

ARCTIC

Spitzbergen. There was a number of expeditions active in the mountains of Spitzbergen in the summer of 1955. An Austrian group from the Edelweiss Club in Salzburg under Dr. Walter Frauenberger of Nanga Parbat fame traveled as far as Bethasnia Bay of the inner Eisfjord with a party from Cambridge University. Thence they continued to Claas Billen Bay, where they landed at Brucebyen and established a base five days up the Stubendorff Glacier. They made 40 first ascents of peaks up to 5,575 feet and did extensive topographical and glaciological work. A Munich group was active on Western Spitzbergen between the Kreuzfjord and Liefde Bay and Woodfjord. An Austrian group made four ascents, the highest Nordensköllfyell (5,250 feet) which took only 18 days from Linz to Linz and involved no air travel.

A GEOLOGIST IN THE ARCTIC

Our member, Fred H. Roots, is one of our very few professional geologists with Arctic, Antarctic, and high mountain experience. After studying at the University of British Columbia, summers' field work with the Canadian government, a member of the Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition, 1949-52, further study at Princeton, then at Cambridge University and work at the Scott Polar Research Institute (where he married the assistant director), he is now with the Geological Survey of Canada. The following, taken from a letter to Henry Hall written in October 1955 covers that year's field season in the Arctic:

"Operation Franklin," as we called this year's effort in the Arctic Islands, was great fun and, I think, a worthwhile project all round. I'm not sure whether I outlined our plans to you last spring or not. What we tried to do was to make a big loop through the northern and western islands of the Arctic archipelago (the Queen Elizabeth Islands), using a combination of ski aircraft, dog teams, helicopters, and of course quite a bit of hobnails and snowshoes. Things turned out pretty well according to plan. The first of us went to Resolute Bay, Cornwallis Island, in April and after digging out the stores shipped there last year we spent May and June establishing the main camps and fuel caches, using a ski-DC-3 and dog teams. There were three main bases, in addition to the headquarters at Resolute Bay, and they were to be occupied in turn: one on the southwest corner of Ellesmere Island, one on Ellef Rignes, one on eastern Melville Island. In addition there were main fuel dumps on Devon, Cornwall, Axel Heiberg,