

prepare themselves for an ascent of McKinley, learning what skills would be needed. On June 5, scouts Jim Dahle, Collin Greenfield, Jason Geitzenauer, Dale Griffin, Paul Newman, scout leaders Dave Dittman, Lanse Larsen, fathers Clyde Dahle, Wes Newman and guides John Blasko and Stacy Taniguchi were landed on the Kahiltina Glacier. They worked their way up the West Buttress route. On June 22, they set out for the summit. Suffering from the altitude, Wes Newman and Geitzenauer turned back at 19,000 feet, but the others made it to the summit, the first officially organized Boy Scout group to do so.

Huntington and McKinley, Ridge of No Return. Four young Frenchmen, Xavier Cret, Robin Molinatti, Pierre Rizzardo and Paul Robach, climbed the Terray route on Mount Huntington in the spring of 1993 in a three-day ascent. They then turned to the Ridge of No Return, which had been climbed only by Renato Casarotto in 1984 solo, who spent 12 days on the long, heavily corniced ridge. After the bottom rock buttress, a precarious section of knife-edged ridge is defended by instable cornices, where the French climbers took several falls through them. They took only three days to reach the top of the South Buttress at about 15,000 feet, which had also been Casarotto's high point. This is a vertical rise of about 6500 feet in three miles.

Huntington, West Face. Michael Kennedy and I achieved what may be the fastest airplane-to-airplane ascent of Huntington. On May 15, we landed on the Tokositna Glacier. The next morning in fine weather, we headed up the impressive couloir which splits the west face and diagonals into the Harvard route. This has been referred to as the Nettle-Quirk route, climbed by Dave Nettle and Jim Quirk in 1987, but a letter from John Jeffery to *Climbing* of August/September, 1993 attributes it to John Claymore and partner in 1978. Anyhow, we found the route to be an alpine ice classic, steep enough to be exciting but not too horrifying, and with virtually no hazards. On May 16, we bivouacked in sleeping bags on an exposed eyrie at the junction of the Harvard route and then hit the cornices of the French ridge and the summit at noon on the 17th. We rappelled most of the way down, but the warm weather had turned the lower slopes into waterfalls and rock chutes, and so we took shelter till the morning of the 18th before descending to camp. We flew out on May 19. Two Southern lads had also unsuccessfully tried the route ahead of us and their anchors helped our descent. A week later, Steve Maseoli and Michael Dmitri landed at our campsite, hoping to climb the route, but a hopelessly misplaced bear arrived, drove them from camp and devoured their food. The climbers radioed a pilot, who picked them up. The bear was last seen disappearing up the slopes leading to the French ridge!

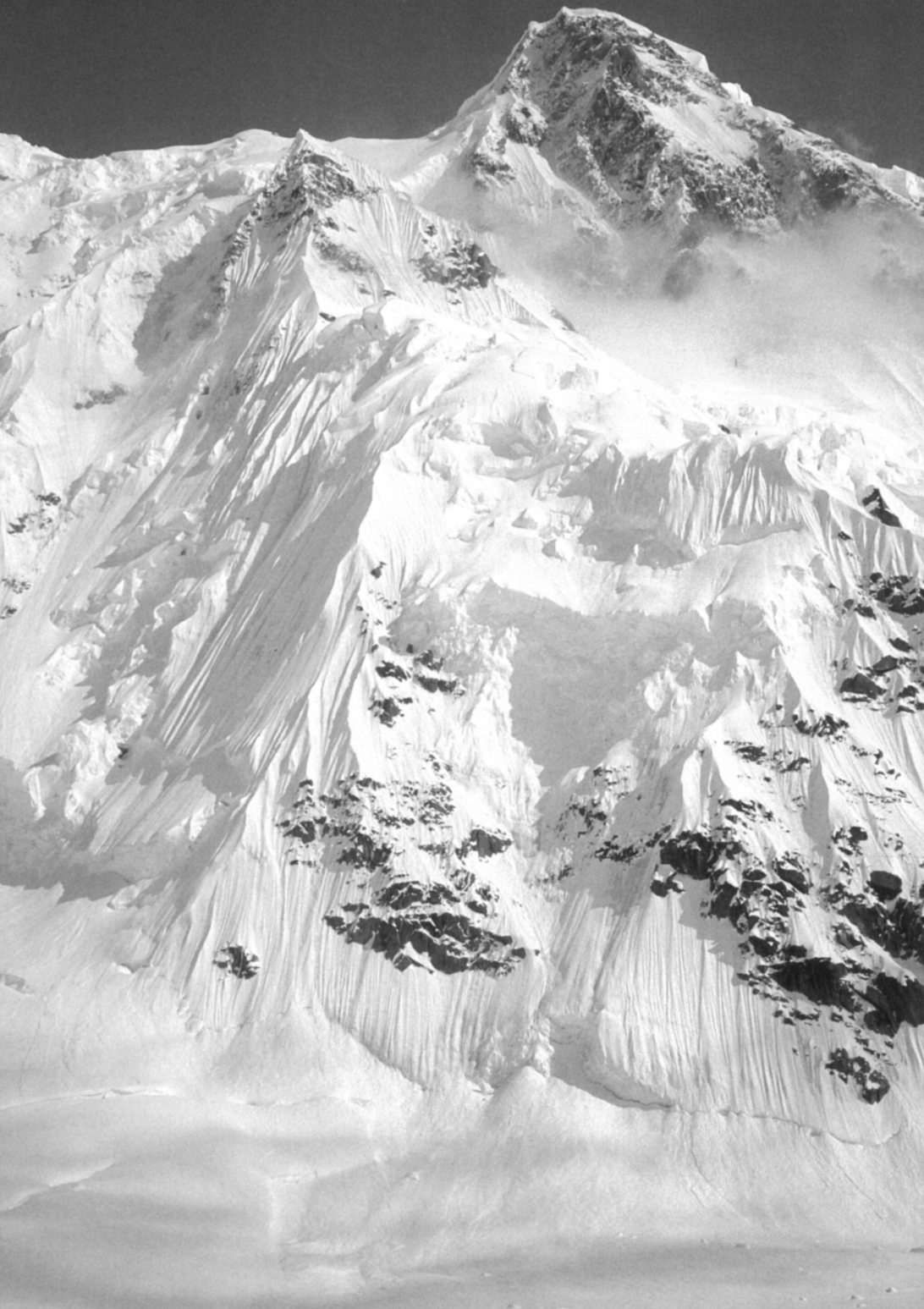
GREG CHILD

Hunter, New Start of Lowe-Kennedy Route. In late May, Paul Teare and I made a second attempt at a new route on the north buttress of Hunter from the

PLATE 37

Photo by Jay Smith

MOUNT HUNTER from the north.



southeast fork of the Kahiltna Glacier. This second attempt also failed because of overly warm conditions, creating rotten snow over blank rock with no ice. After climbing 1500 feet, we became disgusted at slow progress due to poor snow, messy shallow cracks and avalanches shooting over our heads. We then turned to the beautiful Lowe-Kennedy route, which has seen few ascents. We had begun much further to the left of the original start and took a direct line to the distinct triangular face at $\frac{2}{3}$ height, following a snow-and-ice spur to that point. By the day's end, we had completed the crux mushroom cornice traverse and bivied at its end below an ice cliff. The next day, we had hoped to summit, but a white-out forced us to bivouac on the summit plateau. When late the next day the storm broke briefly, we summited. We descended the west ridge on the fourth day, again in white-out.

JAY SMITH

P 10,970 ("Thunder Mountain") and P 9070. A full article on the first ascent of these peaks appears earlier in this *Journal*.

Foraker, Archangel Ridge. An eight-man British team sponsored by the Army Mountaineering Association made the second ascent of the Archangel Ridge of Foraker, which was first ascended by Gerry Roach and party in 1975. It rises up the east side of the north face for 11,000 feet in one continuous sweep. Since 1975, Denali National Park has tightened access restrictions; the use of horses is now prohibited. The logistics of getting eight men to Base Camp involved the use of Jim Okonek's K2 Aviation and local dog-team drivers, twins Miki and Julie Collins. A landing strip was prepared on the Foraker River just outside the park and supplies were flown in. Miki and Julie moved them to the snout of the Foraker Glacier in March. The climbing team arrived in early April and spent 11 days following Miki's and Julie's trail from Lake Minchumina to Base Camp. Although we used skis, the going would have been almost impossible if we had not been following a prepared trail. Three camps were established at 8500, 12,000 and 14,000 feet. On April 26, Dave Peel and I reached the summit, both suffering minor frostbite. Upon our return to Camp III, we met the second summit team of Neil Brennan and Andy Gallagher. Peel and I descended to Camp II, whilst Brennan and Gallagher remained at Camp III. During the night, the weather broke with heavy snowfall making any subsequent summit attempt risky. All four of us descended the mountain in deteriorating conditions. Whilst crossing the spectacular "Angels' Way" (a mile of knife-edged ridge), Gallagher took a terrifying 50-meter fall, fortunately escaping without injury. Our expedition medic strongly advised both Peel and me against skiing from the mountain. Although my frostbite injury appeared minor with one small blister on my big toe, the danger of refreezing and friction blisters on the march out was too great. We divided; five men skied to Wonder Lake and Peel, Gallagher and I were airlifted out.

PAUL EDWARDS, *Captain, Royal Marines*