

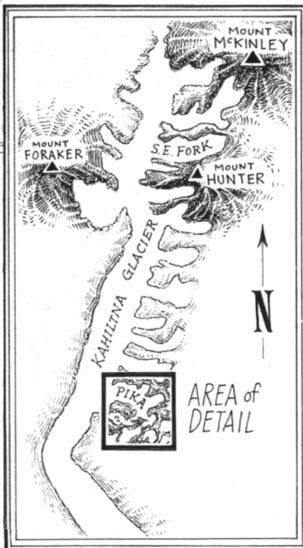
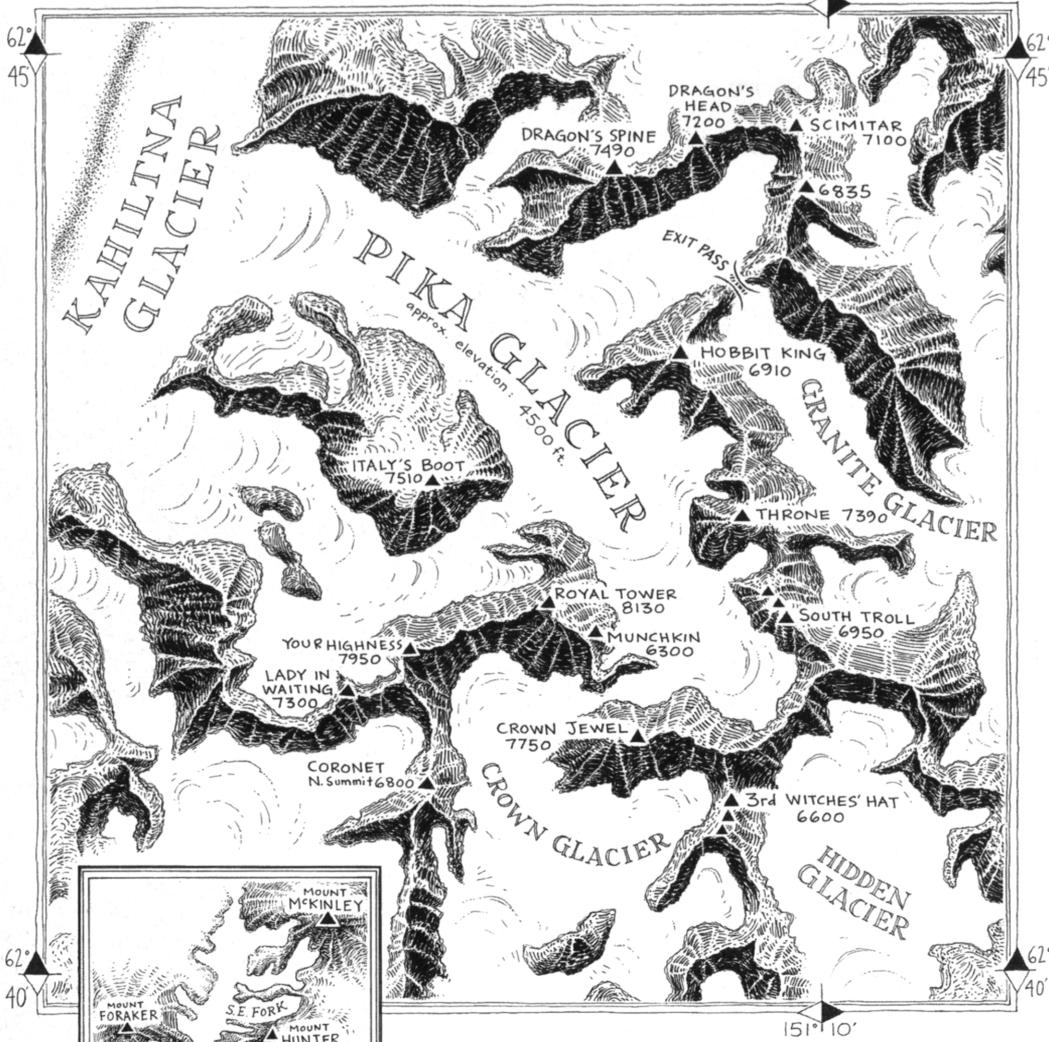
Royal Tower, showing: 1. Haeussler-Miller Route (IV 5.8, Haeussler-Miller, 1993). 2. Arizona Highways (V 5.10, Burcham-Burnhard-Mattson, 2000). 3. Di's Surprise (IV 5.9 A2, Pease-Woolridge, 1996). 4. Boomerang Buttress (IV 5.8, Mercer-Walsh, 1996). 5. The Chase (IV 5.10 A2, Munoz-Sieling, 1997, to top of buttress only). 6. The Insurrection (V 5.9 A2, Borof-Davis-Gamble-Giles, 2000; joins the Gargoyle Buttress route for its last four pitches; ends at top of buttress). 7. Gargoyle Buttress (IV 5.10, Anderson-Feeney, 1999; joins The Chase at last pitch; to top of buttress only). 8. Sweeney-McKenna (couloir indicated by arrow) (IV 5.9, 60°, McKenna-Sweeney, 1988). 9. East Face/Northeast Ridge (IV 5.10, Cook-Okonek-Robinson, 1977). The true summit of Royal Tower is the right (north) summit. JOHN BURCHAM

*Little Switzerland, Various First Ascents.* From June 20-July 10, Bill Gamble, Mark Davis, Chris Giles, and I established three new routes in the Little Switzerland area. *Eat the Queen* (V 5.9 A2+) on the Throne ascends a line through the prominent V-slot right of the south face's major prow. The line has nine roped pitches plus 400 feet of third-class to the lower summit. Due to warm weather and soft snow conditions, the corniced ridge to the main summit was dangerous and deemed by us to be unclimbable.

Our second route, *The Insurrection* (V 5.9 A2), was on the Royal Tower. This route ascends thin cracks on the east face, left of the central couloir. In the photo on page 192 of the 1999 AAJ, it is visible to the right of *The Chase*. The route was 13 pitches to the top of the rock buttress, nine of which were new, with the final four joining the existing line up the arête, left of the couloir. Thin nailing on the lower sections, and a beautiful crack out the right side of the face's golden roofs, were the highlights of this quality route. With some protection bolts, several of the route's pitches could go free.

Our final route, *The Emperor's Hanging Gardens* (V 5.10 A2), was on the Throne. This

FOLLOWING PAGES: *Map of Little Switzerland.* MIKE CLELLAND. *The peaks of Little Switzerland, with Mt. McKinley in the background to the north. The Kahiltna Glacier is visible on the left, flowing north to south.* PAUL RODERICK/TALKEETNA AIR TAXI



# Little SWITZERLAND

Reference : USGS TALKEETNA C-3 Quad

(most peak names given are unofficial and may vary between sources)



route ascends the prominent V-slot left of the south face's major prow. This route had excellent rock and would likely go free at mid-5.12 (a few protection bolts and some cleaning of vegetation from the cracks would be needed). The third pitch ascends a beautiful section of terraced rock covered in brilliant purple and yellow flowers (hence the name). This route has seven pitches of steep climbing with another 500 feet of "third-class" climbing up to 5.6 in difficulty.

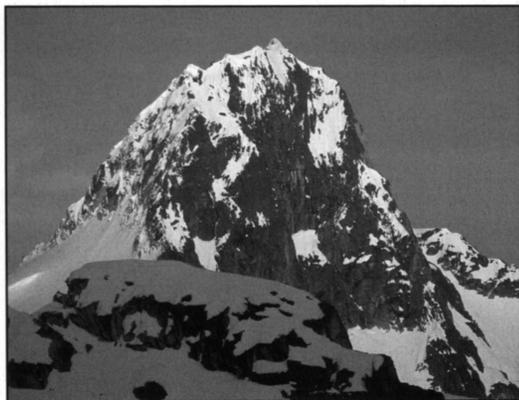
All three of our routes joined existing lines for their last few pitches. We rappelled back the way we came on all routes, leaving two 3/8- by 2-inch Rawl bolts per anchor. For the first few raps of each route, we used whatever the previous parties had set up (webbing, slung horns, etc.), improving them where necessary. We had only four rain days on our trip, allowing us plenty of time and good weather.

JOSH BOROF

*Little Switzerland, Crown and Dix Glaciers, Various First Ascents.* After being airlifted by Talkeetna Air Taxi director Paul Roderick onto the previously unnamed glacier (now proposed as the East Fork of the Crown) southeast of The Crown Jewel, British climbers Brian Davison, Lindsay Griffin, and Brian Griffiths spent May 1-31 making a total of 14 probable first ascents. Eleven of these (the exceptions being the Crown Jewel twice and Your Highness) were of previously unclimbed peaks. From a base camp on the East Fork the team climbed the following: The Crown Jewel (2362m) via the East Ridge; The Crown Jewel via the South Couloir to the West Ridge; The First Witch's Hat (a.k.a. Southwest Hat, 1950m) via the West Face; the Second Witch's Hat (1950m+) via the West Face and South Ridge; the Third Witch's Hat (a.k.a. the Northeast Hat, 1980m) via the West Face, East Flank and South Face; The Tiara's East Summit (2225m) via the South Couloir and East Ridge to the base of the final three-meter monolith; Your Highness (2425m) via the South Couloir toward the broad col between this peak and Lady in Waiting (2190m), then the Southwest Ridge; the North Summit of The Coronet (2075m) via the South-Southeast Flank.

From a temporary camp on the southerly Dix Glacier, various easier peaks (Beartrack, 1830m; Merry, 1390m; Lookout, 1525m) closer to the Kahiltna Glacier were climbed, together with the fine trio of Deception (1960m), Arrowhead (1800m), and Misty (1830m)—peaks above the Brume Glacier (southeast of the Dix). Also climbed were a couple of minor tops on crests, Gendarme (2190m, just east of The Crown Jewel) and Pt. Pico (1950m, just south of The Coronet on the same ridge). All names are provisional.

The climbers originally hoped that at this time of year they might find ephemeral ice lines in south-facing couloirs. However, very heavy snowfall a few weeks prior to their arrival had left the spiky granite peaks that characterize this area very well plastered. Although on some routes there were sections of interesting and enjoyable "Scottish mixed" ground, deep and worryingly unconsolidated snow leading to narrow, ungradeable,



*Mt. Deception. The British climbers made the first ascent of the peak via a hidden couloir on the right skyline.* LINDSAY GRIFFIN