

camp. Naito was in Talkeetna by 7:30 p.m. and was observed by Robinson at 8:00 p.m. Naito required no medical treatment. (Source: Roger Robinson, Park Ranger, Denali National Park)

### **Analysis**

This is one of several edema cases for this year. Last year, the comments on foreign climbers neglected to mention the fact that altitude is frequently a problem for them, primarily because they are compelled to move up fast due to their time schedules. (Source: J. Williamson)

## **FROSTBITE**

### **Alaska, Mount McKinley**

A three-member party from Seattle, Washington, flew to the Kahiltna Glacier on May 23, 1981, to climb the West Rib of Mount McKinley. On June 5 they moved to their high camp at 16,500 feet. At 8:00 a.m. on the 7th, two members, including Gary Selner (29), left for the summit. Selner began the ascent with cold feet, wearing Trappeur double boots and supergators, and had constant trouble keeping his feet warm. At 10,000 feet they encountered high winds and Selner began to have difficulty keeping warm. At 4:00 p.m. he decided to return while his partner continued on to the summit. Upon his return to the 16,500-foot camp at 6:00 p.m., Selner knew that something was wrong with his feet. On the 8th, the three climbers descended toward the West Buttress basin and Selner was able to walk on his own with frostbitten toes. Due to whiteout conditions, the party was forced to camp above 14,200 feet that night. On the 9th, they descended to 12,500 feet on the West Buttress. On June 10, Selner began to have difficulty descending. At 8,000 feet on the Kahiltna, they encountered the Denali Reconnaissance expedition led by Dr. Peter Hackett. Hackett instructed the Selner party not to descend any farther but to have Selner assisted from this point. At 8:30 p.m. the Selner party radioed out to Kahiltna base of the need for an evacuation. A NPS Mount McKinley patrol of four, led by Ranger Dave Buchanan, responded to the request and arrived at their 8,000-foot camp at 11:30 p.m. Buchanan noticed that Selner's toes were bleeding and in poor condition and suggested that they assist Selner down. At 12:30 a.m. on June 11, the five departed for Kahiltna Base pulling Selner in a sled. Seven additional climbers joined in to assist the NPS team at the base of the hill at 6,800 feet. Selner arrived in basecamp at 2:00 a.m. and was flown to Talkeetna at 8:15 a.m. by Talkeetna Air Taxi. That same day he checked into Providence Hospital in Anchorage. (Source: Roger Robinson, Mountaineering Ranger, Denali National Park)

### **Analysis**

This is similar to the Jennings case reported earlier. (Source: J. Williamson)

## **EXHAUSTION, CEREBRAL EDEMA, INEXPERIENCE, SELF-ADMINISTERED DRUGS**

### **Alaska, Mount McKinley**

Bob Wheeler (age unknown) was a member of the North Cascades Alpine School guided expedition to the West Buttress of Mount McKinley. The group, led by guides Alan Kearney and Tim Boyer, reached the summit late in the day on June 22. Wheeler was exhausted by the effort. He arrived at the high camp at 17,200 feet late in the evening and took 60 mg