

bypassed the bergschrund on the right. A short rock traverse led to the wide snow slopes of the lower face. Above, we took the central couloir and its upper left fork to meet the north ridge. The exposed ridge took us up the final few hundred feet to the summit.

PHILIP KAUFFMAN

*Franklin Mountains, 1992.* A late spring which caused havoc in bear behavior hampered my exploration of the sources of the Canning. From March Fork, I traversed east in heavy snow by way of P 7010 through this western corridor into the Franklin Mountains. In three days, I reached the canyons and waterfalls beneath the icefields at the source of the Canning. I scaled the west ridge of P 8390 with miserable snow conditions. Climbing above the waterfalls to the west, I turned north over a 7200-foot pass and descended the middle lobe of the triple glacier that is the source of Franklin Creek. I descended and crossed the lake pass into Carnivore Creek. At Neruokpak, I was joined by a group including Ken Dowdy and Dave Endrus. We circled west and south into the upper Saddlerochit headwaters, exploring the prominent V-shaped canyon and climbing the south face of the icecap (7700 feet). We crossed a pass into a canyon that parallels Franklin Creek on the north. I climbed P 6900 along the margin of the glacier, a major summit on the great Franklin Ramp. Our exit was by way of the northern drainage. From its confluence with the Canning, we rafted to the delta.

DENNIS SCHMITT, *Sierra Club*

*Romanzof Mountains, 1992.* For some decades I have been exploring an east-west route through the Brooks Range along the Continental Divide, which begins at the Kongakut Bend. We pursued a part of this route in mid summer. The beautiful upper, north fork of the Kongakut has a canyon that tunnels through cliff walls that kiss at places. Continuing over the broad pass to the upper Sheenjik, we ascended P 7200 and descended to the arch fork. Seven climbers explored the arch and its peak before we continued up the western fork. Walt Rogers and I climbed pretty P 7670 from the southeast glacier and the south arête. The entire party crossed the icefields at this northernmost part of the Continental Divide and entered the Jago drainage. From here, Rogers and I kept on alone with meager rations, climbing the south ridge of P 8625, immediately east of Mount Isto, and kept up Jago's western fork to the long narrow glacier that leads to the icefields of P 8145. From the summit of P 8145, we descended the steep glacier that drops into the Okpiliak, the largest icefield in the Brooks Range. We traversed it in its entirety up the east fork glacier, over the pass at 7900 feet and down the west fork glacier, climbing two 8000-foot peaks along the way. From camp on the upper west fork glacier, I climbed P 8700, one of the most striking peaks of the Alaskan Arctic. In three days, we descended the Okpiliak to the hot salt lick and the lake. In *AAJ, 1992*, there is

an error in the report on the Romanzof Mountains. What appears as "P 7800, the westernmost high Alaskan Arctic peak" should read "P 8700, the easternmost high Alaskan Arctic Peak."

DENNIS SCHMITT, *Sierra Club*

*Baird Mountains, 1992.* During an archeological survey, I made a number of ascents in the Swatka, DeLong and Baird Mountains, including the prominent limestone peak 11 miles up the Nakolik, whose north face comprises two pitches of class-5 rock.

DENNIS SCHMITT, *Sierra Club*

*Brooks Range, Endicott Mountains.* Working for the Park Service, Walt Rogers and I trekked on snowshoes this spring from the upper Negu across the entire Killik basin to Okomilaga and Chandler Lake. The significance of the Killik depression as a snow-free fauna oasis was noted. We encountered 9 grizzly bears, a wolf pack of 5 hunters, 2 lone wolves and a vixen with 3 pups. I concluded that it is elevation rather than the wind pattern that is responsible for the oasis. We made four modest ascents.

DENNIS SCHMITT, *Sierra Club*

*Phillip Smith Mountains.* We made a new route from the upper Ribdon to the headwaters of the Wind River, traversing the ridge west of Windy Glacier and descending onto the ice. The upper Ribdon is endowed with alpine meadows, limestone buttresses, tunneling rivers, pools, falls and a natural arch. We continued east through a succession of passes leading to the upper Ivashak. High on the Ivashak, we found Clarence Rhodes' plane. The last entry in the flight journal was for September 19, 1958. We made three ascents during the traverse including P 8025 above the west fork of the Ribdon.

DENNIS SCHMITT, *Sierra Club*

*Devil's Thumb and Kate's Needle.* Eric Trouillot and I spent three weeks in May skiing and climbing in the Stikine Icecap area on the Alaskan-British Columbian border. Our major climbing objective was the Devil's Thumb (2767 meters, 9078 feet), whose summit we reached in a 24-hour day from a 2100-meter camp on May 23 after two aborted attempts. On our second attempt, we climbed the lower two buttresses of the east ridge and were traversing around some pinnacles where the southeast snowfield meets the ridge when bad weather and time (five P.M.) forced us down. On our successful climb, we reascended the right (east) margin of the southeast snowfield on 45° snow and ice to our previous highpoint, a rock buttress directly below the first tower beyond the prominent lower two buttresses of the east ridge. We climbed three