

north ridge. The following day dawned clear and the five of us set out up the ridge. Conditions were quite good with perfect step-chopping ice on a firm base. After five hours of hard leads with much belaying we were a mere 300 feet above camp at 9200 feet. The climb had involved at least one nearly vertical lead up over a steep part of the ridge and a huge cornice which ungraciously gave way six inches from where the lead climber was about to place a belay. Deteriorating weather led to a unanimous decision to retreat. The following day we decided to get all the stronger members of the party on the north side of the mountain for a concentrated attack. While three headed down to Base Camp, Jim Pray and I made use of the good weather to climb the easy 9550-foot snow peak to the northwest. It was an easy climb which we believe was a first ascent, to the west of the mountain climbed by the Hoemans. That evening just as the others returned from below it began to snow in earnest and dumped three feet of snow on us. The next day, August 30, realizing that the ridge would be suicidal with the new snow, we began our retreat. We reached Slate Creek in two days. There all but three impatient climbers waited two days for the plane. The other three hiked the 25 miles over the tundra to Summit Lake.

DOUGLAS BINGHAM

Attempt on Mount Kimball, Eastern Alaska Range. Mount Kimball (10,350 feet) is fully 500 feet higher than its nearest contender in the eastern Alaska Range, although many of the lesser peaks east of the Richardson Highway have been climbed. A serious attempt on Kimball in 1959 (*A.A.J.*, 1960, 12:1, pp. 112-3) and another by F. Beckey, A. Davidson and S. Foster in June, 1966 were stopped by bad weather and snow conditions. Fred Beckey, my wife Grace and I hoped to be early enough to beat these conditions this year when we were flown in to the Chistochina Glacier on May 20, but after we had explored over the 7650-foot pass at its head to "Pitfall Glacier" at the head of the west fork of Robertson River, we were hit by heavy snowfalls and not until the 24th could we dig a snow-cave high camp under the 8950-foot north col of Kimball. Such quantities of snow fell that night that the north ridge was rendered impossibly dangerous. Fred did not even want to look at it, but Grace and I went to the col and decided to climb the north peak on the other side of the col. When the steep slope cracked ominously, we retreated, but we snowshoed around to the gentler north ridge and reached the 9850-foot summit in a miserable white-out. The 30-mile

snowshoe trip to the Richardson Highway on rotten spring snow, which included many open-stream wadings, was very fatiguing, but we reached the highway at Summit Lake on the 29th.

J. VINCENT HOEMAN

Mount Kiliak and Other Peaks, Western Chugach. This 7450-foot peak near Mount Yukla up the Eagle River valley had been the last virgin 7000-footer near Anchorage since the ascent of Mount Rumble in 1966. Dave Johnston, his sister Jill, my wife Grace and I packed to the edge of the stagnant glacier west of it on September 14. Bothered by innocations, Jill accompanied us only to the head of the glacier at 5000 feet the next day. After chopping steps in the steep snow to reach the cirque wall, we scrambled easily to the col on Kiliak's north-northwest ridge 1000 feet below the summit. The rock became quite rotten and difficult, but by using the thin snow clinging to it and three pitons and three runners for protection, we reached the top by mid-afternoon. We traversed down the easier south side into the shadow of the 3500-foot northwest face of Yukla, but the brush and cliffs became so bad that we had to bivouac.

On July 21 Bill Babcock, Dave Meyers, Grace and I made a new route on Peril Peak (7040 feet) by gaining the long southeast ridge from the east and following it to the summit. We descended west from below the step on the southeast ridge as Parker and Inukai had in 1966. In late July a second ascent by a new route, the southwest ridge, was made by Larry Tedrick and Allan Tomich of Mount Calliope (6810 feet; first ascent by Bob Hansen and Bill Hauser from north-northwest on June 24, 1967). The same month Hans Van der Laan and his brother Roelf made the first ascent of "Flute Peak" (6610 feet) at the head of Flute Glacier, one of the glaciers where Bill Long was doing research this summer. Grace and I traversed easy Harp Mountain (5001 feet) on November 16 from northwest to southwest for a first ascent. The last independent peak in the Organ Mountain group, Hurdygurdy Mountain (5965 feet; a box-shaped peak with a cranklike west ridge) has been tried but remains unclimbed.

J. VINCENT HOEMAN

"Amulet Peak," Northwestern Chugach. This beautiful mountain (8290 feet) rises only six miles from mile 94 on the Glenn Highway, but the Matanuska River was a formidable barrier until winter climbing began in