

Mount Blackadar (2035 meters, 6750 feet; 59° 51' N, 137° 54' W) on the east side of the Alsek River. The base of the climb was reached after a week in kayaks and rafts down the Alsek. The range viewed from 1000 feet on the river is impressive, above which peaks such as Kennedy and Hubbard rise 14,000 feet. Major glaciers, including the Lowell, Tweedsmuir and Alsek terminate in the river, calving off large blocks of glacial ice which are washed downstream. Mount Blackadar was named for Dr. Walt Blackadar who solo first ran the treacherous rapids of one of the world's most famous stretches of whitewater, Turnback Canyon. This is located where the Tweedsmuir Glacier squeezes the Alsek River against the walls of Mount Blackadar. Dr. Blackadar was drowned in an Idaho kayaking accident in 1978. The ascent started from the confluence of Dyke Creek and the Alsek River and followed the north ridge. The first 2500 feet were through an impressive jungle of devil's club and stinging nettle. We reached the first snowfields at 4500 feet, although hanging glaciers on the impressive north face descend to within 100 feet of the Alsek. Kathy Daly and Darcy Dixon accompanied us to the snow. The ridge route was mixed snow and loose rock, with great exposure but mostly of 5.3 difficulty and some 5.4. After we reached the second col on the northwest ridge, we climbed a gradual incline between two glaciers that dropped off to the north and south. The final pitch was 5.4 on loose rock. We climbed the northern of the several summits. On a boulder a few meters from the summit, Bob Blackadar left an ice axe inscribed with Mount Blackadar in memory of his father.

JERRY DIXON *and* RON WATTERS,  
*Idaho State University Outdoor Program*

### **Northern Boundary Ranges**

*The Tusk, West Ridge.* The view of the Florence Range from the abandoned lodge at Ben-My-Chree on Tagish Lake is dominated by a sharp pointed peak with twin summits known locally as the Tusk. The summit of the Tusk is easily attained by a steep talus slope on its southeast flank. The west ridge, however, had not been attempted before Ed Weyrembeck and I climbed it on July 24. Although we roped up for two short pitches, most of our route is exciting 3rd and 4th class scrambling on an exposed knife-edge arête (II, 5.7). The north face of the Tusk is split by a deep cleft which strongly resembles the Super-Couloir on Fitzroy. The buttresses on either side of this couloir would both provide grade 4 or 5 big-wall routes, but the metamorphosed volcanic rock is of dubious quality.

WALTER VETINUM

### **Canadian Coast Range**

*Climbs and Traverses in the Mount Waddington Area, Canadian Coast Range.* In the 4½ days from July 26 thru 30, Peter Croft, Greg Foweraker, and I completed the first traverse of the culmination of the Coast Mountains, the