

back by weather and time at the Haydon-St. Elias col in its attempt to repeat the 1946 route.

*Mount Sinclair, Coast Range.* Jerry Buckley, Joe Greenough and I made the first ascent of Mount Sinclair (c. 7000 feet) in mid-June, 1973. It is located 3½ miles from tidewater near the eastern shore of Lynn Canal, 60 miles northwest of Juneau. We traveled by motorboat from Auke Bay to a small cove beneath the towers of the Sinclair group. From there we ascended through heavy brush and timber to a ridge crest paralleling the hanging valley which descends to the beach from Sinclair's southwest side. From camp in a small cirque south of Sinclair and surrounded by 6000-foot peaks, we descended to the valley head and then climbed the lower 3300 feet of the mountain. We placed a high camp on level snow about 1700 feet below the top. We reached the summit the next day by climbing snow slopes to a sharp col at the base of the south ridge, which led to the top. NCCS II, 5.3.

CRAIG LINGLE, *Unaffiliated*

*Mendenhall Towers, Juneau Icefields, 1973.* These towers, insignificant from Mendenhall valley and small in comparison to many Alaskan peaks, must be seen from close at hand to be properly appreciated. Not "giant", but "big" (2000-foot) walls abound here; seven towers with buttresses, ridges and faces of sound granite and continuous crack systems. Although we had visited the towers in the past, we had avoided all but the easiest lines to the summits. In July, 1973 we concentrated on high-angle and seemingly smooth areas. Most climbs would have involved bivouacs if we had not fixed lines beforehand. As there seemed to be only one day of clear weather between storms, we fixed rope, dangling in blowing snow or whiteout. Mike Clark and Rick Daday completed the second ascent of the West Tower via the unclimbed, 1800-foot-high east ridge in one day from our camp at 5500 feet, fifteen miles from the coast. After 15 pitches of combined snow, ice and rock, they returned to camp with tales of twelve points and great exposure. The recent storm had deposited convenient ice slabs across difficult rock, a common occurrence above the icefields. We made the first ascent of the small spire between the West and Main Towers in 10 pitches. We completed three new lines up the Main Tower. One was a variation of the original route. George Fisher and I climbed the southeast ridge in 19 hours, having first fixed 300 feet. Snow-covered ledges and awkward leads put us on the summit at ten P.M. after 12 pitches. Changing weather made this a fearful climb but it was one of the most direct lines on the peak, 2000 feet from base to summit. On the last day, the fourth good day in a month, Clark and I ascended the Main Peak's south buttress, an 1800-foot prow with a 600-foot smooth wall in its center. With 500 feet already fixed, we were on the wall at dawn. We

used mostly nuts, though we placed two bolts for belays. The wall went mixed and we made the summit at dusk, rushed by a storm. We descended to camp, a blizzard on our tails.

JOHN SVENSON, *Unaffiliated*

*Coastal Mountains, Southeastern Alaska.* By eleven o'clock on July 13, Rich Mathies, Jerry Barnard, Jim McCarthy and I were on the beach at the snout of the Baird Glacier, where it almost meets Thomas Bay, not far from Petersburg. Our approach up the North Baird Glacier required two days, half of it on skis. By the evening of the third day, we were well settled and had received our precious airdrop. Base Camp was situated on the edge of an expansive icefield punctured by sharp and impressive peaks. The climbing was typified by difficult route-finding up broken, avalanche-tracked glaciers, followed by technical rock climbing on the peaks. Classic summits and narrow ridges of excellent rock prevailed. In the course of 16 days, we climbed five peaks and made major attempts on two others. Our most difficult pitches were unrewarded, as we were thwarted on the two major summits of the group: at roughly 6900 feet on the south buttress of P 7925 and at 7000 feet on the south ridge of its neighbor to the north, P c. 7500. (All altitudes are taken from the USGS Sumdum B-2 quadrangle, Alaska.) The climbs we made were all first ascents: P 7118 via north and northeast ridges by all, P 7436 via southwest ridge by all, P 6570 via southeast snow slopes by all, P 6770 via south ridge by Mathies, McCarthy, Fowler, and P 6385 via east face by Mathies, Fowler.

BRADLEY FOWLER

*North Baird Glacier and Ratz Peak Area.* Six Canadians, Roger Neave, Franz Bislin, Bill Perry, Mike Walsh, Bob Tustin and I, explored the North Baird Glacier on the Stikine Icecap to Boundary Peak 73 and crossed over to the south arm of the Dawes Glacier and approached the Noel-Mussel and Ratz area with the intention of climbing Mount Noel (10,040 feet). We were in the area at the end of July and early August for 16 days but were plagued with very bad weather. A satisfactory route to cross from the North Baird Glacier to the Dawes Glacier was found over a pass of 7000 feet. Later the two peaks on to the north and south of the pass were climbed, the southerly one being marked as 8030 feet, tentatively called "Rambler Peak," on the Sumdum (B-2) quadrangle, and the northerly peak marked at 8012 feet. Both were first ascents. The advance camp was at the bottom of the southwest ridge of Mount Noel, which proved to be a fine route to approximately 8500 feet. From that point, the ridge became very broken and the icy conditions on the rock slowed us down. Another route was selected to follow the glacier immediately to the east of that ridge which leads up between the summits of Noel, but bad weather prevented a second attempt and the