

Climbs and Expeditions

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UNITED STATES

Alaska

Mount McKinley, Solo of the Cassin Route. Charlie Porter made a remarkable solo ascent of the Cassin route on the south face of McKinley. He is reported to have been in the area for two weeks and four days on the final climb. He is said to have taken only 36 hours in a single push from the top of the Japanese Couloir. With his usual reticence, Porter has given us no details.

Mount McKinley, Couloir from West Buttress Route to Kahiltnahorn. Reinhold Messner and I made a new ascent route on Mount McKinley on June 13. We started from the landing area on the Kahiltna Glacier on June 6 and climbed the West Buttress route to the basin at 14,000 feet. From there it took us 10 hours to the summit; Messner descended in two hours and I in four. The couloir we climbed is the Hourglass Couloir, the one down which Saudan skied. We climbed without a rope. Most of the route had good snow conditions, though there were a few places with water-ice covered by snow.

OSWALD ÖLZ, M.D., *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

Mount McKinley, Western Rim and Cassin Route of South Face. Our group of eight divided evenly to climb these two routes. My brother Alan, Paul (Tut) Braithwaite and Paul Moores and I climbed the Cassin route while Don Whillans, Gordon (Binke) Blakie, John Howard and the Californian Bob Schneider did the Western Rim. Both teams reached the summit alpine-style on June 26 only 12 hours apart. Our foursome set off on the morning of June 21 and went to the Cassin

NOTE: All dates in this section refer to 1976 unless otherwise stated.

Icefield at about 14,500 feet. The next day we camped at 16,000 feet and were stormbound for 24 hours. On June 24 we climbed to 17,300 feet, where the route regains the final ridge leading to the summit. Twelve hours of bad weather meant that we started for the summit on the evening of June 25, climbed through the night to reach the top at 5:30 A.M. and descended 8000 feet before eating and sleeping. Unfortunately the descent down the West Buttress was crawling with people and garbage.

ADRIAN BURGESS, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Denali Rehabilitation Project, 1976. Our special objective was to remove garbage from the 17,200-foot camp on the West Buttress of Mount McKinley. We also interviewed many climbers and compiled attitudes and opinions about the numbers of climbers, garbage, ethics, regulations, rescues, etc. for later input to the National Park Service and all those concerned. Our party consisted of Gary Grimm, Katy Flanagan, Bill Coyle, Sally Johnston and me. We climbed to the summit on June 21. The Project lasted 20 days. We concluded that clean-up efforts have little or no long-range impact because of the overwhelming numbers and little enforcement of the climbing regulations concerning "pack out what you pack in." It is time the climbing community opened its eyes to the problems on this magnificent mountain.

ROGER ROBINSON

Mount Foraker, South-Southeast Ridge. The south-southeast ridge of Foraker was climbed in May and June by Jean-Paul Bouquier, Gérard Créton, Jean-Marie Galmiche, Hervé Thivierge, my wife Isabelle, and I, French, and Werner Landry, American. The south face of the mountain, rising more than 10,000 feet, is divided by three ridges, of which the middle one is the longest and sharpest. It had not yet been climbed despite several attempts by American teams. Of the seven kilometers of ridge which the map shows, only the last two, from the foresummit to the summit, were technically easy. On the other hand, up to the foresummit the difficulties were sustained: difficult and very difficult rock and ice and a number of pitches of mixed and of snow which were very hard and extremely dangerous, especially on the long traverse of the Lacerwork. The 13,000 feet of rope which had been brought to fix were seen to be insufficient before we were beyond the middle of the ridge. We decided to bring up the rope fixed below Camp II, which became an advanced base completely cut off from below for three weeks. Thus, a total of 24,000 feet of the ridge were fixed with rope at one time or another. After the summit had been reached, the lower ropes were first replaced and then all were finally removed. We left on the mountain only a few pickets and pitons. We were dropped at our 6500-foot Base Camp on

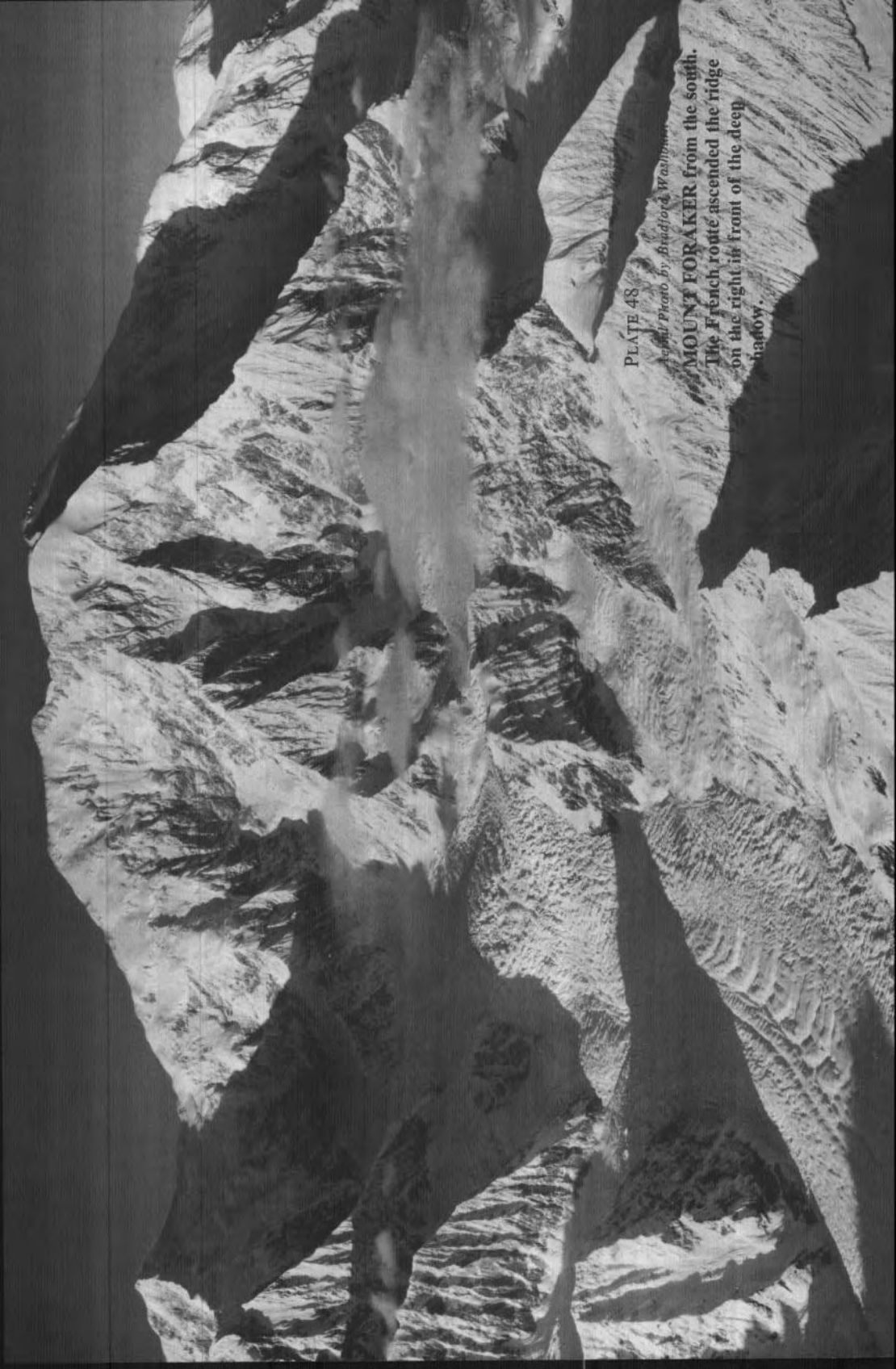


PLATE 48

Aerial photo by Bradford Washburn

MOUNT FORAKER from the south.
The French route ascended the ridge
on the right in front of the deep
gash.

PLATE 49

Aerial Photo by Bradford Washburn

The South-Southeast Ridge of FORAKER. The "Pin-nacle" is just above Camp I and the "Lacework" is right below Camp III. Camp I = 8500 feet; II = 10,175 feet; III = 12,150 feet; Bivouac = 15,750 feet.



May 3, established Camp I at 8500 feet on May 8 and Camp II at 10,175 feet on May 16. After four days of storm, we placed Camp III at 12,150 feet on May 31 and a bivouac at 15,750 feet on June 3. On June 3 at 1:30 A.M. Galmiche and I reached the summit, followed at one P.M. by Créton and Thivierge. On the 4th at six A.M. Landry, Bouquier, my wife Isabelle and I stood on the top. That night, after the last of us had returned to Camp III, bad weather struck again and lasted for several days. It took us until June 14 before we had removed all our material from the mountain.

HENRI AGRESTI, *Groupe de Haute Montagne*

Foraker Attempt. The Foraker-Russell Expedition, consisting of Dick Morse, Tim Carpenter, Jerry Croft, Ralph Moore, Jeff Thomas and me, failed to reach the summit of either of our goals. The route up the south spur of the west ridge of Foraker was pushed to about 13,000 feet, just below the peak of the last major obstacle before the west ridge proper. A pack containing the remainder of our hardware was lost down a 400-foot face when the cornice on which we were standing collapsed. Without the equipment, we could not continue. Because it was so late in the season, we flew out without tackling Russell.

PETER MILLAR, *Reed College*

Mount Foraker Attempt. Bill Coyle, Brian Okonek and I hoped to make on alpine-style ascent of Foraker's northeast ridge via Mount Crosson. On June 27 we skied to the base of the southeast ridge of Crosson. The next day we climbed the ridge to 9900 feet in mist and drizzle. The next day we reached the summit of Crosson and placed camp at 12,700 feet and on the 30th made three miles along the ridge, crossing P 12,427 to the saddle at 11,000 feet. We were pinned down there for four days by a fierce storm. On July 6 we continued along the ridge, but within 200 yards of camp a large windslab avalanche cut loose. Depleted food supplies and dangerous conditions persuaded us to head back.

ROGER ROBINSON

Mount Foraker Tragedies. Six Japanese climbers from two different expeditions died on Foraker. Takatsugi Yoshino, Kazuo Yukoyama and Yutaka Yoshida of a 14-member party, led by Akide Sato, radioed on May 3 that they were near death from fatigue, but before other members of the team could reach them in bad weather, they had died. Three members of another expedition, led by Tsuyoshi Ashizawa, were buried in an avalanche at 7500 feet. The victims were Toshio Hirakawa, Yoshitsugu Sanya and Kenji Koshiishi.

Foraker, 1975. In late June, 1975 Rob Muir, leader, Rob Dellinger, Jim Hoagland, Steve West, Ken Cook, Larry Dunmire, Greg Sapp and I were flown to the southwest fork of the Kahiltna Glacier. From the southern cirque we planned to ferry our equipment through the south-ridge col and climb the large icefall to the foot of the 8000-foot south face. Due to hazardous conditions in the icefall and nearby avalanches, we turned our attention eastward to the southeast ridge, first climbed in 1963. We placed camps at 8500, 9500, 11,500 and 13,000 feet. On July 10, Dellinger and Cook reached the summit. Muir and Sapp climbed to the top on July 14.

R. STEVE VAN METER

Mount Hunter. Arturo and Guido Giovanoli, Leo Hartmann, Jon Rudolf Bezzola and I tried to climb the north face of Mount Hunter, but we got hit by an avalanche at 9000 feet and so we gave it up. After climbing Mount Crosson by the east ridge on May 15, we returned to Hunter and climbed it by the west ridge. We placed Camp I at 10,000 feet. We fixed 3000 feet of rope because of poor snow conditions. On May 26 we all got to the summit after 11½ hours of climbing.

HEIRI PERK, *Schweizer Alpen Club*

Mount Huntington, Second Ascent of Northwest Ridge. Our team included Cindy Jones, Bob Newman, Todd Rentchler, Roger Robinson, Charlie Campbell and me. On April 5 we flew with pilot Buddy Woods, minus Campbell, who had contracted strep throat, to the northwest fork of the Ruth Glacier below the north face of Mount Huntington. Six days of hauling loads up the Ruth brought our mountain of gear to an unclimbed 2000-foot ice face, one mile west of the French approach to the northwest ridge. Although it was technically more difficult than the French approach and significantly increased the length of the climb, this 60° face had much less avalanche danger. Three-and-a-half days of magnificent ice leads and 2400 feet of fixed line brought us to the ridge crest, a col on the ridge midway between Huntington and P 12,380. Here Camp I was established, still 2½ miles from Huntington's summit. Charlie Campbell was flown in and proceeded with Roger Robinson directly up the face to push out the route. An initial series of gendarmes slowed progress but gave way to more moderate snow slopes on a corniced ridge. Later, we were forced to skirt more gendarmes to the south on steep snow and a short rock ledge. We reached the point where the French had gained the ridge on April 20 and set up Camp II in a snow cave and igloo on a hanging sérac. Charlie lost a filling, descended and was flown out. The weather, rather benign to this point, took on a sour nature for the remainder of the trip. It required several days of climbing through steep loose snow to gain the base of the first step and nail

the overhanging rock pitch above. Here, an old cable ladder and bits of fixed line marked the presence of Lionel Terray and his first-ascent team 12 years ago. We quickly climbed the corniced ridge above the rock section to the base of the second step. Bob Newman and I ascended the step and fixed 1200 feet of line to the base of the third step but were brought to a halt by the arrival of another storm. Several days later, on May 3, we returned up our fixed lines in still unsettled weather to establish Camp III in the saddle at 10,500 feet below the second step. There Todd Rentschler and Cindy Jones remained to push the route as best they could in poor visibility, icy ropes and daily snowfall. By May 7, the last of the fluted headwalls was fixed through the lacework to the top of the fourth step. Todd Rentschler and I, after a surprisingly difficult thrash on the final ice fluting above the fourth step, stood the next day on the corniced summit, making the fifth ascent. Roger Robinson, Cindy Jones, Bob Newman and I made our way to the summit on May 9. A storm-burdened descent to Base Camp took six days as we removed all possible fixed line and hardware. After our extra gear was flown out by Cliff Hudson, we skied, walked, crawled and cried for 80 miles and eight days to arrive at Moose Creek on the Peterville Road by May 27.

ED NEWVILLE, *Unaffiliated*

Mount Huntington from the West. A six-man Japanese expedition led by Masao Yoshida climbed Mount Huntington by the Harvard route. This is the third time that route has been climbed. They began on May 3 and reached the summit on May 30. Their original objective had been the south face, but they found the conditions too dangerous there.

Rooster Comb Attempt. In August Paul Denkwalter and I made an attempt on the east face of the Rooster Comb from the Ruth Glacier. We reached 8200 feet in three days of climbing before retreating to wait out six days of rain and snow before returning home.

NED W. LEWIS, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Barrille, Southeast Couloir, and Peaks Above the Ruth Glacier, 1975. We members of the Bone and Skin Club (*Hone to Kawa* in Japanese), Teruaki Segawa, Kansei Suga, Masayuki Suemasa and I, had hoped to climb the west ridge of Huntington, but glacier conditions made us change to the east ridge. On July 9, 1975 we started fixing ropes up the ice wall. On the 12th an avalanche came over us but luckily everyone escaped. It is regrettable that the plan flew out together with this avalanche. Having stopped giving a sheep's eye to Huntington, we



PLATE 50

Photo by Gérard Créton

The South-Southeast ridge of Foraker from the "Pinnacle". Camp II was in the niche on the ridge a fifth of the way from top of photo. The first half of the "Lacework" appears at the top.

headed for the southwest ridge of P 11,300, north of Huntington on the night of July 14. It took 17 pitches to get to our high camp. From there we made a 24-hour round trip to the summit. Finally on July 18 we finished descending this long ridge, which had first been climbed by the Swiss Allemann and Lötschner in 1968 (*A.A.J.*, 1969, pages 372-3). After retiring to Sheldon's Mountain House and meeting the party just off the Moose's Tooth, we set off on July 25 after the rain stopped. We went through the Gateway around Barrille, now white with snow, to where we could see the bottom of the southeast couloir rising into the clouds. We reached the rock terrace about midnight and slept until dawn. On the 26th we climbed some 70° ice in a chimney. The chimney led to the col and we traversed over the snow face to reach the top. On the north ridge of Barrille and left of the Gateway is a small rock peak, which rises 1000 feet. On the evening of July 28 we climbed to the steep rock wall and attacked it. We bivouacked for a couple of hours before completing this difficult rock climb the next morning. We were stormed in at the Mountain House for two days before Hudson could fly us out.

EIJI TSAI, *Hone to Kawa, Kobe, Japan*

Mount Barrille, Winter Ascent. In February Paul Danewalter, Dr. Jim Olsen, Dr. William Brant, Ed Olmstead and I climbed Barrille, after failing on the German route on the Moose's Tooth.

GARY BOCARDE

Tripyramid. My two brothers, Carl and Michael, and I spent three weeks around the Traleika Glacier waiting out storms. Our climbs on the three mornings that were clear made up for the lost time. We tried Tatum by its long northeast ridge, but snow falling from the sky and from under our feet stopped us. Later we attempted Silverthrone from our camp at 7300 feet on the glacier draining west from Silverthrone Col. We front-pointed 2000 feet up the steep wall to our south to gain the west ridge of Silverthrone. We followed this up to the 11,270-foot spur in ever-decreasing visibility where a total white-out unfortunately prevented a summit push. We returned via the glacier from Silverthrone Col, an easier route. Carl failed in his attempt (in a total white-out) to take a short cut over the 150-foot bergschrund ice cliff, he only made 30 feet before the rope caught him. It took a while to haul him back up the overhang. We climbed the west peak of Tripyramid by the main couloir extending south from its southwest ridge. With good snow conditions and great weather, this was a most enjoyable climb. From the summit we continued along the ridge to the central peak, an easy hike with fine views.

PETER LEHNER, *Harvard Mountaineering Club*

Peaks above the Kahiltna Glacier. After unsafe snow conditions prevented our carrying out our plans for climbs on Foraker and Hunter, Roger Robinson and I decided to do the 1200-foot north face of P 8060, which is immediately south of the southeast fork of the Kahiltna. This was a full nine pitches of 60° ice. Some of the pitches were disheartening, for they had a scratchy layer of candle ice. Our descent was down the scenic east ridge to a small saddle from which we rappelled. On July 19 we did the first ascent of P 7660 via the southwest ridge, from which we could peer over the Lacuna Glacier. This peak lies west of the 4800-foot level of the Kahiltna. Between July 21 and 31, Roger and I did the first ascents of P 7510, P 7100, P 7490, P 6910 and P 7390.

BRIAN OKONEK, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

P 5705, Tokosha Mountains. My Dad dropped Dr. Richard Griffith and me off by plane on Home Lake, which is along the Tokositna River five miles south of the higher peaks of the Tokoshas and 5500 feet lower than Tokosha Peak. We had cached a canoe there. We were soon across the river flats and by ten in the evening we were well above brush line. The following day we walked across the broad plateau of alpine tundra to the headwaters of Bluff Creek. We dropped all but climbing gear at 3500 feet at the foot of the southeast ridge of P 5705. On the longest day of the year at two A.M. it was still light. We scrambled up to 4800 feet on beautiful granite steps and ledges of heather and flowers. The first roped pitch involved some A1 moves up an awkward crack and around a large chockstone in a chimney. The pitches varied from hard crack climbing to easy scrambling. We had to rappel a few times into notches along the ridge. Finally we were forced off the ridge to a series of ledges along the southwest face along which we traversed until we were directly below the east summit. Four more pitches of F6 crack climbing and a mantel move from aid got us to the top at eight P.M. There was no cairn and so we built one before rappelling down the ridge toward the west summit. A zig-zag line of eight pitches of mixed rock and snow took us there, where we found Michel Flouret's first-ascent cairn. Our new route over the east summit had been 30 pitches long. We slept for an hour before we started down the northwest ridge at one A.M. Sally Johnston and I had tried to ascend our descent route during the winter but had turned around after we hit what seemed an endless line of corniced gendarmes. We now found we had quit only two pitches below the summit. We descended in a drizzle and hit the sack at five A.M. Our objectives for June 23 were two unclimbed peaks west of the notch along the Cirque of Echos. To gain the cirque we climbed four pitches of grimy ice and rock between a hanging glacier and a broken wall of rock. We found a much

easier route along the south side of the glacier on the descent. We first climbed P 5650 via the south face and east ridge. There were seven pitches. Our second climb that day was what we called the "Cat's Ear Spire." The USGS map of the area is inaccurate; this spire is shown as a saddle between P 5650 and P 5950. It was a three-pitch climb. The last 70 feet were scary on pebbly granite with no protection nor decent rappel anchor on top.

BRIAN OKONEK, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Deborah and Hess Attempts, Ascent of P 9730. On May 16 Gwain Oka, Ray Brooks, Chris Puchner and I were flown to the Gillam Glacier at 5500 feet. Under clear skies we made two carries to 7500 feet on the north side of P 9730. This north face did not look encouraging. We had originally intended to haul loads up the face and establish a high camp at the base of Deborah's north spur, but a favorable weather report for the next four to five days persuaded us to try Deborah alpine-style. The next 15 hours changed our minds. At first we were in the middle of the face on good snow, but from there on it was 45° to 50° blue ice with four to six inches of powder snow. We continued to the right and through the rock band. Three more pitches of steep snow and ice put us on the summit ridge. We chopped platforms and slept a few hours. Five hours later we traversed the 200 yards to the summit of P 9730. From there the north spur of Deborah looked appalling: 1800 feet of class-five rock climbing on loose rock covered with sugar snow. The route was unrealistic for our party. We descended via the icefall at the base of Deborah's north face, terribly threatened by avalanches. We pulled everything down from the camp on P 9730 the next day. A six-day storm dumped five feet of snow. By May 26 the snow had settled enough to try the northwest face of North Hess. Getting a midnight start, we spent the next three hours in the icefall that defends the face. The lower half averaged 45° with two pitches of 75° at the glacier's tongue. The upper 3000 feet averaged 60°. After 19 hours of climbing, we were at the top of a couloir and came out onto easy ground below the false summit, which we reached in snow and increasing whiteout. We did not do the mile-long slog to the real summit but spent a bewildering night descending the icefall. Once again a storm set in for five days. Finally the weather broke. Oka and I climbed a long, north-facing ridge to the northwest ridge of Deborah and continued up that for five or six pitches. A day later Brooks and Puchner ascended P 9400 from the west side.

R. DANE BURNS, *L'Equipe de Danse de Coeur d'Alene*

Mount Deborah from the North, Attempt. After flying in from Harding Lake to a gravel bar on the edge of the Gillam Glacier, John



PLATE 51

Photo by Steve Heckert

**MOUNT MOFFITT, 13,020 feet, from
the north, rising above Trident Glacier.**

Bouchard, Bob Garmirian, Tony Goodwin and I packed our gear about eight miles up the west fork of the Gillam to a point directly across from P 9730, a satellite of Deborah to the north. The first day of climbing we established a fixed line above the bergschrund on P 9730 and the next day, after 12 hours of climbing reached a point about 10,000 feet on the north ridge. The route proved to be difficult climbing on extremely rotten schist, knife-edged, and corniced with loose snow in spots. Two of the party reached a point about 700 feet above the small col between P 9730 and the main peak. At this point we ran out of rope and hardware, having just reached the upper part of the north ridge, probably about five rope lengths from its junction with the northwest ridge. The route appeared feasible but very exposed and heavily corniced. We decided not to climb due to a lack of rope to fix the last section of the knife edge. Retreat in the event of bad weather would be next to impossible without securing the route. Later, three of the party made an ascent of a peak just over 10,000 feet due west of Deborah via its long northwest ridge.

THOMAS LYMAN

Mount Moffit, Northwest Ridge, 1975. After a reconnaissance, Mike Sallee, Doug Buchanan, Jim Jennings and I started up the northwest ridge of Mount Moffit and placed camps at 7000 and 9800 feet. After fixing the route up a 600-foot face and along a sharp ridge, on July 29, 1975, Sallee and Buchanan plowed to the top (13,020 feet) and back in a long day. Jennings and I waited in High Camp for a week, but the weather and snow conditions remained poor. This was the second ascent, by the original route.

KENNETH C. IRVING, *Alaska Alpine Club*

Mount Hayes Traverse. On August 28 John Dattoli flew Jim Jennings, Dave Dausel and me to a gravel bar next to the Trident Glacier for an alpine-style attempt on Mount Hayes. Two days later we climbed up and over Levi's Bump to camp in the col at the base of Hayes' east ridge. After a day of whiteout, we moved up to 11,500 feet, where clouds again stopped us. On September 2 we moved up the broad, moderately steep ridge, arriving on top (13,832 feet) at two P.M. We continued down the north side of the summit cap to camp at the start of the exposed cornices at 12,500 feet. After a cold night we worked our way down the north ridge which, in contrast to the east ridge, is long and knife-edged. We sat out a storm for three days before hiking back to our airstrip and completing our 30-mile circuit.

KENNETH C. IRVING, *Alaska Alpine Club*

Mount Hayes, Southwest Face of the South Summit. Fred Beckey, Benno Ochenski, Dougal McCarty and I were the second group flown this summer by Wilson Air Service to the middle fork of the Susitna Glacier. At 7000 feet, it was an ideal location below the southwest face of Mount Hayes. The higher of Hayes' summits, the 13,832-foot north peak, rises above Hess, Deborah and Moffit in this eastern extension of the Alaska Range. Our circus was headed toward the southwestern part of the mountain, where pictures showed several possible routes to the lower south summit. We were landed on May 25. At first we followed the wands left by the Tokyo Technical College around a buttress, but then turned north as we climbed a 1000-foot-high ice slope. Above, atop a gentle ridge at 8500 feet, we placed a camp on the southern end of a bench which traverses much of the southwest side of Mount Hayes. From our last camp further along the shelf, a big couloir trucks 3500 feet to the south summit. Out of the lower end, avalanche debris spreads its way across the bench before disappearing into an icefall. Traveling between the last two camps, we had crossed an even larger avalanche track. Good, hot sun had improved the snow conditions. After eliminating the west ridge as a possible route, we still had either a steep glacier or an equally steep couloir just south of it. Fred and Dougal wanted to climb the glacier while Benno and I opted for the couloir. On the evening of June 1, in the couloir, Benno and I were impressed. A foot of good hard snow covered the ice. Not using the rope, we quickly gained 800 feet. Returning, we paused part way down to gain the rib separating the couloir from the glacier. Out of its usual wild pattern, the evening weather was windless, cloudless and still. Fred and Dougal were encountering problems. The steep ice layers peeled off like the skin of an onion. That night in camp we agreed on a route. Starting at ten o'clock the next night, we would ascend the couloir for 1800 feet, cross the rock rib and continue for 1200 feet on the glacier to reach the saddle. From there the north peak would not be much farther. The four of us had barely started when Benno, Dougal and I found ourselves dividing Fred's essential items. There is no way to comprehend fully why Fred descended back to camp. Three hundred feet wide and 3500 feet long, the big-time couloir was capped by a cornice, which only slowly grew larger as we climbed higher. The initial easy traveling gave way to loose powder. The ice underneath was unconsolidated and would not hold ice screws well. We belayed along the right side. Two leads higher, I hid behind a snow fluke while Dougal climbed the shale rib on crampons. We were relieved when we were over the crux and out of that monster. From there to the saddle, where we arrived at 5 P.M., we found no major obstacles. A squall line of thunder storms was approaching from the north. Should we go on? Dog tired, none of us was eager. The top is 800 feet higher. Underneath is wind



PLATE 32

Photo by Steve Hackett

**MOUNT HAYES, 13,832 feet,
from the north.**

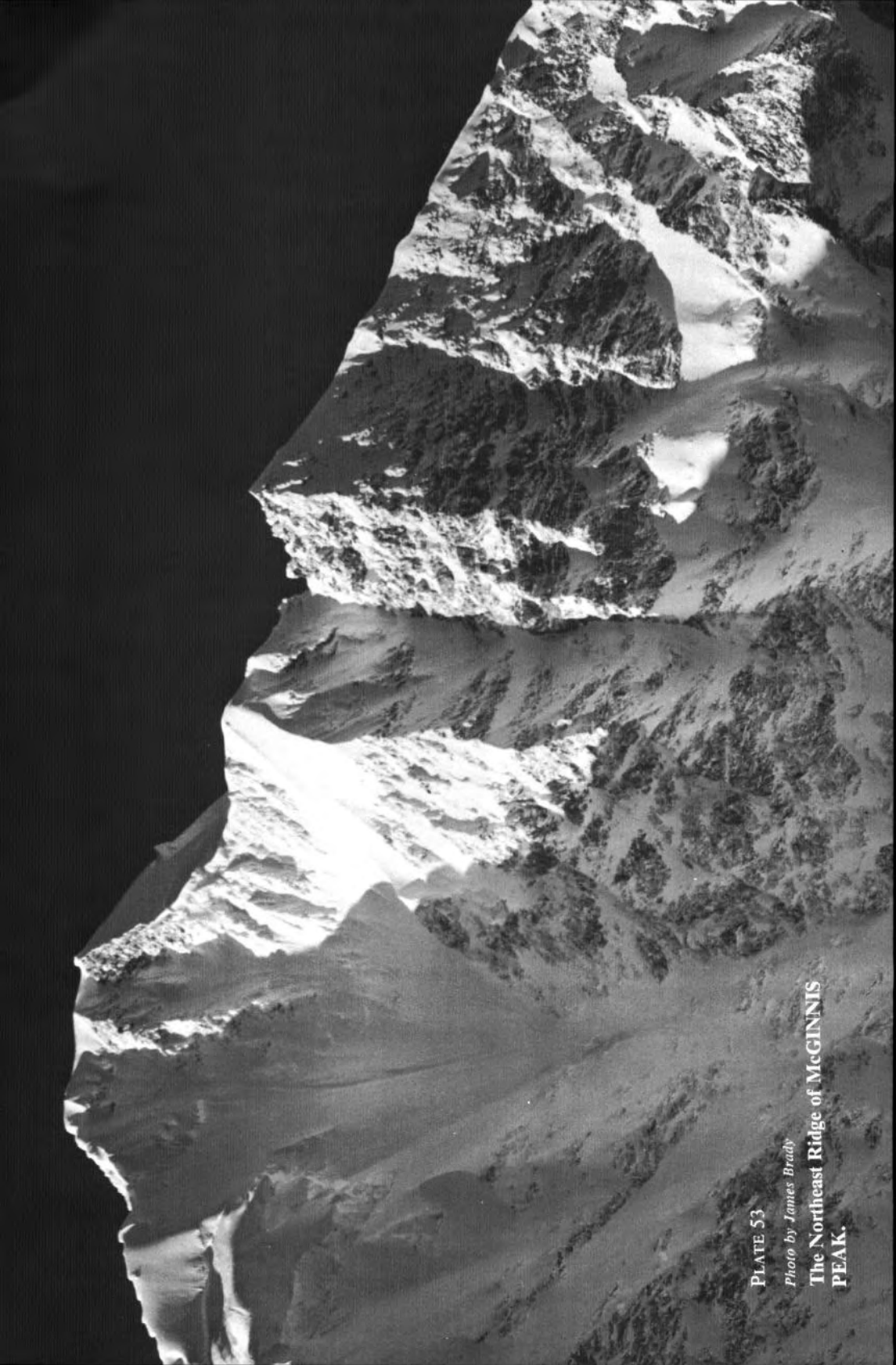


PLATE 53

Photo by James Brady

The Northeast Ridge of MCGINNIS
PEAK.

crust. It is probably three hours and three-quarters of a mile away. We trudged on for three hours and we were not even halfway. The wind crust gave way to increasingly deep powder. We were wading through two-and-a-half feet of snow. Was it worth it? Fourth down; we decided to punt and for us the ball game is over. It was time to start the disagreeable task of returning.

BRIAN LEO, *Dirty Sox Climbing Club*

Mount Hayes, South Summit. On April 17 we were flown to Base Camp on the Susitna Glacier at 7100 feet. On April 22 we placed Camp I at 8700 feet, but were pinned down by weather for the next four days. On April 29 we left Camp I and climbed the south face of the south summit of Mount Hayes, avoiding crevasses, especially one just beneath the top. All four of us, Takeshi Ootsu, Takeshi Kubo, Shinichi Suzuki and I, reached the top (13,305 feet). We placed 650 feet of fixed rope between Base Camp and Camp I and 1300 feet between Camp I and the south summit.

TAKASHI AIZAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

McGinnis Peak, Northeast Ridge, Alaska Range. After crossing the Delta River by kayak on June 14, James Brady and I made our approach via the south branch of the McGinnis Glacier. Working right through the icefall at the cirque entrance, we ascended a small glacier tongue extending south from the col between P 9280 and P 9010. High winds and snow pinned us for a day before we attained the unclimbed northeast ridge of McGinnis. Two miles of climbing on this sharp ridge brought us to our high camp at 10,200 feet. The crux of the climb was passing a rock gendarme just above camp. Two pitches of 60° snow plastered on rock and a short ice gully brought us up its right side. The summit headwall was enjoyable step-kicking on good snow. We completed the second ascent of the peak on June 21. By climbing only at night, we found snow conditions more stable with less avalanche danger.

JOHN GARSON

McGinnis Peak, Whole Northeast Ridge and Traverse. In October Bill Kitsen, Geoff Radford and I climbed the northeast ridge of McGinnis Peak (11,400 feet) and descended via the north peak (10,720 feet). We began the climb by traversing P 9010. Between this and P 9280 feet we intersected the Brady-Garson Route. In the east col (8600 feet) we were delayed a day while four feet of snow fell. In a day we climbed 1800 feet of steep, knife-edged ridge and camped in the notch (10,400 feet). Two mixed pitches out of the notch led to an early bivouac only 400 feet above our previous camp. For three days the wind blew and

avalanches poured over and into our cave in a bergschrund. Finally we started up the 600 feet of 45° ice in good wind. On top we camped immediately in a serious storm. That night our tent threatened to rip apart and had to be dug out regularly. We attempted to find the north ridge the next day but dug in only a few hundred feet horizontally from our previous camp. We had only three days of food and fuel. At ten o'clock the morning after, we started down the north ridge. A short rappel around an ice cliff brought us to a knife-edged ridge and a few large cornices. Then we traversed the incredibly sharp north peak and continued to follow the ridge until it blended into a low-angle face. Immediately it steepened and we began to front-point. At sunset we rappelled over a rock band and made three more rappels in the dark. A rare flat spot provided a place for the tent. The next day 1000 feet primarily of ice brought us to the Trident Glacier. We continued down through 500 feet of the 2500-foot icefall. The rest of the icefall went quickly the next morning. We continued 11 miles to the cabin where we had flown in with John Datoli 13 days before. The following day we continued out and crossed the Delta River to the Richardson Highway.

JAMES JENNINGS, *Alaska Alpine Club*

First Ascents in the Arrigetch. My two brothers, Carl and Michael, and I spent four weeks in the Arrigetch in the central Brooks Range. We ascended Battleship and Citadel* by obvious class 3-4 routes (in both cases the west ridge) and Pyramid by the route of the 1964 party. East Maiden was climbed by a new route: the south face and the east ridge. We started in the center of the face with three pitches of up to F8 on solid granite which got progressively more difficult, and finally led to a ledge leading right to the east ridge, from where four easier pitches took us to the summit. From there we reached West Maiden by following the ridge west. The first ascent of "Moria" (our name), the major peak east of Shot Tower was made on our second attempt. After an aborted attempt on the north ridge which was reached in 16 pitches, Carl soloed it by its back (south) side. He made a reconnaissance trip into the major valley to the south to scout a route, and finding it a long scramble (class 3-4), he continued up until he reached the spectacular summit. On our final day we made the first ascent of "Marshall Peak" (our name, after Bob Marshall), a lower peak just east of Shot Tower. Six fun pitches of up to F5 up the gully directly north

* The names Battleship, Citadel, Pyramid, East and West Maiden, and Shot Tower are from the 1964 party. None of the names in this report are official, but they have been suggested to the U.S. Geological Survey for inclusion on future maps. "Moria" was called "Sodden" by the 1964 party.

of Shot Tower led to a broad wide bowl. From there it was a class 3-4 scramble on slabs to the summit.

PETER LEHNER, *Harvard Mountaineering Club*

Igikpak, Northeast Face and Upper East Ridge, Brooks Range. September 2 found me at 1:30 at 5200 feet below the glacial headwall of Igikpak's east face with 85 feet of 7-mm rope, 4 carabiners, 2 nuts, 6 slings a geology hammer and a pocketful of chockstones. The ascent zigzagged up the gossan-stained, jointed, exfoliated granitic ledges that cut obliquely across the northeast face. The route intersected the east ridge at 7100 feet but avoided a jagged spire that guarded the tooth-like ridge at 6800 feet. Weaving back and forth along the sharp but broken and slabby ridge, I came to the spectacular summit block, a pedestal in the sky. Gear left by the first-ascent party assisted me over this otherwise technically impossible spot to complete the second ascent by a new route. Swirling clouds and fading light suddenly slapped me back to cold reality. A slow and nervous descent to 7100 feet took me to a frigid bivouac. Gustly winds and dropping temperatures made me shake uncontrollably for an eternity. A sudden break in the weather and wind at 5:30 spurred me to descend a broken path on the northeast face, using sloping ledges and 60-foot rappels secured by natural anchors. The next day I lined an inflatable kayak down the Noatak River to 12-Mile Creek, where I waited in vain for a couple of days for friends. I then paddled 365 miles down the river to Noatak village in 7½ days . . . ending an indescribable spiritual experience of being alone in the Brooks Range.

STEVE W. HACKETT

Marcus Baker, First Winter Ascent, Chugach Mountains. On February 6 Rob Bowen, Greg Durocher, Charlie Hammond and I started up the Matanuska Glacier for Marcus Baker. The first couple of days we were lost among moraine piles and crevasses on the lower glacier and hardly made any forward progress. We were packing supplies for 20 days on red sleds. Hammond injured his knee and we had to escort him back to the road. Finally we hit smooth going and made it to Base Camp at 6800 feet on February 11. The weather had been perfect and remained so the entire trip, though never warmer than -15° and always windy. On the 12th we shouldered eight days of food and headed up the northeast ridge. We placed our first high camp (actually our seventh camp) in a crevasse at 9300 feet. Camp II was no more than a bivouac cave dug into very hard snow at 11,900 feet. The view was very impressive, from Mount Spurr to Bona. On the 14th we traversed over the north and middle summits to the 13,176-foot south summit of

Marcus Baker. We descended to Base Camp in one easy day, picking out attractive peaks to climb on the 40-mile walk back to the road. On the 16th Bowen and I skied over a pass to the Marcus Baker Glacier to P 10,955 at its head, some five miles from Base Camp. The west ridge was an easy climb but it offered more great views. After a rest day and another day of moving down glacier, we stopped at the foot of another enticing mountain. P 8660 is just north of the junction of the east fork and the main Matanuska Glacier. On the 19th Durocher and I climbed it via its southwest face on mixed snow and rock for another first ascent.

BRIAN OKONEK, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Mount Drum, Southwest Ridge, Wrangell Mountains. Two local groups climbed Mount Drum (12,010 feet) by the southwest ridge in early May. Jim Jennings and Jim Meigs reached the summit in one push from their camp at 5600 feet, bivouacking at 9900 feet on the descent. Ola Royrvik, Mike Sallee and I had camps at 7000 and 9900 feet on our ascent a week later.

KENNETH C. IRVING, *Alaska Alpine Club*

Blackburn, Northwest Ridge, P 10,600 and P 10,685, Wrangell Mountains. The Hokkai College Alpine Club's expedition from Sapporo had twenty-two men and two women as members. While one group attempted the northeast ridge, supported by others, a second group climbed the northwest ridge. We were flown on April 18 to the Nabesna Glacier and set up Base Camp at 7200 feet east of the northwest ridge. The northeast-ridge group established Camp I at 8200 feet on April 21 and Camp II at 11,500 feet on April 23. On April 25 K. Kyogoku, N. Nomura, Y. Onodera, T. Fukushi and T. Suga got to P 12,741, where the northeast ridge joins the east ridge, between Atna Peak and the east peak of Blackburn. Heavy snowfall caused avalanches and our tent and equipment were lost. On April 29 Kyogoku, K. Takaba and T. Sato climbed back to P 12,741; Fukushi, Y. Ohira and H. Sato got there on the 30th. Also on April 30 Kyogoku, N. Watanabe, N. Komatsu and A. Ando made the first ascent of P 10,060, which lies on the ridge that descends from Atna. Fukushi and Suga repeated the climb on May 1. They gave up the attempt to get to the summit of Blackburn because of lost equipment. Meanwhile the other group was on the northwest ridge. Camp I was established on April 22 at 9800 feet, Camp II on April 23 at 11,500 feet. A snow cave was made for Camp III at 14,800 feet on April 28 after the snowfall. On the 29th H. Yamala, T. Fuji, H. Akiba, H. Hizuma, K. Yamala, M. Sanada and K. Okuoka got to the summit of Mount Blackburn (16,390 feet). On May 3 Kyogoku, Y. Sato, H.

Hinoura and I made the first ascent of P 10,685 feet, which lies on the northern end of the northwest ridge, west of the Nabesna Glacier.

NOBUYUKI SAKAUE, *Hokkai College Alpine Club, Japan*

Mount Regal, Northeast Ridge. A 10-man Japanese expedition led by Yoshihito Nakai flew to the Nabesna Glacier and made the second ascent of Mount Regal (13,845 feet) on August 7, 1975 by a new route, the northeast ridge. All members reached the top.

Mount Fairweather. On June 20, John Imbrie, George West and I were landed in Gilbert Inlet of Lituya Bay. We had originally planned to approach Mount Fairweather from Cape Fairweather, but the pilot on duty at Channel Flying in Juneau that morning wasn't certain of the landing spot there. We decided hastily to go with the adequate flying weather at hand rather than wait for Ken Loken: "After all, Desolation Valley is a flat approach, and we won't have to bushwhack from the Beach." And so, fifteen days later, we reached Base Camp beneath the South, or Carpé, Ridge. Desolation Valley had been a big mistake. Running right along the Fairweather Fault, it contains stagnant glaciers which are melting out from underneath, producing wild and grotesque jumbles of séracs, lakes, and other horrors. We sidehill-gouged several of the more difficult sections, doggedly ferrying supplies under gloomy but usually dry skies. Access to the Carpé Ridge was a little dangerous, as we had to climb the right edge of an icefall next to a rocky buttress; large ice blocks fell on the route several times between our passages. The ridge itself was continuous snow and ice at 40° to 45°, broken only by two rock bands. We belayed occasionally on steeper sections of ice, and made high camp at about 9700 feet on a little crest where we enjoyed an enormous panorama of Mounts Salisbury, Lituya, Sabine, and the Pacific Ocean. We made two trips to High Camp, returning from the first in bad weather. Two perfect days coincided happily with our second time up, and so leaving our tent at five A.M. on July 12, we cramponed quickly up long open slopes, which steepened in a few spots to over 55°. We straddled two knife-edges of crumbling ice, then continued, in T-shirts, to the shoulder at 13,800 feet. There deep snow and crevasses slowed us considerably, and we reached the Ice Nose at about five P.M. We front-pointed a gully to its left in two pitches, belaying with tied-off pickets. From there the going was merely tiring up the last 800 feet. Shivering on the summit, we could see Logan and St. Elias, lit by the setting sun; far below us, deep shadows rested between the dramatic peaks of the Fairweather Range. A low layer of cumulus cloud extended far out to sea, shimmering in the sunset like rippled, polished brass. After an exhausting descent by moonlight, we stumbled into High Camp

at eight the following morning with grey storm clouds creeping down the mountain on our heels. We walked out the Fairweather Glacier to the sea, and then down along the magnificent beach to Lituya Bay, where Ken Loken met us on July 25. It was an occasionally frustrating and lonely but deeply satisfying adventure.

DAVID K. COOMBS, *Harvard Mountaineering Club*

Mount Emmerich, Chilkat Mountains, Alaska Coast Mountains. One lovely alpine peak stands out in particular from the Chilkat River, only some eight miles from Haines and in plain view of the town. Mount Emmerich (6405 feet), a bastion of granite and hanging glaciers, had apparently never been climbed. Craig Zaspell, Jack Tackle and I found a spot of good weather in early August, and with the kind assistance of Paul Swift of Haines, we arranged a boatripe across the muddy river and obtained directions on the Kicking Horse River approach. An airdrop of 23 small bundles by Layton Bennett proved exciting and successful, the drop being made in tight circles from a Helio Courier on a small unnamed glacier at 4000 feet. The hike in was done in a hard day, with one quite dangerous log crossing, and a long brush and gully ascent (including one impromptu F7 pitch at a gully wall). We did not reach the airdrop the first night, but found a scrub hemlock hiding spot, then located all the bundles the next day—in the fog. Our efforts on the first objective, the spectacular northeast buttress, all ended in frustration: poor weather and friable rock. After three sorties on the buttress we pulled our gear off and then waited out days of poor weather. Finally we decided that time had run out, even for a climb by what seemed the easiest route. We packed a camp across a ridge for a new descent route. Swift and friends appeared out of a cloud and dropped additional food. As an omen, the weather suddenly cleared, and so we climbed the long crevassed glacier to a col south of Emmerich. Here we discovered a possible route. Luck was with us on August 14, absolutely our last day (food and time limits). From our previous high point on the glacier, we found that the best way to reach the crumbly southwest ridge was to do an aid pitch off the ice on solid granite. Later we did the cakewalk along the ridge, always finding a possible route, but one that was scary and perhaps too dangerous to recommend. Most of this was belayed climbing, but occasionally we used some chocks and pitons for safety. Various ridge-climbing antics finally placed us on the summit at about seven P.M. Here we built a cairn and admired the vista of such peaks as Crillon and Fairweather, as well as the Coast Mountains in the opposite direction. Fishing boats could be seen clearly in Lynn Canal.

FRED BECKEY

Juneau Icefields. Our group of four spent from July 8 to August 1 on the Juneau Icefields, landing with Ken Loken on an unnamed lake on the British Columbia flank (above Tulsequah Lake) and made the combination hike and cross-country-ski trek out to Twin Glacier Lake. Craig Zaspell, Doug McCarty, Jack Tackle, and I climbed the south peak of Devil's Paw via the long south couloir the night of July 23-24, but were frustrated by very loose rock on the south face of Michael's Sword. The new route on the "Paw" was exhilarating, and a challenge with snow conditions and the deep avalanche runnels on the steep couloir. Our timing was good, for we had to bivouac for only two hours before we could move on to do the summit pitches of the south peak (previously unclimbed); a route to the middle peak from here did not look inviting, particularly with fresh snow. We managed to get off the mountain before the sun struck the couloir again. On July 28 we made the first ascents of two granitic peaks on Antler Ridge, a lovely ridge of striking towers surrounded by the ice of Twin Glaciers. The worst part of the trip was getting back to the sea-level lake, fighting the heat, brush, and mosquitoes. While hungrily waiting for the float-plane pickup (during the best weather of the summer) we reflected on the great lake formed once in upper Taku Inlet by the Norris Glacier—called by the coast Indians Tah-wakh-tha-ku, or "where the geese sit down." This name is now shortened to Ta-ku.

FRED BECKEY

Washington—Cascade Mountains

Spider Mountain, North Face. The large, steep firnfields on the north face of Spider Mountain had always interested me. One route on the north face had been climbed, but Spider is a broad mountain, with room well to the left for another nice alpine route. Clark Gerhardt, Greg Markov, John Yaeger, and I made a light bivouac camp at timberline on the West Fork of Flat Creek, then on the morning of September 21 traversed onto the gravel and bedrock below the Spider Glacier. The route led through easy, crevassed portions of the glacier, then a rock pitch that took a bit of care. The upper slopes are relentless but only moderately steep. After about 1200 feet of climbing (front-pointing), we emerged on the corniced summit ridge. We were amazed to see caterpillars and birds on the face, three varieties of flowers amid the summit rocks, and two deer crossing the Spider-Formidable col. NCCS II or III, F5.

FRED BECKEY

East McMillan Spire, North Buttress. On September 18 and 19 Doug McNair and I climbed this 2300-foot buttress. Beginning near its lowest

point, we basically followed the right side of the buttress, gaining the sharp crest just below the summit. The approach from camp in Terror Basin took five hours. We reached the summit by mid-afternoon the following day. The rock was good until we reached the summit area, though often slabby and lacking cracks. There was minor aid in one spot halfway up the climb. NCCS IV, F7, A1.

BRYCE SIMON, *unaffiliated*

Davis Peak, Northeast Face. On July 12, Dallas Kloke and I climbed this 2000-foot face, beginning directly below the summit and reaching the summit ridge just south of it. It took one long day from our car in Diablo. NCCS III, F6.

BRYCE SIMON, *unaffiliated*

The Fin, North Face. Dallas Kloke and I climbed this face (Kangeroo Ridge) on June 23. NCCS II, F7.

BRYCE SIMON, *unaffiliated*

Lower Index Town Wall. On August 1 Steve Trafton and I climbed "Orc Tower" on the right side of the quarried area on the Lower Index Town Wall. The route begins on the left side of the tower and is of four leads of mixed free and aid climbing. NCCS III, F7, A3.

ALLAN ERRINGTON

Mount Thompson, Winter Ascent. Jim McCarthy and I made the first winter ascent via the east ridge in early February, 1975.

GREG MARKOV

Colchuck Peak. In January, 1975 Skip Edmonds, Clark Gerhardt, Paula Kregel and I made the first ascent as well as the first winter ascent of a couloir to the right of the northeast buttress. A 60° headwall was the major difficulty.

GREG MARKOV

Colchuck Peak. In January Mark Thornton and I made the first winter ascent of the Wickwire-Lilleby route on excellent ice.

DAVID SEMAN

Mount Buckner, North Couloir. Steve Doty and I climbed the north couloir on November 14. This first ascent crossed a 60° bergschrund

and then led up the prominent couloir which was 1400 feet of steep ice and hard snow.

VAN BRINKERHOFF

Prusik Peak, First Winter Ascent. Dave Anderson, Cal Folsom, Tom Linder and I made the first winter ascent of this peak via the west ridge in January, 1975.

JAMES MCCARTHY

Dragontail Peak. Dick Heffernan and Skip Edmonds made the first winter ascent of the Wickwire-Stanley route in February, 1975.

Dragontail, Triple Couloir Route. In May, 1974 Leslie Nelson, Bill Joiner and I climbed the "hidden couloir" of the Wickwire-Stanley route, then traversed left into and up the prominent couloir in the center of the face and finally climbed the couloir behind the "fin." This 2500 feet of snow and ice averages 45°.

DAVID SEMAN

Mount Adams, Avalanche Glacier Headwall. Dale Schmidt and I made the first direct ascent of this route on July 10. No major technical difficulties were encountered. We mainly climbed a steep gully.

JAMES BJORGEN, *Cascadians*

Mount Shuksan, North Face. Bruce Blume and I made the first winter ascent of this route on December 23, 1975.

DAVID SEMAN

Dragontail Peak, Sundown Route, Correction. On page 441 of *A.A.J.*, 1976 we gave an account of a climb which apparently was a third and not a first ascent. The route was first climbed in 1972 by Jay Ossiander and a friend and repeated in 1973 by Greg Markov.

Witches Tower, Northwest Buttress, Cashmere Crags. In late September, Rick Piercy and I climbed this section of good granite. From the northwest col we started 20 feet right of the buttress, ascended obvious twin cracks and went left to the buttress. A wide jam-crack led to a wide belay ledge. From there we climbed large friction slabs to the summit. NCCS II, F7.

BRADLEY E. ALBRO

Crystal Creek Tower, South Face Stuart Range. On July 4 Shari Kearney, Steve Mitchell and I climbed a clean, short wall on the tower's

south face. Obvious jam-cracks led up the center of the face. NCCS II, F8.

ALAN KEARNEY

Washington—Olympic Mountains

Mount Constance. Jon Olson and I made the first ascent of the north face via Crystal Pass. We placed two bolts; protection was precarious. The route begins 200 yards to the north of the Red Dike route at the base of three prominent cracks, below and right of a west-facing open-book. Rockfall was a problem.

KEN PEARCE

Church Peak, Southeast Face. In the spring my husband Ken and I climbed the southeast face and then for two leads up the exposed summit ridge. This new route is class four.

TERRY ANDERSON PEARCE

Oregon

North Sister, Early Morning Couloir. I made a solo ascent of this couloir. This fall the record lack of precipitation and lower temperature offered unusual possibilities. At 1:30 on December 20, I left the lower screes and progressed quickly up this 1500-foot couloir. The first part was good footing firn and then medium-hard ice in the steeper mid and upper sections. The final traverse onto the north ridge was tricky due to slab ice. I made a hasty descent down the northwest face. The ascent took one hour.

ROGER ROBINSON

California, Sierra Nevada

Elphinston Buttress. Overlooking Hungry Packer Lake (Mount Goddard quadrangle) is a beautiful peak with a very steep, prominent face. In August, Paul Landrum, Chuck Fitch and I established a route directly up this face. The climb begins at the toe of the buttress, which falls away to a scree field that ends in Hungry Packer Lake. The crux is a thin crack leading to a slight overhang about halfway up, where we left two fixed pins. 13-15 pitches. NCCS IV, F10.

RICK MOSHER

Blue Dome, El Greco. In May, Winfred Blevins, Leeds Davis and I climbed the first technical route up the south buttress of Little Blue Dome, located along the High Sierra trail in Sequoia National Park,

about nine miles from the trail head. Our route climbs a steep crack system on the south buttress and traverses the improbable-looking upper west face, via an exhilarating layback, to the base of a hanging open-book on the west face. Pitches five and six, up this prominent book, involve some strenuous crack climbing. One pin of aid, the only on the climb, was used in a dirt-filled, overhanging crack. Above the book the route continues north to the south summit. NCCS III, F8, A1.

HOOAN APRIN

Eagle Beaks, East Face of North Peak, Thunder Road. In May Conrad Van Bruggen, Mark Blanchard and I climbed this enjoyable, seven-pitch route which started at a small pine 100 feet uphill to the right (north) from the low point of the face. Three obvious pitches led up and left to a belay atop a prominent knobby flake. From here we worked up, then straight right (F8 and F9) to a small belay ledge below two narrow, converging arches. The next pitch was the crux—underclinging the left-hand arch, then making a F9 boulder-type move to a crack which was followed by some dicey face climbing to a belay stance. A very long pitch with F8 face-climbing led to the final pitch—an easy crack in the headwall. There was no evidence of a previous ascent. The route lies on the more massive of the three formations known as the Eagle Beaks. Beckey's 1972 route is on the southern most one. NCCS III, F9.

SIMON KING

Tranquility Dome, Visions. In May Mark Blanchard, Conrad Van Bruggen and I visited this attractive 700-foot face which rises above the west side of the San Joaquin River, below Mammoth Pool Reservoir. Our route started near the left side, below a right-leaning arch with an obvious square roof at its top. The first pitch involved climbing over this arch to the left (at an obvious chicken head) and up a face past a bolt to a two-bolt belay below a low-angle shelf. The next pitch is the crux: after a short traverse right, the headwall above was climbed directly with the security of two bolts and a nut behind a large flake. An easier pitch followed with a bolt to protect an F8 traverse to a tree-filled groove. From the top of this groove a finger-sized crack led up to a huge pine on a blocky ledge. A class-four traverse right, followed by two easy pitches, led to the unroping spot. Continue on class-two scrambling to the forest. The name "Tranquility Dome" is our own as it is unnamed on the map. NCCS III, F9.

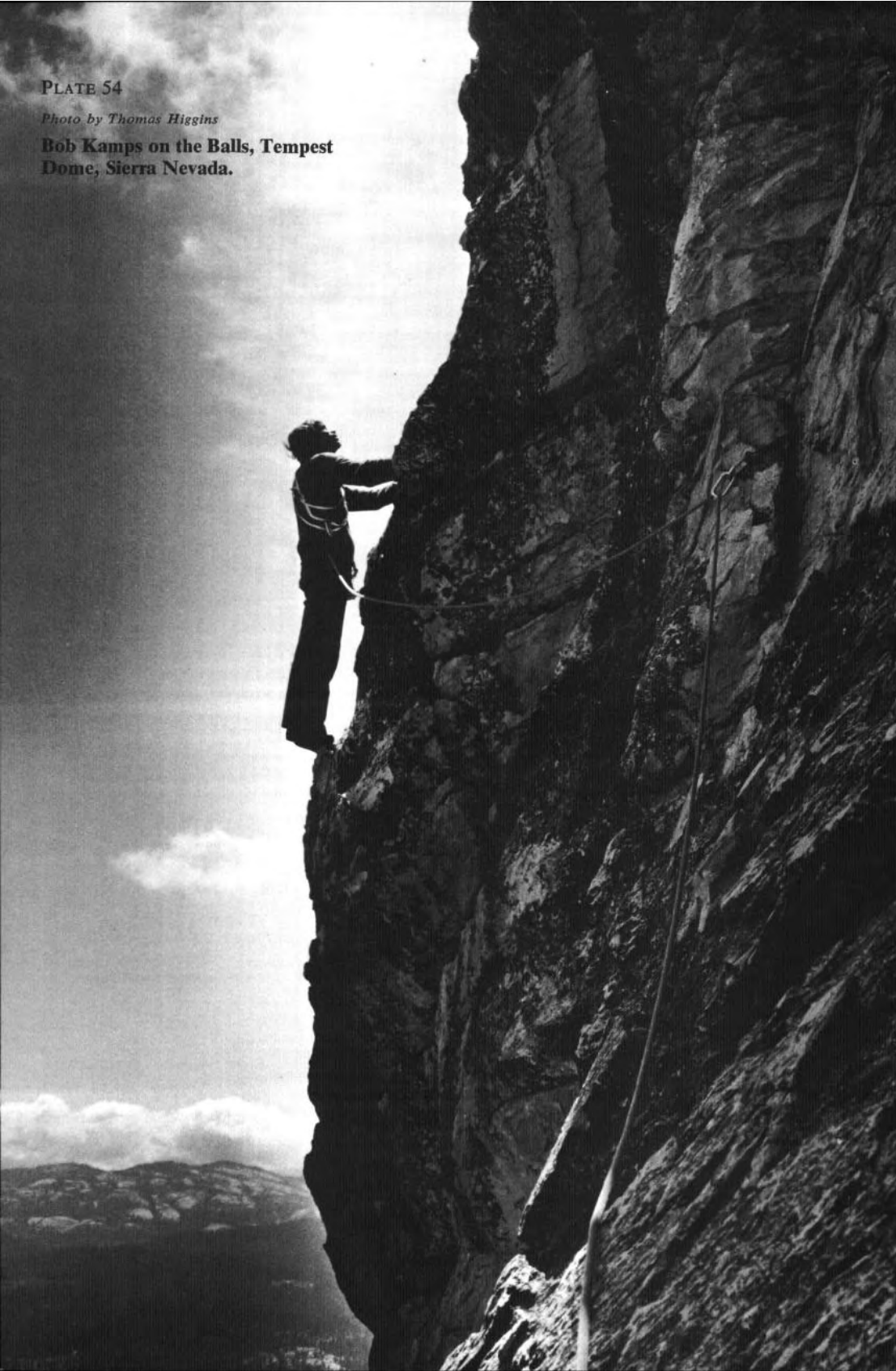
SIMON KING

The Incredible Hulk, Macedonian Route. In late July Dave Bircheff and I climbed a new route on the west face of the Incredible Hulk. The

PLATE 54

Photo by Thomas Higgins

**Bob Kamps on the Balls, Tempest
Dome, Sierra Nevada.**



route was eleven pitches of mixed free and aid. At the base of the west face a left-leaning crack (the right side of a 200-foot triangle) took us to the "left-leaning, overhanging slot" of the Donaldson route. We continued up this chimney to a good bivvy ledge. The second half of the route goes straight up the middle of the face above. A pitch of excellent free climbing ends at a hanging belay at the base of difficult aid cracks. Five pitches in these cracks lead to the "summit." On the third day it took five hours in abominable weather to descend the seven rappels of the east face. NCCS V, F9, A4.

RICK WHEELER

The Incredible Hulk, West Face, Polish Route. In August Bob Harrington and I climbed this excellent eight-pitch route. When viewing the west face from Little Slide Canyon, our route follows the continuous "stoveleg-like" cracks that split the narrow face near the left-hand (north) shoulder. We began 100 feet left of the Donaldson route, in a very difficult crack in a left-facing corner. Several pitches higher the crack opened considerably and there were three pitches of fist and off-width climbing with hanging belays. The "summit" was a large flat ledge on the north ridge. We traversed along this ledge onto the east face until reaching the Macedonian descent route. NCCS IV, F10.

RICK WHEELER

Mount Conness, Morning Thunder Route. In early September Bob Locke, Bob Harrington and I hiked in from Saddlebag Lakes to a lovely plateau south of Conness's summit where we spent the night. Leaving camp we descended a sandy gully to the base of a 1000-foot buttress just right of the "west" (south) face of Conness, and separated from it by an ugly-looking gully or chimney. After an improbable face-climbing start, we climbed five more pitches, and a final 200 feet of 4th class led to the summit. NCCS III, F9.

RICK WHEELER

The Needles, Southwest Face of Witch, The Witch Doctor. In June Mike Grabor, Rick Ridgeway and I climbed this improbable-looking route. The southwest face is distinguished by a prominent bomb-bay chimney on the upper-half. Our route, however, stayed well to the left of this chimney. Begin by climbing the right side of a 200-foot slab at the base of the face. From the top of the slab climb left and then up a flake system to a sloping belay ledge. Traverse left, then up over roofs, climbing on knobs and small cracks. A final difficult and unprotected pitch leads directly to the top. NCCS III, F9.

DAVE BLACK, *Buff Alpine club*

The Needles, South Face of Warlock. In June Jeff Dozier, Steve Gerdson and I found a free variation of Beckey's South Face route on Warlock (*A.A.J.*, 1971, P. 355). To gain the summit crack system, we avoided an overhanging aid pitch by traversing left around a corner. The final three bolts on the summit block, however, will probably never go free. NCCS III, F9.

DAVE BLACK, *Buff Alpine Club*

The Balls, Tempest Dome, Plate Route. Bob Kamps and I climbed this three- or four-pitch route in August. Begin on the south face of the dome at an overhanging wall protected by one bolt. Colorful, solid rock covered with knobs and plates provides wonderful climbing. NCCS II, F9.

TOM HIGGINS

East Face of Lone Pine Peak, Three Arrows. In April Hooman Aprin, Randy Grandstaff and I climbed this route on the sharp eastern rock crest of Lone Pine Peak. The route follows a southeast-facing trough, which occasionally becomes a dihedral, then a deep, difficult chimney. Two pitches had short aid sections, including three bolts placed to gain a difficult dihedral. The summit of the formation (named because of the likeness to arrows, as seen from Lone Pine) probably had not been previously reached. NCCS III, F9, A2.

FRED BECKEY

Middle Tooth, West Face, Three Teeth. In October Jack Roberts and I climbed this direct route on the west face following a single crack system at the left edge of the prominent orange pillar. Entry was made from the gully on the left, with a traversing climb to the most difficult (second) pitch. Roberts led this, finding protection poor, and some of the holds quite friable. Rock improved on the upper pitches of this 700-foot route. NCCS III, F10.

FRED BECKEY

The Needles, Voodoo Dome, White Punks on Dope. On the left of the south side of Voodoo Dome, the major expanse of rock meets a jumbled, somewhat vegetated area and forms a large, left-facing dihedral/chimney several hundred feet high. Around the corner right of the dihedral's base is a 200-foot double arch which has a 10-foot roof-like apex. A long crack ascends between the sides of the double arch and continues up and over the apex. In April Eddie Joe, Todd Burrill, Scott Atkinson and I made the first ascent of this route. Pitch 1: Climb the crack to a hanging belay (F7). Pitch two: Tricky face-climbing with scanty protection reaches the apex. Climb a 10-foot overhanging corner to the left (F9) and continue to a deep belay cave above the arch.

PLATE 55

Photo by Robert Kamps

**Tom Higgins on the Balls,
Tempest Dome.**



Pitch 3: A deep, third-class chimney leads to a vertical chimney below trees and a huge ledge. Pitch 4: Climb the dihedral (F8) through a wild chimney to a huge chimney flake, which is laybacked to a good belay ledge. Pitch 5: Step around the corner to the right and face-climb to the top of a large flake and bolt. Head right, then up past two bolts, traverse right and then up large holds to a ledge and pine tree. Pitch 6: Climb a finger crack on the left end of the ridge (F8) to the summit. NCCS III, F9.

DICK LEVERSEE, *Unaffiliated*

The Needles, Merlin Dome, Unbolt the Gate. In December Dave Seres and I climbed this route on the left side of Merlin Dome. Begin on a very bushy ledge system about 400 feet up. From the upper bushes, the first pitch starts up a short crack and ends on a small ledge higher up. (Rappel slings were found here.) The second pitch traverses diagonally left to a belay beneath a large cave. The third pitch goes up and right (almost entirely unprotected) to end on protectable ground where the fourth pitch is obvious to the summit. NCCS III, F8.

DICK LEVERSEE, *Unaffiliated*

The Needles, Magician Needle, Magic Dragon. In January Neil Carlos and I climbed this 13-pitch route. The first half of the route ascends directly up the spine of the huge buttress (Trojan Horse) which ends halfway up the rock. The long, unprotected pitch after the Horse's head is followed by a thin crack pitch to the left of the large dihedral. After the next obvious pitch, one long or two short pitches of easy face climbing end at the belay bolt on Black Magic. Two more long class 3 or 4 pitches lead to the summit overhang (F8). All nuts. NCCS III, F8.

DICK LEVERSEE, *Unaffiliated*

Tuttle Creek, Clean Willy's Escape. Alan Roberts and I climbed this route in June. It lies on the Keystone Wall above Tuttle Creek's south fork. It follows the prominent crack and chimney system just right of the Locksmith's Route (Beckey-Roberts). At one point a traverse right was necessary to gain a new crack system. After five pitches we rappelled off the route, rather than continue up the broken 4th and 5th class to the top. NCCS III, F9.

ALAN BARTLETT, *Buff Alpine Club*

Mount Russell, The Mithral Dihedral. This excellent route ascends the large left-facing dihedral just right of the Direct Southwest Buttress; the routes probably share the first one or two pitches. Alan Roberts and I climbed it in July via five pitches of sustained, spectacular jamming.

Only one pitch was under F8, and superb rock accepted chocks readily. NCCS III, F9.

ALAN BARTLETT, *Buff Alpine Club*

King's Canyon Obelisk, Hands of Fate. This route lies on the north face of the King's Canyon Obelisk, following the obvious crack system left of the North Face—West Arête Route. An easy pitch led to the base of the crack, where two small overhangs barred the way. We bypassed the first by traversing right, then followed a difficult arch up and left. Surmounting the second proved to be the crux of the climb. It was climbed by Robb Dellinger and me in September. NCCS II, F10.

ALAN BARTLETT, *Buff Alpine Club*

Feather Peak, Feather Peak Couloir. In December Mike Grabor and I climbed the left-hand branch of the couloir on Feather Peak's north face via six pitches of moderate, enjoyable ice climbing. Although the angle never exceeded 60°, the beautiful setting and unusually good December weather made for a fine alpine route. The summit register gave no indication that the gulley had previously been ascended. NCCS III.

ALAN BARTLETT, *Buff Alpine Club*

Whitney Portal Buttress, Sartoris. This route lies on Whitney Portal Buttress a few hundred feet right of the Beckey-Callis route. It was climbed in August by Steve Eddy, Alan Bartlett and me, and starts in the only continuous left-facing crack-flake system in the area. Two difficult crack pitches lead to an easy chimney, which is followed to a ledge. Climb up, then traverse left into a crack which leads into a left-facing book. From the top of the book, climb up, then left into a belay cave. Work left out of the cave to a bolt, then climb up into a prominent water groove which is followed for about 100 feet past a bolt to a two-bolt sling belay. The next pitch goes up and right past three bolts to a small ledge. Climb up, then follow a classic dike about 100 feet to a bolt which protects a difficult move up into a left-facing dihedral. Climb up to a series of small roofs which can be passed on the left, then follow easy cracks to the top. The length, difficulty and quality of the climbing on this route make it comparable to some of the longer Tuolumne Meadows routes. NCCS IV, F10.

DAVE BLACK, *Buff Alpine Club*

Charlotte Dome, Charlotte's Web. In August Dave Harden and I climbed a new line on this beautiful dome. The route begins near a solitary Jeffrey Pine located on a shoulder between a small recess on

the southeast face and the large recess mentioned in the Jones/Rowell/Becky description. One hundred feet of exposed third class ends on a flat ledge, the beginning of the climb. Four pitches up and right lead to the base of a steep, shallow crack that is followed for two very long pitches. The route continues almost straight up for several hundred feet on beautiful knobs, and ends abruptly on the unusual and spectacular summit arête. The climb consists of twelve long and continuous pitches, and it is the most enjoyable route we have ever done. We carried a selection of 25 chocks and rated the climb NCCS IV, F8.

BART O'BRIEN, *Sierra Club*

Split Mountain, East Arête of South Summit. Once called Southeast Palisade, this mountain somehow escaped all of the technical climbing that has gone on in the true Palisade Group, a few miles to the north. From the east, 14,058-foot Split Mountain presents two narrow arêtes dropping 2000 feet each into a basin. In February David Belden, a visiting French guide, joined me in an attempt on the largest arête. We found very mild winter conditions and camped below the arête at 10,500 feet. The following morning we climbed easy rock and snow gullies for a few hundred feet to the base of a sheer wall. Here we found a section of F9 climbing that was all we could manage in the cold weather with mountain boots. Several pitches higher the route reached the crest of the arête and David joyfully yelled down, "Baroque!" For a thousand feet above him the ridge crest was rarely wider than six feet and it was serrated like an upturned saw blade. The teeth were granite blocks varying from ten to fifty feet across. We hurried across the ridge, sometimes roped, sometimes not, until we reached another small headwall, this time F8. After sixteen pitches of climbing we finally reached the south summit—the left side of the "split" for which the peak is named. It took us another full hour to cross the long split to the main summit and we barely reached camp at dark. NCCS IV, F9.

GALEN ROWELL

Split Mountain, East Arête of North Summit. This long ridge is not as continuously steep as its neighbor that leads to the south summit, but the total climbing distance is greater, due to several gaps and a long knife-edged section in the middle. In October Fred Beckey and I set out to climb it from Red Lake. After a few hundred feet of climbing, Beckey felt ill and decided to descend. He rappelled down and I continued alone with a few nuts and runners that might have helped in a tight spot. For several hundred feet no moves were harder than F7 and the climbing went very quickly. Then I came to an F8 squeeze chimney, which although strenuous, was quite safe. Above, the angle lowered and I

scrambled easily along a narrow ridge crest for hundreds of feet until I reached an area of large gendarmes. One seemed to be sheer on all sides and a route I tried to the left wouldn't go. After considering a retreat, I found a traverse to the left via a short F8 layback above a small ledge. From there the route went up and down over great gendarmes until it gained the summit edge. The 2000-foot climb took an hour and forty-five minutes from the point where Beckey turned back. The rock was overall quite sound and similar to that of the main Palisade Group. Only on the first few pitches were there any number of loose blocks. NCCS III, F8.

GALEN ROWELL

Hot Tuna Tower, Open-Book Route. This tower is located on the east side of Wheeler Crest and is visible from U.S. 395 at the beginning of Sherwin Grade, north of Bishop, California. It is the largest tower in a pink band of granite that intrudes the otherwise grayish granite rock. An open-book splits the east side of the tower, but ends in a ceiling two pitches from the summit. In February David Belden and I made the laborious 3000-foot approach to the tower and were surprised to find an F10 section in the easier-appearing lower section of the open-book. Higher, we came across a section neither of us could lead. After many tries I threw a nut over a flake and made a five-foot tension traverse out of the difficulties. When the ceiling itself loomed directly overhead, it was David's lead. He found the rock coated with orange plates and knobs, climbed the pitch quickly, yelled for joy, and rated it F6. The next pitches to the summit were equally enjoyable. The 1000-foot face took six hours and is rated NCCS IV, F10, A2 (one aid move).

GALEN ROWELL

Mount Winchell, Southwest Arête. This beautiful knife-edge is pictured on page five of the Sierra Club book, *Gentle Wilderness: The Sierra Nevada*. The route is on the first ridge in from the right skyline which joins the north ridge about a hundred feet below the summit. In May Warren Harding and I skied over Bishop Pass and began the climb early one clear morning. We reached the summit hours later and descended the northeast side. The route began on a broad face to the left of the ridgecrest, then gained the crest and followed it for 1500 feet to the summit. Climbing was moderate fifth class with one F8 section. NCCS III, F8.

GALEN ROWELL

Reed Pinnacle Area, Old 5.10, Yosemite. Pat and Paula Ament and I climbed the knobby wall left of Lunatic Fringe in June. This short

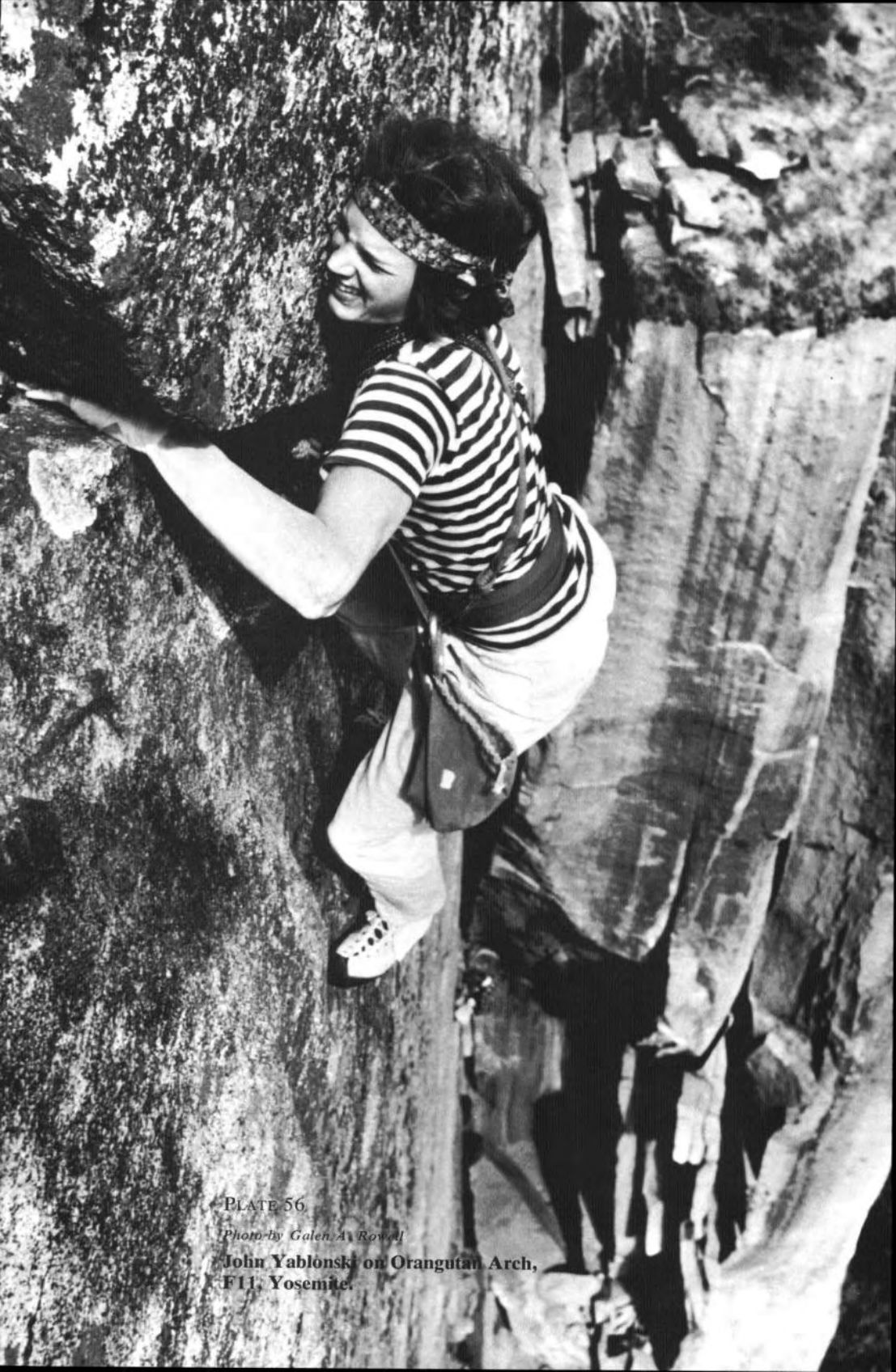


PLATE 56

Photo by Galen A. Rowell

**John Yablonski on Orangutan Arch,
F11, Yosemite.**

but demanding climb is protected by three bolts and involves several F10 sections. NCCS I, F10.

TOM HIGGINS

Balconies, Shake and Bake, Pinnacles National Monument. In May Chris Vandiver and I discovered perhaps the most sustained and spectacular free route at Pinnacles. We climbed the Balconies' east face by way of a 350-foot indented, black water streak on the northern section of the Balconies. We placed 14 bolts for protection on the blank rock. NCCS II, F9.

TOM HIGGINS

Castle Crags, North Face of Castle Dome, Northern California. On June 22, Clay Cox, Mike Seeley and I climbed this route located in Castle Crags State Park. The climb began with a descent of a gully west of the Dome, to a large fir tree, just before a drop-off. From this tree, easy fifth-class face climbing led around a corner and ended on a huge ledge below the north face. An F8-pitch on the short wall above led to a second, smaller ledge. On the right side of this ledge, an F8, A1 corner was followed upward for 60 feet. Above, a 150-foot lead, involving moderate jamming and face climbing, ended 40 feet right of a conspicuous brushy terrace. A difficult traverse was required to reach it. From the left end of this terrace a small F8-dihedral was followed upwards until it merged with a smooth wall. We placed a bolt in order to complete an exposed pendulum to a second, easier open-book on the left. This dihedral led to another ledge. An easy ramp ended at a large pine tree 100 feet higher. The final long lead involved delicate and mostly unprotected face climbing (F8) and ended on the summit. On July 10 Clay Cox and I returned and descended the west gully further, via two rappels. From this point we climbed three pitches of moderate but tricky face climbing to the previously-mentioned huge ledge. Done in its entirety, the climb is 10 pitches. Except for the bolt, we climbed clean. NCCS IV, F8, A1

LINCOLN FREESE, *Unaffiliated*

Utah

Artist's Tears, Moab. Along the Colorado River, three miles east on Highway 128 from the junction of 163, there is an obvious northwest-facing, overhanging wall with black and brown streaks sweeping across what appears to be a totally featureless face. Molly Higgins and I were attracted to the route because of a fixed rope left on the first pitch. Not wanting to be "route-rippers," we continued to the Yosemite. There

we found the rope had been hanging for one year. Two days later, on May 28 Molly was reascending the first pitch. The route has three fairly long pitches, two being hard nailing and the last mostly bolts. The climb got character from our nailing up a small knifeblade and horizontal seam, which wandered up a 100-foot overhanging wall. NCCS IV, A4.

LARRY V. BRUCE, *Elk Mountain Climbing Club*

Three Penguins, Arches National Park. In November Larry Bruce, Molly Higgins and I did two short new routes on the Three Penguins formation. A moderate pitch starting right at the road ends on a large ledge at the base of the Penguins themselves. From here Larry led a spectacular chimney to the top. This had been tried several times before via the off-width on the outside of the crack, but after failing on this, Larry tunneled straight back into the chimney and did one of the most horrifying squeezers that I have ever done. A single runner around the chest was too much; for about four feet you could not move your head from side to side (F9). On the second day Molly and I did the spectacular crack to the right in two pitches. Harder technically, it ranged from finger- to off-width, but it was a relief after the constriction of the previous day (F10).

MICHAEL KENNEDY, *Elk Mountain Climbing Club*

Nevada

Rainbow Mountain, Correction. On page 452 of *A.A.J.*, 1976 it tells of a route climbed on March 3, 1975. This route was not done first at that time but had been done previously. Joe Herbst climbed it in early January, 1975, accompanied by Tom Kaufman and me. We did the route in a long day, entirely on nuts, and rated it NCCS III or IV, F7.

LAWRENCE HAMILTON, *Unaffiliated*

New Routes on Juniper Mountain, Red Rock Canyon, Charleston Range. Two interesting climbs were done on Juniper Mountain. Black-jack Buttress, a sharp prow facing the desert to the east, was climbed to its mid-pinnacle section on February 1 and 2 (with bivouac) by Alan Bartlett, Alan Roberts and me. The climb has excellent sandstone, but some of the pitches were very hard to protect; three pitches led by Bartlett were very steep (each F9). The final completion of the climb of the buttress was not logical, because of large ledges and a blank wall. A new rappel route was made, placing some bolts and pitons while hanging on the end of the rope. NCCS IV, F9. Juniper Buttress was climbed by Hooman Aprin, Mark Menge and me in February. This route, done in two days, follows the front of an obvious reddish buttress, quite visible

from the desert frontage. The route was free except for one aid portion (several bolts placed here). NCCS III, F8, A1.

FRED BECKEY

Arizona

Mace, Sedona. Molly Higgins and I completed the second route, Wind, Sand and Stars, on May 3 on this beautiful formation: some of the best desert sandstone I have climbed. Our route is on the north face with two aid pitches followed by an overhanging, off-width fissure, which Molly led in good style. NCCS III, F10, A3.

LARRY V. BRUCE, *Elk Mountain Climbing Club*

Idaho

The Prow, Steamboat Rocks. Steamboat Rocks are a large group of quartzite buttresses, ten miles from Kingston on the Coeur d'Alene River. At least six of them are over 500 feet high. The south-facing apron of the first buttress provided possibly the first technical route done in the area. Darcy Droste and I climbed the first two pitches in late June. The first (F6) ended on a mossy ledge. The second pitch was a difficult jam-crack and chimney. Poor protection and difficulties forced our retreat. I returned alone in October and finished the route. The final pitch ascended an overhanging wall and turned a roof on the left. NCCS II, F9, A1.

R. DANE BURNS, *Equipe de Danse de Coeur d'Alene*

Mount Heyburn, North Buttress of the East (Third) Summit, Sawtooth Mountains. On October 15 my wife Shari and I climbed an obvious buttress on the north face of Hayburn's east summit. Difficult climbing involved crack climbing. On the fifth pitch I let loose a large rotten flake, which fortunately missed Shari. Some of the rock was extremely weathered and rotten while other parts were quite sound. There was a short overhanging finer crack on the summit spire. NCCS III, F9, A1.

ALAN KEARNEY

Cirque Lake Peak, Southwest Spur, Warbonnet Peak Area, Sawtooth Mountains. On August 9 Paul Helmcke, Al Schmidt and I completed the first ascent of the southwest spur of Cirque Lake Peak. From the Warbonnet Lakes we ascended to within 300 feet of the col west of the west buttress of Cirque Lake Peak. We scrambled diagonally right to a steep headwall 100 feet to the right of a rotten cleft between the west

and southwest spurs of the peak. We continued diagonally right up the wall to a roomy platform and diagonally left on the second lead to a steep dihedral with a large flake. We climbed the flake until we could exit right to a ledge and the spur crest. The third lead followed the spur crest to its junction with the west ridge. The fourth and fifth leads continued along the west ridge to the base of the summit tower. We climbed a chimney on the south face to ledges and thence to the summit. NCCS III, F9.

ALLAN ERRINGTON

Big Baron Spire, Sawtooth Mountains. Dave Davis and I did the first ascent of the east face of this striking peak. The climb begins directly below the imposing summit capstone in a chimney/crack system. It is five pitches long with the crux a large roof that we passed on its right side. NCCS III, F9.

GREG MARKOV

Montana

Ross Peak, Northeast Face Direct, Bridger Range. On June 28 Gary Skaar, Kurt Martinsen and I packed via the middle fork of Brackett Creek to this relatively unknown face, which is hidden by a lateral moraine. In the afternoon we climbed two short and one long free pitches and bivouacked 250 feet up. The next morning Gary led an A4 aid pitch up an arching crack on which I had taken a zipper the day before. At the top of this pitch we were forced off by rain and snowfall. We scrambled up 100 feet and traversed ledges to a snow couloir, which we then descended. On August 19 Skaar and I returned, ascended our previous descent route to where we could belay down to our last belay on the ascent route. The next lead went up a dihedral and was followed by two easier pitches. A lead of difficult mixed climbing had two aid placements and the most demanding free climbing of the route. One more easy rope-length took us to the top. NCCS IV, F9, A4.

JACK E. TACKLE, *Unaffiliated*

Beehive Mountain, South Face, Spanish Peaks. On October 18 Craig Zaspel and I packed into the Spanish Peaks Primitive Area from the Big Sky Ski Resort. We approached the peak via Beehive Basin, which led us directly to the base of the rock. Our route started near the center of the face, just left of an obvious dihedral-chimney. The crux was the third pitch where we climbed two overhangs free. The angle then lessened and gave easier climbing to the summit. Six pitches. NCCS III, F9.

JACK E. TACKLE, *Unaffiliated*

Wyoming

East Horn, South Face, Tetons. In an unusual, late season climb, Hal Gribble and Paul Horton made a new route on the south face of the East Horn of Mount Moran on November 16. About four pitches of ice climbing up the right (north) side of Falling Ice Glacier took the party to the flat basin just below the face. Their route followed the right (eastern) edge of the face defined (on the east) by a prominent chimney leading directly to the deep notch just east of the summit. At about mid-height this edge or corner becomes a well-defined ridge which curves up and left to the summit. Six long pitches over easy, and not especially loose or dangerous rock, led to the summit; there was no rockfall. NCCS II, F4.

Matternaught Peak, Taminah Arête, Tetons. On August 29, Kent Lugbill and Jim Tate climbed an important new route, the prominent south ridge of this peak in Avalanche Canyon. This long and spectacular arête is seen in profile from Lake Taminah. Starting from the very toe of the ridge, the route led first up a face, or chimney since either will go, to the right, then on up the ridge past a section containing fine cracks in a geometric pattern. Easier rock then led to the next steep section which from below appeared to contain loose rock. Instead, it was full of large quartz crystals which provided relatively easy (F6) but very exciting climbing on the steep but poorly protected wall. The remainder of the route follows the crest of the arête as closely as possible on enjoyable and solid rock. The first-ascent party suggests that this route may be one of the better rock climbs in the Tetons. NCCS III, F7.

Fremont and Sacajawea, Southwest Faces, Wind River Range. In mid-August, Chris Landry and I climbed routes on the southwest faces of Fremont and Sacajawea, which rise from the upper Titcomb Lake. We had sun, but cold winds and intermittent snow and hail made our idyllic outing more of an alpine ordeal than we had hoped for. Our first climb was the prominent spire just left of the summit of Fremont. After third-classing 500 feet of slabs, ledges and headwalls, we roped up. The climbing immediately got harder, and several moderate to difficult pitches deposited us in an alcove 100 feet from the diagonal ramp that forms the middle part of the route. A spectacular, exposed and difficult pitch led out of the alcove onto a steep, finery prow, up the prow and left onto the ramp via a friction ledge. Several more moderate pitches and another hard one brought us to the top of the spire. A short rappel to the notch between the spire and the main mass of Fremont was followed by another pitch to a large, rubble-covered ledge. It was hailing and cold as we started up this last pitch, the hardest of the climb, at six in the

evening. I came only too close to falling when a desperate jam would not stick. After reaching the crest of the ridge, we down-climbed onto the glacier. We arrived on the summit just as the sun was setting. (NCCS IV, F10, 11 roped pitches.) After a day of rest we climbed a shorter and easier route on Sacajawea, which possibly had been climbed before, as we found a piton on the first pitch. We again third-classed an amazing assortment of ledges and headwalls at the start. Three pitches up a left-facing dihedral, then a ledge right around a corner and several more enjoyable pitches brought us directly to the summit. NCCS III, F9, 8 roped pitches.

MICHAEL KENNEDY, *Elk Mountain Climbing Club*

Pingora, Southeast Face Direct, Wind River Range. In August Angus Thuermer and I roped up at the base of a very prominent left-facing dihedral on the southeast face. We followed this corner for two pitches to a large ledge on the right. From its right edge we climbed a crack system up, slightly right and then back left for three pitches to the broken low-angle area on the center of the face (F4 to F6). Ascending fourth-class, we aimed for the left of two obvious parallel cracks that split the upper face. (The right crack system was climbed in 1972 by Donaldson. *A.A.J.*, 1973, page 429.) The first pitch in the left crack system was F7 hand-jamming up to a roof. The next pitch was the crux. We frictioned ten feet right, laybacked over a roof and climbed steepening rock to a ledge and a bulging off-width crack above (F9). From here the crack slowly narrowed to finger-size, with ledges on alternating sides every 15 feet. Two more pitches (F8 and F7) put us on a ledge one pitch from the top. We finished by moving slightly left and climbing a small corner. At the roof we traversed five feet right and then went straight up. NCCS III, F8.

PETER METCALF

Ridge West From Wind River Peak. Woody Stark and I in the first week of August traversed the ridge that extends west from Wind River Peak towards East Temple; it consists of six spires. The first spire right off the shoulder of Wind River Peak was a third-class scramble, but the other five all provided at least one F6 pitch each. There was no evidence that any of the spires had been climbed before. We made two easy and enjoyable climbs not listed in the guide books, both Class 3. We climbed Wind River Peak from the headwaters of Black Joe Creek and the north face of Mitchell by following the major ledge system that diagonals up from right to left.

RICHARD H. WEBSTER

The Innominate, Northwest Face and Ridge, Bighorn Mountains. In July 1933 a remarkable climb was done in the Bighorn Mountains by A.W. and Walter B. Willcox, which "turned out to be the climax of our expedition, a magnificent peak."* The Willcox party named the summit Innominate due to its similarity to the Innominate crack in the English Lakes district. The report on the 12,671-foot summit mentioned that "North of Cloud Peak . . . is a group of needles whose jagged outlines would do credit to Chamonix." One of the least known portions of the Rocky Mountains, the high outlying range between the Great Plains and Bighorn Basin has a relief of 9,000 feet. Deep cirques are characteristic of glacial origin, and lake basins have been excavated in the granitic gneiss. After a reconnaissance of the very sheer east face in September, 1975, we discovered what appeared to be a remarkable, feasible route on the northwest corner of Innominate (the original climb was apparently done on the west face). Mickey Schurr, Bryce Simon and I approached via Cloud Peak Lakes, then made the new route on a very windy but clear day, August 25. The climbing was superb, on good rock, with a zigzag system of cracks and chimneys leading near the edge of the northwest corner to a spot between gendarmes on the arête. Here we climbed on the outer edge to an overhang, where a few moves of aid led back to blocks and continuing cracks. The 30-foot summit needle was climbed by a rope throw and may not have been done previously. It seems that the route had not been previously ascended, but at least one party made rappels a short distance to the west. NCCS III, F8, A1.

FRED BECKEY

Cloud Peak, East Face, Bighorn Mountains. On June 24 Shawn Hogan, Dave Holsworth and I climbed a new couloir on the east face of Cloud Peak. There are four major couloirs on the face, two on the south of the wall and two on the north. Ours was the northernmost. They have large cornices early in the season and ice late.

JEB SCHENCK, *Unaffiliated*

Bighorn Peak, Northeast Face, Bighorn Mountains. This face is nearly two miles long and varies in height from 800 to 1300 feet. It embraces two cirques. On August 20 I climbed the southern cirque, starting at the waterfall which dominates the center of the face. Moving up left onto the east side of a rib, I enjoyed a long day of climbing on fine rock. The situation changed 200 feet below the cliff top. A roof,

* W.B. Willcox, "An American Tyrol," *American Alpine Journal*, 1934, 2:2, pages 170-183.

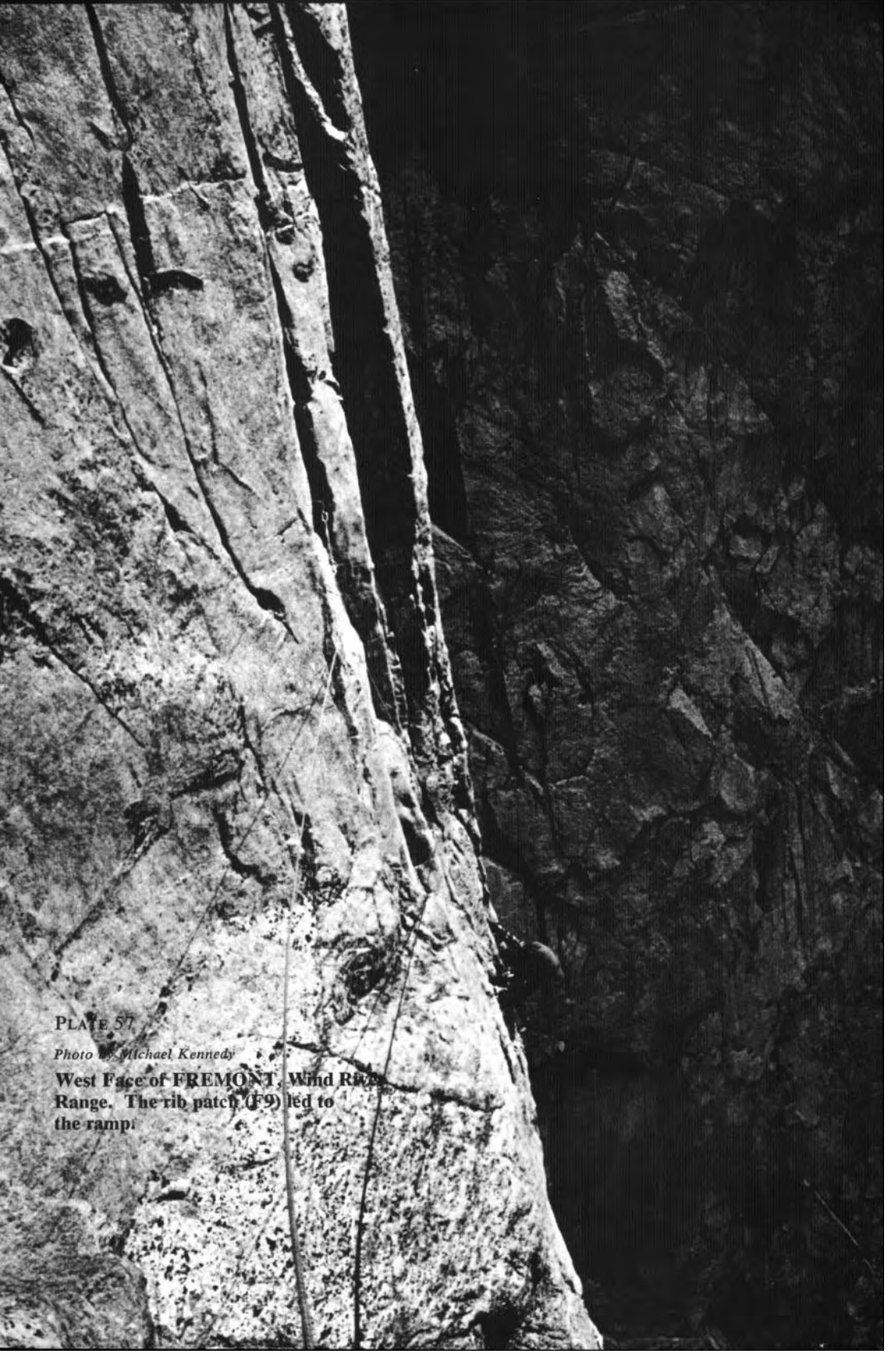


PLATE 57

Photo by Michael Kennedy

**West Face of FREMONT, Wind River
Range. The rib patch (F9) led to
the ramp.**

unclimbable for me, forced a traverse and rappel into the funnel feeding the waterfall. I did escape to the top of the face from there, but it was wet, loose, vertical and difficult.

ROBERT BLISS, *Unaffiliated*

Colorado

Longs Peak, Diamond and Twin Owls. Chris Reevesly and Bill Rouse took advantage of a good day in early July to make the second ascent, but the first all free one, of the Obelisk, a long vertical white crack at the left edge of the Yellow Wall on the Diamond. It was not until July, 1975 that this much-tried route was first climbed by George Fowler and Phil Fowler. While discussing the climb with Hurley, Reevesly learned of a thin crack inside the double overhanging 4- to 4½-inch crack. Acting on this information, Reevesly and Rouse decided to have a try at doing the route free. Their hunch was right, but barely so. The 130-foot stretch of crack below Obelisk Ledge proved a vicious crux. Roger Briggs and Bob Candelaria did a new free variation on the route done by Wayne Goss and Jim Logan on the Yellow Wall side of the Diamond. They traversed to the right side of the Yellow Wall bivouac ledge, having climbed the lower part of the face as Goss and Logan had, and then finished on the Yellow Wall route. The significance of this is that it adds three more pitches of difficult climbing above where the other free routes finish. The Epitaph route on Twin Owls was done all free (F11) by Earl Wiggins and Dan McClure.

MICHAEL COVINGTON

Diamond, Diamond Lil Route, Longs Peak. During two July days Michael Covington, Dennis Hennek and I climbed a new route on the highest part of the Diamond Face of Longs Peak. It is a line wholly independent of others on this face and goes up between the Grand Traverse Route and Diamond 1. Of the 12 pitches, three were free at HVS, three were free with some aid and the rest were steep, sometimes overhanging, all-out aid.

DOUGLAS SCOTT, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Winter Climbing, Colorado Rockies. Despite the mild winter season of 1975/6, little was achieved. On December 21, 1975 Brad Johnson and Dick Jackson made the first winter ascent of Hallet's Chimney on Hallet's Peak. Mild conditions enabled the climbers to complete the climb with just one bivouac in a cave at half-height. Dakers Gowans and Mike Monger made the first winter ascent of the Northcutt/Carter route on Hallet's Peak. Both climbs had been attempted unsuccessfully on numerous occasions as winter climbs. Duncan Ferguson and John

Markel made the first winter ascent of the south ridge of Notchtop. Harry Kent, Casey Swanson and I made a new route on the east face of Taylor, a line parallel to a similar route done in the previous season by Doug Snively, Doug Scott and me. We did the 10-pitch climb in a day but were forced to make an unplanned bivouac on the descent because of bad visibility.

MICHAEL COVINGTON

Ames Fall, Near Telluride. The winter of 1975-6 was one of the mildest for years in Colorado. I had done only one short ice climb, leaving me ill-prepared for the shock of my first view of Ames Fall. No previous description could compare to its classic, imposing beauty. In late January we made an attempt, getting all of 20 feet before thin ice, lack of protection and fear dictated retreat. Two weeks later Lou Dawson, Steve Shea and I returned. What had before been a pleasant 45-minute ski turned into a four-hour epic; unseasonal rain and sleet rendered the snow terrible and several avalanches crossed our path. The first pitch was much the same, but I managed to control my fear and led it without incident other than a head-first 15-foot plunge into soft snow. It started out vertical and then seemed to overhang slightly as the ice came over a small roof. Above this, easy-angled ice led to the base of a very steep, ice-filled 18- to 30-inch chimney. Steve led this, the crux of the climb, by hacking, bridging, grunting, groaning, cursing and oozing his way up. It was late and we rappelled off, sopping wet, leaving our two ropes fixed. It took us six hours to jumar up the icy, frozen ropes the next day to where we had previously climbed in four! Lou led the third pitch. What had appeared, from below, to be good ramps and resting places turned out to be "only" 75° rather than 85° or 90°. He finished by going left to a tree growing out of the rock. Steve followed, unclipping from all the screws but leaving them in place. He neglected to clip my rope in, so I had to climb well or make a wild swing into the steep rock. The screws were mine and so I had an interest in getting them out. I had to lead the last pitch. It was short, steep and weird; a tied-off branch and one mediocre screw 75 feet up were all I could get in. We exited onto mixed rock, powder, vegetation and dirt at nightfall. We were in a serious position; no food or water, no bivouac gear and soaked to the skin. Lou managed to start a fire. After a miserable night we rappelled off.

MICHAEL KENNEDY, *Elk Mountain Climbing Club*

Pyramid Peak, North Face, First Winter Ascent. In early February, Lou Dawson, Michael Pokress and I made the first winter ascent of the north face of Pyramid. A previous attempt had been stopped by bad

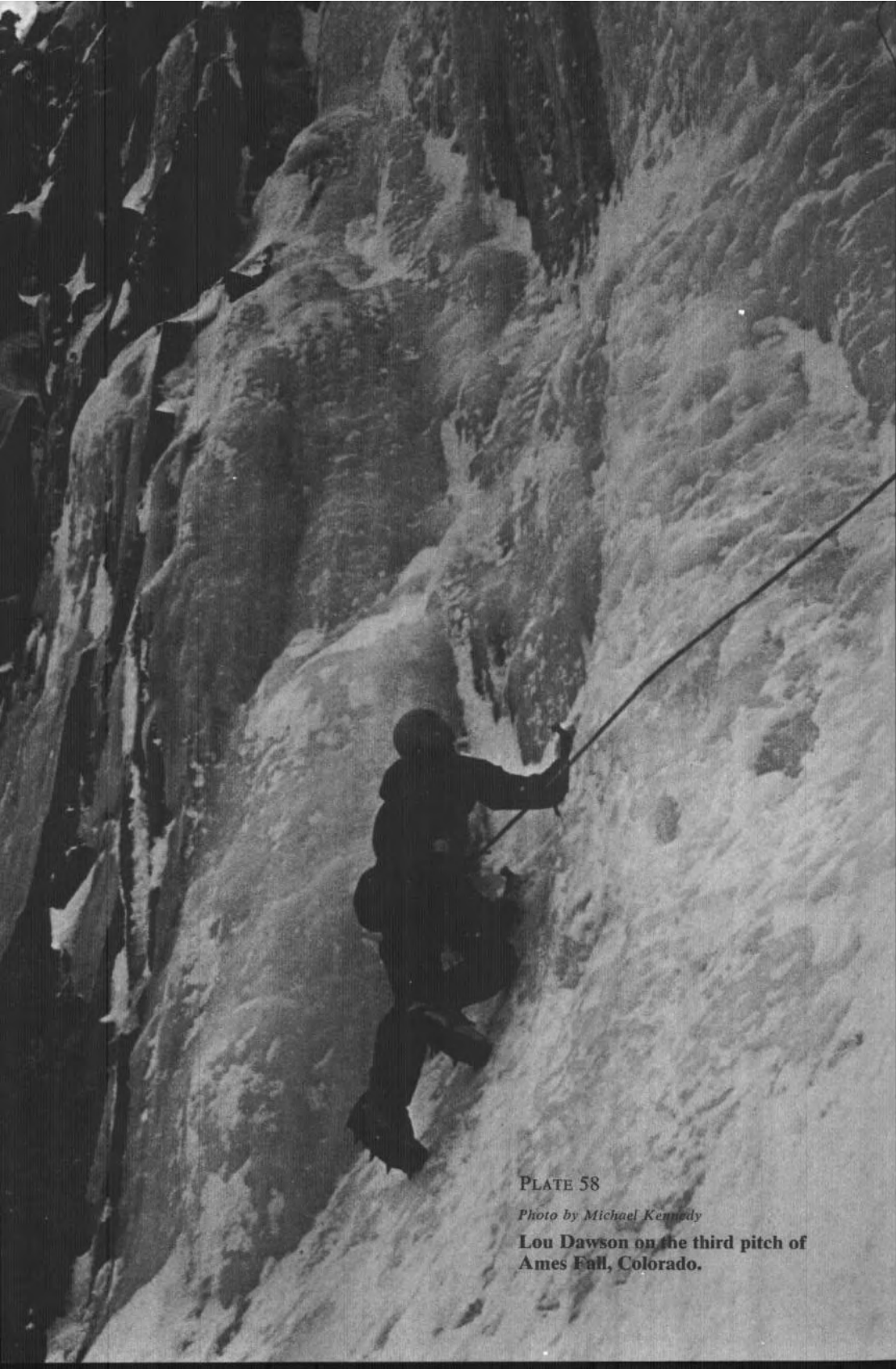


PLATE 58

Photo by Michael Kennedy

**Lou Dawson on the third pitch of
Ames Fall, Colorado.**

PLATE 59

Photo by Gerald Holdsworth

MOUNT LOGAN. The ridge climbed
rises above Base Camp.

base
camp



weather and high avalanche danger, but during our successful climb conditions were superb. The climbing consisted largely of steep snow in the back of a narrow, deep and gloomy gully, but the hardest sections were the many short (50- to 100-foot) rock headwalls. These gave quite consistent and difficult climbing in the F7 to F9 range, with minimal protection; the transitions from rock to snow were invariably both insecure and hard. The climb took about nine hours, with a further three for the descent. NCCS III, F9.

MICHAEL KENNEDY, *Elk Mountain Climbing Club*

Glenwood Canyon. Mike Kennedy, Molly Higgins and I wondered if a classic rock climb could be done on the not so sound limestone walls of Glenwood Canyon. We made the climb, Death Wish, on April 10. The route is located a mile up the Hanging Lake Trail on the left, identified by a large vertical and overhanging corner. The first two pitches are of F8 and the last crack pitch calls for all kinds of techniques. NCCS III, F10.

LARRY V. BRUCE, *Elk Mountain Climbing Club*

Independence Pass, Grotto Wall. This route, Bicentennial, had been one of the great problems of the talented climbers of Aspen. Its four pitches of F10 were climbed by Steve Shea, Lou Dawson and me on June 5. The first pitch is a long traverse, starting from the obvious pine tree that hides part of the first pitch. Three more pitches go straight up from the top of the first. NCCS IV, F10.

LARRY V. BRUCE, *Elk Mountain Climbing Club*

CANADA

Yukon Territory

Mount Logan, Centennial Ridge. On July 5 K. Blackwood, David P. Jones, J. (Kobi) Wyss and I were flown in from Kluane Lake by helicopter to a site at 8300 feet on a cirque level with the base of "Independence Ridge" (Blomberg's route) but close to the flanks of the large ridge which meets with "Independence Ridge" at 15,000 feet. (Blackwood had to be evacuated on the 9th because of injury.) We propose the name "Centennial Ridge" in honour of the U.S. Bicentennial and the less recent Canadian Centennial. T. Kawakami referred to this ridge in *A.A.J.*, 1966, page 150, indicating that they had intended to climb it in 1965 but instead did "Independence Ridge." We occupied our camps as follows: I at 10,000 feet on July 8, II at 13,300 feet on July 12, III at 12,100 feet on July 23, IV at 13,700 feet on July