

*Frederika Mountain, Wrangell Mountains.* Frederika is a beautiful, snow cone just east of Mount Regal. The mountain was first named Mount Abercrombie but was later given its present name in honor of Frederick Schwatka, an early USGS explorer to the region. On September 4, Sean Ragain and Steve Mulholland flew to Skolai Creek to meet me for an attempt on unclimbed Frederika Mountain. I had just completed an eight-day hike up the Chitistone Canyon. We hiked to the toe of the Frederika Glacier that day at 3700 feet. For two days, it rained and the wind howled. Finally on the 7th, we were able to move up a glacier on Frederika's southwestern flank to camp at 6700 feet. September 8 started out rainy and foggy. September 9 was beautiful. We ascended the icefall to an upper basin at 8000 feet. Then we went up 50° snow and ice to the west ridge at 9000 feet. From there we ascended the west face up 45° snow and ice to the summit (10,356 feet). The view to Mounts Sanford, Tom White, Logan, Bona and the rest of the Wrangell and St. Elias Mountains was spectacular.

DANNY W. KOST, *St. Elias Guides*

*Caliban, Xanadu, The Maidens and Shot Tower, Arrigetch Peaks, Brooks Range.* In Late June and early July, Bob McGregor, Yan Marrand, Gary Brill and I flew to Circle Lake from Bettles and then hiked to an airdrop site near the head of Arrigetch Creek. We all pioneered a fine route on excellent granite (5.8) on the south buttress of Caliban Peak. We then made a foray into the deep cirque walls to the west. Poor snow-and-ice conditions and massive and exfoliated flakes made routes impractical. McGregor and Marrand did a new route on the east rib of the south peak of Xanadu. During unsettled weather, McGregor, Marrand and Brill made the second ascent of the impressive north buttress of the central peak of the Maidens (V, 5.9). This climb, perhaps the most impressive ever done in the Arrigetch, was first climbed by John Markel and Bob Duggan in 1982, but it was never reported in the climbing literature. Marrand and Brill made a marathon hike to Shot Tower, just managing to make the ascent and get back to the lake for the float plane. In a tragic aftermath to the expedition, several weeks later Bob McGregor died from injuries suffered when a snow bridge in the Tantalus Range of British Columbia collapsed on him.

FRED BECKEY

*Mount Fairweather, East-Southeast Ridge and "Sabine."* Gaping crevasses made it impossible to land near our chosen objective. A snap, mid-air decision left us at the base of an ideal consolation prize, the unclimbed east-southeast ridge of Fairweather. (This is clearly seen on the photograph on page 33 of *AAJ*, 1981.) With the weather unusually fair, Jim and Kevin Haberl, Alastair Foreman and I began climbing almost immediately. The first day took us up gullies, shattered rock, cornices and occasional towers over the summit (8860 feet) of the sub-peak which rises on the lower arm of the east-southeast ridge. On Day 2, we followed a spiny ridge leveling onto a hanging glacier, which then reared up

onto a 1500-foot-high, 50° snow-and-ice face. Again established on the ridge, we found a fragile perch for the evening tucked into the lee of a rock tower at 11,300 feet with vistas of chaotic ice swirling below. Day 3 was Alaska at its finest: delicate climbing and breath-taking exposure as we threaded our way up pinnacles and cornices in blustery weather to a roomy bergschrund bivouac at 12,300 feet. From here, a short ice step opened up to broader slopes leading to the 13,820-foot sub-peak. Near here, we joined the route which had been descended by Jim Wickwire, Greg Markov and Dusan Jagersky in 1973. Not far beyond P 13,820, we turned back in a blizzard. The wind still howled on the morning of Day 5, but the sky had cleared. On May 20, in a few hours from camp we reached the point where the southeast ridge abuts into the Carpé Ridge, which we followed up its impressive ice nose to ripping wind on the summit, the highest point in British Columbia, an important point for us from Vancouver. We took another two days to descend the Carpé, including a final half-day of scouting a way through bewildering and dangerous ice cliffs that guard the bottom of the route. Spent, we arrived back in Base Camp just as huge lenticular clouds heralded the collapse of weather for almost two weeks. In a quick non-stop dash just before pick-up time, Foreman and the Haberl brothers climbed the beautiful and sharp southeast spur of "Sabine" (3172 meters, 10,405 feet) in a 28-hour return-trip. This was probably the third ascent of the peak.

MICHAEL DOWN, *Alpine Club of Canada*

### Washington—Cascade Mountains

*Chablis Spire, Lichen Bouquet.* The Wine Spires are a tight cluster of granite needles east of Washington Pass with sheer walls and tiny summits. During 1952 and 1953, Fred Beckey and partners scaled the four pinnacles and even today, Burgundy Spire is thought to be one of the most difficult climbs in the state. On October 8, Mark Houston and I scrambled up a long gully to the base of Chablis' west face. Decomposed blank rock prompted us to climb the gully higher and begin the route on the southwest side. We started the climb by crossing a ramp and ledge and then climbing a corner system to join the west face. Once on the face, we climbed four pitches up cracks and face to just below the tilted summit needle. A short off-width crack lured me from more sensible climbing and I executed the final moves amid small clouds of lichen dust. The wire brush was a useful item. (II, 5.9.)

ALAN KEARNEY

*Lexington Spire, East Face, Right Side, "Tooth and Claw."* This seven-pitch route ascends slabs, roofs and discontinuous systems to the right of the standard east-face route. On June 24, Dave Tower and I scrambled to the highest ledge at the base of the face and climbed easily to bolted friction climbing. From here, the route is fairly obvious. The third pitch shares a belay with the standard route, but instead of following the open-book to the left, we climbed directly up to the