



**EAST BUTTRESS DENALI EXPEDITION
40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

May 1963 then; May 2003 today

We were Young Once, and Idealistic

Rod Newcomb

Al Read

Jed Williamson

Fred Wright

Peter Lev

and Warren Blesser

“The climbing rope stretches out like a wire cable due to the wind. The summit is reached at 3 a.m. on the 25th of May, 1963. The summit party is able to observe the high point of our former attempt two days before, turned back while climbing into the big storm. That high point appears to be about 50 yards short of the summit. The temperature is estimated at –20 degree Fahrenheit, and it is exceedingly windy.

We are all pleased that the expedition has made a successful ascent of Denali.”

From Jed Williamson’s Diary



April 9: Teton Contingent "Ready to Go"

Fred, Peter, Al, and Rod



Tow to the Summit of Teton Pass – “It’s all downhill to Alaska from here.”

Fred Practicing Working his Camera Bare Hands



Sheldon's Plane, and Rod and Jed Organizing Our Gear



Flying Up the Ruth Glacier



April 18th: Airdrome Camp – Ruth Amphitheater – 5600 feet



Denali
“The Great One”



April 29: Base Camp and Mount Dan Beard – 8500 feet

NW Fork of the Ruth Glacier



Ice Cliff Avalanche viewed from Base Camp – NW Fork Ruth Glacier



May 3rd: Jed and Rod at Advanced Base Camp, 9100 feet, after the Big Load Carry



The Photographer on 'The Bulge'
The First Serious Pitch on the Climb



Recon on Ridge Above Camp I - Trail into Camp Visible off to Right



Fred and Al at the Ice Cliff Hauling Station

**Camp I is near the Ridgeline and Halfway Between these
Two Ragged Characters**



May 13th: Rod at Camp II – 12,400 feet

Mount Huntington rising from the Cloud Sea



Sheldon Delivers the Mail at Camp II



Fred at Camp II

Morning Routine



Rod Clipping In and Heading Up from Camp II



The Crew Heading Up to Work



Dark High Altitude Sky
Summit of the East Buttress Above



Fred Leading Serac Below Camp III



May 19th: Camp III – 13,700 feet. “This is the Place to Be”



Rod on Recon and fixing ropes Above Camp III



Camp III is in Our Packs – Peter Starting Up the Fixed Ropes



**The Team Moving Up
East Buttress Summit Icefield**



AI Nears Summit of the East Buttress



Pushing On Toward Thayer Ridge



May 21st: Thayer Ridge – Camp V – 17,450 feet

Early Morning Preparations for First Summit Attempt

Mount Huntington Below



May 24th: After the Storm – Getting Ready to go Again

The Shadow of Denali, The Great One



Rod and Al take in an Alaskan Evening

We are Heading for the Summit



May 25th: Al and Peter on Summit of Denali at 3 a.m.

20,320 feet



Time to go Home



Jed Rappelling the Ice Cliff Below Camp II



May 27th: Back to Advanced Base Camp – 40 days on the Mountain



Al and Rod – “Ah, Wheatena and Butter”



Mt. Dan Beard Looks on Approvingly



Our East Buttress Denali Route and Thayer Ridge Behind

Book Preparation and Photographs by Peter Lev

Except for Three Photos:

Two by Jed Williamson, One by Rod Newcomb

May 2003