

and Kenichi Mimoto of Nagoya, Japan; on July 28 César A. Pérez de Tudela of Spain; on July 28 Ray Genet, Deborah Wolfe, Terry Cartee, Steve Hackett, Wolfgang Lutz, Gene Stanley, Hank Harrison, Karl Donner, George Walker, Roger Kirkpatrick and Lloyd Sumner. The Swiss Sylvain Saudan made a remarkable ski run from 19,000 feet, but it was not from the summit nor was it the first ski descent of the mountain as he reported.

McKinley, Attempt via West Fork of the Traleika Glacier. Dave Smith, Dan Halpern, Dave Pettigrew, Lavelle Burnham and I went over McGonnagal Pass, across the Muldrow Glacier and up the Traleika Glacier to its west fork, where we located Base Camp at 7500 feet. We were ready to climb on July 11, 1971 after airdrop difficulties. A mile above camp on the west fork was our first major objective, the first of two icefalls which rises from 8000 to 11,000 feet. A two-man team was always out in front, while the other three hauled loads. The icefall took 1200 feet of fixed rope and numerous ice screws and wands on everything from long ice slopes to very jumbled sections. On the 21st we established Midcamp between the two icefalls at 11,400 feet. On the 23rd we had all supplies at camp and started on the upper icefall, which went from 12,000 to 14,000 feet at the edge of Thayer Basin. The weather which had been fairly good turned bad from July 23 to 28. At 13,200 feet we ran into problems. Massive gorges blocked further progress. We had a good day on the 29th, and Pettigrew and I reached Thayer Basin at 14,200 feet by means of steep slopes south of the icefall. On the 31st we started to move camp but to our dismay found our cache at the bottom of the icefall had been destroyed by an avalanche. We probed for hours, finding little. We had lost most of our food, fuel and some climbing gear. Smith, Halpern and Burnham descended to Base Camp to hike out while Pettigrew and I made a summit try. We two reached Thayer Basin that same day and joined the South Buttress route. On August 1 much snow fell with little wind. Crossing Thayer Basin the next day in 2½ feet of snow was much worse than we expected, but we still gained Thayer Ridge that evening. On the 3rd we made a summit push but were turned back at 16,700 feet by 100-mph winds and a white-out. With very little food (one lunch), we gave up and started down on the 4th, making Base Camp on the 5th after a 24-hour effort. The descent through the lower icefall was horrendous! I am sure we never could have made it without the faint trail of the other three, four days before. The route was totally different from on the ascent. Later we found that it took Smith, Halpern and Burnham 24 hours to descend the icefall alone. We then had a hungry and miserable five-day hike out from Base Camp with no food and large packs. Our climb was hampered by logistics, having a 3800-foot-rise from Base Camp to Midcamp and

3000 feet from Midcamp to Thayer Basin. There were no possible campsites in the icefalls and all three caches we had in them were destroyed sooner or later by avalanches.

DONALD BLACK, *Unaffiliated*

Mount McKinley, Western Rib of South Face. The Japanese ladies expedition was led by Michiko Sekita and composed of Nobue Yajima, Mitsuko Toyama, Sachiko Watanabe and Sueko Inoue. Misses Yajima, Toyama and Watanabe disappeared after leaving Camp V (17,700 feet) for the summit on June 29. Aerial and ground search continued until at last the three bodies were found at 14,500 feet at a spot between the Western Rib and the West Buttress on July 22. Ray Genet explained that the unhappy victims must have been caught in snowstorms on their way down to Camp V after possibly reaching the top.

ICHIRO YOSHIZAWA, *A.A.C. and Japanese Alpine Club*

Mount Foraker, Winter Attempt. On February 15 Cliff Hudson deposited Hank Noldan, Steve Hackett, Kurt Bittlingmaier, John Samuelson, Wendell Oderkirk, Norm Stadem and me with one month's supplies at 6500 feet on the Kahiltna glacier near the foot of Foraker's southeast ridge. We elected to attack the south spur of this ridge in order to avoid the traverse under a long row of ice cliffs on the route taken by the 1963 Carter party (*A.A.J.*, 1964, 14:1, pp. 52-5), the only other group to have climbed the southeast ridge. In retrospect, the 1963 route would have been faster and would have required less fixed rope to reach 9500 feet, where the routes joined. A steep snow couloir led to a rotten rock rib which took us to the top of the spur, where we established our first camp in a seven-man, three-room iglooplex. Three days and several thousand feet of fixed rope were needed to push the route over the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of narrow, corniced, mixed rock and snow spur to its junction with the main ridge, where Camp II was constructed at the base of a triangular rock buttress at 9000 feet. High winds drove us into our igloos for two days before we could continue. The route then led to the right up a steep, shallow, snow couloir to the crest of the triangular buttress, then up a rib of corniced snow mixed with occasional islands of steep rock and into the icefall which forms most of the south aspect of the upper southeast ridge. Several perlon anchors left behind by the 1963 party still remained among the rocks. Camp III was established in a snow cave about 200 yards below the crest of the ridge, at about 11,000 feet. From there, we ascended a 30°-45° ice slope to the bergschrund, along the 'schrund for several hundred yards, and then to the top of the southeast ridge. The hardpacked snow of the wide ridge crest made easy cramponing, with only one difficult ice pitch just below the large dome which forms the shoulder of the ridge at 13,600 feet. On the dome, we as-