

face on May 25 via the northeast fork of the Kahiltna Glacier. We headed up the southwest face to the left of the usual Cassin start and to the right of the Denali Diamond route. We started about 150 feet to the left of the Henrich-Volkman route. We bivouacked at 4200 and 4400 meters on May 27 and 28 and then were forced to the right to join the Cassin route at 4700 meters by very strong winds and heavy snowfall. We were on new ground for 1100 meters or 3600 feet. This was difficult mixed climbing (up to 5.9) with long sections of 60° ice. The lower face offered only hanging bivouacs or bivouacs on ice-chipped ledges. We found some old fixed ropes early on, probably from Japanese attempts in the 1970s. After our bivouac on the Cassin Ridge at 4700 meters, we again bivouacked on May 30 at 5600 meters. We climbed to the summit on May 31 and were back at the airstrip on the Kahiltna on June 2.

ZOLO DEMJÁN, *Spectrum Alpine Club, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia*

McKinley South Face, New Route. Josef Rakoncaj and I came to Alaska at the end of April. We flew to the Kahiltna Glacier. We climbed slowly as high as Denali Pass on the West Buttress. After acclimatizing to the altitude and cold, on May 17, Rakoncaj climbed the Messner Couloir in half a day. The next day, I climbed a new route between the Messner Couloir and the Orient Express. The maximum difficulty on rock was 5.8 and the ice was up to 70°. I descended to the 14,000-foot camp without going all the way to the summit. We two then climbed with skis over Denali Pass and continued in storm, cold and wind to the north on the Harper Glacier. We descended to the Muldrow Glacier and out to Wonder Lake. Rakoncaj flew home. I returned to Talkeetna, where I spent several days drinking beer in the Fairview Inn and loving Alaska. In early June, I flew again to the Kahiltna and then climbed the Cassin Ridge in five days. This was a great climb for me with very hard ice and a very heavy rucksack. As I bivouacked in the first rock band, at five A.M. I became aware of someone passing my tent. Was it a yeti? I looked outside and saw a solo climber with a small rucksack. "Hi. Good morning. If you like tea, we can do five-o'clock tea." We spent twenty minutes in my tent. "What are you doing here?" "Climbing the Cassin." "And you?" "The same." "And what is your name?" The man was Mugs Stump. And he took only a few hours to climb the Cassin!

MIROSLAV ŠMÍD, *ADR Rocks, Czechoslovakia*

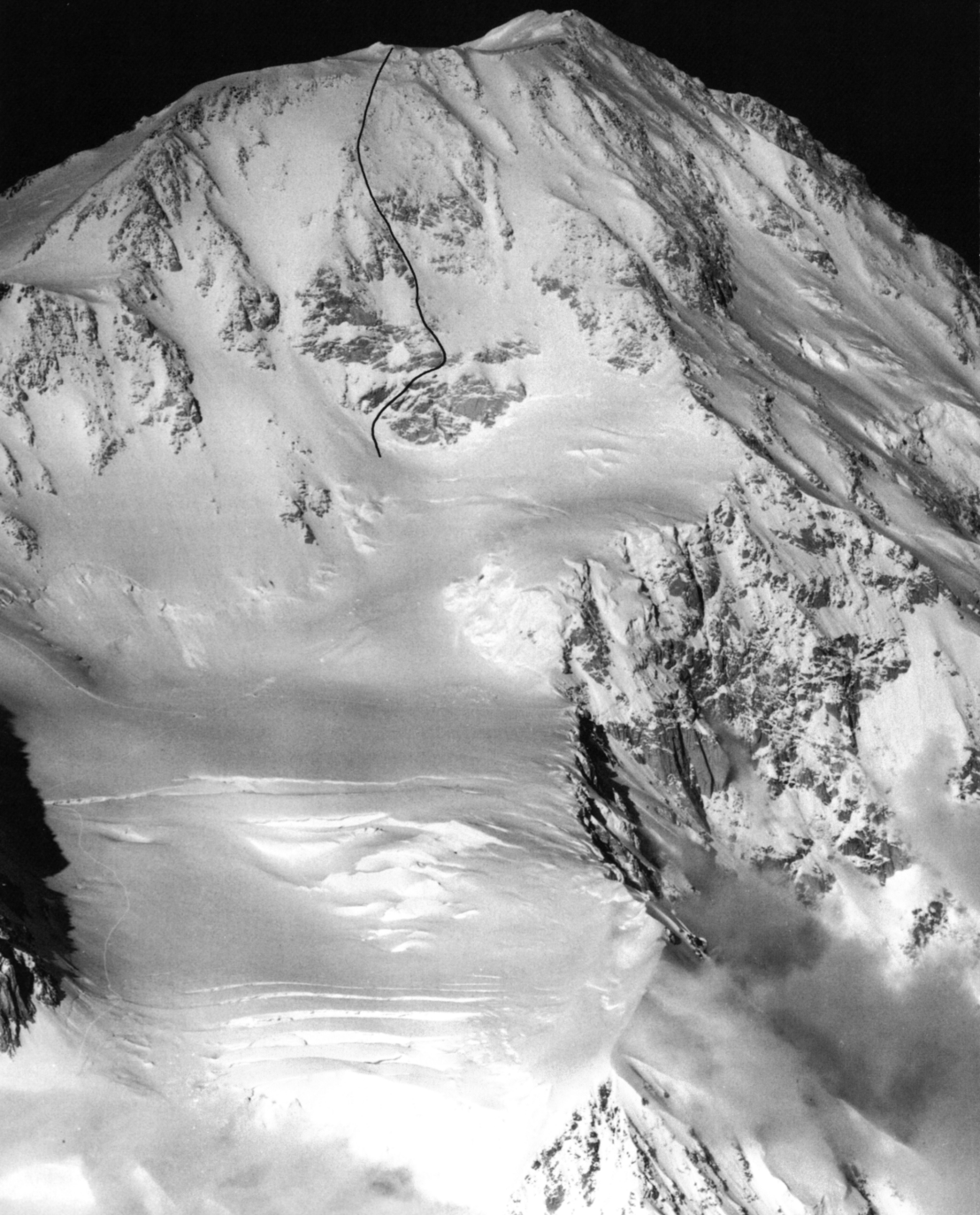
Mount McKinley, Northwest Face of the West Buttress. A full article on this climb appears earlier in this *Journal*.

McKinley, Rapid Ascent. On June 4 late in the afternoon, Mugs Stump left the camp at 14,000 feet on the West Buttress of McKinley and crossed to the West Rib, which he descended to the northeast fork of the Kahiltna. He then climbed the Japanese Couloir and the whole Cassin Ridge to the summit in 15

PLATE 34

Photo by Bradford Washburn

**Šmid's new route between the
Messner Couloir on the left and the
Orient Express.**



hours and descended to the 14,000-foot camp, which he reached just 27½ hours after he had left it.

McKinley Climbed by a 12-Year-Old. Taras Genet, 12-year-old son of Kathy Sullivan and the late Ray Genet, climbed on July 21 to the summit of McKinley via the West Buttress. He is probably the youngest person to do so. The group of seven was guided by Chip Faurot and José Boza. His father died on the descent from Everest when Taras was 18 months old and was awaiting in Base Camp with his mother the arrival of Ray in vain.

Huntington Winter Attempt, West Face to the Harvard Route. Leo Americus, Dave McGivern, Charlie Sassara and I flew to the upper Tokositna Glacier on March 11. From an 8000-foot Base Camp, we moved through an icefall to a secondary camp on a bench below the notch where the Harvard route joins the west face at 9000 feet. On February 11, we fixed 750 feet of rope over nearly 2000 feet of terrain to the base of an ice couloir over mostly 35° to 45° ice and snow. Two days later, we jumared and climbed to that 1500-foot water-ice gully that joins the upper Harvard route above the "Nose Pitch." The first lead was the steepest with a 30-foot vertical section at the onset. The second was on 75° black ice. The third 300-foot pitch began with a 20-foot vertical apron and eased to 55° to 60° ice. The final two pitches varied from 45° to 55° ice, some covered with snow. On the traverse that leads to the upper snow face, night closed in and forced a bivouac on a tiny 15-foot ledge. The next day, we completed the traverse and climbed 600 feet of 40° to 60° blue ice to a rock outcrop, where we hacked a tiny ice ledge out of an ice bulge. A weather system moved through and created high winds at the exposed bivouac site. Short calm breaks were never long enough to complete the remaining 700 vertical feet to the summit. We had begun with only 2½ days of food. By rationing, we held out for three days of high winds on this tiny perch. On the fifth day, we packed our gear. During a slight break at midday, we went for broke on a summit bid in questionable weather. Sassara led 300 feet on 50° ice to the French ridge, followed by McGivern, but hurricane-strength winds on the ridge made them bail out. We began to rappel off, but darkness fell and we spent the night at the lower bivouac site. None of us could sleep that night. It was a relief to descend the ice couloir in daylight to the lower snowfields.

JOHN BAUMAN, *Unaffiliated*

Huntington, South Face. Jay Smith and Paul Teare climbed a difficult new route on the south face of Huntington to the right of the Harvard Route. This is described in a full article earlier in this *Journal*.

Huntington, West Face Attempt. In April and May, William Kito and I, both recipients of the American Alpine Club Climbing Fellowship grants, flew to the