

Peak "T 3" (13,528), first ascent, William Nagel, Robert Blair, Orval Settles, and Robert Thallon; August 6th, The Monolith, first ascent, Lewis Giesecke and Carleton C. Long; August 6th, Kismet, possible second ascent, H. M. Walters and party; August 7th, Woolfe Tooth, third ascent, guides and party; August 9th, Woolfe Tooth, fourth ascent, guides and party; August 9th, Wolcott Peak, third ascent, Don McBride and party.

In addition to the above, one or more ascents were made of Mt. Sneffels, Blaine Peak, and Peak "S 5," and several reconnaissance climbs were made, the most interesting being an investigation of yet unclimbed Purgatory Point (13,536). The most important as well as the most difficult climb appears to be that of Dallas Peak. The elevation figures given above are from the SJM survey (1933).

On September 15th, Chimney Peak on Cimarron Ridge—frequently referred to as "the most difficult peak in Colorado"—yielded its summit to an SJM party consisting of T. Melvin Griffiths and Robert Ormes. This 11,782-ft. pinnacle, absolutely vertical on all sides, was climbed by a chimney and crack splitting the south face of the rock. The climbing offered was uniformly of high difficulty. The rock is well cemented conglomerate presenting firm holds.

Fox Movietone News and the San Juan Mountaineers made a short expedition in October to the Mt. Sneffels region to film a mountaineering short subject. Among other climbs the second ascent of L'Aiguille Penguin was accomplished. Climbers were Charles Kane, Robert Ormes, and T. Melvin Griffiths. Camera men were L. E. Orr and James Porter.

With seventeen summit routes established, there seems to have been little inclination during the past two seasons on Longs Peak to force further variations. Elwyn Arps and Charles Hardin are reported to have climbed the Right Chimney—the so-called Ervin-Blaurock chimney—on the East Face to Broadway and then to have made the first descent of the same chimney.

Local rock climbing continued to increase in popularity during the 1934 season. Colorado's first rock climbing guidebook was published last spring (as the May issue of *Trail and Timberline*), and gives detailed descriptions of many of the Boulder region climbs.

CARLETON C. LONG.



## ROCKY MOUNTAINS OF CANADA

### *Mt. Robson, 1934*

Mt. Robson has the doubtful distinction of being the peak most frequently attempted, unsuccessfully, in all the Canadian

Rockies. The first ascent was made in 1913 from the Robson Glacier by A. H. MacCarthy, W. W. Foster and Conrad Kain. Their route up the steep ice slope from the Robson Glacier basin has not been repeated.<sup>1</sup> They descended on the south side to the east of the upper icefall. All subsequent ascents were made on the south side, and involved the generally difficult and always highly dangerous passage of the upper icefall. Numerous attempts by this route as well as by the northwest arête and by various rock routes on the south face, many by strong parties, have failed.

In 1922 Windsor P. Putnam and Jack Hargreaves claimed to have reached the summit. In 1924 several parties both at and after the Alpine Club of Canada camp at Robson Pass made the ascent, led by Conrad Kain, J. Saladana, Alfred Streich and Hans Kohler. In 1928 Hans Fuhrer took three members of the Sierra Club to the summit. In 1930 N. E. Odell, C. G. Crawford and T. Moore were successful. Shortly before he died some years ago V. A. Fynn predicted eventual disaster if the upper icefall route continued to be used.<sup>2</sup> Since 1930 the mountain has been attempted, by one or more parties each year, some parties, as occurred in 1934, making two or three trials, in an endeavor to find a relatively safe route which would avoid the dangers of falling ice, always present by the upper icefall route.

Last August while on our way down the coast from Mt. Waddington, Hans Fuhrer suggested to me that no one had to his knowledge tried to *ascend* by the rocks to the right (east) of the upper icefall. In the perfect weather then prevailing, and after a summer of failures, this seemed an opportunity worth seizing. Hans and I accordingly boarded the C. N. train at 3 P.M., Monday, August 27th, at Vancouver. After the deepest discouragement at finding dense forest-fire smoke all the way, we were suddenly thrilled to come out into clear blue sky just north of Albreda, and as we approached our destination, Mt. Robson stood out like a dream, and what was important, the rocks were almost entirely free of snow.

The Hargreaves ranch soon provided us with food for two nights, a pack horse and riding horses, we rode to Kinney Lake, packed easily up to the timber-line campsite at 6000 ft., as used by the 1924 and subsequent parties, and lay down at dark for a few hours' sleep. Rest would have been more continuous but for a very persistent pack rat who had evidently become familiar with man's food earlier in the summer when Hans had camped there with Alfred Roovers in July.

At 2 A.M. after a hot breakfast, in full moonlight we left camp. By five we had come to the low stone shelters at 8500 ft. An hour later, after running across the two gullies filled with ice blocks

<sup>1</sup> This should be reexamined.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> A prediction still valid.—*Ed.*

from the lower icefall, and directly under the threatening ice wall, we turned to the right from the ordinary route, reached the glacier and roped up, also putting on crampons. The snow of the lower glacier is deeply scored by avalanche tracks. We moved as rapidly as possible across these and diagonally upwards until at the base of the steep ice slopes coming down to the glacier from the east wall of the cirque. Hans' idea was that we could run quickly up the side of this ice with crampons in case of a slide from the upper glacier. When perhaps a third of a mile from the rock cliffs overhung by the upper icefall we turned to the right up the ice and soon reached the rocks of the east ridge. These were easily climbed for about 500 ft. to a point where they were still snow covered, whence we turned left, and after not more than ten minutes of exposure to the relatively slight danger from falling ice overhead, or from the here much thinner ice-cliff of the upper glacier on our left, we climbed through the broken down ice-cliff and came out onto the upper glacier. This route could not be used, or at least with such safety, earlier in the season when these rocks are snow covered and subject to avalanches from above.

The route from here on was simple. It lay up the glacier to the top of the east ridge, step cutting being necessary in only two places where the steep ice was bare this late in the season. From the east ridge the main arête of mountain was followed about half way to the shoulder whence cornices forced us to take to the south face. Two or three times we passed under the well-known ice bulges of this upper section of the route, climbed a steep but easy snow gully between two of them, and reached the summit ridge perhaps a quarter mile east of and 100 ft. below the summit. The ridge itself was an easy snow walk and we reached the summit at 3 P.M. The view included the Tonquin peaks, Clemenceau, the northern Canoe peaks, the Caribos, Bess and Chown and probably Sir Alexander.

After forty minutes we started down, slightly varying the route to avoid the névé bulges, but the slope necessitated backing down and the east snow arête was ice, thinly covered by snow, and had to be descended slowly. Dark overtook us just as we reached the rocks below the upper icefall and we spent the night on a scree ledge at 10,500 ft. After 10 P.M. clouds came up, obscuring the rising moon and before daylight snowflakes fell but no storm developed. With clouds over the peaks we continued down after daylight, reached tree-line camp by 8 A.M., finished the food, met the horses at Kinney Lake and caught the 3 P.M. train for Vancouver, arriving there the morning of the 31st just three days, eighteen hours after leaving.

We, of course, had luck both with the weather and the condition of the mountain, but I would recommend this route to future

parties, whenever the rocks to the right of the upper icefall are reasonably clear of snow.

H. S. HALL, JR.



#### ALPS

*Grandes Jorasses.* The past summer witnessed a veritable epidemic of attempts to climb the north face of this mountain, at one point three different parties being on the peak at the same time. One of these attempts ended fatally when retreat was forced by a snow storm. A vivid account of this climb written by the survivor appeared in *Der Bergsteiger* (January, 1935).



Cav. Guido Rey has been awarded the Cross of the Legion of Honor by the French government for his activities on behalf of mountaineering. The presentation was made at Turin on December 1st, 1934, in the presence of officials of the French and Italian Alpine Clubs.



#### CAUCASUS

*Swiss Expedition.* A Swiss party under the leadership of Lorenz Saladin and composed of, in addition to the leader, Hans Graf, Walter Frei and Otto Furrer made a successful trip to the Caucasus this past summer, effecting the first ascents of Skat-tükom Khokh (14,600 ft.), Karagom Khokh (14,805 ft.), and Mischirgi Tau (16,408 ft.), as well as making a number of other climbs, among them Vologata (*ca.* 13,675 ft.), Kasbek and Elbruz.



#### PERSIA

*The Italian Expedition* to Persia made a number of climbs of 13,000-ft. peaks in the Zardek-Kuh Group, among others the Shahan Kuh (13,225 ft.) and the Kuh-i-Dinar (14,800 ft.), and found a new route to the summit of Mt. Demavend.



#### HIMALAYAS

*Mt. Everest.* The past year witnessed the attempt by a lone climber to reach the summit of this mountain which had a year ago repulsed the well equipped party of English climbers. Capt. Maurice Wilson of the Royal Air Force succeeded in eluding the vigilance of the frontier guards, dressed as a Tibetan and pene-