

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

PLATE 64

Photo by Bradford Washburn

Mount Crillon. The West Ridge is at the right.



of the north face. We followed a prominent buttress for 2700 feet from the valley directly to the summit. NCCS II, F4.

RICHARD FILLEY

Whistler Mountain, Southeast Rib. On September 1 Barry Nelson and I climbed a rib of good-to-rotten rock on Whistler. A nice layback and face-climbing pitch led to several pitches of scrambling up unstable rock. NCCS I, F7.

ALAN KEARNEY

Bear Mountain, North Face. After several days of trail and of vicious brush from our Beaver Creek-Perry Creek approach, Jeff Thomas, Ed Newville, Shari Kearney and I scrutinized Bear's north face. We spotted a long 2000-foot buttress west of Beckey's first-ascent route. We scrambled up 400 feet on September 10 to bivouac under the stars. After a false start up and right in the morning, we worked left and up a chimney. Cracks and face climbing got us up the left edge of the buttress. Seventeen pitches later, we watched the sun set minutes after reaching the top of the buttress within easy scrambling of the top. Excellent rock and hard free climbing made this particularly enjoyable. NCCS IV, F9.

ALAN KEARNEY

Sporohyte Spire, Cashmere Crags, Stuart Range. On August 11 Shari Kearney and I climbed the north face of this vegetated tower of granite. It lies partway up Toketie Creek, south of Snow Creek Wall. We followed an obvious cleft which cuts across the west end of the face. The rock itself was excellent, but we were plagued with moss-filled cracks. NCCS II, F8.

ALAN KEARNEY

Dorado Needle, South Side. In August Margarite Hargrave and I did a new route on the south side of Dorado Needle up a prominent ridge leading towards a point southeast of the main summit. We approached from a camp at the Klawatti col, traversing west over the Inspiration Glacier and head of the west branch of the McAllister Glacier to drop through the notch between Eldorado and Dorado Needle. The 1200-foot route had about eight leads of moderate class 5. Generally the rock is sound and of good quality though dikes of softer rock must be climbed with care. The route began with third- and fourth-class scrambling to the ridge crest; then we climbed one lead of the steepest section on a loose grey dike just on the north side of the ridge. We left the ridge before the top third and followed a class-three gully to a notch between the southeast point and main summit block. Two further leads gained the summit. NCCS III, F5.

JOAN FIREY