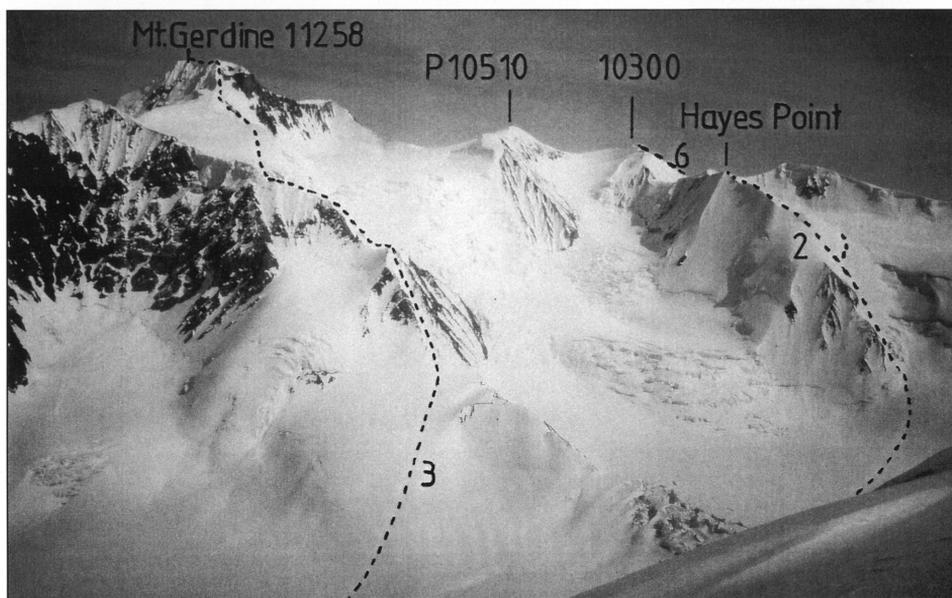


to blue skies and a throbbing toe. Thinking that I could wait a couple of hours to go down, Johnny and Zach headed for the summit, as I stayed in camp. They found the upper ridge to be fun, straightforward climbing on névé, with the angle varying between 40° and 70°. After negotiating a few bergschrunds they reached the summit, with a view encompassing Denali and the Alaska Range, the Kichatnas, Revelations, Neacolas, Cook Inlet, the Chugach, and the Talkeetna mountains. After rappelling off a bollard from the summit, they hurried back to camp, and we packed and descended. With a few variations we descended the line of ascent, using seven V-threads, one picket, and much downclimbing. Back at the runway we spent three days trying to contact a plane for an early pickup. Johnny and Zach took advantage of the nice weather and skied a couple of couloirs to the east of camp. On the front of Peak 6,330' there are seven rock towers with couloirs between most of them. We named this formation the Seven Dwarves after they skied the two south couloirs. On April 11 Paul circled over and flew us home to Talkeetna. Happy with our shortened trip to this new area, we left with a first ascent of Mt. Gerdine's Northwest Ridge (4,000', AK grade 3, A13), first descents of the Hayes Volcano and the two southern couloirs of the Seven Dwarves, and a purple toe.

JARED VILHAUER



Mt. Gerdine, looking east from north ridge of Peak 10,030'. Routes: (2) Hayes Point (9,600'), southwest ridge; (3) Mt. Gerdine (11,258'), southwest ridge; (6) Peak 10,300', south ridge. *Gunter Zimmerman*

*Hayes Glacier, various ascents.* From April 30 to May 15 Uwe Nootbaar, Thomas Speck, and I made four first ascents on unclimbed peaks or points and climbed Mt. Gerdine (11,258', fifth ascent) by a partly new route. The peaks are shown on the USGS Tyonek C-7 map. On April 30 we flew into the upper Hayes Glacier, at 6,000', where we established our base camp. On May 1 we skied up a small glacier northwest of Peak 9,670' (1.6 mi west of Mt. Gerdine) to a bergschrund at 7,500' and climbed the northwest face of Peak 9,670' by an 1,800' snow couloir

(40-50°). We climbed to the left of a huge rock tower located in the middle of the face, to reach the north ridge of Peak 9,670' at 9,300', near another rock tower. On May 2 we skied southeast up the Hayes Glacier and climbed a snow slope (1,000', 40°) to an 8,500' plateau at the top of the north branch of the Triumvirate Glacier. Turning northeast we followed a snow ridge to a point at about 9,600' (1.7 miles south of Mt. Gerdine, on the C-7 map between the letters B of the adjacent words Borough). Since it stands at the end of the Hayes Glacier, and is not a true peak but part of a ridge (the high point of which is Peak 10,510'), we named it Hayes Point.

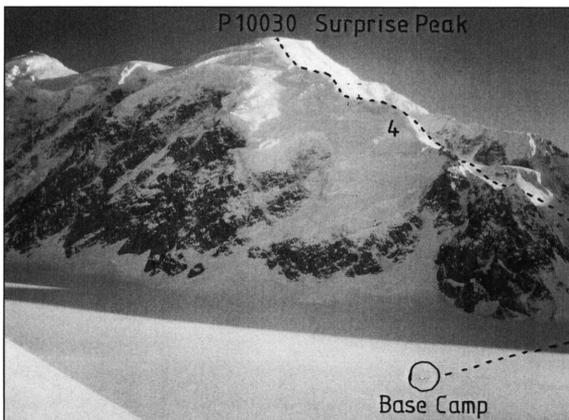
On May 3 we climbed Mt. Gerdine (11,258') via the southwest ridge. We started from base camp on skis, traveling southeast, and after a mile gained a snow plateau at 7,455'. We climbed a 40-45° snow slope to a little peak at 8,600' and followed a short horizontal snow-and-rock ridge to a saddle. We then climbed 30-40° snow slopes to the right of a rock ridge to 9,300', below a big serac.

Above the serac (a short 70° passage) we crossed a snow plateau, climbed the southwest ridge of Peak 10,270', and finally a 50° ridge to the summit of Mt. Gerdine.

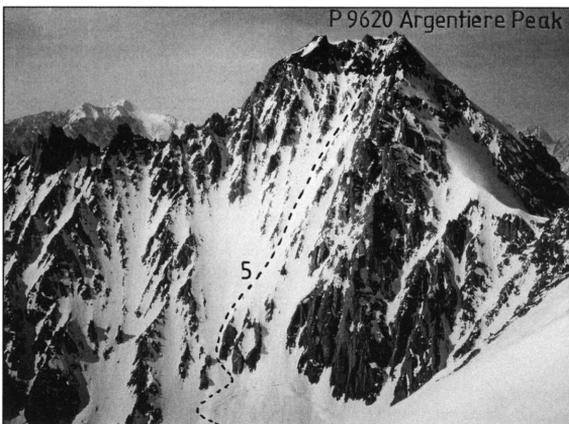
The following days the weather was bad, but on May 7 we climbed the north ridge of Peak 10,030', 3.7 miles southwest of Mt. Gerdine, up several 45° slopes and in a foot of new snow. We named it Surprise Peak, because of a surprising crevasse near the summit.

The weather was again bad for a few days. On May 11 we climbed the 1,600', 45° south couloir of Peak 9,620', which is 2.1 miles west of Mt. Gerdine and 1.0 mile north of Peak 9,670'. We named Peak 9,620' Argentièrè Peak for its similarity to the Aiguille Argentièrè near Chamonix, France. After another period of bad weather, on May 14 we passed Hayes Point south on skis and climbed a snow point (ca 10,300', 1.4 mi south of Mt. Gerdine) via its short, easy south ridge. In perfect weather we flew out to Talkeetna on May 15.

DR. GUENTER ZIMMERMANN, *Deutscher Alpenverein (German Alpine Club)*



The north ridge of Peak 10,030' (Surprise Peak), looking southwest from the glacier northwest of Peak 9,670'. Guenter Zimmerman



The south couloir of Peak 9,620' (Argentièrè Peak). Guenter Zimmerman