

Notes 1972 North America

Tom Connor

Alaska

Eight Japanese expeditions were in the field during 1972, half of them having Mount McKinley as the main target. A number of successes were recorded on Mount McKinley, but disaster struck a rope of 3 from an all-woman party and all lost their lives. Two expeditions made successful attacks on Mount Blackburn, another was active around the Nabesuna glacier. Japanese climbers, who visited the Chugach Mountains and failed on Mount Witherspoon, have drawn attention to a number of fine peaks here which remain unclimbed.

Ichiro Yoshizawa

Canada

CANADIAN ROCKIES

George Lowe and Jock Glidden climbed a noted 'last problem', the N face of Mount Alberta, with two bivouacs on the ascent and one on the descent (Grade V). Another route was also established on this huge face by the Calgary team of Brian Greenwood, Rob Wood, George Homer and Bob Beale (2 bivouacs, Grade V).

The United States

YOSEMITE

A first winter ascent of the N face of Half Dome was made in 6 days by R. Kiesel and G. Lowe. Later in the year, a number of new routes were established in the valley. One of these, Cosmos (Grade 6, 5.8, A4) was achieved by Jim Dunn and was the first solo first ascent on El Capitan. During their first visit to Yosemite, the British climbers Ben Campbell Kelly and Brian Wyvill climbed The North America Wall and The Nose.

THE ROCKIES

The great potential of the sandstone walls of Zion National Park (see *AJ* 77 231) is being further exploited by Jeff Lowe. In Colorado, 2 new routes have been put up on the 600-m granite face of Black Canyon's Painted Wall, one by Bill Forrest and Kris Walker (Grade 6, 5.9 and A4) and another by Rusty Baillie, Dave Lovejoy, Scott Baxter and Karl Karstrom. These are thought to be the hardest climbs yet done in this area.

THE EASTERN STATES

The great popularity of the relatively small number of rocks and crags suitable

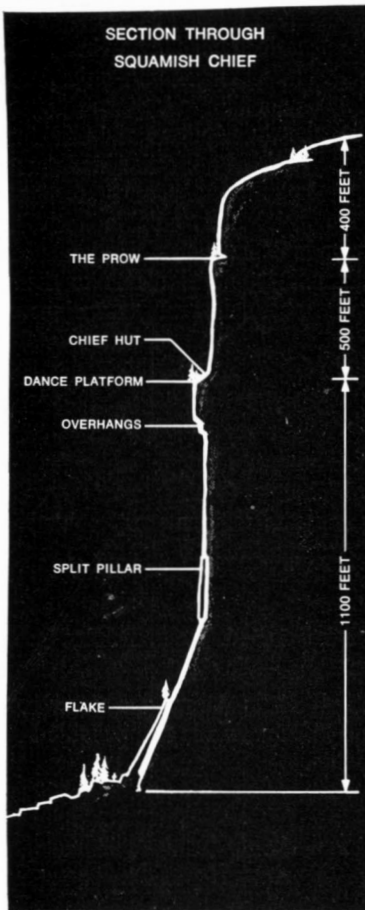


100 *Great White Throne, Zion National Park* Photo: US Information Services

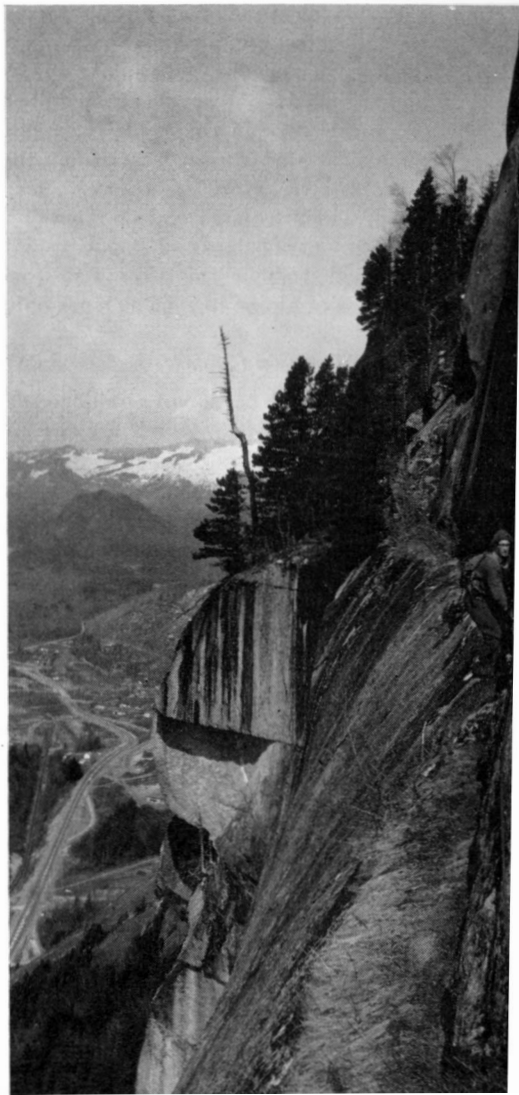
for climbing in the Eastern States is highlighted by an article in *Mountain 21*, 19. This pays particular attention to the Shawangunks in New York State, an area where piton damage to the crags resulting from over-use is becoming of increasing concern to local climbers.

THE ERYL PARDOE MEMORIAL HUT

An interesting development in the siting of a climbing hut has been the building of a small refuge on the Dance Platform of the Squamish Wall, N of Vancouver (*CAJ* 55 75). In addition to providing shelter for those engaged in some of the longer climbs on the Wall, the hut is also a memorial to a former Club member Eryl Pardoe, who was killed in July 1970 on American Border Peak (obituaries appeared in *AJ* 76 330). The hut, which will sleep 8 people, is unique in requiring a high degree of rock-climbing skill in order to reach it, and climbers



101 Reproduced from *Wood World*



102 Ledge on Squamish Chief
leading to the Eryl Pardoe hut
Photo: R. Culbert

using it are therefore unlikely to be troubled by tourists! An account of its construction in lightweight wooden prefabricated sections, which were lowered 150 m to the platform, appears in *Wood World* 2 no 3, p 6. The hut is situated 330 m above the foot of the Wall.

Thanks are due to Andrew Gruft, Editor of the *Canadian Alpine Journal*, for supplying information on this topic.

NEW GUIDE-BOOKS

American Alpine Club Climbers' Guide to the Interior Ranges of British Columbia, by William Lowell Putnam. 5th ed., (\$7.00).

This is a new edition of a guide which last appeared in 1963 and which covers the Cariboo, Monashee, Selkirk and Purcell Ranges of British Columbia. Fifty-two separate groups of mountains are described, lying to the w of the Rockies and stretching 400 miles NW from the American border, and including the spectacular Bugaboos in the Northern Purcells. In general, only peaks higher than 2590 m are mentioned, if they have been climbed. Since the geographical scope of the guide is so extensive, the descriptions of individual mountains are necessarily brief and the maps provided are quite inadequate by themselves. However, there are several good photographs, and references are provided to large scale topographic maps which are available from the Department of Mines and Topographic Surveys in Ottawa. Useful information is provided about the geology of the various regions and access to them, locations of alpine huts (which are only 5 in number), and ranger stations.

White Mountain Guide (Appalachian Mountain Club, \$7.00).

This is the 20th edition of a guide to the trails in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Revised guides are produced at about 3-year intervals to keep pace with the alterations in mountain trails. The guide is specifically for the walker—any crags, suitable for climbing, which exist (see *Mountain* 21, 19) are not described in the guide. Maps of 7 separate regions are provided in pockets inside the covers and, in addition, there are three smaller maps in the text.

A Climber's Guide to Seneca Rocks, West Virginia, ed. by F. R. Robinson (Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Mountaineering Section).

This small guide describes climbs on the Seneca Rocks, a quartzite crag rising to 300 m in West Virginia. Some background information is also provided on the history, geology, and traditions of the region.