

couloir. Above the notch the ridge became the proverbial Kichatna head-wall, complete with rim-encrusted overhangs. Three pitches, mostly of aid, in a renewed tempest brought us to easier ground, where we could leapfrog along the ridge. After a five-hour rest and various problems with gendarmes, zero visibility and a particularly vexing smooth barrier, on July 9 we reached the summit in a whiteout forty-eight hours after we had begun the climb. We bivouacked at the col and descended the shorter and safer couloir on the south side to the glacier, eventually reaching camp by circling around Augustin Peak.

ED NEWVILLE

*Steeple Spire, Cathedral Spires, Kichatna Mountains.* In June Mike Graber, Alan Long, Al Bartlett, and I returned to the Kichatnas to attempt the east face of Kichatna Spire. Our efforts were frustrated by horrendous weather with storms pinning us in camp for eight and ten days at a time. Four days of extremely difficult aid climbing on terrible rock gained us our 1000-foot high point, a very cold night in hammocks in a waterfall, and an even colder return down the overhanging face in a blizzard. When time ran out for Kichatna, Bartlett and I made the second ascent\* of Steeple Spire (P 6600), located on the eastern rim of the Shadows Glacier two-and-one-half miles north of the Credibility Gap. We followed a superb mountaineering route along the Northwest Ridge on the only clear afternoon in ten days. In all, we had rain or snow for twenty-five of our twenty-eight days, but morale remained high with skiing and eating heading the activities list. A better group of climbing companions I could not have asked for.

DAVID BLACK, *Buff Mountaineers*

*Three First Ascents, Cathedral Spires Kichatna Mountains.* Scott Flavelle, John Arts and I, all from Vancouver, B.C., spent from June 29 to July 31 in the Cathedral Spires. Although we had the usual bad weather that this area is noted for, we made three first ascents. The first peak is directly north of Steeple Spire, climbed by Black and Bartlett (see their account) and is about 6975 feet. Our route went from the Shadows Glacier east into an obvious cirque with our peak at its head. We ascended via the south col and southwest ridge. It was a mixed snow-and-rock route. It took 16 hours up and down. NCCS F7. Potlatch Peak is the third summit northeast of Mount Gurney on the ridge between Gurney and the Archdeacon Peaks. It is the second summit south of the low point on this ridge. We climbed it via the snow-and-ice face leading to the col south of the summit, then up two mixed pitches

---

\* First ascent by New Mexicans in 1976.

to the top. We were directly west of Grendel (see that account). It took us 12 hours. NCCS F7. Our third new peak is a small spire on the ridge between the Citadel and the Secret Passage of Kichatna Spire. From the Shadows Glacier this appears to the west as a small finger on the ridge. We climbed from the cirque just south of the Citadel up a narrow gully to the notch just north of the spire and up two rock pitches to the summit. Flavelle made an excellent F9 move to reach the summit. We rappelled directly to the glacier. Flavelle and I attempted the east face of Kichatna Spire. After three nights on the wall we were forced to descend because of bad weather and diminishing fuel supplies. The attempted route followed face cracks and an obvious corner up the orange pillar to the north of the center of the face. The climbing was mostly artificial (A4) but Flavelle led one fine F9 pitch. We also attempted the northwestern face of Gurney but were turned back by rain and avalanches.

RICHARD MITTEN

*Mount Redoubt, South Ridge, Winter Ascent.* Kevin Duffy and I did a winter ascent of the south ridge of Mount Redoubt (10,197 feet). The climb took nine days, seven of them for the approach. We flew to Crescent Lake, about ten miles from the mountain. After five days of skiing through alders and around open rivers, we arrived at the mountain. We began our trip on December 26, 1977 and so our daylight hours were very limited. At first light (nine A.M.) we headed upwards with 6000 feet to go. The weather was beautiful, clear and cool. The sun began to set as we approached the summit and we arrived on top in darkness. Rather than to bivouac on the top, we descended the whole route with headlights aglow and under a fine display of northern lights. The route was beautiful with hard ice, narrow ridges and steep couloirs.

GARY BOCARDE

*Mount Spurr.* The icefall which skirts the east of Crater Peak provided a new route to Mount Spurr's summit. After landing on winter snow south of Crater Peak, we attacked the icefall on March 25. Marginal weather provided an ethereal setting as séracs faded in and out of view in the drifting mists. The center and finally the eastern edge of the icefall made for interesting route-finding, but no more so than crevasses and steep slopes under deep snow. Only two days were lost to the weather and on March 31 the entire party, P.J. Hill, Greg Moo, Vern Tajas, Rick Kullberg, Mike Kotowski and I, reached the summit in sparkling weather.

DONALD N. ANDERSON

*Mount Denison, Katmai National Monument.* A professor and six students or graduates of Denison University in Ohio made the first ascent