

respect the amount of work invested and are thankful for an updated edition of the guidebook. In general, the descriptions are accurate and complete. The rating of the climbs are by Yosemite Decimal System and in all but a few cases they seem to be more accurate and reasonable than in the 1972 guidebook. Originally, a modified Australian rating system was going to be used in the new guide. A lot of research was done and it was found that most people could count to 11 or 12 faster than they could count to 27. So we still have the Y.D.S.

As a final note, I'd like to mention that many excellent new routes and variations did not appear in the new guide because of publication deadlines or inconsistent criteria for including a route in the guide. I know of at least one person working on a supplement to the guide that will include these climbs as well as note any inaccuracies in the 1980 edition.

Lastly, a word to the wise. Take a minute and think about all the mountains of gossip that new routes, guidebooks, supplements and reviews produce: now, try to forget all that and go climbing.

MIKE SAWICKY

*Kluane Pinnacle of the Yukon*, edited by John B. Theberge with the assistance of George W. Douglas. Line drawings by Mary Theberge. Garden City, New York, Doubleday and Co., Inc. 1980. 175 pages. Profusely illustrated with 32 pages of color and numerous black and white photographs, plus maps, diagrams and end papers.

This story of Kluane National Park (8500 square miles) in the extreme southwest corner of Yukon Territory, Canada, is not a climbing book but it should delight anyone with a love of mountains. The park is unique. It takes in most of the St. Elias Mountains including massive Mount Logan (19,525 feet), the highest peak in Canada, 19 others over 14,000 feet, and lower ones still unclimbed, as well as the largest and longest glaciers outside the polar regions. Within this coastal region there is tremendous diversity of climate from winter to summer and even within the space of a day, so that some areas near the Pacific may be pounded by blizzards driving in from the ocean at the same time that semi-arid areas not far away on the eastern side of the range and at a lower altitude are sweltering in the sun. The glacier systems and the rivers that spring from them are a tremendous stimulus to plant and animal life. One hundred eighteen kinds of birds have been seen there, while grizzlies, wolves, moose, mountain goats, occasional caribou and some 4000 of the graceful Dall sheep roam the slopes. Yet much of the park is infrequently visited.

The book has been organized in an unusual way, with 16 scientists writing parts on their special interests. One major section deals with

rock, glaciers, and climate, another with living things and a third with man's activities in the range. The book is full of information and John Theberge has been skillful in pulling it all together. Photographs are an important part, many of them by Walter A. Wood, our former president, who between 1935 and the present has done more than anyone to explore this region in a scientific way. His efforts have been basic to the preservation of this special mountain environment as a national park.

Among those taking particular pleasure in the book will be four club members (Adams Carter, Ome Daiber, Bradford Washburn and I) who still vividly recall entering this region with a dog team in the winter of 1935, under Washburn's leadership, to explore what was then largely a blank on the map.

ROBERT H. BATES

*French Rock-Climbs*, by Pete Livesey. Leicester, England: Cordee, 1980. 77 pages, maps, diagrams. Price £3.95.

For the rock climber who has done everything in the U.S., this may be *the* book of the year. Tired of Yosemite? Burned off with El Dorado or the Gunks? Well, why not buy a cheap trans-Atlantic flight and try France?

There have been rumors lately about the splendors of rock climbing there—Verdon in particular. One of the chief rumormongers has been Pete Livesey, who has now put into book-form a smattering of routes from twelve French climbing areas. It is a book in the tradition of Robin Collomb's *Mont Blanc*, or J. Brailsford's *Dolomites*; being far from comprehensive but of great value to climbers ignorant of the local language. When bummed out on the Chamonix or Courmayeur weather, climbers may find welcome relief and diversions in these crags; most of them clustered in the sunny south and situated near villages of great charm. Not *all* climbers, however. Anyone who can't climb at F9 to F10 needn't bother with *French Rock-Climbs*.

Vercors and Verdon get by far the largest sections; a dozen pages each, compared to six for the Calanques, four for Le Saussois. Dry and understated Yorkshireman though he be, Livesey almost bubbles with enthusiasm over Verdon, calling it the "undoubted centerpiece of French free climbing; a magnificent 2000-foot steep gorge flanked by cliffs of superb limestone. Here one can find a selection of the finest climbs to be seen anywhere in Europe. Long sustained routes follow soaring cracks and dièdres or the blank sheet-like pillars between them." And this: "Nothing is quite so enthralling as climbing a seemingly holdless white wall set high above the roaring Verdon river by a continually surprising series of incut holds."

The publication of this book is bound to stimulate traffic in English-speaking climbers to the South of France—coincident with what appears