

ice became soft. I finished the pitch by digging deep holes for my arms and doing half pull-ups until I reached the crest of the ridge. The final 600 feet up the ridge to the summit were less steep but far more dangerous, due to wind-packed snow. I was nearly buried when a large crevasse bridge collapsed. Twice we heard the snow around us settle with a sickening thud. Finally we reached the tiny summit. On the descent it was Bill's turn to have a crevasse bridge fall out from under him. Moments later, all the snow below me broke loose and slid off the mountain, leaving me on the fracture line. From Base Camp we spent 2½ days enjoying the views of dozens of unclimbed peaks as we passed several of the Barnard's tributary glaciers on the way to the air-lift spot.

GARY SILVER

*St. Elias.* Alaskans Bob Antonson, Dave Blanchet, Ray Koleser and Todd Miner climbed St. Elias by the south ridge, the route first climbed by the Harvard group in 1946. They believe that this was the 15th ascent of the mountain.

*St. Elias Attempt.* Günter Zimmermann, Urban Gebhart, Walter Kischlat, Winfried Hartmann and I were flown by Mike Ivers of Gulf Air Taxi on May 29 from Yakutat to the east fork of the Tyndall Glacier. That same day we made Camp I on a little saddle at 4500 feet. We were stormbound for three days. On June 2 we established Camp II at 6600 feet and the next day made Camp III at 9000 feet. On July 4 we reached Haydon Col at 10,000 feet, where we made Camp IV. On July 5 we climbed Haydon Peak (12,945 feet) via its northeast face in beautiful weather. On the 6th we got to 13,500 feet on the south-southeast ridge of St. Elias, but were driven back to Haydon Col by a heavy storm. The next day our tent was destroyed by the storm and we spent two more days and terrible nights in snow and cold in our wrecked tent. When it cleared on June 10, seven feet of snow had fallen. After a day of digging for our equipment, we retreated and were flown out on June 15.

FRITZ RADUN, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*St. Elias Southeast and East Ridges Attempt.* On June 13, Steve Bain, Karen Bush, Charlie Carr, Ben McKinley, Chip Morgan and I were on a fork of the Newton Glacier right below the southeast ridge of St. Elias. Our goal was to complete the unclimbed southeast ridge, an extremely technical, long, exposed route. The following morning we wove our way across yawning crevasses to the base of a couloir that led up to the ridge. A large sérac near the couloir gave way, setting off an avalanche that consumed the entire couloir in Volkswagen-sized boulders. We looked for alternatives. Charlie Carr led up three pitches on a loose class-5 rock face that we believed connected with a snow ramp to the ridge. We fixed the route and returned to camp. When we returned the following day, we noticed that our fixed lines had been drenched in avalanche debris. Only 20 minutes after Charlie and I had returned from a high-speed retrieval of the