of difficult free climbing for 16 pitches, strongly reminiscent of the climbing on Middle Cathedral Rock in Yosemite. With the exception of a few moves of aid in a sodden corner near the base, the climbing was all free and done in EB's. Bob and I alternated pitches of solid cracks and wobbly flakes to tie together our best and last climb of the trip (June 30, NCCS IV, F9, A1).

STEPHEN M. POLLOCK, *University of Washington Climbing Club*

Pollak Spire, Cathedral Spires, Kichatna Mountains. Chaiki Hara, Hatuyo Kotaki and I were on the Tatina Glacier from July 20 to August 3. Bad weather drove us off the west face of P 7270 on July 27 and off the south rib of P 7133 on July 30, but Hara and I did climb Pollak Spire (7500-foot northeast subpeak of Mount Neveragain) by the east buttress (V, F8) on July 28 and 29. There were 25 pitches. Previous to this we had climbed Mount McKinley.

HIROSHI ODA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

Mount Hayes Attempt. On May 19 John Giese, Doug Houck, Henry Bergner, Ed Nemecek and I were flown to the Susitna Glacier, southwest of Mount Hayes. We established Base Camp at 7100 feet, hoping to climb the west ridge which rises to the 12,500-foot plateau separating the north and south summits. After a week of little success, we switched our attention to the south face of the south summit. Then our previously good weather became the exception. Several days later we managed to make a summit attempt from a high camp on the south face. More difficult climbing above our fixed lines made it obvious that an additional camp would be required. Bad weather and the lack of food forced a retreat to Base Camp. No further attempts were made. Early in the expedition two members climbed P 8587 for reconnaissance purposes.

DOUGLAS B. HOLSTEN

Mount Deborah, West Face and South Ridge. In May John Ellsworth, Chris Topher and I were landed at 6000 feet on the Yanert Glacier. Two days later we had established a direct route through the first and second icefalls, the upper maze of crevasses and across the bergschrund below the west face. Conditions had been excellent, but because of the lateness of the hour, cold feet and a lack of agreement on the route, we descended to Base Camp. After waiting out a threatened storm, Topher and I returned and made a frigid bivouac below the bergschrund. In the morning, conditions on the west face proved exciting and exacting. Hollow, reverberating snow gave way to dry, loose snow over ice and then to loose blocks of the rock band. Departing from our

intended line, which would have placed us next to the summit on the northwest ridge, we moved slightly right, gaining the south ridge (Beckey's route) below the summit ice mushroom for a second cold bivouac. I then led through a beautiful ice fantasia, occasionally stepping into crevasses on the dangerous ridge. Slab avalanches fractured at my feet, forcing me dangerously out towards the lip of the cornices. On the descent we opted for the most direct line, setting up six successive rappels down the Yanert Headwall. After finding a route through the third Yanert icefall, we regained our first bivouac site and continued on down. A massive snow-bridge collapsed under Topher, dropping him 60 feet free. After an eternity of "engineering" in the cold night, Chris finally came over the lip. We spent the next day descending the lower two icefalls.

OMAR HANSEN

Neacola Range. On May 4 Peri Chickering, Todd Denman, Jon Stevens and I were the first climbers to enter the Neacola Range of central Alaska. We were greeted by a compact and severe range that offered numerous opportunities for short difficult alpine climbing. The rock was surprisingly good, reminiscent of Yosemite but in a Bugaboo configuration. Neacola, the largest peak, rose for 4600 feet above the glacier to 9426 feet. There were many steep snow routes that in late summer would probably offer good ice climbing. The first two weeks were plagued with bad weather. Poor visibility allowed only limited exploration and the avalanches restricted climbing. We were able to sneak in one climb up the west ridge to the summit of P 6820. The route involved a beautiful snow ridge broken by rock sections (F6). After eleven hours of climbing Todd, Peri and I reached the summit, as yet another storm surrounded us. During the hasty descent Todd slipped on a verglased granite with snow hiding the ice. He fell about 35 feet landing on his back. Though he was badly shaken-up, his only injury was a very bruised tailbone. He hobbled back to camp on his own but his immediate climbing future looked grim. The continuing bad weather and Todd's debilitating injury convinced Todd and Jon to attempt the 25-mile ski out to Telaquana Lake to try to flag down a plane. It was an epic adventure. After two days of difficult travelling they reached the lake. With food running out they discovered a rowboat, rigged a sail out of their tent-fly and crossed the ten-mile whitecapped lake to an old village marked on the map. It was deserted. They luckily were able to flash down a float plane and leave the Neacolas. With two weeks left in the trip Peri and I decided to tempt the gods and try the 4500-foot northeast face of Neacola. We ferried a light camp and spent the next three days tent-bound waiting for a break in the weather. In the morning twilight of one A.M. on day 21 we began the face. We managed to climb