

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.

Anchorage Fire Department and had to drop out.) Our main objective was the first ascent via the southeast ridge, which had been descended by the Wickwire party in 1973. One of the major problems was personality clashes. Weather also became an unyielding factor. Finally Camp IV was established close to the junction of our route and the Harvard route of 1975. In a four-day storm at Camp IV they had to use up most of the remaining food. When the storm finally lifted enough for a summit attempt, the remaining food sack was knocked off the ridge while ice screws were being dug out of a pack. The group decided to head down.

MICHAEL DUNN, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Mount Crillon, West Ridge. Terry Cline, Dave Dahl, Bruce Tickell and I left Lituya Bay in early July and on July 6 after several days of packing loads through the endless moraine of the North Crillon Glacier established Base Camp in the cirque below Mount Crillon's north face. A reconnaissance of the approaches to the north ridge showed that the 2500-foot wall of loose rock leading to the ridge crest from the cirque was a dangerous avalanche hazard and would require extensive fixed rope. We diverted to the west ridge and by July 12 had a high camp at 8000 feet below a prominent grey tower, one of the main obstacles of the route. A summit attempt on the following day failed at 9000 feet in a storm. Turning the south flank of the tower had consumed most of our time. On July 18 we were back in our 8000-foot camp. That afternoon Tickell and I climbed a crack system (F5) leading directly over the south shoulder of the grey tower, shortening our route considerably. On the following day we moved to our final camp at 9000 feet and on the 20th reached the summit in shirtsleeves in an 18-hour push. We remained on top for two hours and even brewed a pot of tea. Marginal weather delayed our return to Lituya Bay until the 26th. It was the second ascent of this ridge and the third of the mountain.

WALTER VENNUM

Devil's Thumb. In *Climbing* of January-February, 1978 there is the report of the first ascent of the pillar which divides the northwest face of the Devil's Thumb, made between August 16 and 19 by Bob Plumb and David Stutzman. This Grade VI, 5.9 climb was made in 57 pitches from the Witches' Cauldron. It was climbed completely free.

Washington—Cascade Mountains

Little Johannesburg, Plumline Buttress. Unnamed on maps, this 7945-foot monolith sits directly across the valley from Easy Pass, just inside the boundary of North Cascade National Park. On August 21 Steve Costie, Chris Martenson, Ken Small and I made the first ascent