

*McKinley, East Buttress.* On May 29, Don Lee flew Scott Hartle, Joe Terravecchia and me to 7700 feet on the northwest fork of the Ruth Glacier. For the next week during unstable weather, we ascended the 1963 ramp to Thayer Basin. Rather than to attack the dangerous icefall at 11,800 feet directly, as was done on the 1963 climb, we traversed to the right into a beautiful couloir for six pitches of moderate ice up to 50°. The couloir ended at a prominent pinnacle along the ridge. We followed this ridge to rejoin the 1963 route above the icefall at 13,000 feet. After five days of poor conditions in Thayer Basin, the weather cleared on June 11 and we summited in a long day by climbing the upper section of the South Buttress route. We then descended the lower South Buttress to Kahiltna Base. The lower East Buttress, is more difficult and committing than the lower South Buttress, but is better protected from objective hazards. In our ascent, we did 19 belayed pitches, but with careful route-finding found no rappels necessary on the South Buttress. On the lower East Buttress, on the route we took, only in the easy section around 10,500 feet is there much objective danger. We climbed alpine-style with two weeks of food and saw no other climbers the entire time, except for two on the summit. There has been some confusion about climbs on the East Buttress. The *A.A.J.*, 1983, lists the "fourth" ascent. I talked with Bill Krause of that expedition. He said that they went up the lower section of the South Buttress and the upper part of the East Buttress, the opposite of what we did. Although both routes have been listed as "East Buttress," they start miles apart on different glacial systems.

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*Soviet-American Exchange on Mount McKinley.* In the spring of 1986 the Soviet-American Climbing Exchange resumed. Five of the ten members of the Soviet team had been members of the Soviet-American expedition which climbed Pik Pobedy in 1985. (See *A.A.J.*, 1986, pages 21-26.) They were Team Captain Nikolai Chorny, Sergei Bugomolov, Vladimir Puchkov, Oleg Borisyonok and Yuri Golodov. On the 1982 Soviet Everest expedition, Chorny reached Camp IV but had to descend to rescue another climber. Puchkov and Golodov reached the summit. The other climbers were Vitaly Bakhtigozin, Leonid Troshinenko, Yury Borodkin and Viktor Baibara. Troshinenko was logistics director on Everest. Non-climber Valery Epov was the Team Leader in Alaska. Joined by William Garner, the nine Soviet climbers started up through the icefalls between the Cassin Ridge and the West Rib. (See *A.A.J.*, 1973, pages 282-288.) We climbed to 16,500 feet and traversed onto the rib. The summit was reached on mid-morning of May 18 in superb weather. Though this was rigorous climbing by some standards, it was normal for this group. After the climb, Lowell Thomas, Jr., Charlie Sassara and John Markel orchestrated an Alaskan odyssey which is now legend in the Soviet Union. From Point Barrow to Halibut Cove, they displayed for the Soviets' joy all that is breathtaking and generous about Alaska and its people. They worked hard and long. Like the Alaskan section of the American Alpine Club, the New York and Blue Ridge