining the upper crack system from a ledge. Hard laybacking followed by easier climbing led to a grassy area and then a long easy ramp. Above this we climbed an overhang, reaching another ramp, which steepened and narrowed into another short aid section below a belay ledge. A short lead left on friction led us up a chimney, over a notch and down into a whitish V-inset visible from the ground. From that belay an A3 pitch led up and left to a belay among huge detached blocks and flakes, from which an enjoyable and mostly free lead passed several overhangs, going up and right to a ledge. Due to lack of time, we traversed right and climbed sometimes difficult ramps and overhangs, finishing some yards from the summit; a direct route could probably be forced. 8 pitches, some over 150 feet; 30 to 35 pitons up to 2 inches. NCCS IV, F9, A3 or UIAA VI, A3.

ANDREW EMBICK, *Claremont Outing Club*

Warrior I, North Face, Cirque of the Towers, Wind River Range. Jeff Lowe and I made the first ascent on July 25 and 26. The route begins in the center of the north face and goes directly up into the huge dihedral just to the right of the crest. We then followed gendarmes to the rim, the largest being climbed from the east. NCCS IV, F9, A3; 16 hours.

GEORGE H. LOWE, III

Pronghorn, East Arête of North Summit. Pronghorn has two spectacular buttresses. The southern leads directly to the main summit and is nearly vertical. The northern leads to the north summit and maintains a nearly constant angle of about 70° . It is bounded on each side by steep faces and thus forms a sharp arête. The already existing route on the east side of Pronghorn (Becky and Bjornstad) follows the gulleys and chimneys between these two buttresses. On July 29, Tony Qamar and I, feeling somewhat overawed by the southern buttress decided to attempt the more friendly northern buttress. We approached it from lake 11,050+ (two miles south of Middle Fork Lake) and started climbing slightly to the right of the crest in order to avoid difficult slabs and overhangs on the lowest 100 feet of the arête. Thereafter we climbed directly up the arête and attained the summit after a total of nine pitches, taking $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours. The first several pitches are the most difficult. The final pitches are particularly exhilarating because in its higher portions the arête narrows to only several feet. We suggest this very enjoyable climb be called Antelope Arête. NCCS III, F8.

CHARLES RAYMOND

Mount Bonneville, West Face Crack and West Face of South Summit. On first viewing the west face of Bonneville, Tony Qamar and I were impressed by the vertical chimney which runs straight up the face to the forepinnacle northwest of the main summit. After puzzling over the confusing description of Mount Bonneville in Bonney's guide, we concluded this chimney had not been climbed. On August 2 we started out at noon with a minimum of equipment to avoid being encumbered in the chimney. Four pitches of climbing in the vertical chimney brought us to a ledge on the northwest corner of the forepinnacle. From there we climbed two pitches up the west arête of the pinnacle to its sharp spectacular summit. One rappel and some scrambling brought us to the notch behind.

From there we walked up scree and talus to a notch on the main ridge. We then descended by the regular route (route 1.) NCCS III, F7. We two were intrigued with the idea of doing a complete traverse of Mount Bonneville. A logical beginning for a south to north traverse is the west face of the south peak. This is an imposing face and is a good climb in itself. From the south end of lake 10,828 we ascended directly up the center of the face to the summit crest and then traversed the exposed ridge to the highest point of the south peak. This required 7 pitches of roped climbing (NCCS III, F6) and took 5 hours. From the south peak we traversed the main ridge to the middle peak and continued over two subsidiary summits to the north summit. The complete traverse including the west face of the south peak took 13 hours. NCCS IV, F8.

CHARLES RAYMOND

Pylon, Cirque of the Towers Region. Dick Compton, John Highkin, and I completed a traverse of two pinnacles on the southeast ridge of Pylon while placing a new route up the southeast ridge. The route which included 11 pitches and 2 rappels plus third class work is a III, F6. After descending the upper pinnacle follow the obvious grassy gully from the col up the east side of the ridge. Cross the ridge two leads from the top and climb the headwall. Cairns and registers were left on the two pinnacles. Descent was by the Wisconsin Couloir.

JAMES HALFPENNY, *University of Wyoming Outing Club*

Sundance Peak, East Face. In late July Anne Ketchin and I climbed an interesting new route on the east face of Sundance Peak. Following a book crack that starts slightly left of center on the face we climbed five pitches to the top of the south ridge. The third lead, a down-sloping, moss-filled dihedral which required two copper head nuts for protection was particularly challenging. NCCS II, F9.

GARY ZIEGLER

East Face of Goat Flat's Plateau. David Ravert, Ed Poznanski, and I ascended the snowfield which empties into Golden Lake (upstream from Phillips Lake). Although this snow chute is 1500 feet in vertical height, the

climb covered 2000 surface feet on which ten fifth-class leads were necessary. The seemingly bottomless berschrund was crossed by an eight-foot snow bridge. Early in the summer this schrund is usually covered. Ice covering the last three pitches caused Ed to take a spectacular 200-foot leader fall. Descent was down the couloir. This chute is one of the few possible opening on to the Goat Flat's Plateau south of the main pass on the Glacier Trail from Trail Lake.

JAMES HALFPENNY, *University of Wyoming Outing Club*

Mount Sacagawea, Winter Ascent. A two-week expedition over the 1969 Christmas season, which included Bruce Barrus, co-leader, Scott Bradley, Stein Frick, Roger Howe, Mike Parker and me succeeded in making in the first winter ascent of Mount Sacagawea (the fifth highest peak in Wyoming). A blizzard forced us to retreat 400 feet from the top of Turret. After taking four wheel drive vehicles to the end of the Cold Springs Trail head, we spent six days relaying loads in over Indian Pass to an 11,000-foot Base Camp on the North Fork of Bull Lake Creek.

JAMES HALFPENNY, *University of Wyoming Outing Club*

Haystack Mountain. Haystack mountain is a long north-south ridge with a buttress at the north end where the valley floor drops away. There were two grade-IV routes on the north end and several easier 5th-class routes further south but nothing in between, either in ratings or on the ridge. To resolve this problem Chris O'Brien, a fellow NOLS student, and I decided to climb a very obvious flake-chimney system to a mass of red rock at the juncture of the buttress and the ridge, about a quarter mile north of Deep Lake and a few hundred feet south of Fowler's Route. Scramble up low-angle flakes and grassy ledges to an upward-left-curving flake with a chimney behind it. Climb inside the chimney to a broad ledge on top of the flake. The second pitch leads left across the ledge and up another flake-chimney system. The third pitch continues to the top of the chimney with several difficult moves. The next lead goes left under an overhang and up a large block on the main face. Here the angle lessens and the climbing is easier for the next three pitches, NCCS II, F7. 4 hours.

RICHARD COMPTON, *National Outdoor Leadership School*

Wyoming – Big Horns

Big Horns. The Iowa Mountaineers held a summer climbing camp in the Big Horns from August 7 to 22, based at the west end of Spear Lake. There were 342 man-ascents made by the 93 participants during the camp period. First ascents included Shispro (12,000 feet) on August 15 and 16 by Roger Wiegand and Pete and Rozanne Cleveland via the prominent buttress that rises 500 feet on the rim of Penrose Canyon between Penrose Peak and the Seven Brothers, 6 pitches, NCCS IV, F10, A2, and the first, second and third pinnacles of the Seven Brothers on August 16 by Doug and Henrietta Gale, NCCS I. Many new routes were established. On August 12 Harvey Carter, Pete Cleveland and Wiegand made a direct finish to Bill Pirmak's west face route on Hallelujah (12,600 feet), NCCS III, F8. Hallelujah was also climbed on August 17 from the Hallelujah-Buffalo Back Col by Carter, Paul Jones and me in four 150-foot leads, NCCS II, F6. Pete Cleveland, Wiegand and Patricia Armstrong climbed the north ridge of Woolsey (13,000 feet) from the Woolsey-Blacktooth Col. It involved five pitches and a traverse onto the northwest face to avoid an overhanging section of the ridge, NCCS II, F6. Starvation Peak (11,600 feet) was climbed on the northwest side by Patricia Armstrong and Tony Peeters, who followed the slabs up the right side of the open-book for nearly 720 feet and then entered a gully which led to the summit, NCCS II, F5. On August 19 Carter and Robert Drzyhkowski started on the lower arête on the northwest corner of Starvation Peak, followed the yellow banded rock up easy ledges to a 60-foot V-crack which led to the top arête, then crossed a gully and proceeded up the face for 250 feet and entered a series of cracks that eventually led to a large gully near the summit, five leads, NCCS III, F8. On August 11 Carter and I climbed the northwest face of Buffalo Back (12,200 feet) on friction slabs on the yellow rock just east of the large red walls, NCCS II, F4. Blacktooth was ascended by the north face ice couloir by Carter and party. New routes were also placed on Little Goose Spire and Penrose Peak but details are unavailable because of misplaced climbing records.

JAMES W. EBERT

Colorado

New Routes in Rocky Mountain National Park. In July Charlie Logan and I climbed a new route on the north face of the Spearhead. The right side of the face is a triangular plate, laced with a spider's web of cracks, and with a hooked top. Our route, *The Barb*, starts near its right side and above the main horizontal ledge diagonals up to the left to the far

side of the plate. It ascends one lead to the right to a crack near its top and continues around the corner onto the northwest face and up any of the routes there to the summit. NCCS III, F8, A2; 10 pitches, 13 hours. In October George Hurley and I climbed *The Eumenides* on the Sundance Buttress. The west-central portion of this formation is pierced by a number of vertical dihedrals with slabs between them. Our route started some 250 feet left of the popular Guillotine route and ascended the largest of these dihedrals and the face to its left for six leads, until it went left around a corner into another dihedral, which we followed for two more leads to the top. NCCS III, F8; 9 hours. Other routes done this year include the Erb-Sokol-Jacober route on Sundance, NCCS III, Culp-Beal on Petit Grepon, NCCS III or IV, Orange-Julius on rock west of Bookmark, NCCS III, F9, A4, Covington's route right of the North Chimney route and Forrest's finish to the Yellow Wall, which was of three new pitches and the first solo ascent of the Diamond on Longs Peak. In July, 1967 Jock Glidden and I climbed the *Indirettissima* on Chasm View Wall of the east face of Longs Peak. Starting from the highest scramble ledge to the right of the *Direttissima*, we went up to a scoop ledge, chimneyed up behind an enormous flake, from its top went right into an aid dihedral that led to large ledges and traversed up these to the right behind a flake onto the ridge. NCCS II, F7, A2; 4 pitches, 5 hours. A week later Larry Dalke and Cliff Jenning repeated the route with a significant variation, which avoided the aid pitch by some F9 jamming around a fearsome overhanging flake to the left.

WALTER FRICKE, *National Park Service*

Mount Vigil, Southwest Face. Mount Vigil is one of a group of granite monoliths which form the southern-most extension of the Pikes Peak massive, southwest of Colorado Springs. Located in a heavily climbed area, the southwest face had remained unclimbed mainly because it is hidden from view from the normal roads and trails. On February 28, Molly Higgins, Chuck Berensmier, and I climbed a long high-angle arête which sweeps up the center of the southwest face. The route follows a wide crack for 300 feet to a point where the crack veers away from the arête to the right. A thin, mixed aid and free lead to the left requiring a cliff-hanger on a blank section, gives access to a new crack system. Two long pitches up the crack terminate the climbing on a scramble boulder pile leading to the summit. We used 3 pitons, 12 nuts, and one cliff-hanger. NCCS III, F8, A3.

GARY ZIEGLER

Pope's Nose, Southwest Face, San Juan Range. As we stood there sheepishly at the confluence of the Flint Fork and the Los Pinos River in the southeastern San Juan Range, I thought the 1000-foot unclimbed southwest wall of the Pope's Nose looked much bigger, much steeper, now that I had returned to climb it. On the bright blueing morning of June 21, Mike Burdick, Jim Yurchenco and I, after an hour's bushwhack, sat at the base of the wall, 100 feet left of the overhanging central dihedral. Then I struggled up a leaning F8 crack to a spacious belay perch atop a giant's tooth. I looked up at the dark roof, three-quarters of the way to the top. Mike, Jim, I and Mike again led: nice cracks, a big craggy block, a questionable chockstone, drifting along natural lines, into a big dihedral, a thin traverse. There we were, three furry fellows hanging in a hole as a combination of sun and light rain fell down on day's end. The night was cold. Three chilly pitches in the morning, one for each, were nicely mixed and sling-belayed. For the crux eighth pitch Mike pendulumed right, into the arms of the main dihedral and climbed beautifully free. Before I could leave my bolt belay and follow the big swing, the Colorado sky turned violently against us. The thunder warned, then hail began, then downpouring rain. I crashed into the dihedral and jūmared frantically towards my friends, above, in the shelter of the roof, behind a curtain of ice-water. Mike led up another pitch to the right and belayed under the roof. Outside it had settled down to drizzle. I traversed right in the prominent groove which slashes the entire rock from upper left to lower right and belayed beneath a promising-looking exit crack. The rain stopped. The promise was kept as I sailed up the next two pitches and Mike led the happy last. Then three tiny freaks scrambled to the top of the Pope's Nose at 7:30 P.M. NCCS V, F9, A2, or UIAA VI.

JAMES GALVIN, *unaffiliated*

CANADA

Yukon Territory

Mount Logan on Skis. Arno Dennig, Gerwalt Pichler, Bruno Kraker and Hanns Schell of Austria, Karl Hub of Germany, and Hugo Dietrich and I of Alaska left Glenallen on May 4 for the Logan Glacier with Jack Wilson's Air Service. By the 5th we were at 8500 feet on the Quintino Sella Glacier. On May 10 our camp was at King Col right under King Peak. Two camps and six days later we climbed three minor peaks on the western rim of the Logan plateau. On May 18 we ski-climbed the