

Climbs and Expeditions

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UNITED STATES

Alaska

Mount McKinley. The number of climbers on Mount McKinley continues to rise. There were 27 expeditions, of which 15 put members onto the top. Of 188 climbers, 88 reached the summit. Two expeditions are described in articles earlier in this *Journal*. A Japanese expedition from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Officers Alpine Club climbed the Muldrow-Karstens Ridge route. The following got to the top: on July 5 Susumu Maeda, Masayuki Ando, Noboru Ayabe; on July 6 Shinichi Kono, Yasuo Kuramochi, Tomoyuki Kaneko, Morikazu Ochiai; on July 7 Kazuo Ito, Matsuhiro Yamaura, Junji Yokota, Toshizo Kaneko and Morikazu Ochiai (again). On July 30 Charles Kroeger and Curt Chadwick and on July 31 Rick Boyce and Dwight Olsen reached the North Peak via Pioneer Ridge. All other climbs were of the South Peak via the West Buttress route: on May 28 Chris Chandler, Patrick Devorin, Ron Fear, Alex Murray, Robert Griswold and Leroy Kingland; in late May Ray Genet, Charles Petrie, Robert Halbersaat, Louis Blochinger, Walter Ruprecht, Paul Etter and Bernard Cabane; on June 7 Bertrand Dubois and Michel Fleuret of the Saudan expedition; on June 29 Paul Gerstmann, Carl Moore, Steve Casebolt, Bob Kastama, Les Gerstmann and Ted Silver; on July 1 Richard Beach, Nick Hartzell, Gary Kirk, James Clark, Bernard Hallet, Robert Thomas, Amy Jo Heyneman and Daniel Austin; on July 9 Hideyo Takeda, Kuniyoshi Yoroi, Mikio Kuku-kawa, Koichi Ikegami and Asao Ando of Hokkaido University, Japan; on July 13 Richard Barrett, Larry Schoenberg, Howard Marsden, Dennis King and John Rosser; on July 17 Ray Genet, Captains James McMonigle and William Cottrell and Lieutenant Thomas Gardner; on July 21 Yoshio Ogama, Katsumi Nagai, Katsumi Sobue, Masao Yoshikama

NOTE: All dates in this section refer to 1972 unless otherwise stated.

and Kenichi Mimoto of Nagoya, Japan; on July 28 César A. Pérez de Tudela of Spain; on July 28 Ray Genet, Deborah Wolfe, Terry Cartee, Steve Hackett, Wolfgang Lutz, Gene Stanley, Hank Harrison, Karl Donner, George Walker, Roger Kirkpatrick and Lloyd Sumner. The Swiss Sylvain Saudan made a remarkable ski run from 19,000 feet, but it was not from the summit nor was it the first ski descent of the mountain as he reported.

McKinley, Attempt via West Fork of the Traleika Glacier. Dave Smith, Dan Halpern, Dave Pettigrew, Lavelle Burnham and I went over McGonnagal Pass, across the Muldrow Glacier and up the Traleika Glacier to its west fork, where we located Base Camp at 7500 feet. We were ready to climb on July 11, 1971 after airdrop difficulties. A mile above camp on the west fork was our first major objective, the first of two icefalls which rises from 8000 to 11,000 feet. A two-man team was always out in front, while the other three hauled loads. The icefall took 1200 feet of fixed rope and numerous ice screws and wands on everything from long ice slopes to very jumbled sections. On the 21st we established Midcamp between the two icefalls at 11,400 feet. On the 23rd we had all supplies at camp and started on the upper icefall, which went from 12,000 to 14,000 feet at the edge of Thayer Basin. The weather which had been fairly good turned bad from July 23 to 28. At 13,200 feet we ran into problems. Massive gorges blocked further progress. We had a good day on the 29th, and Pettigrew and I reached Thayer Basin at 14,200 feet by means of steep slopes south of the icefall. On the 31st we started to move camp but to our dismay found our cache at the bottom of the icefall had been destroyed by an avalanche. We probed for hours, finding little. We had lost most of our food, fuel and some climbing gear. Smith, Halpern and Burnham descended to Base Camp to hike out while Pettigrew and I made a summit try. We two reached Thayer Basin that same day and joined the South Buttress route. On August 1 much snow fell with little wind. Crossing Thayer Basin the next day in 2½ feet of snow was much worse than we expected, but we still gained Thayer Ridge that evening. On the 3rd we made a summit push but were turned back at 16,700 feet by 100-mph winds and a white-out. With very little food (one lunch), we gave up and started down on the 4th, making Base Camp on the 5th after a 24-hour effort. The descent through the lower icefall was horrendous! I am sure we never could have made it without the faint trail of the other three, four days before. The route was totally different from on the ascent. Later we found that it took Smith, Halpern and Burnham 24 hours to descend the icefall alone. We then had a hungry and miserable five-day hike out from Base Camp with no food and large packs. Our climb was hampered by logistics, having a 3800-foot-rise from Base Camp to Midcamp and