Climbs and Expeditions

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UNITED STATES

Alaska

Mount McKinley. There were nine successful expeditions which climbed Mount McKinley in 1971. Ten expeditions attempted the climb unsuccessfully. There were two fatalities, one at 9300 feet on the Muldrow Glacier and one at 16,000 feet on the West Buttress. Of the 163 climbers, 48 made the summit and 115 did not. The French climb of the Cassin route variation is covered by an article. Gary Ullin, Michael Sloan, Jack Cole, James Foster and Ronald Mucke were the only party to climb the North Peak as well as the South (main) Summit, ascending Pioneer Ridge and descending Karstens Ridge. They reached the North Peak on June 18 and the South Peak on June 22. One expedition climbed Karstens Ridge; Craig Patterson, Robert Gallivan and John Sutton got to the top on July 21 and John Lakey and Thomas Peterson on July 23. All others climbed the West Buttress route: on May 29 Otto Huber, Erwin Mitterbichler, Germans; on June 22 Katsuo Take, Takae Minowa and on June 23 Kazuo Miyamoto, Masaki Suzuki, Shoichi Mitamura, Nobuo Masaki, Shigeo Toki, Genichi Kawabata, Japanese; On July 4 W. E. (Smoke) Blanchard, Randy Renner, Robert Denkewalter, Paul Denkewalter, Richard Dietz, Crawford Hill, John Lamb, Jr., Charles Thout, Timothy Treacy; on July 10 Salvador Rivas Martínez, Carlos Soria Fontán, Carlos Muñoz-Repiso Izaguirre, Luis Bernardo Durand, Spaniards; on July 14 Uwe Siegert, Christian Bruckner and on July 18 Ray Genet, Alan Abele, Marlene Titus; and on August 13 Hartmut Ahlbrecht, Gerhard Ahlbrecht, Tilman Spohr, Germans and Betty Ivanoff, Alaskan Eskimo.

Note: All dates in this section refer to 1971 unless otherwise stated.

Mount McKinley Correction. Inadvertently we omitted the name of Carolyn Smith, who accompanied her husband Ronald Smith and others to the summit of Mount McKinley on July 20, 1970, in *A.A.J.*, 1971, 17:2, p. 325. We congratulate Mrs. Smith on this rugged ascent.

Moose's Tooth. In July, Chris Bonington, Sandy Bill, Tom Frost and I made an attempt on the south face of the Moose's Tooth. After two good bivouacs we reached the height of 1600 feet on the wall. We were then forced to descend when hit by a lengthy storm. The rock was quite rotten and the difficulties included difficult nailing.

JAMES P. McCARTHY

Foraker Attempt. After trying for a week to run and hide from avalanches in the icefall leading to the northeast ridge of Mount Foraker, Peggy Scott (now my wife) and I finally decided to climb the ridge to the right of the icefall but ran out of time at about 8500 feet.

KURT BITTLINGMAIER, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Mount Hunter, Northeast Ridge. On May 15 we were flown to the Kahiltna Glacier. Camp I was at 8200 feet on the southeast fork of the Kahiltna Glacier. Just above was the key to our route, a 1300-foot ice gully, which led to the top of the northeast ridge. We fixed ropes from May 21 to 24 on the 50° to 60° ice of the gully and carried loads up, using Jümars on this most difficult part of the climb. Camp II was on the ridge near the point marked 9950 feet on the Washburn map. There was a 400-foot snow face on the ridge and then 1000 feet of knife-edged ridge, where we fixed ropes. We bivouacked for several nights at 12,500 feet. Above the bivouac was more knife-edged ridge. We tunneled through a cornice and eventually got to the summit plateau. On June 4 K. Takahashi, leader, N. Sasada, S. Kosaka, K. A. Suzuki and I climbed the summit pyramid of Mount Hunter (14,570 feet) up the snow and ice ridge. We were climbing for 24 hours. On June 13 we five plus Mrs. C. Suzuki climbed Kahiltna Dome.

HIROKAZU HAMADA, *Tokyo Hokuryo Alpine Club*

Mount Hunter, North Face Attempt. An attempt was made on the north face of Mount Hunter by Charles Fuselier, Laura Johnson, Joan Nester, Guy Waterman and me in May. An unusually heavy snow fall occurred during the winter of 1970-71 which may have accounted for the high degree of avalanche activity. It snowed on 13 of the 14 days that we were in the area. A route was planned in 1969 while studying the north face. Because of the avalanche danger, the beginning of this route had to be changed. This start required fixed rope from the very beginning. A large avalanche, triggered by a hanging glacier, fell while all of us were at the top of the second pitch of the climb. Although the

main section of the avalanche was some distance from this section of the route, it was so big that part spilled over, crossed a gully and swept across the route below us. When we descended, only six of the ten snowshoes could be found. Ten feet of solidified snow and ice blocks were on some sections of the approach trail. This avalanche prematurely terminated the attempt.

EDWARD O. NESTER

Mount Huntington Attempt. In June the University of Washington's Tri-Peak Expedition, Neils Anderson, Chris Chandler, Alan Givler, Richard LeBlond, Malcolm Moore and I, made an attempt on the northeast ridge of Mount Huntington. Due to an unfortunate alteration in the proposed landing site, we were landed on the West Fork of the Ruth Glacier, northeast of Huntington, confronted by a 2000-foot icefall, which rose to a col between Huntington and our second objective, The Rooster Comb. Between avalanches and snow storms we reached the col, having placed about ten fixed lines. Previous to our final ferry up to the col, Base Camp was hit by the tail-end of an avalanche, which scattered equipment over an eighth of a mile. Next, Moore and Givler missed near disaster when another of considerable proportions broke off the north face of Huntington. To this point technical difficulties had not been severe, but the recent snowfall had increased objective dangers so high that we decided that the opportunity for accidents was too great.

DEBORAH WOLFE

Mount Hayes, Second Ascent by New Route, the East Ridge. After three smooth flights, Dan Osborne, leader, Mark Hottmann,Tom Hillis and I lay ready on the westernmost fork of the Trident Glacier at 6000 feet. We moved camp the next day to a ramp leading to the east ridge of Mount Hayes. When we reached the base of the ramp at 7000 feet, a storm had taken over. High winds left no alternative but to dig a snow cave. In somewhat better weather the next day, the first loads were carried up the ramp and cached at the halfway point. As the storm continued and drifted in the entrance of the snow cave, we had several close escapes from suffocation. The ramp was technically not difficult but proved time-consuming. Eventually we had a third camp placed on the lee side of its summit, which we named "Levi's Bump." Osborne and I pushed the route ahead from there. The ridge averaged 45° and rose from 9900 feet at Levi's Bump to the 13,832-foot summit of Hayes with a dip of 300 feet in-between. It was mostly hard-packed snow with few obstacles. A bergschrund an hour out of camp presented a small vertical wall requiring a fixed rope. Then followed a much larger ice wall, where we chopped steps and fixed 200 feet of rope. Hottmann and Hillis attacked the ridge the next day. By late morning they were

well above the second fixed rope and into a very broken section which finally baffled them. We two returned the following day and skirted the area which had given them so much trouble. To the left we found an ice wall of at least 50°. The 150-foot pitch of blue ice hung 4500 feet above the Trident Glacier. We securely anchored 200 feet of rope with two four-foot pickets. That evening as we came down the ridge, a storm began brewing. By late morning on May 21 the weather again permitted climbing. Hottmann and Hillis had soon passed the highest fixed rope. From there to 13,000 feet, the ridge presented 1000 feet of hard snow with only minor obstacles. Then a bit of steep ice demanded careful foot placement. After that they had only exhaustion and altitude to contend with before they reached the summit at 1:45 A.M. Osborne and I were preparing to set out when they returned seventeen hours after their departure. Our attempt failed in a whiteout.

JAMES A. BRADY, *Alaska Alpine Club*

P 12,360 and Others, Mount Hayes Group. The Kansai University expedition was composed of Yoshimi Miyamoto, Hajime Naemura, Hiroshi Anzawa, Shigefumi Matsumoto and me as leader. Three of us left Paxson for Mount Hayes on June 16 by plane, but the plane was turned upside down by a big wind the moment we landed on the upper Susitna Glacier. Fortunately we were all unharmed. Mr. Sheldon's plane was helped by an Air Force helicopter. For a week our climbers were isolated on the glacier, supplied by an airdrop. The other two of us landed between the Susitna and Black Rapids glaciers on June 22 and we met on the Susitna the next day. We set up Base Camp on the upper Susitna at 8500 feet on June 24. We climbed to a pass on the Hayes-Aurora ridge and set up Camp I there on the 26th. After a three-day storm we fixed rope and traversed the ridge to the southeast. We all set up an advanced camp, climbing P 10,232 on the way. On July 6 Miyamoto and Naemura ascended P 12,261, which required 120 feet of fixed rope near the top, and P 12,360. Anzawa and Matsumoto later climbed P 10,300 on the connecting ridge which descends from Hayes to the southeast. (All these peaks had been previously climbed. See especially *A.A.J.*, 1965, 14:2, pp. 404-5.) After moving Base Camp to 7000 feet under the south ridge of Mount Hayes, we climbed to 9000 feet but a week's storm put an end to climbing activities.

TSUTOMU NAKANO, *Kansai University Alpine Club*

Mount Deborah, Alaska Range, Attempt on Northwest Ridge. Floyd Frank, Joe Smyth and I hoped to climb the narrow, ¾-mile-long, corniced ridge which extends northwest from Mount Deborah (12,339 feet), gaining access by a north ridge which joins it at 11,000 feet.

Leaving an airstrip on Portage Creek some 20 miles north of Deborah on June 15, we spent three days reaching Base Camp (5000 feet) at the head of Gillam Glacier. Our route continued through a series of icefalls directly south of Base Camp. A second camp was above the worst of the icefalls at 7200 feet on a small plateau walled on two sides by ominous black cliffs topped by overhanging ice walls, which several times dropped large ice chunks; we spent as little time as possible here. In two days we brought loads up from Base Camp and then moved west to camp in a small col at 9500 feet between the north ridge and a 9730-foot peak. Because of cornices and highly fractured rock, it took nearly eight hours to cover the first 800 feet of the north ridge to nearly 10,000 feet. We put in sparingly 600 feet of fixed line out of our meager 1000-foot supply. (We should have brought 3000 feet.) A four-day snowstorm tied us down. On June 30 our schedule and food supply forced us back to Base Camp and to Portage Creek where our Tanana Air Taxi plane met us on July 5.

RICHARD NOLTING, *Unaffiliated*

Arrigetch Peaks, Brooks Range, Alaska — A group of ten from Hampshire College spent three weeks from June 9 through July 1 in the cirque where the 1964 party made its Base Camp, the first valley south of Arrigetch Creek. Besides the climb of Shot Tower (see article in this *Journal*), the following first ascents were made (see map, *A.A.J.*, 1970, 17:1, p. 70): Badile (east ridge from the south) by Ed Ward and Dave Roberts on June 20; Disneyland (southwest face) by Ward and Roberts on June 27; and "Tasmania" (a 5800-foot satellite just east of "Australia" — the main peak on the ridge between the Camel and Disneyland) by Ward, David Vicario, Roberts, and Cindy Cattell on June 18, also by Vicario and Alice Bissell on June 25. Of the three, Disneyland was the hardest. The following second ascents were made (all first ascents by the 1964 party): East Maiden, by Sharon and Dave Roberts, Vicario, Bissell, Nancy Lord, and Kathy Garber, on June 13; West Maiden, by Ward, Cattell, Tom Griggs and Bob Hefner on June 13, also by Hefner, Vicario, and Bissell on June 21; and Citadel, by S. and D. Roberts on June 25. Hefner, Griggs, Cattell, and Lord also made a four-day, 25-mile exploratory circuit through the next valley south, passing beneath scores of attractive unclimbed peaks. We had temperatures up to 78° F. at Base Camp, and 18 straight days without rain. The expedition ended with an eight-day, 150-mile kayak and raft trip down the Alatna River from Takahula Lake to the native village of Allakaket, during which we battled the worst mosquitoes I had seen in nine Alaskan summers — so thick that as we paddled we heard them as a constant drone in the bushes alongside the river.

DAVID S. ROBERTS

Mount Sanford Attempt. The Alaska Methodist University Mount Sanford Expedition was led by me and composed of James Abbott, Jake Burkett, Franz Froehlicher and Mitch Henning. We spent a week on the mountain in mid-May with camps at 6500, 9500 and 12,000 feet. Wind and snow kept us tent-bound at the last camp for three days. We did reach 14,000 feet but limited time and supplies forced our retreat.

WILLIAM E. LONG

Tazlina Glacier Climbs, Chugach. Dr. Russell Batt, Gary James, Charles Marchand and I as leader climbed four peaks on the divide between the Columbia and Tazlina Glaciers. On June 22 we ascended Tazlina Tower (8325 feet) by its west face and southwest ridge from Base Camp on the upper Tazlina Glacier. We climbed "Rachel Carson" (7075 feet) and "Freuchen" (6965 feet) from a camp west of Diplodocus Mountain on June 25 and 26. We ascended "Scilina Peak" (7240 feet) on July 3 from the pass between the Tazlina and Science Glaciers. Our attempts on Lindita Peak and "Mount Valkyrie" failed. Snow conditions were unusually poor and the weather lived up to its notoriously bad reputation.

LAWRENCE E. NIELSEN

Mount Spurr Attempt. Our group was comprised of George G. Wiswell III, Brian Forbes and me. We landed on August 23 east of Mount Spurr by ski-plane at 3500 feet on the Capps Glacier. Trying to avoid the tremendous icefalls between the ridges and at the same time climb Spurr by a new route (it has been climbed twice), we chose the northeast ridge. The route is some twelve miles long. Unfortunately we did not reach the top. We were at 7500 feet on the thin ridge when bad weather and lack of fuel forced us back. On August 29 Wiswell and I climbed a 6000-foot peak on the eastern edge of the Capps at about 61° 25' 30" N, 152° 10' W.

EVERETT P. WENRICK, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

"The Tusk" Attempt, Merrill Pass Area. In USGS *Bulletin 862* by Stephen R. Capps of 1935 appears a faded black and white picture of a magnificent rock spire captioned: "The Tusk, a glaciated granite pinnacle in the basin of Another River." A detailed search through the *Bulletin* reveals another clue: "A lofty spire of granite in the southern Alaskan Range near Merrill Pass . . . the mass towers as a great tusk with sheer walls nearly 2500' high." With these clues and two reconnaissance flights, Bob Smith and I organized a trip for the first week of July. Our group consisted of six Mountaineering Club of Alaska members: Bill Barnes, Steve Jones, Barry Kircher, Wendell Oderkirk, Bob Smith and me. After three fully loaded float-plane flights from Anchor-

age to shallow Lake Kunibuna on July 3, we waded and maneuvered from sandbar to sandbar across the swift Igitna River toward the Another River valley. For the next two days we fought our 60- to 80-pound packs through a jungle of alders before reaching camp near the base of our objective, "The Tusk". A day of reconnoitering the north, east and south sides of the granite spire revealed a possible fifth-class route following chimney and crack systems on the southeast face. The following day we all packed ropes and hardware to its base. Kircher and I climbed a series of F5 to F9 chimneys and crack systems. Loose rock and grit continually fell, causing our second rope to abandon its attempt to follow us. Four long leads of strenuous and shaky climbing led us to a saddle about half or two-thirds of the way to the summit. One more lead brought me to a series of bulging overhangs of highly weathered and decomposed granite. Uneasy nerves caused by numerous portable handholds plus the physical and mental wear of the previous days of alder thrashing dictated our decision not to proceed up or around the rotten overhangs that cut across the face. Four 165-foot rappels in fading light brought us to a deep couloir, which we descended down steep soft snow.

STEVE W. HACKETT

St. Elias, East Ridge Attempt. On June 2, 1970, Loren Adkins, Gary Ullin, John Neal and I left Yakutat for an attempt on the east ridge of St. Elias. We flew to an abandoned airstrip at 500 feet on the west side of the mountain and from there walked up the Malaspina, Agassiz and Newton Glaciers to the foot of the east ridge, where we set up Base Camp at about 9000 feet. The lower part of the Newton was badly broken, and it was obvious that by the time we were to walk out, it would have deteriorated so badly it would have been next to impassable. When later, on a radio check, we found that a helicopter would be in Yakutat area for a few days, we arranged to be flown out on it even though it severely limited our time for climbing. We reached 14,000 feet but were unable to push to the top due to lack of time and bad weather. We were flown out on June 26. The crux of the climb appears to be an extremely sharp corniced knife-edged ridge composed of rotten, hollow snow at around 11,000 feet. With aid of 24 anchors and 1900 feet of fixed rope, we eventually made that section moderately secure.

WALTER R. GOVE

Mount St. Elias. On May 27 Giorgio Tessari, Giuliano Fabbrica, Elio Scarabelli, Rino Zocchi, my brother Antonio Rusconi and I as leader left our small village of Valmadrera at the foot of the Grigna of Lecco. On June 4 Base Camp was established by helicopter at 6000 feet among the huge crevasses of the Newton Glacier. Great walls of ice

and snow nearly 12,000 feet high soared in vast majesty above our very heads. The devilish rumbling of avalanches shook us into the realization of the dreaded peril. It took two days of work amid crevasses, séracs and icefalls in the powder snow of the long southeast ridge to install Camp I. On June 8 at 10,500 feet we set up a tent and left a supply of food, but during the night the weather changed and for six days we remained in the tents while eight feet of snow fell. Finally on June 14 we saw the sun and decided to try to return to Camp I. On the crest the conditions had worsened terribly and we could not advance along it. The new snow had built enormous but delicate cornices. We descended to Base Camp and watched cornices fall. On June 15 we decided to make a second attempt, this time following in part the 1897 route of the Duke of the Abruzzi. Zocchi and I set out to find the way to the upper part of the Newton Glacier and Russell Col. Heading across the glacier which descends from the southeast ridge proper beside the east ridges, (i.e. left of the main Newton Glacier) we crossed crevasses and snow bridges, bypassing séracs and ice pinnacles. The last 15-foot-wide, thinly bridged crevasse was surmounted by a wall of ice which took me two hours of step-cutting. We had finally reached the upper Newton Glacier at the foot of the east ridge. It was easier on this glacier, which we followed to a point three miles from Russell Col, where we camped. We made radio contact to summon the others. On June 16 around five A.M. an enormous avalanche crashed frighteningly from near the top of St. Elias 6000 feet down to the glacier and against the slopes of Mount Newton. Though three miles away, we were covered by a layer of snow and reduced to zero visibility. We had not recovered from the shock when a far more powerful avalanche hurtled from Mount Newton. If we had started earlier for Russell Col, we should now lie beneath one of the two avalanches. It took seven hours of hard work and acrobatics to climb the steep 3500 feet to the col (12,300 feet). After a brief rest, at two o'clock we started the final assault of the north ridge. At 16,000 feet Scarabelli, hit by the altitude, found it impossible to proceed. My brother Toni, Fabbrica and Zocchi were in good shape and so I decided that they should head for the summit while we other three returned to bivouac on Russel Col. Ten hours later, the tired but victorious trio joined us on the col. It took us another five hours to get back to camp where we could rest after 25 hours of fighting against the mountain. We descended in six hours to Base Camp on the 18th. On June 23, after a five-day storm, the weather seemed to clear. We started for the east ridge. The following day from camp at the foot of the ridge Toni and I climbed to 12,500 feet, where we left some equipment. On the 25th we all set out together to set up camp at 13,700 feet. As I led a steep section, a huge cornice fell, sweeping me down 100 feet and burying four of us. Luckily we managed to extricate ourselves only 50 feet from the edge of a 3000-foot cliff. Now at 13,000 feet, we continued to 13,700 feet where three stopped to set up

Camp II. My brother Toni, Scarabelli and I climbed another 100 feet to the point where we knew the most difficult part of the ascent began. We made another 900 feet along the heavily corniced and unstable ridge. Never have we found anywhere such treacherous and dangerous terrain. The only way to return was to rappel some 250 feet vertically on the right face to arrive at a slope which brought us to Camp II. Leaving at one A.M. on the 26th in beautiful weather, we climbed back to our high point in three hours. The difficulties became greater as we progressed. By two P.M. we had overcome the greater difficulties, but the weather worsened and bitterly we had to decide to return. We could not return by the same route we had climbed but had to descend the right wall of the ridge. From a snow bollard we rappelled down the 800-foot vertical ice slope. The rope just reached the bottom of the wall. We arrived exhausted at Camp II. With the weather worsening, we descended to Camp I and Base Camp, where a final six-day storm trapped us.

GIOVANNI RUSCONI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Canadian St. Elias Expedition. On July 10 Alice Culbert, Jack Bryceland, Jim Craig, Fred Douglas, Steve Heim, Dietmar Setzer, my wife Margriet Wyborn and I flew from Seattle to Yakutat. On the same day we were flown into Oily Lake which is trapped between the Malaspina Glacier and the Samovar Hills at 1500 feet. This may represent the cheapest approach to St. Elias but apparently the lake has been known to drain. Landing on the northeast end of the lake we followed a stream north and climbed a snow slope to cross the Samovar Hills at a col of 3700 feet. To avoid the icefall at the Newton-Agassiz junction, we skied across the Agassiz Glacier and up a small side glacier to camp beneath the 5900-foot col at the end of the southeast ridge of St. Elias. Next morning it took two hours to climb the 1500 feet to the col. Not reaching the ridge at the lowest point we were forced to abseil 60 feet down the other side before skiing down to the Newton Glacier. Roped up and on skis we weaved between the crevasses to camp at 5500 feet beneath the difficult last icefall before Base Camp. One wall and a huge crevasse took six hours to cross. That night (July 13) we set up Base Camp at 6200 feet. Four days we waited in bad weather for our airdrop, living on one day's rations and tins of food left at the Italian Base Camp. As soon as the food arrived, we set out to find a route to a campsite beneath the headwall leading to Russell Col. To avoid part of the icefall we crossed the lower section of the east ridge. A camp was established at 8500 feet, far enough from the headwall to be free from avalanches. On July 22 everybody carried loads to the col. Large ice avalanches continually rumbled down off the hanging glaciers on St. Elias, endangering the left-hand section of the headwall, but we found a relatively safe route directly up slopes to the col. Ropes were fixed on the steeper pitches. On the following day everybody moved up to the col

and a camp was established at 12,300 feet, where the weather trapped us for five days. Winds gusted up to 40 mph and eight feet of snow fell. The four tent dwellers finally gave up repitching the tent and the snow cave was enlarged to fit all eight. On the afternoon of July 29 we started up the ridge in clear windy weather. At 14,500 feet we found a crevasse to sleep in after some leveling of the floor and enlarging. In beautiful weather all but one started for the summit at 6:30 next morning. No technical difficulties were encountered but soft snow made the ascent very slow. On the summit I was overcome with pulmonary oedema and had to descend quickly to lower altitudes, where I quickly recovered. We reached the summit on July 30, the same day that the Duke of the Abruzzi made the first ascent, 74 years earlier. On the descent of the headwall, Steve Heim broke a leg while jumping a crevasse and had to be helicoptered out to Yakutat. Also we found that our skis, left at the base of the headwall, had been buried by a huge avalanche. Fortunately the snow below Base Camp was much firmer than on the approach and we walked back to Oily Lake in two days. The descent from the col on the southeast ridge of St. Elias was made by a steep narrow couloir, the top of which was easily gained from the Newton side. Over 600 feet of fixed rope was used on this descent. We were flown back to Yakutat on August 5.

ROSS WYBORN, *British Columbia Mountaineering Club*

Peaks above Glacier Bay, Fairweather Range. John and Pati Letcher, my wife Audra and I spent the month of June 1969 in Glacier Bay. We traveled up the bay in the Letchers' 25-foot sailboat *Aleutka,* but the unusually clear and calm weather meant we did as much rowing as sailing. From an anchorage in Hugh Miller Inlet we climbed P 4600 (1 mile northwest of Mount Friable) via the Hugh Miller Glacier and reconnoitered the approach to P 7103 (5 miles northeast of Mount Bertha). We then moved *Aleutka* to Reid Inlet which offered a shorter access to our objective, but extensive crevasses on Reid Glacier caused us to abandon the attempt on P 7103. We climbed P 5200 (5 miles north of Contact Nunatak) from the south. As there was no evidence of a previous ascent we propose to name it "Mount Aleutka." Note: In places glaciers have changed dramatically since the topographic maps were made. What looks on the map like an easy approach up a glacier can be a series of time-consuming moraines today.

ERIC ADELBERGER, *Sierra Club*

Devils Thumb, Stikine Icecap, Third Ascent. The approach used by Culbert's party was not yet clear of ice and so Rich Mathies, Brad Fowler, Craig McKibbon* and I flew with Chuck Traylor of the Stikine Air Service to the mouth of the Flood River, some 24 miles from the Devils

*Recipient of a Boyd N. Everett Climbing Fellowship grant.

Thumb. Fortunately we did not encounter the travail of the Beckey party (*A.A.J.*, 1947, 6:3, pp. 269-277.) and had an uneventful hike up the left bank of the river to the glacier. Above the moraine we skied to the head of the Flood Glacier and then again from above the headwall across the icefield to the Devils Thumb. After arriving and retrieving our all-important airdrop, the weather deteriorated and we spent several days with only short sorties. When the storm broke, we made the first ascent of a small peak (P 8200) about a mile southeast of the Devils Thumb. Several days later, on June 26, we repeated Cuthbert's east ridge route on the Thumb, as avalanches swept the snow off the other faces. Unthreatened by storms, we spent a beautiful night a short distance from the summit, although we could have climbed throughout the semi-dark five-hour night. We descended a new route with eight rappels straight down the south face to a hogback snowfield forming Beckey's 1946 route and then down a rocky buttress avoiding loose snow.

GREG DONALDSON

Washington — Cascade Mountains*

Mount Adams, Klickitat Face. Between the two cascading icefalls of the Klickitat Glacier on the east face of Mount Adams is a 3000-foot headwall of almost the same width. This 50° slope of lava, ash, and breccia is adorned by several ice remnants and a minor jumble of séracs, then capped by an ice slope and cornice. For much of the year, it would be an intolerably dangerous climb. The secret is to find a nice day with ample, well-frozen surface snow. Such a day was July first. Dave Beckstead and I had worked hard for this "first ascent"; some nine miles of the approach (and hike out) was a drudging snow-covered road. But to have postponed the climb until the road melted would have brought unsafe conditions. A windy night with a flapping tent gave us little rest. From a camp near the south lobe of the Mazama Glacier we crossed to the Klickitat, then zigged through crevasses to the central bergschrund. Once across, we cramponed as fast as our bodily functions would allow. The morning sun was already sending gushing slides down steep furrows. Assumptions that we could keep out of gullies proved correct: We kept moving, using our picks and points, then found colder conditions high on the wall. Though it was summer, the ice slopes leading to the false summit were a replica of February, with none of the usual dirty pumice dust. Grade III.

FRED BECKEY

*Further information on these climbs in the Washington Cascades as well as lowland rock climbs and other routes can be found in the *Mountaineer*. It is hoped that detailed descriptions of all new routes will be published there, while a selection of these climbs, with less detail, is published in the *American Alpine Journal*.

Correction, Willis Wall, Mount Rainier. The Bertulis-Wickwire climb of what they called "Brumal Buttress" two years ago (*A.A.J.*, 1971, 17:2, pp. 288-91) was the first route done on that face in winter, but the rib they climbed had been previously ascended twice: both times solo by Charles Bell in 1961 and 1962. Bell's climbs of what he called "Damocles Rib" had not been previously reported because of his failure to secure National Park Service approval.

Mount Rainier, Willis Wall. On May 12-13 Ed Boulton and I made the second ascent of Willis Wall's *Central Rib.* The climb was highlighted by numerous leads of continuous front-pointing on hard ice, a good-sized ice avalanche down the couloir paralleling our route which rained ice chunks upon us and a rather severe late spring storm which pinned us down for two nights above 13,000 feet. Rob Schaller and Lee Nelson who had bivouacked with us at the base of the wall in the hope of doing the *East Rib* (but turned back above the schrund in the face of sustained rockfall) came back in mid-June and climbed a new variation of lower Willis Wall and upper Curtis Ridge. They made the second ascent of the East Rib route to the point where that route traverses inward to the Central Rib and then up through a break in the summit ice cliff. Instead of making the rightward traverse, the two climbers traversed left several hundred feet to Curtis Ridge, joining that route below the uppermost rock bands and gullies. Although exposed, the crossing was not difficult. Two days were spent on the route variation.

JAMES F. WICKWIRE

Dragontail. Three new routes were added on this peak. The *Northeast Buttress,* Grade III or IV, 5.7 or 5.8 by Fred Beckey, Ron Burgner, and Tom Nephew; the *North Face,* Grade II, F7 by Fred Stanley and James F. Wickwire; and an ascent of the longest line on the *Northwest Face.*

Snow Creek Wall, Iconoclast. This route lies between Galaxy and Outer Space, beginning with the first pitch of Remorse and ending with the last pitch of the Outer Space crack. It was climbed June 13 by Mead and Tom Hargis. Mead writes, "Unfortunately it was my onus to remove a bolt ladder placed by several intermediate parties attempting to finish the climb in this manner, a malefaction that showed they weren't up to the standard of climbing." NCCS III, F10.

Big Four, Tower Route. This 4000-foot north-side route was completed by Ben Guydelkon and Ron Miller on July 25. From the end of the ice-caves trail, they traversed to the northeast side of the first tower to a prominent gully. Climbing this gully, they were able to work west onto and up the first tower. After rappelling into a notch, the next two towers were climbed. Some more rock climbing led to a long, steep, exposed snowfield and the summit. NCCS IV, F7.

Helena Peak, The Checkered Demon. This route begins approximately 200 yards right of the Beckey, Nephew, and Wagner route (*A.A.J.*, 1971) and joins it on the last lead. The first attempt was made by Jerry Kilner and Dave Davis in the summer of 1970. It was completed in September 1971 by Dave Davis, Don Leonard, and Bill Lingley. NCCS V, F7, A3.

Tenpeak Mountain, Northwest Face. A Base Camp north of Tenpeak Mountain, a granitic subrange southeast of Glacier Peak and the Honeycomb Glacier, is over 20 miles from the road when using the Suiattle River approach. Except for a few hours of brush fighting at the end, it is a delightful hike. On September 22 Bill Nicolai, Peter K. Williamson, and I cramponed a snow arm edging the glacier to get onto Tenpeak's northwest face. This unclimbed façade is some 2000 feet high, but due to the solidity of the rock and its jointing, we elected to do much of it without the nuisance of the rope (though it was fully class 4). The final few pitches took a bit of piton protection. A biting wind on the summit foreran the end of summer: it came the next day.

FRED BECKEY

Mount Blum, North Ridge. This granitic ridge was climbed September 16 by Dave Hutchinson, Phil Leatherman, and Mark Weigelt. Crossing the glacier, they by-passed a moat by climbing a chockstone-filled gully. Several difficult pitches led to easier climbing on the ridge crest. NCCS III, F9.

Peak 7547. This peak, located in the North Cascades north of Cutthroat Peak, was climbed last September by Trish and Charley Raymond and me by the prominent Northeast Arête. The climb begins in a deep chimney and the last lead terminates directly on the summit. Grade II, F6.

ALEX BERTULIS

Mount Redoubt, Northeast Face. Those who carefully appraise the big wall challenges of the North Cascades will likely agree that the most serious ice problems exist on Fury, Shuksan, Maude, and Redoubt. Of these, only Redoubt had not seen the crampon mark until 1971. An unsuccessful trek up the jungles of Depot Creek from the Canadian side in 1970 showed the mettle of the frowning, ice-furrowed northeast face. The rock was rotten to the core and the ice was as steep as any I have seen in the Cascades. Then, the Redoubt Glacier was so shattered that we could not even get on it. Heavy winter snows and a late spring provided a rare July opportunity that ordinarily would have been lost after June. When John Rupley and I approached the mountain early on the 23rd from the head of Indian Creek, the heavy seasonal snowpack

was evident. Hours later, after a complex glacier route down around buttresses to reach the segment of the glacier leading onto the face, we could see that we might still cross the delicate key bridges. They were melting fast. A rotten snow traverse onto the 50° ice face confirmed our suspicions; sufficient snow cover, but belays were a fantasy. As a token of technique, we did them anyway, and promised ourselves not to slip. About 700 feet higher, we were able to edge onto rock for sideline piton protection. After traversing under a drooping cornice, the route elegantly shot up a narrow ice crest to the upper rock wall. Numerous pitches of surprisingly sound rock took us beyond the worst of an evil-looking ice couloir. Protected by solid pitons, we then traversed out to it for two final, very steep leads. A few axe pull-ups brought us out of trouble just as the sun was setting. Grade IV.

FRED BECKEY

Big Snow Mountain, East Buttress. Big Snow Mountain (6680 feet) lies north of the Snoqualmie Pass group. The east buttress is characterized by a prominent dihedral and overhangs along its crest. On May 11 Jeff Dial and I traversed the left side of lower Hardscrabble Lake and scrambled over two rock bands to reach the southern side of the buttress at 5400 feet. We stayed close to the crest while traversing under overhangs and moving generally from a southern to a northern exposure. The rock was very sound. There were 10 pitches, 4 of class four and the rest class five with occasional pins for aid. NCCS III, F7, A1.

DON WILLIAMSON

Burnt Boot Peak, North Ridge. Across the middle fork of the Snoqualmie River, two miles southeast of Big Snow Mountain lies P 6480, now officially Burnt Boot Peak. Bill Bucher, Tom Oas and I climbed a new route, the north ridge. From the base of the steepest part of the ridge, three leads of class five on granite, the last being a very sharp crest, led to easier ground. Three leads of class three and four put us on the summit. Only one previous ascent of Burnt Boot Peak was listed in the tin-can register, that of the survey party of 1963.

DON WILLIAMSON

Washington — Olympic Mountains

North Brother, East Ridge. After failing to climb North Brother in various attempts, from a logging road up Murhut Creek, in June, 1970 Robert Yekel, Roger Beckett, Max Triboulet and I climbed to a notch on the east ridge, where we came face-to-face with serious rock climbing. The final 800 feet to the summit were on steep snow.

HAROLD L. PINSCH

"Valhalla" Group. Up the south fork of the Hoh River there seemed to be unclimbed peaks about three miles from Mount Olympus on the southwest ridge towards Pelton Peak, reminiscent of the Bugaboos on a miniature scale. After a reconnaissance ended by bad weather in 1970, Glenn Kelsey, Roger Beckett and I were back in the last week of May, 1971 with Dan Michaels, Dave Stevens, Monty Lennox, Dave Haley and Bob Yekel. We headed first for "Woden", the highest of the group. After climbing a steep snow slope and crossing the bergschrund, we reached the summit by a class-four pitch of excellent rock only to be completely demoralized by the presence of a register. Our "virgin" peak had been climbed in 1966 by Ivan Lundgren of Tumwater and Ernest Labistida of San Diego. On the descent we climbed one of the adjoining peaks, also finding a register. A peak of massive proportions, yet lacking height, inspired the name of "Thor", the god of lightning and thunder. "Loki", the mischievous god, supplied the name to the needle-shaped rock. The next day, all but I ascended "Thor" and "Loki" for first ascents. "Loki" was an interesting shinny up its last 12 feet so that one could place a hand on its tip as if it were a flagpole. The next day we all climbed the other peak adjoining "Woden", apparently a second ascent, and then traversed two more unclimbed peaks.

HAROLD L. PINSCH

California — Sierra Nevada

Mount Russell, West Face. While looking at slides taken on a flight over the Sierra Nevada, Galen Rowell was electrified by a striking face on 14,086-foot Mount Russell, one of the finest peaks in the range. On reaching the peak many months later, we soon recognized the unmistakable face. On a cold day in June we started up a crack system near the center of the face and were able to climb free except for 10 direct-aid pitons used on two overhanging sections. The rock is perfect throughout. NCCS IV, F9, A2.

CHRISTOPHER A. G. JONES

Shaw Spire. This free-standing pinnacle at the head of George Creek, nestled under the east face of Mount Barnard, was ascended for the first time in March by Jerry Gregg and me. The arduous 6000-foot approach begins in the Owens Valley below Mount Williamson. Our seven pitches of climbing started at 12,000 feet on the southeast arête. NCCS III, F8.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Bear Creek Spire, South Face. In August I made the first ascent of this steep 1000-foot wall. I was prepared for a somewhat smaller face of more moderate angle as indicated on the disturbingly inaccurate topographical map. At the base of the wall, I reconsidered my solo

attempt, and especially my seven pitons and grand total of 17 pounds of equipment. Then I looked back down Pine Creek Canyon to where my car was parked, many miles and 5000 feet below. My pack contained the barest essentials for climbing, self-belay and a bivouac. I used every piece of equipment at least once. The first 200 feet were unroped, but from there on the climbing was F6 to F8 on steep, but rough granite. Just before sunset I stood on top of a long slab a few hundred feet from the top. Above me was a short overhang and a gap in the crack system. My repeated attempts to climb it free failed. I placed a piton for aid but could not reach another placement. Finally a desperate free move from a sling attached to the piton enabled me to reach a wide crack. A traverse on a long ledge gained a dihedral leading to the summit ridge. The sun had set when I reached the top (13,713 feet) and I bivouacked at 12,000 feet on the opposite side of the mountain. The next morning I hiked out to the Rock Creek roadend, jumped on my previously cached bicycle for a 40-mile ride to my car. NCCS IV, F9, A1.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Merced Peak, North Face. In early July, Mary Bomba and I made the first ascent of this face. In the middle of the face an obvious ramp diagonals up and right. We climbed to the bottom of the ramp over some loose F7, then ascended the poorly protected ramp. A short, moderate section at the top of the ramp led to easier climbing and the summit. NCCS III, F7.

KENNETH BOCHE

Fuller Buttes, Eagle Dihedral. In April Jerry Coe and I climbed a route on the southwest face of the eastern butte. To our knowledge, this is the first route on these surprisingly smooth domes which present 1000-foot cliffs toward the San Joaquin River, southeast of Yosemite. A gigantic dihedral, beginning above the ground but reachable by an easy ramp from the side, is the only natural weakness on the buttes. The third pitch had a ceiling that we found to be unclimbable by conventional methods. A crack, too wide to nail and too difficult for either of us to jam, led past the ceiling. Deep inside it narrowed abruptly to a two-inch width, but once a piton was placed, it was recessed so far that it became impossible to reach higher on the overhang. I free-climbed to the edge of the ceiling, placed a piton, floundered in slings, and returned. Jerry did the same. The ultimate solution was to hang on tension from the last piton while throwing a large Clog nut attached to the haul line. After innumerable attempts, the nut followed the proper arc and jammed in the crack some 15 feet higher. Climbing hand-over-hand, I was soon above the difficulties. Higher, we followed cracks and chimneys past more feasible overhangs until we reached a long ledge that rounded a corner just below the summit. Walking unroped around

the corner, we came almost face to face with a golden eagle coming in for a landing. At least as surprised as we, he hurried unsociably away, flapping a fast about-face and diving downward out of sight. After a moment he reappeared as he soared off into the clouds. An easy chimney put us on the summit slabs at the end of the day and the beginning of a storm. NCCS IV, F9, A3.

GALEN A. ROWELL

The Smokestack. This is the lefthand tower on a separate but obscure massif of the Wheeler Crest, marked as P 8400 on the map, above Well's Meadow on the Owens Valley floor. Though visible from Bishop, it appears so small and blends in so well with the 8000-foot escarpment of the crest, that Doug Robinson had trouble convincing me that we should even attempt it. Our first attempt in January, 1970, was stopped on the third pitch by a steep blank section. Looking back, we saw our high point was only a quarter of the way up the tower and realized that it must be at least a 1000-foot face. In 1971, we reclimbed the first two F8 leads, and as I watched amazed, the new Doug Robinson led a F9 traverse without hesitation. Higher I tried to follow his example but finked out by placing the only bolt on the route for protection on F9 face-climbing. I kept the bolt kit out as Doug began the most questionable part of the route where there were no cracks. After many false starts, Doug led a brilliant F10 traverse to the beginning of a chimney system. Still the climbing did not taper off and only one of the nine leads was less than F8. I have rarely seen such continuous and varied free climbing. Jams, flaring chimneys, steep face climbing and low-angle friction with micro-flakes all provided cruxes on various leads. This would be a classic in Yosemite. NCCS IV, F10.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Hamilton Lakes Dome, North Ridge. Having chosen an impossible line on Angel Wings and having succeeded in proving it impossible, TM Herbert and I cast our eyes across Hamilton Creek to the north ridge of Hamilton Lakes Dome or Peak 9770. This prominent feature southwest of the lowest Hamilton Lake had been climbed twice before via the east ridge. Our approach was long and required forethought and success with a wet mossy jam crack. The climb was beautiful with seven pitches of fifth class straight up the arête — face climbing, crack climbing, good rock, bad rock, and excellent nut placements. We descended via the fourth class eastern route. NCCS II, F7.

DON LAURIA

Fresno Dome, Southwest Face. There appear to be a number of domes and rock outcrops on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada that have been overlooked by the serious climber. One of these is Fresno

Dome, southwest of Yosemite National Park. On November 5, Jim Stuart and I made what appears to be the first climb on its face. We chose the outside corner, about 500 feet in height, an interesting climb involving crack and slab problems. NCCS II, F7.

FRED BECKEY

The Obelisk, West Face. The Obelisk is an outstanding reddish monolith near the rim of the middle fork of the Kings River, just east of Spanish Mountain. On June 6, Hooman Aprin and I found an interesting new route, the west face. Some seven pitches involved interesting continuous climbing on steep unglaciated granite blessed with excellent holds. NCCS II, F7.

FRED BECKEY

Mount Russell, Northeast Face. On June 10, Reed Cundiff and I made the first climb of this very alpine, slabby face. Terrible snow conditions prevented us from gaining the central slabs, so we were forced to settle for a less classic, but still valid route on solid, broken rock to the right side of the face. The climb ends on the eastern summit. NCCS II or III.

FRED BECKEY

Langille Peak, East Buttress. Langille Peak, far up the middle fork of the Kings River, is known more to hikers of the John Muir Trail than to climbers. Its eastern face is hollowed by several deep gullies and highlighted by many long spur ridges. On July 2, Chris Jones and I chose a route on this unclimbed face which follows near the crest of a striking east buttress. We climbed talus and then increasingly steep slabs. While not continuous fifth class, the climbing still had many little problems of technique and route finding. The rock is as good as any I have seen in alpine regions. This exhilarating climb is to be recommended. The hike in and out with climbing gear is the only drawback. NCCS II.

FRED BECKEY

Wrinkled Lady, South Face. Looking north from Whitney Portal, one can see a prominent pyramid crossing the ridge, deeply corrugated with vertical cracks and books. Joe Brown and I made a direct climb from the roadhead on May 24 and 25, 1969. Because the climb had nearly 2000 feet of slabs and crack climbing, we pushed for the fastest free-climbing route, using the rope only at a few crux spots on the first afternoon. A last stand of scrub trees provided good wood for a bivouac fire. The final 500 feet of the summit pyramid are very steep. We chose a central open-book that led to the summit with mixed free and aid

climbing. Rough unglaciated rock surface and very deep cracks conspired to scrape hands and knees and to tear clothes in serious struggles with cracks. About noon we completed this long and interesting new route. NCCS III, F7, A2.

FRED BECKEY

El Segundo Buttress, South Face. The first ascent of this striking buttress above Whitney Portal was made March 21 by Michael Heath and me. The route ascends a crack system past a prominent overhang, then continues up incipient cracks on the nose. Several short blank areas between cracks required the placing of 5 bolts and the use of 5 bat-hooks in drilled holes. NCCS III or IV, F7, A3.

FRED BECKEY

The Winged Horse, South Face. Rising above Lower Boy Scout Lake and just east of the Impala, the rugged summit crown of the Winged Horse rises above an appealing 600-foot south face. Late in the fall of 1969, Dan McHale, Joe Brown, and I completed the three hard lower pitches of the face, each of which involved bits of monumental effort. The route began at a pine tree and soon involved tricky friction climbing (F8, one bolt for protection). The second pitch had an awkward problem as we changed cracks, followed by off-balance nailing of a slanting crack. A pitch up the only dirty area (a groove hard to climb and protect) led to more broken and aesthetic rock on the upper face. Jam cracks and a long chimney led to the summit block. Jack Miller and I completed the climb on November 17, 1970, finding no sign of a previous summit visit. NCCS III, F8, A3.

FRED BECKEY

The Sphinx, North Buttress. From the roadhead near Cedar Grove on the south fork of the Kings River, it is a long uphill hike to the tree-crowned, semi-alpine ridge south of the Sphinx. The Sphinx is an impressive tower near the highest point of a massive rock wedge that has its footings low on the slabs and canyons near the confluence of the Kings River and Bubbs Creek. Though the tower had been climbed, the long smooth buttress above the northern slabs had not. On October 18, 1970, Greg Donaldson, Walt Vennum, and I descended west of the buttress to a point where we could begin a worthy climb. Finding a reasonable entry to the buttress provided two interesting fifth-class pitches. On the crest the dubious places (F6) provided little leeway, but there was always a route. A number of interesting pitches led to the base of the curious summit tower. There we turned to the north flank and worked out a new route to the top. After this enjoyable climb came the drag, walking back uphill to camp. NCCS II, F7.

FRED BECKEY

Mount Tyndall, East Face Couloir. Mount Tyndall's rather expansive and sheer east face falls from a long north-south summit ridge. Strangely, it has not seen climbing except at its extreme south end, quite distant from the summit. On May 31, 1970, Charles Raymond and I traversed soft snow slopes, coming from Shepherd Pass on the north, below the face to seek an interesting one-day route. A direct rock route to the summit seemed feasible, but because of dubious looking cracks on the upper section, and our lack of preparation for much technical work, we chose the deep couloir that splits the heart of the face. For about 1000 feet the climbing was steep and mushy. Then several leads of quite steep snow, very consolidated, led to a final couloir headwall. Raymond led this, pulling off a number of shattered handholds on a very difficult and unpleasant final pitch. Protection was hard to place and of really doubtful value. Frost action had riven the rock quite badly and the nearby faces did not look especially promising, but no doubt a more direct route can be found. NCCS III, F8.

FRED BECKEY

Lone Pine Peak, Bastile Buttress. To appreciate the size of Bastile Buttress, or even the immensity of Lone Pine Peak, one must personally come to grips with the terrain. The vast relief from the desert piedmont of the Owens Valley to the heights of Mount Whitney must be the cause of the deception everyone experiences. As an example of the impression of simplicity, various estimates of the height of the buttress ranged from 7 to 11 pitches. It turned out to be 17. The name came later, but the choice was obvious. When one drives to Whitney Portal, it is *the* buttress on the vast scarp of Lone Pine Peak. Disgusted by the long lift lines at Mammoth Mountain one weekend in March 1969, I hiked up a canyon to the base of the very polished rock-climbing problem. Self-belaying, I reached a fine ledge in two pitches. Above was a giant arch, then relentless smoothness. Occasional cracks were spaced on the occasionally blank, pillar-like buttress. By April the long clutch of winter was disappearing. Hampered by the restrictions of weekend availability, Joe Brown, Charles Haas, and I could not complete the climb on our first serious effort. April 26th to 28th proved to be the winning combination, helped by a miniature bivouac fire on a high ledge from a few pieces of fibrous deadwood. Not even the occult could have foreseen the timing of a potential catastrophe. While we slept below the buttress a slab of ice some 6 by 15 feet in size slid out of the giant arch and crashed down over our ropes. In the morning . . . well, the ice was gone. Technically, the climb was a mixture of many delights and frustrations, with numerous challenging free and aid sections. Bolts were placed at six different areas, but only one was a ladder. Some of the hard friction was difficult to protect and one lead (9th) was truly tiring nailing. NCCS V, F8, A3.

FRED BECKEY

Balloon Dome, Northeast Face. Pouring over topographic maps one boring wet weekend a few winters ago, I became curious about the tightly woven contours on a feature adjacent to the upper San Joaquin River titled Balloon Dome. If those delicate brown lines were accurate, they implied a massive steep uplift from low footings. Peering through old journals and books on the Sierra Nevada, I could find no trace of the name or a photograph, but the aerials at the U.S. Geological Survey proved interesting indeed. To pry climbers away from Yosemite Valley can be exasperating. The first question invariably is, "How far is the hike in?" After some verbal jousting, I convinced Reed Cundiff and Bill Hackett to accompany me, being careful not to mention that the 8 or 10 miles first involved a 3000-foot descent to the river (then gaining it back). Fortunately, the general scenery and magnetic sight of the truly inspiring dome spurred us onward during the frustrating hike. Camped amid the scattered pines close to the giant rock, we discussed a choice of routes. We agreed that the great pillar leaning against the northeast face was too classic to overlook, and on our first sortie we climbed a few pitches. Cold windy weather halted progress higher on the face on the next attempt, but on June 2 conditions were flawless for the completion. The first five pitches are up increasingly difficult slabs and deep jams to the top of the pillar. A fifty-foot rappel from a bolt to the inside notch brings one to the sheer smooth upper dome rock. What we had feared would be bolting proved possible with a hard pendulum, then a pitch of thin aid-climbing. Delightful friction pitches continue to the seldom visited summit. NCCS IV, F8, A3.

FRED BECKEY

Voodoo Dome, South Face. This is the largest rock formation in the Needles and its broad monolithic 900-foot face is the highest in the area. Its most noticeable feature is a gigantic arch above a cave-like hollow low on the left center of the face. The classic route line ascends the bald protrusion just right of the arch, and because its initial dihedral is stained green, the name "Pea Soup Route" evolved. Marvelous unglaciated granite contains many minute but solid knobs and hollows for face climbing. There are generally excellent cracks for aid when needed. The route was begun by Dan McHale and Joe Brown in the spring of 1970. After four difficult pitches they called off the venture. Dan and I made the entire climb on October 27 and 28, 1970, with a comfortable "sandy ledge" bivouac above the principal difficulties. The first pitch is a spectacular piton lead (A1) to a hanging belay. An aid lead ascends the left-leaning dihedral; this long pitch nails over a small ceiling into a chimney (knifeblades and rurps). The third pitch ascends the chimney to a tree (dangling belay). Unprotected face climbing leads left up to a bolt. Here hard moves (F8) up chickenheads are followed by working right to a flake. Here one can climb directly up (F9) or right and down, and then up again (F5). This hard

pitch ends on the prominent slanting ledge with a big rectangular block. The route now nails beneath a flake and works right to an open-book. Difficult nailing leads to where one can free climb to a large platform. Now one wanders left into a groove above the giant arch, which is climbed to the sandy bivouac ledge. Now one free climbs right and up on exposed but satisfactory slabs. The route is deceptive here, but one must have faith, aiming at the right-hand of two parallel cracks amid the blankness. The crack (F6) ascends to a little rib on the left. A relatively easy but wholly unprotected pitch on small solution holds follows. Then come slabs and soon one frictions onto the dome's sloping crown. NCCS IV or V, F9, A3.

FRED BECKEY

Domeland. One of Domeland's most prominent rock formations is a large crag with a smokestack tower on its south end. It was dubbed Steamship Rock by Jim Stoddard and me after we made the first ascent of its east face in November 1970. This is a four-pitch climb with excellent free climbing and a minimum of nailing. NCCS II, F6, A3. Radiant Dome, one of the most prominent massifs in the region, apparently was climbed for the first time on November 15, 1971 by Hooman Aprin and me. Using what seemed to be the easiest route, via the south face, the climb involved three roped pitches, two of them F6. NCCS I, F6.

FRED BECKEY

Crown Point, Peeler Pillar. Near the Twin Lakes area to the north of Yosemite, Crown Point lies between Crown and Peeler Lakes. Rising above Peeler Lake is an impressive pillar which Geert Dijkhuis (of Holland), Larry Johnson, and I climbed on September 5. We began about 100 feet to the right of the steep north face of the buttress, between an overhanging chimney and a sandy gully. Two hundred feet of undemanding fifth-class led to a large ledge and a rope-length of third class. Above, we climbed a white face lined with vertical cracks, staying left of a large open-book for four leads of consistent 5.5 to 5.6 climbing on excellent rock. The climbing is very reminiscent of the southeast buttress route on Cathedral Peak in Tuolumne. NCCS II, F6.

GREG DONALDSON

Incredible Hulk. Greg Donaldson closed his description of the west face of the Incredible Hulk with the sentence, "So the summit is still waiting along with a thousand other possibilities." (*A.A.J.*, 1971, 17:2, p 353.) Note that this is no longer the case. On May 23 Bob Grow and I reached the summit. The route ascended the couloir on the right of the Hulk for several hundred feet. A steep chute in the left wall of the main

couloir then led to a high notch. From there it was three pitches of easy roped climbing to the summit.

JOSEPH KISKIS, *Unaffiliated*

Aiguille Extra. In June Mike Heath and I climbed the obvious dihedral on the east face of the 1200-foot needle directly south of Third Needle in the Whitney Group. We called this needle or blade Aiguille Extra and rate it V, F8, A3. The earlier route referred to in *A.A.J.*, 1968, was on Third Needle proper.

WILLIAM Q. SUMNER

California — Yosemite

The Elusion. This route is unfortunately typical of the newer Yosemite climbs. It begins less than 100 feet left of an existing route, Commissioner Buttress. At the end of each pitch it is possible to traverse off onto easier climbing, and it connects with the Commissioner Buttress route on the last pitch. Its redeeming feature is that it is hard, so hard that only one member of our four-man party, Tom Higgins, was able to free climb all the crux pitch. We were attracted to the route by an obvious white scar from recent exfoliation on the second pitch. This forms a 75-foot F9 jam-crack. The first lead was a dirty F8 overhang that can be avoided by a third-class walk-up from the opposite side. Then came the third lead! While Lloyd Price, John Kanehejs, and I watched transfixed from below, Tom crawled up the steep headwall like a graceful, black-maned lizard, pausing occasionally to announce that it was F9 or so. His demeanor changed abruptly, and after grunting and groaning, he descended to rest. On the next effort, he mastered two successive F10 sections and his gutteral utterances turned to ecstasy. The rest of the party made more noises, less progress, and finished the pitch with a firm grip on the rope. Even though the route is close to a gully and seems at times contrived, it stays on a prow of its own and follows a separate crack system. NCCS III, F10.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Rainbows. In late June, Russell McLean and I established a new route on the western wall of the Ribbon Falls amphitheatre. We began this very steep, predominantly direct-aid route about 200 feet in from the amphitheater's outer edge, precisely at the last group of dwarf trees along the western wall. We climbed 200 feet to a good ledge then followed a single crack system up a large dihedral to the top of the wall. A good hammock bivouac can be contrived 200 feet below the top. Several hundred feet of easy climbing above the wall brought us to brushy ledges. Here, rather than try the usual descent which seemed danger-

ous, we ascended to the rim, passing a headwall via a moderate chimney. NCCS V, F8, A3.

KENNETH BOCHE

Aquarius. In June, Jim Bridwell and Kim Schmitz put up a new line between the west buttress and the dihedral wall. The route starts near the left side of the great apron between these routes and meanders to a ledge about 1000 feet up, where the wall steepens. Earlier this year they had reached a high point several hundred feet above this ledge. At the end of May, they climbed fixed ropes for 2½ pitches and quickly reached virgin territory 12 pitches up. They then climbed to Thanksgiving Ledge and finished up the west buttress, doing that section free, and reaching the top about 1:30 P.M., June 1, on their third day — fast time for an El Capitan first ascent. They drilled 70 holes into which they placed either bolts, or aluminum dowls which, like Harding's rivets, can make use of shallow holes. Bridwell says the route was the hardest he or Schmitz had done on El Capitan. NCCS VI.

ROYAL ROBBINS

El Capitan, New Route. This year Rick Sylvester and Claud Wreford-Brown made a new route between the Heart Direct and the John Muir Route, using part of the lower Muir and going up the right side of the Heart (the Kroger-Davis route goes up the left side). After fixing the first five pitches, they climbed to the top in 9 days. They encountered very difficult free climbing and "a lot of A4". NCCS VI.

ROYAL ROBBINS

Geek Towers. Jim Bridwell and Mark Clemens reached the top of two narrow, converging buttresses between Yosemite Falls and the Lost Arrow Chimney, which they named Geek Towers. About 800 feet up; 1 day. NCCS III, F10, A3.

ROYAL ROBBINS

Stone Groove. This two-pitch route follows a vertical crack between the Rorp and Independent Pinnacle. Jim Bridwell and I climbed it in May. The crux is a finger jam in a dihedral 20 feet above the ground and the rest of the pitch continues jamming. The second lead is a short F8 squeeze chimney leading to a ledge at the top of the slab. NCCS II, F10.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Chopper. The Chopper is a single-pitch climb first climbed by Rick Sylvester and me in September. It is located in the second crack system

left of the Edge of Night, so named for the prominent blade-like block found a third of the way up. It was first attempted by Del Young and me in 1968, and there were several attempts in the following years. The crux move involves a hanging fist jam with the body in a horizontal position. The pin list consists of 1⅝", 1-1", 1-1½", 1-2", 1-2½", 2-3". Two bolts are in place for the rappel to the ground. NCCS I, F11.

MEAD HARGIS

Christina. Christina is the left side of Henly Quits exfoliation slab behind Camp 4. Dave Davis and I completed this climb in May. The first pitch (F10) is a 5 to 7-inch crack with poor protection which ends at a small ledge. The protection bolt on the second pitch is used for a belay anchor. This pitch traverses right and up to a bolt, then left with a mantle to two more bolts used for aid (bring two tie-offs). Stepping off the second bolt, difficult free climbing leads to another bolt which protects the traverse right to the final 10 feet of Henly Quits. Take nuts, 2 Lost Arrows, 1-⅝", 1-¾", 1-1¼", 1-4". Two bolts are in place for the rappel to the ground. NCCS II, F10, A1.

MEAD HARGIS

Peter Left. The first pitch is the left side of Tinker Bell at the base of El Capitan. The second is a 4-inch crack ending at the base of an extremely overhanging dihedral. The next pitch is one of the finest individual sections of climbing existing in Yosemite. Kim Schmitz and I offer our desideratum of apology to Peter Haan since our ascent of this route first noticed by him has engendered bad feelings which we would like to bury. Take 1 runner, 1 Lost Arrow, 1-⅝", 1-2", 2-2½", 2-3", and several medium and large nuts. NCCS II, F10.

MEAD HARGIS

Too Many Darts. Tim Auger and I arose to do the East Side of Bridalveil. A quick game of darts and we set off. We never found the correct route, but just started climbing up obvious cracks to the right of the East Side route. The first pitch starts in a hollow by the base of the Bridalveil pools. Climb a small pedestal, then the right-hand of two cracks. A long (150-foot, plus) lead takes one to a ledge on the right. Traverse right on the ledge and climb up the right side of a block. Step right (F7) and climb up into the base of a chimney (this may be wet). The third pitch goes up the chimney 40 feet and then out right and up for 100 feet (F7). Pitch four stays in the main crack and avoids the open-book curving right. Climb some face moves on the left of the crack, then move back to the cracks and climb to the base of an ominous overhanging crack (F7). Belay 20 feet above it. The next pitch continues up for 130 feet. Belay in a small alcove atop a bush. Continue up for 140 feet of continuous F7 with a hard jam move. Belay in a slot with flakes

and horns on the right. The final pitch climbs a 30-foot jam crack (F8, possibly a pin or two of aid). Move right on a sloping ledge and climb up 30 feet more in a corner. A few aid pins lead around the roof to the right, and 30 feet of climbing leads to the rim. NCCS III, F8, A1.

BOB SCHNEIDER, *Unaffiliated*

Wawona Dome, West Face. In full view of the Yosemite south entrance highway, close to Wawona Village, the dome's face had no true routes. On October 14, 1970, Larry Moore, Bob Romanowitz, and I started up the obvious chimney in mid-face. Despite good weather, we did not complete the ascent the first day. The chimney flared so that the first pitch (all free) was slow and hard. Nailing led to where we could scramble to an assembly slab. A right traverse brought us to where the line again appeared above. After a bolt section, there was rather shaky nailing. Later the pins and the climb became better. The route follows the obvious crack, with one rightward meander, to the easy upper slabs. NCCS III, F8, A2.

FRED BECKY

Kolana Rock, North Face. On Memorial Day weekend, Warren Harding and I made the first ascent of this 1800-foot face in Hetch Hetchy Valley. An attempt in March had failed after three awkward aid pitches, a bivouac, and an oncoming storm. We left our haul bag at the high point and retreated. The approach involved almost a complete circuit around the rock to gain a prominent ledge 200 feet above the water in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir. The route began in a giant dihedral which continues almost to the summit, but after four pitches we decided to avoid the ugly moist overhangs above by traversing up and left. We bivouacked in bat tents suspended from oak trees on an oversized ledge, which was so rocky and downsloping that we could not find a level spot. Three pitches above the bivouac we traversed almost a full pitch to the right to avoid an overhanging headwall. Above this, mixed climbing led into fourth-class near the summit. Of 16 pitches more than half went free. NCCS V, F9, A3.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Utah

Titan, Fisher Towers, Sundevil Chimney. On April 28 Harvey T. Carter, Robert Sullivan, Tom Merrill and Ken Wyrick completed an eight-day, eleven-pitch new route on the Titan. This very direct and largely overhanging crack and chimney system rises 900 feet. There were six hanging belays and vertical caked mud had to be climbed and chimneyed. They used fewer bolts than is usual in the Fisher Towers and about 135 pitons. They also made the first ascents of Dunce Rock

and the Sidekick in the same area. *Climbing* of July-August, 1971 gives a fuller account on pages 2 and 3.

The Bride. In a hidden canyon west of Moab stands a 300-foot sandstone tower known locally as "The Bride", since its profile does resemble a lady and her bouquet. In the fall of 1970 Eric Bjørnstad and I climbed closely beneath the bouquet but did not find the cracks and loose blocks to our liking. On May 10 and 11 we made the first ascent accompanied by Jim Hudock, using a more circuitous but safer route. The final lead was a slow one, with many bolt placements and shaky pitons.

FRED BECKEY

Red Sentinel, North Face, Zion National Park. On June 3, 4 and 5 Cactus Bryan and I climbed this 2100-foot wall by a route nearly in the dead center. The line, in fact, was what attracted us: a slightly curving crack system from the bottom to just right of the summit. Being at least 10° less than vertical, we expected it to be at least partly free climbing. It actually was disappointing as at least a third was dirty rock and somewhat dangerous with soft rock and loose blocks. After the first day we spent much of our time complaining and very little enjoying the climb. There was *some* fun climbing but the ugliness of the rest hardly makes it a worthwhile climb. NCCS VI, F8, A3. 23 bolts.

JEFF LOWE

Moonlight Buttress, Zion National Park. This climb is ⅓ mile north of Angel's Landing on the west side of the canyon. Harry Frishman, Burt Redmayne and I made an abortive attempt on this prominent buttress last spring. When Mike Weiss and I arrived in Zion last October, the buttress again caught my eye. We began climbing late in the full morning sun, but we felt this was all right because the 1100 feet of the buttress would obviously take us less than two full days. It is best when you relax and enjoy the cool reds of the rock and the clear blues of the air in Zion in the fall. The first few pitches were old stuff to me, and Mike made acquaintance with Zion rock. He was pleased with it and that was the tone of the climb. Despite the rurp and the piton on the third pitch, the favorable tone was not lost. Above the third pitch, Mike climbed past our previous high point and into the bottom of the crack that constitutes the upper 750 feet of the climb. It got dark before the bivouac ledge but Mike banged away at pins he could not see as I hung in my belay seat and watched the light of a full moon creep down the ledge as Mike clanged up toward it. NCCS V, F7, A3. 22 bolts

JEFF LOWE

"Vanishing Angel". On August 13 Jim Hudock, Stan Hollister and I climbed the 200-foot elusive "Vanishing Angel". This prominent needle can be seen only from two short stretches of highway north and south of Moab before it vanishes into the higher Windgate cliffs. Due to the pacifying desert temperatures in August and the difficulties in locating the spire from mid-valley, our little angel involved three days of labor. The upper halo repelled the first several efforts to nestle aid pins by spilling Hollister 25 feet and later me 15 feet. I finally negotiated the soft Keyenta cap with chocks, bat-hooks and 2½ quarts of water. NCCS I, F7, A3.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

The Southwest

Climbing Ban in the Navajo Reservation, New Mexico and Arizona. Dr. Earnest C. Anderson of the Los Alamos Mountaineers has forwarded us the following letter, pointing out that the Navajo's policy has now been changed and that an *absolute* and *unconditional* ban is in effect. Dr. Anderson suggests: "In view of the uncompromising attitude of the Navajo Tribe, climbers would be well advised to stay away from Ship Rock, Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley, Todilto Park and all other areas under their jurisdiction."

May 12, 1971

A letter to Rock Climbers:

Many requests come to the Navajo Tribe for permission to climb one or more of the monoliths on the reservation. It is the policy of the Tribe to prohibit anyone from climbing any of these monoliths: Shiprock, Rainbow Bridge, the Totem Pole, Spider Rock, and any and all others.

A practical and easily understandable reason is the nature of the rocks themselves, which cannot withstand unnecessary attrition to any degree. This has been argued by various would-be climbers, but the Tribe is making no exceptions.

A second reason and one that admits of no argument is that the monoliths of the Navajo reservation are considered sacred places. To climb them is to profane them. Protests have been and still are being made by the Navajos about the unauthorized scaling of reservation rocks.

It would be well here to mention the Tribal prohibition against collecting petrified wood, minerals, pottery shards, gem stones, or anything else found on the surface of the ground. This material is the property of the Navajo Tribe, and it wishes to keep it where it belongs, lest the reservation be denuded of some of its picturesque treasures.

Come and visit us, look and photograph as much as you like; you will

be welcome. But please respect our prohibitions and let us keep the wonderful Navajo reservation as beautiful as it is.

Sincerely,

CHARLES S. DAMON, *Director*
Navajo Parks & Recreation Department,
The Navajo Tribe

Idaho

Climbs near Redfish Lake, Sawtooth Range. About 2½ miles from the end of Redfish Lake Julie Brugger and I found a dihedral on the east end of a slab north of the trail. The climbing reminded me of Glacier Point Apron. All six pitches were aesthetic, clean and relaxing. NCCS II, F8. On July 5 Julie Brugger, Earl Hamilton and I climbed the pinnacle directly behind the first climb. We started on the left on what looks like a ridge from the distance. A fairly difficult pitch to a tree led to two easier ones to a ledge. Twenty feet of slanting crack go to a ledge that goes left around a rotten section. From the ledge's end we climbed the face right of a chimney to delicately balanced chockstones. Two more pitches got us to a huge tree and another to the top of a subsidiary pinnacle. We went up and right for a pitch and up a wide crack followed by a 150-foot traversing pitch. We traversed right another 70 feet and climbed a chimney. Finally we climbed a slightly rotten dihedral to a belay right on the skyline. NCCS III, F9.

MARK WEIGELT

Montana

Granite Peak, North Face, Beartooth Mountains. On July 12, William Chadwick and I climbed the north face of Granite Peak (12,799 feet). The approach from the Mystic Lake hydroelectric plant took 1½ days. We bypassed Huckleberry Lake to the east and after 4 miles of boulder hopping reached the large snowfield below the face. The large lake below the snowfield was also bypassed to the east. We began the ascent about 1:30 P.M. After an hour of easy step-kicking up the 30°-45° snowfield (about 1500 vertical feet), we were at the base of the 1200-foot rock face, the large bergschrund having presented no problem. To avoid deep, soft snow on the face, we elected to attack the left (east) side of the middle pillar. Climbing was mostly moderate 5th-class rock interspersed with a few snow-filled couloirs and chimneys. By dark, we were still two leads from the summit and spent a chilly night on a small, slanting shelf watching the shooting stars and distant village lights. The next morning, Chad started a lead of artificial climbing which led up a slender, square-topped tower which forms the apex of the middle pillar, but after determining that we had insufficient hardware to complete it, he retreated, traversed east from our bivouac ledge, and negotiated a small overhang to a good belay spot. From there, I was able to work

my way up and over left into the main couloir system, then up to the summit snowfield. The descent was made down the south face and east ridge via the standard route. Although the upper part of the face was climbed previously by Don Gordon (*A.A.J.*, 1965, p. 418), we believe this to be the first direct ascent of the face. NCCS III, F7.

WARREN BOWMAN, M.D.

Wyoming

Grand Teton, Black Ice Couloir, Winter Ascent. The Lowes — Dave, George, Greg, and Jeff — made a semi-successful winter ascent of the Black Ice Couloir-West Face combination on the Grand Teton. In two days of poor weather from Beaver Creek they reached the Exum guide hut on the Lower Saddle. The next morning was perfectly clear, but the entire west side of the Teton range above 11,000 feet was covered with heavy rime; no rock showed, not even on the west face of the Exum ridge. They followed the Valhalla traverse to its junction with the Black Ice Couloir. From there the party climbed up and onto the second ramp until 100 feet east of the bottom of the third section of the couloir. Moving right over difficult rock, they gained this third section of the couloir where their first bivouac was two pitches above. The second day the pitches in the couloir were difficult since the snow had not covered the very brittle ice. The weather turned and by evening it was snowing. The second bivouac was just below the steep rock of the west face with two pitches already fixed on the rock above. The third day the storm was upon them and after reaching the large ledge half way up the steep rock, the party decided on a traverse over to the Upper Saddle, involving some additional steep ice pitches. Descent to the Lower Saddle was made in a howling blizzard as was the descent to the car the next day. This venture into winter ice climbing led to two conclusions which might be useful for the next party: 1) do not rely completely on Salewa tube screws since they would not penetrate the very hard ice without shattering it completely; and 2) best take bivouac tents since the amount of snow on the face, with the exception of rime, is similar to that found in the summer, hence it is very difficult to find adequate snow caves.

GEORGE LOWE

Teewinot, Second Winter Ascent. On February 13, Dennis Caldwell, Karin Caldwell, and Joel Bown made the second winter ascent of Teewinot by the southwest couloir. The remarkable feature of this climb was that it was made in one day from the valley to the summit and back to the valley!

Grand Teton, First Ski Descent. William M. Briggs and Robbie Garrett ascended the Grand Teton on June 16 via the couloir between the

Petzoldt and Underhill ridges, carrying skis. A single 100-foot rock pitch placed them on top of the Underhill ridge where unbroken snow slopes led to the summit. From the summit the skis were then used to descend to the top of the Underhill ridge. A rappel over the rock pitch permitted an uninterrupted ski descent of the mountain, first down the couloir to the Black Dike, then over to the Teepe Snowfield and down to within 1000 feet of the valley floor where the snow ended.

"Ambush Peak", Northeast Face, Wolverine Peak, East Face, "Prairie Falcon Peak", Northeast Face, Wind River Range. From a camp at Pyramid Lake, Larry Young and I climbed this impressive 2000-foot face of *"Ambush Peak"* (12,173 feet) from July 12 to 14. It rises from a low-angle apron which gradually steepens to near vertical at the top. When viewing the face from across the valley, one can clearly distinguish between the east face and the northeast face. The route starts directly below the overhangs of the east face. Climb third-class slabs up to the right for several rope-lengths to a large ledge below a series of flakes facing right. Continue up moderate fifth class to a dike which slants to the right. Follow this dike for 25 feet, then climb up over a small overhang (F8). Continue up, bearing slightly right following line of least resistance (several F8 sections) to below a large overhang. Climb a flaring groove which slants left. Continue up to a ledge below a second overhang which is passed on the right (A3). There is a conspicuous yellow hole to the right of these overhangs. This is a key to locating the route from the ground. Continue up 400 feet to a huge flake. This is a good bivouac spot. Traverse up to the left below a steep yellow wall. The next pitch goes up and slightly left through a series of hanging flakes (A4, F8). Nuts are very useful in this section since the flakes expand. Continue up for several more pitches, keeping left of an obvious inside corner. When the final overhang is reached, exit left around the corner and climb easy rock to summit.

Many nuts were used on this climb varying from the tiny wired variety to the largest hexagons. Although the majority of this route is free climbing a selection of 35 pitons is probably necessary due to the wide variety of cracks found. We used a selection ranging from knifeblades to a 4-inch bong. No bolts were needed. NCCS V, F8, A4. The 1000-foot east face of *Wolverine Peak's* southwest summit rises directly above Lake 10909. On July 31 Bob Johnson and I climbed a crack and chimney system which cuts directly up the center of this vertical face, terminating within a few feet of the southwest summit (12,602 feet). Strangely, the name of Wolverine Peak is placed on the map not on the highest summit, the southwest, but on a lower summit of 12,360 feet. We believe this is one of the finest climbs either of us has ever done. The rock is superb, offering excellent protection. From Lake 10909 climb up steep talus and snow till below ledges of east face. Climb up to the highest point of ledges where the climb begins. *1st Pitch:* Climb

steep face for 30 feet, then move right to a short crack which slants up to the right. Ascend this crack and climb to a pointed flake. Traverse left and belay at a blocky ledge behind some large flakes (F8). *2nd Pitch:* Climb a corner to a crack system on a steep face. Ascend face (a few aid pins) to a huge ledge (F8, A1). *3rd Pitch:* Traverse right 20 feet to an inside corner facing left, capped by an overhang. Climb a squeeze chimney which narrows to a smooth five-inch crack. Pass overhang and continue up to a ledge (F9). *4th Pitch:* Continue up cracks and chimneys to a ledge below an overhanging block (F6). *5th Pitch:* Climb the crack above to a ledge below a ceiling. After many attempts to do this section free we finally used a four-inch bong to pass this obstacle on aid (F8, A2). *6th Pitch:* Continue up crack to summit. We used an assortment of 15 pitons, including several bongs. Large climbing nuts are very useful on this climb. NCCS IV, F9, A2. From a camp at Somnicant Lake Bob Johnson and I climbed the northeast face of *"Prairie Falcon Peak"* (11,348 feet) on July 29. Easy climbing leads up to a large ledge below the final overhanging headwall. The next long lead follows a crack up the left edge of the headwall. One short lead brings one to the summit. Take a good selection of 25 pitons up to 2-inch. Nuts are very useful. NCCS III, F9, A3. We also climbed a route on the east face of "Prairie Falcon Peak", several hundred feet to the left of the south-face route. This route followed a chimney system with several F8 sections. We found a piton on the last pitch indicating a previous ascent.

STEPHEN J. ARSENAULT, *Harvard Mountaineering Club*

P 12,483 and P 12,456, Southern Fremont Peak Area, Wind River Range. On a short trip into the Wind River Range in August, Charles McLaughlin and I climbed two apparently untouched summits. The first was P 12,483, a hogback detached from and south of the Knifepoint-Nebraska Point ridge. The north ridge yielded to about eight leads of easy fourth-class climbing on August 24. The second was P 12,456, at the southeast end of the ridge terminated on the northwest by Bonney's Peak 213. The approach was from the valley to the west. Climbing consisted of six roped leads, the first two up a steep treacherous couloir, the third tandem scrambling, the fourth a broken crack system, the fifth a touchy, broken, overhanging face and the last a short waltz to the summit. NCCS I, F5.

R. N. EMPSON, *Unaffiliated*

Lost Eagle Pinnacle, Wind River Range. From a campsite on Slide Lake, Rick Horn, Joe Larson, Dave Eland, Pat Paddon, and I made the first ascent of this 2000-foot pinnacle on July 30. We ascended by the easiest route we could find and this reached about F6 in difficulty. We climbed up a couloir to the west and south of the pinnacle until it

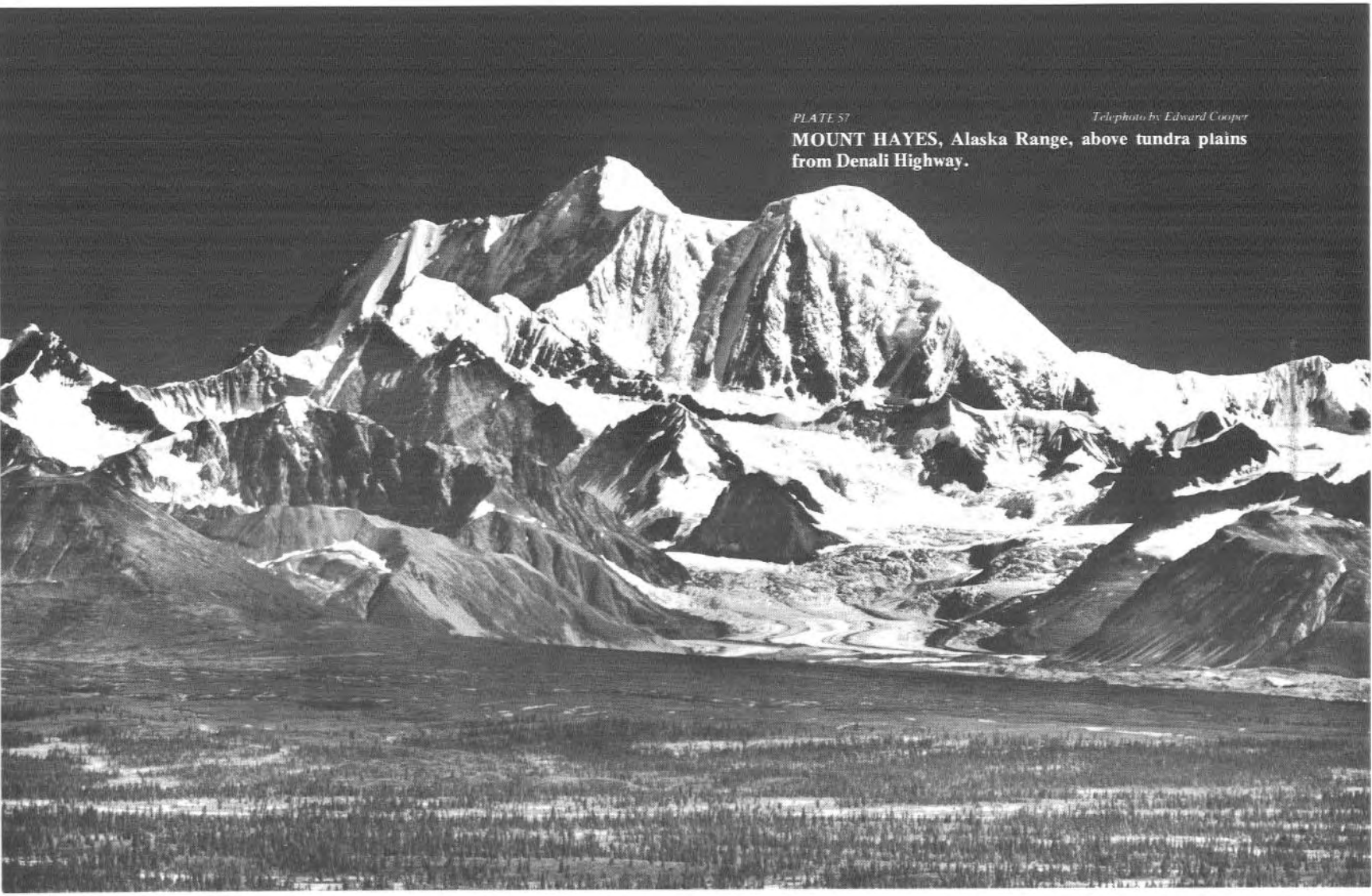

PLATE 57 *Telephoto by Edward Cooper*

MOUNT HAYES, Alaska Range, above tundra plains from Denali Highway.

PLATE 58 *Aerial Photo by Bradford Washburn*

MOUNT HAYES and the head of the West Fork of Delta Creek Glacier. The East Ridge rises diagonally from right to left to the summit.

PLATE 59 *Aerial Photo by Bradford Washburn*

MOUNT ST. ELIAS from the east up the Newton Glacier. Russell Col (Abruzzi) route: ···; East Ridge attempt: - - - - -; Southeast Ridge attempt: - - - ..

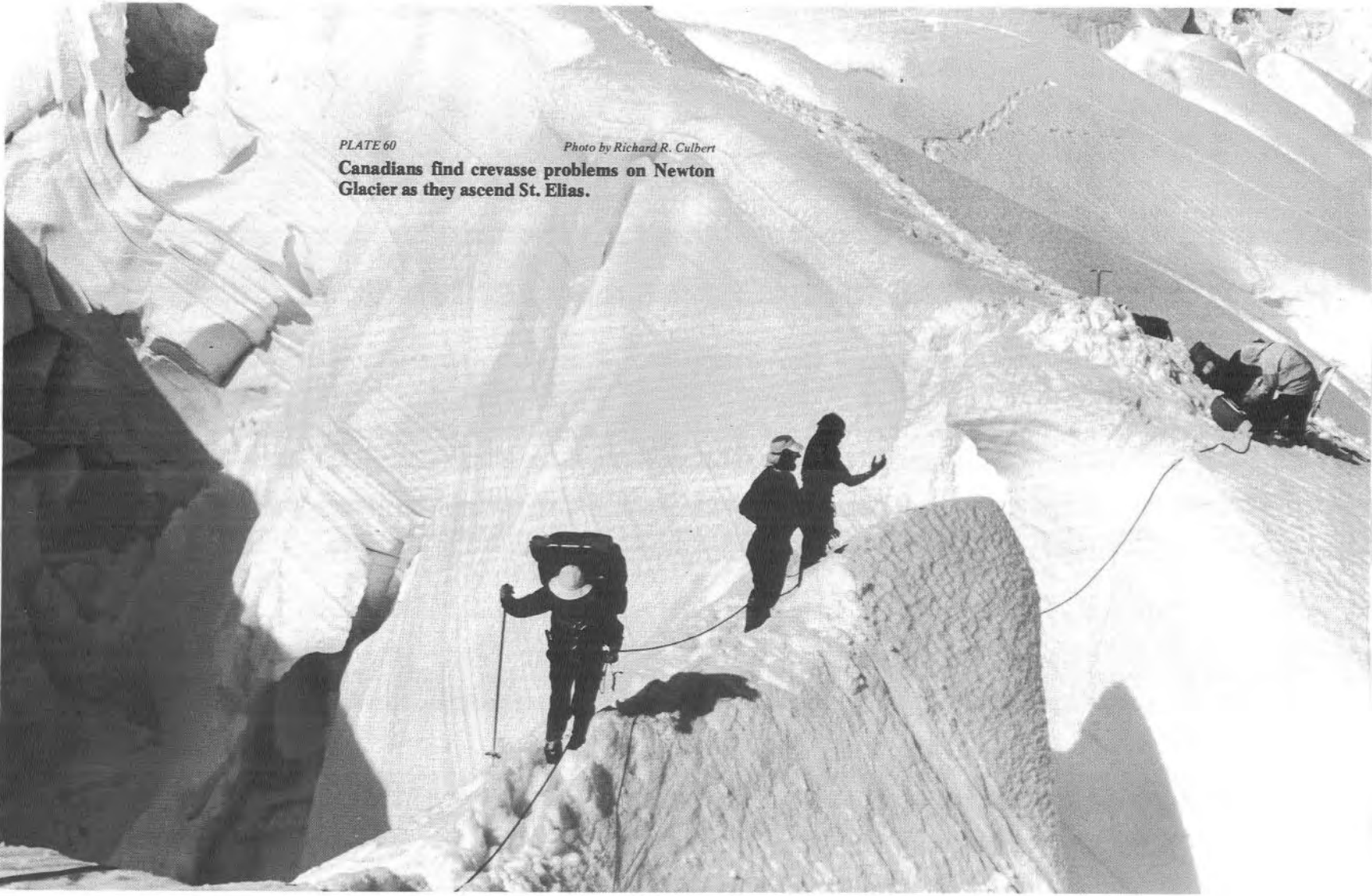

PLATE 60 *Photo by Richard R. Culbert*

Canadians find crevasse problems on Newton Glacier as they ascend St. Elias.

PLATE 61 *Photo by Austin Post*

Klickitat Headwall on East Face of MOUNT ADAMS, Cascades.

PLATE 62 *Photo by James Stuart*

North Face of MOUNT REDOUBT, Cascades.

PLATE 63 *Photo by Edward Cooper*

KALONA ROCK, Hetch-Hetchy, Yosemite.

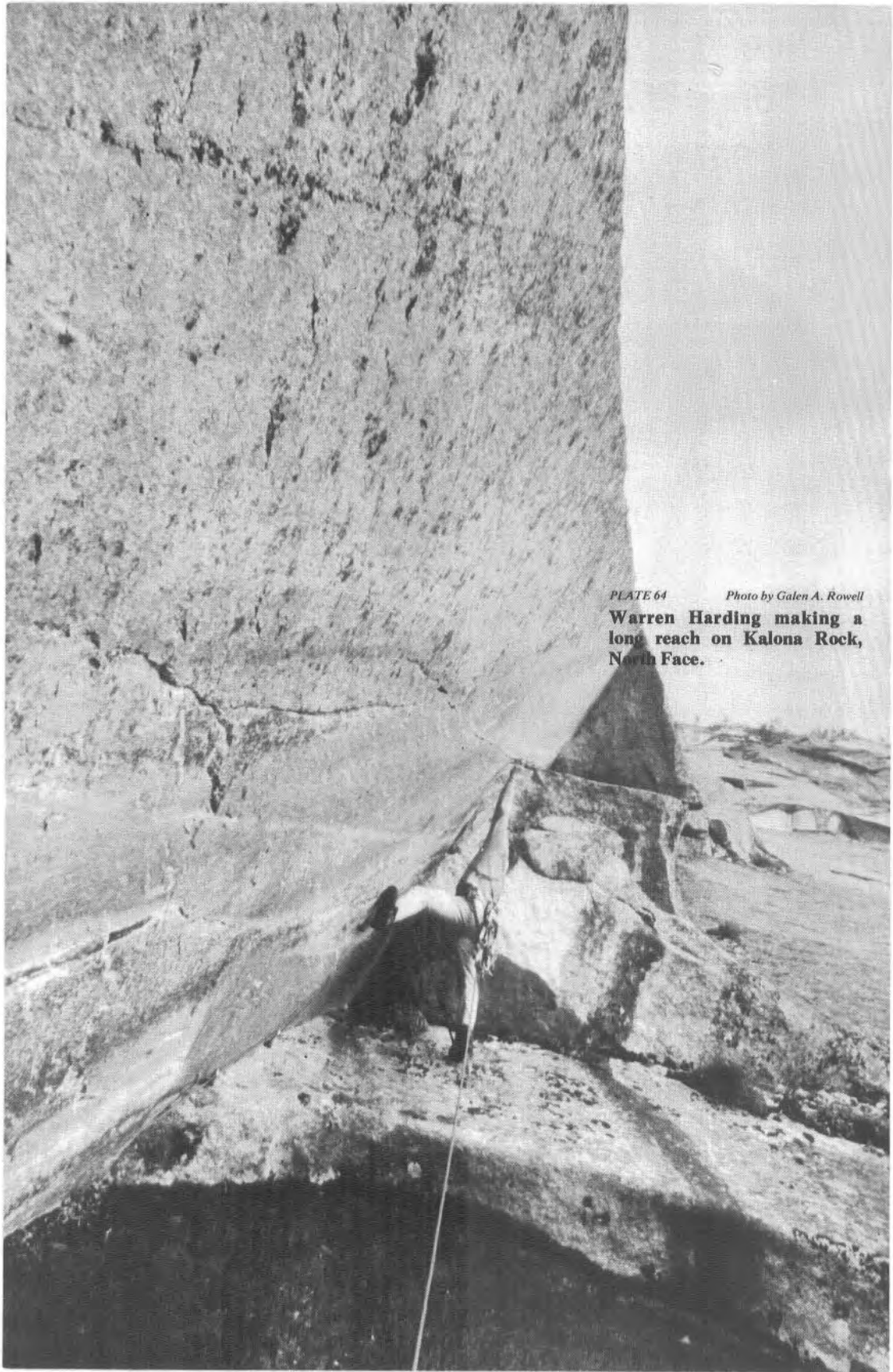

PLATE 64 *Photo by Galen A. Rowell*

Warren Harding making a long reach on Kalona Rock, North Face.

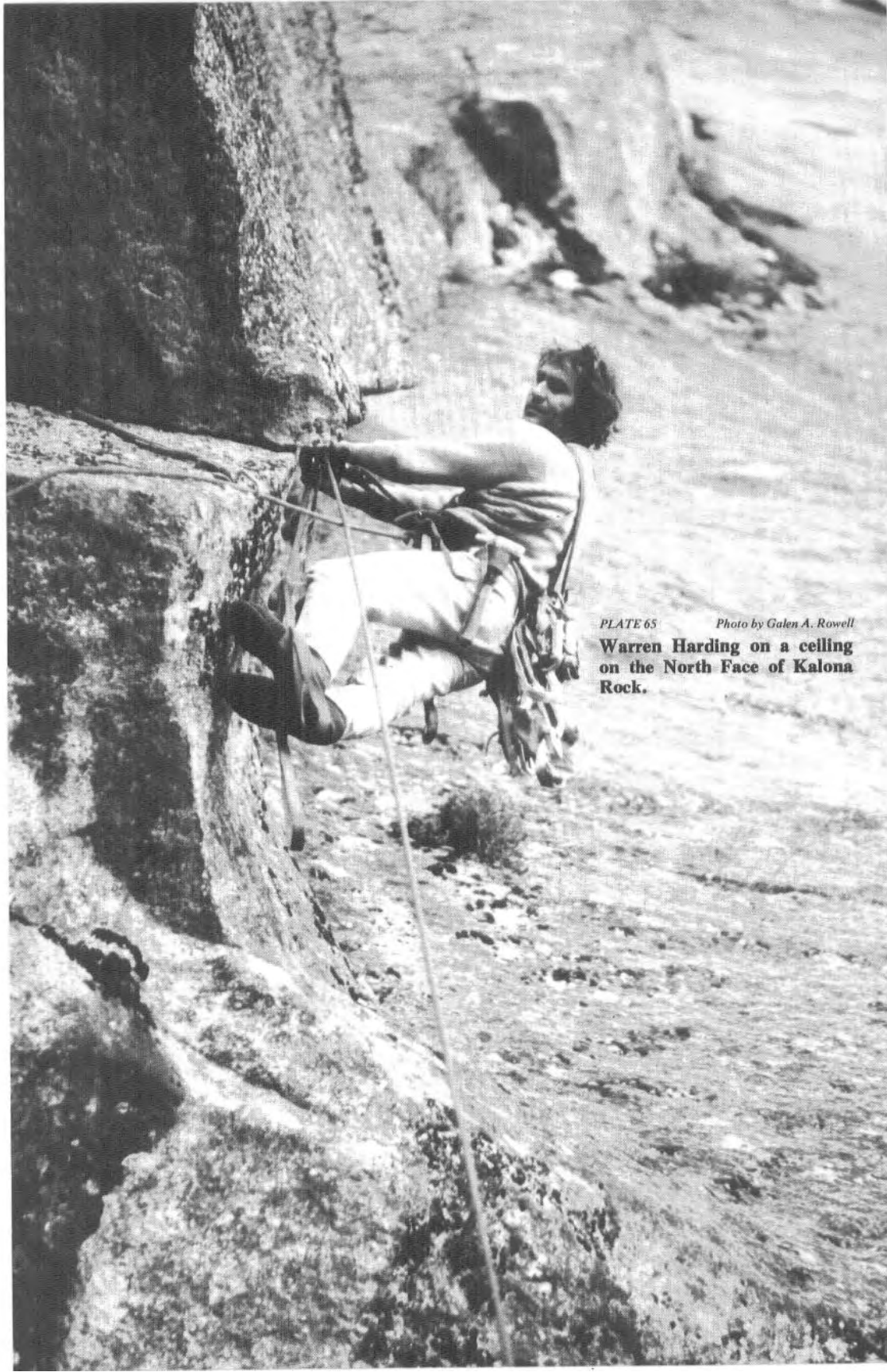

PLATE 65 *Photo by Galen A. Rowell*

Warren Harding on a ceiling on the North Face of Kalona Rock.

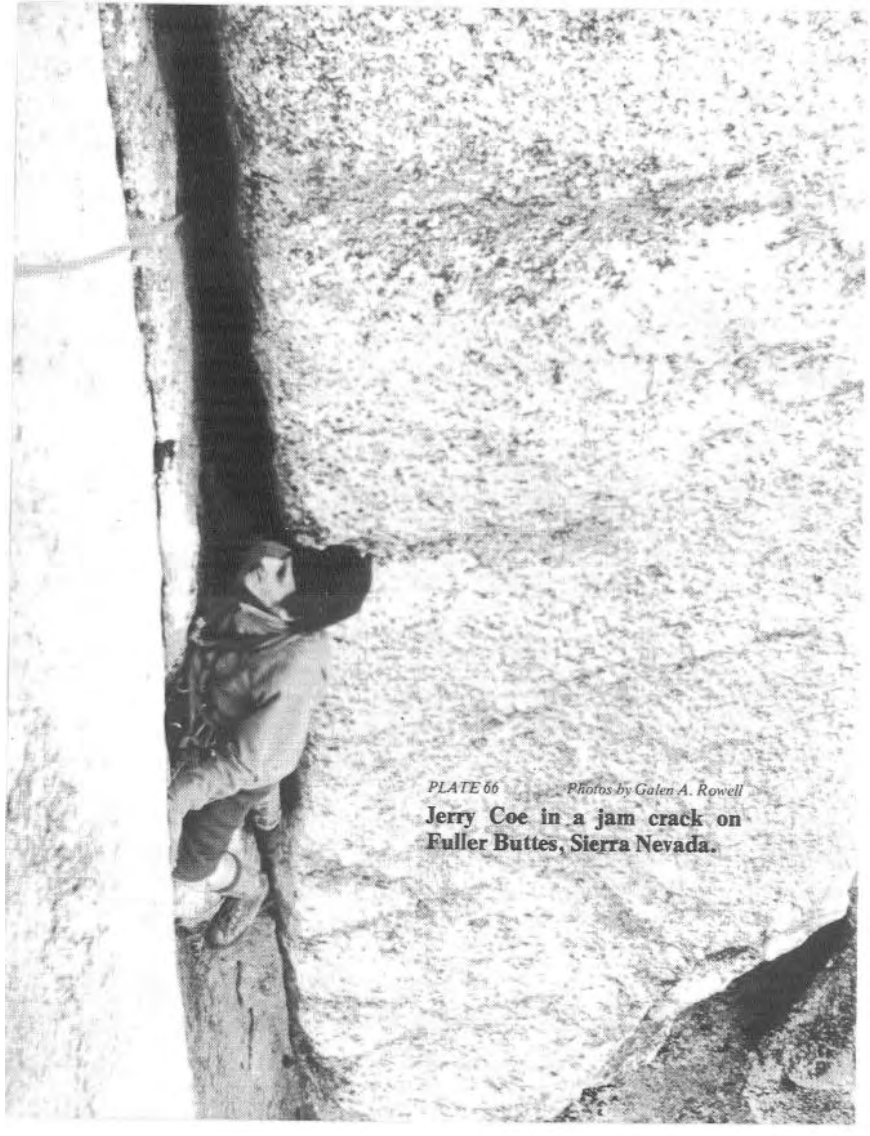

PLATE 66 *Photos by Galen A. Rowell*

Jerry Coe in a jam crack on Fuller Buttes, Sierra Nevada.

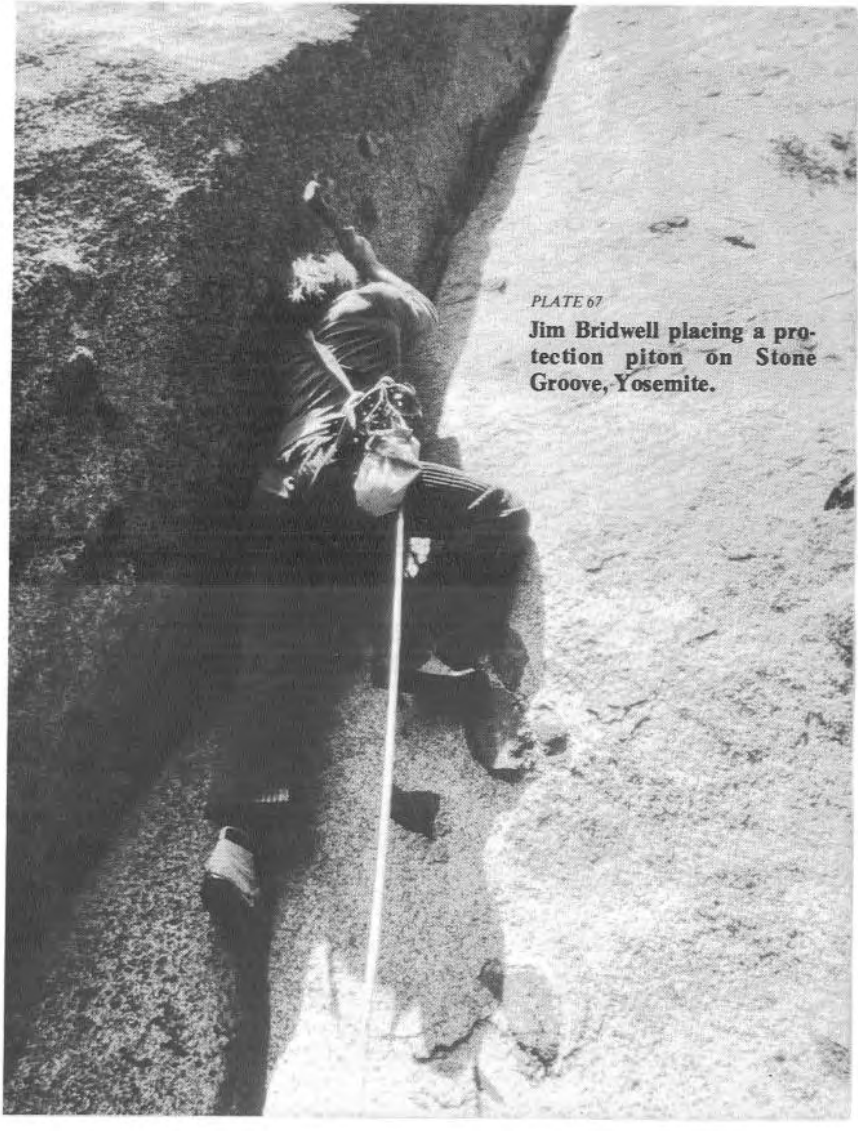

PLATE 67

Jim Bridwell placing a protection piton on Stone Groove, Yosemite.

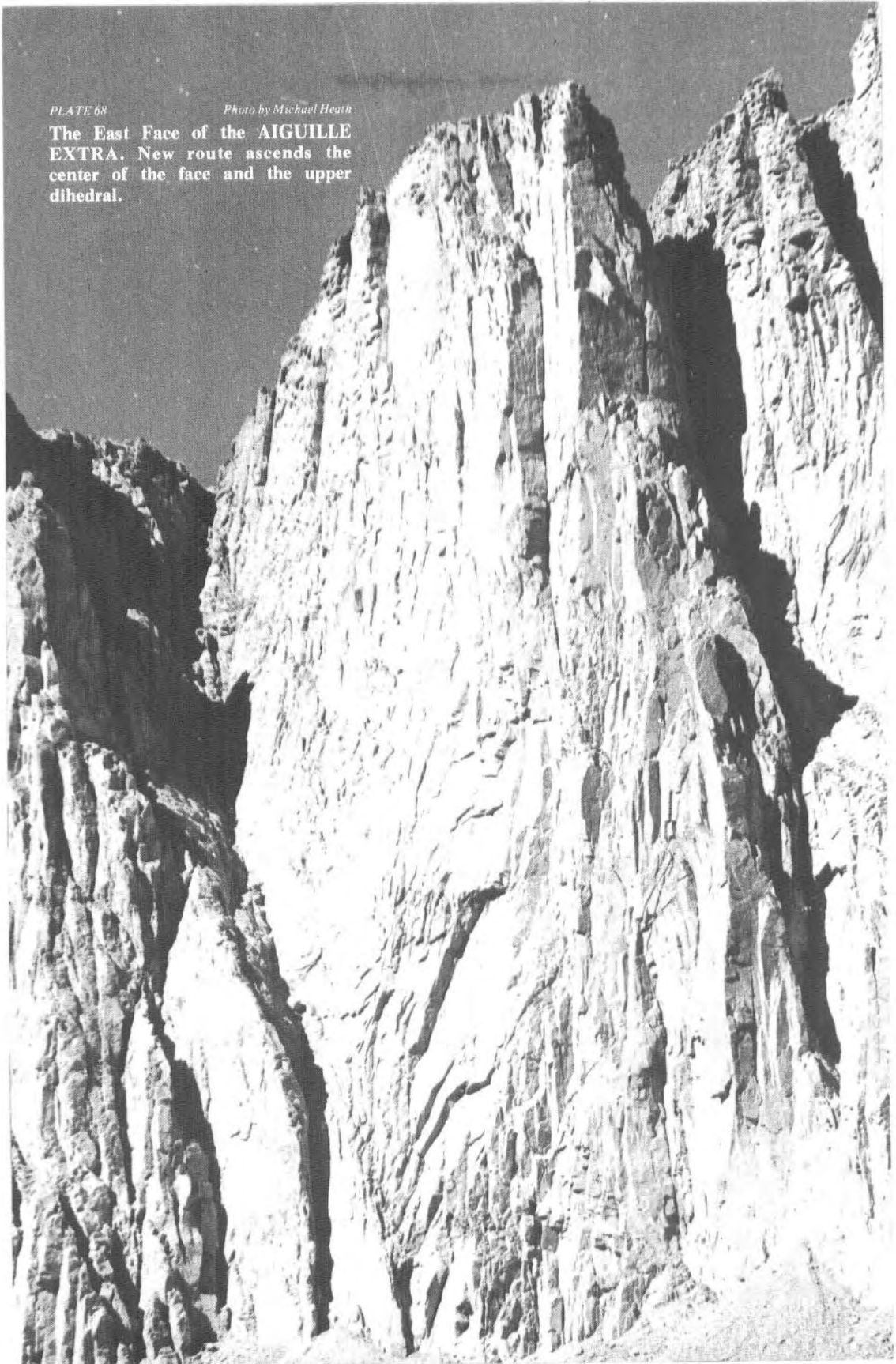

PLATE 68 *Photo by Michael Heath*

The East Face of the AIGUILLE EXTRA. New route ascends the center of the face and the upper dihedral.

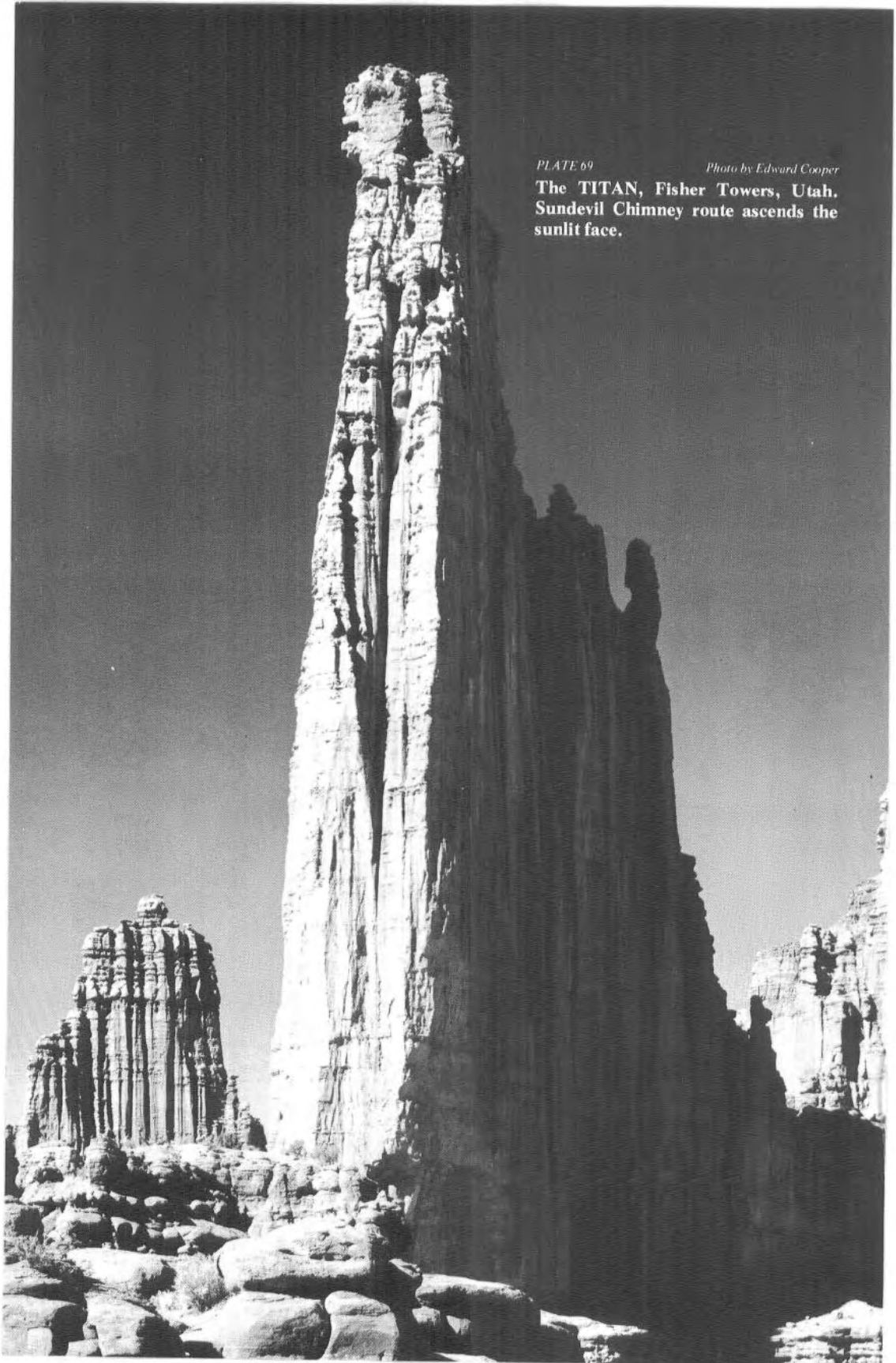

PLATE 69 *Photo by Edward Cooper*

The TITAN, Fisher Towers, Utah. Sundevil Chimney route ascends the sunlit face.

ended in a series of walls. After roping up we made a 200-foot traverse onto the west face of the pinnacle and then climbed directly to the top in about 6 leads. The descent was by a series of three hanging rappels into the couloir on the south side of the pinnacle.

ROBERT STEVENSON, *Unaffiliated*

The Fickle Finger of Forlorn. Chuck Schaap and I spent a long day climbing to the summit of this finger-like pinnacle located on the north side of Clear Creek Canyon and just 300 feet south of Forlorn Pinnacle. Starting from a camp on Clear Lake in the early morning of August 23, we climbed directly up the steep south face of the pinnacle and in about 10 leads of sustained difficulty we reached a large east-sloping ledge about 300 feet below the summit. From this ledge we traversed around the pinnacle and into the saddle between Forlorn Pinnacle and the Fickle Finger. We reached the summit from this point after one long lead of mixed free and aid climbing. The rock we encountered on the climb was excellent and the summit, although uncomfortably small, afforded an outstanding view. The descent was made by a series of eight rappels and considerable down climbing on the east face of the pinnacle. NCCS III or IV, F8, A2.

ROBERT STEVENSON, *Unaffiliated*

The Bottle, East Face, Wind River Range. Though cross-country in the northern Wind Rivers is tamer than in the Cascades, it can be reasonably tough. Game trails beyond the Green River Lakes led us to a delightful, almost unknown valley west of Squaretop. After pondering the almost endless wall-climbing potential here, Dave Beckstead and William Nicolai set off for unclimbed spires to the west. At the same time, on July 13, Tom Nephew and I turned to the Bottle. We elected to climb the east face, an elegant problem only slightly less slabby than the north face, which looked like a doubtful one-day project. Our route ascended moderately steep snow couloirs and then about 1000 feet of rock. A number of pitches involved route-finding through endless jam-cracks, slabs and short headwalls. Near the summit came a unique blocky, narrow spine, then a scramble to the highest, apparently previously unvisited point. NCCS III, F7 or F8.

FRED BECKEY

"Shan Tower". Directly west of Squaretop, Bill Nicolai and I climbed a prominent tower at the north side of the head of a previously unvisited hanging valley. We called it "Shan Tower". We began in a rotten chimney on the northeast side and traversed up and across the south face to the west ridge. We climbed the ridge for a lead until we reached an enormous chockstone. A traverse took us to the north side, where a chimney led to the summit. NCCS II, F7. We also climbed the

highest point on the valley's south side via snow and rock scrambling. Both climbs were made in June.

DAVID BECKSTEAD

Mount Helen, North Face, Tower 1 Ice Gully, Wind River Range. On August 26 Bill Lindberg and I ascended the gully on the north face which reaches the notch between Towers 1 and 2 on the 1946 Kraus route. The ice here is not as steep as it appears from Bonney Pass. The climb consists of ten pitches on excellent ice with belays from the rock on a 165-foot rope. The angle of the ice varied from 45° to 55°; the route was well protected with ice screws and warthogs and was subject to only moderate rockfall danger. From the notch a descent of 150 feet to the south led us to the Kraus route which we followed to the summit. NCCS III, F5.

RAYMOND G. JACQUOT, *Unaffiliated*

Bomber Mountain, East Face, Left Snow Gully and Central Arête, Big Horns. In late June, Rex Hoff and Gale Long climbed the left gully of the two prominent gullies which ascend from the cirque below the east face of Bomber Mountain to the southeast ridge of the mountain (NCCS II, F3). Having heard their optimistic reports about this cirque, a group of five returned to make an attempt at the east face. On July 21 Art Bloom, Howard Bussey, Rex Hoff, Bill Lindberg and I made the first ascent of the central arête of the east face. This enjoyable climb, which was interrupted by a violent hail storm, involved 15 pitches of moderate difficulty ending with several moves of direct aid on the summit block. NCCS III, F7, A2.

RAYMOND G. JACQUOT, *Unaffiliated*

CANADA

Yukon Territory

Mount Logan, Schoening Ridge. In 1971, the Alpine Club of Canada planned an expedition to Mount Logan via a new ridge on the south face. In due course, it was decided to make an attempt, via the southwest spur, immediately east of Schoening's Ridge route to King Peak. In the event that the southwest spur presented excessive difficulties, an alternate route was considered via the great ice ramp at the head of the cwm bounded by the spur and Schoening's Ridge. Schoening's 1952 route was to be held in reserve in case all else failed. (See *A.A.J.*, 1953, 8:3, pp 416-423.) On May 16 Bob Cuthbert, Lloyd Gallagher, Dave Jones, Dave Payne, Pete Robinson and I landed on the Seward Glacier at 6300 feet, 9 miles southwest of Logan's main summit and 6½ miles from the proposed routes. Within a few days, close examination of the new routes had been carried out. Access difficulties, through an