# Miscellanea 1990

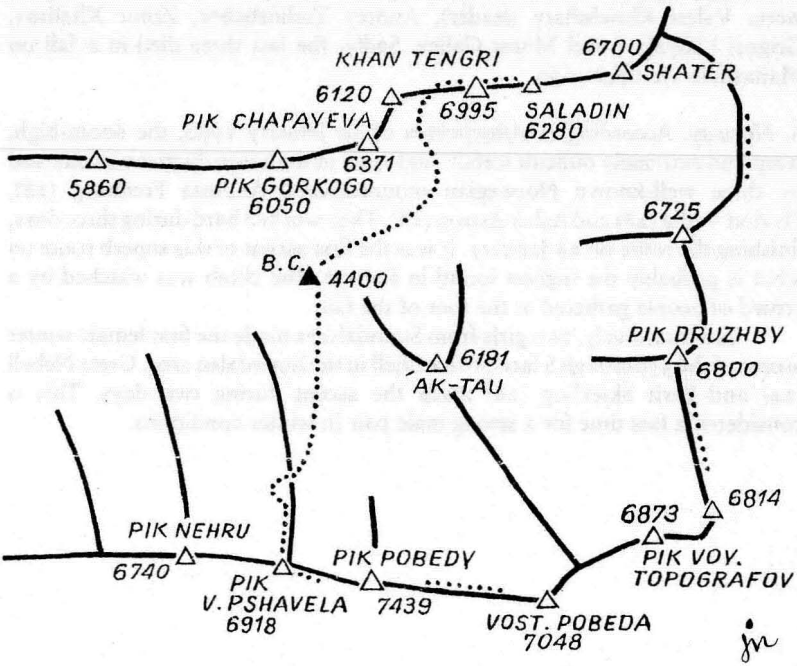
We are grateful for the following additional information, received from H Adams Carter (Nos 1–4) and Józef Nyka (Nos 5–6).

1. *Alaska.* American John Phelan and Briton Dave Sharman did a splendid new route on the SE face of Mount Foraker (5303m). It took them six days of climbing, mostly on very steep snow and ice. Not only did they have severe difficulties during the ascent – on the descent of the SE ridge they were plagued by bad weather and ran out of food. Foraker's Pink Panther route on the E face received its second ascent, by Dave Harries and Chris Smith. A couloir on the W face of Dan Beard was climbed for the first time by a party led by Carol Snetsinger. Mark Bebie and Bill Pilling took five days to make a new route on the S ridge of Mount Augusta. The descent via the first-ascent route on the N ridge left them on the side away from their Base Camp, and they had to traverse some 25km around the N and E sides to get back.

2. *Canada.* Dan Mazur led a party that made the ascent of Mount Steele, while Willy Orr's group climbed Mount Logan (5951m), Canada's highest peak, by Independence Ridge. Probably the most notable climb in this season in North America was the second ascent, and the first in alpine style, of the Hummingbird Ridge of Mount Logan, made during the second half of April by American Dave Nettle and Canadian Geoff Creighton. They gained the ridge via a different start from the original one. Their route followed a steep icefall couloir and 60° ice face for 1500m before joining the ridge at 4265m. From that point to 4900m the difficulty was very great. The ridge then became somewhat easier up to 5325m, where they emerged on the summit plateau. They reached the summit on 29 April, seven days after leaving Base Camp. They descended the E ridge, which took four more days on very short food rations.

3. *Antarctica.* In January, Mugs Stump did some remarkable solo climbing near the Vinson Massif. He made the second ascent of Tyree by an extremely difficult new route, the 2500m-high W face. This was done on the same day that New Zealander Rob Hall soloed the Chouinard route on Mount Shinn, adding a direct line to the summit. At the same time Dr Geoffrey Tabin ascended the Vinson Massif. Tabin is believed to be the first American to have reached the highest point on all seven continents (counting the Carstensz Pyramid and not Mount Kosciusko as the highest point in Australasia).

4. *The Pamir.* Mark Twight climbed a new route on the N face of Pik Vorobyova, a climb of 800 vertical metres which involved 90° ice. With Ace Kvale he climbed the Czech route on the N face of Pik Kommunizma.




5. *Tien Shan.* In August a team from Kazakhstan achieved an astonishing success, completing an alpine-style ridge traverse comprising 12 of the highest peaks of the central Tien Shan, from Pik Pobedy to Khan Tengri. The five-man team spent 15 days generally over 6000m, traversing 73·6km of ridges and summits.

Their Base Camp was at 4400m on the Zvezdochka glacier. Six men started on 6 August, climbing towards Pik Vazha Pshavela (6918m). During four days they traversed Pik Pobedy (7439m). Beneath Pik Pobedy East (7048m) they were trapped for a day by bad weather; all equipment became soaked through. They crossed Pobedy East and descended to the Chon Teren saddle (5488m). Here icy storm forced the retreat of one member of the team, who suffered frostbite. On 12 August the others climbed the ice ridges of Pik Topografov (6873m) and camped in the summit area. The weather deteriorated again, and until 19 August they had to fight on the high ridge against cold, storm and snowfall. Only one day allowed climbing during the whole of the day. The 12km section from East Shater (6700m) to the foot of Khan Tengri was particularly exhausting. The ridge was covered with 90cm-deep snow, heavily

corniced and prone to avalanche. On 20 August they crossed Saladin Peak (6280m) and Khan Tengri (6995m), and at midnight they staggered into Base Camp.

This was the most remarkable success of the year in the mountains of the USSR. The members of the team, all experienced high-altitude mountaineers, were: Valeri Khrichthaty (leader), Andrey Tselinshchev, Zinur Khalitov, Grigori Lunyakov and Murat Galiev. Sadly, the last three died in a fall on Manaslu in October 1990.

6. *Norway.* According to *Aftenposten* of 30 January 1990, the 600m-high, steep and extremely difficult icefall Tågfossen in the Møre district was climbed by three well-known Norwegian mountaineers, Andreas Fredborg (28), Øyvind Vadla (28) and Aslak Åstrop (28). They worked hard during three days, finishing the route on 28 January. It was the first ascent of this superb route on what is probably the highest icefall in Europe. The climb was watched by a crowd of people gathered at the foot of the fall.

Simultaneously, two girls from Sunndalsøra made the first female winter ascent of the 350m-high S face of Skardfjell in the Innerdalen area. Grete Nebell (24) and Berit Skjevling (26) made the ascent during two days. This is considered a fast time for a strong male pair in winter conditions.