

ridge onto the main summit. In extremely rare perfect weather, we had climbed a new route on the peak in five hours from camp. But already there, to our amazement, were Justice and his party, who had just ascended from camp at 6000 feet on the north side to repeat the first-ascent route to the north summit and had then traversed over the top of the impressive east face to make the main summit's first ascent. That party descended its ascent route. We others retraced our steps, keeping Hank on the rope as "middleman." His special canine harness saved him twice in crevasse falls. By late on March 18, we had descended back to the Gerstle Glacier and skied 25 miles out its valley to the nine-trestle Gerstle River Bridge of the Richardson Highway, meeting all kinds of skiing conditions. Justice's group remained on the mountain on March 17 to climb a 40° snow-and-ice rib on the north face of Hajdukovich's north peak. We were privileged to make these new climbs in the memory of a multi-talented native of Montenegro who had come into the country as a guide, trapper and pioneer more than 80 years ago. A Yugoslav flag unfurled on the summit went to the Hajdukovich family still in Fairbanks.

PHILIP S. MARSHALL

*Bona and Churchill, Wrangell-St. Elias Mountains.* A considerable number of people have been climbing in the Bona-Churchill group. Dave Custer believes that a total of 22 climbers in five separate parties attempted Bona in May and June, of whom some 15 reached the summit. In early June, Custer's group, consisting of John Arnason, Suzanne Lorenz, Tamar More, John Rhodes, Frank Ziegler and himself, was landed by plane on the Kutlan Glacier at 10,000 feet and camped at 12,000 and 14,500 feet. Despite doubtful weather, they climbed Bona, Churchill and the prominent bump southeast of Churchill, often called Churchill's Chin.

*Ice Climbing above Nabesna, Wrangell Mountains.* On April 2, Harry Hunt and I drove to the town of Nabesna, north of the Wrangell Mountains, to climb several frozen waterfalls we had scouted in January when we had snowshoed up canyons to check out possible routes. We had discovered several Grade III, IV and V climbs, but the weather on the earlier trip was too cold for ice climbing (-25° to -35° F). In April, the days were longer and the temperatures warmer (0° to -7° at night and up to 25° in the daytime). The canyons we climbed in did not get any sun. All the climbs were on hard, boilerplate ice, sometimes brittle and hollow. We arranged to stay in a log cabin in Nabesna, with a wood stove. We walked down a hard-packed snowmobile trail to the east side of White Mountain to look at three climbs. Our main objective was a two-tiered waterfall up in a narrow canyon a short hike from the cabin. It was about 200 feet high. The lower curtain was a 100-foot pitch of Grade III or IV ice depending on the line taken. This brought us to the crux: a 65-foot section of vertical ice with a couple of ledges 30 feet up. At the top of the last steep step were 40 feet of

rambling Grade II or III ice below a snow gully. The ice in the crux was candlesticked, hollow and brittle. We rated the climb Grade V. Just to the right is a Grade III or IV ice curtain, which Harry led up the center and then on the right. On April 4, we drove back down the road to milepost 36.5. We had seen ice in a hidden canyon to the south. It was a hard two hours across the valley and up a narrow stream gorge to the climb on the right up the canyon. The lower part consisted of three 15- to 25-foot sections of Grade II or III ice. Then a snow slope took us to the base of a 40-foot-high, free-standing pillar, easier ice for 20 feet and another steep curtain of candlesticked ice. The lower pillar was about six feet wide and three feet thick. If you hit the ice with your tools, it produced a sickening hollow sound. The upper steep section was sustained vertical ice for 40 feet and fun to climb after the lower pillar (Grade V). There are at least ten climbs in the area that range from Grade II to V. More ice will probably be found but be harder to get to.

DANNY W. KOST, *Unaffiliated*

*Mount St. Elias Ascents and Attempts.* A number of expeditions entered the St. Elias Mountains via Yakutat. Eleven expeditions with 43 people climbed in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park or Glacier Bay National Park. Only four groups and ten climbers were successful. This is on a par with the average success rate in the area, caused predominately by the weather. The unpredictable and highly wet, windy, snowy conditions make difficulties. An early March expedition to Mount St. Elias was stopped by snowfall of 25 to 30 feet in a ten-day period. Another party never made it out of Yakutat because of the weather and flew south after waiting for five days. After starting on March 3, Alaskans Dave McGiven, Leo Americus and John Bauman gave up on the east ridge of St. Elias when new snow turned the climb into an exercise of survival. Englishman Dean James and Scot Alex McNab on May 22 successfully climbed St. Elias by its south ridge. A commercially guided group led by George Dunn failed to get up St. Elias by its south ridge, but all eight reached the summit of Haydon Peak. Tom Hafnor, Bobby Derry, John McKinney and Jim Chisolm hoped to climb St. Elias but the air taxi was unable to get into the area. They opted for Mount Logan instead, but weather kept them from the summit there. Some of the other expeditions in these two parks are described below. Climbers are invited to contact the National Park Service Yakutat District Ranger Station. They are encouraged to submit a voluntary registration form for climbs. For forms or other information, please contact National Park Service, Yakutat District Ranger Station, PO Box 137, Yakutat, Alaska 99689. Telephone: 907-784-3295.

RICK MOSSMAN, *Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve*

*Death of Pilot Mike Ivers.* Mike Ivers, owner of Gulf Air Taxi and the pilot for most of the expeditions in this area, died in a plane crash on July 29. He was