

the autumn of the same year Peter Taylor led a small party including 6 Sherpas on another attempt. They attacked the mountain from the W but on reaching a height estimated at 6700m the assault was abandoned on account of the difficulties of the route and the lack of experience of some of the party.

Kangchenjunga South (8490m) This satellite peak, previously the second highest unclimbed summit in the world, was climbed on 19 May 1978 by the Poles, W. Jorzwana and E. Chrobak. As mentioned earlier, the leader of the expedition has been banned from Nepal for a period, since the Nepalese maintain that permission had only been granted to climb Kangchenjunga itself.

AUSTRALASIA

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We have no direct news of recent rock-climbing—what follows are some of the trends and highlights selected from the pages of the 1978 editions of *Mountain* where further details may be found.

It appears that a large concentration of unemployed climbers in Australia is active in Victoria; as a result, the number of routes and their standard are both rising dramatically as compared with other areas in the country. Mount Arapiles has been the centre of activity and recently saw the first grade 25 route achieved in Australia (by Chris Peisker after 3 days struggle to free *Dreadnought*); Arapiles already has more grade 24 routes than the rest of the country combined and a promised guide to the area is already out of date. Climbers have also been busy at Mount Buffalo where Australia's first 24 received second and third ascents from Greg Child and Mike Law on the same day.

Those active in Victoria have however strayed outside the borders of the State. Law, Child and Kim Carrigan repeated Barber's hardest routes in Tasmania and put up a large number of new 22 and 23 routes in a variety of locations in the island. In Queensland, Frog Buttress has seen a number of new 20–22 routes put up by Rick McGregor, Graeme Roxburgh and Fred From. Child and Law have been active in New South Wales; *The Wake of the Flood* (23) in the Blue Mountains and a number of 22 routes in Wirindi have resulted.

We have received a copy of *Mountaineering* 1978, the new annual journal of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club, edited by Nicholas Reeves and Neil Blundy. This interesting first issue has a true Australasian flavour, with articles describing canoeing trips in Tasmania, the rarely visited Little River Gorge and ski touring in the Bluff–Howitt–Tamboritha area, both in Victoria, rock-climbing near Christchurch and a description of Earle's Route and a grand traverse of Mount Cook in New Zealand. It concludes with a comparative survey by Chris Baxter of climbing magazines available in Victoria; of necessity, Australians are to a large extent dependent on foreign magazines, albeit probably written in English, to keep abreast of climbing and mountaineering events in the rest of the world. There is some criticism that these journals do not adequately cover the Australasian scene. Whilst this is to some extent inevitable, it should be pointed out that this coverage must to a large extent be dependent on Australian and New Zealand climbers putting pen to paper and making their deeds known to the outside world—this journal would welcome such material, in article or note form.

NEW ZEALAND

In the summer of 1977, Paddy Freaney and Russel Brice succeeded in climbing all the 31 3000m peaks in the Southern Alps in one season. Previous premetrication attempts to climb all 27 10,000ft peaks in a season had always failed—however the pair climbed all the 30 peaks in the Mount Cook area in a 3-month period and finished off with Mount Aspiring in May.

Paul Scaife and Dave McNulty set themselves a huge task also, ie to climb the main divide from Mount Elie de Beaumont to Mount Sefton. This would have involved traversing 47 peaks of which 19 are over 3000m. In fact neither made it, McNulty giving it best at Harper Saddle after 34 peaks (18 three-thousanders) had been traversed. Scaife continued and finally descended only 5 peaks short of Sefton via the Copland pass.

The Darrans are becoming a major area of activity for hard rock men. Galen Rowell put up a number of 5.9 routes with local climbers which he compared with high standard climbs in Yosemite 5 years ago. Later in the year there were a number of first winter ascents. Merv

English soloed the W ridge of Mount Sabre; later Warwick Anderson and Ken Hyslop climbed the N buttress. There was an increasing trend for winter climbing in all areas, in spite of relatively poor weather conditions.

NORTH AMERICA

ALASKA

According to a report in *Climbing* 47 2, the Alaska legislature's 1975 resolution to change the name of Mount McKinley (6196m) to its native name of Denali is being questioned. The peak was originally named after President William McKinley whose home was in Ohio, and the Ohio congressman Ralph Regula feels that the change 'would be an insult to the name of Mr McKinley'. We have no news of the final decision on this point.

In 1977, Bugs McKeith, Jon Jones, Eckhart Grassman and Allan Derbyshire climbed a new route on the SW face of McKinley known as *Clodface* (Calgary Leftovers Outing to Denali) and later McKeith climbed solo on 10 June a 1400m route (*McClod's Rib*) on the W face in 8 hours. An article in the *Canadian Alpine Journal* 61 23 gives details.

In 1978, Scott Johnson made a solo ascent of a new route, left of Bugs McKeith's route (*McClod's Rib*). The route is 1500m in length with 1200m of 50° ice in the couloir. Johnson took only 7 hours over the difficult section to reach the Archdeacon's Tower at 5990m. Galen Rowell and Ned Gillette made a speedy 19-hr ascent of the West Buttress; Rowell contracted pulmonary oedema on the descent but recovered while waiting for a flight out. Further details of these climbs are given in *Mountain* 63 12.

Off Belay 40 35 contains an account of the first circumnavigation of the McKinley massif using nordic skis by Gillette, Rowell, Allan Bard and Doug Weins; 19 days were spent on the 90-mile trip, 11 of them on skis. The party overcame a number of vicissitudes including 80lb packs, 50mph winds, a dislocated shoulder and a near descent into a crevasse.

Climbing accidents on Mount McKinley must have been more thoroughly analysed than those on any other large mountain (see *AJ* 83 241). Another article on this topic appears in *The Western Journal of Medicine* 6/128 471 (by R. Wilson, W. J. Mills, D. R. Rogers and M. T. Propst). These analyses have of course been prompted by the exceptionally high number of accidents which occurred in the Bicentennial Year when 587 climbers were on the mountain, with a death rate of 1.7%. This rate is apparently similar (1.8%) to the rate from illness and injury among the US armed forces this century; however the mountaineering fatalities are crowded into a few weeks of the year and so make the chance of death very much higher during the actual season, and perhaps more comparable to the actual risk in battle. A hopeful sign is that it seems that some of the lessons of the 1976 season have been learned; in 1977, 438 people attempted climbs on McKinley and Foraker. No one died, 5 were rescued by air and the National Park Service paid for only 2 of these. Park rangers felt that climbers were being more careful and that fewer tyros came to these mountains.

Mount Huntingdon was popular during the 1978 season, with 12 parties attempting a variety of routes. Only 3 were successful however; Bruce Adams and 3 others climbed a moderate ice route on the NW face to the left of the W face route. The French Ridge received an 11-day alpine ascent. However, the hardest climb was Simon McCartney and Jack Robert's alpine style ascent of the N face. This took 5 days and the 1800m face was rated ED sup with Grade VI ice-climbing and 5.9 rock. Further details are given in *Climbing* 50 2 and *Mountain* 63 12.

In the 1977 season, J. Brady, P. Hollis, C. Moore and C. Tobin made the first ascent of the NW ridge of Mount Deborah (3761m) over 25 days in May and June. Some members of this party plus several others then made a number of other interesting ascents in the Deborah-Hess area including the second ascents of the SE ridge of Mount Hayes (Buchanan and Wheeler) and the N ridge of Mount Hess (Brady, Hollis and Wheeler). In August, Jim Jennings, Bill Kitson and Geoff Radford climbed the 900m N face of Mount Geist (3261m) (see *Climbing* 46 3 for more details).

In the Chigmit Mountains, Gary Bocarde and Kevin Duffy made a winter ascent of the SE ridge of Mount Redoubt (3108m). Beckey, Bjørnstad and Martinson attempted the Tusk, a 460m rock tower, but were forced back by rock-falls at the 1971 high point of the Hachett/Kircher party. They made first ascents of 2 previously unnamed peaks, tentatively called Snowbird and Mount Cheops, to the W and SW respectively of the Tusk.