

*Clachnacudainn Range, Mount Revelstoke National Park, British Columbia.* Around and near the Clachnacudainn Snowfield the small granite peaks of the Clachnacudainn Range rise to an altitude of more than 8600 feet. Although outlying peaks had been climbed previously, the principal summits around the snowfield had not been attempted until our party, Arthur and Claudia Maki and Robert and Peggy West, visited the area in August 1957. In addition, as a member of the "support party" in Base Camp, we had David West, age seven months.

From Base Camp at Eva Lake, 4½ miles by trail from the top of Mount Revelstoke, we worked out a route of approach to the Clachnacudainn Snowfield, crossing three high passes on the way. Using this approach we then made the first ascent of Mount Coursier (8690 feet), highest summit of the range. On the same day we climbed the 8660-foot peak immediately to the southeast, the first and highest peak of a long north-south ridge of rock towers which rise just east of Clachnacudainn Creek, and which form the headwall of the snowfield.

The two other principal summits of the group are 8600-foot peaks which guard the snowfield to the north and east. We reached the summit of the east peak, after crossing the Clachnacudainn Snowfield, in eight hours from Eva Lake. On another day we climbed the north peak via the long west ridge, which provided the best rock climbing of the trip. Ascents of "Clachnacudainn West" (7948 feet) and other minor summits west of Clachnacudainn Creek were also made.

ROBERT WEST

*Fatal Accident on Mount Howson.* Major R. C. Gibson, M.C., President of the Alpine Club of Canada, died on August 20 after a fall on Mount Howson, highest peak of the Howson Range, in western British Columbia. In the death of Rex the mountains claimed one singularly devoted to climbing.

A party of five—Rex, A. C. Fabergé (Alex), Donald Hubbard, Alvin Peterson (Pete), and I—reached the Howson Range by float plane from Terrace, B.C. The region had been successfully explored during the climbing seasons of 1954, 1955, and 1956 by Alex, Rex, and other companions despite extremely rainy weather. (See: "Explorations in the Howson Range," by A. C. Fabergé, *Canadian Alpine Journal*, 1957.) With this background we could hope for success even though only eleven days were available for the trip. Camp was established in the rain near Sandpiper Lake at the eastern base of Mount Howson (ca. 9000 feet). The rain continued for a week, with snow above 7000 feet. A slight break in the weather on August 15 encouraged us to cross the col south of the mountain

in order to look at the west ridge as a possible route to the summit. From a vantage point on the flat southwest glacier, the ridge below the cloud line at about 8000 feet appeared to offer an inviting rock climb. August 16 was a perfect day, which four of us used in an approach to the north col. The base of the col (ca. 7800 feet) was reached by 10 A.M., but the deep and unstable snow on the short slope to the crest was too dangerous for climbing. With continued fair weather, Rex, Don, and I decided to establish a bivouac and attempt the west ridge while Alex and Pete explored several interesting peaks to the south.

We set out from our bivouac at 6 A.M. August 18 and by 11 A.M. had reached an elevation of about 7000 feet in a snow-filled couloir on the face of the west ridge. We started by climbing on the ridge but had entered the couloir to round a possible cul-de-sac. Rex had just taken the lead, with Don second on a 120-foot rope. He had advanced about 50 feet in the couloir and was cutting small steps in the hard snow when I saw him half turn. He stepped down and without braking effort slid into Don, who was changing stance. The two slid past me into an avalanche chute. They were almost stopped by my braking effort on an ice axe belay, but I was finally pulled from my stance. We fell for more than 200 feet in the steep couloir. The fall ended by our breaking through a crust that had been undercut by a water seepage. Don was free and could move enough to dig Rex and me from the snow and slide us across to a small ledge in the couloir. Rex had a serious head injury and was only semi-conscious. Don's right leg was swelling badly. I had broken my left arm and several other bones, but my legs were uninjured. Don and I decided that he would stay with Rex while I attempted to return to Base Camp. Extra clothing and food were adequate to protect Don and Rex from exposure.

I reached Base Camp about 4 P.M. August 19. Alex and Pete set out soon afterwards with sleeping bags, camping equipment, and medicines. They reached Rex and Don on August 20 about two hours after Rex had died, probably from a skull fracture. After a silent service, they covered Rex's body and left it tied to pitons. They then started down with Don by roping off towards the southwest glacier. Lower down a crutch was fashioned from tent poles. They reached the Sandpiper camp on the 21st. The party was met by a plane at Burnie Lake, several hours from Base Camp on the 22nd and returned to Terrace. Alex and Pete informed the authorities and those most concerned. A group of climbers quickly volunteered to bury Rex but were prevented by difficulties of arrangements and the turning of the weather into continued storm.

Rex and I had climbed together on many occasions over a period of 27 years, while Don and I were constant climbing companions. We had been in many situations of far greater potential hazard than the one on Mount Howson. Our undoing came at a place of little danger according to our standards. But perhaps the greatest hazard is on steep hard snow.

STERLING B. HENDRICKS

## SOUTH AMERICA

### *Argentina*

*Ojos del Salado: Omission from the 1957 AAJ Article.* Inadvertently credit lines and complete captions were omitted from the pictures opposite page 83 in Volume X, Number 2 of the *American Alpine Journal*, 1957. The upper picture was taken by Juan Simken on February 6, 1956 from the subsidiary summit which lies to the west and about 540 feet lower than the main peak. The highest summit, the black tower on the right of the picture, was climbed by other members of the Chilean expedition the day before. The Polish cairn lies on the ten-foot lower peak seen on the right of the rock tower.

The lower picture is a telephoto of the Ojos del Salado taken by Wilfred Cöppens from the high summit six or eight miles south on January 22, 1955 during the expedition of the Asociación Tucumana de Andinismo. The highest point, the rock tower on the left, has about ten feet more altitude than the summit to the right of it and across the gap, on which the Polish cairn stands.

The map on page 94 was provided by the American Geographical Society.

*Cerro Don Bosco, Patagonia.* An eight-man expedition of the Centro Andino Buenos Aires spent 32 days at the northern end of the central range of the Patagonian Icecap, northeast of where Tilman was in 1956. They discovered two high peaks on the Chilean side of the frontier for one of which they are proposing the name of Cerro Art Gilkey. After reaching the northern tip of Lago Argentino by boat, they reconnoitered several possibilities, but finally followed for 20 miles north the trough on the eastern side of the Glaciar Upsala, which they crossed to establish Camp IV at the junction of the Glaciares Upsala and Don Bosco. On February 3, 1957 Eduardo Klenk, Andrés Pastewski, and the leader, Jorge Peterek, managed to climb the difficult ice and rock east ridge of the Cerro Don Bosco and reach two of its summits. They had to return the next day to complete the ascent of the highest point (c. 8500 feet).