

allen, Alaska. The 1000-foot snow and ice north face, not previously ascended, was climbed directly to reach the east ridge on the night of the 21st. This required nearly eight hours, most of it on the last 300 feet, which is ice and averages over 60°. This was the most difficult section of the climb technically. A pulley and A-frame were used to haul a loaded sled up this part. Between June 22 and 30 we moved up the ridge, placing camps at 9000, 9500, 11,000 and 12,600 feet. Between 11,500 and 13,000 feet about 1000 feet of fixed rope were placed. On the night of July 1 a camp was established at 14,000 feet. The next morning a storm broke which prevented any further movement for six days. Around midnight on the 7th we finally reached the summit plateau at 15,000 feet. It snowed again during the 8th but cleared enough in the afternoon for us to set up high camp at 17,000 feet after dark. Our principal objective was the central summit, which had not been reached by the previous parties of 1957 and 1959 from the east. Because it snowed in the morning and was unsettled in the afternoon, Patterson and Nickerson did not set off on the 9th until six P.M. They climbed to the southeast ridge of the east peak and followed this to the summit (19,765 feet). The section was technically easy, as was all of the mountain above 15,500 feet. The summit was reached at ten in dense fog and a high wind. The two-hour descent to camp was accomplished in an increasingly violent storm, which continued uninterrupted for 54 hours with frightful winds. Because of the unsettled weather, the attempt on the central summit was abandoned on the 12th and the descent began, which required three days in the bad weather and deep snow. All caches were buried by six feet of snow. A spell of better weather came in on the 13th and the party was flown off the glacier, beginning on July 14.

BOYD N. EVERETT, JR.

*Attempt on McArthur Peak.* June 7 found all six of us, Bill Dougal, Dick Wahlstrom, Lute Jerstad, Steve Johnson, Ron Priebe and me, at 8200 feet on the north ridge of the highest unclimbed peak in North America, McArthur Peak (14,400 feet). On June 8, under clear skies, three members started with heavy loads for Camp I, which we hoped to establish at 10,600 feet. After finding a sheltered spot at about that elevation, I stayed and dug a cave while the other two pushed a route higher up the ridge through knee-deep snow. Meanwhile the balance of the party moved up and we all spent a cramped night in the "ice grotto." On June 9 we awakened to light snowfall but climbed up the ridge despite the weather. At about 12,000 feet the slope steepened and led to a knife-edge and eventually to the rock outcrop below the summit plateau (the highest point

reached during the 1953 attempt). By this time it was snowing a blizzard. Lute and Dick managed to piton their way up the 100-foot, ice-filled, rock gully with the aid of ice screws in order to attach a fixed rope. Rappelling to the ridge, we all headed down through the storm, pleased with our accomplishment. The storm kept us at our cave at Base Camp for the next two days. On June 12 we waded up again through hip-deep drifts. At three P.M. we reached Camp I, dug out our cached supplies and rested before continuing our ascent to the base of the knife-edge where at six o'clock we set up camp. The next day we climbed the ridge up our fixed rope and onto the plateau. Though the weather soon closed in and by mid-afternoon we were in the midst of another blizzard, we did our best to find a route up the final summit pyramid but were forced back 300 feet below the top. On our descent Steve fell 70 feet into a hidden crevasse but was quickly rescued by the rest of the party. On June 16 and 17, once again in a storm, we moved up to 14,000 feet and dug a cave to wait for a clearing in visibility and another try, but we had no luck. By June 20 we had all been flown back to Kluane Lake and were on our way home.

GARY D. ROSE

*Mount Steele.* Frank Ewing, Rod Newcomb and I spent nearly three weeks in June in the Mount Steele region of the St. Elias Range. We were flown in to about 9000 feet on the Steele Glacier from Burwash Landing by Jack Wilson of Glen Allen, Alaska. In all we made three attempts to reach the summit of Mount Steele (16,641 feet) via the east ridge but were turned back each time by bad weather. On the second attempt, our most nearly successful, we were within 2000 feet of the summit before the weather deteriorated and forced us down. We made no further summit attempts after Steele because of continuing poor weather. We walked out down the Steele Glacier to the Donjek River and thence downstream to the Alaska Highway.

JOHN E. BREITENBACH

*Glaciology in the St. Elias Range.* A long-term program for the scientific investigation of a glacial area in terms of its total environment was initiated in 1961 under the dual sponsorship of the American Geographical Society and the Arctic Institute of North America. The program is under the direction of Walter A. Wood, and the months of July and August were devoted to a reconnaissance of a portion of the Icefield Ranges, St. Elias Mountains. The 1961 field party based its operations at the south end of Kluane Lake, Yukon Territory, from which point the project's aircraft—