

The new route on Llysfran Peak was made by Toni Messner and Warren Pagel, the former leading. They climbed past the lake, called Ultramaligne Lake in the 1939 AAC account, between Mount Julien and the unnamed outlier of Mount Mary Vaux. They then ascended the steep wall between Julien and Llysfran, northeast of the peak. The climbing was difficult, but the rock was sound. A piton was used at one point for security. The ridge was then traversed south over the summit of the peak as a storm was approaching. The descent was made by the headwall southeast of the peak over sections of rotten rock. The round trip time, including the boat trip to the approach point, was 161½ hours, by a very fast party.

JOHN EBERT

*Homathko Snowfield, Coast Range.* On July 27, 1957, Richard H. Beatty and I arrived in Princeton, B. C., where we met our friends Alistair Morrison and John Rucklidge, of Cambridge University, England, and with some difficulty continued by car to the head of Chilko Lake. From there we had arranged boat transportation to the end of Franklin Arm, 50 miles down the lake, but beyond we were solely dependent on backpacking. Ten miles of dense burned-over bush in the steep valleys of Dechamps and Nine Mile creeks and a high ridge and glacier still separated us from the deep north-south valley on the eastern edge of the snowfield. So great were the obstacles on this approach that it took us nearly two weeks to complete the two trips required to bring the necessary supplies into that valley.

Measuring about 15 by 20 miles, the Homathko Snowfield lies at 7000 to 8000 feet south of the Waddington group, between the Homathko and Southgate rivers. Although the highest peaks about its periphery, such as Mount Queen Bess (10,700 feet), and Mount Grenville (10,200 feet), have been climbed, the snowfield itself is difficult of access and has been penetrated only a very short distance on one or two occasions. Its undulating arctic-like surface is studded with nunataks and peaks, rising from a few feet to 2000 feet above it. From the basin-like snowfield numerous glaciers radiate between these outer peaks and fall into the great valleys surrounding it. After ascending to the snowfield by one of these glaciers, we established camp two miles in from its edge. After climbing a nunatak here, we continued across the snowfield and with one intermediate camp reached the large icefalls of Jewakwa Glacier on the western side, thus accomplishing the first crossing of the snowfield. We placed a cairn on a nearby nunatak and returned to the eastern edge by a more southerly route. Just inside the eastern rim we climbed a jagged peak of 9500 feet, which we called Cambridge Peak. The route lay along a ridge barred by many gen-

darmes. The passage of the largest of these, ably led by Morrison, involved the ascent of a chimney, followed by a climb partly within a vertical crack in a huge smooth monolith and a final exposed traverse across the face to regain the ridge. Shortly after this we had to leave the snowfield in bad weather without attempting more of the attractive peaks about us. Our time had been shortened by initial delays and Morrison and Rucklidge needed several days for scientific work. By completing a survey and measurements on a small cirque glacier, they hoped to supply evidence in support of the theory of Professor W. V. Lewis, of Cambridge University, concerning the movement of cirque glaciers by "rotational slipping." During this time Beatty and I explored another valley joining Nine Mile Valley from the north. There we accomplished the ascent of our second virgin summit, a mountain of about 10,000 feet which we named Mount Dartmouth. Although technically easier than the previous peak, it was a rather long climb and entailed some interesting pitches, including a snow saddle inclining to 60° and a summit pyramid of steep and rotten rock with some exposure over an impressive north face. Soon after this climb time ran out and we returned up the lake on August 29.

GEORGE V. B. COCHRAN, M.D.

*Northern Selkirks.* The Harvard Mountaineering Club 1957 Camp was held during the first three weeks of August in the Edfalls, Adamant, and Sir Sandford groups in the northern Selkirks. Access was by way of Swan Creek. With the assistance of airdrops on Gothics Névé and Sir Sandford Glacier, we spent two weeks at the usual Fairy Meadow campsite and one week in the upper Palmer Creek valley within striking distance of Mount Sir Sandford (11,580 feet). Collectively the 19 members made 39 ascents of 25 different peaks in the area, despite generally unsettled weather which eliminated all climbs of technical rock work over 9500 feet. Included were the first ascent of an unnamed 10,250-foot snow peak between Sir Sandford and Palmer by John Noxon, Gordon Benner, and John Humphreys; the ascent of Sir Sandford by the Michael route by 13 men; and the first ascent of the north ridge of Mount Sentinel by Hugh Tanton and Marco Einaudi. The last, a long, pinnacled ridge cut by two large notches, which involved rappels and several pitches of class-5 rock climbing, took ten hours to complete from Fairy Meadow. (The easy route takes three). A strong attempt on the unclimbed east ridge of Sir Sandford was turned back by treacherous snow on crumbling rock at about 10,500 feet, exactly where another H.M.C. party had retreated four years previously.

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