

selves on the top. A few pitons for direct aid were required. On July 14 James Burbank and I did the first ascent of Nexus Corner, the first dihedral left of Stromboli. We climbed to the base of the dihedral on an easy chimney system around the east corner of Ship's Prow. The final dihedral provided a fairly difficult finish, superior in every respect to the Stromboli Chimney. Some direct aid is required.

STANLEY SHEPARD, *Colorado Mountain Club*

## CANADA

### *Yukon Territory*

*Mount Vulcan, Kluane Ranges, St. Elias Mountains.* M. E. Alford and I made what we presume to be the first ascent of Mount Vulcan (c. 9300 feet; longitude  $138^{\circ}29'$ , latitude  $60^{\circ}51'$ ), highest peak of the Kluane Ranges, comprised of the abrupt scarp which forms the western side of the Shakwak Valley and Kluane Lake. The mountain rises a few miles south of the point where the Alaska Highway crosses Slim's River at the south end of Kluane Lake. After leaving the Land Rover at 2700 feet near Vulcan Creek alluvial fan at 10 A.M. on August 3, we set up camp at 6000 feet on the moraine beside the glacier in a cirque three miles northeast of the summit that evening. The next morning we climbed along the ice-covered northwest ridge, reached the summit of an 8600-foot, snow-covered peak a half mile north of Vulcan at 4 P.M., and reached the true summit at 6:40.

GEORGE DENTON, *Yale University*

### *Coast Range*

*Ape Lake Region, Coast Range.* Our group gathered at Nimpo Lake on August 4 and in three shuttles in Dick Poet's Cessna all eight of us were placed on the shores of Ape Lake. This used to be reached in six rough days of back-packing but was now accomplished in 20 minutes. We split into two groups and proceeded to different territories — one new to us and the other offering several excellent first ascents. Joan and Joe Firey, George Whitmore and Frank de Saussure traversed the great icefield past Jacobsen and camped the second night near Mount Cerberus (climbed in 1961). Starting on August 7, on successive days this ambitious group climbed the "Cleaver" from northwest to southeast; placed a new route on Mount Geryon, the southeast ridge, and descended the west ridge; and climbed "Chili" Peak's southwest ridge for a first ascent. On August 11 they made the first ascent of Sciron Mountain, doing all summits from the east. After a bivouac they climbed Sciron Spire by the east ridge and south face. Meanwhile Phil Bettler, Jim and Leslie Wilson (son of 12 years), and I camped on the Beelzebub glacier, east of the

peak, and on August 7 made the first ascent of "Jezebel", the peak at the head of the glacier, by the west ridge and the next day that of Beelzebub by the west ridge. We moved camp to the head of the glacier west of Mount Ratcliff, which we climbed by the west face to the snow and then along the skyline to the summit, a new route but a second ascent, as the mountain had been climbed in 1962 by two Vancouver climbers via the east ridge from Talchako valley. From Ape Lake we proceeded upwards and easterly into unknown territory near Ape Mountain. This area actually offers many splendid climbs but we settled on Ape Mountain and reached the summit about four P.M. on August 15. Rain prevented further activity.

RICHARD C. HOUSTON

### *Interior Ranges*

*Howser Spire, West Face, Bugaboos.* Ever since Yvon Chouinard and I made the circuit of the Howser Spires two years ago, the one climb in the Bugaboos that haunted me was the great western wall of its highest summit, Howser Spire. Estimates of its height had run from 3000 to 5000 feet, but actually it is probably a bit under the former. Yet, it is the highest precipice in the range and until Brian Greenwood and I climbed it on August 5, perhaps its outstanding unclimbed challenge. Study of photographs and the 1961 circuit had given me a fairly exact route plan to follow. From a camp at timberline near Juniper Lake, northwest of Howser, in perfect weather on the morning of August 4, we began a series of traverses, ascents and descents of cliffs and canyons around to the true west face, where the residue from two large hanging glaciers collects at the base of huge smooth cliffs. From here, the west face is really a buttress which rises to a pair of great points or steps. High on the left (north), lies a steep glacier pocket with waterfalls to the residue below; on the right is a badly slabbed face that connects the buttress with the hanging glacier between Howser and the South Tower. A narrow snow couloir provided access through the lower slabs of the buttress. By noon we had climbed this and much rock to the top of the first point. Most of the afternoon we concerned ourselves with the second step, a mixture of badly frozen fresh snow, ice and steep rock. The hardest section was a slabby inside-corner, much of it direct aid on wet rock. A short scramble upwards and an awkward rappel down a slanting snow and ice corner took us to the base of the great final wall. We vetoed a potential route out on the southern exposure because of the uncertainty of adequate cracks and took what appeared the best of three crack systems on its northern corner. After two leads of exposed ice climbing, we gained the crack. I had just led 100 feet of direct aid when it became obvious that