

next few leads we fought our way through the steep blank wall above. The last complicated pitches followed flakes to the summit, which we reached after six hours. NCCS III, F8.

LAYTON KOR

*Chief's Head, Northeast Face, Glacier Gorge, Rocky Mountain National Park.* Bob Bradley and I made the first ascent of this beautiful face in August, 1963, in part of two days. From the middle of the wall's base we climbed a steep slab and belayed on a broken ledge. Difficult nailing took us to a large open-book, which we nailed for a lead, taking the roof on the left. This put us on a large terrace where we bivouacked. Above we climbed a crack in a ramp and then up a steep slab to a second roof. A thin aid lead left of the roof took us to a large flake. A traverse to the right up a crack and then onto a slab carried us to easier terrain, which we ascended to the summit after 12 hours of difficult work. NCCS IV, F8, A7.

LAYTON KOR

*Fairchild Mountain, Haunch Bauncho Buttress, East Face.* On September 26 and 27, Peter H. Robinson and I completed this 14-lead, 1000-foot climb, which took two days because of a late start. Route finding was interesting and the rock was good. We found free climbing of varied difficulty and type (F3 to F7) on faces, jam cracks and chimneys. We actually took eight hours and placed 19 pitons. Fairchild Mountain (13,502 feet) is in the Mummy Range, Rocky Mountain National Park. (NCCS III, F7).

DAVID P. JOHNSON, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

*The Royal Gorge, Tombstone Wall.* At dawn on June 20, Fred Pfahler and I rappelled into the depths of Royal Gorge. After traversing a long, cactus-filled ledge, we arrived at the broken base of the 900-foot wall that plunged down to us from the north end of the world's highest suspension bridge. The route began with 90 feet of vertical face to a marginal stance below a rounded roof. The second and third pitches vaulted 180 feet up the high-angle wall to a slippery ramp which led ten feet right into the base of a vertical groove. The groove provided a difficult direct-aid pitch on tied-off pitons and ended 80 feet up on a wide ledge. After surveying the upper walls, we traversed right and struggled up two leads into a huge red dihedral. Now and then a train would rumble past, hundreds of feet below our heels. It was a diverting amusement. The dihedral involved two exposed leads over giant flakes and blocks which led to the base of a 100-foot, fourth-class finish. At the setting of the sun, we surmounted the spectacular rim which marked the end of a worthwhile climb. Because

of dead birds at the bottom of the wall, we thought the name "Tombstone Wall" appropriate. (NCCS IV, F7, A3.)

PAT AMENT, *Unattached*

### *Texas*

*Mount Vernon Bailey, Southeast Face, Big Bend National Park.* In March, Fred Pfahler and I began our ascent at the main couloir on the east part of the face. Three rope-lengths of moderate difficulty brought us to the upper of two diagonal ledges which lead west. This we followed to its end before we traversed up to a narrow chimney. The chief obstacle here was a large century plant which blocked the chimney. From the top of the chimney, we scrambled to the summit.

FRANK B. KNIGHT

## CANADA

### *Yukon Territory*

*Mount Kennedy.* The Canadian government has given the name of Mount Kennedy, in honor of the late president, to the lovely mountain which lies just east of Mounts Alverstone and Hubbard, peaks on the Yukon-Alaskan border. The coordinates of the newly named peak are Latitude 60° 20' North, Longitude 138° 58' 30" West. Its altitude is about 13,850 feet. It was discovered in the late winter of 1935 by the National Geographic Yukon Expedition, led by A.A.C. Vice President Bradford Washburn, whose seven members also included mountain rescuer Ome Daiber, former A.A.C. President Robert Bates, and *Journal* Editor H. Adams Carter. (*A.A.J.*, 1936, 2:4, pp. 427-435.)

*Mount Newton, St. Elias Mountains.* On June 15 our party arrived in Yakutat with equipment and plans for an attempt on Mount St. Elias. We consisted of William "Smoke" Blanchard, Bill Hackett, Montague Alford, Dr. Edward Keller, Frank Coale, Roy Johnson and Jack Henry. Adverse snow conditions made a skiplane landing on the Newton Glacier or in the Dome Pass area impossible. It had been our intent to climb the Duke of Abruzzi's route via Russell Col. An alternate plan was used, and unbelievably good weather made it possible for our bush pilot, Layton Bennett, to fly all eight of us within two days to a suitable site on the Seward glacier due north of Mount Newton and Mount St. Elias. We would attempt to approach Russell Col by crossing from the summit of Newton (13,810 feet).

Severe avalanching and extensive crevassing complicated the route selection on Mount Newton. Approaching on the eastern flank of a small subsidiary peak to the north of Newton, we placed Camp I at 8000 feet