

route ascends the prominent V-slot left of the south face's major prow. This route had excellent rock and would likely go free at mid-5.12 (a few protection bolts and some cleaning of vegetation from the cracks would be needed). The third pitch ascends a beautiful section of terraced rock covered in brilliant purple and yellow flowers (hence the name). This route has seven pitches of steep climbing with another 500 feet of "third-class" climbing up to 5.6 in difficulty.

All three of our routes joined existing lines for their last few pitches. We rappelled back the way we came on all routes, leaving two 3/8- by 2-inch Rawl bolts per anchor. For the first few raps of each route, we used whatever the previous parties had set up (webbing, slung horns, etc.), improving them where necessary. We had only four rain days on our trip, allowing us plenty of time and good weather.

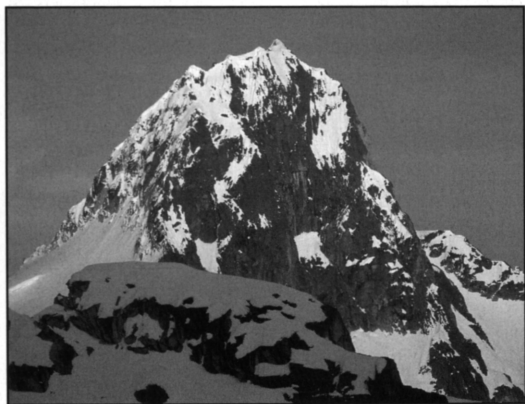
JOSH BOROF

Little Switzerland, Crown and Dix Glaciers, Various First Ascents. After being airlifted by Talkeetna Air Taxi director Paul Roderick onto the previously unnamed glacier (now proposed as the East Fork of the Crown) southeast of The Crown Jewel, British climbers Brian Davison, Lindsay Griffin, and Brian Griffiths spent May 1-31 making a total of 14 probable first ascents. Eleven of these (the exceptions being the Crown Jewel twice and Your Highness) were of previously unclimbed peaks. From a base camp on the East Fork the team climbed the following: The Crown Jewel (2362m) via the East Ridge; The Crown Jewel via the South Couloir to the West Ridge; The First Witch's Hat (a.k.a. Southwest Hat, 1950m) via the West Face; the Second Witch's Hat (1950m+) via the West Face and South Ridge; the Third Witch's Hat (a.k.a. the Northeast Hat, 1980m) via the West Face, East Flank and South Face; The Tiara's East Summit (2225m) via the South Couloir and East Ridge to the base of the final three-meter monolith; Your Highness (2425m) via the South Couloir toward the broad col between this peak and Lady in Waiting (2190m), then the Southwest Ridge; the North Summit of The Coronet (2075m) via the South-Southeast Flank.

From a temporary camp on the southerly Dix Glacier, various easier peaks (Beartrack, 1830m; Merry, 1390m; Lookout, 1525m) closer to the Kahiltina Glacier were climbed, together with the fine trio of Deception (1960m), Arrowhead (1800m), and Misty (1830m)—peaks above the Brume Glacier (southeast of the Dix). Also climbed were a couple of minor tops on crests,

Gendarme (2190m, just east of The Crown Jewel) and Pt. Pico (1950m, just south of The Coronet on the same ridge). All names are provisional.

The climbers originally hoped that at this time of year they might find ephemeral ice lines in south-facing couloirs. However, very heavy snowfall a few weeks prior to their arrival had left the spiky granite peaks that characterize this area very well plastered. Although on some routes there were sections of interesting and enjoyable "Scottish mixed" ground, deep and worryingly unconsolidated snow leading to narrow, ungradeable,



Mt. Deception. The British climbers made the first ascent of the peak via a hidden couloir on the right skyline. LINDSAY GRIFFIN

Peruvian-type ridges was the norm. Overall, the three climbers felt conditions to be as consistently bad as they had experienced anywhere. However, the weather, remarkably settled and sunny for a good portion of the time, was much less cold and harsh than on the bigger mountains to the north. Temperatures only fell as low as -20°C early in the month, but toward the end were considerably higher.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *United Kingdom*

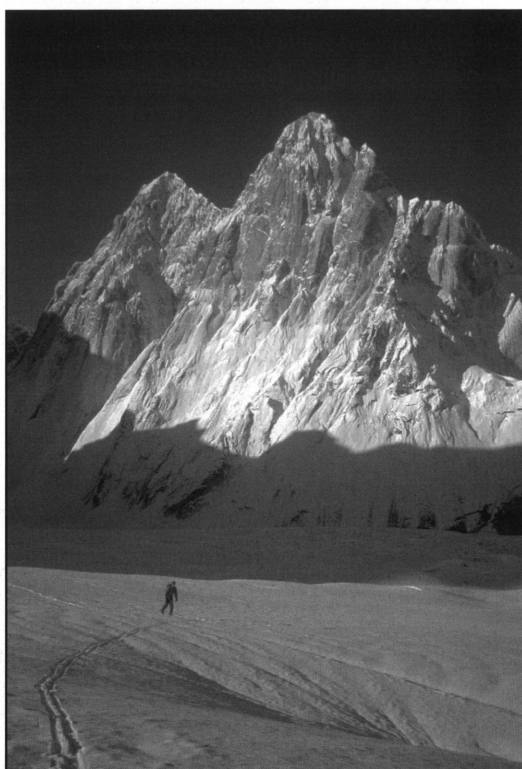
Ruth Gorge

Buckskin Glacier, Various Activity. Ben Gilmore, Kevin Mahoney, Mike Wood, Scott DeCario and I flew to the Buckskin Glacier on September 20. On September 24, the five of us made the second ascent of Mooseskin Mountain (Peak 8,300') by skis. Sliding right from the summit, we confirmed it as the best ski peak any of us had been on, with awesome views of the north and east aspects of the Moose's Tooth and the Ruth Gorge (and great snow!).

On September 28, Gilmore, Mahoney, and I climbed a new route on the south face of Mooseskin Mountain, climbing the dominant gully right of a beautiful granite pillar for six pitches of ice up to WI6. We rappelled from the ridgecrest.

On September 30, Scott DeCario soloed the 3,160-foot south face of Peak 9,160' (square 15, Mt. McKinley A-2 quad map). This is believed to be the peak's first ascent. The peak rises from the last northern arm of the Buckskin Glacier's west end, about three miles north-northeast of the Moose's Tooth's summit. Climbing in early morning darkness on "miles of 50-degree snow, with lots of little ice steps and easy mixed up to about 70 or 80 degrees," DeCario needed about three hours for the ascent. He down-climbed for the descent and informally dubbed the peak "Canadian Rockies Peak," based on its similarity to Mt. Assiniboine, with its black sedimentary rock.

Gilmore, Mahoney, and I started up a new route on the Moose's Tooth early on September 30. Our route began by climbing the snow gully between the Moose's Tooth and Bear's Tooth for 1,600 feet. The gully steepened, and we climbed five ice pitches (grade WI2-4) farther up the gully, before we got to the water-ice system we'd spied from the glacier. This system followed a large right-



Ben Gilmore skiing on the Buckskin Glacier. The east faces of the Bear's Tooth (left) and the Moose's Tooth (right) are visible. KEVIN MAHONEY