

## ALASKA

*Mt. McKinley.* A July report from Alaska tells of an apparently unsuccessful 1948 attempt to climb Mt. McKinley, and further attention to this mountain is shown in letters from the leader of a projected French expedition.

In addition, Bradford Washburn supplies an interesting table showing the length of time certain individuals or parties have spent on Mt. McKinley. Elapsed round-trip times from McGonagall Pass for successful or nearly successful parties follows:

1. Terris Moore (Army, 1942)		6 days, 8 hrs.
2. Herreid-Mills-Daub (1947)		14 days, 4 hrs.
3. Browne (1912)		29 days
4. Lindley (1932)		29 days
5. Stuck (1913)	Harper	35 days
	Main Party	59 days
6. Operation White Tower (1947)	Survey Group	64 days
	Cosmic Ray Group	75 days

## CANADA

*Canadian Rockies: Mt. Monchy and Mt. Hooge.* Travelling up the valley of the Alexandra River, one may have glimpses of Mt. Hooge (10,550 ft.), set far back at the head of Amery Creek. This region has been little visited; and even Mt. Amery (10,943 ft.), to the W., has apparently been climbed but once—by the Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery himself. Most climbers have continued on to the peaks of the Continental Divide, such as Alexandra and Bryce, although S. B. Hendricks and Rex Gibson attempted to make a crossing of the ridge by way of the N. Lyell Glacier in 1937.

On 19 July 1948 Fred Ayres, Don Woods and John C. Oberlin forded the N. Saskatchewan River at the Graveyard and continued up the N. bank of the Alexandra River to about one-third of a mile above the point where Amery Creek enters. They were unable to cross the Alexandra sooner. A crossing was here forced with difficulty, and the party made its way rather steeply uphill, following the bank of the creek where possible. Camp was made about even with the first large buttress of Mt. Amery, although a higher camp would have been preferable.

Next day, entering the cirque at the head of the creek, the

NORTH FACE OF MOUNT BAKER

Photo, Clyde Banks

party found the prospect of climbing anything very discouraging. The large upper glaciers no longer maintain any connection with the glacial remnant at the bottom, and a continuous high wall extends around the entire cirque with a number of waterfalls dropping sheer.

The key to access to the upper slopes is a long, steep and very unpleasant scree slope, buttressing the cliffs of Mt. Willerval (10,420 ft.) and leading to some hidden scree ledges (falling rocks). These ledges in turn permit one to gain the glacier below the Monchy-Willerval col. This glacier is crossed, and a snow tongue and rock ridge ascended, until a traverse can be made to the left to reach the steeply sloping glacier on the flank of Mt. Hooge above the cliff and icefall. This is then followed, by a steep ascent to the left, until a bergschrund having an overhanging upper lip bars the way. Ayres, who was leading, cut through this; but it could be avoided by a more circuitous route to the left. The remainder of the climb is an easy snow walk, with the summits of Mts. Hooge and Monchy (10,530 ft.) only a short stroll apart.

Mt. Willerval could obviously be ascended for some distance from the Monchy-Willerval col, but time did not permit the party to investigate the possibilities after its return to the lower glacier. The upper cliffs may prove difficult (it was impossible to see the Ridges Creek side of the mountain), and the ridge may be none too easy to follow to the summit.

J. C. O.

*Canadian Rockies: Mt. Baker and Mt. Thompson.* Mt. Baker, new route by N. ridge, 1948: D. Bidwell, R. Clapp, L. M. Erskine, Jr., A. Griscom, P. Jackson. From A.C.C. camp at Peyto Lake across col between Mt. Baker and Trapper Peak to N. ridge of Mt. Baker; from col to summit (3.5 hrs.) by N. ridge (moderately difficult rock, requiring rope). Descent by N.E. ridge and scree to col. There were no records of ascents between 1933 and 1948.

Mt. Thompson, new route from Peyto Lake, 1948: L. M. Erskine, Jr., and party from A.C.C. camp led by W. A. D. Munday. Ascent by steep glacier (not on map) lying E. of N. ridge of Mt. Thompson. The glacier meets the ridge about halfway to the summit. The ridge is followed thereafter.

J. M. T.

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MODERN AIDS TO ROCK CLIMBING

Top: piton hammer and contraction bolts. Bottom: wrench, extra bit, drill bit in sleeve. See page 230

Photo, R. Widrig