

## NORTH AMERICAN NOTES

BY KENNETH A. HENDERSON

**T**HE 1959 season in the mountains of North America was quite fruitful from the standpoint of new climbs. Probably the outstanding climb of the summer was the new route made on Mt. McKinley, 20,320 ft., the highest mountain in North America, by a party of four, William Buckingham, Jake Breitenbach, Barry Corbet and Peter Sinclair. After flying in from Talkeetna to the Kahiltna glacier they attacked the mountain from the south side and effected the first ascent of the Western rim of the South face, reaching the summit on June 19 from a high camp at 16,800 ft. They used some 4,000 ft. of fixed ropes on the route. The descent was by way of the West buttress.

Mt. Logan, 19,850 ft., the highest mountain in Canada, was climbed twice. On June 12 a Canadian group composed of Hans Gmoser, Ron Smylie, Donald Lyon, Karl Rieker, Willy Pfisterer and Phillippe de la Salle made the first all-Canadian ascent of the mountain and the second ascent of the East Peak. This was the fifth ascent of the mountain. The party lost most of their pictures when a raft tipped over in the Donjek river during the return. A larger party composed of the Americans William D. Hackett, William E. Blanchard, David V. Bohn, Richard H. Kauffman, Clarence E. LeBell, Norton Benner and Jules M. Eichorn made another ascent on June 23. This party flew from Chitina to the Quintino Sella glacier at 9,000 ft. and ascended the glacier to King Col, following the route of the original party. Blanchard and Hackett climbed the West peak and the Central peak, while another group of three reached the West peak the same day.

A party of eight flew to the Anderson glacier west of Mt. Wood in the St. Elias range and made three new climbs. On August 11 and 12 they made the first ascents of Mts. Slaggard 15,575 ft., and McCauley, 15,474 ft., respectively. A few days later, on August 16, they succeeded in climbing Mt. Wood by a new route on the west side. In the same general area a two-man party, Leopold Scheiblehrer and Richard Griesmann made the ascent of Mt. La Perouse from the Brady glacier. A larger party under Lawrence Nielsen covered the Klutina and Valdez glaciers making three new ascents, Jeep Mountain and Mts. Abercrombie and Egan, but reported that the most interesting part of the trip was the finding of many relics of the gold rush of 1898 which were melting out of the Valdez glacier. This route has not been traversed since that time so that the party really opened, or rather re-opened, an old route.

Two more events in Alaska deserve notice. One is the first ascent of the volcano Mt. Iliamna, 10,017 ft., on the Aleutian Peninsula, by a group from the Mountain Club of Alaska composed of Helga Broding, Erik Barnes, Greg Erickson and Paul Crews. In a seven-day trip, June 1 to 7, they reached the summit from Umbrella Creek over the Umbrella glacier. Another climb was the first ascent of Mt. Redoubt, 10,198 ft., also on the Aleutian Peninsula. A group of three, Charles Deehr, Jon Gardey, and Gene Wescott, from the Alaska Alpine Club reached the summit on August 28 after having landed by plane on the Redoubt river bar.

Although not strictly of mountaineering import, it might be noted with interest that our member Terris Moore landed his Super-Piper-Cub on the summit of Mt. Sanford, 16,208 ft., in the Wrangell Mountains, in connection with some U.S. Air Force tests, which involved the landing of two helicopters there at the same time.

In the continental United States there were two winter ascents of outstanding interest. On April 9, Fred Beckey and Leopold Scheiblehrer made the climb of Yocum Ridge on Mt. Hood. On December 23, a party of five under Leif Norman Patterson made the first winter ascent of Gannett Peak. This involved an approach march of some thirty miles largely over exposed ridges at 10,000 to 12,000 ft. The climb was made by the usual route up the South-west ridge.

In Canada there were four attempts by strong parties on Mt. Robson, all of which ended in failure because of bad snow, ice, or weather conditions. All the attempts were by difficult routes and some of the reports of long rappels on ice pitons make most interesting reading. In the Bugaboos, in the Purcell range, Fred Beckey and Hank Mather made the first ascent of the East face of Snowpatch Spire. They spent five days on the climb and two nights on the wall. They also made the first ascent of the West face of Bugaboo Spire and a new route on the West face of Snowpatch Spire. A Harvard Mountaineering Club camp was held in the Purcell Range from August 8 to 28, during which three first ascents and three new routes were made. A bit farther west, in the relatively inaccessible Battle Range of the Selkirks, two parties were active and succeeded in ascending the highest unclimbed summit, Moby Dick, and three peaks of the Nemo Group as well as three peaks south-east of Mt. Butters.

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