

a number of well-concealed crevasses. The slot into which he fell was just barely wide enough for his body to enter. Had he been wearing snowshoes or skis he probably would have passed over the crevasse. The party had considered the possibility of crevasses but by mutual agreement we were packing loads unroped. Future winter expeditions should remember that crevasses are an even greater danger than they are in the summer. There is no question but that a rope should be used at all times.

A few days after this incident, John Edwards (35) of our party took a roped fall into a crevasse after a heavy snow fall. Because of the soft snow on the surface and crevasse walls, the rescue proved very difficult. In view of these two incidents, I recommend that if possible, members should carry prussick handles and practice and thoroughly know simple pulley rescue techniques. Placing reliance on prussick knots or other self-help methods for crevasse rescue can lead to disastrous consequences.

*Alaska, Mt. McKinley.* Highcamp for the winter McKinley party was a snowcave at 17,200 feet West Buttress. All seven climbers attempted the summit from this camp on 27 February, but were turned back by whiteout and storm at about 19,000 feet. The following day they all tried again and Blomberg, Edwards, Nishimae, and Wichman turned back short of Denali Pass at 18,200 feet while Davidson, Johnston and Genet continued to the South Peak, 20,320 feet, for the first winter ascent. On the way down they were stopped by the storm at Denali Pass and dug in. Their empty packs were blown away but they had their sleeping bags and some food; Johnston remembered where he and Hoeman had cached some gasoline in 1963 and was able to find it. During the next week the storm continued. Blomberg and Edwards returned to basecamp on the Kahiltna Glacier, Nishimae and Wichman tried unsuccessfully to reach the pass, finally gave up for dead those above, and came down to Kahiltna Pass igloo camp at 9,900 feet. When the storm let up on the summit area the three given up for lost made their way down on March 7th. They were spotted that day and picked up the next by helicopter at 13,150 feet at Windy Corner. Nishimae and Winchman were the last ones evacuated on March 9th.

*Source:* J. Vin Hoeman.

*Analysis:* The group claims that their last weather forecast before their summit attempts had been for a period of good weather, but it seems that the weather was actually marginal as they made the attempts and they may have felt willing to take more than ordinary risks. (See also analysis of McKinley accident where seven died.)

*Alaska, Wrangell Range.* On 10 May Katsuomi Aoke (24), Hyhozi Matsunaga (21), Hirokazu Yamazaki (30), Osamu Iwatake (24), Takehisa Shiono (23), and Kiyoshige Seiryu (20), six climbers from the Tokyo University Alpine Club, Japan, were flown to the upper Nabesna Glacier by bushpilot Jack Wilson to attempt the unclimbed northeastern ridge of Mount Blackburn. Members reached near 14,000 feet on this climb 26 May and 2 June before deciding to give it up and shift their objective to the nearby Atna Peaks which they mistakenly believed to be unclimbed. Shiono and Seiryu succeeded in climbing the western Atna Peak, 13,860