

the buttress at two-thirds height. Traversing left around a corner we found narrow ice runnels of 60° to 70° and difficult mixed ground leading to the upper icefield. From there the route could traverse right to the west ridge or continue straight up for a dramatic finish. However, we descended from there to our bivouac and finished the descent the following day. We spent seven days on the route, mostly in storm and spindrift. We chopped bivouac sites out of ice slopes. The initial 1500 feet of snow climbing are exposed to sérac fall and avalanche. Otherwise the route is objectively safe except for the cornice capping the buttress.

STEVEN MASCIOLI

*Moose's Tooth Attempt and Barrille, 1984*, In April 1984, Dave Jones and I spent ten days in the Ruth Gorge. We first explored variations for reaching the lower snowfields of the German route on the Moose's Tooth. On the southern face above the icefall which lies along the approach to the south-face routes are several couloirs bisecting the lower face. We eventually chose one starting at 5000 feet at the base of the icefall. It is straightforward with a few bulges of 70° ice. At the top of the couloir is a giant chockstone, under which is a large, safe bivouac area. From there a 400-foot traverse into and up another couloir provides fifth-class rock and mixed climbing and access to the snow slope below the west wall of the German route. We did not complete that route because of windslab conditions below the west wall. Our route should provide an interesting and at times a safer variation at the beginning of any trip to the west ridge of the Tooth. After failing on the Krakauer Couloir on the Moose's Tooth's south face, we did a six-hour ascent of Barrille via a variation of the Japanese Couloir on the southeast face. The couloir splits about 1000 feet above the glacier. The Japanese apparently took the right fork. To save time and avoid a steep rock-and-ice step, we took the left fork. At the top of that fork, the couloir leads to a traverse with fourth- and fifth-class mixed climbing onto the upper snowfields.

DOUGLAS POPE, *Unaffiliated*

*Bear's Tooth, East Face Attempt*. Doug Klewin and I on June 15 attempted the east face of the Bear's Tooth, the peak adjacent to the Moose's Tooth and south of it in the intimidating cirque of the Buckskin Glacier. We climbed three pitches up the longest toe of the 4500-foot wall. Klewin was psyched to continue but I was not because of heavy objective danger in the form of ice falling from the upper ledges. Klewin plans to try the route again.

ROB NEWSOM

*McGinnis Peak, East Face, Hayes Range*. "Cutthroat Couloir" forms the right corner of the east face of McGinnis Peak with the southeast ridge on its left side. Our ascent of the peak by Cutthroat Couloir may be the most difficult climb

yet done in the Hayes Range. Chuck Comstock and I started up the couloir on March 23. The couloir is 3000 feet high. The angle at the top approaches 75° to 80°. We had three bivouacs on the ascent, the first on an arête in the couloir, the second in a bergschrund at the notch on the classic Brady route after we got onto the east or northeast ridge and the third on the summit, which we reached on March 26. We made the first descent of the formidable southeast ridge. When a cornice broke under Comstock, to arrest his fall I jumped off the other side of the ridge. He hurt his hand and so we descended the couloir into which he had fallen. We made eleven rappels with a cramped snow-cave bivouac halfway down the face that the couloir avalanched into.

ROMAN DIAL

*Middle Triple Peak Attempt, P 8055 and P 6000, Kichatna Mountains.* Chuck Comstock, John Harpole and I were landed on July 5 by Jay Hudson on the Caldwell Glacier in a gutsy landing with our first objective, the east buttress of Middle Triple Peak, just across the glacier. The Sunshine Glacier lived up to its name as during the entire three-week period we never suffered more than two consecutive storm days. Still, we were chased off the buttress twice by weather. Base Camp was four hours away initially, but we trimmed the time down to 2½ hours without even moving the tent. Fixing the first three pitches consumed the better part of a week, as bad days followed good. Finally on July 11 I juggled the lines up to John and Chuck, pulling our ropes as I went. My second lead, the fourth pitch, took us to a bolt belay. So far we had suffered severe rope-drag on the first pitch, a cut rope rappelling the second pitch in a storm, two falls on pitch 3 and an anchor at the base of pitch 4 which failed when I pulled outward on a Friend, breaking it free of its rotten placement. On pitch 5 I despondently suggested we descend immediately; a fall off two hooks and directly onto my belay left *étriers* a pitch below and two footfangs on the glacier. We rappelled off the route for good. The second half of the trip was an ascent of P 8055 in the southwest Spires. This, the last of Dave Roberts' 8000ers (as listed by him in the old *Summit* article) was our *second* first ascent in the Spires. The first salved our egos after retreating off Middle Triple Peak. A gentle Arrigetch-like 6000-foot satellite of Buff Spire rewarded us with flowered belay ledges and aerial boulder problems on the summit ridge. We called the route up the long south buttress "Black Rose" for the elegant whorls of leafy lichen we found. John's 5.10 pitch gave Black Rose some respectability and all roped pitches were beautifully enjoyable. (II, 5.10.) The rain began as we summited. After a 1500-foot standing glissade with the sky shining orange between two blue-sky slices of bread, we were down and brewing under a boulder on the glacier. When the rain quit at three A.M., we began the trek to P 8055 ("Vug Tor") over Perfect Echo and Monolith Passes. Now, P 8055 had been avoided by the likes of Bridwell, Embick, Porter and Roberts, the previous visitors to the Monolith Glacier. It is certainly not the most spectacular of the Kichatnas, but it gave all three of us substantial delight and feelings of accomplishment. On July 15, his birthday,