

## North America

**Summary 1969** Although there was a considerable amount of new climbing during 1969, there were not as many noteworthy ascents as in previous years and, curiously enough, much of the best mountaineering was done by Japanese parties in Alaska or the Yukon.

On Mount McKinley a Japanese party made the second ascent of the West rib of the South face. This party flew in to the Kahiltna glacier, and in three days of fast climbing two members, S. Asanome and K. Yamamoto, reached the summit on 28 June.

There were two other noteworthy ascents in the Alaska range. The first ascent of Mount Kimball, 10,350 ft, at the eastern end of the range was made on 13 June by Grace Hoeman, D. Osborne, T. Kensler and M. Sallee. At the western end of the range a party of three, Charles Raymond, Joe Fitschen and Royal Robbins, made a trip into the Cathedral Spires in the Kitchatna region. Despite rain or snow on twenty-five of the twenty-six days in July, they were able to make the first ascent of three peaks of over 8000 ft, including South Triple Peak. They were unsuccessful, however, on North Triple Peak when the attempt failed 50 ft from the top.

In the far north in the Brooks Range a party of four, George Ripley, Dave and Sharon Roberts and Robert Waldrop, visited the Arrigetch Towers in August. They made five first ascents, Caliban, Albatross, Parabola I, Ariel Peak and Elephant's Tooth, despite bad weather, cold and snow. At the end of the trip they floated 100 miles down the Alatna River to civilisation.

Out on the peninsula a group of five, R. Wilson, P. Crews, G. Wickman, L. Thomas and H. Metz, made an ascent of Mount Spurr, 11,070 ft, in the Tordrillo Mountains on 28 June.

In the Chugach Range, Mount Wickersham, 7415 ft, was climbed solo on 5 July by Grace Hoeman by the Matanuska glacier. Bard Peak was climbed alone by Grace Hoeman, a first ascent. In the western Chugach a first ascent of a peak called by them 'Bounty Peak' in the Whitcourt-Eklutna glacier area was climbed by Grace Hoeman and five others on 21 September, a first ascent.

In the Juneau Ice-field area a second ascent was made of Mount Bressler, 8000 ft, in late July, and the first ascent on 1 August of Gorgon Spire. A party made the third south-to-north crossing of the Juneau Ice-field during the summer.

In the Yukon a new route was made on Kings Peak by a Japanese party consisting of Takanori Okubo, the leader, K. Okumura and T. Oda. The party flew in on 15 May from Whitehorse and ascended the South ridge from the Quintino Sella glacier. It was an extremely difficult route, a combination of ice and rock. Despite bad weather the party reached the summit on 6 June, returning the same way.

Another Japanese party (leader R. Shimada) flew into the St Elias range from the Alaska Highway. On 13 June they achieved the first ascents of the North Peak of Mount Wood (15,725 ft) and the third ascent of the South Peak (K. Kasai, M. Nakazawa, S. Matsumi). A second party (Y. Hoshino, M. Komatsu, H. Uchida) did the North Peak on the following day. Nakazawa and Matsumi subsequently made the first ascent of Mount Craig, 13,250 ft, by the ice-covered North-east ridge; another group tried the East ridge but after avoiding the ice-fall which had repulsed the previous attempt gave up fifty metres from the top on account of extreme steepness. Kasai and Uchida also did the first ascent of Avalanche Peak, 13,818 ft on 29 June.

On Mount Logan, a Japanese party made the second ascent of the Catenary (North-east) ridge, having flown in from Kluane. K. Horii and Y. Tanaka reached the main summit on 19 June by this extremely difficult route, while T. Suzuki and T. Tsuchida went as far as the East Peak.

A fourth Japanese party of nine members under the leadership of Ryoichi Mitsuhashi made a very interesting traverse from Mount Lucania, 17,150 ft to Mount Steele, 16,439 ft in July. Although the group arrived at Kluane Lake on 28 June, heavy forest fire smoke delayed their flight to the mountains for several days. On 3 July, however, they were able to take the entire party in four flights to a Base Camp on the Ice-fall glacier near the confluence with the Chitina. Here the party was divided into two groups: the first, under Ikuo Abe, to make the ascent of Mount Lucania, the second, under Kunoi Moku, to follow to the summit of Lucania and then traverse on to Steele while the first party acted as support. The programme worked as planned. Abe and his three climbers reached the summit of Lucania on 17 July after fixing over 3000 ft of rope. Moku's party of three then reached the summit of Lucania on 21 July and traversed to Mount Steele, using skis for about 6 miles. Thence they descended via the West ridge to the Chitina glacier and so back to Base Camp, to fly out on 2 August.

A little farther south, in the Coast Range of British Columbia, Mount Waddington (Mystery Mountain) was ascended for the first time in the winter on 2 February 1969, by Allen Steck, Barry Hagen, Lester Wilson, Robert Cuthbert, William St. Lawrence and Richard Cuthbert. The party had

extremely good weather with no avalanche hazard and reported far less ice and rime than is often found in the summer. Another party, Jim Petruska, Nick Dodge, Gerry Calbaum and Frank Slater, entered the Coast Range and made four first ascents east of the Bute Inlet in August. All these peaks were 7000-8000 ft.

In the Canadian Rockies a party of three, Jocelyn Glidden, Peter Lev and Franz Mohling, made the second ascent of the North face of Mount Robson on 31 July-1 August. In a four-hour climb from their high camp at 10,000 ft on the Berg glacier, they climbed this extremely difficult face from the lower right-hand corner. A new route was made on the North face of Mount Temple by Hank Abrons, Dennis Eberl and Dave Roberts. They climbed the prominent rib under the ice-cliff at the top of the left-hand side of the face. In the same area Mount Babel was climbed by the North-east face in August by Brian Greenwood and companion (see also p 107). Probably one of the most difficult rock climbs in the whole region was the new route on Mount Louis; Tim Augur and Galen Rowell made a first ascent of the extremely difficult East ridge in August, and reported firmer rock than on the standard route.

Farther south in the American mountain region, Devil's Tower was climbed by a new route on the North face on 23 July by Dave Lunn, Bruce Morris and John Luz. The route they nicknamed 'The Route of All Evil'.

In the Sierra Nevada a number of new routes were made in the Yosemite region. On 19-20 April the South face of Wapama Rock in the Hetch Hetchy Valley was climbed. The first ascent of this 1400 ft face is the first technical rock climb in this valley. Oddly enough, the face was reached not by taking a boat across the reservoir but by walking in on a good trail. In the Yosemite Valley three climbers, Joe Faint, Warren Harding and Galen Rowell, made the first ascent of the South-west face of Liberty Cap. This 1500 ft face was climbed 30 May-2 June and the climbers reported that the 100 ft headwall was the crux of the climb. Also in the Yosemite the Firefall face of Glacier Point was climbed on the Labor Day weekend in 2½ days, again by Warren Harding and Galen Rowell, who reported that the 1000 ft climb was a series of discontinuous cracks many requiring direct aid. Farther up the valley, Half Dome was climbed by the North-west face and North-west buttress, a new route, by Andrew M. Bick and Robert W. Jensen on 19 and 23 September. A seventh route was made on the North face of Sentinel Rock by Kenneth Boche and Chuck Pratt, a climb which took two days.

A little farther south in the Sierra, in Sequoia National Park, a first ascent of Castle Rock Spire was made in May by the West face by Galen Rowell and Fred Beckey. They took two days for the 750 ft face.

In the deserts of New Mexico, Shiprock was climbed by a new route on the East face in four days in September by Bill Forrest and Harvey Carter.

**Kenneth A. Henderson**

**Summits of forty-eight states in one summer** During the period 25 May-13 September 1969 I reached the highest point of each of the forty-eight contiguous states of the U.S.A. I am the third person to have reached all these points (the first two being George Peters and the late Vin Hoeman) but the first within a single calendar year.<sup>1</sup>

Elevations gained ranged from Florida's 345 ft above sea-level(!) to California's Mount Whitney at 14,495 ft. This undertaking required approximately 19,000 miles of highway driving and well over 600 miles of track tramping.

Major climbs made during the course of the expedition included Gannett Peak (Wyoming), Granite Peak (Montana), Mount Hood (Oregon), and Mount Rainier (Washington). At various stages, members of my expedition included the following individuals: Miss L. Ashley, Mrs M. Ashley, T. Kimbrough, B. Nash and L. Stockton.

**F. T. Ashley**

**Yosemite: British ascents** Chris Jones' ascent of Salathé Wall is described on p 25 above. Dougal Haston did the fourth ascent of the South face of Mount Watkin.

<sup>1</sup> The statement that only two people had achieved this previously is erroneous. I believe that A. H. Marshall of Vancouver, Washington, completed his series in 1936 (see *Appalachia vol 21*); and Lawrence and Julia Grinnell of Ithaca, New York, likewise completed it in 1936 or 1937, as I remember taking them up Gannett Peak in Wyoming in 1936, this being either their last or next to last summit to complete the forty-eight. I am quite sure there have been others since then, but I know of no official tally. I am sure that Ashley is correct in stating that he was the first one to reach all these high points in one year, as all the others took a considerable time. **Kenneth A. Henderson**