

characterizes the rest of the route. A full rope-length of 5.7 got us to the dihedral. Two long 5.8 pitches followed the dihedral to a comfortable niche near its top. I climbed a short off-width crack above the niche to a steep leftward-ascending crack and then to a small ledge. I continued up a steep 5.9 finger-crack as far as the rope allowed and set up a bombproof belay, seeing the next pitch was going to be the crux. There were several possibilities. One was a clean hand-crack which split the wall about ten meters to the right of the belay. I suggested a pendulum across the blank granite into the crack, but Jon had a different idea. Announcing he was going to do a friction traverse from the belay to the crack, he gingerly smeared onto the steep face. Somehow his feet stuck although he was palming his hands on the featureless rock. Several identical moves left him well above me and in the middle of the blank face. He continued the delicate footwork, moving up and right on unprotected 5.10 until he was finally able to sink a jam into the hand-crack. He followed the 5.7 crack to a comfortable seat at the top of the buttress. An easy 5th-class scramble led past the cornice and to the top of the spire. The entire climb took six hours. (7 pitches, IV, 5.10R.) The route also provides an alternative descent route that is relatively free from objective danger since it is not threatened by the cornice which overhangs the currently used descent gully, namely the Beckey-Chouinard route. It has good stances and cracks for anchors about 45 meters apart all the way down.

GRAY THOMPSON

*Eastpost Spire, West Face, Bugaboos, 1989.* In the first week of August 1989, Dave Turner and I climbed a new route on the west face of Eastpost Spire. From a point just right of a plumbline from the summit, we ascended a full 5.6 to 5.8 pitch on pretty good rock in a left-facing corner. A traverse left around a wide overhang took us to a system of sandy ledges. From there we found that the striking dihedrals leading to the summit were very gritty and had no cracks and so we trended right up loose but reasonably protected rock. A traverse into a wide chute and climbing up it were the crux and final (sixth) pitch. (III, 5.10—.)

ANDREW SELTERS, *Unaffiliated*

*Mount Dawson, North Face, Selkirk Range, 1988.* Fred Beckey, Dave Pollari and I approached the Dawson group from Rogers Pass on August 2, 1988, crossing the Illecillewaet Icefield to the Glacier Circle Hut. After a day of rain, we climbed over the lower east shoulder of Mount Fox and bivouacked at the edge of the Fox Glacier above the icefall. On the morning of the 5th, we climbed the Fox Glacier to the Twisted Rock-Selwyn col, several hundred feet above and a half-mile northeast of the base of the ice couloir that is the most prominent feature of the north face of Mount Dawson. Beckey was not feeling well and elected to wait at the col. Pollari and I picked our way down scree and ledges to the base of the face, where we had our first good view of the couloir. It was 90% grey glacial ice. Old snow patches and a rock band halfway up comprised the

rest. Using French technique mixed with some front-pointing, we third-classed the first several hundred feet, winding through crevasses and the bergschrund. A quarter of the way up, we roped and began moving together, keeping one or two ice screws between us. We did the entire climb that way, stopping to belay only for the awkward 50-foot rock band. Even with that relatively fast climbing style, the 2500-foot-high climb took us seven hours. We scrambled up the remaining rock to the summit, descended eastward toward the Dawson-Selwyn col and followed a rib directly back to the Twisted Rock-Selwyn col, where Fred was waiting. We returned to the bivouac site of the previous night just at dark. The couloir varied from 200 to only a few feet in width. Its slope was remarkably constant at about 55°.

GRAY THOMPSON

### Logan Mountains

*Lotus Flower Tower.* In July, Masakazu Fujiwara, Atsushi Saito and Eisaku Nozu completed a new route on the Lotus Flower Tower to the left of the 1968 McCarthy-Frost-Bill route. After fixing the first three pitches, they returned and did the route with three bivouacs. To their great surprise, they found a body in a red sleeping bag on a ledge in the fifth pitch. Because they found traces of an earlier attempt, they veered right and joined the 1968 route at the 10th pitch. From the 11th pitch on, they went back to the left crack and reached the top at the end of the 20th pitch. (VI, 5.10, A2.) On the descent via the 1968 route, they met an American party from Utah (Steve Walker and others). A full article with many photos appears in *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 143 on pages 64 to 70.

### Canadian Arctic

*Southernmost of the Seven Sisters Mountains and Glacial Exploration, Ellesmere Island, 1987.* On August 2, 1987, Dan Merfeld, Dave Slobodin and I made the first known non-aerial exploration of the snout of the Abbe Glacier (82°01'N, 71°30'W), ascending a mile or more. We considered the ascent of the moderate west flank of the southernmost peak of the Seven Sisters Mountains, but marginal weather and the modest climbing experience of two of the party led us to turn back. The following day, the weather cleared. My companions were not interested in a second effort. Therefore, I made the first ascent of the peak solo via the more challenging and aesthetic south couloir, which in the lower half averaged 45° but steepened in the upper fan to about 70°, with water ice below the surface. The view which unfolded on the summit (5240 feet by aneroid) out over the icecap was my most overwhelming mountain experience. After rejoining my companions, we traveled from Lake Hazen to Tanquary Fiord, making the first complete traverse between the Scylla and Charybdis Glacier on August 9. Finally, to reach Tanquary, on August 11 we made the third known traverse of the Rollrock Glacier.

THEODORE MCDADE, *Unaffiliated*