

difficult ascents just north of Kap Farvel. From July 22 to 29 Barrard, Pierre-Henri Feuillet, Yves Payrau, Michel Pellé, Dominique Marchal, Georges Narbaud and Gérard Vellay made the first ascent of the sharp Apostelens Tommel Finger above Lindenows Fjord. They climbed the 5100-foot wall, finding good rock on all but five leads, where the rock was frost-shattered. Descent by the same route took two days. They then moved to Tasermiut Fjord. From August 7 to 11, Barrard, Marchal, Narbaud, Payrau and Vellay made the first ascent of the west face of Ketil, a 5000-foot climb of sustained great difficulty for all but the last 1000 feet. This route had been attempted in 1974 by a party led by Barrard; they were able to use some of the pitons placed a year before. The first ascent of Ketil was made in July of 1974 by Austrians from Lienz who climbed the couloir on the northwest and traversed to the south face.

*Upernivik Island, West Greenland.* The expedition of the Lidau Section of the German Alpine Club was a complete success. We climbed from August 9 to 27 in the mountains of Upernivik Island at 72° N. We were Volker Stelzer, Klaus, Gustav and Susi Harder, Joe and Waltraut Eggert, Grit Doleschel, Wolfgang Ruhland, Werner Scharl, Otto Schäfler, Franz Neubauer, Willi Eggert, Rolf Haas, Thomas Hummler, Dieter Trapmann and I as leader. We made 18 ascents, including three new routes and one first ascent. The new routes were as follows: "Eisschaufel" (Snow Shovel; 1820 meters or 5971 feet) via east ridge by Haas, Schäfler and via north face by Scharl, Ruhland and "Piacco" (2040 meters or 6693 feet) via northeast face by J. Eggert, Hagg, Stelzer. The first ascent was Cathedral on Qioqe (1920 meters or 6300 feet) via west face by Ruhland, Schäfler, Haas, Scharl.

HEINZ HAGG, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Karrat Isfjord, West Greenland.* An expedition of the Deggendorf Section of the German Alpine Club, led by Georg Leitl, climbed north of Umanak from June 29 to July 31 and made 12 first ascents.

*Scottish Expedition to South Greenland.* A University of St. Andrews party visited the mountains between Tasermiut and Ilua fjords at 60° N. During a period of eight weeks a total of 45 peaks were either climbed or attempted, 40 first ascents were made, and our canoes logged over 200 miles in pack ice conditions. Our party was composed of John Cant, Norman MacKenzie, Richard Henderson, Peter Hunt, Colin Matheson, Douglas Brown, Ray Sharples, Peter Aldred and me as leader. We flew from Glasgow via Iceland to Narsarsuaq and went by the weekly coastal boat to Nanortalik. We chartered a boat to our Base Camp by Stordalens Havn at the eastern end of a big transverse valley that links the two fjords. Our main objective was to enter the "Land of the Towers" south of the valley, but it was only at the sixth and the most westerly of the

glaciers that our access was finally made through the mountain rampart. One group operated there and climbed some of the high-grade towers by stylish and demanding routes, while the other group climbed from a hidden loch, ringed by attractive peaks, north of the valley and intermingled with the mountains visited by the 1971 St. Andrews expedition (*A.A.J.*, 1972. 18:1, p. 156). At the halfway stage we regrouped for new objectives in the side valleys close to Base Camp, while for the final efforts we placed another party by canoe amongst the most easterly of the smooth and sheer pinnacles of the "Land of the Towers," while another canoe party voyaged east to climb on the islands of Pamiagdlok and Quvernit. Weather conditions were excellent throughout the summer: most climbs were done on windless and sunny days and bivouacs were seldom contemplated by the parties abseiling down in the night gloom. Two mountains may illustrate the nature of the routes: Angiartarfik (1845 meters or 6053 feet; Grade III), a complex massive peak above Base Camp, was ascended by front-pointing in crampons up 2300 feet of frozen high-angled snow and then descended on the same slope in soft thawing slush: this, the easiest route on the peak, became impracticable by mid-July when the snow melted off to expose a crevassed slope of green ice; Twin Pillars of Pamiagdlok (1373 meters or 4505 feet; Grade V), a welded pair of abrupt pinnacles comprising the highest peak on this island, was climbed in a three-day sortie by traversing on to its steep slabby east wall and following a thin 300-metre line to the summit crest. The gradings for the mountains climbed were 5-Is, 15-IIIs, 12-IIIs, 6-IVs, 6-Vs. We returned to Scotland at the end of August by the same route after a twelve-week stay. There were no accidents, illness, hunger, thirst, discomfort and drama; good fortune with a small dash of efficient organisation made this one of the most successful of our University expeditions to Greenland.

PHILIP GRIBBON, *Scottish Mountaineering Club*

*Staunings Alper, Complete North-South Traverse.* The very rugged mountains, the Staunings Alper, which lie at 72° north latitude, were traversed for the first time along their entire length between July 28 and August 30, from Kap Petersen to Syd Kap, a distance of 170 miles, and then another 100 miles back to Mesters Vig, another 100 miles. The Cambridge University party was led by Keith J. Miller and further composed of James Bishop, Christopher Padfield and John Thorogood. Though they climbed to no summits, they crossed numerous high passes and explored a considerable amount of virgin glacial country.

## MEXICO

### Baja California

*Gran Trono Blanco.* The Libro Abierto route on the north face follows a continuous right-facing dihedral for six pitches. There was a little