

and during a clearance saw that beyond the gap was a complicated system of wet snow pinnacles, walls and overhangs. Frequent avalanches convinced us that this was a place only for those intending suicide. We waited until evening, then climbed down continuously for sixteen hours to the glacier and set up camp. The Moose's Tooth would provide interesting and exacting ice-climbing on the last 500 feet (and three-quarters of a mile) of its west ridge, but since things must be well frozen, perhaps early in the summer would be the best time for an attempt.

After three days of bad weather, Barrie and I moved our tent to an amphitheatre under the southeast buttress of McKinley for an attempt on Mount Dan Beard (10,260 feet). This mountain, also unclimbed, has two summits, north and south, of which the latter, a bald dome of snow, is the higher. We planned to try the north ridge of the mountain and cross from the north summit to the south, and after a three-day snowstorm we set off at midday on July 14. We climbed an icefall and reaching a col, saw that the north ridge, with its steep, jagged crest and overhanging final séracs, was a poor choice. We descended and traversed a snow shelf on the west face of the mountain. This lay under a big ice cliff higher up but was mainly protected by a useful choked and overhanging bergschrund. At the end of the half-mile traverse, we made height rapidly by a long slope and reached the north peak at 11:30 P.M. Easy slopes led to the main summit, a flat area about 30-yards square and split near its highest point by a crevasse. Here we enjoyed a brew of cocoa soon after midnight and rested for an hour. Descent to the glacier over well-frozen slopes took only five hours.

We decided to walk out of the range down the Ruth Glacier and hoped to use a raft on the Tokositna and Chulitna rivers to get back to Talkeetna. We were five days getting down the Ruth to Alder Creek, but here, soon after launching, our craft grounded immovably on rocks. A second, less elaborate vessel, launched further downstream, hit a sandbar and broke up. Here we were stranded without food for three days, and shortly before making an obviously dangerous attempt to swim across the Chulitna River, we were fortunately spotted by an aircraft and picked up by Don Sheldon in a float plane on July 24.

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*Mount Barrille and Peak 9260.* After their ascent of McKinley, Major Banks' party flew to the Ruth Glacier, where four of them made the third ascent of Mount Barrille. Banks and Wiltshire then made the first ascent of Peak 9260, one mile northeast of Explorer's Peak.