

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