

second day was foggy but the face was not quite so steep. That second evening we found a snow cave. In the morning we had to dig our way out as the cold winds had drifted the entrance in. The weather on the third day was extremely clear and we could see our Base Camp 6000 feet lower on the glacier. This was our longest day. Though we thought it would take us five hours, we finally reached the summit after twelve hours. With only one pair of skis, Beghin skied from the summit to Camp II, which was the easiest and best of the descent. It was difficult for the three on foot in the thigh-deep snow. We reached camp at eight P.M., exhausted. As we headed for Camp I the next day, the skiing became dangerous, some of it on 60° slopes. We had to ski roped to cross several steep sections, crevasses and avalanche areas. It snowed on the third day of the descent, from Camp I to Base Camp, which we reached late in the afternoon. Later we skied from the summit of Mount Crosson before crossing the pass to arrive after 28 days at Wonder Lake.

RÉMY POCCARD, *Club Alpin Français*

*Mount Foraker.* Mount Foraker was climbed by its southeast ridge, first by John Tuckey and Rob Kimbrough and then by Glenn Randall and Peter Metcalf.

*Mount Hunter, Northwest Spur Variant.* On April 12 Gary Bocarde, Nick Parker and I started on a new variant on the west ridge of Mount Hunter. After skiing around from the southeast fork of the Kahiltna into the basin north of the west ridge, we set up Base Camp below the prominent icefall and bowl that indents the lower northern part of the west ridge. We worked through the heavily crevassed lower section of the bowl and onto the western face of the northwest spur, where we climbed 45° to 50° stable snow slopes to camp on a narrow platform below the lower rocks of the spur at 8200 feet. The next day we proceeded along below the crest on steepening slopes to 9400 feet, where we cut a narrow platform and slept roped in cold April weather. The next morning we were treated to a spectacular display when a large section of the icefall, just a few hundred feet over on the ridge and level with us, broke and avalanched. Bocarde continued the lead, the last three pitches being 60° to 70° rotten ice, and reached the ridge at the point marked 10,610 feet, where we spent the night on a broad flat area just off the west ridge. Bocarde next led over the cornice problems to the ice slope at 11,000 feet, where a storm stopped us for a day. We left for the summit on the sixth day in unsettled weather. While Bocarde blissfully led the second pitch on ice at 11,200 feet, Parker and I watched ominous lenticular clouds descend on Denali, Foraker and our summit. We retreated to camp in worsening weather and strong winds, decided to descend and stopped for the night at our Camp III. We descended in rappels from the ridge. The lower slope was moderately loaded by the storm, reminding us how unsavory the lower route would be in heavy snow.

LANCE S. OWENS