

way up the wall—above the vertical section, but still on a 60° slope. Now we were in the ice-cube tray—a mass of tumbled ice blocks and holes. The only problem was one of routefinding. After an hour in the maze the route went 1000 vertical feet up 45° to 60° snow slopes hanging over nothing. There were a few rime-ice bumps once we got off the east face and back on the ridge again. Their ten-foot pitches kept things interestingly and finally one lead us to the top of the summit rime-cap (11,670 feet). After Russell the trip became anything but anticlimactic as we spent a week negotiating the Yentna Icefall and getting over to the tundra on the north side of the Alaska Range. Then the 60 miles to Wonder Lake was the standard fare of oppressive swarms of mosquitos, swamps, endless willow thickets, circuitous detours around grizzlies, and five glacial rivers brimming with excessive summer melt.

THOMAS KENSLER, *Alaska Alpine Club*

P 6486. On April 29 Marty Corcoran and I snowshoed from the Glenn Highway 10 miles up still frozen Granite Creek. After checking out the peaks up one of the east forks of Granite Creek, on May 3 I soloed P 6486 for a first ascent.

LARRY SWANSON, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

*Gurney Peak and P 8520, Kichatna Mountains.* (See USGS map, Talkeetna B6). The north buttress can be seen from the "Glacier of the Shadows" (so named by the Roberts Party, *A.A.J.*, 1967) which runs directly north from the summit of Gurney. The buttress is divided from the peak by a high hanging glacier. This second glacier falls over steep ice slopes and eventually joins a third glacier which lies along the whole western side of the mountain. Don Fredrickson's and my route of August 1 ascends from the "Glacier of the Shadows" over the steep icefall of this third glacier and joins the rocky north buttress at a point 100 feet above a bergschrund. Third-class climbing up and to the east of the ridge ends at the base of a difficult, icy, 300-foot chimney, best entered after a short rappel and then up and to the east (left). The chimney leads onto the hanging glacier at the top of the north buttress, which is followed straight up to the base of another chimney on the left. Two shoulder stands to gain entrance and some 500 feet of difficult climbing on snow, ice and bad rock lead to the summit ridge. The route required 15 hours on the ascent, a bivouac at the summit, and 8 hours to descend the same route as the previous day. P 8520 lies 1¾ miles north-northwest of Gurney Peak. Its east face, overlooking the "Glacier of the Shadows" is an impressive array of towers and gullies. From Base Camp on that glacier, the mountain appeared to be a moderate climb up to the summit via the ice and snow on the north slope. From camp, on August 3, Don Fredrickson, Ludwig Ferche and I ascended the icy tongue north of that

peak to gain entrance to a smaller glacier which lies on the western side of the peak. A snow couloir requiring 3rd- and 4th-class climbing ends at the north arête, which joins the snow slope visible from our camp. Near its top, snow turned to ice and we exited to the rock ridge on the right (west), around a difficult corner and up 250 feet on ice and decomposed rock to the top of the ridge. Some 500 feet of scrambling brought us to the base of a 300-foot 4th-class slope leading to the summit. Our route required 12 hours up, a bivouac at the summit, and a 10-hour descent over the same route.

WILLIAM KATRA, *Unaffiliated*

*Middle Triple Peak, Kichatna Mountains, Attempt.* In July Roy Kligfield, David Loeks and I were landed on the Tatina Glacier. Our main objective was the unclimbed Middle Triple Peak (8835 feet). Unfortunately we did not attempt the peak by the route suggested by Dave Roberts in his *Summit* article of June 1968 because of landing and approach problems. Instead we came from the west from the Tatina Glacier. Our aim was to do an alpine-style ascent; basically this was the main factor in our retreat. It took all day to reach the col between Middle and North Triple, involving very steep snow and ice climbing. Having arrived at the col, we discovered the "ridge" above us was in the nature of a Yosemite wall of 1500 feet which leads to the summit crest—a knife edge, roughly a half-mile in length with a few bumps along the way. After a long time on the first pitch, which from the distance we had guessed would be easy, we saw that we were grappling with a climb of perhaps four days' duration and possibly more equipment than we had carried; we dismally rappelled to the col, bivouacked a few hours and spent more than half the next day on the descent. The weather, untypically, during this attempt was perfect. Later we attempted P 7984 on the west side of the Tatina Glacier, approaching via the obvious snow couloir on the northeast side. However we had to descend off the ridge down onto the northwest snow-and-ice face. While I ensconced myself luxuriously on a ledge, Loeks and Kligfield spent the next eight hours on the ice and on the final rock buttress, only to retreat 200 feet below the summit because of rotten rock and deteriorating weather.

ALVIN DEMARIA, *Vulgarian Mountain Club*

*Witherspoon Attempt, Chugach.* The Mountaineering Association of Higashimatsuyama City of Saitama Prefecture Expedition was composed of Nakamasa Matsuzaki, Atsui Kojima and four others. They were landed on the Columbus Glacier by Don Sheldon in June. The weather was comparatively fine. There were only five days when they could not move during the two weeks. Witherspoon (12,023 feet) was too much for