

Black-Embick-Graber-Long route. It was a beautiful combination of big-wall and alpine climbing. On May 16 we climbed Gurney Peak by a new route we called the Shadows-Sunshine Couloir. We ascended to the col, the Credibility Gap, between the Shadows and Sunshine Glaciers. A broad ridge took us to the bergschrund at the base of the couloir. We moved together up the lower 750 feet of the couloir in perfect step-kicking snow. A mixed pitch up a steep step on the left put us on ice. Six more pitches of moderate ice climbing brought us through a cornice and onto the summit ridge. Easy ridge climbing put us on the summit on a spectacular day when we could see only mountains in every direction. We descended mostly by down-climbing with two rappels. The round trip took us 12 hours. (Grade III.) On May 18 we made our first attempt on the south buttress of Avalanche Peak. After four pitches it was snowing and we descended to wait for a better day. On the 19th the weather was still unstable and so we climbed Vertex Peak by the 1966 Millikan-Roberts route. Roping up only for the crevasses on the hanging glacier and on the summit ridge, we were on top in three hours. On May 20 we skied back to Avalanche Peak and put on our EBs again. In a couple of hours we were back at our high point in perfect weather. I led only one pitch with aid. Two more free pitches and the angle let off. After a couple of hundred feet of lower-angle climbing, we were done. (Grade IV, 5.10, A3.) Though we were prepared to do a new line on the east face of Kichatna Spire, the good weather came to an end. Finally the weather miraculously cleared on the day of our pick-up.

THOMAS BAUMAN

*P 9420, P 9900, P 10,200 and Mount Hess, Southeast Ridge, Hayes Range.* Roman Dial, Matt Van Enkevort, Martin Leonard and Chuck Comstock climbed P 9420 in January. The first two then climbed P 9900 and P 10,200. These three first ascents all lie east of Deborah and Hess. The weather was very cold and some suffered from frostbite. In May, Dial returned with Carl Tobin and climbed the last unclimbed ridge, the southeast, of Mount Hess. Although they had taken only four days of food, they took nine days on the climb. They first climbed 2000 feet of 45° to 70° ice to the col between P 10,200 and Hess. After climbing double-cornices and mixed terrain, they bivouacked in an ice cave under a cornice on a gendarme, where they were trapped by the weather for five days. More rock, and some aid on cornices, led to another bivouac. Double cornices, knife-edged ridge and steep rock of great difficulty took them to the summit, where they had to bivouac again. They descended the north ridge but had to climb back to Base Camp on the West Fork Glacier.

*Mount Hayes, Northern Edge of the West Face.* Geoff Radford, Andy Reynolds, Kate Bull and Steve Will climbed this 5000-foot-high ridge in March. They were five days on the arête, another on the north ridge to reach the summit and a seventh on the descent.

*Twaharpies Peaks, Wrangell Mountains.* We eight Poles flew from McCarthy to the Glacier Creek landing on the Chitistone River. We had an airdrop on