

New Hampshire

Cannon Mountain, Direct start to VMC Direct. This variation was first made by Steve Arsenault and me on June 7 and 8. We made a hammock bivouac after four pitches where the route merged with the normal VMC Direct. The route starts 30 feet north of the Triple S Buttress on an inside corner facing right. The first four pitches have not only an elegance of line but also no pendulums, rurs, loose rock or awkward downhill nailing. The crux is on the fourth pitch in graceful free climbing on exposed flakes.

SAM (THEODORE P.) STREIBERT

Mount Washington, Pinnacle Gully. On February 1, 1970 a most beautiful winter day, I was privileged to partake of what most climbers, thirty years ago, would have declared impossible, and what even today is improbable. Jim McCarthy, with myself as second, and in the reassuring company of Rob Wallace, led the entire Pinnacle Gully without cutting a single step. The climb was well secured with ice screws and various pitons; but the application of new techniques and equipment, plus a favorable build-up of ice was all that was necessary. The elapsed time was appropriately reduced as well, and we were back at the car at Pinkham Notch well before sundown.

WILLIAM LOWELL PUTNAM

Virginia

Tunstall's Tooth. This pinnacle is about 20 miles from Lynchburg and 2½ miles north of Big Island on U.S. Highway 501. Although across the James River, there is a bridge two miles farther north. Tunstall's Tooth is of hard limestone and from its base rises 225 feet. It offers good aid climbing on the river and land sides, as well as moderate free climbing on the down-river and up-river sides. James H. Scott and I made the first direct ascent of the river side on March 2 (A2).

FRED D. LANG, *Unaffiliated*

CANADA

Yukon Territory

King Peak, South Ridge. King Peak (16,971 feet) was first climbed in 1952 by Elton Thayer's party, which traversed the north slope from King

Col and finished up the west ridge. The east and entire west ridges have also been climbed. In 1968 Akira Soda (often pronounced "Aida" but called "Soda" by himself) and Hisao Nakadai reconnoitered the south ridge to 11,800 feet as advance party of the main expedition which the Renrei Alpine Club expected to send in 1970. In 1969 there were two parties with this goal, but one turned to Mount Wood. I can understand the disappointment of the Renrei Alpine Club, which had sent the advance party there. I do not like to say more about this matter. The Nichidai Mishima High School Alpine Club expedition was led by Takanori Okubo and had also Kinji Okumura and Tetsuji Oda. They were flown from Whitehorse to the Quintino Sella Glacier at 8850 feet on May 15. On the 16th they started relaying loads up the southwest spur of the south ridge. The first rock pinnacle was impossible on either side. They did not trust the fixed ropes of the previous party and fixed 650 feet of their own in the whole area of the rock pinnacles. After several days of storm, they placed an intermediate camp below the rock pinnacle on May 23. Using pulleys on each pinnacle, they carried loads to the end of the rock ridge on May 24 to 26. Above the snow junction (12,500 feet), they fixed 1000 feet of line in the seven pitches of slopes up to 60°. They established their high camp on May 29 on the snow platform behind a snow pinnacle. On June 1 they climbed the sharp ridge, corniced on the west, heading along the snow ridge, snow wall and rock ridge towards the south peak (15,400 feet). A great couloir falls abruptly from near the top, filled with black ice. From its 350-foot-wide base it narrows two-thirds of the way up to 35 feet and widens again. After nine hours of climbing they reached a terrace above the narrowest point. They fixed 1000 feet of rope. Bad weather held them up until June 5, when they started for the top at two A.M. After entering the couloir, they found the hard ice troublesome. They reached the rock terrace at 7:30 and the top of the couloir at 8:50. From there they climbed to the top of the south peak. A very thin snow ridge led down to the col. It was delicate climbing, complicated with snow mushrooms, but at last they stood on the col at 14,425 feet at four P.M. A crevasse in the side wall made their bivouac site. They left again at 8:40 on June 6. They climbed a steep snow ridge with their crampons biting well. Above waited a 1200-foot overbearing rock and snow wall. They finally joined the east ridge, where they found a fixed line, apparently left by the Americans in 1966. Eventually at 3:25 they stood on top. They reached the bivouac spot at 6:25, where they spent 24 hours in a blizzard. Leaving at seven P.M. of June 7, they were on the south peak at 9:30. Four pitches in the couloir led to the highest fixed rope, which they descended for seven pitches. They crossed the rock ridge and descended the snow wall in

three pitches and stood at the foot of the south peak. They continued down the snow ridge to the high camp, which was reached at two A.M. on June 8. Base Camp was reached on the 9th. After a long stay they were evacuated by helicopter on July 3.

ICHIRO YOSHIKAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club and A.A.C.*

Mount Logan, Second Ascent of Catenary Ridge. The members of the Gifu Mountaineering Association expedition were Shigeru Itoh, leader, Keisuke Horii, Toshikatsu Tsuchida, Yumihiko Tanaka, Yoshihisa Kato, and Tsugio Suzuki. On May 21 they were flown to the Logan Glacier from Kluane Lake and established Base Camp at 7700 feet. Reconnaissance was made directly up the ridge of Catenary Peak from May 22 to 26 but was given up because of ice blocks and knife-edges. On May 27 all turned to the spur of the peak between Catenary Peak and McArthur. (For more details, see account of first-ascent party, Ingalls, Bleser, Connary, Given, Plummer, Schmechel, 1967. See *A.A.J.*, 1968, 16:1, pp. 51 to 55. — *Editor.*) They fixed over 1000 feet of rope, climbed steep rock and snow, including a 1650-foot ice wall and established three camps between May 27 and June 5 to meet the main ridge. Camp II was on Catenary Peak at 13,775 feet, above 2½ pitches of fixed rope. Camp III was placed at 12,150 feet after descending the ice ridge to the col on June 11. From the 12th to the 15th the knife-edged ridge and crevassed area were climbed, using 1500 feet of fixed rope. They reached 14,100 feet where they made a snow cave for Camp IV. It stormed at Camp IV on June 16 and 17. Horii and Tanaka were appointed as the attack party with Tsuchida and Suzuki in support. All four left on the 18th. A 250-foot corniced snow wall was climbed with hard work owing to strong wind. They were troubled by soft snow and crevasses. They fixed 920 feet of rope and reached a rock pinnacle at 17,400 feet. The attack party bivouacked there, and the support party went down to Camp IV. On June 19 the attack party left the bivouac at two A.M. and zigzagged among crevasses to reach the east peak (19,750 feet) at 9:45. They descended the ridge, passed the knife-edge and at 4:25 P.M. stood on the main peak (19,850 feet). The support party followed the attack party and reached the east peak. In the white night, both parties returned to Camp IV. The party was flown to Kluane Lake on July 2 and 3.

ICHIRO YOSHIKAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club and A.A.C.*

Mount Wood, First Ascent of Mount Craig. The expedition of the Mountaineering Association of Nagano Prefecture consisted of Ryo