

nous black shale ridge. After getting to the dump, during three of the next six days we repeatedly climbed the shale ridge, which disintegrated with each step, and climbed the snow slopes above to stock Camp III at 8000 feet. The other three days we sat out drizzle and downpour. In periodically stormy weather we established a route across a level but moderately crevassed bench beyond Camp III and then up a broad shale and snow slope to another ridgetop at 10,000 feet. Camp IV was set up next to Haydon Peak at the edge of steeper crevassed terrain stretching another mile to the St. Elias-Haydon col. On July 30 Nash and Isherwood made a route from the col to a rock band at 11,000 feet. Aided by their efforts, Smith and I stomped our way to the top of a large snow dome at 13,400 feet. Three days later Camp V was placed on the dome. Two reconnaissances above confirmed the belief that the southeast face would be a speedy route and that we would not need a higher camp. We had five days of food, but we agonized as three days slipped by in the wind. Finally the fourth day of our sit-in was clear, calm and cold. Even with five people alternating, it was a gruesome job getting through powder and crust to 16,000 feet. Bill Isherwood developed stomach cramps and had to turn back. We four continued up broken rock and deep snow on the ridge until it steepened. We traversed onto the southeast face, gradually approaching huge, ice-encrusted cornices which line the summit ridge. We moved diagonally right to an apparent breach in the cornices. After some steep icy step cutting, Carl Smith disappeared up a gully and onto the summit ridge. We were soon revelling in the perfect weather and the view on the summit.

RICHARD M. NOLTING, *Unaffiliated*

*Correction:* On page 543 of *A.A.J.*, 1978 it was incorrectly stated that "Mount Vancouver was first climbed in 1938 by Noel Odell and party." The ascent actually took place on July 5, 1949. Although Odell was a member of the party, the leader of the expedition was Dr. Walter A. Wood.

*Fairweather Range.* On July 5, 1977 Allen Beattie, Duke Greshook, Greg Wagner and I were flown to the lake at the foot of the Grand Plateau Glacier. Following the route of the Gove parties of 1974 and 1977, we hiked the 25 miles to our airdrop at 10,000 feet, somewhat to the north of Mount Fairweather. After our arrival at Base Camp, we attempted Fairweather heading up the valley between the main summit and the west summit aiming for the saddle between the peaks. We turned back due to crevasses, falling ice coming from the ice cliffs of the main summit and serious avalanche hazards. The next day we again headed up the valley, but this time stayed to the right. We worked our way up the icefall, passed under the ice cliffs of the west summit and reached the bowl under the steep crevassed slope leading to the saddle between the

summits. We ascended the slope to the saddle, left gear for a possible high camp, and headed up the last 2000 feet of the west ridge to the summit which we reached at approximately 8:30 P.M. on the 20th. From the summit we descended all the way to Base Camp which we finally reached after 44 hours of climbing. On the descent Allen fell into a major crevasse in the bowl just under the headwall. In the following period Allen and I climbed a small peak (P 10,010), which we labeled the "nob," that lies at the base of the north ridge of the west summit of Fairweather. The climb, which went up the north face, involved three excellent pitches on ice. We also climbed the southeast ridge of P 11,105, "The Guardian," following the route done by Don and Alice Liska in 1974. The snow and ice conditions were poor and we spent 11 hours on the ridge. Our most alpine climb was the steep 3000-foot south face of Root, which was climbed by Allen and Greg in 33 hours, Allen leading the entire way. The route, which was all ice, was generally similar to that of the first ascent, done a month and a half earlier, except that where the original route veered slightly to the right on the upper part of the mountain Allen and Greg followed a straight line to the summit. Shortly after the climb of Root, Duke dislocated his shoulder in a freak accident at Base Camp. The next day we packed up and headed out. During our stay the melting snow had left the ice bare up to 4000 feet and the exposed crevasse system greatly complicated the descent, which took six days. We were flown out on August 19.

BARBARA WIGHT, *Unaffiliated*

*Fairweather Starvation Expedition.* Six climbers from the State of Washington, John H. Olson\*, Jerome Eberharter, Steve Doty, Gregg Foster, Reese Martin and Steve Pollock, had hoped in June to do some difficult new routes in the Fairweather Range. After bad weather prevented the first airdrop attempt, which they would have supervised, they climbed to 6000 feet below Mount Fairweather in four days, where they were to receive the drop. Nearly out of food on arrival, they waited another four days for the airdrop, eating only a square of chocolate each day. Finally they struggled back down to the coast, foodless. They failed to attract the attention of a fishing boat and an airplane, but eventually a helicopter carrying geologists spotted them and called for a plane that flew them back to civilization. The food drop had apparently been made, but they have no idea where.

*P 6120, Near the Devils Thumb, Southeastern Alaska.* On May 18 Curt Olson and I climbed P 6120, one of the prominent peaks east of the junction of the Baird Glacier and the Witch's Cauldron near the Devils Thumb. The climb involved about 3000 feet of moderate snow slopes of

---

\* Recipient of an American Alpine Club Mountaineering Fellowship Grant.