

less useful, and less accurate than the two earlier editions. I am very sorry that the Sierra Club would do this kind of thing. I can only hope that the Club has the gumption to rectify its blunder and still has the ability to produce a worthy guidebook. Publishing a separate guide to technical climbs only compounds the blunder.

The guidebook should not have been revised at all. It should have been completely rewritten in a new format. It should have dealt with the history of Sierra climbing in an accurate and meaningful framework. It should have conveyed a good deal more useful information about routes. It should not have been burdened with numerous misleading and useless entries like the following: (page 109)

*Peak 11,280 (0.35 S of Peak 11,382)*

*First ascent in 1963 by A. J. Reyman. Class 1 up the southeast slope.*

If I had "recorded" every such "first ascent" I have made, they would fill another whole Sierra Club Totebook to no purpose whatever. This kind of thing is utterly ridiculous.

The guidebook should not have been entrusted to somebody with the very limited perspective and peculiar ideas of Dr. Smatko. He seems to think that climbers should spend their time building cairns and placing records on every little bump. And if they happen not to, then he does and fills a guidebook with these "first ascents." The worst of it is that he and the Sierra Club editors think this baloney is of more interest to non-technical "mountaineers" than the Glacier Route on North Palisade and the east face of Mount Whitney, which they have deleted. This is tragic not so much for what it takes away from the mountaineers as for what it tells about the Sierra Club.

MIKE LOUGHMAN

*A Tourist Guide to Mount McKinley*, by Bradford Washburn. Anchorage (Northwest Publishing Co., Box 4-EEE, Anchorage, Alaska, 99503): 1971. Size 10 $\frac{7}{8}$  x 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ , 80 pages, with 106 black and white or color photographs, mostly by Bradford Washburn, line drawings and map end papers. Price: \$4.20 for softbound and \$7.75 for hardbound copies.

The best topographic map of an American mountain is Bradford Washburn's map of Mount McKinley and the best book on Mount McKinley National Park is this magazine-size picture book with text that reveals the unique qualities of our highest mountain and its environment. Although the book is primarily for the tourist visitor, it is full of information for the climber who is planning his first climb in the park. It is not a guidebook, but there are compact sections on topography, weather and early climbs. Tourists of course will be keenly interested by information on what to look for from the highway en route to Wonder Lake, such as grizzlies on the Toklat Flats at Mile 52.9 or beaver in the ponds at Mile 76.3. The superb pictures are culled from hundreds taken in the

park during a period of over 30 years. The result is a gem of a book for tourist and climber alike.

ROBERT H. BATES

*Climber's Guide to the Olympic Mountains*, Olympic Mountain Rescue. Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1972. 225 pp., 18 photographs, 17 sketches, 4 maps, \$4.95.

With the publication of this attractive volume, the Olympic range is given its first treatment in a separate guidebook. Earlier editions of the Washington Cascades climbing guides had included sections on this smaller, but enchanting range. In an unusual departure from most guidebooks, this one is authored by a mountain rescue unit based near the Olympics. While one might wish occasionally for the stylistic verve of a Roper or the patient attention to route intimacies of a Beckey, the group-writing approach does not detract from the usefulness of what will be the standard Olympic guide for some years to come.

Aside from the detailed descriptions of virtually all the range's many rock, snow and ice routes, the new Olympic guide also contains an introductory chapter on the range's history, geology and type of climbing opportunities. Additional chapters are on high alpine traverses, ski and snowshoe tours and (expectedly) mountain safety. These are well done, as are Dee Molenaar's excellent sketches, which continue to provide a welcome diversion from the use of frequently uninformative photographs depicting routes.

JAMES WICKWIRE

*A Climber's Guide to the Rocky Mountain National Park Area*, by Walter W. Fricke, Jr. Boulder: Paddock Publishing Co., 1971. 225 pages, 29 photographs, \$5.50.

Climbers can now sort out their wall of choice with comparative ease in Rocky Mountain National Park and the surrounding area. It's all due to Walt Fricke and his diligent investigations directly with those responsible for many of the fine routes described in his guide.

The book is bound after the European style in vinyl and is easily pocketable. It is organized into sections which divide the area into high peaks, low cliffs and shorter climbs described from south to north. Most of the photographs have lines imprinted on them to define the routes.

The guide will be an ongoing project, and as the routes are more visited they will become more objectively graded and defined. A first edition is a launching point. It is a skeleton onto which the sinews of information on repeated ascents will be added.

Fricke knows of what he writes: he is a seasonal ranger in "Rocky" entrusted with rescue operations. His writing is a reflection of his entertaining personality—crackly colloquialisms of a wizened story teller.

CLEVELAND M. MCCARTY