

trouble.<sup>2</sup> The weather was perfect. In a little over four hours we were on the summit. Needless to say, fine peaks could be seen all around, especially to the S. Peaks just a few miles to the S. appeared very interesting and perhaps approachable by a trail that is rumored to lead up the Nootsatsum River, a tributary of the Bella Coola. One shaft-like peak W. of S. Bentinck Arm also kept catching my eye. It is not very high, but it might yield some good climbing.

Our confidence inflated by early success on the main objective, we decided to go on to the N. peak of Saugstad, located half a mile from the true summit, along the N. ridge. The obvious route lay along the saddle that led from our perch to the N. peak. But the hour was late, and we retreated to high camp. On the following day we travelled across the two glaciers on the N.W. side of the mountain and attained the N. ridge on the N. side of the N. peak. Keeping to the ridge, but moving out on either face whenever we had to, we slowly gained altitude. There began to be some doubt about the venture: spectacular exposure, quite touchy climbing, threatening weather, shortness of time, smallness of party. At 4.00 P.M., however, we reached the top and hastily constructed a cairn. Then we hastily descended. The glacier was reached at dark.

We spent the next two days in luxury, admiring the peaks from the lower altitudes, consuming quantities of food and returning to civilization. We ate like horses on a balanced diet of two lbs. of food per man per day, with almost 70% (by weight) edible without cooking. During the struggle to the Bella Coola, the brush of Snootli Creek seemed as dense as ever.

P. K. SCHOENING

*An Attempt on Mt. Robson.* In July 1951 John Oberlin, A. E. Creswell and Fred Ayres attempted the Schaufelberger arête on Mt. Robson, but turned back at about 11,200 ft. because of dangerous snow conditions. Our high point was 1300 ft. below that reached in 1913 by the Schaufelberger party, the first to try Robson by this route. The latter party was forced to retreat by a snowstorm after attaining an elevation only 400 ft. below the top.

On July 22nd, starting from Berg Lake, we established a high

<sup>2</sup> On this ice Dudra's Tricounis held up better than my Bramanis. Considering the trip as a whole (brush, rock, snow), I should say that the Tricounis had a slight advantage, not significantly great.

#### MOUNT ROBSON

Top: Southwest side, with *a*, *b* and *d* marking nights spent and *c* marking highest point

Bottom: Ice towers from 11,000 feet. Summit more than half a mile away, up the 40-degree ridge (left-hand skyline)

*Photos, F. D. Ayres*

camp at 8200 ft. on the yellow talus bench about half a mile W. of Fan Glacier. On the 23rd, with sleeping bags and a light tarp added to our climbing packs, we crossed Fan Glacier, climbed several hundred feet up talus and snow, and traversed right on scree ledges to the Schaufelberger arête (the S. branch of the "Wishbone"). We then continued up the ridge, at first passing several vertical steps by use of ledges on their right or left sides, but later following the crest rather closely. At about 9000 ft., near the base of a rock tower, we built an oval enclosure of rock slabs and spent the night.

The following day, after caching the sleeping bags, we climbed the ridge, usually on its crest, to the base of a prominent black-streaked yellow wall, where we traversed 400 ft. to the right on a broad talus ledge. Thence we followed ledges and couloirs along the S. side of the ridge and finally regained the crest a few hundred feet below the junction of the two branches of the Wishbone.

After a forced bivouac on a small ledge at about 10,800 ft., we continued upward on the morning of the 25th, but finally halted at 11,200 ft., barely above the Wishbone juncture. We were making slow but steady progress on the snow ridge, which continued upward with no obvious difficulties for another thousand feet of elevation to the beginning of the ice towers. Our only security, however, was provided by a two-inch frozen crust on the snow surface. Beneath was a layer, one to two feet thick, of granular, unconsolidated snow overlying ice or ice-glazed rock. It was only 9.30 A.M., and the weather was perfect; but we decided to retreat before the crust softened in the sunlight which was now falling directly on it. There had been many snow slides from the upper slopes during the two days previous to this.

The descent over the rotten and frequently wet rock of the upper arête was slow. Three or four rappels were made. At six o'clock we were no farther down than the black and yellow wall. Faced with the certain prospect of another night out, we decided to cross over to the snow tongue in the great S.W. couloir, where we had some chance of continuing the descent in semi-darkness. The snow was steep but in reasonably good condition. Numerous snow slides from the upper slopes had gone down the couloir. We were quite impressed by the groove they had cut in the snow tongue. It was fully twelve feet wide and about as deep. Fortunately, we were able to pass

SCHAUFFELBERGER ARETE

Left: High point visible in picture is junction of two branches of "Wishbone," 2000 feet below summit

Right: Ledge on south side of arête, at about 10,400 feet

*Photos, F. D. Ayres*

through a bottleneck in the couloir before the light failed. Here a judicious selection of route was necessary, to keep us out of the glazed avalanche chute.

By 2.00 A.M. we were willing once more to sit on a rock ledge. Eventually, we found one which would accommodate us on the E. side of the couloir. We dozed there until five o'clock. With return of daylight, we discovered that we were only a short distance above a series of scree terraces. We quickly descended over these to the yellow band, which we then followed back to our camp near Fan Glacier (9.30 A.M., July 26th). The sleeping bags were recovered from the 9000-ft. bivouac later in the day.

FRED D. AYRES

*First Ascent of Mt. Willerval.* Mt. Willerval (10,400 ft.) is situated on the S. side of the Alexandra River Valley between Amery and Ridges Creeks, about seven miles W. of the Banff-Jasper Highway. The peak was climbed on 12 July 1951 by A. E. Creswell and Fred Ayres. Our approach was along the Alexandra River, then S. up Amery Creek Valley nearly to its head, where we were directly under the towering E. cliff of Willerval. The cliff continued S. and E. in a sweeping curve, completely enclosing the upper valley. We surmounted this wall by means of a talus slope whose upper tip connected with a band of ledges running horizontally southward along the face of the wall for about 500 ft. to the hanging glacier between Willerval and Mt. Monchy, next peak S. From the rock saddle above the glacier, we continued N. for three-eighths of a mile along the western base of the summit tower of Willerval to its N.W. corner, where a broken area enabled us to reach the summit snow field. From here it was an easy walk on snow to the top. Descent was by the same route.

F.D.A.

*Unnamed Peak N. E. of Mt. Erasmus.* This mountain (about 10,400 ft.), prominently visible from the Banff-Jasper Highway N. of the Saskatchewan Bridge, was climbed on 28 June 1951 by A. E. Creswell and Fred Ayres. It stands just across the river from the highway, three-quarters of a mile N.E. of Mt. Erasmus, and rises 5600 ft. above river level. At 4.45 A.M. we forded the N. Saskatche-