

*Whale's Back, Avalanche Peak and Citadel, Kichatna Spires.* My husband Gino Buscaini, Helma Schimke and I were flown to the Shadows Glacier by Doug Geetings. We all climbed Whale's Back by the north ridge on May 22, Avalanche Peak by the east face and north ridge on May 24 and Citadel via the first gendarme on the north ridge, climbing from the north left of the icefall and descending to the Shelf Glacier and the couloir in the south face of Avalanche Peak and back to the Shadows Glacier on June 2.

SILVIA METZELTIN BUSCAINI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Mount Thor, North Ridge, Chugach Range, Winter Ascent.* Leo Americus and I spent four days skiing the 32 miles to the base of the north side of Mount Thor via the Nelchina and Sylvester Glaciers, starting on February 10. From there we made the first winter ascent of the north ridge, which rises 3750 feet from 8500 feet on the Sylvester Glacier. Thor (3734 meters, 12,251 feet) is the third highest peak of the Chugach Range. A storm moved in. A window in the multiple fronts opened on the sixth day and allowed us to climb. The first 1500 feet were a well defined ridge of blue ice and rotten snow, sometimes knife-edged, with a drop of 1000 feet or more on both sides and at a 35° to 50° angle. The ridge broadened as it met the north face, crossing a 250-yard area of crevasses. The upper 2250 feet were on good snow. We summited on February 16 after only six hours, having placed one ice screw on the lower section. We spent three days skiing 33 miles out the Powell Glacier to the south fork of the Matanuska River.

JOHN BAUMAN, *Unaffiliated*

*Ptarmigan Peak, Western Chugach.* In mid February, Tom Walters and I climbed the prominent north buttress of Ptarmigan Peak. The route ascends steep corners formed by massive blocks. With four 5th-class pitches on relatively sound rock, the climbing was steep and varied. (III, 5.8.)

CHARLES SASSARA

*Mount Jarvis Ascent and Tragedy, Wrangell Mountains.* Japanese climbers Hiroshi Oda and Ichiro Mitoda were flown to the Nebesna Glacier by bush pilot Ken Bunch on April 4. They started alpine-style up the southeast ridge of Mount Jarvis (4091 meters, 13,421 feet). (The first ascent was made on July 26, 1967 from the saddle between Mount Jarvis and Wrangell by Ed Lane, Barbara Lilley, Bill Morris and Dick Beach.) On April 6, Oda climbed to the summit, while Mitoda quit some 650 feet lower. The next day, they both returned to the summit and descended to the landing point, hoping to be picked up on the 10th. Bad weather intervened and it was not until April 16 that Bunch could return to pick them up. There was so much new snow that they failed to take off after a run of 1000 feet. They began to pack the runway with skis. Bunch emerged from the