on the Muldrow Glacier between 8,000 and 7,000 feet. We made it back to McGonagall Pass on the night of July 19-20.

Fedor and Dimitry had decided previously to return via a known "shortcut" to Wonder Lake. Iliya and I preferred the original plan, an 80-kilometer route east to the Trans-Alaskan highway through Anderson Pass and on the West Fork River Valley, which we made in four days. It was not simple; we had to ford separate streams of the West Fork River and climb rocks and forested slopes. (We flew the last 11 kilometers in a helicopter we met at random).

For Fedor, the journey to Wonder Lake was his last. Three kilometers from the park road, while fording the McKinley River for the fourth time on the trip, he was tragically lost. Dimitry and the rescuers could not resuscitate him.

OTTO CHKHETIANI, *Russia*

Denali, Attempt, and Ascent of Browne Tower; Mt. Koven, Second Ascent; and Mt. Tatum, North Rib. Our goal was an ascent of Browne Tower and the subsequent rocky ridge line to the summit of Mt. McKinley. The upper portion of this ridge (above the mound at 17,425') previously has been climbed during various ascents of the East Buttress and Traleika Spur. Browne Tower itself and the ridge line to 17,425 feet remained unclimbed. From April 29 to May 20, Stephen Leary, Peter Way, Paul Weber and I, all from New Zealand and Australia, established a camp at the base of the tower following an approach via the Muldrow Glacier and Karstens Ridge. Before attempting the tower, we ascended the Harper Glacier by the standard route, acclimatized at a camp at 16,500 feet, and placed a food cache at 17,200 feet on the upper ridge before returning to camp at Browne Tower. On May 16, we climbed the Tower via a direct line up from the crest of the upper Coxcomb. After initial scrambling on mixed ground, we encountered three pitches of mixed rock and ice-filled cracks (5.7) followed by more mixed scrambling to the top of the tower. The rock was of excellent quality, beautiful orange granite blocks that continued to stud the ridge for almost a mile beyond the tower. Progress along this ridge was free and fast with spectacular views of the east face and steeply down to the West Fork Traleika icefalls. Unfortunately, strong afternoon winds forced us to abandon the ridge at 15,800 feet via a couloir onto the Harper Glacier. The storm that followed kept us tent-bound for four days and prevented completion of the route.

We made camp for the ascent of Mt. Koven's Northwest Face at 10,000 feet on the Muldrow Glacier. On the morning of May 22, it was snowing lightly and we left camp at 11:30 a.m., intending to reconnoiter the route. Access onto the face proved to be straightforward. A large bergschrund wall at about 10,400 feet was negotiated via an ice pitch up a convenient serac and an airy step across to the iceslopes above. At 11,200 feet, another 'schrund cut across the entire face but still was bridged in places by the season's snowfall. At this point, we broke through the morning cloud layer into a gloriously calm and sunny afternoon. The ice before us swept to the summit ridge at about 60° and tempted more than a reconnoiter.

A broken rib protruded from the face just left of center. Our line followed hard ice up to the right of this rib, then onto the blocks of the rib itself at about 12,000 feet. Negotiating the seracs and crevasses of the upper rib, we arrived at a beautiful summit icecap at about 6 p.m. With breathtaking views of Karsten's Ridge, Browne Tower and the summit of Denali less than five miles away across the Harper icefall, it is remarkable that this peak has received so few visitors. Descending by the same route with several rappels, we were back at camp on the Muldrow by 11:30 p.m., content to enjoy a most memorable cheesecake prepared by Paul for his 26th birthday.

A prominent ice rib protrudes from the jumbled crevasse fields and icefalls of the north

face of Mt. Tatum (11,140'). The rib has a north-northwest aspect and leads directly to the summit. On May 25, we left our base camp at 6,300 feet on the Muldrow Glacier and ascended firm snow on the lower rib. Progress was fast and the terrain interesting with seracs and gaping crevasses on both sides. At about 9,600 feet the rib runs straight into a 45-meter ice cliff with crevasses and fragments from the wall peeling off either side. Just below this, we placed a high camp and spent a beautiful evening exploring the wall.

The 26th dawned clear and we set about finding a way through the blocks above. We followed the snow-bridged bottom of the long crevasse bordering the right side of the ice cliff. The crevasse curved right, the wall relentlessly overhanging above us on the left. Eventually, the wall laid back, allowing a single 90° ice pitch up and out of the crevasse onto a small plateau at 9,800 feet. This whole section of the rib could have been traversed widely either to the right or left. The remaining slopes were straightforward except for another crevasse headwall immediately below the summit, which we were able to bridge at the right end. After an early evening summit, we descended via the same route and a magnificent 45-meter rappel off the lower icecliff, still bathed in the orange glow of an Alaskan midnight summer sunset.

NED NORTON, *unaffiliated*

Denali, Butte Direct. On April 18, Jim Blow and I took Hudson Air to Kantishna and traveled 40 miles to the base of our climb at the end of the West Fork of the Tralieka Glacier. Earlier in the year we had Will Foresberg dogsled most of our heavy gear into the lower ice fall on the Muldrow Glacier. After three days we arrived at our cache and spent a day preparing our gear for the trip up the Tralieka Glacier to its West Fork. Two days later, on April 23, we arrived at the base of the climb and began up a snow talus slope near the center of the base of the face. We climbed the snow talus for three pitches leading up to a tight gully, then headed right for one pitch on mixed rock and ice to a belay point. From the belay point we went right up a rock band (5.5) then left onto another steep snow field. At the top of the snow field we were able to drop our loads and dig out a tent platform. From the tent platform we headed up and right for one pitch on mixed terrain to the base of a sloped horizontal snow slope. From here we headed one pitch to the left to a gully directly above the tent platform and belayed at its base. The gully was steep rock and ice (WI4) for one full pitch that leads to another snowfield. We followed the snowfield for two pitches to an alcove below a large 180-foot rock band. From the alcove over the rock band we climbed 5.8 rock to a steep snow slope, then traversed two pitches to the base of a steep overhanging face. Here we spent considerable time digging a safe tent platform under the overhang, which protected us from rockfall. From the tent platform we headed down and right to an obvious corner which marks the center of the entire face. From this point we climbed good rock (5.9-5.10) for three pitches. After the second pitch the rock was defoliated granite, eliminating the ability of hauling our packs safely behind us. We left our ice gear behind and continued up the obvious chimneys for another three pitches, encountering a move of A2 and a final move out onto a ledge system of 5.10+. From the ledge system we traversed right for several pitches, then headed left and up.

The next pitch was up a gully which during dry conditions would have been 5.5 or 5.6; because of constant snowfall these pitches turned out to be the most difficult. The next five pitches led up and right to a snow and ice field facing southeast. Unable to continue without our ice gear and running out of food (we had been on the face for five days), we decided to rappel down and back to the Muldrow to replenish our food supply, then head up the Muldrow to Karstens Ridge, climb Karstens Ridge to 12,000 feet, and descend the long arm at the top