

VARIOUS NOTES

and photography before the descent began. Once the slightly thin topmost pitch had been passed, the arête presented no problems. Progress down the long ice slope, however, was slow; once the sun had left the slope, the snow had frozen so hard that crampon points would barely stick in the surface. Crossing the upper schrund at a more comfortable point than on the way up, we arrived on the Dome just as the last rose tints of sunlight left the snows of Mt. Resplendent. The satisfaction of our success and the magnificent, almost palpable, beauty of this twilight spectacle made us forget for a moment the two vital questions before us. The first, i.e., where to spend the night, was quickly solved for us, as it immediately became dark and cold. Finding a reasonably convenient crevasse, we settled down to a cool but not uncomfortable night.

The second question faced us upon awakening in the warmth of another perfect morning: Should we return to camp by the route of the previous day or follow a very promising alternative that now presented itself? The first course was ruled out as dangerous and generally unpleasant. The route followed consisted of an eastward traverse of 500 yards about 100 feet below the crest of the Robson—Resplendent ridge to a point whence a direct descent was possible. Near the bottom of this slope we encountered a delightful spot for those who like to jump bergschrunds. Bernays, seating himself inside the schrund, took magnificent pictures of the aerial descent of the rest of the party. We returned to camp at noon, exceedingly hungry and tired, but nevertheless the happiest of men.

DMITRI NABOKOV

ALASKA

Mt. McKinley Map, Second ascent of Mt. Brooks, second and third ascents of Scotts Peak, Alaska Range. During the summer of 1953, the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and Boston's

THE GREAT BERGSCHRUND,
where a bivouac was made at 11,000 feet. Two climbers may be
seen at the site of the bivouac on the lower lip of the bergschrund.

Photo, J. H. Gardey

VARIOUS NOTES

Museum of Science completed a long series of field observations which, it is hoped, will lead to a new and accurate large-scale map of Mt. McKinley and its approaches. The large Coast Survey party, under the leadership of Lt. Commander Howard S. Cole, was equipped with two cub airplanes and two Bell helicopters. During 1952 and 1953 this group completed a first-order triangulation network from McGrath to the Alaska Railroad near Healey. The eastern portion of this survey paralleled the McKinley Park Highway and tied in to Bradford Washburn's network at Camp Eielson and Wonder Lake. This party did no high-mountain work at all, confining their observations to stations below an altitude of 6000 feet.

Barbara and Bradford Washburn, accompanied by Chauncy W. Waldron, Jr. and Edward A. Ames (H.M.C.), spent 70 days in the mountains just east of Mt. McKinley, completing precise observations for the altitude and position of the major peaks in this area, in close collaboration with the Coast Survey party. Radio contact was maintained between the two parties, and the Boston group made considerable use of the two helicopters in establishing their advance base camps on Muldrow and Sunset glaciers.

This party made the second ascent of Mt. Brooks (ca. 11,950 ft.) on July 19th, using the same route (the N. ridge) as that followed by the Harvard party in 1952. A night was spent on the summit in a snow cave in order to capitalize on perfect early-morning survey conditions on July 20th.

Hopped from Muldrow Glacier over to Sunset Glacier (24 miles) by helicopter on July 22nd, this Boston group made the first ascent of Scott Peak (ca. 8850 ft.) on July 23rd, spent the night on the summit, and concluded survey observations there on the following morning. Scott Peak is the highest peak in the Alaska Range immediately south of Camp Eielson (Mile 65) on the McKinley Park Highway. It lies on the very backbone of the

MT. RESPLENDENT FROM THE SOUTHEAST RIDGE

at 12,300 feet. The path of the climbers may be seen approximately 1000 feet below on the ridge, separating into two distinct paths, one for each rope, then descending over the bergschrund at 11,000 feet.

Photo, J. H. Gardey

VARIOUS NOTES

range, 33 miles east of Mt. McKinley, and occupies a position of extreme importance from a survey standpoint. It was first climbed in 1952 by David Bernays, Morton S. Wood, and Ija Korner, who followed the Sunset glacier to its head and then climbed to the summit, for the most part by way of the main central ridge at the head of the glacier. Camps were established at 5000 feet at the main bend of Sunset glacier and at the base of the ridge at about 6300 feet. No major difficulty was encountered, except in the form of incredibly rotten rock.

In 1953, when Washburn's party planned to repeat this ascent for survey purposes, a new route was picked in order to minimize steep backpacking on this rock. Constant cloudy weather in June obscured the head of Sunset glacier; so an advanced helicopter camp was set up on June 16th (elevation 5600 ft.) near the head of the extreme western fork of the Toklat river. Supplies were backpacked from there to another camp at 7600 feet on the north ridge of Scott Peak, and Ames, Waldron, and Washburn made the first ascent to the top via the new route on June 26th (Mrs. Washburn did not join the party till July 2nd). The rock on this ridge (N.), too, was so terribly loose and treacherous that it was deemed unsafe to use as a route for packing food and equipment to the summit. For this reason, the completion of the survey work from Scott Peak was postponed until after the Brooks climb, a month later.

The July 23rd ascent of Scott Peak was made by still a third route, which successfully evaded all rotten rock. The climb was made all the way from the main bend of the Sunset glacier (5300 ft.) in a day. A low icefall near the head of the glacier was turned to the left (NW.) in order to reach the plateau at the glacier's head, exactly as done in 1952 by Bernays' party. The glacier was then crossed to the S. side, whence a thousand-foot climb up moderately steep snow slopes led to a 7400-foot unnamed col which is the lowest point in the crest of the Alaska Range, about a half mile south of the top of Scott Peak. The other side of this col drops away in steep ice slopes to the upper valley of the West Fork of the Chulitna river.

From this spot, instead of following the crest of the ridge to the summit of the Peak, the party kept on the Southeast side,

VARIOUS NOTES

where excellent snow slopes lead to another little snow col (8400 ft.), a few hundred yards to its right (E), from whence the top is easily reached on a beautiful snow arête. When this detour is made, all rock is avoided. It would seem that there is not a single stable rock anywhere on Scott Peak! This route is described, perhaps, in more detail than should be accorded an 8800-foot mountain, but the view from the top of this peak is so magnificent and its ascent so easy and safe from Camp Eielson, that it is hoped it can be climbed many more times in the future.

Although the lengthy computations resulting from this field work are not yet completed, it appears almost certain that Mt. McKinley will have a new official elevation of slightly less than 20,350 feet before the end of 1954.

BRADFORD WASHBURN

SOUTH AMERICA

Andes, Argentina. In February 1953, the Swiss couple, Dr. and Mme. Fred Marmillod and the Argentinians Francisco Ibáñez and Francisco Grajales made the first ascent of the south ridge of Aconcagua (23,036 ft.). The climbers reported that although the route was not difficult, it was more interesting and Alpine than the standard route.

Early in 1953 a group from the Círculo Andino Buenos Aires made the following first ascents in the Aconcagua region: Cerro Zurbriggen (18,040 ft.), Cerro Fitzgerald (17,220 ft.), Cerro Reichert (17,036 ft.), and Cerro La Mano (18,368 ft.).

Andes, Chile. An expedition of the Club Andino de Bariloche climbed Cerro San Valentín (13,310 ft.), the highest point in Patagonia, on 13 December 1952. They approached the mountain up the 25 mile-long San Rafael Glacier from Laguna San Rafael on the Pacific, establishing five camps on the mountain itself.

On December 1st, Juan Harseim and Bion González of the Club Andino de Chile climbed the Volcán Lullaillaco (22,051 ft.) in northern Chile. No ascent is recorded, but they were amazed to find on the summit rock alignments of the kind made