

route (only climbed three times since 1941) but found that the long, steep ice slope above the bergschrund that leads to the shoulder halfway up the ridge was solid water with a thin coating of new snow. As an alternative to this difficult and certainly dangerous route, we crossed the steep ice couloir that runs along the right-hand edge of the east ridge at its lowest point, at the top of the lower icefall. Even with crampons, step cutting and ice screws for protection were required to reach a steep chimney (F6) that led up the rock to the ridge crest. Then three leads over broken rock (F3), mostly on the south side, brought us to a ledge on the ridge crest at the base of a steep, 140-foot slab. Small cracks near the slab's left edge were climbed (F7) to a slightly overhanging chimney that needed several pitons for aid (F7, A1). Two more leads (F3 to F5) brought us to the shoulder. From here we followed the 1941 route: traverse north across an icy and snowy face for one lead, then two leads up a steep chimney (F8) to a short overhang, requiring two aid pitons (A1). The broken arête above leads to the summit in three leads with a F6 maximum. We made a rapid and easy descent in six 165-foot rappels down the east face and across the bergschrund. NCCS IV, F8, A1.

MICHAEL T. HEATH

*"Irish Peaks" of the Starbird Ridge, Taurus Group, Purcells.* On July 2 Bruce and Sue Magnuson, my wife Gretchen, our one year-old daughter Kara, and I began our packing up "Irish Creek", which crosses the Forster Creek road around mile 21½. From a base camp at 6100 feet at "Tara Lake" Bruce and I on July 6 climbed 8900-foot "Eire Spire #3" and 9000-foot "Dublin Spire", about one mile southwest of camp, by their jagged east ridge. Two days later we hiked to 7200-foot "Shannon Lake" and climbed south up a steep snow couloir and rock rib to an 8700-foot col, ½ mi. east of Mount Sally Serena. From here we ascended pointed 8950-foot "Leprechaun Spire" and climbed to the base of the final 30-foot sheer granite block of 9000-foot "Banshee Tower". From the col we also climbed to about 9500-feet on the east ridge of Sally Serena, but rotten snow conditions forced us to retreat. On July 10 Gretchen and I found a route up to 7700-foot "Shamrock Lake" southwest of camp, from which point I soloed 9300-foot Mount Donegal by its east ridge. We packed out on July 11, but a week later Bruce and I returned to a highcamp at "Shannon Lake". On July 19 we hiked 1½ miles west to the 9000-foot col northwest of Mount Sally Serena, traversed around the west buttress and into the large southwest couloir. From here we made

probably the second ascent of the 9800-foot west peak of Mount Sally Serena, which we named "Mount Donard". Time and technical considerations forced us to abandon an attempt on Sally from "Donard". Two days later sickness and weather forced a further retreat to civilization. A complete account of all the climbs will appear in the *Canadian Alpine Journal*.

CURTIS A. WAGNER

"Pioneer Peaks," *W. Hamill (Toby) Group, Purcells*. On August 2, 1969 Paul (4), Bruce and Freda Beck; Suzanne (10), David (12) and Hugh Ector; Kara (3 months), Curt and Gretchen Wagner got a ride from Argenta up an access road to the 6600-foot pass at the head of Kootenay Joe Creek. We packed northward about two miles over 7700-foot Kootenay Joe Mountain to a base camp by a tiny lake at 7200 feet. The next morning Bruce, Hugh and I climbed the south ridge of 8800-foot "Winter Peak," 1½ miles northeast of camp. This peak was first ascended by Bruce in the winter of 1963. After descending the east slopes, we climbed up the white-marble south ridge of 9100-foot "Mount Bomer," left a first-ascent cairn and scrambled eastward to the rounded summit of 9300-foot "Mount Beguin." From here we dropped down the long northeast snow ridge to the twin 9200-foot summits of "Mount Bacchus." A steep snow descent northeastward and a short rock scramble brought us to the 8800-foot summit of "Mount Clark," followed by a longer scramble over an intermediate bump to 8500-foot "Mount Wilkinson." Continuing eastward we dropped down to 7400-foot "Continuation Col" where we camped for the night, 4 miles and 6 peaks northeast of Base Camp. The following day Hugh returned to Base Camp. A long hike eastward over easy rock and snow brought Bruce and me to the 9400-foot summit of "Mount McCleod." Descending the fourth-class rock of its northeast ridge, we gained the summit of impressive 9300-foot "Mount Abey" by its southwest ridge, after traversing the south face of a huge gendarme on the ridge. Dropping down the east ridge of "Mount Abey," we continued third- and fourth-class climbing over a 9300-foot intermediate summit, dropped down steeply to a notch, and then ascended the final ridge to the summit of 9500-foot "Mount Lake," the highest peak in the western Hamills. Bruce then climbed 300 feet down the glacier on the north side and scrambled up the south face of 9400-foot "Mount Fitzsimmons." Retracing his steps, he joined my descent route down the southeast face of