

while hastily assembling a raft, the party was retrieved, fed, and returned to civilization by two pole-cutters.

DONALD HUBBARD

Ice River Region, Canadian Rockies. While doing geological field work in the region of Ice River, near Golden, British Columbia, in August 1956, I made the following solo ascents: (1) Zinc Mountain, via the ridge leading from the Manganese-Zinc col. This mountain was first climbed in 1906. A note on top recorded a 1954 ascent from Ice River valley by the northwest ridges, but I think that my route is probably a new one. It was moderate rock climbing all the way; (2) Manganese Mountain, from the col mentioned above. The ridge is of rather rotten rock. This is possibly a first ascent as I found no cairn on top; (3) Buttress Peak, about a mile southeast of Manganese, climbed by the east ridge, which rises from Moose Creek valley. A really pleasant climb over firm rock—airy, but quite safe, and grade 2 and 3 in difficulty. There was no cairn on top or any recorded ascent of this mountain.

THOMAS A. MUTCH

Coast Mountains of British Columbia, South of Bella Coola. If there is any doubt as to the accessibility of the area south of Bella Coola, the arrival of Houston's 1955 convertible removed such doubt. The road is dirt for some 300 miles. If one doesn't mind the never ending pounding that a low-slung car will take from high rocks on the road, any normal passenger-car can now cover the distance from Williams Lake to Bella Coola in 12 to 15 hours. Our group included Will Siri, Dave Rynin, George Whitmore, James Wilson, John Dorsey, and Dick Houston. We had an eye on unclimbed Snowside Mountain, 9600 feet, about 30 miles south of Bella Coola. We rolled into Bella Coola on a Monday morning ready for about three weeks of adventure. Luck was with us as we hitched a boat ride with a local pulpwood company up the South Bentinck arm to their outpost lumber camp. Behind this camp the brush started, as did the hard work. In six days of difficult back packing through indescribably thick brush we arrived within sight of Ape Lake, the site of the base camp of the only other party to penetrate this area.

Again, with Luck as our seventh member, we began what proved to be four days of perfect weather. Base Camp was placed at 6500 feet on the Wardrum Glacier to the SE of Snowside. The first day of climbing was spent on the SW face, and, after attempting the wrong mountain, we turned back as darkness approached. The following day proved

that the entire mountain was indeed rotten. The climbing teams continually ducked to avoid the bombardment as we attempted the great NE ridge of the peak. This route brought us to within 100 feet of the summit, where caution and darkness slowed the group. From high on a very steep knife edge of snow we retreated. We did not avoid a night out, however, for we were forced to wait at about 8000 feet for better light.

Two days later Wilson, Whitmore, Rynin, and Dorsey returned to the SW face and with the aid of several rock pitons overcame the steep and icy gullies and completed the first ascent.

The homeward trek of four days started at the head of Nusatsum River and moved down to Bella Coola River and the ever welcome cars.

RICHARD C. HOUSTON

Iceland

Hraundrangi, in Öxnadal. Two members of the Icelandic Air Ground Rescue Team, Finnur Eyjolfsson and Sigurdur Waage, accompanied by Lieut. Nicholas B. Clinch, USAF, accomplished the first ascent of Hraundrangi, August 5-6, 1956. The peak stands nearly vertical, 80 meters above the Hraun ridge, and has defied all ordinary means of climbing. The sagas relate that the hero Grettir Asmundarson had climbed it in ancient times and had left a knife and a belt on the top, "to belong to the one who could get it." The fact that nothing was found on the summit seems to prove either that someone had been there since Grettir, or that the hero had never been there at all—the latter appears to be the case, notwithstanding the saga. Enticed less by the legendary prizes than by the challenge of the peak itself, the three climbers flew from Reykjavík to Akureyri, where assistance was rendered by the local AGR as far as the base of the peak, on the Hraun ridge. From this base the climb was effected in nine hours, up and down, with the aid of pitons, nylon ropes, and other modern gear. (*From Icelandic newspaper clippings.*)

Colombia

Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. Although the Englishman, Simons, produced the first useful maps of the Sierra Nevada in 1879 and 1881, British climbers did not set foot in the range until 1954. A. F. R. Wollaston, doctor to the first Everest expedition, and his wife, in 1923, failed to find a route into the high peaks from the hinterland of Santa Marta because of bad weather and thick forests. It was clear to us that we should climb in January, the only certainly dry month, and enter by a forest-free route. Before