

have been done. The major problem was the weather and it was good enough only on the third try. Two rock pitches and a lot of wallowing in depth hoar put us on the west ridge. Snow steps on the ridge took us to a rock tower, which we climbed on the right. Then hard ice brought us to the summit tower and three pitches of good rock climbing to the summit ridge. It was then a hike to the top. (IV, 5.9).

THOMAS BAUMAN

*West Tripyramid, Northwest Ridge.* On August 22, Scott Gill, Randy Waitman and I climbed a new route, the northwest ridge of West Tripyramid (3572 meters, 11,720 feet). We established our high camp at 6400 feet on the Traleika Glacier after a five-day approach via Wonder Lake, the Peters Glacier and Gunsight Pass. This included one storm day. The Peters Glacier has surged and is generally impassable below the Tluna Icefall. The Muldrow Glacier between Gunsight Pass and the Traleika was heavily crevassed, necessitating caution. Tripyramid is 11 miles east-northeast of Denali. The route rises 5300 feet and we rate it Grade III. All climbing was unroped except for two pitches of 40° to 50° ice directly below the summit, which we climbed simultaneously with protection. Descent was by the ascent route. The climb took 13 hours round-trip.

CLIFF BEAVER, *Unaffiliated*

*Silverthrone, Winter Ascent.* On March 5, my father Jim Okonek of K2 Aviation flew my wife Diane, Ricardo Ernst and me to Kantishna. We skied to the Muldrow Glacier via McGonagall Pass and ascended the Brooks Glacier to the Silverthrone Col at 10,650 feet. Ricardo pulled moose steaks and smoked salmon from his heavy sled for us to dine on. Despite wind-scoured slopes, we never experienced the slightest breeze for the entire trip. On March 12, we followed the north ridge to the 13,220-foot (4029-meter) summit of Silverthrone. A thin, and in some places corniced, summit ridge added excitement to an otherwise easy climb. My Dad, returning to Talkeetna from the Iditarod Dog Sled Race, flew by as we neared the summit. The temperature was comfortable 0° F and it was calm and clear. Denali loomed so close it seemed we could touch it. On March 14, Diane and I walked up McGonagall Mountain under the full moon and northern lights. On March 16, the three of us ascended P 9240 from Gunsight Pass. This is the true beginning of Denali's Pioneer Ridge and the point the Cairns expedition had reached in 1912. The next day we descended to the Peters Glacier, which we followed to its terminus and along the Muddy River. In August of 1986, the Peters Glacier began to surge and in a few months advanced several miles. The surface of the glacier is an imposing jumble of dirty séracs and crevasses. We returned to Kantishna on March 21.

BRIAN OKONEK