

We turned back at about the same point as Steve Hackett and Barry Kircher in 1971, with perhaps two-thirds of the tower below us. Both of the other two had been hit by rockfall but were not seriously injured. Beckey called the decomposed granite the "worst rock I have been on in 20 years." We did climb to two summits, possibly the first ones reached in this remote range. They lie just west and south of the Tusk.

ERIC BJORNSTAD

Chigmit Mountains. Flying by float-plane to Chakachamna Lake on August 10 gave Mark Moderow, Margit Breski, my wife Rowi and me breath-taking views of the previously unexplored peaks of the northern Chigmit Range. Rain and alders spiced our approach to the glacier on the southeast corner of the lake. After climbing wet granite slabs and moraine, we were at 61° 10' North and 152° 20' West on the glacier. Our first day found us traversing a gray spire, P 5550, in clouds and mist. We climbed one pitch of F7 mossy rock to the summit. The descent was down a long glacier to the south. Margit walked into the one exposed crevasse in the area, all of five feet deep! Other days were spent doing short ice climbs, waiting in the rain and trekking to the upper snowfields of our glacier. We explored to the east and climbed P 4356 on August 16. The area is beautiful but rotten rock limits technical climbing. We flew from the lake to Anchorage on August 17.

JAMES HALE, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Lindita Peak, Chugach Mountains. Jon Fisher and I organized this trip to the head of the Tazlina Glacier. The whole party, Gary Benninger, Gregory Bramlet, Fisher, Halford Joiner, Tom Lamb, Bill Plock, Dr. Randall Travis and I, made the third ascent of "Mount Freuchen" (6965 feet) on June 29. On July 1, the first ascent was made of Lindita Peak (7910 feet) (Valdez B7 Quadrangle) on the divide between the Tazlina and the East Branch of the Columbia Glaciers. The route was the northeast face, the north-facing knife-edged ridge, and along the corniced and humpy ridge to the small snow summit. Hal Joiner led the climb for Doc Travis, Tom Lamb, and me. On the descent, we were carried down the last 200 yards by a wet snow avalanche. Lindita Peak is the highest peak that can be seen at the head of the Tazlina Glacier from the Glenn Highway near the Tazlina Glacier Lodge.

LAWRENCE E. NIELSEN

Marcus Baker. A three-man Japanese party led by Koichi Okuda flew to the Matanuska Glacier on July 29, 1976 and placed Base Camp at 7500 feet on the glacier on the 31st. Their original objective, the north ridge was abandoned because of falling ice. They climbed the glacier

to 11,500 feet on August 1 and ascended the north face on August 2 in a snowstorm. Okuda, Yoshikazu Ueda and Yasuhisa Nakamura got to the top.

Castle Peak, Wrangell Mountains. Castle Peak is very deserving of its name, for it is a giant monolith whose rock walls rise almost straight up 3500 feet from the glacier below its southern and eastern exposures and a good 2000 feet on the west. Its summit is glacier-capped and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long. Its northern side is guarded by a glacier clear to the summit. In August, 1973 John Pinamont, Scott Mueller, Paul Canicelli, Art Ward and I stood below this north side on the Kuskulana Glacier after a three-day walk. The series of ice blocks and séracs looked impossible to ascend. So we settled on P 9820, which rises only 900 feet from the pass between it and Mount Blackburn. We all got to within 100 feet of the summit, but only Pinamont and I had time to do the final pitch before bad weather forced us back. In 1977 with the aid of Art Ward's supercub, we landed at 2350 feet on a gravel bar. We followed up Mill Creek for about three miles and took the west fork for another two miles to another fork, this time to the east. We ascended this to what should be Mill Glacier, since it is the largest of the glaciers draining into Mill Creek. From camp on the glacier we looked up a steep ice gully that rose 1200 feet to the top of the ridge which connects the west ridge of Castle Peak to P 9847. On the morning of June 16 we climbed the gully early hoping the snow would not be soft and dodging falling rocks. The distance to the summit ridge was a series of snow bridges and ice blocks and just before the summit ridge we had to climb a steep slope in deep snow. Most of the summit ridge was a long slog, but the high point was a spectacular, corniced knife-edge. The gully on the descent was a nasty waterfall of ice and slush down which huge boulders sometimes plunged.

LARRY SWANSON, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Mount Sanford. Mount Sanford was attempted by two Japanese expeditions in 1976. A five-man-and-a-woman expedition climbed the north ridge. From Camp IV on April 24, 1976 Masaru Nakagawa, Minoru Naka, Tomotsu Ohfuji and Ms. Kazuko Ohmori reached the summit. A four-man party led by Masaoh Nishigai retreated from some 500 feet below the summit on May 8 in bad weather.

Mount Sanford, Ski Ascent. A winter attempt on Mount Sanford (16,230 feet) by Mark Moderow, Dennis Cowacs, Bill Laxson and me in late March failed in miserable weather at 13,000 feet. On July 17 David Titus, my wife Rowi and I climbed the peak from 7000 feet on the Sheep Glacier. A 10,000-foot powder ski run was our reward. In a