

## MOUNTAINEERING JOURNALS

*American Alpine Journal*, 1968. The first ascent of Cashan Oeste (18,705 ft.) in the Cordillera Blanca, Peru, on July 4, 1967, is described by Jack Miller and H. Adams Carter—an icy spire that tested the party thoroughly. Two other first ascents (Yanamarey, 17,263 ft. on July 13, and Pucaraju, 17,540 ft., on the 23rd) were also made. Mount McKinley can usually be counted upon to supply some new feature for the *A.A.J.*, and the South face in 1967 provided three routes, while another party made on February 28, 1967, the first winter ascent of the mountain, by the West Buttress, a climb that took a total of forty days, with temperatures down to an average of  $-35^{\circ}\text{F}$ . to  $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

The Revelation Mountains, south-west of the spectacular Cathedral Spires in Alaska, are the subject of David Roberts's article; the party made nine first ascents in July/August 1967. Mount Logan is the subject of two articles, and North faces make a notable appearance, on Assiniboine and Mount Edith Cavell (Yvon Chouinard's party), Mount Geikie (Royal Robbins's) and Bear Mountain (Fred Beckey). Bradford Washburn, under the heading of 'Challenges in Alaska and the Yukon, 1968', provides eight photographs of exciting routes that await parties. Patrik Callis writes of the first ascent, in May 1967, of the North-west face of the Great White Throne, Utah, with a splendid photograph (plate 70). Terris Moore, in 'The World's Great Mountains: not the height you think', shows that, if measured from the centre of the earth, Cotopaxi, Chimborazo and Huascarán are all higher than Everest.

The 116 pages of 'Climbs and Expeditions', all round the world, provides a feast of information. A report on the Chinese attempt on Everest in 1966 from the old north side says that a jeepable road has now been made by the Chinese up to Base Camp.

*Cambridge Mountaineering*, 1968. 'Pottering about on Papsura' (Kulu), by J. Ashburner and C. Pritchard, is the most important article here. The party did well to succeed in the climb, seeing the mishaps they experienced in one man being frost-bitten, while the leader, Pettigrew, was badly injured in an avalanche (Article—p. 158 above). J. R. Irwin describes a traverse of the Weisshorn via the Schalligrat; like others, he found it interminable. In 'Snow on the Equator', R. D. Metcalfe writes of Mount Kenya. Various notes on British and Alpine climbing conclude the volume.

*Mountain Club of South Africa, Journal*, 1966. This Club, having recently celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary (see *A.J.* 72. 353), the present issue of their journal naturally has some reminiscent articles.

and, as is usual here, the illustrations are excellent throughout. One of these shows the 'christening' of Mount Amery in 1930, the peak having been named after a former President of the Alpine Club (and a Colonial Secretary), who was said to have climbed the mountain with despatches during the Boer War.

Some of the illustrations, on Table Mountain and elsewhere, together with their accompanying technical notes, suggest that climbers in South Africa have little, if anything, to learn, whether in free or artificial climbing. One or two articles are in Afrikaans.

*New Zealand Alpine Journal*, 1967. After an editorial that discusses the social consequences of mountaineering, J. Edwards leads off with an account of Mount McKinley in winter (1967—see *A.A.J.* above). The summit was reached on February 28, with a 30 m.p.h. wind and 84° of frost. Two members lost toes through being frost-bitten, which, as they had to bivouac on the descent, is not very surprising. An article by J. Lawrence tells of experiences in Antarctica, in the Cape Adare region, but the principal single topic of study in the journal is the Arrowsmith Range of the Southern Alps (six articles). Mount Cook National Park comprises two articles, one on the place names and their origins.

*Sierra Club Mountaineering Journal*, 'Ascent', vol. 1, no. 1, 1967. This new publication has a most pleasing appearance on account of its extremely high standard of photographic reproduction. The opening article, in the form of a letter from Allen Steck, describes the first ascent of the South ('Hummingbird') ridge of Mount Logan, a feat comparable with that over the West ridge (see *A.A.J.* 1966 and 1967 for fuller accounts of both these vast undertakings). William Long writes of the American expedition to the Antarctic in 1966/67 that successfully climbed Vinson Massif, and Ian Howell records his impressions of Yosemite—El Capitan, Sentinel Rock (North face) and the North-west face of Half Dome, 'the most enjoyable pure rock climb I have ever done'. A series of photographs by Glen Denny of some dramatic positions follows; the West face of Leaning Tower is especially startling.

The West face of Yerupaja, by Leif Norman Patterson, records the second ascent of the mountain in 1966—a great ice route, accomplished on virtually no food at all except hot water.

*Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal* (vol. xxix), May 1968. Malcolm Slesser opens this issue with an account of the climbing of the Finger of God in Brazil, some fifty miles from Rio. It is pleasing to read W.N. Ling again, though it is curious these days to realise that his and Raeburn's ascent of the Zmutt ridge in 1906 was that of the first British guideless party.

'Strone Ulladale', by John Grieve, relates a first ascent on what he

calls 'one of the greatest pieces of rock architecture in the British Isles', in the Island of Harris. 'A Gentleman's Tour in Skye', by Michael Plint, has a sub-title, 'An Account of an Abortive Attempt to Traverse the BLACK CUILLIN, with some Useful Information of a Practical Nature, and some Comments on the Inadequacy of Guide Books'. Hamish Brown writes briefly of impressions of the Irish Munros, and W. M. Docharty, 'Looking Back Over Them All', deals with other Munros.

New Climbs and Notes cover a wide field of Scottish climbing (some 30 pp.), and is followed by Scottish Mountain Accidents, 1967.

T.S.B.

*La Montagne et Alpinisme*, 1967. The February issue contains an account by R. Paragot of the first ascent of the North face of Huascarán (6768 m.).

*April* 1967. Bonington on the Eiger Direct is translated into French by Micheline Morin. In the same number an article by André Contamine ('La Glace ... vingt ans après') is very interesting. He contrasts the French with the more modern German ice technique using 12-point lobster-claw crampons. The French method revolves round the 'piolet-ancre' with both feet flat on the ice slope (N.B. only 10-point crampons allowed!). More and more appalling contortions are involved as the slope passes forty degrees. Who still does this when with a modern pair of 12-pointers all you need is to face into the slope and kick upwards? There can be no better example of technology revolutionising (if you like supplanting) technique than in the modern use of crampons.

Yannick Seigneur's 'Directe Nord au Dru' (*June* 1967) in winter should not be missed. Bivouacs are numbered in weeks, no longer in days: a remarkable enterprise. Michel Fabrikant's review of the present state of climbing in Corsica will appeal to mature Alpinists whose young families could be despatched to the near-by Mediterranean. On page 113 is a useful account of the modern use of waist loops, body harnesses and *baudriers*.

*October* 1967. René Desmaison on the first winter ascent of the Central Pillar of Frêne.

*December* 1967. Four French climbers make a first European ascent of the South face of El Capitan in Yosemite. They survive and succeed despite a catastrophic loss of 5 l. from their water supply on the first day. Jacques Rouillard on ski-touring equipment is full of sound advice.

*La Montagne* maintains a high standard of journalism, photography and production, and is right up to date. Nobody, for instance, can afford to overlook its *Chronique Alpine*, a *résumé* of all that is hottest in first ascents in the Alps and elsewhere.

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