Lotus Flower Tower. On July 2 Mark Wagner, Doug Feil, Mark Hendrix and I flew to Glacier Lake and soon were established in Tombstone Meadows. Poor weather kept us on the ground for several days. Finally a half-clearing allowed Hendrix and me an unsuccessful but delightful attempt on the small peak to the east of Huey Spire (nicknamed "Unicorn Peak"). Again in a half-clearing we took a mud bath on Mount Harrison Smith. The next clearing in the weather found us dashing off to attempt our main goal—a free ascent of the Lotus Flower Tower. Five days later we stumbled back into camp, having climbed all but four pitches free, weathered heavy rains, snow showers, a forced bivouac on top of the Tower and a 14-hour descent in full blizzard conditions. It has been said before, but the trash problem is really getting out of hand. Please treat this beautiful area with the respect it deserves.

Larry Thaxton, Unaffiliated

Canadian Arctic—Baffin Island

Ayr Lake. The Alpine Club of Canada held an Alpine Climbing Camp of 14 people on Ayr Lake, about 40 kilometers west of Clyde River on the northeast coast of Baffin Island, from May 4 to 25. We had seen the area in 1973 and 1977 on our flights to Swiss Bay (C.A.J., 1974, 57, p. 23; A.A.J., 1974, p. 158) and to Stewart Valley (C.A.J., 1978, 61, p. 51; A.A.J., 1978, p. 552). The invitation from the A.C.C. seemed a good opportunity to explore the mountains, which had never been visited by climbers before. To help reduce the problems and uncertainties of access that we had experienced in earlier years, and to help gain access to the bottom of the climbs from Base Camp, we made two 16-foot komatics (Eskimo sleds) and shipped them to Clyde River with two Skidoos. We hired several more with drivers in Clyde River and used them all for transport to Ayr Lake and return. The Base Camp was at the foot of the glacier designated as H106 on the Glacier Atlas of Canada, at location DJ477016 of N.T.S. sheet 27F. Two ascents were made of Mount Wordie, the only named mountain in the area, one from the west by Frame, McMullen, Reader, and me, and one from the northeast by Frame and Reader. The unnamed 5000-foot mountain immediately southwest of Wordie was also climbed from the east by Allen, Creore, and Maydell. Most of the mountains on both sides of the lake near Base Camp were climbed, some several times, and the third ascent of Eglinton Tower, the first in which the south ridge was reached from the west, was made by McMullen. The prominent 5000-foot mountain southwest of the end of Eglinton Fiord at location DJ383155 was climbed by Babicki and Haring from a camp in the valley running south from the end of Eglinton Fiord by Glacier G58 and the south ridge of the
mountain. In all, about 40 peaks and summits of varying degrees of difficulty were reached for the first time. A full report will appear in the *Canadian Alpine Journal* for 1980. The members of the party were: Fran Allen, Ted Anderson, Matt Babicki, Rod Blais, Jo-Ann Creore, Mike Frame, Klaus Haring, John Leedale, Paul Martinson, Ursula Maydell, Dave McMullen, Kevin O’Connell, Roly Reader, and Ted Whalley.

TED WHALLEY, Alpine Club of Canada

*Mount Thor, West Face*. A Japanese party of seven led by Kuzuichi Yamazaki made an attempt of the west face of Mount Thor but Isao Yagi fell to his death and the climb was not completed. Other members were Ide, Yamamoto, Inuzuka; Kirmura, and Makino. They were in the area from May 23 to July 15.

*Mount Thor, West Face Direct Attempt*. Steven Amter, Michael Sawicky and I attempted a direct route on the west face of Mount Thor. The face is about 4500 feet high, much of it overhanging. Lying above the Arctic Circle near a vast icefield, the mountain is exposed to high winds and violent weather. There have been three Japanese attempts, which relied heavily on bolts and fixed ropes. Our expedition had three 11mm and three 9mm ropes. We were well stocked with nuts, pitons and big-wall paraphernalia. We had single-point suspension hammocks made by David Feinberg. After leaving Base Camp for the last time, we spent 32 days on the wall. The route to Camp I was fourth class up low-angle snow and icy slabs. Above Camp I, we followed the Japanese route except for two pitches which could be called a route-finding error. The climbing on the first section was easy and enjoyable except for the loose rock and the distracting fixed ropes, bolts and litter left by the Japanese. In 32 hours we climbed 900 feet to a ledge where we leveled a bivouac platform and descended. We spent 20 hours hauling our gear up to Camp II. The rock was strange, hard in most places, but brittle inside and around cracks, and some of it loose. Each pitch took about twice as long as one would estimate. We climbed in 25- to 35-hour shifts, two shifts on and one shift off. After fixing most of our rope we prepared to move camp. Just when we had everything packed, the weather turned mean and pinned us down in Camp II for 96 hours. We should have quit, but we took food the Japanese had left and headed up the ropes to Camp III, the most exposed and frightening place imaginable, where we dangled 3000 feet above the valley. Without fixed ropes, we were hit by a serious snowstorm and 100 mph winds. We actually climbed through the blizzard in an effort to get somewhere else. The wind was so intense that I had to weight my stirrups to keep the wind from blowing them into my face. We finally reached a small ledge under