

ascent had been made from the west on August 3, 1973 by Canadians Dick Butson, Mike Frame and Barry James. After that, the real waiting began. Finally on August 13, we saw three boats on the horizon. The Eskimos had in the past two weeks made two attempts to reach us but were driven back by the ice outside the fiord. But now, they wanted to have a caribou hunt before returning. It was seven days before, on August 20, we started for Clyde River with boats overloaded with 13 caribous, our expedition gear and 20 people. After 30 kilometers we were in the pack-ice. To minimize the danger, the Eskimos sailed between the coast and the ice and pulled the boats on shore when too threatened. A number of times we had to unload the boats and winch them onto the shore. After we had covered a third of the distance, one of the motors developed a terrible knocking. One could see that the valve stem had broken close to the driveshaft. Having studied auto-mechanics, I set about repairing it under the skeptical eyes of the Eskimos. We crept forward with three cylinders and reached Clyde River on August 23, 1987.

PETER GOBET, *Schweizer Alpen Club*

## GREENLAND

*Peaks near Gunnsbjørns Fjeld, Watkins Mountains.* Our expedition members were Greg Englefield, Lewis Jones, Nick Hulton and I as leader. It was intended as a training expedition for a long journey down the east coast in either 1989 or 1990. In June 1988 we were landed by Twin Otter ski plane on a glacier bounding the northern side of the Watkins Mountains and the southern side of Knud Rasmussen Land. The Watkins Mountains, which had been visited only three times since their discovery in 1931, are the highest in the Arctic. The three previous expeditions have aimed for Gunnsbjørns Fjeld, the highest. Our objective was to climb as many of the higher unclimbed peaks as possible. Accordingly, we climbed "Cone" and "Dome," which we think are the second and third highest in the Arctic. (Dome may have been a second ascent.) In addition, we climbed seven other peaks in the southern and eastern part of the range, all above 3000 meters. We believe we have inserted five new peaks into the list of the highest six in the Arctic. We then traveled north into the previously unvisited Knud Rasmussen Land and whilst sledging through it, climbed P 3080, which is the highest in the range. After this we explored the upper reaches of the huge Christian IV Glacier. We arrived in the field on June 24 and left on July 26.

JAMES LOWTHER, *Royal Geographical Society*

*Gunnsbjørns Fjeld and Mont Forel.* Franz Fischer, Tommy Sandberg, Per-Gunnar Bjurman and I made a 43-day expedition to East Greenland. We flew from Isafjordur, Iceland on July 24 with a ski-equipped Twin Otter to a glacier 20 kilometers north of Gunnsbjørns Fjeld. After waiting a day for good weather, we

climbed Gunnsbjørns Fjeld (3708 meters, 12,166 feet) from the southwest. On July 27, we started the 500-kilometer journey to Mont Forel with 80 kilograms on each sled. We traveled 200 kilometers out onto the icecap through mountainous country. We crossed the Christian IV Glacier in a southwesterly direction. We used the same route as the 1987 English expedition to the Sorgenfri Glacier. The 100 kilometers from the west side of the upper Frederiksborg Glacier to the northern part of the Prince of Wales Glacier was over new territory. On August 9, we reached the icecap. We then followed the 1934 Trans-Greenland route of Martin Lindsay. After three days of bad weather and crevasse problems, the weather cleared and it got colder, down to  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Bjurman had increasing pain in his chest. On August 23, we called for a helicopter from Angssalik to evacuate him. We other three continued to Mont Forel 100 kilometers away. On August 29, we climbed Forel (3360 meters, 11,024 feet) by a new route from the north up a 500-meter-high  $40^{\circ}$  snow face. The seven-day route down to Kungmiut was over big glaciers with dangerous crevasses. Being free of snow, there were no snow bridges. We threw our sleds away in a crevasse on the Paris Glacier and back-packed from there. We had covered 730 kilometers and climbed both peaks.

BENGT RODIN, *Svenska Klätterförbundet*

*Gunnsbjørns Fjeld.* Our members were Swiss Dr. Milan Cermak and Germans Peter Koschi and me. We had hoped to fly from Isafjordur by ski-equipped Twin Otter to the Christian IV Glacier. Just before us, a Swedish group flew there. On the pilot's return, he refused to fly back because of bad snow conditions. We joined together with a group of Canadian geologists who were seeking gold and platinum near Sødalen. They took us to Sødalen in their Twin Otter, which had big wheels. They had chartered a helicopter, which would also fly us to the Christian IV Glacier. The first attempt to land there was unsuccessful because of zero visibility but we did manage to be landed on July 30. Because the weather this year was so bad, we decided to set out as it cleared in the evening. We climbed through the night and got to the summit of Gunnsbjørns Fjeld at eight A.M. of August 1.

GERHARD SCHMATZ, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Snehätten, West Greenland Correction.* On page 154 of *AAJ*, 1988, an ascent of Snehätten was given. A previous modern ascent was made by Baird and Longstaff. (See, *AAJ*, 1950, vol. 58, page 196.)

## MEXICO

*Serpent's Head, Orizaba.* On January 10, from the hut on the west side of Orizaba, Wink Barrons and I made a new route by the rightmost (southernmost) waterfall on the cliff below the Sarcófago. We soloed three rope-lengths at the