

at that time of the year, August 1. Then, upon reaching an ice wall south of us, we were besieged by clouds from the south. After huddling for two hours, we were able to make camp when conditions improved. We climbed steep snow and ice sections between this point and the summit (fourth ascent). We camped past this third unnamed peak, not far from the summit of Mount Newton. Uchmański decided we must descend rather than continue to Newton. The descent began along a ridge south of and parallel to the north face of Newton. Eventually the ridge, technically more and more difficult to descend, faded into a crumbling ice and rock face, which shed rock onto the glacier, 2000 feet below. We traversed to Newton's north face to continue the descent. Fear was our constant companion, since tons of hanging glaciers were poised above us, but fortunately we were spared by the thundering avalanches around us. By traveling below Newton's north face, we reached the Seward Glacier and finally Base Camp. Our proposed new route on Mount Logan was discarded, possibly because of avalanche danger on the lower part of the route or because of the apparent severity of the route. We headed for Schoening's east ridge but the crevasse bridges were too weak at this point in the season. We decided to cross the Seward Glacier and climb St. Elias and P c. 13,000, just northwest of it. We reconnoitered what appeared a feasible route on St. Elias' north face, but when four climbers reached our high point, Uchmański called off the attempt because of avalanche danger in an exposed chute. We turned to P c. 13,000. Our attempt on August 13 was two-pronged. Zdzitowiecki, Zachariasiewicz and Serafin on the east face found little difficulty in the lower portion, while the other six of us were slowed by a formidable bergschrund near the col at the foot of the north ridge between it and St. Elias. By the time we reached the col, the face climbers, reduced to housefly dimensions, were visible on the summit,\* 1500 feet above us. After easy climbing initially on the ridge, we were forced to traverse on 45° to 50° ice below the crumbling rock ridge crest. I had broken one of my rigid crampons and we had to cut steps. When we encountered the descending face climbers 500 feet from the top, they reported several stretches of 55° to 60° ice above us. I chose to descend with them, and all the rest decided to descend too. After returning to Base Camp, we waited out a five-day snowstorm before the helicopter arrived on August 22 with supplies. We began the 120-mile hike to Kluane Lake early the following morning.

CARL TOBIN, *Alaska Alpine Club*

*Mount Vancouver, West Face.* Mount Vancouver was first climbed in 1938 by Noel Odell and party. Our ascent, the fifth, was by the

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\* This was the third ascent, following climbs of 1958 and 1966. It has unofficially been called "Windy Peak."




PLATE 68

National Geographic  
© Photo by Bradford Washburn  
The West Face of MOUNT  
VANCOUVER.

previously unclimbed west face. We flew in from Kluane on May 27. After four days of avalanche watching, we had some idea of what the mountain was like, and on the 31st we placed a cache of 12 days' supplies at Camp I. The following day we returned with 1200 feet of polypropylene rope and four additional days of food. For the lower, steeper section, about 55°, we used a moving siege tactic in three stages of 1600 feet. This got us to Camp II, and involved four days of climbing and two days of storm sitting. Above Camp II the angle eased considerably, but we were again held down by bad weather. We did, however, manage to place Camp III, just 800 feet higher and to fix an ice step above. The weather cleared on June 8, so we were able to push on to a large platform which constituted Camp IV, the Ritz. Behind the Ritz loomed our biggest problem, a 50-foot overhanging ice wall. This wall took eight hours to climb and involved aiding from axe and terrordactyl shafts, and a dead-boy. Above this, John Calvert broke trail for a continuous six hours until we reached a safe campsite, a mere 1500 feet from the summit. We were exhausted. The next day we slept late, and reached the top (15,850 feet) at six o'clock that evening, June 10, under clear skies. The descent down the ascent route took two days and underlined the unmanifest dangers of the ascent. On the last rappel two of us were caught in an exposed position by a volley of rockfall, and as we reached the glacier, the gullies that we had just descended avalanched. Finally we were treated to an impressive display; a 400-foot-high sérac fell 2500 feet to the glacier and erupted to send snow and wind to us at Base Camp five miles away. Expedition members were John Calvert, leader, John Lauchlan, Mike Sawyer and I.

TREVOR JONES, *Alpine Club of Canada*

### Northwest Territories—Logan Mountains

*Lotus Flower Tower, Free Ascent.* In early August Mark Robinson, Sandy Stewart and I completed the first all-free ascent of the McCarthy-Frost-Bill route on the Lotus Flower Tower during a three-day spell of clear weather. Several days earlier, we spent two days on the wall free-climbing to the terrace 1400 feet up but retreated in stormy weather. The first 300 feet involved awkward jamming up the wet and dirty dihedral with a difficult section near the top and route-finding problems establishing ourselves in the jam-crack. Climbing the long chimney system which then splits the lower wall was unpleasant, with loose holds, wet and dirty rock and much trash left from previous ascents. The extraordinary climbing on the upper "ski tracks" made up for this. We followed the aid cracks for most of the upper wall, occasionally traversing to either side of them when the climbing became wet or unpleasant. The second overhang was the crux on the upper face. After a steep, 30-foot head-wall, the crack widened and turned into hand-jamming and finally, 300