

is the highest peak in the group of peaks bounded by the Bremner, Middle Fork Lobe and Fan glaciers. It may have been the first ascent.

Although we did move camp up to the base of a beautiful ridge of one of the larger peaks, three days of rain and snow ended our chances of doing any further climbing. When we reached the original landing site, it was covered in ten inches of new snow, and we spent five hours shoveling and packing a runway so that Kelly could land and pick us up the following morning. Luckily, it was clear that night, and our runway froze hard as a rock.

DANNY W. KOST

#### FAIRWEATHER RANGE

*Mount Fairweather from Glacier Bay.* On April 8, Mark Jefferson and I left Gustavus in two double kayaks with gear and supplies for an ascent of Mount Fairweather. We paddled 60 miles up Glacier Bay to its northwest terminus at Tarr Inlet. Tarr Inlet ends at the Grand Pacific, a tidewater glacier east of Fairweather. We switched to skis and sleds and skied up this glacier to the Grand Plateau Glacier and eventually climbed the mountain via the normal Northwest Ridge route on April 29. It was a 58-mile ski from Tarr Inlet to high camp on Fairweather. We intercepted the normal route approximately 42 miles from Tarr Inlet. We could have gained high camp by two other shorter routes, but each of these has a lot of objective hazard, though they would make an interesting future approach. We returned to our boats by the same route and paddled back to Gustavus after 35 days. We believe this was the first time anyone had climbed the mountain via an approach from Glacier Bay along the Grand Pacific Glacier.

MICHAEL P. DZIOBAK, *unaffiliated*

*Burkett Needle, Voyage of the Celestial Tramps.* From May 6-31, Sébastien Foissac and I put up a new route capsule-style on the southeast face of the Burkett Needle. Drop-off and pick-up by boat was made from Thomas Bay. We spent 41 days in the Coast Range, without any radio or assistance. The approach took us six days to ferry more than 200 kilos, first by foot (triple portage) and after with skis and two pulkas each. At first, we went to have a look at the northwest face of Devil's Thumb, but it was really out of condition. So we decided (and did not regret) to go to the Burkett Needle. A blizzard destroyed our tent on Baird Glacier while we were inside, and we had to dig a snowcave in a hurry. Our pulkas disappeared, taken away by the wind, despite the big stones we put on them. Nevertheless, we started the climb, living from then on in our portaledge. The climbing, mostly free, was sustained and committing. Moreover, we felt it was harder due to the snow and cold. After a 300-meter buttress, we followed a very aesthetic snow ridge to the bottom of a forbidding gendarme, from which we escaped via two long rappels. The junction was made later after having hauled our gear to the little col between the needle and the gendarme. We kept on hauling our stuff to the middle of the needle, traversing snow bands. We even did a tyrolean. We spent 14 nights in the Negresco Bivouac (named after a very famous five-star hotel in Nice). After a few days of excellent climbing, the weather, which was not very good at all, became really bad. We stayed several days "portaledge-bound" in a continual snowstorm. We had to evacuate the snow around the portaledge in order not to be buried. On May 29, the weather finally improved and we passed