

Turret Glacier we crossed right into the amphitheater formed by the northeast and northwest arms of Austerity's north ridge. We climbed an ice-and-snow gully to the northeast ridge. We moved right and up on fractured rock to the snow arête. Above the snow we had moderate class-5 rock to the final steep nose, where we went right. We used a sling on a horn (A1) to gain a small face, then down-climbed 15 feet to a chimney system which leads back to the ridge crest. Easy class-5 and class-4 took us to the cairn marking the junction with the 1967 east-face route. (NCCS III-IV, F7, A1.)

ROBERT B. HALL

Canadian Rockies

Mount Alberta. Mount Alberta is a desolate mountain. The Sunwapta River wards off tourists. Wading across the swift, freezing water at eight A.M. was not a pleasant way to begin the day. However, that discomfort was soon forgotten because of the impressive views on the hike to Woolley Col. You don't have to be an ice climber to get over the col, but if you have not done any ice climbing, you probably wouldn't try. This is Alberta's second line of defense; it keeps out the hikers. At four A.M. R.D. Caughron and I got up and started out on what the guidebook states by the Japanese route is a 16-hour trip to the top with a 10-hour return. By four P.M. we were above a lot of loose junk rock on the lower southeast slopes of Alberta but nowhere near the towering summit walls. We found a small notch in the south face where other parties had bivouacked. Early the next morning we traversed north along the snowfield which lay below the black rock to a point which gave access to a horizontal ledge system which paralleled the snowfield. We climbed up a pitch and continued the traverse along nasty high-angle scree mixed with patches of snow and ice. It demanded complete attention. Seven hours of ledges killed our chances of making the summit that day. This was obvious when we reached a vertical column system which had some old rappel slings on it. We climbed ten pitches of F5 to F7 solid rock, angling up and to the north. Finally we came to a couloir which joined the summit ridge at the *second* notch (from south to north) of the summit ridge. (*A Climber's Guide to the Rocky Mountains of Canada* mistakenly says to head for the *first* notch.) On the last pitch we crossed to the north side of the couloir and climbed the rock to the notch at the summit ridge. It was six P.M. If we went to the top, we had to spend the night on the ridge . . . no food, no water, no shelter. We headed toward the summit around cornices and rock spires. By the time we reached the 60-foot snow notch, there was not enough time to make it to the summit and back. We chopped out a level place in the steep scree and loose, frozen rock and settled in for a long night.

About midnight it started to snow. Seconds later an incredibly bright light flashed; the air was highly electric. Fate smiled; we did not ground the lightning discharge. The morning of July 26 was welcome. We rappelled down into the notch and quickly made it to the summit. The last entry in the register (there were seven in all) was in 1972, George Lowe and Jock Glidden's climb of the north face. The two-hour descent to the notch where we left the summit ridge was a bit nerve-wracking because a huge cloud had moved in from the east. Luckily it was not a storm front. We returned to the luxury of our first bivouac site on the south face after ten to twelve rappels and a traverse on the scree slopes below the ledge system and snowfield. We realized that if we had stayed lower on the ascent, we would have saved a day. The next noon we were back at the tent and had a gourmet lunch and headed for the river. We spent the night on the way. We didn't relax until we were safely across the Sunwapta River the next morning. Our only advice to the next party is to read accounts of earlier climbs, bring another summit register and allow a bit more time than the guidebook says.

GERRY DIENAL, *Unaffiliated*

Turret Mountain and Mount Geikie, The Ramparts. After encountering the typical Mount Robson weather in which Chris Jones and I were blown off the Kain Face and finally settled for the normal route, we joined George Lowe and Dean Hannibal for a week in the Ramparts. This rugged group of mountains rises out of the beautiful Tonquin Valley, and despite relatively easy access, has had little climbing activity. Fred Beckey, true to form, climbed many of the most prominent north face lines in the mid 1960's, but bypassed two of the largest peaks, Mount Geikie and Turret Mountain. It was in the north faces of these two that we were most interested. With a minimum of time and nearly perfect weather, we split up to attempt both mountains, Chris and I to do Turret, and George and Dean, Geikie. The line we chose on Turret began on the left side of the prominent north buttress, and ascended steep rock (F8, A1) to the prow of the buttress. Devious route-finding, and sometimes loose rock, led up generally easy climbing, and we bivouacked at about the two-thirds point on the mountain. On the next day we found increased mixed climbing, with ice to 60°, as we turned the final headwall on the right. The summit was reached at five P.M. On the descent, we again bivouacked, and spent most of the following day rappelling and down-climbing steep and loose gullies on the southwest face. We arrived at our Base Camp on Moat Lake as the sun set. It should be noted that although the route we used to descend seemed to coincide with the route indicated in the *Guide* as the original one done on the mountain, we found no evidence of this. And it seems unlikely that, given a number