

route seemed possible only when the snow and rocks were frozen in. The route above this gendarme consisted of a knife-edged ridge with three more gendarmes to traverse and then ice blocks and rime above, which did not look inviting but under better snow conditions might go. The party then reconnoitered the northwest side of the mountain by climbing a steep avalanche slope at the northwest end of the cirque. The north side of the mountain was deep in powder snow, and the glacier was much more broken up than the one on the southern side. The north ridge was difficult to approach through three miles of crevasse field, then up a wall at the end of the cirque. The lower north ridge looked possible, but led steeply up into the same sort of rime ice as the southern ridges and did not warrant a full-scale attempt under these snow conditions.

Walking out, the party found the crevasse field on the south side even more difficult with rapidly melting snow bridges. The mountain is a real challenge and may be possible only with the better snow conditions which may come later in the summer or in the fall.

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Attempt on Mount McKinley. Dr. George Cloutier, Gary Kenwood, Henry Marshall and Theodore Anderson reached 17,000 feet on the west buttress route of Mount McKinley before being turned back by adverse weather. After being airlifted to the Kahiltna Glacier, they began their ascent on April 26 and left the mountain on May 13.

East Face of La Pérouse, Fairweather Range. This 7000-foot high face is of mixed snow, ice and rock. Parts of it were very difficult, up to difficult class 6. The ice lies at angles from 50° to 65° and the face is swept by rock fall and avalanches. The rock is extremely rotten. This face simply could not be climbed when the sun was on it; avalanches do not stop all day. For that reason we planned to climb in the semi-dark Alaskan night, starting at 3 P.M. We were lucky and the condition of the ice was perfect. The first part of the climb was up a ridge which was often difficult and which had rotten rock. The ridge meets a rock face, which we climbed for 500 feet. This, too, was difficult and of bad rock. Above was steep ice, which averaged from 55° to 60° . In the middle of this section the route led by something I have never seen before: a 200-foot ice overhang. The whole climb was a race with the sun, but we reached the summit ridge at 5 A.M. Our route had led us to the eastern summit of La Pérouse (ca. 10,000 feet), from which a ridge runs to the main summit. We imagine that it would have taken us three to five hours more, but we did not try to reach the main sum-

mit. We spent the next day on the summit ridge, since the southern face and a couloir we had to descend was swept incessantly by avalanches. We had to wait nearly a full day, until 2 A.M., before the snow was frozen hard and safe to start our descent. The climb was made on June 15 to 17. My climbing companion was Richard Griesmann, of Seattle. (The first ascent of La Pérouse was made in 1942 by a U. S. Geological Survey party. *A.A.J.*, 1953, 8:3, p. 434.—*Editor.*)

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Washington—Cascades

Mount Rainier, Tahoma Cleaver. On June 6, Paul Bellamy, Tony Hovey, Don Keller, Herb Steiner, and Klindt Vielbig left the Tahoma Creek Campground enroute to the Tahoma Cleaver, the last major unclimbed ridge on Mount Rainier. They took the Emerald Ridge trail to the point where the moraines of the Tahoma and South Tahoma glaciers converge and followed the South Tahoma Glacier on its south edge to about 7000 feet, where they crossed to its north edge. The ascent continued, keeping to the right of several rock islands and buttresses to about 8500 feet, where the Tahoma Cleaver begins. Here the flat, cleaver crest was followed, until they were forced onto the snow slopes on the left (north) at about 9200 feet. A small snow col at 10,000 feet, immediately above the base of two colorful rock towers proved to be the highest feasible campsite on the ridge. Early on the morning of June 7 the climb was continued upward on steep snow slopes toward a sharp, prominent gendarme on the ridge at 11,700 feet. They turned the gendarme on the right, some 200 feet below the ridge crest, and traversed the steep snow slopes on the south side of the ridge to the base of a huge rock buttress which apparently blocks the ridge crest. Observers of the ridge had long considered this buttress, sometimes referred to as "The Black Triangle," to be the key to the climb, and so it proved to be. Forty feet to the left (north) of the buttress, a 20-foot pitch on solid rock was selected, and this vertical pitch was followed by some 200 feet of touchy climbing to the steep, loose ridge crest. Rockfall was a hazard from the base of the buttress to the snow saddle at its top. The climb was continued to the northeast on a broad, steeply inclined snow ledge to its end at 13,700 feet, where it drops off to the Tahoma Glacier. The party continued on precipitous ledges around the corner to the right for 300 feet, where séracs were crossed to the summit ice cap. No problems are encountered from here to the crater rim. The ascent from the high camp to the top of the ridge required 11 hours.

Little Tahoma, North Face. This peak, adjacent to Mount Rainier, is