

Wood (15,885 feet) with some steep snow and some ice, emerging just to the right of the summit. We descended by the easier southwest ridge. After a return to Base Camp and a rest, we established a route to the western ridge of Mount Slaggard where a high camp was placed on May 31 despite misgivings about unstable snow on the steep north slope. The following day we all made the long and very tiring ascent of the northwest spur of Slaggard (c. 15,300 feet). June 2 saw us back at Base Camp with 18 inches of new snow. On June 3 we reconnoitered part of the route up Mount Strickland by gaining the south-sloping knife-edged ridge immediately north of Base Camp. On the following day the four of us followed this route to the broader southwest ridge and thence to the summit of Strickland (13,818 feet). We were flown out by helicopter on June 6. We believe that all the routes had not been previously climbed.

DAVID J. MALCOLM, *Canadian Youth Hostels Association*

*Mount Steele Attempt.* Gary Zieve, Dave Schaus, Bob Plaag and I were landed at 7500 feet on the Steele Glacier and attained 14,000 feet on the east ridge without incident. A late-August snowstorm halted our climb for three days, during which time Zieve developed pulmonary edema. We were forced to descend and subsequently made our way to the Alaska Highway via the Steele Glacier and Donjek River.

HERBERT WIEDEMANN, *Appalachian Mountain Club*

*Mount Steele Attempt.* In July and August, Jeff Elphinston, Kipp Drummond and I attempted the east ridge of Mount Steele (16,644 feet). We spent 14 days walking from the Alaska Highway up the west bank of the Donjek River and the Steele valley to Base Camp below the ridge. From our snow cave at 10,800 feet we headed for the summit but turned back at about 16,400 feet on the summit cone in deteriorating weather conditions. On the trip out we circumvented the worst of the muskeg and quicksand encountered on the approach by fording the Donjek above Arch Creek and following the new mining road to the highway. The trip took 25 days total.

NATHAN FORRESTER, *Unaffiliated*

*Mount Steele Attempt.* Because the upper Chitina was too crevassed for a fixed-wing aircraft, we planned to land on the Walsh-Steele col. From there we would carry camps up the long, 10-mile southeast ridge of Mount Steele, traverse Steele and climb Lucania. Finally on May 3, after several attempts by plane were foiled by weather, Bob Dunbar flew us by helicopter to the col. From Base Camp we set up Camps I and II at 11,500 and 12,500 feet, relaying three times on skis. We traversed the 14,200-foot dome on crampons and set up Camp III at 13,500 feet

on the dome's northwest side. Because of weather and illness, it was not until May 18 that we made a summit bid on Steele. At 4:30 P.M. Bill McIntosh and I were still only at 16,150 feet and Ed Bennington and Rick Checkland were on the other rope 250 feet above us. The weather was deteriorating rapidly. Suddenly there was a frantic shout. The other two slid by us at fantastic speed down the 45° hard-packed slope. Incredibly Rick managed to arrest 200 feet below us, just short of a lip above the cirque a mile below. Luckily Rick suffered only two sprained ankles and Ed had two shiners. Ed's axe had been torn from his wrist, but Rick's was on a three-foot sling and thus was not torn off. We regrouped into one long rope of four to return to Camp III. We contacted Whitehorse by radio next morning and were flown out from Camp III the same day.

JOHN G. ADLER, *Alpine Club of Canada*

*Mount Maxwell.* After arriving at Kluane Lake on August 5, for a week we packed our loads along Slims River and up the Kaskawulsh Glacier to its confluence with the South Arm. On August 15 Jean Bertucca, Jeannine Carrette, Eliane Hoste, Monique Larmoyer, Bruno Martinetti, Christian Michalski, François Mordant, Maurice Nonde, Régine Pasero and I left camp southeast of Mount Maxwell a short way up the South Arm and ascended a rocky valley to the east. The glacier became very crevassed. We progressed through several icefalls and climbed steeper slopes. We kept on and got to a snowy dome (c. 9000 feet) near the principal summit, which had a rocky ridge. On August 27 the same group plus Gérald Fize, Alain Mercier and Roland Mougél but minus Mme Pasero left the South Arm Camp. After crossing the South Arm and ascending a tributary glacier, we reached an 8000-foot col by means of easy slopes. We started up the north ridge of Kaskawulsh Mountain but unstable snow conditions forced us onto a spur of rotten rock. Progress was slow and difficult. Higher we got back onto frozen snow and reached the northern summit (not the highest) (c. 10,300 feet). To make the descent easier, we found a route on the steep north face. On August 19 the Kaskawulsh group plus Mme Pasero and Annick Touvet headed northeast from South Arm Camp. After steep climbing, we got to a broad 8000-foot col. By not too steep slopes we climbed to the left to join the southeast ridge of Mount Maxwell. The narrow ridge had excellent snow and led us soon to the summit (c. 10,300 feet). On August 20 we left the same camp and ascended the moraine to the southeast (some 3 miles south of Maxwell) to a ridge where progress was easy. Above snow line three of us felt tired and stopped, but Martinetti, Bertucca, Mlle Hoste and Mordant reached the rocky summit of about 9350 feet, some 500 yards southwest of the snowy dome.

JACQUES ROUILLARD, *Club Alpin Français*