

Additional Notes 1971 North America

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AMERICA

Half Dome—South face In late May this year, I. Wade and B. McKeith made the second ascent of the Harding/Rowell route on the South face of Half Dome. The average angle of this 2100-ft face is about 75° . They reached the 8-in wide 'ledge' (the only one on the face) about three-quarters of the way up the route on the third day, but a bad storm delayed continuation of the climb until the sixth day, the top being reached in the early evening.

El Capitan—North America Wall In early October, the same party made the first British ascent of the North America Wall (tenth ascent) in just over four days. The climb's reputation for looseness is now certainly unjustified; it is an excellent hard climb.

Mount Hood A ski descent of the East face has been made by Saudan.

AMERICAN ROCKIES

In June Bill Briggs made a ski descent of Grand Teton, which involved in one place an abseil of 150-ft with skis on. During July in the Wind River Range, Steven Arsenault (with Larry Young) made the first ascent of the North-east face of Ambush Peak, and (with Bob Johnson) first ascents of the North-east face of Prairie Falcon Peak and of the East face of Wolverine Peak.

ALASKA-YUKON

Mount St Elias An Italian expedition (G. Fabbrica, E. Scarabelli, G. Tessari, R. Zochi, G. and A. Rusconi) visited Alaska in June this year to attempt the unclimbed East ridge of Mount St Elias (5488 m). After two attempts the East ridge was abandoned, and it was decided to attempt the mountain by a route further north which would join the original Abruzzi route of 1897, and allow observation of the North-east spur. A route was found up the Savoia glacier and across a col to the Newton glacier. A camp was established and on the following day, A. Rusconi, R. Zochi and G. Fabbrica climbed the steep ice-slope guarding Col Russell, and from there reached the summit by the Abruzzi route.

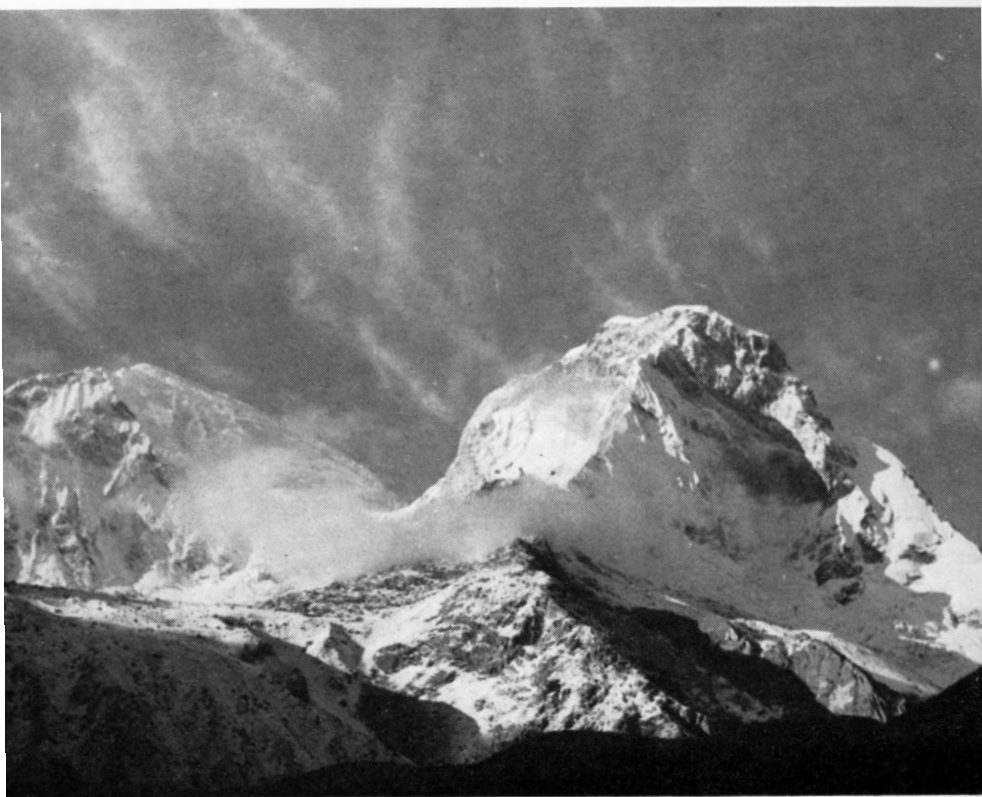
A subsequent attempt on the North-east spur was foiled by bad weather. A fast retreat became necessary, which involved an abseil on a single rope of 240 m! (Source: Alan Heppenstall, *Mountain*.)

Lucania-Steele traverse In August a party of five made a fifteen-day traverse, during which they climbed Mount Steele by the South-east ridge, traversed the South face at the 4800-m level, and then climbed Mount Lucania by the North face.

Devil's Thumb The third ascent of this peak in the Alaska panhandle was made during June.

CANADIAN ROCKIES

A Calgary group made the first winter ascent of Mount Forbes, the seventh highest peak in the Canadian Rockies by the South-east ridge. Also, the first winter traverse of Mount Assiniboine was completed by Caldwell and Aplaur, up the North ridge and down the South-east ridge, a distance of 35 km.



94 *Huascarán from Pisco*. Photo: H. M. Brown