

lowed an easy southeast ridge. We next climbed a beautiful 10,450-foot peak across the Kahiltna Glacier from Mount Crosson, which we called "Bergchen" ("little Mountain" in German). Its east ridge provided an interesting ice climb with many problems. We moved camp downglacier by ski-toboggan, which worked well at night when the snow was frozen. Our next summit, a 9000-foot peak southeast of Mount Foraker, was easily attained from the north. Since the weather then turned bad, we were unable to complete any further climbs. We found the lower Kahiltna Glacier fairly easy traveling, having fewer crevasse problems now than those reported by the previous expedition. Much worse were the twelve days of rain and the chest-deep river crossings. We encountered only one day of bad brush going across the tundra to Talkeetna.

JOHN H. NEWMAN, JR.

Ascents East of Mount McKinley. Late in June Ken Laufer and I, both seasonal rangers in McKinley National Park, made the third ascent of Peak 8620. (First ascent by Adams Carter and party in 1957; see *A.A.J.*, 1958, 11:1, p. 91. Second ascent by Gene Wescott and party in 1958, who ascended the northwest ridge descended by the previous climbers.) We followed the Carter route for the most part though we reached the foot of the north ridge from the left (east) rather than the right. The snow made glacier travel hazardous. The ridge was hard ice covered with a foot of wet snow, which continuously avalanched from our steps.

In mid-July Tom Clark, three Germans and I made the first ascent of the 8400-foot peak $3/4$ mile west-northwest of Scott Peak. We approached it up the main east tributary of the Sunset Glacier. Bad weather forced us to forgo our plans for Scott Peak and settle on Peak 8400 which was ascended in a blinding snow storm.

Charlie Travers and I made the first ascent of two mountains south of Polychrome Pass. We left the road near the pass and headed south up the ridge leading to Peak 7518. After ascending to this summit, we continued on to Peak 7952, traversing the ridge beyond until a large gendarme forced us to drop to the east branch of the main Toklat River. The ridge was knife-edged and very rotten, with an occasional snow crest.

On August 10 Jim Richardson and John Newman of the Bremerton McKinley party, John Thompson of Fairbanks, Travers and I again hiked up the Muldrow trough to its bend, where we camped. Next morning we crossed the black tributary glacier that enters the Muldrow just above the bend and climbed the north ridge, first up rotten rock and then hard snow, to the crest of the main ridge which divides the Muldrow from the

north fork of the Eldridge. From there we climbed the 9000-foot peak whose first ascent had been made by the Carter party a month before.

Two park rangers, James W. Larson and Richard J. Stenmark, made the first ascent of Sunset Peak (7865 feet) on July 11.

WALTER GROVE, *Wilbur's Alpine Club*

Climbs above Upper Black Rapids Glacier, Mount Hayes Area, Alaska Range. During the week of August 20 to 28, Buck Wilson, George Oetzel, John Dawson, Rick Litterick and I made two first ascents in the upper Black Rapids area but were unable to climb a 12,360-foot peak lying between Mount Hayes and Mount Shand. The goal of the expedition was to put a base camp in a high snowfield from which six unclimbed peaks over 10,000 feet might be attempted. Three days of walking brought us 30 miles up the Black Rapids Glacier to the large icefield, where the Sunitna Glacier also starts. Our proposed routes to the high camp proved to be impossible cirques at the ends of two tributary glaciers on the north side of the icefield. The ridge between these two glaciers offered a possible route, which traversed a 10,065-foot peak. A third evening reconnaissance up the ridge showed that we could probably climb the peak, but very likely not with packs. On the fourth day we moved our camp up the ridge to just below a gendarme at 8600 feet. Since the snow was deep and wet, we arose at midnight to take advantage of the night's freezing. Buck Wilson and I were on the lead rope skirting down-slope of a heavily corniced narrow ridge when a 50-foot crescent of cornice broke away from where my ice axe was placed. Finding the rest of the ridge fairly difficult under the snow conditions, we reached the summit at about 5:30 as the sun was hitting the peaks. We realized that a descent in warm sunlight would be dangerous because of the snow and that trying for the next peak (11,288 feet) or the 12,360-foot peak would mean staying up more than 24 hours. From the peak we could see a route dropping down 1000 feet to the high snowfield and two miles across to the 11,288-foot peak. Because of the snow conditions we decided to retreat but only after seeing almost every mountain range in Alaska under perfect viewing conditions. We then moved our camp back down the ridge and across the Black Rapids glacier in order to climb an 8574-foot peak the following day, returning at about 11 P.M. The next day the party traveled 10 miles down the glacier, putting camp in position to try an unclimbed 11,500-foot peak on the north side of the glacier but closing weather and poor snow conditions weakened our enthusiasm for this peak. The last day we walked all the way out to the Black Rapids Roadhouse. Because we had a tremendous auroral display and a