

*Roaring Lion Canyon, New Routes.* Many routes have recently been established in this little-known canyon, primarily on the Thin Red Line Butte. This is the first major tower seen after crossing the river and is about a mile and a half in. Upon seeing the tower, hike up the east gully and then cross to the west side when nearly at the level of the tower. The approach is the typical Montana grunt, but the climbing is brilliant. *The Thin Red Line* starts near the southwest corner and climbs the south face for four pitches at 5.11. The crux is the third pitch and is one of the most exposed pitches I have been fortunate enough to climb. Rap the west side of the tower and climb the other half-dozen one- to two-pitch routes found there. The two-pitch *Crack Envy* (5.11a) is as good as thin hands gets. Primary route developers were Martin Cook, Chris Duross, and Eric Roberts. Grey Thompson and I also helped in the effort.

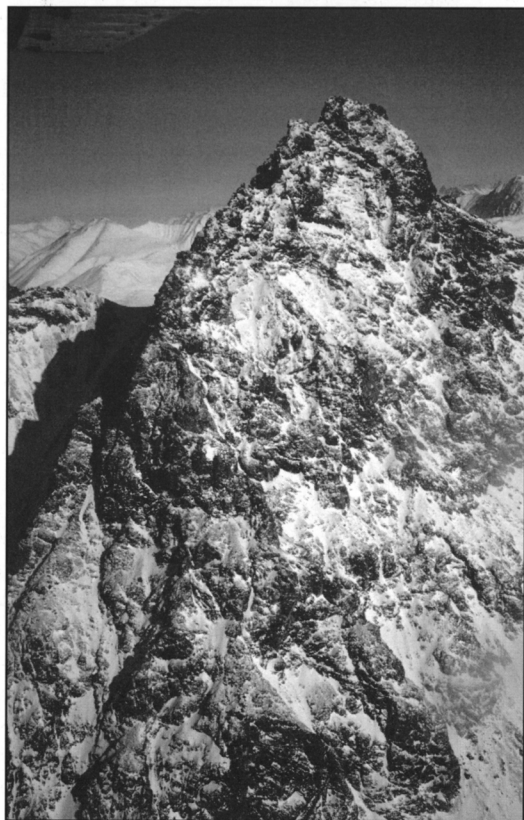
BEN OSBURN, *unaffiliated*

## ALASKA

### BROOKS RANGE

*Mt. Doonerak, First Winter Ascent, Previously Unreported.* On March 17, 1996, Jon Miller and I flew into the North Fork of the Koyukuk River and skied up Bombardment Creek, climbing a few frozen waterfalls (up to WI3) on the approach to Marshall Lake. From a camp at the lake, we climbed directly up a couloir/corner system in a series of running belays and a couple of belayed pitches over snow and thinly ice-covered rock. The climb was quite a bit more interesting than the usual summer route. It was made during a cold snap, with talk of -50°F at nearby Bettles.

KEITH ECHELMMEYER

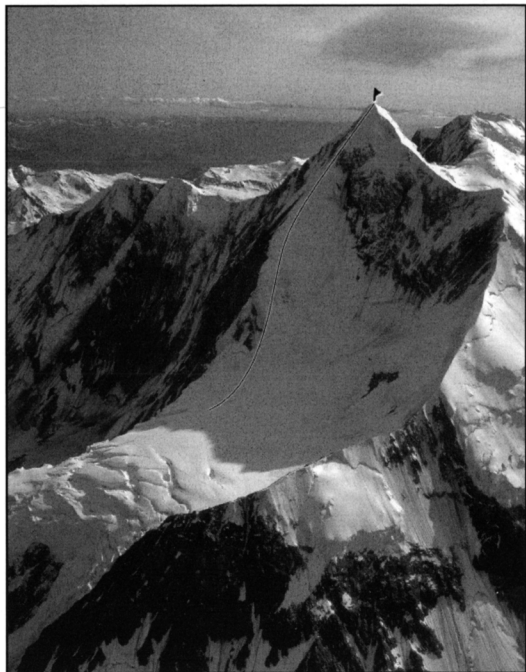


### HAYES RANGE

*Mt. Hess, East Buttress, Second Ascent, Previously Unreported.* In May, 1997, Jon Miller and I climbed up snow and low-fifth-class rock from the upper Gillam Glacier at 4,640 feet to the upper basin (8,400') beneath the north ridge. After a storm day, we then

*Mt. Doonerack. The route climbed by Miller and Echelmeyer in winter ascends a gully/face system on the right directly to the summit.*

KEITH ECHELMMEYER



*The upper half of the north side of Mt. Hess, showing the ascent via the East Buttress. The north ridge faces the camera. KEITH ECHELMMEYER*

climbed the East Buttress (Alaska Grade 4) on mixed snow, ice, and poor rock to the summit (11,940'). Descent was via the north ridge, which required a cold night out due to icy conditions. On the descent, we skied out to the Little Delta River, and paddled out this river to near Fairbanks.

KEITH ECHELMMEYER

#### DELTA RANGE

*Item Peak, North Face, New Route.* On the first Saturday of April, after driving down the Richardson Highway, Shad O'Neel and I skied up Michael Creek. We camped at the base of the Jarvis Glacier/Michael Creek Pass. The next day, we got up early and crossed over the Jarvis Glacier to the base of the north face of Item Peak (7,800'). We simulclimbed the 1,800-foot face in a few hours, finding a bit of ice, a bit of rock, and not much of

note along the way. After summiting Item Peak, we skied back out to the road on the same day. It is our understanding that this was the first ascent of the face.

JEFF APPLE BENOWITZ

#### ALASKA RANGE

*Denali National Park and Preserve, Summary.* The 2000 climbing season at Denali National Park and Preserve was one of the most tragic and one of the most memorable seasons in recent history. The terrible plane crash that happened on June 19 stunned the Denali National Park staff, the town of Talkeetna, the state of Alaska, and the entire National Park Service. The crash killed mountaineering ranger Cale Shaffer, volunteer patrol members Brian Reagan and Adam Kolff, and pilot Don Bowers. This catastrophic accident happened during the height of the season, requiring the South District staff to continue working during this heart-breaking time.

It was the last season for Annie Duquette, who, after ten years as Kahiltna Base Camp manager, and Denali's unofficial ambassador to pilots, climbers, and visitors, finally decided to retire.

For the second year in a row, there were no fatalities on Denali, although well-known climber Seth Shaw was killed on the Ruth Glacier when an ice serac collapsed on him.

It was the first year that the National Park Service initiated a comprehensive trash and