

ting rappel into a notch. The northeast ridge was our consolation, a moderate day climb with great views of the Range. We believe it is the second route on Deception, after Brad Washburn's 1943 Southwest Ridge route. Afterward we climbed a 3,000-foot couloir on Mount Eldridge before being tufted around by dangerous snow on the ridge above, then waited out a six-day storm. We'd like to thank the Alaska Alpine Club for supporting this climb with a Peter MacKeith Grant.

MIKE LITZOW, *unaffiliated*

*This climb was made possible by the support of a Peter MacKeith Grant from the Alaskan Alpine Club.

Ragged Peak, East Ridge. In July, 1995, Ian MacRae and I walked up Glacier Creek to the Muldrow Moraine to climb the east ridge of Ragged Peak. Six hundred feet of 40 to 60° ice led up to an easy ridge walk to the summit.

JEFF APPLE BENOWITZ, *unaffiliated*

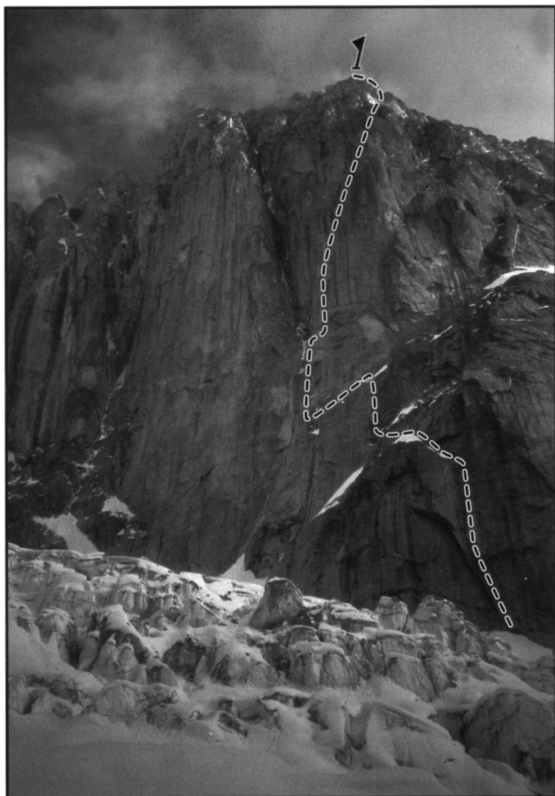
Peak 8800, Ascent, and Mount Foraker Massif, The Way. Not being able to find a partner for a June climb on the Foraker Massif, I found someone to do a day climb with. Tony and I climbed a low-angled snow gully on the south side of Peak 8800. The gully led up to a chimney of sorts. We climbed a full pitch of dry tooling, thin ice, and stemming until the 5.6 slot opened up. A shorter pitch on thick water ice led to easy snow slopes that we followed to the summit.

I still couldn't find a partner for *The Way*, which is a spur ridge between Mount Crosson and the Japanese suicide route on Mount Foraker, so I planned for a solo attempt. Accessing the ridge by way of a 1,500-foot north-facing couloir cut off a large rotten rock step. The ridge was usually too thin for a fly to walk on, so I traversed along below the wild snow formation. I belayed about 20 pitches of cornice climbing and soloed the rest. The spur ridge topped out on the Sultana Ridge at 11,400 feet. I descended the Sultana Ridge. Due to weather, it had taken 16 climbing hours spread over six days to climb the spur ridge and 10 hours spread over three days (also due to poor weather) to descend. There was no rock on the route, a few pitches of steep ice, and lots of interesting snow climbing. I feel that *The Way*, with no objective hazards, interesting climbing, and a good camp halfway, would be a great way to climb Mount Foraker—that is, if you are familiar with cornice climbing and have the \$150 peak fee.

JEFF APPLE BENOWITZ, *unaffiliated*

RUTH GORGE

Mount Bradley, Bourbon Bottle Route. From June 14 to 18, Jim Donini and I did a new route on Mount Bradley's southeast buttress from a base camp in the Ruth Gorge. The route, dubbed the *Bourbon Bottle Route* (in retaliation for Andreas Orgler's *Wine Bottle Route* on Mount Dickey, and as tribute to our bottle of summit bourbon), ascends the center of three corner systems that split the southeast buttress to the right of the massive cleft that divides the south face of Bradley. We did the route in a four-day alpine-style push. The first 27 pitches of the route constitute a big wall nearly 1000 meters high, and the last 13 pitches are characterized by alpine rock, mixed, and snow climbing with significant route finding difficulties. The southeast buttress joins Bradley's summit ridge 100 meters from the summit. We topped out in the evening of our



Mount Bradley, with the Bourbon Bottle Route indicated.
Greg Crouch

fourth day and descended the western slopes of Bradley rather than rappel our route. This descent got us to the Backside Glacier, on the opposite side of Mount Bradley from our Base Camp. The interminable posthole through Pittock Pass to the Ruth Amphitheater and back down the Ruth Gorge to our Base Camp took 36 hours to complete. We graded the route 5.8+ A1+ to illustrate the absurdity of rating alpine objectives.

GREGORY CROUCH

The Incisor, New Route. It was reported that Eli Helmuth climbed a new route on the Incisor with three clients in the spring. The 700-meter climb, which started with a hidden 45-degree névé couloir to reach the crux, followed the northwest face. The crux was 70-degree mixed climbing that led to a 40-degree snow/ice slope and the final sharp arête to the summit. (*High Mountain Sports* 173)

Mount Bradley, South Pillar. It was reported that in 1995, Austrian Andreas Orgler climbed the 1200-meter south pillar of Mount Bradley over five days in July at a grade of VII+ and A3 with partners Neswabba and Wusther. He was awarded the *Piolet d'Or* for this climb. (*High Mountain Sports* 167)

Mount Wake and Surrounding Peaks, Various Ascents. "L'équipe jeunes" of the Fédération Française de la Montagne et Escalade (FFME) enjoyed an expedition to Alaska last spring. Their objective was Mount Wake (2774 m) in the Ruth Gorge. They arrived at base camp on April 29 and started climbing some impressive ice gullies. On the Werewolf Tower, Manu Guy and Manu Pelissier established a fine route, *Freezy Nuts* (800 meters, IV/4), while Manu Lestienne, Mathieu Desprat and Fred Salles climbed an ice route on Mount Wake itself, naming it *Wake Up* (900 meters, IV/5). But the team's main target was a five-kilometer long, still-unclimbed ridge of Mount Wake. The young Frenchmen completed the ascent on May 12 to 13 in a continuous 37-hour effort, climbing without bivy gear and with only a minimum of food. Before the final push they made two attempts, fixing some of the 60 pitches. The descent took 10 hours. The 1500-meter high route involved sections at a standard of 5c, A1, 90° and some intricate route finding. They named the route *Pilier de la Tolerance*.

JÓZEF NYKA, Editor, *Taternik*, Poland