

June 21, Andy Embick and I fixed three pitches on the central spire of the Flattop cirque trinity. We returned the next day and continued directly up the east buttress. Crack system followed crack system and the higher we got, the more it felt like Yosemite. Unbelievably, the precipitation held off for the entire 20 hours we were on the wall. There was minimal aid and five of the eleven pitches involved F10. This first-ascent route on "Trinity Spire" is among those few climbs in the Kichatnas which would be pleasant to repeat. (NCCS V, F10 A1.) Alan Long and Randy Cerf bagged another first ascent on June 22 when they climbed "Nightwind Spire" (c. 8300 feet), the major summit between North Triple and Middle Triple Peaks. Their route followed the ice couloir first climbed by Sennhauser and Ellsworth (*A.A.J.*, 1979), then trended right to gain the severely rimed south ridge three pitches below the summit. The descent required 14 rappels, and the pair spent a total of 19 hours on the mountain. During the next twelve days we were treated to mandatory participation in the Kichatna weather waiting game. Doug Geeting was finally able to get in under the cloud cover and we were flown out on July 4.

GEORGE SCHUNK

*Mount Redoubt, 1979.* Dave Haring, Don Spurlock and I climbed Mount Redoubt (10,197 feet) from July 3 to 8, 1979 via the northwest ridge and glacier system. Winds in excess of 60 mph pinned us down for a day in our 6000-foot-high camp.

STEPHEN KRUSE

*P 10,910, Second Ascent by a New Route, Hayes Group, Alaska Range.* On April 24 Carl Tobin and I flew into the Hayes Group with Doug Geeting. We landed on the Turkey Glacier, which drains the southwestern flanks of Mount Hayes. We then skied to 8200 feet, established camp and fixed rope over the schrund at the base of the 2700-foot-high east-northeast face of P 10,910. On April 25 we started the climb under sunny skies. The first five pitches went quickly on 55° snow-covered ice. The next four were with deteriorating weather in a steep ice gully. The gully ended at the diagonal band which splits the face. This, the tenth pitch, was the crux, involving 75° to 80° hollow verglas over granite. With spindrift sloughs increasing, we were committed to the summit after this section. Carl said it was his most difficult lead ever. Steep snow over ice, steep snow, white-out and persistent avalanches in ice gullies characterized the next four pitches to a prominent ice rib between two major gullies. After one pitch on this rib, we were forced to bivouac. The storm had worsened and we were exhausted after 15 continuous pitches of front-pointing. We scooped a small hole in the shallow snow

near the rib's apex and had a quasi-hanging bivouac off two ice screws. With packs and legs dangling on the face, we spent an incredibly miserable night; legs and packs were hit periodically by large avalanches. The next morning, under blue skies and over tremendous exposure, we climbed the remaining five pitches, including three 70° gully pitches. We reached the summit at ten A.M. on April 26 after 28 hours on the face. We spent two hours on the summit and 28 on the descent. The south ridge was steep, knife-edged and covered with rime. We made two rappels and did much down-climbing to a southwest bowl. From there mixed climbing let us reach the col and make it down to our cache and camp on the Turkey Glacier. We skied to the Richardson highway via the Susitna and Black Rapids Glaciers in three days.

ROMAN DIAL, *Alaskan Alpine Club*

*McGinnis Peak, Southeast Ridge.* The southeast ridge of McGinnis Peak has acquired a local fame from the very loose rock and corniced knife-edged portion of its lower part. As a member of a four-man party which attempted to gain access to the elusive route by way of the Black Rapids Glacier in August 1979, we knew the route's possibilities, the probability of poor conditions and its reputation. On April 25 Dan Gray and I waded the Delta River opposite its junction with McGinnis Creek. Four fair days later, we were at 9000 feet in the cirque of the southeastern branch of McGinnis Glacier. On April 30 we reconnoitered the ridge proper. The route descends for 1000 feet to a col, which is the crux before ascending again. The reconnaissance didn't reveal the route entirely but with minimal protection it seemed that all visible sections could be climbed. On May 1, with summit gear, Dan Gray and I were on the ridge. With the help of rime ice on the rock sections, seven hours brought us to the col. A sudden weather change persuaded us to return to Base, knowing we could complete the route. It stormed on May 2 and 3. At 4:30 on May 4 we were heading for the ridge. It took much attention and constant belaying, sometimes from doubtful stances, to return to the col. Twelve hours of work put us in a position where belays were better, the ridge more predictable and the cornices more conventional. Faced by fatigue, a very exposed ice section and cornices guarding the summit, at midnight we opted for a bivouac at 10,500 feet. We dug a platform into a cornice, brewed up, and were in bivy sacks by 1:30. By 5:00 A.M. we were off again. At nine o'clock we crested the ridge and walked to the summit together (11,400 feet). After 45 minutes, our knowledge of Alaskan weather dictated our departure. Knowing how impassable the southeast ridge would be in foul weather, we descended the previously climbed northeast ridge. A steep snowfield on the upper part and rock in the central portion required utmost concentration. The