

ramp, at least in early season. Later it would be exceedingly difficult, but then climbing on the peaks would not be so threatened by heavy avalanching. A more feasible approach is to land on the upper Tokositna near the northeast ridge of Hunter, where Roberts landed. One has immediate access to Hunter and to the west ridge of Huntington. The south side of Huntington may be gained by climbing a low-angle ramp on the north side of the dangerous icefall. The ramp is separated by a few rope-lengths from a moderate gully that leads to the cirque formed by the west and south ridges. Personnel: Skip Hamilton, Vladimir Farkas, Mike Yokell, Mike Parker, Jeb Schenck.

JEB SCHENCK, *Unaffiliated*

*Mount Russell, Northeast Ridge, Second Ascent by New Route.* Three crowded Fourth of July flights brought Peter Brown, John Hauck, Dick Jablonowski, Dan Osborne, and me to the 8000-foot plateau of the east branch of the Yentna Glacier. Two days later we occupied a high camp nestled under a small ice cliff at 9900 feet on the northern end of the connector ridge leading to Mount Russell's northeast ridge. (Previous attempt: *A.A.J.*, 1967, 15:2, p. 344.) Commuting along the  $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile-long doubly-corniced connector ridge was delightful as views of Foraker and Hunter distracted one's attentions from more immediate problems, first and foremost of which was the bergschrund at the base of the ridge proper. Doing end runs around the schrund would have been difficult, and quickest would have been to aid-climb it, but we chose to work on the snakey beginning of the northeast ridge that merged with the top of the schrund. This initial portion was a very airy, frothy, rimey, well-corniced route requiring the removal of much crud. It also took us three days of uninspired effort to climb it. We put in a 90-foot jümar to avoid repeating all but the final 200 feet of the ridge as we worked on the route higher up. From there the route led up a small plate to a moat, a few hundred feet above the schrund, over the moat via a 60-foot ice chimney and out onto the second plate which lead steeply to an ice barrier slightly less than halfway up the ridge. The ice wall swept from steep loose rocks on the north to a 4000-foot drop-off on the east face, although it did contain a few flaws. Near the rocks was a tight chimney that started to overhang about 40 feet up, and at the other end was a five-foot-wide, sharply downsloping 45° unstable snow ramp. In between was a crevasse running perpendicular to the wall. Getting this far on the 11th, we were optimistic that the wall could be done and that the summit was only another day away. After a day of high winds we were back at it shortly after midnight on the 13th. Osborne crawled into a small opening at the base of the wall, was forced to descend 15 feet to get back into the perpendicular crevasse, and then proceeded to chimney up 50 feet with snow on one side and hard ice on the other. Seeing light through the snow canopy, he broke through and emerged about two-thirds of the

way up the wall—above the vertical section, but still on a 60° slope. Now we were in the ice-cube tray—a mass of tumbled ice blocks and holes. The only problem was one of routefinding. After an hour in the maze the route went 1000 vertical feet up 45° to 60° snow slopes hanging over nothing. There were a few rime-ice bumps once we got off the east face and back on the ridge again. Their ten-foot pitches kept things interestingly and finally one lead us to the top of the summit rime-cap (11,670 feet). After Russell the trip became anything but anticlimactic as we spent a week negotiating the Yentna Icefall and getting over to the tundra on the north side of the Alaska Range. Then the 60 miles to Wonder Lake was the standard fare of oppressive swarms of mosquitos, swamps, endless willow thickets, circuitous detours around grizzlies, and five glacial rivers brimming with excessive summer melt.

THOMAS KENSLER, *Alaska Alpine Club*

P 6486. On April 29 Marty Corcoran and I snowshoed from the Glenn Highway 10 miles up still frozen Granite Creek. After checking out the peaks up one of the east forks of Granite Creek, on May 3 I soloed P 6486 for a first ascent.

LARRY SWANSON, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

*Gurney Peak and P 8520, Kichatna Mountains.* (See USGS map, Talkeetna B6). The north buttress can be seen from the "Glacier of the Shadows" (so named by the Roberts Party, *A.A.J.*, 1967) which runs directly north from the summit of Gurney. The buttress is divided from the peak by a high hanging glacier. This second glacier falls over steep ice slopes and eventually joins a third glacier which lies along the whole western side of the mountain. Don Fredrickson's and my route of August 1 ascends from the "Glacier of the Shadows" over the steep icefall of this third glacier and joins the rocky north buttress at a point 100 feet above a bergschrund. Third-class climbing up and to the east of the ridge ends at the base of a difficult, icy, 300-foot chimney, best entered after a short rappel and then up and to the east (left). The chimney leads onto the hanging glacier at the top of the north buttress, which is followed straight up to the base of another chimney on the left. Two shoulder stands to gain entrance and some 500 feet of difficult climbing on snow, ice and bad rock lead to the summit ridge. The route required 15 hours on the ascent, a bivouac at the summit, and 8 hours to descend the same route as the previous day. P 8520 lies 1¾ miles north-northwest of Gurney Peak. Its east face, overlooking the "Glacier of the Shadows" is an impressive array of towers and gullies. From Base Camp on that glacier, the mountain appeared to be a moderate climb up to the summit via the ice and snow on the north slope. From camp, on August 3, Don Fredrickson, Ludwig Ferche and I ascended the icy tongue north of that