

Mount Hunter, North Buttress Attempt. Dan and Patrick McNerthney, Rob Newsom and I* arrived in Talkeetna on May 2 and were on the glacier that evening. The next couple of days found us establishing Base Camp and telescoping the face. We chose a different line from the one of the previous year, an awesome one right up the middle of the buttress. The gully we climbed in 1979 (*A.A.J.*, 1980, pages 523-4) was out; it avalanched daily. The weather went sour for five days. It cleared and we spent the day watching the face dump spindrift. We left late the next day in clear weather. The climbing was fantastic on steep, good ice, averaging 70° with many vertical spots and F8 rock. We were five pitches up when darkness and clouds closed in. We fixed three ropes to gain a small snow arête. With much chopping it yielded two spots big enough to sit on, one for three and the other for one. There was no room for tents and it started to snow. After six hours the storm had not abated and so we rappelled off amidst rapidly running rivers of spindrift. For a week it snowed every day. The weather finally cleared and we gave the face a day to slough off. The next day we regained our previous high point and climbed seven pitches more. The climbing, some on aid, was equally steep and demanding, with pendulums, ice-hoses and such. We had reached the lower icefield on the buttress. Chopping produced two marginal tent spots. Rob was in the upper tent alone as his ledge was only as wide as he was. The ice hose that we had telescoped looked incredibly intimidating and it had started to snow. As we sat in our tents, a powder-snow avalanche hit our tents and knocked Rob off. He slid 20 feet until his rope stopped him. He retired to the lower tent. Two days later visibility improved and we rappelled off.

DOUGLAS KLEWIN, *Toooloose Alpine Society*

Mount Hunter, Route on and beside the North Buttress. Billy Ireland from North Ireland and Ulf Björnberg of Sweden made a new route on and to the right of the north buttress of Mount Hunter from July 1 to 7. It was mostly on snow and ice. It was reported to be badly threatened by séracs in the upper part. Details are missing.

West Kahiltna Peak, North Face, and Traverse to East Kahiltna Peak. On June 13 Bertl Breyer and I made the first ascent of the north face of West Kahiltna Peak in seven hours. The main difficulties were in the bottom third of the 3000-foot ice face. The main problem was to find a route through the ice terraces and séracs. The average angle was 45° to 50°. We continued on to make the first traverse of the ridge to East Kahiltna Peak and to Kahiltna Notch. This difficult ridge is in great

* Recipient of an American Alpine Club Climbing Fellowship grant.

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Photo by Bradford Washburn

MOUNT HUNTER's North Buttress.
The Ireland-Björnberg Route is
marked.



part double-corniced and has sections up to 70°; it was nearly impossible to belay on the steep snow. It took us 17 hours from our camp on the northeast fork of the Kahiltna Glacier until we were back in camp.

UDO KNITTEL, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Huntington, East Ridge, Rooster Comb, P 11,300, Dickey, Moose's Tooth. Our team of ten from the Portland, Oregon area began skiing in on March 29 from Mile 279 on the Alaska Railroad. Our approach route was the Hidden River and Buckskin Glacier. We covered the distance in eight days despite deep snow and cornices on Window Pass. From Base Camp below Huntington's north face on the west fork of the Ruth Glacier, we made up ropes of two and took advantage of excellent weather. Scott Woolums and I made the second ascent of the east ridge of Huntington in five days, from April 7 to 11. The route was in good condition and we fourth-classed all but the eight pitches of the crux ice flutings and rock band. Leigh Anderson and Keith Royster made the first ascent of the northwest face of the Rooster Comb to P 10,170 during the same period. The climb took two days and consisted of 3200 feet of ice and mixed climbing up to 80°. Their descent was slowed by a two-day storm during which they bivouacked in a crevasse on the Huntington-Rooster Comb col. Anderson sustained minor frostbite to his toes and was immediately evacuated by Cliff Hudson. Royster, Woolums, Jim Olson and I made the third ascent and first American one of the southwest ridge of P 11,300, north of Huntington. We climbed as ropes of two and completed the route in four days, from April 25 to 28, on one of which we were storm-bound. Woolums and Scott Shuey did a major variation to the southeast ridge route of P 11,300 by climbing the southern cwm to gain the ridge at 9000 feet. This took two days. Shuey and Olson made a ski ascent of Mount Dickey via the Backside Glacier, and Olson and Jim Moehl climbed the west ridge of the Moose's Tooth to the western summit. After a successful month on the Ruth, we crossed to the Kahiltna Glacier and spent another 20 days before skiing out to the highway via Little Switzerland. Woolums and Moehl climbed Denali by the west buttress. In all we were out for 78 days and covered 350 miles on light cross-country gear.

JAY KERR, *Unaffiliated*

Moose's Tooth and Barrille. After flying in on June 1, Sallie Herr, Sharon Druck, William Hillegas, Peter Carter and I spent two weeks in the Ruth Amphitheater and Great Gorge. During the first week we witnessed extreme avalanche activity and much marginal weather. We waited for the mountains to shed some of their snow before committing ourselves to the shooting gallery. We also assisted the National Park Service in