

sance the next morning indicated the avalanche hazards and counselled a strategic retreat back down the snow chute. After the loss of a day's time, at ten A.M. we started laterally through the main icefall to the left (south) side of the glacier. This route went exceedingly well, and with only minor difficulties we reached the upper plateau and camp, alternately skiing and cramponing. A deceptive route caused a leisurely pace the next day to our defeat. After ascending the upper plateau by 1:30 to the base of the final summit pyramid at 8000 feet, a wrong route in an icefall at 10,000 brought unnecessary delays; at 5:30, with a temperature of -5° , we gave up the route, 600 feet from the summit, and began the retreat to camp and Anchorage. It was dark an hour later, but with the aid of flashlights, trailmarkers, shouting, intuition and hunger pangs we were in camp at 9:30. We all flew back to Anchorage the next day.

The third attempt culminated in success on May 5, thanks to experience gained on the two preceding efforts. The party was the same as in the last climb except for Dave Kimball, who was "outside" in Colorado. We landed on May 4, made camp on the upper plateau a little higher than on the previous attempt and left at five A.M. for the summit. We took a slightly different route on the upper ice wall and with no major difficulties reached the top at 12:30. The descent started an hour later in a $+10^{\circ}$ gale with lowering clouds, and we were at camp by 3:30. The next day we skied to the plane and flew home on schedule. It should be mentioned that the route climbed is considered not safe from the middle of May to October because of falling rock loosened by melting ice during the warmer months. (This mountain had previously been given the altitude of 12,600 feet, but the new map of the region, Tyonek 1958 1:250,000, reduces its height to 10,765, which makes it lower than its neighbor, Mount Torbert, which is now given as 11,413 feet. — *Editor.*)

PAUL B. CREWS

Mount St. Elias, Attempt from North. Between June 16 and July 5 a party of seven attempted Mount St. Elias (18,008 feet) from the north. Members of the expedition were Boyd Everett, leader, Ted Church, Rein Grabbi, Robert Jones, Ants Leemets, Robert Page and Kurt Wehbring. We intended to ascend the previously unclimbed north face and on June 16 were landed four miles from it on the Columbus Glacier at 7200 feet by Jack Wilson of Glenallen. At 8:45 A.M. the next morning an earthquake of magnitude 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ was experienced at Base Camp which caused an avalanche cloud to pass over the camp. On the following days, unusual avalanche activity was seen on all the surrounding mountain walls, including parts of the proposed route on the north face. On June 19 we

decided to switch our objective from the face to the also unclimbed northwest ridge, a longer but safer route. Reaching Camp II at 12,000 feet in a col on the ridge involved six miles of technically easy but heavily crevassed glacier walking. Between 12,000 and 14,500 feet, however, we encountered continuous technical difficulties over rock, snow and ice, which averaged 50° in steepness and included several rock pitches of NCCS class 4 difficulty. On June 26 a second earthquake of magnitude 4½ was experienced while we were descending a 50° ice slope at 13,000 feet. The ice slope avalanched some 500 feet below us but it remained firm where we were. All our 2000 feet of fixed rope was used between 12,000 and 13,400 feet and we could have used an additional 2000 feet. Its lack contributed to a 250-foot leader fall by Boyd Everett at 13,500 feet on June 29. The weather was generally favorable and in spite of the technical problems of the climb, we reached a col between 14,500 and 15,000 feet on the evening of July 2. Bad weather turned back an attempt on the summit by Leemets and Everett on July 3. Although eight days of food remained at high camp, we descended the mountain to meet a prearranged flight on July 5. All of us were on leave from jobs and had to be back in New York by July 7. Photographs show there were no further technical problems beyond our high point.

BOYD N. EVERETT, JR.

Mount Chamberlin, Franklin Mountains, and Ascents in the Romanzof Mountains, Brooks Range. Two peaks were climbed for the first time on a month-long trip to the Franklin and Romanzof Mountains led by Graham Stephenson. On July 24 Mount Chamberlin (9020 feet) was climbed by Dennis Burge, Graham Stephenson and me. We ascended the north spur of the west ridge leading to Point 8090 from the upper Chamberlin Glacier and reached the summit by the west ridge. We left a rock and note in a plastic bag on the summit. On August 2 Bill Lentsch and I climbed P. 8500+, approximately two miles south-southwest of Mount Michelson in the Romanzof Mountains by the north ridge from Esetuk Glacier. The name "Mount Agile" is being proposed for this peak. On the same day P. 8105, about two miles southeast of Michelson, was climbed by Dennis Burge and Dick Jali by the northeast ridge from the upper Esetuk Glacier. (First ascent, September 8, 1957 by Charles Keeler and Robert Mason.) The trip was successfully concluded when eight persons in two six-man rubber rafts ran the Hulahula River from the 1600-foot level to the Arctic Ocean in five days and paddled to Barter Island and its airport.

GEORGE G. BARNES