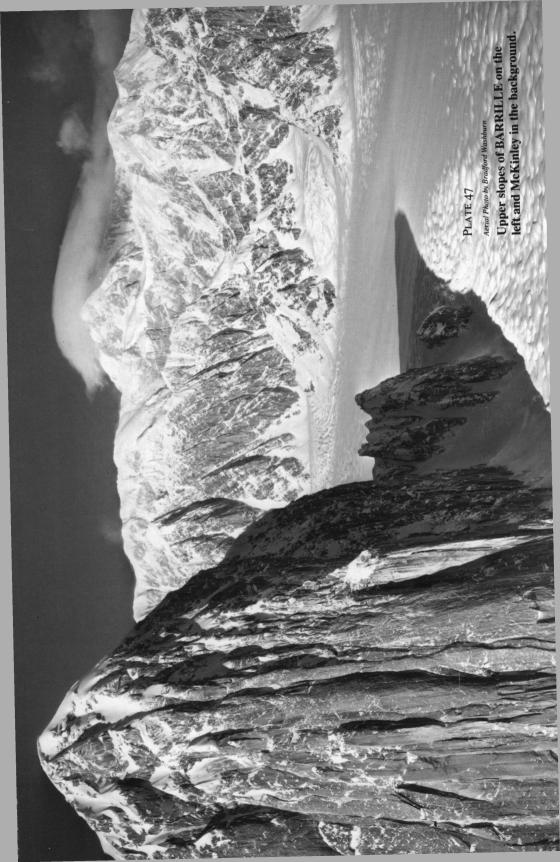
from the rope tangle, it bounded down 25 feet and shock-loaded the static rope, yanking me off my feet. I pulled out the tent, fuel and food and drank the water. Securing the body to axes, I cut the rope and ascended. From Tom's pack, I grabbed food and fuel and stuffed it into mine. As I readied to begin the descent, I noticed my helmet had been shattered on the same side that my head ached and I left it behind. I had to descend the southeast ridge. There were glacier jumbles to negotiate, headwalls to rappel and traverses under hanging glaciers. With my injuries, it felt harder than it probably was. It took me four long periods of climbing, plus some rest and waiting for clouds to clear. Needless to say, my faith in God was being reaffirmed. I reached our skis just before the weather closed in for four more days and made it to Kahiltna Base Camp at five A.M. on the 24th. I had two things to do: I had to get a call to NOLS before Tom's wife, Lisa Johnson, flew in that evening and I had to get some sleep. I slept till noon and then hurried to the Base Camp manager's tent to inform her of what had happened. From that point on, I got caught up in a river of support from rangers, other climbers, NOLS, friends and family. I suspect the avalanche came from an isolated pocket of wind-deposited snow. No fracture line was visible later to the rangers in the helicopter. No snow had fallen on Foraker for twelve days, and the five inches that fell over the 48 hours before the accident had given us little cause for concern. The slope was ice and wasn't going to avalanche under our feet.

COLBY COOMBS, National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)

East Kahiltna Peak Attempt. On May 2, Jamie Kanzler, J.P. Gambetese and I began skiing up the east fork of the Kahiltna Glacier to the southeast face of East Kahiltna Peak (13,440 feet). What caught our eye was an S-shaped couloir toward the west end of the face that topped out on the south ridge. On May 7, we left our Base Camp at 9400 feet to ascend the couloir and to attempt the fifth recorded ascent of the peak. Less than 100 yards from the tent was a crevasse maze, and Gambetese plunged into a hidden one. An interesting evacuation followed. We started up the couloir. Kanzler led a pitch where the couloir necked down to an ice-filled crack in beautiful granite. Halfway up, suspicious windslab on depth hoar crystals forced us to deviate into mixed terrain over a rock tongue as the weather deteriorated. Our delays put us onto the south ridge at 11,800 feet at dusk in poor weather. We were able to dig a small snow cave in a small snow pillow to escape sub-zero temperatures, wind and snow. In the morning, we descended the south ridge, releasing windslabs, luckily none more than a couple of inches thick. A second attempt on May 10 also failed.

TERRY KENNEDY, Dirty Socks Club of Montana

Hunter, Southeast Spur Attempt, 1991. Jay Hudson, our pilot, dropped Jim Graham and me off on the seldom-visited south fork of the Tokositna Glacier on April 22, 1991. We believe that no one had been here since 1980 when Pete Athans, Peter Metcalf and Glenn Randall successfully climbed the incredible



southeast spur (AAJ, 1981, pages 22-28). Because of deep powder, no landings in eleven years and a drastically changed glacier, Jay needed a light plane. We had to fly in separately in Jay's Super Cub. Then, knee-deep powder and no skis or snowshoes provided a longer approach than anticipated. We were hoping to traverse the peak and descend the southwest ridge where Jay had planted a cache. Two days of slogging brought us to the couloir which leads to the crest of the spur. We had 14 days of food. From a waist-deep trench, we got to the firmer snow of the couloir. In the 1000-feet of step-kicking in 45° to 60° snow, we found some exposed fixed line probably left by John Waterman on the first ascent (AAJ, 1979, pages 91-97). Mixed pitches brought us to a spot on the ridge for our tent. The next day, Graham led a steep and overhanging dihedral (A1), timeconsuming because of our scant rock rack. The following day, we prusiked the dihedral and climbed four more slow, difficult, mixed pitches. In near darkness, we chopped a ledge for our bivouac. The next part of the ridge was narrow, somewhat level and corniced. In heavy powder snow, we didn't need crampons but a snowblower. Without any exposed ice, we couldn't even pretend to protect the thin, airy climbing. We headed back to our last ledge. That night, we awoke to a shaking, trembling world. I grabbed the rope which linked us to a large rock horn and held on. Suddenly it stopped. We poked our heads out and watched the cirque fill with powder from all the snow and ice avalanches tearing down the slopes. Avalanche debris covered the glacier below for several miles. Our campsite was covered by huge ice chunks. The couloir we had climbed had a huge cone of debris at its base. We learned later that the epicenter of the 6.4 earthquake was 40 miles away from us. We began a series of blind rappels down the west side of the ridge. Except for one snow anchor, we used our expensive rock anchors. Several times, all we could find on these vertical cliffs was a single nut placement. On the glacier, we headed back to our now buried airstrip. Excellent walking on the avalanche debris let us travel in a few hours what had previously taken several days. With no radio and with poor flying weather, we sat in the tent for three days before Jay spotted our message stamped in the snow and picked us up.

MARK KIGHTLINGER, Unaffiliated

Hunter, Barrille and P 6000+. Julie Brugger and I made the third ascent of the north buttress of Hunter to the summit via the Stump route. It was in excellent condition during the nine days it took to climb it. We summited on June 3. We took another five days to descend the west ridge in bad weather. We then made the second ascent of the 1988 Austrian route on the east face of Barrille in two days, reaching the summit on July 4. The route was of good quality except for the entire section between the first and second towers, which was either rotten or under a watercourse. We also climbed a new route on P 6000+, the small wall a half mile north of the east face of Barrille (III, 5.10c). This 8-pitch route is easily accessible from the Mountain House and climbable during marginal weather when bigger things may be out of shape.

Andrew de Klerk, Mountain Club of South Africa