

below Broad Peak's southwest face. On April 25 we attempted the ascent of an unclimbed peak south of Broad Peak. This climb was cut short when a major windslab avalanche struck us and swept us from the face. This great slide had a shear line more than 1000 feet across and flowed at a depth up to 15 feet. No serious injuries were sustained, but we learned about avalanches in the far north. Very little snow falls in the Arctic. The small amount deposited blows around a great deal during the frequent, violent winter storms, causing dangerous lee-slope conditions. Even very light snowfall does not mean low avalanche danger. We had under one inch of snow during our 72-hour storm. Slab conditions seem to be the rule. Slight temperature gradients in late winter do not encourage the metamorphising of snow structures and so avalanche conditions tend to prevail long after a storm has ended. A later attempt on Walrus Peak was halted by delicate snowslab conditions. We spent the remainder of our three weeks' stay ski touring. Climbers going into this or other remote Baffin Island locations should check with native (Innu) town or settlement councils before departing for the field. Many areas (primarily approach routes) include important hunting grounds. With this in mind it seems only proper to check with locals before possibly disturbing wild game in hunting zones.

ALLAN ERRINGTON

*Mount Thor, West Face, Diagonal Buttress, Weasel Valley, Auyuittuq National Park, Baffin Island.* The diagonal buttress on the west face of Mount Thor angles upward to the north shoulder, forming the left retaining wall for a dike of red hematite. After reading Doug Scott's remarks in *Big Wall Climbing* about the west face of Mount Thor looking "exceedingly bare of good crack lines" and probably requiring "siege climbing and perhaps resorting to the detested drill," we were surprised to find such a natural-looking line. In August Steve Amter, Rick Cronk and I climbed with a light rack which proved more than adequate for all the climbing except two aid pitches in the middle of the route. These strenuous, awkward, overhanging pitches took us a-day-and-a-half to negotiate, but perhaps a better equipped party would find them easier. The rest of the route (26 pitches, 3000 feet), save one beautiful dihedral at the top, was enjoyable free climbing, most of the pitches varying from F5 to F8. The rock was of good quality reminiscent of the Teton. The three of us spent 72 hours on the route, though a faster party of two might cut this time considerably. NCCS VI, F9, A4.

RONALD H. SACKS

*Killabuk, Ozymandias, Owl Pillar, Enosiagit, Cumberland Peninsula, Baffin Island.* Ten members of the Etchachan Mountaineering Club spent

PLATE 64

*Photo by Ronald H. Sacks*

**MOUNT THOR's West Face, Baffin  
Island. The difficult aid pitches are  
between the bivouacs (marked X).**



July in the Cumberland Mountains. Despite a late spring and "the worst weather in 20 years," we managed to do some climbing between prolonged periods of bad weather. We climbed the following. *Killabuk*: Ian Dalley, Mike Freeman, Guy Muhlemann, John Moreland and Dave Nichols on July 7 climbed the east face, taking a line slightly left of the Hennek-Scott route to the obvious snow bay. Here they climbed the headwall on the left. 3500 feet. Mostly F6 and F7 with one pitch on the headwall of F8. *Ozymandias* (Ref 240060): We spent ten days camped below the magnificent twin buttresses of Ozymandias on the bend of Owl Valley. The formidable right buttress seemed to offer only one line of weakness, the left edge. A foray on the first 300 feet confirmed that bolts and a certain amount of aid would be required. We found evidence of a previous attempt on this tremendous line. On July 14 and 18 Nichols and I climbed the more slabby left buttress on two separate days, taking a line towards the left flank. We ascended 1500 feet of sustained slabs (F6 to F8) to a large platform below the headwall, which we climbed by a prominent open groove, which turned out to be relatively straightforward. The left and right buttresses are flanked by two subsidiary buttresses, the Left and Right Arms. John and Alison Higham climbed the Left Arm (1500 feet, F6) on July 14; Muhlemann, Moreland, Freeman and J. Higham took the obvious right-hand chimney to reach the crest and climbed the Right Arm on July 18. 2000 feet. F7. *Peak X* (Ref 150110, c. 6600 feet): This, the highest point between the Highway Glacier and Owl Valley was climbed by Dalley and Freeman on July 14. The ascent was made via the large glacier left of Ozymandias and the easy east ridge. *Owl Pillar* (Ref 180980): We thus named the prominent spur topped by a 1000-foot pillar, situated about three miles down from and on the same side of Owl Valley as the Rundle Glacier. The Pillar was climbed to within 200 feet of its snowcap before a storm forced a retreat. The lower spur was mostly scrambling but the pillar provided excellent free climbing up to F9. *Enosiagit* (Ref 995010): During our last week in the area, Freeman, Steve Bateson, Bill McKerrow and I camped in this magnificent setting with the west faces of Friga and Asgard and the south face of Loki all within a few miles. The poor weather caused us frustration, but one day we climbed the isolated peak northeast of Loki by a southwest spur (the third spur from the left), which led directly to the summit. 4000 feet. Not sustained but some pitches of F6 and F7.

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*Weasel Valley, Baffin Island.* Our seven-man expedition was active in the Weasel Valley during July and August. Climbing throughout the night of July 27 to 28 Rob Little and I made the first ascent of an impres-