

is even more precious than usual, for the Brooks Range is rapidly losing its primitive quality. The oil companies have moved in efficiently—the land is nearly theirs.

JACK MILLER

*The Tusk, Juneau Icefields.* Because of a time limit, our mini-expedition to the northwestern portion of the Icefields was hurried by helicopter to the upper Taku Glacier. Our objective was unclimbed Tusk (c. 6700 feet), which actually towers atop an isolated north-trending ridge which flanks the Battle Glacier: not only a climbing problem, but a possible approach nightmare. Several of Austin Post's aeriels gave it the resemblance of Bugaboo Spire's north side, only in a more glacierized region. On August 2, just as the weather was closing down, John Rupley, Dave Beckstead, Ray Ketcham and I made the climb, with Illa Rupley hosting our camp. Fortunately a long glacier traverse, then steep névé on the west flank provided a narrow route to the north corner. Here two class-5 pitches brought us to a summit ridge, long but simple. After being pinned in the tents 6 days, Rupley and Beckstead made some climbs on the Snow Towers, to our south, while Ketcham and I skied to Maynard Miller's J.I.R.P. Camp Ten. Here we were treated to gracious alpine hospitality before departing from this magnificent "land of the spirits."

FRED BECKEY

*Juneau Icefields.* On August 10 John Rupley and I climbed the east ridge of the Snow Towers. After seven leads of friable rock we were on the northeast point, the lowest of the three-summitted peak. NCCS III, F5. On the way back to our camp south of the Tusk, we scrambled up the middle summit of Tricouni Peak.

DAVID L. BECKSTEAD

*Mount Nesselrode, Northern Boundary Range.* In August the first ascent of Mount Nesselrode (8100 feet) was made by a party including Aylmer Thompson, A. Clough, John Schuff, Heidi Goodwin, Simon Waldram, Lock and Lance Miller and me.

MAYNARD M. MILLER

*The Cats Ears, Devils Thumb.* The Cats Ears is a spectacular double tower mounted on the west face of the Devils Thumb. It was climbed in July by Paul Starr, Fred Douglas, and me from Vancouver, British Columbia. Our approach was from Petersburg by a short float-plane hop to Scenery Lake—thence over a low col into the Witches Cauldron, a wild and desolate chasm between whose branches the Thumb erupts. This glacier, whose ice stream is tilted back toward the chasm headwall, was our base and airdrop site, a day's pack from the lake. The climb was