

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

PLATE 81

*Photos by Brock Wagstaff*

**MOUNT GEIKIE's North Face from  
Moat Lake.**



PLATE 82

**Chris Jones in the final ice gully  
which leads to the notch between the  
summit and west towers of TURRET  
MOUNTAIN.**



of free rappels and almost a full day descending, the original ascent could have been done in four and a half hours! At least in that particular location. (NCCS V, F8, A1 and mixed.) Most of the next several days were occupied scanning the face of Geikie for our over-due partners. Having encountered difficult and continuous climbing (NCCS VI, F9, A3 and mixed), they had spent four days in the ascent, and another day and a half descending the complicated southeast face. What they came away with is perhaps the finest route done in the region to date, having traced a direct line to the summit up a thin, steep rib in the middle of the huge north face.

BROCK WAGSTAFF

*Aries Peak, North Face.* In mid-September John Lauchlin and I did a new route on Aries Peak, a somewhat unobtrusive formation 10 miles south of the Saskatchewan River crossing west of the Banff-Jasper highway. We climbed the prominent rock-and-ice face on the mountain's northern flank. During a day and a half we encountered 1000 feet of rock (up to F8) and 2300 feet of ice (up to Scots grade 4) on the hanging glacier that comprises the upper two-thirds of the route. Rockfall was minimal and the hanging glacier appears to be receding, making the route relatively free from objective hazards.

JAMES BLENCH, *Alpine Club of Canada*

*Mount Englehard, Northwest Couloir, Columbia Icefield.* In early September Tom Kimbrell, Dave Hough and I climbed the northwest couloir of Mount Englehard. We had 700 feet of reliable 60° ice in the upper couloir. The bottom section will vary significantly from year to year. We descended the north ridge to a scree slope and diagonaled back to the base of the upper couloir. (NCCS F7, A3.)

JEEP GASKIN, *Southern Alpine Club*

### North West Territory—Logan Mountains

*Cirque of the Unclimbables.* The first Japanese expedition to the Logan Mountains was composed of Koichi Ezaki, Takashi Kuranishi, Shingemitsu Murai and Harutoshi Toyota. They flew to Glacier Lake on July 10. On July 15 Ezaki and Kuranishi did a new route on the south face of Mount Meringue (F8). On July 27 Toyota and Kuranishi climbed the east buttress of Sir James McBrien. They attempted unsuccessfully a free climb of the Lotus Flower Tower and a new route on Middle Huey Spire. Previous to this they had attempted Mount Logan in the second half of June. They reached within a few hundred feet of the top of the east peak via the east ridge but bad weather prevented their reaching the summit.