

mile diagonally upward on the hanging glacier that clings to the right side of the jagged ridge, then along the ridge except where forced back onto the hanging glacier to avoid the rough crest. Because the 45° ice was overlain with eight inches of snow, we should have belayed. Finally the rock of a steep section melted into the mists above. Below, rock and snow pillars plunged valleyward like the Eigerwand. We dug out our iron and proceeded. A 120-foot pitch over snow and rock led to a 70-foot couloir. I groped up the third lead, having to brush away eight to ten inches of snow to find piton cracks. More of the same led to a 40-foot chimney which split a nearly vertical band of rock. The back wall was ice and offered holds to the crampons we still wore. The side walls, though well iced, offered rock holds. I suppose this section would be F6 under good conditions, but it was more difficult as we found it. After emerging from the chimney, I followed a comparatively gentle snow rib for 50 feet to the level ridge crest. Beyond, the ridge went on endlessly in a series of false summits. We reached the summit (8675 feet) at ten P.M. The wind and wet falling snow that had been with us most of the day increased and so we bivouacked four hours before rappelling to the comfort of high camp. The walk out and the river crossing took two more days. NCCS IV, F6.

DAVID P. JOHNSTON

*Mount Gannett, Chugach Range.* At first light on March 18 on a completely clear day Gary Hansen, Bill Long, Frank Nosek and I were flown to the upper end of one of the spurs of the Knik Glacier. From our landing spot at 7000 feet we went directly up the northwest ridge of Mount Gannett (9620 feet). A climb of about three miles across firm snow brought us to the summit, where we left a register. Cat-like tracks were seen in the snow heading up to about 8600 feet, but positive identification as to whether they were lynx, wolverine or what was not made. We were back at camp just before sunset but because of the wind we were unable to fly back until the next morning.

HANS R. VAN DER LAAN, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

*P 6410, Chugach Range.* Karen Courtright and I finally got through irresistible blueberries up the south fork of Eagle River to make on August 26 the first ascent of P 6410 via the southeast ridge. We skirted gendarmes by following a talus shelf and a rotten couloir on the northeast side of the ridge. NCCS II, F5.

DAVID P. JOHNSTON