

summer of 1975. In early June Mark Fagan, Jon Krakauer, and I double-packed three weeks' supplies to the head of the Klondike River from the Dempster Highway on skis. We were disappointed to find very bad rock everywhere and a dearth of natural lines on the impressive-looking peaks. Krakauer and I failed on the 1000-foot east face of "Little Tombstone" only about thirty feet below the top when the cracks we were climbing with aid petered out. Krakauer took a 45-foot leader fall with no protection above a hanging-belay anchor when a hold broke as he was attempting to free-climb the last moves. With Fagan, Krakauer and I later made an easy first ascent. In the middle of June a party of six (Bob Cuthbert, Eric White, Robin Mounsey, Fred Thiessen, Alan Denis, and Neil Humphries) helicoptered in to the upper Chandindu valley. They, too, were greatly disappointed with the slabs of "Graham-cracker rock," loose flakes, and poor lines. During three days of bad weather, Denis and Mounsey managed to get up a difficult rib on the north face of the eastern satellite of Tombstone Mountain. After nasty bivouacs and some A4 nailing, they had a miserable descent in a rain storm. Later the party did a 1500-foot wide mixed route on the peak just north of Monolith Peak, as well as other first ascents in the range. Monolith itself, apparently still unclimbed, is the prize of the range.

DAVID ROBERTS

### North West Territories

*The Cirque of the Unclimbables, Logan Mountains.* Jamie Farrar and I repeated Buckingham's 1960 routes with minor variations on Terrace Tower, Crescent Spire, and Sir James MacBrien. After abandoning one attempt on the south face of Phenocryst Spires, we returned to climb a large dihedral which splits the face between Phenocryst and the high point between it and Huey's Spire. Nine long pitches of primarily crack climbing led to a gap on the narrow ridge between Huey's and Phenocryst. The final pitch to the ridge was an appealing variety of jams, laybacks, and face-climbing. Four pitches along the ridge led to the high point which we had seen from below. Here we discovered a cairn built by a previous party. Nine rappels, utilizing fixed pins, and 500 feet of down-climbing brought us to the moraine above the glacier. One afternoon Bill Putnam and I climbed a snow couloir which led to the ridge joining Harrison-Smith and West Cathedral Peak. This is a finger-like slope near the upper end of the first cirque, separated by a broad rock rib from What-Notch. Averaging 45° at the bottom, the slope steepened to about 60° near the top. Climbing on glacial ice or ice mantled with a couple of inches of snow, we moved continuously the entire way, except near the top where we belayed from inside several crevasses. We attained the ridge and a nearby high point in three hours of climbing. Upon later inspection we believe this to be the summit of

the fourth Pentadactyl Spire, previously unclimbed. The precipitous nature of the surrounding terrain forced us to down-climb our ascent route. Using our three ice screws judiciously, we descended 18 pitches without mishap in just over three hours. Later in August (we were there from the 10th to the 26th), Mark Kremen and I repeated Buckingham's route on Meringue. On our final day of climbing, Farrar and I did the second ascent of the southeast ridge of Sir James MacBrien, a spectacularly situated climb, requiring one pitch of aid and offering some superb crack and slab climbing.

DOUG BURBANK

*Logan Mountains.* Hans Ueli Brunner, Paul Muggli and I left Switzerland in early June for the Logan Mountains. On June 19 to 21 climbed the Frost route on Lotus Flower Tower with much snow, though the conditions on the face were good. We climbed the south ridge of Proboscis on June 24 in a single day, again with much snow and some dangerous cornices. On June 27 we made the first ascent of the west peak of Huey's Spire by its south face. Buckingham climbed the middle and east peaks. This was our most difficult climb. Two other Swiss, Edgar Oberson and Maurice Cochand, came in on the plane which flew us out on July 2. They climbed the Lotus Flower Tower but were weathered off other climbs.

RUEDI HOMBERGER, *Schweizer Alpen Club*

### **Baffin Island**

*Tirokwa, West Face.* We were a small expedition, two people, Jill Lawrence and I. Our objective was the west face of Mount Thor, but after hearing of the Japanese team's bolting epic and subsequent failure, we turned to the west face of Tirokwa. This face abuts the unnamed westerly satellite peak and is a 4000-foot triangular cliff with a prominent central spur. The route takes a ramp cutting the lower face of the spur for 10 rope-lengths, then follows the crest of the spur for four pitches before traversing left onto the north flank of the spur for two pitches and climbing the centre of the north flank by a prominent crack system for 10 pitches to reach a saddle. We then followed the ridge of the spur for five pitches until it abuts the upper face and then climbed diagonally to the right for three pitches and finally for four pitches up easier rock to the summit. The route is on steep rock throughout, rather loose on the first four pitches. It is remarkably sustained at F6 to F8 with three pitches of F9 and three of fourth class. We used two pins for anchors and 2 nuts for direct aid to start the third pitch after the ramp. All other belays were from nuts. Climbing time was 15 hours. We descended the southwest ridge with two rappels in three hours.

PETER LIVESEY, *Alpine Club*