

Icefall, which separates the Canwell Glacier from the Old Snowy branch of the Gerstle Glacier in the Delta Mountains. July's lack of snow bridges made for much extraneous meandering during our approach to the pass. For two days it rained and/or snowed, but on the 22nd it cleared enough to climb. From camp between Old Snowy and Peak 9300 on the Old Snowy Glacier, it was a few miles of easy walking to a col at 8000 feet on the ridge that formed our objective. Rotten gendarmes along the ridge forced us onto the snow, which was at the balling stage. The exciting thing of this ridge was that it plunged 4500 feet on the west and a more comforting 2000 feet on the east. The ridge continued for a mile, sometimes flat, sometimes steep, but always with an unhealthy cornice. The summit was in clouds and offered not a single picnic spot. It was seven P.M. with lots of Alaskan summer sun. On the way down I took pictures and thought the name "Double Exposure" described this mountain and the two ridges.

DANIEL OSBORNE, *Alaska Alpine Club*

*Mount Hajdukovich, Delta Mountains, Alaska Range.* On March 18 we drove from Fairbanks to Mile 1388 on the Alaska Highway and lurched five miles further to our first camp at the end of an old 4-wheel-drive road along the east bank of the Little Gerstle River. Besides Guy Tarnstrom who organized and led the effort, we were Sid Whaley, Don Willis, my wife Ellen and I. The next two days of cramponing up blue river ice, fighting dense willow with skis and boulder climbing over moraines brought us 16 miles up the Little Gerstle River and onto the glacier which flows northeast from Hajdukovich. Had we taken the central channel where the river enters the wider north-trending valley, we would have avoided bushwhacking. Camp was a half-mile up from the terminus of the glacier at 5600 feet. Despite clouds, on March 21 we got up at five o'clock and Whaley, Wallis and I roped up and set off on crampons by 7:15. Ellen and Guy Tarnstrom remained in camp to cool blisters. The route up the glacier to Hajdukovich was straight-forward, passing to the left of the prominent nunatak. Since the snow cover was very light even high on the glacier, the few crevasses were no problem. We trudged up between the ridges running northwest from the twin 9600-foot summits while the weather gradually improved until we were in pale sunshine. We headed toward the easier, more easterly summit as we were suffering from cold feet and smoker's fatigue. Alas, when we finally stood on top at 11:15, we found the other summit, a half-mile to the southwest was 30 to 50 feet higher. The temperature stood at 3° F. Leaving the other summit for future parties, we

dropped back to camp in a couple of hours, gathered the rest and headed down the river on crampons. A day and a half of ski-skating and cramponing brought us back to the Land Rover for the long drive to Fairbanks.

DOUGLAS K. BINGHAM

*Mount Gakona, Eastern Alaska Range.* March found Steve O'Brien, Mark Hottman, Toby Wheeler and me planning the first and the first winter ascent of Mount Gakona (9850 feet) in the Delta Mountains. Gakona has two peaks a mile apart along a hairy knife-edged ridge. We had to go up the correct peak the first time since our leave from the University of Alaska did not allow time to move to the other side of the mountain. We skied in from the Richardson Highway 25 miles over the Canwell and West Gakona glaciers to get to the Gakona Glacier basin with sub-zero climbing gear and two weeks of food for our one-week excursion. (Later five days of storm made us consume all of our food.) From the Gakona basin our route was up an icefall to the southwest of the main peak (the southwest peak as it luckily turned out). We navigated the icefall in a whiteout in avalanche-prone snow. The whiteout made it easier to poo poo the icefall's problems but hardly helped us with our fears of avalanches. When we were above the worst of the icefall, the air cleared and we saw we were not far off route. After my ropemate took a fall on an icy spot, we switched from skis to crampons. Our last camp was pitched amid crevasses above the icefall at 9000 feet, an easy run to the summit. On summit day, March 24, Steve fell 30 feet into a crevasse just as we were leaving camp. It gave us a weird feeling to do a rescue standing next to our tent. After this, the summit seemed anticlimactic. It took us two days to ski out to the road. It turned out to be a 12-day "one-week" climb.

DANIEL OSBORNE, *Alaska Alpine Club*

*Mount Sanford, Wrangell Mountains.* Mount Sanford was climbed twice by the standard route. On July 15 Barbara Lilley, Richard Gnagy, J. Ohrenschall, T. Wheeler and A. McDermott made the sixth ascent. On July 24 O. Inoue, K. Yamaguchi and S. Uesugi made the seventh.