

## CANADA

**Yukon Territory**

*Mount Vancouver, Northeast Ridge.* The 1975 M.I.T. Outing Club Expedition assembled in mid-June at Haines Junction. We consisted of Cliff Cantor\*, Bob Dangel, Paul Ledoux, Rob Milne\*, Hal Murray, Bob Walker, John Yates and me as leader. We conversed briefly with a Japanese party that had just completed an ascent of the north side of Mount Vancouver, a route we had considered as a possible alternative if we found the northeast ridge impractical. On June 16 in the evening, we were transported in three helicopter loads to a strikingly beautiful location near the base of the northeast ridge at 4800 feet on the Hubbard Glacier. The ridge above us rose in a series of steps to a snow-covered peak at 10,600 feet, above which it widened and became easier, merging with the main summit mass at 11,500 feet. We planned a high camp just beyond P 10,600, from which we felt we might push to the summit in one day. Climbing at night to obtain better snow conditions, we explored route possibilities and established Camp I above an active icefall which guarded a large, amphitheater-like basin on the south side of the ridge. From here, we were able to reach the 8200-foot plateau on the ridge with relative ease, occupying Camp II on June 22. We fixed 1100 feet of rope below the plateau to facilitate load carrying. Above the plateau, the ridge rose in three steps to P 10,600, the first step being the most difficult. This was a triangular-shaped face of rock and snow with sharp edges and steep, snow-filled gullies. On the night of June 24, Murray and I climbed up the right side of the face and on to the corniced, knife-edged ridge beyond while Ledoux, Milne, Walker, and Cantor fixed 1600 feet of rope up the central gully. On the night of June 26, following a snowstorm, Murray, Yates, and Cantor fixed 500 feet of rope along the knife-edged ridge, while Walker, Milne, and I fixed another 1000 feet up the central gully of the second step and climbed on over easier terrain to the summit of P 10,600. On the night of June 27, all of us packed loads to Camp III just beyond P 10,600, the rapid progress made possible by virtue of the fixed rope. The night of June 28 was clear and calm. Carrying only bivouac gear, we passed one final ice pitch on the ridge, then intersected the main summit mass up which we climbed with ease. We reached the north summit (15,825 feet), the highest, at about nine A.M. on June 29. The descent was tiresome and slow, but we finally reached Camp III after 17 hours of climbing. By the morning of July 3, we were all back in Base Camp, having removed our fixed ropes and equipment. Dangel and Milne flew back to Haines Junction with most of the climbing gear on July 5, while the rest of us donned skis and shouldered packs for an overland

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\*Recipients of American Alpine Club Climbing Fellowship grants.

return via the Hubbard and Kaskawulsh Glaciers. We covered 68 miles of spectacular glacial terrain during the next seven days, arriving back at Kluane Lake on July 11.

BARTON DEWOLF

*Mount Vancouver, North Buttress.* A Japanese expedition made the first ascent of the north buttress of Mount Vancouver from the Hubbard Glacier. The first-ascent route (*AAJ*, 1950, p. 367) went up what might better be called the northwest ridge, though they called it the north ridge. The earlier route started from the Seward Glacier side. The two routes are completely distinct and meet only on the summit. Details are lacking.

*St. Elias Ski Traverse.* From April 12 to May 13 Craig Patterson, Steve Darrow and I traversed the St. Elias Range. Our route followed the Tana Glacier onto the Bagley Icefield to the Seward Glacier, which flows between Mounts St. Elias and Logan. We continued around Mount King George on the Hubbard, then north to the Kaskawulsh Glacier, finally ending at Kluane Lake on the Alaska Highway. The highest elevation we were forced to ski to was only 6700 feet, making it an ideal sled trip. Total mileage was 220 miles. We were unsupported by food caches or airdrops. The loaded sleds weighed 180 pounds when we started. Poor weather prevented climbing more than one 8500-foot crag near Mount Queen Mary.

TED GILLETTE, *Yosemite Climbing School*

*Mount Logan.* A few parties climbed Mount Logan, all by the King Trench route. A Japanese group led by Seiichiro Takai, was on the mountain from June 25 to July 9. A Kluane National Park Warden Service expedition of four members was led by me. Ron Chambers and I reached the west and north peaks. We were on the mountain from June 28 to July 22. On July 2 Gerald Holdsworth and party left for the King Trench route to continue his glaciology project. The guides Peter Schlunegger and Jacob Wyss reached the summit of the west peak and descended with us. The Arctic Institute of North America's support team were led to the Mount Logan High Plateau by Jürg Hofer to continue their annual High-Altitude Physiological Research Project. Some of their members climbed the north and west peaks.

HANS FUHRER, *Kluane National Park*

*Weisshorn, Southeast Ridge Attempt.* The southeast ridge of the Weisshorn was attempted by the Kluane National Park Warden Service, led by Jürg Hofer and me. The ridge presented more difficulties than we had estimated. A very dangerous double cornice caused our retreat