

mitting on June 26. We believe we made two variations to the standard route. The first variation, from 11,000 to 12,800 feet, is a section of Alaska Grade 4 rock and ice (5.7 to 5.9). The route is high angle with rockfall. It starts at a large diamond-faced rock and travels up the ridge west of the initial couloir.

The second variation, from 17,600 to 19,000 feet, lies between the Orient Express and the traditional West Rib upper couloir section. The route is straight up a rock and ice section of the buttress to the 19,000-foot plateau by the Kahiltna Horn exit. The travel is Alaska grade 4+ (5.9, poor if any anchors). A two-man team from New Zealand and the U.K. followed our route two days later because they did not like the postholing in the névé/slop snow. Brad Washburn and Roger Robinson believe these were new variations to the West Rib route.

MICHAEL S. SMITH

*Denali, Mascioli's Pillar, New Route.* On June 15-16, Steve House and Steve Swenson made the first ascent of what formerly was known as the Radio Tower on the South Buttress of Denali, renaming it Mascioli's Pillar in honor of their friend, Steve Mascioli, who had been killed on Mount Hunter's *Moonflower Buttress* shortly before (see above). The pair first attempted the climb in early June, climbing 15 pitches to a prominent chimney system high on the left side of the pillar. Instead of the ice they had hoped to find, the chimney contained only poor dirty rock. They retreated to the base of the pillar, then to base camp. On their next try they followed a large corner system up the right edge of the pillar. Their nearly 4,000-foot route involved both hard rock and mixed climbing, and was climbed in a 30-hour push with short stop. It was House's third difficult new route on the mountain in the last three years. A full account of their climb appears earlier in this journal.

*Mt. Silverthrone, West Face.* In late March, Mark Westman and I ventured up the Traleika Valley, east of Denali, to try the massive 5,600-foot unclimbed west face of Mt. Silverthrone (13,220'). We skied in 40 miles from Kantishna and set up base camp in the wild eastern fork of this raw glacier. On March 31, we made an attempt to climb a narrow couloir on the right side but were weathered off nine pitches up. On April 2, we climbed a left-side couloir that consisted of 40 to 70° unconsolidated snow and hard ice that led to an icy headwall. In unsettled weather, we continued to the knife-edged ridge leading to the summit. We descended a more moderate couloir off the west ridge back to camp. The climb took 15 days round-trip to complete.

JOSEPH PURYEAR

*Approaching the west face of Mt. Silverthrone.*

JOSEPH PURYEAR

