

making an airdrop on a small glacier  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the southwest. Our objective was the unclimbed peaks surrounding the two forks of the Orford River. This unexplored region lies south of the Southgate River and east of Bute Inlet. We fortunately found an access to the drop by climbing up the valley of the first creek emptying into Icewall Creek from the west. Base Camp was set up in the large saddle above the south fork of the Orford River. Extremely stormy weather plagued us during our eleven-day sojourn, with only one cloudless day allotted us. In spite of the weather, we all made four first ascents. "Nanitch" (7750 feet), a peak just to the north of Base Camp was ascended by a broad snow slope. We next climbed "Mamook" (7700 feet), lying to the south of camp, by the north shoulder. The third peak climbed was "Kalaka" (7800 feet). This peak, just to the north of "Nanitch" was ascended by the south ridge. Our final ascent was of "Tolo" (8100 feet), a large peak two miles west of "Nanitch" by the east ridge.

JAMES PETROSKE, M.D.

*Nusatsum, Bella Coola Region, Coast Range.* In June Ed McClanahan and I made a new route on Nusatsum. (First ascent, 1952, by W. and D. Long, R. Skinner.) We ascended the 6500-foot-high north couloir, 4000 feet of it ice with a tricky little icefall in it. The top 1400 feet of the mountain were delightful, easy rock climbing. We had tried this 8444-foot giant before. In the fall of 1968 we were mercilessly beaten back by miserable storms and crevasses. Nusatsum had been previously climbed two or three times via an easterly route solo by a most likeable garage mechanic, Frank Cooke, the only true mountaineer of the Bella Coola Valley.

LOUIS STUR

### Interior Ranges

*Climbs in the Western Cariboos.* In August Alex Fabergé, Don Hubbard, Linnea Stewart, Art Wilder, my wife Nancy, our one-year-old daughter Mai-Britt and I helicoptered into a 5700-foot Base Camp at Tranquility Lake, three miles east of 9800-foot Mount Quanstrom, the highest peak of the large glaciated area just west of the Raush River. We made the second ascent of Quanstrom on August 6 via the northeast buttress and east ridge. Except for a short ice climb on the buttress this was the same route followed by the first-ascent party of Campbell and Bimm on August 3, 1967 (according to a message found in the summit cairn). The next day

Hubbard, Stewart and Wilder made the first ascent of Mount Nicholl (8400 feet), two miles southeast of Quanstrom. Several storms later, on August 10, we reached the foresummit of 9200-foot Mount Columbiad (three miles northeast of Quanstrom) via the east ridge and north buttress, but hail prevented completion of the ascent. The same day, Alex soloed 7700-foot Mount Gemini, overlooking Gemini Lakes, part of the east retaining wall of the Pieroway Glacier. On August 13, Stewart, Hubbard and Fabergé climbed 8400-foot Mount Ardan, four miles south of Base Camp, while the two Arts made a grand tour of the remaining peaks of the Pieroway Glacier drainage. Progressing clockwise around the head of the glacier, we made the first ascents of Mount Pieroway (9100 feet), Stone Hill (8300 feet), unnamed (8400 feet), Mount Maston (8500 feet) and unnamed (8600 feet).

ARTHUR MAKI

*Mountains of Starbird Ridge, Purcells.* In August Kenneth and Corky Rinehart, Bob and Peg West, Dave West (12), Scott West (8) and Sandy Rinehart (5) visited the mountains of the Starbird Ridge between Forster and Horsethief creeks. We traveled by helicopter to Welsh Creek, an important tributary flowing north into Forster Creek. The valley, which does not seem to have been visited before, contains three large lakes in beautiful alpine country. In ten days we made seven ascents of previously unclimbed peaks, including Mount North Star (10,215 feet) and "Mount Alpha Centauri" (10,100 feet). The peaks of the region are all of granite and provided enjoyable rock climbing. A complete account of this trip appears in the *Canadian Alpine Journal*, 1970.

ROBERT C. WEST, JR.

*Truce Mountain and the "Horseshoe Peaks", Truce Group, Purcells.* On July 20 Bruce Beck, Jack Wells, and I left our car, some 9½ miles up the Jumbo Creek road, and packed over 7500-foot Jumbo Pass into the valley of the south terminal fork of Glacier Creek. Following a route I had flagged in August of 1968, we crossed the creek and climbed up to a high camp at about 6800 feet near the north lateral moraine of the north fork of the East Truce Glacier. The next day we ascended the glacier to the top of its cleaver and then to a 9850-foot col on the southeast corner of the "Horseshoe". From here we proceeded to make first ascents of one 10,100-foot peak and four 10,300-foot peaks around the "Horseshoe". The north snow ridge of impressive 10,650-foot Truce Mountain also beckoned us, and so at eight P.M. we were the second party on its small