

year of notoriously bad weather, ours was only the second ascent in 13 attempts.

JAMES HALE, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Mount Blackburn, Second Ascent of Southeast Ridge. On Memorial Day weekend, Rob Blair, Jerry Hinkle, Roger Grette, my wife Barb and I were flown to the dirt airstrip at Nugget Creek. In 3½ days we walked up the Kuskalana Glacier to the 9000-foot pass at its head which overlooks the Kennecott Glacier and received our airdrop. We followed the southeast ridge of Blackburn from this pass over two false summits to the east peak of Blackburn. This ridge had been climbed in March 1974 by five Alaskans. (*A.A.J.*, 1975, pages 120-1.) In 1912 Dora Keen and party followed the Kennecott Glacier and climbed glacier slopes at its head directly to the east peak. The 1912 route* did not intersect the

southeast ridge at all. As we had intended to traverse the peak, we took the ridge in small bites and pulled our meager supply of anchors and fixed line up behind us and used them over and over again. We were hampered by the usual rotten snow and poor visibility. Our technically easy summit day, June 24, was delayed for over a week by consistently poor weather. We were pinned down for four days just a few hundred feet below the east peak. We nibbled at our dwindling food and played Canasta for Big Macs. When the weather cleared, we snowshoed to the east peak, traversed the two miles to the main peak (16,523 feet), descended the north ridge in 36 hours and were flown out.

GERARD A. ROACH

Mount Bona. Apparently two Japanese parties climbed Mount Bona (16,500 feet) in 1977. From information in *Iwa To Yuki* the second party made the eleventh ascent of the mountain and the sixth Japanese one. They followed close on a party from Kawasaki City. The party from Hokkaido was led by Isao Tomita. They climbed the peak by the east ridge with two high camps. On May 25 the leader, T. Kubota, Y. Koyama and Y. Tsunemoto reached the summit.

Fairweather, Attempt on Southeast Ridge. The personnel of our expedition finally was made up of Leonard Cook, Mark Fields, Rich Bloom and Chris Carpenter. (I was injured fighting a fire with the

* In 1912 the maps showed the east peak to be the highest and so the actual first ascent of Blackburn was not made until 1957 when the west peak, which is over 100 feet higher, was climbed. It is likely that this was the second time the east peak was visited, since the Alaskans seem to have skirted it in 1974. A definitive account of the 1912 ascent was published in *World's Work*, 1913, "First up Mt. Blackburn" by Dora Keen.