

## North America

### YOSEMITE VALLEY

Doug Scott made an impressive first visit to the valley climbing the *Salathé-Steck Route* on the Sentinel Rock (V) with Royal Robbins and Tony Wilmott in ten hours, and the *West Face of the Leaning Tower* (V) with P. Habeler, a Zillertal guide, in twelve hours with a bivouac on the Ahwahnee Ledge. Most impressive, however, was the twelfth ascent he made with P. Habeler in only four days of the *Salathé Wall* on El Capitan. This he described as 'the finest rock climb in the world'. Scott also climbed fifteen lesser routes such as the *Lost Arrow Spire* (III), *Washington Column Direct Route* (III), and *Middle Cathedral Rock, East Buttress* (IV), together with one new route of 750 ft with Henek, Herbert, and Lauria on a crag between North Dome and Mount Watkins opposite the Quarter Domes.

Three major new routes were done; two on El Capitan by Harding and Caldwell (*Wall of Early Morning Light*) and by Kroger and Davies (*Heart Direct*); the third was by Robins and Peterson on *Half Dome*. **Colin Taylor**

### ALASKA

The weather was the worst for many years. There were however several ascents of Mount McKinley. On 6 July an all-woman group of six, led by Grace Hoeman, completed the climb by the West buttress. On 26 August a lone Japanese, Naomi Uemura, made the first solo ascent reaching the summit in eight days via the West buttress—five days were spent in climbing, the other three in the tent because of bad weather. **K. A. Henderson**

## Canada

### SELKIRKS

During the last part of August Gary Colliver, Bob Cuthbert, Gray Thompson and myself spent a few days based at the Fairy Meadow cabin, on the north side of the Adamant group. On Adamant itself we climbed the elegant North ridge in one long day, arriving back on the glacier at dark. The route starts at the foot of the buttress, which is followed to a snowfield, then again gains the rock ridge to the summit. Grade IV. Pioneer Peak also attracted our attention, where a fine ice-face glinted at us from just left of the northern summit. The others, having left Gary and I, climbed this face on front points and strong nerves in about three-and-a-half hours. Grade III. **Chris Jones**

## PURCELLS

**North Howser. South-west face** Joining up with the Calgary Mountain Club trip to the Howsers I was first rewarded by five days of rain and snow and later a good climb on North Howser, perhaps the most impressive of these fine peaks. Access to the face was a problem from our camp under Central Howser, yet a gangway and then a rappel appeared to connect us to a continuous line to near the summit. On 1 August Archie Simpson, Oliver Woolcock and I passed the gangway and were soon in a promising crack system. Free climbing for the most part, a short aid section brought us to a light-grey wall, the key section of the climb. Above the wall we found an icy couloir, and a cool bivouac. The following day bad weather approached from the west as we continued over mixed ground to the summit, which we reached about midday. Grade V.

**Chris Jones**

## ROCKY MOUNTAINS

**Mount Columbia. North-east Face and North ridge** Mount Columbia, as seen from the Athabaska river valley, is the classic peak of mountain fiction—pure symmetry in rock and ice. The North ridge, with about 5,000 feet of elevation gain, rose directly in front of Gray Thompson and me as we walked towards it on a typical Rockies day of rain and cloud. We decided on a line to the left of the ridge, up two prominent ice fields on the North-east face, which would join the ridge at about half height. Our first day was all ice climbing, which, being a dry summer, was on very hard ice. The first ice field had a vertical pitch, and we just reached a bivouac on some rock ledges at the foot of the second ice field as the light faded. Easier snow, then ice climbing on the ridge crest took us to a rock tower, which had good rock and hard climbing. Our second bivouac was near the top of this tower. During the night a storm drove snow into our bivouac sack and generally made us uncomfortable. By early morning the weather had quietened down sufficiently for us to continue over iced-up rock to the summit tower. With complete cloud cover we arrived on the summit at midday and groped our way down the south side to the Columbia Icefields and a long walk home. A truly fine climb. Grade V.

**Chris Jones**