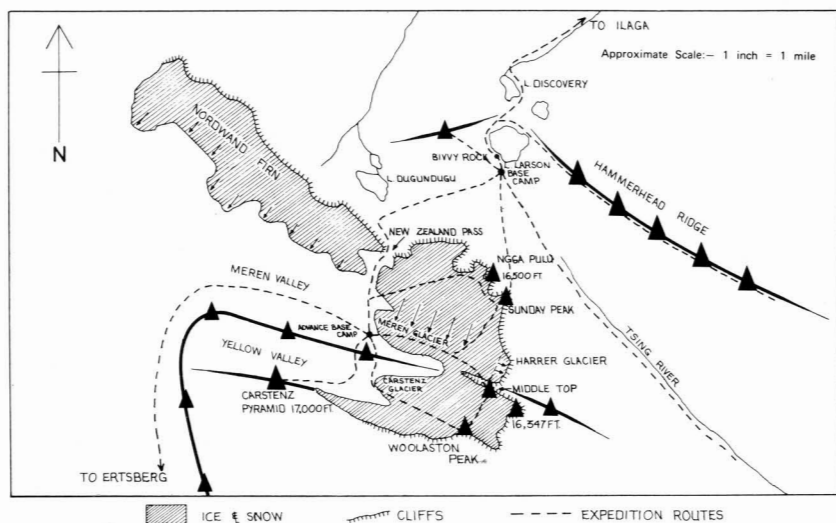


appendix, namely 4883m. Clearly, we are further away from a solution to these problems than we were last year.



NORTH AMERICA

ALASKA/YUKON

Mount McKinley had its busiest season ever on account of the Bicentenary celebrations; it is thought that some 800 people attempted the mountain during 1976. The magazine *Alaska* (November 1976) contains a photograph of the summit of McKinley taken on 6 July which shows 35 climbers on or near the summit on the W Buttress route—in fact, about 75 people reached the top during the day. Most had planned their ascents to coincide with 4 July, Independence Day, but the weather put paid to this idea. However, amongst this unprecedented welter of activity there were some climbers who were attempting something new. Doug Scott and Dougal Haston climbed the S Face by a new variation of the American S Face Direct Route in 6½ days in May (see p 173). Several groups climbed the Cassin Ridge including the British team of the Burgess twins and Paul Braithwaite. Charlie Porter made the first solo climb of this route in a 36 hour push from the top of the Japanese Couloir. A group including Don Whillans made an ascent by the W rib; Reinhold Messner and Oswald Olz made an ascent and descent of the SW Face starting at the 4250m point on the W Ridge. Among the season's more bizarre activities was the flight of 4 hang-glider pilots from the summit. Three reached the 2100m level successfully while the fourth crashed high up on the S Face and had to be winched off after surviving a night on the mountain at -28°F .

There has been considerable activity elsewhere in Alaska. In July 1975 a new route was established on the N Ridge of Mount Foraker (5302m) by a party led by Gerry Roach and including Barbara Roach, the first woman to reach the summit. A French/American team under Henri Agresti made the first ascent of the ESE Ridge of this mountain in May/June 1976. Mount Marcus Baker (4030m) in the Chugach Mountains was climbed for the first time in winter by a party led by Brian Oknik. In the Hayes Range, the 1700m NW Face of North Hess (3639m) was climbed for the first time in May 1976. The same group also climbed the 1300m N Face of P 9730 and 2 routes on P 9400. In the Kitchatna Spires in the Alaska Range, Charlie Porter and Russ McClean made the first ascent of Middle Triple Peak by a route on the W Face. A second ascent of the mountain was made in July by Black, Graber, Embick and Long by a route including the N Col and N Ridge. In 1975 American parties made the first ascents of the NE Ridge of Mount Vancouver in

the St Elias Mountains and of the SSW Ridge of Mount Fairweather in the Fairweather Range.

CANADIAN ROCKIES

A number of good new routes have been established. Mike Eastwood and Dave Burns climbed the 1500m N Face of Mount Temple (IV, 5.7). The first 3 ascents of the N Face of Mount Fay have been made, the priority going to Laurie Skreslet and Larry Johnson in July. The climb contained 9 ice pitches, the first being 50m in length and overhanging to 115°. Later ascents were made by Raymond Jotterand and Pierre Sassier and by Yvon Chouinard and Dave Bard. Winter ice climbing, particularly of waterfalls, continues to be popular with many new routes being developed.

COASTAL RANGES

Rock climbing on the Squamish Chief is following the world-wide preoccupation with aid elimination. Climbs of higher grade are thus being developed, the first 5.11 routes having appeared i.e. free ascents of Limbo and Sentry Box. These were done by Eric Weinstein who has become a prominent figure in recent climbing on the Chief. Several other climbs graded 5.10 and 5.9 have been made. A new guide to the area has appeared (see below).

In the Cascades, winter climbing is growing in popularity. In 1975 first winter ascents were made of the Ice Cliff Glacier and Couloir of Mount Stuart (2870m) by J. Reilly Moss and Jay Ossiander. In February 1975 Reilly Moss and Dusan Jagersky climbed the Central Rib of Mount Rainier (4392m). Many other winter climbs have been made and the number is likely to be added to rapidly whenever the weather allows.

AMERICAN ROCKIES

There were few new climbs in the 1975/76 winter season. Two of note were the first winter ascents of Hallet's Chimney by Johnson and Jackson and of the Northcutt/Carter

105 The Diamond face of Long's Peak (This and next photo: Doug Scott)



Route by Gowan and Monger, both on Hallet's Peak. Other first winter climbs were on the S Ridge of Notchtop and on Taylor's E Face. In July 1976, Doug Scott, Michael Covington and Dennis Hennek climbed a new 12 pitch route on the highest part of the Diamond Face of Long's Peak (4345m), named Diamond Lil. It is an entirely independent route between the Grand Traverse and Diamond 1, as shown in the accompanying photograph. A review article on winter climbing in the Rocky Mountain National Park by Covington appears in *Climbing* (July–August 1976).

AMERICAN ROCK CLIMBING AREAS

In Yosemite very few new routes are appearing, but aid is systematically being eliminated from established routes. An interesting view of the changes in emphasis in climbing in this valley is contained in *CAJ* 59 46. This is in fact a review by Rick Sylvester of Galen Rowell's book *The Vertical World of Yosemite* which was published in 1974 and has regrettably not been mentioned previously in the *Alpine Journal*. The description review is perhaps misleading, since in the course of his task Sylvester has written a substantial and interesting essay which addresses itself to a number of topics suggested by the book, such as the paucity of American climbing literature, the public image of the climber and the question of style in climbing. In other rock climbing areas such as Tahquitz and Suicide Rocks and Joshua Tree which have been the subject of less attention than Yosemite, new routes are still being discovered. A brief article by Gibb Lewis on Tahquitz and Suicide appears in *Crags* 4 4. An entirely new climbing area in the Newberry Mountains in S Nevada is being explored by Scott Baxter and Ross Harwick; the climbs are on granite spires and domes up to 200m in height.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Off Belay (August 1976) contains an interesting article on the history of Mount Baker (3285m), the highest mountain in the Northern Cascades. It was apparently first climbed by an Englishman, Edward T. Coleman in 1868. *Off Belay* also mentions plans for a desert hiking trail from the Mexican border through to Canada. It would pass through California, Nevada, Oregon and Idaho. The following guides have been noted:

Wind River Trails Finnis Mitchell (Wasatch Publishers, 1975)

Squamish Chief Guide Gordon Small (Distributed by Hard, Box 35236, Station E, Vancouver BC, V6M-4G4, Canada, pp 114, 16 photos, 10 drawings, \$5.50)

The Climber's Guide to the High Sierra Steve Roper (Sierra Club Books, 530 Bush St. San Francisco, CA 94104, pp 384, 12 photos, 24 maps, \$7.95)

Darrington and Index—Rock Climbing Guide Fred Beckey (The Mountaineers, 719 Pike St, Seattle, Washington 98101)

A Climber's Guide to Glacier National Park (A reprint; Edwards Mountain Press Publishing, Missoula, Montana 59801)

SOUTH AMERICA

An Events and Trends review of South America prepared by Evelio Echevarría, covering the period 1974–76 appears on p 219.

POLAR REGIONS

Again we have rather little news this year of activity in the polar regions. Doug Scott reports that he and Dennis Hennek climbed Overlord in Pangnirtung Fiord in Baffin Land via a new route on the right hand buttress in July 1976. There are 3 prominent buttresses on the W side of the mountain; the left hand one (see accompanying photograph) was climbed by the Japanese and the central one by an English party, both in 1975. Scott and Hennek walked 25 miles up Pangnirtung Fiord and spent 1½ days climbing up severe grade slabs for 500m solo before climbing up steep mainly good granite slabs for 20 long rope lengths. The climbing was mostly HVS and by diligent route finding only 5 pitches were