

Russell, Foraker's Infinite Spur, the northwest face of Mount Hunter, the Eroica route on Hunter and the west rib of the south face of Mount McKinley in winter. Foraker, Sultana Ridge. Todd Miner, Gordy Vernon and I were the first to visit the summit of Foraker in three years when we reached there on June 16 after a 6000-foot summit day up the northeast ridge. We spent a total of 18 days on the Sultana Ridge, much of it in wind. Only one of our five camps was exposed enough to require triple-thick walls. The most useful gear turned out to be wands, not the ice-and-snow gear we carried since the route was not difficult technically. The length of the ridge has probably kept people away, but it is safer than the more popular, avalanche-prone southeast ridge.

WILLY HERSMAN

*Hunter, Southwest Ridge to South Summit.* After encountering chest-deep snow on the Lowe-Kennedy route, Andy Jenson, Cory Brettmann, Dave Karl and I had Jim Okonek fly us to the south side of Mount Hunter. We had our eyes set on the southwest ridge first climbed by Alan Kearney and company in 1979 and apparently not yet seconded. The first 2500 vertical feet were in a couloir with perfect conditions; we raced up unroped in two hours. We then placed our first camp on a bench 3/4 of a mile from the top of the couloir and fixed two lines through some moderate mixed terrain. The next day was a long one with 11 pitches of hard 65° to 70° ice that ended at 11,600 feet for our high camp. Two days of storm and an avalanche that nearly did Jenson and Brettmann in came close to turning us around, but never-the-less, on May 27 we headed for the summit, only to be stopped 100 feet shy by an overhanging bergschrund which seemed to encircle the summit cone. Off with the crampons, and 6-foot-8 Cory and 6-foot-4 Andy boosted me up over the final obstacle. Two days more of storm passed without food in wet bags before we descended. After rappelling the steep ice, we glissaded the 2500-foot initial couloir in 15 minutes, although it nearly ended in tragedy when I sailed over the schrund.

CHRIS HAALAND

*Mount Brooks, South Summit, East Ridge.* Scott Gill and I climbed the east ridge of Mount Brooks to the south summit on June 29. This is a new route. The climb consisted of endless hours of post-holing in soft, unconsolidated snow. The final 75 meters, however, were a knife-edged ridge with spectacular exposure on both sides. It took 9½ hours to reach the summit from our camp at 6300 feet on the Brooks Glacier.

DOUGLAS CHABOT

*Crown Jewell, Throne and "Plunger", Little Switzerland.* In August, Rob Heineman and I spent four days on the Pika Glacier between bouts of heavy rain.

On August 4 we warmed up with a climb of the south face of the Throne. The following day, Heineman and I joined with Britons Bill Whitfield and Andy Garland and climbed what we believe was the first complete ascent of the attractive, prominent pinnacle on the divide extending south from the Throne, which has come to be called the "Plunger" (c. 6300 feet). A pitch on the east face leads to a platform splitting the upper pinnacle. A second pitch follows a beautiful overhanging hand-crack to the airy top (5.9, A2). On August 6, Heineman and I established a new route on the west ridge of Crown Jewell (IV, 5.8). A 400-foot, 50° snow slope at the foot of the ridge leads to a third- and fourth-class scramble along the ridge to a headwall. Four pitches of good granite were a joy to climb. Alternating pitches of 45° ice, fourth-class rock and a steep, sharp, airy ridge brought us to the summit. Five minutes after returning to our tent, a deluge of rain started and continued for four days. We then had a three-day wet slog out to the Petersville Road. Although Little Switzerland offers outstanding granite, sharp edges are a threat to rope and rappel anchors.

JAMES LITCH, *National Park Service*

*P 7400, East Side of the Ruth Gorge.* Doug Klewin and I climbed the southwest face of P 7400. The first eight pitches were 5.9 or 5.10 with an occasional aid move. After that, it was easier, 5.8 or so. The route was 22 pitches in all and included roofs, slabs, pendulums and cracks, all on excellent granite. The climb took 28 hours, including the descent by rappel. We then attempted the south face of Mount Dickey via a previously attempted route but retreated, having done the lower third in two days, because of bad rock and excessive rockfall.

TODD BIBLER

*"Nagishlamina Peak," Tordrillo Mountains.* The last unclimbed Anchorage skyline peak exceeding 10,000 feet was finally ascended on April 5 in a seven-day expedition under perfect early-spring conditions. "Nagishlamina" is one of the five prominent Tordrillo peaks due west of Anchorage across Cook Inlet. The others are Mount Spurr, "Chickantna Point," Mount Torbert and Mount Gerdine. Our "mature" group (average age 45 years) consisted of Dr. James Sprott, Daniel Blake, David Johnston and me. On April 2, Lowell Thomas Jr. ferried us by bush plane to the north side of the Tordrillos, landing at 2300 feet on the Nagishlamina River below the snout of the Pothole Glacier. The lake which we recalled at this spot from two previous approaches up the Pothole to Mount Spurr had mysteriously disappeared, leaving a rough landing zone of ice ridges and wind hummocks. A fairly easy march with skis and sleds led us to Camp I at 3300 feet on the main Pothole Glacier. While the main Pothole had been the access to Spurr on at least two earlier expeditions, we think that we were the first to use the northeast branch to gain the Spurr plateau. This tributary is relatively crevasse-free and straightforward up to 6500 feet. Camp II at 6200