

### Coast Range

*Mongol Peaks, Monarch Icecap, Coast Range.* A Mountain Travel (USA) expedition spent three weeks from July 18 to August 9 in the area around Ape Lake. We ascended a new route on East Mongol up its northwest ridge, reaching this from the glacier to the north. It was an easy and enjoyable ascent except for a rather nasty schrund problem to gain the col between the east and central Mongol. The climbers were Bob Cuthbert, Dick Young, Bruce and Arthur Ourieff, Brent Miller, Crawford Hill, Kelly Houghton, Dick Dietz, George Barnwell and I. The same people plus John Amatt made the first ascent of the peak (tentatively North Mongol) between Central Mongol and Mount Fyles. After roping for a pitch crossing the schrund, we had an easy third-class scramble up the peak's south ridge.

GARY COLLIVER

*Squamish Chief, Black Dike.* Al Givler and I completed this climb in three weekends in February. We climbed on the first two weekends in the rain, fixing three ropes on the first five pitches, in a total of 18 hours of climbing. On the third weekend it dawned clear as we started the final push, which took a day and a half and a hammock bivouac at 650 feet. The climb consists of ten pitches and follows a very prominent black dike of basalt, which divides the Squamish Chief. The crux pitches were the 4th, 5th, 8th and 9th, all of which had A4 piton placement. NCCS VI, F8, A4 or UIAA VI-, A4. Technical equipment: 1 2", 3 1½", 4 1", 6 ¾" 8 babies, 20 horizontals, 8 knifeblades, 2 or 3 rursps, 2 cliff hangers, 5 climbing nuts, 40 tie-off loops.

MEAD HARGIS, *Unaffiliated*

## MEXICO

*Gastric Distress – School House Group.* On a reconnaissance trip for Colorado Outward Bound School in November, 1969, Rick Medrick and I located a previously untouched climbing area eight miles southeast of Creel in southwestern Chihuahua state. Returning with a group of college students in January, 1970, Rick, Don and Ineka West, and several of the students climbed pinnacles in a group located near the area Jesuit school. Returning with students from an expedition in the Barranca del Cobre,

Anne Ketchin and I joined Rick, Don, and Ineka for the final climb up a fine 200-foot tower which we named Gastric Distress in honor of our bouts with local bacteria. The School House group is a confusion of fantastically shaped towers and pinnacles ranging in height from 50 to 300 feet. The rock is volcanic and offers small but frequent indentations for holds. Good piton cracks are rare and protection is mainly by slings and runners around projections. Gastric Distress was surmounted by a short, difficult face pitch on its south side and a long, deep-in-the-rock chimney to the top. Two bolts were required for the exit. The most challenging pinnacles remain to be climbed. NCCS II, F7

GARY ZIEGLER

## GREENLAND

*Ejnar Mikkelsen Fjeld, Watkins Mountains, East Greenland.* A Scottish group, Andrew Ross, Graham Williams, Nigel Robinson and Peter Lewis, finally achieved what had been known to be a most difficult feat in approaching and climbing what was probably Greenland's highest unclimbed peak. After waiting at Scoresby Sund for three weeks for the ice to clear, they finally set out south down the nearly unexplored coast in a 17-foot open outboard-motorboat. Amazingly the ice conditions were excellent and they covered the 280 miles to Wiedemann's Fjord in only four days. They were still 45 miles from Ejnar Mikkelsen Fjeld (10,700 feet). After five miles of moraine they sledged up the Kronberg Glacier to the base of the mountain. They then climbed, mostly on steep ice, for 78 hours with only six hours of sleep. They did not ascend the final rock obelisk which makes up the true summit. They were back on the coast after only six days. Behind schedule and short of fuel, they headed on south down the coast for 150 miles to Nordre Apoutoteq. After refueling they started back north but after two days were halted by pack ice. A storm arose but they managed to beach the boat. A Danish supply ship finally rescued them. An article and full details appear in *Mountain* of January 1971.

*Staunings Alps.* Nine expeditions were flown to the Staunings Alps by Dr. Malcolm Slessor's charter flights. The Swiss party's account follows but the British postal strike has prevented collecting details on many of the rest. *Mountain* of January 1971 gives a brief summary.