

for as long as 40 feet. After 36 hours of continuous front-pointing, we emerged from the gully. We dug a tent platform on the corniced ridge, the first place big enough to hold two feet side by side since we entered the gully. We got 250 feet higher on thin ice before a broken axe convinced us that once again the north buttress was to remain unclimbed. After waiting out a couple of storms on the glacier, Doug Klewin and I started up the Lowe-Kennedy route on the north face. It took two straight-forward days to get beyond the "double-corniced" ridge. To negotiate this, we dropped 50 feet down the west side, traversed 150 feet, regained the crest and dropped 100 feet down the east side and traversed the final 350 feet to the end of the ridge. Getting onto the glacier above the final was the crux of the climb: it was 70 feet of nearly vertical snow and ice. We spent the rest of the day working up the final slope in a white-out, the beginning of a major storm, which trapped us at 13,500 feet. Three feet of new snow prevented a summit climb and made the descent of the west ridge dangerous. We triggered several large slab avalanches.

PATRICK J. MCNERTHNEY, *Tech Alpine Society*

Mount Hunter, Two Japanese Expeditions. Two different groups from Japan were on the Kennedy-Lowe route on the north face of Mount Hunter. Yutake Shinohara and Masamitsu Urayama started up the face on May 1. On May 4 they found themselves blocked by a crevasse at the *Triangle*. They then tried the west ridge. At 8700 feet they fell into a crevasse. Urayama was killed. Although injured, Shinohara managed to get himself out and descended to the Kahiltna Glacier, where he was rescued. Masuaki Onishi and Hirotohi Suyama made the third ascent of the Kennedy-Lowe route between June 29 and July 4. They descended the west ridge.

P 12,380. Over a 36-hour period on June 13 and 14 Arthur Mannix and I did an enjoyable line up the west face of P 12,380. With Mark Bloomfield we left camp at 9200 feet on the southeast fork of the Kahiltna Glacier at the beginning of the route in unsettled weather. At a bergschrund at 10,700 feet Mark decided his heart was not in the climb and elected to move into the crevasse and await our return. The route to here had followed a broad gully to an ice ridge which merged with the upper face. With the terrain steepening, we began to belay. At the top of the cone where the ridge merged into the face, we passed the upper rappel sling of a couple of Anchorage lads who had unsuccessfully attempted the route earlier. We moved into a gully that welcomed us with a show of falling rocks the size of our helmeted heads, luckily the last that fell. The gully offered 13 pitches of superb ice climbing. Being out of shape in calf and forearm, we stopped for a six-hour bivouac four pitches below the summit ridge. It was exposed and not conducive to sleeping. We continued to the summit with renewed life. The 19th pitch

got us to the curled, corniced top. We returned to the notch just below the summit to lounge in luxury and bathe in the sun, study the view and dine on gorp. We rappelled the ascent route, finding Mark evicted from his chamber by spindrift and hunger.

BRIAN OKONEK, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Four Ascents in the Great Gorge of the Ruth Glacier. Some ten miles southeast of Denali lie the Ruth Amphitheater and the Great Gorge. Here rise Mount Huntington, the Moose's Tooth, Dan Beard and the peaks of the Great Gorge.* The peaks of the Ruth Glacier offer a variety of alpine climbing, from superb snow and ice to waist-deep sugar snow and rotten rock. Since 1973 I have visited the area every year, but 1979 was my most successful one. In February Nick Parker, Paul Dendewalter and I were flown to the Ruth by glacier pilot Doug Gesting. We had high hopes of climbing the German ridge on the Moose's Tooth. High winds kept us in Base Camp for several days. Then we made a carry to the plateau just below the main couloir leading to the German ridge. The wind picked up in the afternoon; while I was skiing back to Base Camp, a gust caused my Ramer bindings to release! More wind and more waiting, but we did manage to climb the southeast couloir on Mount Dickey. Tired of waiting for calm days to climb the Tooth, we abandoned that climb in favor of a shorter route on either P 8460 or P 9100. We decided on the latter, climbing the northeast couloir to a 7300-foot col, arriving after dark. We dug in and spent a comfortable night in -15° F. Our day began with much cold and slowness. We finally got off and climbed 60° ice for several pitches to another col. From there we followed ridges and snowfields to the summit pyramid, which gave two pitches of exhilarating climbing. The descent was uneventful, except for cold feet and early darkness. Several months later, in May, Charlie Head, John Lee, Jon Thomas and I flew to the Great Gorge for two weeks of climbing and skiing. We were surprised when we managed to climb all our objectives. Our first and main objective was P 8460, which had been attempted a number of times before. We chose the southeast couloir which lies between P 8460 and P 8450. We followed this 3000-foot couloir to a col between the two peaks and

* The peaks on the western side of the Great Gorge were given names by Dr. Cook when he claimed to have made his spurious first ascent of Mount McKinley. These names have never been officially accepted. They are from south to north P 8233, "Mount Church"; P 8450, "Mount Grosvenor"; P 8460, "Mount Johnson"; P 9100, "Mount Wake," and "Mount Bradley." Bocarde and friends climbed all but P 8233. P 7500 is the second peak from the south on the eastern side of the Great Gorge.—*Editor.*