

made beneath an enormous ice block adrift on the snow slope. From there, the final sérac band at 15,000 feet was the major question before attaining the crest of the South Buttress. We carried through this obstacle on May 18 and continued along the buttress to an exposed campsite at the top of the Japanese Ramp. We then followed the regular route directly from Thayer Col to the summit ridge, reaching the summit on May 24. We believe our route was safer, though perhaps more difficult, than the Japanese Ramp.

ANDREW CARSON

*Scott Peak, Northwest Face.* On August 24, Mark Stasic and I climbed a new route on the northwest face of Scott Peak (2691 meters, 8828 feet). This route runs from 6500 to 8500 feet and tops out on the ridge between Scott Peak and its subsidiary summit to the east-northeast. It was mostly grey ice between 40° and 50°; the last two pitches were 60° and required intermediate protection with a two-foot cornice at the top of the route. We climbed from Base Camp at 5400 feet on the Toklat Glacier, 12 miles from the Toklat Road Camp on the Park Road.

CLIFF BEAVER, *National Park Service*

*Royal Tower, North Face, and Other Climbs, Little Switzerland.* Bill McKenna and I spent nine days at the end of May in Little Switzerland on the Pica Glacier. We established a new route on the north face of the Royal Tower and did a few other hard new rock climbs. On the Royal Tower, we climbed the central couloir which splits the two rock faces. Starting at nine P.M., we climbed through the night with the midnight sun. The 50° to 60° 1800-foot-high couloir dead-ended in a rock headwall. Hugging the right side of the headwall, we found six pitches of beautiful mixed climbing. There were two cruxes, a tricky verglas-coated chimney just above where we left the couloir and a section below the summit ridge with loose snow over rotten rock. We rappelled to the couloir, which we down-climbed. The whole climb took 16 hours. Another good route was *Maneater* (5.10b) on the right corner of the Throne, which had a 130-foot, 3-inch arching crack. We found short approaches and high-quality rock on two small crags south of the Throne. We repeated many routes and established a few other new ones.

JAMES SWEENEY, *Homer, Alaska*

*Mount Hayes, East Face.* In April, Tom Walter and I flew to the Alaska Range to try a new route on the unclimbed 6400-foot east face of Mount Hayes (4216 meters, 13,832 feet). The face consisted of 50% snow and 50% blue ice, much more of the latter than we expected. The angle varied from 45° to 65° with occasional steeper rock bands. We climbed roped but opted to ascend without placing protection for the sake of speed. Initially, we planned on climbing about 3500 feet to the major rock band that cuts across the face at 10,900 feet and

bivouac on the rocks before finishing the remaining 2900 feet on the following day. Upon reaching the rock band, we were forced to continue due to the lack of a bivouac site. The blue ice ran directly into the steep rock band, eliminating any chance of carving a platform. By this time, the wind had picked up and the weather began to move in and so we pushed on hoping to find a more suitable bivouac site. The steepness and blankness of the face ultimately forced us to continue climbing into the dusk and finally to traverse off the face at 13,000 feet. We holed up in a snow cave that night and the following day while the storm raged outside. On the third day we climbed the 800 feet to the summit on the east ridge and then scurried back to the safety of our cave for the remainder of the day. The fourth day, we chose to descend the east ridge, battling 40- to 50-mph winds, in order to reach Base Camp below. Another three days of this continuous storm kept us buried in the snow cave there. When the weather finally broke, the Trident Glacier, moraine and surrounding tundra had been blown clear of snow, which made our three-day ski to the Black Rapids Roadhouse a true epic.

JOHN BAUMAN

*Ragged Peak, Central Alaska Range.* On August 17, Robin Bayer, Logan Colby, Scott Benson and I made the first ascent of Ragged Peak (9160 feet), via the north ridge in eight hours round-trip from the Brooks Glacier.

GREG COLLINS, *National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)*

*Mount Torbert and Other Peaks, Tordrillo Mountains.* Alaskans Tom Choate, Gary Lawton, Jerry Minick and I climbed in this range, which is visible from Anchorage. Lowell Thomas, Jr., one of the 1964 first-ascent party of Mount Torbert, flew us to the icecap feeding the Triumvirate Glacier on May 20. On May 21, we climbed the north peak of Torbert (11,100 feet) via the north ridge and then reached the main peak (11,413 feet) via the connecting ridge and plateau. We had to dig a snow cave for shelter on the descent and returned after 39 hours en route. After stormy weather, we made a ski ascent and descent of P 11,100 at the north end of our icecap on May 26. The next day, Choate and I climbed P 9644 via its southeast ridge, ten pitches of snow and ice. Excepting Torbert, we believe all our climbs were first ascents.

KEN ZAFREN

*P 6039, P 6744, P 6855, P 6151, Chugach Mountains.* On June 3, Bob Jacobs, Jeanie Nelson, Will Martin and I were dropped off by wheel-skied aircraft in an unnamed glacial valley five miles southeast of the junction of the Bremner and Tana Lobe Glaciers. Because of snow conditions we did all our climbing at night with beautiful sunsets and sunrises. On July 4, we climbed P 6039 from the south, an easy warm-up from our 3500-foot Base Camp. On June 5, we moved camp to 5200 feet across the valley to the southwest. After a